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Rehabilitating Police Officers in Afghanistan

The Japanese government and UNDP LOTFA help to ensure the Afghan National Police have access to drug treatment and care

February 2011 - In Afghanistan, nearly 8 percent of the population are addicted to drugs. Easy access to inexpensive narcotics have resulted in nearly 1 million Afghans addicted or engaged in problem drug use, according to a 2009 report by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (Drug Use in Afghanistan: 2009 Survey).

A shortage of treatment and rehabilitation centers exacerbates the issue, with just 11 percent of problem drug users receiving treatment, according to UNODC.



The Afghan National Police (ANP), unfortunately, faces the same problem within its forces. More than half of all Afghans have reported seeing police officers using drugs, which decreases their trust in the police force and opens doors for corruption. With a shortage of trained and experience policemen in the country, drug rehabilitation is one of the only solutions for this issue.



As Mr. Seiji Okada, Deputy Chief of Mission of Japan, says, "Without a solid, independent, transparent police, it is very difficult to have development of the country."

Japanese contribution through LOTFA allowed the center to purchase modern equipment and medicines.

The Japanese government has helped to address this issue by providing medical equipment and supplies to the ANP Drug Rehabilitation Center, which was established in 2010. Working through the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA), the Japanese government supplied the center with

pharmaceuticals, ambulances, and medical supplies to improve the quality of care for the ANP.

Currently, 10 doctors and five nurses trained in drug rehabilitation work at the center, which is capable of accommodating more than 100 patients at a time.

According to Dr. Qandahar Shinwari, the center's director, more and more patients are voluntarily coming into the center to be



Lt. General Abdul Rahman Rahman, Deputy Minister for Security Affairs, meets with the center's doctors.

rehabilitated so they can return to their police duties. “They used to be transferred to this center forcibly,” he says.

More than 1,000 patients have been treated and rehabilitated since its establishment.

“A police officer is one of the most respected occupations in our country. This is what we hope for Afghanistan as well,” says Okada.

The Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) is a multilateral Trust Fund set up in 2002 and administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Trust Fund has provided a mechanism for coordinating contributions from international partners with the main priorities of covering police salaries, improving police infrastructure, capacity development and gender enhancement in the Ministry of Interior, as part of the international community’s support to rebuild and develop the Afghan police force. LOTFA has 19 donors including the government of Japan, which contributed \$180 million in 2010.