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**AGRICULTURE, RURAL INVESTMENT
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Pictures talk!

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Mrs Khadija from Mazar, Afghanistan is 36 and mother of four children. She used to collect papers from streets before getting her first loan of 8,000 Afghani from ARIES-FINCA. Now she runs a small business of her own which has created two jobs within her family. She bakes bread at home and her husband sells the bread in streets and to local restaurants, earning about 400 Afghani a day.

Using the loan from ARIES-FINCA, she bought flour from the wholesaler for less money and has worked hard to repay the loan on time. As soon as she repays her current loan, she will apply for a second loan and improve her business even more.



Ms Shokria of Mazar, Afghanistan is 20 years old, single and lives with her parents and brothers. She is a high school graduate, but was not able to find a job. She learned of ARIES-FINCA from a friend, applied for and received a loan for 8,000 Afghani. Using this amount she opened a hair dressing shop within her home which now is helping to support her family.



Mrs Sherin Gul is a mother of eight children who received an 8,000 Afghani loan from FINCA-ARIES about six months ago. It had been difficult to provide even the bare necessities of living for such a big family.

She used the loan to help her husband and sons start a small business. They opened a generator repair shop and also sell fuel and gas. Their daily income has increased by 500 Afghani per day. She hopes that one day the income will increase even more so that all her children can go to school.

According to Sherin Gul at the same village banking group which has 13 members, there is another poor lady called Mrs Payenda. “She lives in a poor family and they could not provide milk for their baby son who was just about to die before she got her loan from ARIES-FINCA” Sherin Gul said. According to her, the family spent some of the loan money to take the child to doctor.

Sherin Gul believes that all ARIES clients understand how much microfinance institutions help the poor people of Afghanistan in fight against poverty and she is hopeful for expansion of these institutions all over the country.

For more information on this story, please contact Shaheer Shahriar, Program Communications Specialist on 0799 860 188 or email sshahriar@aed.org.

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