



UNDP

**DEMOCRATIZATION &
CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAMME**

United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan Country Office,
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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 years¹, some 20 years lower than in all the neighboring countries; Adult literacy rate is 28.7% (43.2% male, 14.1% female)² 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)³ 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.

¹ Central Statistics Office, 2003

² UNICEF, Best Estimate 2005

³ Afghanistan National Human Development Report, *Security with a human face*, UNDP, 2004

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 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.

Democratic Governance Unit

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) Democratic Governance; (b) Local Governance and Administration; (c) Sustainable Livelihoods; (d) Conflict Prevention and human Security and (e) Environment and Natural Resources

The Democratic Governance Unit aims to develop and support programmes to build democratic governance for recovery and development, focusing on five main areas:

1. Support to democratic process; Election, Parliament
2. Rebuilding of the Justice sector; and Anti Corruption
3. Promotion of human rights and gender equality;
4. Civil society empowerment.
5. Communication for good governance

Activities related to elections, parliament, accountability and transparency, civil society empowerment - particularly as well as communication are part of the support for deepening democracy and strengthening democratic processes. The Promotion of Rights and Equality cluster supports activities related to justice, human rights, and gender equality.

The Democratic Governance Unit consists of eight country office staff and seven project managers.

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Democratic Governance Projects' Fact Sheets

ELECT Fact Sheet

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). 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. (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 recommendations 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 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 in 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 electoral support activities.

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, Bamyan 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 have helped shape future programming.
- Support to the IEC in establishing basic office infrastructure.
- The new electoral law was drafted and sent to the Parliament for approval

Future Elections

The ELECT projects’ main aims in 2007 were the provision of capacity building to the IEC and the conduct a

pilot project on CVR. At the conclusion of this process, a comprehensive electoral support programme was determined.

In April it was announced that a political consensus had been reached to hold Presidential and Provincial Council Elections in the fall of 2009 and the Parliamentary and District Council Elections in the summer of 2010. On the 9th July the IEC announced that they would conduct a voter registration exercise beginning on 6th October through to 2nd February 2009. Voter registration was planned to be conducted in four phases with the aim of capturing citizens who will have turned 18 by the 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 expanded its assistance to the IEC with a program of support for the VR exercise. A Project Document revision was agreed by donors in August 2008 with funding of \$101m generously provided in a timely way. The ELECT project capacity was enhanced with the appointment in June 2008 of a new Chief Electoral Adviser, Chief of Operations and other staff, and support to the IEC extended to the provinces and regions. A further Revision to cover the 2009 and 2010 processes is expected to be signed in December 2008.

Assumptions and Challenges

Among the many risks the major one is that security will permit an update of voter registration in all provinces and districts

Future Priorities:

- Support for National Voter Registration
- Enhancing the capacity of the IEC including Commissioners, Secretariat, Departments and provincial and regional offices.
- Support to the planning for and roll out of the 2009 and 2010 elections
- Expansion of support to embrace broader electoral stakeholders including media, civil society, police and observers.

Partnerships and Resources:

Budget

Original Budget:	4,907,593 USD
Revised Budget from Revision 1:	106,380,882 USD
Revised Budget for revision 2:	223,127,225 USD
Total Budget:	329,508,107 USD

Donors:

US, UK, Canada, Denmark, Italy, UNDP, UNDEF, Germany, Norway, The Netherlands, Spain

Project Location: Kabul (project has started working in provinces in the fourth quarter of 2008)
Project Start Date: October 2006
Project End Date: October 2010

Status of the Project: On-going
Implementing Partners:

Focal Points:

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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 II 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:

The Afghan Parliament was re-establishment in December 2005. All necessary measures and infrastructures to make parliament operational was put in place. The new parliament was equipped with infrastructures for MPS and staff, Information and Technology such as video conferencing system connecting parliament to provinces, telecom, computers, internet and modern payroll and finance and attendance system. As part of SEAL commitment to National Assembly, the project provided IT equipment including 21 copiers, 4 digital senders, printers and other items for the MP's offices in the Parliamentary Annex. SEAL also provided a complete wireless interpretation system capable of 200 users to the Afghan National Assembly. The system will be used for interpretation of conferences, workshops, and meetings in both houses.

Security of parliament was improved with modern equipment and training programs facilitated through SEAL project.

An Effective Hansard service, Women's Forum and Women's Resource Centre (with UNIFEM) are established to address the needs of women MPs.

SEAL delivered to the leadership of both Houses a draft Code of Conduct for parliament and a discussion paper to help Members better understand the value of a Code for them, their work and for citizens. The code will help both Houses and all MPs manage potential conflicts of interest and will provide a framework for enforcing norms of parliamentary practices and behavior.

MPs capacity:

MPs better understand their constitutional rights, responsibilities, and the legislative process. Their capacities have improved through technical training and visits of other parliaments. The Parliament of Australia hosted the SEAL pilot mentoring visit of seven Afghan Senators and MPs (November 10 –19) in Canberra and Sydney to help strengthen parliamentary practice and culture for the elected members of the Afghan National Assembly.

MPs role is strengthened in governance (e.g. approval and implementation of UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC); improving role in budget process and oversight).

SEAL Team work with committee staff of the Meshrano Jirga to improve the bill drafting process and to improve efficiency by introducing a drafting checklist. This checklist will be completed by Parliamentarians and staff when writing a bill to better combine MP's policy vision with technical research done by staff. Follow up workshops are planned.

Other capacity development programs in the area of Preparation of Member's bills, legal, procedural and other advices, computer literacy, communication, building relationships with civil society and personalized training for individual MPs in plenary deliberations are provided.

Secretariat capacity improved through technical training and study trips for staff across Finance, Administration, Management, ICT, Legal, Security, and Information & Public Relations.

Committee assistants trained in-country and in foreign jurisdictions, and continued guidance in committee deliberation.

Parliament to the people:

Public better informed of parliamentary activities and responsibilities (70 SEAL supported publications, monthly gazette, radio and TV programmes, media training). SEAL TV spots started broadcasting on 01 August 2008. The TV spots provide information to the public about Parliament and the responsibilities of MPs and Senators. Similar radio spots began in July. A comic-book style parliamentary primer for school children was also produced to provide a resource for teachers to introduce parliament and its responsibilities to the classroom.

Citizens participate in parliamentary business, legislation (visits to Provinces by committees, public hearings). Civil society organizations participate in parliamentary work (regular joint meetings).

Challenges and risks:

Security situation in the country and the security situation in Kabul remain the sharpest and most immediate challenge to the implementation of the project and continue to challenge the project goal of helping to establish a well functioning parliament, well connected to and respected by citizens in every region... The security situation prevents some in-country planning and potential outreach visits by Members and Committees.

Other challenges includes:

- 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.
- Relatively low parliamentary staff salaries, compared to the open market, limit the hiring and retention of staff.
- 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 II 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 ad 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 3,506,000
 Total received: USD 2,250,000
 Funding gap: USD 11,810,166

Donor	Amount in USD
UNDP Core fund	650,000
Denmark	1,600,000
Sweden	1,256,000

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:

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Accountability and Transparency (ACT) Project

UNDP's ACT project, designed to support the development of the critical areas in fight against 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 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, in laying the foundation for strategic anti-corruption policies and programmes by testing pilots in key public institutions (Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Justice), providing an integrity monitoring system including the necessary diagnostics and surveys, and by raising awareness and educating 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.

The ACT project consists of three components:

1. Improved institutional, legal and policy environment to support the implementation of anticorruption policies and programs 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 anticorruption.

The Accountability and Transparency (ACT) project was initiated in January 2007 and runs until the end of March 2009. The project was designed at a time when there was no clear government counterpart in the area of anti-corruption and few concrete steps had been taken in the fight against corruption. As a result the project was designed to lay the foundations for a wider and more comprehensive approach once the right conditions were in place.

With the clear political commitment made to the fight against corruption during the Paris Conference, the finalization of the national anti-corruption strategy and the establishment of the High Office of Oversight it is however essential that the international community quickly increases its support in the area of anti-corruption. To capitalize on the current level of political will and to be able to provide the necessary support to key government institutions the ACT Project Board agreed to an extension of the project by an additional three years. This extension will allow for building on already existing capacities within the project, established and on-going partnerships, and lessons learned from completed and on-going activities. As such the project is also well placed to serve as a platform for support to the newly established High Office of Oversight.

The expanded and extended project will be designed taking into account lessons learned from completed and on-going activities. Specific considerations that will influence the design of the expanded project are:

- The importance of engaging international experts/advisors on a long-term basis rather than relying on consultants to ensure capacity development, skills transfer, follow-up and sustainability.
- The need to focus on a more narrow set of outputs to allow for developing the necessary partnerships and to achieve results.
- The need to also implement activities at the sub-national level.
- The importance of having sufficient human resources in the project to ensure timely implementation of and follow-up on project activities.

It is envisaged to finalize the revised project document by end of January 2009.

The ACT project is currently housed in the Ministry of Finance 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. In the second phase the project will be expanded to additional ministries.

Key partners will include the High Office of Oversight, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice as well as other government institutions, the ANDS secretariat, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and Afghan civil society organizations.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: USD 2,379, 722
Duration (January 2007 – March 2012)
Received Budget: USD 2,570,510
Donors: Italy, Norway and UNDP

Focal Points:

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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, o one hand focussing on selected priority issues for the working periods beyond mid 2008 and ion 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:

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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 ANDS for gender equity and consistent with the Millennium Development Goals of gender equality and empowerment of women. The Project has three components: 1) Modelling 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 are being the key implementing partners. The project is being 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.

The project had fourth project board meetings been held. The board approved expansion to Badakhshan, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Bamyán Provinces. The and has the following achievements up to September 2008.

Component 1: Modelling gender mainstreaming through selected ministries

Technical assistance for MoWA:

- 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.
- Technical and financial support provided to MOWA for two-days National Conference on Early & Forced Marriages in Mazar-i-Sharif, Balkh Province. Over 700 participants attended the conference.
- Ongoing support provided to MOWA for developing and maintenance of the website.

Support to the Ministry of Economy (MoEc)

- Assessment of the planning practices and capacity building needs done and report prepared. Based on the assessment Reporting and planning tools and template were engendered.
- A seminar on the planning practices and gender mainstreaming in Pakistan was held for the Ministry of Economy to compare the planning practices and gender mainstreaming efforts with the existing planning setup in Afghanistan. 44 senior level staff including deputy minister attended.
- One day training workshop was conducted for the MoEc and the line ministries senior officials on the gender responsive planning and reporting templates. A total of 72 planning, reporting and budgeting department officials from 44 ministries and government organization participated in the training.
- Two- days training conducted on the socio-economic and gender analysis to train senior official of the Ministry of Economy in the gender analysis skills and how to link ANDS cross-cutting gender equity strategy with the work of the MoEc.
- The UNDP/GEP is also helping the MoEc develop gender-sensitive indicators and checklists for field monitoring and evaluation. In addition, ToRs on project cycle management and gender sensitive indicators have already been developed and they are under consultation for the finalization.
- Provided technical and financial support for the development of MoEc official website.

Gender responsive national Budget Circular

- UNDP/GEP co-sponsored a gender budget panel discussion of civil society members with Afghan ministers in Kabul to establish an oversight mechanism to follow up on the progress of gender budgeting within the government line ministries. The conference recognized the initial efforts of the Ministry of Finance to incorporate gender perspectives into its budgeting guidelines.

Component 2: Sustainable knowledge-building and management on gender

Gender Studies Institute (GSI)

Gender Curriculum Development Exercise

- An Advisory Committee has been set up to guide and review the work the GSI. The Committee comprises of Kabul University, UNDP/GEP, Ministry of Higher Education, Afghan Women's Network, UNESCO and the Ministry of Women's Affairs.
- An assessment was done to conceptualise the programmes, and curricula.
- The GSI has been invited to be part of the interagency gender forum, which is a collective of local and international women's rights organizations that functions as a networking and information sharing platform.
- The curriculum for the certificate programmes to be offered is being developed. GSI is also exploring links with universities abroad to collaborate on the curriculum development and provide for visiting faculty.
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- The GSI building architectural and engineering designs have been completed by Studio Zarnegar and approved by Kabul University.

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- GSI is collaborating with UNESCO on gender based violence research in educational institutions in the provinces of Kabul, Herat and Balkh.

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

Establishment of Gender Working Group:

UNDP/GEP in Balkh and Herat provinces supported provincial Directorates of Balkh and Herat Women’s Affairs (DoWA) to establish a group called Gender Working Group (GWG) with the aim to establish a clear coordination mechanism among NGOs and CBO’s that deals with gender issues at sub-national level in Balkh and Herat provinces. The GWG’s is also an attempt to develop women’s networks in the provinces.

Selection of Mullahs in Balkh Province:

To develop capacities for social change UNDP/GEP in the ongoing work with the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs started a project in Mazar-i-Sharif by selecting 250 mullahs from five districts of Balkh province to participate in a series of gender equality seminars. The work with the Mullahs has been to gain their support in improving the lives of Afghan women and reducing violence against them. The Mullahs will join women’s human rights and gender equality seminars to pass the message to their communities and support women’s empowerment.

Gender and Management Training:

UNDP/GEP supported the conduction of a one-week Gender and Management Training for DoWA and the other heads of the departments in Balkh and Herat provinces with the purpose to build the capacity of female staff who is working with the local government at sub-national level.

Media Inventory:

UNDP/GEP in Mazar-I-Sharif conducted a comprehensive inventory of the local Media in Balkh province with the aim to develop possible implementing media partner(s).

Awareness Raising Work:

In August, UNDP/GEP in Mazar-I-Sharif screened a film for all active UN agencies in Balkh province including all UNDP projects subjected “To Serve with pride: Zero Tolerance for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”.

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget:	USD 10,628,500
Funded Budget:	USD 6,755,493.22
Donor:	UNDP, CIDA, Italian, DFID
Pledges:	CIDA

Focal Points:

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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
AJDL	US\$ 7,200,000	US\$ 7,200,000

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.

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