

# PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



## UNDP Reintegration Support Project for Ex-combatants (RSPE) Completed

**Kabul, May 25, 2009**—UNDP announced completion of its Reintegration Support Project for Ex-combatants (RSPE) today. This was a two-year joint project with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) with a total value of USD 4 million and a goal to empower ex-combatants through access to reintegration support opportunities and to enable MoLSAMD staff to support reintegration and Employment Services Centres (ESC) through increased institutional capacity.

The project registered some 17,057 jobseekers (80 percent male and 20 percent female) including 4,471 ex-combatants in 10 ESCs in Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Paktiya, Baghlan, Kunduz and Jawzjan provinces; out of this number some 3,737 male and 1,368 female were provided with job opportunities. In addition, 6,853 project beneficiaries received different types of skills development training which includes technical and vocational training for the ex-combatants and their family members to become qualified jobseekers.

Besides providing employment and reintegration services to the ex-combatants and their families, a total number of 2,040 jobseekers benefited from the Job Application Training and 498 attended the Basic English Language Training out of which 6.82 percent were females. Such trainings provided an opportunity for the trainees to enter into the labour market.

As part of the capacity development, 85 (31 Female and 54 Male) MoLSAMD staff members at the central and provincial level benefited from on the job training opportunities since March 2007 which was continued during the year 2008. In addition, a five-year strategic plan to build capacity of the staff of the Employment Services Department was prepared with extensive and effective participation of MoLSAMD staff members. The project also collaborated with MoLSAMD to formulate the strategy and objectives of the MoLSAMD including the National Employment Strategy which was unveiled in July/August 2008.

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*Should you need further information on this press release or any other UNDP programme in Afghanistan, please contact Fezeh Hosseini, UNDP-Afghanistan Public Information Officer on (+93) 0700 475 714 or (+ 93) (0) 20 212 4098 or email to [fezeh.hosseini@undp.org](mailto:fezeh.hosseini@undp.org)*

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