

United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan
National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP)
1st Quarter Project Progress Report – 2010



Left: Digging a 1.4 km canal to the MHP power house in Farkhar District

Right: Ex-IAG workers secure the MHP intake

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Executive Summary

The NABDP Phase-III strategy, based on the third pillar of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), social and economic development, continues to address the following main thematic areas:

Local Governance and DDAs Institutionalization: During the past quarter, two additional DDAs have been launched: a DDA with a women's advisory council in Ghazni and a gender-mixed DDA in Takhar; and two associated DDP have been formulated. The Dawlat Shah District of Laghman Province was successfully revisited after efforts failed three years ago, and a DDA has now been established for the first time. A total of 37 DDPs were uploaded on to the website this quarter and seventy-eight DDA have been registered in the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development Departments of five provinces. NABDP re-elected 17 DDAs and updated all respective DDPs. Comparative equity in gender participation has been apparent in the re-elections held in first quarter 2010.

Sustainable Livelihoods through Rural Infrastructure Services: In the first quarter of 2010, NABDP completed work on 32 projects, i.e., gabion wall construction, roads, retaining walls, shallow wells, intakes, kariz cleaning, and agriculture development project, at a cost of \$2,658,544 in the ten provinces of Balkh, Bamiyan, Faryab, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kapisa, Kunar, Nangarhar, Samangan, and Urozgan. NABDP initiated another 65 projects from January to March, including protection walls, bridges, gabion wall construction, intakes, retaining walls, canal cleaning, shallow wells, clinics, culverts, equipment purchase, MHPs, and kariz cleaning, in the eight provinces of Badakhshan, Badghis, Faryab, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunar, Nangarhar, and Takhar, at a cost of \$1,977,200. The Renewable Energy Policy of Afghanistan, drafted in cooperation with ERDA, has been approved by Inter-ministerial committee.

Stabilization through Enhanced Economic Livelihoods: DIAG has completed three projects in the first quarter of 2010, making 16 completed projects in total since its origin, and including a highly visibly commencement ceremony widely covered by local and national media. Through the CNTF, in the first quarter 2010 three retaining wall projects are under contract and through LBRDP the number of surveyed projects currently stands at 428, contracted subprojects 422, ongoing subprojects 183 and completed subprojects 171. Approval has been finalized for the Balkh women's project, to include a carpet-weaving business and accompanying micro-finance that will enhance economic capacity for women.

Context

The National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) was designed to help the Afghan people rebuild their lives and nation, as well as to demonstrate the capacity of the Afghan government—with assistance from the international community—to develop the sustainable governance required. Applying lessons learned from implementing development programmes, the NABDP aims to contribute to the sustainable reduction of poverty and improvement of livelihoods in rural Afghanistan, through the empowerment of communities in articulating and addressing their needs and priorities. In addition, NABDP supports the Government in providing community-based rural rehabilitation and development in an integrated, people-focused, inclusive and participatory manner.

To continue the investment in rural development, the NABDP Phase-III that began in July 2009 has evolved in line with Afghanistan's development progress. The programme is directed through three thematic areas: i) Local governance and DDA institutionalization; ii) Sustainable livelihoods through rural infrastructure services, and iii) Stabilization through enhanced economic livelihoods. These thematic areas are designed to address the priorities of the third pillar of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), economic and social development.

Adhering to the main objective of poverty reduction, Phase-III of NABDP launched the union of the three thematic interventions into overall progress in rural development. Under the Local Governance and DDA Institutionalization component, the programme hinges upon elevating the capacity of the DDA, as a community-based institution, to play a catalytic development facilitation role at the district level. This will broaden the role of the DDA, from community representative body to a multi-stakeholder coordination and oversight mechanism. Rural infrastructure services are a critical pathway to enhancing sustainable rural livelihoods, while the final theme tackles key challenges to stabilization, primarily but not exclusively through the promotion of economic livelihoods.

As a fully executed national programme, NABDP customized project implementation modalities in accordance with local contexts. The programme is being implemented in coordination with other related line ministries such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Energy and Water (MOEW), and Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA). Operation of project activities is being conducted in partnership with community-based organizations, District Development Assembly (DDA) and Community Development Council (CDC), as well as national

contractor companies. Various embassies and donor agencies have been fully consulted to maintain lines of communication seek advice and extend support to achieve intended objectives.

Implementation Progress

Component 1: Local Governance and DDA Institutionalization

(1.1) Communities mobilized to articulate their needs and identify priorities and solutions

The establishment of DDAs and formulation of DDPs at district level and PDPs at provincial level are NABDP's major means for ensuring people's participation in decision-making that affect their lives. So far, the programme has covered more than 90% of the country in terms of formation of these district shuras. During the past quarter, two additional DDAs have been launched: a DDA with a women's advisory council in Ghazni and a gender-mixed DDA in Takhar; and two associated DDP have been formulated.

The establishment and capacity building of DDAs constitutes the formalization of a mechanism for collective action in all districts of Afghanistan. Communities are empowered to articulate their needs and priorities through the formulation of development plans that reflect the community's medium- and long-term development priorities. The DDPs developed by these assemblies were screened for alignment with the DDP operational guidelines and feasibility, then edited and uploaded onto the NABDP website accessible for all development actors and the general public.

This quarter, the Dawlat Shah District of Laghman Province was revisited after a failed attempt three years ago. The community had been unwilling to get involved and hesitant to trust the government when NABDP community mobilization personnel attempted to begin consultations with them in 2006. This year, NABDP met with success when the neighbouring DDA invited Dawlat Shah elders, men and even several women from the district to form a DDA for their own district.

Consequently, a DDA with a women's advisory group was established in an area where no government entity or facilitating partner had been present before. The DDA emphasised education and health services as their primary needs to address in the development plans. Furthermore, the DDA volunteered to play an active role in supporting project implementation, especially in terms of provision of security to the implementing partners, programme staff or district governors.

In addition to the formation and technical training of DDAs, NABDP undertook processing of further development plans in several provinces, including: Takhar, Faryab, Panjsher, Balkh, Baghlan, Helmand, Kandahar and Kunduz. A total of 37 DDPs were uploaded on to the website this

quarter, in accordance with the 2010 Annual Work Plan target of 100 uploaded DDP. After screening against project assurance standards at both the local and headquarters level, the programme will begin implementation of the selected projects in the next quarter. Several have already been initiated as described under output 2.4.

Seventy-eight DDA have been registered in the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development Departments of five provinces, and the Community Empowerment Unit has issued certificates to those DDA, which are facilitating the activities of DDA and PRRD in Takhar, Badakhshan, Jawzian, Balkh, and Baghlan.

As part of updating development plans and re-election of DDA members after their three-year terms, NABDP re-elected 17 DDAs and updated the plans accordingly. This provided the communities a chance to reconsider the legitimacy of their representatives. In some cases, the community's choice was met with resistance. In Imam-Sahib District of Kunduz Province, a woman was elected as vice chair of the DDA for the first time and was confronted by the local commander.

Although the commander threatened the DDA and complained to the district governor for this deviation from cultural norms, the 15 men and 15 women in the district *Shura* confronted the commander and defended their choice. The DDA's support and the woman's own capacity in terms of higher education level and polished management skills convinced the commander that this was a sound choice. In general, women's participation in the DDAs has increased throughout the provinces as they get more involved in the works of the committees within the *Shura* and in the executive body itself.

(1.2) Capacity developed in DDA to facilitate their role as district level coordination entities

The Community Empowerment unit of NABDP developed a series of training modules for capacity building of DDAs. The trainings cover planning processes, including planning tools such as SWOT and problem-tree analyses and facilitation techniques for the formulation of District Development Plans. Further training modules were developed to increase organizational competence of the DDAs covering the areas of: (i) Local governance, (ii) Gender equality and human rights, (iii) Project planning and management, and (iv) Financial management and procurement. Also, in areas identified as disaster prone, the programme offers disaster management trainings. As indicated in an assessment of the DDA role in the development delivery mechanism at district level, the trainings have enabled the local communities to effectively run their affairs through district Shuras / assemblies.

Monitoring reports and specific assessments indicate that the activity has boosted DDA autonomy and self-reliance in several areas. The district assembly in Soroubi, Kabul independently raised \$17,000 in funds through collaboration with the local PRT for undertaking development projects in the district. In Herat, the governor expressed appreciation over the DDA's effective implementation of food-for work projects in partnership with the World Food Program (WFP). The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) has also involved DDAs in tree-planting projects in many areas, which has proven effective.

In the past quarter, the following activities have been undertaken in this area:

Descriptions	Total Number	Q1 2010
DDA established and DDP formulated	376	2
DDA trained in capacity building	137	12
DDA re-elected and DDP updated	59	17
DDP uploaded to NABDP Website	373	37
DDA registered and certificates distributed	246	78
Disaster management trainings delivered	81	1

DDA Statistics: Total to date and 1st Quarter 2010

Capacity building trainings for the first quarter 2010 are currently running in five districts within the provinces of Faryab, Kandahar, Balkh, and Herat. From a former baseline of 124 DDA as reported in the NABDP Annual Progress Report 2009, NABDP has now delivered on capacity building training modules to 132 DDA in the areas of local governance, conflict resolution and gender equity, participatory planning and project management, and procurement, financial management and disaster management.

(1.3) Institutional arrangement developed to mainstream gender equality/women's empowerment in all components and projects

At the start of the quarter, NABDP management allocated a specific budget for its gender mainstreaming activities for the year 2010. This organizational initiative demonstrated the management's commitment to this area and allowed for precise planning of activities for the entire year. As part of jumpstarting its activities in the area, a needs assessment was carried out identifying the programme's female staff requirements, challenges, and possibilities. The assessment findings led to in-depth discussions of primary issues women face in the programme, which included limited access to information and control. This has increased the department managers' understanding of their female staff issues or limitations and enhanced their commitment to involving women in more challenging activities.

To increase visibility on gender mainstreaming and gender-related issues, the NABDP Gender Unit participated in coordination and planning meetings to honour International Women's Day on behalf of MRRD and maintained visibility in the same way within the Afghan Civil Society Forum, GTZ, and the Ministry of Women's Affairs. These activities resulted in higher level of public awareness about women and increased coordination in the gender-related activities of the players mentioned above. NABDP also plans to strengthen its partnership with the UNDP Gender Equality Project by greater sharing of best practices and utilizing successful mechanisms for gender mainstreaming.

As part of its partnership with the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), NABDP gender advisors participated in efforts directed at action on the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA), and with the Nutrition Education Institute, to provide soya nutrition for pregnant women of Afghanistan through work with the DDA. The NAPWA program was made aware of the possibility to use DDAs as platform for future trainings on soy products. The efforts unfolded a means of best introducing and gradually normalizing the use of soy products among pregnant women for long-term health benefits.

(1.4) Effective mechanisms developed to ensure equal gender participation at district level

In the past quarter, NABDP established gender focal points within DDAs across seven provinces: Mazar-e Sharif, Sari Pol, Nangarhar, Bamyan, Panisher, Ghazni and Gardez. This facilitates the gender mainstreaming process as it allows for a solid network through which to communicate related information and enhance gender awareness at district level. The focal points, one male and one female for each DDA, are to evaluate and ensure that priority projects being designed and surveyed meet gender requirements. For example, a school being surveyed should directly benefit as many girls as boys in a village, or a water-sanitation project such as a hand pump well is located in an area accessible to women and men equally.

At program level, the newly established Management Support Unit (MSU) has initiated its quality assurance role for individual project approval by considering i) Gender mainstreaming and seeking opportunities for women specific projects ii) Economic support to facilitate financial and economic feasibility of projects and iii) Environmental safeguards under the lead of the UNDP Environment Mainstreaming project. Technical experts in each of the areas screen projects identified to ensure the mentioned aspects of each project is in line with established standards before the design and survey stage.

At the close of 2009, the gender unit prepared small pilot projects for income generation specifically targeting women’s groups in Balkh and Nangarhar provinces, as identified by the DDA representatives. In mid-February, approval was finalized for the Balkh women’s empowerment project and the project is ready for roll out. The carpet-weaving and micro-finance project is expected to enhance women’s economic capacity and independence. For the first time, NABDP has created bank accounts for women DDA members independently and entrusted them with small loans. In meetings with the programme’s community empowerment staff, the women expressed gratitude and reported higher level of self-confidence in being entrusted with loans.

Gender sensitivity training and gender-friendly programmatic activities were hampered in late 2009 by the worsening security situation, but comparative equity in gender participation has been apparent in the re-elections held in first quarter 2010. Within the 17 DDA that have been re-elected within districts in the provinces of Balkh, Ghazni, Kabul, Kunduz, Laghman, Paktiya, and Takhar, female participation is at 47% and women comprise 228 of the 485 members.

(1.5) District-level disaster risk decreased

NABDP continues to collaborate with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), the Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Project (CDRRP) of UNDP, and the Social Protection Department of MRRD by establishing DM committees within DDAs and improving their knowledge and skills in preparing and responding to natural disasters. The committees identify natural disaster risks that their district is prone to, and develop risk mitigation and disaster management plans that layout action points and timelines for the community.

The past quarter, a Disaster Management Committee was established within the DDA in Shindand, Herat, and training regarding disaster management was delivered in support of NABDP risk management efforts. Of the activities that began in late 2009, the disasters management project (Dahan Dara) canal intake is ongoing in Faryab province. The reservoir in Dehni Dehwairan village of Khanabad district of Kunduz is ongoing and the progress is about 87% complete.



Above: Canal diversion project by the DMC in DahanDara District of Faryab Province

The DMC works in close consultation with DDA executive body because it is accountable to DDA in general. It implements disaster risk reduction initiatives in close consultation with executive body of the DDA. It is also responsible for coordination of relevant stakeholders and managing disasters at community level.

A success story emerged in the recent flood in Badakhshan, where the disaster management committee within the Jurm District DDA successfully handled the incident. By the time, the district authorities reached the area; the committee had already evacuated endangered people into secure areas and distributed basic supplies such as food, drinks and blankets.

Component 2: Sustainable Livelihoods through Rural Infrastructure Services

(2.1) Community Energy Projects established and sustainability concerns addressed

In late 2009, a number of Tripartite Agreements were signed to initiate micro hydropower and biogas projects, including two Kabul low head MHP Projects. The tripartite agreement scheme allows for direct involvement of DDAs in the project cycle, whereby the implementation is undertaken by the respective CDC, simultaneously supervised and monitored by the DDA. This methodology has proven more cost efficient for NABDP and generates a higher sense of ownership within the community.

The CDC, DDA and MRRD have signed the Tripartite Agreement for the implementation of Yakchew MHP (100 kW) in Suhada district in Badakhshan Province. Many communities in Badakhshan remain isolated from provincial and district centres and resources for energy and economic development. Following, NABDP's community mobilization efforts in the area the *Shuras* were enabled to take part in development planning, whereby they identified electrification as a priority in their respective districts.

NABDP's energy activities have been extended to Ghor in this quarter. Based on the provincial geo-climatic profiles, and feasibility studies carried out in late 2009, three proposals were submitted for MHP projects in Lalsarjungle district in Ghor province.

The community, DDA and MRRD have signed the Tripartite Agreement for implementation of 64 biogas plants in Surkh Road, Batikot, Mamandharam, Kama and Beshud districts. Tri-partite agreements for these projects were signed on 22nd December 2009. It is expected that

Community will implement 15 plants in Sukhroad, 22 in Batikot, 10 in Kama, 10 in Beshud and 7 in Mamandhara districts. It is expected that the project will be completed in 2010.

The feasibility study report of Qazi-Dah Mini-hydro power project in Badakhshan Province has been completed and the project is ready for initiation. These projects are expected to generate 600kW power, which will be distributed in Ishkashim including 22 CDCs from Wakhan and Ishkashim districts.

(2.2) Capacity built for operation and maintenance of rural energy systems and services at district level

The capacity for local communities and DDA to initiate, operate and maintain their own rural energy systems remains weak due to the novelty of the practices. Training is key to facilitate capacity building in this area. In order to meet the annual work plan target of 34 MRRD engineers trained in the survey and design of rural energy systems, a training in *Survey by Total Station* was conducted for more than 30 surveyors from all regional offices of NABDP, including the DIAG and ERDA departments. The course covered a range of surveying techniques, such as surveying by known method and resection methods, stack out, horizontal curve, lay out, data downloading from the total station, preparing data for plotting, installation of the Eagle point program with survey data plotting, and preparing topographic maps.

The introduction of new technologies and utilization methods enhanced the Technical Support Unit services in the regions. This activity builds the programme's decentralization efforts as part of the Phase-III programme through augmenting the capacity of regional offices. This training was an intermediary step in meeting the annual goal of 15 DDAs trained on decentralized rural energy projects planning and the monitoring, supervision and installation of rural energy systems.

At this time, ERDA also continues progress on a standardized procedure for both photovoltaic and micro-hydroelectric project development in alignment with intended output 2.2.1 of the annual work plan, preparation of manuals and informational materials to aid operational capacity. The standardization efforts will allow for greater efficiency in implementation of the programme's plans in the energy sector.

(2.3) Rural energy development activities institutionalized and up-scaled

As reported in the Annual Progress Report, by the end of 2009, the ERDA unit prepared the final draft of a Renewable Energy Policy of Afghanistan in alignment with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and followed up on the proposal through participation with the

Inter Ministerial Commission on Energy (ICE) and ICE Sub-Committee for Renewable Energy and Rural Electrification.

MRRD then partnered with the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) to form a Technical Working Group for coordinating rural energy development activities and to prepare a joint National Rural Energy Development Project. The Renewable Energy Policy of Afghanistan has since been approved by Parliament. The English and Dari versions of the new Rural Energy Policy have been completed and translation in Pashto is in process. The energy policy will initiate further development and design of rural energy institutions at central, provincial, district and community levels, as described in the annual work plan.

The process of developing the policy led to a round of discussions, as well as sharing of lessons learnt and best practices on energy efforts and how to coordinate activities. The policy itself strengthens partnerships and highlights synergies in broadening public access to government energy services. The policy establishes specific standards on all energy technologies that are to be abided by all development actors.

(2.4) Small scale infrastructure built and accessible by rural communities

By the end of 2009, a total of 84 infrastructure projects had been completed in various sectors and were accessible by at least 22,000 direct beneficiaries. An additional 306 on-going projects were carried over to the first quarter of 2010. NABDP has completed a total of 32 projects in 10 provinces in this quarter. The direct beneficiaries for these projects are estimated at 38,000 with nearly 115,000 working days created as a result of the projects.

These activities were aimed at filling immediate gaps in physical infrastructure to promote agricultural productivity and rural economic development. A majority of these projects were aimed at increasing access to water supply and irrigation, since this had been prioritized in the community plans.

2010 First Quarter: Completed projects by sector			
	Sector	Number of projects	Budget
1	Agriculture	3	510,840
2	Education	2	525,018
3	Health	1	197,249
4	Irrigation	19	1,163,729
5	Livelihood	1	49,847
6	Public Building	1	32,520
7	Transport	2	38,704
8	Water Supply & Sanitation	3	140,637
Grand Total		32	\$2,658,544

The Quality Control (QC) unit of NABDP conducted a workshop and training early in the first quarter of 2010 in order to assist local infrastructure capacity. The first workshop targeted 30 Design Engineers from all regional TSU on design of RCC bridges in all regions.

The training was focused on updating personnel on the new changes in ACI Code, and instruction in design by new methods of different types of slabs, girders, cantilevers, columns, foundations, and other related technologies.

In alignment with the annual work plan target of ten bridges contracted and implemented in rural areas, and to assist coordinated infrastructure design in those areas formerly underdeveloped that will also facilitate enhanced economic livelihoods, the training will enable TSU engineers, who are responsible for technical surveys and designs of projects in the regions, to apply various new techniques on bridge design, and to extend infrastructure projects where previously not possible due to weak technical capacity.

Through its recently decentralized monitoring function, NABDP has been effective in expanding the scope of monitoring. During the past quarter, approximately 53 projects were continuously monitored by the field monitors and the remaining was overseen by regional TSUs (technical support unit). Depending on the complexity and type of projects, frequency of field visits was

determined in the regional monitoring plans and reports and follow-ups were shared in the monthly regional coordination meetings within the technical team.

Three projects were referred to MRRD Commission for Conflict Resolution, where the quality of work and expended budget contradicted the original plan. The commission resolves problematic projects that may involve corruption on behalf of any partners. In these cases, the differences in plan and expenditure were resolved through a re-calculation of the costs. Additionally, the Quality Control Unit reviewed and approved numerous projects throughout the provinces. Furthermore, the QC unit prepared survey forms for NABDP regional offices and distributed these forms.

(2.5) Community-based natural resource management systems are effectively supported

ERDA has been supporting natural resource management in rural communities and the implementation of rural energy schemes in Afghanistan. ERDA has prepared its annual work plan 2010 and has been implementing activities thereof in support of natural resource management and responsible technologies for energy development.

Presently, ERDA has been initiating the identification, survey, design and implementation of micro-hydroelectricity plants, solar power, and biogas technology.

Hydroelectricity: In the first quarter of 2010, there are currently 17 micro hydro projects in 5 provinces at different stages of implementation with a generation capacity of 800 kW benefitting approximately 8000 households. Among them, the Takhar mini hydro project has a generation capacity of 400 kW; the erection of transmission and distribution line is ongoing.

Training was provided to 25 persons for a survey and feasibility study of micro hydro plants in Kabul in the month of February.

A tripartite agreement for two projects in the central regions Kakaran and Satut has been signed and the first financial instalment released to the community for implementation of a micro hydro plant.

A 100 kW Shuhada micro hydro plant benefitting 1000 families has been contracted.

Survey and design of 10 new micro hydro plants have been completed in Ghor province, and is under contract process. Four micro hydro projects were surveyed in Samangan province, five projects in Bamiyan have been surveyed and are under design, and one project in Baghlan has been surveyed. Design of a 10 kW project benefitting 100 families in Takhor province has been completed. Similarly, 8 project sites in Takhor have been identified and surveyed in the province. A

10 MHP has been surveyed in Badakhshan province.

Solar: A total of 2,109 solar home systems were identified and surveyed in Badkhis province for 12 CDC. Among them, only 2 projects have a cost of less than 60,000 USD, which is causing a difficulty in contract.

ERDA accomplished the installation of solar power systems for each of the four offices of the disabled community in Takhor, Baghlan, Badakhshan, and Kunduz. Two solar home systems for 300 and 250 households respectively were surveyed in Ghazni, and the system design is underway. Two hundred solar home systems for 10 blocks of the Marjah district in Helmand province has been designed and is under contract. A survey of a solar home system for one village composed of 400 households in Samangam province is completed and is in the design phase.

Biogas: Installation of 74 biogas projects in Nangarhar provinces for 10 CDC is ongoing. Similarly, 65 projects for 10 CDC in the province is under contract.

At the conclusion of 2009, communities in Nangarhar Province were supported in the installation and operation of ten biogas plants, using animal waste as a primary and sustainable power source for the biogas plants. The success of the initiative will be extended to the other and soon-to-be developed biogas projects in the future.

Component 3: Stabilization through enhanced Economic Livelihoods

(3.1) Community development of consultative mechanisms and stability models tested, then established in high-risk areas

There are five programmes within NABDP contributing towards stabilization and generation of economic opportunity: the Counter Narcotic Trust Fund (CNTF) - Labour Based Rural Development Program (LBRD), Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG), Border Stabilization Project (BSP), Helmand Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (HARDP), and Integrated Alternative Livelihoods Programme – Kandahar (IALP-K2). At the end of 2009, more than 3,000 people in border districts including Nangarhar, Kunar and Kandahar benefited from various projects, such as construction of a protection wall to prevent flash floods and a well for drinking water.

In high-risk and insecure areas, conventional means of monitoring cannot be applied. Hence, NABDP undertakes participatory monitoring which ensure that perspectives and insights of the community and beneficiaries are taken into consideration. NABDP's methodology in this area has been to utilize DDA partnership in monitoring of projects in high-risk areas. A community-friendly monitoring manual, developed for DDAs with simplified tools such as checklists, photos and

collection of significant stories, is provided to the monitoring committees within DDAs. Trainings in the area have been conducted for Kandahar and Uruzgan where projects, out of access for NABDP personnel, are overseen by the local DDAs. Monitoring reports were submitted to the site supervisors and managers immediately after activity took place, and IU as well as MRRU was informed of the findings. The communication allowed for informed decisions to be made for the improvement of projects.

(3.2) Socio-economic community development projects are delivered under DIAG

The Government of Afghanistan is committed to disarming and disbanding Illegal Armed Groups (IAG), and launched the DIAG (Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups) programme in 2005 as a continuum of the Disbandment, Disarmament and Reconstruction programme implemented in earlier years. Through the NABDP, MRRD is providing development projects to communities where illegal armed groups were disbanded.

In order to sustain visible support and socio-economic development through infrastructure and job opportunities in response to disarmament activities, DIAG has completed three projects in the first quarter of 2010, making 16 completed projects in total since commencement.

A 16-classroom school was completed in Mohmandara district, Nangarhar province, a 2-km gabion protection wall was constructed in Khuram Sarbagh district, Samangan province, and a cultural centre was erected in Qarghai district, Laghman province. Approximately 11,200 people in the three districts will directly benefit from these projects, and 162,000 people are the indirect beneficiaries.



Left: *Before.* Students in Mohmandara, Nangarhar lack educational facilities

Right: *After.* The completed DIAG-sponsored school will serve 3,200 students—male *and* female

As of March 2010, DIAG currently implements 95 development projects, including pre-selected projects, in 24 provinces throughout Afghanistan through a consultation process with the DDA. A total of 16 projects have been completed to date in order to enhance legitimacy and credibility of the central government through quick-impact development projects from the central government to communities where IAG were disarmed and disbanded.

(3.3) Public-private partnerships and quick-impact projects implemented in insecure areas linked to poppy reduction

Through the CNTF, in the first quarter 2010 three retaining wall projects (438 meters) in Takhar province are under contract stage in the Engineering Service Department (ESD), and through LBRDP the number of surveyed projects is 428, contracted subprojects 422, ongoing subprojects 183 and completed subprojects 171. Most CNTF efforts were devoted to simple water projects that communities can implement on their own as much as possible. This was done to improve security while improving water access for irrigation. Projects contracted in the second phase of NABDP provided over 1 million working days out of the 173 projects completed during phase II.

The Integrated Agriculture and Livelihoods Program in Kandahar (IALP-1K) proved successful in achieving positive results under this output. The pilot program implementation demonstrated a positive outcome in the Afghan community in the four districts of Kandahar. The agricultural lands and the irrigation networks in these areas have significantly improved, as they were revisited for the first time after the war years. The communities have been enabled to play an active role in the development of their districts through trainings and involvement of DDAs. Additionally, MRRD leaderships close involvement and frequent visits to sites in Kandahar have demonstrated the ministry's commitment to the people resulting in higher level of trust in their government.

Building on the progress made under IALP-K, the program is extended for a second phase which includes the establishment of the Kandahar Rural and Agriculture Development Institute as well as a master plan for the Tarnak District Farm. These projects are expected to provide formal education on agricultural methods, short-term trainings for farmers on specific skills and technologies, and rural development education to prospects. These activities are expected to introduce new technologies and cutting edge information on alternative livelihoods. The expected impact is a reduction in poppy reduction and increase in licit livelihoods.

(3.4) Strengthened institutional capacities to support licit livelihoods in rural communities

NABDP's continuous collaborations with the Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD)

and its consultations with the stakeholders have led to strategic and institutional learning. With the recent poverty rates derived through AIRD's vulnerability assessment surveys across 34 provinces, MRRD departments have been encouraged to focus their services in the more deprived regions. Consequently, NABDP has revisited its delivery mechanism and initiated methods of more equitable services, especially in areas with the highest incidences of poverty. As part of these efforts, the establishment of a central regional office has been proposed and approved by H.E. the Minister. This will increase the programme's access to the provinces of Bamiyan, Dai Kundi, Parwan, and Ghazni.

In addition, NABDP has initiated discussions within MRRD and MAIL on means of building capacity within the DAIL and PRRD in Kandahar. These provincial line ministry departments play an important role in encouraging licit livelihoods in Kandahar and their potential must be exploited. A needs assessment will be carried out jointly by these ministries to determine the gaps and deficiencies within the departments. Their linkages with other development actors, the quality of their services, the organizational arrangements and range of programmes will all be assessed to determine intervention areas.

At provincial level, all provincial Social Mobilizers were brought together for a workshop in January. The workshop allowed for an exchange of best practices and lessons learnt among the programme personnel that deal directly with the communities. The activity was also helpful in introducing community mobilization methods and strategies used in other countries. Specific case stories were jointly examined by the participants. The participants were enabled to enhance their leadership skills through various exercises which will improve their dealings with the communities.

Challenges

Risks

A deteriorating security situation caused the cancellation, postponement, or relocation of a number of projects at the close of 2009 due to continuing turmoil from elections, a setback that has limited the intended schedule for the first quarter of 2010. Issues of security in Kunduz have prevented engineers from monitoring the projects on time. The ongoing situation has also caused delays in monitoring the Counter Narcotics Trust Fund projects and projects in Baghlan, among others.

In Jawzjan province, there has been difficulty in using a vehicle with a readily identifiable UN logo. In order to circumvent this particular risk, MRRD has requested to convert several vehicles to Ministry licensure and to remove the UN association so that vehicle use may continue unrestricted

and free from threat. A high security threat in Kandahar led security officials to warn NABDP to proceed with extreme caution when acting on projects in those areas..

Winter weather caused damage to some projects and delays project implementation of others. Pillars of the Sholgara and Chintal Bridges have been demolished by flooding and are still under process in Balkh province. Nearly all energy projects were slowed or postponed due to inclement weather in the northern and eastern provinces (except Nangarhar) due to blocked roads and snowfall.

Issues

There are several issues in Jawzjan province that have caused a delay in progress, such as the lack of design and monitoring engineers for processing and handing over of projects, internet problems, lack of office space, and a shortage of required vehicles for implementation of projects. The program implementation unit is working closely with the human resources on tackling the staffing shortages and with administrations on resolving transportation issues. Shortage of human resources was also an issue in Ghor which has been reliant on the regional TSU, located in Herat. Considering the remoteness of the province and large number of activities there, monitors and engineers are being recruited separately to enhance provincial office capacity.

Since NABDP operates at the grassroots level directly engaging the communities through DDAs, social conflicts over project identification and ranking of priorities tend to develop frequently. In Faryab province, projects have been delayed by the social conflicts that have arisen, and delays in transferring of financial instalments. Involvement of influential stakeholders such as the community elders or MRRD leadership has proven effective in resolving such disputes.

Another issue the programme faced was cost analysis and sustainability issues. In the DIAG development component, there have been many requests from DDA for the provision of electricity. The recent field mission in Tarkhar, however, has revealed that the energy projects are prone to a number of issues, such as the slow speed of project delivery, lack of sustainability, and potential duplication with the plans of the Government of Afghanistan. In particular, the cost of that particular MHP project by far exceeded the budget ceiling, which can lead to unrealistic expectations of the same in neighbouring communities.

Lessons Learned

Based on experiences in project implementation, NABDP will increase its efforts to shorten the time lag between compliance and development to the greatest extent possible, while maintaining

timely implementation and completion of projects. To this end, the management support unit has developed financial management databases to track and control expenditure against plans and donor contracts.

Providing alternative livelihood options as soon as possible to those individuals who have previously been engaged in illegal methods of income generation will lead to reintegration of anti-governmental elements into mainstream society, and to improvement of security and stability in those affected areas. Development of job opportunities and those Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) that can create economic prosperity in rural areas is key to the success of the disarmament and social inclusion process.

It has been learned that the DDA becomes effectively redundant if there is no capacity building or institutionalization of the DDA; training ensures proper project implementation, cost effectiveness and timeliness of project completion. Capacity building activities are critical for coordination of the development activities in districts.

Future Plans

Building on the progress it has made in the first quarter of 2010 in terms of planning and design, NABDP will accelerate its implementation of infrastructure projects in the second quarter. The quality assurance role of the management support unit has been approved by the programme, and institutional arrangements have been set up; hence the MSU will begin screening of all projects to ensure environmental, gender, and economic standards are being met.

Furthermore, NABDP will expand on its strategy for a more equitable distribution of services across the provinces. This strategy entails: a) more thorough planning at the regional level, b) capacity building of regional and provincial staff, including more effective linkages with other UNDP funded projects, such as ASGP, Gender and Environment, and c) allocation of un-earmarked funds in under-funded areas. Though planning had been fund-driven in the past, the programme has made concerted efforts to develop pools of surveyed, designed and ready-to-implement projects in all regions and provinces. The MSU will be actively engaged in promoting a more geographic distribution of services within each region and province to the extent that available funds allow. Additionally, the capacity building of regions will continue to enable all regions to efficiently and effectively implement projects as requested by the community.

Other plans for the next quarter include the establishment of a Central Regional office to allow for closer access to the central provinces, where the programme plans to increase its activities. The stakeholders in these provinces have indicated interest in NABDP's increased involvement. Additionally, NABDP has reformed its delivery mechanism to allow for a greater level of

involvement in communities with very high poverty rates as derived through the AIRD poverty research. Since the rate is very high in the central region, it calls for establishment of an office in the region to accommodate up scaling of project implementation.

Financial Section

Table 1. Funding Overview

S.No	Donor	Description of Commitment	Commitment (Currency of the Agreement)	Received (Currency of the Agreement)	Received (USD)- 2009	Received (USD)- 2010	UNORE	Balance (Currency of the Agreement)
1	UNDP Core	Contribution for 2010	USD 2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-	2,000,000.00	1.000	-
2	Denmark	New contribution	DKK 12,000,000.00	11,999,960.00	1,159,196.00	1,128,024.06	5.247	DKK 40.00
3	Germany	New contribution	USD 747,775.00	336,500.00	336,500.00		1.000	USD 411,275.00
4	Netherlands	New contribution (Dutch 3)	USD 15,324,200.00	7,700,000.00	7,700,000.00		1.000	USD 7,624,200.00
		Contribution of NABDP Ph II		210,000.00	210,000.00		1.000	
		Contribution of NABDP Ph II		1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00		1.000	
		Contribution transferred to NABDP Ph II		(1,041,750.00)	(1,041,750.00)		1.000	
5	Norway	<i>Transferred from NABDP Ph II</i>			1,929,383		-	-
		New contribution	NOK 100,000,000.00	15,000,000.00	2,683,363.15		5.590	NOK 85,000,000.00
6	Spain	<i>Transferred from NABDP Ph II</i>			3,350,000.00		-	-
		New contribution	EUR 9,000,000.00	9,000,000.00	13,554,216.87		0.664	-
		New contribution	EUR 5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	7,396,449.70		0.676	-

7	UNDP BCPR	<i>Transferred from NABDP Ph II</i>			482,510.00		-	-
8	DIAG	<i>Transferred from NABDP Ph II</i>			11,686,500.00		-	-
9	Belgium	<i>Transferred from NABDP Ph II</i>			4,000,000.00		-	-
10	Canada (00078)	<i>Transferred from NABDP Ph II</i>			2,200,000.00		-	-
11	Japan CRD	<i>Transferred from NABDP Ph II</i>			7,700,000.00		-	-
12	Japan Border	<i>Transferred from NABDP Ph II</i>			8,586,335.72		-	-
13	CIDA (00550)		CAD	CAD				CAD
		New Contribution 2010	12,000,000.00	6,000,000.00		5,628,517.82	1.066	6,000,000.00
		Contribution IALPK 2	8,000,000.00	4,000,000.00			-	4,000,000.00
		<i>Transferred from NABDP Ph II</i>			9,328,642.00		-	-
14	DFID	<i>Transferred from NABDP Ph II</i>			7,269,410.00		-	-
Total					USD 89,530,756.44	USD 8,756,541.88		

Table 2. Expenditure Status by Activity

Output	Budget-2010	Expenditure 1QTR-2010 (in ATLAS)		Expenditure 1QTR-2010 (<i>not posted in ATLAS</i>)		Total Expenditure	Balance	Delivery
		Commitment	Disbursement	Commitment	Disbursement			
Local Governance & DDAs Inst.	1,709,012	2,307	420		299,245	301,972	1,407,040	17.67%
Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	17,271,042	642			4,984,637	4,985,279	12,285,763	28.86%
Stabilization/Eco Livelihood	13,373,785	22,799	735		1,903,391	1,926,925	11,446,860	14.41%
Programme Management	3,189,549	62,767	34,017		1,162,523	1,259,307	1,930,242	39.48%
GMS	2,261,509	6,270	2,647	-	552,500	561,417	1,700,092	24.82%
Total	37,804,897	94,785	37,819	-	8,902,296	9,034,900	28,769,997	23.90%

Table 3. Expenditure Status by Donor

Donor	Output	Budget 2010	Expenditure 1QTR-2010 (in ATLAS)		Expenditure 1QTR-2010 (<i>not posted in ATLAS</i>)		Total Expenditure	Balance	Delivery
			Commitment	Disbursement	Commitment	Disbursement			
UNDP Core	Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	1,700,000				283958	283,958	1,416,042	
	Programme Management	300,000				66217	66,217	233,783	
00012 Total		2,000,000	-	-	-	350,175	350,175	1,649,825	17.51%
DIAG	Stabilization/Eco Livelihood	4,624,600	17,341			1365763	1,383,104	3,241,496	
	GMS 5%	243,400	913	-	-	71,882	72,795	170,605	
DIAG Total		4,868,000	18,254	-	-	1,437,645	1,455,899	3,412,101	29.91%
Denmark	Local Governance & DDAs Inst.	250,500				133343	133,343	117,157	

	Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	827,552	642			278256	278,898	548,654	
	GMS 7%	81,144	48	-	-	30,981	31,029	50,115	
Denmark Total		1,159,196	690	-	-	442,580	443,270	715,926	38.24%
Germany	Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	99,447				66555	66,555	32,892	
	GMS 7%	7,485	-	-	-	5,010	5,010	2,476	
Germany Total		106,932	-	-	-	71,565	71,565	35,368	66.93%
Japan CRD	Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	7,004,999				826301	826,301	6,178,698	
	GMS 5%	368,684	-	-	-	43,490	43,490	325,195	
Japan CRD Total		7,373,683	-	-	-	869,791	869,791	6,503,893	11.80%
Netherlands	Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	2,298,034				2281517	2,281,517	16,517	
	Stabilization/Eco Livelihood Programme Management	2,327,779	5,457	735		14022	20,214	2,307,565	
	Programme Management	1,748,409	62,767	30,433		592692	685,892	1,062,517	
	GMS 7%	479,780	5,135	2,346	-	217,394	224,875	254,905	
Netherlands Total		6,854,002	73,360	33,514	-	3,105,625	3,212,498	3,641,504	46.87%
Norway	Local Governance & DDAs Inst.	1,110,000	2,307			44361	46,668	1,063,332	
	Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	1,300,530				667712	667,712	632,818	
	Programme Management	20,400					-	20,400	
	GMS 7%	182,973	174	-	-	53,597	53,771	129,203	
Norway Total		2,613,903	2,481	-	-	765,670	768,151	1,845,753	29.39%
CIDA	Local Governance & DDAs Inst.			420			420	(420)	
	Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	49,180				136504	136,504	(87,324)	
	Stabilization/Eco Livelihood Programme Management	3,494,175				216305	216,305	3,277,870	
	Programme Management	177,600				25502	25,502	152,098	

	GMS 7%	280,072	-	32	-	28,475	28,507	251,565	
CIDA Total		4,001,027	-	452	-	406,786	407,238	3,593,789	10.18%
DFID	Stabilization/Eco Livelihood	2,927,231				307301	307,301	2,619,930	
	Programme Management	475,200				402861	402,861	72,339	
	GMS 7%	256,097	-	-	-	53,453	53,453	202,644	
DFID Total		3,658,528	-	-	-	763,615	763,615	2,894,913	20.87%
Spain	Local Governance & DDAs Inst.	348,512				121541	121,541	226,971	
	Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	3,991,300				443834	443,834	3,547,466	
	Programme Management	467,940		3,584		75251	78,835	389,105	
	GMS 7%	361,874	-	270	-	48,219	48,489	313,385	
Spain Total		5,169,626	-	3,854	-	688,845	692,699	4,476,927	13.40%
Grand Total		37,804,897	94,785	37,819	-	8,902,296	9,034,900	28,769,997	23.90%

Note: GMS calculated manually for expenditure.

Annex I: Performance Tracking Matrix

Result/Goals	Performance Indicators	Baseline Info	Performance Benchmark and Targets	Implementation Progress in reporting quarter
<p>1. Local governance and DDA institutionalization: Communities mobilized to articulate their needs and identify priorities and solutions, Capacity developed to become district level coordination entities; Institutional arrangement developed to mainstream gender equality/women's empowerment in all components and projects</p>	<p>1. Number of DDAs established, Trainings carried out, DDPs uploaded to NABDP website, inclusion of women in the DDA, Disaster risk management training</p>	<p>1. At the start of 2010, out of 401 districts, 374 DDA had been elected and DPP formulated; basic training for DDA community members has been organized in 124 districts including training in gender issues.</p>	<p>1. 26 DDAs established and 26 DDPs formulated by the end of 2010, 75 DDAs re-elected and DDP updated by the end of 2010, 249 DDAs registered by end of 2010, 100 DDPs uploaded on NABDP website, 105 DDAs Trained and capable to manage/ implement projects by the end of 2010, 14 information centers established by the end of 2010, 5 DDAs trained as monitors, 55 staff trained; 240 DDA members trained in gender sensitization, 100 functional gender focal points in 5 provinces, 8% increase in women participation in DDA activities</p>	<p>1. 2 additional DDAs have been launched and two DDP have been formulated. A total of 37 DDPs were uploaded on to the website this quarter, and seventy-eight DDA have been registered in the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development Departments of five provinces. NABDP re-elected 17 DDAs and updated all respective DDPs.</p>
<p>2. Sustainable livelihoods through rural infrastructure services: Community Energy Projects established and sustainability concerns addressed, Capacity built for operation and maintenance of rural energy systems and services at district level, Small scale infrastructure built and accessible by</p>	<p>2. Number of rural energy projects, trainings carried out, policy development, small scale agriculture infrastructures / rural Infrastructure projects underway</p>	<p>2. 20 percent of the population have access to public power (grid-supplied) on some days</p>	<p>2. 900 sustainable Rural Energy Systems installed in 12 provinces by the end of 2010. 15 DDAs trained on decentralized rural energy projects planning, 15 DDA technicians from 15 DDAs trained on monitoring, supervision, installation of rural energy systems. In</p>	<p>2.: In the first quarter of 2010, NABDP completed work on 32 projects, i.e., gabion wall construction, roads, retaining walls, shallow wells, intakes, kariz cleaning, and tractor purchase. NABDP initiated another 65 projects from January to March, including protection walls, bridges, gabion wall</p>

<p>rural communities</p>			<p>2010, 400 projects surveyed and designed, 158 road projects contracted and implemented, 10 bridges contracted and implemented, 80 Protection wall projects contracted and implemented, 10 Public buildings contracted and implemented, 90 water supply projects contracted and implemented</p>	<p>construction, intakes, retaining walls, canal cleaning, shallow wells, clinics, culverts, equipment purchase, MHPs, and kariz cleaning. The Renewable Energy Policy of Afghanistan, drafted in cooperation with ERDA, has been approved by Parliament.</p>
<p>3. Stabilization through enhanced economic livelihoods: Community development consultative mechanisms and stability models tested then established in high-risk areas, Strengthened institutional capacities to support licit livelihoods in rural communities</p>	<p>3. Number of capacity building trainings, SMEs and Economic infrastructure projects underway in Border Provinces.</p>	<p>N O T A V A I L A B L E</p>	<p>3. Consultative processes led by DIAG/ Border/ CNTF, CARD mechanisms for at-risk provinces operationalized at district level, 40 projects surveyed and designed, 45 road projects contracted and implemented, 51 irrigation projects contracted and implemented, 18 water supply/projects contracted and implemented. In 2010, 25 projects constructed according to DDP priorities and 25 Districts will be covered by DIAG projects</p>	<p>3. DIAG has completed three projects in the first quarter of 2010, making 16 completed projects in total since its origin. Through the CNTF, in the first quarter 2010 three retaining wall projects are under contract and through LBRDP the number of surveyed projects currently stands at 428, contracted subprojects 422, ongoing subprojects 183 and completed subprojects 171.</p>

Annex II: Risk Log

Project Title: National Area-Based Development Programme						Award ID: 00070832		Date: 12 April 2010	
#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Insecurity		Environmental	<p>A deteriorating security situation caused the cancellation, postponement, or relocation of a number of projects at the close of 2009 due to continuing turmoil from elections, a setback that has limited the intended schedule for the first quarter of 2010</p> <p>P = 5 I = 5</p>	<p>In Jawzjan province, there has been difficulty in using a vehicle with a readily identifiable UN logo. MRRD has requested to convert several vehicles to Ministry licensure and to remove the UN association so that vehicle use may continue unrestricted and free from threat. A high security threat in Kandahar led security officials to warn NABDP to proceed with extreme caution in those areas.</p>	Field and provincial staff members	Project manager	March	Increasing in southern provinces
2	Climate and Natural Disasters		Environmental	<p>Winter weather caused damage to some projects and delays project implementation of</p>	<p>Nearly all energy projects were slowed or postponed due to inclement weather in the northern and</p>	NABDP	Project managers	February	Decreasing

				<p>others. The Sholgara and Chintal Bridges have been demolished by flooding and are still under process in Balkh province.</p> <p>P = 5 I = 2</p>	<p>eastern provinces (except Nangarhar) due to blocked roads and snowfall, and progress was halted to prevent unnecessary accidents.</p>			
3	Women's participation		Environmental	<p>Rural women are discouraged from travelling, deteriorated security condition means further reduction in women's participation in programme activities decision-making processes such as DDA/ DDP workshops</p> <p>P = 5 I = 4</p>	<p>Increase number of female staff in the field, encouraged male community to bring their wives or other female members of their family to the workshops. Companion (<i>Mahram</i>) has been considered as part of programme cost to allow women to travel. Mixed DDA or Advisory Committee of women) were developed</p>	NABDP	CE unit	March Ongoing

Annex III: Issue Log

ISSUES LOG						Date: 12 April 2010
Award ID: 00070832		Project: National Area-Based Development Programme				
ID	Type	Date Identified	Description	Status/Priority	Status Change	Author
1	Human resources	January / Ongoing	Shortage of human resources has been an issue, especially in Ghor, which has been reliant on the regional TSU, located in Herat. Considering the remoteness of the province and large number of activities there, monitors and engineers are being recruited separately to enhance provincial office capacity. The program implementation unit is working with human resources on tackling the staffing shortages and with administration on resolving transportation issues.			Human resources department, Operation department
2	Cost analysis / implementation challenges	February / Ongoing	A recent field mission in Tarkhar has revealed a slow speed of project delivery, lack of sustainability, and potential duplication with the plans of the Government of Afghanistan. Many communities request large-scale projects that either not cost-effective given the benefits they would render, or are above the ceiling established for community implemented projects by the Ministry. Energy projects are most prone to the issue of unrealistic community expectations and programme's inability to overcome the costs.			Project Managers
3	Change in management structures	July / Ongoing	Many units have seen major changes since the inception of Phase III. Changes in management and department structure continue.			Unit heads, Project managers

4	Slow coordination within ministry departments	ongoing	Involvement of the MRRD M&E department and the procurement department causes delays in the project cycle, given their low capacity to process instalments and contracts in a timely manner. Organizationally, advice is being formulated to the MRRD leadership for reviewing and strengthening the management of the project cycle.			MRRD Leadership
5	Funds Management		Due to the long processing of contracts at head quarters level by donors and UNDP, funds are delivered to the programme much later than the expected time. This complicated the management of funds.			