

United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan
Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG)
Third Quarter Project Progress Report [2010]



Input distribution ceremony for DIAG Support Project, Paktya, July 2010

Project ID: 00043604
Duration: January 2005 – March 2011
Strategic Plan Component: Crisis Prevention and Recovery
CPAP Component: Stabilization and Peace Building
ANDS Component: Security
Total Budget: USD116,539,404
Responsible Agencies: UNDP

DIAG DONORS




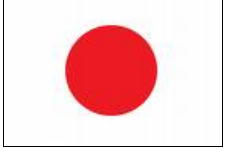






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I. Executive Summary

In the third quarter of 2010, Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme's (ANBP) Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) project assisted the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) in disarming and disbanding illegal armed groups, supporting peace and reintegration activities undertaken by the GoA under the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program (APRP), collecting weapons, and in delivering development projects to enhance socio-economic outcomes in targeted districts. In doing so, it contributed to community development, promoted stability and security, fostered disarmament, and enhanced good governance. In this quarter, seven Illegal Armed Groups (IAGs) were disbanded, bringing the total number disbanded since the beginning of DIAG to 743. Two thousand three hundred and fifty four weapons were collected and handed over during this quarter as a result of DIAG District Implementation (DDI) operations and contributions from other stakeholders, bringing the total number of weapons collected under DIAG to 51,873. During this quarter, 558 individual weapons were registered, and 20 new districts have been targeted for the new round i.e. DDI 8 of the DIAG process.

Three DIAG District Development Projects (DDPs) and one DIAG Support Project (DSP) were completed during the third quarter of 2010, promoting disarmament through development and enhancing the stability and socio-economic condition of the targeted districts. The total number of completed DDPs is now twenty; in addition, nine DSPs have also been finished.

The implementation of the Ministry of Interior (MoI)-DIAG Cell-capacity development action plan continued in the third quarter of 2010, with further mentoring and technical support provided to the MoI DIAG operations, Private Security Companies (PSC) and Weapon Registration and Licensing (WRL) cells. Support was provided for procurement, information technology, budgetary issues, and also for Presidential Decree No. 62 ordering the disbandment of private security companies. MoI DIAG cells at the central, provincial, and regional level comprising 180 staff benefited from this and were able to function independently and at an improved level of optimality.

Support was provided through the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission's (D&RC) activities to consolidate emerging peace and reintegration opportunities in five target districts under the Afghan government led Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program (APRP). Field missions were conducted and logistical support was provided to delegations to meet with political leaders and commanders in pursuit of peace and reintegration opportunities. Support to the High Peace Council and other organizational aspects of the APRP is being planned and undertaken. UNDP/DIAG supported Joint Secretariat Cluster Working Groups, and has prepared proposals for developing Peace and Reintegration Support Cells in the MoI and NDS. Further capacity development in relevant Line Ministries (LMs) is also being planned upon the completion of a capacity assessment exercise that has been initiated. These accomplishments reflect the contribution of the DIAG project in supporting weapons management, peace building and stability in Afghanistan.

DIAG organized and facilitated a number of successful public information (PI) initiatives throughout the third quarter, organizing round-table television debates, public service announcements and radio programmes on Peace and Reintegration (P&R) and DIAG. An awareness campaign about peace and reintegration initiatives was organised especially for Hajjis. ANBP also supported the GoA in its information campaign directed at civil society organizations and women's rights groups with a role to play in peace and reintegration efforts.

In addition to the deteriorating security situation and the consequent restrictions on movement and operations, DIAG faced certain other challenges in the reporting period. These issues include the activities of local militias, the flaring up of tribal disputes, lack of support from local DIAG actors, and the problem of dealing with 'hard' districts with a considerable presence of Anti-Government Elements (AGEs).

The important lessons learned during this quarter are that the rate and extent of DSP initiation needs to be increased as development and disarmament are linked closely. Further, monitoring and development activities need to be intricately linked from the very first stage of project initiation to obtain accurate capture of results. Finally, it is better to discuss small-scale development projects with target beneficiaries in terms of numbers of beneficiaries and maintain some flexibility regarding the budget of these projects.

In the final quarter of 2010, ANBP will provide technical support to the Afghan government led APRP at the central as well as the local level. It will contribute towards development of capacity in the LMs, and provide logistical support to the High Peace Council as requested by the GoA. Ten DSPs will be initiated in the final quarter of 2010. ANBP will facilitate demobilization activities as well work to develop capacity in the relevant LMs. In addition, DIAG operations will continue in targeted districts.

II. Context

The DIAG project was commenced in June 2005 in response to the problem of IAGs which had remained outside the framework of the 2003-05 Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) programme. The project was developed by UNDP at the request of the GoA in order to deal with the instability caused by the remaining IAGs. DIAG supports the GoA by improving security through disarmament and disbandment of IAGs and reducing the level of armed violence in communities. In addition, by facilitating the implementation of development projects in DIAG compliant districts, DIAG empowers existing government programmes for socio-economic development, which enhances stability and the promotion of good governance. By providing support to the D&RC, UNDP/DIAG also facilitates the Afghan government's P&R initiatives. The main objective of DIAG is to extend the authority of the GoA by developing its capacity for effective local governance and creating the conditions for a secure and prosperous population.

In promoting and facilitating disarmament and strengthening institutions at the national and local levels, DIAG directly supports the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2010-2013 which prioritizes governance, peace and stability, and the development of credible national institutions. DIAG contributes to the realization of the UNDAF outcome on strengthening stabilization through effective integrated UN support to the GoA and communities, and helps to achieve the Country Programme outcome on increasing the capacity of state and non-state institutions to contribute to overall stabilization and peace building. DIAG supports the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) 2009-2013 for Afghanistan, which focuses on supporting the reform of security-sector institutions to make them more effective, legitimate and transparent and which can contribute to moving Afghanistan towards a rights-respecting state accountable to its citizens. DIAG also supports the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) strategic benchmark whereby all IAGs will be disbanded by March 2011.

The project is directly implemented under the leadership of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the D&RC. The government leads the process with support and coordination from DIAG. The GoA, specifically the Mol, directly benefits from assistance in the implementation of the project as well as an institutional capacity development plan. For the development component, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) plays the lead role in implementing the district level development projects through the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP).

Successful DIAG and P&R activities such as the disarming and reintegration of ex-combatants, the disbandment of IAGs, weapons collection, infrastructure and alternative livelihood development projects and the strengthening of government capacity to deliver services to the people contribute to greater peace and stability in Afghanistan. Key DIAG stakeholders and beneficiaries are therefore the reintegrated IAGs, the communities benefiting from DIAG development projects, the international community, the Government and the Afghan population. Other beneficiaries include regional neighbours and the wider international community, which benefit from improved security in a more stable Afghanistan.

III. Implementation progress

Output 1 – Implementation of weapons collection and disbandment of illegal armed groups fully supported.

Activity 1.1 – Districts stabilised by implementation of weapons management and disbandment of illegal armed groups.

A. Disbandment of IAGs and weapons collection

In spite of existing security concerns and pre-and-post election disruptions across the country, seven IAGs were disbanded and a total of 2,354 weapons were collected as a result of DDI operations and the handover of confiscated weapons to DIAG in the third quarter of 2010. In the previous quarter, DIAG had disbanded 20 IAGs and collected 1,826 weapons. Of the seven IAGs disbanded, five were from Shinwari district in Parwan province, two from Goshta and one in Surkhrod districts of Nangarhar province. The cumulative total of IAGs disbanded has reached 743, and weapons collected through the DIAG program currently stands at 51,873.

Weapons collected in each province during the 3 rd Quarter																
Province	Panjshir	Khost	Kapisa	Kabul	Farah	Helmand	Samangha	Balkh	Ghor	Wardak	Nuristan	Parwan	Laghman	Ghazni	Logar	TOTAL
Weapons Collected	1495	155	107	229	51	42	40	73	34	17	15	8	2	1	1	2354

B. District DIAG Implementation (DDI)

DIAG operations extensively focused on DDI 6 and DDI 7 operations during this quarter and resulted in the disbandment of seven illegal armed groups (as explained in the previous section). The total number of targeted districts remains 140 and ANBP regional offices and local provincial committees have nominated 20 new districts for the new round (DDI 8) of the DDI process. The relevant IAG and district lists and supporting material have been submitted to the Joint Secretariat (JS) for review and approval.

The DIAG team turned in 1,727 weapons to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Logistical HQ in Kabul. These weapons had already been stored at the weapons collection point in Kabul as a result of contributions from DDI operations, confiscation and handover of weapons by security agencies.

During the third quarter, a Baseline Survey at DDI round 7 was in 18 districts completed; the collected data was translated into English and entered into the specific baseline database. A post-compliance 5 survey was completed in 19 districts; this will allow measurement of the changes from the baseline survey and depict the changes in socio-economic conditions that have occurred in DIAG compliant districts as a result of the

disarmament and disbanding of IAGs. Preliminary results from these surveys suggest that most districts that complied with DIAG saw improvement in their socio-economic situation. Among the results, Shirin Tagab district saw the number of armed criminal incidents drop from 43 in the pre-compliance quarter to zero in the post-compliance quarter. Jabulsaraj, Qarqin, Sangcharak, Lal wa sarjantal and Dawlatabad districts all witnessed an improvement in economic conditions ranging from 32 to 70 percent, according to the respondents surveyed.

Output 2 – Identification and monitoring of socio-economic community development and governance interventions fully supported.

Activity 2.1: Districts’ stability and socio-economic conditions empowered through development initiatives.

A. Implementation of DIAG Support Projects (DSPs)

A development initiative which aimed to provide alternative livelihood packages to targeted beneficiaries, known as DSPs, began in June 2009, and has been further promoted in this reporting period. By providing an immediate tangible incentive and bridging the time-gap between district DIAG compliance and the completion of larger infrastructure development projects, DSPs encourage disarmament and demonstrate DIAG’s commitment to developing local communities. The delivery of development projects can promote disarmament, peace and reintegration, reinforce DIAG’s standing across communities and IAGs, and strengthen DIAG’s ability to contribute towards conflict resolution. The accessibility and stability of nine targeted districts has increased through these efforts.

The input distribution process of the DSPs located in Chal, Kishme Tagab and Gardez districts was monitored, and follow-up reports were prepared and circulated. A needs assessment questionnaire was developed for ten DSP projects which are to be implemented in the coming quarter; this survey is ongoing, and once completed will allow DIAG to initiate DSPs so as to link development with disarmament and peace-building.

One DSP, in Gardez district of Paktya province, was completed during the third quarter of 2010. In total, by the end of June 2010, nine DSPs had been completed by ANBP in Dawlatabad (Faryab), Shirin Tagab (Faryab), Jabil Saraj(Parwan), Chal (Takhar), Sangcharak (Saripul), Lal Por (Nangarhar), Kishim (Badakhshan), Qarabagh (Kabul) and Gardez (Paktya).

Overall, more than 750 former IAG members and their families have been trained in alternative livelihood skills such as dairy cow and sheep keeping, honey bee-keeping; and poultry production. The project inputs have already started to yield tangible benefits to these beneficiaries and their local communities. As a result, employment and income generating opportunities in the targeted areas has increased, especially for ex-combatants and disadvantaged women. Use of vaccinations, management skills, and better nutrition have led to a decrease in livestock mortality rate, reduction in criminal activities, and a contingent increase and stability in family health and living conditions.



Above: distribution of cows as part of the DSP on dairy cow keeping, Paktya province, July 2010

Given that all nine districts where DSPs have been completed have subsequently become DIAG compliant districts, this shows success in linking development with disarmament. DIAG has initiated a needs assessment and baseline survey for 10 new DSP projects in 10 districts across five regions of the country to further this success.

B. DIAG/MRRD development projects

DIAG district development projects are implemented through MRRD after weapons are collected and IAGs are disbanded. Typically, these are infrastructure projects, selected by the community and endorsed by the District Development Assemblies (DDAs).

Three DIAG district development projects were completed during the third quarter of 2010, bringing the total number of completed projects to 20. These three completed projects include one social and cultural centre in the Onaba District of Panjshir province, one centre in the Mohammad Agha district of Logar province, and the cleaning of the local water-management system (Kariz) in Kuz Kunar/Khewa district of Nangarhar province. The primary beneficiaries of the projects are estimated at 31,500 families. The two community social and cultural centres will enable boys and girls to learn computer skills, English language instruction, and receive additional training under the direction of the district authorities. The centres will also provide the community with access to books and literature materials. In addition, the centre will enable community elders to meet and discuss community issues.

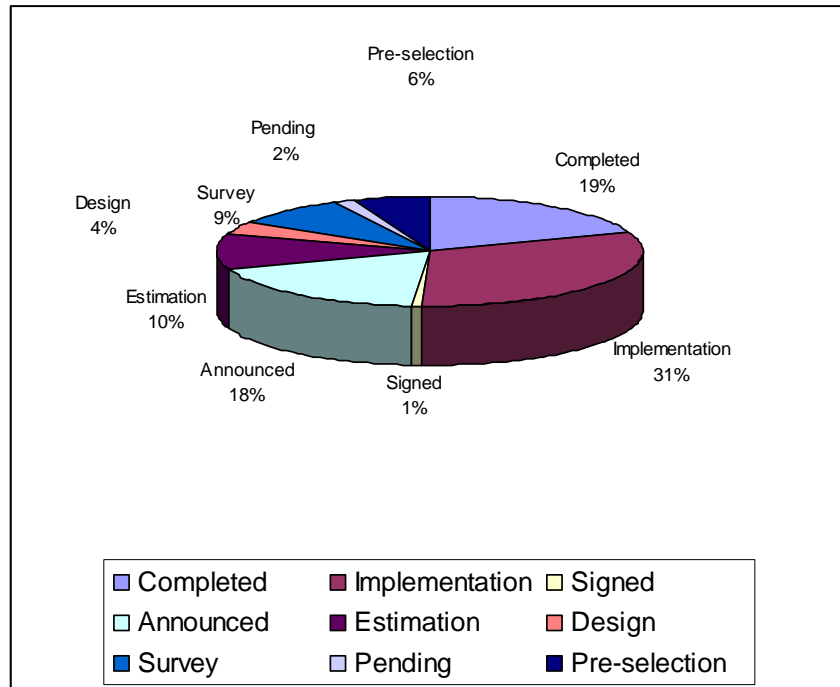
Three new development projects have also been identified by DDAs using a participatory approach which involved the local communities in identifying the most relevant projects. These include the construction of a reservoir in Charkent district of Balkh province, a road up-grade in the Shinwari of Parwan province, and the establishment of an electricity network in Kalakan district of Kabul province.

The 20 DIAG district development projects completed so far have directly benefited an estimated 200,000 people and indirectly about 1,000,000 people across 14 provinces in Afghanistan. These projects provide sustained community aimed socio-economic support in response to disarmament activities, thereby providing long-term sustenance to these activities.

The chart below illustrates the status of the 105 DIAG development projects in their various stages. 20 projects are complete; six projects are in the pre-selection stage where their feasibility is examined after the community has identified potential projects; two projects are pending due to land issues or procurement delays; nine projects are in the survey or field work stage to confirm measurements and dimensions prior to the design phase. Four projects are currently in the design phase where detailed drawings, plans, bill of materials are produced; 11 projects are under estimation to determine costs; 19 projects

are under announcement for bidding to select suitable implementing partners, one project has recently signed a contract for construction, while 33 projects are under construction. Moreover, 88.52 percent of the USD 15 million budgeted for DIAG development projects has been disbursed (including obligations).

Figure 1: Status of DIAG development projects



Output 3: Mol capacity enhanced to assume responsibility of DIAG through delivery of capacity building action plan.

Activity 3.1: Mol staff trained and supported at the central and regional offices so as to undertake DIAG activities in an optimal manner.

A. Capacity development for DIAG unit

During the third quarter of 2010, DIAG training mentors continued to provide on-the-job training and mentorship in DIAG issues to Mol staff. Equipment including furniture, stationary, and IT material procured for the six regional Mol DIAG offices and the 34 provincial offices. Internet services are being provided in the regional and provincial offices, with the first phase of implementation in Kandahar and Paktya provinces. A maintenance plan for data backup and recovery for the Private Security Companies (PSCs) and Weapons Registration and Licensing (WRL) databases has been formulated, providing contingency support in case of technical problems with the databases. The capabilities of Mol DIAG staff, 43 personnel in the central office, 35 in the regional offices, and 102 in the provincial offices, have been enhanced such that they are able to carry out their functions independently and effectively.

A monitoring and evaluation plan for the Mol DIAG offices in all regions is under implementation for the next quarter. Furthermore, the Mol DIAG offices were also involved

in supporting emerging peace and reintegration opportunities in Bala Murghab, Herat and Baghlan province.

B. Private security company (PSC) registration and monitoring

The DIAG Unit at the Mol, with assistance from DIAG project staff, handled the day-to-day operational issues concerning PSCs such as policy information, administrative and registration assistance, and follow up. The PSC database was modified to allow for more detailed input regarding personnel details of PSC employees and an overall report on the 52 PSCs was prepared. An implementation plan in line with Presidential Decree no. 62 on the disbandment of PSCs has been prepared and approved by members of the High Coordination Board and referred to the Afghan government's National Security Council for final approval.

ANBP's support to this cell has resulted in greater Mol ownership of the registration process of PSCs, increased skill-sets of 180 Mol DIAG staff due to frequent on-the-job training activities, and less corruption as a result of monitoring activities. The trained staff has acquired comprehensive knowledge of implementation process of DIAG, licensing and operating procedures for PSCs and weapons, and reporting and monitoring functions. In addition, Mol staff has acquired greater understanding of the use of computer equipments to support their functions.

C. Weapons Registration and Licensing (WRL)

During the third quarter of 2010, the DIAG WRL section conducted weekly meetings with Mol DIAG Officers, trained them in various activities including internet use (browsing, mailing, scanning, composing etc.), and provided reports as needed. In this quarter 558 weapons were registered, bringing the total number registered by 30 September 2010 to 23,212.

Besides their usual activities – training regarding equipments, WRL procedures, database management, processing and printing ID card documents and holograms for weapons – WRL Cell officials assisted in the procurement process for equipment for Mol DIAG central, regional, and provincial offices.

The results of ANBP's support to this cell included less corruption due to oversight of this cell and increased efficiency to deliver the required services to clients.

Output 4: Vetting of the election candidates free of illegal commanders and members of IAGs implemented.

Activity 4.1: Election candidates screened and IEC provided with a list of cleared and challenged candidates.

This activity now resides with Afghan security institutions due to political considerations.

Output 5: Technical support for the Disarmament & Reintegration Commissions initiatives for peace and reintegration provided.

Activity 5.1: D&RC initiatives empowered by provision of technical support to implement peace and reintegration.

A. Activities in support of Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program (APRP) implementation and organization

The APRP was finalised by the GoA and presented to its international partners at the Kabul Conference in July 2010. This programme aims to create an enabling environment for stability, security and development by disarming and reintegrating ex-combatants, leading to better security, community development and governance. The project document for APRP–UNDP support was finalised and signed between the UNDP Country Director and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the APRP on 15 July 2010. The High Peace Council (HPC), responsible for providing political and strategic leadership to the APRP has been formed, and ANBP is planning support activities for the preparation of Terms of Reference (ToRs), modalities for the formation of sub-committees, hiring of office space, acquisition of secretarial support, and preparations for the first meeting of the HPC.

A Joint Order has been signed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Ministry of Interior (MoI), Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), National Directorate of Security (NDS) and issued by the JS to Provincial Governors, Corps Commanders, Regional Police Commanders, and Provincial Heads of NDS to enable operationalization of the implementation of APRP at the national and sub-national level.

UNDP/DIAG provided focal points for JS Cluster Working Groups, including Strategic Communications and Outreach, Governance and Security, Vocational Training, and Development. A JS Technical Committee has been established to review proposals received from involved ministries in support of APRP. UNDP is a member of the committee and provides technical support. Five proposals related to APRP implementation were approved in the committee in this quarter; three of the proposals were aimed at developing capacity in LMs.

ANBP worked closely with Minister Stanekzai's office and various other ministries to develop proposals for creating dedicated Peace and Reintegration Support Cells in the MoI and NDS to implement peace and reintegration activities. UNDP/DIAG has initiated planning for capacity assessment in APRP LMs with the aim of developing capacity in these institutions to enable them to effectively carry out their tasks under the APRP.

ANBP participated in field missions to Herat, Baghlan, Kapisa, Nangarhar and Samangan provinces in support of P&R activities.

ANBP was part of a delegation which visited Herat in August 2010 to meet with key commanders and political leaders from Bala Murghab district, Badghis province. The delegation met with a commander of a group of about 400 Taliban fighters to ascertain their demands and conditions. A set of 740 clothes is being provided to the reintegrees as an initial input, and a further support package is being negotiated. The ANBP regional office provided logistical support, coordination services, and a district analysis for multiple districts in Badghis province. This support enabled the governmental authorities to coordinate inputs and implement a plan to address the needs of this group of reintegrees.

In the Shindand district of Herat, ANBP has contributed to the reintegration of an Anti-Government Elements (AGE) commander and 100 followers by supporting the formulation of multiple proposals for the provision of educational and development inputs. A further 500 fighters linked to this group may also reintegrate in the near future based on whether their demands, which are still being negotiated, are met. A district analysis of Shindand, done by the ANBP regional office, provided valuable background support for these activities.

Fifty two Hezbi-Islami ex-combatants who had reconciled with the GoA were being supported in Puli Khumri district of Baghlan by ANBP. They had been initially provided with a package of food and non-food items by ANBP till 20th June 2010. Thirty of these reconciles returned to their villages where they had then been active in deterring and fighting AGEs. Two missions were conducted in September to determine the current status of the reconciles, develop a situation report, and formulate potential support requirements. The mission report recommends that some of these reintegrees be incorporated into the Afghan Local Police initiative so as to provide them with some security, logistical, and financial support; there is also a strong possibility that between 20 to 30 of these reintegrees will also be given jobs with the HALO Trust in Baghlan.

A delegation which included ANBP representatives met with 26 combatants from Dara-I-Sufi district in Samangan province in August 2010 to assess their demands for reintegration. Due to a pending criminal case and personal enmity with a local rival against the commander, the reconciliation process is awaiting the result of a local Jirga organised between the two rivals. Upon the resolution of this dispute, ANBP could provide further reintegration support to the 26 ex-combatants to promote their reconciliation with the GoA.

ANBP will implement small scale development projects, including the construction of wells and houses, in Achin district of Nangarhar province to cater the needs of 16 Shinwari families who have recently returned to their villages. These 16 families from Achin had been refugees in Pakistan where they had some ties to the Taliban and some of their youth had fought alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan. Upon their return to their home villages in Afghanistan, they approached the GoA to provide them with the provisions to enable them to resume normal, peaceful, lives. Subsequently, the CEO of the APRP, Minister Stanekzai, has approved the development projects mentioned above which ANBP will soon provide.

Twenty AGEs from Tagab district in Kapisa province have expressed interest in joining APRP in September 2010, and ANBP is assisting the GoA in the initial negotiations with this group.

ANBP further provided analytical support to the peace and reintegration programme through the production of bi-weekly political and security reports and eight district analyses were also completed.

B. Strategic communications and public awareness

During the reporting quarter, ANBP also organized and facilitated a number of successful public information (PI) initiatives in support of D&RC initiatives throughout the country, organizing round-table television debates, public service announcements and radio programmes on peace and reintegration and DIAG. Special activities were organised on Peace Day, 21st September, on DIAG and APRP; these included a one hour live-TV talk show with the Chairman of the D&RC and a radio show with a member of parliament and of the peace council.

An awareness campaign about peace and reintegration initiatives was organised especially for Hajjis, who were given informational packages which included a peace and reintegration related brochure and leaflet, as well as a small sized Koran. A brochure on the impact of weapons collection on the development conditions and socio-economic situation in a community was designed in close coordination with the MRRD, and will shortly be ready for publication and distribution. ANBP also supported the GoA in its information campaign directed at civil society organizations and women's rights groups with a role to play in peace and reintegration efforts.

The cumulative result of these information activities is that DIAG has become a household name in Afghanistan, and the achievements in establishing a number of peace districts and the benefits of disarmament have been well publicised. With peace and reintegration efforts information activities have helped bring about awareness of the goals, process, and benefit of APRP.



Above: Peace gathering of Mullahs, Kabul, August 2010

As part of its support to the P&R efforts of the GoA, ANBP organizes and maintains a weekly working communication cluster for the programme. This cluster consists of high level authorities of the different ministries, such as the Ministries of Hajj and Religious Affairs, Information and Culture, and the Ministry of Tribal & Border Affairs. ANBP also provided the Vice Chairman of the D&RC with up to date information on P&R issues, including a daily analysis of various news items related to P&R.

C. Monitoring and evaluation

Dari and English versions of Peace and Reintegration forms were prepared and sent to the Joint Secretariat for approval; this form will be used in the registration process of reintegrees joining APRP.

A joint meeting between UNDP/DIAG & ISAF regarding the P&R database was held at the JS. The main issued discussed related to coordination on the content and categorization systems of the peace and reintegration database so as to avoid duplication and ensure the capture of the most relevant information of the reintegrees.

IV. Challenges

The challenges faced by the DIAG project in the third quarter of 2010 include the adverse security situation in the country, including military offensives by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), the activities of local militias and the flaring up of tribal disputes, a lack of support by provincial level DIAG actors, and the inaccessibility of areas for adequate monitoring. The following section analyzes project risks and issues that had an impact on results during the reporting period, and how they have been addressed by the project.

Risks

A. Insecurity

The continuing challenge of high levels of insecurity in many districts and the possibility of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), small arms, and complex attacks against UN premises

and vehicles remained present in the third quarter of 2010. Limited movement and inaccessibility of districts due to high insecurity hindered the areas in which DIAG activities to be carried out. The parliamentary elections held in September and ongoing military operations against AGEs further reduced the extent to which DIAG could negotiate with IAGs and collect weapons.

In order to mitigate this threat, security upgrades are being done in all ANBP regional offices to ensure full compliance with UN operational security standards. Road missions are escorted by armed police, radio communications are enforced for all road movement, and four additional armoured vehicles are being purchased to increase the potential for travel to required areas.

B. Local militias and tribal disputes

The creation of local militias such as Arbakis and the flaring up of tribal disputes involving, amongst others, the Shinwari in Nangarhar, the Kuchies in Bamyan, the Gujjars in Kunar, the Ghilzai and Barakzai in the south, and the Hotak and Tokhi in Uruzgan has also negatively impacted disarmament efforts. The creation of militias tends to tilt the balance of power in favour of the group/tribe to which the militia is affiliated, thus causing a security dilemma in potential rival groups, leading the latter to arm themselves as a precaution against the militia. This cycle of armament directly hinders DIAG efforts by making pairs of rival groups resistant to disarmament efforts.

In order to deal with the vast challenge of insecurity, the project has targeted districts with specific peace and reintegration opportunities, allowing for focused disarmament initiatives. It has also concentrated DIAG implementation efforts in districts of those provinces where the Provincial Governor has intimated the feasibility of the program. Furthermore, comprehensive situational analyses are undertaken prior to commencement of project activities in a district.

C. Lack of support by provincial DIAG actors

In some districts provincial actors including the Provincial Governor, Chief of Police, and District Governor have been uncooperative on DIAG efforts. This position may be a result of vested interests, lack of confidence in the programme, or inadequate incentives provided to these actors in return for their support. Irrespective of the reason, implementation of DIAG is hindered when crucial provincial actors do not provide adequate support. DIAG has encouraged the D&RC to be actively involved in pushing project efforts with local authorities as these provincial government actors may be more responsive to communications received from the D&RC.

Issues

A. AGE prevalence in 'hard' districts

The issue of hard districts was reflected in the previous quarter, and it continues to be a factor in the third quarter as well. The 98 districts declared DIAG compliant have mostly been located in relatively 'easy' provinces, meaning that these districts were generally in the northern, central, and western regions of Afghanistan where there were numerous illegally armed groups present but a lesser number of anti-government elements. The remaining districts have a higher proportion of Anti Government Elements (AGEs), thereby hindering the ability of DIAG to implement its mandate.

A modified strategy is required to provide adequate incentives to IAGs in the hard districts. The recently launched Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program should enable

disarmament and reintegration of combatants to be successfully carried out in the harder districts. As elaborated earlier (pp. 6-7), UNDP-ANBP is providing considerable technical support to APRP, and a number of peace and reintegration activities are being actively pursued.

A. Inaccessibility of areas for monitoring

Follow-up of DSPs and DIAG activities was limited in some areas due to the prevailing security conditions. Restricted monitoring meant that ANBP was constrained to monitor and ascertain the effectiveness and impact of DIAG implementation and DSP completion in the affected districts; however, the use of local resources including relevant local government officials will be undertaken to monitor activities in those districts which ANBP staff are unable to access.

B. Development project issues

Infrastructure development projects had been impacted by some problems including a delay in transferring funds, currency inflation, and an increase of projected costs. Some of the projects undertaken by implementing partners (MRRD, construction companies etc.) showed evidence of low quality inputs, consequently reducing the value of the project. Monthly regional coordination meetings between MRRD and ANBP, and joint monitoring and evaluation missions aimed at resolving these issues at the earliest stages have been initiated. Although these issues have been mitigated through these actions, they continue to impact the final output.

V. Lessons Learned

DSPs are viewed very positively in the communities where they have been undertaken, and have proven to be a valuable bridge between DIAG compliance and the completion of MRRD led development projects. However, DSPs have been completed in only nine districts while MRRD led development programs have been initiated in over 100 districts, leaving a large number of districts without a small-scale development initiative to provide immediate tangible benefits. The rate and extent of DSP initiation needs to be increased and there is a need to link development and disarmament more aggressively.

From the monitoring perspective, the past quarter has shown that monitoring and development activities need to be intricately linked from the very first stage of project initiation. A lack of coordination and proper sequencing of monitoring activities results in ambiguity and difficulty in inducing the effects of a development project on the socio-economic conditions in a district.

Experience with the completed DSPs shows that when undertaking small-scale development projects which are chosen in consultation with the beneficiaries and the communities, it is advisable not to openly proclaim the available budget to the target group. It is better to discuss such projects in terms of numbers of target beneficiaries and maintain some flexibility regarding the budget. This allows for the selection of the most opportune project; when a fixed budget is declared the beneficiaries tend to always pick projects based on the highest financial value rather than optimality of fit.

The compilation of district analysis for targeted provinces has proven to be a useful analytical tool when formulating the optimal course of action to harness emerging peace and reintegration activities. Among other things, these documents contain information on local peace shuras, development committees, influential personalities, and the nature of local tribal and political systems.

VI. Future Plans

Having seen the need and the benefit of delivering a high number of DSPs, ANBP plans to initiate ten DSPs in ten different districts in the final quarter of 2010. Identification of suitable districts so as to ensure tight linkages between development and disarmament has been undertaken. Teams will shortly conduct needs assessments in these districts so that DSPs can be identified in consultation with the intended beneficiaries – IAGs, AGEs and their communities.

DDI round 8 activities will be implemented in the 20 districts nominated in this category once these districts are approved by the JS. The monitoring section will conduct baseline surveys in these 20 DDI 8 target districts and post-compliance 6 surveys in 13 other districts. The comparison of post-compliance and baseline surveys allows for an assessment of the impact of DIAG activities on the socio-economic conditions in an area; these surveys are therefore a useful tool in assessing the concrete effects of the project.

UNDP/DIAG will provide support to the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program which aims to demobilize combatants and reintegrate them into society. DIAG will continue to develop comprehensive district analysis for each of the targeted districts under APRP in order to facilitate the peace and reintegration process. The needs of sub-national governance structures, such as Peace and Reintegration Committees will be assessed and developed. Key media initiatives at the national and provincial levels, and political and social outreach and the formation of civil society dialogue and engagement by women's groups will be promoted.

While APRP is an Afghan government led project, UNDP will provide technical support where needed, and will also aim to increase capacity in line ministries in this regard. A capacity assessment of the LMs and the provincial implementing partners of APRP will be undertaken in the final quarter of 2010 to provide an accurate road-map for developing required capacity in these entities. Drawing on the organization's experience, extensive demobilization support will be provided to the GoA so that the APRP can be successfully implemented, leading to a stable and secure Afghanistan.

As the APRP becomes the focus of the Afghan government's efforts to promote peace, disarmament, and stability in the country, UNDP and the JS are assessing the best way to integrate DIAG activities into APRP so as to best support the government's initiatives for achieving this desired goal. A change management expert will be involved in the process.

Financial Section

[Note: All financial data presented in this report are provisional. From UNDP Bureau of Management/Office of Finance and Administration, an annual certified financial statement as of 31 December will be submitted every year no later than 30 June of the following year.]

Table 1: Funding overview – total income and expenditure

Donor	INCOME			EXPENDITURES			BALANCE	Remarks
	Total Commitment (approx US\$)	Total Received (approx US\$)	Total Receivable (approx US\$)	Total Cumulative Expenditures as of Dec 2009	Current Year 2010 (Cumulative) as of (1st Jan to 30th Sept - 2010)	Total Expenditures	Total Received minus Total Expenditures	
Japan	19,237,867.14	19,237,867.14	-	14,013,383.58	4,991,160	19,004,544	233,323	
UK	4,711,770.00	4,711,770.00	-	4,636,560.59	125,937	4,762,498	(50,728)	
Canada	3,623,544.00	3,623,544.00	-	3,317,464.12	(163,995)	3,153,469	470,075	
CIDA	1,472,031.40	1,472,031.40	-	1,463,870.55	-	1,463,871	8,161	
Switzerland	1,633,021.00	1,633,021.00	-	2,204,637.06	(48,406)	2,156,231	(523,210)	
Denmark	1,362,917.00	1,362,917.00	-	1,257,590.69	(41,061)	1,216,529	146,388	
Italy	2,610,356.00	2,610,356.00	-	1,845,602.82	251,222	2,096,825	513,531	
Netherlands	1,204,819.29	1,204,819.29	-	1,160,067.84	-	1,160,068	44,751	
Norway	3,360,772.00	3,360,772.00	-	3,190,424.94	(751)	3,189,674	171,098	
UNDP Core	5,676,716.00	5,676,716.00	-	3,453,259.07	2,122,982	5,576,241	100,475	
USAID	200,000.00	200,000.00	-	133,292.27	-	133,292	66,708	
MOF	275,691.63	275,691.63	-	-	171,400	171,400	104,291	
Total	45,369,505.46	45,369,505.46	-	36,676,153.53	7,408,489	44,084,642	1,284,863	

Note: There is overspent against the Switzerland commitment which is currently being reviewed by UNDP Finance team. The deficit will be cleared and the problem will be corrected in the annual report.

Table 2: Expenditure by major outputs (2010)

Project Output	Budget (AWP 2010)	Cumulative Expenditure as of (1st Jan to 30th Sep-2010)	Delivery Rate*	Remarks
1. Implementation of weapon collection and disbandment of illegal armed groups fully supported.	718,135.89	558,760.68	78%	
<i>GMS 5,7 %</i>	15,709.31	7,432.35	47%	
Sub-total Output 1.	733,845.20	566,193.03	77%	
2. Identification and monitoring of socio-economic community development and governance interventions fully supported.	69,739.05	58,107.62	83%	
<i>GMS 7%</i>	3,460.53	2662.01	77%	
Sub-total Output 2	73,199.58	60,769.63	83%	
3. Mol capacity enhanced to assume full responsibility of DIAG through delivery of capacity building action plan.	479,018.05	467,856.62	98%	
<i>GMS 7%</i>	2,031.26	2,491.67	123%	
Sub-total Output 3	481,049.31	470,348.29	98%	
4.Vetting of the election candidates free of illegal commanders and members of IAGs implemented	723,843.04	569,683.99	79%	
<i>GMS 7 %</i>	36,425.89	24,908.42	68%	
Sub-total Output 4	760,268.93	594,592.41	78%	
5. Technical Support for D&RC's initiative for peace and reintegration provided.	1,692,134.54	573,648.55	34%	
<i>GMS 3,7%</i>	103,104.33	32,361.51	31%	
Sub-total Output 5	1,795,238.87	606,010.06	34%	
6.Technical Assistance & Manangement Cost(Project Support Costs)	3,712,213.11	4,838,601.21	130%	
<i>GMS</i>	190,358.72	271,974.11	143%	
Sub-total Output 6	3,902,571.83	5,110,575.32	131%	
Grand Total	7,746,173.72	7,408,488.74	96%	

Table 3: Expenditure Status (by donor 2010)

Donor	Project Output	Budget (AWP 2010)	2010 Cumulative Expenditure as of (1st Jan to 30th Sep-2010)	Delivery Rate*
Japan	2. Identification and monitoring of socio-economic community development and governance interventions fully supported.	49,436.10	38,028.78	77%
	3. Mol capacity enhanced to assume full responsibility of DIAG through delivery of capacity building action plan.	29,018.05	35,595.22	123%
	4.Vetting of the election candidates free of illegal commanders and members of IAGs implemented	520,369.82	355,834.62	68%
	5. Technical Support for D&RC's initiative for peace and reintegration provided.	1,354,765.42	390,989.57	29%
	6.Technical Assistance & Management Cost (Project Support Costs)	2,719,307.80	3,844,187.40	141%
GMS 7%		327,102.81	326,524.49	100%
Total		5,000,000.00	4,991,160.08	100%
UNDP Core	1. Implementation of weapon collection and disbandment of illegal armed groups fully supported.	463,506.62	416,727.96	90%
	2. Identification and monitoring of socio-economic community development and governance interventions fully supported.	20,302.95	20,078.84	99%
	3. Mol capacity enhanced to assume full responsibility of DIAG through delivery of capacity building action plan.	450,000.00	432,261.40	96%
	4.Vetting of the election candidates free of illegal commanders and members of IAGs implemented	203,473.22	213,849.37	105%
	5. Technical Support for D&RC's initiative for peace and reintegration provided.	69,948.12	16,251.08	23%
	6.Technical Assistance & Management Cost (Project Support Costs)	992,769.09	1,023,813.74	103%
Total		2,200,000.00	2,122,982.39	96%
MOF	5. Technical Support for D&RC's initiative for peace and reintegration provided.	267,421.00	166,407.90	62%

Annexes

Annex I: Performance Tracking Matrix

Result/Goals	Performance Indicators	Baseline Info	Performance Benchmark and Targets	Progress in reporting quarter
1. Implementation of weapons collection and disbandment of illegal armed groups fully supported.	# of IAGs disbanded # of complaint districts # of weapons collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 689 IAG disbanded • 88 districts compliant • 46,000 weapons collected 	By the end of 2010: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 809 IAGs disbanded • 112 DIAG compliant districts • 52,000 weapons collected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 IAGs disbanded • 2,354 weapons collected
2. Identification and monitoring of socio-economic community development and governance interventions fully supported.	# of DIAG Support Projects and DIAG development projects through MRRD completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 DSPs implemented • 20 DIAG development projects completed 	By the end of 2010: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 DSP implemented • 112 DIAG development projects (DDPs) implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 DSP completed • 3 DDPs completed
3. MoI capacity enhanced to assume full responsibility of DIAG through delivery of capacity building action plan	Established regional and provincial MoI DIAG offices with staff and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 central MoI staff recruited & trained • MoI Central Office established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 150 regional and provincial MoI DIAG staff recruited and trained • 6 regional offices and 34 provincial offices operational 	
4. Vetting of the election candidates free of illegal commanders and members of IAGs implemented	# of screened candidates	Candidates screened for parliamentary elections	Candidates screened for parliamentary elections	
5. Technical Support for D&RC's initiatives for peace and reintegration provided.	# of government policy documents prepared P&R process launched	No formal government policy exists	Organizational development support to APRP structures provided; JS activities fully supported; emerging opportunities and reintegrees supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P&R emerging opportunities facilitated in 7 districts. Approx. 1,394 beneficiaries • JS Technical Committee supported

Annex II: Risk log

Months	Risk	Monitoring	Management Response
July, Aug and Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing insecurity, insurgencies, military operations, creation of local militia, tribal disputes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure situation analysis and achieve program objectives and targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeting P&R opportunity districts and DDI districts selected with Provincial Governor support where DIAG implementation is feasible
July, Aug and Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of support by provincial DIAG actors (PG, COP, DG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure accomplishments are in line with the timeline set for each activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active involvement of D&RC to promote DIAG by pushing the local authorities
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IED, VBIED, BBIED, small arms and complex attacks on UN premises and vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANBP protection desk leading MOSS upgrades of ROs AMR/RMR submitted to UNDP CO for approval Radio communications enforced for all road movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each mission is escorted by armed police. Purchasing of additional 6 AVs Upgrading of the ROs compounds ongoing

Annex III: Issues log

Months	Issue	Monitoring	Management Response
July, Aug and Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease of DIAG activities and deliverables Kunduz RO lock down in early July 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure situation analysis and achieving program objectives and targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforcing advocacy campaigns for the program Use of PDC, RVC, MOD and MOI DIAG officers to carry out program activities in restricted areas
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortage of Funds (Counterpart, Norwegian) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and prioritizing of the urgent payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritized urgent payments
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet Problem with IO Global resulting in interruption of email services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued contact with IO Global to solve the problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usage of the backup (VSAT) connection until shifting of their antenna to a new location
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaccessibility of monitoring and evaluation team to the insecure districts for the purpose of monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train PDCs and RVCs on M&E to conduct surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use PDC, RVC, and MOD officers to carry out program activities in restricted areas

Annex IV: Map 1: DIAG status by district

