



UNDP

**PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE  
LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME**

United Nations Development Programme  
Afghanistan Country Office  
October 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>UNDP in Afghanistan</b> .....	<b>3</b>
UNDP Programme .....	3
Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods Programme .....	3
<b>Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Employment Generation</b> .....	<b>5</b>
National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) .....	5

Urban Development Group (UDG) .....	7
Trade and Private Sector Development (TAPS) .....	10
<b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Energy & Environment.....	13
<b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Background	

Afghanistan has persistently been facing significant environmental hurdles and challenges. The war, conflict and neglect associated with harsh natural conditions caused numerous environment constraints in urban and rural areas all over the country like topsoil erosion, loss of vegetation cover, deforestation, dispersed wildlife patterns, reduction of under ground water. And the country faces further lack of water resource management, poor waste management, declined air quality and increased urban pollution.

Since UNDP considers “Environment Protection” as one of its essential focus areas, vital for sustainable development in this country, it will attempt to play a significant role in strengthening environment protection efforts in Afghanistan.

Sustainable rural energy programme is one of the three pillars of UNDP Afghanistan Energy and Environment Programme Framework. Taking into account the existing potential of meeting rural energy services limited capacity for policy formulation, and absence of institutional mechanisms for delivery of sustainable energy in rural areas, this pillar will support to improve access to affordable, reliable and clean energy services (both modern fuels and electricity) in rural areas in equitable manner.

To this end, an Energy & Environment Programme Framework is in place with specific priority areas; 1) mainstreaming environment into national development policy and planning; 2) land and water management programme; and 3) sustainable rural energy programme.

Under Energy and Environments portfolio, UNDP Afghanistan initiated Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management for Afghanistan, Greening Afghanistan Initiative (GAIN) and Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis of Energy Sector in Afghanistan. Consequently, the energy and environment programming mission carried out a comprehensive assessment of energy and environment issues in Afghanistan which resulted in formulating energy & environment framework in Afghanistan.

### Achievements

- A Medium Size Project (MSP) for ‘Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management for Afghanistan’ was prepared and submitted to GEF. This document was produced through PDF A ‘Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management’ signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and UNDP.
- Participation in excursion with UNEP and the Government of Afghanistan and provision of updated data on Sistan Basin for the UNDP Iran Country Office to finalize a report on ‘Restoration and Sustainable Use of Shared Sistan Basin’.
- 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.
- A project proposal PDF B on Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Use of the Sistan Basin Wetlands was prepared together with UNDP Regional Office, Bangkok and UNDP Country Office, Iran. The project has been submitted for GEF funding.
- **‘Greening Afghanistan Initiative’ (GAIN)**

Under this joint UN Agency programme, UNDP implements the 'Environmental Awareness Raising & Capacity Building Project'. This project was signed on September 14 2006 by the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) and UNDP. Implementation has started immediately. UNDP GAIN was established in Mazar and Herat and started with dissemination of promotional Material for GAIN awareness rising.

### Achievements

- 3 Urban Greening Workshops were conducted in Balkh, Jawzjan and Saripul in which 180 high government officials and community representatives participated. The workshops aimed at informing the provincial leaders/technocrats about GAIN mandate and strategies, creating awareness and understanding on environmental issues, creating consensus about the role of provincial leaders and technocrats in improving and conserving the urban environment in targeted provinces, specifically through greening.
- 54,000 schoolchildren (40%girls and 60%boys) in 50 schools (roughly 1,080 students per school) of Saripul, Jawzjan and Samangan provinces were benefited from UNDP GAIN 's environmental recipes and greenery competition campaigns.
- 40 Village Environment Committees have been established by which 2,000 women were selected to be enrolled in GAIN Environment Training Courses in Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan and Saripul provinces.
  - A project concept note on "Enhancing Reintegration through Conservation-Oriented Rural Development Support (E-RECORDS) Project" to attract fund from ANBP surplus fund was prepared.
  - Environmental issues taken up into the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP), and framework drafted for UNDP Energy & Environment Programme 2006-2008.
  - Energy and Environment pipeline projection 2007 prepared and submitted to FMU.
  - A '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 region. REP- PoR aims to contribute towards the achievement of MDGs target through broad-based interventions in three thematic areas namely improving access to energy services, promoting efficient use of energy, and increasing access to financing for sustainable energy.
  - A project brief on Land & Water Management, Rural Energy and Afghanistan Small Grant Programme (SGP) was prepared and submitted to the senior management for approval.
  - Afghanistan National Report on Desertification to UNCCD was prepared. Given this, a synthesis workshop on the regional report was attended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and UNDP CO on 7-11 August 2006, Bangkok, Thailand.
  - UNEP support was sought for mutual cooperation to address environmental issues in Afghanistan.
  - Desired working relationship established with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the National environment Protection Agency (NEPA).

### Future Priorities

- Following up the Medium-Sized Project proposal on sustainable land management.
- Following up the project proposal "Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Use of the Sistan Basin Wetlands".
- Subcontracting field activities of Green Afghanistan Initiative (GAIN).
- Implementation the project "Land & Water Management, Rural Energy and Afghanistan Small Grant Programme (SGP)".
- Finalizing, translating and publishing Afghanistan National Report on Desertification to UNCCD.
- Strengthen links between the Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation, National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), UNEP, and other environmental actors in the country.
- Attending energy and environment related meetings, seminars and workshops.
- Preparing quarterly narrative and financial reports related to energy and environment.

### Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget 2006: US\$ 573,688 plus WFP Food Contribution  
Received Budget: US\$ 573,688  
Shortfall: WFP Food Contribution  
Donors: GEF, WFP, UNDP, GAIN  
Number of Project Staff: 4 International and 15 National

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**Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP) .....13****Background**

The UN with Japan, as the lead donor country, supports Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP), a UNDP project that assists the government in the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of the Afghan Military Forces (AMF). By dismantling the AMF which consists of both professional and jihadi personnel, the government can focus on creating a professional national army. This new army allows the government to assert control over the security situation while encouraging commanders and their militias to reintegrate into Afghanistan's evolving political, social and economic life.

ANBP has completed disarmament by disarming over 63,000 combatants and providing 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 units. The project includes the following components:

- Disarmament: Assistance in weapons collection and storage.
- Demobilization: Assistance for former AMF members, including commanders, officers and soldiers, in identifying alternate sources of income in return for leaving behind military life.
- Reintegration: Packages, including de-mining, vocational training/job placement, agriculture, contracting teams, small business, teacher training and placement in the Afghan National Army or Afghan National Police, to help former combatants support their families and contribute to society.

The disarmament and demobilization phases came to an end in November 2005, with the last AMF members officially handing their weapons over to President Karzai in a ceremony held in Kabul. The focus was on reintegration of former soldiers and assisting in their transition to civilian life. A final figure of 53,054 ex-combatants have completed the reintegration process. The reintegration phase of DDR came to an end in June 2006, when the DDR mandate was complete.

ANBP's mandate only requires 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 has: cantoned heavy weapons; started a nationwide ammunition survey, collecting and destroying the most dangerous anti-personnel mine and ammunition stockpiles; and collected data on, and assisted in the disbandment of illegal armed groups.

**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." As of date the Mine & Ammunition project has been responsible for the destruction of 11,782 metric tonnes of loose and unsafe ammunition nation-wide. A further 277,057 anti-personnel mines and 12,630 anti-tank mines have been destroyed under the programme.

**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 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.

### Achievements

- Completed disarmament and the demobilization of 63,380 officers and soldiers belonging to the AMF.
- A total of 53,232 weapons have been collected programme-wide. An additional 20,963 weapons have been destroyed.
- Helped decommission 260 military units throughout Afghanistan.
- 53,054 ex-combatants have graduated from DRR reintegration programmes.
- ANBP conducted a comprehensive survey that pinpointed more than 5,800 heavy weapons throughout Afghanistan. ANBP discovered many more heavy weapons scattered throughout the country as the cantonment process began.
- Cantoned more than 12,000 heavy weapons and estimates that the vast majority of all working and repairable heavy weapons known to exist in Afghanistan have been cantoned.
- Deployed eight ammunition survey teams to Jalalabad, Kandahar, Gardez, Herat, Kabul, Panjshir, Kunduz and Mazar-e Sharif. The teams have discovered and surveyed more than 1,225 distinct ammunition (including mines) caches, equating to 30,776 metric tones of ordnance surveyed.
- Destruction of 277,057 anti-personnel mines and 12,630 anti-tank mines.
- To date under DIAG 26,035 heavy and light weapons as well as 22,973 pieces of boxed and 232,197 pieces of unboxed ammunition have been handed over by former commanders and Illegal Armed Groups (IAGs) to ANBP's weapons collections teams for verification and removal. ANBP is currently engaged with 1,460 IAGs country-wide.

### Challenges and Risks

- As the DDR mandate comes to a close, a challenge will be to develop a long-term strategy that improves ministerial capacity to support all war affected groups.
- Operations of the Mine & Ammunition programme in the Panjshir Valley have been suspended to due political interference at the provincial level and safety concerns. ANBP is engaged with ranking government officials to resolve the impasse and resume operations in the coming months.
- **DIAG is currently engaged in four provinces as part of its first round of main operations.** Results have been mixed and the number of weapons collected and armed groups disbanded have been low. A fundamental review of DIAG operations and strategy is currently taking place with relevant stakeholders (Government of Afghanistan, International Community, ISAF/CFC and the UN). The main issue is the lack of government support and engagement in the project. That issue will form a part of the review and ANBP is optimistic that government commitment to the programme will be bolstered in the months ahead.

### Future Priorities

- As former combatants complete their reintegration training, ANBP will focus on linking their skills to employment opportunities/sustainable livelihood. A long-term reintegration plan is currently being developed.
- 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 in February 2007.

### Partnerships and Resources

DDR Budget: US\$ 145,206,620

Received Budget: US\$ 140,436,315  
Programme Surplus: US\$ 21,800,000  
Donors: Japan, United Kingdom, Canada, United States, Netherlands, European Union, Norway, Switzerland

Ammunition Target Budget: US\$ 16,070,492  
Received Budget: US\$ 11,228,878  
Shortfall: US\$ 4,841,614  
Donors: Canada, UK, MOF, UNDP, EC, Norway

DIAG Target Budget: US\$ 23,461,660  
Received Budget: US\$ 11,267,994  
Shortfall: US\$ 12,193,665  
Donors: Canada, UK, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, UNDP

\*The sum of the original budget (US\$ 8,552,957) and proposed budget June 2006 - December 2007 (US\$ 14,908,703)

*Project Staff:* 37 international and 474 national staff

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<a href="#">Mine Action Programme</a> .....	16
Support to Mine Action Capacity Building in Afghanistan .....	20
<b>Disaster Risk Management</b> .....	<b>22</b>
Capacity Building of the Government Department of Disaster Preparedness .....	22
<b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Building Enabling Environment for HIV/AIDS Response in Afghanistan.....	26

## UNDP in Afghanistan

The United Nations must continue to play its central and impartial role in the international efforts to assist the Afghan people in consolidating peace in Afghanistan and rebuilding their country Security Council Resolution 1536 (2004). UNDP has been present in Afghanistan since the 1950s, providing development assistance to the country and helping build the capacity of many national institutions. During the 1990s, while many government institutions were jeopardized by civil war and neglected by the Taliban regime, UNDP continued to assist communities throughout the country. During that decade, UNDP delivered US\$200 million of assistance to Afghanistan, using its own resources as well as those mobilized through bilateral partners and its extensive outreach throughout the country.

The human development challenge for Afghanistan is enormous. The level of malnutrition in Afghanistan is one of the highest in the world – 70 percent. The percentage of Afghans with access to a sufficient water source is the lowest in the world – 13 percent. The majority of the population is living below the UN-defined poverty line – 56 percent. The depth of poverty in Afghanistan is reflected consistently in all human development indicators, revealing a mosaic of a nation in need of sustained assistance. Not surprisingly, therefore, Afghanistan has been identified as a global priority for addressing the Millennium Development Goals.

## UNDP Programme

Within Afghanistan's broad National Development Framework (NDF) are many cross-cutting priorities that address gender equality, security and the rule of law, administrative and financial reforms, human rights, environmental integrity, the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their communities, and reintegration of former combatants into society. Guided by the requirements set forth in the NDF, UNDP Afghanistan focuses its activities on the following UNDP global practice areas: poverty reduction, democratic governance, and crisis prevention and recovery.

All UNDP activities are undertaken in close collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan, UN agencies and donors. All UNDP programme activities aim to consolidate peace, enhance security and promote respect for the rule of law. UNDP projects also enhance government institutional capacity to provide public services and to create an enabling environment for legitimate livelihoods. UNDP works collaboratively with all partners to empower Afghan women and promote gender equality in Afghanistan, ensuring that gender issues are consistently mainstreamed and carefully paced.

The UNDP Afghanistan programme remains responsive to the changing needs of a nation still in transition from conflict to peace. Afghanistan is at a crucial point in moving from state building initiatives to emerging as a newly democratic state, and the opportunity to shift focus to longer term development and government support is at hand. Accordingly, the UNDP Afghanistan programme of activities is organized thematically into three pillars: State-Building & Government Support, Democratization & Civil Society Empowerment, and Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods.

As UNDP develops and implements its regular Country Programme in Afghanistan, a major focus on results-based management will remain. Future activities concentrate on institutionalizing accountability, transparency and integrity in the public service, continuing to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions such as the Constitution of Afghanistan, and further promoting access to and respect for justice and human rights for all Afghan citizens.

## 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.

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## Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Employment Generation

### National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) Project

#### Background

NABDP Phase II aims to contribute to the sustainable reduction of poverty and improvement of livelihoods in rural Afghanistan, by empowering communities, through community institutions, to articulate and address their needs and priorities, and by helping to enable the Government of Afghanistan to support community-based rural rehabilitation and development in an integrated, people-focused, inclusive and participatory manner. The programme works toward this goal by supporting the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), in line with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the UNDP Country Programme. The overall strategy is to support the establishment of an integrated planning and implementation framework for a comprehensive (multi-sector, multi-level and multi-agency), coordinated, pro-poor and pro-growth approach to rural development.

Towards this purpose, NABDP-II will focus on producing the following **outcomes**:

- 1) Communities empowered to articulate and address their needs and priorities in relation to poverty reduction and livelihoods improvement through participation in comprehensive rural development planning and implementation processes and through expert inputs in regional economic regeneration strategies.
- 2) A well-established institutional capacity and technical capability in MRRD to fulfill its mandate of promoting rural regeneration and livelihoods and supporting the implementation and management of comprehensive rural development strategies/plans in a participatory, coordinated and sustainable manner.

This will be achieved through the following interlinked **programme support components**:

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

Particular attention will be directed towards the inclusion and benefit of farmers dependent on poppy cultivation, disarmed militias, returning refugees, IDPs and the rural vulnerable, including the Kuchi population. Partnerships will be established with UNHCR, UNICEF, ANBP and others to ensure the mainstreaming of the Reintegration Programme, the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups Programme, alternative livelihoods initiatives and other priority programmes into the broader framework of comprehensive rural development under the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). All activities will be undertaken on the principle of (1) maximizing consultation and the participation of stakeholders and beneficiaries, (2) coordination and synergies with other programmes and initiatives, and (3) sustainability of results and outcomes.

#### Achievements

- **District Development Planning:** District Development Assemblies (DDAs) have been established in 108 districts in 11 provinces to ensure community consultation and participation in the comprehensive rural development process. In these districts, DDAs formulated their District Development Plan.
- **Support for PDC:** Orientation Trainings for PDC members in 7 provinces were conducted. The training curriculum and materials for PDCs on specialized skills are under preparation.
- **Regional Socio-economic Assessment:** To provide technical knowledge and analysis to identify viable interventions for economic investment, poverty reduction and improving livelihoods, the regional economic

regeneration studies have been undertaken. The inception workshop on the regional socio-economic assessments was held.

- **Identification of Economic Opportunities:** Two feasibility studies were conducted on the Spinzar Cotton Gin in Kunduz and the rose oil industry. The study of the rose oil industry attracted a \$100,000 initial investment from the private sector
- **Vocational Training:** More than 582 people received vocational training in handicraft and agriculture.
- **Implementation of Rural Infrastructure Projects:** NABDP continued the implementation of 61 sub-projects in 23 provinces. These sub-projects cover a range of interventions in the following sectors:
  - Water supply & sanitation (6 projects): construction of water wells, hand pumps, and piped systems;
  - Education (28 projects) : construction of schools;
  - Irrigation (9 projects): construction and rehabilitation of canals/karez, check-dams, and retaining walls;
  - Public facilities (11 projects): the erection and maintenance of community centres, government buildings;
  - Public health (3 projects) : construction of health clinics; and
  - Transport (4 projects): rehabilitation of roads and construction of culverts and bridges.
- **Capacity Development:** More than 800 employees of MRRD received professional training, including project and financial management, accounting, monitoring & evaluation, computer skills and English language. NABDP also supported a 5-month overseas training in Bangladesh for 43 MRRD Directors. Furthermore, 19 mid-career female employees from different ministries were trained in management, rural development, computer skills and English. In addition, NABDP assisted MRRD in strengthening its physical capacity and establishing a supportive and enabling environment by rehabilitating office premises and providing furniture and equipment.
- **Support for PRT Projects:** Under NABDP, over 150 rural infrastructure projects have been implemented throughout the country by UNOPS with US Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).
- **Support for Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG):** NABDP has been supporting MRRD and the Disarmament & Reintegration Commission in developing the framework for implementing development projects in the communities where illegal armed groups are disbanded. The community consultation exercises were conducted through DDAs in Takhar province and will start in Kapisa soon.

### Future priorities

- Expansion of DDA and DDP exercises
- Completion of an inception report on the Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Assessment & Strategies (RRERS) and commencement of the main phase of RPERS.
- Establishment of consultative mechanisms to formulate provincial level plans and provision of support for PDCs
- Design and implement comprehensive rural development projects based on the district and provincial development plans.

### Partnerships and resources

Target Budget: US\$ 182.2 million

Received Budget: US\$ 42.3 million

Shortfall: US\$ 139.9 million

Donors: Belgium, Canada, Italy, Japan, Norway, New Zealand, USA, UNHCR

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### Urban Development Group (UDG)

Growing out of the successful Recovery and Employment Afghanistan Programme (REAP) of 2002-2004, which focused on cash-for-work activities and urban infrastructure renewal, the Urban Development Group (UDG) project was established as a new project in July 2005.

UDG's project planning and implementation are guided by the following principles:

- a. Employment generation
- b. Reintegration
- c. Infrastructure for economic growth
- d. Healthier environment
- e. Natural environment
- f. Participation, ownership and sustainability
- g. Development of standard models of urban infrastructure
- h. Universal accessibility
- i. Synergy with other aid agencies and existing initiatives

While continuing some aspects of REAP with newly evolved emphases and approaches, UDG have taken on new projects called the **Regional Initiative for Sustainable Economy (RISE)**, and **Alice Ghan**.

### Regional Initiative for Sustainable Economy (RISE) project

#### **Background**

Funded by the Peace Building Grant Aid of the Japanese Government, this project was initiated in early 2006, for an initial duration of one year. Through an integrated regional development approach it aims to create an enabling environment for sustainable regional economy through supporting the Afghan Government (particularly the Ministry of Urban Development) to:

- a) Carry out capacity building for regional authorities in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of both foreign aid and government development projects;
- b) Provide immediate assistance in the form of employment generation and skills consolidation through urban infrastructure work, especially targeted to vulnerable groups in society; and
- c) Empowerment of most vulnerable farmers through agricultural inputs and training in rural areas.
- d) Mine/UXO clearance from targeted areas for increased arable land and further development activities.

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 in the target regions of Balkh (provincial capital Mazar-e-Sharif), Nangarhar (provincial capital Jalalabad) and Kandahar (provincial capital Kandahar).

#### **Achievements**

- *Monitoring & Evaluation capacity development for local authorities and stakeholders:* Joint Monitoring Team (JMT) formation and trainings held through Nangarhar Development Coordination Committee (NDCC) and Provincial Development Council (PDC), and project monitoring training has been given to Community Development Committees (CDCs) in Nangarhar Province; M&E workshop held for relevant local authorities in Kandahar; M&R classroom training completed in Balkh.

- *Infrastructure support:* procurement, labour referral, construction work started. While the progress has been steady in Nangarhar, infrastructure sub-projects in Balkh and Kandahar have experienced delay due to the unexpected delay in designing, procurement, and some land tenure issues. However all those problems have now been resolved and the implementation is moving forward. The infrastructure being constructed in the three regions (mainly in the provincial capitals as well as some villages) include: covered drains and channels, public toilets, irrigation intake and spill ways, culverts, kareze clearing and rehabilitation, disability access centre, women's access centre, market area, and slaughter houses. The selection and design of the infrastructure were done in consultation with the local authorities as well as communities concerned.
- *Employment generation for vulnerable groups:* The above infrastructure work has been carried out by skilled and unskilled daily labours who are sourced from the most vulnerable groups of society, including refugees, IDPs, ex-combatants, the disabled and where possible women. Training in construction skills was given to such labourers. The initial impact assessment (conducted in Nangarhar) shows that the project is having a very positive effect on the livelihoods, economic and emotional well-being, as well as on the future perspective, of concerned individuals and their families.
- *Empowerment of vulnerable farmers:* target villages and individual beneficiaries in the three provinces were selected and agricultural inputs (such as wheat seeds, fruit tree seedlings, silos etc.) have been distributed through selected IPs, as well as trainings being provided. These activities are carried out by FAO with UDG's infrastructure intervention in some of the targeted villages to augment the FAO interventions.
- *Mine survey & clearance in RISE:* mine survey was conducted in all the project sites and demining teams deployed in case of further needs to mine / UXO clearance in the project sites.

## AliceGhan Project

### Background

Supported by the Government of Australia, this 28-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.

This project is developed and to be implemented in accordance with the Presidential Decree No. 104 on land Distribution for Housing for Eligible Returnees and IDPs. 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 formulated upon the following principles:

- a) *Beneficiary participation & contribution:* the selected returnees / IDPs are expected to play the major role in the building of their own houses by providing own labour. Each beneficiary household will receive necessary materials, skills training and technical supervision to facilitate the construction;
- b) *Earthquake resistance:* all houses will be constructed to earthquake resistant standards;
- c) *Provision of basic livelihood services and infrastructures to ensure fulfilment of basic human needs:* water sources, school, health/community centres and market place are part of the project;

- d) *Building of sustainable community*: emphasis is given on community planning, enterprise and development and not only on physical infrastructures;
- e) *Replicability*: the project is to be implemented with strong technical and strategic support and advice from the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), Government of Australia, as well as UNHCR and UN-HABITAT. Through this unique joint effort, the project aims to offer a model that can be replicated across the country.

The AliceGhan project document has been signed by Ministries of MoUD, MoRR and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and UNDP as well as HE Ambassador of Australia on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006. Prior to the signing UDG has carried out consultation with the relevant government authorities as well as designing of the housing component. The implementation is to start in the final quarter of 2006.

### Infrastructure support work in Kabul City

Continuing the earlier work, UDG has carried out the below infrastructure support work in 2006. All the work has received significant appreciation from the municipality as well as MoUD.

- Kabul University: engineering faculty library, auditorium roof (completed)
- Disability Resource Centre (completed for UNDP's National )
- Public toilets (10 completed out of 11)

### **Future priorities**

- RISE project Phase-II development and resource mobilisation
- Initiation of the AliceGhan implementation
- Redefinition and redirection of UDG's roles: as the development priorities of Afghanistan shift from emergency relief to longer-term sustainable development, the general direction of UDG is also to be modified to assume more strategic & policy advisory roles for the Afghan government with regard to urban development & planning, in line with Afghan National Development Strategies (ANDS), while the provision of physical infrastructure and short-term employment generation still remain within its scope of work.

### **Partnerships and Resources**

*Target Budget*: US\$ 20,131,601 (till 2008)

*Received Budget*: US\$ 20,131,601

*Shortfall*: US\$ 0

*Donors*: Japan, Australia, UNDP Core

*Number of Project Staff*: 4 international and 55 national staff

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## Trade and Private Sector Development (TAPS) Project

### Background

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 2006-2008. 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: TAPS 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.
- Development of Rural Livelihoods: TAPS 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 so than expansion of subsistence farming. This component will include the partnership between UNDP and UNIDO targeting rural communities in Balkh Province of Afghanistan.

The project will include interventions at both grassroots and the national level. TAPS will collaborate with other donors, the Government of Afghanistan, UNDP project teams and NGOs working in TAPS'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 Private Sector Development included:*

- The provision of a business-registration database to assist the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (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 Trade included:*

- *Bilateral Business Meeting (Afghanistan – Uzbekistan) March 2005*: Focused on engaging businesses from Uzbekistan to participate in Afghanistan's reconstruction. This was the first bilateral discussion, on the issues of common economic interest, between the Afghan and Uzbek governments and business representatives.

- *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.
- *ECO Trade and Industry Conference and Fair, Kabul:*  
Businesses from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to participate at the ECO trade fair – a first for the participating companies.
- *Regional Economic Conference, Kabul:*  
Support to the organization of the Technical Working Group on Trade, Investment and the Business Climate; Kabul Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation;
- *CSATTF Second Trade and Customs Working Group Meeting, Bangkok:*  
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):*  
A 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. The following projects have been identified to be launched as pilots during 2006: A Public-Private Food Quality Assurance and Technology Centre; Improvements to On Farm Processing Systems; and Soil Suitability Mapping for Horticulture.
- *Support to the Afghanistan International Investment Conference and Exhibition:*  
The Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) organized the conference and exhibition from 9 to 12 May 2006. Support was provided through substantive inputs and insuring the participation of potential investors from regional countries at the event. Two investment proposals in the dairy products sector were realized.
- *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.

### 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

### **UNDP Country Office Focal Points**

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## Energy & Environment

### Background

Afghanistan has persistently been facing significant environmental hurdles and challenges. The war, conflict and neglect associated with harsh natural conditions caused numerous environment constraints in urban and rural areas all over the country like topsoil erosion, loss of vegetation cover, deforestation, dispersed wildlife patterns, reduction of under ground water. And the country faces further lack of water resource management, poor waste management, declined air quality and increased urban pollution.

Since UNDP considers “Environment Protection” as one of its essential focus areas, vital for sustainable development in this country, it will attempt to play a significant role in strengthening environment protection efforts in Afghanistan.

Sustainable rural energy programme is one of the three pillars of UNDP Afghanistan Energy and Environment Programme Framework. Taking into account the existing potential of meeting rural energy services limited capacity for policy formulation, and absence of institutional mechanisms for delivery of sustainable energy in rural areas, this pillar will support to improve access to affordable, reliable and clean energy services (both modern fuels and electricity) in rural areas in equitable manner.

To this end, an Energy & Environment Programme Framework is in place with specific priority areas; 1) mainstreaming environment into national development policy and planning; 2) land and water management programme; and 3) sustainable rural energy programme.

Under Energy and Environments portfolio, UNDP Afghanistan initiated Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management for Afghanistan, Greening Afghanistan Initiative (GAIN) and Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis of Energy Sector in Afghanistan. Consequently, the energy and environment programming mission carried out a comprehensive assessment of energy and environment issues in Afghanistan which resulted in formulating energy & environment framework in Afghanistan.

### Achievements

- A Medium Size Project (MSP) for ‘Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management for Afghanistan’ was prepared and submitted to GEF. This document was produced through PDF A ‘Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management’ signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and UNDP.
- Participation in excursion with UNEP and the Government of Afghanistan and provision of updated data on Sistan Basin for the UNDP Iran Country Office to finalize a report on ‘Restoration and Sustainable Use of Shared Sistan Basin’.
- 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.
- A project proposal PDF B on Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Use of the Sistan Basin Wetlands was prepared together with UNDP Regional Office, Bangkok and UNDP Country Office, Iran. The project has been submitted for GEF funding.
- **‘Greening Afghanistan Initiative’ (GAIN)**

Under this joint UN Agency programme, UNDP implements the ‘Environmental Awareness Raising & Capacity Building Project’. This project was signed on September 14 2006 by the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) and UNDP. Implementation has started immediately. UNDP GAIN was established in Mazar and Herat and started with dissemination of promotional Material for GAIN awareness rising.

## Achievements

- 3 Urban Greening Workshops were conducted in Balkh, Jawzjan and Saripul in which 180 high government officials and community representatives participated. The workshops aimed at informing the provincial leaders/technocrats about GAIN mandate and strategies, creating awareness and understanding on environmental issues, creating consensus about the role of provincial leaders and technocrats in improving and conserving the urban environment in targeted provinces, specifically through greening.
- 54,000 schoolchildren (40%girls and 60%boys) in 50 schools (roughly 1,080 students per school) of Saripul, Jawzjan and Samangan provinces were benefited from UNDP GAIN 's environmental recipes and greenery competition campaigns.
- 40 Village Environment Committees have been established by which 2,000 women were selected to be enrolled in GAIN Environment Training Courses in Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan and Saripul provinces.
  - A project concept note on “Enhancing Reintegration through Conservation-Oriented Rural Development Support (E-RECORDS) Project” to attract fund from ANBP surplus fund was prepared.
  - Environmental issues taken up into the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP), and framework drafted for UNDP Energy & Environment Programme 2006-2008.
  - Energy and Environment pipeline projection 2007 prepared and submitted to FMU.
  - A ‘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 region. REP- PoR aims to contribute towards the achievement of MDGs target through broad-based interventions in three thematic areas namely improving access to energy services, promoting efficient use of energy, and increasing access to financing for sustainable energy.
  - A project brief on Land & Water Management, Rural Energy and Afghanistan Small Grant Programme (SGP) was prepared and submitted to the senior management for approval.
  - Afghanistan National Report on Desertification to UNCCD was prepared. Given this, a synthesis workshop on the regional report was attended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and UNDP CO on 7-11 August 2006, Bangkok, Thailand.
  - UNEP support was sought for mutual cooperation to address environmental issues in Afghanistan.
  - Desired working relationship established with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the National environment Protection Agency (NEPA).

## Future Priorities

- Following up the Medium-Sized Project proposal on sustainable land management.
- Following up the project proposal “Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Use of the Sistan Basin Wetlands”.
- Subcontracting field activities of Green Afghanistan Initiative (GAIN).
- Implementation the project “Land & Water Management, Rural Energy and Afghanistan Small Grant Programme (SGP)”.
- Finalizing, translating and publishing Afghanistan National Report on Desertification to UNCCD.
- Strengthen links between the Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation, National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), UNEP, and other environmental actors in the country.
- Attending energy and environment related meetings, seminars and workshops.
- Preparing quarterly narrative and financial reports related to energy and environment.

## Partnerships and Resources

Target Budget 2006:	US\$ 573,688 plus WFP Food Contribution
Received Budget:	US\$ 573,688
Shortfall:	WFP Food Contribution
Donors:	GEF, WFP, UNDP, GAIN

Number of Project Staff: 4 International and 15 National

**UNDP Country Office Focal Point**

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**Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP) comprises of 3 projects:**

**Disarmament Demobilization & Reintegration (DDR) Project**  
**Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG)**  
**Mine and Ammunition Stockpile Destruction**

### **Background**

The UN with Japan, as the lead donor country, supports Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP), a UNDP project that assists the government in the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of the Afghan Military Forces (AMF). By dismantling the AMF which consists of both professional and jihadi personnel, the government can focus on creating a professional national army. This new army allows the government to assert control over the security situation while encouraging commanders and their militias to reintegrate into Afghanistan's evolving political, social and economic life.

ANBP has completed disarmament by disarming over 63,000 combatants and providing 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 units. The project includes the following components:

- Disarmament: Assistance in weapons collection and storage.
- Demobilization: Assistance for former AMF members, including commanders, officers and soldiers, in identifying alternate sources of income in return for leaving behind military life.
- Reintegration: Packages, including de-mining, vocational training/job placement, agriculture, contracting teams, small business, teacher training and placement in the Afghan National Army or Afghan National Police, to help former combatants support their families and contribute to society.

The disarmament and demobilization phases came to an end in November 2005, with the last AMF members officially handing their weapons over to President Karzai in a ceremony held in Kabul. The focus was on reintegration of former soldiers and assisting in their transition to civilian life. A final figure of 53,054 ex-combatants have completed the reintegration process. The reintegration phase of DDR came to an end in June 2006, when the DDR mandate was complete.

ANBP's mandate only requires 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 has: cantoned heavy weapons; started a nationwide ammunition survey, collecting and destroying the most dangerous anti-personnel mine and ammunition stockpiles; and collected data on, and assisted in the disbandment of illegal armed groups.

### **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." As of date the Mine & Ammunition project has been responsible for the destruction of 11,782 metric tonnes of loose and unsafe ammunition nation-wide. A further 277,057 anti-personnel mines and 12,630 anti-tank mines have been destroyed under the programme.

### **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 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.

### Achievements

- Completed disarmament and the demobilization of 63,380 officers and soldiers belonging to the AMF.
- A total of 53,232 weapons have been collected programme-wide. An additional 20,963 weapons have been destroyed.
- Helped decommission 260 military units throughout Afghanistan.
- 53,054 ex-combatants have graduated from DRR reintegration programmes.
- ANBP conducted a comprehensive survey that pinpointed more than 5,800 heavy weapons throughout Afghanistan. ANBP discovered many more heavy weapons scattered throughout the country as the cantonment process began.
- Cantoned more than 12,000 heavy weapons and estimates that the vast majority of all working and repairable heavy weapons known to exist in Afghanistan have been cantoned.
- Deployed eight ammunition survey teams to Jalalabad, Kandahar, Gardez, Herat, Kabul, Panjshir, Kunduz and Mazar-e Sharif. The teams have discovered and surveyed more than 1,225 distinct ammunition (including mines) caches, equating to 30,776 metric tones of ordnance surveyed.
- Destruction of 277,057 anti-personnel mines and 12,630 anti-tank mines.
- To date under DIAG 26,035 heavy and light weapons as well as 22,973 pieces of boxed and 232,197 pieces of unboxed ammunition have been handed over by former commanders and Illegal Armed Groups (IAGs) to ANBP's weapons collections teams for verification and removal. ANBP is currently engaged with 1,460 IAGs country-wide.

### Challenges and Risks

- As the DDR mandate comes to a close, a challenge will be to develop a long-term strategy that improves ministerial capacity to support all war affected groups.
- Operations of the Mine & Ammunition programme in the Panjshir Valley have been suspended to due political interference at the provincial level and safety concerns. ANBP is engaged with ranking government officials to resolve the impasse and resume operations in the coming months.
- **DIAG is currently engaged in four provinces as part of its first round of main operations.** Results have been mixed and the number of weapons collected and armed groups disbanded have been low. A fundamental review of DIAG operations and strategy is currently taking place with relevant stakeholders (Government of Afghanistan, International Community, ISAF/CFC and the UN). The main issue is the lack of government support and engagement in the project. That issue will form a part of the review and ANBP is optimistic that government commitment to the programme will be bolstered in the months ahead.

### Future Priorities

- As former combatants complete their reintegration training, ANBP will focus on linking their skills to employment opportunities/sustainable livelihood. A long-term reintegration plan is currently being developed.
- 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 in February 2007.

### Partnerships and Resources

DDR Budget: US\$ 145,206,620  
Received Budget: US\$ 140,436,315  
Programme Surplus: US\$ 21,800,000  
Donors: Japan, United Kingdom, Canada, United States, Netherlands, European Union, Norway, Switzerland

Ammunition Target Budget: US\$ 16,070,492  
Received Budget: US\$ 11,228,878  
Shortfall: US\$ 4,841,614  
Donors: Canada, UK, MOF, UNDP, EC, Norway

DIAG Target Budget: US\$ 23,461,660  
Received Budget: US\$ 11,267,994  
Shortfall: US\$ 12,193,665  
Donors: Canada, UK, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, UNDP

\*The sum of the original budget (US\$ 8,552,957) and proposed budget June 2006 - December 2007 (US\$ 14,908,703)

*Project Staff:* 37 international and 474 national staff

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## Mine Action Programme

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.

### Reconstruction-related mine clearance Kabul International Airport Mine Clearance Kandahar – Grishk Road 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 – Sharan, 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\$ 59,386,908

*Received Budget:* US\$ 55,504,296

*Shortfall:* US\$ 4,000,000

*Donors:* USAID, World Bank, Japan

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### 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 Capacity Development Segment of the Transition Coordination Office started in June 2005 with the arrival of the Capacity Development Advisor.
- At the end of Phase I (June – December 2005), UNDP support to the Mine Action Transition process is well integrated within the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA).
- In close cooperation with the UNMACA senior management (program manager and heads of departments) a so called triangle approach has been worked out in which Mine Action strategic planning (end-state strategy), the current UNMACA organizational development and the design of the future national Mine Agency are integrated.
- The design of this integrated approach was based on a broad and participatory survey with representatives from all levels within UNMACA (questionnaires and workshops) and after many consultations with the heads of sections.
- At the end of Phase II (January – August 2006) the following transition related work-documents are available: a) Building-stones for the design of the future National Mine Action Agency (based on interviews with 52 internal and external stakeholders); b) Outline Human Resource Development Approach.
- The capacity development advisor also supported the development of the National Staff Association, contributed to the Mine Action International Exchange Program (UNDP MAX) to Cambodia and Bosnia and developed first initiatives for exchange in the field of capacity development activities among UNDP programs in Afghanistan.

### **Challenges and Risks**

- The passing of the new Mine Action Law.
- The establishment of agreements between the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations with regards to the handing-over of the Mine Action Program from the UN to the Government of Afghanistan.

- The establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding among the UN entities with regards to mutual cooperation and management structure for the transition process.
- The availability of an agreed policy and an endorsed Project Document for the Transition Coordination Office for the planning and implementation of activities.
- The establishment of the planned team for the Transition Coordination Office.

### Future Priorities

In the coming period, the activities of the Capacity Development segment will be focused on three main processes:

1. Assisting in the end-state strategic planning of Mine Action.
2. Contributing to the establishment of a Mine Action legal framework.
3. Elaborating on the first identified building-stones for the design of the future National Mine Action Agency (organizational development).
4. Further developing a Human Resource Development Plan for the future National Mine Action Agency.
5. Contributing to the ongoing organizational and human resource development of the present UNMACA.

All these capacity development activities will be carried out in close collaboration with representatives of the main stakeholders in the Mine Action transition process: Government, UN, Donors and Implementing Partners.

### Partnerships and Resources

*Target Budget:* US\$ 600,282

*Received Budget:* US\$ 600,282

*Shortfall:* US\$ 0

*Donors:* Australia (VTF), DFID and UNDP

### UNDP Country Office Focal Point

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## Disaster Risk Management

### 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.

In 2004, UNDP initiated the disaster risk reduction portfolio. UNDP has worked in collaboration with UNAMA, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen the capacity of key institutions such as the Government's Department of Disaster Preparedness (DDP). 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 were developed.

The initial interventions focused on building the capacity of the DDP, as well as of the Government administration at center and provincial levels, civil society and communities.

#### Capacity Development interventions:

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

## Achievements

### Capacity Development

- 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 DDP.
- A number of community mitigation action plans have been developed.
- Approximately 500 officials across the 8 zones have been trained in the delivery of training
- Provincial Emergency Commission in 14 provinces have been assisted to establish provincial disaster management plans.
- 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

- Winter Response, Flood responses and Drought response, preparedness activities.
- Provision of food and non-food emergency materials to vulnerable communities in Kabul and 12 other provinces.
- Transport of drinking water to the most emergency areas during the Drought 2006.
- Emergency response during the floods 2005 and 2006 and winter response in terms of provision assistance material, coordination, and transportation.

### Mitigation Activities 2005, 2006

- Provision of Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education in 6 provinces for 20,000 families in the drought affected districts.
- Provision of Emergency safe Water Supply for 60,000 drought affected inhabitant of Aibak City of Samangan Province.

- Rehabilitation and extension of Astana Valley Water Supply system.
- Emergency embankment of Amu (Oxus) river in four provinces namely Takhar, Kunduz, Blakh and Takhar provinces.
- Provision of Seeds and Fertilizer to the drought affected provinces in Afghanistan.
- Assisting government in keeping the main roads, Passes and air strips open during the Winter 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

#### **Future Priorities**

- The multi-year Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Project for Afghanistan has been developed with the objective to strengthen Government's capacity to manage risk reduction and deal with disasters, both at the national and sub-national levels.
- A pilot project to develop earthquake response arrangements plans, procedures in four north eastern provinces has been designed. The proposal is in the submission form.
- Implementation of Pilot Earthquake Response Development Project in the North eastern five provinces of Afghanistan.

#### **Partnerships and Resources**

*Target Budget:* US\$11,683,000

**Donors** UNDP core resources, ECHO, SDC

#### **UNDP Country Office Focal Point**

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## Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD)

### Background

The preparation process of the first National Human Development Report (NHDR) for Afghanistan that used "human security" lens to look at the inter-linkages between security, conflict and human development, started in 2003 and launched in February 2005. The Report was covered by more than 50 international media, including mainstream media such as Le Monde, New York Times, BBC, CNN, Voice of America, etc. The report continues to be used as reference tool for data and analysis on Afghanistan.

One of the most important contributions of the NHDR was the principle of national process and national ownership that it followed throughout its preparation process. The writing of the Report took two years, during which dozens of papers were commissioned to Afghan researchers, a National Advisory Board was created, hundreds were trained on the concept of Human Development and the indicators of HD, consultations were held with hundreds of people in Bamyán, Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat, Jalalabad, lecture series were held, including with the university, etc.

The core objective of this project (Center for Policy and Human Development (CPHDR)) is to support long-term capacity for research, advocacy, developing NHDR 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.

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.

### Achievements

- Project concept endorsed by government and relevant stakeholders.
- Project coordinator and his team (deputy Coordinator, Admin/Log assistant, Data Ass.) hired and started their work;
- Advisory Panel appointed for the project;
- The main theme of the report identified through a series of consultation;
- The two main authors of the report started their work on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006.
- The recruitment process of the third author is under process.
- The report is translated into Pashto and the contract is signed with the printing company for printing.
- The construction work of the CPHD/NHDR office ended and the team will move by the end of this month (October).
- The position of the International Statistician is announced;
- Contract with the translator for Pashto is signed and he started his work;
- The windows bar has been completed;

### First phase

- 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; seven background and eighteen thematic papers commissioned and received.
- The first National Human Development Report (NHDR) was launched on 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2005.
- Monthly lectures 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 in 2004.

- 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.
- Seminars on human development and consultation workshops have completed in universities in Kabul and in five regions.
- NHDR was launched in Bamyan, Mazar, and Herat provinces
- Global HDR launched at Kabul University
- Three events organized (HD month) at Kabul University during the months of November and December.
- Training on the concept of Human Development for the University students;
- Presentation at Kabul University on HD in 2005;

### Future Priorities

- Movement of the project staff to the new office at Kabul University;
- Consultation at regional/provincial level;
- Widely distribution of the HDR materials with Pashto version of the report;
- Minimum Operational Safety Standard (MOSS)
- Refurnishing the office,
- Background papers will be commissioned shortly;
- Research Assistants will be hired shortly.
- The third author of the report will be recruited
- Statistician will be hired for three-four months.
- Data collection process will start soon.
- Installation of internet and fixing computers
- To do the layout of Pashto version of the report.
- Prepare for the launch in remaining regions of Afghanistan, follow-up and media strategy in Kabul and the regions.
- Inauguration of the Center at Kabul University
- Appointment of members of the NHDR circle;

### Partnerships and Resources

#### Phase 1:

Target Budget: US\$ 520,550

Received Budget: US\$ 520,550

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

#### Phase II

Target Budget: US\$ 755,393 for two years (2006/7)

Received Budget: US\$ 445,393

Shortfall: USD 300,000 (for 2007)

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

### UNDP Country Office Focal Point

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## Building Enabling Environment for HIV/AIDS Response in Afghanistan

### Background

Afghanistan is classified as a country with low HIV/AIDS prevalence but high vulnerability factors. In the absence of functional sentinel surveillance and a broad based system for generating reliable data, the extent of the spread is as yet unknown. However the vulnerability factors are many including massive poverty, gender disparities, drug use (including injecting drug use), large scale movement of people within and across the country, open borders and movement between neighbouring countries which have a growing epidemic, low levels of awareness, very low use of condoms and extremely limited availability of services for prevention, testing or care.

A National HIV/AIDS Control Programme (NACP) was set up in mid 2003 within the Ministry of Public Health to lead the response to the epidemic. The first 5-year National Strategic Plan, developed by NACP 2003-2007, identifies 5 priority areas for response: surveillance and research, prevention of HIV/AIDS, prevention and management of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), blood safety, and voluntary counselling, testing, care, treatment and support.

UNDP project seeks to prevent HIV/AIDS epidemic through policy advocacy and public sector institutional strengthening. Specifically, the project will improve a national response management capacity through addressing key public sector institutional and capacity gaps.

Three key objectives are:

- To advocate for and facilitate a multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS
- To enhance knowledge and capacity for a sustained and comprehensive response.
- To foster partnerships for strengthened prevention and care services for vulnerable groups.

The project strategies include:

- Inter-agency collaboration and joint programming to create a local technical resource pool and facilitate a national baseline or situational assessment on HIV/AIDS to support implementation of the National Strategic Plan.
- Partnerships specially with civil society organizations, government bodies, UN/ bi-lateral agencies to be able to reach out to vulnerable groups, particularly the mobile populations in source, transit and destination sites;
- Advocacy and communication to raise awareness about HIV and its underlying causes and reduce stigma, through development of an advocacy strategy implemented at national and provincial levels.
- Capacity enhancement primarily to strengthen multi-sectoral responses, building on the current processes initiated by the NACP
- Greater involvement of People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), in the beginning from neighbouring countries and subsequently supporting the formation of self –supporting PLWHA groups in Afghanistan and facilitates care, support and treatment in addition to their involvement in preventive efforts.

The project has four outputs: (i) Increased understanding of HIV/AIDS at the leadership, policy, ANDS, legislative, provincial and line Ministry levels; (ii) Established and supported National HIV/AIDS Commission in Kabul and in six select Provinces; (iii) Established a national HIV/AIDS policy and (iv) NACP re-structured with upgraded mandate and with technical capacity to be the single management arm for the national HIV/AIDS programme.

The outputs will be accomplished in partnership with the MoPH/NACP and with line Ministries. The project will be implemented over a three year period.

In October 2006, UNDP approved a Preparatory Assistance project to support the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) of the Ministry of Public Health. The Preparatory Assistance of the project was completed by end of June 2006.

### Achievements

- Training centre and a library established for HIV/AIDS training and record keeping at the Ministry of Public Health.
- UNDP HIV/AIDS project and NACP offices were equipped for smoothly running of the project activities.
- Renovations of Jalalabad VCCT. Since June 2006 people have access to project supported Jalalabad VCCT Centre. Project renovated the VCCT Centre and provided equipment, training and testing kits to the Centre.
- Four days capacity enhancement training on HIV/AIDS and STI for Jalalabad VCCT Center staff (under government contract) has been completed.
- Strengthened NACP capacity through provision of on going advisory, technical and programmatic inputs: Project Implementation Unit has been established to be based at the Ministry of Public Health for UNDP HIV/AIDS project implementation. Professional staff providing day to day and strategic support to the NACP.
- Increased awareness through the World AIDS Day event.
- Improved coordination, information sharing and networking;

### Future Priorities

- Advocacy for a gender sensitive response at all levels.
- Advocacy on appointment of Focal Point in line Ministries.
- Simultaneous fund raising initiatives.

### Partnership and Resources

Target Budget (Estimated for three years):    **US\$ 1,985,550**  
 Received Budget:                                US\$ 245,000  
 Shortfall:    US\$ 1,740,550

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