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Two Hundred Dollar Changes Lives of Eight

(7 June 2007, Kabul) In Parsa Two, a district of Mazar where the poor hardly get access to job opportunities, Khor-e Gul was lucky enough to hear about the ARIES funded project of FINCA, a successful microfinance institution. Similar to many other families in Afghanistan, Khor-e Gul's eight-member family was supported by getting an eight thousand Afghanis loan (equivalent to USD200) to reshape their business and live proudly and comfortably.



“We repatriated to Mazar-e Sharif from Pakistan in 2002, but could not reduce poverty before meeting FINCA and joining its seventeen-member microfinance group” said Khor-e Gul, the mother of six children.

Khor-e Gul started her bakery business from inside her residence in mid 2003 and her husband was helping her improve their family business, borrowing flour from local traders in debt, which cost them more than purchasing in cash.

Khor-e Gul's husband was taking out the bread to sell in streets of their locality, but it was very hard for the eight-member family to live with only fifty Afghani (equivalent to USD1) profit a day. They could not even provide the bare necessities of their life and life was treating them badly.

It is not easy when people are hopeless about their lives and when there is no motive to make you hope that things could be better, but sometimes unexpected changes like miracles will change one's life and contribute for a happy and stable life. The same happened to Khor-e Gul and her family.

In end January 2007 when this responsible female supporter of a big family got to know about FINCA and applied for her first time 8,000 Afghanis loan and successfully got that. She was still afraid that she would go to jail if she failed to repay the loan.

She spent the money to purchase flour in cash from wholesaler, cheaper than before and has been baking six hundred breads per day. Now she makes three hundred Afghanis (USD6) daily and will apply for the second time to get a bigger loan from FINCA and improve her family business more.