Afghanistan launched the 2006 Global Human Development Report on the global water crisis

Kabul joined many other capitals in celebrating the launch of the 2006 Global Human Development Report (HDR) at Kabul University. The 2006 global HDR is focused on the growing importance of clean water and sanitation in the world which, according to the report, are not available to over a billion poor people in developing countries. Titled “Beyond Scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis,” this year’s human development report advocates for at least 20 litres of clean water a day as a human right for all. H.E. Mr. Ismael Khan, Minister of Energy and Water of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and Ms. Anita Nirody, UNDP Country Director, chaired the launching event. Government officials, representatives of international agencies and non-governmental organizations, and lecturers as well as tens of students from different faculties of Kabul University participated in the launching ceremony.

In his opening remarks Minister Ismael Khan appreciated the selection of clean water and sanitation as the theme of the global human development report and emphasized on the significance of efficient national as well as international policies that should tackle the global crisis of unsafe drinking water and poor sanitations. “We have tremendous deficiencies in the water problems than countries with natural water scarcity.” said H.E. Minister Ismael Khan. This year’s Human Development Report calls on all governments to spend, at least, 1% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on water and sanitation, and ensure equity in the access to clean water and sanitation for all.

Continued on page 2
Highlighting the crisis of water and sanitation in Afghanistan, the Minister of Water and Energy emphasized on the implementation of a comprehensive strategy that should tackle problems associated with unclean water and poor sanitation in Afghanistan.

Although Afghanistan is one amongst 17 countries that are not mentioned in this year’s Human Development Report, due to lack of data analysis, yet it offers crucial recommendations that can help the Government of Afghanistan and other decision makers to prioritize clean water and sanitation in their agenda for the development of Afghanistan. Ms. Anita Nirody, UNDP Country Director, indicated that according to the Millennium Development Goal Report only 23% of population in Afghanistan (43% of households in urban against 18% of rural) have access to drinking water which basically means that 8 among every 10 Afghans are drinking unsafe water. “Achieving the Millennium Development Goal target on water is critical to the attainment of other Goals.”

Clean water and sanitation would save the lives of countless children, support progress in education and liberate people from the illnesses that keep them in poverty” said UNDP Country Director, indicating that, only 12% of Afghans have access to sanitation. “Afghanistan has sufficient per capita water resource, if managed properly. The challenge therefore, is for governments to design policies to manage water equitably and efficiently.”

Years of constant wars severely destroyed the physical infrastructure of water (both for drinking and irrigation purposes) in Afghanistan leading to a pervasive crisis of water management. Moreover perpetual droughts in the recent years have worsened already fragile accessibility of safe drinking water and water for agricultural purposes. “The over usage of underground water”, in Professor Naeem Iqar’s words “has culminated in a gradual reduction of underground resources thereby creating huge challenges for the coming decades.” Water has diversified links to the general poverty in the developing countries. It diminishes many opportunities for children and women and threatens the wellbeing of millions of people throughout the world. “The Government of Afghanistan and its international partners should jointly work and establish an efficient water management system and should ensure that the coming generations of Afghanistan will not suffer water and sanitation crisis” recommended H.E. Mr. Gullam Mustafa Jawad, deputy minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animals Husbandry and Foodstuff.

The Global Human Development Report was first launched in 1990 with the single goal of putting people back at the center of the development process in terms of economic debate, policy and advocacy. The goal was both massive and simple, with far-ranging implications — going beyond income to assess the level of people’s long-term well-being, bringing about development of the people, by the people, and for the people, and emphasizing that the goals of development are choices and freedoms. Afghanistan’s first National Human Development Report, commissioned by UNDP and compiled by an independent team of authors, was produced in 2004. The Centre for Policy and Human Development, inaugurated on November 12 2006 at Kabul University, is the leading institution that will produce Afghanistan’s National Human Development Report for 2006.

Further information on this year and previous years’ Human Development Reports can be found at http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006.
Thousands benefit two deep water-wells in the Ayback city

To benefit Ayback city, in the centre of the Ayback of Samangan Province that has high importance in the overall development of the city. “After oxygen, clean water is the most important necessity of life, yet the inhabitants of Ayback city did not have access to it for long. Around 49,000 people could be displaced, if we do not properly address the problem of water in Samangan province.” said Mr. Shafaque.

The crisis of water is widespread in Samangan province. According to Governor Shafaque at least 35 deep water-wells are needed to address the increasing needs of the people. Samangan is also one of those provinces of Afghanistan that are severely affected by the recent drought.

Sad to say, Ayback has a long history of water and sanitation crisis. Continued on page 3

The residents of Ayback city, in the centre of Samangan province with a population of around 60,000 people, use unclean water from surface streams and water ponds for their domestic use, causing tremendous health and hygiene problems. In the summer most water sources dry up thereby exacerbating already fragile human security. Vulnerable women and children of Ayback spend hours on water collection: a time that could be spent on education. Those who cannot collect water have to pay up to US$1 of their modest incomes on a barrel of water.

The Governor of Samangan province, Mr. Abdulhaque Shafaque, thanked UNDP for its support to the implementation of the project through a transparent and inclusive process. According to Governor Shafaque, this is the second biggest project implemented in the Ayback city of Samangan Province that has high importance in the overall development of the city. “After oxygen, clean water is the most important necessity of life, yet the inhabitants of Ayback city did not have access to it for long. Around 49,000 people could be displaced, if we do not properly address the problem of water in Samangan province.” said Mr. Shafaque.

The crisis of water is widespread in Samangan province. According to Governor Shafaque at least 35 deep water-wells are needed to address the increasing needs of the people. Samangan is also one of those provinces of Afghanistan that are severely affected by the recent drought.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) 2006 opium survey, Samangan has seen a 49% decline in the opium cultivation. “We hope that Samangan will be an opium free province next year” said the Governor of Samangan Province. Although the local Government would eradicate opium cultivation unconditionally, yet they would also like to see the implementation of projects that could provide sustainable livelihoods to the poor farmers of the province.
Afghanistan’s Centre for Policy and Human Development to enrich and broaden national discourse and research potential

The inauguration of Afghanistan’s first ever Centre for Policy and Human Development – a research oriented academic think-tank – at Kabul University will have profound implications for the modernization of the country’s top academic institution. The Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD) is a joint UNDP and Kabul University initiative established to promote the concepts of human development among Afghan academics, decision makers and the wider intelligentsia. On November 12 2006, UNDP-Afghanistan and Kabul University inaugurated the Centre through an event where government officials, representatives from various international organizations and a number of lecturers as well as student of Kabul University were present.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony the vice-chancellor of Kabul University, H.E. Mr. Stanikzai said “I hope the Centre for Policy and Human Development and Kabul University will work hard to root the human development concept deeply in our academic life and also strive to expand beyond Kabul and include our provincial universities as well.” Thanking UNDP-Afghanistan for its support to the establishment of the Centre for Policy and Human Development the vice-chancellor of Kabul University, meanwhile, emphasized on the significance of close collaboration between CPHD and Kabul University.

One of the central tasks of the Centre for Policy and Human Development is the production of Afghanistan’s National Human Development Report for 2006 and consecutive years. Afghanistan’s first National Human Development Report, “Security in a Human Face”, commissioned by UNDP and compiled by an independent team of authors, was produced in 2004. UNDP will continue to support the development of this powerful advocacy tool to enable Afghans in the institutionalization of a high-quality research oriented approach to human development concepts. “The country needs a development vision based on the long-term needs and aspirations of the Afghan people. Such a vision can be derived through participatory approaches, once information is made available, data gathered and analyzed, and options debated in public.” said Mr. Ian Holland, UNDP Deputy Country Director.

The Centre will also initiate and operate an international exchange programme for Kabul University researchers, lecturers and students. For years Afghan academics and independent researchers, owing to perpetual civil wars, lacked the opportunity to enhance their professional capacity. Afghanistan’s Centre for Policy and Human Development will invite prominent international scholars to share their intellectual and scientific explorations with Afghans by through seminars, presentations and other events. Meanwhile, CPHD will work to expand opportunities for Afghan academics and researchers to broaden their professional capacity through participation at various fellowships, scholarships and other international academic opportunities.

Lastly the Centre will formulate high quality, intellectually up-to-date and innovative policy papers & analyses for the government, civil society, international partners-in-development and the wider Afghan intelligentsia. The Government of Afghanistan is trying to implement Afghanistan’s National Development Strategy (ANDS) in close consultation and collaboration with national and international partners, the inputs of the Centre for Policy and Human Development will enrich the effectiveness of the ANDS by contributing professional analyses, researches and professional recommendations.

Afghanistan’s Centre for Policy and Human Development is made possible through technical and financial support from UNDP while Kabul University contributed land for the construction of a building for CPHD within Kabul University Compound.

For more information on CPHD and Afghanistan’s First Human Development Report, please visit www.undp.org.af
As many other capitals throughout the world celebrated the World AIDS Day on 1st December, Kabul marked the World’s AIDS Day through a special event at the Ministry of Public Health. Over 100 participants from different government and non-government organizations participated in the event that to reiterate the country’s commitment in combating the spread of the deadly virus. Latest figures, certified by the Ministry of Public Health, show that 61 positive HIV cases were registered in Afghanistan, yet the number of individuals contaminated with the HIV virus could be surprisingly significantly higher – thousands probably. Social stigma, fear of isolation, and series of other misperceptions cause many people to suffer in secrecy and avoid testing or medical treatment.

“Having HIV/AIDS is not a crime. HIV/AIDS patients are not culprits.” says Dr Sabir Adaab, coordinator of Voluntary Counseling Centre (VCCT) at the Central Blood Bank in Kabul. According to Dr Adaab HIV/AIDS patients should be informed that registration and counseling could not only prolong their existence, but can preserve their dears’ health and safety as well.

“My demand and expectation from you [participants of the World AIDS Day event at the Ministry of Public Health] and the international community is to adopt efficient preventive and strict procedures, from now on, to inhibit the spread of HIV/AIDS and protect our people from another grave calamity.” said President Hamid Karzai in a written message to the ceremony. President Karzai called on Afghans to pay wider attention to the risks associated with the spread of HIV/AIDS. The President’s message indicated the fact that the leadership of Afghanistan is politically committed to combat the HIV/AIDS plague.

Reportedly some 40 million people, around the world, are infected with HIV/AIDS, majority of which are citizens of the developing countries. The remarks of the Minister of Public Health, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Ameen Fatemi, was recited by the deputy minister in which Dr. Fatemi stressed that HIV/AIDS being a threat to human wellbeing has multifaceted socio-economical implications.

“HIV/AIDS, for instance, affects the human productivity in many developing countries. It also increases the number of orphans with poor socio-economical protection. The treatment of HIV/AIDS, meanwhile, costs considerable public expenditures.” affirmed the message of the Minister of Public Health. According to the Minister of Public Health, combating HIV/AIDS in Afghanistan requires multilateral efforts and cooperation whereby the international community is expected to help Afghan authorities with generous financial and technical assistances, and the Afghan public should firmly support the Government’s counter HIV/AIDS policies. Other speakers of the event, from NGOs and civil society organizations, emphasised on the importance of timely sensitization of the Afghan population on HIV/AIDS related issues on top of which should come raising the public awareness on modes of transmission of the virus. Participants of the World AIDS Day event at the Ministry of Public Health unanimously agreed upon the fact “no country can claim immunity against HIV/AIDS”. HIV/AIDS is a sans-frontier plague that threatens all humanity regardless of political, geographical or cultural differences.

UNDP-Afghanistan has provided both technical and financial support to the Ministry of Public Health to meet the challenges it faces in combating the spread and increasing the public’s awareness about HIV/AIDS in Afghanistan. UNDP-Afghanistan supported the establishment of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) Office by providing IT equipments; office space and furniture; a renovated and fully equipped conference room; and other capacity requirements. A new Voluntary Counselling and Test Centre (VCCT) is established and equipped in Jalalabad city of Nangarhar Province with full support from UNDP. The Centre provides free of charge HIV/AIDS testing and counselling services to the people of Nangarhar and neighbouring provinces.
LOTFA received EUR 30 million from EC; EUR 5 million from Germany; and EUR 5 million from the Netherlands

The European Commission has agreed to contribute EUR 30 million in support of the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA). An agreement was signed between UNDP-Afghanistan and the European Commission Head Office in Kabul on December 03 2006. The contribution is expected to support a better trained and appropriately funded National Police that should contribute to enforcing the rule of law and order across Afghanistan and promote national, regional and global security.

The Law and Order Trust Fund will use the contribution to not only reimburse the remuneration of the Afghan National Police, but to support the Ministry of Interior to procure and maintain non-lethal police equipments; rehabilitate and reconstruct police facilities i.e. check posts; enhance the process of recruitment and training; and undertake an institutional development process.

The Federal Republic of Germany contributed EUR 5 million to LOTFA. According to the agreement signed on December 06 2006, by UNDP Country Director, Ms Anita Nirody, and the German Charge d’ Affaires in Kabul, Annette Klein, the contribution was earmarked for Police Remuneration identified as Priority I in the LOTFA Budget. LOTFA will use the contribution of the German Government exclusively for the Police salaries until February 28 2007.

Another contribution agreement was recently signed for LOTFA by UNDP Country Director and the Ambassador of the Netherlands in Kabul, H.E. Roeland van de Geer on behalf of the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation. This EUR 5 million contribution will cover the Trust Fund’s operations from November 13 2006 to March 31 2007. The contribution will assist the Ministry of Interior to ensure timely disbursement of the Afghan National Police salaries, which is one of the requirements of the LOTFA’s phase IV.

The Afghan National Police have the potential to contribute to regional and global security and to serve as a symbol of national identity. At the request of the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA), UNDP established the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) in May 2002 to cover the Government’s police-related costs. Three phases of the project have been implemented successfully and Phase IV of the project is ongoing. During Phase IV (April 2006 to March 2008) LOTFA is expected to ensure payment of police salaries and deploy Electronic Payroll System (EPS) in all 34 provinces.

LOTFA is intended to fund recurrent costs during the transition period, until domestic revenues would allow the Government of Afghanistan to finance most or all of its recurrent costs.

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Commis-

For more information visit www.undp.org.af
At the end of a two-day conference on Combating Corruption in Afghanistan, some 150 participants requested the ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) without delay. The conference was initiated by the National Assembly of Afghanistan and supported by the UNDP’s Support to the Establishment of the Afghan Legislative (SEAL) Project. The two-day conference, held on 29-30 November at Kabul Serena Hotel, was attended by the Speakers and Deputy Speakers of both Houses of National Assembly, Chief Justice, Deputy Attorney General, Ministers, Heads of Parliamentary Commissions, Members of Wolesi and Mishrano Jirgas, Academicians, and international experts, and shed light on the various angles, dynamics and underlying structures of corruption in the world and in Afghanistan in particular.

In his message to the conference, H.E. President Hamid Karzai called on the conference participants to support the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts for the eradication of state corruption by exploring novel and effective ways to combat the pervasive phenomenon. “The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan no longer can tolerate corrupt and fraudulent administrators. Once again, all relevant officials are instructed to purge state bodies from such harmful elements,” said a Presidential Statement that was read out at the opening of the conference by Mr Farooq Wardak, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.

In his Statement, H.E. President Karzai thanked the National Assembly of Afghanistan for organizing this important conference at a crucial juncture, and also thanked UNDP-Afghanistan for its support to the initiative.

Speaking to the conference participants the Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga, H.E. Mohammad Yunus Qanooni, said “Administrative corruption is one of those challenges that tortures both the people and the Government of Afghanistan. This phenomenon not only is a concern for Afghans, but has caused profound anxiety among our international friends that are helping us build an efficient government.” The Chief Justice of Afghanistan, H.E. Professor Abdul Salaam Azimi, called corruption an invasive plague that needs a curative vaccine. According to the Declaration, the National Assembly of Afghanistan will take the lead in seeking the cooperation of all branches of the Government and civil society in order to create a united and common national front against corruption. The National Assembly of Afghanistan should, ac-
national and international organizations, the civil society, and the entire Nation of Afghanistan to support the measures against corruption and assist in the eradication of corruption in Afghanistan.

WE, THE PARTICIPANTS of the Anti-Corruption Conference held in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 29 and 30 November 2006, being

Determined that the People of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan should progressively enjoy the benefits of peace, democratic progress and economic growth, and that all forms of inequality and injustice should be fought

Conscious of the harmful effects of corruption on economic development and social welfare, the waste of scarce natural resources, the distortion of the distribution of the fruits of economic growth, and the diminution of basic services involved, and

Determined to reverse the culture of corruption, enhance the dignity of our People, and establish in Afghanistan a regime of complete integrity, transparency and accountability,

DO HEREBY RESOLVE, to commit ourselves, collectively and individually, and take concrete steps, to deter, prevent, and combat corruption at all levels, and call up on all powers of the State, the whole nation of Afghanistan, and national and international organizations, to adopt an integrated, coordinated and resolute, strategic stand against combating corruption, in particular, by calling for the National Assembly to:

Ratify the United Nations Convention Against Corruption without delay, so as to hasten its becoming part of the law in Afghanistan

Take a lead in seeking cooperation between the Members of the National Assembly, the Government of Afghanistan, and other national and international organizations, in order to forge a united and common front against corruption

Be prepared to enact further legislation designed to combat corruption if this proves necessary; exhort its committees to become effective tools for oversight against corruption; and direct its officials and offices to be repositories of information and expertise in the fight to destroy corruption

Develop a strategy against corruption; and review the state of laws, standards and codes with the purpose of determining their adequacy to: fight corruption in Afghanistan; develop effective systems for public service; and promote integrity in business operations

Call upon the National Assembly, Government and Judiciary to promote by every means possible, the participation of all sectors of Afghanistan in advancing the Rule of Law and good governance in the conduct of public and private affairs.

Accelerate the implementation of the ‘Disarmament of Illegal Armed Groups’ (DIAG) process so that in the following areas the rule of law can be established - merit based recruitment, the prevention of influence on appointments, and illegal appointments.

Establish a quick and urgent mechanism for the attainment of proper livelihoods for government officials, and a balanced system of salaries.

Ensure any articles of the constitution to be amended should be reviewed and studied, according to the provisions of article 149 of the Constitution.

Since the expenses of international organizations in Afghanistan are not carried out under the oversight of the National Assembly and the government of Afghanistan, these international organizations should be requested to prepare the ground to be transparent and accountable to the people of Afghanistan and to the donor countries.

Root out corruption from society by ensuring that this important issue is taken into consideration during the education of the younger generation of the country, and that the curriculum of schools and higher education institutions should be revised for this purpose.

The mass media is requested to organize, on a voluntary basis, programs for the people of Afghanistan in order to inform them of their rights.

AND WE CALL UPON the three bodies of the State, National and International organizations, and the entire Nation of Afghanistan to support this Declaration wholeheartedly, and to take such urgent action as is necessary and appropriate in line with the Resolution above to drive corruption from every part of the Republic.

Done in Kabul, Afghanistan on November 30, 2006
Government officers sensitized on Afghanistan’s new procurement law and counter narcotics trust funds (CNTF) initiatives

The Ministry of Counter Narcotics and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a half-day workshop on the New Procurement Law of Afghanistan on November 29, 2006. This workshop was intended for the focal points of the Counter Narcotics Trust Fund (CNTF) project as well as procurement officers of different line ministries. The workshop intended to tackle some of the identified bottlenecks that affect the efficient implementation of the CNTF approved projects: lack of understanding, knowledge and communication on the new procurement law and procurement procedures.

Some 50 participants from different ministries took part in the workshop. Experts from the Ministry of Finance and Afghanistan Reconstruction & Development Services (ARDS) provided technical guidance and explanations on the new Procurement Law. The workshop aimed at enhancing the understanding and knowledge of the new procurement law and to promote sharing of experiences in application of the law and procedures in use in line ministries in relation to the CNTF project implementation.

Presenting key points and issues of the New Procurement Law, Mr. Raj Kamal, Advisor to the Procurement Policy Unit of the Ministry of Finance, shed light on the differences between the old practices and the new law. According to the 2nd Article of the New Procurement Law the main purpose is “to establish an open, transparent, competitive procurement system, based on effective budgetary and expenditure controls and reporting requirements designed to achieve efficiency, economy, the prevention of abuses, and a fair opportunity for participation by all potential contractors, including private enterprises and other persons.” Mr. Said Bahawddin Bihboodi, from the ARDS centralized system of procurement, has also presented the commonly misunderstood points of the new law in order to avoid misapplications of the law.

At the end of the workshop participants expressed their satisfaction and praised the workshop as “useful and practical” for their work especially in relation to the implementation of the CNTF approved projects. Participants were encouraged to approach the Ministry of Finance, Procurement and Policy Unit, and the CNTF team should they need clarification on the procurement procedures of CNTF approved projects.

The objective of the Counter Narcotics Trust Fund (CNTF), officially established on 29 October 2005, is to mobilize additional resources needed by the Afghan Government to implement the National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS). The key principles behind the Trust Fund include:

- Providing additional resources for the Government’s counter narcotics (CN) efforts through the national development budget.

Ensuring transparency and accountability in the allocation of those resources.

Enabling the Government to have greater ownership over implementation of its CN strategy.

Promoting greater coherence in the funding of counter narcotics related activities.

The National Drug Control Strategy identifies eight pillars for intervention, namely:

- Alternative Livelihoods
- Building Institutions
- Public Awareness
- Law Enforcement
- Criminal Justice
- Eradication
- Drug Demand Reduction
- and Treatment of Drug Addicts

International and Regional Co-operation

The CNTF is executed through the National Implementation modality. Therefore the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan retains the overall responsibility for the nationally managed programme through its designated institutions – the Ministries of Finance and Counter Narcotics.

For more information on UNDP’s programmes and projects in Afghanistan, please visit www.undp.org.af
Netherlands contributes EUR 525,000 to UNDP’s Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan

The Netherlands Ministry for Development Cooperation contributed the amount of EUR 525,000 to support a UNDP project in support of the Justice System of Afghanistan. An agreement was signed by the UNDP Country Director, Ms. Anita Nirody, and the Netherlands’ Charge de Affairs in Kabul (for the Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands), Yvonne Stassen (a.i) on December 5 2006. This contribution is allocated in reference to the General Agreement that was concluded on August 17 2005 between the Netherlands’ Minister for Development Cooperation and UNDP-Afghanistan.

The amount will enable the Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan project to continue between December 2006 and June 2007, respectively.

The UNDP’s Support to the Justice System of Afghanistan project (SJSA) has been active in providing technical support and assistance to the Ministry of Justice in the preparation of detailed work plans and in setting priorities for the justice sector under Afghanistan’s National Development Strategy (ANDS) process. The project has resulted in the justice sector achieving a high level of donor coordination and cooperation and has benefited the ANDS process generally by increasing awareness and capacity of the ANDS staff to undertake national planning across sectors. Furthermore, the SJSA project participated with other development partners in the design of an implementation framework for the “Justice for All” policy document with the intent that the output would be linked to the ANDS process.

The project is designed to assist the Government of Afghanistan in achieving the priorities and benchmarks for the rule of law and justice highlighted in the Afghanistan’s National Development Strategy (ANDS). The project consists of the following key components: (1) support to the Government of Afghanistan for the development and implementation of a detailed strategy based on the “Justice for All” framework; (2) strengthening institutional capacity of the Ministry of Justice; (3) strengthening institutional capacity of the Office of the Attorney General; (4) strengthening institutional capacity of the Supreme Court; and (5) strengthening institutional capacity of the legal education institutions; and (6) rehabilitation of physical facilities for the justice sector.

This broad scope of project activities enables SJSA to address the multi-faceted needs of justice sector reform and provides the project with the flexibility required to meet ever-evolving short-term challenges, while supporting development of long-term sustainable strategies.

Write about “Water” and make your voice heard globally plus a chance to visit UK

Water is the theme of this year’s Human Development Report (HDR) - probably the most famous, and most widely read document published by the United Nations every year. But the reports are not widely read by young people, which is why the UN is inviting the young people of Peace Child’s global network to create a short summary of it.

Please tell us that water and sanitation are pretty important! And yet - washing and going to the toilet are not things we often talk about. We find them a bit rude! Which is why governments – who respond to voters’ priorities - never put water at the top of their priority list. Faced with global warming and increased population pressure on water supply, this report suggests that “the challenge effectively to govern water supply in the 21st Century may prove to be among the most daunting faced in human history.” So - will you help us explain this ‘daunting challenge’ to a wider public?

We would like you to contribute stories, paintings and poems about water to a full colour, illustrated 28-page booklet summarizing the above key points. It will be released in English, French and Spanish on World Water Day March 22nd 2007. Not only will the best contributions be printed up in the booklet which will be distributed around the world: the best contributors will be offered an all-expenses paid trip to the United Kingdom to work with a talented team of young people and UN officials at the world-famous Peace Child International Centre to edit the final booklet. But hurry! If you want to be considered for a place at this meeting, you have to get your contribution in by December 31st 2006. Other contributions may be received right up to January 31st 2007.

Send your contribution to Peace Child International
46 High Street The White House Buntingford Herts SG9 0AH UK
Tel: +44 1763274459 Fax: +44 1763274460 email: editor@peacechild.org
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.

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

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. Between 2002 and 2006, UNDP mobilized more than 1.3 billion.

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