

# National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP)

2002 – 2014  
Phase 3: 2009 – 2014



The National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) aims to promote recovery and longer term development in Afghanistan while building the government's capacity to lead and coordinate participatory approaches to development.

ANDS Pillar 3

## Economic and Social Development

Kabul Communiqué Focus Area

## Agriculture, Rural Development, and Energy

Proposed Budget

**\$294.7 mil USD**

Resources\*

**\$167.8 mil USD**

### Implementing Partner

Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)

### Donors

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, EU, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, UK



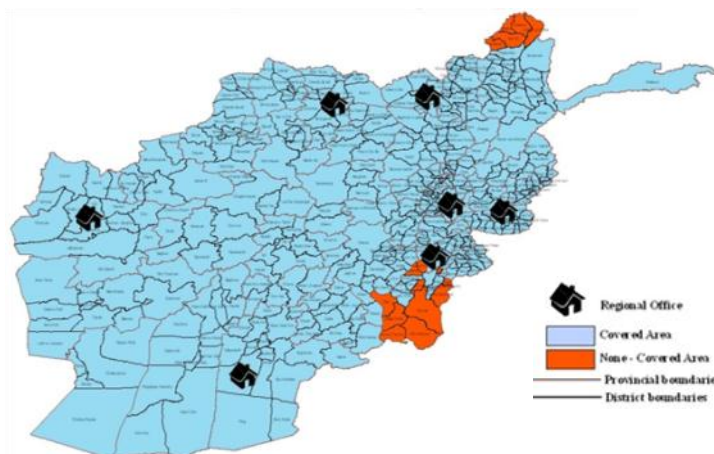
\* as of 1 May 2011

## Context

Poverty affects 53 percent of the rural population in Afghanistan. Rapid and sustained economic growth over a long period is essential for getting the nation out of deep poverty. However, it is not just the pace that is important; the type of growth is crucial.

In the Afghan context, growth needs to be labour-intensive, sustainable, environmentally friendly and conducive to social development. Deepening democracy, empowering citizens and strengthening governance principles and practices are essential preconditions for long-term sustainable peace and development. At the same time, focused social protection and livelihood strategies must also address the needs of the poorest and the vulnerable. Alternative livelihood opportunities need to be created for farmers dependent on poppy cultivation.

NABDP commenced as a joint initiative of the MRRD and UNDP in 2002, with the goal of contributing to a sustainable reduction of poverty and an improvement of livelihoods in rural Afghanistan. The third phase of NABDP began in July 2009.



Coverage of NABDP: all 34 provinces

## Project Overview

To enhance district-level governance to deliver services to the poor and vulnerable, as well as improve sustainable and diversified livelihoods through productive infrastructure, the NABDP Phase III strategy focuses on five thematic areas:

- 1. Local institutional building**, in particular the capacity building of District Development Assemblies (DDA), will help promote the partnership between the public and private sector.
- 2. Develop rural development infrastructure** to promote the creation of rural incomes, employment and economic opportunities.
- 3. Natural resource management**, to strengthen community-based productive natural resources management, which will contribute to enduring economic livelihoods.
- 4. Rural energy development**, to harness existent rural energy, especially renewable rural energy, to contribute to development of energy sector in Afghanistan
- 5. Rural economic development**, to create a conducive environment for rural enterprise initiatives accordingly with the comparative advantages of the locality and the market potential

At the national level, NABDP is one of six permanent programs of the MRRD. Through seven regional offices, NABDP works to establish DDAs and train them in good governance practices and infrastructure project planning and implementation skills. Special procurement and monitoring methodologies have been launched in insecure areas in order to continue the timely implementation and monitor the progress and quality of projects in areas NABDP cannot access.



Women in Daikundi Province prioritize potential DDA development projects

## Key Results

- **Established District Development Assemblies in 382 districts.** DDAs have been established through democratic election processes in 382 out of 402 districts in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, with plans for full coverage to be extended in 2011. **Three years after initial formation, 123 DDAs have also held re-elections.**
- District Development Plans (DDPs) have been compiled through community consultation processes in all corresponding 382 districts and updated in 123 districts. All DDPs formulated in national languages (Dari and Pashto), translated into English, and uploaded to the NABDP website.
- **227 DDAs have received training** on local governance, conflict resolution, gender equity, finance and procurement, and project implementation and management topics.
- Across 8 provinces, **DDAs have launched 16 District Information Centers**, which will collect and provide reliable data regarding development, social, and economic aspects of their respective districts once fully operational.
- **1,891 productive rural infrastructure projects have been completed across all 34 provinces**, while 803 projects are on-going and 1,252 are in the survey and design process. Projects cover 14 diverse rural development sectors, such as irrigation, transport, and education.
- With 28 on-going micro-hydro power (MHP) and 22 biogas schemes currently underway, the **Energy for Rural Development of Afghanistan (ERDA) unit is promoting the sustainable use of resources through alternative energy technologies.**
- In order to contribute to stabilization through socio-economic development, the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) unit is working in 110 districts where armed groups have been disbanded in order to implement productive infrastructure projects.

## Electrifying Afghanistan

Approximately 85 percent of villages in rural Afghanistan lack the basic electrical power required for numerous daily activities, such as grinding wheat and corn, running small businesses, maintaining refrigeration, telecommunications, and providing lighting. In order to tackle this problem, the Energy for Rural Development of Afghanistan (ERDA) department of NABDP is focusing on the provision of renewable energy options for rural communities.

The DDAs, which identify community needs and priorities and devise community-oriented project plans, have requested more than 150 micro hydropower (MHP) units across the country to date. ERDA is currently implementing 28 MHP projects in 7 provinces and has completed 6 which are currently operational.

Through these projects, more than 6,200 households in rural or remote parts of Afghanistan will be hooked into a clean power supply through water-driven energy projects. Each MHP ranges in cost from US\$25,000 to US\$165,000 and is constructed under a diverted river or stream's manmade waterfall in order to convert clean hydropower into electricity for between 40 and 1,000 families.

Households that previously relied on kerosene oil and other flammable or polluting fuel sources for cooking and for heating homes and businesses will receive more than 700 kilowatts of electricity from 34 hydropower turbines.

Thus ERDA is currently working in 10 provinces of Badakhshan, Takhar, Samangan, Ghor, Herat, Bamyán, Panjshir, Ningarhar, Badghis, and Kandahar on MHP, biogas, and solar energy technologies.



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