

UNDP Results Afghanistan



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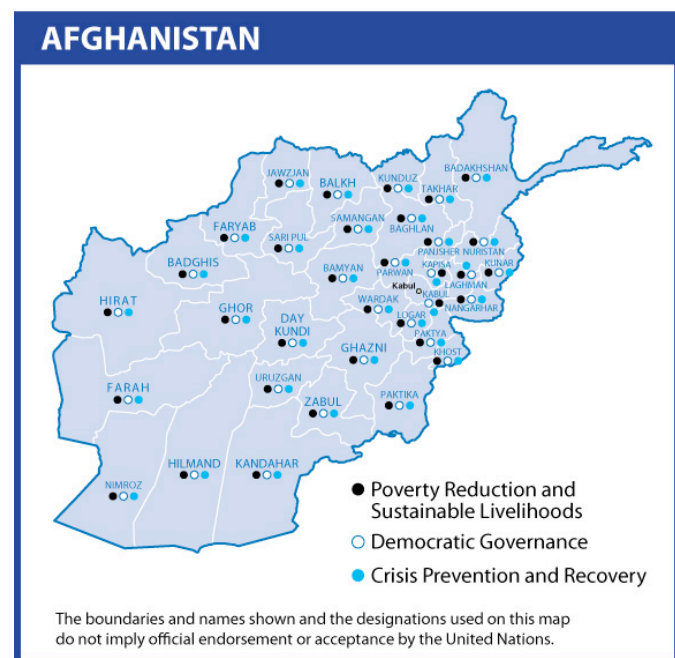
Approach

The work of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Afghanistan for more than 50 years of peace and conflict has focused on building resilience for the country's institutions through projects that empower and strengthen Afghan institutions at national, provincial and local levels.

During the last 10 years since the 2001 Bonn Conference, UNDP's role has gradually moved from early recovery through reconstruction to a broader development approach, encompassing strategic actions to strengthen democratic institutions and support implementation of public services.

While acknowledging the significant challenges of working amid high security risks and with a majority of the population living in extreme poverty, UNDP's country programme has grown in scale and budget.

Based on priorities set by the Government, UNDP's 2010-2013 country programme was approved with a US\$1.1 billion budget. Its major projects are streamlined and interlinked under three clusters—Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Poverty Reduction and Democratic Governance—with gender imbalances being addressed across them.



R E S U L T S

Crisis prevention

The bulk of UNDP's programme in recent years has focused on the Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA). Since LOTFA's establishment in 2002, the police force has grown from around 50,000 to over 110,000 personnel and operates under severe constraints, due to limited human and material resources and high levels of insecurity.

Despite these challenges, two 2010 surveys of public confidence in the police force have shown positive perceptions related to UNDP's work to strengthen stability and security. A 2010 US military survey concluded that LOTFA's timely police payments led to an eight percent increase in police retention and a 13 percent decrease in absenteeism, contributing to greater professionalization in the force.

LOTFA management has also resulted in:

- Regularity in salary payments to all police and prisons staff, including 99.9 percent of police salaries processed through a UNDP-established electronic payroll system. Some 80 percent of police and 50 percent of Central Prison Department uniformed staff received salaries through a UNDP-installed electronic funds transfer system.
- Recruitment of new female police officers bringing the total number to more than 1,300.
- Training of 300 police trainers on how to respond to domestic violence.
- UNDP training of 1,700 government officials at the Ministry of Interior in systems and processes for financial management, accountancy, human resources, administration, latest payroll and funds transfer technologies.

Poverty reduction

Significant resources are dedicated to working with Afghan nationals dependent on subsistence agriculture in areas where services and infrastructure are limited or have been damaged through decades of conflict.

- Since 2002, UNDP has helped complete more than 2,300 rural infrastructure projects, benefiting over 14 million Afghans. UNDP supported building of 45 clinics and maternity wards, provision of classrooms for thousands of students in more than 80 schools and access to safe drinking water for 1.6 million people.

UNDP Afghanistan Delivery: 2011 (provisional)

Theme	Funders	Total Expenditure (US\$ Millions)
Democratic Governance	Denmark, Estonia, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom (UK), European Union, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government Overseas Aid Program, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, UK Department for International Development (DFID), United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	48
Crisis Prevention and Recovery	Afghanistan, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, UK, European Union, DFID, USAID	635
Poverty Reduction	Afghanistan, Denmark, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, European Union, CIDA, DFID	63
Capacity Development	Australia, India, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, CIDA	6
Total		752

- In the northwestern province of Badghis, where 85 percent of land is rain-fed, over 160 irrigation projects improved water distribution to more than 4,100 hectares of land. Millions of additional hectares across Afghanistan are now fertile and producing increased yields following UNDP's efforts.
- Through UNDP assistance in construction of 1,142 km of roads, 348 villages have been connected to district centres and markets.
- Through alternative energy projects like micro-hydropower plants, UNDP has helped generate power for lighting, benefitting nearly 100,000 people in rural areas.
- UNDP provided wages for approximately 3.8 million working days through a cash-for-work programme to local skilled and unskilled Afghans during the construction of infrastructure projects.

Democratic governance

In addition to supporting national elections since 2004, UNDP has also focused attention on governance at subnational level where a range of elected bodies operate in formal and informal capacities.

Results include:

- UNDP training to improve revenue management has increased filing of tax returns and led to revenues of more than 30 municipalities increasing by up to nearly 490 percent, in the last three years, from regular revenue sources.
- Almost 390 District Development Assemblies are currently functioning in the absence of elected district councils, covering over 96 percent of districts and filling a district-level gap in governance. UNDP led the formulation of Afghanistan's first sub-regional governance policy providing for the establishment of these forums. Of the 15,374 community members who have engaged in the work of assemblies to date, 31 percent are women.
- UNDP helped establish a complaints mechanism at the Ministry of Finance that has registered more than 480 complaints since its inception in November 2008. More than 140 of these cases have been resolved, leading to a substantial amount of recovered assets.

Gender

Addressing major gender imbalances across all areas of public and social life in Afghanistan is a crucial focus of UNDP's work.

- By the end of 2010, UNDP gender-related activities led to 27 percent of parliamentary seats being held by women and the recruitment of new female police officers.
- Eight legal help centres, established in Herat and Balkh by the Ministry of Women's Affairs with the support of UNDP, have been addressing an average of approximately 100 cases of domestic violence each month, of which 35 percent are resolved through informal negotiations with the assistance of local leaders. In Herat, 25 percent more women visited the centres in 2010. Based on the number of complaints referred to village-level women's councils, the establishment of the centres has been accompanied by a 35 percent decrease in reports of domestic violence in Herat.

For more information:

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