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**AFGHANISTAN UN HABITAT**

## SUCCESS STORY

# Hope Arrives on Two Wheels in Herat

**Young people in Herat Province of Afghanistan are acquiring skills at a motorbike factory.**



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*A young apprentice installing electronics at the USAID-funded motorbike assembly project.*

“My dream is to make enough money employed at the factory after my apprenticeship is completed to purchase my own motorbike”, stated Jaweed, age 18. “I know I will succeed”.

At the Ariana Motorbike Factory in the province of Herat young people are learning new skills and gaining self confidence through the UN-HABITAT’s Learning for Community Empowerment Program (LCEP-2) funded by USAID. Apprenticeship in Afghanistan offers the best opportunity for young people to learn a trade that can immediately lead to employment, allowing them to contribute to their household income. ‘Hands on Learning’ at the Arian Motorbike Factory is under the supervision of skilled and dedicated mentors. The factory is well organized, clean, and properly ventilated. All the apprentices qualified for the project by completing their LCEP-2 literacy classes, and by showing high levels of motivation. Instruction is practical, supplemented with some theory.

Much of the success of the project is due to the owner of the Ariana Motorbike Factory, Mr. Eisa, who agreed to contribute to the cost of the apprentices’ daily transport. “These young people are the future for Afghanistan, and I want to do my part to help them” Mr. Eisa recently told visitors. He is so pleased with the progress of the apprentices that he has promised all of them full-time employment at the completion of the six-month training period.

The Ariana Motorbike Factory is one of more than 150 different kinds of apprenticeship projects across Afghanistan being supported by USAID through the UN-HABITAT. At present more than 20,000 learners in 12 different provinces are involved in the initiative, including significant numbers of young women. Popular choices of trades for apprenticeship include metalwork, masonry, car mechanics, bicycle and motorbike repair, photography, house painting, and carpentry. Apart from the technical elements associated with the particular trade, young people enrolled in apprenticeships learn vital social skills such as the importance of reliability, hard work, and getting along with others.

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