



## Quarterly Project Report First Quarter 2009

### United Nations Development Programme Afghanistan Strengthening State Building through Strategic Government Communication (SSBSGC) 01 January- 31 March 2009



H.E. President Hamid Karzai inaugurates a developing project in Bamyan

**Project ID:** 00059207

**Duration:** 01 January 2008- 31 December 2010

**Strategic Plan Component(2008-2011):** Strengthening responsive  
Government Institutions

**Total Budget:** USD 3,543,214

**Unfunded:** 0.00

**Implementing Partners/Responsible parties:** UNDP in collaboration with OPS

## SSBSGC DONORS



**UNDP**



**United Kingdom**

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## I. Implementation progress

The first Strengthening State Building through Strategic Government Communication (SSBSGC) project board meeting for the year 2009 was conducted with active participation of the Department for International Development (DFID), the Spokesperson of the President, the Deputy Country Director of the UNDP, as well as project and programme staff. The communication consultant presented the communication strategy to the project board for their review and approval.

SSBSGC project staff continues to provide support to the OPS on day to day basis in production/facilitation of press conferences and news on the President's meetings/visits with senior international officials inside and outside the country to ensure that material for meetings, speeches, press conferences, protocol signings of the President and the Presidential Spokesperson were produced on regular basis.

### **Output 1: An effective government communication strategy prepared and government communication with its citizens improved.**

The communication strategy was developed during the reporting period after comprehensive consultative process which includes meetings with senior counterpart in the OPS, development partners, line ministries, CSOs and media related organisations. SSBSGC project Board meeting conducted in early February reviewed the communication strategy and approved with certain recommendation for further enriching the contents of the strategy paper. Thus the consultant met with different units in the OPS and Ministry of justice which was not covered in the initial round of consultations. Hence some minor changes were made in the strategy, which was circulated to the board members for their record.

Additionally, the project made major progress which compliments the communication strategy implementation. These achievements include efforts to set up the Steering Committee for effective coordination of the OPS and other relevant stakeholders, strategic steps are being taken towards creation of a coordination mechanism amongst involved stakeholders, relevant agencies working on communication and brainstorm the synergies and linkages. Meetings were conducted with USAID/CDP (communication Development Program), UNESCO communication officer, DAI communication Unit, Killid group (an afghan network in communication, being involved in TV, radio and printed media) UNDP/ASGP project on the issues of the sub national communication mechanism.

Also the project team held a series of meetings with the donor (DfID) on the programmatic and project management issues which include revision of the project log frame, DfID annual review etc.

### **Output 2: Capacity of the OPS and provincial information ability developed for the implementation of an effective communication strategy**

A number of strategic steps were taken to ensure quality staffing and continuation of support to the OPS in providing media production. The position of the Organisational Re-engineering Consultant was re-advertised for the third time due to the declining of the selected qualified candidates for various reasons. Efforts were made to get additional CVs from different sources in order to expedite the recruitment process. The Interviews are scheduled in early April, while candidate is expected to be onboard in early May.

Once onboard, the Organisational Re-engineering Consultant will review the present structure, individual staff roles and the capacity development needs of OPS. The consultant will recommend a more efficient organizational structure of the OPS and a capacity development strategy covering both the national and sub national level. .

Relevantly, based on the recommendation of December 14, 2008 Project Board meeting, a quick assessment of the OPS was conducted for their urgent training needs.

## II. Project implementation challenges

### *Updated project risks and actions*

The project outputs are interlinked, hence delay in recruitment of the Organizational Re-engineering Consultant (which is the main component of the project output #2), limited the project results. The project undertook necessary steps and the Organizational Re-engineering Consultant will join the project in early May 2009.

Another substantial risk to the project is the deterioration of security in particularly the eastern and southern provinces of the country, which has limited the accessibility, communication and has affected the project activities in those areas. This risk has decreased the vital communication links with the provincial hubs. To mitigate this risk, the collection of security related information from different reliable sources can be used as a basis for the formulation of realistic implementation plans. In addition, UNDP security procedures should be followed.

### *Updated project issues and actions*

Delay in implementation of communication strategy is an issue, while actions are being taken to address the issue which include set up of the coordination mechanism within the relevant stockholders.

The working environment at the provincial level is still characterized by insufficient office facilities to meet UNDP standards in all respect of: space, equipment, furniture and stationary, which limits the ability of the provinces to provide quality input and convey communication from the OPS to the public and vice versa. These capacity constraints will be dealt with by the project during the organizational restructuring process.

### III. Financial status and utilization

#### Financial status

Table 1: Contribution overview [01 January – 31 March 2009]

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
DFID	3,379,772	1,613,023	1,766,749
DGTF	150,000	150,000	-
	-	-	
	-	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,529,772</b>	<b>1,763,023</b>	<b>1,766,749</b>

#### Financial utilization

Table 2: Quarterly expenditure by activity [01 January – 31 March 2009]

ACTIVITY	BUDGET 2009	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE (JAN 01 - MARCH 31 2009)	BALANCE	DELIVERY RATE
Activity 1 Drafting Multi-Year Comm. Plan	110,200.00	51,053.68	59,146.32	
Activity 2 Capacity Development	717,756.00	321,701.79	396,054.21	
Activity 3 Technical Assistance and Management	329,945.00	84,312.88	245,632.12	
UNDP GMS (7%)	87,153.84	34,402.99	52,750.85	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,245,054.84</b>	<b>491,471.34</b>	<b>753,583.50</b>	<b>39.5%</b>

Table 3: Quarterly expenditure by donor [01 January – 31 March 2009]

DONOR	ACTIVITY	BUDGET 2009	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE (JAN 01 - MARCH 31 2009)	BALANCE	DELIVERY RATE
DFID	Activity 1 Drafting Multi-Year Comm. Plan	110,200.00	51,053.68	59,146.32	46.3%
	Activity 2 Capacity Development	717,756.00	321,701.79	396,054.21	44.8%
	Activity 3 Technical Assistance and Management	329,945.00	84,312.88	245,632.12	25.6%
	UNDP GMS (7%)	87,153.84	34,402.99	52,750.85	39.5%
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,245,054.84</b>	<b>491,471.34</b>	<b>753,583.50</b>	<b>39.5%</b>

## Annexes

Annual Work Plan 2009