



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, crisis prevention and recovery and environment.**

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 four 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 sixteen country office staff and five programme managers.

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Democratization & Citizens' Participation

2004 – 2005 Voter Registration and Elections Project

Background

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

UNOPS was the implementing agent for all electoral activities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1) To comprehensively support the organization and delivery of National Assembly elections (i.e., *Wolesi Jirga* and Provincial Council Elections) in 2005.

- 2) To help create a durable foundation for national management of elections within the overall project, by building human and material capacity for future elections and facilitating the work of the newly established Afghanistan Independent Election Commission.

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

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

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

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

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

Achievements

- The registration process began in the first week of December 2003 and completed on 20 August 2004 with approximately 10.5 million people registered to vote in the 9 October Presidential Elections, including over 41% of them female voters;
- Presidential Elections were successfully held on 9 October 2004 throughout Afghanistan and in Pakistan and Iran for refugees ;
- An audit was successfully conducted for the Voter Registration Project;
- A substantive revision of 2004 Afghan Elections Project to accommodate the activities related to Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections 2005 was approved and achievements to date include the following:
 - Candidate Nomination Period was successfully completed with over 6,000 candidates;

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

The immediate follow up of the election period – The Transitional Phase

Following the successful completion of the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections a number of challenges had to be address immediately. Even though the Afghan Government had demonstrated its commitment to assume responsibility for elections by allocating \$665,000 to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in its 1385 fiscal budget, the transfer of the budget to the Independent Election Commission posed a problem. Therefore the Independent Electoral Commission requested support from the international donor community for a transitional period of six months, (22 March to 21 September 2006) while the administrative arrangements were put in place. During this period of time UNDP took over the responsibility to secure the salaries for the staff of the Independent Electoral Commission Secretariat as well as the operational costs to keep the headquarter and the provinces offices functional. The commitment UNDP made for the transitional phase were widely met by the donors. Additionally UNDP supported the Independent Electoral Commission in the negotiations with the Office of the President which had to send a formal request to the Civil Service Commission to support the salaries of the nine IEC Commissioners at a level befitting their status as political appointees. In last 6 months covering the period of immediate support to the IEC all administrative issues regarding the salary scales and the covering of the IEC budget by the fiscal budget were dealt with successfully so that the IEC now finds itself in a more secure position.

The remaining \$15 million funding gap for the overall election project posed another challenge after the implementation of the elections. Through intensive consultation with the international donor community and a special briefing in New York held on the 12th of July 2006 the funding gap began to close slowly from mid 2006 onwards. Additional contributions are expected by the end of 2006.

Achievements of the transitional phase from March 21, 2006 to September 21, 2006

- The functionality of the IEC was secured through financial support as well as through the establishment of consultation mechanism between IEC , UNDP, UNAMA and other stakeholders an effective advocacy group was put in place to support the IEC in political discussions
- An international team of advisors to the 9 departments of the IEC secretariat was put in place to support the IEC as institution in its day to day work and in preparing itself for the tasks ahead regarding the upcoming elections in 2009
- An evaluation of the 2004-2005 Election project was conducted to capture important recommendation for future elections in Afghanistan, for example a review of the Civil and voter registry, intensive capacity building programmes for the IEC staff, a review of the Electoral law and the legal processes connected to it
- On the basis of the recommendations and in close consultation with the IEC and other stakeholders a widely comprehensive project document was developed, "Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow" (ELECT), to support the capacity building process of the newly established Independent Electoral Commission addressing the needs beyond 21 September 2006. The Project Document is due to be signed in the fourth quarter of 2006 and addresses in three major components, capacity building of the IEC, Legal reform and a pilot project to restructure the current insufficient civil and voter registration
- Preparations and fundraising for the Civil and Voter registry pilot project concluded. The project received 336,000 UD\$ from the UN Democracy Fund and will be launched in November
- An extensive consultation process on electoral processes, laws and systems was conducted in the third quarter of the year engaging all national stakeholders in the capital as well the provinces.
- An inter-organisational agreement to coordinate activities was reached through which designated organisations take over specific activities in supporting the IEC to avoid doubling effects
- An audit was conducted on the Voter Registration and Elections Project (VREP) covering the period of 2004-2005 elections due to the fact that the 2003 activities were already audited.
- Third Quarter Report distributed to donors

Challenges and Risks

- Due to the open market and the relatively low government salaries, compared to the open market, the IEC is confronted with loosing experienced staff members – this will slow down the advancement of the institution
- The inter agency coordination structure has the positive impact of using the available resources in the best way possible through different organisations taking over focus different focus areas. At the same time this structures bears the risk of one focus area being abundant if an organisation cannot cover any more.

Future Priorities

- Redistribution of electoral assets to relevant projects and national institutions;
- Effectively close down VREP
- Final reports distributed to the donors;
- Launch of the ELECT project in November 2006
- A national seminar on lessons learned

Partnerships and Resources

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

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

Voter Registration and 2004 Presidential Elections

Total funds received: US\$176.8 million

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

Registration in-country: US\$ 79 million

Polling in-country: US\$54.4 million

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

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

Elections Project 2005 (Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections)

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

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

Transitional Phase from 21 March to 21 September

- Total costs for salary for the IEC headquarter and provinces as well as operational costs for the IEC headquarter US\$ 500,000 (US \$ 454,000 funded by CIDA)
- Operational costs for the Provinces were covered by USAID through the Asia Foundation US\$ 100,000

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Support to the Establishment of Afghan Legislature (SEAL) project

Background

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 has launched 'Support to the Establishment of the Afghan Legislature' Project (SEAL Project). The project duration is two years from February 2005 and its budget is US\$15,501,906.

Under the terms of the constitution of January 2004, parliamentary elections were held in Afghanistan in September 2005 to elect Members to the National Assembly consisting of two houses: House of People (Wolesi Jirga) with 249 members and House of Elders (Meshrano Jirga) with 102 members. The elections were conducted peacefully and the national assembly was successfully inaugurated on Dec 19, 2005, substantially supported by SEAL project.

Since, the internal legal environment and structures of both houses are put in place: Rules of Procedures, parliamentary groups (Meshrano Jirga) and Standing Committees. The presidential appointments of the cabinet and Supreme Court members were debated and partially approved and the State budget passed before the parliamentary summer recess 6 June – 22 July 2006.

While maintaining its support to the National Assembly Secretariat, SEAL has established close relationship with the members of the National Assembly. Furthermore, SEAL enjoys privileged working relationship with the senior management of both houses: The President of the Upper house has been personally supporting the SEAL activities by his presence during the major project activities and his 1st Deputy is the best interlocutor of SEAL. Similarly the president of the Wolesi Jirga has appointed his 2nd Deputy the focal point for SEAL. The former is fully appreciating the project activities and the latter engaged in all SEAL project capacity building activities for the Wolesi Jirga.

Expected Outputs of SEAL project

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

Achievements

1. Efficient coordination mechanisms established:

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

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

2.1. Training Activities

For Staff:

- Intensive 4 week training of 123 newly recruited staff completed (11 June - 6 July 2005).
- Computer training (17-31 July), English training by British Council, Basic computer training for the Staffers and Members, Training programme for members personal assistants.
- Intensive in-house training presentations for the staff of the Meshrano Jirga on Committee System and other Parliamentary Procedural matters
- Attachments for 152 members of the Secretariat to different parliaments: Italy, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Netherlands, Turkey, Germany, France, Australia. (July-September 2005)
- National Seminar on Parliamentary Processes and Best Practices (23-25 September 2005)
- Specialized training on: Protocol for International Relations Department; working in standing committees; relations with media for Public Information department; servers and network management and configuration for ICT department; legislative processes: rules and flowcharts.
- Specialized training on Digital Congress Network (DCN) for ICT Determent in Netherlands and London (10 June-30 June 2006)
- Specialized training on troubleshooting PABX phone system for ICT department.
- Specialized study tours: 11 staffers to the U.K on work of Budget, Finance and Public Accounts Committees; to Canada on legislative processes; 5 staffers to E-Governance Academy, Estonia;
- Provision of comparative research paper on roles and responsibilities of Secretary General

For Members:

- Orientation programme and needs assessment of capacity building for members organized with USAID (December 2005)
- Preparatory meeting for and rehearsal of the Inauguration of the Afghan National Assembly
- Training on Parliamentary system for all members of Meshrano Jirga
- Study tour / Training on "Globalization" in Dubai for all members of Meshrano Jirga
- Budget Process and approval of state budget in Parliament: interactive working session with Members Of the Budget, Finance and Public Accounts committee of Meshrano Jirga
- Chairmanship of plenary and committees meetings: dinner working session with members of Administrative Board and Presidents of all Standing committees of Meshrano Jirga
- Specialized study tour of 8 parliamentarians to E-Governance Academy, Estonia (10-17 June),
- Study tour of 5 member delegation to Japan, headed by the 1st deputy of Meshrano Jirga
- Study tour of 8 member delegation to Lithuania, headed by 2nd Secretary of Wolessi Jirga (Invitation of Lithuanian Parliament and SEAL financial contribution)
- Participation of 1st Deputy President of Meshrano Jirga in Working sessions on Parliamentary Support for Iraq (coordinated with UNDP Iraq and IPU and held in Jordan -10-11 July)
- Implementation of the comprehensive training programme of Wolessi Jirga (ongoing)
- Initiation of "Energizing Committees" programme
- In-house training for committee members on parliamentary oversight, by being given detail grounding on the subject of ministry portfolios and on the procedural modalities
- Participation of 6 Afghan Parliamentarians in the GOPAC 2nd Global Conference
- Provision of basic Internet program for MPs

For Ministries and other UNDP projects:

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

- Guided tour of National Assembly for colleagues of UNDP and UNAMA

2.2 Production of and Assistance for regulatory documents research and drafting:

- Rules of Procedure
- Staff Regulations
- Security regulations
- Research support/background information on “MPs’ privileges and immunities”
- Regular legal advice to Parliamentary affairs department
- Mainstreaming human rights in training plan for MPs
- Convening of an International conference on Effective Executive- Legislative Relations for all members of the Upper House and 35 representatives of the Executive (15-17th April)
- Preparations for “International Conference on Effective Executive Legislative Relations” for all member of the Lower House
- Development of Handbook for Afghan Parliamentarians and Glossary of Afghan specific parliamentary terms
- Development of a policy paper outlining duties and responsibilities, values, mission, and policies of the Department of information and public information
- Development of long-term policies for use and maintenance of ICT facilities and management of the official email addresses by the members and staff

2.3 Support the Parliamentary Public Outreach:

- Support publication of the National Assembly directory and calendar
- Establishment of National Assembly radio station broadcasting the parliamentary proceedings
- Partnership with civil society organizations to facilitate interactions between parliamentarians and their constituents in provinces
- The Official web site of the National Assembly developed
- 1200 books given to the Library of the National Assembly
- Organization of public outreach opportunities for members of parliament to interact with their constituents in their electoral bases 9 provinces
- Planning the second journalism training for accredited parliamentary journalists
- School kits about the role of the parliament (learning and exercise book)
- Printing of the 1st issue of each House’s magazine
- Parliament Diary featuring all the female parliamentarians
- "Who’s Who Book” of the MJ (under work)
- Finalization of three radio programs. Two more productions are being conceived

2.4 Support to the Security Department of the National Assembly Secretariat

- Assessment of the current security situation and remedial actions:
- Development of internal plans and regulations
- Establishment of direct coordination interfaces with Afghan and International partners
- Assessment of needs, suggestion and negotiation for delivery of purchased / donated security items:
- Provision of technical assistance organization of training sessions:

3. Material support of the Afghan National Assembly:

3.1 ICT and electronic equipment:

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

- 3 ID card printing machines
- Audio Equipments for Meeting Room of Afghan National Assembly
- Software for Bilingual voice recording of parliamentary proceedings for Handsard Departments of both houses Afghan National Assembly: Installation , configuration and training of the Diva software
- 550KVA Electricity Generator
- Organization of ICT staff and services
- Security of IT infrastructure Provision of Audio equipment for the Meeting room of the committees
- Purchasing of Computer and other IT equipment for the committees and new staff of the Secretariat.
- Provision of all ICT and Multimedia equipment to UNIFEM in establishing the Training Center for Women Parliamentarians
- Parliament official emailing system and servers

3.2 Furniture, equipment, vehicles:

- Provision of all necessary furniture (table, chairs) for office space of Secretariat and Committee rooms
- Delivery of 10 mini vans and 8 Toyota Corolla, in addition to 48 Jeeps provided through UNDP Election Project
- Facilitate reception of Security Equipment form China
- Assets and equipment for approx. \$ 30 000 have been received and delivered to the Security Department;
- Purchasing of Security Lightening System for the NA;
- Purchasing of security equipment for the Security department – riot control and police gear;

3.3 Rental of Houses

Three houses rented for secretariat staff temporary office

Challenges and Risks

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

- Funding gap is fully met by the donors and funding is received in time;
- An appropriate level of security prevails;
- Lack of experience of the members of the National Assembly and its Secretariat, to respectively play their role as effective members of a legislative body and to properly serve and run the new institution
- Effective legal framework and procedures, including mechanisms for interaction between the executive and the legislature are in place, so that the parliament can be fully functional to discharge efficiently its constitutionally mandated roles;
- State of legislation not favorable to full parliamentary autonomy;
- Low level of salaries paid to parliament staff and consequent brain-drain of trained and skilled staff

Future Priorities

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

- Positively respond to the request of Wolesi Jirga as to permanently provide support on technical, legal procedural and policy areas
- Timely quarterly reporting to the donors and identification of potential needs for the legislators beyond SEAL Project period
- Provision of effective daily technical and advisory services to Standing Committees of Lower House
- Occupy the room dedicated to SEAL in National Assembly and organize a system of “SEAL Advisor of the day”

Partnerships and Resources:

SEAL Budget: US\$ 15,501,906
 Total Commitment US\$ 15,141,272
 Total Received: US\$ 14,105,682
 Funding gap: US\$ 360,634

DONOR	AMOUNT in USD
UNDP Core	643,000
EC	2,895,054
France	2,884,923
Italy	1,204,819
SIDA	1,277,139
Germany (GTZ)	2,147,359
Denmark	2,000,000
CIDA	1,052,631
Total received	US\$ 14,105,682

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Promotion of Rights & Equality

Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan (SJSA) project

Background

Desiring to build on the successes of the project *Rebuilding the Justice Sector of Afghanistan* (RJSA), which was generously funded by the governments of Canada, Italy, and the United Kingdom, and to address the challenges still faced by the justice sector, the three permanent justice institutions of Afghanistan and UNDP concluded a new project document in November 2005 entitled “*Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan*” (SJSA). This follow-on programme which began on 1 January 2006 and has three-year duration is designed to assist the Government of Afghanistan in achieving the priorities and benchmarks for the rule of law and justice highlighted in the Interim Afghan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS). The programme consists of the following key components: (1) support to the Government of Afghanistan for the development and implementation of a detailed strategy based on the “*Justice for All*” framework; (2) strengthening institutional capacity of the Ministry of Justice; (3) strengthening institutional capacity of the Office of the Attorney General; (4) strengthening institutional capacity of the Supreme Court; (5) strengthening institutional capacity of the legal education institutions; and (6) rehabilitation of physical facilities for the justice sector. This broad scope of project activities enables SJSA to address the multi-faceted needs of justice sector reform and provides the project with the flexibility required to meet ever-evolving short-term challenges, while supporting development of long-term sustainable strategies.

Achievements

I-ANDS: The SJSA programme has been active in providing technical support and assistance to the Ministry of Justice in the preparation of detailed work plans and in setting priorities for the justice sector under the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS) process. The support provided by the SJSA programme has resulted in the justice sector achieving a high level of donor coordination and cooperation and has benefited the I-ANDS process generally by increasing awareness and capacity of I-ANDS staff to undertake national planning across sectors. Further, the SJSA programme participated with other development partners in the design of an implementation framework for the “*Justice for All*” policy document with the intent that the output would be linked to the I-ANDS process.

Institutional Reform & Development: The SJSA project continues to support the permanent justice institutions with institutional reform and development. Technical experts, assigned by UNDP to justice institutions assist on a daily basis with a number of institutional development related tasks. In addition, with support from SJSA, the permanent justice institutions are continuing the implementation of the Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) programme within the justice sector.

Budgeting & Financial Planning: The SJSA project facilitates the budget process for the permanent justice institutions by working with them on formulating budget strategies for discussion with the Ministry of Finance. These strategies focused on the development of a client-centered approach to budgeting issues and the analysis of budget information for substantive and policy oriented discussions. As a result, the financial planning and budgeting capacity of each institution continues to improve at the strategic level.

Law Curriculum: UNDP has provided support to the Faculty of Law and Political Science of Kabul University in designing a new curriculum. Following adoption of the new curriculum, the SJSA project will assist with its nationwide implementation.

Future Priorities

- Resource mobilization.
- Recruitment of one international staff (Chief Technical Advisor to the Ministry of Justice);
- Development of the policy and planning capacity within the Ministry of Justice
- Build the capacity of the permanent justice institutions at the provincial and district levels.

- Implementation of the new curriculum for the Law Faculty in Kabul and throughout the country.
- Steering Committee Meeting

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget: USD 9,890,000
Received Budget: USD 1,415,989
Shortfall: USD 8,474,011

UNDP Country Office Focal Point:

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UNDP Project Focal Point

James Baker, Project Manager (james.baker@undp.org)

Access to Justice at the District Level (AJDL) Project

Background

In November 2005, the three permanent justice institutions of Afghanistan and UNDP concluded a project document entitled “*Access to Justice at the District Level*” (AJDL). The AJDL seeks to promote people’s ability to access justice on the district level of Afghanistan through both formal Courts and traditional/communal justice delivery systems.

The objectives of this 30 month project are fourfold, to: **(i)** Assess district level justice delivery mechanisms and the ability of population to access these mechanisms; **(ii)** Refurbish judicial centres and related justice/protection institutions at the district level; **(iii)** Train actors carrying out justice delivery system related functions on the district level (judges, prosecutors, religious and traditional authorities) in a broad range of rule of law, administration of justice and human rights standards especially as they relate to vulnerable groups, including women and children; and **(iv)** Conduct public awareness campaigns which focus on legal, justice and human/constitutional rights related matters falling within the realm of the justice delivery. District populations, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized (women and children) will comprise the primary focal point for public awareness campaign activities.

Achievements

District Level Assessments: The following AJDL project provincial/district level assessment missions were completed during the April-June 2006 reporting period in the following provinces/districts. Kunduz province, Khanabad district; Baghlan province, Baghlani Jadid district; Balkh province, Balhk district; Kabul province, Bagrami district; Parwan province, Charikar district; and Herat province.

Phase I of Implementation: Based on the initial assessment of the provinces, Balkh and Herat provinces are selected for the actual project activity implementation.

Future Priorities

- Finalizing the implementation modalities for the project
- Material development for training and public awareness activities.
- Continue recruitment of project staff.
- Implementation of project activities in two pilot provinces.
- Steering Committee Meeting

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget: USD 7,200,000
 Received Budget: USD 7,200,000

Number of current programme staff: 4 international and 28 national staff

UNDP Country Office Focal Point:

Nasrat Aslam, Programme Officer (nasrat.aslam@undp.org)

Building Sustainable Capacity on Human Rights Treaty Reporting Project

Background

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

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

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

An international technical advisor will be working with national staff within the Department of Human Rights and International Women's Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will provide advice to the Government on the treaty reporting process. The advisor will also contribute to capacity building programmes for ministerial focal points as well as civil society actors.

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;
- First Report finalized and submitted to the relevant treaty bodies using the new format of a common core document and treaty-specific documents by the end of the project duration, with planning already underway for subsequent rounds of reporting;
- Improved implementation and observance of international human rights norms as set out in the treaties to which Afghanistan is a party.

Achievements

- A donor agreement was signed with CIDA on 19 June 2005 and the official launch of the project took place on 27 November 2005;
- The Project office within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was established;
- International technical advisor came to Kabul for a period of 6 weeks to start-up the project;
- Introductory meeting held with human rights focal points in various ministries to present the process of treaty reporting and establish a common working mechanism;
- Treaty Reporting Consultant visited Kabul for 12 days (9-21 March 2006). She provided advice on the project, consulted all relevant stakeholders and contributed to capacity-building activities for ministerial focal points and the treaty reporting project team in MoFA;
- Workshop was organized for ministry focal points on 15, 16, and 18 March 2006 in the MoFA. It was conducted by two Iranian Consultants and the Treaty Reporting Consultant;

- The newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs has been briefed on the project to assure his support, a briefing to Cabinet is currently being prepared;
- A Project Manager has joined in August 2006 to provide managerial support to the project;
- The International Technical Advisor has been recruited and will join at the beginning of October 2006 to take the project forward and start the preparation of the first treaty report.
- A second workshop was undertaken from 2 to 6 August 2006 and aimed to explain the very technical parts of report writing, data collection and data analysis to ministerial focal points and the staff of the HR&WI Unit at the MoFA. It focused on common core and specific parts of the reports.
- A follow up meeting was organized on 14 September 2006 with all the focal points to assess their needs, evaluate their preparedness for providing data and explain the future programmes.

Future Priorities

- Finalize the comprehensive work plan;
- Provide required equipment for the focal points;
- Prepare for developing a human rights database;
- Organize a meeting of the Steering Committee to get approval for the continuity of the project;
- Plan and start the first phase of data gathering (preparation of a common core document and one treaty-specific report);
- Evaluate the needs for additional staffing of the project;

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget: US\$ 297,619
Committed Budget: US\$ 297,619
Shortfall: nil

Donors: Canada

Country Office Focal Points:

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Project Focal Point

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Institutional Capacity Development for the Ministry of Women's Affairs project

General Background

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

Objective

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

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

Key Features and Achievements

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

The current major engagement of the project is as follows:

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

Capacity for Gender Equality promotion:

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

- Availability/accessibility of Gender Manuals/material and other resources related to women's human rights has enhanced access of institutions and individuals including TAD/MoWA staff to much needed intellectual resources.
- Activities particularly planning exercises helped enhance knowledge and capability of TAD staff to critically analyse cause and effect relationship and results of advocacy actions and measures.

2. *Gender Advocacy*

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

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

3. *Operational Capacity*

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

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

Transformation in practices:

One of the key contributions towards effective mode of operations is project's strong advocacy for participative processes. Recent exercise of the development of TAD's Annual Action Plan manifested the importance of the efforts. The Action Plan for the Training and Advocacy Department of MoWA for 2006 itself is a result of the process, which helped enhance staff confidence to express their critical views and put forward recommendations to produce for the achievement of their goals and produce results. Introduction to a result-based managed practice was another key contribution of recent endeavours of the project. Apart from realising set objectives, each initiative of the project contributes towards enhanced technical institutional capability—functional/managerial as well as practice related.

Gender Studies Institute:

Establishment of a Gender Studies Institute (GSI) is one of the key components of the project. Within the framework of tertiary education system, the process of establishing GSI has started taking concrete shape. In partnership with the University of Kabul, MoWA, UNESCO, the project has been spearheading the process. Solid output of the process will contribute to structured academic courses and will make available gender technical expertise locally. A Seminar on GSI was held in Aug 2006 entitled "Assessing Gender Studies Institute" at Kabul University. The GSI feasibility studies have been completed.

Future priorities:

- The project aims to further enhance capacity of MoWA and other key institutions for the institutionalisation of gender mainstreaming. In this regard introducing strategic initiatives/measures are considered critical.
- MoWA has established its own inter-agency secretariat for coherent and cohesive gender related support to the ANDS process, and different TA providers have taken responsibilities for different CGs/WGs and SWGs.
- In order to deliver most effectively and help produce lasting effect/results the support from the project/UNDP is being revisited within the framework of ANDS, Afghanistan Compact and Interim National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA). To that effect UNDP commissioned an external evaluation exercise in the second quarter of the year. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine most strategic interventions for UNDP to assist institutions for the mainstreaming of gender in Afghanistan. The evaluation recommended that in the long run more strategic interventions are to be considered for gender programming in Afghanistan and hence strategic reorientation of ICB and MoWA are suggested. This is so that capacity development of line ministries and other institutions at sub-national level may be improved.
- Following the external evaluation exercise, a programme formulation team was invited. This proposed programme resulting from this team's work aims to build the Government's capacity for stronger policy formulation and gender mainstreaming to overcome deep-rooted gender inequalities in the country and achieve the goals set out in the I-ANDS.
- The programme has four component projects: 1) Institutional Capacity Building for Gender Mainstreaming, 2) Sustainable Learning and Local Capacity for Gender Mainstreaming, 3) Women's Empowerment: Conflict Resolution, Security and Peace, 4) Recognising and Strengthening Women's Roles in the Economy. Project activities are to serve as pilots to establish precedents in co-operation, coordination and public sector effectiveness for gender mainstreaming with a few key partners in a few select locations. The implementation of these pilot activities are expected to help bring to light the factors that contribute to the exclusion of women from key development processes, and the lessons from the pilot activities will be applied and strengthened in the future. The programme will be executed under a DEX Modality.
- The implementation strategy will consist of a three pronged approach: 1) Enhancing partnerships and synergies among a strategic set of government ministries, civil society organisations and existing UNDP projects, 2) Community-based and Afghan-led approaches, 3) Sustainable learning including monitoring, lessons documentation and learning teams comprised of project staff government counterparts. There will be an overall Project Executive Group consisting of MoWA, MoF, MoE, MoJ, MoA MDDR, MoHRA and a programme manager and support team.

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget: US\$ 2,289,276

Received Budget: US\$ 2,289,276

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

Country Office Focal Points:

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Project Focal Point: Shipra Bose, Project Manager (shipra.Bose@undp.org)

National Programme for Action on Disability (NPAD) project

Background

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 Labor 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.

Achievements

Right and Advocacy

The Rights and Advocacy Unit of NPAD continued to work with Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) to build their capacity to advocate effectively for their rights. Disability mainstreaming has been strongly advocated and is seen as a fundamental process to enable the realization of the rights of people with disabilities (PwDs).

NPAD right and advocacy department main focus was the development of mainstreaming tools and during this quarter a very comprehensive and useful mainstreaming tools was pre-tested, finalized, printed and shared with the DPOs and other organizations active in the disability sector. This paper/tool will assist organizations to raise consciousness to issues relation to mainstreaming people with disabilities in their work and their inclusion into the workforce.

Education

The third quarter began with the move of the NPAD national and international disability and EDUCATION ADVISORS to the Ministry of education and the office for the advisors is equipped and THEY STARTED working in MoE.

Disability is now included in the 5 year strategic plan of the Ministry of Education and the NPAD education advisors took active part in the strategy development meetings of the ministry. Under the guidance of the NPAD Advisor the special education section is accepted as a department.

Health

NPAD organized 2 consultative meeting with the partners working in the Community Base Rehabilitation (CBR) in the country and during these sessions the issue of the establishment of the Afghanistan National CBR net work was discussed and it was agreed the National Network will be formally establish during a National CBR workshop scheduled for 13-14 November 2006.

Livelihoods

Self employment and developing and promoting traditional handicraft activities are an important initiative has proved to be effective in mainstreaming people with disabilities. In conjunction with the Country Office a handicraft fair and sale by people with disabilities was held at the UNDP compound.

In order to further create employment opportunities for of PwDs, a private sector initiative was developed and implemented providing an efficient a carrier Messenger Services for the delivery of mail and goods in Kabul. As an example 100 magazines was distributed by amputees using specially constructed bicycles to various addresses in the city.

NGO Contracts

Because of the prevailing the funding status of NPAD, during this Quarter none of the present NGO contracts for service provision were extended and the scope of many were reduced because of lack of funds. With the fresh injection of funds by USAID contracts will be reviewed and renewed depending on past performance

MMDSA

There vision continues to be a blurred and the leadership and indecisiveness and this has hindered the smooth and effective merging of the two Ministries. In March 2006 the President announced the restructuring of ministries and this proposal was later endorsed by Parliament. MoLSA was to be amalgamated with MMD to form a new Ministry called MMD&SA. The labor component of MoLSA was to come under the MoC. To ensure a smooth transition, the NPAD Support Unit at MMD, worked out various options for the joining of the two ministries including, revising the Mandate to better represent the new role and responsibilities of the enlarged Ministry. A plan for streamlining staffing tables in accordance with the PRR processes was drawn up in an open and inclusive way and discussed in detail with Senior Management. The main hindrance to the processes was the refusal of line managers at MoLSA to accept the need for change and become actively engaged in drawing up blueprints for the reform. This stalled the processes and there was lack of political will to restart the procedure and see it to a satisfactory conclusion. This generated uncertainty among the Directors who worried about their future. As a result they have adopted a wait and see attitude. There continues to be intense politicking for the position of Deputy Ministers and this further aggravated the sense of uncertainty.

Future Priorities

- Organizing 2 days workshop to finalize the draft amended guideline for the inclusion of disability service in to Basic Package of Health Service (BPHS) and Essential Package of Hospital Service (EPHS).
- Organize 2 days workshop to update of international CBR definitions and practices and how to develop new and viable CBR models in Afghanistan.
- Development of 5 year strategy for the disability department in MoPH.
- Working withy the Grant and Contracting Management Unit of MoPH to include disability in the Request For Proposal (RFP) of MoPH.
- Disability awareness workshop for the Ministry of Education key stakeholder.
- Organizing regular disability taskforce meeting in line Ministries.
- Drafting of disability legislation with the full contribution of the working group which is already established.
- Conducting mainstream workshop for Ministry of Women affair.
-

Partnerships and Resources

Estimated Budget (2005 – 7): US \$ 1,200,000
Current donors: USAID, UNDP, JAPAN and French Trust Fund

Country Office Focal Points

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Civil Society Empowerment

Civil Society participation in National Policy Formulation preparatory assistance project

Background

UNDP is providing support to civil society implementing partners, who were selected through a competitive bidding process, to do the following:

1. Raise awareness and conduct consultations on the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) in 8 pilot provinces – a process that will bring the concerns and priorities of civil society into policy dialogue and inclusion into the development of the final ANDS by 2007.
2. Conduct Anti-corruption focus group discussions (FGDS) – raise awareness on corruption, its forms and begin process of formation of policy analysis on how to deal with corruption.
3. Analysis and reporting back on Pre-London Conference questionnaire conducted by civil society.

Over the past 4 months, UNDP has supported delegates from civil society and Ministry of Youth to participate in the following Conferences:

1. Three- member delegation participation in a three-day “*Asian Civil Society Forum for Democracy*” in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 28 – 30 July 2006
2. Three-member delegation participation in a two-day workshop on “*Promoting Transparency and Accountability of Local Governance and Deterring Corruption in Public Contracting and Procurement*” in Bali, Indonesia, 29 – 30 July
3. Support the Director of Youth Affairs in the Ministry of Youth and Culture and 1 UNDP National Officer to participate at the International World Youth Forum in Romania, 16 – 25 August to mark the International day of the Youth. The theme for this conference was on *development and implementation of National Youth Policies and Strategies*

Future UNDP – CSO Partnership - Mainstreaming Civil Society Engagement

UNDP would like to effectively shift from project-driven engagement with civil society to strategic partnership with a UNDP-CSO dialogue and debate on policy directions. This can be facilitated through the development of a UNDP-CSO Advisory Committee. The country office will also move towards adoption of a mainstreaming approach to engagement of civil society in all current and future projects in UNDP Afghanistan. There is great potential for the country office to strengthen relations and engage more with civil society in implementing Country Office projects. This approach calls for genuine CSO engagement in the development, implementation and monitoring of development processes.

UNDP Projects will form partnerships and engage CSOs around a broad range of issues, including research, advocacy, institutional capacity building to support engagement in dialogue with grassroots constituencies and policy-makers. Through such partnerships and engagement at various levels by UNDP Projects, UNDP Afghanistan can contribute to the emergence of CSOs in Afghanistan as a strong and cohesive constituency, able to engage in development, governance, democratic processes as well as perform a development oversight function.

UNDP Country Office Focal Point: Edith Maziofa, Programme Officer (edith.maziofa@undp.org)

YOUTH JOINT PROGRAMME (Pipeline)

Background

Young Afghans – demographics and indicators

68% of the population of Afghanistan is below 25 years of age. This majority segment of the population is generally disfranchised, lacks educational and employment opportunities, and rarely participates in decision-making at community, province or national level. The situation of Afghan girls is of particular concern - under traditional pressures they enter early marriage and early pregnancy, contributing to Afghanistan's dire MMR and IMR. Youth literacy rates are low; 50% for boys and 18% for girls; secondary school enrolments are respectively 23% and 7%, and less than 1% of the Afghan population reaches higher education.

Risks and Opportunities

Faced with these challenges, Afghan youth are at a major risk of oppression, unemployment, low wages and therefore to induction into the narcotics industry, illegally armed groups, insurgents and terrorist organizations. This generation of youth, having experience of conflict & exile, needs to now be empowered and provided with alternative opportunities. Their fresh perspectives, their prejudice-free minds, their energy, enthusiasm and determination must to be channeled for promoting peace and development in Afghanistan. This enormous reservoir of human capital will provide the future leaders of the country's political, business and civil arena.

UN - Joint Programme

In this context, the UN country team (UNAMA, UNICEF, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, UNESCO, UNV & UNFPA) has decided to initiate a joint UN program on youth, coordinated by UNDP in collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan. This joint program is at the development stage and will be signed off by all partners by the end of 2006.

Objective of the UN Joint Programme

The main objective of the program is to engage the Afghan youth in governance, democracy, social-political processes and enhance their participation in community development and nation-building. The program will also provide educational, sporting, artistic and musical options for marginalized youth and encourage skills development to enhance future employment opportunities. There will also be a very strong focus on gender and volunteerism.

The joint UN program on youth will have the following components:

1. **Baseline Youth Situational Assessment**, done in partnership with youth in communities, Government, civil society and private sector of Afghanistan (UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHABITAT)
2. **Direct support to Ministry of Culture & Youth**, including coordination, resource-mobilization, capacity-building activities, policy and strategy support. (all agencies)
3. **Youth participation in local governance & community development**, through establishment of local youth committees engaged in civic activities. (UNHABITAT, UNICEF)
4. **Youth participation in sub-national & national governance**, through strengthening existing youth CSOs, and establishing youth federations and networks at district, provincial and national level. (UNDP, UNHABITAT)
5. **Sub-grants to youth groups/youth committees** to stimulate activities in the areas of the MDGs, sports, literacy, health, education, gender, human rights, environment, culture/arts, etc. (UNHABITAT, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA)
6. **National Youth Volunteer Corps**, with administrative structures and systems that channel Afghan youth volunteers to development projects of communities, Government, NGOs and the UN. (UNV, UNICEF)

7. **National Youth Training Program (non-formal education/skills development)**, which nurtures the 6 above other components, and includes subjects ranging leadership, life-skills, human rights, project design, project management, health education, literacy, peace-building, community development, gender awareness, networking, advocacy. (all agencies)
8. **Youth exchange program**, between youth, youth CSOs and youth Government officials of Afghanistan and other countries (particularly neighboring region). (UNHABITAT, UNDP, UNESCO)
9. **Communications, advocacy & media activities**, aimed at providing voice to the youth and raising awareness among the public and decision-makers on the challenging issues faced by young people in Afghanistan. (UNICEF, UNHABITAT, UNFPA, UNESCO)

National Ownership and Leadership

All of these programs will be closely coordinated, managed and monitored by the UN team at the Ministry of Culture & Youth. The UN youth coordination team (project managers & focal points from various agencies) will be based inside the offices of the Ministry.

Management & Reporting

A Joint Committee of Government, UN agencies and donors will soon be established to launch the joint programme, raise funds for the component parts and ensure co-ordinated implementation and reporting. No detailed budget has been developed, but will follow in the next month to six weeks.

Duration

The joint programme will be for the period 2007 – 2009.

UNDP Country Office Focal Point

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Fighting Corruption Preparatory Assistance Project (Pipeline)

Background

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

Achievements

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

UNDP also assumed the responsibility as co-chair of the anti-corruption Technical Working Group, together with UNODC, to support the government in reporting on progress to achieving the Afghan Benchmark on anti-corruption as well as the Cross-Cutting Thematic Group (CCTG) whose task is to promote anti-corruption policies and report on mainstreaming the issue into other sector reforms. UNDP took a lead in convening a donor harmonization group as space for policy dialogue and generate consensus on how to tackle the phenomenon of corruption which also works in support of the CCTG. Furthermore, UNDP organized numerous consultative meetings with different partners such as the government, civil society organizations, UN agencies and other development partners in an effort to develop its first Accountability and Transparency (ACT) Project for Afghanistan in a truly participatory manner.

Future priorities

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

- Component I: Improved institutional, legal and policy environment to support the implementation of anti-corruption policies and programmes in line with the Afghanistan Compact and the ANDS.
- Component II: Enhanced integrity and accountability in pilot ministries and in aid management.
- Component III: Increased awareness and understanding of corruption in Afghanistan.

The project will be anchored in the Ministry of Finance given its political leadership, strong relationships with other public entities and a keen interest in promoting a broad-based approach to develop anti-corruption policies and programmes. To ensure joint ownership of project activities by the other core integrity institutions, a National Anti-Corruption Steering Committee composed of the currently existing core agencies (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, GIAAC, CAO, IARCSC) and the main donor agencies (ADB, WB, EU, DFID, Utstein, etc.).

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

UNDP already has identified some major partnerships in support of anti-corruption activities: first, the ADB agreed to join forces with UNDP in support of accountability and transparency initiatives that would lead to the development of the NACS. Second, the World Bank plans to do a comprehensive analytical work based on a broad corruption survey and UNDP is coordinating with the WB on how to complement the Public

Administration Reform with an ethics and accountability component through the ACT project. Third, UNDP has agreed with UNODC to assist the latter in strengthening the capacities of the national anti corruption agencies that will ultimately be in charge of anti-corruption prevention, investigation and education. Fourth, UNDP works closely with the Utstein Partners on their interest to become engaged in anti-corruption activities, and other potential partnerships with DANIDA, the EU and others are being explored.

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