



A Mother's Support to the CRL field workers

After almost one year of successful implementation of the Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project (CRL) in Kandahar Province of Afghanistan; UNOPS and CRL are well known terminologies amongst the local communities. Most of the communities know about the vital impact of the CRL project in the development of the city. They often find ways to show their support for the program. In such an instance, in the late morning of June 15, 2023, a mother came out of her house to show her love and appreciation.

The weather is super-hot; the thermometer is reading 42°C. The laborers are busy cleaning the joints of the newly concreted street in District 3 of Kandahar. "Sons, come here", the laborers heard a voice, all looked up and saw a woman with a bag of plastic full of water and energy drinks in her hand. "Come, closer" and while distributing them the drinks she said that:

"You guys have the best job in the world, you are building your country; I am old and cannot join you in construction activities, but I will do my part, I have brought you some cold water and energy drinks. You need energy to work, don't you? A laughing mother added." The laborers looked around, had a pause of a few seconds and then one of them approached the woman and took the can from her hand. Others followed.

She also added that: "This street was unpaved for 22 years, we suffered a lot both in winter and in the summer, due to the high volume of dust and mud. Now it looks perfect to walk on. I have no words to thank the organization who implemented this project, I think it is UNOPS or some people say it is the World Bank. I thank them from the bottom of my heart, This means a lot for us. Keep the good work going, bring more projects here, we will be here to support you physically, if not physically, we will pray for you. Just work and try to build our country".

Those were some magical words, it left some laborers in tears. This was unexpected under the current situation. The mother could not distribute drinks to all laborers, however, she was able to serve the closest group. She left the site saying "Work Hard-OK!".

This might look just a story, however, the impact it left and the message it spread is way bigger. In some cases women might not be able to work physically, however, they are with us. They know the impact of programs like CRL, they support such programs and ask for more and better programs.