

Stabilization and peace building

Strengthening democratic governance

Reducing poverty and increasing livelihood

The goals outlined in Afghanistan's National Development Strategy provide the basis for UNDP's assistance in Afghanistan, and UNDP has worked closely with the government to identify the key areas where it can make a difference. With assistance from donors, we've provided essential policy and technical advice and made important gains in developing the capacity of Afghanistan's government institutions, police, and local communities.

We've worked with Afghan electoral bodies to carry out the first-ever Afghan-led elections in 2010. We have trained each and every Provincial Council member on their roles and responsibilities to govern better at the local level. We've helped local citizens to establish District Development Assemblies in nearly every district in the country, so that residents can determine which projects will benefit their own communities. We helped to disband illegally armed groups in more than 120 districts.

UNDP Programme

The UNDP Afghanistan programme focuses on three areas of assistance: crisis prevention and recovery, democratic governance, and poverty reduction. Across these areas, projects are grouped within four clusters, which serve to create synergies in: capacity development, gender, sub-national implementation, and rule of law.



UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

UNDP Afghanistan is the largest UNDP programme in the world. With the support of its 24 donor countries, we will continue to work alongside the people and the Government of Afghanistan, capitalizing on our relationships of trust and neutrality. Our work on the ground enjoys a great deal of national as well as donor ownership, and will form a strong basis for the years ahead.



Afghanistan

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UNDP IN AFGHANISTAN

Reducing poverty,
increasing human security,
fostering sustainable livelihoods



UNDP focuses on long-term development solutions in Afghanistan.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been present in Afghanistan for over 50 years, operating in all 34 provinces through crisis and through peace. During these years, our mission has been one of building, rebuilding and improving both physical and institutional infrastructure.

But the present situation is one of the most challenging we've faced. In Afghanistan:

- More than a third of the population live below the poverty line
- Nearly half of the country faces high security risks
- Female literacy rate is just 14 percent

The lack of security, weak rule of law and poor infrastructure have limited the ability of government institutions to provide stability and long-term development. UNDP is working with the government to develop local capacity, providing Afghan solutions for Afghanistan.

Crisis Prevention and Recovery

The increasing insurgency and insecurity in the country is a cause of concern for both the Afghan people and the international community. Currently, almost 50 percent of districts are ranked as high to very high risk.

UNDP's crisis prevention and recovery efforts have helped the government to tackle these issues of security, disarmament, narcotics and mitigation of natural disasters, as well as to start a major effort on peace and reintegration for former insurgents. Through the Law and Order Trust Fund, we support police remuneration and management, and help to build trust in the police force.

- Introduction of electronic payment schemes for transparent payment of 119,000 police salaries (99.9% of the total force)
- Enhanced public-police relations (50-70% increase in incident reporting in pilot areas)
- Increased gender balance by recruiting nearly 1,000 women into the police force

Key projects in the Crisis Prevention and Recovery portfolio:

- Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA)
Supported by the EC and the governments of Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the UK, and US
- Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Project (APRP)
Supported by the governments of Denmark, Germany, Italy, and Japan

UNDP's Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) programme works to help disarm illegal armed groups and integrate ex-combatants into society. Fighters are offered various incentives to join the programme, including the opportunity to benefit from support projects that offer training in alternative livelihoods, such as poultry farming and cattle rearing. Under the programme, former fighters can also run for elections and be appointed to government jobs if they have the relevant qualifications.

"By joining the DIAG programme I became eligible for a number of legal incentives, and I was appointed as the District Governor for Abkamari one year ago," says Raes Mohammad, a former mujahid.

Democratic Governance

An Afghan family spends \$160 on bribes each year due to a lack of confidence in government institutions and widespread corruption in the justice system. UNDP is helping to strengthen the country's nascent democratic institutions and build the public's trust in local and national governments.

Since Afghanistan's government is highly centralized – provincial councils are the only publicly elected bodies at the sub-national level – UNDP is also working to build government capacity at the provincial and district level to ensure that all Afghans can benefit from improved governance.

- Helped to establish the High Office of Oversight for Anti-Corruption, to coordinate and monitor anti-corruption strategies within the government
- Created a framework for local and national government responsibilities with the passage of Afghanistan's first Sub-National Governance Policy
- Increasing awareness of human rights through the establishment of the Human Rights Support Unit in the Ministry of Justice and training of 250,000 community representatives on human rights

Key projects in the national and local governance portfolio:

- Accountability and Transparency Project (ACT)
Supported by the governments of Canada, Denmark, Italy, Norway, and UK
- Afghanistan Sub-National Governance Programme (ASGP)
Supported by the EC and the governments of Canada, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, and UK
- Justice and Human Rights in Afghanistan (JHRA)
Supported by the EC and the governments of Canada, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, and UK

- National Institution Building Project (NIBP)
Supported by the governments of Australia, Canada, India, Italy, South Korea, and Switzerland

Poverty Reduction

Poverty and environmental degradation continue to pose serious challenges to long-term development in Afghanistan. With 80 percent of the population living in rural areas and engaged in agricultural activities, UNDP is expanding rural development initiatives and promoting economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods. We are also working closely with the Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance to strengthen budget planning, implementation, and monitoring, for improved delivery of public services.

- Established District Development Assemblies in almost every district in Afghanistan, composed of local residents who determine which aid projects are most effective for their communities
- By voting and administering their own projects, local communities implemented 292 projects in 2010, generating 77,515 working days
- Strengthened the capacity of 15 provincial offices on budget formulation and execution

Key projects in the Poverty Reduction portfolio:

- Afghanistan National Development Programme (ANDP)
- Making Budget and Aid Works Project (MBAW)
Supported by the governments of Canada, Germany and the UK
- National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP)
Supported by the governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and UK

Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT)

The ELECT project helped to build the capacity of electoral management bodies in preparation for the second-ever

Parliamentary elections in Afghanistan. UNDP trained members of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) on issues such as operations, procedures, procurement, and logistics, which allowed these bodies to organize and execute the first election led wholly by Afghans in September 2010. The project also worked to register new voters, issuing nearly 400,000 voter registration cards to involve more Afghans in the electoral process.

ELECT is supported by the EC and the governments of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK and US

Focus on Gender Equality

The recent improvements in development opportunities, services and economic benefits have not had an equal impact on women in Afghanistan.

UNDP's focus on gender initiatives cuts across all of its programs, providing opportunities for women to access the same benefits as men. We have worked to integrate gender-sensitivity at different levels: government, civil society and community-based organizations. A dedicated gender project works to promote gender awareness through, among other channels, local community leaders such as mullahs.

One in three Afghan women is subject to physical, psychological or sexual violence. Although recent legislation outlaws violence against women, there is a significant gap between policy development and its implementation, particularly at the community level.

Working in partnership with Afghan institutions, UNDP's Gender Equality Project set up 8 Legal Help Centres in Balkh and Herat provinces in 2010 to provide victims of domestic violence with legal protection and support. The Centres, which are managed by a qualified lawyer and two paralegal assistants, also provide training to local communities and work with the authorities to highlight the issue of women's rights.

The Legal Help Centres have already helped Suraiya, who had no other recourse for her situation. Suraiya was sold at the age of 7, and had been beaten by her husband and his family for years before finally being thrown onto the street. The Legal Help Centre registered her case, lodged a formal complaint with the police and monitored her case until her husband and father-in-law were imprisoned for 3 years.

The Gender Equality Project is supported by the governments of Canada, Italy, and the UK.

