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# Progress in Sangin

On 6 March 2007, Operation Achilles was launched, at the request of the Afghan Government, to bring security to northern Helmand and to set the conditions for reconstruction that will fundamentally improve the lives of the Afghan people in the area.

As requested by the Afghan Government, the key objective is to secure the area around the Kajaki Dam; a long-term initiative and a huge undertaking. The rehabilitation of the dam and power house will improve the water supply for local communities, restore irrigation systems for farmlands and provide sufficient electric power for 2 million residents, as well as industries and commerce.

5,500 troops (4,500 ISAF & 1,000 ANSF) participated in this joint operation.

Taliban extremists mounted a number of attacks in an attempt to disrupt the progress of the reconstruction project. The photograph below shows the crippling effect on economic life in Sangin District in April 2007.

The ANSF and ISAF forces have made considerable progress in securing and stabilising the area. The combined efforts have resulted in erosion of the enemy's lines of communication. The number of IED attacks in Sangin is falling.

Five months later, Sangin District Centre is under Afghan Government control and the Bazaar is open for business.

Other tangible achievements include the construction of a new school and of a police station.





Sangin Bazaar – April 2007 (Source: United Kingdom)



Sangin Bazaar in September 2007



New School September 2007