

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



Commanders Rewarded for Their Support of DDR Programme

Oct 24, 2004-Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP), in partnership with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the international community, is offering a financial package to Afghan Military Forces (AMF) commanders and senior officers whose military units are decommissioned and who have shown their full support for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process.

AMF commanders and senior-ranking officers will be paid a monthly cash amount. They could also opt for a lump sum payment to be used to start a business.

There are restrictions and conditions that will apply for commanders who have considerable wealth, are occupying military or civilian posts with regular government salaries, and those who are already engaged in business activities.

The incentives will be paid for two years. ANBP will pay for the first year. The government will cover the second year.

ANBP expects its share of the incentive package to cost about \$2.5 million. This money will be donated by the Government of Japan.

To date, more than 21,000 soldiers have turned in about 15,920 weapons under the DDR programme. About 19,255 of those disarmed have been reintegrated through one of ANBP's many options, including agriculture, demining, vocational training, teaching, contracting teams, or joining the Afghan National Army or Afghan National Police.

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The ANBP is a programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It works with the Afghan Transitional Authority to disarm and demobilize former members of the AMF forces then reintegrate them to Afghan society.



AFGHANISTAN



آغاز نو - نوی پیل
Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme



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