

UNDP

**PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME**

**United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan Country Office
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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 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 affects 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 external shocks such as drought and floods. An extension of the joint drought appeal launched in October 2006 called for additional assistance. 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 scale of urbanisation poses challenges to urban governance and livelihood and 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.

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 twelve country office staff and ten project managers. Contact: Mr. Basir 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 maximise 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 four 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 established to formulate and regularly update comprehensive regional economic regeneration policies & strategies, identifying 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 better livelihoods.
4. **Implementation Support:** MRRD's implementation capacity is strengthened, private and public resources mobilized, and implementation arrangements among partners/ stakeholders are coordinated to deliver rural (infrastructure) projects.
5. **Rural Energy:** MRRD seeks to provide rural renewable energy options to rural communities in Afghanistan, using community mobilization methodologies in order to ensure community energy system sustainability in areas of pilot demonstration sites. MRRD will carry out demonstration energy activities in 7 provinces - one each in the seven agro-eco regions of the country.

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 167 districts in 18 provinces to ensure community consultation and participation in the comprehensive rural development process. In these districts, DDAs have formulated their District Development Plan.
- **Provincial Development Planning:** Up to date in six 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
- **Sub-national consultation (SNC) process of ANDS:** MRRD/NABDP has been entrusted to lead this process as a result of the Afghan Development Forum held in April 2007. SNC, conducted through June-August 2007 across the country, is 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 and NABDP as driving force of this SNC process is a sign of recognition of their community empowerment expertise and actual achievements and carried out thus far.

Economic Regeneration:

- To facilitate private sector-led viable rural enterprise development, and to prioritise business investment opportunities, a comprehensive country-level analysis on Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies (RRERS) was conducted, and an Inception Report was completed in October 2006. The report identified potential rural sectors in various provinces, which are expected to lead to prospective small business enterprises. As a follow-up of the RRERS study, a sector- and province-specific feasibility analysis and business plan development have been initiated and two NGOs have been contracted for this purpose as Implementing Partners (IP).

Institutional Development:

- Technical assistance was provided to directors of MRRD departments to draft the MRRD Strategic Intent (SI) Implementation Plan for 1386-1388.
- SI operationalisation workshops were piloted for the Planning, Community-Led Development, Rural Infrastructure and Technical Service, Rural Livelihoods and Energy, and Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Departments. Logical Frameworks and Annual Work Plans were developed together with key employees from those departments.
- New functions have been elaborated for Planning and Community-Led Development Departments and restructuring of those departments were proposed.
- The procurement capacity in MRRD was strengthened.
- Orientation workshops were conducted for PDC members in 17 provinces.

Implementation Support:

- As of end June 2007 NABDP has completed 371 projects. 118 projects are ongoing, and another 250 are under preparation (of which about half are in Kandahar province). These projects include 91 education/ school projects, 36 health centers, 85 infrastructure projects (roads/ bridges/ retaining walls), 220 irrigation projects. Other projects concern WatSan and public buildings.
- The total number of beneficiaries of these projects globally is estimated at nearly 900,000 persons or about 200,000 households.
- Technical support units (TSU) have been set up in seven 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 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 2000 projects have been identified in these provinces which will be implemented as soon as the funding is secured.
- The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of NABDP has elaborated the procedures for 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, and has assisted the ministry's WATSAN and NRAP programmes in fundraising and management;

Future Priorities:

- **Community Empowerment:** Participatory and consultative mechanisms to be further established at district (DDA) and provincial (PDC) level to ensure grassroots engagement in an integrated rural development planning and implementation processes. The PDP exercise is now ongoing and should be finalized for all provinces by the end of August 2007.
- **Economic Regeneration:** Small business plan for rural enterprises in the niche sectors are to be implemented in Kandahar, Nangarhar, Bamyan, Balkh, Herat and Kabul. Small agro-based enterprises in each province are to be implemented by community entrepreneurs and are expected to support

livelihood and generate 1,000 man-days employment in each province by end 2007. A comprehensive National Rural Enterprise Development Programme Policy Framework is to be developed.

- Institutional Development: Continue support to enhance institutional capacity and technical capabilities within MRRD to fulfill its mandate to promote rural regeneration and improve livelihoods.
- Implementation Support: Continue supporting and strengthening the MRRD's capacity in regard to project implementation; mobilization of private and public resources; collaboration with other ministries, development partners and communities to manage integrated rural development projects; as well as specific projects designed to support national initiatives such as DIAG etc.
- The Energy for Rural Development in Afghanistan (ERDA): Pilot community energy projects established in 7 community areas covering some 1,500 households; Build capacity for coordination, project identification, planning, implementation, monitoring and sustainable operation of energy systems and services at different levels of governance (sub-CDC, CDC, CCDC ,DDA and MRRD); Policies and strategies clarified on renewable energy development and use in Afghanistan.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: USD 188 million

Received Budget: USD 116 million

Shortfall: USD 72 million

Current Donors: UNDP, CIDA, Belgium, Japan, Italy, UNHCR, USA, UK, Norway and the Netherlands

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Urban Development Programme

Regional Initiative for Sustainable Economy and AliceGhan Projects

The urban sector development is an important area of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. Afghanistan's urban population is expected to rise from 30% currently to 50% by 2020. The urbanisation of poverty is also predicted, with around 60-70% of the urban population presently residing in informal settlements – mostly unplanned and un-serviced, less accessible and often precariously located on the steep slopes around the major cities, such as Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat.

Since the early stage of recovery of Afghanistan in 2002, UNDP has been involved in infrastructure reconstruction and re-building activities through the "Recovery and Employment Afghanistan Programme (REAP)", which addressed the needs of quick urban recovery as well as generation of much-needed short-term employment with the 'cash-for-work' scheme. Building on the experience of the REAP project which was successfully completed in 2004, UNDP Urban Development Group (UDG) was established in 2005 to continue and expand the cash-for-work and urban infrastructure renewal initiatives. As the needs and focus of the aid work in Afghanistan shift from emergency relief and recovery to longer-term development, UDG is seeking to adjust its programme to face the current and emerging challenges associated with the unfolding urban policy agenda and rapidly increasing urban poverty. Partnership with key partners such as FAO, UNMACA, MOUD, MOAIL, MRRD, local municipalities is a key feature of the project strategy. A policy generation facility to support the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), in particular in the areas of urban poverty alleviation, is becoming an important new stream of work for UDG.

UDG works closely with MoUD in all of its projects, and generally assumes an advisory role for MoUD based on UNDP-MoUD Memorandum of Understanding agreeing on provision of UNDP's technical assistance to the Ministry (January 2003).

Achievements:

Regional Initiative for Sustainable Economy (RISE):

Funded by the Peace Building Grant Aid of the Japanese Government, this project implementation started in early 2006, the project has just come to the end of its project duration at the end of June 2007. Through an integrated regional development approach with urban-rural synergy effects, it aims to create an enabling environment for sustainable regional economy. It is a joint programme implemented in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of UN (FAO) and UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA), and the activities are carried out under the multi-agency coordination and with close collaboration with the relevant local authorities in the target regions of Balkh (provincial capital Mazar-e-Sharif), Nangarhar (provincial capital Jalalabad) and Kandahar (provincial capital Kandahar).

The activities and the achievements under the RISE project:

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 centres 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 centres, 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 organised 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 group 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 demining teams are deployed for humanitarian demining to cover wider areas. In Kandahar demining 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 demining 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.

Alice Ghan:

Supported by the Government of Australia, this project has been initiated in the second half of 2006 with the objective of providing housing and sustainable livelihood support for returned refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The project aims at contributing broadly towards peace and stability in Afghanistan by promoting sustainable return and reintegration processes, meeting the humanitarian needs of Afghan nationals while building capacities in relevant Afghan government agencies.

The target site of the AliceGhan project is Barikab, in the north of Kabul Province, where the project aims at supporting the construction of 1,400 houses in addition to provision of basic infrastructure and livelihood support. The project is founded upon the following principles: a) beneficiary participation in & contribution to the building work; b) earthquake resistance of the housing; c) provision of basic livelihood services and infrastructures to ensure fulfillment of basic human needs; d) building of sustainable community; and e) creation of a replicable model for the future returnee/ IDP settlement construction.

The Alice Ghan Project Document was signed in late September 2006. Thorough consultation has been carried out with the relevant government authorities and relevant UN agencies on the housing component designing and the site selection throughout the project formulation and initiation period. Implementation on site commenced in the first quarter of 2007, and further progress was made in the second quarter with completion of tender bids for competitive selection of contractors, site topographical surveys and structural designs. The first Executive Beneficiary Selection Committee met in May 2007 to determine the process of selecting eligible beneficiaries comprising of Refugees and IDPS.

Future priorities:

- Acceleration of Alice Ghan implementation
- Reorientation of UDG towards more strategic & policy level of engagement and capacity building

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 20,133,755 (till 2008)
Received Budget: US\$ 20,133,755
Shortfall: N/A
Donors: Japan, Australia, UNDP Core
Number of Project Staff: 6 international and 45 national staff

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Energy & Environment

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 ANDS. However translation of this into comprehensive cross-sectoral plans requires more attention. Environment protection vital for sustainable development given the explicit nexus between poverty, vulnerability and environment health. Energy is a necessary means to reaching all the development outcomes including the MDGs goals. Without energy, neither maternal and child mortality targets nor education targets can be met.

At the corporate level, energy and environment is one of the main practice areas of UNDP. The Energy & Environment (E&E) Programmed framework of UNDP Afghanistan has been articulated since 2005. It is designed to contribute towards attaining Afghanistan Millennium Development Goals - MDGs; Afghanistan Compact and Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy – I-ANDS (Benchmark 3.7 - Establishing environmental regulatory frameworks and management services). In close collaboration with the UN partners such as UNEP, FAO, National Environment Protection Agency, as well as the line ministries such as Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development, 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; and
- 3) Sustainable rural energy

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. Under the GAIN framework, UNDP is implementing the Environmental Awareness Raising & Capacity Building Project, mainly targeting four provinces in north Afghanistan.
 - 40 Village Environment Committees established and institutionalised;
 - 80 schools provided with environment awareness training - over 100,000 students (boys and girls) were reached and 73 Green Generation Clubs established;
 - 160 provincial government high officials provided with environment awareness training through four urban greening workshops. Four Urban Greening Committees established;
 - 2000 rural women provided with environment awareness training, especially to sensitise about the needs and methods to increase tree survival rate after plantation;
 - The first Regional GAIN Advisory Board for 2007 was conducted in April;
 - A “curtain-raiser” meeting was conducted for environment-focused NGOs;
 - The project concluded a baseline assessment of 20 nurseries out of 400 established by rural women in Nahrshahi, Dehdadi, Balkh and Khulm districts of Balkh province; and
 - World Environment Day was celebrated in Balkh and Kabul.
- Also within the framework of GAIN, UNDP provided support for M&E capacity building for the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA).

- 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.

Land and water management

- Substantial support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in the preparation of a proposal on Sustainable Land Management, funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF). It is expected the project will start in August 2007.
- 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.
- 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 the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (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.

Sustainable rural energy

- Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis of energy sector in Afghanistan was conducted through the technical and financial support of UNDP Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction (REP-PoR). The study aimed at launching a Rapid Regional Assessment and Mapping Exercise to determine the baselines and priorities of the countries in the Asia Pacific region.
 - 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. A project proposal was drafted.
 - Rural energy surveys were conducted in Balkh, Jawzjan, Saripul and Samangan provinces. The data for Samangan and Saripul provinces has been compiled for further analysis and reporting.

Future Priorities:

- Initiate implementation the Rural Energy Project as a sub-component of NABDP.
- Advocate on environment mainstreaming in the sub national planning processes (particularly provincial planning)
- Strengthen collaborative partnership with key UN agencies such as UNEP, FAO on promoting environment governance.
- Support institutional capacity building of NEPA and MoAIL

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget 2007:	USD 2,284,040 plus WFP Food Contribution
Received Budget:	USD 919,900
Shortfall:	USD 1,364,140
Donors:	GEF, WFP, UNDP, GAIN
Number of Project Staff:	4 International and 13 National

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Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Programme

Natural disaster is a recurrent phenomenon in Afghanistan which cause 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.

Since mid 2004 UNDP has initiated its disaster risk reduction portfolio with focus on supporting institutional frameworks, building partnership, capacity building, service delivery and emergency response and more recently piloting provincial emergency response and community risk reduction activities. 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 (ANDMA). With funding from the Afghan Emergency Trust Fund (AETF), UNDP 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.

As part of the programme framework for our engagement in this arena, several key interventions were identified in 2005; namely, institutional strengthening of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), build capacity of communities, civil society and corporate sector, establish disaster management information system, promote awareness raising, promote community risk mitigation activities, and strengthen emergency response through pilot modes at provincial levels.

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:

1. Government has been supported for active response in emergencies such as : Winter Response 2004-2005, Flood responses 2005 and Drought response and preparedness activities 2004-2006. Key activist under these were 2005-2006 winter emergency (2005-2006) whereby food and non-food emergency materials to vulnerable communities in Kabul and 12 other provinces were provided; the

emergency transportation of drinking water to the most drought affected areas was accomplished in 2006 and government assisted for emergency flood response in 2006, 2007.

Mitigation and Preparedness Activities:

1. Management of Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education Programme in 6 provinces for approximately 150,000 individuals as direct beneficiaries in the drought affected districts
2. Provision of Safe Drinking Water Supply for 60,000 drought affected inhabitant of Aibak City, Samangan Province
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Provision of wheat Seeds and Fertilizer to 2700 households of the most drought affected districts in Ghazni, Ghor, Herat, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces.
6. Assisting government in keeping the main roads, Passes and air strips open during the winter 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

Risk Reduction:

1. Multi year Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (CDRRP) for Afghanistan has been initiated. The main implementing partner is ANDMA. 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.
2. A pilot project for public awareness, ANDMA capacity building and development of disaster preparedness and response plan and procedures in Kunduz provinces on going.
3. Supporting to UNAMA to enhance humanitarian coordination, advocacy and awareness rising on humanitarian issues and protection of civilians at central and regional levels through personnel recruitment.

Future Priorities:

- Developing public awareness and education material and Disseminating through mass media and schools.
- Consultation with Ministry of Education and feasibility study of future inclusion of DRM in School Curriculum
- Implementation of Pilot Disaster Preparedness and Response Development and Public Awareness Project.
- Develop and implement work procedures manual and ANDMA business plan
- Review existing Disaster Management Law and recommend changes
- Review government development process
- Develop national all-hazards programme
- Conduct National hazard Analysis, review DMIS pilot project
- Develop regional DMIS Programme
- Make agreement with university and establish sponsorship

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget 2007-2011:	USD 11,659,433
Shortfall:	USD 8,933,866
Donors:	UNDP, ECHO, Norway = USD\$ 2,725,566.9

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Trade and Private Sector Development

The Government of Afghanistan recognizes a vibrant private sector is an engine for growth and a means to empower the poor to participate more equitably in the benefits of economic growth. In 2004, UNDP signed two agreements with the Ministry of Commerce. The first, for a programme designed to assist the development of the private sector and sustainable livelihoods in Afghanistan; and the second to assist at increasing connectivity, cooperation and competitiveness between Afghanistan and its neighbors, as well as validating the importance of Afghanistan as a 'land bridge'.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, other line Ministries and donors, UNDP has targeted specific areas to support future efforts to promote entrepreneurship, institutional development and an enabling environment for free enterprise.

Trade and Investment Capacity Building:

UNDP targets 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. Furthermore, the objective is to assist in formulating a regulatory environment that will enhance productivity levels and formality. Linkages with regional and global economies will strengthen the competitiveness of local industries and add to the attractiveness of Afghanistan for investors.

Supporting an Enabling and Inclusive Business Environment:

UNDP contributes 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. Furthermore, the objective is to assist in formulating a regulatory environment that will enhance productivity levels and greater formalization of the business sector.

Development of Rural Livelihoods:

UNDP focus on micro and small agriculturally-based businesses, which are the most productive and labour-intensive sub-sectors of the Afghan economy. The objective is to provide assistance that will help boost income-generating activities and sustainable livelihoods among the rural poor, in addition to promoting import competition for Afghan produce more for expansion of subsistence farming. This component will include the partnership between UNDP and UNIDO targeting rural communities in Balkh Province of Afghanistan.

The programme will include interventions at both grassroots and the national level. Private Sector Development Programme will collaborate with other donors, the Government of Afghanistan, UNDP project teams and NGOs working in similar fields of interest to determine future activities, collaboration and possible joint activities. The target group is the 'able poor' who have the capacity, with the necessary support, to establish micro- or small- enterprises and generate employment.

Achievements:

- The provision of a business-registration database to assist AISA to track, register and provide information to investors on active, licensed businesses throughout Afghanistan. The database was upgraded in 2006 together with AISA computer operating systems.
- A market-sector assessment on the horticulture sector was disseminated in the local and international business communities, donors and other stakeholders.

- A Training Needs Assessment of the business community in Afghanistan was conducted.
 - Cross-sectoral study on the small- and medium-sized enterprise sector was published in 2005.
 - Bilateral Meeting engaging businesses from Uzbekistan
 - Support to the ECO Trade and Industry Conference and Fair - UNDP provided substantive inputs and assisted businesses from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to participate at the ECO trade fair.
 - Regional Economic Conference in partnership with AISA – UNDP supported the organization of the Technical Working Group on Trade, Investment and the Business Climate with participation from Governments and the Private Sector.
 - CSATTF Second Trade and Customs Working Group Meeting, Bangkok - UNDP and ADB jointly organized the session on Trade, Investment and Private Sector Participation at the Central and South Asia Transport and Trade Forum (CSATTF).
 - Tour for Revival of Afghanistan’s Dried-Fruits Industry (2006) - A 22 member delegation 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 Second Regional Economic Cooperation Conference in New Delhi, India, November 2006. The Regional Business Forum for Afghanistan (RBFA) was organized concurrently with the RECC. UNDP supported AISA to ensure the participation of 82 business person from Afghanistan at the RECC and RBFA. UNDP facilitated the signature of a Mou between AISA and EXIM Bank of India.
 - Organization of the Round Table “*Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Nurturing an Enabling Environment for SME Development in Afghanistan*” in June 2007 - 120 representatives from the government, Private Sector, Trade and Investment Support Institutions, Non-Governmental and International Organizations participated in a discussion on the promotion of a favorable climate for SMEs development.
 - Preparation of six background papers on Enabling Environment for SMEs in Afghanistan in support of the **Enabling Environment for Effective Private Sector Conference** in June 2007 organized by Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), World Bank, Asian Development Bank and UNDP.
 - Rapid Appraisal Mission to revive Afghanistan’s Fruit Processing Sector: A framework for reviving Afghanistan’s fruit sector, through South-South cooperation, between Malaysia and Afghanistan.
- Community Based Solar Drying Facility, Parwan Province:
Comprising a solar dryer; preparation; processing and storage areas, the facility is purpose built to dry grapes and other seasonal fruits, and package the processed product(s) in direct-to-market mode. The facility is underpinned by the rationale of reviving Afghanistan’s dried fruits industry through improved post-harvest processing at the community level. The business model focuses on enhanced revenue generation and retention at the community level. It redefines the traditional three-step farm-processing-market methodology, to two-steps, by bringing processing facilities to the farm-gate.

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: USD 8,481,500

Received Budget: USD 900,000

Shortfall: USD 7,581,500

Donor: UNDP

Number of Project Staff: One international, and five national staff.

Focal Points:

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Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP) DDR, DIAG and Mines & Ammunition Stockpile Destruction projects

The UNDP Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programmed (ANBP) comprises of three related projects. 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 (2003 – 2006) of Afghan Military Forces (AMF) in line with the commitment of the Tokyo conference in February 2003.

The immediate objective of this programme was to encourage former AMF forces to leave their military allegiance behind and look forward to a civilian life of gainful employment in community solidarity. The DDR mandate (2003 - 2006) 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 of the Afghan Military Forces personnel. 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 (Dec 2004 – Dec2007); and collected data on, and assisted in the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (2005 -2007).

Achievements:

Anti-Personnel Mine & Ammunition Stockpile Destruction (Mine & Ammunition)

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) programme 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 will simultaneously assist 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 1,604 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 of Afghanistan to meet its State 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	32,278 Tons	
• Ammunition consolidated	9,378	Tons
• Ammunition destroyed	15,220 Tons	
• Anti-Personnel Mines destroyed	491,448	Pcs
• Anti-Tank Mines destroyed	13,075 Pcs	
Total Caches surveyed	1,604	

Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG)

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) programme (2005 – 2007) 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. This programme 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 Reform in Afghanistan.

To date, the DIAG project collected a total of 31,080 weapons (27,052 light and 4,028 heavy). In addition, 27,811 boxes of ammunition and 290,299 pieces of ammunition have been verified. Also, 1,713 IAGs are currently engaged in the DIAG process. A total of 573 GOLIAGs have been identified of which 72 received notifications letters for their cooperation. As a result of non-cooperation, 50 were recommended for termination of contract, of which 16 were relieved of their duties by their respective departments and 17 were cleared by the JS.

As a result of the deteriorating security situation and weak government capacity to deliver, it became clear at the fifth session of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) on 1 May that the benchmark as laid out in the Afghanistan Compact would not be met. It was also recognized that it was impractical to continue extending ANBP's mandate indefinitely. As a result, D&RC and Joint Secretariat drafted a proposal in June that, amongst other issues, proposes extending the Compact deadline to 2010. The underpinning rationale is that this will coincide with the timeline of other Security Sector Reform measures such as the development of Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP). The intention is that JCMB will formally meet to take the issue in September 2007. For its part, ANBP has begun to address the linked subjects of transition and programme disengagement and eventual closure. Pivotal to this will be the establishment of stand alone capability within Mol for the continuance of DIAG in the longer term. With stakeholder assistance, ANBP aims to complete the transition by the end of the project mandate.

Overall Challenges and Risks

One of the most evident impediments that the project has is the worsening security situation in some regions which precludes efforts to carry out surveys and the transport of ammunition especially in the East, South and parts of the West of the country. To mitigate the risk posed by the deteriorating security situation in these regions the project started focusing its main efforts and resources in areas where results can be achieved and resources utilized efficiently.

The failure to transfer knowledge and capacity from APM&ASDP to the MOD also presents itself as a potential risk which has to be addressed. For this purpose the APM&ASDP actively initiated capacity-building of MOD counterparts by mentoring MOD representatives in terms of survey, consolidation and destruction of ammunition. This mitigating measure aims to capacitate the MOD into fully assuming overall responsibility by the end of December 2007.

The insufficient storage capacity of MOD/ANA to accommodate the amount of ammunition collected under the auspices of APM&ASDP is another present concern. The MOD and CSTC-A are working on increasing the storage capacities of MOD/ANA to achieve better operational results. ANBP/APM&ASDP is in close contact with all concerned parties and coordinating efforts are currently ongoing to relocate the stockpiles of serviceable ammunition and to hand over all Ammunition Consolidation Points to the MOD.

The consolidation and destruction of the aircraft bombs located at Shebergan needs to be executed by this year. The APM&ASDP faces extending its operations beyond December 2007 if the Shebergan ammunition is not dealt with on time. The Ammunition Working Group of APM&ASDP is in the process of devising plans on how to conduct the consolidation and destruction of the Shebergan ammunition to be presented during the Steering Group Meeting.

Future Priorities

- ANBP will continue to support DIAG, which is government led with planning, capacity and implementation assistance. ANBP also aims to complete the transition by the end of the project mandate, with stakeholder assistance.
- The priority for the Mine & Ammunition programme is the increased destruction of stockpiled ammunition and mines.

Partnerships and Resources:

<u>Ammunition Target Budget:</u>	USD 21,272,105.34
Received Budget:	USD 19,128,879
Balance Commitment to be received:	USD 2,143,226.34
Shortfall:	Nil
Donors:	Canada, UK, MOF, UNDP, EC, Norway

<u>DIAG Target Budget:</u>	USD 20,947,373
Received Budget:	USD 20,947,373
Shortfall:	USD 0
Donors:	Japan, Canada, UK, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, UNDP

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. As outlined in the I-ANDS, considerable work is required to develop a full ANDS that also meets the requirements of the PRSP. The ANDS is the strategic mechanism for implementing the Compact obligations. To prepare the ANDS the Government 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).

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.

In February 2007, UNDP signed a project document with the Government of Afghanistan on support deemed essential for the production of the ANDS and operation of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board Secretariat.

Achievements

The preparation phase of the ANDS started in June 2006 and ended in January 2007. This phase was supported by UNDP and DfID. The preparatory phase provided the basis to develop the ANDS work plan, recruiting the ANDS team 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 financial sustainability, national ownership, operating costs, and the ratio of international consultants employed either directly through the project or via parallel mechanisms.

UNDP supported the ANDS/JCMB team in mobilizing international and national expertise (provincial consultation officers, sector coordinators, pillar coordinators, communication office and other support staff) to engage in the preparation of the sector strategies, in the national and sub national consultations and in the organization of the Consultative Groups and Working Groups meetings.

A wide dissemination of the MDG and ANDS/COMPACT started. The process of awareness raising materials such as movies, radio and media packages was initiated through proper tendering process. Public Awareness material were published and used in awareness raising campaigns for ANDS. A pilot provincial consultation started in April 2007 while the main provincial consultations started in June and will last up to September 2008. Line Ministries played a key role in a number of national consultation process at national and sub national level. The manual on ANDS sub national consultation was finalized in March 2007 and briefing sessions for heads of the provincial Councils in Kabul were held. A round table on PRSPs was organized to ensure broad understanding of PRSP across government and CSOs. Consultation meetings were held with governors of Kapisa, Wardak and Herat to support the ANDS secretariat in sub national consultation process.

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development also supported the process of building the District Development Assemblies to enhance National Area Based Development Plan. Approximately 156 District Development Plans have been developed and will be integrated into Provincial Development Plans. The sub national consultations and provincial planning exercise is ongoing currently between the period of June-August, 2007.

During this period a number of ministry/agency draft strategies were prepared. The process of strategy preparation was led by respective ministries and government agencies. The ANDS Secretariat formulated a template for developing the ministry/agency strategies in order to bring uniformity. The ANDS Secretariat reviewed the draft strategies and provided comments to improve them. The draft ministry/agency strategies were presented to the ANDS Working Groups and Consultative Groups and feedback on draft strategies received.

UNAMA/UNDP and ANDS Secretariat have started preparation process of the second MDGs Progress Report in Afghanistan. UNDP also reached an agreement with the Regional Bureau on support to be provided by the Colombo Team on MDGs costing exercise in Afghanistan as part of ANDS formulation and planning process. The MDGs costing exercise is planned to be finalized in October 2007.

The first draft of the Macroeconomic Framework was prepared. The ANDS Secretariat coordinated the process and supported establishment of the Advisory Macroeconomic Working Group (consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Central Bank, Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Economy and ANDS Secretariat). The work on formulation of the Macroeconomic Framework will need to be intensified as the determination of the fiscal envelop will be important for costing and prioritization of the ANDS sector strategies.

Future Priorities:

- Consultation at regional/provincial level throughout the country;
- Identifying the costing for the MDG sensitive PRSP;
- Finalizing the draft plan for consultation;
- Number of non-government stakeholder agencies engaged in consultation on the ANDS;
- ANDS translated and disseminated nationally and sub-national;
- Costing of the prioritized sectoral strategies;
- ANDS/PRSP production, publication and dissemination at provincial level;
- Development of materials in Pasho/ Dari for the awareness-raising campaigns - including dramas; radio programmes, short movies, media packages, briefing packages;
- Organize training for members of the consultation teams on regular basis;
- Organize the training of local media on the MDGs, and the ANDS (newspapers, radios, TV);

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget:	USD 8,773,141
Shortfall:	N/A
Donors:	CIDA, DfiD, Italy, UN RC, Norway and UNDP.

Focal Points:

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Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD)

Through the establishment of this Centre for Policy and Human Development at Kabul University, UNDP supports long-term capacity for research, advocacy, and teaching on human development in Afghanistan. The Centre will 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.

The Centre is meant to achieve three results:

1. Improved and informed human development analysis policy making in Afghanistan.
2. Improved capacity for collection and assessment of social and economic statistics.
3. Improved networking and information sharing among researchers and policy makers.

Achievements:

- The set up of the Centre for Policy and Human Development at Kabul University is the first introduction of action policy research in its own right in a university in Afghanistan. The Centre has filled a deep gap and disconnect between academia, policy research and development communities.
- The preparation of the Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007 is the work of a team of authors and researchers, in partnership with selected university staff who received training on statistics. A broad range of consultations took place nationally and locally on the rule of law and access to justice in Afghanistan. National consultation were conducted in five provinces (Nanagarhar, Mazar, Herat, Paktya and Wardak and Ghazni). Background papers reviewed and used for drafting of the Human Development Report. It is the first study of its kind to define the distinct traditions, yet firm linkages between the rule of law and human development.
- The Centre launched the Asia Pacific Human Development Report on Trade on Human Terms;
- The Centre organized special lecture series on policy issues with direct implication to human development of Afghans featuring high profile speakers such as Barnett Rubin of New York University (NYU), Jonathan Goodhand of School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), and Antonio Donini of Tufts University; Human Development Framework, as an alternative development model has been the subject of several training sessions to the university community, wider audience in the civil society and government institutions.

Future Priorities:

- Disseminate the 2007 National Human Development Report in three languages;
- Launching the 2007 NHDR in NY and Kabul and subsequently in other regions/provinces;

- International Exchange Programme: The promotion of scholarly exchanges among faculty and students of Afghanistan Universities with faculty and students from universities outside of Afghanistan.
- Capacity Building: The preparation of a new generation of Afghan teachers, researchers, policy makers and analysts through capacity building for human development policy alternatives and evaluating existing policies. Training for journalists to advocate and disseminate the key findings and main messages of the report at national level;
- Preparation of Afghanistan Human Development Report 2009: The generation of new data, including disaggregating at the provincial, gender, provincial, ethnic and other levels, and making available this new data for analysis, policymaking and advocacy.
- Organizing Special Guest Lecture Series on Policy Issues.
- Publication of Kabul University Academic Research Journal.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target budget 2007/2008: USD 1, 616,832
Received 2007: USD 716,832
Shortfall: USD 900,000
Donors: UNDP

Focal Points:

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