



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 title of the program, 'DEMOCRATIZATION & CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME', is written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font across the center of the bar. Large, dark blue square brackets are placed on the left and right sides of the bar, framing the title.

**United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan Country Office**

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Table of Contents

UNDP in Afghanistan.....	3
UNDP Programme	3
Democratization and Civil Society Empowerment Programme	4
Democratization & Citizens' Participation.....	5
Voter Registration and Elections Project	5
SUPPORT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AFGHAN LEGISLATURE (SEAL)	8
Promotion of Rights & Equality	12
Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan (SJSA)	12
Building Sustainable Capacity on Human Rights Treaty Reporting	14
Institutional Capacity Development for the Ministry of Women's Affairs	16
National Programme for Action on Disability (NPAD)	19
Pipeline	24
Fighting Corruption	24
Strengthening Democracy after the Elections	24
Promoting Access to Justice at the District Level	24

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 Ms. Sitara, Assistant Country Director.

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Democratization & Citizens' Participation

VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS PROJECT

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.

Nine Afghan Electoral Commissioners were appointed by the President on 24 January 2005. The Independent Electoral Commission is the Governmental authority paving the way for the 2005 elections. In the upcoming Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections, UNAMA will remain in charge of political oversight. UNDP will manage the fund and donor relations, and UNOPS will be the implementing agent for all electoral activities.

Following the Presidential Elections, 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.

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 newly 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

- Two 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;
- Provisional results have been announced for all 34 provinces with certification of results ongoing for the majority of the provinces.

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:

- Complaints related to the elections and its results are successfully addressed by the Electoral Complaints Commission;
- The remaining funding gap and necessary transitional costs are met by the donors;
- The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is able to secure sufficient staffing and operational costs through the national budget as of 21 March 2006;

Future Priorities:

- Enable elected members of the Provincial Councils to hold meetings and successfully elect member of the Meshrano Jirga;
- Develop a transitional phase document (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 20 March 2006;
- Conduct an audit and lessons learned on the Voter Registration and Elections Project (VREP) activities;
- 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:

Voter Registration Project & Elections Project 2003/2004 (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)

Target Budget: US\$159.0 million

Carry-over from VRP and Elections Project (Presidential Elections 2004): US\$15 million

Total funds received and committed: US\$128.8 million

Donors (as of 25 October 05): USAID, Greece, Switzerland, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, UK, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Canada, Finland, EC, Sweden, Republic of Korea, Ireland, Japan, Germany, France, Spain and Belgium

Shortfall: US\$15.2 million (an estimated additional US\$3.7m is required to cover the transitional phase up to 20 March 2006)

Focal Point: Hiroko Takagi, Programme Specialist (hiroko.takagi@undp.org)
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Democratization & Citizens' Participation

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.

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

- Intensive 4 week training of 123 newly recruited staff completed (11 June - 6 July 2005)
- Computer training (17 July-31 July)
- English 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)
- 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 programme for members' personal assistants

2.2 Assistance for regulatory documents research and drafting:

- Rules of Procedure
- Staff Regulations
- Security regulations

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
- 2 ID card printing machines

3.2 Furniture, vehicles:

All necessary furniture (table, chairs) for office space of Secretariat and Committees room
10 mini vans and 8 Toyota Corolla, and through UNDP election project, 48 Jeeps provided

3.3 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\$ 14,088,640
 Total Received: US\$ 12,776,641
 Funding gap: US\$ 526,207

DONOR	AMOUNT USD
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
Total received to date	US\$12,776,641

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Promotion of Rights & Equality

Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan (SJSA)

Background:

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.

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 Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). UNDP has begun supporting the Justice Sector with the development of the implementation strategy for “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 currently underway and assessments of the districts will begin after approval of the districts by the Steering Committee in early 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 specialists, 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 implementing of the Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) Programme within the justice sector. The PRR process has been initiated and implemented in all department of Ministry of Justice except in the departments of Prisons and Juvenile Rehabilitation where work is ongoing. Similarly, Phase II of PRR process is underway in the Attorney General’s office.

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 advise the Government throughout the project period.

The project duration is 15 months with a budget of USD 297,619.

Expected Outputs of Building Sustainable Capacity on Human Rights Treaty Reporting:

- 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;
- 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;

Future Priorities:

- Planning for the first phase of data gathering (preparation of a common core document and one treaty-specific document);
- Preliminary work on creation of a treaty reporting database;
- Organisation of a workshop for ministry focal points;

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 297,619

Committed Budget: US\$ 297,619

Shortfall: nil

Donors: Canada

Focal Point: Tina Gewis, Programme Officer
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Institutional Capacity Development for the Ministry of Women's Affairs

The project aims to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and its 34 provincial offices (DOWA), with a particular focus on nation-wide training and advocacy activities. The project has been also expanded to reach other ministries in support of its strategic approach to institutionalise the gender mainstreaming process and raise awareness on gender and development through strengthening inter-ministerial collaboration, as well as functions of DoWAs. Main activities include:

- Capacity building for gender mainstreaming in the areas of gender awareness, gender and development, gender analysis and gender mainstreaming.
- Capacity building for 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:

- ✚ Supported Computer Center in MoWA- The computer center, established and operating with support from UNDP and managed by the MoWA training department, has offered computer training for the staff, other women, and civil society representatives. So far a total of 354 students have graduated from basic computer programmes and 28 female and male students from the Cisco programme. At the moment, there are 85 students in basic computer courses and 79 students studying Cisco programme.
- ✚ Gender Training Programme at the inter-ministerial and provincial level: In collaboration with MoWA provincial offices, the MoWA Training Department, and the Afghan Women's Network, the second phase of gender training programmes at the ministerial and provincial level has been completed. The programme was implemented in two phases in the 10 provinces of Kunduz, Nangarhar, Bamiyan, Badakhshan, Mazar, Ghazni, Logar, Herat, Kandahar and Parwan, and in the 11 ministries of Justice, Education, Commerce, Economic, Health, Interior Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Information and Culture, Pilgrimage and Religious Affairs, Higher Education, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, and Martyrs and Disabled. A total of 205 people received gender orientation seminars, and 405 people, female and male, trained in gender awareness, Gender and Development, and gender relation analysis.
- ✚ Capacity Building Training: The first phase of capacity building of MoWA provincial offices in the areas of report writing, management, and accounting has been completed. The program targeted five MoWA provincial office staffs in the provinces of Kunduz, Herat, Bamiyan, Parwan and Nangarhar. A total of 225 MoWA provincial staff have been trained and have benefited from this programme. The programme is planned to be extended to other provinces as well.
- ✚ Provincial Survey: MoWA with the technical and financial support of UNDP/MoWA Programme conducted a survey of women's situation in nine provinces (Nooristan, Zabul, Panjshir, Daikundi, Badghis, Orozgan, Paktia, Samangan and Ghor). These provinces were identified by the President as the neediest areas for immediate action and support. A team of MoWA officials were prepared technically and financially to conduct the survey in May 2005. A report, based on the survey, was prepared and submitted to the cabinet, on women's issues in four main areas: legal, health, education and economic empowerment. As a result the cabinet directed each respective ministry to prepare immediate action plans responding the needs of the mentioned provinces.

- ✚ MDG and Gender: The Ministry of Women's Affairs has taken an active role in influencing the policy of government in Afghanistan the MDG targets. The ministry submitted its recommendations and revisions of the targets and indicators. Inter-ministerial and other consultations were held to consolidate MoWA's proposals. With UNDP country office support, the programme conducted seminars and workshops on Millennium Development Goals and gender for ministerial staff and NGOs. UNDP published a book entitled "Opening Doors to the Future" on Afghanistan and MDGs, which has since been translated to Dari as a reference material.
- ✚ Conducting study circles and workshops on basic concepts of gender and CEDAW for MoWA trainers. MoWA trainers are better knowledgeable now as a result.
- ✚ Module Development on MoWA's Vision and Mission: Developed manual on MoWA strategy on gender to orient MoWA provincial staff and officials on the ministry's mission, vision and goals.
- ✚ Gender Manuals: First drafts of two gender awareness manuals have been produced. Comments and feedback received from national and international experts and advisers incorporated in the draft. The second manual on Gender and Development is drafted and being circulated for comments and finalisation. Review of new gender manuals have been held with MoWA gender trainers and manual development expert. Concept and methodology are being revisited; suggestions and revisions noted appropriately.
- ✚ Establishment of a Gender Training Institute (GTI): A joint commitment has been realised by MoWA, Kabul University and UNDP to institutionalise gender training programmes at the academic level. Collaboration is established with UNESCO.
- ✚ Assisted MoWA in preparing project proposal for the Government National Capacity Building Fund for capacity building of MoWA provincial department officials. Ministry has been granted \$1,000,000 funding for capacity building activities at the provincial level.
- ✚ Producing a video film on the Beijing Platform for Action, to be used by MoWA in the seminars on National Action Plan for Women in each ministry. The film reflects twelve critical areas of concerns raised in the fourth world conference in Beijing in 1995.
- ✚ Support has been provided for the MoWA Training and Advocacy Department to develop its staff ToR's and department's organigram for PRR (Priority Reforms and Restructuring Commission).
- ✚ Book Fair: The first women's and children's book fair was hosted by MoWA and the Rowzana organisation with support from UNDP and other international organisations. The fair was organised during September 3-13 at the Education University.
- ✚ Planning for Afghanistan National Development Strategy - ANDS: Assistance provided to prepare five-year plan, 2005-2010.
- ✚ A two-day gender orientation seminar organised for senior MoWA officials and heads of department in October.
- ✚ Gender master trainers recruited for MoWA Training and Advocacy department.
- ✚ Planning for provincial capacity building trainings has been initiated and 11 provinces have been selected. Programme is in the process of sub-contracting a local NGO to initiate capacity building in 10 new provinces and for following up with the five provinces targeted in the previous phase. A publication house has been contracted through MoWA/UNDP for the monthly publication of MoWA magazine and newspaper.
- ✚ Input on UNDP activities and achievements has been submitted to MoWA and is to be published in the MoWA 2005 activities book.
- ✚ The representatives of 6 Ministries (Interior Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Information and Culture, Pilgrimage and Religious Affairs, Higher Education, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, and Martyrs and Disabled, and NGO's) have completed gender training and received certificates in August 2005.

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 operational and programmatic 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:

- Institutionalisation of the gender training programme.
 - By full establishment and operationalisation of the gender training institute.
 - Integrating gender training in PRR (priority reforms and restructuring) training programme.
 - Developing ToT (training of trainers) gender programmes for trainers and social mobilisers at the national level.
- Building capacity for effective institutional functioning at the provincial level.
- Developing strategy for national gender advocacy and public awareness especially in the area of Violence Against Women.

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.

Focal Point: Lilly Seraj, Programme Assistant (lilly.seraj@undp.org)

Project Manager: Shipra Bose (shipra.bose@undp.org)

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, organisations delivering services and those organisations representing disabled people.

NPAD has been working towards the following outcomes over three years –

1. Raised awareness and commitment to disability as a rights-based, inclusive issue by government, civil society groups and the international community in Afghanistan.
2. Quality programmes and relevant services are reaching more disabled people (women, children, and men, especially including those 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.
3. A government-led new representative 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
4. 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 and implementation plan on disability was developed by an inter-ministerial group and is now in a period of further consultation and should be formally approved by the cabinet in the near term.
- Office bases in the four key ministries - Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled (MMD), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) – established and fully operational.
- Contribution to the five-year National Development Strategy process through all four line ministries NPAD engages with and additionally through raising awareness and understanding of Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) and NGOs to contribute in consultative process.
- MOPH approved six months' work plan of NPAD national advisor and endorsed longer term strategies and support.
- The following training and awareness programmes targeting government staff have been implemented during this quarter -
 - Awareness raising and technical training on disability and education to 20 government personnel and decision makers in Kabul. As a result, short term work plan and priorities agreed between MoE and NPAD.
 - Awareness-raising on disability issues for MOPH key personnel through a one-day workshop of 40 participants.

- Training of 200 new medical graduates on disability from Kabul University who will work nationally.
 - Sixty-four provincial directors of MMD participated in a three-day seminar to plan future directions and priorities of the Ministry.
 - Fifteen MMD officials made aware of international conventions and rules related to standards on vocational training and employment of disabled people.
 - Training to 16 disability resource officers responsible for overseeing livelihood programmes in disability for the government through MOLSA's Employment Service Centres.
 - Exposure visits and participation in conference and meetings of six government staff to USA, Bangladesh, and Iran.
- Contribution to the drafting of five-year policy and strategy with MoE as part of a working group convened by President Karzai, ensuring that disability is included in the ministry's mandate.
 - International Day of Disabled People (Dec 3rd) commemorated through NGO, government and DPO working groups, including a week of awareness-raising through media, workshops, seminars, and invitation of prominent international disability people to Afghanistan. NPAD provides technical, logistical and financial support to planned activities.
 - Twelve disabled people participated in study tours along with government and NGO representatives to enhance their knowledge and access to materials. The visits took them to Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh, and the UK.
 - Support to three national associations of DPOs (for the blind, the deaf, and disabled women) to impart the skills and capacity to be facilitators in national awareness and technical training programmes with government and NGOs. This service has now become fee based.
 - Media events on the UN Convention for Persons With Disabilities organised through BBC, local Afghan media, and UN press meeting, which raised awareness of the proceedings and Afghan participation.
 - A range of communication materials developed and media events related to the parliamentary elections and participation of disabled people organised.
 - Participation of an Afghan delegation at the 6th Ad Hoc Meeting of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (New York, Aug 2005), including representatives from Afghan International Human Rights Commission and government.
 - Awareness and planning meetings with 40 participants of mainstream NGOs in Kabul (Action Aid, Care, Aga Khan, World Vision, CFA), Kandahar, and Herat took place and terms of reference for future contracts advertised.
 - Three day training programme for 60 participants in a training of master trainers for the NGO - MSH Reach, is responsible for implementation of BPHS on inclusion of disability in the BPHS. These master trainers will transfer knowledge to doctors, midwives, and community health workers nationally.
 - Disability awareness workshop for 20 micro-finance providers through MISFA (Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan) and development of action work plan for eight organisations.
 - Issuance of seven new contracts for services for disabled people in addition to the five existing contracts providing a range of services to a total of 25,774 beneficiaries, of whom 10,600 are women and girls, now operational in Kabul, Parwan, Herat, Jalalabad, Faryab, and Kandahar. Activities include centre-based and community-based services, education, livelihoods, awareness-raising, and community education.
 - Presentation of model of inclusive livelihood to 30 mainstream and disability-specific providers in Kabul, Herat, and Kandahar.
 - Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, through their nine provincial and Kabul based Employment Service Centres is including disabled people in the target group of job seekers and skills development trainees.

- Ministry of Public Health has defined the first contract for disability as part of the Basic Package of Health care Services and is looking into further contracting including a pilot project on audiometry assessments for the hearing impaired.
- Khost orthopaedic workshop contract and MOU agreed between MOPH and MMD. Recruitment of trainee staff completed and contracts for this finalised with IRC and the NGO - PARSA.
- Contract for construction of the first universally accessible building in Kabul signed and work now started.
- Ongoing weekly training of advisors and directors at the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled (MMD) in Kabul.
- The first National workshop for 64 provincial coordinators of MMD in August. The current welfare payment system reviewed and reform processes advised. A six-person task group has been formed and will follow up on this next quarter.
- Assessment of welfare payment process completed and revised process defined. Training and infrastructure inputs will be provided in Kabul and two provincial offices (Mazar and Jalalabad) in the next quarter
- Strategies for capacity development for senior advisors at national and provincial level of MMD defined and approved by minister and will be implemented next quarter.
- Website designed in cooperation and technical support of GTZ, including inputs by MMD on content. Material being collected for website revision.
- Civic education material developed and disseminated for election in cooperation with Joint Electoral Management Board, including inputs from disabled people's organisations, in Braille, and translation of election related materials.
- Developed a strategy for the Ministry of Martyrs of Disabled to ensure equal access to information by people with visual impairments.
- A study tour to Iran, Sept 7-14, to study accessibility tools and mechanisms organized by NPAD in collaboration with the National Library of Iran. The study tour participants from MMD and Afghanistan National Association of Blind had practical demonstration of accessible tools such as Braille computer, Braille printer, screen magnifiers, and learning aids. Further, they were introduced to information services for the blind such as library services and publication services.
- Electronic monthly newsletter produced by NGOs and disseminated with an aim to promote collaboration among NGOs. With advisory support from NPAD, this newsletter is produced by disability sector NGOs and responsibility rotated.
- Weekly radio programme "Qahir-Qaraman" which shares information and raises awareness on disability produced by NPAD under the leadership of disabled people and with inputs from the government, disabled people's organisations and NGOs. This quarter programmes covered elections, including features on disabled people lobbying candidates to include disability issues in their manifestos.
- Resource materials and curriculum and training materials developed in sectors of education, health, livelihoods, disability awareness and rights and made available through the Programme Management and Coordination Unit. New materials developed include;
 - Video on inclusion of disabled children in education – national model
 - Disability awareness training for health workers
 - Disability awareness and technical advice for vocational and skills training
 - Basic disability awareness for mainstream service providers
- Database on NGO activity established and managed through MMD NGO coordination unit by the staff of the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled.

Challenges and Risks:

- Lack of specialised technical expertise and leadership capacity within the government to direct policy and support programme development, thus contributing to a slower delivery rate of achievements and outcomes;

- Pressing issues and demands faced by line ministries (Education, Public Health) in delivering basic services and also that disability as an issue is often viewed as a lower priority, which means limited engagement and commitment by government to implement programmes in disability;
- The current security situation within Afghanistan affects the capacity of national and international NGOs. This has made it difficult to recruit staff and has also inhibited NGO contracting as many NGO's are not willing to work in this region. This situation has most affected the province of Kandahar;
- NGOs actively promote the concept of inclusion and are reshaping their programs to achieve this; however, they have not adequately developed the expertise in this field. While they are experienced in providing 'specialist' programs for disabled people, they have not yet adapted this expertise to offer support and enable 'inclusive' programs;
- Slow implementation of the new NGO law requiring NGOs to re-register with the Ministry of Economy may delay future contracting of NGO services by UNDP;
- Protests and demonstrations by certain civil society groups (DPOs) against the Ministry, slowing implementation of consultative and coordination activities between them and government;
- Reduced commitment by government in the immediate lead up to parliamentary elections and slowing of activities and delivery by NGOs around this time;
- Lack of allocation of specific funding by the government and donors for disabled people and other vulnerable groups in the National Development Budget, limiting the scope of current and planned programme activities and possibly de-motivating stakeholders;
- Lack of donor commitments to the government's budget prior to the pledging conference in the UK now scheduled for early 2006;
- Delay by some international donors and co-implementers of NPAD in committing funds and recruiting international advisors on disability in the health sector;

Future Priorities

- Strengthen the coordination and information management unit within the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled to support the minister and senior decision makers in the ministry to develop strategies in disability sector
- Complete construction of new welfare office for use by MMD for disbursement of welfare payments
- Finalise national disability action plan and draft policy document with inputs from key line ministries, NGO and civil society groups representing disabled people (DPOs)
- Assess the accessibility needs and requirements 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 at the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health
- Establish provincial offices for coordination of services in four locations – Kandahar, Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar
- Launch new government web site on disability through MMD
- 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
- Develop tools in support of mainstreaming of disability for NGOs and other UN and international agencies
- Identify and issue new service contracts nationally to NGOs working in disability

Partnerships and Resources:

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

Received Budget: US\$ 3,800,000

Shortfall: US\$ 7,100,000

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

No. of Project Staff: 26 (national and international)

Focal Point: Lilly Seraj (lilly.seraj@undp.org)

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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

A post-electoral strategy group (PESG) was established to develop a comprehensive strategy for the electoral institution and produced a PESG Progress Report.. The main aspects of this strategy includes: policy and legal framework; structuring of a post-election electoral administration and voter registry; operational concept and budgets; retention and capacity building of staff; civic engagement; physical infrastructure; and involvement of donors and partners. A project for the capacity building of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is being developed vis-à-vis the various considerations that need to be taken into account based on the PESG Progress Report.

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.