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Afghanistan

[Centre for Policy and Human Development]

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Commemoration of World Water Day at Kabul University Organized on 25th March 2009

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Implementing Partners/Responsible parties: Kabul University

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I. Implementation Progress

The following activities were implemented as planned in CPHD's Annual Work Plan (AWP) during the period 1st Jan – 31st Mar 2009.

Component 1: Policy Support to Kabul University

1.1 Publication and launching of "Serrana" Academic Journal of Kabul University

The first edition of the second volume of "Serrana", Kabul University's first academic journal which was inactive for more than thirty years, was published by financial and technical support by CPHD during this quarter. "Serrana" publishes academic articles written by Afghans and international scholars and experts on various social sciences subjects in three languages of Pashto, Dari and English. One thousand copies of the journal were published which are being disseminated to the lectures and students of Kabul and other provincial universities.

During the last quarter, CPHD and KU encountered many challenges adversely effecting the quality and publication date of the journal. All English articles submitted by the lectures were not published due to their poor quality. Additionally, the publication quality was low so thus a second company was contracted to publish the report. In order to overcome the quality constraints, CPHD in collaboration with Kabul University's Scientific Center is working on developing academic standards and guidelines for "Serrana". CPHD plans to conduct training workshop on introducing these standards. Also, a webpage design is under construction for "Serrana" in order to enable national and international experts to have access to this publication and also to share their academic work thus supporting academic exchange in distance.

Work has already started for the publication of the second edition of the journal and articles have been submitted by KU lectures to the journal's board of editors for review. A key challenge, securing additional funds, can jeopardize the timely publication of the journal. CPHD is engaged in resource mobilization in order to overcome this challenge.

Component 2: Data Updating and Assessment for the National Human Development Report (NHDR)

2.1 Data Collection & Analysis:

CPHD staff collected materials such as reports, research studies, official documents on various topics of water from the internet and institutions. Additionally, a number of meetings and consultations were convened at various levels in this connection with some relevant organization such as the Central Statistics Office, DACAAR, Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livelihood, Ministry of Energy and Water, Afghanistan's National Environment Protection Agency, and relevant donor agencies and civil society organizations in Kabul. Based on the collected materials, a preliminary knowledge gap assessment for the report was identified and thematic and background papers areas for commissioning identified. But availability of reliable data, in water sector remains a key challenge for the preparation of Afghanistan HDR on water.

2.2 Identification of Human Development Indicators for NHDR:

Preliminary identification of available data for calculation of indices for human development measuring and water theme has started in CPHD. A gap analysis for the calculation of HD indices was also completed. It is envisioned that in addition to calculating the HD related

indicators, a water poverty indicator will be calculated. The involvement of an international statistician is needed in order to assist the project staff to pursue the feasibility of calculating such indicator. Additionally the statistician will design a survey or case studies for highlighting the link between poverty and water in Afghanistan. A workshop will be offered to the staff members of CSOs and economic department of Kabul University to train them on calculations of these indices.

Component 3: Afghanistan National Human Development Report Produced

3.1 Qualified Staff Recruitment for the National Human Development Report Preparation:

A key challenge for drafting NHDR is recruiting qualified researchers and authors. After a recruitment delay of almost 4 months, an international human development consultant was recruited to draft a concept paper for the report. Additionally, two national researchers have been recruited. NHDR authors' posts have been advertised widely by UNDP Procurement Unit for attracting potential candidates. Additionally, CPHD's project coordinator was engaged in headhunting of national experts which was fruitful in identifying key experts in water sector knowledgeable about technical aspects of water but not in policy and development related issues. Some of the identified experts are not interested in the CPHD's post since the posts are temporary and they have permanent posts in the university and or in government/donor institutions. In this regard, the project staff is working in identifying Afghan expatriate and also designed commissioning of background papers to make it possible for individuals who cannot join CPHD team on full time base s to provide useful information for the report.

3.2 NHDR Timeline and concept paper has been developed.

A concept paper outlying the focus of the report, introducing the research framework was drafted and translated into Dari. The concept paper will be discussed with the members of NHDR advisory board. Meanwhile, six clusters of research framework were identified and related thematic and background papers were listed. Meetings were held with individuals and institutions for the commissioning of some of the papers.

Also a timeline for writing and publication of the upcoming NHDR has been produced. As the NHDR for Afghanistan are produced every 2.5 year, it is planned the upcoming NHDR will be produced and launched in time for the celebration of World Water Day, scheduled for March 22, 2010.

3.3 Water Posters

As part of NHDR advocacy the following xx posters, communicating key challenges of water in Afghanistan, were developed, designed and published by CPHD.

3.4 Establishment of the Network of NHDR Friends:

The network of Afghanistan NHDR Friends functions as a tool to keep connected all the interested government organization, institutions, UN agencies, donors, civil society institutions and individuals on the human development related updates and issues in Afghanistan. The work on the establishment of this network is in progress. In order to facilitate the access of institutions and Afghans living abroad to this chain of good friends, an internet blog is in consideration to be developed.

Component 4.1: Capacity Building on Human Development Concept and Research

4.1.1 Training Provided on Research Methodology in India to Kabul University Lecturers:

CPHD has been supporting the enhancement of KU lecturers' capacity in the area of policy research. As part of CPHD's support to capacity building of KU lectures, a group of 12 lecturers (9 male, 2 female) from KU and a CPHD staff were sent to Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research in India for participating in a two-week training on research methodology. The training started on 16th March 09 and ended on 27th March 2009. The KU lecturers benefited from the new methodologies and the experiences on the subject. The participants expressed their pleasure for the exposure to an academic institution. The lecturers are expected, as part of the training, to engage in field research in the thematic areas of water in the 2nd quarter of 2009 to contribute and influence the upcoming NHDR.

4.1.2 Training Workshop Conducted on Data Collection:

13 students from faculty of journalism of Kabul University received a two-day theoretical training on quantitative data collection methodologies with a focus on subjects such as sampling strategy, confidence interval, ethical matters of data collection, recording of data and etc. The training was followed by a five-day practical period of data collection.

After the training the students engaged in data collection from a sample size of 188 respondents via a questionnaire developed for CPHD/KU research project, "Kabul Street children.

4.1.3 Symposium on the Research Projects Convened at Kabul University:

A two-day research symposium was arranged and facilitated by CPHD for KU lecturers on 30-31 of March 2009. A total of 7 groups (5 lecturers in each group) presented their completed field research projects in the symposium. The research projects, which were designed under CPHD's HD and Social Research Methods training program 2008, were successfully completed at the end of 2009's first quarter.

The researchers were provided opportunity, through this symposium, to present their papers to other researchers and KU academia, and participated actively in the discussion regarding the completed research projects. The following aspects of research projects were discussed;

- Research methodology
- Study design
- Sampling Strategy
- Sample size estimation
- Data Collection methods and tools
- Main findings of the study
- Recommendations
- Challenges and opportunities during the field work

At the end of this two-day event, the participants expressed their appreciation towards CPHD for providing them with such an academic centered opportunity.

Component 4.2: Scholarly Exchange Programme

4.2.1 Water Day Commemorated in Afghanistan for the First Time:

CPHD commemorated World Water Day event for the first time in Afghanistan on March 25th 2009 to raise awareness among the Afghan community and institutions on the importance of water for the development of Afghanistan. This event provided a platform for addressing with some of the challenges of water in Afghanistan. World Water Day event was attended by more than 100 people; among them were students, lecturers, experts, local Maliks and high level guests including the Chancellor of Kabul University Prof. Hameedullah Amin, two senior advisors to the President of Afghanistan, the Minister of Finance H.E. Dr. Omar Zakhilwal and ex-chancellor of Kabul and former Minister of Finance

University, Dr. Ashraf Ghani. The event was covered both by national and international media. His Excellency President Hamid Karzai's message on the importance of water was delivered by the Chancellor of Kabul University at the start of the ceremony. Following the message from the President, H.E Dr. Omar Zakhailwal and Dr. Ashraf Ghani, representatives from the Ministry of Water & Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock, and the Dean of Geo-Sciences Faculty of Kabul University delivered their speeches on the theme of water. Prof. Hamidullah Amin, Chancellor of Kabul University, closed the event by noting the future role of the academic community in water research as well as extending great appreciation towards CPHD for organizing this important event for the first time in Afghanistan.

4.2.2 Afghanistan NHDR Theme Introduced in the World Water Forum in Turkey:

World Water Forum was held in Turkey from 16 to 24th March 2009. Due to funding constraints CPHD staff were not able to participate in this forum but CPHD in collaboration with Integrity Watch Afghanistan-a civil society organization- prepared a power point presentation, "Afghanistan: Water, Human Development and Communities Participation". Also, NHDR Afghanistan was introduced in this event. Through the presentation, IWA discussed key water issues in Afghanistan and the role of local communities in monitoring water projects. The session was well received by nearly 80 participants.

4.2.3 Thematic papers commissioned for Asia Pacific Human Development Report on Gender:

In supporting the drafting of Human Development Report of the Asia Pacific (2009), on gender, CPHD and Regional Center in Colombo (RCC) commissioned two thematic papers, " Gender, Customary Law and Dispute Settlement in Afghanistan: Barriers and Opportunities in Promoting equality" and "Gender and socio-cultural factors in Afghanistan: barriers and opportunities in promoting equality". The papers were drafted and will be incorporated into the Asian Pacific HDR.

4.2.4 Donation of Books to Khost University:

Nearly 1,100 books on rule of law and political sciences, sent by Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, were donated to Khost University.

5. Other Critical Activities/Achievement of the Reporting Period:

Audit for 2006-2007 Carried Out on the Implementation of CPHD Project :

The audit of CPHD project was carried out during the first quarter of 2009. The audit covered two years of the CPHD project implementation (2006-2007).

Reconstruction of CPHD hall and resource center was completed:

A new building within Kabul University premises was rehabilitated with the funding from UNDP, CO. Through this new building, new office space is allocated for the capacity building and exchange staff of the project. Additionally, a new hall for holding guest lectures and training events has been made possible. The CPHD Human Development Resource Centre which will be used by Kabul University lecturers and students is also established in the new building. After the discussion with Kabul University in 2008, space for the reconstruction of this building in the campus of Kabul University was identified by Kabul University and the actual reconstruction work started in end 2008. A number of essential furnishing items have already been provided to this centre. The fundraising for

provision of further required equipment of this centre is in progress and the other logistical items, such as: computers and various kinds of books are to be provided to the centre in the near future.

5.3 CPHD Project Staff Recruitment:

The following posts have been recruited during the 1st quarter 2009:

- Deputy Project Manager (national)
- International NHDR consultant (international)
- Data Analyst (national)
- Research Assistant (national)

II. Project implementation challenges

Updated project risks and actions

Recruitment: Delays in recruitment of staff—both national and international—due to the difficulty of finding those who could fulfil selection criteria. To mitigate this risk, we have re-disseminated the information about relevant vacancies under the Centre for Policy and Human Development project to wider networks of individuals and institutes around the world. In addition, we have asked individual members of the networks and institutes to further disseminate within their own networks and potential and suitable interested candidates.

Security remains an on-going risk. This has a bearing on the speed of the implementation of the project. To mitigate this risk, caution has been exercised to avoid any kind of potential incidents as advised by the UN Security Unit on regular basis.

Updated project issues and actions

Resource Mobilization: The project is in short fall of budget to implement all of its activities. The core allocation for the 2009 is not enough for achieving the project outputs by the end of 2009. The amount of budget in the current project document is not sufficient for all three components of the projects: NHDR production, Capacity Building and Exchange programs. This is extremely difficult, considering that during 2008 CPHD was active in providing trainings and KU is expecting similar activities in 2009. The preliminary contacts and information on potential donors have been gathered in coordination with UNDP Programme and Donors Relations Offices. Resource Mobilization concept has been developed and meetings for fundraising to the project will soon start with donor community. Additionally, CPHD is seeking for opportunities of collaboration with the drafting of NHDR thematic papers with donor projects in order to reduce the cost.

The Project Board Meeting: This meeting is due and will be convened in the first month of the 2nd Quarter of 2009.

Some Rules & Regulations: Inclusion of KU Lecturers and students on part-time basis in CPHD's activities is one of the challenges vis-à-vis some of the operational rules & regulations of UNDP. The issue was discussed several times with CO Programme, Procurement as well as the Management Oversight Units. We have now got some green light on some potential alternatives. This will soon be discussed further with the relevant departments in CO and it will be resolved.

III. Financial status and utilization

Financial status

Table 1: Contribution overview [1st Jan 2006 – 31st Dec 2009]

Donors Name	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE (USD)
	Committed (USD)	Received (USD)	
UNDP	2,457,828	2,410,489	47,339
Total	2,457,828	2,410,489	47,339

Financial utilization

Table 2: Quarterly expenditure by activity

Activity	UNDP Core Allocation (2009)	Q1 EXPENDITURE (01/01/2009-31/03/2009)	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
ACTIVITY 01: Policy Support	9,000	15,592	-6592	
ACTIVITY 02: Data Updating and Assessment	0.00	54,951	-54,951	
ACTIVITY 03: NHDR	3,000	37,049	-34,049	
ACTIVITY 04: Capacity building and Exchange Programme	55,100	39394.8	15705.2	
ACTIVITY 05: Project Management	722900	10,704	712,196	
Grand Total	790,000	157690.8	632,309.2	19.9 %

Annexes

Annual Work Plan 2009