

UNDP

**DEMOCRATIZATION &
CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAMME**



**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 Programme	5
Promotion of Rights & Equality	7
Rebuilding the Justice Sector of Afghanistan	7
Support for the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission	9
Institutional Capacity Development for the Ministry of Women’s Affairs	11
Comprehensive Disabled Afghans’ Programme (CDAP).....	13
Achievements	13
Challenges and Risks	14
Future Priorities	14
Pipeline.....	16
Fighting Corruption.....	16
Strengthening Democracy after the Elections.....	16
Promoting Access to Justice at the District Level.....	16
Building Sustainable Capacity on Human Rights Treaty Reporting.....	16

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 PROGRAMME

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

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

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

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

Special measures have been taken to cater to women, as in the past they were excluded from Afghanistan's political processes. Nationwide civic education activities were carried out through out the voter registration and electoral process, including a special focus on women. In the upcoming Parliamentary Elections, UNAMA remains in charge of political oversight. UNDP will manage the trust fund and donor relations, and UNOPS will be the implementing agent for all electoral 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;
- The registration and electoral preparation processes were accompanied by nationwide public information and civic education campaigns, using both face-to-face methodologies as well as mass media (particularly radio), but also including community mobilization events and civil society partnerships;
- Sufficient funds were mobilised and received to carry out all necessary activities related to the Voter Registration and Presidential Elections, including out-of-country voter registration and voting;
- A Media Results Centre was established with updates on the elections provided on a daily basis, while public outreach was achieved through the 'Witness Project' assisting Afghan television to broadcast electoral activities around the nation;
- International and domestic observer groups were successfully supported through regular information sharing and workshops;
- Presidential Elections were successfully held on 9 October 2004 throughout Afghanistan and in Pakistan and Iran for refugees.
- An external audit was successfully conducted for the Voter Registration Project.

Challenges and Risks:

The following factors will determine whether the *Wolesi Jirga* and *Meshrano Jirga* elections can be held in April 2005:

- Additional funds pledged by the donors are received in due time;
- Funding gap is fully met by the donors;
- An appropriate level of security prevails throughout Afghanistan.

Future Priorities:

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

Partnerships and Resources:**Voter Registration Project**

Budget: US\$ 95.8 million.

(US\$ 8 million in-kind)

Donors: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, EC, Finland, Japan, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, UK, USA, Sweden and South Africa.

Presidential Elections 2004 Project

Budget: US\$ 81,659,270

Donors: USA, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Finland, EC, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, UK, Sweden, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Switzerland, Australia, Greece and Pakistan.

Parliamentary Elections 2005 Project

Target Budget: USD 129,887,264

Estimated carry-over from Presidential Elections 2004 Project: USD 16,559,970

Shortfall: USD 113,327,294

Focal Point: Hiroko Takagi, Senior Programme Officer (hiroko.takagi@undp.org)

Promotion of Rights & Equality

REBUILDING THE JUSTICE SECTOR OF AFGHANISTAN

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

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

Achievements:

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

The students won a special “Spirit of the Jessup” award in recognition of their efforts. The team for this year’s competition was selected in October 2004 through a competitive selection procedure, and is currently training for competition scheduled to take place in Washington D.C. from 27th of March to 3rd of April, 2005.

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

Future Priorities:

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

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 5,978,228

Received Budget: US\$ 5,978,228

Shortfall: US\$ 0

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

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

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SUPPORT FOR THE AFGHAN INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

Achievements:

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

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

- A new research and policy unit has been established that analyses the research conducted by all sections.
- A countrywide domestic violence survey has been completed and its preliminary analysis was conducted and presented to the advisory group.
- An external evaluation is going on by two international consultants to evaluate the progress, needs and problems of the Commission and needs for the technical assistance of UNAMA.

Future Priorities:

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

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 13,800,000

Received Budget: US\$ 12,883,806

Shortfall: US\$ 916,194

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

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

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

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

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

Achievements:

- Gender training in provinces: In collaboration with MoWA provincial offices, the MoWA Training Department and the Afghan Women's Network, a gender training programme was implemented in Parwan, Kandahar, Ghazni, Logar and Herat provinces and is being expanded to five other provinces.
- Establishment of formal partnership at the inter-ministerial level, through a formal protocol signed among MoWA, eleven ministries and UNDP to build capacity of ministerial staff for gender mainstreaming. Inter-ministerial protocol ensured the selection and assignment of key staff from the Ministries of Education, Health, Justice, Commerce, Planning, Higher Education, Culture and Information, Foreign Affairs, Interior, Religious Affairs, and Rural Rehabilitation and Development. A total of 35 courses have been conducted for these ministries. 468 people were trained in 2004. In each ministry, a gender orientation seminar for the general staff was presented.
- Capacity building of non-governmental organizations in gender mainstreaming. A gender training program was also offered to selected staff from various NGOs.
- Establishment and capacity building of the MoWA Training and Advocacy Department.
- Capacity building of MoWA departments in effective and efficient functioning. An implementing partner, AITM, has conducted trainings in the areas of reporting, management, leadership, accounting, monitoring and evaluation and training of trainers. A total of 142 MoWA department staff have been trained so far.
- Construction of four-story MoWA Training and Advocacy building, inaugurated on 29 November 2004.
- Provision of equipment, including computers, photocopy machine, scanner, cameras and a minibus, were provided to the MoWA Training and Advocacy and Finance Departments.
- Development of a gender manual based on the Afghan context and culture.
- Training in financial management initiated through the secondment of an international expert to the Ministry. A Financial Database has been developed and is heavily utilized.

- Capacity building of MoWA's key departments in launching of advocacy campaigns in relation to Violence Against Women International Day and International Women's Day. The campaign lasted 16 days and consisted of activities such as televised roundtables, publications, conferences, trainings, role plays and a media campaign.
- Establishment of a Gender Training Institute (GTI). A joint commitment has been established among MoWA, Kabul University and UNDP to institutionalise gender courses.

Future Priorities:

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

- Full establishment and operationalization of the gender-training institute.
- Building institutional capacity at the provincial level.
- Institutionalizing gender mainstreaming through outreach to other Ministries.

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

Project Manager: Fulya Vekiloglu (fulya.vekiloglu@undp.org)

COMPREHENSIVE DISABLED AFGHANS' PROGRAMME (CDAP)

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

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

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

Additionally, in strong consultation with a range of key ministries of the government (including the Ministries of Health, Education, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Labor and Social Affairs and Martyrs and Disabled), international agencies, NGOs and disabled peoples' organizations, a project document for a new 3-year programme outlining the strategies and focus for UNDP in the disability field has been developed. This will be ready for full implementation in 2005.

Achievements

- Facilitating the full and equal participation of disabled people in the Presidential electoral process through civic education, registering of disabled people as voters, providing advice on accessibility of ballot stations and ballot papers and mobilizing disabled people as volunteers and staff on election day.
- CDAP has, at the request of the Government, taken the lead in the creation of the National Vulnerability Programme (NVP). Working in close conjunction with six ministries and integrating vulnerable groups into the programme design – a first for Afghanistan – the NVP was the only new National Priority Programme that was approved by the Cabinet.
- Policy development on elections, institutional development, legislative reform, special education and physiotherapy have continued, with new standards agreed, a new unit set up at the Ministry of Education, and a series of successes in securing access to elections and practical mainstreaming into civic education programming.
- Work on gender equity issues, particularly in terms of the institutional reform of the Ministry, continues to be challenging. A significant time investment has been directed into creating a database of women working in the Ministry and conducting a needs and capacities assessment for these staff. This has led to their participation in the National Senior Women in Government programme, as well as more widespread investments in training and addressing specific, work-related capacity gaps.
- Subcontracting to seven NGOs through 11 contracts for a range of services, including community centers for disabilities that are currently functioning in Kabul and for service programmes in rehabilitation and livelihoods in Faryab and Jalalabad.
- A qualitative research programme, the first of its kind in Afghanistan, made enquiries into the beliefs and associations, knowledge, attitudes and practices of different stakeholders and agents of change for the integration of disabled people into Afghan society. Findings show that harsh perceptions and prejudice were pervasive in the community. The families tend to be ashamed of their disabled family members and

family support and encouragement was found to be critical for the individual disabled person's self-esteem and level of participation in community life. The disabled persons often feel shame and perceive themselves as burdens on the family and community. There was also prejudice amongst the respective groups of disabled people, particularly those with impairments from birth, and learning impairments tend to be more marginalized and stigmatized by society.

- Technical support provided to the Afghan National Association of the Deaf in support of the development and expansion of Afghan sign language and training of trainers.
- National civic education programme on disability designed and implemented as part of a wider celebration throughout the country of the International Day of Disabled People.

Challenges and Risks:

- The political climate in Afghanistan around the Presidential elections and the restructuring of the government and line ministries has slowed progress in both capacity building initiatives with MMD, as well as the development of a national coordination body for disabilities (the proposed National Disability Commission, NDC).
- Awarding of service contracts to NGOs has been slower in part due to organisational capacity but additionally ongoing issues of insecurity means there is a lack of potential contractors able to provide the required services in certain areas of the country, in particular the south and south west

Future Priorities

- Complete restructuring and recruitment of new staff for full implementation of the new programme strategy in 2005.
- Strengthen inputs and advice to other key line Ministries in addition to MMD so to widen awareness, understanding and inclusion of disabled people in other sector specific programmes and activities.
- Build on the research work on attitudes and beliefs and use this as a basis for the development of a national civic education programme on disability in cooperation with UNICEF.
- Continue welfare reform programme with MMD with the aim of starting construction of new welfare office in Kabul.
- Coordinate an inter-ministerial and interagency task group to finalise national disability policy draft document.
- Establish secretariat and office for NVP and formally start activities of this programme.
- Initial needs assessment and programme planning for leadership training and institutional definition of the disabled peoples movement in Afghanistan.
- Advisory consultancy to provide technical advice on physical access issues and guidelines for disabled people.
- Provide further support to Afghan National Association of the Deaf in support of the ongoing expansion of Afghan sign language.

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

Number of Project Staff: 20 (national and international)

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Pipeline

FIGHTING CORRUPTION

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

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

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AFTER THE ELECTIONS

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

PROMOTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

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

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY ON HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY REPORTING

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

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