

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



Development Challenges and the Way Forward Was Discussed in a Development Stakeholder Workshop

Kabul, April 6, 2009-- UNDP Afghanistan discussed its contribution to development results and its future plans in Afghanistan in a one day workshop with the Government partners, donors, international and civil society organizations.

The goal of the workshop was to share and discuss the main findings and recommendations of an Assessment of Development Results (ADR) conducted recently by the Evaluation Office of UNDP. The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the major challenges faced by UNDP in Afghanistan and the «way forward» that is how to build upon the recommendations of the evaluation to prepare the new UNDP strategy in Afghanistan.

Mr Manoj Basnyat, the UNDP Afghanistan Country Director called this event very important for UNDP Afghanistan as the ADR looks at the impacts of UNDP's results while feedback from the participants will guide UNDP to improve planning for its future programmes in Afghanistan.

Ms Saraswathi Menon the Director of the UNDP Headquarters Evaluation Office elaborated on the assessment of UNDP's achievements from 2002 to 2008 while reminding the participants that the ADR is an independent report that evaluates UNDP's contribution to peace building and development in Afghanistan. The report also assesses the competitive advantage, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability of results, capacity development and national ownership. The report will be used at country level by UNDP and the Government of Afghanistan in developing the new Country Programme Document.



"It is important to have today's discussion to make sure that conclusions are grounded in evidence and that recommendations are clear, address the key issues and are actionable in a way that helps move the programme forward." she said.

"UNDP has always involved the Government of Afghanistan in its programmes and we are satisfied with this approach. UNDP has a close relationship with the Government because of UNDP's focus on capacity building and as you can see that the Government is directly involved in designing UNDP programme" said Mr Enayatullah Nabel, Director General of Economic Affairs at Ministry of

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Foreign Affairs (MoFA). "ADR comes at a crucial time. The implementation phase of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) offers an opportunity to improve effectiveness and coordination of international assistances through better government ownership. The Government of Afghanistan looks forward to further discuss on the report to see how recommendations can lead to concrete actions." he added.

Mr B. Murali the Afghanistan Desk Officer at the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific informed that UNDP is presenting a new country programme which will cover the period from 2010 to 2013 subject to the approval of the UNDP executive board. The programmes will mainly focus on stabilization and peace building, strengthening democratic governance, livelihoods, natural resources management, disaster risk reduction, national development policies for economic growth and poverty reduction. It is expected that around 1 billion US dollars will be spent to implement this plan.

UNDP has supported most of the key elements of the peace process through capacity building and direct support which includes creation of a transitional government, holding of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, disbandment of a significant number of illegal armed groups, public administration reform, establishment of a functioning parliament, strengthening of key institutions of the justice sector, and reform of the Afghan police.

UNDP Afghanistan is the largest UNDP programme in Asia and the third largest programme in the world with over 50 years of presence in Afghanistan. UNDP has delivered more than 1 billion to assist the peace building and development process Afghanistan since Bonn Agreement in 2002.

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