



Afghanistan

UNDP

**PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME**

**United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan Country Office
July 2008**

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Foreword

UNDP has been present in Afghanistan for over 50 years and continued to operate from Islamabad during the Taliban régime. During that decade, UNDP delivered USD 200 million of assistance to communities throughout the country. UNDP re-established its offices in Kabul in early 2002. UNDP supports the people of Afghanistan as they face new challenges and move their country from recovery to development towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2020.

Since the Bonn Agreement was signed in December 2001, UNDP has delivered USD1.1 billion of assistance to Afghanistan. In 2005, UNDP delivered USD 349 million of development assistance, mainly for elections, disarmament, reconstruction and institution building. In 2006, UNDP delivered USD 202 million focusing mainly on state building, security sector reform (police) and rural development.

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.

The expected results are pursued in line with the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) objectives and benchmarks. UNDP aims to enhance government's ability to deliver public services to the population in an efficient, effective, equitable and accountable manner, to consolidate a participative democracy with a responsible civil society and to create an enabling and secure environment for sustainable livelihoods.

UNDP Support to the Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods

Economic growth¹, which has received far less international attention than the political process, has been marked during the recent recovery but has slowed down to around only 8% in 2006, notably due to the severe drought that affected 2.5 million people. Per capita income was estimated at USD 335 in 2006. Foreign Direct Investment represented 2.5% of GDP in 2006. Some 80 to 90% of the activity is informal. The rate of inflation continues to decline (it was below 4% at the end of 2006). The most serious constraints for private sector development are electricity and access to land. Afghanistan's economy remains heavily reliant on agriculture and vulnerable to disaster such as drought and floods. A critical challenge faced by the development community is the resurgent counter-narcotics industry. Opium contributes to approximately 30 to 40% of the country's GDP.

The unprecedented rate of urbanisation poses challenges to urban governance and livelihood especially issues of socio-economic integration of migrants, including the expansion of informal settlements with poor livelihood conditions and acute shortage of accommodating infrastructure.

Unemployment persists especially in urban areas as well as among a number of demobilised ex-combatants, and given still the highly volatile security situation in some parts of the country, it is a major constraint for overall human security and development.

The plight of the most vulnerable groups – including returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, ex-combatants, the disabled and vulnerable women – continues, as the population in general suffers from the staggering pace of development and those most vulnerable still remain marginalised and disadvantaged in terms of social and economic opportunities.

¹ The following figures are from the International Monetary Fund's latest Country Report on Afghanistan, published in March 2006 and its April 2006 World Economic Database. All figures are for the legal economy, unless otherwise indicated.

Rural Afghanistan, which supports the main industry of Afghanistan – agriculture, the lack of technical and infrastructure capacity including clean affordable energy, perpetuates socio- economic insecurity. Despite the profound agricultural potential of the country, the lack of rural entrepreneurship, non-existent market linkages, the lack of access to financing and technology options and weak private sector enabling framework is a major hindrance to promoting private sector vibrancy and job creation.

The harsh climatic and geographical conditions dominating most of the territory, combined with the long years of conflict followed by the rapid population growth, have led to uncontrolled and unsustainable use of natural resources. The destruction of the resource base and degradation of ecosystem services, couple with the proliferation of illicit poppy economy and vulnerability to natural disasters in major parts of the country, is of serious concern and poses a threat to long-term development of the country.

UNDP Country Programme aims to contribute to “strengthened domestic economic opportunities through area-based/community led initiative, private sector partnership, trans-boundary interaction and accession to relevant trade platforms”. In this area, UNDP works to improve human security and the quality of life for poor people through mainstreaming gender, broadening economic opportunities, and promoting sustainable livelihoods including sound natural resource management and disaster risk reduction.

UNDP’s main interventions in this area are:

- National Area Based Development Programme,
- Urban Development Programme,
- Environment and Disaster Management,
- Private Sector Development Programme,
- Security for Development,
- Support to development of MDG-based national development policies.

UNDP invests in small urban and rural infrastructure, combined with short-term employment generation activities targeting the most vulnerable groups. Infrastructure projects are also funded under the Counter narcotics Trust Fund to create the enabling environment for alternative livelihoods.

Mine clearance activities focus on recovering land that is also contributing to poverty reduction. Hence agricultural land, and land that could be used for off-farm activities, will be given priority. UNDP will work with the Global Environment Fund (GEF) to address environmental problems, whose reversal would help generate much needed livelihoods for Afghan populations. To reduce the risks of natural disasters, UNDP assists the Government in conducting early warning assessment, and strengthening disaster response and preparedness. UNDP builds on its global expertise and lessons learned on disaster risk reduction to strengthen national capacities including at community level in managing risk and vulnerability.

The Poverty and Sustainable Livelihoods Support Team consists of seven country office staff and ten project/programme managers. Contact: Mr. Basir Ahmad Sarwari, Assistant Country Director (basir.sarwari@undp.org).

National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP)

The National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) is a programme run by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), through the National Implementation Modality of UNDP. NABDP aims to promote urgent recovery and longer-term development in identified priority areas of rural development, while building the government capacity to lead and coordinate participatory approaches to development across the country. Building on the achievements of Phase I (2002-2004/5), the NABDP Phase II (launched in February 2006) continues to contribute to the reduction of poverty and improvement of livelihoods in Afghanistan. It is intended to serve as a key coordination mechanism to bring together key government and UN-supported programmes in the area of rural development, so as to maximize its impact. In the current phase, a greater focus is given to institutional development, capacity building, and inter-sectoral coordination at the regional and provincial levels to engage a wider audience, and promotion of regional and local economic regeneration activities. Structurally, NABDP Phase II is implemented through the following five main components with expected outputs:

1. **Community Empowerment:** Participatory and consultative mechanisms established at district/provincial level resulting in an integrated rural development planning process.
2. **Economic Regeneration:** Capacity in the MRRD/Government is enhanced allow the formulation and regular updating of comprehensive regional economic regeneration policies & strategies, and identification of viable interventions for economic investment, poverty reduction and livelihood improvement.
3. **Institutional Development:** Institutional capacity and technical capabilities of MRRD and strategic partners are strengthened to fulfill its mandate of promoting rural regeneration and improved livelihoods.
4. **Implementation Support:** MRRD's implementation capacity is strengthened, private and public resources mobilized, and implementation arrangements among partners/ and stakeholders are coordinated to deliver rural infrastructure projects.
5. **Rural Energy:** The Energy for Rural Development Afghanistan (ERDA) component has been initiated with specific objectives of government and community capacity development, policy review and piloting demonstration projects on rural & renewable energy. In the last quarter, ERDA has begun assessing microhydro project sites in Bamiyan and Badakhshan provinces and providing policy support to MRRD's rural electrification programmes.

With MRRD as the lead implementing partner, UNDP provides support through financing the core programme management team and channels investment funds also to other UN implementing agencies.

Achievements:

Community Empowerment:

- District Development Planning: District Development Assemblies (DDAs) have been established in 306 districts in all 34 provinces to ensure community consultation and participation in the comprehensive rural development process. In these districts, DDAs have formulated their District Development Plan (DDP) which lists their priority projects. In order to improve the capacity of local communities to manage their development, the Community Empowerment unit is currently running training courses in subjects such as project management, gender, conflict management and disaster management.
- Provincial Development Planning: In all 34 provinces Provincial Development Plans (PDPs) have been formulated, taking into account the District Development Plans (DDPs), for this a handbook was developed to guide each team which is continuously updated

- ANDS Sub-National Consultation (SNC) process: MRRD/NABDP had been entrusted to lead this process as a result of the Afghan Development Forum held in April 2007. SNC, conducted from June to August 2007 across the country, was done to identify development priorities of respective communities which further should be taken into consideration for provincial development planning in line with national strategies. The selection of MRRD/NABDP as a driving force of the SNC process is a sign of recognition of its community empowerment expertise and notable achievements.

Economic Regeneration:

- As a follow-up to the comprehensive country-level analysis on Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies (RRERS), which identified potential rural enterprise sectors in various provinces, sector-specific business plans were developed for Balkh, Bamiyan and Herat provinces. These are currently being implemented by several Facilitating Partners (FPs) with the aim of improving the sector value chains, raising business profits and creating rural employment opportunities.
- Under the Border Province Stabilization project, the Economic Regeneration unit has been cooperating with Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP) to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in seven border provinces. Business Development Specialists will provide support to SMEs through support to business planning and the provision of grants and training. The lessons learnt from this project will provide useful input developing future strategies for AREDP's support to SMEs in Afghanistan.

Institutional Development:

- Technical assistance was provided to directors of MRRD departments to draft the MRRD Strategic Intent (SI) Implementation Plan for 1386-1388.
- The Institutional Development (ID) unit has continued to support the MRRD Strategic Advisory Team, which provides advice to the Minister on the restructuring of MRRD departments and programmes. As part of this work, the ID unit is assessing MRRD's human resource allocations to ensure that each department has a sufficient number of staff with the appropriate skills.
- ID unit staff continue to review the PCM process of several of the Ministry's Departments, including HR, Rural Infrastructure Technical Service (RITS), Community-Led Development Department (CLDD), and the Rural Livelihoods & Energy Department (RLED).
- Project Cycle Management workshops have been held for provincial MRRD staff in every region.
- ID unit staff are supporting the development of the Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD) and the MRRD Capacity Development Department.

Implementation Support:

- As of July 2008 NABDP has completed 371 rural infrastructure projects, while 352 projects are ongoing. The 'Kandahar Model' of contracting project implementation and security out to DDAs and CDCs has proven very successful in implementing projects in areas previously thought too insecure for development work, and is now being expanded to other provinces in the southern region.
- Technical support units (TSU) have been set up in six regions. Each unit has in average eight qualified engineers who assist in the identification and surveying of projects. These TSUs do not only serve NABDP, but also other MRRD national priority programmes.

- The TSU in Kandahar has been upgraded to an MRRD regional office and has been delivering intensified support to the reconstruction efforts in Kandahar, Helmand and Uruzgan. Over 3000 projects have been identified in these provinces, which are being implemented as funding becomes available.
- The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of NABDP has completed the NABDP Operational Guidelines on Project Cycle Management.
- The Disbandment of Illegally Armed Groups (DIAG) and Counter Narcotics Trust Fund (CNTF) activities are also managed by ISU on behalf of MRRD. NABDP has also assisted the ministry's Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Programme (WATSIP) and National Rural Access Programme (NRAP) in fundraising and management

Future Priorities:

- **Community Empowerment:** Participatory and consultative mechanisms to be further strengthened at the district (DDA) and provincial (PDC) level to ensure grassroots engagement in an integrated rural development planning and implementation processes. Training modules in subjects such as project management, gender and conflict resolution are being piloted with selected DDAs.
- **Economic Regeneration:** Niche sector rural enterprises will be developed in Bamiyan, Balkh and Heart, while new and existing SMEs will be given assistance in Kandahar, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Kunar, Paktia, Ghazni, and Nimruz. The ER component will continue to support the development of AREDP at the policy and project implementation levels.
- **Institutional Development:** Although continuing to support the growth of institutional capacity and technical capabilities within MRRD, the Institutional Development unit will increasingly focus on enhancing the development delivery process at the provincial and district levels, including work on building the capacity of DDAs.
- **Implementation Support:** ISU will continue supporting and strengthening the MRRD's capacity in regard to project implementation, particularly with other national programmes such as NRAP and WATSIP, and work to mobilize private and public resource. Links with other ministries, development partners and communities to manage integrated rural development projects will be maintained, and ISU will also work on specific projects designed to support national initiatives such as DIAG and CNTF.
- **Energy for Rural Development in Afghanistan (ERDA):** As an initial step, four pilot microhydro projects will be implemented in Bamiyan and Badakhshan provinces, and 100 biogas plants set up in Nangarhar. ERDA will also build capacity for coordination, project identification, planning, implementation, monitoring and sustainable operation of energy systems and services at different levels of governance, and develop policies and strategies on renewable energy in Afghanistan.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: USD 164 million
 Received Budget: USD 135 million
 Shortfall: USD 29 million
 Current Donors: UNDP, CIDA, Belgium, Japan, UNHCR, USA, UK, Norway and Netherlands

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Urban Development Group (Programme)

The UDG consists of 2 ongoing and 1 completed projects namely,

1. **AliceGhan,**
2. **Upgrading Nine Vocational Trainings Centers**
3. **Regional Initiative for Sustainable Economy Projects.**

Major Achievements

AliceGhan (September 2006 - Dec 2008):

The target site of the AliceGhan project is Barikab, Qarabagh District in the north of Kabul Province, where the project will construct 1,400 houses in addition to the provision of basic infrastructure and livelihood support for the beneficiary community. Beneficiary participation, building of sustainable community and the creation of a replicable model for the future returnee/ IDP settlement construction are core principles that guide the implementation. Relevant government authorities, mainly the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations (MoRR), Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and Kabul Governor's Office, have shouldered the planning and implementation responsibilities of this project.

The project is funded by the Government of Australia. The name "AliceGhan" derives from a combination of names "Alice Spring" – a place in Australia which has a strong linkage with Afghan migrants to Australia – and "Afghanistan", symbolizing the partnership and commitment of these two countries to materialize this resettlement project.

AliceGhan aims to support community-built mud brick housing based on labor intensive construction methods. This is based on the principle of maximizing benefits for a maximum number of beneficiaries. The second and third quarter this year was marked with some excellent achievements:

- a) Topography, land use and road map;
- b) Architectural and structural design of infrastructure;
- c) Preparation of Bid Documents;
- d) Technical Evaluation of Bids;
- e) Construction Phase;
- f) Coordination among Stakeholders; and
- g) Location of Sustainable Water Source at Qala-e-Shahi

The community empowerment approach of this project is through development and empowerment of Community Development Groups (CDGs). The aim is to allow the representatives of communities, CDGs, to act as a catalyst for the social and economic development of project beneficiaries and to be a vehicle for promoting sustainable livelihoods. Towards ensuring that beneficiaries have a sustainable avenue for livelihood options even after the completion of the project, the project will focus on developing CDGs / beneficiaries' skills during the construction phase and generating community-based savings to sustain their own infrastructure and services.

The official on-site Inauguration Ceremony at Barikab site was held on 21 June 2007.

Upgrading Nine Vocational Training Centers (August 2007 – December 2008):

The project aims at contributing broadly towards peace and stability in Afghanistan by promoting sustainable livelihood and reintegration processes, meeting the humanitarian needs of Afghan nationals while building capacities in relevant Afghan government agencies. Specifically, the project aims to providing support vocational skills and sustainable livelihood for rural people including disabled, ex combatants and most vulnerable people through upgrading nine vocational training centers and better equipping the Vocational Training Centers in Kabul, Bamyan, Mazar, Jalalabad, Gardez, Herat, Jawzjan, Kunduz and Kandahar. These vocational training centres are run by Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MOLSAMD) with support from JICA. The project is funded by the Government of Japan.

There are two main components of this project explained below:

Out Put (1): Construction and renovation of Vocational Training Centres:

The main component of this project is construction and renovation of nine vocational training centers in nine provinces of Afghanistan i.e. Nangarhar, Kabul, Gardez, Bamyan, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kunduz, Jowzjan, Herat and Kandahar. MoLSAMD began the “Basic Vocational Training Project for Ex-Combatants” in co-operation with Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) in April 2004. Nine vocational training centers were constructed in 2005 under the initiative known as the Japanese Grassroots Fund implemented in Kabul, Bamyan, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, Gardiz, Herat, Jawzjan, Kunduz and Kandahar. These centers were handed-over to MoLSAMD. However, 6 out of 9 centers did not have boundary walls and faced security concerns. In addition, to make these centers fully operational, there was a need for remedial construction works of fix various building defects. These activities were intended to make the vocational training centers fully operational that would enable future vocational training activities. This Project is being implemented through the UNDP Direct Execution Modality (DEX). In this modality, Afghan private sector national construction companies as well as national suppliers are selected to undertake the upgrading works through a competitive bidding process. The construction works for each centre include: construction of permanent outdoor enclosures for generators, construction of boundary walls with installation of window security grills and air conditioning systems. In addition, various building defects arising from poor quality construction by the original building contractors is also being remedied.

The project is being implemented as a collaborative partnership between MoLSAMD the beneficiary ministry, JICA, the main donor and Urban Development Group –the implementing agency.

Out Put (2): Upgrading of Nine Vocational Training Centres through procurement of common tools and spare parts

Under the project, UDG has procured essential assets such as generators, common tools and spare parts and have completed the procurement process of mini-buses for the training centers to make them operational.

Project ID: 00057895

Duration: September 2007 to October 2008

Component (MYFF): Upgrading of Nine Vocational Training Centers

Total Budget: USD 2,056,031

Funded: Japan

Implementing Partners/Responsible parties: UDG/UNDP, JICA and MoLSAMD provided all 6 generators and delivered them to the related provinces.

Regional Initiative for Sustainable Economy (RISE) (Feb 2006 – June 2007):

The project through an integrated regional development approach with urban-rural linkages, intended to promote rural livelihoods and create an enabling environment for sustainable regional economy. The project was jointly implemented by UNDP, Food and Agriculture Organization of UN (FAO) and UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA), and in close collaboration with the relevant government ministries such as Ministry of Urban Development (MOUD), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MoAIL) and local municipalities and departmental authorities in the target regions of Balkh, Nangarhar and Kandahar.

The activities and the achievements under the RISE project were:

Activity 1: Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) capacity building for local government authorities (Provincial Development Committees (PDCs):

In 2006, several M&E training workshops were held in the urban centers of the three target provinces: Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kandahar. In Jalalabad, some on-site M&E exercises were also conducted and the first set of M&E reports were produced.

Activity 2: Employment generation through infrastructure support:

57 infrastructure projects were implemented (including drainage channels, market area upgrading, public toilets, women's / disabled access centers, irrigation protection walls, etc.) in the three target provinces (mostly provincial capitals). Two Joint Monitoring Missions were conducted to Jalalabad (22 April 2007) and Mazar (11 June 2007) with representatives from Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock as well as from the Embassy of Japan, and on these occasions hand-over ceremonies were organized for completed infrastructures such as drainages in Jalalabad city and a vegetable market and a public toilet in Mazar. In all the three provinces, as of end June 2007 some 157,000 labour days of employment were generated, with priority given to the most vulnerable groups of society including returnees, Internal Displaced Persons, the disabled and vulnerable women.

Activity 3: Empowerment of vulnerable farmers:

All the agricultural input distribution beneficiaries (such as wheat seed, fruit stone seed, basic farming equipments, livestock, fish pond, etc.) for 2,000 selected and related training activities are on-going smoothly. As of end June 2007, a total of over 650 fruit tree nurseries established, over 600 green houses installed and 672 livestock distributed in the three target provinces. Efforts have been made to procure items locally in order to contribute to the local economy as well as for cost-effectiveness. In March 2007 five new activities were further added including training on animal health, animal feed distribution, pest & plant protection management and nutrition training & education. Technical training workshops have been conducted both in Kabul and regions.

Activity 4: Mine/UXO survey & clearance

In all the three target regions RISE project sites were surveyed and cleared. In Balkh and Nangarhar the mine/UXO (unexploded ordnances) contamination level turned out to be much less than earlier expected, and the RISE de-mining teams are deployed for humanitarian de-mining to cover wider areas. In Kandahar de-mining works continue for RISE and surrounding areas, but the security constraints

compelled activities to be suspended in some districts. As the achievement of RISE-funded de-mining teams, 413,458 square meters were cleared in total. 256 APMs, 1,527 UXOs and fragments were removed and destroyed from July to December 2006 operations. In late 2006, a new activity of Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victim Assistance (VA) was added to this component, which has been undertaken smoothly. More than 20,000 people have benefited from the MRE/VA activities under RISE.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 21,434,296
Received Budget: US\$ 21,434,296
Shortfall: N/A
Donors: Government of Australia and Government of Japan
Number of Project Staff: 10 International and 4 National

Focal Points:

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Sustainable Environment Management

The long period of war and conflict, the subsequent influx of returnees and population growth, coupled with the practice of unsustainable use of resources in harsh natural conditions, have caused numerous environment problems in the urban and rural areas across the country. The most alarming ones include topsoil erosion, loss of vegetation cover and biodiversity, rapid deforestation and desertification, depleting wildlife and degraded ecosystems to include groundwater depletion, and urban pollution. The proper management of the natural resources is thus a very important foundation for longer-term development of Afghanistan – and recognized as such in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), in which environment features as a cross-cutting issue. However, its translation into comprehensive cross-sectoral plans requires more attention. Environment protection is vital for sustainable development given the explicit nexus between poverty, vulnerability and environmental health. In addition, energy is recognized as a necessary means to reach all the development outcomes including the MDGs goals.

At the corporate level, energy and environment is one of the main practice areas of UNDP. The Energy & Environment (E&E) Programme Framework of UNDP Afghanistan was formulated in late 2005. It is designed to contribute towards attaining Afghanistan's MDGs, Afghanistan Compact and Interim ANDS (i-ANDS) (Benchmark 3.7 - Establishing environmental regulatory frameworks and management services). In close collaboration with the UN partners such as UNEP, FAO and WFP, as well as the line ministries such as the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livelihood (MoAIL) and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the E&E Programme is currently working on the following priority areas:

- 1) Mainstreaming environment into national development policy and planning
- 2) Land and water management programme
- 3) Sustainable rural energy

Major Achievements:

Mainstreaming environment into national development policy and planning

- Participation in the UN joint environmental programme "Greening Afghanistan Initiative" (GAIN) – led by the UN Country Team of Afghanistan with participation of FAO, UNDP, UNOPS, WFP and UNEP. Under the GAIN framework, UNDP has been implementing the "Environmental Awareness Raising & Capacity Building" Project, and the Integrated Environmental Protection Project mainly targeting five provinces in north Afghanistan: Balkh, Saripul, Samangan, Jawzjan and Faryab. The achievements / activities of UNDP GAIN so far include:

- 64 Village Environment Committees established and institutionalized;
- A number of environmental promotion materials produced and distributed to target groups;
- 120 schools provided with environment awareness training - over 100,000 students (boys and girls) were reached and 73 Green Generation Clubs (GGC) established. GGC is student-based entity in schools which provide a platform for sensitizing environment among the school children as well as mobilising schoolchildren to plan and implement micro environmental conservation projects;
- Adopt-A-Tree Programme implemented in 50 schools in Samangan, Shebrgan, Saripu, Maimana and Pusthoon kot districts in the north through which 35,000 saplings planted and survived.
- 160 provincial government high officials provided with environment awareness training through four urban greening workshops. Four Urban Greening Committees established;

- 2,000 rural women provided with environment awareness training, especially to sensitise about the needs and methods to increase tree survival rate after plantation; these women have been supported through WFP to establish private nurseries and grow around 4,000,000 saplings in their nurseries.
 - Regional GAIN Advisory Board was established and meetings convened, which included environmental activities in the north.
 - The project concluded a baseline assessment of 800 nurseries established by rural women in Nahrshahi, Dehdadi, Balkh and Khulm districts of Balkh province, and distributed fertilizers; and
 - Environmental publicity through, inter alia, the celebration of World Environment Day (5th June) in Balkh and Kabul in collaboration with NEPA and other UN GAIN partners.
- Substantial input given from the environmental perspective during the donor review process of relevant ANDS Sector Strategies, such as Environment, Water, Regional Cooperation, Energy, Urban development, Rural and Agricultural Development, etc. (September-November 2007).
 - In this quarter, a new UN Joint Programme proposal on “Strengthened Approach for the Integration of Sustainable Environmental Management in Afghanistan” was signed by UN partners and line ministries including UNAMA, UNDP, FAO, UNEP, NEPA, MoAIL and MRRD). This 3-year Programme is funded by the newly established UNDP-Spain MDG Achievement Fund.
 - The GEF funded Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management Project has been signed and will start within 2008 which will mainly focus on mainstreaming SLM into national policies, plans and legislation, institutional and human capacity development for SLM, capacity development for knowledge management for SLM, completion of national action programme and investment planning and resource mobilization for the implementation of SLM.
 - As part of the capacity building and policy mainstreaming, support provided for relevant government representatives for participation in a number of environment-related international workshops.
 - The GEF start-up assessment mission for the start of the Small Grants Programme was successfully conducted; as a result Bamyan has been initially qualified for start-up of SGP and further expanded to Badakhshan. This Programme provides the NGOs/CBOs with small grants of up to 50,000 to implement environmental projects at grassroots level.

Land and water management

- Participation in two UNEP hosted technical meetings on “Integrated Water Resource Management and the Sistan Basin Wetlands” (Geneva, 5-7 December 2005 and 15-18 May 2006) with delegates from Afghanistan and Iran Governments. Further, a transboundary project entitled, “Restoration and Sustainable Use of Shared Sistan Basin” for collaboration between Iran and Afghanistan was finalized and submitted to GEF for Approval.
- Support provided for MoAIL to prepare the Afghanistan National Report on Desertification for the submission to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Following this, UNDP also supported MoAIL’s participation in the regional report synthesis workshop on 7-11 August 2006, Bangkok, Thailand, and the UNCCD COP 8 (Madrid, September 2007).
- Support provided for NEPA for the organization of the meeting of the Environment and Security in the upper Amu Darya River Basin between Afghanistan and Tajikistan (20-21 November 2007, Kabul).
- NEPA visit facilitated to attend GEF Sub-Regional Workshop for Government Focal Points on 2-3 December 2007, Bali, Indonesia.

Sustainable rural energy

- Following the Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis of energy sector in Afghanistan conducted in 2005, a rural energy survey was conducted in Balkh, Jawzjan, Saripul and Samangan provinces in 2007. The data from all the provinces have been analyzed and the final survey report is being drafted.
- Rural energy project formulation missions have been conducted in November 2006 and April-May 2007 during which a wide consultation was undertaken with the government and other stakeholders. As a result, a rural and renewable energy project has been initiated as a sub-component of NABDP within MRRD, titled "Energy for Rural Development Afghanistan". In this quarter the recruitment of the core ERDA team made progress. (See also the above NABDP section.)
- A Carbon Development Mechanism (CDM) framework for Afghanistan was drafted by an expert mission and shared with relevant stakeholders for further discussion. The final version will be produced.

Future Priorities:

- GAIN: Establishment of 40 VECs, implementation of 80 micro environment projects at village levels, establishment of 80 Green Generation Clubs, implementation of Adopt-A-Tree Programme in 40 schools, delivering environmental awareness raising to 800 men and women of the communities, arrangement workshops for VECs, teacher patrons and government staff.
- Strengthen collaborative partnership with key UN agencies such as UNEP, FAO on promoting environment governance.
- Build partnership with CDCs in NSP covered districts to strengthen environment institutions at village level.
- Continue supporting institutional capacity building of NEPA and MoAIL.
- Complete recruitment and initiate implementation of ERDA under NABDP.
- Strengthen strategic focus on building capacity of NEPA for mainstreaming energy and environment in Afghanistan.
- Strengthen coordination and cooperation amongst the environment stakeholders.
- Resource mobilization and further refinement of the E&E portfolio in line with the UNDP Strategic Plan 2008-2011.

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget:	USD 4,161,202.00
Received Budget:	USD 3,735,331.00
Shortfall:	USD 425,871.00
Donors:	GEF, MDG Spanish-fund, UNDP, WFP (USAID and SDC)

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Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Programme

Afghanistan is recurrently hit by natural disasters causing losses to lives, livelihoods and property. In recent decades, this has led to massive problems of food insecurity and population exodus from the worst-hit areas. Between 1970 and 1998, the country experienced 57 large-scale disasters. Vulnerability to disaster risk has increased significantly as coping capacities have been reduced due to prolonged conflict.

UNDP has worked in collaboration with UNAMA, Asian Development Bank and the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen the capacity of key institutions such as the Government's Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority. With funding from the Afghan Emergency Trust Fund (AETF), UNDP Core resources and the Asian Development Bank, a Disaster Management Framework, a Strategy for Institutional Strengthening in Risk Management, a National Disaster Management Plan and a Training Needs Assessment were developed.

Since mid 2004 the disaster risk reduction portfolio initiated in UNDP country office. UNDP took over the management over sight of the UNAMA initiated Disaster Management Capacity Building projects.

As part of the Framework, several key interventions were identified and conducted in 2005. The interventions were to build the capacity of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), government at centre and provincial levels. Build the capacity of communities, civil society and corporate sector. It also focused on information management system.

Capacity Development Interventions:

- Community Based Disaster Management Programme
- Disaster Management Training Programme
- Disaster Management Information Systems
- Sub-national Disaster Management Plans

Major Achievements:

Capacity Building of Government, Community and other Stakeholders (NGOs, Civil Society private sectors):

1. ANDMA personnel have been trained in basic computer skills and on information management system
2. Selective ANDMA personnel have been trained to operate the National Emergency Operations Centre.
3. National Emergency Operations Centre has been equipped and established at ANDMA.
4. A number of community level disaster mitigation action plans have been developed.
5. Approximately 1500 officials across the 8 regions have been delivered basic disaster management trainings
6. Provincial Emergency Commission in 14 provinces have been assisted to establish provincial disaster management plans.
7. Community Base Disaster Awareness and Mitigation Project was implemented to introduce a culture of prevention and preparedness by raising the awareness of communities for mitigation measures in areas prone to earthquakes, floods and drought.
8. A disaster management information system (DMIS) was established and the ANDMA officials and officials from other relevant government organs were trained in two provinces as a pilot project (Kabul and Kunduz).

Emergency Response Activities:

9. Government has been supported for active response in emergencies for example. Winter Response 2004-2005, Flood responses 2005 and Drought response and preparedness activities 2004-2006.
10. Government was supported in managing 2005-2006 winter emergency by arranging provision of food and non-food emergency materials to vulnerable communities in Kabul and 12 other provinces.
11. Government was supported in managing emergency transporting drinking water to the most affected areas in the Drought 2006.
12. Assisting government in emergency responses during the floods 2006, 2007

Mitigation and Preparedness Activities 2005, 2006:

13. Management of Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education Programme in 6 provinces for approximately 150,000 individuals as direct beneficiaries in the drought affected districts
14. Provision of Safe Drinking Water Supply for 60,000 drought affected inhabitant of Aibak City, Samangan Province
15. Rehabilitation and extension of Astana Valley Water Supply System directly benefited 3800 families and indirectly benefited 2500 families for safe drinking water in Astana valley Faryab Province.
16. Emergency embankment of Amu (Oxus) river in 16 districts of four provinces namely Takhar, Kunduz, Blakh and Takhar, agriculture, villages and infrastructures such is schools, intakes of canals, bridges have been protected along the Oxus river bank.
17. Provision of wheat Seeds and Fertilizer to 2700 households of the most drought affected districts in Ghazni, Ghor, Herat, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces.
18. Assisting government in keeping the main roads, Passes and air strips open during the winter 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

Risk Reduction 2006 – 2011:

19. Multiyear Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (CDRRP) Document for Afghanistan has been developed and approved. The objective of the programme is to strengthen the capacity of the Government to manage risk reduction and deal with disasters, both at the national and sub-national levels.
20. A pilot project for public awareness, ANDMA capacity building and development of disaster preparedness and response plan and procedures in Kunduz provinces on going.
21. Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction project office established, equipped and staffed in ANDMA
22. Supporting to UNAMA through 9 humanitarian officers recruited to enhance humanitarian coordination, advocacy and awareness rising on humanitarian issues and protection of civilians at central and regional levels.
23. Production of public awareness posters on drought, earthquake, floods, Land slides and avalanches through a local media organization ongoing
24. ANDMA work procedures manual and business plan have been developed and started implementation
25. DMIS pilot project has been reviewed and contracting with AIMS for developing regional DMIS is on going

26. Feasibility study on school safety and mainstreaming disaster management in to school curriculum on going

Future Priorities

- Developing public awareness and education material and Disseminating through mass media and schools.
- Consultation with Ministry of Education for inclusion of DRM in School Curriculum
- Resource Mobilization for CDRRP
- Develop and implement work procedures manual and ANDMA business plan
- Review government development process for mainstreaming risk reduction
- Conduct disaster risk reduction analysis and develop Disaster Management Information System (DMIS)
- Make agreement with Ministry of Higher Education for inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the curricula of higher education

Partnerships and Resources

Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and other Key Government Ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and Civil Societies

Target Budget (2007-2011) : US\$ 9,811,515 + US\$ 1,847,918 = US\$ 11,659,433

Donors: UNDP, ECHO, Norway = USD\$ 2,725,566.9

Shortfall: US\$ 8,933,866

Focal Point: Mohammad Sediq Orya, Programme officer (mohammad.sediq.orya@undp.org)

Private Sector Development Programme

The Private Sector Programme consists of the following projects,

- 1. Partnerships for Private Sector Development (PPSD 2004-2006)**
- 2. Promotion of Regional Trade Cooperation (RTCP 2005-2007)**
- 3. Trade and Private Sector Development (TPSD 2007-2010)**

UNDP's Private Sector Development Programme is aligned with the government's long-term goal of economic growth, employment creation and poverty reduction. In particular, the programme is supporting the Government in attaining two, five-year strategic benchmarks as outlined in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

These strategic benchmarks relate to:

1. The formulation of policies and regulations related to trade and investment, especially impacting small and medium enterprises: and
2. Supporting Afghanistan's increased integration with the region's economies and the multilateral trading system.

The programme is also directly contributed to the achievement of the United Nations Development Strategy to improve the opportunities for vulnerable groups in a strengthened formal economy and private sector (UNDAF).

Major Achievements

Partnerships for Private Sector Development (PPSD 2004-2006)

Achievements of PPSD included:

- The provision of a business-registration database to assist AISA to track, register and provide information to investors on active, licensed businesses throughout Afghanistan.
- A market-sector assessment on the horticulture sector was disseminated in the local and international business communities, donors and other stakeholders.
- Training Needs Assessment of the business community in Afghanistan conducted and results published.
- Cross-sectoral study on the small- and medium-sized enterprise sector was published in March 2005.

Promotion of Regional Trade Cooperation (RTCP 2005-2007)

Achievements of RTCP included:

- Bilateral Business Meeting (Afghanistan – Uzbekistan) March 2005: Focused on engaging businesses from Uzbekistan to participate in Afghanistan's reconstruction. This was the first bilateral discussion, on the issues of common economic interest, between the Afghan and Uzbek governments and business representatives.
- ECO Trade and Industry Conference and Fair, Kabul: Provided substantive and organizational inputs, for the successful conduct of the conference; substantive support and participation at the 4th High Level Expert Group Meeting on Trade, Investment, and Other Related Matters; and support to businesses from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to participate at the ECO trade fair – a first for the participating companies.

- Regional Economic Conference, Kabul: Delivered the following activities in support of the conference, through AISA - Support to the organization of the Technical Working Group on Trade, Investment and the Business Climate with participation from Governments and the Private Sector, suggestions of which were incorporated into the Kabul Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation; and Substantive inputs, through expert presentations and papers, on regional trade potential and the legal aspects of international trade.
- CSATTF Second Trade and Customs Working Group Meeting, Bangkok: The Project was invited to participate at the meeting organized by the Central and South Asia Transport and Trade Forum (CSATTF) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Tour for Revival of Afghanistan's Dried-Fruits Industry (22 Feb-1March 2006):Afghan delegation of 22 member, comprising senior officials from the Ministries of Commerce, Agriculture and Rural Rehabilitation and Development, as well as representatives of trade support institutions and business groups visited Malaysia to study first hand the institutions, farm-technologies and processing techniques for adaptation in Afghanistan.
- Support to the Afghanistan International Investment Conference and Exhibition: The Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) organized the conference and exhibition from 9 to 12 May 2006. Support was provided through substantive inputs and insuring the participation of potential investors from regional countries at the event. Two investment proposals in the dairy products sector were realized.
- AISA CEO requested the programme's assistance with upgrading their business registration database. This database was originally provided by PPSD and is based on MS Access. AISA has expanded its functions and staffing levels during the past 12 months, and is now undertaking many more functions than originally stated in its mandate. Therefore, AISA wished to be able to track investment into Afghanistan more thoroughly and obtain more relevant and timely business investment information from the database than what was available.
- Support to the Second RECC and RBFA: As a follow-up to the first Regional Economic Cooperation Conference (RECC) organized in Kabul during December 2005, the Second RECC was hosted in New Delhi, India, on 18 and 19 November 2006. The Regional Business Forum for Afghanistan (RBFA) was organized concurrently with the RECC.
- Roundtable on "Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Nurturing an Enabling Environment for SME Development in Afghanistan", 2 June 2007, Kabul

UNDP and Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) jointly organized the roundtable, inaugurated by HE Dr. Mir Mohammad Amin Frahang, Minister of Commerce and Industries of Afghanistan. More than 120 representatives from the Government, Private Sector, Trade and Investment Support Institutions, Non-Governmental and International Organizations participated in this meeting. The purpose of the roundtable was to together representatives from Government, Private Sector, Trade and Investment Support Institutions, Non-Governmental and International Organizations to discuss promotion of a favorable climate for SMEs development of Afghanistan.

- Support to the Enabling Environment for Effective Private Sector Conference: UNDP, Govt. of Afghanistan, Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), World Bank and Asian Development Bank organized "Enabling Environment for Effective Private Sector" conference took place in Kabul on the 4th and 5th of June,2007. The conference focused on creating the conditions necessary to significantly increase the contribution of the private sector – defined as both for-profit business and not-for-profit civil society – to social, economic, and cultural development in Afghanistan. UNDP supported the ECO conference generally in communications which consist of simultaneous translation of the languages English, Dari, Russian and vice versa, the simultaneous translation system, conference sound system etc
- Community Based Solar Drying Facility, was established in 2006 in Dulana village, Parwan Province

3. Trade and Private Sector Development (TPSD 2007-2010)

The Trade and Private Sector Development Programme (TPSD) continues this assistance from 2007-2010. In collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, other line Ministries and donors, as targeted specific areas to support future efforts to promote entrepreneurship, institutional development and an enabling environment for free enterprise.

TPSD components are:

- Trade and Private Sector Development Programme will target trade and investment support institutions. The objective is to enhance the capacity of national counterparts in both the private and public sectors so that an enabling environment can be created, which provides support for long-term private sector development.
- The programme will contribute to the creation of an inclusive regulatory environment through the design of a national SME policy and assisting in Afghanistan's WTO accession preparations through policy advocacy and information dissemination.
- Trade and Private Sector Development Programme will focus on micro and small agriculturally-based businesses with cooperation Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD).

Future Priorities:

- Productive assistance provided to micro and small enterprises capable of import competition and/or exporting, in order for the benefits of economic growth to be more equitably distributed.
- Assistance provided to viable business-oriented institutions with long-term sustainability and business plans
- Mutually productive partnerships with other donors, ministries and institutions to be established to provide multiplier effects on benefits for the private sector.
- Continue to support this unique window of opportunity for Afghanistan to economically integrate more effectively within the region and international community

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 8,481,500
Received Budget: US\$ 900,000
Shortfall: US\$ \$ 7,581,500
Donor: UNDP

Focal Points:

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Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP)

The UNDP Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP) is comprised of three inter-related projects, as follows:

- 1. Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)**
- 2. Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG)**
- 3. Anti-Personnel Mines & Ammunition Stockpile Destruction Project (Mines & Ammunition)**

These UNDP/ANBP projects respectively contribute to the Security Sector and Economic and Social Development benchmarks of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy:

1. By end-2010, employment opportunities for youth and demobilized soldiers will be increased through special programmes.
2. All illegal armed groups will be disbanded by end-2011 in all provinces, and
3. By end-2010, in line with Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Afghanistan's Ottawa Convention obligations, the land area contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance will be reduced by 70%; all stockpiled anti-personnel mines will be located and destroyed by end-2007; and by end-2010, all unsafe, unserviceable and surplus ammunition will be destroyed.

1. Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (2003 – 2006)

As part of the Security Sector Reforms (SSR), ANBP aimed to support the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) in establishing and implementing a comprehensive, country-wide Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme of the Afghan Military Forces (AMF) in line with the commitment of the Tokyo conference in February 2003.

The immediate objective of DDR was to encourage former AMF to leave their military allegiance behind and look forward to a civilian life of gainful employment in community solidarity.

The DDR mandate came to an end in June 2006, with the last AMF members officially handing their weapons over to President Karzai in a ceremony held in Kabul. During this period, the DDR programme successfully achieved its planned outputs through disarming, demobilizing and providing reintegration support to approximately 63,000 ex-combatants.

ANBP's mandate only required it to dismantle the AMF, but its unique capacity in Afghanistan has brought about additional responsibilities. In support of the Afghan Government, and at its specific request, ANBP started a nationwide ammunition survey, collecting and destroying the most dangerous anti-personnel mine and ammunition stockpiles; and collected data on, and assisted in the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups.

Ongoing Projects & Achievements

2. Anti-Personnel Mine & Ammunition Stockpile Destruction (Mines & Ammunition) (Dec 2004 – Mar 2009)

Recognizing the logistical and security risk of surplus ammunition and anti-personnel mines in military and civil communities, the Anti-Personnel Mine and Ammunition Stockpile Destruction (Mine & Ammunition) project supports government in collecting and destroying the most dangerous stockpiles.

The destruction of anti-personnel mines as part of ANBP's ongoing ammunition survey effort not only alleviates the threat of the ordnance itself, but has simultaneously assisted the Government in meeting its stockpile destruction obligations as a State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction "Ottawa Convention." The project has till date recovered 2,229 caches of ammunition and mines and is in the process of ensuring that all known stockpiles of anti-personnel mines are destroyed to enable the government to meet obligation to the Ottawa treaty on ban of all anti-personnel mines. The ammunition survey teams along with the implementing partners are deployed across eight regions within the country and have been able to achieve the following till date:

• Ammunition Surveyed	33,060	Tons
• Ammunition consolidated	9,596	Tons
• Ammunition destroyed	20,097	Tons
• Anti-Personnel Mines destroyed	501,090	Pcs
• Anti-Tank Mines destroyed	22,233	Pcs
• Total Caches surveyed	2,229	

3. Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) (Jan 2005 – Mar 2009)

Recognizing the need to support and strengthen a Government initiative to tackle the problems caused by numerous illegal armed groups in Afghanistan, the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) project aims at supporting the Government in improving human security through disarmament and disbandment of illegal armed groups and reducing the level of armed violence in the community. DIAG also seeks to empower existing Government programmes for socio-economic development to enhance stability and the promotion of good governance, which is an essential and integral part of the Security Sector Reforms in Afghanistan.

To date, DIAG collected a total of 39,717 weapons (35,430 light and 4,287 heavy). Also, 338 IAG commanders signed a DIAG Statement of Declaration and announced that they have disbanded their groups and handed over their weapons. Additionally DIAG District Implementation (DDI) was introduced in the second quarter of 2007, whereby districts identified as more readily complying with DIAG were targeted. To date, of the 70 districts targeted 35 districts have complied, and 3,804 weapons (2,800 operational) have been deposited under the DDI process since its inception.

At the same time DIAG made significant progress in enhancing government capacity to transition to the government. Construction of the MoI DIAG Unit was completed in the second quarter. Likewise, an MoI appointments panel with D&R Commission input selected the police staff for the central unit of 24 staff plus some 10 temporary support staff, primarily to work in the DIAG Unit under the Counter-Terrorism Unit. Finally Private Security Companies (PSCs) registration was announced with 36 companies registering. Nevertheless owing to conditions beyond the project's control, activities are falling behind schedule which jeopardizes the complete transition by the end of the project mandate.

Future Priorities

ANBP will continue to support DIAG, which is government led with planning, capacity and implementation assistance. With the transition to government falling behind schedule, ANBP is meeting regularly with relevant government officials to address the matter. Likewise for DIAG activities that are tied to other UNDP projects including the Law and Order trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) and the National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP) ANBP remains engaged with UNDP Country Office to expedite the matter.

The priority for the Mine & Ammunition programme is the increased destruction of stockpiled ammunition and mines which will result in reducing the threat of explosive ordinance to communities, as well enhancing the capacity of the Ministry of Defence to transition the project to the government.

Partnerships and Resources

DDR Budget:	US\$ 140,930,315
Received Budget:	US\$ 140,936,315
Donors:	Japan, United Kingdom, Canada, United States, Netherlands, European Union, Norway, Switzerland, EC

Mines & Ammunition Target Budget:	US\$ 22,744,135.76
Received Budget:	US\$ 21,510,547.97
Balance Commitment to be received:	US\$ 1,233,587.79
Donors:	Canada, UK, MOF, UNDP, EC, Norway, Netherlands

DIAG Target Budget:	US\$ 22,309,678.21
Received Budget:	US\$ 22,309,678.21
Donors:	Japan, Canada, UK, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, UNDP, Italy, Norway, USA

Focal Points:

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Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS)

The Afghanistan Compact and the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (IANDS) were both approved at the London Conference in January 2006. The Compact was subsequently endorsed by the UN Security Council.

The preparation phase of the ANDS started in June 2006 and ended in January 2007. This phase was developed between UNDP and the Government of Afghanistan with the financial support from DfID and UNDP core resources. The preparatory phase provided the basis to develop the ANDS work plan, recruiting the national staff and international support teams and consulting and agreeing upon the support and engagement required from the donors for the full programme document.

During this phase, a number of key issues were identified, consulted and addressed during the consultation with the donors. These included the institutional relationship between the ANDS Directorate and the line ministries, overall costed sustainability, national ownership, operating costs, and the ratio of international consultants employed either directly through the project or via parallel mechanisms. In 2007, the original project document has been refined and adjusted in the preparatory phase to incorporate these concerns and signed by the Government of Afghanistan and UNDP management in February 2007. This project focus on support deemed essential for the production of the ANDS and operation of the JCMB Secretariat. Capacity development support to line ministries and other Government agencies – originally a part of the project – will now be undertaken as a separate and complementary initiative.

The main objective of the process is to develop and implement a pro-poor strategy that will be costed, prioritized, sequenced and budgeted and that reflects a broad consensus on national and provincial priorities in order to fight poverty.

During the project period, the Afghan Government will formulate and commence implementation of its National Development Strategy to meet the requirements of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). To prepare the ANDS it will develop and implement ministry-based sector strategies to reach the Compact benchmarks. Collectively these strategies will combine to create the full Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

Major Achievements

UNDP strongly supported the ANDS/JCMB team in recruitment for provincial consultation officers, sector coordinators, pillar coordinators, communication office and other support staff that strongly contribute to the process of I -ANDS preparation. Regular consultative Group and Working Group meetings are taking place.

During the past months, a wide-ranging awareness campaign was initiated on June 24 in parallel to the launch of the sub-national consultations throughout the country in which the sub-national consultations were conducted.

During this consultation process, media packages were disseminated to the local media where the consultations were taking place in different provinces. These packages were also shared with the participants of the sub-national consultations one week prior to the initiation of the consultation. Support materials for this campaign were being developed. Big billboards advertising the overall development process in Afghanistan were put up in all main cities throughout the country.

During the consultation process, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) played the role of facilitator and coordinated the sub-national consultations through UNDP's National Area Based

Development (NABDP) project. These series consultations were divided into two sets of workshops. During the first phase of these workshops were dedicated to presenting ministry strategies to the consultation participants for their advice and validation. The second set of workshops focused to develop all essential inputs for provincial development plans (PDPs).

All ministries provided the opportunity to comment on their won strategies received during the sub-national consultations, and ANDS has discussed with all concerned on how to integrate these comments into their ministry strategies.

These consultations were attended by 8,000 participants from all 34 participants, donors, NGOs and Civil Society organizations. On average, approximately 40% of the participants were female.

The first draft of 17 sector strategies had been prepared by line ministries. ANDS sector strategies have been drafted for the following sectors: 1) Agriculture and Rural Development, 2) Information and Communication Technology, 3) Education, 4) Energy, 5) Health, 6) Justice and the Rule of Law, 7) Governance, 8) Media and Culture, 9) Mines and Natural Resources, 10) Private Sector Development, 11) Refugees, Returnees, and IDPs, 12) Religious Affairs, 13) Social Protection, 14) Transport, 15) Water Resource Management, 16) Urban Development, and the 17) Macroeconomic Framework. Strategies have also been written for five cross cutting issues: 1) Gender, 2) Counter-Narcotics, 3) Anti-Corruption, 4) Environment and 5) Regional Cooperation. The preparation of three of the sector strategies – Education, Health, and Transport – has been sped up so that they can be costed and integrated into the 1387 budget.

Based on the request of the ANDS Secretariat UNDP has commenced facilitating a dialogue process with donors and representatives of international organizations on every sector strategy of the ANDS. ANDS secretariat was provided by the outcome of the donor dialogue and a package of consolidated and specific comments from participants.

Future Priorities

- Identifying the costing for the MDG
- Finalizing the sector strategies in consideration of comments received during the donor dialogue.
- Number of donors are engaged in dialogue on the ANDS
- ANDS translated and disseminated nationally and sub-national
- Costing of the prioritized sectoral strategies;
- Recruitment of consultants to work on conflict management and poverty related issues;
- Provide training to CSO and ANDS staff on poverty line, Poverty Gap and measurement;
- ANDS/PRSP production, publication and dissemination at provincial level;
- Development of materials in Pashto/ Dari for the awareness-raising campaigns - including dramas, radio programmes, short movies, media packages, briefing packages for MPs and Civil servants, and Afghan Embassies;
- Organize the training of local media on the MDGs, and the ANDS (newspapers, radios, TV);
- Support to JCMB secretariat establishment;

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget: USD 8,773,141

Received budget: all donor contributions listed here have been pledged in writing and formalized through signed agreements. So far we received USD 4,580,789 from the following donors.

Donors: CIDA USD 1,909, 189, DFID USD 2,337,861 Italy USD 249,688, UN RC 55,000, Norway USD 269,841 (139,417 USD received), Netherlands USD 239,141 and UNDP Core USD 309,000.

Focal Point: Mohammad Sediq Orya, Programme officer (mohammad.sediq.orya@undp.org)

Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD)

The core objective of the project is to support long-term capacity for research, advocacy, and teaching on human development in Afghanistan. The project will also propose human development policy recommendations for Afghanistan to build national capacity to formulate and influence people-oriented strategies and solutions. This project seeks to enrich data collection efforts at the national level, including methodologies for data analysis; influencing UNDP programme/project formulation and policy support; and to serve as a platform for action among civil society actors.

The process of developing the Afghanistan National Human Development Report is now poised to contribute to a refinement of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and National Development Budget by providing an overall human development vision for the country and direction for medium to long-term development building consensus on the development priorities of the government by launching policy debates and advocacy on human development issues and making recommendation for provincial development and identifying regional/provincial disparities.

Major Achievements (2007)

- National consultation conducted in five provinces (Nangarhar, Mazar, Herat, Paktya and Wardak and Ghazni);
- Background papers reviewed and used for drafting of the Human Development Report;
- The Peer review group completed the process of review and the NHDR team incorporated comments received from this group;
- The tem of the NHDR briefed UN team on progress made re the drafting process of the report and the outcome of the consultations with local people at provincial level;
- Special lecture series on policy issues with direct implication to human development of Afghans was conducted featuring high profile speakers such as Barnett Rubin of New York University (NYU), Jonathan Good hand of School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), and Antonio Donini of Tufts University.
- The preparation of Afghanistan Human Development Report (AHDR) 2007 was completed in June 2007;
- The Pashto, Dari and English versions of the report finalized and printed in Islamabad;
- The implementation of the AHDR 2007 outreach and advocacy strategy (which had been finalized in the previous quarter) was initiated during this quarter.
- In July, the report was presented in Rome conference to a number of audience representing donor communities, governments and other organizations working in Afghanistan especially in the area of Rule of Law and Human Rights.
- The AHDR launched on 27 September New York and this event was followed by a well received event in Washington DC at the United States Institute of Peace , organized jointly by CPHD, UNDP's Liaison Office in Washington DC and the USIP.
- The NHDR launched on 18 November at Kabul University, where the main speakers were H.E. Ahmad Zia Masoud first vice president, Bo Asplund DSRSG, Dr. Sarwar Danish, Minister of Justice, H. E. Azam Dadfar, Minister of Higher Education and Chancellor of Kabul University.

Major Achievements (2008)

- Guest lectures conducted at Kabul University in a continuous base.
- To build the capacity of Kabul University, around 20 of its teachers sent to India.
- 6 months Human Development and Research Methodologies course conducted. This course covers 43 teachers of the university and has two parts, 1) Human Development which lasts for 4 months and 2) Research which lasts for two months. The course is ending by end of September 08 and the second one will be started afterward.
- CPHD established a network with national and international institutions.
- CPHD developed universities profiles for 11 public universities in Afghanistan.
- Rule of Law, Gender and human development training workshops held in partnership with Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales.
- Board of writers, advisors and editors has been identified and selected for SERENA Magazine.
- The first volume of the magazine is going to be published in first week of August 08
- Articles on core concept of Human Development are translated in to two afghan national languages (Pashto and Dari)
- Preliminary works has been started for the next NHDR (2009).
- The project document for CPHD is revised and signed.
- AWP and the budget is developed for 2008

Future Priorities

- Organize guest lectures at Kabul University;
- Recruit consultant to assist the NHDR and CO team;
- Start a next course of Human Development and Research Methodologies at KU.
- International Exchange Programme: Consultation has been made on the type and size of an exchange programme that could be beneficial for the faculty and students of Kabul University. This component should be operationalised during the first/second quarter of 2008.
- Raise additional resources for exchange and capacity building programmes for 2008/9;
- To expand the capacity building and international exchange programs.
- Involvement of at least one other afghan national university for exchange and capacity building program.

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget 2006-2007: US\$ 1,000,732 UNDP Core
 Received Budget (2008 and 2009): US\$ 1,457,828
 Donors: UNDP core resources.
 Shortfall: 2008-2009 US\$ 1,153,096

Focal Point:

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Reintegration Support Project for Ex-Combatants (RSPE)

This project draws from the conclusions and recommendations of the BCPR mission, builds on the experiences and lessons learnt from the 'Reintegration' component of the former DDR programme aiming to contribute ANDS benchmark by focusing on the following dual objectives:

- Provide reintegration support services to ex-combatants and their family members and facilitate their access to livelihood opportunities under the GoA, UN, private sector and other donor funded programmes and projects.
- Support Institutional organizational capacity building of Ministry of Social, Martyrs and Disabled Affairs (MoLSAMD) to own and lead the reintegration efforts (beyond the project duration).

Component 1 (referral services and support for employment for XC and their family including all Afghan) the project will work through the existing 11 Employment service centers (ESC) of MoLSAMD. These are located in Kabul (2 ESC), Herat, Mazar, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Gardez, Ghazni, Pul-i-kumri, Jozwan, Kunduz. Another office will be established towards the end of 2007 in Bamyán based on the assessment of Labor Market status in the said province.

Within this component, following main activities for referral services are:

- Capacity building of ESC to focus specifically on referral services of XCs.
- An information campaign will be launched nation wide in order to inform XCs of services provided by ESC for them, and interested XCs will be registered, interviewed and counseling will be provided on services offered.
- Job placement training given to XC to qualify for placement into formal wage employment.
- Training in soft skills related to the labour market will be delivered, such as occupational safety and health and working conditions, social dialogue, fundamental labour standards and gender equality, health and nutrition and HIV/AIDS.
- Preparation for calling of tender specifically the training of ex-combatants and their families.

Component 2, Greater capacity development at (i) Organizational & Human Resource and at (ii) Strategy & Policy levels within MoLSAMD to lead on reintegration services for XCs.

(i) The main activities are building institutional capacity through HR development of ministry to lead and coordinate on reintegration for XC. Based on the need assessment, job training of MoLSAMD staff at the central and provincial levels where ESCs are located on these aspects will also be carried out regularly within the project period.

(ii) In terms of Strategy & Policy, after an analysis of the opportunities in the labor market and the relevance of available employment training programmes, better matching between the labour market opportunities and the skills of the jobseekers will be established. A market-oriented training guideline specifically for XC will be developed. Technical assistance for strengthening policy and coordinating role of the ministry will be a key strategy.

(iii) Establishment of database at the central level with accessibility from the provincial ESC Offices.

Major Accomplishments:

Followings are the major progress made for the implementation of RSPE project:

- The PMU setting work has been completed; ILO and UNDP in coordination with ministry, the site for PMU identified and 6 office containers were transferred and installed with ministry vicinity.

- Recruitment of project staff including a Technical Advisor and National staff has been completed. Ministry of Social Affairs, Disabled and Martyrs has also nominated a senior official as the project coordinator to this project. The Technical Advisor joined the team on first of week of September and started is on preparatory activities straight away. Administration and finance officer have been recruited and for the post of National Institutional and Capacity Development Advisor, third round of recruitment is in the process since last two rounds of recruitment were unsuccessful due to the lack of qualified and interested candidates.
- UNDP and ILO organized first project board meeting on 21 June at Ministry of Social affairs conference room and on 15 December 2007 at RSPE/ESC meeting room. Members from UNDP, ILO, MoLSAMD, MAIL, MoWA and MRRD participated in the meeting. Participants of meeting agreed upon the contents of project implementation strategy and work plan for 2007 and 2008 and budget revision to move the allocated budget for 2007 to 2008 based on estimated expenditure as at 31 December 2007 and work accomplished in 2007 and revised work plan of 2008.
- ESC Database has been established at the central level which is being tested at the moment and it is expected to be fully operational from 1 August 2008 with accessibility from the provincial ESC Offices.
- The Reintegration support and livelihood training opportunities identified registered of ex-combatants and their families (3505) at the ESCs, along with the provision of vocational counselling (108 X) and the referral to vocational training and employment opportunities. Out of the registered excombatants and their families of 3,505, 400 have been receiving different kinds of vocational training (computer, literacy, vocational training of tailoring and mechanical training) in Ghazni. Besides that 71 excombatants and their families are receiving on the job vocational training such as car repairing, English language, computer, carpentry, tailoring, repair of radio and TV, embroidery. Rest of the registered xcoms and their families will start receiving different kinds of vocational training (computer, literacy, vocational training of tailoring and mechanical training) in Kabul, Herat, Mazar, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Pul-i-kumri, Kunduz from July 2007 onwards.
- Outreach activities were undertaken by the ESC staff, with visits made to employers (637) and vocational training providers (56), in an effort to obtain the cooperation of these labour market actors with respect to maximizing the livelihood opportunities for ex-combatants and their families. Liaison activities also encompassed government entities (e.g. provincial departments of the Ministry of Women's Affairs), UN Agencies and NGOs.

Future Priorities:

RSPE will continue to support Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) and, work through, and build on, the existing network of Employment Services Centers (ESCs). The Employment Services Centers were established under an ILO executed project that began in May 2004. These Centers are staffed by MoLSAMD staff who assists jobseekers in undertaking vocational training, accessing wage employment opportunities or in starting their own businesses. The ESCs also provide services to employers with respect to recruitment of qualified personnel. Training providers in turn utilize the services of the ESCs: obtaining participants in their training programs and referring their training graduates to the ESCs for employment assistance.

Partnerships and Resources:

The RSPE project has been funded by UK as part of their surplus DDR funding, which means the project financial resources are fully mobilized,

Target Budget: USD 4 million

Received Budget: USD 4 million

Current Donors: UK

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