Three Afghan students from schools in Kabul were felicitated for best essay contributions on the subject of “Corruption: Factors and ways of preventing it”. The essay competition was part of an effort to promote awareness among students about the multiple adverse effects of the serious challenge of corruption in Afghanistan and how young citizens can be a part of the response to ensure greater accountability and transparency of resources for rapid improvements in the lives of Afghans.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with the Government of Afghanistan celebrated the International Anti Corruption Day, on 9 December, at a time when Afghanistan is ranked as one of the 10 most corrupt countries in Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index.

By its resolution 58/4 of the General Assembly adopted the UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION. The Convention entered into force 14 December 2005 and provides a single, comprehensive platform for fighting corruption. As the first legally binding, international anti-corruption instru-
ment, this Convention provides a unique opportunity to mount a global response to a global problem. Now all national, regional and multi-national anti-corruption efforts have a single anti-corruption "benchmark" which has been signed by 140 countries and currently has 104 state parties. There is strength in numbers, but unless serious measures are taken to implement the provisions of the Convention by all state parties it will not have the intended impact. UNODC as the custodian of the Convention attaches a high priority to assisting states to implement its provisions.

UNDP recognizes that minimizing corruption is critical to reduce poverty and promote social and people-centred sustainable development. In Afghanistan UNDP is supporting the Government and people of Afghanistan in the fight against corruption through the Accountability and Transparency (ACT) project located in the Ministry of Finance. The ACT project provides support to the Government of Afghanistan in implementing the provisions of the Convention through conducting a legislative review in view of the Convention provisions.

The International Day against Corruption is celebrated to recognize that we all have a personal responsibility to help end corruption. Thus it is crucial that we all remember this year's slogan: CORRUPTION, YOUR NO COUNTS.

Afghan National Development Strategy
UNDP Facilitates Donor Dialogues on Sector Strategies

The processes associated with the development of the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) have allowed the Afghan people, the international community and the Government of Afghanistan to work together in a cooperative manner to produce the documents that will underpin Afghanistan’s medium term development strategy. In order to coordinate the international community’s technical responses to the ANDS Sector Strategies, UNDP was requested by the Secretariat of the ANDS to facilitate Donor Dialogues on each of the Sector Strategies. In the course of the Donor Dialogues, each national sector strategy, including the cross-cutting issues, were considered by the international community, and the main consultation topics and written responses of the donors were compiled and conveyed onward to the ANDS Secretariat to assist in producing the final draft of the ANDS.

To date a total 20 separate Donor Dialogues have been held, attended by 430 representatives, generating 160 written comments from 32 various donors and agencies. Further consultations on Afghanistan’s Poverty Profile and the first draft of the whole ANDS will be held in the New Year. The Donor Dialogue-process demonstrated the continuing willingness of the international community to contribute to the Government of Afghanistan’s vision for development and to addressing the priority needs of the people of Afghanistan.

Ahmad Zia Massoud, Bo Asplund Launch Afghanistan HDR 2007

In Afghanistan, the justice system must be rebuilt to bridge modern and traditional justice institutions, protect citizens’ rights and strengthen rule of law, a pivotal step in the war-ravaged country’s march to successful political transition and development. This is a key recommendation of the Afghanistan National Human Development Report 2007, unveiled in Kabul on 18 November by Ahmad Zia Massoud, First Vice-President of Afghanistan and the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General (DSRSG) and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Afghanistan, Bo Asplund.

Afghanistan, it explores the importance of rule of law to human development in the country. The Report identifies severe shortfalls in human and material resources in the formal justice system and calls for it to be strengthened for more effective dispute settlement.

With a Human Development Index of 0.345 measuring education, health and economic prosperity, Afghanistan ranks among the bottom five countries on the global human development index, the only country outside of Africa to make this list.

Noting the country’s progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Report says since 2002, the country has maintained a steady growth rate and is likely to achieve its poverty goal by 2020. The picture, however, is dismal for most of the other goals.

Some 6.6 million -- or one third of Afghans -- do not have enough food to eat. Close to half the population sees itself as food insecure.

The country does better on women’s political representation than its South Asian neighbours with 25 percent of seats reserved for women in the lower house of the National Assembly.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Massoud observed that one of the reasons for low levels of development in Afghanistan is the lack of security in some parts of the country. “I hope the recommendations of the Report are included in the framework of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and would help in strengthening democracy in Afghanistan”, Mr. Massoud noted.

At the launch, Mr. Asplund pointed out, “The findings of the 2007 Afghanistan Human Development Report reveal that despite decades of war, Afghanistan has made measurable progress with regard to some key dimensions of human development. While Afghanistan still faces many challenges, this Report itself is a major step forward. The Report emphasises the need to expand prospects of life and human development across the length and breadth of the country,” Mr. Asplund said.

The Afghanistan National Human Development Report was prepared with the support of UNDP by a team of independent researchers led by distinguished analysts from the Kabul University-based Centre for Policy and Human Development.
16 Days of Activism
MoWA and UNDP Lead 2007 Campaign for Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW)

The Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) in partnership with the Gender Equality project of UNDP ran the 16 Days of Activism Campaign 2007 for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Traditionally this campaign runs between 25 November and 10 December, marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) and the International Human Rights Day. MoWA launched the campaign on 18th November by engaging students from universities in Kabul, inviting them to express their views, opinions on EVAW and its consequences on women and society.

The participation of the celebrated Afghan musician, artist and Human Rights activist Farhad Darya was particularly inspiring for the university students and young men and women. His presence gave the campaign a new impetus.

The activities of the campaign were organised in line with MoWA’s regular advocacy work which includes awareness raising and public engagement, policy influence, reaching out in the sub-national level.

Awareness and engagement of university students

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Several Opinion Banners were the results of the spontaneous participation of more than 400 students in the events. Creating an understanding among the students was the aim of a 15-day EVAW Art Competition, which was launched on 24th November in Kabul University. More than 45 students participated in five different categories: painting, posters design, poetry, essay and short stories writing. A panel discussion on Violence Against Women was held during the launch, which served as a forum for students to familiarize themselves with the systematic approach of VAW and understand the severity of Violence Against Women. A Jury committee made of members of art and literature faculties of Kabul University, high officials from MoWA and UNDP evaluated and rated the work of the participants. Three winners per category were awarded during the symposium held on 10th December, the final event of the campaign. The efforts of all participating students were publicly appreciated and they were awarded certificate of participation. All paintings and posters of the students were exhibited inside the auditorium on the final day of the campaign to further encourage the students and participants at large.
Political recognition
On the political level 16 Days of Activism Campaign 2007 received high level of recognition by various government/state organs, civil society and the international community. The Commemoration of the EVAW Day on 25th November was held in MoWA auditorium, more then 400 people were present. The presence of high level dignitaries such as Mr. Yunus Qanuni, Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga, message from the President of the Republic (as read out by Mr. Sebghatullah Sanjar, Policy Consulting of Presidential Departments), and the presence of the Deputy Minister of Justice demonstrated the significance of the day and the magnitude of the problem of VAW in the country. The speakers called for robust actions against VAW and pointed out the critical leadership role of MoWA.

Engagement of Celebrity
Celebrated Afghan artist (signer, composer, and lyricist) and Human Rights Activist Farhad Darya joined the campaign to promote greater awareness and engage public, particularly students and youth (women and men) and encourage them to take active part in the EVAW campaign. His call to the public to join the campaign to eliminate VAW appealed to many Afghans. Darya’s modeling men as change makers and critical partners in the efforts to end VAW received significant response from the student community and in the academia. His presence on the final symposium on 10th December and Diidar with more than 600 participants was a great motivation and inspiration to draw attention to the magnitude of the problem of VAW. His participation was particularly effective to generate interests among male students and other participants, who had endless questions to ask to Darya.

Reaching out to districts
To bring the messages of the EVAW campaign down to ordinary women and men outside of Kabul, MoWA undertook various public awareness campaigns in the provinces. The EVAW Caravan was one of the most effective public outreach events of the campaign. Interactive discussions, panel discussions, mobile theater plays were some of the key activities carried out in four districts of Kabul Province. More than 1,000 ordinary public, district government officials and local media representatives participated in various events.

Resources for continued action
MoWA produced and distributed a variety of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to spread the messages to ordinary women and men and to ensure that the impact of the events was not short lived. It was an attempt to make the public aware and make them recognize their responsibility towards stopping VAW. Billboards, banners, posters, postcards, leaflets, brochures were widely spread in Kabul and all 34 provinces. Special issues of MoWA newspaper Ershad-ul-Naswan and magazine Mirman were published on the occasion. The issues were dedicated to EVAW. Participants of various events had some concrete information to hold on to and take home. The IEC materials were also distributed among the partners of MoWA and DoWAs including various government and state institutions. Many of these materials can be utilized as reference materials for trainings and discussions.
Most of our people are illiterate and particularly with the language sensitivities in this country, music is the ideal way to communicate with people and spread messages. There are moments that you close the door to everybody and in those moments, music is your only soul mate.

What is critical for the development of Afghan women today?

I believe literacy is the most important need for Afghan women and men. Subsequently Afghan women need to be economically independent. To achieve this we have to work with men as well. We need to raise men’s awareness on women’s rights as well as of women themselves.

How can we stop family violence and what is the negative impact of family violence in our society?

A family is the foundation of a society; therefore whatever happens in a family will affect the society as a whole. Women can be equal members of every society. If we limit them and do not allow them to think and work they will lose hopes and become depressed, which can stop them from being effective contributors to progress of Afghanistan.

We have a tradition society so we have to think and find our own creative solutions in a way that is acceptable to our people.

Women can help themselves by choosing appropriate actions and behavior in their families. We cannot simply attack our customs and ways of life. We have to find a proper way to fight with wrong traditions otherwise we will not be successful in changing them.

Celebrated Musician and Rights Activist Farhad Darya Supports Campaign to Eliminate Violence Against Women

Men’s Awareness Critical to Ensuring Rights of Women, Says Afghan Singing Legend

Excerpts from an Interview with Farhad Darya by Fezeh Hosseini

What motivated you to engage in this campaign for Elimination of Violence Against Women?

During the past two decades of war and even before that, the women and children of Afghanistan were living in the worst conditions. I started my social activism with working for children but soon realized the plight of women can not be ignored and their problems need to be addressed.

What are your plans for the future and how can music help in the campaign to stop Violence Against Women?

I want to expand my activities and involve more and more people in this campaign. Music is a great medium to spread your messages and it can help a lot to create greater understanding. A song or a piece of music breaks all kinds of boundaries and reaches people of all ages and spheres. Music is our national pastime and it is such an important part of our daily life.

Women can be equal members of every society. If we limit them and do not allow them to think and work they will lose hopes and become depressed.

Join me for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Join me for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

We have to find a proper way to fight with wrong traditions otherwise we will not be successful in changing them.
“Need to Promote Equal Access For Women to Benefits of Development”

Excerpts from statements delivered at Kabul Medical University to mark campaign for EVAW:

Mazari Safa (Deputy Minister of Women’s Affairs)

There are different forms of violence against women. Women are discriminated against in terms of their access to education, economic opportunities and civic participation. The Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) is determined to continue its efforts to stop all forms of Violence Against Women and address the issues of discriminations to promote women’s development and equal access to and benefit from socio-economic development processes. Development of the National Plan of Action for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA), is an endeavor in this respect. We will intensify public awareness to create equal opportunities to women and girls. In this effort the engagement of students and youth is critical; they are the future of this country. Therefore most of the activities of this year’s campaign concentrated in various academic institutions in Kabul.

Jina Haidary (Director, Education Department of Ministry of Women’s Affairs)

MoWA conducted a campaign to encourage families to let their daughters go to school in greater numbers; also, we were able to persuade the Ministry of Education to let those married girls who could not finish high school during the Taliban regime go back to school.

Among the main reasons for the high drop-out of girls after 4th grade is the traditional beliefs and cultural practices, inadequate school infrastructure and facilities for girls in the villages. Insecurity adds to the problem.

Violence Against Women continues to be a challenge for women’s development and participation in society. This year alone there were 36 cases of women murdered, which is an increase over the number of last year. There were 27 self-immolation cases, 18 suicidal cases, 175 family violence cases and 69 women were reported to MoWA as escaped from home. These are only the cases that were reported.

Works of art produced by Afghan students to depict the situation of women © Fezeh Hosseini
UNDP Supports Youth Participants from Multiple Ministries To Join Global Youth Symposium

More than a dozen youth representatives from various Ministries and Departments of the Government of Afghanistan participated in the International Symposium on “Youth Participation and Empowerment- Getting beyond the Rhetoric and slogans” was held in Goa, India from 29 October to 2 November, 2007. The workshop was convened by the International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP) with support from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S (Australia) and the Goan Heritage Action Group.

The workshop brought together 70 participants from over 22 countries around the world including Afghanistan, basic services to the youth. Towards this end the project supports regional exchange visits between youth Government officials of Afghanistan and neighboring countries.

The Symposium was an occasion to listen to the voices and stories of young men and women about their experiences regarding participation and empowerment. It provided the platform to youth policy and program makers to share best practices and to gain a deeper understanding of the processes and methodologies to maximise youth participation in development.

The Youth Participation Declaration, adopted at the conclusion of the workshop emphasized the need to harness the creativity, energy and talent found in young people for the social and economic development of countries.

“Youth participation is real when all young people are given the same opportunities, and are treated with equality in their community; when what young people say, think and do (positive) is valued and respected and taken seriously; and when the wider community trust the young people, and empower them to fully participate in society. This is when true national freedom and equity is achieved”, the Declaration noted.

The Symposium participants and particularly the organizer Peter Kenyon will follow the implementation of the declaration with each participant, and another follow up Symposium will be held in February 2008 in Qatar during which the International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP) to review the progress made in youth participation in the society.

Each participant will work for the implementation of the declaration developed from the unified voices as a Declaration of Youth Participation in his/her country in a culturally appropriate way.

Workshop Reviews Progress on Implementation of Electronic Payroll System in Afghan Police

The objective of the seminar was to take stock of the progress towards implementation of the EPS in the provinces.

The Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA) and the Finance Department of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) arranged a two-day seminar for Finance Officers and Electronic Payroll System (EPS) operators of Provincial Police HQs, Border Police Brigades, and police regional commands on 27 and 28 November 2007.

EPS results in greatly reducing mistakes in the preparation of payroll reports, saving time in preparation of the reports. It also serves to standardize the reporting system leading to greater transparency in reporting and better access to personnel information of the police staff. The EPS will be web-enabled and all financial reports will be available to the MoI. At present, Mazar-i-Sharif is the only city that uses this online system of transmitting reports to Kabul.

Speaking on the occasion, senior officials of the Ministry of Interior, emphasized the need to build a cadre of trained police officers who can work with EPS and not subject them to frequent transfers. It was suggested that the payment of police staff salaries must be made contingent on sending of computerized financial reports to the police headquarters on a monthly basis.
The first batch of 12 Afghan Nationals who will work as National Coaches and Trainers for Capacity Development in Afghan civil service have been recruited. These coaches will be placed with International Coaches in various Ministries, departments and Agencies of the Government of Afghanistan.

The first batch of Trainees went through the one-week training for the National Coaches and Trainers. The training was delivered by InWEnt, Germany at the Afghanistan Civil Service Institute (ACSI) from November 24 to November 28, 2007. The topics covered during the training were Essentials of Coaching, Communication Techniques, Behavioural Coaching Model, Coaching styles and Tools and Instruments for Coaching. Practical training

“**I will try to build mutual respect and trust among civil servants**”

**Interview with two of training participants**

**Mr. Mohammad Tareq:** We are here to learn the new coaching methods and implement these in the on-the-job training for staff members of the ministries. In this system we will act as coaches who have to facilitate the development of staff capacity in various ministries by imparting skills in management, trouble shooting, behavioral change and other areas.

**Ms. Manizha:** The coaching system is a new one for me and the difference between this new system and the old one which was advisory in nature is that we, as coaches, are not directly involved in managing routine assignments. We are expected to provide guidance and space for consultations and help the staff to solve their problems themselves. This encourages the staff members to take part in problem-solving and they can learn more.

**Tareq:** The main advantage of this system is that we will not need international advisors as we will help staff in ministries to build their capacity while they are performing their daily tasks. We are hopeful about bringing about tangible changes in how staff approach their work, by implementing what we have learned and will learn in these workshops. I will try to build mutual respect and trust among civil servants from various ministries to accept me and accept my ideas.

**Manizha:** I was working with the Ministry of Trade before and know about official system in the ministries. This will help me to build a trustful relationship and encourage them to make changes and build their capacity. Since this is the first time that we could attend in this kind of training I hope these workshops will continue in the future and I am sure it will help to have better offices and improve transparency and accountability in the ministries.
sessions and group works was organized for simulation of a realtime coaching session and use of the proposed Coaching Tools and Instruments.

In Afghanistan, in spite of considerable capacity development efforts by the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and the donors alike, limited capacity continues to be perhaps the most fundamental challenge to the country’s development.

There is a critical need to strengthen the capacities of civil services on a long-term basis and increase the effectiveness of capacity development. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Capacity Development Secretariat of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCS) is implementing the Capacity for Afghan Public Service (CAP) project which responds to this need.

The CAP project is unique in the sense that it uses ‘Coaching and Mentoring’ techniques, which unlike traditional classroom training, is an process that enables “on-the-job” learning better retention of learning, especially if the entry level capacity is low. ‘Coaching and Mentoring’ has proved very useful for jobs that require dealing with a wide variety of situations typical of public management and for jobs where guided practice is important.

The CAP will focus on developing a national market of capacity builders through provision of international, regional and Afghan national coaching/advisory services on a large scale and at reduced cost.

Disabled Urge Government To Ratify Global Convention

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAM) together with UNDP/NPAD and different organizations and associations such as Afghan Disabled Union (ADU), Afghan National Association of Deaf (ANAD), Afghan National Association of Blind (ANAB), National Afghan Association of Women Disabled (NADWA) and other select groups marked the week-long 16th celebration of the International Day of the Disabled on 3rd December.

The theme established by the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled People is “Rights of Persons with disabilities: action in development”.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives of the People with Disability expressed their concern about the problems they are facing. They demanded that the Government must ensure decent work for the disabled them in order that they are able to improve their living standards and enjoy their rights. Participants urged the Government Of Afghanistan to ratify the UN Convention on Rights of the Persons with Disabilities. The international theme for the Day was “Decent Work for Persons with Disability”.

The Director of Policy and Planning Department of the Office of the President presented the address on behalf of the President of Afghanistan, H.E. Hamid Karzai. The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons (IDD), 3 December, aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.
Country-Wide Activities to Promote Volunteerism Mark International Volunteers Day

Marking the celebration of International Volunteer Day (IVD) on December 5th, 2007, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) together with Local Youth Councils (LYC) and other groups and organizations conducted several activities around different regions of Afghanistan to promote volunteerism and to raise awareness on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The main goal of planned activities was to encourage local youth volunteers to promote volunteerism, to take active part in community development and nation building, as Afghanistan strives to strengthen democracy and rule of law in the country.

Activities related to public health, environmental problems, equal education opportunities and other issues were conducted by Local Youth Councils volunteers, Youth Parliament volunteers and UNV volunteers serving in regions with the support of UNV Country Office and other UN agencies. Different awareness and volunteerism promoting activities took place in Kabul, Farah, Bamyan, Nangahar, Balkh and other provinces.

The activities that took place as part of observance of the International Volunteers Day in Afghanistan included raising awareness of local youth on HIV/AIDS and Drugs in Balkh province. UNDP/Afghanistan New Beginnings Programme (ANBP) organized a one day seminar was organized for 60 members of Local Youth Councils (LYC). The members were asked to further disseminate the information and printed awareness materials among their peers and communities. It’s expected that as the result of this seminar at least 450 members of local communities will be indirectly informed about HIV/AIDS transmission and the scourge of drug addiction.

In Nangahar province, the theme was Raising of Health and Hygiene Awareness. Over 100 members of local community participated in the seminar. Awareness material on good hygiene practices was distributed among the participants and among local communities. UNDP/ANBP and IUNV serving in Bamyan province, the LYC in cooperation with IUNV serving in Bamyan, organized the event for raising of awareness of local communities on health issues, family planning and reproductive health and distributed awareness materials among local communities. UNDP/ANBP and IUNV were among the coordinators this activity. In Farah province, IVD celebrations took place with orphans in local orphanage premises, and included cultural activities and distribution of donated cloth and of other items. In Kabul, support for MDG 2 was demonstrated through painting and modeling activities with the 40+ pre school children. The activity took place at Day Care Center of the national Center for Statistics.
Message by UNDP Chief, Kemal Dervis on International Volunteer Day

Across the world, millions of people contribute every day to helping to tackle local and global development challenges, volunteering individually or as part of formal programmes. These contributions are an essential part of the development equation but are too often overlooked or taken for granted.

On the occasion of International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2007, I would like to use this opportunity to pay special tribute to those millions who, out of a sense of deep commitment and solidarity, volunteer their time, their skills, and their energy, to help improve the social and economic well-being of people and communities worldwide.

The internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) specifically seek to address many of the major development challenges that the world faces, including the fight against extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, amongst others. Now, at the midpoint towards the 2015 deadline, it is clear that while many developing countries have made significant progress in human development with millions of people being lifted out of poverty every year, violent conflict, lack of resources, insufficient coordination and weak policies continue to slow down development progress, particularly in Africa.

We need to renew our efforts and there is no doubt that people’s engagement through voluntary action will be critical to this.

The intrinsic value of volunteerism in building social capital and social cohesion is now better understood. Statistical analysis and research in an increasing number of countries is confirming that the contribution of volunteerism in economic terms is also significant. As a result, more countries are establishing and refining public policies and legal frameworks that facilitate participation and reduce potential barriers in efforts to encourage and inspire citizens to volunteer for development, in particular in their own communities. Volunteers are critical partners for development and deserve every support and recognition for their contribution to development efforts around the world.
Overview of UNDP in Afghanistan

UNDP has been present in Afghanistan since 1956, providing development assistance to the country and helping build the capacity of national institutions. During the Taliban regime, UNDP continued to provide assistance to communities throughout the country from its relocated offices in Islamabad. During that decade, UNDP delivered US$200 million of assistance to Afghanistan. In early 2002, UNDP inaugurated its new office in Kabul.

The human development challenge for Afghanistan is enormous. According to Afghanistan's National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2004, the Human Development Index ranks Afghanistan at 173 out of 178 countries worldwide and its MDG indicators place it below the majority of Sub-Saharan African countries. 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 operates within the framework of the integrated United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) and within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In December 2005, UNDP signed a three-year Country Programme Action Plan with the Government of Afghanistan focusing on three development areas: state-building, democracy and civil society empowerment and sustainable livelihoods. UNDP new Country Programme focuses on capacity development, national ownership and policy dialogue. UNDP aims to enhance government institutional capacity to deliver public services in an equitable and sustainable manner and to create an enabling environment for legitimate livelihoods.

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.

All UNDP activities are undertaken in close collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan, sister UN agencies and other development stakeholders.

UNDP has built strategic partnerships with a number of government institutions such as the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development, the Ministry of Interior, the Civil Service Commission, the Independent Election Commission, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Women’s Affairs. UNDP’s top ten donor partners in Afghanistan are the US, the EC, Japan, CIDA, UK, Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Norway and the World Bank.

UNDP is thankful for the support and confidence lent by its national and international development partners.

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