



**United Nations Development Programme**  
**Afghanistan**  
**NATIONAL AREA-BASED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (NABDP)**  
**First Quarterly Project Progress Report – 2011**



Students are happy to learn at a newly constructed school in Farza district of Kabul

**Project ID:** 00070832(NEX)  
**Duration:** Phase III (July 2009-June 2014)  
**Strategic Plan Component:** Outcome-11  
**CPAP Component:** Outcome-6  
**ANDS Component:** Social and Economic Development  
**Total Budget:** USD 294,666,049  
**Responsible Agency:** The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)

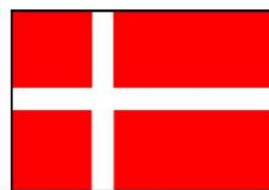
## Donors



Belgium



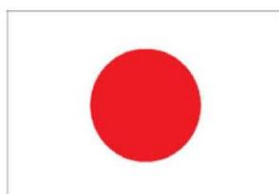
Canada



Denmark



Germany



Japan



Netherland



Norway



Spain



United Kingdom



European Union (EU)



## Acronyms

AIRD	Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development
ANBP	Afghanistan New Beginning Programme
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
ARDSS	Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Strategy
BSP	Border Stabilization Project
CDC	Community Development Council
CDP	Community Development Plan
CDRRP	Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Project
CE	Community Empowerment
CLDD	Community Led Development Directorate
CNTF	Counter Narcotic Trust Fund
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CPAP	Country Program Action Plan
CRD	Comprehensive Rural Development
DABS	Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat
DDA	District Development Assembly
DDP	District Development Plan
DIAG	Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups
DIC	District Information Center
DMC	Disaster Management Committee
ERDA	Energy for Rural Development in Afghanistan
GFP	Gender Focal Point
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Int.l Cooperation)
HARDP	Helmand Agriculture and Rural Development Programme
IALP-K2	Integrated Agriculture and Livelihood Programme – Kandahar Phase 2
KRARDI	Kandahar Rural Agriculture Development Institute
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock
MERD	Monitoring, Evaluation and Result Based Reporting Department
MHP	Micro Hydro Project
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NABDP	National Area Based Development Programme
NSP	National Solidarity Programme
PMT	Provincial Monitoring Team
PRRD	Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development Directorate
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
QC	Department of Quality Control
RCM	Regional Coordination Meeting
SCM	Steering Committee Meeting
TSU	Technical Support Unit
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WFP	World Food Programme

## Table of Contents

Acronyms .....	3
Executive Summary .....	5
I. Context .....	7
II. Status of the progress towards the achievement of output/outcome.....	8
Component 1: Local Governance and DDAs Institutionalization .....	8
(1.1) Communities mobilized to articulate their needs, identify priorities and solutions.....	8
(1.2) Capacity development in DDAs.....	9
(1.3) Institutional arrangement developed to mainstream gender equality .....	12
(1.4) Effective mechanisms developed to ensure equal gender participation at district level	14
(1.5) District-level Dister Risk Management committees established and trained .....	16
Component 2: Sustainable Livelihoods through Rural Infrastructure Services.....	16
(2.1) Community Energy Projects established and sustainability concerns addressed.....	16
(2.2) Capacity developed for operation and maintenance of rural energy systems.....	17
(2.3) Rural Energy Development activities institutionalized and up-scaled.....	17
(2.4) Small scale infrastructure built and accessible by rural communities.....	17
(2.5) Community-based natural resource management systems are effectively supported .	20
Component 3: Stabilization through enhanced Economic Livelihoods .....	20
(3.1) Community development consultative mechanisms and stability models .....	20
(3.2) Socio-economic community development projects are delivered under DIAG .....	21
(3.3) Public-private partnerships and quick impact projects .....	24
(3.4) Strengthened institutional capacities to support licit livelihoods in rural communities	24
III. Advocacy and Communications .....	25
IV. Challenges .....	26
V. Lessons Learned .....	28
VI. Future Plans .....	29
VII. Financial Section .....	31

## Executive Summary

Moving forward into 2011, the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP), a partnership of Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development (MRRD) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has continued the implementation of Phase III as the to reduce poverty and increase and diversify livelihood opportunities across the country. Reflection has taken place on NABDP's successes and challenges to date, including a thorough review and consideration of the findings of an evaluation by the Management Review Team completed in late 2010. Planning, including the drafting of NABDP's Strategic Plan for 2011-2014, is underway in order to implement recommendations.

In the First Quarter of 2011, regular work has continued to support the mobilization, institutionalization, and capacity development of District Development Assemblies (DDAs) in order to strengthen local governance. The Community Empowerment Department (CED) was successful in carrying out the re-election process for 22 DDAs in 8 provinces this quarter, resulting in the election of 447 men (73%) and 162 women (27%) to participate in DDAs, 73% of which were new members. Individual and organizational capacities were strengthened through trainings for 26 DDAs (437 men and 226 women), establishment of 8 District Information Centres (DICs) in 4 provinces, and the provision of Grant in Aid to 13 DDAs this quarter. Regular emphasis was placed on Gender Equality and Disaster Risk Reduction Management training, while communities also enhanced their capacities to manage local resources and improve stability through their affiliation with the government. The Gender Unit continued to work on strategic gender mainstreaming policies, while supporting women-specific projects in carpet-weaving and tailoring to the benefit of 170 women.

New in the First Quarter of 2011, is the launch of preparations for the inaugural First National DDA Conference to be held in April of this year. It is expected to significantly contribute towards local governance and DDA institutionalization by bringing DDA members, including women, together from across the country to present their achievements and discuss their legal and institutional challenges with key stakeholders. First steps completed include bringing almost 700 DDA members together at 7 Regional Consultative Workshops for logistical preparations and representative selection, as well as a full-day of networking, dialogue, and interaction with other DDAs and NABDP staff. The preparation of communications and advocacy materials for the event is well underway, including a documentary film on the activities and role of DDAs in local governance.

In order to contribute to sustainable livelihoods, 143 rural infrastructure projects were completed in the First Quarter, with 765 projects still ongoing. These projects created 52,337 labour days for skilled and unskilled labourers, while contributing to the reduction of poverty for 365,821 men and women through increased access to transportation, irrigation, access to health and educational facilities, and so forth. In particular, community-based natural resource management was supported through the implementation of 39 irrigation sector projects to enhance productivity of 2,945 jerebs of land.

Specific efforts have been sustained to survey, design, and implement rural energy projects, such as Micro-Hydro Power (MHP) plants and biogas systems. During this quarter, the Energy for Rural Development of Afghanistan (ERDA) unit completed 6 MHPs in Badakhshan and 1 in Ghor in order to provide 150 kW of electricity for lighting and communications to 1,239 families. While continuing

the implementation of 22 biogas systems in Nangarhar, feasibility studies have been conducted to expand biogas to 5 other provinces. Operational and maintenance training has been provided to ensure sustainability of systems, which is further supported by the positive experiences residents have through the availability of electricity within their homes. In order to scale-up these activities in the future, ERDA continued to train staff on all elements of rural energy technologies and orient communities to their potential benefits.

In terms of stabilization, NABDP's projects in high-risk areas proceeded, particularly by the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) unit. DIAG successfully completed 7 projects this quarter to benefit 105,840 men and women in 5 provinces across the health, water and sanitation, education, and social and cultural sectors and has 13 projects ongoing. Much progress has been made on moving forward with the contractual arrangements for IALP-K2 project components in Kandahar and associated results are anticipated in the next quarter. Finally, a Provincial Monitoring Team (PMT) was newly established in Nangarhar Province and has become extremely active with monitoring activities in the last 2 months. Such positive results have been tested in other provinces and are currently under replication in new provinces.

Security and slow procurement continue to be the main challenges faced by project implementation teams. DIAG faces future funding shortages, while ERDA consistently battles to overcome technological difficulties in implementing highly specialized alternative energy technologies in rural areas of Afghanistan. Despite these challenges and issues, coordination with other ministries and departments has been strong this quarter, as well as the advocacy and outreach of units to external outlets such as on-line communities and local media houses. Overall, the programme has achieved numerous results this quarter and will move forward into 2011 with many plans for improvement.

## I. Context

After several decades of war and numerous natural disasters, Afghanistan has faced severe obstacles that have left the country impoverished and vulnerable. The bulk of the population lives in rural regions of the country and faces serious problems such as a lack of proper roads, agricultural facilities, clean water, security and employment – all intensifying the challenges of sustaining sufficient and licit livelihoods. Thus, in order to significantly reduce poverty a robust focus on agriculture, promotion of sustainable livelihoods, and rural infrastructure development is required across the country.

The Government of Afghanistan (GoA) has, therefore, called on the initiation of several nationally-led programmes with the goal of enhancing human security and promoting poverty reduction through empowering rural communities in Afghanistan. The National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) is one of the original programmes, started in 2002 as a combined initiative between the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In order to elevate and expand the activities of the programme in a range of areas, NABDP launched Phase-III in 2009 focusing more specifically on an economic regeneration programme directed towards the development of infrastructure in rural regions in line with the government's Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Strategy (ARDSS). Up to now, Phase-III of the NABDP programme has addressed the 3 essential areas of: (1) Local Governance and DDA Institutionalization, (2) Sustainable Livelihoods through Rural Infrastructure Services, and (3) Stabilization through Enhanced Economic Livelihoods. While recent strategic and policy shifts will expand programming in the Second Quarter of 2011 into Natural Resource Management and Rural Economic Development, this report addresses only the 3 components where activities have been completed and results have been achieved to date.

In the First Quarter of 2011, the context around the country has mainly stayed the same as the end of 2010. The winter months saw a reduction compared to summer months in the overall attacks from anti-government elements, as is regularly observed annually due to shorter daylight hours and inclement weather. Despite this, the absolute number of attacks has increased over Quarter One in 2010 and a few high-profile attacks occurred contributing to general insecurity which threatens and jeopardizes development efforts in secure areas.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the harsh winter climate caused regular suspension of construction activities and closure of roads to remote and mountainous areas. These factors limited project implementation, outreach, and monitoring. By the end of the quarter, weather had improved and projects were back underway.

---

<sup>1</sup> "AOG Initiated Attacks – Countrywide" in *ANSO Quarterly Data Report Q1 2011*, Afghanistan NGO Safety Organization, p8. <http://www.afgnso.org/2011/ANSO%20Q1%202011.pdf>

## II. Status of the progress towards the achievement of output/outcome

### Component 1: Local Governance and DDAs Institutionalization

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

In the First Quarter of 2011, regular work has continued to support the mobilization, institutionalization, and capacity development of District Development Assemblies (DDAs) in order to strengthen local governance. Since initiation, 382 DDAs have been established in all 34 provinces and have all formulated their corresponding District Development Plans (DDPs). Of the 20 remaining districts in Paktika and Badakhshan requiring DDA mobilization, none were targeted this quarter because of continued inaccessibility due to insecurity and remoteness, respectively.

The Community Empowerment Department (CED), however, was extremely successful in carrying out the re-election process for 22 DDAs in 8 provinces this quarter. Through the established selection and election processes within CDCs, clusters, and ultimately DDAs, 447 men (73%) and 162 women (27%) were democratically elected to participate in DDAs in:

- Balkh district, Balkh (1)
- Kushki Kuhna, Pashton Zarghon and Obe districts, Herat (3)
- Maiwand and Panjwaye districts, Kandahar (2)
- Najrab and Tagab districts, Kapisa (2)
- Wata pur, Narang, Chawkai, Noorgal and Asadabad districts, Kunar (5)
- Sorkh Parsa and Kohi Safi districts, Parwan (2)
- Aybak, Hazrat Sultan and Firoz Nakhshi districts, Samangan (3)
- Sar-e-Pul, San Charak, Gosfandi and Sozma Qala districts, Sar-e-Pul (4)

Of the previous 6 'interim DDAs', 4 have converted to 'permanent DDAs' during the re-election process. This has been possible because the National Solidarity Program (NSP) has been actively establishing more democratically elected Community Development Councils (CDCs) in districts across the country. CDCs are the foundational building block of DDAs, from which one active male and female representative are nominated to participate in the DDA establishment process. When communities do not have democratically elected CDCs, NABDP must call upon District Governors, PRRD Managers, and other reputable figures to initially nominate well-known individuals from all communities in their area. For both 'interim' and 'permanent' DDAs, once representatives come together for the clustering and election process, the procedures are the same and final representatives are elected in a free and fair manner. By starting the process at the CDC-level with elected representatives from each community, there is little reliance on the opinions and preferences of local power holders and a resulting increased sense of legitimacy and of *all* DDA members by the population.

Of the 609 people who were re-elected, 76% were new members into the DDAs while 24% were previous members. Of those elected for the first time to the DDA this quarter, 85% of women were new and 72% of men were new. Only 7 out of the 22 DDAs re-elected a maximum of 30-45% of old members back into the DDA. This turnover of members within DDAs reveals positive developments in the legitimacy and democratic representation of DDAs. Previously, community members

required convincing to participate in DDAs while now the re-establishment process is often reported to take numerous days due to extended debate and discussion between many people interested in participation. A number of years after initial establishment, DDAs are now seen as locally recognized development entities, of which participation within is important.

The re-election process with DDAs provided opportunities for the local community members to be actively involved and gain hands-on experience in participating in the democratic process, as well as have an extended opportunity to be in contact with NABDP staff. Elected members carry-out their day-to-day responsibilities, such as project identification, monitoring the project implementation process, project implementation and resource mobilization. Through experience sharing and CDC membership, many other community members have also indirectly benefited and gained these skills and knowledge.

During the re-election process, all 22 DDPs were also updated. This participatory process enabled DDA members to reassess the priorities and needs of their communities and reflect changes which have taken place since the initial DDP formulation 3 or more years ago. After translation into English, Dari and Pashtu DDPs for 19 updated DDPs were uploaded to the NABDP website.

### **(1.2) Capacity development in DDAs to facilitate roles as district coordination entities:**

In order to increase DDAs' ability to work as district coordination entities, CED continued to provide its standard capacity development modules this quarter, as well as increase the number of initiatives targeting organizational capacity development. Efforts were also made to bring DDAs from across the country together for consultations in preparation for the First National DDA Conference.

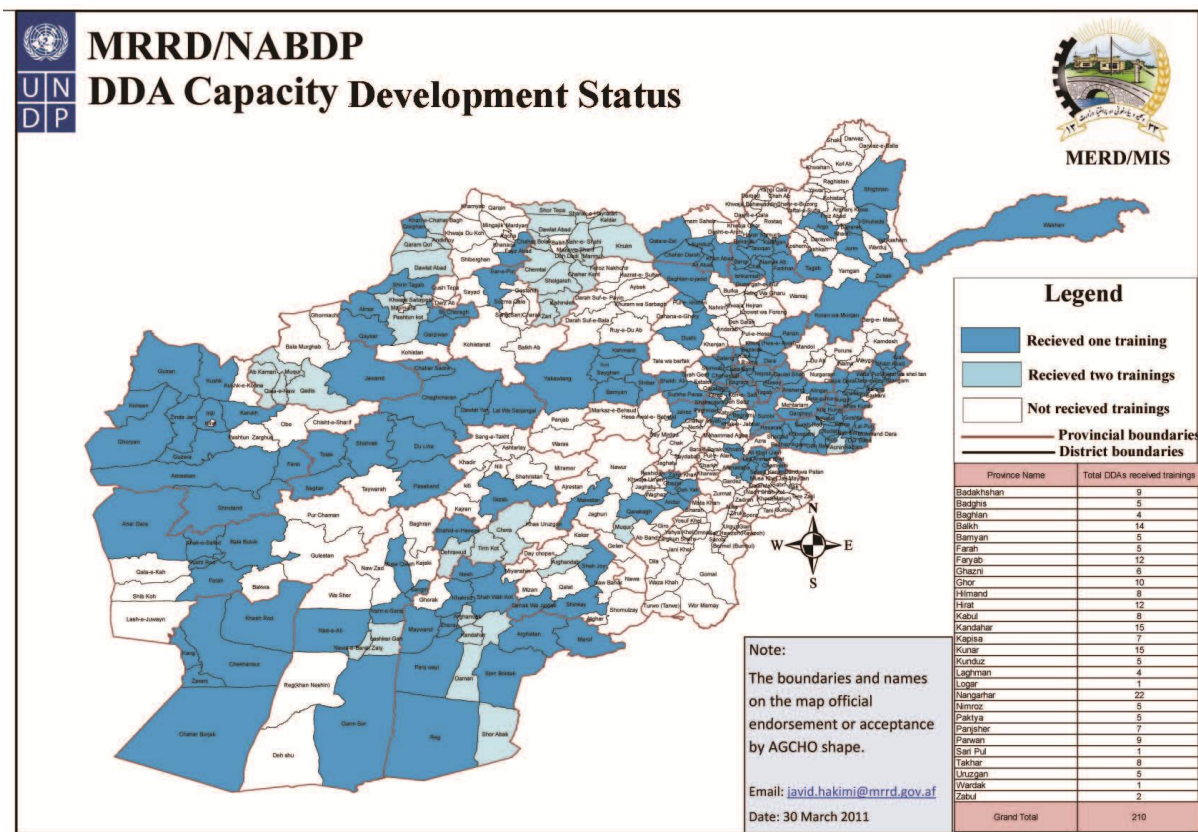
In order to target DDA's capacity development at the local district level, CED addressed the individual development of skills and knowledge on key topics through module trainings on the themes of: 1) Local Governance, Conflict Resolution & Gender Equity, 2) Participatory Planning and Project Cycle Management, and 3) Procurement and Financial Management. Trainings were provided to 20 DDAs (332 men and 162 women) which had not previously received training, as well as the 6 DDAs (105 men and 64 women) which underwent the re-election process and received a second training. In this manner, efforts are continually made to provide training to all DDAs at least once, while the new members of these DDAs were brought up to speed on these topics and able to fulfill their roles accordingly. Participatory techniques, such as problem-tree analyses and facilitation skills, were also covered in order to assist DDA members in identifying district priorities through the voices and participation of their constituencies.

In addition to assisting DDAs in district-level coordination and management of development activities, the training programmes have helped the DDAs acquire the specific capacities of planning, managing, and implementing the proposed projects. Training programmes also resulted in communities enhancing their capacities to manage local resources and improve stability through their affiliation with the government.

The impact of capacity development initiatives can be observed by the various activities DDAs have taken up and their corresponding results. DDA project monitoring training was provided in Nangarhar province, where DDAs will take the responsibility of monitoring projects in insecure districts of this province where NABDP staff cannot reach, and is further discussed in section 3.1.

After the completion of training programs, CED has initiated a training evaluation form to better understand the quality, utility, and areas of improvement for training. In the next report, an analysis of these findings will be shared in order to gain further insight into the training results.

Capacity development results are visualized on the map below and show the overall achievements to date in providing training for 210 DDAs. In total, 176 DDAs have received one complete capacity development training (5 modules), while 34 DDAs have received training a second time after their re-election process.



After establishment, training, and proven dedication to the development of their DDA within the district, 'Grants in Aid' schemes are available for DDAs to enhance the professional working environment of their offices. This physical capacity development contribution is made through the purchase of office furniture, such as desks, chairs, and bookshelves, as well as stationary and refreshments. In the First Quarter of 2011, professional working environments were created and financial assistance provided to 13 DDAs in Baghlan, Kabul, Kapisa, and Parwan.

At the organizational capacity level, efforts have continued to establish and strengthen District Information Centres (DICs) across the country. In the First Quarter, 8 DICs were established in the 4 provinces of Kabul, Baghlan, Kapisa, and Parwan. In addition to creating a unified location for the collection and storage of files – such as the DDP and CDC community development plans (CDPs) –

and data – such as population, infrastructure, land-use, health conditions, education and transportation facilities, market centres, and natural disasters – the DDA members are preparing 'District Profiles' which will be useful in planning, prioritizing, monitoring, and reviewing development activities. Ten DDAs have prepared District Profiles to date, while the others are underway. An example translated into English will be annexed in the Second Quarterly Report. By having information in one easily-accessible location, it is anticipated that communities and DDAs will be better equipped to link with numerous line departments, NGOs, Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), and other stakeholders involved in the district's equitable development.

In order to adequately take up their roles as district coordination entities, DDAs also need to have a broader picture of the provincial, regional, and national context of DDAs. This quarter, CED has initiated the preparations for an inaugural First National DDA Conference to be held in April of 2011. Significant efforts are being made to bring DDA members together from across the country to present their achievements and discuss their legal and institutional challenges to key stakeholders, including senior staff of MRRD and UNDP, as well as representatives from other ministries and the international community. It is expected that representatives from the Independent Directorate on Local Governance (IDLG) will be in attendance in order to further the dialogue on the differences between the roles of DDAs and their entities, District Councils.

In February and March, NABDP conducted 7 Regional Consultative

### Addressing statistical gaps at the district-level

Collecting detailed statistical data in Afghanistan can be extremely challenging even under ideal circumstances. Taking into consideration decades of war, changing government regimes, and an estimated literacy rate of only 30% it is not surprising that reliable data about population and human development indicators is not easily accessible. While the last national census was conducted over 20 years ago, development stakeholders are in desperate need of information about rural areas in order to implement appropriate poverty reduction programming.

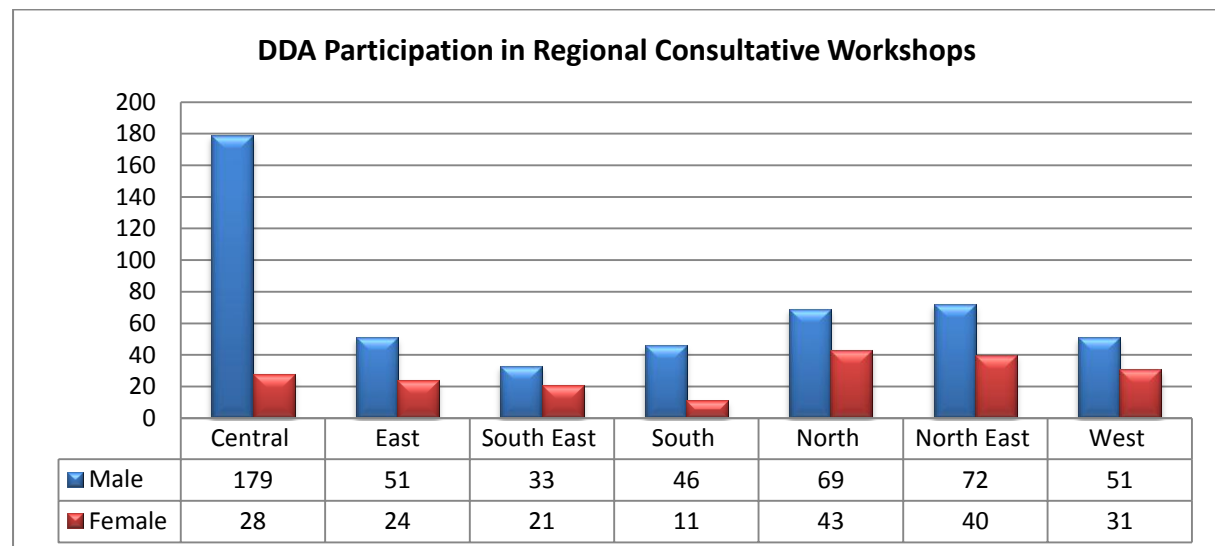
Responding to this issue, CED is working with DDAs to establish District Information Centres (DICs) which will operate as a unified location for the collection and storage of development plans and related data. Alhaj Esmatullah, who is currently in charge of the newly established DIC in Chahrikar, Parwan province explains: "we have focal points in all 75 villages of the district who give us the data about their area." Up to now they "have collected all data related to people's needs and to the district, including the District Development Plan (DDP), Community Development Plans (CDPs), strategies, projects which are completed, ongoing, monitored, and relevant research reports."

The Governor of Parwan province is also happy to have DICs eventually established in all 10 districts of the province because of the potential it can serve for provincial data collection and in leveraging development funding. "Whenever donors want to implement any project they can have access to the related data through our DIC," he anticipates. "When donors find the exact data and all records; they will become interested in implementing more projects in our province."

The head of the DDA, Haji Abdul Ghafoor expressed "we are happy to have this DIC because it brought an opportunity to have close coordination with the people." Such activities help DDAs to increase their visibility and recognition in the community and develop their capacities as the primary development entity at the district level.



Workshops to obtain ideas from relevant stakeholders, including various line departments, DDAs, PRRDs and programme staff. The workshops had an average of 100 participants each, ranging between 49 in the South Region and 207 in the Central Region. In total, 699 DDA members and NABDP staff participated, 501 of whom were men and 198 women. Facilities were made for women to participate by providing financial support for *muhrams* to travel to workshop locations and, with the exception of Central and South Regions, the average female participation was between 30-40%. The regional participation of men and women in the Consultative Workshops is presented in the table below:



As a result of the Regional Consultative Workshops, DDA members selected provincial representatives to attend the First National DDA Conference (63% men and 37% women), took pictures for ID cards, and received all relevant information regarding preparations. The input gathered from these workshops is expected to provide opportunities to advocate legitimization of DDAs at the conference, but already played a role in bringing people together for a full-day of networking, dialogue, and interaction with other DDAs and NABDP staff. The preparation processes also increased coordination and decision-making between DDAs. Evidence of DDA members' enthusiasm and commitment to the programme was witnessed through the prolonged debates between members over who would attend the conference as representatives.

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

Despite the hold on staff recruitment throughout the First Quarter and the limited capacity of the one Gender Advisor in NABDP's Gender Unit, progress was made in developing institutional arrangements for gender mainstreaming. In addition to 30-50% of regular CED and PID budgets going towards the benefit of women either directly or indirectly, approximately \$1,000,000 USD has requested in the 2011 annual budget (\$75,100 USD in the First Quarter) in order to specifically address the needs of women and gender mainstreaming within NABDP. The Annual Work Plan (AWP) requires finalization, but staff are preparing to increase spending accordingly.

Internally, capacity was developed for 29 of NABDP's male drivers and 1 female Admin staff on

gender sensitivity for 1-day in February. This training was provided in a responsive manner by the Gender Unit, due to a complaint by 1 pregnant staff member who felt her driver was not adjusting or taking her needs into consideration during daily travel to and from work. The objective of the training was to provide an enabling environment for gender equality and create a friendly environment between male and female staff in all positions. Male attendees reported positive feelings about the training and have requested another follow-up gender training in the near future. Furthermore, female staff have reported that drivers are increasingly aware and responsive to their needs and have not had further complaints about the drivers attitudes or actions.

The Gender Advisor has continued to participate in the bi-weekly MRRD Gender Working Group meetings in order to develop MRRD's Gender Policy. In the First Quarter, an introductory meeting covering the activities of the working group was presented to NABDP's unit heads, followed by individual meetings with all departments to collect information for the preparation for the draft policy. After collecting departmental data on achievements and current operational procedures across all programmes of MRRD, a draft Gender Policy for the ministry has been prepared. In the next quarter, meetings will be arranged to review this draft with all departments again in order to gain their feedback and input and contribute to a policy anticipated to enhance meaningful and coordinated mainstreaming efforts across the ministry.

Similarly, this quarter the Gender Advisor participated in 2 working group meetings of UNDP's Gender Equality Project. In addition to participating in the drafting of UNDP-Afghanistan's Gender Strategy and being able to directly apply this to the MRRD Gender Policy process, these meetings also provide networking and experience sharing opportunities with Gender Focal Points from all of UNDP-supported projects.

Externally, NABDP has continued its networking and collaborating with the provincial Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) offices in order to enhance the effectiveness of gender programming and increase institutional arrangements between the 2 ministries. In the First Quarter, meetings were held with DoWA in Jalalabad and Mazar-e-Sharif in order to request their support for linking women's handicraft producers with marketing opportunities, such as exhibitions. No such opportunities have arisen to date, but the results of these meetings will be reported when they come to fruition.

In order to realize gender mainstreaming at the DDA and community level, efforts have continued to develop a network of Gender Focal Points (GFPs) across the country. The addition of 20 women and 20 men as GFPs brings the total to 84 women and 79 men in this role. Training for new GFPs, however, was not possible this quarter due to a lack of human resources and has been included in the Second Quarter plan. GFPs in Herat province were active this quarter in supporting DDAs in identifying vulnerable women for projects and also following-up with the DDA Monitoring Committee in Gozara District, Herat.

In the next quarter, the Gender Unit plans on coordinating with the Human Resources Department and the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Department (MERD) in order to prepare an update of the percentage inclusion of female staff in all programme components and offices. Such an analysis will reveal potential gaps and result in an ability to provide recommendations and future ongoing monitoring and reporting on women's areas of staff participation.



***"Now I have a skill which is new in our district and am able to make a carpet, sell it, and have my own income to take care of my children and send 4 of my kids to school."***

- Carpet weaving participant, Nangarhar



In order to increase achievements under this output in the next quarter, 4 new staff are under recruitment. Three will be hired for Regional Offices, while an additional officer will be in Kabul to assist in national programming.

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

Numerous efforts are made to ensure that men and women have equal access to opportunities for participation in NABDP's programmes at the district level. One of the key measures taken is the inclusion of the Gender Equity training module during CED's capacity development trainings for DDAs. Of the 26 capacity development trainings conducted this quarter 663 people (226 women and 437 men) were trained on Gender Equity. This covered the importance of including women's needs and opinions in project decision-making and throughout the project management cycle, in sub-committee work, and consideration while improving the community as a whole. This assists DDA members in understanding their rights, roles, and shared responsibilities in including and empowering women in development activities, as well as in their social and family lives.

Within DDAs, 447 men (73%) and 162 women (27%) were democratically elected during the re-election process of 22 DDAs in the First Quarter. Of those elected for the first time to the DDA this quarter, 85% of women were new and 72% of men were new. This turnover of members within DDAs reveals the interest of women in participating in the Assemblies. In 5 districts in Kunar province, as well as in 4 districts in Parwan and Samangan, previously mixed DDAs underwent re-elections this quarter and converted to either DDAs with Women's Advisory Committees or Women's Groups. This back-tracking in gender inclusion is the growing insecurity across the province which is limiting women's ability to fully participate in public life, including the lack of women's participation in CDCs. Future detailed analysis of DDA institutional arrangements will allow these subtle changes to be monitored more closely, including follow-up regarding rationales and local contextual changes around the country.

Given the context in Afghanistan, ensuring gender participation at the district level requires broader mainstreaming approaches in addition to specific projects targeting the inclusion of women. This quarter, 2 women's projects were completed to the benefit of 60 women and 3 projects were started to benefit 110 women.

In Momand Dara district of Nangarhar and Doulat Abad district of Balkh province 2 carpet weaving projects of 30 women each were completed. The beneficiaries completed their 6-month training courses which ran for 7-hours a day / 6-days a week with a \$2/day stipend provided to cover lunch costs. The \$43,500 USD budget previously allocated in 2010, also covered the cost of raw materials, training house rental, trainers, and a carpet weaving frame for each participant. With each of their own looms, women will work within their own village and train 2 women from their village on weaving. They anticipate making approximately 2,500-3,000 Afs (\$55-66 USD) income per month, since full carpets sell for 9,000-10,000 Afs (\$200-222 USD) each but take numerous months to weave. A widowed mother of 5 children in Nangarhar explained that she "did not have a supporter and it was very difficult to live with my brothers and their families without any way to make an income. We were surviving on the charity from my brothers and were a burden on them. I lost my self-esteem and fell hopeless and was concerned about my children." After she completed the training course, she reported "now I have a skill which is new in our district and am able to make a carpet, sell it, and have my own income to take care of my children and send 4 of my kids to school." Unfortunately, she is not able to send her oldest daughter to school because she requires her help in the house and with carpet weaving, but she is proud of herself and no longer economically dependent on her brothers.

In the First Quarter, 2 projects training women in tailoring skills were started, with 40 participants each, in Kate-e-Lagan and Tortank villages of Bost district of Helmand province. As part of the First Quarter \$75,100USD budget for Gender, \$64,040 USD was spent on this project to provide women with raw materials, a machine for every 2 women, rent for the training house, and necessary sewing equipment such as scissors and thread. Training started in January and will run for 5-hours a day / 6-days a week for 6 months, resulting in 156 training days. Two very experienced women – who have studied in Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh province and Quetta, Pakistan – now live in Helmand and have been hired as master trainers. It is expected that after 6-months of training, women will be able to serve the needs of women unable to go to male tailors in the market and will be able to solve their economic problems. Additionally, women will receive literacy and numeracy classes in order to manage simple calculations and business management after their training is completed. One woman explained that she anticipated her participation because "tailoring is a suitable skill for us and we can have profit from the skill to our families. On the one hand we will support our family and children economically because we are poor and most of us don't have male supporter and the other hand it will be effective to solve society problems by having skilled women." An additional project was started this quarter in carpet weaving, involving 30-women in Guzara district in Herat Province.

This quarter, 5 projects in 5 provinces have been submitted to the Project Implementation Department (PID) for initiation in the near future in order to directly benefit 335 women and girls. They are as follows:

	Project Type	District, Province	Beneficiaries
1	Embroidery	Injil, Herat	30 women
2	Carpet weaving	Qarghai, Laghman	30 women
3	Carpet weaving	Asada bad, Kunar	30 women
4	Tailoring	Faizabad, Badakhshan	45 women
5	Computer course	Magha, Logar	200 girls

### **(1.5) District-level management committees established and trained in Disaster and Risk Management**

Given the prevalence of natural disasters across Afghanistan, CED offers Disaster Risk Reduction Management training to numerous districts. This quarter, training was provided to DDAs in the 3 districts of Abkamary district of Badghis, Ahmad Abad of Paktia, Shikih Ali of Parwan. In total, 48 men, 23 women, 5 CLDD staff, and 22 government authorities participated in the 3-day trainings. During the training, a Disaster Management Committee was established, the awareness of district authority figures was raised, and disaster-related projects were considered for the DDP. Efforts are ongoing to identify disaster-prone regions during social mapping processes and promote the inclusion of prevention projects during the updating of DDPs.

## **Component 2: Sustainable Livelihoods through Rural Infrastructure Services**

### **(2.1) Community Energy Projects established and sustainability concerns addressed**

The main objective of NABDP Energy for Rural Development of Afghanistan (ERDA) unit is to provide support for establishment of renewable energy systems in rural areas. ERDA projects are implemented through tripartite contracts between DDAs/CDCs and ERDA/NABDP/MRRD. Moving forward in 2011, the technical focus for ERDA will be the on the implementation of Micro-Hydro Power (MHP) and biogas projects, as demand for these types is high. The implementation of solar projects is still on-hold by MRRD, due to previous negative experiences arising from the installation and maintenance of household solar panels through NSP. ERDA has prepared technical quality guidelines for solar equipment and is continuing to advocate for reconsideration, particularly given that many areas are not suitable for MHPs, but there is still as strong desire for electrification.

During this quarter, ERDA has completed six MHP projects in Badakhshan and 1 MHP project in Ghor, providing a total of 150 kW of electricity for 1,239 families. In the 6 provinces of Badakhshan, Bamyan, Ghor, Samangan, Panjsher and Takhar 26 MHP projects are ongoing which will produce 544.5 kW of electricity for 5,177 families. In addition to this, 22 biogas plants remain under construction in Nangarhar province. These projects are expected to produce 133 cubic meter of gas for 195 families. ERDA also conducted feasibility studies for 25 MHP projects and 15 biogas plants in Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar, Laghman, and Kandahar provinces. Of the MHP projects, 6 in Baghlan and 8 in Takhar were deemed feasible and will proceed to the design stage. In the reporting period, ERDA has completed designs for 14 MHP and 10 biogas projects and will proceed to the contracting stage.

In addition to bringing light into homes, the inhabitants in ERDA's target areas show the positive impact electricity has had on their lives and the community as a whole in the following ways: families have more conformable lives, children no longer have to do their homework beside dim and smoky oil lamps, men and women make use of the light in the evening hours to make

handicraft products which they sell to boost their family income, and women are interested in investing in a sewing or knitting machine to start generating their own incomes.

## **(2.2) Capacity developed for operation and maintenance of rural energy system and service and district level**

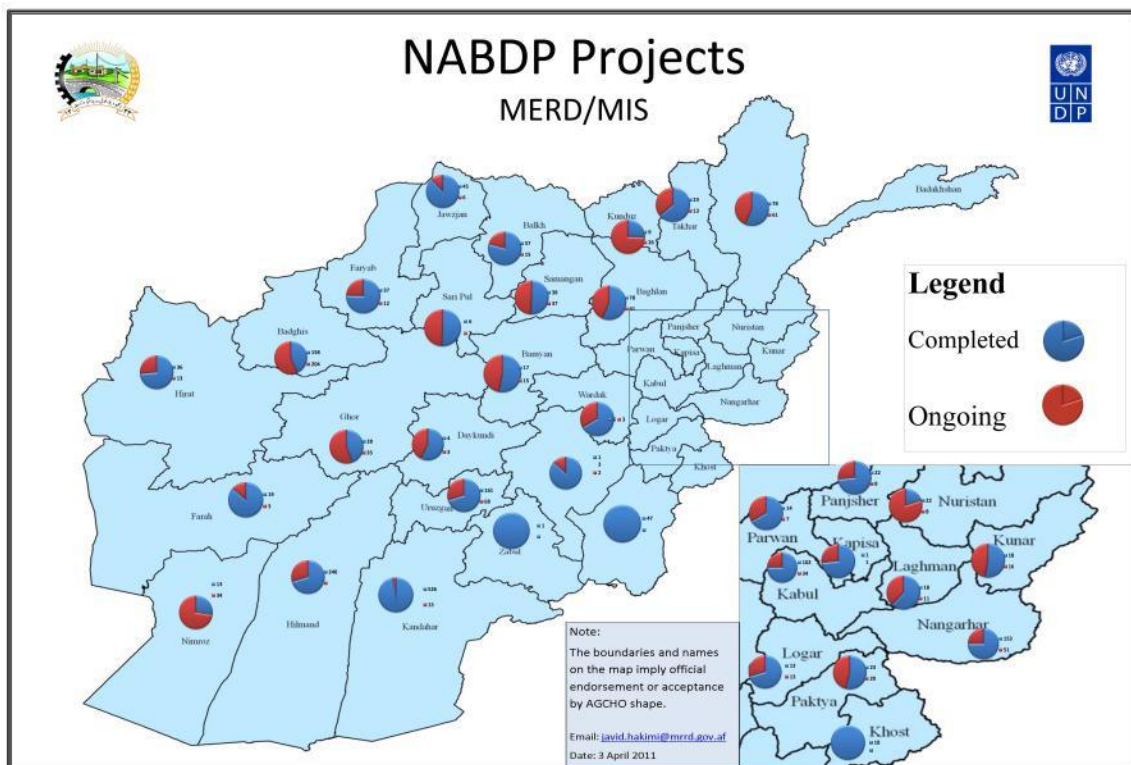
To contribute to the establishment of renewable energy systems, ERDA is working to develop sufficient capacities at district and community level so that they can implement the energy projects efficiently and sustainably to ensure that communities are capable of operating and managing them successfully. During the winter months of the First Quarter, ERDA focused on capacity development for their technical team, PRRD technical team, and DDA/CDC members in related topics. ERDA conducted an 8-day training for 36 technical staff from ERDA, PID, and DDAs' engineers on feasibility, design, and survey of MHP projects. Orientation and community awareness on biogas technology and its implementation modality was provided for 18 DDA members from Kandahar province, while, similar training was provided for 26 engineers from 26 PRRD provincial offices on renewable energy.

## **(2.3) Rural Energy Development activities institutionalized and up-scaled**

Once sufficient capacities at the district level are established to implement effective and sustainable rural energy projects, processes need to be replicable and scaled-up in order to be implemented more broadly. ERDA was able to focus on systematizing and institutionalizing knowledge and processes during the low season for construction in the cold winter months in the First Quarter. Orientations with communities regarding renewable energies reveal extensive interest in implementation and plans for 2011 are already increasing such projects over 2010.

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

In the First Quarter, a total of 143 infrastructure projects have been completed, while 765 projects are currently ongoing in the diverse areas of irrigation, public buildings, education, health, livelihoods, energy, water and sanitation, residential area improvement, and transportation. The implemented projects have benefited 365,821 people, approximately half of which are women. They created employment opportunities for nearly 52,337 skilled and unskilled individuals (mostly men), while the 765 ongoing projects will create temporary employment opportunities totaling 623,229 laborers days across Afghanistan. While men received the majority of the wage labour income, there is a strong likelihood that they contributed the majority of this to the wellbeing of the women, girls, and boys within their family as a whole. The percent of completed and ongoing projects per province is presented in the map below:



With the completion of 53 water supply and sanitation projects consisting of 8 deep wells, 40 shallow wells, and 1 water reservoir in Badghis, 2 water reservoirs in Kandahar and Kabul, 1 water supply network in Takhar, and 1 shallow well in Nangarhar – a total of 12,694 labour days were created in the target communities. Hence, nearly 6,117 families (39,761 individuals) obtained access to safe drinking water and will likely experience a decrease in waterborne diseases and reduced labour for school children and women in collecting water which may be used for other productive activities. In this sector, 1 water reservoir and 13 shallow wells were initiated in Badghis province, which will benefit 6,432 families (41,840 individuals) with safe drinking water, as well as create 10,428 employment days. The above mentioned projects are in addition to the 122 ongoing projects in this sector initiated in previous years.

In reference to the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007, 25% of the Afghan population had access to roads in rural parts of Afghanistan. Since the majority of Afghans reside in remote and rough mountain villages, rural transport projects are critical for improving access to basic services, education, health, and many other economic opportunities. In this quarter, NABDP has completed 43 transport sector projects consisting of 2 bridges and 3 culverts in Ghor, 1 bridge in Takhar, 1 culvert in Kandahar, 1 rock cutting in Panjsher, 14 km of tertiary roads in Baghlan, Bamyan, Farah, and Jawzjan, and 30 retaining walls in Badghis (12), Logar (3), Kabul (2), Kapisa (1), Bamyan (1), Herat (1), and Farah (1). The construction of these projects created 17,054 days temporary employment opportunities and benefited 33,329 families in the targeted communities. Numerous projects in this sector were initiated this quarter, including the initial work of 17 transport infrastructure projects in Kandahar (1 bridge), Badghis (1 culvert), Urozgan (13 retaining walls), and Kabul (1 bridge and a 0.8 km tertiary road). The implementation these projects will create 10,096

employment day opportunities for skilled and unskilled labour and benefit 9,719 families in the mentioned province. Investment in road related infrastructure projects is expected to reduce the time spent commuting and ease access to market places, potentially leading to an increased value of productive assets and agricultural products held by household. It is worthy of mentioning that these projects are in addition to 214 more transport projects initiated previously and currently ongoing.

NABDP has completed the construction of work of 2 guard rooms for an administration building in Nimroz province and created 38 days working days. Work has commenced during the First Quarter to construct 2 school buildings in Urozgan, 1 clinic in Jawzjan, 1 storage facility in Bamyan, 1 community center in Herat and 1 in Kapisa, 1 administrative building in Kandahar, and 1 community center boundary wall in Nangarhar. The implementation of these projects will create 33,340 labour days for nearly 28,701 families in six provinces of Afghanistan. Overall, the creation of temporary or long-term employment opportunities will encourage the young generation to stay at home and work in their communities rather than joining to anti-government or insurgency groups, as well as providing them with experience in construction skills. Additionally, the implementation of public buildings particularly, school buildings, should benefit communities through increased school enrolment, decreased teacher absenteeism, and increase attendance rates. Additionally, there are 43 public buildings in the sectors of Health, Education, Administration, Agriculture, Livestock, and Emergency Response which were previously started and are still ongoing.

In order to monitor the progress of infrastructure projects and ensure the quality of work, NABDP has established a number of monitoring and quality control mechanisms. Presently the Department of Quality Control (QC) has checked and reviewed the designs, surveys, and estimations of 95 different rural infrastructure projects comprising of rural roads, bridges, culverts, irrigation facilities, intakes, river trailing, water supply and sanitation networks, schools, clinics, and community development centers. QC's technical team regularly conducted field visits to each of the Regional Offices in the First Quarter in order to conduct capacity development for proper control of design, survey, estimation and specifications, as outlined in the designed guideline manual prepared by NABDP/MRRD.

In the First Quarter, 311 infrastructure projects across the country were monitored by the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Department's (MERD) independent Field Monitoring Officers (FMOs) and 349 projects were monitored by PID's technical staff. Accordingly, findings revealed some delays in the implementation of projects, a lack of coordination during implementation, a high percentage of projects without signboards or journals. The FMOs also report that CDCs and DDAs lack the full capacity to operate as implementation partner for the completion of NABDP projects. Reports on findings have been shared with Regional Managers and related staff and follow-up visits to ensure recommendations are followed will take place in the next quarter. NABDP is currently reviewing the monitoring modality of FMOs and considering reporting avenues which will increase their effectiveness, reporting capacities, and independence. The usage of Provincial Monitoring Teams for project monitoring in insecure areas is further discussed under Output 3.1 of this report.

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

Traditionally, villagers across Afghanistan have diverted water from river to their fields by building channels with local timber, stone, and sand. However, when rivers overflow these fragile structures are washed away and farmers spend countless days rebuilding make-shift infrastructure and often wait weeks to water their fields. In many cases these delays cause standing crops to shrivel and dry out, as well as causing conflicts between community members and villagers regarding the proper division of water. To address these issues, in 12 provinces NABDP completed the construction of 39 irrigation infrastructure projects which consisted of 4,541 meters of protection walls, 35 meters of intakes, 4 karezes, 687 meters of retaining walls, 500 meters of rock cutting, 1 aqueduct, 3,235 meters of canal cleaning, and 12,000 gabion boxes to construct 470 meters of gabion walls. The implementation of these projects has created 16,696 working days for skilled and unskilled laborers benefiting 13,739 families in the targeted areas. With the construction of canals, intakes, and other irrigation infrastructure, water for irrigation now reaches 2,945 jereeb of land, while the construction of gabion and protection walls has protected 2,000 jereeb of land, irrigation schemes and a number of communities situated in flood prone communities. This work is in addition to 245 irrigation projects which were started last year and are still ongoing and 25 which were started this quarter.

## **Component 3: Stabilization through enhanced Economic Livelihoods**

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

While there were previously 5 programmes within NABDP contributing towards stabilization and generation of economic opportunity, the Border Stabilization Project (BSP) and Helmand Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (HARDP) both closed in 2010. Currently, the Counter Narcotic Trust Fund (CNTF), Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG), and Integrated Alternative Livelihoods Programme – Kandahar (IALP-K2) are ongoing, with CNTF closing in the near future.

In the First Quarter, the preparation of the IALP-K2 2010 Annual Report was prepared for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), which highlighted a number of constraints which are delaying the implementation of the project aiming to strengthen and diversify licit livelihoods in Kandahar province. In this quarter, more progress has been made and several objectives are now moving towards accomplishment. Out of the 4 proposed lots for Kandahar Rural Agriculture Development Institute (KRARDI), 3 companies have been selected: Qasim Nasim Company (Lot 2), Mahi May Company (Lot 3), and Mozamil Zyarmal Company (Lot 4). The total budget is \$1,923,191 USD and the final signing of contracts is still in process. The first lot has not yet been selected by the procurement committee's and will require the Minister's approval. Furthermore, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has initiated the development of curriculum in Pashto for KRARDI and the contract for the development of the Tarnak Farm Master Plan was signed on March 20, 2011 with Studio Zarnegar Company for \$298,034 USD.

In terms of developing and strengthening sustainable institutions, IALP-K2 plans to enhance the organizational capacity of Kandahar's Department of Agricultural, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL) and PRRD through provision of training programs and physical equipment. In the First Quarter of 2011, 2 members of Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development's (AIRD) technical team have produced manuals/modules for the training of trainers (TOT), introduction to MRRD programmes, Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), and MRRD's strategic intent. Training based on these modules was conducted for PRRD staff, social workers, and local self-governance institutions in Kandahar on March 19, 2011.

IALP-K2 focuses on a wide range of integrated activities comprised of livelihood projects both agriculture and infrastructure, with a strong component aiming at building and strengthening sustainable institutions that are able to support licit livelihoods. These elements have a broader goal of contributing to stabilization in high-risk areas; however, the models are still under development and experimentation and are not yet ready for further dissemination.

NABDP phase-III has made concerted efforts to improve the quality of monitoring at different levels from designing to implementation, but faces difficulties in sending its own staff to highly insecure areas. Through developing a community-based monitoring mechanism and training 57 male participants on this topic, Provincial Monitoring Teams (PMTs) have been established in 7 insecure provinces covering 19 districts. In this quarter, a PMT was trained and established in Nangarhar province with 9 participants from Chaparhar, Rodat and Dara-e-Noor districts. Independent from the regular roles of DDA members in monitoring their own infrastructure projects, PMTs are comprised of about 9 members from different districts and operate at the provincial level in districts external to their own. They are specifically tasked to monitor projects in insecure areas where only local residents can gain access and are paid accordingly for their transport, accommodations, and food costs during their missions.

Evidently empowered in their new roles and with much outstanding monitoring to be completed, PMC members in Nangarhar monitored 15 different projects a total of 17 times in the First Quarter of 2011. While the PMT in Urozgan also monitored 2 projects this quarter, the PMTs in Herat, Kandahar, Badghis, Farah, and Helmand were not utilized by Regional Managers during the winter months. All programme components feel there are positive contributions that the PMTs can and do make to project implementation and plans are set to establish 4 additional PMTs in 2011, particularly in the South-East Region.

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

During the First Quarter of 2011, the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) unit completed 7 projects. Those 7 completed projects include 30 shallow wells, a basic health clinic, 2 girls' schools with 16 classrooms each, 79 wells, a social and culture center, and a maternity section. Below is a brief table which summarized the completed projects' locations and beneficiaries for this quarter.

S/N	Province	District	Project	Labour Days	Beneficiaries
1	Kunduz	Ali Abad	30 shallow wells	1,200	4,800
2	Takhar	Warsaj	Clinic	6,000	33,700
3	Takhar	Namak-ab	16 class Girls' School	9,600	800
4	Kabul	Farza	16 class Girls' School	7,200	1,500
5	Parwan	Bagram	74 wells	11,700	12,640
6	Takhar	Bangi	Social & Culture Centre	8,400	31,100
7	Logar	Khushi	Maternity Section	8,400	21,300
<b>Total</b>				<b>52,500</b>	<b>105,840</b>

By completing these projects, approximately 105,840 people will receive direct and indirect benefits. The 30 shallow wells in Ali Abad district of Kunduz province helped people in the district to have access to cleaner drinking water and ameliorated health conditions of community members and families living near wells. While deep wells may be preferable to shallow wells by reducing the risk of ground water contamination, the ongoing costs for a necessary electronic pump make its operation inhibitive for poor communities. Before the implementation of this project, people had to fetch water from nearby river, which is located in about 4-5km away from their homes. Thus, the constructed wells reduced the intake of surface water and decreased the burden on women and children to bring water from the river. This project also had a positive socio-economic impact by decreasing labour hours of family members and enabling children to spend more of their time on their education.

Similar benefits of safe drinking water were experienced by community members in Bagram district of Parwan from the implementation of 79 well projects completed this quarter. There are 74 CDCs in Bagram district in which each received 1 well (except for 5 larger villages which have 2 wells each). People in Bagram previously used unclean water from a canal that was used for agricultural, livestock, and drinking purposes. The project illustrates positive decision-making processes were utilized by DDA members in order to share the benefits of the project across the whole district. In addition to contributing to the reduction of waterborne health conditions in Bagram, about 20% of labours in the project were members of disbanded illegal armed groups. The latter contributed to the provision of job opportunities for the former AIG members and helped them earn a legal income.

A basic health clinic which was completed in Warsaj district of Takhar province resulted in the initiation of a process through the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to deploy doctors and nurses to this remote and mountainous area. Since it is one of the most underdeveloped and poorest areas in the province, the population will all benefit from access to a clinic in the future. The costs for transport to neighbouring districts and Taloqan centre is high, thus this clinic will not only directly benefit patients, but also save their family money on transportation costs.

Additionally in Takhar province, a social and culture centre project was completed in Bangi district. The one-storey building is 20 meter wide and 20 meter long and provides a space for meetings and district events. This district has long-since faced issues of conflict, particularly as it borders insecure districts of Kunduz province. This centre is a significant step towards peace and stability in the district because violence was often used as a way of resolving conflicts before the commencement of DIAG. This center has enabled community members to hold CDC meetings, DDA meetings,

### Girls provided with an opportunity to improve the future of their district

"Before the construction of this school our students were studying in a broken down building and in tents where they were exposed to the harsh summer and winter weather and where the moist soil on the floor attracted creepers like mosquitos, flies, snakes, and scorpions. Parents were not ready to send their children to the school because of these problems," explained the District Governor of Farza in Kabul province, Mr. Zarif Rashid.

Ever since the opening of the newly constructed Payandiye High School by NABDP "families are sending even their young girls to school without apprehension so that they may learn something." Rashid sees this as a positive sign for the future of the district, where female doctors, nurses, and teachers are desperately needed, as "there isn't even 1 midwife in Farza right now." Ninth Class student Rakhsar agrees: "when the school had a bad environment, my parents took me out of school. Now my parents allowed me admission again and I want to get an education in order to become a journalist and work for my country."

The school's principal, Mr. Abdul Waheed, has witnessed increased enrollment rates at the school since the building was opened after Nawruz this year (March 2011). The 16-classroom school can accommodate over 1,500 students in 2 daily sessions and there are currently 560 girls studying up to 11<sup>th</sup> class under the instruction of 12 female teachers. Rokhsar notices "students from the different villages of Zargaran, Janbaz, Payandiye, Mazar and Dehnow are all coming to school here because we can now study in a safe environment."

The \$251,845 USD school was prioritized by the DDA members through the DIAG programme and provided 450 employment days for local skilled and unskilled labourers, including former members of illegal armed groups. In addition to providing a legal income generation opportunity for local residents, construction contributed to stabilization through bringing people together from many communities to work side-by-side on a daily basis. "One local *jihadi* commander," principle Rashid accounts, "used to try to stop people from sending their girls to school, but now he is transformed. His daughter attends our school and he thinks all should benefit from this school."

- Farza District Girls School, Kabul

*Shuras, Jirgas*, and many other district events. It is expected that CDPs and DDPs will also be developed through consultative process held in the center in the future and the center will become a basis for all development plans and activities in Bangi.

Since DIAG development projects are being provided at district level after disbanding illegal armed groups, the total number of indirect beneficiaries this quarter can be estimated at 249,600, the total population of 7 districts. In addition to completing 7 projects in the First Quarter, DIAG has also continued its efforts to survey, design, contract, and initiate 14 additional projects, as shown in the table below:

#### First Quarter progress for 2011

Status	2011			
	Jan	Feb	March	Total (1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter)
Completed	1	5	1	7
Started	0	0	2	2
Signed	1	2	4	7
Designed	0	0	2	2

Surveyed	1	0	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>
Pre-Selection	0	0	0	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>

In this quarter, DIAG put a strong emphasis on communication and public information activities in order to sensitize existing members of illegal armed group and to convince them to surrender their weapons and join the DIAG process. A pilot printing of the DIAG Public Information Brochure about DIAG was conducted in March 2011. The brochure, *Bringing Development to Communities*, was developed under the joint initiative of DIAG and MERD with 500 printed as a pilot. Approximately, 75 brochures were submitted to Disarmament and Reintegration Commission (DRC) for their review in March. The brochure is part of the strategic communication plan in DIAG and utilized many photographs, charts, and personal stories in order to easily convey the benefits of complying with the DIAG process to those members of illegal armed groups.

DIAG also conducted 3 handover ceremonies in the First Quarter. The ceremonies included the inauguration of a 6km road repairing project in Salang district in Parwan province on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, a social and culture center project in Bagrami district in Kabul province on January 5<sup>th</sup>, and a girls school in Farza district in Kabul province on March 15, 2011. All ceremonies were attended by NABDP staff, Legal Advisor or MRRD/PRRD, district or provincial Governors, project-related ministry officials, and other stakeholders. All of these ceremonies were broadcasted through national TVs, radios, and newspapers and demonstrated to wider public that complying with the DIAG process brings development to communities as a first step to building a weapons-free society

### **(3.3) Public-private partnerships and quick impact project implemented in insecure areas linked to poppy reduction.**

During this quarter CNTF completed four projects in January and did the follow-up of the final payment of CNTF-LBRDP in February and March 2011. These projects included 2 road gravelling 17 km of roads in Khanaqa and Mardyan districts of Jawzjan, which created 18,698 labour days for 424 labourers and benefited 1,921 families. Additionally, a 3.7 km road gravelling project was completed in Chahar Dara district of Kunduz province, which linked 2,400 families to markets and created 7,065 labour days for 70 skilled and unskilled workers. Moreover, a retaining wall project completed in Dara-e-Suf Ulya district of Samangan province. It is 100 m in length and created 5,856 labour days and benefited 200 families. These quick-impact and labour intensive projects in insecure areas provided licit livelihood opportunities for unskilled labourers and farmers, in order to contribute to the reduction of reliance on the opium economy.

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

In order to strengthen NABDP and MRRD's institutional capacities related to supporting stabilization and the promotion of licit livelihood generation, collaboration with the Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD) is ongoing. In this quarter AIRD has conducted two 5 to 6-day workshops on Management, Leadership, and Communication in Takhar and Nangarhar

provinces with government staff from numerous departments. The purpose of these workshops was to enhance the capacity of social change agents and local self-governance institutions (LSGIs) on management, leadership and communication to bring synergy among governmental, NGOs and LSGIs at provincial, district and villages levels. These trainings along with 5 on Rule of Law and 1 on Social Change and Rural Development all directly benefit AIRD and indirectly benefit NABDP's learning processes and that of government staff at large. Through enhanced knowledge and capacity among all line departments, future collaboration on poverty reduction will be possible.

Furthermore, AIRD continued its consultations with the relevant stakeholders through its Research Unit in order to lead to strategic and institutional learning. AIRD has completed approximately 70% of the preparation of the Afghanistan National Rural Development Report (ANRDR). While the report is being conducted independent of NABDP, chapters on all 5 of NABDP's component areas are anticipated to inform programming and a nation-wide perspective of development.

AIRD is also actively participating in the preparations of the First National DDA Conference, through review of documents and recommendations for support. While a number of ideas have been discussed, one clear result to date is the initiation of a Rapid DDA Study draft survey to be conducted during the rare opportunity of having over 400 DDA members from across the country together in one place for 2-days.

### III. Advocacy and Communications

The MERD media team produced and published 12 press releases over the First Quarter of 2011 that were forwarded to several media agencies in Afghanistan. As an example, press releases covered: 155 completed projects in Urozgan on February 03, 2011; 58 proposed projects for Urozgan on February 13, 2011; a completed handicraft project in Mazar-Sharif on March 07, 2011, and; 240 completed projects in Helmand province on March 31, 2011. Some of these press releases have been published in *Anees*, *Hewad*, *Islah*, and *Kabul Times* newspapers, while several of the organized events for the inauguration and completion of projects have been broadcasted in *Radio Azadi*, *Tolo News Channel*, *Ariana News Channel*, and *One TV Channel*. Furthermore, MERD produced an updated NABDP Overview Documentary (February 2011) and printed 450 English, 150 Pashtu, and 150 Dari copies for distribution to Regional Offices, community members, government officials, and NGOs across the country.

A highlight of NABDP's communications and advocacy efforts in the First Quarter is an article authored by Nahakul K.C., Decentralization and Local Governance Management Specialist, and Zamila Shariq, Community Development Officer, from CED entitled "Rebuilding local governance structures in Afghanistan – a long walk" which was published on the [Capacity Development](http://CapacityDevelopment.org) website (Capacity.org) on 30 March 2011. The website is published through a partnership between European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), SNV Netherlands Development Organization, and UNDP-HQ and reaches a wide audience of policymakers, researchers, development practitioners and funding organizations. The article is highlighted on the homepage, posted on the governance page, and tagged under 'case studies', 'asia', 'rural development', and 'policy'. Through case studies of CED's training programs in Logar and Urozgan provinces in 2010, the article "illustrates that there are promising

signs of an opening up of the democratic space in some localities, with a growing role for women in managing local institutions.” The full article is available at: <http://www.capacity.org/capacity/opencms/en/topics/governance/case-study-on-local-governance-in-afghanistan.html>.

Additionally contributing to NABDP’s outreach to an audience external to Afghanistan, the article “Thousands in rural Afghanistan hook up to hydropower” was published on Global UNDP website’s “Newsroom” on 11 March 2011. Leadership in writing this article was taken by the Communications Unit of UNDP-Afghanistan country office and highlights the work of ERDA in constructing MHPs in rural areas. The article has been distributed within NABDP, is being used by MERD’s journalists as a sample for internationally publishable success stories, and can be found at: <http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/2011/march/thousands-in-rural-afghanistan-hook-up-to-hydropower-.en>

Significant work has also been completed this quarter in preparing communications and publicity items for the First National DDA Conference. In March, the local media company FKH was hired to visit numerous NABDP field locations and produce a 10-minute documentary video on the activities of DDAs to be shown in the opening ceremonies of the summit. Footage was shot in March and the video will be edited and completed in April 2011. FKH has also been contracted to design and print items for guests of the conference such as invitation cards, envelopes, calendars, pens, and an NABDP Booklet. The booklet has been written and compiled through the leadership of MERD and will be published in April. After following the standard procurement and quotation process, FKH was selected for both projects because of their high-quality samples and NABDP’s concerted effort to increase our publicity and image through the summit.

## IV. Challenges

### Risks

**Security:** Over the First Quarter of 2011, security has been identified as one of the major constraints for the timely implementation and supervision of the NABDP operated projects. Worsening security situations in risky provinces like Paktia, Herat and Kunar, as well as in the provinces that were relatively secure such as, Balkh, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Faryab and Samangan have caused the cancellation, postponement, and delay of monitoring of a number of projects in these provinces.

Incidents of kidnapping and insurgent attacks have ascended in these areas and directly affected NABDP staff, resulting in limited field activities and apprehension of associated staff. On December 10, 2010, a NABDP provincial survey engineer was kidnapped in Samangan and was fortunately released on March 20, 2011 without an exchange of ransom to the kidnappers. On March 18, 2011, 2 NABDP staff and 3 documentary film makers were driving by road between Kabul and Nangarhar when their car was caught in the rocket and gun crossfire of anti-government elements and oil transport trucks. The driver was shot twice and has now recovered and the film shooting had to be relocated to less-ideal project areas. While all parties are aware that they are operating in a complex and insecure environment, such continual events result in hesitation for staff to take up field missions and carryout all activities to their full potential.

**Slow Procurement:** Slow procurement processes continue to be a major issue, especially for DIAG. Owing to the slow and complicated governmental procurement procedure, contracting of projects has been delayed in some cases. Up to the start of the Second Quarter, there are 24 DIAG projects waiting to be contracted at the MRRD's Procurement Department. This is a particular problem for DIAG, because an aspect of their effectiveness is based on their swift delivery to work as incentives for members of disbanded illegal groups. Related to this, DIAG lacks an operations manual on how to contract projects valued more than \$60,000 USD in a speedy manner. The current process is lengthy; therefore, the NABDP is in the process of developing a unique operations manual for the reduction in the procurement process for DIAG.

## Issues

There are several challenges faced by ERDA for the promotion of rural energy technology in the country. The issues faced by ERDA are more of technical problems that require improvement. ERDA has indicated the delay in supply and delivery of equipment's which hinders project progress, due to limited number of suppliers who can produce the equipment, especially for MHP. ERDA has further indicated the delay in supply and delivery of equipment's which hinders project progress, due to limited number of suppliers who can produce the equipment, especially for MHP. Also, ERDA pointed to the lack of technical knowledge the communities and engineers hold concerning renewable energy technology and, therefore, capacity development is required for the promotion of the technology. Additionally, there were limited service providers for carrying out installation works in Biogas sectors; the quality of equipment available in the country is not of standard type which is hampering the quality of installations for both Biogas and MHP systems, and the provision of required staffs and logistic support including offices and vehicles is not sufficient to carry out services.

An internal issue faced by DIAG is with the funding shortfall. Although there are 49 planned projects in DIAG in the year 2011, 31 projects are un-funded at the moment. Hence, NABDP is seeking for additional funding to support all of those 31 projects, which require approximately US\$12 million. Since illegal armed groups were disbanded under DIAG in response to the call from the Government of Afghanistan, development projects should be provided in those districts to increase the level of confidence of anti-governmental elements. Separately, discussion is ongoing at the level of Joint Secretariat of Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP) regarding DIAG's future implementation modality.

Moreover, there were several problems raised by MERD Unit's Field Monitoring Officers (FMOs) regarding the implementation of projects. MERD has reported that there is a lack of technical staff available at project sites to resolve 48 of ongoing projects which have some technical problems requiring attention. Depending on the issues identified, appropriate recommendations have been made by FMOs and followed by Regional Managers across the country. For example, if low quality or the wrong materials have been used, PID has been informed to improve the quality or face the implications of easily destructible infrastructure. MERD has recommended that DCQ hire engineers designated to large-scale projects to ensure quality is maintained before it is too late and implementation is completed, but up to now they have not hired such engineers. For projects where the estimations were higher than the resulting infrastructure, such as decreased length of a

constructed karez or smaller diameter of a well pipe, FMOs have recommended a decrease in the final payment to construction companies and delayed the second payment accordingly. Similarly, FMOs have been instructed not to sign the second installment payments until sign boards have been installed at the project site. PID has taken the required action in the provision of more technical staff and also in the solving of certain problems identified.

FMOs have found that some of the CDC contracted projects are not being initiated on schedule, despite the payment of the first installment of 50% of the project costs. After witnessing this problem, MERD has recommended that the contracting process be adjusted and the initial payment be lowered to 20-30% of the total costs in order to avoid project delays and potential mismanagement of funds.

## V. Lessons Learned

Key lessons learnt during the First Quarter of 2011 were related to the critical need to establish mechanisms for coordination and information sharing, so as to improve the delivery and visibility of projects. Accordingly, the following steps were taken:

**Coordination:** Over the First Quarter of 2011, DIAG has ensured effective coordination through meetings and events with donors, DRC, APRP/DIAG Joint Secretariat, UNDP, relevant ministries, and other parties. During the inauguration or completion of some projects during the first quarter, DIAG closely coordinated hand-over with relevant parties, such as constructed schools to the Ministry of Education and social and culture centers to the Ministry of Information and Culture. Similarly, DIAG had numerous meetings with Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) to successfully implement an electrification project in Kalakan district in Kabul province.

ERDA, on the other hand, has also been in the coordinating renewable energy activities across Afghanistan. During this period, ERDA has participated in the Inter-ministerial Commission for Energy (ICE), Sub-committee for Capacity Development, and Sub-committee for Renewable Energy and Rural Electrification. Technical issues are also discussed among the members of the Technical Working Group (TWG). Likewise, ERDA has maintained good working relations with GIZ, USAID, and NSP/MRRD, as well as supporting the Rural Energy and Enterprise Department (REED/MRRD) for providing inputs for devising policy and strategy for renewable energy promotion in the country. Furthermore, ERDA has been coordinating with the DDAs and PRRD offices to ensure the smooth implementation of projects.

In addition to the coordination mentioned under Component 3 between AIRD and CED's First DDA National Conference organizing and evaluating committees, NABDP's Gender Unit has been in close coordination with the MRRD Gender Department and UNDP's Gender Equality Project to develop a gender policy and strategy, respectively.

**Internal Assessment:** NABDP has continued to systematically address the concerns pointed out in the Management Review Team's assessment report, released in December 2010. With the hiring of a new international Operations Manager, many sectors are being systematically revised and operations guidelines are under preparation. Efforts will continue into the Second Quarter to

address mentioned points and learn from these suggestions how to improve programming and operations.

**Reporting and Information Sharing:** The Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Department (MERD) of NABDP has been busy in the First Quarter in the preparation of annual reports for 2010 for UNDP-Afghanistan, UNDP-HQ Gender, the Japan 2010 Fund, CIDA's IALP-K2, and the Spanish Government's support to Badghis province – all of which have been submitted. Regular work included 3 monthly reports for UNDP and MRRD, as well as 3 bi-weekly reports for MRRD. Special communications and learning sessions were attended at UNDP covering photography skills and gender indicators, which will contribute to enhancing the quality of reporting and information sharing in the future.

## VI. Future Plans

Given that the initially approved Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2011 was only for 3 months and came to an end on 31 March 2011, the remaining 9-month AWP will be finalized at the beginning of the Second Quarter. The revised AWP will include five project components, Local Institutional Development (DDAs), Productive Rural Infrastructure, Rural Energy, Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Rural Economic Development. This is directly related to the NABDP's senior management moving forward with the finalization of the 2011-2014 NABDP Strategy, as well as implementation modalities.

In supporting local governance, CED will concentrate on hosting the First National DDA Conference at the end of April, as well as facilitating the re-election process of 30 DDAs, capacity development training for 40 DDAs, establishment of 28 new DICs, and support to 40 DDAs through Grant in Aid. Disaster Management Training is planned for 12 DMCs, while activities will be piloted in Natural Resource Management Training and public-private partnerships.

The Gender Unit will continue to support mainstreaming activities and women-specific projects, including the training of new GFPs and hiring of 4 new Gender Officers. Eight field missions are planned to follow-up on the implementation of women's projects, including the commencement of 5 projects currently under review with PID.

Moving forward with Component 2, PID will continue the implementation of its current 765 projects in all sectors while continuing to survey and design more projects for future implementation. Technical trainings are planned for staff in different sectors, particularly for carrying out estimations for complicated projects. DQC plans to visit 130 projects in the coming quarter, in order to monitor implementation and ensure all projects are going on according to plan. Furthermore, ERDA will begin the next quarter with an emphasis on the promotion of biogas, in addition to ongoing trainings on MHP implementations. Plans are also fixed to design 30 MHPs and 19 biogas facilities in the next 3 months.

Under the third component, much progress is anticipated from IALP-K2 in Kandahar, as contracting is almost finalized and implementation should begin in the next quarter. CNTF will continue to follow-up remaining projects, while DIAG is moving ahead in the rapid delivery of development projects to support and enhance the credibility of GoA. DIAG has plans to build synergies with the newly started peace and reintegration programme and other development initiatives by

international community, aid agencies, civil society, research institutions and other parties. In particular, they will investigate how to closely work with Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP) in close coordination with D&R Commission. DIAG aims to accomplish the Annual Work Plan 2011 through monthly and annual monitoring of work and financial progress in consultation with other departments in NABDP. Operationally, DIAG unit aims to complete 15 more projects by end of 2011. By this, the total number of complete projects will reach 49 projects in 49 districts since the commencement of the programme. In terms of financial plan, since DIAG unit has delivered US\$4.93M in 2010, it is expected that more than US\$5M will be delivered in 2011.

Recruitment will be initiated for key staff in order to establish Natural Resource Management and Rural Economic Development units.

## VII. Financial Section

### National Area Based Development Programme-00070832 III

#### Financial Section:

Table 1. Total Income and Expenditure

Donor Description	INCOME					EXPENDITURES			BALANCE	Remarks
	Total Commitments (a)	Total Received (b)	Total Receivable c= (a-b)	Re-allocation fund from Phase I-II (d)	Total Income available =e (b+d)	Total Cumulative Expenditures as of Dec 2010 (f)	First Quarter Expenditure for 2011 (g)	Total Expenditures =h (f+g)	Total Income minus total expenditure (i = e - h)	
UNDP Core	2,727,889	2,727,889	-		2,727,889	2,727,889	-	2,727,889	0	
UNDP BCPR	-		-	482,510	482,510	480,131	-	480,131	2,379	
Afghanistan	-		-	11,699,666	11,699,666	6,867,472	700,008	7,567,480	4,132,186	
Belgium	-		-	4,000,000	4,000,000	3,929,341	-	3,929,341	70,659	
Canada	-		-	1,279,637	1,279,637	1,279,637	-	1,279,637	-	
Denmark	3,184,725	3,184,725			3,184,725	1,692,391	61,176	1,753,567	1,431,158	
Germany	747,775	747,775	-		747,775	571,668	-	571,668	176,107	
Japan (CRD)	-		-	7,877,283	7,877,283	3,928,064	450,126	4,378,190	3,499,093	
Japan (2010/Border)	10,000,000	10,000,000	-	8,586,422	18,586,422	18,584,208	-	18,584,208	2,214	
Japan (2011)	13,000,000	13,000,000	-		13,000,000	-	-	-	13,000,000	
Netherlands	15,324,200	10,700,000	4,624,200		10,700,000	8,212,209	1,716,246	9,928,455	771,545	
Norway	17,599,389	8,654,845	8,944,544	1,982,644	10,637,489	6,524,890	1,230,254	7,755,144	2,882,346	
European Union	25,059,675	8,564,241	16,495,434		8,564,241	-	880,056	880,056	7,684,186	
CIDA	15,984,000	9,412,329	6,571,671	9,412,329	18,824,658	10,433,222	1,109,343	11,542,566	7,282,092	REDKAN commitment/income not included (AREDP contribution)
DFID	7,209,246	2,889,246	4,320,000	7,336,091	10,225,337	7,336,091		7,336,091	2,889,246	

AECI/Spain	20,950,667	20,950,667	-	3,357,654	24,308,321	7,382,963	2,337,261	9,720,223	14,588,098	
Italy	3,472,222	-	3,472,222	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>135,259,788</b>	<b>90,831,717</b>	<b>44,428,071</b>	<b>56,014,236</b>	<b>146,845,953</b>	<b>79,950,175</b>	<b>8,484,471</b>	<b>88,434,646</b>	<b>58,411,307</b>	

**Note:**

- i) Expenditure reported for 2011 is provisional/GMS is calculated manually
- ii) Income receivable in currency other than USD is approximated to USD based on UN operational rate of exchange.

**Table 2: Expenditure by Major Outputs (2011)**

Project Output	2011 (1Q) Approved Budget	1 Quarter of 2011 Expenditure	Delivery Rate	Remarks
Output 1: Local Governance & DDAs Inst.	971,550	553,396	56.96%	
<i>GMS</i>	73,127	41,653	56.96%	
<b>Sub-total Output 1.</b>	<b>1,044,677</b>	<b>595,049</b>	<b>56.96%</b>	
Output 2: Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	5,832,232	3,466,856	59.44%	
<i>GMS</i>	420,969	251,267	59.69%	
<b>Sub-total Output-2</b>	<b>6,253,201</b>	<b>3,718,123</b>	<b>59.46%</b>	
Output 3: Stabilization/Eco Livelihood	6,960,870	2,777,508	39.90%	
<i>GMS</i>	495,536	194,006	39.15%	
<b>Sub-total Output-3</b>	<b>7,456,406</b>	<b>2,971,514</b>	<b>39.85%</b>	
Output 4: Programme Management	947,600	1,115,800	117.75%	
<i>GMS</i>	71,325	83,985	117.75%	
<b>Sub-total Output-4</b>	<b>1,018,925</b>	<b>1,199,785</b>	<b>117.75%</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>15,773,209</b>	<b>8,484,471</b>	<b>53.79%</b>	

Note:

i) Expenditure reported for 2011 is provisional/GMS calculated manually

ii) Activity05-RedKan (AREDP) not included in the report

**Table 3: Expenditure by Donors (2011)**

Donor Description	Project Output	2011 (1Q) Approved Budget	1 Quarter of 2011 Expenditure	Delivery Rate
AFGHANISTAN	Output 1: Local Governance & DDAs Inst.	-	-	
	Output 3: Stabilization/Eco Livelihood	1,254,601	665,008	
	<b>GMS</b>	<b>66,032</b>	<b>35,000</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>1,320,633</b>	<b>700,008</b>	<b>53.01%</b>
DENMARK	Output 2: Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	387,321	56,894	
	<b>GMS</b>	<b>29,153</b>	<b>4,282</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>416,474</b>	<b>61,176</b>	<b>14.69%</b>
JAPAN (CRD)	Output 1: Local Governance & DDAs Inst.	-	-	
	Output 2: Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	795,881	427,620	
	<b>GMS</b>	<b>41,888</b>	<b>22,506</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>837,769</b>	<b>450,126</b>	<b>53.73%</b>
NETHERLANDS	Output 3: Stabilization/Eco Livelihood	2,345,966	1,595,484	
	Output 4: Programme Management		625	
	<b>GMS</b>	<b>176,578</b>	<b>120,137</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>2,522,544</b>	<b>1,716,246</b>	<b>68.04%</b>
NORWAY	Output 1: Local Governance & DDAs Inst.	421,000	271,136	
	Output 2: Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	1,234,265	874,630	
	Output 4: Programme Management	-	(1,630)	
	<b>GMS</b>	<b>124,590</b>	<b>86,118</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>1,779,855</b>	<b>1,230,254</b>	<b>69.12%</b>
EUROPEAN UNION	Output 1: Local Governance & DDAs Inst.	299,876	188,353	

	Output 2: Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	1,096,161	469,383	
	Output 3: Stabilization/Eco Livelihood	100,500	15,847	
	Output 4: Programme Management	286,400	144,869	
	<b>GMS</b>	<b>134,200</b>	<b>61,604</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>1,917,137</b>	<b>880,056</b>	<b>45.90%</b>
CANADA (CIDA)	Output 1: Local Governance & DDAs Inst.	250,674	93,907	
	Output 2: Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	945,710	506,643	
	Output 3: Stabilization/Eco Livelihood	1,634,997	362,665	
	Output 4: Programme Management	140,200	68,474	
	<b>GMS</b>	<b>223,667</b>	<b>77,654</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>3,195,248</b>	<b>1,109,343</b>	<b>34.72%</b>
AECI/SPAIN	Output 1: Local Governance & DDAs Inst.	-	-	
	Output 2: Sustainable Livelihood R.Infra	1,372,895	1,131,686	
	Output 3: Stabilization/Eco Livelihood	1,624,806	138,504	
	Output 4: Programme Management	521,000	903,462	
	<b>GMS</b>	<b>264,848</b>	<b>163,608</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>3,783,549</b>	<b>2,337,261</b>	<b>61.77%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>15,773,209</b>	<b>8,484,471</b>	<b>53.79%</b>

Note:

- i) Expenditure reported for 2011 is provisional/GMS calculated manually
- ii) Activity05-RedKan (AREDP) not included in the report