

# PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



Afghanistan

## Upgraded Vocational Training Center in Nangarhar province was officially handed over to the local government

**Nangarhar, 6 May, 2008** — the project to upgrade Nangarhar Vocational Training Center is completed and the center was officially handed over to the local government of this province by UNDP Urban Development Group (UDG) today in Jalalabad. This is a part of a project for upgrading nine Vocational Training Centers in Nangarhar, Kandahar, Kunduz, Herat, Jawzjan, Bamyán, Balkh (Mazar-e-Sharif), Paktiya (Gardez) and Kabul provinces in Afghanistan.

The project aims to increase employment and livelihood opportunities in the provinces through upgrading the Vocational Training Centers of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD).

This project will be completed in close collaboration with MoLSAMD and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 12 Months (September 2007 to October 2008). Under this pilot project, UNDP/UDG procures essential assets including office and security equipments for the training centers to make them operational. In addition, construction and renovation of permanent outdoor enclosures for generators, construction of boundary walls with installation of window grills and air conditioning systems, fixing of building defects such as roof leaks and provision of common tools are other activities undertaken by the project.

This project is funded by the Government of Japan to support MoLSAMD to upgrade these vocational training centers under the Japanese Grassroots Fund and was initiated during the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process. The centers are intended for use as Vocational Training Centers for ex-combatants and other vulnerable people as a part of MoLSAMD's "Basic Vocational Training Project for Ex-Combatants" in order to promote sustainable livelihoods and equip ex-combatants, the disabled, widows and most vulnerable people who are suffering from lack of employment through provision of vocational training and increase income levels to reduce vulnerability. (ends)

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