

UNDP

**DEMOCRATIZATION &
CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAMME**

**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 Ms. Sitara, Assistant Country Director.

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Democratization & Citizens' Participation

Voter Registration and Elections Programme

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;
- 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;

- A substantive revision of 2004 Afghan Elections Project to accommodate the activities related to Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections 2005 was approved;
- An Operational Concept of Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections 2005 was developed by JEMB Secretariat;
- First quarterly report of the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections 2005 submitted to the donors.

Challenges and Risks:

The following factors will determine whether the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections can be held on 18 September 2005:

- Necessary political decisions are taken by the Government;
- Sufficient pledges are made by the donors and funding is received in time;
- Funding gap is fully met by the donors;
- An appropriate level of security prevails throughout Afghanistan;
- Sufficient capacity of the Independent Electoral Commission built by the end of Elections 2005 activities.

Future Priorities:

- Develop a project in support to the capacity building of the newly established Independent Electoral Commission addressing the needs beyond the current electoral timeframe and support;
- Resource mobilisation based on the new budgetary requirements;
- Timely quarterly reporting to the donors.

Partnerships and Resources:

Voter Registration Project (VRP)

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.

Elections Project (Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections 2005)

Target Budget: USD 148,665,087

Carry-over from VRP and Elections Project (Presidential Elections 2004): USD 16,027,851

Donors (as of 1 May 05): USA, Greece, Switzerland, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, UK and Denmark

Shortfall: USD 103,846,032

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

Support to the Establishment of Afghan Legislature (SEAL)

The elections for the Wolesi Jirga (House of the People) are currently expected to take place on 18 September 2005. The Constitution provides for the inauguration of both houses (Wolesi Jirga and Meshrano Jirga) at the same time. There is an urgent need to assist the Government of Afghanistan in establishing a functioning parliamentary secretariat properly trained and equipped to support the activities of the newly elected members following the parliamentary elections. Members, once elected, will also need capacity-building to be able to work efficiently.

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.

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. Parliament Support Taskforce established
2. Parliament Support Working Group established and coordinating all parliament support activities
3. Recruitment of SEAL Project Management Team (ongoing)
4. Intensive 4 week training of 123 newly recruited staff completed (11 June - 6 July 2005)
5. Rules of Procedures drafted and under review
6. Staff Regulations being drafted
7. Needs of the Members of the National Assembly being assessed
8. Computer training commenced on 16 July
9. English training by British Council commencing 3 August
10. Attachments to parliaments currently being organized including Bangladesh, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sri Lanka, Turkey, USA
11. Three houses rented for secretariat staff temporary office
12. Provision of equipment (e.g. vehicles, computers, mobiles, etc.)

Challenges and Risks:

The following factors will determine whether the ongoing SEAL initiative proves effective and successful in establishing and sustaining Wolesi Jirga to be formed following the parliamentary elections on 18 September 2005:

- Necessary political decisions are taken by the Government on time;
- Funding gap is fully met by the donors and funding is received in time;
- An appropriate level of security prevails throughout Afghanistan, particularly after elections;

- Sufficient capacity of the Secretariat of National Assembly built before the first session of the National Assembly.
- Lack of primary capacity of the members of the parliament, and need to make sure that they are able to play their role as effective members of a legislative body;
- timely availability of the necessary infrastructure and limited time for introducing information technologies in the newly established institution
- Basic 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 as of the day of its very first meeting.

Future Priorities:

- Effective coordination with national and international stakeholders on the additional needs of parliament such as office space and mobilisation of support required; Resource mobilisation based on the budgetary requirements;
- Timely quarterly reporting to the donors.
- Identification of potential needs for the legislators beyond SEAL Project period

Partnerships and Resources:

SEAL Budget: US\$15,501,906
 Funding gap: US\$5769971
 Pledges received: Denmark, Germany (GTZ,)

DONOR	AMOUNT USD	Euro
UNDP Core	750,000	€ 579,750
EC	3,618,818	€ 3,000,000
France	2,884,922	€ 2,297,596
Italy	1,204,819	€ 1,000,000
SIDA	\$1277139	€1058748
France II	\$1206272	€1000000
Total received to date	US\$9,011,935	€ 7,336,094

Focal Points:

UNDP Country Office:

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Promotion of Rights & Equality

Rebuilding the Justice Sector of Afghanistan (RJSA)

Background:

Through a joint programme with UNAMA and the Governments of Italy (the lead donor in the justice sector), Canada, and the United Kingdom, the UNDP has been assisting and funding the Judicial Reform Commission, established by the Bonn Agreement, since its inception in June 2002. The project is supporting the Government 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 as well as infrastructure and equipment inputs.

The UNDP is currently finalizing a new project document for the proposed follow-up; the “Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan” project. This will reflect a different involvement of national partners as signatories, where the main partner would have to be the Ministry of Justice, but it will not signal a change in the current policy of engaging all justice institutions. In addition, the project’s duration should be extended to reflect its continued activities and the ongoing clarification of justice reform needs, which is more possible now than previously envisaged.

Achievements:

Legal framework: The UNDP is providing ongoing support and funding to the Judicial Reform Commission, so that it may successfully continue to carry out its mandate.

Institutional development: The 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. Their focus is on capacity transfer.

Institutional reform: With support from the UNDP, the permanent justice institutions are implementing the Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) Programme within the justice sector. On 26th April, eight departments of the Ministry of Justice received approval for Phase II of the PRR process, and have begun recruitment for 1,498 positions. The same is expected to happen soon within the Attorney General’s Office, which is currently on phase I of the process.

Consultation: The 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.

Training of legal actors: Besides performing its specific mandate, the Judicial Reform Commission, with UNDP funding and support, is also running a post-graduate legal training course which is expected to turn into a national legal training centre. The second one-year course is now underway - with 143 students enrolled.

Infrastructure and equipment: The 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 five more provinces: Herat, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, and Paktia. Equipment such as vehicles and electronic appliances are regularly provided to the institutions.

Finance: The UNDP has supported the permanent justice institutions in developing a financial management capacity. This is being achieved through the work of a new Counterpart Chief Financial Officer, to support the institutions in carrying out their responsibilities for public expenditure management.

Communications: The 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 the 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: The UNDP has provided support to the Law Faculty 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 Curriculum Board. Consultations over the draft curriculum have taken place with provincial law faculties, namely Mazar-I-Sharif. In parallel, support continues for the improvement of infrastructure as well as library resources.

Access to justice: The UNDP is currently planning for new initiatives to improve access to justice. These 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. Cost sharing agreements have been signed with donors, while project documents are being finalized. Meanwhile, recruitment and acquisition of necessary equipment are already underway.

Future Priorities:

- Finalize project document for the follow-up “Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan” project
- Completion of comprehensive gap analysis of the justice sector, ‘Justice for All’
- Support the Ministry of Justice in organizing a conference for all justice sector stakeholders to provide a structured forum for discussion of the gap analysis and a showcase where all participants can display the work that they have been doing and share their accomplishments with their colleagues.
- Continue fundraising through current and new donors
- Support the public administrative reform and the financial management reform in the permanent justice institutions
- Establish a permanent National Legal Training Centre to strengthen the capacity of judicial actors in delivering justice throughout the country
- 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: USD 5,978,228.00
 Received Budget: USD 5,978,228.00
 Shortfall: USD 0

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

Focal Point: Tina Gewis, Programme Officer (tina.gewis@undp.org)

Programme Manager: Siphosami Malunga (siphosami.malunga@undp.org)

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 (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 Rights Commission (AIHRC) work programme. The project, which commenced on 24 October 2002 and expired 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.

Achievements:

- The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission was established by the Bonn Agreement and the Presidential Decree of 6th June 2002. The Commission is now institutionalized by Article 58 of the new Constitution of Afghanistan.
- The AIHRC has expanded its operations to include eight satellite offices and three provincial offices. In addition to the AIHRC headquarters in Kabul, which is also covering the central region, seven satellite offices have opened in Herat, Bamiyan, Mazar Sharif, Jalalabad, Gardez, Kandahar, and in Kunduz. Furthermore, three provincial offices have opened in Maymana, Badakshan and Daykundi and 397 staff recruited (of which 250 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 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.
- Training and workshops have been conducted in women's rights, children's rights and human rights education in Kabul and in all regional and provincial offices.
- Production and broadcast of radio-based and TV programmes on human rights are ongoing.
- 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 who were actively supporting the AIHRC in defining and implementing its work programme completed their contracts by the end of 2004.
- The Commission has recruited an international resource person for six months to assist with various reporting issues including the Annual Report.
- The Commission received 2,271 complaints in 2004, which involved 4,436 cases of human rights violations. Monitoring of prisons was carried out and 407 persons, who were detained without being sentenced by a legal court, were released from the prisons.
- The transitional justice consultation was completed and the "Call for Justice" report published in January 2005 with recommendations for a national strategy on Transitional Justice. A total of 15,500 copies were printed (7000 in Dari, 7000 in Pashto and 1500 in English) which were widely distributed. 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 units 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.

- An external evaluation was conducted and completed in January 2005 by two international consultants. Comments by the Commission were sent to be incorporated into the report.
- A draft three-year Action Plan has been prepared by the Commission in broad consultation with stakeholders.
- A printing press unit has been established, it is housed at the Commission's old Guesthouse in Karte-3

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.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 13,800,000
Committed Budget: US\$ 12,336,806
Shortfall: US\$ 463,194

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

Focal Point: Anne-Helene Marsoe, International Programme Officer
(anne-helene.marsoe@undp.org)

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

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 34 provincial offices (DOWA), with a particular focus on the nation-wide training and advocacy activities. 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 DoWA's. The 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, 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:

In collaboration with MoWA provincial offices, the MoWA Training Department and the Afghan Women's Network, second phase of gender training programmes at the Ministerial and Provincial Level has been completed. The programme has been implemented in two phases in ten provinces of Kunduz, Nangarhar, Bamiyan, Badakhshan, Mazar, Ghazni, Logar, Herat, Kandahar and Parwan, and eleven ministries, which are Ministries of Justice, Education, Commerce, Economic, Health, Interior Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Information and Culture, Pilgrimage and Religious Affairs, Higher Education, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Ministry of Martyrs and Disables. Total of 205 five people received gender orientation seminars, and total of 405 people, female and male, has been trained in Gender Awareness, Gender and Development and Gender Relation Analysis programs at the ministerial and provincial level.

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 offices staff in the provinces of Kunduz, Herat, Bamiyan, Parwan and Nangarhar. Total of 225 MoWA provincial staff has been trained and benefited from this program. The program is planned to be extended to other provinces as well.

MoWA with the technical and financial support of UNDP/MoWA Program 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 President as the neediest areas for immediate action and support. A team of MoWA officials were prepared technically and financially to conduct the survey between in May 2005. The report, based on the survey report was prepared and submitted to the cabinet according to the women's issues in four main areas of Legal, Health, Education and Economic Empowerment. As a result the cabinet appointed each ministry to prepare their Immediate Action Plan responding the needs of the mentioned provinces.

Conducting a workshop on introducing Millennium Development Goals, and Gender and MDG. And also translation of Millennium Development Goals book for the future uses.

Ministry of Women's Affairs was prepared to submit their recommendations and revisions for the Millennium Development Goals progress report. A number of meetings were held with various officials to consolidate MoWA's proposals. Conducting study circle workshops on basic concepts of Gender and also study on CEDAW for MoWA Trainers. MoWA trainers are better knowledgeable about the concepts of gender and CEDAW.

Developed Manual on MoWA strategy on gender to orient MoWA provincial staff and officials on MoWA Mission, Vision and Goals. Initiated development of gender glossary.

Developing of gender manuals based on the social, economic and cultural context of Afghanistan. First draft of two manuals, Gender Awareness Manual has been produced and circulated to National and International Advisors for comments. The first manual, Gender Awareness, is almost at its final stage.

Workshops were organized for capacity building of MoWA's key departments in launching of advocacy campaigns.

Establishment of a Gender Training Institute (GTI). A joint commitment has been established among MoWA, Kabul University and UNDP to institutionalise gender training program at the academic level..

Assisted MoWA in preparing project proposal for the Government National Capacity Building Fund for capacity building of MoWA provincial departments officials.

Producing of a video on Beijing Platform for Action, to be used by MoWA in the seminars on National Action Plan for Women in each ministry. The video reflected twelve critical areas of concerns that were 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).

Computer Center in MoWA- The computer center, established with support from the 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 been graduated from basic computer programs and 28 female and male students from Cisco program. At the moment, there are 85 students in basic computer courses and 79 students studying Cisco program.

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 program 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 operationalizing of the gender-training institute.
- Building institutional capacity at the provincial level.
- Developing strategy for national gender advocacy campaign
- 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)
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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 –

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, 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
3. 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
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

- Inter-ministerial government policy task group established and national plan of action for disability being developed through weekly meetings
- Terms of reference for Ministerial advisors developed and team building, and management and training programme for senior advisors and civil servants in Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled on weekly basis established and implement
- Assessment of Directorate facilities of Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled in Mazar, Jalalabad and Kabul completed and subsequent discussions with Minister and senior advisors led to a national capacity building programme submitted to and approved by Ministry of Finance
- 73 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
- Contract for services in disability and education and livelihoods being implemented by International Rescue Committee and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Herat
- Revised and improved contract processes, including M&E developed by NPAD and training programme for internal monitoring by implementing NGOs has been designed and shared with contractors
- 12 contracts for disability services by NGOs now operational in Kabul, Parwan, Herat, Jalalabad, Faryab and Kandahar reaching an estimated and recorded 7964 disabled people (women and girls 2753 and men and boys 5211) - activities include centre based and community based services, education, livelihoods, awareness and community education during the quarter April 2005 till June 2005
- Draft training manual for inclusive vocational training has been developed and is being field tested as part of national training programme development

- Assessment of welfare payment process completed and based on findings revised process defined
- Action plan and policy development on welfare and social security policy developed through inter-ministerial task group
- NGO Coordination Unit established at the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled with staff allocated from the Ministry aimed for better coordination and communication among NGOs and with the government. Subsequently, NGO Coordination Group is formed representing the Ministry, NGOs, International Development Organizations, and DPOs and steered by the Ministry
- Web site designed in cooperation with and technical support of GTZ and inputs by Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled on content. Final revised web site will be launched by the end of 2005
- Internet and email facilities provided at Ministry 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 organisations and NGOS.
- Established a resource centre on disability in NPAD office which is accessible to government, NGOs and DPOs. It has over 400 publications including CDs, videos and printed materials. IT facilities and technical support is available to assist users
- Data base on NGO activity designed and set up in Ministry as part of establishment of a NGO Disability Coordination unit in the government – collection of data from NGOs is ongoing.
- Data bases established – National Directory of Vocational Skills Training Providers, National Business Development Service Providers, Disabled people interested and seeking services from mainstream 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), learning disability and disabled women
- Weak organizational definition and capacity of Disabled Peoples Organisations which have been established to advocate on disability rights which results in limited voice and participation of disabled people
- Increasing political uncertainty, particularly in the lead up to the parliamentary elections in September 2005, may have adversely affected decision making and commitment by government to the Programme
- 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 may make coordinated efforts and cooperation between government and NGO more difficult to achieve.
- Lack of allocation of specific funding by government and donors for disabled people and other vulnerable groups in the National Development budget will limit the Programme delivery and may demotivate stakeholders
- Lack of preparedness of donors to commit funds to government budget prior to the pledging conference schedule in December 2005 in U.K

Future Priorities

- Establishment of a 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 drawing upon synergies in development activities of NGOs.

- Complete construction of new welfare office for use by MMD for disbursement of welfare payments
- Implement training programme and new welfare processes in 4 locations
- 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 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
- Establish provincial offices for coordination of services in 4 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
- Provide inputs and coordination to electoral process to ensure civic education programmes, and campaign materials accessible to disabled people
- Develop tools in support of mainstreaming of disability for NGOs and other UN and international agencies
- Facilitate participation of Afghan disability representatives and Human Rights Commission in the 6th Ad hoc committee meeting on the UN convention of the Rights of Disabled people
- Conduct exposure and training visit for 9 representatives of DPOs to Bangladesh to see practically work of disability activists in the country
- Issue 19 service contracts nationally to NGOs working in disability
- Provide training for NGO partners on monitoring

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: 26 (national and international)

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

Project Manager: Sarah Dyer (sarah.dyer@undp.org, sdyer@disability.gov.af)

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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.