



SNAPSHOT

Collaboration Leads to Success: The Emergency Road Repair Project in Kabul



"Grading Qassaba Road (Russian Road)"

Kabul's harshest, snowiest and coldest winter in more than twenty years was hard not only on people, but considerably damaged Kabul's already deteriorated streets – and some roads were completely destroyed. To rapidly respond to the Mayor's and citizens' concerns, the USAID-funded Kabul City Initiative (KCI) has teamed up with the Kabul Municipality (KM) and United States Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A) to roll out an emergency road repair project to address this critical situation.

Only a few major roads in Kabul have been asphalted, an expensive solution to Kabul's growing traffic problems and the increasing inaccessibility of safe pedestrian routes. Grading and graveling streets is a much more cost effective and timely solution, providing greater benefit to a larger number of citizens.

Even a "simple" project such as graveling requires extensive coordination. KCI is overseeing the collaboration with the KM and USFOR-A, each of which is providing a critical element to make this road repair project successful. KCI has rented heavy equipment such as graders and rollers with operators. The KM is providing the fuel as well as a site inspector, and the USFOR-A has procured the gravel for the roads. By the end of the summer more than 20km of road will have been repaired under this emergency road repair project.

This project is just one example of effective teamwork among donors and the KM. These types of partnerships have been an integral part of the KCI project which brings all donors in Kabul together in a biweekly Donor Coordination meeting, chaired by the Mayor. The Mayor's first priority for the emergency road project is the Qassaba Road, also known as the "Russian Road", which is located behind the airport and is a heavily traveled truck route that has deteriorated to a moon-scape. Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has committed to pave the road in 2013, and the graveling effort will stabilize the worst parts of the roads until then.

This project is also addressing the need for asphalt patching, training KM Streets and Maintenance Department staff in the proper mix of asphalt and asphalt application to ensure more enduring pothole patching. The KM had viewed the patching as a temporary solution, to be accomplished as cheaply as possible. Through on the job training KCI has demonstrated that patches should be permanent, and that the incremental cost of providing a quality patch is far superior to having to patch the same hole repeatedly.

Through this effort, KCI and other donors are working with the KM to address the demand driven needs of Kabul citizens.