

# PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



Afghanistan

## AFGHANISTAN'S FIRST NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

**July 19, 2004 Kabul** – The Government of Afghanistan and UNDP organize a National Consultation Workshop for the country's first National Human Development Report (NHDR). The workshop aims to brief participants on the draft of the report and its findings and to solicit input from the national and international community to enrich the report. Participants include representatives of the Government, the United Nations and NGOs; academics, researchers and professionals; concerned citizens and development workers.

The NHDR was launched in April 2003 as a joint project of the Afghan Government and UNDP. The project aims to build national capacity to collect and analyze socioeconomic data, thus helping to remedy the shortage of reliable data in Afghanistan, which, in the words of the National Development Framework, "hampers the Government's ability to respond to predictable crises and to make policy based on evidence of what works and what does not." The project will also promote countrywide public dialogue on human development issues and develop indicators to monitor human development progress.

Throughout the world, the UNDP promotes human development—the process of expanding choices among all people. Each year since 1990, UNDP has published global Human Development Reports that compare and rank 173 participating countries on the basis of composite indices of human development. These indices incorporate indicators of health, education, income, poverty and gender disparity, and help identify development gaps, measure progress and give early warning signs of potential problems. National teams of academics, government officials, civil society representatives and statisticians prepare the NHDRs with support from UNDP country offices. Many countries have adopted policies to accelerate human development based on the findings of the Human Development Reports. Unfortunately, the scarcity of national data has prevented Afghanistan from featuring in them in any capacity since 1996.

The preparations for Afghanistan's first NHDR have been praised by the President of Afghanistan and various Ministers as extremely valuable to the country's current efforts to develop a coherent development strategy for the coming years based on reliable data and objective analysis. The release of the report is scheduled for September 2004.

### Agenda of the NHDR Workshop – 19/07/2004 – 14:00

**14:00-14:15**                    **Opening Speech by Ms. Karen Jørgensen,**

**UNDP Senior Deputy Country Director**

**14:15-14:30**                    **Brief presentation by Ms. Shahrbanou Tadjbaksh,**

**NHDR Consultant**

Purpose and expected outcomes of this workshop

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| <b>14:30-15:10</b> | <b>Briefing by the team of NHDR authors</b><br>The Authors will present a summary of the draft NHDR with a particular emphasis on its main messages.                        |
| <b>15:10-15:20</b> | <b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>   |
| <b>15:20-17:20</b> | <b>Group Discussion / Consultations</b><br>All participants will have the opportunity to discuss the key messages of the NHDR and offer their comments for its finalization |
| <b>17:20-17:50</b> | <b>Summary of Findings by Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh</b>   |
| <b>17:50-18:00</b> | <b>Closure</b>  |

**Participants:**

- Advisory Panel Members and NHDR staff;
- Experts on Human Development and drafting of Human Development Reports (possibly from the regional Human Development Centres);
- Governmental institutions involved in data gathering, research and analysis activities (Central Statistics Office, Academy of Science, etc.);
- Local, national and international professionals/organisations engaged in data gathering and analysis (AIMS, AREU, ACBAR, FAO, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, IMF, UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank, etc.);
- National academics, researchers, professionals and other potential authors;
- International and national professionals with expertise in Afghanistan's development issues;
- Professionals interested in the NHDR;
- Government representatives from various ministries;
- Friends of NHDR

For more information, please contact:

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