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AFGHANISTAN SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME II (ASGP)

Closely partnering with General Directorate of Municipal Affairs (GDMA), Independent Directorate of Local Affairs (IDLG) and local municipalities, ASGP II aims at enhancing municipal capacities to ensure good governance which results in socio-economic and infrastructural development including environmental protection.

Some highlights of the progress from January to June 2011 are given inside.

ACCOUNTABLE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT & ENHANCED PERFORMANCE REPORTING CAPACITIES

First time since creation, 9 municipalities across the country (Mazar-e-Sharif, Maimana, Kholm, Kunduz, Taloqan, Farah, Mehtarlam, Asadabad and Mahmood Raqi) organized public accountability and consultation forums participated by government, civil society, provincial council, women, youths, NGOs, businesses, urban communities and media.

The opportunity not only served to promote good governance through accountability for 1389 performance and consultation on 1390 priorities of municipalities, but also helped to recognize and appreciate municipal stakeholders for their contributions in 1389.

This municipal initiative supported by ASGP was hugely appreciated by all stakeholders and municipalities were assured of full support to get 1390 objectives realized. In recognition of municipal work, forum participants in Maimana and Kholm graveled hundred meters of road with the transportation allowance paid to them.

Forums ended up with first municipal annual plans publicly approved and enriched with views to address certain citizens' needs.

In addition to the forums, municipal annual accomplishment reports including plans were comprehensively developed for 9 municipalities (Maimana, Mahmood Raqi, Nili, Tirin Kot, Lashkargah, Asadabad, Farah, Herat and Sheberghan).



Views of Public Accountability & Consultation Forums in Mazar, Taloqan, Kunduz, Asadabad, Mehtarlam

INCREASED YOUTHS' PARTICIPATION IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

In the interest of greater participation and given the importance of youths' engagement in municipal processes, ASGP supported seven municipalities (Herat, Farah, Faizabad, Taloqan, Bamyan, Jalalabad and Mahmood Raqi) to launch school-based programme for civic education, democracy building (elected school mayors) and environment protection and advocacy. This programme is managed through partnership built with Department of Education and Information and Culture.

This period saw 41 School-Municipal Committees established in 20 boys and 21 girls schools and now functional with school-based projects for outreach and cleaning and greening. Toolkits have been provided to ensure their functionality.

School mayors are competing highly, contributing significantly in the cleanliness and greening of schools and are so pleased that youths' role in governance and development has been recognized.

Roll out is swiftly progressing and municipalities of Charikar and Tirin Kot are in the pipeline to establish these committees as a tri-partite memorandum of understanding has already been signed



School Mayoral Elections in Herat



Greening Initiative led by School-Municipal Committee in Herat

GROWING INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND INTER-MUNICIPAL RELATIONSHIPS

Supported by ASGP, partnerships were built between the municipality and other government institutions e.g. Department of Education, Department of Information and Culture, and University.

Further, mayors' forum was organized in the North ending up with an inter-municipal cooperation agreement signed by and between the provincial municipalities in the north. Initiated by ASGP, such cooperation existed and was formalized to strengthen relationships.

Fruits of the partnerships are 1) school-municipal committees and 2) peer learning by Mazar for Jalalabad in the area of tax mapping

MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



Mayor of Bamyan Presenting a strategy in a donor meeting

ASGP assisted 13 municipalities (Maimana, Aybak, Sheberghan, Sari Pul, Kunduz, Mahmood Raqi, Maidan Shahr, Bamyan, Nili, Mehtarlam, Jalalabad, Asadabad and Herat) to develop governance management plans.

This aims at putting in place proactive and inclusive governance system to:

- bring all stakeholders on municipal board contributing toward one vision and to enhance effectiveness
- develop a comprehensive understanding of municipalities about stakeholders' needs, concerns and resources

In line with this, the municipality of Bamyan first time called donors, government, businesses, provincial council and UNAMA for a municipality-led meeting and the mayor presented a five-year strategy on revenue enhancement prepared with technical assistance of UNDP-ASGP.

REGIONAL MUNICIPAL TRAINING CENTER & ICT INFRASTRUCTURE

ASGP established a municipal training center (training room and computer lab) within Mazar municipality benefiting provincial and district municipalities in the northern region.

Networking and telecommunications installed at Mazar and Maimana municipalities. Also, Internet service provided to the municipalities of Kandahar, Mazar and Maimana.

Further, a number of databases (petitions, visitors, businesses and Aid coherence) were developed



TAX MAPPING LAUNCHED IN JALALABAD & HERAT



With support from ASGP, municipalities of Jalalabad and Herat launched a tax mapping process to identify, register and map properties to ensure full control over tax objects and enhance revenue collection. This is a response to an acute need as data does not exist to define collectable revenues.

In each it was a 17 day programme combining lectures and field work to learn by doing. Next step is extend this to the entire city to ensure full control over properties.

It is worth to be noted that as result of ASGP technical assistance, municipalities experienced increase in revenues up to 489 % from regular revenue sources.

CUSTOMER-ORIENTED SERVICE CULTURE IN MUNICIPALITIES



View of focused group discussion with citizens in Tirin Kot

Following basic customer service skills trainings, technically supported by ASGP, a number of municipalities stepped up to ensure customer-oriented service delivery and accordingly accomplished the following:

- Hotline telephone service set up in 5 municipalities (Mehtarlam, Mahmood Raqi, Asadabad, Maidan Shahr, Qalat)
- Public complaints box installed in 7 municipalities (Mahmood Raqi, Mehtarlam, Maidan Shahr, Mazar, Maimana, Farah and Heart), and public complaints email opened in Bamyan
- Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted in 11 municipalities (Mehtarlam, Jalalabad, Aybak, Sheberghan, Maimana, Qala-e-Naw, Farah, Chighchiran, Herat, Tirin Kot and Bamyan) as pre-requisite for Capacity Development Planning to ensure public feedback on municipal performance

SUPPORT TO GDMA-IDLG

Closely partnering with GDMA, notable progress as described below was made:

- Capacity Development Plan was developed
- Better office building provided; offices equipped with furniture and computers
- Internet service capacity was upgraded
- GDMA business processes or service cycles were analyzed and re-engineered
- Expert support continued
- Draft Municipal Budgeting Manual

UNDP's CORE MESSAGE

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these goals. Our focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of : Democratic Governance, Poverty Reduction, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Energy and Environment, Information and Communications Technology, HIV/AIDS.

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