



Afghanistan

A large graphic element is centered on the page. It features a light purple horizontal bar with a darker purple section on the left. The word 'UNDP' is written vertically in white on the darker section. The main title 'PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME' is written in dark blue, bold, uppercase letters across the center of the bar. The bar is flanked by two large, dark blue square brackets. A thin blue circle is partially visible behind the bar.

**United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan Country Office
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Foreword

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 in Afghanistan

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.

Since the Bonn Agreement was signed in December 2001, UNDP has delivered more than US\$1 billion of assistance to Afghanistan. In 2005, UNDP delivered USD 349 million of development assistance, mainly for elections, disarmament, reconstruction and institution building.

Human development indicators are among the lowest in the world. 70% lives under the poverty line of US\$2 a day; life expectancy is 44.5 years¹, some 20 years lower than in all the neighboring countries; Adult literacy rate is 28.7% (43.2% male, 14.1% female)² and the maternal mortality rate is one of the highest in the world. Inadequate basic social services lead to malnutrition and vulnerability to diseases and epidemics. Only 23% of Afghans have access to safe drinking water. The Human Development Index (HDI)³ ranks Afghanistan at 173 out of 178 countries worldwide. Sixty-five percent of the population is under 25 years of age but with little hope of employment. Environmental degradation undermines the future welfare of rural communities. Not surprisingly, therefore, Afghanistan has been identified as a global priority for addressing the Millennium Development Goals.

UNDP Country Programme

UNDP operates within the framework of the integrated United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) and under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In December 2005, UNDP signed a new three-year Country Programme with the Government of Afghanistan focusing on three areas: state-building, democracy and civil society empowerment and sustainable livelihoods. UNDP Programme implementation is driven by capacity development, national ownership and policy dialogue in support of the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

The expected results are pursued in line with the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) objectives and benchmarks. In particular, UNDP supports the Government in achieving a number of development benchmarks in the field of security and the rule of law, administrative reform, transparency and accountability, local governance, political processes (elections and parliament), civil society empowerment, gender equality, human rights, environment and rural energy, the reintegration of former combatants into society, the implementation of the national counter-narcotics strategy, as well as rural development planning and private sector development.

UNDP aims to enhance government institutional capacity to deliver public services in an equitable and sustainable manner, to consolidate a participative democracy and to create an enabling environment for legitimate livelihoods. UNDP works to empower Afghan women and promote gender equality in Afghanistan, ensuring that gender issues are consistently mainstreamed and carefully paced. UNDP activities are undertaken in close collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan, sister UN agencies and other development stakeholders.

¹ Central Statistics Office, 2003

² UNICEF, Best Estimate 2005

³ Afghanistan National Human Development Report, *Security with a human face*, UNDP, 2004

UNDP support to the promotion sustainable livelihoods

The Afghan Government with the support of the international community will pursue high rates of sustainable economic growth with the aim of reducing hunger, poverty and unemployment. It will promote the role and potential of the private sector, alongside those of the public and non-profit sectors; curb the narcotics industry; ensure macro economic stability; restore and promote the development of the country's human, social and physical capital, thereby establishing a sound basis' for a new generation of leaders and professionals; strengthen civil society; and complete the reintegration of returnees, internally displaced persons and ex combatants. The Afghanistan Compact, January 2005.

Economic growth⁴, which has received far less international attention than the political process, has been marked during the recent recovery but has slowed down to around only 8% in 2006, notably due to the severe drought that affects 2.5 million people. Per capita income was estimated at USD 335 in 2006. Foreign Direct Investment represented 2.5% of GDP in 2006. Some 80 to 90% of the activity is informal. The rate of inflation continues to decline (it was below 4% at the end of 2006). The most serious constraints for private sector development are electricity and access to land. Afghanistan's economy remains heavily reliant on agriculture and vulnerable to external shocks such as drought and floods. An extension of the joint drought appeal launched in October 2006 called for additional assistance. A critical challenge faced by the development community is the resurgent counter-narcotics industry. Opium contributes to approximately 11% of the country's GDP.

UNDP Country Programme aims to contribute to "strengthened domestic economic opportunities through area-based/community led initiative, private sector partnership, trans-boundary interaction and accession to relevant trade platforms". In this area, UNDP works to improve human security and the quality of life for poor people through mainstreaming gender, broadening economic opportunities, and promoting sustainable livelihoods including sound natural resource management and disaster risk reduction.

At present, UNDP's main interventions in this area are:

- National Area Based Development Programme(NABDP),
 - a. Community empowerment
 - b. Economic Regeneration
 - c. Institutional Development
 - d. Implementation support
 - e. Sustainable Rural Energy
- Urban Development Programme,
 - a. Regional Initiative for Sustainable Economy(RISE)
 - b. Alice – Ghan Human settlement
- Environment and Disaster Management,
 - a. Sustainable land Management(proposed for GEF funding)
 - b. Greening Afghanistan(GAIN)
 - c. Capacity development for Sustainable land management
- Private Sector Development Programme,
 - a. Private Sector Development
 - b. Promotion of Regional Supply of Goods, Services and Expertise
- Security for Development,
 - a. Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups
 - b. Anti Personnel Mines and Ammunition Stockpile Destruction

⁴ The following figures are from the International Monetary Fund's latest Country Report on Afghanistan, published in March 2006 and its April 2006 World Economic Database. All figures are for the legal economy, unless otherwise indicated.

- c. Reintegration Support to Ex combatants(RSPE)
 - Support to development of MDG-based national development policies
 - a. Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS)
 - b. Center of Policy and Human Development (CPHD)
 - c. Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

UNDP continues to work with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in support of development planning at district and community level, rural development and rural energy under the National Area Based Development Programme umbrella.

UNDP invests in small urban and rural infrastructure, combined with short-term employment generation activities targeting the most vulnerable groups through NABDP and RISE. Infrastructure projects are also funded under the Counter narcotics Trust Fund to create the enabling environment for alternative livelihoods.

With regard to economic growth, and employment generation in particular, a thriving private sector is necessary. Employment generation through the private sector would not only help in reducing poverty but also generate narcotic substitution activities.

Mine clearance activities focus on recovering land that is also contributing to poverty reduction. Hence agricultural land, and land that could be used for off-farm activities, will be given priority. UNDP will also seek GEF resources to address environmental problems, whose reversal would help generate much needed livelihoods for Afghan citizens.

Afghanistan is prone to natural disasters such as flash flooding and seismic movements. UNDP continues to work with the Government to build capacity in conducting early warning assessment, reducing disaster risks and strengthening disaster response. UNDP will build on its global expertise and lessons learned on disaster risk reduction to strengthen national capacities including at community level in managing risk and vulnerability.

For achieving results envisaged under the Promotion of sustainable livelihoods for Poor (POSLP) UNDP delivery in 2006 was USD 64.596 million. Major donors were USA, Japan, EU, EC, UK, Belgium, Norway, Canada, Sweden, Italy, Australia, Netherland and UNDP.

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National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP)

In the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), the Government commits to an integrated and programmatic approach to building human and social capital. One of the large-scale government programmes using this approach is the National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP) – a programme run by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), through the National Implementation modality of UNDP. NABDP aims to promote urgent recovery and longer-term development in identified priority areas of rural development, while building the government capacity to lead and coordinate participatory approaches to development across the country. Building on the achievements of Phase I (2002-2004/5), the NABDP Phase II (launched in February 2006) continues to contribute to the reduction of poverty and improvement of livelihoods in Afghanistan. It is intended to serve as a key coordination mechanism to bring together key government and UN-supported programmes in the area of rural development, so as to maximize its impact. In the current phase, a greater focus is given to institutional development, capacity building, inter-sectoral coordination at the regional and provincial levels to engage a wider audience, and promotion of regional and local economic regeneration activities. Structurally, NABDP Phase II is implemented through the following four main components with expected outputs:

1. **Community Empowerment:** Participatory and consultative mechanisms established at district/provincial level resulting in an integrated rural development planning process.
2. **Economic Regeneration:** Capacity in the MRRD / Government is established to formulate and regularly update comprehensive regional economic regeneration policies & strategies, identifying viable interventions for economic investment, poverty reduction and livelihood improvement.
3. **Institutional Development:** Institutional capacity and technical capabilities of MRRD and strategic partners are strengthened to fulfil its mandate of promoting rural regeneration and better livelihoods.
4. **Implementation Support:** MRRD's implementation capacity is strengthened, private and public resources mobilized, and implementation arrangements among partners / stakeholders are coordinated to deliver rural (infrastructure) projects.

With MRRD as the lead executing agency, UNDP provides direct support through financing the core program management team and channels investment funds to various UN implementing agencies, such as UNOPS, FAO and UN-HABITAT.

Achievements:

Community empowerment:

- **District Development Planning:** District Development Assemblies (DDAs) have been established in 137 districts in 14 provinces to ensure community consultation and participation in the comprehensive rural development process. In these districts, DDAs have formulated their District Development Plan.
- **Support for Provincial Development Committees (PDCs):** Orientation Trainings for PDC members in 12 provinces were conducted. The training curriculum and materials for PDCs on specialized skills are under preparation and will emerge from needs as identified through actual provincial planning exercises (Provincial Development Plans – PDPs)

Economic Regeneration:

- To facilitate private sector-led viable rural enterprise development, and to prioritize business investment opportunities, a comprehensive country-level analysis on Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies (RRERS) was conducted, and an Inception Report was completed in October 2006. The report identified potential rural sectors in various provinces, which are expected to lead to prospective small business enterprises. As a follow-up of the RRERS study, a sector- and province-specific feasibility analysis and business plan development have been initiated.

Institutional Development:

- More than 800 employees of MRRD received professional training, including project and financial management, accounting, monitoring & evaluation, computer skills and English language.
- Support given to the MRRD HR Department in establishing an effective HR management system for both MRRD and NABDP.

- The procurement capacity in MRRD strengthened.
- Support provided for several departments including the Planning Department, Community Led Development Department, Rural Electrification Department, Rural Infrastructure Technical Service, and the Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD) to initiate the institutional development process within the MRRD.
- Through introduction of the Project Cycle Management (PCM) process, problems and weaknesses in MRRD's project management identified. The first draft of an "ideal" PCM has been prepared, and the establishment of the Project Quality Control Committee with participation of the key departments and units was proposed, in order to find sound solutions for problematic projects and develop more effective project management mechanisms.

Implementation support:

- In terms of rural infrastructure NABDP continued the implementation of 101 sub-projects in 28 provinces in the sectors of education, roads & bridges, irrigation, government buildings, water & sanitation and others.
- Over 150 rural infrastructure projects have been implemented throughout the country by UNOPS with the US Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT)
- The overall number of beneficiaries profiting from project implementation is approximately 8,000 people.

Priorities by Component:

- Community Empowerment: Participatory and consultative mechanisms to be further established at district (DDA) and provincial (PDC) level to ensure grassroots engagement in integrated rural development planning and implementation processes. The pilot PDP exercise in Kandahar to be followed up.
- Economic Regeneration: Small business plan for rural enterprises in the niche sectors are to be implemented in Kandahar, Nangahar, Bamyán, Balkh, Herat and Kabul. Small agro-based enterprises in each province are to be implemented by community entrepreneurs and are expected to support livelihood and generate 1000 man-days employment in each province by end 2007. A comprehensive National Rural Enterprise Development Programme Policy Framework to be developed.
- Institutional Development: Continue support to enhance institutional capacity and technical capabilities within MRRD to fulfill its mandate to promote rural regeneration and improve livelihoods
- Implementation Support: Continue supporting and strengthening the MRRD's capacity for project implementation; mobilization of private and public resources; collaboration with other ministries, development partners and communities to manage integrated rural development projects; as well as specific projects designed to support national initiatives such as the Disarmament of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG), etc.

Resource mobilisation remains as a key priority for all the components, especially for those areas which are under-funded / not covered by geographically ear-marked donor funding

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget: US\$ 182 million

Received Budget: US\$ 112 million

Shortfall: US\$ 70 million

Current Donors: UNDP, CIDA, Belgium, Japan, Italy, UNHCR, USA, UK, Norway and the Netherlands

Number of Project Staff: 22 international and 134 national staff

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Energy & Environment

Afghanistan has been persistently facing significant environmental challenges. The long period of war and conflict, the subsequent influx of returnees and population growth, coupled with the practice of unsustainable use of resources in harsh natural conditions, have caused numerous environment problems in urban and rural areas across the country. The most alarming ones include topsoil erosion, loss of vegetation cover and biodiversity, rapid deforestation, dispersed wildlife patterns and unhealthy ecosystem, reduction of under ground water, desertification and urban pollution. The country stands in acute need for proper management of natural resources, water and land, as well as waste management and pollution control. While proper environmental management based on sustainable use of natural resources is no doubt a very important foundation for longer-term development of Afghanistan – the country which heavily relies on agriculture – the country's environment sector is still very young, and it needs tremendous support.

Environment protection vital for sustainable development, is also one of UNDP's essential and global focus areas, UNDP provides significant support in strengthening environment protection efforts in Afghanistan.

The Energy & Environment (E&E) Programme of UNDP Afghanistan is relatively new. It is designed to contribute towards attaining Afghanistan's development objective, and is consistent with the country's poverty alleviation strategies, such as the Afghanistan Millennium Development Goals - MDGs; Afghanistan Compact and Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy – I-ANDS (Benchmark 3.7 - Establishing environmental regulatory frameworks and management services). In close collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) as well as the line ministries, the E&E Programme is currently working on the following priority areas:

- 1) Mainstreaming environment into national development policy and planning;
- 2) Land and water management programme; and
- 3) Sustainable rural energy

Achievements

- 1) Mainstreaming environment into national development policy and planning
 - Participation in the UN joint environmental programme 'Greening Afghanistan Initiative' (GAIN) – led by the UN Country Team of Afghanistan. Under the GAIN framework, UNDP implemented the Environmental Awareness Raising & Capacity Building Project, mainly targeting the four provinces in north Afghanistan. The following results so far have been achieved:
 - 40 Village Environment Committees established;
 - 80 schools provided with environment awareness training - over 100,000 students (boys and girls) were reached and 73 Green Generation Clubs established;
 - 160 provincial government high officials provided with environment awareness training through four urban greening workshops. Four Urban Greening Committees established;
 - 2000 rural women provided with environment awareness training, especially to sensitise about the needs and methods to increase tree survival rate after plantation;
 - Also within the framework of GAIN, UNDP provided support for M&E capacity building for the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA).
 - As part of the capacity building and policy mainstreaming, support provided for relevant government representatives for participation in a number of environment-related international workshops.
- 2) Land and water management
 - Substantial support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in the preparation of the Medium Size Project (MSP) proposal on Sustainable Land Management. The project document has been submitted for the consideration of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) 2007 funding.
 - Participation in two UNEP hosted technical meetings on "Integrated Water Resource Management and the Sistan Basin Wetlands" (Geneva, 5-7 December 2005 and 15-18 May 2006) with delegates from Afghanistan and Iran Governments.

- The Afghanistan section of the GEF Project Development Fund (PDF) Block-B proposal on the sustainable management of the Sistan Basin (shared between Afghanistan and Iran) finalised. This project is also in GEF 2007 pipeline funding.
- Support provided for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Government of Afghanistan by provision of updated data on Sistan Basin for finalisation of the report 'Restoration and Sustainable Use of Shared Sistan Basin'
- Support provided for the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) to prepare the Afghanistan National Report on Desertification for the submission to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Following this, UNDP also supported MoAI's participation in the regional report synthesis workshop on 7-11 August 2006, Bangkok, Thailand.

3) Sustainable rural energy

- Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis of energy sector in Afghanistan was conducted through the technical and financial support of UNDP Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction (REP-PoR). The study aimed at launching a Rapid Regional Assessment and Mapping Exercise to determine the baselines and priorities of the countries in the Asia Pacific region.
- Rural energy project formulation missions have been conducted during which a wide consultation was undertaken with the government and other stakeholders. A project proposal being drafted.

Future Priorities

- Formulation of the Rural Energy Project. The close linkage with UNDP's National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP) to be sought in this process.
- Follow up of the Medium-Sized Project proposal on sustainable land management;
- Follow up of the project proposal "Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Use of the Sistan Basin Wetlands";
- Expansion of the GAIN environment awareness activities in the field to wider areas;

Partnerships and Resources

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Target Budget 2007: | US\$ 2,284,040 plus WFP Food Contribution |
| Received Budget: | US\$ 919,900 |
| Shortfall: | US\$ 1,364,140 |
| Donors: | GEF, WFP, UNDP, GAIN |
| Number of Project Staff: | 4 International and 13 National |

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Urban Development Programme: RISE and Alice Ghan projects

The urban sector development is an important area of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. Afghanistan's urban population is expected to rise from 30% currently to 50% by 2020. The urbanisation of poverty is also predicted, with around 60-70% of the urban population presently residing in informal settlements – mostly unplanned and un-serviced, less accessible and often precariously located on the steep slopes around the major cities, such as Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat.

Since the early stage of recovery of Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban in 2002, UNDP has been involved in infrastructure reconstruction and re-building activities. First of such activities took the form of the "Recovery and Employment Afghanistan Programme (REAP)", which addressed the needs of quick urban recovery as well as generation of much-needed short-term employment with the 'cash-for-work' scheme. Building on the experience of the REAP project which was successfully completed in 2004, UNDP Urban Development Group (UDG) was established in 2005 to continue and expand the cash-for-work and urban infrastructure renewal initiatives. As the needs and focus of the aid work in Afghanistan shift from emergency relief and recovery to longer-term development, UDG is seeking to adjust its programme to face the current and emerging challenges associated with the unfolding urban policy agenda and rapidly increasing urban poverty. A policy generation facility to support the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), in particular in the areas of urban poverty alleviation, is becoming an important new stream of work for UDG.

UDG works closely with MoUD in all of its projects, and generally assumes an advisory role for MoUD based on UNDP-MoUD Memorandum of Understanding agreeing on provision of UNDP's technical assistance to the Ministry (January 2003).

Projects & Achievements

I. Regional Initiative for Sustainable Economy (RISE)

Funded by the Peace Building Grant Aid of the Japanese Government, this project implementation started in early 2006. Through an integrated regional development approach with urban-rural synergy effects, it aims to create an enabling environment for sustainable regional economy. It is a joint programme implemented in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of UN (FAO) and UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA), and the activities are carried out under the multi-agency coordination and with close collaboration with the relevant local authorities in the target regions of Balkh (provincial capital Mazar-e-Sharif), Nangarhar (provincial capital Jalalabad) and Kandahar (provincial capital Kandahar).

The activities and the achievements under RISE projects thus far:

Activity 1: Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) capacity building for local government authorities (Provincial Development Committees (PDCs)): In 2006, several M&E training workshops were held in the urban centres of the three target provinces: Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kandahar. In Jalalabad, some on-site M&E exercises were also conducted and the first set of M&E reports were produced.

Activity 2: Employment generation through infrastructure support: Out of 39 initially planned infrastructure projects (including drainage channels, market area upgrading, public toilets, women's / disabled access centers, irrigation protection walls, etc.), 16 have been completed. In November 2006, 10 more sub-projects were added in Nangarhar and Balkh Provinces where the works advanced at a relatively faster pace than in Kandahar, which suffered from the security constraints. In all the three provinces, as of end February 2007

some 91,000 labour days of employment were generated, with priority given to the most vulnerable group of society.

Activity 3: Empowerment of vulnerable farmers: All the agricultural input distribution beneficiaries (such as wheat seed, fruit stone seed, basic farming equipments, livestock, etc.) for 2,000 selected and related training activities are on-going smoothly. As of end February 2007, a total of over 650 fruit tree nurseries established, over 600 green houses installed and 600 livestock distributed in the three target provinces. Efforts have been made to procure items locally in order to contribute to the local economy as well as for cost-effectiveness.

Activity 4: Mine/UXO survey & clearance

In all the three target regions RISE project sites were surveyed and cleared. In Balkh and Nangarhar the mine/UXO (unexploded ordnances) contamination level turned out to be much less than earlier expected, and the RISE demining teams are deployed for humanitarian demining to cover wider areas. In Kandahar demining works continue for RISE and surrounding areas, but the security constraints compelled activities to be suspended in some districts. In late 2006, a new activity of Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victim Assistance (VA) was added to this component, which has been undertaken smoothly.

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget: US\$ 12,712,050 (UNDP component)

Received Budget: US\$ 12,712,050

Shortfall: US\$ 0

Donors: Japan

II. AliceGhan Project

Supported by the Government of Australia, this 27-month project has been initiated in the second half of 2006 with the objective of providing housing and sustainable livelihood support for returned refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The project aims at contributing broadly towards peace and stability in Afghanistan by promoting sustainable return and reintegration processes, meeting the humanitarian needs of Afghan nationals while building capacities in relevant Afghan government agencies.

The target site of the AliceGhan project is Barikab, in the north of Kabul Province, where the project aims at supporting the construction of 1,400 houses in addition to provision of basic infrastructure and livelihood support. The project is founded upon the following principles: a) beneficiary participation in & contribution to the building work; b) earthquake resistance of the housing; c) provision of basic livelihood services and infrastructures to ensure fulfilment of basic human needs; d) building of sustainable community; and e) creation of a replicable model for the future returnee/ IDP settlement construction.

The AliceGhan Project Document was signed by MoUD, Ministry of Refugees & Repatriation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP as well as HE Ambassador of Australia in late September 2006. Thorough consultation has been carried out with the relevant government authorities and relevant UN agencies on the housing component designing and the site selection throughout the project formulation and initiation period. The implementation on site has commenced in the first quarter of 2007, and the AliceGhan Project Manager will join the team shortly.

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget: US\$ 7,300,000

Received Budget: US\$ 7,300,000

Shortfall: US\$ 0

Donors: Australia, UNDP Core

Current priorities

- Monitoring of RISE activities towards timely and successful completion in mid 2007, Phase-II project development and resource mobilisation
- Acceleration of AliceGhan implementation – first Steering Committee meeting and beneficiary selection
- Appointment of the UDG Programme Manager (vacant since July 2006)
- Development of a new urban development capacity building programme

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Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD)

The core objective of the project is to support long-term capacity for research, advocacy, and teaching on human development in Afghanistan. The project will also propose human development policy recommendations for Afghanistan to build national capacity to formulate and influence people-oriented strategies and solutions. This project seeks to enrich data collection efforts at the national level, including methodologies for data analysis; influencing UNDP programme/project formulation and policy support; and to serve as a platform for action among civil society actors.

The process of developing the Afghanistan National Human Development Report is now poised to contribute to a refinement of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and National Development Budget by providing an overall human development vision for the country and direction for medium to long-term development building consensus on the development priorities of the government by launching policy debates and advocacy on human development issues and making recommendation for provincial development and identifying regional/provincial disparities.

Major Achievements

An advisory board has been formed and regular board meetings are taking place in order to provide guidance to the project team and process of NHDR preparation. The main theme of the report identified through a series of consultation; The main authors of the report started their work on 1st October 2006. A draft outline of the report was crafted in a brainstorming session with the advisory board that should serve as a guide to the authors.

The construction work of the CPHD/NHDR office ended and the team moved to Kabul University. Background papers commissioned and Research Assistants recruited;

The first round of the consultations was in Mazar E Sharif between 5-8 February 2007 and the teams to Kandahar and Herat returned from consultation on 21 February 2007.

The Center for Policy and Human Development was formally introduced to the government, international community, media groups and general public in the platform of launching the Asia Pacific Human Development Report.

Special lecture series on policy issues with direct implication to human development of Afghans was conducted featuring high profile speakers such as Barnett Rubin of New York University (NYU), Jonathan Goodhand of School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), and Antonio Donini of Tufts University.

Future Priorities

Consultation at regional/provincial level in Ghazni and Gardez if security permit;
Identifying the Peer Review Group;

International Exchange Programme: Consultation has been made on the type and size of an exchange programme that could be beneficial for the faculty and students of Kabul University. This component should be operationalized during the first/second quarter of 2007.

Capacity Building: Human Development Framework, as an alternative development model has been the subject of several training sessions to the university community, wider audience in the civil society and government institutions.

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget: US\$ 445,393 (USD 390,000 UNDP Core and 55,393 USD from CIDA and WB)

Received Budget: US\$ 445,393 for 2006

Received budget: US\$ 310,000 for 2007 from Core

Donors: UNDP core resources.

Shortfall: US\$ 300,000

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Trade and Private Sector Development (TAPS)

(Incorporating Partnerships for Private Sector Development (PPSD) and Promotion of Regional Trade Cooperation (RTCP))

The Government of Afghanistan recognizes a vibrant private sector is an engine for growth and a means to empower the poor to participate more equitably in the benefits of economic growth. In 2004, UNDP signed two agreements with the Ministry of Commerce. The first, for a programme designed to assist the development of the private sector and sustainable livelihoods in Afghanistan; and the second to assist at increasing connectivity, cooperation and competitiveness between Afghanistan and its neighbors, as well as validating the importance of Afghanistan as a 'land bridge'.

The Trade and Private Sector Development Programme(TAPS) Phase II continues this assistance from 2007-2009. In collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, other line Ministries and donors, TAPS has targeted specific areas to support future efforts to promote entrepreneurship, institutional development and an enabling environment for free enterprise.

Phase II components are:

Trade and Investment Capacity Building: Trade and Private Sector Development Programme will target trade and investment support institutions. The objective is to enhance the capacity of national counterparts in both the private and public sectors so that an enabling environment can be created, which provides support for long-term private sector development. Furthermore, the objective is to assist in formulating a regulatory environment that will enhance productivity levels and formality. Linkages with regional and global economies will strengthen the competitiveness of local industries and add to the attractiveness of Afghanistan for investors.

Supporting an Enabling and Inclusive Business Environment: The programme will contribute to the creation of an inclusive regulatory environment through the design of a national SME policy and assisting in Afghanistan's WTO accession preparations through policy advocacy and information dissemination. Furthermore, the objective is to assist in formulating a regulatory environment that will enhance productivity levels and greater formalization of the business sector.

Development of Rural Livelihoods: Trade and Private Sector Development Programme will focus on micro and small agriculturally-based businesses, which are the most productive and labour-intensive sub-sectors of the Afghan economy. The objective is to provide assistance that will help boost income-generating activities and sustainable livelihoods among the rural poor, in addition to promoting import competition for Afghan produce more for expansion of subsistence farming. This component will include the partnership between UNDP and UNIDO targeting rural communities in Balkh Province of Afghanistan.

The programme will include interventions at both grassroots and the national level. Private Sector Development Programme will collaborate with other donors, the Government of Afghanistan, UNDP project teams and NGOs working in Trade and Private Sector Development Programme's fields of interest to determine future activities, collaboration and possible joint activities. The target group is the 'able poor' who have the capacity, with the necessary support, to establish micro- or small- enterprises and generate employment.

Achievements

Phase 1 achievements of PPSD included:

The provision of a business-registration database to assist AISA to track, register and provide information to investors on active, licensed businesses throughout Afghanistan.

A market-sector assessment on the horticulture sector was disseminated in the local and international business communities, donors and other stakeholders.

Training Needs Assessment of the business community in Afghanistan conducted and results published. Cross-sectoral study on the small- and medium-sized enterprise sector was published in March 2005.

- Phase 1 achievements of RTCP included:
 - Bilateral Business Meeting (Afghanistan – Uzbekistan) March 2005: This was the first bilateral discussion, on the issues of common economic interest, between the Afghan and Uzbek governments and business representatives.
 - ECO Trade and Industry Conference and Fair, Kabul: Conducted High Level Expert Group Meeting on Trade, Investment, and other Related Matters highlighted to support businesses from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to participate at the ECO trade.
 - Regional Economic and Afghanistan International Investment Conferences, Kabul: To Support AISA and Technical Working Group on Trade and Investment with participation from Governments and the Private Sector, suggestions of which were incorporated into the Kabul Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation; and Substantive inputs, through expert presentations on regional trade potential and the legal aspects of international trade. Another International Investment Conference and Exhibition was organized by AISA on 9 to 12 May 2006. This conference provided substantive inputs and insuring the participation of potential investors from regional countries. Two investment proposals in the dairy products sector were realized.
 - CSATTF Second Trade and Customs Working Group Meeting, Bangkok: The Project was invited to participate at the meeting organized by the Central and South Asia Transport and Trade Forum (CSATTF) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The session on Trade, Investment and Private Sector Participation was jointly organized by the project and the ADB.
 - Tour for Revival of Afghanistan's Dried-Fruits Industry (22 Feb-1March 2006): 22 member delegation, led by Afghanistan's Deputy Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, comprising senior officials from the Ministries of Commerce, Agriculture and Rural Rehabilitation and Development, as well as representatives of trade support institutions and business groups visited Malaysia to study first hand the institutions, farm-technologies and processing techniques for adaptation in Afghanistan. The visit to Malaysia also included a business-business meeting. Three projects of Food quality testing facilities, Product development and Soil Suitability Mapping for Horticulture have been identified to be launched as pilots during 2006:.
- RTCP achievements through south-south cooperation
 - Rapid Appraisal Mission to revive Afghanistan's Fruit Processing Sector: A framework for reviving Afghanistan's fruit sector, through South-South cooperation, between Malaysia and Afghanistan coordinated by UNDP country offices in Kabul and Kuala Lumpur
 - Community Based Solar Drying Facility, Parwan Province: Comprising a solar dryer; preparation; processing and storage areas, the facility is purpose built to dry grapes and other seasonal fruits, and package the processed product(s) in direct-to-market mode. The facility is underpinned by the rationale of reviving Afghanistan's dried fruits industry through improved post-harvest processing at the community level. The business model focuses on enhanced revenue generation and retention at the community level. It redefines the traditional three-step farm-processing-market methodology, to two-steps, by bringing processing facilities to the farm-gate. The facility has provided the community with a learning-by-doing approach that is simple, and offers scalability and replicability across the country.

Challenges and Risks

Insecurity, lack of productive infrastructure and limited access to markets has encouraged a largely informal and illicit economy. Support to vulnerable groups is required until market-based opportunities are created. Government restructuring has caused instability within many ministries and government institutions with repercussions on assistance to private enterprise and support for policy development. Active networking with GoA, NGOs and other donors on private sector issues to learn from their experiences and ensure collaboration and not replication of activities. Assistance to vulnerable groups to support their more effective participation within the formal economy

Future Priorities

Productive assistance provided to micro and small enterprises capable of import competition and/or exporting, in order for the benefits of economic growth to be more equitably distributed.

Assistance provided to viable business-oriented institutions with long-term sustainability and business plans

Mutually productive partnerships with other donors, ministries and institutions to be established to provide multiplier effects on benefits for the private sector.

Continue to support this unique window of opportunity for Afghanistan to economically integrate more effectively within the region and international community.

Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget: US\$ 8,481,500

Received Budget: US\$ 900,000

Shortfall: US\$ \$ 7,581,500

Donors: Germany, UNDP and USAID

Number of Project Staff: One international, and five national staff

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Disaster Risk Management in Afghanistan

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), UNDP Core resources 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 were developed.

Since mid 2004 the disaster risk reduction portfolio initiated in UNDP country office. UNDP took over the management over sight of the UNAMA initiated Disaster Management Capacity Building projects.

As part of the Framework, several key interventions were identified and conducted in 2005. The interventions were to build the capacity of the Department of Disaster Preparedness (DDP), government at centre and provincial levels. Build the capacity of communities, civil society and corporate sector. It also focused on information management system.

Capacity Development Interventions:

- Community Based Disaster Management Programme
- Disaster Management Training Programme
- Disaster Management Information Systems
- Sub-national Disaster Management Plans

Recent Achievements

Capacity Building of Government, Community and other Stakeholders (NGOs, Civil Society private sectors):

- DDP personnel have been trained in basic computer skills and on information management system
- Selective DDP personnel have been trained to operate the National Emergency Operations Centre.
- National Emergency Operations Centre has been equipped and established at DDP.
- A number of community mitigation action plans have been developed.
- Approximately 1500 officials across the 8 regions have been delivered basic disaster management trainings
- Provincial Emergency Commission in 14 provinces have been assisted to establish provincial disaster management plans.
- Community Base Disaster Awareness and Mitigation Project was implemented to introduce a culture of prevention and preparedness by raising the awareness of communities of mitigation measures in areas prone to earthquakes, floods and drought.
- A disaster management information system (DMIS) was established and the DDP officials and officials from other relevant government organs were trained in two provinces as a pilot project (Kabul and Kunduz).

Emergency Response Activities:

- Government has been supported for active response in emergencies for example. Winter Response 2004-2005, Flood responses 2005 and Drought response and preparedness activities 2004-2006.

- Government was supported in managing 2005-2006 winter emergency by arranging provision of food and non-food emergency materials to vulnerable communities in Kabul and 12 other provinces.
- Government was supported in managing emergency transporting drinking water to the most affected areas in the Drought 2006.
- Assisting government in emergency responses during the floods 2006

Mitigation and Preparedness Activities 2005, 2006:

- Management of Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education Programme in 6 provinces for approximately 150,000 individuals as direct beneficiaries in the drought affected districts
- Provision of Safe Drinking Water Supply for 60,000 drought affected inhabitant of Aibak City, Samangan Province
- Rehabilitation and extension of Astana Valley Water Supply System directly benefited 3800 families and indirectly benefited 2500 families for safe drinking water in Astana valley Faryab Province.
- Emergency embankment of Amu (Oxus) river in 16 districts of four provinces namely Takhar, Kunduz, Blakh and Takhar, agriculture, villages and infrastructures such is schools, intakes of canals, bridges have been protected along the Oxus river bank.
- To a total of 2700 households wheat Seeds and Fertilizer to the most drought affected districts in the provinces of Ghazni, Ghor, Herat, Uruzgan and Zabul.
- Assisting government in keeping the main roads, Passes and air strips open during the winter 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

Risk Reduction 2006 – 2011:

- Multi year Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (CDRRP) Document for Afghanistan has been developed and approved. The objective of the programme is to strengthen the capacity of the Government to manage risk reduction and deal with disasters, both at the national and sub-national levels.
- ECHO pledged a pilot project for public awareness, DDP capacity building and development of disaster preparedness and response plan and procedures in Kunduz provinces.
- Recruitment of Experts (DRM Advisor, Project Manager, training expert) to support Department of Disaster Preparedness and implementation of CDRRP is in progress

Future Priorities

- Recruitment of CDRRP Project Staff to support CDRRP Project manager in implementation of CDRRP
- Developing public awareness and education material and Disseminating through mass media and schools.
- Consultation with Ministry of Education and feasibility study of future inclusion of DRM in School Curriculum
- Resource Mobilization for CDRRP activities
- Implementation of Pilot Disaster Preparedness and Response Development and Public Awareness Project.
- Develop and implement work procedures manual and DDP business plan
- Review existing Disaster Management Law and recommend changes
- Review government development process
- Develop national all-hazards programme
- Conduct National hazard Analysis, review DMIS pilot project
- Develop regional DMIS Programme
- Make agreement with university and establish sponsorship

Partnerships and Resources

Department of Disaster Preparedness and other Key Government Ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and Civil Societies

Target Budget 2007-2011: US\$ 9,811,515

Donors: UNDP, ECHO, SDC

Shortfall: US\$ 8,994,724

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Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP) comprises of 2 projects: DIAG and Ammunition.

The UNDP Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme –ANBP which, as part of the Security Sector Reforms (SSR), aimed to support the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) in establishing and implementing a comprehensive, country-wide Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme (2003 – 2006) of Afghan Military Forces (AMF) was announced in the Tokyo conference in February 2003.

The immediate objective of this programme was to encourage former AMF forces to leave their military allegiance behind and look forward to a civilian life of gainful employment in community solidarity.

The DDR mandate (2003 - 2006) came to an end in June 2006, with the last AMF members officially handing their weapons over to President Karzai in a ceremony held in Kabul. During this period, the DDR programme successfully achieved its planned outputs through disarming, demobilizing and providing reintegration support to approximately 63,000 ex-combatants of the Afghan Military Forces personnel.

ANBP's mandate only required it to dismantle the AMF, but its unique capacity in Afghanistan has brought about additional responsibilities. In support of the Afghan Government, and at its specific request, ANBP started a nationwide ammunition survey, collecting and destroying the most dangerous anti-personnel mine and ammunition stockpiles (Dec 2004 – Dec2007) ; and collected data on, and assisted in the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (2005 -2007).

Anti-Personnel Mine & Ammunition Stockpile Destruction (Mine & Ammunition)

Recognizing the logistical and security risk of surplus ammunition and anti-personnel mines in military and civil communities, the Anti-Personnel Mine and Ammunition Stockpile Destruction (Mine & Ammunition) programme supports government in collecting and destroying the most dangerous stockpiles. The destruction of anti-personnel mines as part of ANBP's ongoing ammunition survey effort not only alleviates the threat of the ordnance itself, but will simultaneously assist the Government in meeting its stockpile destruction obligations as a State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction "Ottawa Convention." The project has till date recovered 1032 caches of ammunition and mines and is in the process of ensuring that all known stockpiles of anti-personnel mines are destroyed by end March 2007 to enable the Government of Afghanistan to meet its State obligation to the Ottawa treaty on ban of all anti-personnel mines. The ammunition survey teams along with the implementing partners are deployed across eight regions within the country and have been able to achieve the following till date:

- Ammunition Surveyed 31808 Tons
- Ammunition consolidated 8936 Tons
- Ammunition destroyed 13519 Tons
- Anti-Personnel Mines destroyed 334,025 Pcs
- Anti-Tank Mines destroyed 12,896 Pcs

Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG)

Recognizing the need to support and strengthen a Government initiative to tackle the problems caused by numerous illegal armed groups in Afghanistan, the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) programme (2005 – 2007) aims at supporting the Government in improving human security through disarmament and disbandment of illegal armed groups and reducing the level of armed violence in the community. This programme also seeks to empower existing Government programmes for socio-economic development to enhance stability and the promotion of good governance, which is an essential and integral part of Security Sector Reform in Afghanistan.

To date, the DIAG project collected a total of 29,251 weapons (25,433 light and 3,818 heavy). In addition, 24,233 boxes of ammunition and 256306 pieces of ammunition have been verified. Also, 1,496 IAGs are currently engaged in the DIAG process. A total of 456 GOLIAGs have been identified of which 72 received

notifications letters for their cooperation. As a result of non-cooperation, 52 were recommended for termination of contract, of which five were relieved of their duties by their respective departments.

Overall Challenges and Risks

- Operations of the Mine & Ammunition project in the Panjshir Valley have been hampered to due political interference at the provincial level and safety concerns. ANBP is engaged with high ranking government officials to resolve the impasse and resume operations in the valley.
- The key challenges to project implementation have been caused by the deteriorating security situation, organizational shortcomings as well as the void in political action. The deterioration of the security situation as caused by the Taliban resurgence as well as the risk of potential formation of tribal militias, particularly in the south of Afghanistan, hampered and in some cases put a halt to project activities. Organizational shortcomings mainly concerned Joint Secretariat (JS), which demonstrated inefficiencies in structure and management. However, improvements in JS efficiency have been made, particularly with regard to building the capacity of national staff, but more corrective measures need to and will be taken. Finally, the lack of political will and engagement of GoA has been a major stumbling block to project implementation and progress. On the positive side, during the DIAG Review process major and unprecedented progress in political consensus and engagement was obtained including the firm and explicit support of and action by the President.

Future Priorities

- ANBP will continue to support DIAG, which is government led with planning, capacity and implementation assistance.
- The priority for the Mine & Ammunition programme is the increased destruction of stockpiled ammunition and mines in advance of the deadline of the Ottawa Convention.

Partnerships and Resources

DDR Budget: US\$ 145,206,620

Received Budget: US\$ 140,736,315

Programme Surplus: US\$ 21,399,064

Donors: Japan, United Kingdom, Canada, United States, Netherlands, European Union, Norway, Switzerland

Ammunition Target Budget: US\$ 21,272,105.34

Received Budget: US\$ 11,228,879.00

Shortfall: US\$10,043,226.34

Donors: Canada, UK, MOF, UNDP, EC, Norway

DIAG Target Budget: US\$18,935,270.80

Received Budget: US\$ 16,963,006.17

Shortfall: US\$ 1,972,264.63

Donors: Canada, UK, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, UNDP

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Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS)

The Afghanistan Compact and the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (IANDS) were both approved at the London Conference in January 2006. The Compact was subsequently endorsed by the UN Security Council.

The preparation phase of the ANDS started in June 2006 and ended in January 2007. This phase was developed between UNDP and the Government of Afghanistan with the financial support from DfID and UNDP core resources. The preparatory phase provided the basis to develop the ANDS work plan, recruiting the national staff and international support teams and consulting and agreeing upon the support and engagement required from the donors for the full programme document.

During this phase, a number of key issues were identified, consulted and addressed during the consultation with the donors. These included the institutional relationship between the ANDS Directorate and the line ministries, overall costed sustainability, national ownership, operating costs, and the ratio of international consultants employed either directly through the project or via parallel mechanisms. In 2007, the original project document has been refined and adjusted in the preparatory phase to incorporate these concerns and signed by the Government of Afghanistan and UNDP management in February 2007. This project focus on support deemed essential for the production of the ANDS and operation of the JCMB Secretariat. Capacity development support to line ministries and other Government agencies – originally a part of the project – will now be undertaken as a separate and complementary initiative

The main objective of the process is to develop and implement a pro-poor strategy that will be costed, prioritized, sequenced and budgeted and that reflects a broad consensus on national and provincial priorities in order to fight poverty.

During the project period, the Afghan Government will formulate and commence implementation of its National Development Strategy to meet the requirements of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). To prepare the ANDS it will develop and implement ministry-based sector strategies to reach the Compact benchmarks. Collectively these strategies will combine to create the full Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

Major Achievements

The ANDS team has been supported and recruitment for provincial consultation officers, sector coordinators, and communication staff are taking place in order to provide support to the project team and process of I - ANDS preparation. Regular consultative Group and Working Group meetings are taking place. A draft plan for the consultation process is prepared and will be finalized in the coming weeks. This was also crafted in a brainstorming session with the ANDS, UNDP and UNAMA staff. This team will bring necessary changes as they deem fit in consultation with the project team and UNDP/UNAMA staff.

The process of consultation on the full ANDS will take place in all 34 provinces - both to ensure the full adoption of national priorities, and to strengthen the ANDS. This will contribute to the process of ensuring the integration of sub-national needs and priorities into the national development strategy.

It is expected that the first round of the consultation will start in the coming months throughout the country. The government will take a leading role, while the UN and other institution will provide technical and operational support in the regions where they have expertise and capacity. We have foreseen the need for involvement of the UN agencies, Civil Society where they can play active role in consultation process in the regions.

Future Priorities

- Consultation at regional/provincial level throughout the country.
- Identifying the costing mission for ADF;
- A video conference system will be installed

- Finalizing the draft plan for consultation
- Number of non-government stakeholder agencies engaged in consultation on the ANDS
- ANDS translated and disseminated nationally and sub-national
- Costing of the prioritized sectoral strategies
- ANDS/PRSP production, publication and dissemination;
- Development of materials in Pashto/ Dari for the awareness-raising campaigns - including dramas, radio programmes, short movies, media packages, briefing packages for MPs and Civil servants, and Afghan Embassies;
- Organize training for members of the consultation teams.
- Organize the training of local media on the MDGs, and the ANDS (newspapers, radios, TV);
- Organize awareness-raising campaigns at national and sub-national levels on the MDGs, the ANDS process (ministries, sub-national authorities, civil society and the general population) at different stages of the process (including the dissemination phase).

Partnerships and Resources

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|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Target Budget: | USD 8,773,141 |
| Received budget: | all donor contributions listed here have been pledged in writing but not yet formalized through signed agreements |
| Donors: | CIDA USD 3.4 m., DfiD USD 3.9m., Italy USD 259,000, Norway, USD 238,000, and UNDP Core USD 500,000. |
| Shortfall: | currently the project is running by carry –over from PA (DfiD fund) |

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