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## SUCCESS STORY

# MAKING WAY FOR THE NEW



Photo by: USAID/CMP

*Mr. Arshad Khashkeli and his assistant outside his shop in Tando Mir Ali village, Khairpur District, Sindh Province*

**Sindh Community Mobilization Program (CMP) facilitates resolving a difficult conflict of interest. One that could have fatally damaged the livelihood of a well known member of the community and undermined widespread community support for the building of a state of the art new school under the Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP).**

Mr. Arshad Khashkeli is a resident of Tando Mir Ali village and well known shopkeeper and local character. Thirty years ago the school management for GBHS Tando Mir Ali in Khairpur District allowed him to use some space attached to the school to open a small shop. Mr. Khashkeli was justifiably concerned that his livelihood would be destroyed when he heard that the school had been selected for new construction under USAID's SBEP program and was to be demolished to make way for the new building. Though the A&E company pointed out that leaving the shop in place would seriously and adversely affect the whole project, the SMC empathized with Mr. Khashkeli and were reluctant to sign an MoU signaling their commitment to the project.

GBHS Tando Mir Ali Headmaster, Mr. Riaz Ahmed Pathan, reached out to CMP to help resolve the issue. The CMP team broadened the base of involvement and arranged a meeting of village elders and notables alongside SMC members and the A&E contractor. This was the first time that village elders and notables had been involved in an issue concerning the school. "All present were extremely pleased that USAID and the GOS had selected our school for a new building. On one point everyone was agreed; we could not miss out on this opportunity. This made us decide the issue," said GBHS Tando Mir Ali SMC Chairperson Mr. Muhammad Saleem Arain.

The group decided to offer a plot of land to Mr. Khashkeli, at the rear of the old school building where he could relocate his shop. Mr. Khashkeli accepted the offer and a formal, written agreement was drawn and signed by all parties, binding them to the decision. The SMC subsequently signed the MoU with the contractor and demolition works commenced as scheduled on December 15, 2013.