



Afghanistan

UNDP

**DEMOCRATIZATION &
CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAMME**

**United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan Country Office**

31 October 2005

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	3
Support to the Establishment of Afghan Legislature (SEAL)	3
Promotion of Rights & Equality	10
Rebuilding the Justice Sector of Afghanistan (RJSA)	10
Support for the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission	13
Institutional Capacity Development for the Ministry of Women's Affairs	18
National Programme for Action on Disability (NPAD)	21
Pipeline	26
Fighting Corruption	26
Strengthening Democracy after the Elections	26
Promoting Access to Justice at the District Level	26
Building Sustainable Capacity on Human Rights Treaty Reporting	26
Error! Bookmark not defined.	

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.

E-mail: sitara@undp.org

Mobile: 070.087.238

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)
Parvinder Singh, Programme Officer (p.singh@undp.org)

Support to the Establishment of Afghan Legislature (SEAL)

The elections for the Wolseï Jirga (House of the People) took place on 18 September 2005. The Constitution provides for the inauguration of both houses (Wolseï 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 drafted and under review
7. Security Regulations drafted and under review
8. Needs of the Members of the National Assembly being assessed
9. Computer training commenced on 16 July
10. English training by the British Council for the staffers completed
11. Planned 2005 study tour and attachment programmes for 152 Parliamentary staffers completed
12. National Seminar on Parliamentary Process and Best Practices for the Afghan National Assembly Secretariat (23-25 October) completed
13. Three houses rented, furnished and equipped for secretariat staff to be used as temporary office
12. Provision of equipment (e.g. vehicles, computers, mobiles, etc.) for the National Assembly
13. Information communication technology including LAN, VSAT, telecommunication, and voice system installed at the newly refurbished National Assembly building.

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;
- Ensure effective management for inaugural session of the National Assembly
- Building capacity for the future members of the National Assembly

Partnerships and Resources:

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

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

Promotion of Rights & Equality

Rebuilding the Justice Sector of Afghanistan (RJSA)

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. RJSA has been supporting 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. RJSA has also supported the reform initiatives of the Judicial Reform Commission which has been recently dissolved after completing its tenure. The broad scope of the RJSA project 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.

RJSA 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.

UNDP has finalized development of two new project documents. The first project is the follow-up of RJSA; the “Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan”. This will reflect a different involvement of national partners as signatories, where the executing agency will be the Ministry of Justice with co-implementation by the Supreme Court and the Attorney General Office. The second Project “Access to Justice at District Level” will help expand the supply and demand for justice services by focusing on the public awareness activities at the district level aimed at both the formal and traditional sectors; assessing and addressing needs for physical infrastructure, and training of justice officials at the local level.

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 called the “Justice for All”. This policy vision was recently approved by Cabinet and will form part of the ANDS. UNDP has begun supporting the Justice Sector with the development of the implementation strategy for “Justice for All”

Access to justice: UNDP is currently finalizing a new initiative to improve access to justice at district level through “Access to Justice at District Level” Project. 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. 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 implementing 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 I of PRR process has been completed in the Attorney General’s office which is now implementing the Phase II of PRR.

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

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

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

Communications: UNDP has developed a communications structure within the programme, to be followed by support to the communications capacity of the permanent justice institutions and Kabul University's Law Faculty. A newsletter, the 'Justice Monitor' was initiated to act as an information outlet for the Justice Programme and the justice sector as a whole. It is published in Pashto, Dari and English and provides information about 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: UNDP has provided support to the Faculty of Law and Political Science of Kabul University in designing a new curriculum. The Law Curriculum Development Committee, which has worked since October 2004 under the guidance of UNDP's specialists, produced a draft of the new curriculum which has been approved by the University Senate and the Ministry of Higher Education subject to amendments recommended.

Future Priorities:

- Signature of project document for the follow-up "Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan" project
- Signature of "Access to Justice at District Level" project from the permanent justice institutions and start the implementation work
- Support to the Ministry of Justice in establishing working groups for formulating implementation framework for different areas under "Justice for All" policy vision.
- Develop an Operational Plan for Justice for All document to be presented to donors in the coming ANDS and to continue fundraising through current and new donors
- Support the public administrative reform and the financial management reform in the permanent justice institutions
- Provide support to the establishment of a Supreme Court and judicial system that comply with the new Constitution and operate in compliance with national law and international standards
- Provide support in drafting key laws for the administration of justice, including the criminal and civil codes, the penal management law, and the juvenile justice code.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget:	USD 7,200,000.00 (AJDL)
	USD 22,807,554.00 (SJSA)
Received Budget:	USD 7200,000.00
Shortfall:	USD 22807554.00

Number of current project staff: 6 international and 21 national staff

Focal Point: Tina Gewis, Programme Officer (tina.gewis@undp.org),
Nasrat Aslam, Programme Officer (nasrat.aslam@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, or until the current funds are exhausted.

Expected Outputs of support to the AIHRC project:

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

Achievements:

- The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission was established by the Bonn Agreement and the Presidential Decree of 6th June 2002. The Commission has later been institutionalized by Article 58 of the 2004 Constitution of Afghanistan. Its mandate and structure has been further clarified in “Law on the Structure, Duties and Mandate of the AIHRC”, enacted May 2005;
- The AIHRC has rapidly expanded its operations during its first three years of existence. In addition to the AIHRC headquarters in Kabul, which is also the satellite office covering the central region, AIHRC has seven satellite offices located in; Herat, Bamiyan, Mazar Sharif, Jalalabad, Gardez, Kandahar, and in Kunduz. Furthermore, three provincial offices have opened in Maymana, Badakshan and Daykundi. The AIHRC currently has 9 Commissioner and some 420 staff.;
- The Commission has developed and implemented a set of policies and rules that apply to the institution and its staff, including recruitment procedures, salary scales, terms and conditions of employment, promotion and disciplinary procedures. These have been published in a staff manual;
- 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 are continuously conducted with regard to 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 from May 2005 recruited an international resource person for six month 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 are printed and distributed monthly;
- Human Rights units have been 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, at the end of the first two years of the UNDP project. Comments by the Commission were sent to be incorporated into the report. The report is expected to be approved by the AIHRC shortly;
- In February 2005, the AIHRC took a major step in expanding its monitoring activities on human rights issues by establishing field monitoring teams in cooperation with United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). For the past several months, AIHRC has been reporting on human rights issues related to the situation of women, children, prisoners, displaced people, and other vulnerable or marginalized groups through its field activities. Such Human Rights Field Monitoring Teams have so far been established in ten provinces;
- A draft three-year Action Plan has been prepared by the Commission in broad consultation with its staff and stakeholders;
- A printing press unit has been established, it is housed at the Commission’s old Guesthouse in Karte-3;
- In conjunction with the 2005 parliamentary election the AIHRC was actively involved with political rights verification (PRV) activities and observation of the election. The AIHRC produced three reports jointly with UNAMA, which provided clear recommendations to the Government, JEMB, political parties, civil society and the candidates - all issued in Dari, Pashto and English;
- AIHRC has recently launched its Annual Report for 2004/2005. A soft copy is available on AIHRC's web site: <http://www.aihrc.org.af>

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;
- The AIHRC is about to start-up the construction of a new building for its Kabul headquarter Office, in addition to construction of various satellite offices;
- A base-line assessment of each satellite and provincial offices’ management, administration and procedures has recently been initiated. It is expected to be finalized by December 2005;
- A coordinated multi-donor project document is being prepared as a basis for the next three year period, based on AIHRC three year Action Plan;
- AIHRC is currently undergoing transitional capacity building in order for the AIHRC to transfer to direct donor support next year. The main focus is in the areas of Financial Management and External Relations.

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

Focal Points:

- Anne-Helene Marsoe, UNDP International Programme Officer
anne-helene.marsoe@undp.org
- Richard Bennett, UNAMA Chief Human Rights Officer
bennettr@un.org

Partnerships and Resources:

AIHRC Budget: US\$ 14,815,378

Funding gap: US\$ 21,311 (for normal operations until 31 December 2005)

Pledges received: NZ\$ 528,367

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; Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Covenant on Political and Civil Rights; Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; Convention against Torture; 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, 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 Women's International Affairs and Human Rights Unit 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 party.

Achievements:

- A donor agreement was signed with CIDA on 19 June;
- International technical adviser arrived in Kabul on 20 October to start-up the project.

Future Priorities (first two months of project):

- Establishment of project office with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and recruitment of national staff;
- Official launch of project;
- Establish of the institutional structures with the Government to ensure sustained treaty reporting;

- 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.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 297,619

Committed Budget: US\$ 297,619

Shortfall: nil

Donors: Canada,

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

International Technical Advisor: James Turpin, Human Rights Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (jturpin@ohchr.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:

- ✚ Supported Computer Center in MoWA- The computer center, established and operating 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.
- Gender Training Program at the inter-ministerial and provincial level: 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.
- ✚ Capacity Building Trainings: 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.
- ✚ Provincial Survey: 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.

- ✚ MDG and Gender: Ministry has taken an active role in influencing the policy of government in Afganising of the MDG tartgets. Ministry of Women’s Affairs submitted its recommendations and revisions of the targets and indictaors. Inter-ministerial and number of consultations were held to consolidate MoWA’s proposalsWith the country office support, the program prepared seminar and workshops on Millennium Development Goals, and Gender was conducted for the ministerial staff and NGOs. The UNDP published book entitled “Opening Door to Future” on Afghanistan MGDs, was translated to Dari as a reference material.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ Module Development on MoWA’s Vision and Mission: Developed Manual on MoWA strategy on gender to orient MoWA provincial staff and officials on MoWA Mission, Vision and Goals.
- ✚ Gender Manuals: First draft of two manuals,Gender Awareness Manual has been produced. Comments and feedback received from national and international experts and advisers and incorporated in the draft.. The second manual on Gender and Development is drafted and being circulated for comments and finalization. Review of new gender manuals have been held with MoWA gender trainers by Manual Development Expert and Trainer. The concept and methodology is being revisited. The suggestions and revisions has been noted down separately for incorporation.
- ✚ 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. Collaboration is established with UNESCO.
- ✚ Assisted MoWA in preparing project proposal for the Government National Capacity Building Fund for capacity building of MoWA provincial departments officials. Ministry has been granted \$1,000,000 funding for capacity building activities at the provincial level.
- ✚ 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).
 - Book Fair: The first women and children book fair was hosted by MoWA and the Rowzana organization with support from UNDP and other international organizations. The Book Fair was organized during September 3-13 in Education University.
 - Planning for Afghanistan National Development Strategy -ANDS: The assistance provided to Ministry to prepare five year plan 2005-2010.
 - A two days gender orientation seminar has been organized for MoWA high officials and head of departments in October.

- Gender master trainers have been recruited for MoWA Training and Advocacy department.
- Planning program for provincial capacity building trainings has been initiated and 11 provinces have been selected.
- Program is in the process of sub-contracting of a local NGO to initiate capacity building program in 10 new provinces and follow up of the five provinces from the previous phase.
- A publication house has been contracted through MoWA/UNDP program for monthly publication of MoWA magazine and newspaper.
- Input on UNDP activities and achievements has been submitted to MoWA to be published in 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, Ministry of Martyrs and Disables and NGO's) have completed gender training program and received program certificate 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 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:

- Institutionalization of Gender Training Program
 - By full establishment and operationalizing of the gender-training institute.
 - Integrating gender training in PRR training program
 - Developing ToT gender program for trainers and social mobilizers 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 Points: Lilly Seraj, Programme Assistant (lilly.seraj@undp.org)
Project Manager: Fulya Vekiloglu (fulya.vekiloglu@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, 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

- A 3 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 cabinet in next quarter.
- 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 5 year National Development Strategy process through all 4 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 6 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, a short term work plan and priorities agreed between MoE and NPAD.
 - Awareness raising on disability issues to MOPH key personnel through a one-day workshop to 40 participants.
 - Training of 200 new medical graduates on disability from Kabul university who will work nationally.

- 64 provincial directors of MMD participated in a three-day seminar to plan future directions and priorities of the Ministry.
- 15 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 5 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.
- Planning for the International Day of Disabled People (Dec 3rd) is underway through and NGO, government and DPO working group which meets weekly. The plans include a week of awareness raising through media, workshops, seminars, and invitation of prominent international disability personnel to Afghanistan. NPAD will support technically, logistically and financially the final activities planned.
- Twelve disabled people participated on study tours with government and NGO representatives to enhance their knowledge and access to materials. The visits took place to Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh, and UK.
- Support to three national associations of DPOs (blind, deaf, and women) to give them the skills and capacity to be facilitators in national awareness and technical training programmes with government and NGOs. They are now training fees by NPAD for this service.
- Media events on the UN convention for persons with disabilities organized 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 organized media events related to the parliamentary elections and participation of disabled people.
- 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 started and advertised.
- Three day training programme for 60 participants in a training of master trainers for the NGO, MSH Reach, 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 and development of action work plan for eight organizations.
- Issuance of seven new contracts for services for disabled people in addition to the 5 existing contracts providing a range of services to a total of 25774, of whom 10,600 are women and girls, now operational in Kabul, Parwan, Herat, Jalalabad, Frayab, and Kandahar. Activities include centre-based and community based services, education, livelihoods, awareness, and community education.
- Awareness and planning meetings with mainstream NGOs in Kabul, Kandahar, and Herat took place and terms of reference for future contracts drafted and advertised.
- Presentation of model of inclusive livelihood to 30 mainstream and disability providers in preparation to contracting the model in Kabul, Herat, and Kandahar.
- Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, through their 9 provincial and Kabul based Employment Service Centres including disabled people in their target group of job seekers and skills development training.
- 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 of hearing impaired people.

- 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 in MMD in Kabul.
- The first National workshop for 64 provincial coordinators of MMD in August. Over three days, they reviewed the current welfare payment systems and gave inputs and advice on reform processes. A 6 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 2 provincial offices (Mazar and Jalabad) 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 with and technical support of GTZ and inputs by the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled on content. Materials are being collected for a final revised Website
- Civic education materials developed and disseminated for election in cooperation with JEMB and inputs from disabled people's organisations including 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 was organized by NPAD in collaboration with 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 targeted 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 one among the NGOs working in the disability sector and responsibility is rotated periodically
- 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 featured on the election including 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 PMCU. 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 Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled staff.

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 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 is slow;
- 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, in which it has not been possible to implement CBR programs due to the insecurity of the region;

- NGO's 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 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 as planned;
- Reduced commitment by government in the immediate lead up to the 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 demotivating stakeholders;
- Lack of donor commitments to the government's budget prior to the pledging conference in the U.K now scheduled for early 2006;
- Slowness of some international donors and co-implementers of NPAD in committing funds and recruiting international advisors on disability in the health sector as planned and agreed;

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 drawing upon synergies in development activities of NGOs.
- 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 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
- 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
- Raise awareness on issues concerning disabled people and their rights through a national campaign planned for International Day of Disabled Persons (Dec 3, 2005)

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)
Information Officer: Walid Wardak (wardak@disability.gov.af)

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.