



A large graphic element is centered on the page. It features a thin blue circle. A horizontal bar with a light blue-to-white gradient is positioned across the middle of the circle. On the left side of this bar, the letters 'UNDP' are written vertically in a dark blue font. The main text of the bar, 'DEMOCRATIZATION & CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME', is written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The entire graphic is framed by a large, dark blue right-facing square bracket on the right side.

**United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan Country Office**

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UNDP in Afghanistan

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

Security Council [Resolution](#) 1536 (2004)

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

The human development challenge for Afghanistan is enormous. The level of malnutrition in Afghanistan is one of the highest in the world – 70 percent. The percentage of Afghans with access to a sufficient water source is the lowest in the world – 13 percent. The majority of the population is living below the UN-defined poverty line – 56 percent. The depth of poverty in Afghanistan is reflected consistently in all human development indicators, revealing a mosaic of a nation in need of sustained assistance. Not surprisingly, therefore, Afghanistan has been identified as a global priority for addressing the Millennium Development Goals.

UNDP Programme

Within Afghanistan's broad National Development Framework (NDF) 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 UNDP activities are undertaken in close collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan, UN agencies and donors. All UNDP programme activities aim to consolidate peace, enhance security and promote respect for the rule of law. UNDP projects also enhance government institutional capacity to provide public services and to create an enabling environment for legitimate livelihoods. 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.

The UNDP Afghanistan programme remains responsive to the changing needs of a nation still in transition from conflict to peace. Afghanistan is at a crucial point in moving from state building initiatives to emerging as a newly democratic state, and the opportunity to shift focus to longer term development and government support is at hand. Accordingly, the UNDP Afghanistan programme of activities is organized thematically into three pillars: **State-Building & Government Support, Democratization & Civil Society Empowerment, and Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods.**

As UNDP develops and implements its regular Country Programme in Afghanistan, a major focus on results-based management will remain. Future activities concentrate on institutionalizing accountability, transparency and integrity in the public service, continuing to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions such as the Constitution of Afghanistan, and further promoting access to and respect for justice and human rights for all Afghan citizens.

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

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Democratization & Citizens' Participation

2004 – 2005 Voter Registration and Elections Project

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

UNOPS was the implementing agent for all electoral activities.

The Joint Electoral Management Body announced in July 2004 that presidential elections would be held on 9 October 2004, with parliamentary and provincial/district council elections held in spring 2005. Subsequently, the presidential elections were successfully held on 9 October 2004 with over eight million voters (of whom 42% were women), out of the 10.5 million successfully registered by 20 August 2004 through the Voter Registration Programme, casting their ballots, resulting in the election of President Hamid Karzai.

Following the 2004 elections project, which established the Electoral Secretariat of the Joint Electoral Management Body in order to provide Afghan nationals with experience and knowledge in the legal and administrative aspects of election planning and delivery, one objective of the 2005 National Assembly and Provincial Council elections project was to build on this foundation. An addendum forming an integral part of the 2004 Afghan Elections Project was signed on 28 March 2005 reflecting the activities to be undertaken to facilitate the Wolesi Jirga (House of People) and Provincial Council Elections on 18 September 2005. The Project is facilitating the work of the newly established Independent Afghan Electoral Commission and the Joint Electoral Management Body in the following areas:

- Resource mobilization and management;
- Operational support, including additions and corrections to the register of voters;
- Polling;
- Risk management/security;
- Public outreach;
- Facilitation of international electoral observation.

Nine Afghan Electoral Commissioners were appointed by the President on 24 January 2005. The Independent Election Commission was the governmental authority paving the way for the 2005 Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections, which were held on 18 September 2005.

By the end of February 2005, the Chief Electoral Officer and senior electoral management had arrived in Kabul. By the end of April, the establishment and staffing of the JEMBS headquarters in Kabul, eight regional offices and 34 provincial offices were nearly complete. At its peak, the Secretariat was staffed by 541 internationals and 179,384 nationals. Over four percent of the JEMB staff (8,208, of which 1,121 were women) was recruited from the disabled community. The elections were implemented through a regional structure managed directly from Kabul and executed at the provincial level by both national and international staff. The election operation at local level was implemented by nationals only.

The 2005 National Assembly elections project began on 28 March 2005, with a two-part objective:

- 1) To comprehensively support the organization and delivery of National Assembly elections (i.e., *Wolesi Jirga* and Provincial Council Elections) in 2005.
- 2) To help create a durable foundation for national management of elections within the overall project, by building human and material capacity for future elections and facilitating the work of the newly established Afghanistan Independent Election Commission.

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

With the full constitution of the electoral management team in Afghanistan by the end of February, with the election support structure fully in place by April, the project had a constrained implementation timeline of around six months to set up and deliver the 2005 elections. The JEMBS provided detailed and thorough logistical and staff support in preparation for Election Day. Materials were successfully procured and distributed to 26,248 polling stations in 6267 locations nationwide. To ensure the safety and security of both staff as well as sensitive election materials, security, logistical and contingency plans were integrated into every phase of the process. These were developed in coordination with the Afghan National Army, the Afghan National Police, Afghan intelligence organizations and the International Military Forces. In preparation for polling, over 160,000 polling station officials and around 60,000 security officials were recruited, trained and deployed across the country.

The Joint Electoral Management Body Secretariat's ability to focus on building the capacity of Afghan JEMB Commissioners and Secretariat staff was reduced by time limitations. Despite the time pressures, the JEMBS did manage to implement an **effective** capacity building programme for the Joint Electoral Management Body Commissioners and Secretariat staff. This included courses for each phase of the election operation and attachment trips to visit election administrations in other democratic countries. Within the 2005 elections project, a specific training and capacity-development office was set up to supervise and conduct all training of thousands of national staff throughout the elections process in areas including but not restricted to financial management, assets management, electoral law, administration, logistics, data systems, media and external relations, field operations, and processing of complaints. Under the operational component, capacity was built through activities pertaining to the amendment of electoral law, rules and regulations, logistical mapping, security and contingency plans, and the establishment of an independent commission. Over 6.4 million voters turned out for this election, representing over 50% of the registered voters. The proportion of women voters also remained high, at about 41%.

Overall, the 2005 elections were considered a highly successful operation, although it was recognized that the election was costly due a complex operation that required a high proportion of external expertise.

Completion of the funding package for the National Assembly elections is the last step remaining before the project can be closed down for the full focus to be oriented to the next task on the Afghan electoral agenda, which is the capacity-building and strengthening of the Independent Election Commission. As with Voter Registration and Elections 2004, special measures have been taken to cater to women, as in the past they were excluded from Afghanistan's political processes through nationwide civic education activities.

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;

- Presidential Elections were successfully held on 9 October 2004 throughout Afghanistan and in Pakistan and Iran for refugees ;
- An audit was successfully conducted for the Voter Registration Project;
- A substantive revision of 2004 Afghan Elections Project to accommodate the activities related to Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections 2005 was approved and achievements to date include the following:
 - Candidate Nomination Period was successfully completed with over 6,000 candidates;
 - An independent Electoral Complaints Commission was established;
 - Voter Registration Update Period completed with approximately 1.7 million Afghans visited the 1,052 Registrations established to obtain new cards or correct existing ones;
 - Electoral Media Commission has been established and
 - Three quarterly reports of the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections 2005 submitted to the donors;
 - Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections were successfully held on 19 September 2005 nationwide which resulted in selection of 248 members for Wolsi Jirga and 420 members for Provincial Councils in 34 provinces.
 - About 6.4 million voters turned out for the 2005 election, representing over 50% of the registered voters. The proportion of women voters also remained high, at about 41%.
 - An External Evaluation Mission has been fielded for a period of 6 weeks to review and evaluate results of both Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. The Evaluation Mission has completed their preparatory work and their interviews and are in the process of finalizing their evaluation report, the results of which will be shared with government and the international community in the coming months.
 - A final narrative report for the 2005 elections has been prepared and will be submitted along with an annual financial statement (provisional) to the donors shortly.
 - IEC has received 1m USD worth vehicles and equipment in HQs and Regions in order to establish the Provincial Offices
 - 0.6 m USD equipment and vehicles were donated to the Provincial Councils
 - 0.4 m USD equipment and vehicles were donated to the Parliament
 - 32 Afghan *provincial election officers* who remain with the IEC represent institutional memory and capacity built for management of future elections in Afghanistan in the field.
 - Some 1,000 *District Field Coordinators (DFC's)* and another 5,000 Deputy DFCs are kept on roster by the IEC from the 2004 and 2005 elections for future elections in Afghanistan. These nationals represent local capacity to manage the running of registration and subsequent activities at the sub-national level. They are a corps of experienced elections field workers who are perhaps the most significant (quantitatively speaking) legacy for capacity-building by JEMBS, as they were completely equipped to deliver the election operation at the field-level for not only the 2005 but also the 2004 elections. The IEC is also in the process of collecting full reports on the performance of the DFCs and some 5000 *Deputy DFCs* (additional 5,000 national staff) from the Provincial Election Officers stationed in each province, and will take these evaluations into consideration when recruiting for future elections.

Challenges and Risks:

The Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections were successfully held on 18 September 2005. However, a number of challenges and risks still lie ahead:

- The remaining \$15 million funding gap and necessary transitional costs are met by the donors. The Afghan Government has demonstrated its commitment to assuming responsibility for election by allocating \$665,000 to the Independent Election Commission in its 1385 fiscal budget;
- The Office of the President has sent a formal request to the Civil Service Commission to support the salaries of the nine IEC Commissioners at a level befitting their status as political appointees;
- The IEC has requested for support from the international donor community for a period of six months (22 March to 21 September 2006) while the administrative arrangements are put in place;
- Lack of infrastructure at the regional/provincial level;
- Insufficient national budget allocated to IEC;

Future Priorities:

- Develop a transitional phase document addendum (extension of the Voter Registration and Elections Project) that ensures the relevant costs of activities required by the Independent Electoral Commission is in place until 21 September 2006;
- Conduct an audit and lessons learned on the Voter Registration and Elections Project (VREP) activities. A national seminar on lessons learned will be conducted including a seminar on comparative studies of electoral systems prevalent across the globe.
- Redistribution of electoral assets to relevant projects and national institutions;
- Timely third quarter and final reports distributed to the donors;
- Effectively close down VREP;
- Develop a project in support to the capacity building of the newly established Independent Electoral Commission addressing the needs beyond 21 March 2006.

Partnerships and Resources:

Donors to the Voter Registration, 2004 presidential and 2005 parliamentary elections:

USA, EC, UK, Japan, Canada, Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Norway, Denmark, Australia, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, New Zealand, Ireland, Spain, France, China, Greece, Korea, Austria, Luxembourg, India, South Africa.

Voter Registration and 2004 Presidential Elections

Total funds received: US\$176.8 million

Total expenditure VREP 2003/2004: US\$161.8 million

Registration in-country: US\$ 79 million

Polling in-country: US\$54.4 million

Out-of-Country (registration & voting): US\$24.7 million

Transitional Costs (Dec 04-Mar 05): US\$3.7

Elections Project 2005 (Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections)

- Final cost of 2005 National Assembly and Provincial Council elections → \$172 million
- Carry-over from VRP and Elections Project (Presidential Elections 2004): US\$15 million
- Total funds received and committed: US\$157 million

Total Shortfall for 2005 National Assembly Elections*	= \$15 million
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*Does not include value of sellable assets that could potentially reduce the above shortfall by a maximum of \$3 million

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Support to the Establishment of Afghan Legislature (SEAL)

UNDP has experience in providing capacity building assistance for the strengthening of legislative systems in a number of countries emerging from conflict. UNDP's involvement in this area emphasizes the potentially close relationship between its involvement in governance and the broader, political functions of the United Nations in establishing a basis for lasting peace.

To ensure the timely establishment of the Afghan National Assembly and provide strategic support to its functioning, UNDP Afghanistan, in close collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan has launched 'Support to the Establishment of Afghan Legislature' Project (SEAL Project). SEAL was launched in February 2005 and will work closely with the newly established National Assembly Secretariat and the members of the parliament that will be elected. The project duration is for two years with a budget of US\$15,501,906.

Subsequent to the elections for the Wolesi Jirga (House of the People) and provincial councils of 18 September 2005 and as a result of the fruitful efforts of the Afghan Government and the international community coordinated and led by UNDP, the joint inauguration of both houses took place successfully on 19 December 2005. Both houses have started their first parliamentary session and have discharged their primary functions: adoption of Rules of Procedures, creation of parliamentary groups (Meshrano Jirga), establishment of Standing committees and have started proceedings for approval of appointment of ministers.

Expected Outputs of SEAL project:

1. Effective coordination and programming mechanism of support to the parliament established
2. Administrative and technical staff, as well as members of the parliament fully trained and functional
3. Necessary legal and institutional environment is in place to enable the first session of the parliament
4. Information services and ICT set-up to provide timely assistance to members, staff, the media and the public
5. Effective public information, awareness, and parliament outreach strategy designed and implemented
6. Parliament setting-up and basic running cost met during first year of activity
7. Management Team Fully operational throughout the activity

Achievements:

1. *Efficient coordination mechanisms established:*

- Parliament Support Taskforce
- Parliament Support Working Group coordinating all parliament support
- Recruitment of SEAL Project Management Team

2. *Technical support provided to Staff members and Members of the Afghan National Assembly*

2.1 Training Activities

For Staff:

- Intensive 4 week training of 123 newly recruited staff completed (11 June - 6 July 2005)
- Computer training (17 July-31 July)
- English language training by British Council
- Attachments for 152 members of the Secretariat to different parliaments: Italy, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Netherlands, Turkey, Germany, France, Australia. (July-September 2005)

- National Seminar on Parliamentary Processes and Best Practices (23-25 September 2005)
- Specialized training on Protocol for International Relations Department
- Specialized training on working in standing committees
- Specialized training on relations with media for Public Information department
- Specialized training on servers and network management and configuration for ICT department
- Basic computer training for the Staffers and Members
- Training programme for members' personal assistants

For Members:

- Orientation Programme organized with USAID (12-18 December 2005)
- Needs assessment and 2 day training for Official Reports department
- Preparatory meeting for and rehearsal of the Inauguration of the Afghan National Assembly (13 and 15 December)
- Needs assessment of capacity building for members
- Training on Parliamentary system for all members of Meshrano Jirga
- Study tour / Training on "Globalization" in Dubai for all members of Meshrano Jirga

For the Ministries and other UNDP projects:

- Presentations on the "New legal system and the relationship between the National Assembly and the Government therein" for groups of high ranking official in different ministries (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Anti Narcotics, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Control and Audit Office),
- Presentation on "Decision making process within the Government" "Governance and democracy", to UNDP NPAD and presentation on "New legal system and the relationship between the National Assembly and the Government therein" to UNDP/ANBP

2.2 Assistance for regulatory documents research and drafting:

- Rules of Procedure
- Staff Regulations
- Security regulations
- Research support/background information on "MPs' privileges and immunities"
- Regular legal advice to Parliamentary affairs department
- Preparations for "International Conference on Effective Executive Legislative Relations"
- Mainstreaming human rights in training plan for MPs

3. *Material support of the Afghan National Assembly:*

3.1 ICT equipment:

- Modern Audio-Video System
- Simultaneous Interpretation facilities
- 200 computers, laptops and printers
- Complete LAN system and 10 powerful servers
- VSAT Internet connection
- PABX Phones
- VHF Radio communication System
- 10 Photocopy machines
- 3 ID card printing machines

3.2 Furniture, vehicles:

All necessary furniture (table, chairs) for office space of Secretariat and Committee rooms

10 mini vans and 8 Toyota Corolla, and through UNDP election project, 48 Jeeps provided

3.3 Library, Web site and databases:

- 1200 books are being delivered to the Library of the National Assembly
- The Official web site of the National Assembly developed
- Members' Travel Management Database

3.4 Rental of Houses

Three houses rented for secretariat staff temporary office



Challenges and Risks:

The following factors will determine whether the ongoing SEAL initiatives prove effective and successful in sustaining efficient support to Wolesi and Meshrano Jirga

- Funding gap is fully met by the donors and funding is received in time;
- An appropriate level of security prevails;
- Lack of experience of the members of the National Assembly and its Secretariat, to respectively play their role as effective members of a legislative body and to properly serve and run the new institution
- Effective legal framework and procedures, including mechanisms for interaction between the executive and the legislature are in place, so that the parliament can be fully functional to discharge efficiently its constitutional roles (cabinet approval, adoption of decrees enacted during the interim period).

Future Priorities:

- Effective coordination with national and international stakeholders on the additional needs of parliament including constructive input and feedback for the building and equipment of the permanent National Assembly and mobilisation of support required
- putting in place an efficient and coordinated mechanism of organizing capacity building activities, particularly, the study tours and attachments abroad for parliamentarians and support in streamlining the executive-legislature relationship mechanisms
- Include new areas of action in project activities: security, anti-corruption, raising awareness of the executive involved departments on executive-legislature interactions

- Positively respond to the request of Wolesi Jirga as to permanently provide support on technical, legal procedural and policy areas
- Timely quarterly reporting to the donors and identification of potential needs for the legislators beyond SEAL Project period

Partnerships and Resources:

SEAL Budget: US\$ 15,501,906

Total Commitment: US\$ 15,389,372

Total Received: US\$ 13,829,273

Funding gap: US\$ 112,534

Donor	Amount in US\$
UNDP Core	750,000
EC	2,895,054
France	2,884,923
Italy	1,204,819
SIDA	1,277,139
Germany (GTZ)	1,764,706
Denmark	2,000,000
CIDA	1,052,631
Total received	US\$ 13,829,273

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Promotion of Rights & Equality

Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan (SJSA)

In accordance with the provisions of the Bonn Agreement, UNDP and UNAMA jointly collaborated in formulating and implementing the “Rebuilding the Justice Sector of Afghanistan” (RJSA) project in January 2003. The RJSA project has continued throughout 2005 to focus on institutional development. The project’s activities in the final quarter of 2005, the concluding year, have taken place within the context of the conclusion of the project and planning and development of the RJSA’s follow-on programme, the “*Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan*” project, as well as a supplementary grass-roots level initiative, the “*Access to Justice at the District Level*” project, each of which were signed by UNDP and the permanent justice institutions of Afghanistan in November 2005. UNDP’s justice-sector strategy is to integrate the development and reform of national legal codes and traditional justice mechanisms with grass-roots initiatives building demand for justice-sector services at the district level while also addressing justice supply requirements. The RJSA project has made significant gains in national justice policy and strategy development. This has provided a clear framework of required support and also allowed the identification of entry points for the follow-on UNDP Programme. SJSA will continue the support established by RJSA and support the development of the permanent justice institutions of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the legal education institutions with capacity building and technical advice as well as infrastructure and equipment inputs. The broad scope of SJSA enables it to address the multi-faceted needs of the justice sector reform. This provides the project with the flexibility and elasticity to meet numerous ever-evolving short-term challenges, while supporting development of long-term sustainable strategies. SJSA began on 1 January 2006 with duration of 36 months while AJDL started on 1 November 2005 with duration of 30 months.

Achievements:

Justice for All: UNDP assisted the government in formulating and expressing a ten-year policy vision of planned activity and reform of the justice sector entitled “*Justice for All*”. This policy vision was recently approved by Cabinet and forms part of the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS). UNDP has begun supporting the Justice Sector with the development of the implementation strategy for “*Justice for All*”. Seven working groups have been established to develop implementation and monitoring and evaluation plans for the National Justice Strategy (Justice for All).

Access to justice: The “*Access to Justice at District Level*” Project Document was signed by UNDP and the permanent justice institutions of Afghanistan in November 2005. The project will focus on the recognition of the importance of traditional justice mechanisms that exist in Afghanistan, while ensuring that such mechanisms are in compliance with national laws and international standards, and that Government ownership and control are achieved. Selection of the initial districts is completed and was approved by the Steering Committee in March 2006. Assessment of the district profile will start in the month of April 2006. In addition, recruitment of essential staff for the project is already in progress.

Institutional development: UNDP is providing ongoing advice and support to the permanent justice institutions and Law Faculty in developing themselves. The technical experts, assigned by the UNDP to each institution, assist on a daily basis on a number of tasks, especially those related to institutional development, but also legal or legally sensitive issues.

Institutional reform: With support from the UNDP, the permanent justice institutions are continuing the implementation of the Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) Programme within the justice sector. The PRR process has been initiated and implemented in all departments of the Ministry of Justice except in the departments of Prisons and Juvenile Rehabilitation where work is ongoing. Similarly, Phase II of the PRR process is underway in the Attorney General’s office.

Consultation: UNDP has taken the lead in assisting the permanent justice institutions in their discussions with donors, through the Consultative Group process. Through this process, achievements have been made in the formulation and monitoring of a number of development projects, under Government ownership and leadership including the ten-year policy vision for justice sector.

Infrastructure and equipment: UNDP supported the permanent justice institutions, in meeting their needs for infrastructural improvements and new equipment. Among other achievements, the rehabilitation of the Ministry of Justice headquarters has been completed and a building was constructed within the Attorney General's compound for the Departments of Monitoring and Counter-Narcotics. Construction and rehabilitation are ongoing in Kabul and in provinces. Equipment such as vehicles and electronic appliances are regularly provided to the institutions.

Finance: UNDP has supported the permanent justice institutions in developing a financial management capacity and has recently supported the justice institutions and the Ministry of Finance in rationalizing the Justice Sector Development Budget for the first time in over 24 months. This is being achieved through the work of a Counterpart Chief Financial Officer to support the institutions in carrying out their responsibilities for public expenditure management.

Communications: UNDP has developed a communications structure within the programme to be followed by support to the communications capacity of the permanent justice institutions and Kabul University's Law Faculty. A newsletter, the 'Justice Monitor' was initiated to act as an information outlet for the Justice Programme and the justice sector as a whole. It is published in Pashto, Dari and English and provides information about UNDP's activities in the field of justice and on developments and issues within the three permanent justice institutions and the country's law faculties.

Law Curriculum: UNDP has provided support to the Faculty of Law and Political Science of Kabul University in designing a new curriculum. The Law Curriculum Development Committee, which has worked since October 2004 under the guidance of UNDP's specialists, produced a draft of the new curriculum which has been approved by the University Senate and the new curriculum is envisaged to be applied in the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences after approval by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Future Priorities:

- Resource mobilization for the "Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan" project.
- Assessment of pilot districts and subsequently development of a comprehensive work plan for the "Access to Justice at the District Level" project.
- Recruitment of staff for the "Access to Justice at the District Level" project.
- Support to the Ministry of Justice working groups in formulating an implementation framework for different areas under the "Justice for All" policy vision.
- Support public administrative reform and financial management reform in the permanent justice institutions.
- Provide support to the establishment of a Supreme Court and judicial system that comply with the new Constitution and operate in compliance with national law and international standards.
- Provide support in drafting key laws for the administration of justice, including the criminal and civil codes, the penal management law, and the juvenile justice code.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: (AJDL) US\$ 7,200,000, (SJSA) US\$ 21,319,914

Received Budget: (AJDL) US\$ 7,200,000

Shortfall: (SJSA) US\$ 20,819,914

Number of current project staff: 5 international and 21 national staff

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Support for the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission

To assist in the establishment of the Independent Human Rights Commission in early 2002, the UNDP supported UNAMA and the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OCHCR) 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 violation. This constituted the basis for the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) work programme. The project, which commenced on 24 October 2004, was extended for six months in the first steering committee meeting held in September 2004. The second steering committee meeting, convened on 26 April 2005, extended the project until the end of 2005. In order to ensure a successful transition to bilateral donor funding for AIHRC, the project was once more extended and ended on 1 April 2006. During the first quarter of 2006, AIHRC has fulfilled all requirements related to the closing of the UNDP Support to the AIHRC project, which was approved by the Steering Committee meeting convened on 1 March 2006. AIHRC also finalised a project document in support of its three-year Action Plan for 2006-2008, which formulates a logical analysis framework with appropriate benchmarks for accurate monitoring and reporting purposes. This project document is the result of an extensive consultation process with donor representatives and the United Nations. The first Project Committee meeting took place on 15 March 2006.

Expected Outputs of Support to the AIHRC Project:

- Well functioning Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission;
- Greater awareness of Human Rights;
- Improved protection of Human Rights nationwide;
- Human Rights supported by national authorities, academia, security forces, liberal professions, unions, and civil society in general;
- Easy access for all Afghan citizen to file Human Rights complaints;
- Improved implementation and obedience of International Human Rights Treaties which Afghanistan is a party to.

Achievements:

- The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission was established by the Bonn Agreement and Presidential Decree of 6th June 2002. The Commission has later been institutionalized by Article 58 of the 2004 Constitution of Afghanistan. Its mandate and structure has been further clarified in “Law on the Structure, Duties and Mandate of AIHRC”, enacted in May 2005;
- The AIHRC has rapidly expanded its operations during its first three years of existence. In the addition to the AIHRC headquarters in Kabul, AIHRC has eight regional offices located in Herat, Bamiyan, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, Paktia, Kandahar, and Kunduz, as well as the Kabul Central Region office. Furthermore, three provincial offices have opened in Maimana, Badakshan, and Daykundi. The AIHRC currently has 6 Commissioners and some 480 staff;
- 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;
- Seven programme units have been created: 1. Investigation and Monitoring; 2. Transitional Justice; 3. Women’s Rights; 4. Children’s Rights; 5. Human Rights Education; 6. Research, Policy and Media; recently, another unit for Rights of People with disabilities has been added;
- Trainings and workshops are continuously conducted with regard to women’s rights, children’s rights, human rights education, Transitional Justice and rights of People with disabilities in Kabul and in all regional and provincial offices;

- Production and broadcast of radio-based and TV programmes on human rights are ongoing and an agreement has been signed with Aina TV and provincial Radio in Daikondi to broadcast human rights issues. The production of a film on child rights is under process;
- AIHRC chairs the Human Rights Advisory Group which brings together donors, UN agencies, international NGOs and Afghan governmental and non-governmental organizations 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 field of human rights education and women's rights who were actively supporting the AIHRC in defining and implementing its work programme completed their contracts by the end of 2004;
- Since May 2005, the Commission has recruited an international resource person to assist with various reporting issues including the annual report, lately a Reporting and Donor Relations consultant has been hired;
- The Commission received 2,271 complaints in 2004, which involved 4,436 cases of human rights violation, 2,401 complaints in 2005 which involved 2,955 cases of human rights violation, and during the first quarter of 2006, 387 complaints which involved 512 cases of human rights violations. Monitoring of prison was carried out and 407 persons detained without being sentenced by a legal court in 2004, 592 in 2005 and 102 in the first quarter of 2006 were released from prisons;
- The three-year action plan of the Afghan government on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation was approved on 12 December 2005. AIHRC has been given the responsibility to achieve the third objective of this action plan, which is truth seeking and conflict mapping. In that regard, the Transitional Justice unit of AIHRC has started to implement activities since January 2005;
- During the last quarter, AIHRC published three Child Rights related brochures (18,000 copies), a Child Rights Convention booklet (10,000 copies), and three issues of Human Rights Magazine (36,000 copies). AIHRC also provided four chapters in educational manuals corresponding to 85,000 pages, and published three booklets on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Economic, Social Convention and violence (30,000 volumes) from the Human Rights Education unit. AIHRC also issued during the first quarter a report on AIHRC activities and achievements in 2005.
- An external evaluation was conducted and completed in January 2005 by two international consultants, at the end of the first two years of the UNDP project;
- The AIHRC has finalized its new project document and systematically started the implementation of its three-year action plan;
- In conjunction with the 2005 parliamentary election the AIHRC was actively involved with political rights verification (PRV) activities and observation of the election. The AIHRC produced three reports jointly with UNAMA, which provided clear recommendations to the Government, JEMB, political parties, civil society and the candidates – all issued in Dari, Pashto and English;
- AIHRC has recently launched its Annual Report for 2004/2005 and first quarter report for 2006. A soft copy is available on AIHRC's website <http://www.aihrc.org.af>
- Commissioners have visited all satellite and provincial offices' management, administration and procedures has been finalized in December 2005; the recommendations following from the assessment are currently being implemented;
- AIHRC produced a National Report on Economics and Social Rights. This report assesses the government's obligations to protect selected economic and social rights under international treaties that Afghanistan ratified;
- The 16 standard human rights category, the database and case management have been approved by the commission in coordination with UNAMA and UNHCR. Improvements have been made related to the complaints and case intervention forms, notably by establishing a common set of 16 human rights categories for statistical purpose. Ongoing issues include the need to improve security of data and establish a case management system;

- The AIHRC Transitional Justice unit and the AIHRC Legal Advisor also worked on the law referring to the International Criminal Court, and lobbied this law with the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice
- AIHRC organized four press conferences in the last quarter on different issues and occasions such as the International Human Rights Day, the condition of Afghan prisoners in US prisons in Guantanamo Bay, Women's Rights situation in Afghanistan and the human rights situation in Northern Afghanistan.
- AIHRC celebrated the International Women's Day on 8 March in 8 regional and 3 provincial offices through conferences, meetings and poem-reading gatherings. On this occasion, 3 women's rights activists were awarded and 12,000 copies of a special issue magazine for Women's Day were printed and distributed throughout the country. AIHRC worked closely with the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice on a decree to release women sentenced for less than one year on 8 March. A report on women's condition in Afghanistan was also released with recommendations to the government.

Future Priorities:

- Implementation of the AIHRC three-year action plan and staff capacity building is the first priority of the commission;
- The AIHRC has started the physical construction of a new building for its Kabul headquarter Office, in addition to construction of various satellite offices; the construction of five satellite offices will be completed shortly;
- Enhancing partnership with civil society in the delivery of human rights services;
- Since 1 April, AIHRC has phased out from UNDP and one main priority will be to engage in direct bilateral donor funding. With the assistance of the Donor Relations and Reporting Consultant, AIHRC will also focus on building capacity among its staff to fulfill donor reporting requirements and other donor relations tasks.

Partnerships and Resources:

AIHRC Budget for 2006 -2008: US\$ 36,807,913

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

Pledges: Denmark, Norway, Finland, United States, United Kingdom.

Focal Points:

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Richard Bennett, UNAMA Head of Human Rights Unit and OHCHR Representative for Afghanistan (bennetr@un.org)

Building Sustainable Capacity on Human Rights Treaty Reporting

The project aims to build sustainable capacity within the Government of Afghanistan to allow it to meet its implementation and reporting obligations under the six international human rights treaties to which Afghanistan is party in a timely and coordinated manner. Afghanistan is party to the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; the Convention against Torture; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Government is obliged to submit regular reports to the international monitoring committees on the progress it has made in implementing the rights set out in the treaties. The report preparation process provides a valuable opportunity for national-level assessment of the state of human rights implementation as a first step towards developing policies and programmes to further the promotion and protection of human rights within a development context.

The main components of the project are capacity-building of governmental staff and non-governmental stakeholders, cooperation with AIHRC on training activities and shadow reporting, the creation of an institutional mechanism to participate in and support the reporting process and the establishment of a database to support the data gathering and report drafting process.

An international technical advisor will work with national staff within the Department of Human Rights and International Women's Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will provide advice to the Government on the treaty reporting process.

The project duration is 15 months with a budget of US\$ 297,619.

Expected Outputs:

- Strengthened technical expertise and capacity throughout Government;
- Institutional mechanism/framework established with full participation of all line ministries to ensure sustained reporting and effective follow-up to treaty body recommendations;
- Strengthened capacity of non-governmental stakeholders, in particular the AIHRC;
- Information system established (incl. maintenance) providing updated information and statistics relevant to human rights treaty reporting;
- Reports are finalized and submitted to the relevant treaty bodies using the new format of a common core document and treaty-specific documents by the end of the project duration, with planning already underway for subsequent rounds of reporting;
- Improved implementation and observance of international human rights norms as set out in the treaties to which Afghanistan is a party.

Achievements:

- A donor agreement was signed with CIDA on 19 June 2005 and the official launch of the project took place on 27 November 2005;
- The Project office within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was established;
- International technical adviser came to Kabul for a period of 6 weeks to start-up the project;
- Introductory meeting held with human rights focal points in various ministries to present the process of treaty reporting and establish a common working mechanism;
- Treaty Reporting Consultant visited Kabul for 12 days (9-21 March 2006). She provided advice on the project, consulted all relevant stakeholders and contributed to capacity-building activities for ministerial focal points and the treaty reporting project team in MoFA;

- Workshop was organized for ministry focal points on 15, 16, and 18 March 2006 in the MoFA. It was conducted by two Iranian Consultants and the Treaty Reporting Consultant;

Future Priorities:

- Finalisation of a detailed strategy and workplan for 2006;
- Briefing to Cabinet to assure necessary government support for treaty reporting;
- Recruitment of additional staff to strengthen the treaty reporting team in MoFA;
- Recruitment of an International Technical Advisor for at least 6 months;
- Planning for the first phase of data gathering (preparation of a common core document and one treaty-specific document);

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 297,619

Committed Budget: US\$ 297,619

Donors: Canada

Focal Point:

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Institutional Capacity Development for the Ministry of Women's Affairs

General Background

The Institutional Support and Capacity Development for the Ministry of Women's Affairs project aimed at providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) for the promotion of gender mainstreaming across the governmental machineries. The support of the project is mainly focused on building MoWA's institutional capacity for the advancement of women's empowerment. The project functions in close collaboration with the department of Training and Advocacy (TAD).

Objective

The overarching objective of the project is to help enhance capacity of MoWA to deliver on its mandates including assisting other ministries in support of its strategic approach to institutionalise the gender mainstreaming process and strengthen inter-ministerial collaboration. The main areas of intervention in the regard include:

- Institutional capacity building at central and provincial levels: training and advocacy for gender mainstreaming (awareness, skills, tools and instruments), institutional operational capabilities (processes and workflow);
- Institutionalising gender mainstreaming in other ministries and provinces;
- Capacity building for gender promotion and advocacy;
- Establishment of a gender training institute;
- Advisory services to the ministry/minister;

Key Features and Achievements

Since its inception, the project has been providing TAD/MoWA with support of different nature including technical institutional capacity assistance, development of infrastructure, instruments for giving effect to policies and transfer of knowledge and expertise. In concrete the support and assistance over time resulted in MoWA's enhanced capacity in terms of infrastructure, instruments, intellectual resources, policy guidance to other concerned ministries/institutions, etc.

The current major engagement of the project is as follows:

1. *Capacity building and skill development at central and provincial levels*

Capacity for Gender Equality promotion:

- Tools such as training module, manuals, and audio-visual devices have been developed and concerned/key officials/staff were trained. Systematic learning and practice sessions resulted in better understanding and increased confidence of MoWA staff including heads of departments of their role, processes and to deliver on its mandates.
- Trained relevant TAD/MoWA staff in several strategic areas, including imparting gender awareness/analysis, advocacy training. Activities were conducted both at central and provincial levels resulting in MoWA's increased outreach and stronger presence in provinces particularly in Maidan Wardak, Kapisa and Panjshir Kunduz, Bamiyan, Kandahar, Ghazni, Heart, Ningarhar, Mazar, Badakhshan, Logar, Parwan beyond the boundary of MoWA and DoWA (provincial departments of MoWA) results of the activities apparently influenced the thought process of the participants in their daily operations. Reflection of the learning from courses was noticed particularly in sectors of education and health.
- Specialised activities such as Training of Trainers (ToT) in Gender and Development positively influenced/affected knowledge, skills and confidence of TAD/MoWA capacity builders. Multiplying effect of which have been felt not only at the centre but at sub national level as well.

- Development and availability of tools and particularly material on gender, enhanced TAD/MoWA's image as a Gender Resource organisation. Institutions both from governmental and non-governmental sectors approach TAD/MoWA for gender related resources and specialised services. This has positively affected MoWA, relationship with non-governmental agencies, network women's groups as well.
- Availability/accessibility of Gender Manuals/material and other resources related to women's human rights has enhanced access of institutions and individuals including TAD/MoWA staff to much needed intellectual resources.
- Activities particularly planning exercises helped enhance knowledge and capability of TAD staff to critically analyse cause and effect relationship and results of advocacy actions and measures.

2. *Gender Advocacy*

Production of **monthly/quarterly** publications of TAD (**Ershad-ul-Naswan and Mirman Magazine**) and other occasional material/messages, publicity material not only has contributed to the body of knowledge on women's/gender related matters but also has increased readership of women's rights agenda. This has proved to be complimentary to other efforts of TAD/MoWA to provide policy guidance as well advocate on women's rights and equal status.

Apart from regular efforts, TAD/MoWA takes advantage of every occasion, national/international, pertinent to women's rights, status, and gender equality to promote women's rights and gender agenda. Commemoration of International Women's Day (IWD), 8th March, and 16 days of activism for greater public awareness/engagement against violence against women and girls are some of the annual events that MoWA effectively exploits in favour of realising its own mandate. To that effect support of the project has been critical, particularly to help analyse key factors, to shape campaigns and determine messages.

3. *Operational Capacity*

Contribution and effectiveness of project interventions are visible in the delivery of TAD/MoWA. Capacity of MoWA in general and TAD in particular has enhanced as a result of the support from the project. The very premises of TAD, which was built under the co-operation of this project, has provided not only physical stability, but also contributed to institutional confidence, as a key capacity builder. Raging from training facility, resource centre and office accommodations have all contributed to TAD's strong presence and it's moving towards "one-stop-delivery point" in the area of gender technical capacity and as the advocacy organ of MoWA.

Technical assistance from the project provided technical guidance for efficient management of operational functions, programmes and individual level task management skills. Through designing and implementation of training courses on planning, program management, report writing and refresher courses, the capacity and skills of public sector officials TAD/MoWA officials at central as well as provincial level enhanced. Apart from MoWA itself other ministries including MoMI, MoE, MoH, MoTC, also the Supreme Court benefited from the programme. At the provincial level, support so far has been extended to Parwan, Nangarhar, Loghar, Jozjan and Mazar. Other provinces like Paktia, punjshir, Samangan, Wardak, Kapisa, Ghazni and Baghlan are planned to be covered in the coming future. A module on Management and Report Writing is produced and accessible to all.

Transformation in practices:

One of the key contributions towards effective mode of operations is project's strong advocacy for participative processes. Recent exercise of the development of TAD's Annual Action Plan manifested the importance of the efforts. The Action Plan for the Training and Advocacy Department of MoWA for 2006 itself is a result of the process, which helped enhance staff confidence to express their critical views and put forward recommendations to produce for the achievement of their goals and produce results. Introduction to

a result-based managed practice was another key contribution of recent endeavours of the project. Apart from realising set objectives, each initiative of the project contributes towards enhanced technical institutional capability—functional/managerial as well as practice related.

Gender Training Institute:

Establishment of a Gender Training Institute (GTI) is one of the key components of the project. Within the framework of tertiary education system, the process of establishing GTI has started taking concrete shape. In partnership with the University of Kabul, MoWA, UNESCO, the project has been spearheading the process. Solid output of the process will contribute to structured academic courses and will make available gender technical expertise locally.

Forthcoming agenda

The project aims to further enhance capacity of MoWA and other key institutions for the institutionalisation of gender mainstreaming. In this regard introducing strategic initiatives/measures considered critical. Nevertheless, in order to deliver most effectively and help produce lasting effect/results the support from the project/UNDP is being revisited within the framework of ANDS, Afghanistan Compact and Interim National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA). To that effect UNDP is commissioning an external evaluation exercise in the second quarter of the year. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine most strategic interventions for UNDP to assist institutions for the mainstreaming of gender in Afghanistan. The activities carried out thus far were instantaneous response to the needs expressed by MoWA. In the long run more strategic interventions are being considered. To this effect the role and contribution of the GTI will be critical. Besides capacity development of line ministries at central and other institutions at sub-national level are given priority.

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget: US\$ 2,289,276

Received Budget: US\$ 2,289,276

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

Focal Points:

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National Programme for Action on Disability (NPAD)

The National Programme for Action on Disability (NPAD) is a three-year project formally launched in March 2005 in agreement with two ministries – Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled (MMD) and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA). The primary objective of NPAD is to raise awareness and capacity, and to develop government structures for policy development, implementation and coordination of disability-focused efforts in Afghanistan. The emphasis of the Programme is to ensure the rightful inclusion of disabled people through addressing and breaking down social, political and economic barriers faced by disabled people in Afghanistan.

The Programme is delivering a twin-tracked approach to disability, both by specific disability-focused initiatives and through inclusion in mainstream government and civil society strategies. The focus is on disability awareness and education, policy and legislative definition, coordination and service delivery. The primary actors are: relevant government ministries, organizations delivering services and those organizations representing disabled people.

NPAD works towards the following outcomes over three years –

- Raised awareness and commitment to disability as a rights-based, inclusive issue by government, civil society groups and the international community in Afghanistan.
- Quality programmes and relevant services are reaching more disabled people (women, children, men, people with sensory, intellectual and mental impairments) in key sectors of health, education, livelihood and education and in four geographical areas currently not reached by services.
- A government-led new representative organizational body has been formed which is responsible for the coordination, management and leadership in disability policy and practice. This body brings together key line ministries, relevant local and international NGOs and agencies and provides leadership and legitimate representation of the disabled peoples' movement in Afghanistan.
- The formation of an accessible national knowledge bank based on in-country disability information and international information gained from surveys and research as well as lessons learnt from programme implementation.

Achievements

- A three year National Policy Framework on Disability is developed. It is awaiting the approval of the cabinet.
- Terms of reference and job descriptions for Ministerial advisors, and the directors developed. Team building and management training programme for senior advisors and civil servants in Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled on weekly basis established and implemented.
- Disability inclusion in Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and benchmarks in Afghan COMPACT.
- Capacity building needs assessment completed, programs identified, and being implemented as on going task.
- Disabled people representing national civil society groups of disabled people made aware of their basic rights and acquired basic knowledge on lobbying, advocacy skills through 2 workshops.
- Action plan and policy development on welfare and social security policy developed through inter-ministerial task group.
- Standard guidelines and work procedure with monitoring and evaluation tools are being developed.
- Guidelines for registration of persons with disabilities and families of martyrs completed.
- Welfare Assistance assessment completed. Reform advice document suggesting needs assessed welfare payment finalised and submitted to the Ministry.
- Tools for needs assessment and means testing completed, and a training module on using the tools is being developed;

- A project for income generation, ‘The Afghan Ability’ for persons with disabilities and families of martyrs developed to find private sector solutions for welfare provisioning. It is being implemented in partnership with UNDP PPSD project.
- Internet and email facilities provided at Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled for staff and training provided in use and support of ICT equipment by NPAD IT advisor.
- Weekly radio programme “Qahir-Qaraman” which shares information and raises awareness on disability is produced by NPAD under leadership of disabled people and with inputs from government, disabled people’s organizations and NGOS.
- A resource center for the disabled in Kabul is taking shape and should be completed by end of April. This is funded by the French Trust Fund. Three more such centers are planned for Jalalabad, Mazar-e- Sharif and Kandhahar
- Provincial offices for coordination of services in Herat being established.
- Facilitated participation of Afghan disability representatives and Human Rights Commission in the 7th Ad hoc committee meeting on the UN convention of the Rights of Disabled people.
- Physical accessibility workshops were held during Jan – Feb in Kabul, Jalalabad and Mazar provinces; more than 30 people attended and got lots of new ideas regarding physical accessibility. NPAD was the focal point for organizing these comprehensive workshops
- A Disability Mainstreaming workshop was held in Mazar and Jalalabad provinces to enable participants to get an overview of disability at the national, regional and international level; also included was the use of disability advocacy and mainstreaming tools.
- Leadership and management workshops was held in Kabul and Jalalabad provinces for DPO’s and government in order to built capacity of 20 DPO members in leadership and management skills.
- An MoU has been signed between the Minister of Education and UNDP/NPAD. The MOU reinforces the government’s commitment to increasing access to education for children with disabilities.
- An Inclusive Education workshop was held in Mazar province, to build capacity of 50 teachers and parents in Inclusive Education. The workshop also identified five schools through which IE models of education will be implemented.
- Workshops were also held in Jalalabad and Mazar provinces regarding disability awareness and rights, instructional strategy, vocational training, employment, micro finance, and so on.
- Produced a situational analysis of the current situation of physiotherapy in Afghanistan. This will be used by the government and stakeholders to improve physiotherapy training in Afghanistan.
- Studies have been undertaken on the current standard of treatment for burns in Afghanistan to identify gaps in management and strategies to enhance the quality of care for burns and prevent disability.
- A study of the current situation of CBR in Afghanistan has also been undertaken. This will enable future planning of services through community based rehabilitation approach.
- NPAD is in the process of producing a handbook of monitoring tools to ensure high quality services are provided by rehabilitation contractors and service providers.

Challenges and Risks:

- The government’s very low starting point of understanding of disability and the needs of disabled people; and the extremely low technical capacity to provide leadership in policy and programme development which may slow delivery rate and achievement of outcomes.
- Technical and organizational capacity of disability service providers to be better able to provide the range and quality of services needed to meet disabled people, in particular those more marginalized and excluded such as people with sensory impairments (visual and hearing), with learning disability and disabled women.
- Deterioration of security in certain areas of the country which limits preparedness and capacity of NGOs to deliver services and other Programme activities.

- The current stance of the government in relation to NGOs (and vice versa) makes coordination efforts and cooperation between government and NGO slower than should be.
- Lack of allocation of specific funding by government and donors for disabled people and other vulnerable groups in the national development budget will limit programme delivery and may demotivate stakeholders.

Future Priorities:

- Re-strategise on government capacity building based on the rearrangements of the ministries.
- Develop specific programme implementation strategies for each line ministry as a follow on to the policy framework.
- Establish cross agencies consultations on the legislation framework for disabled persons in Afghanistan.
- Complete construction of new welfare office for use by MMD for disbursement of welfare payments.
- Assess the accessibility needs and requirements for access and exchange of knowledge and information at the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled and put in place systems and tools to facilitate the same.
- Provide technical support and initiate specific disability awareness programmes with senior policy and programme advisors in the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Public Health.
- Develop leadership and awareness materials based on training of trainers model with disabled people's organizations and have these translated into Braille for equal access.
- Provide inputs and coordination to electoral process to ensure civic education programmes, and campaign materials accessible to disabled people.
- Revise tools for mainstreaming of disability for NGOs and other UN and international agencies.
- Issue service contracts nationally to NGOs and civil society working in disability.
- Provide training for NGO partners on monitoring.
- Continuation of Management and Leadership programs for DPOs.
- Continuation of Capacity Building Programs for senior management of MMD.
- Provide technical inputs for amalgamation of MoLSA into MMD.
- Establishment of Disability Department and consequently task force in MoPH.
- Develop Inclusive education models and annual priorities in terms access to education of children with disability with MoE.
- Design Vocational Orientation and Guidance Curriculum.

Partnerships and Resources:

Estimated Budget (2005 – 7): US \$ 10,900,000

Current donors: USAID, UNDP, Japan and French Trust Fund

Number of Project Staff: 26 (national and international)

Focal Point:

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Pipeline

Fighting Corruption

Following UNDP's need assessment mission in March 2005 to identify the nature and level of corruption in the country, UNDP took the strategic decision to convert accountability and transparency into one of the new priority programmes in its governance portfolio. This commitment translated into setting up a small professional team charged with the design and implementation of a broad based and multi-stakeholder anti-corruption programme in support of the government's commitment to tackle this problem and responding to the growing demand from civil society and development partners to convert verbal statements into tangible action.

Since November 2005, there have been remarkable achievements in bringing the issue to the top of the political agenda. UNDP Afghanistan has played an important role in this as it provided continuously substantive support to the formulation of the anti-corruption chapter in the interim Afghan National Development Strategy (i-ANDS) and developed and advocated effectively in favour of a specific anti-corruption benchmark in the Afghan Compact. Both the i-ANDS and the Afghanistan Compact refer to the UN Convention against Corruption as the main reference framework for the development of a national anti-corruption strategy.

UNDP also took a lead in convening a donor harmonization group as space for policy dialogue and generate consensus on how to tackle the phenomenon of corruption. This group will work in support of the Cross-cutting Consultative Group. Furthermore, UNDP organized numerous consultative meetings with different partners such as the government, civil society organizations, UN agencies and other development partners in an effort to develop its first Accountability and Transparency (ACT) Project for Afghanistan in a truly participatory manner.

This ACT project, whose formulation has been greatly supported by the UNDP regional centre in Bangkok, is currently being finalized with government partners, the international community and other relevant stakeholders. It comprises three components with a series of pilot projects which will culminate in a nationally owned Integrity Strategy.

- Outcome I: Create an institutional, legal and policy environment to support the implementation of anti-corruption policies and programmes
- Outcome II: Start a series of pilot initiatives to enhance accountability and transparency in pilot ministries, provinces and municipalities as well as in aid management.
- Outcome III: Increase awareness and understanding of corruption in Afghanistan

The ACT project will be housed in the Office of Administrative Affairs (OAA) which is going to provide the political leadership, while the ANDS secretariat will receive technical support to strengthen its role in developing the full-fledged ANDS to which the development of the National Integrity Strategy will be closely tied.

A crucial element of the ACT strategy is to provide technical inputs and advice to other sector reform programmes, starting with those that are supported by UNDP, as to mainstream the fight against corruption. Such has been the case with the SEAL project as well as with the justice sector reform. This strategy is expected to create a more conducive policy environment to help the government to effectively tackle corruption.

Given that going against corruption is a politically sensitive issue, there are a number of challenges that have to be addressed in a concerted effort between the government and the development community:

- The apparent difficulty to translate political commitment into tangible action
- The uncertainty regarding the institutional arrangements on the side of the government to carry forward an integrity agenda
- The permeation of national public institutions by the drug economy