



UNDP Afghanistan Newsletter

15 July 2006

DDR completed on time and within budget

The completion of the reintegration phase of DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) by June 30 2006 marks the end of the DDR process in Afghanistan.

It was completed in time and within costs (US\$ 141 million) and in addition, as the reintegration phase was brought to an end, 25% of the ex-combatants have found a long-term and sustainable activity.

DDR was initiated in February 2003 at the Tokyo conference and supported the disarmament of 63,380 former officers and soldiers of the Afghan Military Forces (AMF) as well as the decommissioning of 259 AMF units. 55,804 ex-combatants chose one of the reintegration options, which further benefited 53,415 of them, leaving aside 2,759 drop-outs.

Reintegration options have ranged from agriculture, vocational training and job placements, small business opportunities, de-mining, teaching, government jobs, wage labour and joining the Afghan National Army (ANA) or the police.

The Commanders Incentive Programme (CIP)

One of the key problems encountered during the DDR process was the close bond between former commanders and their soldiers, which resulted



in a strong social network of dependency and a potential threat to security. To address this issue, much attention has been paid to the demobilisation and reintegration of former commanders through different reintegration packages, such as a financial redundancy package, training and trips abroad, in-country training and government positions. Since its inception in mid 2004, the CIP project has reintegrated some 320 commanders and 150 Ministry of Defence generals.

Women and children of the ex-combatant community

Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP) is also looking at providing direct services to women and children from the ex-combatant community. To date, 24,536 women have received or are scheduled to receive additional education and income generation opportunities in development projects. A letter of intent was signed with the World Food Programme (WFP) to facilitate the inclusion of 4,455

women from the ex-combatant community in WFP-related projects from 2006 to 2010. Also, 153,915 children from the ex-combatant community have received assistance through WFP's de-worming and Food for Education assistance programmes. These gender mainstreaming efforts signal the beginning of a fundamental shift in the DDR strategy and activities related to women.

Follow up to DDR: the Reintegration Support Project (RSP)

In order to ensure sustainability to the overall DDR effort, ANBP and UNDP, in agreement with the Afghan Government, are looking at a Reintegration Support Project (RSP) to run until December 2007 as a follow up to DDR. This project, which will be implemented in partnership with the Afghan Government, will target civil servants in relevant ministries and train them to deal with reintegration issues. It will also allow ANBP to continue looking at various livelihood opportuni-

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ANBP Background

ANBP is a UNDP project created in April 2003 to assist the overall DDR process as foreseen in the Bonn Agreement. With the support of UNAMA and other relevant Afghan ministries, ANBP has ensured the development and the implementation of an integrated DDR effort, through regional offices and mobile units throughout the country. With emphasis now given to the Security Sector Reform, ANBP is also involved with:

- Heavy Weapons Cantonment
- Anti Personnel Mines and Ammunition Stockpile Destruction Project
- Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG)

ties for ex-combatants. The overall aim of the RSP project is to continue to provide assistance to the reintegration caseload by transferring the required skills needed for the Government of Afghanistan.

DDR Background

DDR was initiated in February 2003 at the Tokyo donor conference, with Japan as the lead nation. The implementation of the programme started in October 2003 through pilot projects and became national by May 2004. As the AMF progressively dissolved, 93,000 names from an estimated list of 100,000 AMF personnel were removed from the Ministry of Defence payroll, allowing a

budget saving of over US\$ 120 million, currently used for defence reform and the new Afghan National Army.

DDR had two main goals: to break the historic patriarchal chain of command existing between the former commanders and their men and to provide the demobilised personnel with the ability to become economically independent - the ultimate objective being to reinforce the authority of the government. However, DDR was never mandated to disarm the population per se or provide direct employment but to assist AMF military personnel to transition from military into civilian occupations.

The US\$ 141 million programme was funded by:

- Japan, US\$ 91 million
- the United Kingdom, US\$ 19 million
- Canada, US\$ 16 million
- USA, US\$ 9 million
- The Netherlands, US\$ 4 million
- Norway, US\$ 0.8 million
- Switzerland, US\$ 0.5 million
- The European Commission, US\$ 0.1 million

REINTEGRATION

Total Reintegrated	Agricultural	Vocational training	Small business	De-mining	ANA	ANP	Contracting team	Other	Teacher Training	Not participating in reintegration
55,804	23,940	11,736	14,251	843	713	98	1,027	63	374	2,759
Percentage	42,90%	21,03%	25,54%	1,51%	1,28%	0,18%	1,18%	0,1%	0,67%	4,94%

David Wilson, new ANBP Director, takes up office

David Wilson, who has been appointed as the new Director of Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP), took up his duties in Afghanistan at the beginning of July.

David Wilson was formerly a career soldier in the British Armed Forces. Widely experienced in security and crisis management at the national

and international level, he is used to working across the strategic political and military interface. When not engaged in policy formulation he would be found leading national or multi-national forces on complex operations or exercises in some inhospitable part of the globe.

As a field operator, he had the privilege of commanding, on operations, in every rank up to and including Major General.

His final appointment before retiring in 2004 was that of Commander United Kingdom Amphibious Forces and Commandant General Royal Marines.

David Wilson has previous operational experience of working with the United Nations in the Balkans and, in a civilian capacity, was appointed to the Constitutional Committee of the Iraqi Interim Government as an advisor on civil-military relations.

He has been very happily married for over 34 years and has three grown-up children.

David Wilson is replacing Peter Babington, who joined the UNDP/ANBP programme in 2003 and ran the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process until its completion on June 30 2006, when he finished his mission.

Afghanistan launch of the UNDP Asia Pacific Human Development Report

On Monday July 17 2006 at the Safi Landmark Hotel in Kabul the UNDP's Asia Pacific Human Development report will be launched in Afghanistan in the presence of invited guests including senior Foreign and Commerce Ministry officials and international figures.

The report entitled "Trade on Human Terms: Transforming Trade for Human Development in Asia and the Pacific" examines recent developments on trade and economic growth and assesses the impact on human development – more specifically, the effects on the region's poorest countries and on its poorest people.

The report further emphasizes that neither trade nor growth can ever be ends in themselves; but means towards the larger

goals of expanded human development and combating poverty and deprivation. The report offers an eight-point agenda to help countries rise to the challenge of a demanding new environment for international trade.

In 2004 UNDP Afghanistan published Afghanistan's first even National Human Development Report: "Security with a Human Face: Challenges and Responsibilities". The report came out with a message that "Poverty, unemployment and inequality are bigger threats to the everyday lives of Afghans than traditional security threats."

A Centre for Human Development will now be established at Kabul University as work begins on the next Human Development Report for

Afghanistan. The Centre supports long-term capacity for research, advocacy and teaching on human development and policy research in general.

In the context of Afghanistan, the Asia Pacific Human Development Report is consistent with the Afghan government's regional cooperation framework – designed to integrate Afghanistan in the growing regional economy through trade, transit, investment, labour exchange and increased reliance on regional resources for development.

The Interim-Afghanistan National Development Strategy also identifies access to regional and international markets, as debated in the regional report, as a means to achieve

Afghanistan's economic growth and political stability.

Building on the success of Afghanistan's first National Human Development Report for 2004, the United Nations Development Programme and Kabul University have embarked on establishing the Centre for Policy and Human Development at Kabul University.

For further details:
www.undprc.lk



Kemal Dervis,
Administrator UNDP

Foreword to the APHDR by the head of UNDP

International trade has been the engine of growth for many countries of Asia and the Pacific. The 'economic miracle' of the East Asian 'tigers' is due in large part to their ability to export to global markets and to develop production at a scale, and with the technology, that allows for higher returns. Poverty has broadly declined in the region, and hundreds of millions of people have experienced

significant improvement in the quality of their lives.

But some are being left behind. Several smaller countries in the region, especially the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), have not yet experienced significant gains from trade. The region's rural poor have languished from stagnation in agriculture, as the new riches of the global marketplace fail to reach the countryside, where most people live. Even in fast-growing countries, trade has led to widening disparities

among regions, sectors and households. Many economies, especially in East Asia, are unable to create enough jobs for their growing populations, especially for young people and women.

The launch of the 2006 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report, Trade on Human Terms, comes at a critical time, with only a few months left before the end-of-year deadline for the completion of the Doha Development Round. We are at the mid-point of the ten-year



Brussels Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries, and have less than a decade to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

As we see in the Report, daunting challenges remain. The link between trade, human development and poverty reduction has weakened. Incumbent WTO members have at times made it difficult for developing countries to gain a share in the benefits of

globalization. China's stunning economic growth, in so many ways an inspiration to its Asia-Pacific neighbours, is not delivering reciprocal benefits to its regional trading partners – and is in some cases creating difficulties for them. One of the messages of this report is that success in the global marketplace brings with it new opportunities and responsibilities as well, especially toward the least developed nations.

The Report examines from an Asia-Pacific perspective the changes required in the world's trading system, as envisioned in the Global Partnership for Development and the Millennium Development Goals. It draws on the diverse experience of the region to propose a comprehensive development strategy that effectively combines trade liberalization with the promotion of poverty reduction and human development.

Trade on Human Terms also identifies the types of national policies needed to ensure that all people realize the potential benefits of trade. Such policy recommendations include investments in infrastructure, higher education and R&D for competitiveness; adoption of strategic trade and industrial policies; a renewed focus on agriculture and rural

development; and measures for combating “jobless growth.” The ideas in this report can contribute to a better globalization – a globalization with benefits for all – both in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.

The launch of Trade on Human Terms marks a turning point for UNDP too: the evolution of Asia-Pacific Human Development Reports into an annual series. We expect these annual regional Reports to provide continuing analysis of critical development issues that will prove highly relevant at both the national and international levels.

Kemal Dervis

Administrator, UNDP

Reaching Out – Parliamentarians return to their constituencies

The first of a series of workshops bringing together parliamentarians, civil society organizations and local media took place in Bamiyan, Kunduz and Wardak at the end of June.

The workshops aimed to ease and increase the communication between locally elected parliamentarians and their constituencies in the form of civil society organizations and local media.

The workshops in Bamiyan, Kunduz and Wardak are part of a larger programme reaching

out to at least ten provinces across Afghanistan. However, given the complexity of the Afghan reality the workshops are not designed to be identical. Instead they are designed in cooperation with local NGOs who have had significant influence on the content of the workshops.

In Bamiyan (June 26-27) the workshop was a two-day programme, where the first day focused on building media competency among locally elected parliamentarians and the second day focused on a meeting between the parliamentarians, civil society organizations and the local media.

In Kunduz (June 27-29) the first day focused on training

local journalists in political reporting. The second day was split in two with a morning session aimed at improving the media competency of parliamentarians and the afternoon session focused on a meeting between parliamentarians and the press. The third day was entirely devoted to an exchange of information and opinions between parliamentarians and local civil society organizations.

The concept of public outreach into the provinces supporting communication between parliamentarians and their constituencies was jointly developed between the UNDP's SEAL project (Support to the Establishment of the Afghan Legislature) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), a German



Kunduz: Parliamentarians and local civil society organizations



Bamiyan: Media meeting locally elected parliamentarians

democracy NGO. FES has also provided funds for two of the ten workshops, which are either planned or have already been implemented.

The objectives of the workshops are to enable increased democratic dialogue between the legislature and the citizens of Afghanistan. A key aim is to ensure that parliamentarians have an opportunity to interact with representatives from civil society and the local media, to explain their work as parliamentarians, to allow the parliamentarians to meet with

representatives from key civil society organisations and to listen to their concerns and learn about their needs, and to facilitate that citizens outside Kabul receive additional information about the work of the parliament and their local parliamentarians.

The background for supporting communication between parliamentarians and their constituencies is that the National Assembly has been in session since its inauguration on December 19 2005. Further, to the relatively low level of

financial and technical resources among most local and regional media organizations, and the fact that the National Assembly has just begun its recess, many parliamentarians have not yet been able to visit and communicate with their constituencies. Thus, most areas outside the greater Kabul area are significantly under informed about the work of the parliament and the efforts of locally elected parliamentarians. The low level of communication has also left many parliamentarians without the input from their constituen-

cies necessary for them to fully represent the people who elected them.



Kunduz: Local Journalists being trained in "Political Reporting"

US\$ 4 million worth of counter narcotics projects to be started

Four counter narcotics projects worth a total of US\$ 4 million will be launched through the UNDP established Counter Narcotics Trust Fund.

Letters of agreements have been signed by the Ministers of Counter Narcotics, Energy and Water Resources and the Deputy Ministers of Agriculture, Finance and Public Health.

1 - Three one year micro hydro projects to be built over the next year will provide electricity facilities to Badakhshan's Chatta, Jurm and Sangab districts. Total: US\$ 2,545,700 to be implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources.

2 - A pilot mushroom project to be started on a small scale in

Kabul, Baghlan, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Balkh, Herat, Takhar, Kunduz Ghazni and Bamiyan. Total: US\$ 130, 825 to be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation over six months.

3 - Community based drug treatment programmes for addicts in eight provinces (Ghor, Ghazni, Bamiyan, Nimroz, Farah, Faryab, Kunduz and Jawzjan). Total: US\$ 935, 361 to be implemented by the Ministry of Public Health over three years.

4 - Two residential drug treatment programmes for addicts in Nangarhar and Balkh. Total: US\$ 354,207 to be implemented by the Ministry of Public Health.

"The Ministry of Counter Narcotics, as the leading body on counter narcotics, has always been trying to help farmers and the development projects undertaken by the line

ministries. Today, approval of these projects are a clear testimony to this fact. We ask the International Community to channel their further financial assistances to CNTF and propose the line ministries to come up with more effective projects to be funded through CNTF which will help farmers avoid growing poppy," H.E Habibullah Qaderi, Minister of Counter Narcotics said.

Established officially on October 29 2005 by UNDP, the Counter Narcotics Trust Fund (CNTF), aims to support the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to fight poppy production and the drug trade. The CNTF is designed in a way that the Government of Afghanistan retains the overall responsibility for the programme, with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) as the executing entity and the Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN) as the programme directorate and also as one of the implementing

entities. The line ministries are other implementing partners for projects funded through the CNTF.

The fund supports counter narcotics related projects and activities outlined in the eight pillars of the National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS), which include: Alternative Livelihoods, Building Institutions, an Information Campaign, Drug Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice, Eradication, Drug Demand Reduction and Treatment of Drug Addicts, and Regional and International Cooperation.

For more information please visit :

www.mcn.gov.af

Police officers graduate from Electronic Payroll System training

Police officers from 14 provinces of Afghanistan, including officers from the Ministry of the Interior in Kabul, have graduated from a 20 days seminar on basic computer skills and training on the Electronic Payroll System and Human Resource Database which is part of the Law and Order Trust Fund's (LOTFA) support to the police service.

In an official ceremony certificates were distributed to 43 police officers by Lieutenant General Kohdamani, the Head of the Regional Education Department of the Interior Ministry.

Colonel Mohammad Maassoum, Head of the Planning Unit of Helmand police said:

"We learnt and familiarized ourselves with the basics of computers, the Electronic Payroll System (EPS) and Human Resource Database. Now we are over the problems that we were facing so far. Payrolls and accounting took a lot of time in the past, but with the new computer system we can do them very efficiently in a very short period of time and we can report to the capital quickly."

This is the first time that the Electronic Payroll System and Human Resource Database has been used by the police of Afghanistan. Up to now everything had to be done by hand writing which was time consuming and inefficient. The use of the new systems will also

enable the ministry to pay the salaries of the police on time and to limit the possibilities of corruption in the processing of salary payments.

Bashirullah Khpalwan from the State Building & Government Support programme of UNDP told the seminar participants: "With the support of its international partners UNDP is standing on its commitment and the only wish that UNDP has from you is that everything you have learnt from the seminar you should deliver that to your provinces."



Left: Lieutenant General Kohdamani and Noorulhayat Hayat a police officer from Kandahar



Police officers at the graduation ceremony

Kapisa: more commanders should voluntarily surrender weapons



On July 5 forty five former Jehadi Commanders of Kapisa surrendered 251 weapons, including 94 operational weapons, to the DIAG weapons collection team. The ceremony, organized by the Governor of Kapisa Abdulsatar Murad, took place in Mahmud Raqi, the capital of Kapisa province. The weapons were immediately transferred to Pol-i-Charki central weapons col-

lection point where they are now under the surveillance of the Afghan National Army (ANA). They will be either used by the security forces of Afghanistan or if not serviceable, destroyed.

By voluntarily surrendering their weapons, ex-commanders are complying with DIAG, the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups, a Government-led process intending to eradicate the influence of illegal armed groups in the country, thus allowing the consolidation of peace, rule of law and prosperity in Afghanistan.

The Governor of Kapisa Abdulsatar Murad should be praised for his continuing efforts to support DIAG. However, half of the 37 Kapisa commanders who had been issued a notification letter on May 1 giving them a month to voluntarily hand over

their weapons and disband their armed groups have failed to do so, either willingly or as a result of subsequent negotiations in June. Unfortunately, these commanders continue to hinder the establishment of a safe and secure environment in their area, thus preventing their communities from being attractive for potential development and governance projects which would lead to renewed prosperity in Kapisa.

General Sakhi Baiani, the Ministry of Interior Chief of Staff attended the event along with representatives of the Joint Secretariat of the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission. In the speech he gave during the ceremony, General Baiani warned non-compliant commanders that the government

will eventually "take every step to retrieve illegal weapons" urging them to "use the current opportunity given to them to hand over their weapons and disband their armed groups".

The compliance of the commanders of Kapisa, a province which had been selected for the Main Phase of DIAG, will be closely monitored in the coming weeks as establishing enhanced security through disbanding illegal armed groups is the only way forward to stability and a better future for the Afghan people.

The DIAG process was launched on June 11 2005. As of July 5 2006, 23,788 weapons, including 14,727 operational weapons as well as 20,915 pieces of boxed and 195,371 pieces of unboxed ammunition have been handed over to and verified by ANBP collection teams in Afghanistan.

UNDP to further strengthen democratic governance in Afghanistan

The United Nations Development Programme has awarded The Asia Foundation US\$ 10.6 million to improve capacity and communication between the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of Afghanistan's government.

The Asia Foundation, is a non-profit organization devoted to Asia's development since 1954.

It has now joined with UNDP in an agreement of US\$ 10.6 million, to support the development of central executive institutions surrounding the Office of the President in Afghanistan.

The grant, which goes into effect immediately, will help build the Presidential Chief of Staff, Office of Administrative Affairs, and Council of Ministers Secretariats' capacities by upgrading their organizational structures, procedures, office equipment and facilities, and information technologies. The project will pay acute attention to improving the relationship between the executive, legislative and judicial branches through strengthening their formal liaison networks, while providing legal and technical assistance associated with legislative processes.

The award will be managed through the Foundation's Kabul office, which has supported a range of projects in Afghanistan since 1954. Since 2002, the office has facilitated the Emergency Loya Jirga, supported the Constitutional Commission in the drafting of the constitution, and conducted voter registration and education for the 2004 presidential and 2005 parliamentary elections. The project concludes in 2008.

"We are honoured to be working with the United Nations Development Programme and continue our priority focus on Afghanistan," said Douglas Bereuter, president of The Asia Foundation. "This grant will support the crucial objective of strengthening key intra-governmental relationships and overall democratic governance in Afghanistan."

At a signing ceremony at UNDP in Kabul, Jon Summers, Country Representative for The Asia Foundation in Afghanistan said: "This co-operative venture with UNDP and the centre of government is unique in my experience. We are very pleased to be part of this."



Left: Abdul Bari, UNDP Assistant Country Director, State Building and Government Support and Jon Summers, Afghanistan Country Representative, Asia Foundation

About The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous, just, and open Asia-Pacific region. The Foundation supports programs in Asia that help improve governance and law, economic reform and development, women's empowerment, and international relations. Drawing on 50 years of experience in Asia, the Foundation collaborates with private and public partners to support leadership and institutional development, exchanges, and policy research.

With a network of 18 offices throughout Asia, an office in Washington, D.C., and its headquarters in San Francisco, the Foundation addresses these issues on both a country and regional level. In 2005, the Foundation provided more than \$61 million in program support and distributed 1.1 million books and educational materials valued at \$28 million throughout Asia.

Website:

www.asiafoundation.org



The Asia Foundation





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.

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An Image of Afghanistan

Photo: Paul Vickers

