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BEFORE AND AFTER

New School Improves Education Services in Remote Goshta

Government responds to community request

Children in Goshta are now studying inside classrooms instead of tents after USAID completed the new Goshta school in Nangarhar. “Our children used to stroll through the streets, fighting and bullying each other,” explained community elder Haji Delawar Khan. “Now they are studying at Goshta school and are busy with school studies.”

A new school was promised to the community in 2006, but funding shortfalls meant construction never started. In 2007, community elders asked the Nangarhar Education Department to build a school for their children. The Education Department submitted the request to the Provincial Development Committee and construction began in winter 2007.

In partnership with the Nangarhar Education Department, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) built eight new classrooms in which 364 male and female students from levels 1 – 6 now study with the help of seven teachers. USAID also trained a Parents Committee to monitor the quality of school services.

The school reconstruction project relied heavily on government – community cooperation and has helped enhance the legitimacy of the local government among community members. After lengthy negotiations with the Education Director and the Nangarhar Governor, representatives from three local sub-tribes, usually at odds with each other, agreed to collaboratively provide security during construction of the school. The tribes also donated land and \$10,000 to build a boundary wall.

The Commander of the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Nangarhar has also approved funding to provide furniture for the eight new classrooms.



BEFORE Students attended classes under UNICEF tents, or outside on the ground with rocks demarcating classroom boundaries.



AFTER A quick response from the Ministry of Education now means children can study inside classrooms, away from the harsh Afghan weather conditions.

