"Starting From Zero: Abdul Majid's Struggle to Rebuild"

Abdul Majid, a 69-year-old father of five, recently crossed the Spin Boldak border back into Afghanistan with his wife and children. After 48 years in Pakistan where all his children were born he returned to escape ongoing harassment and forced deportation.

Originally from the 14th district of Kandahar City, Abdul Majid spent most of his life in Pakistan. He ran a small business in Pashtoon Abad that provided a modest but comfortable life for his family. They were happy, and their daily needs were met through his hard work.

Now back in Kandahar, life has changed dramatically. The family lives in a small rented house with just two rooms, paying 5,500 Afghanis per month. Speaking with a heavy heart, Abdul Majid explained:

"How can I take care of my children in a country where unemployment and poverty have increased so much? Half the population now depends on aid just to meet basic needs."

The timing of their deportation was especially painful. His daughter had been engaged in Pakistan, and her wedding was planned to take place within weeks. But the family was expelled before the ceremony, leaving them separated from her fiancé's family.

Today, Abdul Majid has no relatives in Afghanistan to support him. The small emergency cash grant he received from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) at the border was enough only for a little food. His financial challenges remain overwhelming.

"I want my children to study and become educated, knowledgeable people," he added with determination.

Still, starting over at 69 is daunting.

"I'm starting from zero. I don't have the money to restart my business here. It's very hard for my family to adjust to this new environment."

Abdul Majid called on the Afghan government to provide banking loans and land to returnees, so they can rebuild their lives with dignity. He also urged international organizations to support returnees by providing shelter, education, healthcare, job opportunities, and other basic needs.

Abdul Majid's story is just one among thousands. Every day, families are deported from Pakistan with nothing but hope and they arrive in Afghanistan in desperate need of immediate and long-term support.





Abdul Majid, 69 years old, crossed the Spin Buldak border into Afghanistan. 28 September, 2025, photo clicked by COAR.