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AFGHANISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Green Shoots Of Change In Kandahar

A greenhouse nurtures tender new hopes of building a business in southern Afghanistan



USAID

Hayatullah hard at work

Hayatullah was given the relevant training and helped to start his business. Within weeks, he was proudly reporting on the harvest he expected

Hayatullah fully expected that he would have to leave Afghanistan in order to find a job and support his family but that was only until the greenhouse was built in Zhari district in the southern province of Kandahar. Hayatullah lost his father and four members of his family during Afghanistan's decades of war and felt his responsibilities as breadwinner keenly, but economic opportunities were few and far between in Zhari.

Then USAID's Kandahar Food Zone (KFZ) intervention program, which supports alternative development projects to increase employment opportunities for young people, identified Zhari as a target district.

KFZ has built 12 irrigation canals, 47 greenhouses and trained 777 beneficiaries so far as part of its support for sustainable agriculture-led economic growth in Afghanistan.

Hayatullah was given the relevant training and helped to start a greenhouse business.

Within weeks, he was proudly reporting on the harvest he expected. "I will be supplying my cucumbers to the market. At harvest time, I will make around 5,000 Afs (roughly \$80) per week."

Hayatullah says he is able to pay for his younger brothers and sisters to continue their schooling. And the greenhouse may already be inspiring another generation. His little brother says he wants to study agriculture so that he can work in the same field as well.

Kandahar Food Zone strengthens and diversifies legal rural livelihoods in targeted districts by identifying and addressing the root causes and sources of instability that lead to opium poppy cultivation. Nearly 800 people have benefited from alternative livelihood activities of the three-year, \$27.7 million program, which began in July 2013.