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Mazar-e-Sharif Municipality Commits to Sustaining Trash Collection Sub-project Initiated by RU-N after Transition



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-Cleaning and Greening Manager, Mr. Atayee.

During the first weeks of May 2012, door-to-door trash collection continued normally in Mazar-e-Sharif District 5. Residents collected their trash and put it out on the street according to the schedule of trash pickup by two municipal tractors and two *zarangs*.

For the Mazar-e-Sharif Municipality, this trash collection program represents a significant improvement in services to city residents and is an example of how sustainable programs can be managed by the municipalities.

Trash collection services in District 5 began three months ago with support from RAMP UP – North (RU-N), and following the end of the RU-N-supported program, management of the trash collection services has been successfully transferred to municipal officials.

“Though the project has not officially transitioned to municipal control yet [RU-N is waiting for approval for disposition of equipment], the Mazar-e-Sharif Municipality has started funding and managing the District 5 trash collection services,” said Saifullah Roshan, a RU-N advisor.

In fact, residents in District 5 had expressed such satisfaction with the trash collection service that the municipality is planning to expand the door-to-door trash collection system to three more districts, according to the city’s Greening and Cleaning Manager.

“Now that we are providing the service properly, we can possibly increase our tax collection levels from residents of District 5, which will increase municipal revenue and sustain trash collection as a permanent service,” said the Cleaning and Greening Manager, Mr. Atayee.

The RU-N project had been designed to promote sustainable municipal trash collection services. The project was selected by a group of volunteer residents, organized in the Service Delivery Advisory Group, which provides feedback to the Municipality about citizen priorities for municipal services. In coordination with the Municipality, RU-N contracted the three months of door-to-door trash collection service to a sub-contractor, and provided two tractors and trailer units, two *zarangs* (three-wheeled motorized rickshaws), 15 trash bins, equipment and tools, as well as 16 laborers.

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