

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



Afghanistan

New USD 12.5 million Netherlands Support to LOTFA

Kabul, 23 July: The Government of Netherlands has committed a further assistance of USD 12.5 million to the Government of Afghanistan-UNDP supported “Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA)”. An agreement to this effect was signed by the UNDP Country Director, Ms. Anita Nirody and the Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Ms. Yvonne Stassen. The hand-over ceremony took place in the Ministry of Interior in presence of the First Deputy Interior Minister, Mr. Abdul Hadi Khalid.

Rebuilding the national civilian police force for national security and recovery represents one of the highest priorities for the Government of Afghanistan. The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) envisions a professional, disciplined and reinvigorated police, widely visible to the public, creating a sense of comfort among the population.

At the request of the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA), UNDP established the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) in May 2002 to cover the Government’s police-related costs. The European Commission, United States, Canada, Netherlands, Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Finland, Australia and Japan are the major contributors to LOTFA. The Netherlands has been a contributor to LOTFA for the last four years, with a total contribution of USD 30, 8 million in that period.

The latest contribution from Netherlands’ government will be used for police salaries and food allowances in all provinces of the country. Police remuneration is the primary priority of the LOTFA initiative.

LOTFA reimbursed the Ministry of Finance (MoF) for police remuneration in all 34 provinces to ensure regular payment of police salaries in the country. In addition, the Electronic Payroll System (EPS) would be deployed in all 34 provinces for efficient and more accountable administration of financial resources of MoF.

Should you need further information on this press release or any other UNDP programme in Afghanistan, please contact Kumar Tiku, UNDP-Afghanistan Communications Officer, at kumar.tiku@undp.org

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