“Our tent in the IDPs camp was another home for us after the earthquake damage”, Yasin Story

“When we were sleeping at night, our house was shaking all of sudden. I woke up and saw all my family under the damage. I saved the lives of my family members (three daughters and two sons). I was calling my brother to help, but unfortunately my brother already died under the rubble and many members of my family were injured.” Yasin 50 years old, an IDP from Geyan district. “Now, I am responsible for 15 family members (including my brother’s children and his wife). We all live in one place.” He adds.

On the 22nd of June 2022, an earthquake hit three provinces in the southeastern region of Afghanistan. The worst affected districts were Gayan, and Barmal districts in Paktika Province and Spera District in Khost Province. Yasin was forced to move to the IDP camp where UNICEF provided interventions in WASH, education, nutrition, health and lifesaving messaging.

With CERF funds, UNICEF reached 91,979 people in the provision of safe water through water trucking and rehabilitation/construction of water schemes, 47,424 people with latrines and solid waste management, and 230,492 people receiving WASH and life-saving messages and WASH supplies, and 33 schools and health facilities received new and repaired WASH facilities.

As part of CERF fund support, 60 couples (120) social mobilizers (SMs) were recruited and deployed to support the affected people during the crisis to disseminate life- saving messages, Yasin regularly participated in awareness sessions and during these sessions he realized about malnutrition. He was not aware that his two daughters were malnourished. The SBC social mobilizers briefed him on the available services in the camp. “Before we arrived in the IDP camp, there was a lot of cultural restrictions and negative traditions, we did not have access to health, education and other public services and we were not informed on child right’s, women’s right, health concerns, child feeding and caring, Now my daughter’s health situation improved. My children joined the community-based -schools (CBSs) started by UNICEF. I feel safe to send them to study in these CBSs, my wife and I f attend the awareness sessions that discuss different issues, and we learnt many new things on health, nutrition, and education.

The involvement of female social mobilizers has been a key to improve knowledge and attitude of mothers who considered the main caregiver to children during this critical situation.

After a few months living in the IDP camp, Yasin was able to rebuild his house and return back to normal life. “It was my first time to live in a camp but the available services that were supported by UNICEF made our lives easier. We managed to keep our kids in school, and my wife learnt new knowledge on different topics, health, nutrition, education. Also, I received hygiene kits that helped me to practice what I learnt.

“Now, I know how to save lives of my kids and family. I learnt that regular handwashing with water and soap – and providing clean drinking water are key practices to protect my children from diarrhea and other fatality diseases.” Yasin’s wife mentions.

Photos of Yasin and his family.





