



UNDP

**DEMOCRATIZATION &  
CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT  
PROGRAMME**

United Nations Development Programme  
Afghanistan Country Office, July 2008

## Table of Contents

<b>Democratisation &amp; Citizens' Participation</b>	<b>5</b>
Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT)	5
Supporting and Effective Afghan Legislature (SEAL II)	9
Joint National Youth Programme (JNYP)	12
Accountability and Transparency (ACT)	16
<b>Promotion of Rights &amp; Equality</b>	<b>19</b>
Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan (SJSA)	19
Institutional Capacity Building for Gender Equality (Gender Equality)	22
Gender Mainstreaming in UNDP Afghanistan (GM in UNDP CO)	25

### Foreword

*The United Nations must continue to play its central and impartial role in the international efforts to assist the Afghan people in consolidating peace in Afghanistan and rebuilding their country.*

Security Council Resolution 1536 (2004)

### UNDP in Afghanistan

UNDP has been present in Afghanistan since the 1950s, providing development assistance to the country and helping build the capacity of many national institutions. During the 1990s, while many government institutions were jeopardized by civil war and neglected by the Taliban regime, UNDP continued to assist communities throughout the country. During that decade, UNDP delivered US\$200 million of assistance to Afghanistan, using its own resources as well as those mobilized through bilateral partners and its extensive outreach throughout the country.

Since the Bonn Agreement was signed in December 2001, UNDP has delivered more than US\$1 billion of assistance to Afghanistan. In 2005, UNDP delivered USD 349 million of development assistance, mainly for elections, disarmament, reconstruction and institution building.

Human development indicators are among the lowest in the world. 70% lives under the poverty line of US\$2 a day; life expectancy is 44.5 years<sup>1</sup>, some 20 years lower than in all the neighboring countries; Adult literacy rate is 28.7% (43.2% male, 14.1% female)<sup>2</sup> and the maternal mortality rate is one of the highest in the world. Inadequate basic social services lead to malnutrition and vulnerability to diseases and epidemics. Only 23% of Afghans have access to safe drinking water. The Human Development Index (HDI)<sup>3</sup> ranks Afghanistan at 173 out of 178 countries worldwide. Sixty-five percent of the population is under 25 years of age but with little hope of employment. Environmental degradation undermines the future welfare of rural communities. Not surprisingly, therefore, Afghanistan has been identified as a global priority for addressing the Millennium Development Goals.

### UNDP Country Programme

UNDP operates within the framework of the integrated United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) and under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In December 2005, UNDP signed a new three-year Country Programme with the Government of Afghanistan focusing on three areas: state-building, democracy and civil society empowerment and sustainable livelihoods. UNDP Programme implementation is driven by capacity development, national ownership and policy dialogue in support of the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

The expected results are pursued in line with the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) objectives and benchmarks. In particular, UNDP supports the Government in achieving a number of development benchmarks in the field of security and the rule of law, administrative reform, transparency and accountability, local governance, political processes (elections and parliament), civil society empowerment, gender equality, human rights, environment and rural energy, the reintegration of former combatants into society, the implementation of the national counter-narcotics strategy, as well as rural development planning and private sector development.

UNDP aims to enhance government institutional capacity to deliver public services in an equitable and sustainable manner, to consolidate a participative democracy and to create an enabling environment for

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<sup>1</sup> Central Statistics Office, 2003

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, Best Estimate 2005

<sup>3</sup> Afghanistan National Human Development Report, *Security with a human face*, UNDP, 2004

legitimate livelihoods. UNDP works to empower Afghan women and promote gender equality in Afghanistan, ensuring that gender issues are consistently mainstreamed and carefully paced. UNDP activities are undertaken in close collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan, sister UN agencies and other development stakeholders.

### **Democracy and Civil Society Empowerment**

UNDP is focusing its efforts on deepening democracy and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods, which are closely related to the first, second and fourth priorities of the UNDAF. Its Country Programme Document was approved by the Executive Board in September 2005. On 25 December 2005, UNDP signed a Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) that details the modalities to execute the Country Programme Document. The CPAP is a three-year framework defining mutual cooperation between the Government of Afghanistan and UNDP, covering the period 2006-2008. UNDP will also build on the targets laid out in the Millennium Declaration and its goals. UNDP will focus on building its programme on six cross-cutting principles: developing national capacities; enhancing national ownership; advocating and fostering an enabling policy environment; seeking South-South solutions; promoting gender equality; and forging partnerships.

UNDP Afghanistan assists the Government through programme activities through: (a) State Building and Support to the Government; (b) Democratization and & Civil Society Empowerment; and (c) Promotion of Long-term & Sustainable Livelihoods.

The 'Democratization & Civil Society Empowerment' Unit is supporting programmes to build governance for local recovery and development, focusing on two main areas:

1. Democratisation & Citizens' Participation
2. Promotion of Rights and Equality

The Citizens' Participation cluster supports activities related to elections, parliament, accountability and transparency, civil society empowerment - particularly focusing on youth, provincial councils and sub-national governance. The Promotion of Rights and Equality cluster supports activities related to justice, human rights, gender and disability.

The Democratization & Civil Society Empowerment Unit consists of fifteen country office staff and seven project managers.

Masood Amer  
Officer-in-Charge, DCSE Unit  
E-mail: Masood.amer@undp.org

## Democratisation & Citizens' Participation

### Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT)

#### Background

As a follow up to the Bonn process, UNDP was given a pivotal role in helping establish viable governance structures. Among these efforts was support to the 2004 presidential and 2005 parliamentary and provincial council elections. Both of these elections were a success with large voter turnout and nationally accepted results. UNAMA was tasked with the political oversight of the elections process, with UNDP holding responsibility for the execution of the 2004 presidential elections and managing all resource mobilization and donor relations for the 2005 parliamentary and provincial council elections. UNOPS was the implementing agent for all electoral activities in 2005.

Presidential elections were successfully held on 9 October 2004 with over eight million voters (42% of whom were women), out of the 10.5 million successfully registered through the Voter Registration Programme, casting their ballots, resulting in the election of President Hamid Karzai.

An addendum forming an integral part of the 2004 Afghan Elections Project was signed on 28 March 2005 reflecting the activities to be undertaken to facilitate the Wolesi Jirga (House of People) and Provincial Council Elections on 18 September 2005. Over 6.4 million voters turned out for this election, representing over 50% of the registered voters. The proportion of women voters also remained high, at about 41%.

Throughout the duration of the election project, capacity building and technical support was provided to the Joint Electoral Management Body, which was temporarily invested with electoral management and administration powers of the Independent Election Commission as contemplated under the constitution, up until the inauguration of the National Assembly on 18 December (per Article 57 of the Electoral Law).

#### The immediate follow up to the election period – The Transitional Phase

Following the successful completion of the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections, it was envisaged that the Voter Registration and Elections Project (VREP) 2004-2005 would be closed and, following a three month "transitional phase" was planned. This transitional phase was intended to provide support to ensure the continuation of the Independent Election Commission (IEC). However, for a variety of reasons, the transitional period was extended for an additional six months (until 21 September 2006) to provide critical support to the IEC in order to ensure its sustainability. During this period of time UNDP took over the responsibility to secure the salaries for the staff of the Independent Electoral Commission Secretariat as well as the operational costs to keep the headquarters and the provincial offices functional.

#### Achievements of the transitional phase (March-September 2006):

- The functionality of the IEC was secured through financial support as well as through the establishment of a consultation mechanism between IEC, UNDP, UNAMA and other stakeholders - an effective advocacy group put in place to support the IEC in political discussions
- An audit was conducted on the Voter Registration and Elections Project (VREP) covering the period of 2004-2005 elections due to the fact that the 2003 activities were already audited.

- Major challenges the IEC was faced with like the retention of staff and the access to the fiscal budget were solved due to the extensive cooperation of all organisations working in cooperation with the IEC and ongoing support from UNAMA
- An evaluation of the 2004-2005 Election project was conducted to capture important recommendation for future elections in Afghanistan, for example a review of the Civil and voter registry, intensive capacity building programmes for the IEC staff, a review of the Electoral law and the legal processes connected to it

### **Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT) Project**

On the basis of the recommendations and in close consultation with the IEC and other stakeholders a widely comprehensive project document was developed, "Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow" (ELECT), to support the capacity building process of the newly established Independent Electoral Commission addressing the needs beyond 21 September 2006. The project document was signed and work began in October 2006. A key part of ELECT is an inter-organisational agreement to coordinate activities was reached through which designated organisations take over specific activities in supporting the IEC to avoid duplication of work.

Focusing on capacity building and the need to conduct a new nation-wide voter registration and the hope that this activity could be combined with a national civil registration programme, preparations and fundraising for the Civil and Voter registry pilot project, a sub-activity of ELECT was concluded with the receipt of 336,000 USD\$ from the UN Democracy Fund . Other funds were raised from Canada, Italy, Denmark and UNDP.

### **Achievements (ELECT) 2007:**

- The Civil and Voter Registration Pilot (CVR) Project was successfully carried out in the Provinces of Kabul, Bamyán and Nangarhar. Approximately 26,000 people were registered using either a computerized or manual registration system.
- Training of trainers for the CVR Pilot Project took place
- A successful public outreach campaign on the Civil and Voter Registry was launched.
- A gender focal point was employed in order to ensure gender mainstreaming within the IEC and the Electoral process.
- A national seminar on Lessons Learned from the 2003-2005 electoral cycle took place in Kabul. Recommendations from this exercise will help shape how the future elections will be conducted.
- Support to the IEC in establishing basic office infrastructure. Works for a sub power plant begun and is due to be completed in the first quarter of 2008.
- An asphalted road connecting office space within the IEC was constructed
- The new electoral law was drafted and sent to the Parliament for approval

### ***Future Elections***

The ELECT projects' main aim is to provide capacity building to the IEC and to conduct a pilot project on CVR. With the pilot project successfully completed and the imminent electoral cycle coming into force, it was decided to expand the project in order to support the electoral process in all its caveats.

Nevertheless, the first half of 2008 has been witness to a continuing uncertainty surrounding many crucial influencing components needed to expand the project. As of June 2008 the electoral law had still not been approved by the Parliament thus leading to the probability that the 2009 electoral cycle will continue to use the former electoral law. However, despite a delay in defined timelines which inevitably impacted on the project and its new objectives, March 9<sup>th</sup> welcomed the much awaited announcement of the schedule for the upcoming elections.

It was decided that Presidential and Provincial Council Elections would take place in the fall of 2009 and the Parliamentary and District Council Elections would be scheduled for the summer of 2010. With a definitive schedule set, the ELECT project is now in the position to provide specific technical assistance to the IEC in order to conduct voter registration in the latter half of the year. On the 9<sup>th</sup> July the IEC announced that they would be conducting a hybrid voter registration update which will begin on the 6<sup>th</sup> October through to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009. The exercise will be split into four phases and aims to capture those Afghans who will have turned 18 by the next 2009 elections; those who have moved province or have returned to Afghanistan; those who have lost their previous card and those who have not registered till now.

With this massive undertaking, the ELECT project will inevitably expand its assistance to the provinces and regions in order to ensure that capacity building not only takes place at the headquarters level but is also permeated throughout the whole of the country in all of the offices of the IEC. This assistance and capacity building will ultimately aid the electoral cycle and aid provincial offices to build their technical capacity in order to carry out elections over the next two years.

### ***Assumptions and Challenges***

- Security will permit an update of voter registration in all provinces and districts

### **Future Priorities:**

- Support for National Voter Registration
- Enhancing Capacity of the Commissioners and Secretariat
- Preparations for Upcoming Elections
- Gender mainstreaming the IEC
- Planning for the 2009 and 2010 elections

### **Partnerships and Resources:**

#### **ELECT**

Target Budget: USD 4.9 million

Received Budget: USD 700,000 (Italy)  
USD 336,576 (UNDEF)  
USD 530,000 (UNDP)

Donors: Canada, Denmark, Italy, UNDEF, UNDP

**Project Location: Kabul (project will start to work in all provinces by the latter half of 2008)**

**Project Start Date: October 2006**

**Project End Date: October 2010**

**Status of the Project: On-going**

**Implementing Partners:**

**Focal Points:**

Margie Cook, Project Manager/Chief Electoral Advisor ([margie.cook@undp.org](mailto:margie.cook@undp.org))

Charlemagne Gomez, Programme Officer ([Charlemagne.gomez@undp.org](mailto:Charlemagne.gomez@undp.org))

## Supporting and Effective Afghan Legislature (SEAL II)

### Background

SEAL II is to support the development of a more effective Afghan Parliament. SEAL II builds on the original SEAL project, started in February 2005, which played a central role in helping to establish the Afghan Parliament, thus helping to lay the stable democratic foundations for Afghanistan.

This project will support the Afghan Parliament by strengthening Parliament's legislative, oversight and representative capacities. Initiatives will target parliamentarians, the commissions, their support staff, and the parliamentary secretariats. SEAL works in close partnership with Parliament's Secretariat to build the staff support for MPs and Senators.

SEAL project offers legal, procedural and other advice and services to Parliamentarians, and strengthens the skills of the professional staff. The Project also makes significant contributions to the material establishment of the National Assembly, including communication systems and investment in infrastructure and security equipment.

### Expected outputs of SEAL project:

1. Enhanced parliamentary capacity to exercise its legislative responsibilities
2. Parliament effectively and responsibly oversees the activities of the Executive
3. Strengthened dialogue between parliament and citizens
4. Strengthened capacity for effective decision/policy making (e.g. budget process throughout the budget cycle, National Development Programmes and International Relations)
5. Effective administrative structures and processes are in place

### Achievements:

#### Establishment of Parliament:

- Establishment of Parliament December 2005.
- Making Parliament operational.
- Development of infrastructure to serve MPs and staff.
- Major steps for a modern payroll and finance system.
- Effective Hansard service established.
- Video conferencing system connects Parliament to all provinces.
- Improved deliberating and reporting on the annual national budget.
- MPs and staff use telecom, computers, Internet.
- Security improved with modern equipment and training.
- Some needs of women MPs addressed through the Women's Resource Centre (with UNIFEM).
- Amendment to the rules on oversight and investigation of government actions.
- Energizing committees with formulation of work plans for every sitting, for effective exercise of their oversight functions.
- Establishment and support of the Women's Forum.

### **MPs capacity:**

- MPs better understand their constitutional rights, responsibilities, and the legislative process.
- MP capacity improved through technical training and visits of other parliaments.
- MPs strengthen their role in governance (e.g. approval and implementation of UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC); improving role in budget process and oversight).
- Preparation of Member's bills.
- MPs use legal, procedural and other advice.
- Women MPs improve their computer literacy.
- MPs communicate better through ICT training.
- Gender Committee improves relations with civil society.
- Submitted advisory opinions on major legislative decrees and Member's bills.
- Personalized training for individual MPs in plenary deliberations.

### **Staff capacity:**

- Secretariat capacity improved through technical training and study trips for staff across Finance, Administration, Management, ICT, Legal, Security, and Information & Public Relations.
- Secretariat staff communicates better through ICT training.
- Committee assistants trained in-country and in foreign jurisdictions, and continued guidance in committee deliberation.
- Improved research capability of the Legal and Professional Studies Department.
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### **Parliament to the people:**

- Public better informed of parliamentary activities and responsibilities (70 SEAL supported publications, monthly gazette, radio programmes, media training).
- Citizens participate in parliamentary business, legislation (visits to Provinces by committees, public hearings).
- Civil society organizations participate in parliamentary work (regular joint meetings).
- Youth Parliament broadens parliamentary experience to new generation.
- Public outside Kabul are involved in the legislative process.

### **Challenges and risks:**

- Members of the National Assembly and the Secretariat have limited experience.
- An effective legal framework and procedures including Standing Orders and mechanisms for executive relations must be in place.
- Parliament does not have full financial autonomy.
- Security is volatile.
- Relatively low parliamentary staff salaries, compared to the open market, limit the hiring and retention of staff.
- Low research and policy analysis capacities at parliament.
- Delayed party and caucus formation inhibit the functioning of parliament.
- Limited local-based materials and experts necessary for comprehensive understanding of the legislative environment in Afghanistan.

**Future priorities:**

Increasingly SEAL is supporting the development of Members’ and staff professional capacities. This will include a staff development strategy and implementation, exposure to the norms of parliamentary culture and practice, support to the legislation and policy making work of Commissions (including in-country public hearings and the development of research and analysis capacity) and targeted support to women parliamentarians and to citizen engagement.

**Partnerships and resources (SEAL II 2008 - 2012):**

SEAL budget: USD 15,316,166  
 Total commitment: USD 2250000  
 Total received: USD 650000  
 Funding gap: USD 13066166

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount in USD</b>
UNDP Core	650,000
Denmark	1,600,000

Possible donors:

- Sweden
- Australia
- Italy

**SEAL II Duration:** March 2008

**SEAL II End Date:** February 2012

**Address:** House# 2, Shora St., Kart-e-Si, Kabul, Afghanistan

**Status of the Project : On going**

**Implementation Partner: N/A**

**Focal points:**

Steve Lee, SEAL Project Manager ([steve.lee@undp.org](mailto:steve.lee@undp.org))

Yama Helaman, Programme Officer, ([yama.helaman@undp.org](mailto:yama.helaman@undp.org))

## Joint National Youth Programme (JNYP)

### Background

68% of the population of Afghanistan is below 25 years of age. This majority segment of the population is generally disfranchised, lacks educational and employment opportunities, and rarely participates in decision-making at community, province or national level. The situation of Afghan girls is of particular concern - under traditional pressures they enter early marriage and early pregnancy, contributing to Afghanistan's dire MMR and IMR. Youth literacy rates are low; 50% for boys and 18% for girls; secondary school enrolments are respectively 23% and 7%, and less than 1% of the Afghan population reaches higher education.

Faced with these challenges, Afghan youth are at a major risk of oppression, unemployment, and low wages and therefore to induction into the narcotics industry, illegally armed groups, insurgents and terrorist organizations. This generation of youth, having experience of conflict and exile, needs to now be empowered and provided with alternative opportunities. Their fresh perspectives, their prejudice-free minds, their energy, enthusiasm and determination must be channelled for promoting peace and development in Afghanistan. This enormous reservoir of human capital will provide the future leaders of the country's political, business and civil arena.

In order to better address these youth development goals to be addressed in the programme, the seven UN agencies (UNAMA, UNICEF, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, UNESCO, UNV and UNFPA) and eight government ministries have decided to develop a joint programme. The joint programme was signed by all parties in the end of 2006. The joint programme will be for the period 2007 – 2008. Then the extension of the program has been approved by Board up to 2010.

The National Youth Programme will primarily focus on the dual objectives of insuring that:

1. Afghan Youth participate effectively in socio-political process, with emphasis on national and local governance, democracy, reconstruction and peace building
2. Afghan young women and men have access to, and participate in, the socio-economic development, with emphasis on education, skills development and employment opportunities.

To achieve the programme outcomes of meaningful participation of Afghan youth in socio-political processes and socio-economic development four main components are envisioned:

1. Strengthening the capacity of the Government to respond to the needs of the youth of the country.
2. Promoting non-formal education, increasing awareness and developing skills (literacy, leadership, strategic planning, conflict resolution, peace-building, etc.) in young people so to provide better quality of life and livelihood opportunities.
3. Engaging youth in governance, development and social-political processes at local, district, municipal, provincial and national level, ensuring the participation of young women and men in democracy and advocacy.
4. Promoting volunteerism for peace and development and establishing a youth volunteer corps for Afghanistan.

In order to maintain strong national ownership, the programme will be led by the Government and become a national programme. By engaging several Ministries and UN agencies in a joint programme more leverage, political support and resources can be secured from the Government and from the UN system in support to the youth sector. The National Youth Programme is providing a strong platform for coordination of youth programming and youth policy-making in Afghanistan.

**Achievements:** The achievements are listed under each expected out put of the project below.

### **Output 1: Government capacity to support and provide services to youth strengthened**

- Capacity Assessment and Development of a Capacity Development Strategy for the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs is being done and will be completed by end of January 2008.
- The National Youth Advocacy Conference was held in August to provide youth the opportunity to inform the Government of their needs. 217 youth (138 male and 79 females) representing all 34 provinces in Afghanistan reviewed the JNYP including its response to the MDGs and the ANDS. A draft Declaration of 320 youth issues was presented to UN agencies and ministries.
- Model Child Protection Action Networks have been monitoring child protection cases in 11 selected provinces, in close collaboration with the Police and Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. Over 100 cases of child rights violations have been referred to provincial Child Protection Action Networks. The mapping and assessment of child protection services in respective provinces was completed and it is the first step to develop a functional and effective referral system in the provinces to support children who are in need of special protection. The training of child protection service providers has started in 9 provinces.
- UN-HABITAT organized an exposure visit for DMYA to India and UNFPA sent DMYA representatives to Bangladesh to build their capacity in learning about other youth policies and programmes in the region and determine the adaptability of this knowledge.
- UN-HABITAT conducted a training of 30 DMYA staff in civic education using a Participatory Learning and Action Planning. 40 Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs officials from central and provincial levels were trained in the following areas to assist in their programme and policy development knowledge and skills: youth rights, gender, leadership, transparency, accountability, volunteerism, community development, governance, conflict-resolution, peace building, development planning, strategic planning, consultation, project design, and fund raising.
- The Participatory Learning and Action Planning modules 1 to 4 (youth and local governance, youth development planning, youth fund raising, and youth project design); the training manuals, operational guidelines and toolkits have been distributed to stakeholders.
- UNDP signed contract with English institute to teach English lessons to 20 DMYA staff
- UNFPA provided equipment to two Youth Centres. One is the Youth Information Centre located in district 5 of Kabul, the other centre is the Youth Friendly Information and service Centre located in district one of Kabul in Polyclinic, and is a joint effort with the Ministry of Public Health. Recently UNFPA has established a new youth center in Heart province.
- The USAID funded Youth Empowerment Programme produced a 15 minutes promotional film entitled 'Development and Changes by Civic Education". Other promotional material included 300 T-shirts, a brochure, monthly newsletters, and 3000 newspapers. The material was distributed to the Office of the Minister of Youth Affairs and the 120 councils in 6 provinces (Balkh, Kabul, Bamyán, Farah, Nangarhar and Kandahar).

- UNDP sponsored the participation of 13 participants who were selected to participate in an International Symposium on youth policy in India (ten from Line Ministries, one from Afghanistan National Development Strategy Secretariat and two from UNDP). Five additional participants were identified by UN-HABITAT. The Symposium, was held in October, provided the participants with knowledge and tools to become more aware and responsive to the situation of youth in Afghanistan.
- The project board meeting approved the partnership of two new UN agencies (FAO, ILO) in the JNYP in Dec/10/2007.
- FAO, the new member of JNYP will conduct awareness raising and training workshop on working with youth in the agriculture sector for MAIL staff and relevant partners
- FAO will work on ddefinition of MAIL's strategy for working with youth in agriculture
- **Output 2: Youth have better quality of life and improved access to livelihood opportunities, through increased awareness, education and skills development.**
- UNICEF, In close partnership with the office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs six Youth Information and Contact Centres were established in Nangarhar, Bamyan, Kunduz, Balkh, Hirat and Kandahar provinces. Premises of the six Centres were provided by the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, and they have plan of establishment of 8 new centres in war affected provinces like Ghazni, Dikondi, Nouristan, Laghman, Khost, Paktya, Farah, and Badakhshan.
- UNFPA provided Training on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health ASRH for 46 peer educator supervisors (f/m) was conducted in two youth centers in Kabul.
- A Youth Training Assembly created a pilot youth parliament through collaboration between the JNYP and the UNDP Support to Establishment of Afghan Legislature SEAL project. Over 101 youth were selected from 91 high schools in Kabul to participate in parliamentary processes.
- UN-HABITAT, 360 Youth in Kabul, Kandahar, Balkh, Jalalabad, Farah, Bamyan (180 boys, and 180 girls) were trained as facilitators for youth assessments and youth surveys. More than 2580 youth (1290 girls and 1290 boys from 6 provinces) trained in development planning and project design and management, resource-mobilization, partnership-building, monitoring and evaluation, community education strategies, advocacy, and networking.
- Training is ongoing for peer educators and there is collaboration with UNESCO and the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Education in support of this effort.
- Between January and June 2007, as part of UNICEF-assisted Reintegration project for ex-child soldiers and other war-affected children, 3,541 children of the ages 14-18 years have received health education and information in Hirat, Farah, Ghor, Badghis, Khost, Paktika, Ghazni, Faryab and Kandahar provinces.
- FAO joined the Joint National Youth Programme from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 and will provide Agriculture-related vocational skills training to 600 youth, with provision of equipment to support youth employment and income generation, FAO will also Establish 87 school gardens in 5 provinces (Bamyan, Badakhshan, Herat, Kabul and Nangarhar) during 2008.

- ILO become member of the JNYP from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 and has established 13 employment centres in different provinces( 4 centers in Kabul, one in each province of Herat, Nanagarhar, Mazar Kundoz, Jawzjan, Kandahar Baghlan, Ghazni and gardez, and will Assist young jobseekers through the national network of Employment Service Centres: registration, career guidance, job application training, referral towards training and job placement
- **Output 3: Youth participation in governance and social-political processed enhanced.**
- UN-HABITAT, Local Youth Councils were established consisting of 60 girls and 60 boys were established in 60 villages and neighbourhoods of 6 provinces (Balkh, Bamyan, Farah, Kabul, Kandahar and Nengarhar).
- 120 youth development plan were designed by youth. The fund raising activities have started on time and will continue.
- 100 self-initiated projects were developed by youth in 6 provinces. The initiatives include tailoring courses, home tuitions, handicrafts tuitions, English lessons and support to computer centres.
- UNESCO, HIV/AIDS education was provided at the New Years event
- Orientation and training sessions were carried out at teacher training college and Education University, over 100 teachers trained on how to teach this subject to the other groups of students to raise awareness among youth.
- **Output 4 Mechanisms are in place to engage youth in volunteering for peace and development.**
- The activities under Output 4 were not carried out in 2007 due to a lack of funding. The activities will be conducted in 2008 depending on the availability of funds. Proposals have been submitted to a number of funding sources.

#### Partnerships and Resources:

Component (MYFF): Goal 1, 2, 4 and 5

Project ID: 00054434

Duration: January 2007 – December 2008

Project Start Date: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007

Project End Date: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008

Status of the Project: Running

Location of the Project: Shar-e- Naw Kabul Afghanistan

Total Budget: \$21, 443,000

Unfunded: \$ 8,336,232

UNDP budget: \$ 1,111,928

UNDP funded: \$ 1,111,928

Implementing Partners/Responsible parties: UNDP, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UNESCO, UNV, UNFPA, UNAMA, FAO, ILO

Donors: USAID, Dept of Labour USA, NORAD, Government of Spain, SIDA

#### Focal Points:

Dr.Enayatullah Mayel, Deputy Project Manager ([enayatullah.mayel@undp.org](mailto:enayatullah.mayel@undp.org))

Yama Helaman, Programme Officer ([yama.helaman@undp.org](mailto:yama.helaman@undp.org))

Muhammad Khabir, National Programme Associate ([muhammad.khabir@undp.org](mailto:muhammad.khabir@undp.org))

## Accountability and Transparency (ACT)

### Background

Corruption, both petty and grand, constitutes a serious and growing problem in Afghanistan. According to a survey conducted by Transparency International in 2004 it even outranks the security problem in terms of the biggest challenges for the government to tackle in the near future. The high level of corruption has multiple adverse effects, in particular on the development and state-building agendas. It undermines the public's confidence in and support of the Government as well as casts doubt on the effective use of donor funds intended to contribute towards the improvement of the lives of Afghans – essential in terms of addressing the deteriorating security situation.

UNDP's ACT project, designed to support the Government of Afghanistan in the area of anti-corruption, was finalized and signed in January 2007. During the design phase of the project there were extensive consultations with government counterparts, the international community and other relevant stakeholders. In particular, the project was developed in close consultation with the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank in order to ensure close coordination and synergies, and to avoid overlap in support to the Government.

The ACT project is housed in the Ministry of Finance (MOF) in order to benefit from the ministry's political leadership, strong relationship with other public entities and interest in promoting a broad-based approach to the development of anti-corruption policies and programmes. Other key partners include the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) as well as other government institutions, the ANDS Secretariat, UNODC, the World Bank and Afghan civil society organizations.

Acknowledging the cross-cutting nature of corruption, the ACT project is seeking to link up with other UN agencies and UNDP projects. The project will also seek to establish collaboration with other donor's initiatives in the area of anti-corruption – something which is already being done with the Asian Development Bank, DFID, UNODC and the World Bank.

### Objectives

The objective of the ACT project is to:

- Support the Government, in view of achieving the Compact Benchmarks and developing a broader anti-corruption strategy within the ANDS;
- Support the Government in laying the foundation for strategic anti-corruption policies and programmes by testing pilots in key public institutions (MOF and MOJ);
- Develop an integrity monitoring system including carrying out the necessary diagnostics and surveys;
- Raise awareness and educate the public at large, as well as the civil service, on corruption. The gradual development of a culture of non-tolerance for corruption in the public and private sector is a key element of this approach.

### Components

The ACT project consists of three components:

1. Improved institutional, legal and policy environment to support the implementation of anti-corruption policies and programmes in line with the Afghanistan Compact and the ANDS;
2. Enhanced integrity and accountability in pilot ministries and aid management; and

3. Increased awareness and understanding of corruption in Afghanistan – including the establishment of a grants facility for civil society organizations active in the field of anti-corruption.

### **Achievements**

In 2007 the ACT project became fully operational and project implementation was initiated.

The ACT project completed or initiated the following activities in 2007:

- Study on institutional arrangements for combating corruption completed and consultations on-going with the Government on how to operationalize the recommendations made in the report.
- Vulnerability to corruption assessment conducted in the Budget and Administration Departments of the MOF.
- Vulnerability to corruption assessment of the justice sector initiated with in-depth assessments to be conducted in selected justice institutions in 2008.
- Inventory of existing complaints mechanisms completed and recommendations for improvements made.
- Support provided to the Internal Audit Department of the MOF to establish a Fraud Investigation Unit.
- Awareness-raising on anti-corruption conducted jointly with UNODC on the International Anti-Corruption Day.

The ACT project has completed or initiated the following activities in 2008:

- Study of national legislation in view of UNCAC ratification has been completed and findings of the study together with recommendations for prioritization of legislation have been presented to the Government in a workshop. Through this the ACT project is contributing directly to the achievement of the Afghanistan Compact Benchmark on bring Afghan legislation in line with the requirements of UNCAC.
- The ACT project sponsored and facilitated the participation as observers of a delegation of the Government of Afghanistan which included representatives from the MOJ and the Civil Service Commission in the 11th Steering Group meeting of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative.
- The data collection for perceptions survey that is being carried out in collaboration with UNODC in the justice sector has been completed. The analysis of the data has been completed.
- An assessment of the Complaints Unit in the MOF and its procedures has been completed putting forward recommendations for strengthening the Complaints Unit and investigative capacity in the MOF.
- The survey on transparency and integrity in aid management was commenced. Five agencies took part in the study (Canada, DFID, the Netherlands, Norway and UNDP) and meetings were also held with Denmark, GTZ, USAID and the World Bank.
- Development of a set of indicators to measure progress in the fight against corruption has been initiated. Meetings with a wide range of stakeholder were conducted. The project team has been coordinating this with the Joint Coordination Monitoring Board (JCMB) which is responsible for developing indicators for the Afghanistan Compact Benchmarks, to ensure that this activity is in line with the priorities of the government.
- The project is facilitating the entry of Afghanistan into ADB/OECD Anti-corruption Initiative which currently consists of 28 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The establishment of an Ethics Unit in the MOF has been initiated and recruitment is ongoing. It is envisaged that a similar unit will be established in the MOJ.

- Establishment of a "Grants Facility" to build the watchdog capacity of civil society actors and the media has been initiated and the selection of civil society organizations to receive grants is in progress.
- Discussions are underway with the Civil Service Leadership Development (CSLD) Project of UNDP and Civil Service Commission to develop training modules and anti-corruption guides and deliver trainings to the civil servants at the central and local levels.

### Partnerships and Resources:

**Target Budget:** USD 2,395,593 (January 2007 – March 2009)

**Received Budget:** Italy: USD 374,531  
Norway: USD 1,329,479  
UNDP: USD 616,500

**Unfunded Budget:** USD 75,083

**Project Location:** Ministry of Finance, Pashtoonistan Watt, Kabul, Afghanistan

**Project Start Date:** 01 January, 2007

**Project End Date:** 31 March, 2009

**Status of the Project:** Ongoing

**Implementing Partners:** N/A

### Focal Points:

Nils Taxell, Chief Technical Advisor/Project Manager ([nils.taxell@undp.org](mailto:nils.taxell@undp.org))

S. Ikram Afzali, Project Specialist ([ikram.afzali@undp.org](mailto:ikram.afzali@undp.org))

Yama Helaman, Programme Officer ([yama.helaman@undp.org](mailto:yama.helaman@undp.org))

## Promotion of Rights & Equality

### Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan (SJSA)

Desiring to build on the successes of the project *Rebuilding the Justice Sector of Afghanistan* (RJSA), which was generously funded by the governments of Canada, Italy, and the United Kingdom, and to address the challenges still faced by the justice sector, the three permanent justice institutions of Afghanistan and UNDP concluded a new project document in November 2005 entitled "*Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan*" (SJSA). This follow-on programme which began on 1 January 2006 and has three-year duration is designed to assist the Government of Afghanistan in achieving the priorities and benchmarks for the rule of law and justice highlighted in the Interim Afghan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS). The programme consists of the following key components: (1) support to the Government of Afghanistan for the development and implementation of a detailed strategy based on the "*Justice for All*" framework; (2) strengthening institutional capacity of the Ministry of Justice; (3) strengthening institutional capacity of the Office of the Attorney General; (4) strengthening institutional capacity of the Supreme Court; (5) strengthening institutional capacity of the legal education institutions; and (6) rehabilitation of physical facilities for the justice sector.

However, due to changed national engagement and changed political commitment to the "Justice for All" program, its implementation was halted. Instead a new momentum was created in early 2007 to draft a national "Justice Strategy" within the ANDS. This process culminated at the Rome conference in July 2007 with the commitment to draft a consolidated National Justice Systemic Strategy (NJSS) and a thereon based National Justice Programme (NJP). The SJSA adjusted to this changed situation. In 2007 contribution was provided by staff resources to the drafting process of NJSS and NJP. 2 quick impact projects were picked for implementation with funding by the Canadian government (GPSF). The project further prepared for an adjustment of working schedule, on one hand focussing on selected priority issues for the working periods beyond mid 2008 and on the other hand planning to extend the timeline of the project activities for another 2 years.

#### Project Location:

Kabul, currently no activities in the field. Planned activities in provinces will take place within the 2008 work plan.

**Project Start Date: 1.1.2006**

**Project End Date: 31.12.2008, with activities reaching until 30.6.2009, formal extension until end of 2010 pending**

#### Status of the Project:

After refocusing project activities, it was acknowledged that several of the previously planned activities in the old project work plan cannot be transformed. Since the National Justice Program was edited, project activities were refocused.

The project is currently implementing 2 components with time frame until June 2009.

Further the project is soliciting for donor funding within a revised project concept with planned activities until 2010, based on the new NJP.

#### Implementing Partners:

Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court, Attorney General's Office

**Achievements:**

During the last quarter, followings were the main achievements:

The NJSS and NJP, drafted in late 2007 could finally be officially launched and were endorsed by the government of Afghanistan in the JCMB conferences in 2008. The 2 quick impact projects, one Public legal Awareness project to be implemented with the MoJ and a project to establish a Translation and Publication Unit within the Supreme Court, could be prepared in its logistic frame, after receiving the donor funding. The partner agencies, MoJ and SC received technical office-logistic support (computers, copiers, video and devices) in order to be operational and to be able to cope with the needs while implementing the 2 quick impact projects with them.

The process of redesigning the projects vision for future activities, in line with the results of the Rome conference and the NJP, could be accomplished. The project will now seek final endorsement by the national government and will seek donor funding for the amended work concept.

The SJSa project also was asked from UNAMA, OHCHR and MoJ to take over management and implementation of the UNAMA/OHCHR/MoJ plan, where the project could provide considerable contributions, for a Human Rights Support Unit within the MoJ, to be implemented from third quarter 2008 over 24 months. .

The project continued to provide general technical support to the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General's Office and the Supreme Court with a considerable increase of the cooperation with the SC.

As part of the engagement in legal reform the project participated with 2 staff members at the conference for the final editing of the Draft Criminal Code in Syracuse/Italy in April 2008.

As a start of the Public Awareness Campaign, the SJSa project funded and supported the first ever conference of MoJ Public Legal Awareness staff in all provinces of Afghanistan from 12. – 14.6.2008, for exchange of experiences and lessons learnt..

**Future Priorities:**

Main focus for the working period until September 2008:

1. Roll out of the two quick impact projects: Public Legal Awareness Campaign and Establishment of the Translation and Publication Unit within the SC, in cooperation with MoJ and SC.
2. Preparation of the implementation and roll out of the HRU project in cooperation with UNAMA, OHCHR and MoJ, for a smooth start in third quarter 2008.
3. Soliciting donor funding for the finalized new project concept, which is based on the NJP.

**Partnerships and Resources:**

In 2008 the SJSa project is still working with funding from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. As the project had to acknowledge the necessity to adjust its workplan to the new situation as described in the introduction, an existing shortfall of USD 7.286.478 from the overall budget of originally projected USD 9.890.000 can meanwhile be ticked off as historic problem.

The in the light of necessary priorities of the NJP modified priorities streamlined workplan for 2008 calculates a necessary budget for 2008 of USD 1.772.327.

Thereof a part of \$ 1.372.327 is provided by donor funding, \$ 400.000 by UNDP core funds.

**UNDP Country Office Focal Points:**

Michael Lackner, SJSA Project Manager/Chief Technical Advisor ([michael.lackner@undp.org](mailto:michael.lackner@undp.org))  
Heather Barr, Programme Officer ([heather.barr@undp.org](mailto:heather.barr@undp.org))

## Institutional Capacity Building for Gender Equality (Gender Equality)

### Background

The Institutional Capacity Building for Gender Equality project (Gender Equality) is collaboration between the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the ministries of Women's Affairs and Economy being the main counterparts. The overall goal of the project is to promote gender equity and women's rights in Afghanistan. The project aims to develop effective gender mainstreaming models and strengthen the capacity of government ministries and institutions. The Project is in line with the goals set out in the I-ANDS for gender equity and consistent with the Millennium Development Goals of gender equality and empowerment of women. The Project has three components: 1) Modeling gender mainstreaming through selected ministries; 2) Sustainable knowledge building and management on gender; and 3) Towards women's empowerment: conflict resolution, justice, security and peace at the sub-national level.

Gender Equality is a multi-stakeholder project with the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture, Hajj and Religious Affairs, Justice and Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), Central Statistics Office (CSO), Kabul University (KU) and the ANDS Secretariat are being the key implementing partners. The project will be implemented in close collaboration with UNAMA, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, and UNESCO.

The new Institutional Capacity Building for Gender Equality project (Gender Equality) was signed in the 1st quarter of 2007.

In 2008 the project documents was officially amended for an extension of one year. The project had its third project board meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May and has the following achievements up to May 2008.

### Achievements

#### Component 1: Modelling gender mainstreaming through selected ministries

##### Technical assistance for MoWA:

- Curriculum for a six-day training course on gender and management designed for DoWAs and members from selected provincial departments in Herat and Mazar by TAD.
- The International Mother's Day was supported by the Gender Equality project. The celebration of the Mother Day was an advocacy event for MoWA to highlight the important role mothers play in Afghan society.
- The Gender Equality project has continued its support to MoWA in the production of Mirman and Ershad-ul-Niswan, the two monthly publications advocating for gender equality and promoting women's empowerment and rights.
- Support was provided to the preparation of the five Years Development Budget of MoWA for the implementation of the priority projects for the gender Equity Sector Strategy.

### **Support to the ANDS**

- Assistance was given to the final work of the Gender Sector Strategy in order to align the same with other sectoral strategy in terms of makeup and design. Photos and their captions were provided to make the strategy more interactive. Also inputs were given to finalise the acknowledgment section of the strategy.

### **Support to the Ministry of Economy (MoEc)**

- An inventory of the existing planning tools and guidelines held by all departments in the Ministry of Economy (MoEc) were compiled for assessment.
- Annual reporting formats/templates of the MoEc were reviewed and issues of gender were incorporated into the templates, in order to ensure gender-sensitivity of those templates. e. Reporting templates now present information in a sex-disaggregated data.
- Two separate questionnaires were developed to assess the training and capacity building needs of the key staff of the MoEc. Interviews were conducted with the heads of the coordination department, directors of the departments of agriculture, education, training, health, culture, media and women affairs, trade and business and human resource department. All staff interviewed expressed need for on the job gender planning training. They also identified need for practical training to link gender with project cycle management.

### **Support to Ministry of Finance**

#### **Gender responsive national Budget Circular**

- The project provided gender technical inputs to MoF to ensure gender responsive of the MoF Budget Circular that was issued in June 2008.

#### **Gender mainstreaming monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system in place/use:**

##### **Building M&E system's infrastructures**

- In order to collect information on the existing M&E system, practices and its incentives and shortfalls, consultations were held with MoWA Heads of Departments and technical advisors.

##### **Stakeholders' consultations on outline for gender mainstreaming monitoring and evaluation system:**

- Embarking on a series of stakeholders' consultations on an outline for the gender mainstreaming monitoring and evaluation system, a workshop was held on 7 June in Kabul. The participants included MoWA's Heads of Departments and technical advisors and representatives from MoEc, MRRD, MoF, MoHRA and MoJ.

### **Component 2: Sustainable knowledge-building and management on gender**

#### **Gender Studies Institute (GSI)**

#### **Gender Curriculum Development Exercise**

- Following the appointment of the Gender Curriculum Specialist, work has begun on the development of a gender curriculum for GSI.

### **GSI Design and Physical Infrastructure**

- Studio Zarnegar architectural firm was contracted for the design and construction supervision work of the GSI. The firm concluded the initial work (covering phase I & II) and a presentation was made on the design concept on 5 June 2008. Following this presentation, the GSI physical infrastructure site and design concept were approved by KU and the Gender Equality project. The architectural firm has commenced the work on the 3rd phase.

## **Component 3: Towards Women's empowerment: conflict resolution, justice, security and peace at the sub-national level enhanced**

### **Operationalisation of offices in Balkh and Herat provinces**

- The Gender Equality Project set up its provincial offices in the DoWA in Mazar and Herat. Both Provincial Coordinators in Balkh and Herat were officially introduced to the key stakeholders who included the Heads of provincial directorates for MoWA, MoEc, MoJ MoHRA, MoF, MoA and various UN Agencies

### **Establishment of Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) in Mazar**

- The first meeting of the Provincial Advisory Committee PAC was established. The membership of this committee comprises the representatives of DoWA, DoHRA, DoJ, DoA, DRRD, DoF, DoEc, and Independent Human Rights Commission and UNDP projects (NABDP, ASGP). At this meeting, the ToRs of the PAC and the frequency of meetings were agreed upon.

### **Gender equality advocacy and campaign in Daikundi and Bamiyan**

- Given the acceptance of the proposed model for women's rights and development, a possible expansion of the component 3 in Daikundi and Bamiyan was envisaged and discussed with UNAMA Central Highlands Regional Office.
- One of the actions to follow-up on the recommendations and to move to the next step was to carry out a joint follow-up mission by the Gender Equality and NABDP management members.

### **Support strengthening Women's groups/networks**

An agreement has been signed and money has been transferred to the Afghan Women's Network to support refurbishment of their damaged office and to equip the new office. Financial resources to support AWN were mobilized from DFID.

### **Partnerships and Resources**

Target Budget:	USD 10,628,500
Funded Budget:	USD 8,588,201.76
Donor:	UNDP, CIDA, Italian
Pledges:	CIDA

## Focal Points:

Indai Lourdes Sajor, Programme Manager ([indai.sajor@undp.org](mailto:indai.sajor@undp.org))  
 Yama Helaman, Programme Officer ([yama.helaman@undp.org](mailto:yama.helaman@undp.org))

## Gender Mainstreaming in UNDP Afghanistan (GM in UNDP CO)

### Background

In line with the UNDP corporate policy and strategy, UNDP Afghanistan seeks to support national development goals and strategies on gender equality in two ways: (1) through gender-focused projects that help build national capacity to address gender inequality and promote women's human rights; and (2) by ensuring that related issues of gender inequality are considered in all of UNDP Afghanistan programme and projects in the three pillars and operations. It is also recognised that these two approaches have to be linked for better results and effectiveness.

Many of the UNDP projects in Afghanistan are missing opportunities to support equal development and participation for women and men. UNDP Afghanistan is yet to clearly integrate the principle of gender equality in staff recruitment, orientation, guidance and job performance assessment.

### A new gender-focused initiative

"Gender Mainstreaming in Afghanistan" is an initiative that seeks to design a gender strategy, improve systems, tools and accountability instruments so that as an institution, UNDP Afghanistan practices the universal human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality both in its way of doing business (operations) and through its programme.

The project will be the vehicle for building the capacity of UNDP Afghanistan in order that it can effectively contribute to the national goal on gender equality as contained in the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

### Staff Development and Practice-based Learning

The project will develop the knowledge and skills of UNDP staff to recognise gaps in gender equality and to design projects that will effectively contribute to reducing gender gaps. In addition, UNDP project managers and staff will be trained in ensuring gender sensitive/responsive project implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

UNDP Country Office and Project Staff in management and operations will be involved in building a gender-friendly work environment, as well as accountability for gender related policies and benchmarks. The main outcome is enhanced capacity of UNDP to work for gender equality in Afghanistan.

### How will the project achieve its Objectives?

Using the capacity development approach, this project will facilitate changes in the enabling environment, as well as in the organizational and individual levels, both within programme and operations and will do so in three phases, namely

1. *Preparatory and consensus building* to establish a core of advocates and champions for gender equality and empowerment of women within UNDP Afghanistan
2. *Modelling and foundation setting* to facilitate innovation and practice in gender responsive project management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

3. *Consolidation and institutionalization* to establish policies and procedures, and monitoring and accountability mechanisms, as well as means of sustaining capacity.

Six projects were selected to model gender mainstreaming. Representing the three pillars of the Country Programme of UNDP Afghanistan, these projects are:

- Afghanistan Sub-national Governance Programme (ASGP)
- Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT)
- Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (CDRRP)
- Capacity for Afghan Public Service (CAP)
- Support to the Establishment of Afghan Legislature (SEAL)
- Joint National Youth Project (JNYP)

### **Where will the 'Gender Mainstreaming' Project be Piloted?**

The Project will be implemented in UNDP CO in Kabul and in Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh Province where UNDP is setting up a regional office and has a number of projects operational. The modelling approach will produce tools and mechanisms for institutionalizing and sustaining the gender capacity.

The project will supplement the activities envisaged under the "Gender Equality" Project of UNDP by facilitating co-ordination and promoting synergy with related UNDP supported projects in key ministries and in the provinces.

### **What has been done so far?**

Approved on 22nd October 2007, the *Gender Mainstreaming in UNDP Afghanistan Project* was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 with a learning session opened to all UNDP staff. Entitled "Gender mainstreaming in UNDP – How is that done? Ask your questions; let's find the answers," the launching event sought to inspire the staff to take part in the gender capacity development process being offered by the project. Three Afghan UNDP staff members, who had returned from a regional workshop on gender mainstreaming in UNDP, shared good practices and lessons learned on gender mainstreaming in other UNDP country offices.

Through the process employed, the session sought to demonstrate the project approach as it facilitates the capacity development of UNDP Afghanistan in gender mainstreaming: a participatory approach that builds ownership by the concerned managers and staff of the various capacity objectives or project outputs. The engagement of the National staff was given the highest priority.

Activities planned in 2007 as start-up activities were implemented. Initial expected results was for the participating units and projects to include in their 2008 annual work plan gender related activities in line with ANDS and CPAP benchmarks related to the goal of gender equality and the approach of gender mainstreaming.

- The Learning Session on 1<sup>st</sup> November and the Project Team Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October clarified to the various UNDP officers and staff what their respective roles and obligations are to implement the corporate policy of gender mainstreaming.
- The Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Projects on November 5 and 6 guided the staff of the participating projects in defining the gender concerns of their respective projects and in outlining activities to address these.

- A total of eight (8) national and international staff were encouraged to take part in a training abroad where they acquired specialized knowledge and skills on gender mainstreaming, such as in disaster management and in governance.

Throughout these first two months of implementation, the message conveyed was that the Gender Mainstreaming in UNDP Afghanistan project gives ample opportunity and technical and financial resources that will support capacity development. However, projects, units and individuals will need to take on their appropriate role and responsibilities.

Advocacy for increased institutional support for the crèche yielded a positive response from the UNDP senior management who came to realize that for many female employees, they could not continue to work if there was no child care support available in UNDP. The continued operation of the crèche is momentarily assured for the duration of the project although the Committee faces the challenge of ensuring sustainability of the crèche beyond the life of the project.

### **What are major targets for 2008?**

Within the first two months of 2008, the Gender Mainstreaming Specialist helped members of project team to plan their 2008 activities in line with key outputs, i.e.

- Increase the gender ration in UNDP Afghanistan especially at the professional levels (Human Resource Manager)
- Improve gender sensitivity of personnel across all levels in UNDP Afghanistan (Learning Manager)
- Establish a community of practice on gender mainstreaming across the three programme pillars (Learning Manager and Gender Focal Points in the programme units)

Advice was also given to the pilot projects in terms of their work plans for 2008:

- ELECT towards improving outreach by the Independent Election Commission to female voters in line with voter registration
- SEAL towards integrating the gender equality agenda in the capacity building programme for parliamentary staff
- JNYP in conduct of sub-national consultations among young people on the ANDS
- ASGP in the finalization and launch of its indicators on good governance.

### **UNDP Focal Points:**

Rosanita Annie Serrano, Gender Specialist, ([Rosanita.serrano@undp.org](mailto:Rosanita.serrano@undp.org))

Yama Helaman, Programme Officer, ([yama.helaman@undp.org](mailto:yama.helaman@undp.org))

## Access to Justice at the District Level (AJDL)

### Background

In November 2005, the three permanent justice institutions of Afghanistan and UNDP concluded a project document entitled *“Access to Justice at the District Level”* (AJDL). The AJDL Project aims at improving access to justice at the district level in Afghanistan and strengthening the citizens’ capacity to claim their rights by utilizing the existing justice delivery systems and simultaneously enhancing the capacity of justice delivery system actors to perform and deliver in compliance with the rule of law and human rights standards.

Project activities include awareness raising through trainings and seminars for state justice officials, community leaders, religious leaders, school teachers and students, and the general public and villages throughout districts in Afghanistan. The Project also undertakes rehabilitation works of Justice facilities at provincial and district levels.

### Achievements

The AJDL project has completed activities in districts in the provinces of Balkh and Herat in partnership with the implementing partners of:

- Saba Media Organization (SMO) working in the area of public awareness raising through radio programs on access to formal and informal justice systems in Afghanistan.
- Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) working in the area of public awareness in schools, targeting teachers and pupils.
- Afghan Human Rights Organization (AHRO) working in the areas of seminars and consultations with religious leaders and training of formal justice system officials, judicial police and defense counselors.
- International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Studies (ISISC) working in the areas of legal awareness raising with community leaders and also state justice officials on protection of women and children, land law and family and personal status law.

In addition seventeen justice facilities (including courts, detention centers, and prosecutor offices) were rehabilitated in districts in the provinces of Balkh and Herat.

On 20 May 2008 a Handover Ceremony was conducted to mark the successful completion of these activities and was attended by Government, Judiciary, Donor, local authorities, UNDP delegation and beneficiaries.

### Future Priorities

In June 2008 the AJDL project finalized arrangements for activities in districts in the provinces of Baghlan, Jawzjan, Kunduz and Samangan for the period August to November 2008 with the implementing partners of:

- AHRO working in the areas of legal awareness raising for state justice officials on the protection of women, children and disadvantaged groups in criminal law; and land law and family and personal status law.

- AHRO working in the area of legal awareness raising for community leaders on land law and family and personal status law.
- The Educational and Training Centre for poor woman and girls of Afghanistan (ECW) in the areas of increased justice awareness of religious leaders through undertaking seminars and consultations addressing issues related to women, children, and disadvantaged groups.
- SMO working in the area of public awareness raising of human rights and administration of justice issues through a targeted media campaign.
- The Civil Society Development Centre (CSDC) working in the area of raising awareness on human rights and administration of justice at villages throughout the districts.
- The Humanitarian Assistance Muska (HAM) working in the area of improving legal rights awareness education in schools.
- AHRO working in the area of raising awareness of the constitutional guarantee of the right to defense counsel in criminal proceedings in groups such as justice sector officials and the general public.

The AJDL project, in consultation with stakeholders, has selected ten justice facilities to be rehabilitated in districts in the provinces of Baghlan, Jawzjan and Kunduz. A procurement process to select the contractor/s to undertake this work has commenced.

In July 2008 the AJDL project received responses to Call for Proposals for NGO's to conduct awareness raising activities in districts in the provinces of Badakhshan, Takhar and Nangarhar. It is expected that the selection process and partnership arrangements will be finalized by September with activities to be conducted between October and December 2008.

The AJDL project intends to work closely with the recently established Provincial Justice Coordination Mechanism in relation to work being conducted in districts throughout Afghanistan.

### Partnerships and Resources

	Overall Budget	Received Budget	Shortfall
AJDL	US\$ 7,200,000	US\$ 7,200,000	US\$ 0

**Thematic Area:** Democratic Governance

**Project Start Date:** 1 November 2005

**Project End Date:** 31 December 2008

**Project Location:** Activities being conducted in Districts in Provinces of Balkh, Heart, Baghlan, Jawzjan, Kunduz, Samangan, Badakhshan, Takhar and Nangarhar.

**Status of Project:** Ongoing

**Implementing Partners:** Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court, Office of Attorney-General and various local NGO's.

### UNDP Country Office Focal Points:

Christine Fowler, Project Manager ([christine.fowler@undp.org](mailto:christine.fowler@undp.org))

Heather Barr, Senior Programme Officer ([heather.barr@undp.org](mailto:heather.barr@undp.org))