

Volume: 2 No. 2

UNDP Establishes Provincial UNDP Board:

Fostering Local Partnership for Enhanced Development Results

Inside this issue:

- *UNDP establishes Provincial UNDP Board (page-1)*
- *Building Sub-national institution towards service delivery (page- 2-3)*
- *Empowering communities through Area Based Development Approach (page-4)*
- *Advocating for Gender & Social Equity (page-5)*
- *Support to Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Process (Page 5)*

The Herat Provincial UNDP programme Board was established in the month of June 2011 with an aim to work more closely alongside Afghan sub national government to build its capacity to deliver services. The provincial Board will assist Afghan citizens and Government of Afghanistan to strengthen their sub-national governance systems for enhanced development results. Through this Provincial Board, as means toward the goal, the UNDP will coordinate all of its activities with sub-national governance actors to provide a programme package aligned with Provincial development needs and plans. The UNDP Provincial Programmes Board meeting will guide and monitor the implementation of the package and enhance provincial authorities' ownership to UNDP activities.

The First board meeting in Herat was jointly Chaired by H.E Herat Governor Mr. Daud Saba and UNDP Senior Deputy Country Director Mr. Jan Jilles Van Der Hoeven. In the opening remarks Dr. Saba, expressed: "I am happy to note UNDP's initiative to establish the board at provincial level, this will not only bring UNDP closure to local stakeholders' minds and hearts but also create synergy for effective development intervention". He added, "Indeed, United Nations Development Programme is one of lead partner Afghan State building process and a key facilitator during this transition phase."

UNDP Deputy Country Director shared the Purpose and Terms of Reference of the provincial board and highlighted UNDP's commitment to support sub national actors for improved governance and local development. This was followed by brief presentation by each Project Manager/ representatives highlighting key results and plans ahead. Thereafter the forum was opened to all members to provide feedback and recommendations for achieving desired results and impact. The UNDP programmes in Herat province, provides

support to all the three core area of Afghanistan National development Strategy (ANDS): Governance, Development and Security.

The board meeting was attended by UNDP core local stakeholders which comprised

Heads of selected Line departments, Mayor, PC Chairman, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) representative, NGOs, Donors, National Security , Military and Police Chief.

The membership of the board was reviewed by the present members and approved by the Governor. The Members of Board endorsed the Terms of reference (TOR) of the provincial board and agreed to meet on a quarterly basis. Similar Provincial boards are being established in all three provinces of western region.

'I am happy to note UNDP's initiative to establish the board at provincial level, this will not only bring UNDP closure to local stakeholders' minds and hearts but also create synergy for effective development intervention' Mr. Daud Saba, Governor Herat

UNDP Provincial Programmes Board Meeting : Photo Glimpse



Supporting Sub National Institutions towards Effective Service Delivery



Deputy Minister, Mr. Barna Karim
in the National PC conference,
Herat

UNDP through its Afghanistan Sub National Governance Programme (ASGP) is working with and through the Government of Afghanistan to support sub-national governance entities for providing quality public services to the people. In the west region, the last quarter witnessed several key interventions in the region as below.

Support to Provincial Development Planning process: ASGP initiated the support to Provincial development Committees (PDC) to develop need based Annual Provincial development Plans (PDP). Provincial development Planning facilitator's team was established from the sectorial groups/provincial line departments and were trained on situational analysis, participatory planning process in last quarter. These facilitators will be supporting in formulation of provincial profiles and need based plans leading to Annual PDPs.

Besides this, review workshop was conducted on **District office Operating Manual**. Over 25 staff of District governors offices participated and developed action plan for implementing the office procedures tools implementation.

Initiating Provincial approach for greater local ownership: As part of provincial driven governance and development intervention implementation, ASGP signed Letter of Agreements with each Provincial Governors of the western region. These LOA sets out the strategic support and funds to PGOs, municipalities & provincial councils to implement the planned activities through various approaches that are agreed with UNDP/ASGP. This will lead to greater ownership and enhanced capacity of PGO, PC and municipalities to plan, supervise and monitor delivery of quality services at the provincial level.

Provincial Information Technology (IT) and Development Data Base support: During the quarter, ASGP continued IT support to provincial governor offices of western region which has significantly facilitated effective information and communication flow process between central- provincial and district level. An assessment was also undertaken for establishing Local Area Network for Herat PGO.

Further, ASGP initiated development of a web based development data base in consultation with Provincial Development Committee and PGO technical department of Herat. The data base will provide information on sectoral development projects and profiles which will enable in making informed decisions and development plans.

ASGP initiated **Capacity development assessment** of Provincial Governance offices of western region namely Herat, Ghor and Badghis. Series of focus group discussion, face to face meetings were held to identify capacity development gaps and needs. These capacity development assessments will lead to develop Capacity response for four years for each Provincial Governance offices.

Support to Provincial Councils: ASGP supported a National Conference on PC law amendment in Herat where Provincial Councils Chairmen and Representatives from all 34 Provincial Councils, IDLG senior officials, lawyers from ministry of justice, local authorities and international agencies attended the two days conference. **contd.. .. Below.** Besides this, ASGP supported the PC members to design Regional PC forum and outreach plans, including of Publishing quarterly magazine—People's Voice.

Strengthening Elected Councils for Effective Community Representation

ASGP supported National Provincial Councils (PC) conference on PC Law to enable PC members have effective oversight and community representation role at local level. The conference was organized by Independent Directorate of Local Government (IDLG) and hosted by Provincial Governor and PC of Herat.

Over 100 participants attended the conference including Member of the Mishrano Jirga (upper house), PC Chairmen, Donors' countries representatives and UN. The two days conference reviewed the existing PC law and provided recommendation covering some of keys aspects on PC roles such as : Relations of PCs to other elected entities, Provincial authorities, duties ,authorities and obligation of PC members. ASGP will support IDLG to finalize the PC laws. The final draft will be submitted to the Cabinet and National Assembly for further legislation process.

ASGP initiated the support to Provincial development Committees (PDC) to develop need based Annual Provincial development Plans



Deputy Ambassador , Netherland
wiith UNDP West Region team

Contd...Supporting Sub National Institutions towards Effective Service Delivery

Municipal Governance Support: ASGP continued its support towards **Sustainable & affordable revenue administration practices**, in the last quarter, Tax mapping programme was launched in Herat for efficient Safayi tax administration system leading to increased revenue. Over 20 staff members from Herat Municipalities were trained and supported to pilot Tax mapping process in two guzars of a Herat district. Over 445 properties were mapped the two guzars. Besides this, Farah and Herat municipality developed the revenue profile, and forecast of revenue and expenditure for four fiscal years. Also, Municipal Strategic plans and capacity development assessments were initiated in Herat and Farah provincial municipalities.

ASGP continued its support for establishment of **School Municipal committees** in the target schools of Herat and Farah to raise awareness among young school students of importance of preserving the environment. Students were elected as school Mayors and were supported to form their school municipal committees and were provided with solid waste management equipments.

As part of inculcating participatory values, ASGP supported Farah and Herat Municipality, to formulate **municipal consultative board**. The board was constituted with members from PGO, PC members, NGOs, INGOs and community representatives. The board will act as advisory committee to municipality to improve services to communities. .

National Institution building programme

The National Institution Building Project (NIBP) of UNDP is emerging as the Capacity Development Facility in Afghanistan and is expanding its operations to sub-national level including Herat. The focus of Capacity Development at sub-national level under NIBP is to enhance the planning, implementation and monitoring capacity within the provincial departments of ministries/agencies within the overall framework of Public Administration Reform (PAR) .

During the second quarter of 2011, NIBP deployed two International capacity development Advisors to Herat province to work with Department of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL) and Department of Labour and Social Affairs (DoLSA). Besides this, NIBP also launched the recruitment process for 5 national capacity development who will be assigned in various Provincial Departments in Herat Province. A recruitment panel was formed composed of representatives from Civil Service Commission, GDPDM, Line Departments, Italian Cooperation, and Governor's office.

During the quarter, NIBP **supported DAIL to formulate a three-year plan** based on the National Agriculture Development Framework. The intervention included training cum planning workshop for DAIL Department Heads and key personnels on Results-based Planning and Management and Logical Framework Approach and Methodology. The process was led by DAIL planning unit and was technically supported by followed by the Slovenian PRT Team, CTAP- a USAID funded project, and NIBP.

Besides this, capacity development activities of NIBP focused on improving DAIL's inventory and control system and facilitating strategic planning exercises. Three days workshop was conducted to address the issue on inventory of assets and control mechanisms. The workshop was facilitated by resource persons from MAIL Inventory and Control Directorate and was funded by Slovenia PRT. The inventory control intervention will result in efficient processes, practices and replace antiquated support systems.

Similarly, NIBP will roll out its support to other selected line departments through its Capacity Development (CD) approach in the following quarter , where the government interfaces with its citizens for service delivery is assuming utmost importance.



Tax mapping conducted by Municipal staff, Herat



NIBP supports DAIL in formulating Strategic plan , Herat

NIBP Capacity development activities of NIBP focused on improving DAIL's inventory and control system and facilitating strategic planning exercises



Inventory and Control system training in Herat

Empowering Communities through Area Based Development Approach



Community participation in cleaning of canal

More than 42 thousands rural families in the region benefited from the implementation of NABDP supported community infrastructure projects .

National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) commenced as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2002, with the goal of contributing to a sustainable reduction of poverty and an improvement of livelihoods in rural Afghanistan. The third phase of NABDP began in July 2009, to take the next step in the continuum of national programme development that started with Phase I as a priority recovery and economic regeneration programme in a complex emergency context.

In the western region, during the quarter, completed 10 rural development projects in Badghis and Herat provinces, while 113 projects are ongoing including 63 projects are under contracting process and around 90 projects were designed by NABDP. The table below illustrates the number of projects per province with their status. A total amount of USD 2,838,611 was contracted by NABDP during the reporting period in the region. These projects includes: water reservoirs, digging of wells, cleaning of Karez/canals, construction of protection/retaining walls, pipe scheme (water supply) and construction of gabion walls, funded by different donors through UNDP. These projects are implemented by CDCs and monitored by DDAs & NABDP field monitors. More than 42 thousands rural families in the region benefited from the implementation of these projects. 6800 working days were created for the rural people. There was a significant contribution from the community on these projects, which enhanced the

sustainability of the projects.

As part of DDAs Institutionalization process, during the last quarter, NABDP conducted capacity development programme for DDAs from Pashton Zarghon and Obe Districts. The DDAs members were trained on local governance, gender equity, participatory planning, financial management and M&E of projects. A total of 55 participants 36 male & 19 female attended the workshop for 16 days. Besides this, NABDP supported DDA of Gozara district to initiate six months carpet weaving training for 30 women from Gozara district of Herat Province to improve their livelihood conditions. This vocational training project is funded by Japan government with a total amount of \$27,880 including 10% community contributions . The project is implemented by the Gozara DDA, monitored by NABDP and department of rural development of Herat.

Grant in AID Programme : Six DDAs in Herat, five DDAs in Farah, eight DDAs in Ghor and three DDAs in Badghis received Grant-in-Aid during the reporting period. These Grant AID programme are designed to offer financial assistance to the DDAs to improve organizational efficiency and support management and monitoring activities.



Carpet weaving training supported

NABDP Projects				
Province	Completed	Ongoing	Under Contract	Designed Projects
Herat	2	9	10	10
Badghis	8	87	28	45
Ghor	0	15	15	25
Farah	0	2	10	10
Total	10	113	63	90

Ray of Hope :

Qala-e-Bala is a village located in Karukh district , which is around 40 kilometers away from Herat city. Despite of being close to Herat city, the village faces problem of acute power short supply and poor livelihood opportunities.

After the training provided by NABDP facilitators to the District Development Assembly members(DDA) on project development , the members conducted need assessment and designed proposal to install micro hydro power system in the village. NABDP supported to implement the proposal and built a super-passage and canal for the installation of the turbine with a total cost of USD 47,486. According to the Field Monitor report, the micro-hydro power is producing 20 kilowatts power and with this approximately 360 families are being benefited, most of them are farmers. *Similar energy projects are being implemented with the support of NABDP , which has given smiles and ray of hope to the poor families living in remote areas.*



Capacity development programme for DDAs

Advocating for Gender and Social Equity

UNDP through its Gender Equality Project (GEP) promotes gender equality and women empowerment within the overarching gender mainstreaming goals of Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) as well as the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA). The project is consistent with the 3rd Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for promoting the economic empowerment of women. In the western region of Afghanistan, GEP has its provincial office in Herat and works in partnership with Department of women affairs (DOWA) to implement the project. The key highlights of the project during the last quarter were:

Developing capacity for socio-economic enhancement: With support of Gender Equality project of the UNDP, 25 women from Injil district of Herat province received training on cotton production. This was done in collaboration with Department of Agriculture, DAIL of Herat. The training provided the women not only technology of cotton plantation but also motivated them to become micro entrepreneurs for enhancing their income and livelihood opportunities. The women are being provided follow up support and is expected that in next 6 months, they will have a sustainable source of income.

During the quarter, GEP trained over 70 community development councils members and village leaders on gender equality and Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) law. The participants came from INjil, Zindajan, Gozara and Ghoryan districts of Herat Province and were exposed to gender concepts, sensitized on their roles and responsibilities in promoting equitable and just society for men and women.

Supported DOWA media unit: GEP continued its support to DOWA media unit to develop gender sensitive outreach interventions. During the quarter, on the mother's day celebration, the unit published special edition on women in different functions and their contribution to the society as her role of a mother. Also, the media unit was supported to broadcast gender sensitive messages on Herat national TV/radio channels.

Besides this, in the last quarter, a training was organized for the journalists on gender advocacy in collaboration with Herat University and DOWA. Over 60 journalists attended the programme. The training focused on methods and tools on positive journalism and gender equality advocacy. The media unit will work closely with the trained journalist for developing gender sensitization campaigns in the province.

Establishment of Provincial Women Development Council (PWDC): UNDP/GEP and UNDP/ASGP jointly supported the Provincial Governor office and Department of Women Affairs (DOWA) to establish Provincial Women Development Council (PWDC) in the Herat province. The purpose of PWDC is to develop mechanism to coordinate all the efforts for women development interventions and improve their participation in governance and development at the local level. The PDWC members were formalized in the first meeting held in June 2011, which are representatives from line departments, Provincial Council, NGOs Women organizations and selected media professionals. The council is chaired by PGO representative and DOWA head of office. The PDWC will support in enhancing women participation in decision making, inclusion in local development agenda and resource allocation.

Enhancing DOWA staff working efficiency: GEP provided internet and local area network connection to the DOWA units, with which staff members have access to information gathering and improved communication within and outside the organization. Also in another initiative, a small kindergarden inside the DOWA was established in which the female staff of DOWA can keep their children there while working on their daily duties. DOWA appreciated this support of UNDP which is not only improving the efficiency of the office but also integrating the women staff in workplaces without barriers.

Over 70 community development councils members and village leaders on gender equality and Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW)



Gender Advocacy Training in Herat

UNDP/GEP and UNDP/ASGP jointly supported the Provincial Governor office and DOWA to establish Provincial Women Development Committee in the Herat province



Livelihood creation for rural women: Greenhouse Project



PWDC Meeting in action

UNDP Afghanistan
Western Region Co-ordination
Secretariat:

Mr. Atul Shekhar
Regional Coordinator
UNDP Western Region
atul.shekhar@undp.org

Mr. Ghulam Rasoul Fariwar
Focal Point
Regional Co-ordination
Secretariat
Ghulam.Rasoul@undp.org
Address: ASGP/UNDP Regional
Office. Western Region



Afghanistan

UNDP's Core Message:

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

UNDP Afghanistan is the largest UNDP programme in the world. With the support of its 24 donor countries, we will continue to work alongside the people and the Government of Afghanistan, capitalizing on our relationships of trust and neutrality. Our work on the ground enjoys a great deal of national as well as donor ownership, and will form a strong basis for the years ahead.

Western Region UNDP Projects Contacts:

- **Afghanistan Sub-National Governance Programme (ASGP)**, Mr. Atul Shekhar, Regional Governance Advisor/Head of Office, Mobile: +93 (0) 703 333 014, E-mail: atul.shekhar@undp.org
- **Support to Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP) s**, Mr. Ramin Shahriari, Regional Programme Coordinator, Mobile: +93 (0) 799343627, E-mail: ramin.shahriari@undp.org
- **National Institution Building Project (NIBP)**, Mr. Martin Hilario Lanuza Mapolo, Capacity Development Advisor, Mobile: 0787605710 Email: martin.mapolon@undp.org
- **National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP)**, Mr. Ghulam Sakhi Alami, Regional Manager, Mobile: +93 (0) 799213772, E-mail: alami.sakhi@mrrd.gov.af
- **Gender Equality Programme (GEP)**, Mr. Nooragha Tajik, Provincial Coordinator –Heart, Mobile: +93 (0) 799 017740, E-mail: Nooragha.tajik@undp.org