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**AFGHANISTAN**

USAID **50** ANNIVERSARY

## SNAPSHOT

# Blast Batters Bus

**Families are harmed by explosion that destroys a minibus**



Photo: USAID/ACAP

*Families of 11 civilians killed when a minibus ran over an IED in December 2010, received USAID assistance.*

***When 19-year-old Dada Gul lost her loving husband and the breadwinner of her family, USAID provided her with a sewing machine and a raft of other useful home items that helped her sustain herself.***

Roadside bombs kill or maim hundreds of innocent Afghans every year. The bombs, otherwise known as improvised explosive devices or IEDs, are a favorite tactic of insurgents. More often than not, it is not soldiers who are the victims but civilians.

One morning in December 2010, in the Kushk District of Hirat Province, a minibus ran over an IED, which was intended for a U.S. Army convoy. Eleven civilians were killed, including the driver, and five were injured.

Dada Gul's husband was the driver. He had only been married to 19-year-old Dada for two months. "I lost my love and the breadwinner for my family. My husband's family did not take any responsibility and asked me to go to my father's family again. This was so difficult because my family did not have a good financial situation, but it was the only option," said Dada.

Many foreign militaries provide compensation to injured Afghan civilians, but these schemes do not cover incidents when insurgents are responsible. A USAID-funded project, however, helps victims no matter whether the incident was due to foreign soldiers or insurgents. The project provides direct assistance to Afghans who suffer losses because of roadside bombs.

USAID provided Dada with a grocery kit containing ample basic food supplies plus a standard kit containing many useful items for the home, such as a carpet, gas stove, and sewing machine.

Dada now earns an income from making clothes with the sewing machine. She said, "I really appreciate USAID. I was able to rebuild my life."

All families traveling on the mini-bus received assistance. The USAID project has assisted more than 9,600 families across the country.