



UNDP

DEMOCRATIZATION &  
CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT  
PROGRAMME



United Nations Development Programme  
Afghanistan Country Office

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## UNDP Afghanistan Programme

Within the broad national development framework are many cross-cutting priorities that address gender equality, security and the rule of law, administrative and financial reforms, human rights, environmental integrity, the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their communities, and reintegration of former combatants into society. Guided by the requirements set forth in the NDF, UNDP Afghanistan focuses its activities on the following UNDP global practice areas: **poverty reduction, democratic governance, and crisis prevention and recovery.**

All of UNDP's activities take place under the leadership of the interim Afghan Government and in close collaboration with ministries, agencies, and donors leading programmes within the consultative group process. UNDP works collaboratively with all partners to empower Afghan women and promote gender equality in Afghanistan, ensuring that gender issues are consistently mainstreamed and carefully paced. All UNDP programme activities aim to consolidate peace, enhance security and promote respect for the rule of law. In addition to direct support to the national security sector, UNDP projects enhance government institutional capacity to provide public services and to create an enabling environment for legitimate livelihoods.

Human development indicators are critical tools for development, and UNDP is acutely aware of and responsive to them. The release of the first *National Human Development Report* (NHDR) of Afghanistan in 2004 will provide an important vehicle for the Government to refine the development priorities of the country and to identify new areas where targeted cooperation with international humanitarian organizations can accelerate recovery. The NHDR will be the first comprehensive review of the state of development of Afghanistan.

UNDP also remains flexible and responsive to evolving national priorities, synchronized with the national budget of Afghanistan and closely integrated within the overall framework of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA). UNDP continues to work with UN agencies and other international actors under the UNAMA umbrella and to ensure maximum collaboration and programme complementarities. Our partners include the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS). United Nations Volunteers (UNV) plays an increasingly important role in the delivery of development assistance in all areas, providing a high level of skills at reasonable cost. Increasingly, UNDP is providing support to UNAMA in the coordination of operational activities among UN agencies and in the provision of common services.

### **SUPPORT TO THE BONN AGREEMENT AND BRIDGING THE DEVELOPMENT GAP**

The UNDP Programme concentrates on supporting the implementation of the Bonn Agreement while seeking to bridge the gap between Afghanistan's short- and long-term development needs. The Bonn process was designed to restore the functionality of the central government and the rule of law, paving the way for a democratic society and a democratically elected government. In support of this transition, and in close collaboration with UNAMA, UNDP is assisting with the process of adopting and implementing a new Constitution, voter registration, presidential and parliamentary elections; demobilization and reintegration programmes for former combatants; and reforming the justice system and civil service.

The Bonn Agreement calls for an interim Government of Afghanistan to establish, with the assistance of the UN, a number of commissions to lead the country towards democracy and the rule of law. In collaboration with UNAMA, UNV and other partners, UNDP supported the establishment and operation of the Emergency Loya Jirga Commission, the Constitutional Commission, the Judicial Reform Commission, the Civil Service Commission and the Human Rights Commission. UNDP seconded a senior Afghan professional to serve as the Director of the Secretariat to the Constitutional Commission; he later served as the JEMB Secretariat Director, as well.

UNAMA has the lead role in coordinating the operational activities of UN institutions, including their support to consultative group and national budget processes. UNDP helped the interim Government of Afghanistan to establish an Aid Coordination Unit and a Public Information Unit within the Afghan Assistance Coordination Agency. The Aid Coordination Unit created a donor assistance database to respond to the need for a donor tracking system, identified in the NDF. UNDP is also supporting the national data requirements of the NDF.

Increasingly, the challenges of human development are met by Afghan institutions and capacities are strengthened within government ministries to address the longer-term development needs of Afghanistan. As this process moves forward into the future, UNDP will continue to assist in bridging the development gap and focusing on longer-term needs.

UNDP's work is organized thematically into three pillars: State-building & Government Support, Democratization & Civil Society Empowerment and Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods.

### **DEMOCRATIZATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME**

The 'Democratization & Civil Society Empowerment' Unit aims to develop and support programmes to build governance for local recovery and development, focusing on three main areas:

1. Support to Democratic Processes
2. Rebuilding of the Justice Sector
3. Promotion of Human Rights and Gender Equality.
4. Civil Society Empowerment

In this context, UNDP is supporting: i) participatory and broad-based elections and a constitution that guarantee basic rights, freedom of association, expression and participation and protection under the law; ii) the commissions for justice reform, human rights, civil service and the constitutional process; iii) the development of an interim legal framework and its capacity to deliver governance-related 'services'; iv) training of new parliamentary members and staff; v) capacity building initiatives for political parties and civil society organizations; and vi) the empowerment of women through initiatives that help them reach positions of political leadership and gain access to legislative deliberation.

The Democratization & Civil Society Empowerment Team consists of six country office staff and five programme managers. The head of the programme is Mr. Stephen Kinloch-Pichat, Senior Assistant Country Director.

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## Democratization & Citizens' Participation

### VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS PROGRAMME

The Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) of the Afghan Government announced the holding of the elections for President on 9 October 2004 and those of the Parliamentary House of People (*Wolesi Jirga*) and House of Elders (*Meshrano Jirga*) currently planned for April 2005.

Through President Karzai, the Government of Afghanistan requested the United Nations to assist in preparing and organizing the electoral process. One of the most important steps along the path to the free, fair and credible elections envisaged in the Bonn Agreement timeline is the development of an inclusive voter registry in Afghanistan. With substantial donor support, UNAMA, UNDP, UNOPS, UNV and the JEMB have successfully registered approximately 10.5 million by 20 August 2004, in the run-up to the Presidential Elections.

The Elections Project has been facilitating the work of Afghan electoral authorities on a non-partisan basis—particularly the JEMB Electoral Secretariat—in the following areas:

- Resource mobilization and donor coordination
- Out-of-country (refugee) voting
- Election management
- Voter information and civic education
- Media monitoring
- Facilitation of domestic and international electoral observation.

Special measures have been taken to cater to women, as in the past they were excluded from Afghanistan's political processes. Nationwide civic education activities were carried out through out the voter registration and electoral process, including a special focus on women.

#### Achievements:

- The registration process began in the first week of December 2003 and completed on 20 August 2004 with approximately 10.5 million people registered to vote in the 9 October Presidential Elections, including over 41% of them female voters;
- The registration and electoral preparation processes were accompanied by nationwide public information and civic education campaigns, using both face-to-face methodologies as well as mass media (particularly radio), but also including community mobilization events and civil society partnerships;
- Sufficient funds were mobilised and received to carry out all necessary activities related to the Voter Registration and Presidential Elections, including out-of-country voter registration and voting;
- A Media Results Centre was established with updates on the elections provided on a daily basis, while public outreach was achieved through the 'Witness Project' assisting Afghan television to broadcast electoral activities around the nation;
- International and domestic observer groups were successfully supported through regular information sharing and workshops;
- Presidential Elections were successfully held on 9 October 2004 throughout Afghanistan and in Pakistan and Iran for refugees.

#### Challenges and Risks:

The following factors will determine whether the presidential elections held on 9 October 2004 can be determined a success and *Wolesi Jirga* and *Meshrano Jirga* elections can be held in April 2005:

- The complaints and issues related to the Presidential Elections can be properly accounted for;
- Additional funds pledged by the donors are received in due time;
- Funding gap is fully met by the donors;
- An appropriate level of security prevails throughout Afghanistan.

#### Future Priorities:

- Conduct a lessons learned evaluation and programme the findings into the improvement of the planning and operations preparations for the Afghan Parliamentary Elections in 2005;
- Conduct an external audit for the Voter Registration Project;
- Successfully close the Voter Registration Project and carrying over the unspent funds over to the Elections Project;
- Revise the budget according to new plans for the parliamentary elections;
- Further resource mobilisation based on the new budgetary requirements.

#### Partnerships and Resources:

<p><b>Voter Registration Project</b> Budget: US\$ 95.8 million. (US\$ 8 million in-kind)</p> <p>Donors: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, EC, Finland, Japan, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, UK, USA, Sweden and South Africa.</p>	<p><b>Elections Project</b> (as of 31 October 2004): Target Budget: US\$ 102,283,078 Received Budget: US\$ 81,659,270 Shortfall: US\$ 20,623,808</p> <p>Donors: USA, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Finland, EC, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, UK, Sweden, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Switzerland, Australia, Greece and Pakistan.</p>
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## SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW CONSTITUTION OF AFGHANISTAN

Based on the Bonn Agreement and supported by a joint project between the Transitional Government, UNAMA and UNDP, the Constitution-making process in Afghanistan has essentially followed a three-stage process. The joint project aimed at supporting the Secretariat of the Constitutional (Drafting and Review) Commission as the main governmental counterpart in the implementation of its mandate in cooperation with the UN. More than 300 staff were employed by the Secretariat at its peak during the preparatory process for the Constitutional Loya Jirga, with regional dependencies in Afghanistan (all regions) as well as offices in Iran and Pakistan.

### Achievements:

#### 1. Drafting of a preliminary Constitution by the **Constitutional Drafting Commission**:

- The President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan appointed the nine members of the Commission in October 2002.
- The Commission presented its recommendations on the content as well as format of the Constitution in March 2003.

#### 2. Deliberation on, refinement and finalization of the first draft Constitution by the **Constitutional Review Commission**:

- The President appointed the Constitution Review Commission in April 2003. Its 33 members represent the country's diverse regional and ethnic composition and include seven women.
- The Commission has distributed a total of 484,450 questionnaires and gathered over 100,000 completed questionnaires from citizens.
- Commission members have attended about 555 public consultation meetings (in all 32 provinces of Afghanistan and among refugee groups in Iran and Pakistan) and provided information to the public. The views expressed by the people were recorded and compiled in the Public Consultation Report, on the basis of which the draft Constitution was prepared.
- The President released the draft Constitution to the public on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### 3. Adoption of the Constitution by the **Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ)**:

- In anticipation of the CLJ Convention, provincial registration meetings were conducted in 32 provinces to register the Emergency Loya Jirga district representatives who formed the electorate for the elections of 344 CLJ delegates in early December.
- The elections for the 106 representatives of the so-called "Special Category Groups" (i.e. women, refugees in Pakistan and Iran, IDPs, Kuchis, Hindus and Sikhs) took place throughout the month of November.
- In preparation of the Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ), the Secretariat of the Constitutional Commission, with the support of UNAMA and UNDP, organized and conducted general orientation meetings and sessions for the incoming delegates and special training and orientation for female delegates based on a manual developed by the working group of the Ministry of Women's Affairs.
- The CLJ Convention site at Kabul Polytechnic Institute was rehabilitated through UNOPS, while GTZ was contracted to manage and operate the CLJ Convention facilities.
- The Convention itself convened on December 14<sup>th</sup> and adopted the Constitution by consensus on January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- UNDP received a medal from the president in recognition of its work in support of the Constitution-making process.
- The President officially proclaimed the Constitution on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2004.

### Challenges and Risks:

Given the political environment and the importance attached to the whole process leading to the adoption of a new Constitution for Afghanistan, the challenges and risks were substantial:

- Security remained both a challenge as well as a risk throughout the entire process. While all efforts were made to ensure the security of all participants and stakeholders in the process (particularly during the elections for the CLJ delegates and the CLJ itself), it was inevitable that considerable security risks would accompany the process in view of the political uncertainties, particularly with regard to the buy-in of various factions.
- These political uncertainties themselves posed challenges in the design and implementation of the process, as they demanded the greatest degree of flexibility possible to respond to the political necessities. However, it was imperative that the demand for flexibility would not compromise the procedural requirements of both UNDP and the Governmental counterpart, the Secretariat of the Constitutional Commission.
- The project was embedded within the Bonn framework and thus bound to the tight timeline provided for in the Bonn Agreement. The demand to accommodate political developments while adhering to the Bonn schedule posed enormous challenges to the operation's planning and implementation.
- The multitude of stakeholders, actors and implementing partners posed additional challenges to the smooth implementation of the project and required the utilization of coordination mechanisms such as the steering committee and an inter-agency task force.
- The project also faced the challenge of having to secure sufficient funding for the holding of the Constitutional Loya Jirga despite the fact that its duration was indefinite and subject to speculation.

### Future Priorities:

In the aftermath of the CLJ, the Transitional Government is now facing the challenge of bringing life to the adopted Constitution through its implementation. Consultations with the Government and UNAMA have already commenced on potential activities supported by UNDP in furtherance of the implementation of the Constitution. While the Constitutional Commission was dissolved after the CLJ in January, the Secretariat remained operational until its dissolution (and the closure of the project) in April 2004 to conduct post-CLJ follow-up activities, in particular a public information and civic education campaign. Future priorities in support of the implementation of the newly adopted Constitution are to:

- Raise public awareness concerning the Constitution in order to enhance nationwide acceptance and understanding for current and future state-building processes undertaken on the basis of the Constitution, thereby enhancing political stability.
- Build necessary capacity within governmental institutions involved in the implementation of the Constitution in the relevant ministries and judicial institutions.
- Assist in the creation and endorsement of a unified governmental strategy for the implementation of the Constitution, taking into account both crosscutting issues as well as opportunities for synergies between existing and future projects in the areas of public administration reform, human rights, gender equality, elections and justice reform.
- Support to (the establishment of) mechanisms for the implementation of the Constitution, such as the Commission, as provided for in the Constitution, for the Supervision of the Implementation of the Constitution.

**Partnerships and Resources:**

Target budget: US\$ 11,668,418

Received budget: US\$ 11,668,418

Shortfall: US\$ 0

Donors: Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, UK, UNDP core funds and the USA.

Number of Project Staff: 450 (at peak)

**Focal point:** Michael Schoiswohl, Programme Officer ([Michael.schoiswohl@undp.org](mailto:Michael.schoiswohl@undp.org))

## Promotion of Rights & Equality

### REBUILDING THE JUSTICE SECTOR OF AFGHANISTAN

UNDP, through a joint programme with UNAMA and the Governments of Italy (the lead donor in the justice sector), Canada and the United Kingdom, has been assisting the Judicial Reform Commission established by the Bonn Agreement in its operations and activities since its establishment in June 2002.

The project is supporting the Government of Afghanistan in complying with its priorities and commitments set out in the Berlin work plan in the areas of 'Rule of Law and Justice.' In doing so, the project is supporting the permanent justice institutions and the legal education institutions with capacity development activities and technical advice. Beneficiaries of the programme include the civil service, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court and the Attorney General's Office, legal education institutions throughout Afghanistan, defence lawyers and the Government.

#### Achievements:

- Support to the Bonn Agreement by facilitating and supporting the establishment and functioning of the Judicial Reform Commission.
- Survey of the rehabilitation of the infrastructure of the judiciary sector conducted in 10 provinces; the survey report was used as the basis to identify priority rehabilitation needs in the provinces.
- One-year training for 125 new graduates of the Kabul University Faculty of Law and Sharia has been completed successfully. The second term of the training commenced on 10 June 2004, and 143 students enrolled.
- Rehabilitation of the Ministry of Justice through UNDP's Programme Implementation Unit is underway. Rehabilitation of the Attorney General's Office in Kabul commenced on 10 August. Construction of a Law Library at the Faculty of Law within Kabul University is in the preparatory phase.
- Rehabilitation is taking place in the provinces of Kunduz, Badakshan, Herat, Badghes and Nangarhar. There, office buildings of the Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court and the Attorney General's Office are either being rehabilitated or constructed and equipped. The rehabilitation work of the Kunduz court building was completed on 10 July 2004.
- UNDP is supporting the Afghan Government to meet its commitment to the work plan adopted in the Berlin Declaration in the areas of rule of law and justice. In accordance with the government's Berlin commitments, UNDP is supporting the strengthening of the administrative and financial capacity of the justice institutions. Three international advisors and two national advisors have been recruited to support the government in implementing the public administration reform process of Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) in the three justice institutions (MOJ, SC and AGO) and implementing a programme of capacity development within the same institutions. UNDP is also recruiting a Chief Financial Counterpart Officer to support financial management and budgetary implementation within the justice institutions.
- In the field of legal education reform, UNDP is supporting the law and sharia faculties and the Ministry of Higher Education in facilitating the design of a new curriculum and in developing the capacity of their teaching, research staff and students. An International Curriculum Development Specialist has been recruited and twinned with a national one. The curricula of the law and sharia faculties have been reviewed and a board consisting of the lecturers of the law faculty has been established. Additionally, UNDP supported the participation of four Afghan students from the Law Faculty at Kabul University in the Jessup Moot Court Competition held in Washington, D.C, USA, between 27 March and 2 April 2004. The students won a special "Spirit of the Jessup" award in

recognition of their efforts. Students from the faculty of law of Kabul University were identified and tested, 12 students were short-listed, and four successful students will be chosen after interviews for the next Jessup Moot Court Competition.

- A new project is currently being developed to enhance access to justice at the district level. Envisaged activities include rehabilitation of infrastructure, training of justice professionals and bringing legal awareness to communities. This project is financially supported by the European Commission (EC) and will be implemented by UNDP.

### **Future Priorities:**

- Complete rehabilitation of buildings in Kabul and in the provinces.
- Support to the Ministry of Justice Legislative Department and Department of Rights and Mediation.
- Support to the establishment of a national judicial training centre.
- Support to the library and research resources of Afghan universities.
- Support to the Permanent Justice Institutions to develop a strategic reform plan on the basis of which future financial, technical and other support can be provided.
- Support to the faculties of law and sharia in the area of legal education reform.

### **Partnerships and Resources:**

Targeted Budget: US\$ 5,978,228

Received Budget: US\$ 5,978,228

Shortfall: US\$ 0

Number of Current Project Staff: 5 international and 30 national staff

The proposed new project for “Access to Justice” at the district level has a pledge from the EC amounting to approximately USD 7.5 million (EUR 6 million).

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## **SUPPORT FOR THE AFGHAN INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

To assist with the establishment of the Independent Human Rights Commission in early 2002, UNDP supported UNAMA and the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (UNOHCHR) to facilitate four Afghan Working Groups, which drafted programme proposals to introduce and expand human rights policy, human rights education, transitional justice, human rights for women and monitoring and investigation of human rights. This constituted the basis for the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) work programme.

### **Achievements:**

- The AIHRC is now reflected in the Constitution under Article 58 as a permanent national human rights institution.
- In addition to a headquarters also covering the central region, seven regional offices in Herat, Bamyan, Mazar, Jalalabad, Gardez, Kandahar, and Kunduz and three provincial offices in Maymana, Badakshan and Daykundy have been opened and 352 staff recruited (of which 227 are in the provinces).
- The Commission has developed and implemented a set of policies and rules that apply to the institution and its staff, including recruitment procedures, salary scales, terms and conditions of employment, promotion and disciplinary procedures. These have been published in a staff manual.
- Six programme units created: Investigation and Monitoring, Transitional Justice, Women's Rights, Children's Rights, Human Rights Education and Media.
- Training and workshops conducted in women's rights, children's rights and human rights education in Kabul and all regional and provincial offices.
- Production and broadcast of radio programmes and TV programmes on human rights are ongoing. One programme, Rushani, is broadcast twice a month for 15 minutes.
- AIHRC chairs the Human Rights Advisory Group. The Advisory Group brings together donors, UN agencies, international NGOs and Afghan governmental and non-governmental organisations to discuss human rights issues and to make recommendations, either to the Government or to thematic consultative groups established by the Government.
- A Chief Technical Advisor and thematic technical advisors in the fields of human rights education and women's rights are actively supporting the AIHRC in defining and implementing its work programme. Short-term technical assistance has been provided in the field of transitional justice, trafficking and monitoring of human rights violations.
- During the first year of the commission operation, over 2000 complaints were registered, encompassing 1323 cases of violations. 480 complaints have been handed over to the Investigation and Monitoring unit of the commission. More than 365 complaints have been processed and forwarded to appropriate Government offices for reconciliation. Some of the complaints could not be investigated due to security constraints and the difficulty that some perpetrators are still in positions of power.
- National consultations on transitional justice are nearly completed; 4151 people countrywide have been interviewed, including refugees in Iran and Pakistan, and 220 focus group discussions conducted; in each focus group, there are at least 10 participants. Analysis has begun and a report is expected in September. The consultation focuses on Afghans' views on how to tackle transitional justice crimes.
- 12,000 copies of a human rights magazine printed and distributed monthly.
- Human Rights unit created in the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Women's Affairs, Education, Defence and Foreign Affairs.
- Translation and distribution of international human rights conventions into Dari and Pashto is carried out by the board of translations and a series of books, including the publications of UNOHCHR, have

been translated into Dari and Pashtu and distributed throughout the country by the regional and provincial offices of AIHRC.

- A new research and policy unit has been established which deals with the analyses of the research that has been conducted by various sections.

#### **Future Priorities:**

- Capacity development of the Commission's staff, especially in the satellite office, in the areas of program, management and financial management, is ongoing.
- A countrywide domestic violence survey is being designed.
- In furtherance of the work plan agreed by the Government in Berlin, the AIHRC is supporting the nationwide verification of political rights prior to the elections, in partnership with UNAMA. Three reports have been released so far, and other reports will be issued soon.
- The AIHRC is starting a construction programme for a new Kabul headquarters and the satellite offices. The Government has provided the land.
- A printing press unit also will be established soon. The machines have been procured from Heidelberg Agency in Kabul. The printing hall is currently under construction.

#### **Partnerships and Resources:**

Target Budget: US\$ 13,800,000

Received Budget: US\$ 11,420,941

Shortfall: US\$ 2,379,059

Donors: Canada, s, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, , Norway, Switzerland, UK, New Zealand, and the USA.

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**Project Manager:** Richard Bennett (bennettr@un.org)

## **INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS**

The project aims to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), with a particular focus on the Training and Advocacy Department of the MoWA and other ministries in support of its strategic approach to institutionalise the gender mainstreaming process and strengthen inter-ministerial collaboration. The main activities include:

- Capacity building for gender mainstreaming in the areas of gender awareness, gender and development, gender analysis and mainstreaming.
- Capacity building for strengthening institutional functioning in the areas of public administration and financial management.
- Establishment of a gender training institute.
- Institutional capacity building at the provincial level.
- Institutionalizing gender mainstreaming through outreach to other ministries and provinces.
- Coordination with the Minister as part of her core Gender Advisory Group.
- Capacity building in the area of gender advocacy.

### **Achievements:**

- Gender training in provinces: In collaboration with MoWA provincial offices, the MoWA Training Department and the Afghan Women's Network, a gender training programme was implemented in Parwan, Kandahar, Ghazni, Logar and Herat provinces and is being expanded to five other provinces.
- Establishment of formal partnership at the inter-ministerial level, through a formal protocol signed among MoWA, eleven ministries and UNDP to build capacity of ministerial staff for gender mainstreaming. Inter-ministerial protocol ensured the selection and assignment of key staff from the Ministries of Education, Health, Justice, Commerce, Planning, Higher Education, Culture and Information, Foreign Affairs, Interior, Religious Affairs, and Rural Rehabilitation and Development. The first five ministries have already completed the program and received their certificates; the others are on-going. In each ministry, a gender orientation seminar for the general staff has been completed.
- Capacity building of non-governmental organizations in gender mainstreaming. Gender training program was also offered to selected staff from various NGOs.
- Over 400 people were trained in 2003 in the gender training program.
- Establishment and capacity building of the MoWA Training and Advocacy Department.
- Capacity building of MoWA departments in effective and efficient functioning: The implementing partner AITM has conducted trainings in the areas of reporting, management, accounting and training of trainers
- Construction of four-story MoWA Training and Advocacy building.
- Provision of office equipment, including computers, photocopy machine, scanner, cameras and minibus were provided to the MoWA Training and Advocacy and Finance Department.
- Development of a gender manual based on the Afghan context and culture.
- Training in financial management initiated through the secondment of an international expert to the ministry.
- Capacity building of MoWA's key departments in launching of advocacy campaigns in relation to Violence Against Women International Day and International Women's Day. The campaign consists of

activities such as televised roundtables, publications, conferences, trainings, role plays and a media campaign.

- Provision of technical and financial support to the Ministry's monthly and quarterly magazines, newspapers and other publications.
- Capacity building in coordination and management of Beijing+10 Workshop Country Report preparation at the inter-ministerial level.

### **Future Priorities:**

The project aims to further enhance the activities undertaken thus far, which focus more on immediate support to assist the Ministry to develop some operational capacity. In addition, by using the recently received Luxemburg funds, the project will assist the Ministry to conduct its substantive programmatic work, including through formalized and accredited training by:

- Establishing a gender-training institute.
- Building institutional capacity at the provincial level.
- Institutionalizing gender mainstreaming through outreach to other Ministries.
- Provision of necessary furniture and equipment to the Training and Advocacy Department of the ministry.

### **Partnerships and Resources:**

Target Budget: US\$ 2,289,276

Received Budget: US\$ 2,289,276

Shortfall: US\$ 0

Donors: French Trust Fund, Belgium, Luxemburg and UNDP Core Resources.

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## **COMPREHENSIVE DISABLED AFGHANS' PROGRAMME (CDAP)**

The Comprehensive Disabled Afghans Programme (CDAP) started in 1995 as a UNDP / UNOPS initiative to address the needs of disabled people in Afghanistan. Much of this took the form of direct provision of services in community-based rehabilitation and socio-economic activities, training and policy development and capacity building of certain functions of the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled (MMD) and support of welfare reform.

Following the findings of an evaluation in 2003, a decision was made that CDAP was best placed to cease direct service provision and instead focus on subcontracting of services to NGOs with relevant expertise in the sector. With the shift back to UNDP in August 2004 as the direct implementing agency, it was also agreed that the new programme direction should focus much more strongly on policy definition, development and wider institutional reform with the Government of Afghanistan to establish appropriate structures and processes for the coordination of the disability sector.

The third quarter of 2004 has seen CDAP complete the changeover process from direct implementation to a pure policy and sub-contracting programme with extensive monitoring, training, evaluation and technical support to NGOs in the field of disability.

Additionally, in strong consultation with a range of key ministries of the government (including the Ministries of Health, Education, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Labor and Social Affairs and Martyrs and Disabled), international agencies, NGOs and disabled peoples's organizations, a project document outlining the strategies and focus for UNDP in disability over a 3-year period is being developed. This will be completed by the end of the calendar year, and will be ready for full implementation in 2005.

### **Achievements**

- CDAP has, at the request of the Government, taken the lead in the creation of the National Vulnerability Programme (NVP). Working in close conjunction with six ministries and integrating vulnerable groups into the programme design – a first for Afghanistan – the NVP was the only new National Priority Programme that was approved by the Cabinet.
- Policy development on elections, institutional development, legislative reform, special education and physiotherapy have continued, with new standards agreed, a new unit set up at the Ministry of Education, and a series of successes in securing access to elections and practical mainstreaming into civic education programming.
- Work on gender equity issues, particularly in terms of the institutional reform of the Ministry, continues to be challenging. A significant time investment has been directed into creating a database of women working in the Ministry and conducting a needs and capacities assessment for these staff. This has led to their participation in the National Senior Women in Government programme, as well as more widespread investments in training and addressing specific, work-related capacity gaps.
- Subcontracting to six NGOs for a range of services, including two community centers for disabilities that are currently functioning in Kabul. One is contracted to Handicap International, working closely with the National Union of the Disabled, the largest group of war veterans in Kabul, to provide assistance in the Karte Seh area. The second center is run by a national NGO—Humanitarian Community Development of Afghanistan (HCDA)—in the area of Campany.
- Qualitative research programme established that is the first piece of research in Afghanistan to enquire into the beliefs and associations, knowledge, attitudes and practices of different stakeholders and agents of change for the integration of disabled people into Afghan society. Preliminary findings show that harsh perceptions and prejudice were pervasive in the community. The families tend to be ashamed of their disabled family members and family support and encouragement was found to be critical for the individual disabled person's self-esteem and level of participation in community life. The disabled

persons often feel shame and perceive themselves as burdens on the family and community. There was also prejudice amongst the respective groups of disabled people: those with impairments from birth, visual and learning impairments tend to be more marginalized and stigmatized by society.

### **Challenges and Risks:**

- The political climate in Afghanistan around the Presidential elections and the expected restructuring of the government and line ministries has slowed progress in both capacity building initiatives with MMD, as its future as a line ministry remains uncertain, as well as in the development of a national coordination body for disabilities (the proposed National Disability Commission, NDC).
- Progress on completing subcontracting of NGOs to deliver services has been slowed due to administrative and management gaps in the handover from UNOPS to UNDP. These are being sorted out, and final contracts should be issued by end of October 2004 for immediate implementation.
- Completion of the new project document will take place by November 2004. It will then need to be adopted by current and anticipated implementing and cooperating partners in NGOs, UN agencies and the government in time for full implementation by January 2005.

### **Future Priorities:**

- Finalise the new project document; identify and mobilize funding sources for the new initiatives planned for full implementation in January 2005.
- Build on the research work on attitudes and beliefs and use this as a basis for the development of a national civic education programme on disability in cooperation with UNICEF.
- Continue welfare reform programme with MMD with the aim of starting construction of new welfare office in Kabul in the next quarter.
- Strengthen monitoring and technical inputs to NGOs contracting services.
- Coordinate an inter-ministerial and interagency task group to finalise national disability policy draft document.
- Establish secretariat and office for NVP and formally start activities of this programme.
- Initial needs assessment and programme planning for leadership training and institutional definition of the disabled peoples movement in Afghanistan.
- Advisory consultancy to provide technical advice on physical access issues and guidelines for disabled people.

### **Partnerships and Resources:**

Target Budget: US\$ 13,800,000

Received Budget: US\$ 8,845,281

Shortfall: US\$ 4,954,719

Current donors: CIDA, Germany, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, France, Sweden, USAID, UNDP

Number of Project Staff: 20 (national and international)

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## Pipeline

### **FIGHTING CORRUPTION**

The Office of the President has asked UNDP to support its newly established anti-corruption unit. UNDP will provide technical assistance to the office by fielding a mission to assess the magnitude of the problem and the capacity needs of the government. This initial assessment will aim to provide key strategic recommendations on priority areas for reform based on a long-term, holistic initial framework for institutionalizing accountability, transparency and integrity in the public service of Afghanistan.

The mission may be conducted jointly with other UN organizations, but further support to the President's Anti-Corruption Unit will depend on the mission's recommendations.

### **STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AFTER THE ELECTIONS**

The Constitution of Afghanistan calls for the establishment of a bi-cameral National Assembly and an Independent Electoral Commission. A National Representation Capacity Building Preparatory Assistance was developed to provide immediate support for preparatory activities, including the recruitment of technical advisors and the fielding of a consultant team to assess the situation, consult key stakeholders, develop the work plan and finalize project documents. The first component of the project will focus on building the capacity of the Afghan Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) to train future commissioners and the staff of the current Interim Afghan Electoral Commission. The second component will focus on supporting the establishment and building the capacity of a Parliamentary Secretariat that will, in turn, support the activities of the newly elected members of the National Assembly. As an initial step, a needs assessment will be conducted to develop a comprehensive support package.

### **PROMOTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL**

This programme aims to support access to justice at the district level, particularly for disadvantaged groups. The programme will strengthen the Government's emphasis and role in providing accessible and efficient justice services outside of Kabul and sensitizing the Government to incorporating a human rights perspective in justice sector reform. The envisaged activities encompass rehabilitation and refurbishment of district justice centres (including courts, Attorney General's offices and Ministry of Justice buildings); training of provincial and district justice staff on human rights in the administration of justice, criminal law, family and land law; enhancement of the awareness of the legal system and basic rights in mullahs and community leaders; enhancement of the awareness of the public of their rights through public information campaigns and legal education; and provision of legal aid. This programme responds to the need of the Government to expand its visible presence outside of Kabul, and will be implemented in coordination with other state-building and justice programmes in the provinces and districts.

### **BUILDING SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY ON HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY REPORTING**

Afghanistan is a party to most of the major international human rights treaties. It has an obligation to implement the treaties and to periodically report on its progress to the treaty body committees. While these human rights treaty reporting obligations were not met during the period of conflict, the Transitional Government has given a priority to human rights treaty reporting and made it part of its current work plan.

In support of the Transitional Government, the project aims to build sustainable capacity for meeting the implementation and reporting obligations under international human rights treaties to which Afghanistan is a party. Its main components include capacity building of governmental staff and non-governmental stakeholders; the establishment of a database as a monitoring and controlling instrument; and the creation of an institutional mechanism to participate in and support the reporting process. At the end of the project period, it is envisaged that the Government of Afghanistan, and in particular the unit responsible for human rights treaty reporting, will have an enhanced capacity to respond to treaty reporting obligations in a competent and timely manner and with the participation of line ministries and non-governmental stakeholders. Specifically, the project will culminate in the finalization of the common core document and one treaty-specific report, as set out in the revised treaty reporting guidelines.