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**AFGHANISTAN**

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DOC Office: +93 (0)700 11 4015  
E-mail: [kabulaiddoc@usaid.gov](mailto:kabulaiddoc@usaid.gov)  
<http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

# FACT SHEET

## Reconstruction of the Gardez to Khost Road

### OVERVIEW

USAID is funding construction of an all-weather asphalt road, which will enable an estimated 7,000 vehicles per day to travel at high speeds from Khost to Gardez, and on to Kabul and the rest of Afghanistan. The Khost-Gardez road has considerable strategic and economic importance and upon completion, it will be an extension of the Kabul to Ghazni road, which was built with USAID support in 2006. It will also link to the Ghazni-Gardez National Highway. The improved road will promote economic growth along the entire corridor. It will link villages to schools and health clinic, thereby improving the lives of many communities along the way. The road is being built to national highway standards and will be 101.2 kilometers on completion. The project also covers repair or replacement of bridges and drainage structures to ensure that the road is usable all year round.

### MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Work has begun on the 38 km of road that remain to be built
- This section of the road, which will run through mountainous and avalanche-prone areas, will be complete by December 2013

### RESULTS TO DATE

- Construction started in 2008 after some delays, mainly on account of security and technical problems
- Sections one and three of the road were completed by January 2011
- Section 1, which starts in Gardez, is 27 km
- Section 3, which ends in Khost, is 36.2 km
- 3,000 jobs created for Afghans during construction so far
- Travelling time between Gardez and Khost has halved from 6-8 hours before the project began
- Traffic levels remain high in both summer and winter with roughly 3000 vehicles using the road every day

### EXPECTED RESULTS

- Connecting Kabul to Gardez, Khost and northwestern Pakistan
- Health, educational, economic, political and security benefits to people in Paktia and Khost provinces, making the region more stable