Urban Neighborhood Development Council (NDC) 1 in Gozar 2, District 11 of Kabul City organized an inauguration ceremony on 25 July 2011 to mark the launch of the first community contributing development project through the Kabul Solidarity Programme (KSP). Under the Japan-funded project, Peace-Building in Afghanistan through Consolidation of Community Solidarity, the KSP is initiated by the Kabul Municipality to improve the living conditions and well-being of all Kabul citizens through strengthened municipal institutions, good governance structures and service delivery.

The celebrations were attended by the Municipal District Director, Head of the NDC 1, representatives of other Gozars and Chief of Police with more than 50 community members. Speaking on the occasion the distinguished representatives highlighted contributions of the community members, UN-HABITAT as well as the Government of Japan in bringing people together to rebuild the country.

Mr. Sanjaya Adhikary on behalf of the UN-HABITAT Afghanistan Country Representative congratulated the Gozar 2 community for being the first NDC to launch the KSP at the ground. He added that this initiative demonstrated communities’ dedication and commitment to address their development priorities and improve urban environment. When effectively implemented, this kind of project would inspire other neighborhoods to replicate successful models.

Community-based initiative through “People’s Process” not only rebuilds the damaged infrastructures but also reconciles broken hearts and minds. An inherent element of this initiative is peace building at the community. With 35 percent community cash contribution, this initiative helps communities in the NDC-1 improve drainage (2,400m) and footpath (3,760m²) based on the needs identified by the communities themselves. UN-HABITAT will provide assistance in constructing concrete roads (1,200m) and 5 culverts.