

UNDP

PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOODS
PROGRAMME



United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan Country Office

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UNDP Afghanistan Programme

Within the broad national development framework 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 of UNDP's activities take place under the leadership of the interim Afghan Government and in close collaboration with ministries, agencies, and donors leading programmes within the consultative group process. 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. All UNDP programme activities aim to consolidate peace, enhance security and promote respect for the rule of law. In addition to direct support to the national security sector, UNDP projects enhance government institutional capacity to provide public services and to create an enabling environment for legitimate livelihoods.

Human development indicators are critical tools for development, and UNDP is acutely aware of and responsive to them. The release of the first *National Human Development Report* (NHDR) of Afghanistan in 2004 will provide an important vehicle for the Government to refine the development priorities of the country and to identify new areas where targeted cooperation with international humanitarian organizations can accelerate recovery. The NHDR will be the first comprehensive review of the state of development of Afghanistan.

UNDP also remains flexible and responsive to evolving national priorities, synchronized with the national budget of Afghanistan and closely integrated within the overall framework of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA). UNDP continues to work with UN agencies and other international actors under the UNAMA umbrella and to ensure maximum collaboration and programme complementarities. Our partners include the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS). United Nations Volunteers (UNV) plays an increasingly important role in the delivery of development assistance in all areas, providing a high level of skills at reasonable cost. Increasingly, UNDP is providing support to UNAMA in the coordination of operational activities among UN agencies and in the provision of common services.

Support to the Bonn Agreement and Bridging the Development Gap

The UNDP Programme concentrates on supporting the implementation of the Bonn Agreement while seeking to bridge the gap between Afghanistan's short- and long-term development needs. The Bonn process was designed to restore the functionality of the central government and the rule of law, paving the way for a democratic society and a democratically elected government. In support of this transition, and in close collaboration with UNAMA, UNDP is assisting with the process of adopting and implementing a new Constitution, voter registration, presidential and parliamentary elections; demobilization and reintegration programmes for former combatants; and reforming the justice system and civil service.

The Bonn Agreement calls for an interim Government of Afghanistan to establish, with the assistance of the UN, a number of commissions to lead the country towards democracy and the rule of law. In collaboration with UNAMA, UNV and other partners, UNDP supported the establishment and operation of the Emergency Loya Jirga Commission, the Constitutional Commission, the Judicial Reform Commission, the Civil Service Commission and the Human Rights Commission. UNDP seconded a senior Afghan professional to serve as the Director of the Secretariat to the Constitutional Commission; he later served as the JEMB Secretariat Director, as well.

UNAMA has the lead role in coordinating the operational activities of UN institutions, including their support to consultative group and national budget processes. UNDP helped the interim Government of Afghanistan to establish an Aid Coordination Unit and a Public Information Unit within the Afghan Assistance Coordination Agency. The Aid Coordination Unit created a donor assistance database to respond to the need for a donor tracking system, identified in the NDF. UNDP is also supporting the national data requirements of the NDF.

Increasingly, the challenges of human development are met by Afghan institutions and capacities are strengthened within government ministries to address the longer-term development needs of Afghanistan. As this process moves forward into the future, UNDP will continue to assist in bridging the development gap and focusing on longer-term needs.

UNDP's work is organized thematically into three pillars: State-building & Government Support, Democratization & Civil Society Empowerment and Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods.

Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods Programme

As crises subside, countries are frequently unable to meet their needs entirely on their own. Faced with long reconciliation and reconstruction processes, communities lack sufficient resources to meet all priorities simultaneously. National government services and physical infrastructure have been eroded, while populations have been worn down. People displaced by conflict want to return home, or to establish themselves in new communities. Weak economic markets and opportunities make it harder for families to move forward on their own. Meanwhile, the early recovery period is critical and contains windows of opportunity for peace-building efforts and laying out roots for more sustainable recovery.

The Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods Team consists of five country office staff and four programme managers. The head of the programme is Mr. Shafiq Qarizada, Assistant Country Director.

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Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Employment Generation

National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP)

In the National Development Framework, the Afghan Government commits to an integrated and programmatic approach to building human and social capital. One large-scale Government programme using this approach is the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP). The NABDP aims to promote urgent recovery and longer-term development in priority areas while building the government's capacity to lead and coordinate participatory approaches to development in all provinces. This two-year programme was launched in April 2002.

The National Area-Based Development Programme includes the following components:

- 1) The immediate recovery support component. Its goal is the rehabilitation of the local infrastructure, construction of shelters for returning refugees and IDPs and the increase of agriculture products. The project expanded to all provinces of the country in response to the recovery needs of the people and expansion of capacity.
- 2) The capacity building component of the project started with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development in August 2002. The MRRD provided leadership throughout the project cycle for recovery support as well as capacity building.
- 3) The macro-economic regeneration component of the project initiated the feasibility study of Spinzar Cotton Gin in Kunduz on 15 March 2003.

The NABDP is implemented through four different execution modalities. Direct execution by UNDP finances the core program management team and directs investment funds to UNOPS, FAO and UNHABITAT. National execution by MRRD, with technical support and services from UNDP, provides the bulk of investment, capacity development and macro-economic support. NGO execution by local NGO implementing partners and a trust fund execution, which supports the National Surveillance Survey implemented by MRRD, are the two other modalities through which NABDP is implemented.

Phase I of the project is due to conclude on 31 December 2004 and Phase II is planned to commence 1 Jan 2005. Phase II will direct more attention to the development of strategic planning at a regional level and engage a wider audience for capacity development programs, particularly towards those agencies that will affect the improved performance of developing livelihood generation programs.

Achievements:

Immediate Recovery:

- 3,500 metric tons of Urea distributed to 70,000 vulnerable families in all 32 provinces in 2002.
- 70 small-scale infrastructure projects, including school and hospital construction, water supply facilities, road construction and irrigation, were completed in Badakhshan, Herat, Shomali Plain and Kandahar, benefiting over 700,000 individuals in 2002. 69 projects were contracted out in nine provinces of Afghanistan in 2003; and 174 projects were funded in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan in 2004, of which 21 sub-projects were completed. The rest will be completed up to the end of December 2004.
- 3,300 shelters were completed in three districts of Shomali Plain in 2002.

- 500 earthquake-resistant shelters were constructed in Nahreen in response to the earthquake of March 2003.

Capacity Development:

- Provincial plans were prepared for 32 provinces. As a result, four priority projects per district were identified. The Provincial Management Advisors (PMAs) and Capacity Development Advisors (CDAs), together with MRRD staff, facilitated the planning process.
- Rehabilitation of 15 MRRD provincial offices, with a total cost of US\$ 410,500, was completed.
- The five CDAs, together with the PMAs and the provincial directors, completed the initial process of the capacity development needs assessment in 32 provinces. The process will continue to unify and analyze the results of the assessment to find ways to fulfill the requirements for capacity development.
- 43 MRRD provincial directors attended a five-month training course organized by BRAC in Bangladesh.
- A total of 131 subprojects were monitored by the NABDP team together with MRRD. Satisfactory progress of the work was reported.
- All projects were monitored by RRD provincial offices.
- 100 staff of MRRD was enrolled in English language courses in Kabul.
- 42 MRRD officials (32 Provincial Directors and 11 Departmental Directors) were attending a five-month training in Bangladesh.
- The senior women in leadership programme was launched. Nineteen women working for ministries were selected and started a six-month training in the areas of management, computers, English language and specialized skills.

Macroeconomic Regeneration:

- Feasibility study of developing the Spinzar Cotton Gin in Kunduz was completed and a report released.
- Feasibility study on developing the niche industry of rose oil was conducted in May 2004 and an initial investor identified.
- Discussions with investors on Gulbahar Textile Mill are ongoing in support of a feasibility study.
- Preparation of studies in sectors including textiles, foodstuff, livestock and horticulture is progressing.

Future Priorities:

- Completion of priority development projects identified at the province and district levels.
- Continue strengthening the capacity, reach and credibility of the MRRD and other government bodies involved with local development. Deepened support for the planning and coordination process will ensure participation, transparency and accountability at the provincial and district levels.
- With experience, the process will become increasingly inclusive, gathering broader input from civil society and the private sector and encouraging the growth of both. Linkages across levels of government in the planning process will ensure that locally generated priorities are incorporated into the Government's planning and budgeting cycle.
- The NABDP also plans to address the reintegration needs of returnees and IDPs through an integrated programme with UNHCR. This reintegration dimension is critical and is a priority concern for the UNDP in the future development of NABDP.
- It has been decided by MRRD and UNDP to wind up the 1st phase of the NABDP in December 2004. The 2nd phase of the programme will commence in January 2005.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 54,260,003

Received Budget: US\$ 53,152,951

Shortfall: US\$ 1,107,052

Donors: Italy, Malaysia, United Kingdom, Sweden, Japan, Canada, USA, EC, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF

Number of Project Staff: 14 international and 149 national staff

Focal Point: Massoom Farhad (massoom.farhad@undp.org)

Project Manager: Steve Hutcheson (steve.hutcheson@undp.org)

Recovery and Employment Afghanistan Programme (REAP)

REAP started in March 2002 to provide immediate short-term employment to vulnerable and unemployed groups within the populations of Afghanistan. The programme has the following goals:

- Contribute to the building of political and social stability in the region.
- Facilitate the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure and the environment.
- Generate quick employment opportunities for the vulnerable population.
- Promote the capacity building of national partners in programme planning and management.

Achievements:

- The REAP program has been implemented in Kabul, Kandahar and Jalalabad with funding from the Government of Japan and the European Commission. So far, more than 260 projects have been implemented under REAP, and employment generated for more than 40,000 people:
 - REAP Kabul (Japan) completed 96 subprojects and employed 18,154 people (February 2002 - May 2003).
 - REAP Jalalabad & Kabul Hammam (EC) completed 58 subprojects in Jalalabad, which employed 10, 860 people and rehabilitated 30 hammams in Kabul (May 2002 - May 2003).
 - REAP Kabul completed 82 subprojects and employed 18,928 people. (September 2002 – April 2004)
- More than 285 km of roads have been rehabilitated; 330 culverts constructed; 150 km of irrigation canals cleared; 12 parks rehabilitated; 12,000 trees planted; 660 km of drainage canals constructed; 85 buildings rehabilitated or constructed, including 30 hammams and 9 schools; 10 vocational training programs for women conducted; and more than 200,000 cubic meters of rubble and rubbish cleared away from urban areas.
- More than 1.66 million man-days of labor have been created.
- Construction of five *hammams* (public bathhouses) was completed in Mazar-I-Sharif in September 2004.

Future Priorities:

- Rehabilitation of 14 hammams (public bathhouses), funded by the European Commission fund, is underway in Kandahar (5), Jalalabad (5) and Mazar (4). Construction works of the bathrooms will be completed by the end of December 2004
- Strengthen links between the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing and the REAP team in order to assist the Government of Afghanistan in reaching management capacity as quickly as possible.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 10,248,423
 Received Budget: US\$ 10,248,423
 Shortfall: US\$ 0
 Donors: Japan, European Commission
 Number of Project Staff: 1 international and 56 national staff

Focal Point: Massoom Farhad (massoom.farhad@undp.org)
Project Manager: Scott Hackney (scott.hackney@undp.org)

Partnership for Private Sector Development (PPSD)

On 29 February, UNDP signed an agreement with the Afghan Ministry of Commerce outlining a program of activities designed to build the capacity of the private sector in Afghanistan. In collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, UNDP has created a three-step strategy to build business partnerships that can foster greater capacity in the local business community. This strategy has benefited from the advice of private sector development practitioners in the public and private sectors. The three components of the strategy are:

- **Information Creation:** capacity building in the Ministry of Commerce, the Afghan Investment Support Agency (AISA) and the business community. Five market sector assessments are being conducted to identify investment opportunities in the rural economy and equip investors with analyses of markets, costs and potential returns.
- **Information Dissemination:** initiate business development services, improve understanding within the Government and the aid community on how to assist the private sector; establish a lasting workshop network to help businesses share and learn information.
- **Partnership Facilitation:** maximize the use of UNDP's convening power and global representation to assist Afghanistan's private sector development; facilitate partnerships that encourage further local and foreign investment.

Achievements:

- Team recruited to assist AISA in establishing a database to track, register and provide information to investors on active, licensed businesses throughout Afghanistan. To date, more than 7,000 company registration documents have been input and the database should be completed by November 2004.
- One market sector assessment on the horticulture sector has been conducted and widely disseminated to both the local as well as the international business community, donors and other stakeholders. The assessment identified a number of investment opportunities, and presented concrete business plans.
- Training Needs Assessment of the business community in Afghanistan conducted. The result is helping finalize the strategy for provision of business development services.
- Cross-sectoral study on the small- and medium-sized enterprise sector commissioned and expected to be published by January 2005.

Challenges and Risks:

- Security concerns and the potential for political instability are the primary obstacles to private sector investment and growth.
- Risks to the project include the possibility of inequitable selection procedures and the involvement of businesses failing to meet international standards for social responsibility. UNDP will work with the Government, donors, and implementing partners to establish clear eligibility criteria, a competitive and transparent selection process and effective monitoring.

Future Priorities:

- Conduct four additional market assessments in the sectors of horticulture, livestock and poultry, cotton and textiles, and sugar, identifying opportunities for competitive agribusiness in the regions.
- Provide business skills training in business plan writing, funding applications, investment proposals, financial skills, market assessments and operations through business development service providers.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing workshops linking businesses, Government and donor and financial institutions.

- Strengthen UNDP's relationship with the international business community and facilitate links to Afghanistan through the UNDP Business Partnerships Group, Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries and the 'Growing Sustainable Business for Poverty Reduction' initiative. Provide these institutions with the advice, data and tools to undertake a marketing initiative to attract businesses to participate in the PPSD scheme.
- In collaboration with the Government, establish good practices for facilitating partnerships.
- Facilitate partnerships between Afghan and international businesses to transfer capital and technical assistance.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 2,460,100

Received Budget: US\$ 542,035

Shortfall: US\$ 1,918,065

Donors: Germany, World Bank, UNDP

Number of Project Staff: One international and three national staff

Focal Point: Hedvig Boserup (hedvig.boserup@undp.org)

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Reduction of Threats to Human Security

Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP)

UNDP and UNAMA, with Japan as the lead donor country, are supporting the Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP), a three-year governmental programme to ensure cooperation among the commissions and related ministries through an integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) effort. In order to initiate the DDR process, on 2 December 2002 His Excellency the Afghan President Hamid Karzai signed a decree on the Afghan National Army (ANA), broadly outlining principles and conditions on security and the military. This was an essential step forward in creating the assets necessary for the government to assert control and to encourage commanders and their militias to reintegrate into Afghanistan's evolving political, social and economic life.

The decree states that the ANA will be an ethnically balanced organization not to exceed 70,000. In conjunction with the creation of the ANA, there is a need to reduce the existing number of soldiers and militias who have joined the army since the fall of the Taliban. This involves the collection and registration of their weapons and demobilising and reintegrating these ex-soldiers into Afghan society

ANBP aims to disarm an estimated 40,000 to 60,000 combatants and provide them with education, training and/or job opportunities suited to their particular needs, interests and skills. Staffed primarily by Afghan personnel, the programme is based in Kabul, where its central office is linked to eight regional offices and a set of Mobile Disarmament Units and Weapons Collection Teams. The project includes the following components:

- Assistance for former army soldiers and provincial militia fighters in identifying alternate sources of income in return for demobilization. Among the main prospective participants are soldiers, officers and middle-ranking militia commanders, who still control many communities.
- Reintegration packages, including demining, vocational training, agriculture, contracting teams, small business and placement in the Afghan National Army or Afghan National Police.
- Assistance in weapons collection and cantonment.

Achievements:

- The pilot phase, which began in October 2003, has been completed in Kunduz, Gardez, Kabul/Parwan, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif and Gardez. The pilot project was designed to establish confidence within communities, engage communities in the voluntary process, enable the Afghan government to take a lead in the confidence-building process, test the systems of the DDR programme and allow for lessons learned to be incorporated into the planning prior to starting the main phase.
- The first main phase, which lasted from June 2004 to September 2004, covered Kabul, Gardez, Kunduz, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Herat, and Bamyan. Momentum has increased into the second main phase, which started in mid-September and continues through late October 2004.
- As of mid-October, a total of 21,024 people had been disarmed and demobilized under the pilot and main phases of the DDR programme. Out of this number, 19,031 beneficiaries have entered reintegration projects.
- Heavy weapons cantonment has enjoyed immense success as many corps have reached 100% cantonment. It is estimated that 73% of all heavy weapons known to exist in the country have been cantoned.

Challenges and Risks:

- ANBP has secured half of the funding estimated to implement DDR. As such, it currently faces a shortage in funding that is most immediately felt in reintegration options and operating costs. Ensuring that ANBP has the budget to deliver DDR remains a high priority.
- Though ANBP's mandate requires it to dismantle the Afghan Military Forces, its success in doing so has brought about additional responsibilities. Namely, ANBP now facilitates the DDR process for irregular forces, cantons heavy weapons, and collects ammunition. This expansion in responsibilities has placed a strain on ANBP, most notably the regional staff.
- Prominent political players are still very reluctant to provide lists of personnel to process and heavy weapons to be handed over to the ANA, particularly in Mazar-i-Sharif and the Kabul/central region. Their compliance remains a factor of enormous uncertainty and potential risk.
- Various divisions in Herat have split, making cooperation in the DDR process difficult. Further exacerbating the situation is the presence of irregular forces, which complicates the provision of equitable reintegration options.

Future Priorities:

- ANBP is currently soliciting funding from the major donors as well as looking into new donors. It must be able to secure funding in the coming weeks in order to ensure that it will continue to facilitate DDR, heavy weapons cantonment, and ammunition collection.
- Using incentive packages, commanders are encouraged to allow the officers and soldiers under their command to enter the DDR programme. These packages include medical treatment, training and government positions. More effective implementation will ensure that these commanders receive the packages they are awarded.
- More reintegration packages need to be developed to handle the number of soldiers and officers who will be entering the DDR programme. More implementing partners are being contacted and are submitting proposals for reintegration programme throughout the country.
- Verification of lists of soldiers to enter the DDR programme is underway and must be completed. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of all of the Afghan Military Forces must be finished by the June 2005.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 167,000,000

Received Budget: US\$ 83,378,372

Shortfall: US\$ 83,621,628

Donors: Japan, Canada, United Kingdom

Number of Project Staff: 70 international and more than 600 national staff

Focal Point: Hedvig Boserup (hedvig.boserup@undp.org)

Project Director: Peter Babbington (pbabbington@anbpafg.org)

Mine Action Programme

Landmine Impact Survey

Mine Action Partnership Programme

Kabul – Kandahar Road Mine Clearance

Kandahar – Grishk Road Mine Clearance

Kabul – Doshi Road Mine Clearance

Kabul International Airport Mine Clearance

Afghanistan is still heavily affected by landmines and unexploded ordnance. They affect some 6.4 million Afghans who are either living in or planning to return to one of 2,400 affected communities. On July 28th 2002, President Karzai announced that Afghanistan would become a state party to the Mine Ban Treaty (the Ottawa Convention), and subsequently the Government of Afghanistan officially ratified the treaty with the determination to free Afghanistan from the impact of anti-personnel mines. Under Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA), the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations are putting their efforts toward achieving this objective.

UNDP helps address the landmine problem from a long-term development perspective, creating the conditions for the resumption of normal economic activity, reconstruction, and development. In coordination with Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (MACA), UNDP is currently undertaking the following projects in the mine action sector.

Landmine Impact Survey (LIS)

Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) aims to supply the necessary information to equip planners with this essential data of impact of landmines in communities. LIS is conducted according to internationally recognized standards, and its information is shared widely and housed in the appropriate Government institutions and databases. It will encompass the following:

- Confirmation and retrofitting of existing data.
- Provision of immediate information on population resettlement and reconstruction clearance requirements.
- Facilitation of the development of a long-term strategy for minimizing the impact of mines on communities in Afghanistan.

Achievements:

- By the end of July, 70% of the data collection had been completed. The entire data collection is scheduled for completion in November 2004, and will be followed by a thorough data analysis. The data up to July show that 1,930 communities were affected with mines or UXO, with 302 communities (16%) classified as high-impact areas.

Challenges and Risks:

- Now that sufficient data have been entered into the UNMACA database, the intent is to continue to build on the development of management systems with the UNMACA. The aim will be to assist the UNMACA in designing a series of protocols to ensure that the LIS data are updated and examined in a logical, common and systematic way across the country.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 2,163,225
 Received Budget: US\$ 2,163,225

Shortfall: US\$ 0

Donors: European Commission. Note: The current EC – UNDP agreement expired on 31 July. However, the operation is ongoing, as SAC received additional contributions from Canada, Germany and EC. Those additional contributions were directly made to SAC, not through UNDP.

Mine Action Partnership Programme

Mine Action Partnership Programme was launched as an initial project to help expand the partnership between UNDP and international donors and the private sector in the area of mine action. The project, funded by Contrak International, focused on surveying and mine clearance in the military training camp in Darulaman, Kabul. Three implementing NGOs were tasked and coordinated by the Mine Action Center for Afghanistan (MACA) through its Area Mine Action Center for Kabul.

Achievements:

- The project was completed on 30 September 2003, and the site was handed over to Contrak International.
- Four anti-personnel mines were cleared.
- 7,468 UXO (unexploded ordnance) were cleared.
- 91,141 fragments were cleared.
- 39,930 sq meters of mine-affected areas were cleared.
- 848,990 sq meters of battle areas were cleared.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 384,073

Received Budget: US\$ 384,073

Shortfall: US\$ 0

Donors: Contrak International (USA)

Reconstruction-related mine clearance

As the situation in Afghanistan gradually shifts from the emergency phase to long-term development, the number of large reconstruction project is increasing. However, significant areas of the country remain contaminated with landmines and UXO, and de-mining is a prerequisite for reconstruction works to start. UNDP, MACA and NGOs have been collaborating in response to the mine action needs of the country.

Achievements:

- Mine clearance on the Kabul – Kandahar road reconstruction site was completed, and road has been reconstructed in a timely manner. 71m of Kabul-Gardez road has been cleared of mines. Mine clearance is on going across the country including Ghazni – Shanon, Jalalabad – Asmar, Grishk – Delaram, Kandahar – Grishk, and Kabul International Airport.

Future Priorities:

- Better coordination with Ministries and Donors is crucial to be more efficient and proactive.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 55,116,803

Received Budget: US\$ 32,504,296

Shortfall: US\$ 22,612,507

Donors: USAID, World Bank, Japan

Focal Point: Fakhruddin Azizi (fchr.azizi@undp.org)
Kazuto Tsuruga (kazuto.tsuruga@undp.org)

Support to Mine Action Capacity Building in Afghanistan

The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA) was established in 1989. It consists of the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA) and 16 implementing partners. MACA has been managed by the UN since its inception, as the national regime was fragile and unable to take on the acute needs of mine action in Afghanistan until 2001.

However, the national context has undergone a drastic change since 2001, and the present government is developing its capacity to address the national problems. It is therefore imperative to revisit the current mode of assistance to mine action, still heavily led by the UN, and move towards nationalization of the programme, in which the UN could provide backstop support to the government initiative.

Globally, UNDP has a mandate to assist in the capacity development of national governments in mine action, and this Preparatory Assistance project will be an instrument for UNDP to embark on the implementation of such support in full partnership with the Afghan Government. There are two primary goals of the project:

- Assist the Afghan Government in developing a detailed transition plan of mine action authority from UN-coordinated MAPA to a national structure, which will encompass the legislative and administrative aspects of transition.
- Build capacity within relevant areas of the Afghan Government in order to prepare civil servants to assume a coordination and policy-making role for mine action in Afghanistan, to ensure a smooth and gradual transfer of responsibility for the coordination of mine action, and to carry out the stated objective of the Mine Ban Convention.

Achievements:

- The national transition plan has been developed.
- Draft legislation for establishment of the national mine action agency finalized.

Challenges and Risks:

- The delay in implementation has an adverse impact on UN credibility in assisting the process, while premature transfer of the programme will result in failure.

Future Priorities:

- The advisors need to be recruited in a timely manner to ensure effective assistance to the transition process.
- The structure of the new agency needs to be designed and recruitment process of the core staff to be launched.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 498,501
 Received Budget: US\$ 498,501
 Shortfall: US\$ 0
 Donors: Australia (VTF), DfID and UNDP

Focal Point: Kazuto Tsuruga (kazuto.tsuruga@undp.org)

Capacity Building of the Government Department of Disaster Preparedness

Afghanistan is recurrently hit by natural disasters causing losses to lives, livelihoods and property. In recent decades, this has led to massive problems of food insecurity and population exodus from the worst-hit areas. Between 1970 and 1998, the country experienced 57 large-scale disasters. Vulnerability to disaster risk has increased significantly as coping capacities have been reduced due to prolonged conflict.

UNDP has worked in collaboration with UNAMA, Asian Development Bank and the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen the capacity of key institutions such as the Government's Department of Disaster Preparedness. With funding from the Afghan Emergency Trust Fund (AETF) and the Asian Development Bank, a Disaster Management Framework, a Strategy for Institutional Strengthening in Risk Management, a National Disaster Management Plan and a Training Needs Assessment have been developed.

As part of the Framework, several key interventions have been identified. The AETF has provided seed funding for some of the following projects, which will be managed by UNDP and implemented by various partners:

- Community Based Disaster Management Programme
- Disaster Management Training Programme
- Disaster Management Information Systems
- Capacity Building for Department of Disaster Preparedness
- Sub-national Disaster Management Plans

Achievements:

- The DDP personnel have been trained in basic computer skills.
- A four-member team with representatives of the Government, the United Nations, Red Cross/Crescent and an NGO participated in a technical workshop in Tehran in March.
- Office equipment, including computers and communication sets (HF/VHF), has been provided to DDP.
- Discussions continue with UNDP's Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), UNAMA, Asian Development Bank, Invent Germany, DDP, and other UNDP Country Offices on disaster management issues, notably the development of the National Disaster Management Plan for Afghanistan.

Future Priorities:

- UNDP, in close cooperation of UNAMA, aims to take the lead role in formulating a Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) for Afghanistan. The objective of the programme is to formulate a strategy that will strengthen the capacity of the Government to deal with disasters, both at the national and sub-national levels.
- UNDP also aims, in collaboration with UNAMA, to formulate a Disaster Management Information System and to implement a Comprehensive Disaster Management Training Programme in Afghanistan.
- It has been agreed with UNAMA that the responsibility of disaster management programme in Afghanistan will gradually be handed over to UNDP.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$1,000,000
 Funding Received: US\$ 250,000
 Shortfall: US\$ 750,000
 Donors: UNDP core resources, UNDP BCPR

Focal Point: Zahira Virani, Assistant Country Director (zahira.virani@undp.org)

National Human Development Report

The project aims to promote the concept of human development in Afghanistan, building the capacity necessary to prepare Afghanistan's first National Human Development Report and to eventually prepare the report on a yearly, independent and sustainable basis. The overall goal is to provide a better and documented understanding of priority national development themes, emerging trends and opportunities and provide support to policymaking. The project will gather and undertake research on selected development issues, develop indicators, build national research capacity, promote national dialogue, encourage the constructive expression of various views and identify development alternatives that impact human development in Afghanistan.

Achievements:

- Project concept endorsed by government and relevant stakeholders.
- The first NHDR Workshop was successfully held on 8 and 9 December in Kabul, and a decision was made on the themes of the report.
- National coordinator, final authors and other support staff recruited.
- Seven background and eighteen thematic papers commissioned and received.
- Monthly lectures being held on topics related to human development in the UNDP conference room.
- Workshop held in April on the role of statistics in NHDR for the officers of the Central Statistics Office and five ministries.
- A National Consultation workshop was successfully held on 19 July 2004 in Kabul, at which comments and recommendations were made on the summary of the report.
- Summary of the report was widely distributed to all friends of NHDR, government representatives, NGOs, Advisory Panel Members and Expert Committee members.
- Human development-related resources, publications and surveys were collected and analysed.
- Seminars on human development and consultation workshops have completed in universities in Kabul and in five regions.
- Comments on the draft of the NHDR were received from a committee of international experts and government representatives and were incorporated into the report.

Future Priorities:

- Incorporate feedback from national and international reviewers into the text.
- Complete the edit of English version by end of October 2004.
- Contract the printing company.
- Contract the translation resources for Pashto version.
- Complete the Dari translation by the end of October.
- Complete the cross-checking (English version with Dari) by 31st October 2004.
- Prepare for the launch in November
- Prepare an outreach, follow-up and media strategy.
- Prepare for the launch in Kabul
- Prepare for the launch in the regions.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 545,046

Received Budget: US\$ 545,046

Shortfall: US\$ 0

Donors: World Bank, Canada (CIDA) and UNDP core resources.

Focal Point: Fakhruddin Azizi, Programme Officer (fakhr.azizi@undp.org)

National Coordinator: Abdullah Mojaddedi (abdullah.mojaddedi@undp.org)

Programme Support Facility

The Programme Support Facility aims to support the Government by providing greater flexibility for carrying out quick-impact activities in the areas of conference facilitation, international conference and workshop attendance, human resource mobilization, short-term consultancies and minor equipment procurement. The project's most immediate priorities were the Bishkek conference for economic cooperation and the Berlin donor conference. It is managed by the UNDP in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, and is intended to be used when costs cannot be covered by ministry budgets or by other donor resources.

Achievements:

Conferences and Workshops

Berlin Conference

- Over 60 delegations – including all EU, G8 and NATO states, as well as Afghanistan's neighbours and other countries with particular commitments to Afghanistan, participated in the international Afghanistan Conference in Berlin on 31 March and 1 April 2004.
- Under the co-chairmanship of Germany, Japan, Afghanistan and the United Nations, the delegations, headed by Foreign Ministers including US Secretary of State Colin Powell and his British counterpart Jack Straw, assembled for an intensive exchange of opinions on further steps to advance the process of transition in Afghanistan.
- The Conference was opened by Federal Chancellor Schröder. Foreign Minister Fischer led the working session on the political perspective for Afghanistan. The event as a whole was designed to reaffirm the continued support of the international community for reconstruction in Afghanistan. International donors pledged \$4.4 billion in new aid to Afghanistan for the next year and \$8.2 billion over three years.
- UNDP's support through the Programme Support Facility to the Berlin conference was the coordination of the printing of conference materials including the keynote technical paper: "Securing Afghanistan's Future". UNDP also coordinated distribution of the report along with the programme leaflet. UNDP also sponsored, gathered and coordinated the picture exhibit featuring images of Afghanistan's reconstruction to date.

Bishkek Conference

- "Afghanistan's Regional Economic Cooperation: Central Asia, Iran and Pakistan" was held in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic from May 10th to 12th. The conference was spearheaded by UNDP Kabul and the Government of Afghanistan and was attended by ministerial level, policy maker level and private sector actors from all eight countries. The Programme Support Facility was the financial vehicle behind the conference – thereby fulfilling its mandate to facilitate government activities in the areas of conference facilitation for the
- At the Afghanistan Regional Cooperation Conference, the Central Asian partners, as well as Iran and Pakistan, had the chance to familiarize themselves with the new Afghanistan and to discuss the opportunities now arising in the region. New trade and transit routes will soon be available to all regional partners, offering faster access to deeper markets, with modern infrastructure, harmonized customs procedures and trade promotion activities. Afghanistan also now offers a safer investment environment than it has done for 23 years: new security measures are in place, a new national army and police force, and billions are promised to the country under international assistance schemes.
- Two days were devoted to technical discussions amongst decision makers in three dedicated working groups. The groups were under the headings: "Afghanistan – New Regional Player", "Trade Facilitation" and "Transport and Transit Infrastructure". Technical papers were submitted to delegations prior to the conference for review and will form the basis of the discussions.

- The conference has helped build substantial relationships between the government counterparts of the region. A noted feature of this conference was the very productive input of the private sector as well as the receptivity shown by all government officials. These relationships will do more than others to foster a conducive environment for economic development and the region.
- Many proposals for concrete actions came out of the working group deliberations and were recommended to the ministerial plenary session. UNDP has noted these proposals and is currently following them up with the Government of Afghanistan. A high level of partnership is envisaged with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, the two other international organizations, engaged with the

Project Development

- Assistance to the Afghanistan Stabilisation Programme (ASP): At the request of the Government two UNDP specialists were brought to Kabul to assist it in the planning stage of the ASP.
- Assistance to the National Vocational Training Project At the request of the Government, UNDP hired an Afghan expert in higher education and engineering based in the University of Sussex, UK. Dr Baha worked for 10 days in Kabul putting together recommendations for the revitalization of the Afghan institutions as part of the national vocational training programme.

Challenges and Risks:

- Despite the project's early key successes in the areas of conference facilitation, one key challenge remains. To ensure a fully balanced project implementation UNDP, together with the Ministry of Finance, need to encourage a wider range of Government Ministries take advantage of the facility. To date the Ministries that have benefited directly are the Ministries of Commerce, Finance, Education and Communications.
- UNDP should strengthen the understanding of project procedures through the Government.

Future Priorities:

The broad future priority of the UNDP Programme Support Facility is to build a wider understanding within the government of the UNDP's resources, particularly through this facility. This would also enable UNDP to broaden its relationships with the government. The facility is currently exploring options to help develop the following Government initiatives:

- Support to regional cooperation initiative. As a result of the Bishkek conference, many proposals have been made to develop regional initiatives. Such projects may include sharing best practices across the region, supporting private-sector monitoring of public-sector agreements and support to the government accessing regional higher educational associations.
- Support to government-facilitated community meetings in all 34 provinces. These gatherings will create a forum where expectations of the next government can be discussed, thus furthering the democratization process in the country.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 700,000

Received Budget: US\$ 700,000

Shortfall: US\$ 0

Donors: UNDP

Focal Point: Hedvig Boserup (hedvig.boserup@undp.org)

Pipeline

Ogata Initiative

The Ogata Initiative was launched by the Government of Japan in 2002 with a view toward encouraging a seamless transition from humanitarian relief to recovery, reconstruction and reintegration of returnees into communities. During Phases I - III, Japan has provided approximately US\$92 million to the Afghan Government through UN agencies.

UNDP has been participating in the Ogata Initiative since Phase III, and is expected to take a larger role as the assistance to Afghanistan shifts towards longer-term reconstruction and development. In partnership with local authorities, UNDP is proposing to implement several programmes under Phase IV. Consistent with the mandate of UNDP, the objective of the proposal is to develop the capacity of local authorities and communities. Urban development and rural rehabilitation are key issues in the proposed programmes. Each will draw lessons from past experiences in Afghanistan as well as from other countries, in accordance with the principles of the Ogata Initiative.

The main objectives of the UNDP intervention are

- 1) Assistance in long-term macro economic development in the regions
- 2) Assistance in medium-term capacity development in the regions
- 3) Immediate assistance to community development to enhance the reintegration of returnees, IDPs and ex combatants

To achieve the above mentioned objectives, the following programme instruments will be used:

- National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP);
- Capacity development through establishment of a Joint Monitoring Cell;
- Recovery Employment Afghanistan Programme II (REAP II);
- Kapisa Initiative (Joint UN Country Team initiative).

NABDP is one of the flagship national programmes that takes the lead in regional development by developing regional planning and coordination. The establishment of a Joint Monitoring Cell will enhance communication and coordination with the local government while building its capacity to pursue and implement development projects. The cell will also serve as a coordination platform for the relevant stakeholders, including the Embassy of Japan, to monitor the progress of all the programmes funded through Ogata Initiative. REAP II will be a tool to bridge the immediate reconstruction and employment needs with longer-term development by rehabilitating the small-scale industrial infrastructure to revitalize the local economy. In addition, the UN Country Team has come together to address the needs in Kapisa, in the central region of Afghanistan. For that initiative, UNDP will provide a coordination, monitoring and funding mechanism.