

## QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT [Q1, 2008]

**United Nations Development Programme**  
**Afghanistan**  
**Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG)**  
**01-01-2008 – 31-03-2008**



District Manager of Imam Sahib District (Kunduz Province) Malem Juma Khan speaks to community elders, Islamic scholars, IAG commanders and other members of the community about DIAG as part of a Public Information campaign on 15 March.

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<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>00043604</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>January 2005 – May 2008</b>
<b>Component (MYFF):</b>	<b>2.7 Public administration reform and anti-corruption</b>
<b>Total Budget:</b>	<b>USD 20,947,373</b>
<b>Unfunded:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

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## **I. Implementation Progress**

### **Output 1 – Implementation of weapon collection and disbandment of illegal armed groups fully supported.**

Activity 1.1 – Enhance the capacity of Government to ensure community security through weapons reduction.

#### *National Lead in DIAG*

The year began with continued commitment in addressing issues of disbandment of illegal armed groups from the highest levels of government. His Excellency President Hamid Karzai chaired a meeting on 15 January, where several issues were discussed including improving the management of information regarding weapons, coordinating with DIAG efforts with overall security sector reforms (SSR) and other Ministry of Interior (Mol) efforts and increasing measures against commanders of illegal armed groups (IAG) who engage in armed clashes. A follow-up meeting chaired by His Excellency Vice President Mohammad Karim Khalili was held on 12 March where discussions on enforcement, registration of private security companies and rollout/implementation of community development projects took place.

#### *Transition to the Government*

In the first quarter, significant progress was made to transition DIAG from the UN to the government, albeit behind schedule. The delays were mainly attributed to necessary bureaucratic and consultation processes of various stakeholders, but these were eventually resolved. Specifically a modality for channelling supporting the DIAG cell in MOI and some personnel support to MOD where worked out and agreement was reached with UNDP's Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA) to be the conduit for the transition support.

The establishment of the DIAG Unit in the Ministry of Interior (Mol) is critical to full ownership by the government. Whilst all parties agreed in principle towards its speedy establishment, finalizing funding for its creation required coordination and approval from the Embassy of Japan (who generously made funding provision, UNDP and the Ministry of Finance. All parties agreed in March to the associated protocols and funding modalities, with \$4.4 million allocated to capacity building of the DIAG Unit in the Mol. The establishment of the DIAG Unit is expected to start at the Mol central facility in Kabul in the second quarter. Once completed, the Mol DIAG Unit will be responsible for the registration of Private Security Companies, individual weapons registration and DIAG operations. Thereafter, the capacity building effort will switch to the regional level and, ultimately, to the provincial capitals. ANBP will support the process at all levels and the specialist mentor team will be retained until objectives are fully met and Mol collective competence to lead DIAG in the longer term is assured.

The DIAG project enjoyed another achievement in the first quarter when members of the JCMB approved lifting the ceiling of Afghan National Police (ANP) by 180 to include 180 Mol uniformed police personnel exclusively working in the DIAG Unit in the Mol. Funding for these additional personnel will come through UNDP's Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA).

#### *Private Security Companies*

The recruitment and the joining of the DIAG mentors by ANBP were completed in late 2007. Therefore with their joining, the implementation of the transition process was initiated. For the registration of Private Security Companies (PSC), the interim guideline and regulation was finalized in March. The interim guideline and regulation was issued at the instruction of His Excellency Second Vice President Khalili to the Ministry of Interior to regulate activities of private security companies until the law regarding their registration is ratified by the parliament. In the first quarter, the Ministry of Justice submitted the draft legislation to the legal committee of the government. Once the legal committee approves it, the legislation will then be submitted to the

lower house for ratification and finally the upper house for approval. Given the parliament's priorities, it is anticipated that this will not be finalized until late 2008. The Government's High Coordination Board for the PSC headed by the Minister of Interior met in the first quarter and proposed to hold a workshop for PSCs to inform them of the rules and procedures for PSC registration. This will ensure that PSCs remain informed of developments and its impact on them.

At the working level, the respective database was finalized in the second quarter of 2007; however owing to delays in establishing the DIAG Unit, it has not yet been fully set up. Currently, the ANBP mentor on PSCs is reviewing the requirements for the database to ensure that the database captures all relevant material.

#### *Weapons Registration*

Though scheduled for utilization in the fourth quarter of 2007, the individual weapons registration database was finalized and installed in the Mol in the first quarter. Additionally, ANBP's Monitoring & Evaluation team held a three-day training session for the Mol staff in order to capacitate them to use the database. With the database in place, Mol will be able to keep better track of weapons registered for legitimate activities. Indirectly, the database will allow Mol to implement measures more effectively since it will have an accurate record of all assets.

In the first quarter, the Joint Secretariat drafted a paper proposing a one-year moratorium on the registration fee for a weapons license. By waiving the fee, it is expected that more individuals will register their weapon. This effort is currently in the initial stages with consensus still being built amongst the government officials. It is expected that this issue will make good progress in the second quarter.

#### *Government Officials Linked to Illegal Armed Groups (GOLIAGs)*

The difficult issue of removing Government Officials Linked to Illegal Armed Groups (GOLIAGs) continued to prove challenging in the first quarter. Of the 72 GOLIAGs who were targeted at the provincial level, 28 GOLIAGs still retained their post. As a result, during the first quarter, the D&R Commission had to resend reminder letters to the respective ministries for their dismissals.

Activity 1.2 – Disarm targeted illegal armed groups, collect weapons and transfer weapons to Government control.

#### *Statistics on Weapons Collected*

By the end of the first quarter, ANBP in support of the Ministry of Defence verified 3,360 weapons (3,075 light weapons and 285 heavy weapons), increasing the overall total to 38,410 weapons (34,172 light weapons and 4,238 heavy weapons). In terms of ammunition, in the first quarter, 73 caches totalling 23 tonnes of ammunition were surveyed, increasing the overall total to 781 caches with 2,738 tonnes of ammunition, maintaining operational tempo. The Governor of Panjshir Province, Haji Bahlool Bahij invited UNAMA and ANBP to a meeting where among other issues, he indicated his willingness to cooperate with the DIAG project. This is a significant breakthrough since the issue of access to Panshir was a key bottleneck in 2007.

#### *District DIAG Implementation (DDI)*

In order to accelerate the rate of progress, the District DIAG Implementation (DDI) launched its third round on 21 February to now include a total of 71 districts. DDI is a tactical approach which was introduced in the second quarter of 2007, whereby districts identified as more readily complying with DIAG were targeted. To date, 30 districts have complied, and 3,360 weapons

(2,800 operational) have been deposited under the DDI process since its inception of which 1,357 weapons (1,148 operational) were collected in the first quarter of 2008.

By the end of the first quarter, 241 IAG commanders signed a DIAG Statement of Declaration and announced that they have disbanded their groups and handed over their weapons. Their activities will continue to be monitored by the government and the international community (and their security agencies).

Activity 1.3 – Change general public perceptions, values and behaviour regarding illicit weapons possession and misuses through a public awareness campaign.

At the central office, the Public Information section continued with regular activities such as arranging press visits and press events, strengthening relations with the media, monitoring the media, issuing press releases and updating the websites. But also Public Information completed several products to promote DIAG both centrally and nationwide. In early January, the US embassy partnering with ANBP finalized and printed 10,000 posters on DIAG in Dari and Pashto which have been distributed to the regional offices. In February, a tri-fold brochure was also completed and printed in English and was subsequently translated into Dari and Pashto. It is anticipated that the Dari and Pashto translations will be printed and distributed in the second quarter. Likewise, a second tri-fold brochure was designed only in Dari and Pashto in the first quarter, and is scheduled to be printed in the second quarter. Furthermore, a documentary on the achievements of DIAG project was completed in January and aired at the JCMB meeting which took place in Tokyo in February 2008. This 25 minute documentary is currently being translated in Dari and Pashto and is anticipated to air nationwide in the second quarter. Finally, ANBP created a calendar for the Afghan year 1387 (starting 21 March 2008) with the support of Kabul Regional Office, which will be printed and distributed nationwide in the second quarter.

Recognizing the authority and national reach of religious networks, ANBP initiated relations with the Ministry of Hajj and Islamic Affairs. In the first quarter, ANBP's Public Information section met with His Excellency Minister Niamatullah Shahrani to propose cooperation from the ministry in promoting DIAG through the local clergy and through the Friday prayers. The minister supported the idea and requested a formal plan to be submitted to him. ANBP's Public Information section is finalizing the plan which will be submitted to His Excellency in the second quarter.

International media coverage of DIAG included interviews of key Joint Secretariat members with Voice of America Radio and Aljazeera Television. In March, Voice of America held a live interview with Acting Head of the Joint Secretariat Mr Aziz Ahmadzai where callers from Afghanistan and Pakistan asked questions on DIAG. By having international coverage, DIAG assumes a higher profile and increases its support from Afghans and the international community.

With Regional Offices being given greater financial authority to implement public information activities on provincial and district levels, the first quarter saw a surge in Public Information activities tailored to the region. All activities were done in coordination with the Public Information section in the central office. Annex 1 provides a provincial breakdown of activities that took place.

## **Output 2 – Identification and monitoring of socio-economic community development and governance interventions fully supported.**

Activity 2.2 – Deliver Socio-economic community development projects; improve governance structures; involve disbanded group members in the participation of community development and social affairs.

Owing to the cold weather, progress in community development projects was slow in the first quarter. Nevertheless, the Joint Secretariat worked with 40 districts on DIAG development

projects. By the end of the first quarter, normal physical construction work of DIAG community development projects resumed in Shortepa District (Balkh Province), Cha Ab District (Takhar Province), Kohistan 2 District (Kapisa Province), Pashtun Zarghun District (Herat Province), Aab Kamari District (Baghdis Province), Andkhoy District (Faryab Province), Mohmand Dara District (Nangahar Province) and Namak Aab District (Takhar Province).

In addition to the eight districts mentioned above, the Joint Secretariat worked with 31 other districts in the first quarter to identify and select potential projects, conduct feasibility studies and technical surveys, announce and receive bids for implementation, and coordinate with the relevant stakeholders. In its coordination efforts with the 40 districts,<sup>1</sup> the Joint Secretariat engaged primarily with the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development (MRRD) and the UNDP/MRRD National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP)'s Community Empowerment teams along with the NABDP District Development Assemblies (explained in further detail below). Other stakeholders in the process included the Provincial Development Committees, NGOs and donors.

Activity 2.3 – Establish DDAs in DIAG targeted districts (if not already established). DDAs are used for DIAG project identification and implementation.

The Joint Secretariat continued working with MRRD to address DIAG-targeted districts that lacked DDAs. With the assistance of the Joint Secretariat, the districts of Khenjan 1, Khenjan 2, Dhan-e Ghor 1 and Dhan-e Ghor 2 (Baghlan Province) established District Development Assemblies (DDAs) in the first quarter. Created by MRRD / NABDP, District Development Assemblies conduct needs-assessments for district level development projects. Currently all 40 DDI districts have DDAs.

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<sup>1</sup> Including the completed project in Mahmud Raqi District, the Joint Secretariat is engaged with 40 districts.

## **II. Project Implementation Challenges**

### **Updated Project Risks and Actions**

#### *Security*

In 2008, the most significant obstacle to the DIAG progress remains the deteriorating security situation caused by the insurgency. As a direct consequence, the Southern, Eastern and South-Eastern regions continue to remain non-permissible environments for the implementation of DIAG. Unhelpfully, groups in other more stable regions use the spreading insurgency as a justification to retain arms. To mitigate the risk posed by the deteriorating security situation in these regions the project has continued focusing its main efforts and resources in areas where results can be achieved and resources utilized efficiently.

#### *Government Capacity*

Though political will at the highest levels of the government has improved, the overall capacity to uphold the rule of law remained weak. As a direct consequence, too many security vacuums still exist whereby the MoI cannot enforce disbandment. As an indirect consequence, IAG commanders feel less obliged to comply and therefore continue to rule with impunity. In response, the government and ANBP took major steps to address the critical issue of government capacity including increasing ANBP's direct support to relevant government bodies in order to carry out decisions made by the D&R Commission.

### **Updated Project Issues and Actions**

#### *Project Mandate*

In the fourth quarter of 2007, ANBP received an endorsement from the government and the international community for the extension of ANBP's two projects by one year to March 2009. For the DIAG project, the additional funding requirement would cost approximately \$8.6 million. At the same time, ANBP employed further cost-saving measures in order to sustain project activities in the interim. This allowed for a no-cost extension to 31 May 2008<sup>2</sup>, with the expectation of beginning project closure in late March. Thanks to the Canadian government's contribution, in March additional funding was committed to extend; however, it is not sufficient to cover the entire extension period, requiring further efforts towards successful resource mobilisation. The International Community agreed in principle to the Project's extension. Conversely, solid committed is still anticipated to be signed to date to support success and delivery of the Project.

#### *Recruitment*

As a result of a collaborative effort, civilian personnel supporting the DIAG Unit in MoI, will be recruited through UNDP's NABDP. However, due to delays in establishing the DIAG Cell and finalizing the process to mobilize funds, the recruitment process has not started yet. It is envisaged that the recruitment process will take place within the second quarter as it is considered paramount in enabling ANBP to develop capacity in time for full handover in 2009. Currently, ANBP is in close contact with UNDP to ensure this is delivered.

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<sup>2</sup> The 2008 Annual Work Plan was revised accordingly and is included in the Annex.

### III. Financial Status and Utilization

Table 1: Contribution Overview [February 2005 – March 2008]

DONOR	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
Japan	5,695,010	5,695,010	-
UK	4,711,770	4,711,770	-
Canada	3,623,544	3,623,544	-
Switzerland	1,633,010	1,633,010	-
Denmark	1,362,917	1,362,917	-
Italy	1,317,523	1,317,523	-
Netherlands	1,204,819	1,204,819	-
Norway	722,064	722,064	-
UNDP Core	476,716	476,716	-
USA	200,000	200,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,947,373</b>	<b>20,947,373</b>	<b>-</b>

Table 2: 2007 Expenditure by Activity [1 January 2008 – 31 March 2008]

Activity	BUDGET (2008)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (1 Jan to 31 Mar 08)	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity 1: Project Management	1,046,059	494,351	551,707	47%
Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	476,070	244,217	231,853	51%
Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	776,540	415,474	361,066	54%
Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	278,353	189,140	89,213	68%
Activity 7: Public Information	216,527	135,772	80,755	63%
Activity 8: D & R Commission	350,040	153,241	196,799	44%
UNDP GMS 5%	165,452	85,905	79,547	52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,309,041</b>	<b>1,718,101</b>	<b>1,590,940</b>	<b>52%</b>

Table 3: Quarterly Expenditure by Donor [1 January 2008 – 31 March 2008]

Donor	Activity	Budget (2008)	Total Expenditure (1Jan - 31Mar-08)	Balance as of 31 Mar 08	Delivery Rate %
Canada	Activity 1: Project Management	206,696	27,028	179,668	16%
	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	6,974	5,576	1,397	
	Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	448	410	38	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	851	851	0	
	Activity 8:D & R Commission	1,911	1,911	0	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	11,415	1,883	9,532	
<b>Subtotal Canada</b>		<b>228,295</b>	<b>37,659</b>	<b>190,635</b>	
Japan	Activity 1: Project Management	281,709	216,481	65,229	57%
	Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	713,527	363,359	350,167	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	268,502	182,689	85,813	
	Activity 7: Public Information	216,372	135,617	80,755	
	Activity 8:D & R Commission	341,624	145,533	196,091	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	95,881	54,931	40,950	
<b>Subtotal Japan</b>		<b>1,917,615</b>	<b>1,098,610</b>	<b>819,005</b>	
Netherlands	Activity 1: Project Management	85	85	0	53%
	Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	617	617	0	
	Activity 8:D & R Commission	798	90	708	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	79	42	37	
<b>Subtotal Netherlands</b>		<b>1,579</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>746</b>	
Italy	Activity 1: Project Management	174,943	3,337	171,606	15%
	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	23,943	21,760	2,183	
	Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	0	-23	23	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	9,000	5,600	3,400	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	10,941	1,614	9,327	
<b>Subtotal Italy</b>		<b>218,827</b>	<b>32,289</b>	<b>186,538</b>	
UK	Activity 1: Project Management	342,629	206,912	135,717	68%
	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	93,423	87,536	5,887	
	Activity 8:D & R Commission	5,585	5,585	0	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	23,244	15,791	7,453	
<b>Subtotal UK</b>		<b>464,881</b>	<b>315,825</b>	<b>149,056</b>	
USA	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	35,904	1,929	33,975	5%
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	1,890	102	1,788	
<b>Subtotal USA</b>		<b>37,794</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>35,763</b>	
Denmark	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	15,000	-3,315	18,315	-22%
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	789	-174	964	
<b>Subtotal Denmark</b>		<b>15,789</b>	<b>-3,490</b>	<b>19,279</b>	
Norway	Activity 1: Project Management	40,081	40,593	-512	55%
	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	299,808	129,712	170,096	
	Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	62,882	52,045	10,837	
	Activity 7: Public Information	155	155	0	
	Activity 8:D & R Commission	122	122	0	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	21,213	11,717	9,496	
<b>Subtotal Norway</b>		<b>424,261</b>	<b>234,344</b>	<b>189,917</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,309,041</b>	<b>1,718,101</b>	<b>1,590,940</b>	<b>52%</b>

Negative figures in the expenditures reflect adjustments made by ATLAS.

## **IV. Annex**

### **Annex 1: Summary of Public Information Activities by Province**

#### *North*

##### *Balkh Province*

In Mazar-e Sharif, the Regional Office took advantage of its location during the Afghan New Year when thousands of Afghan make their pilgrimage to the Blue Mosque, and hosted a series of DIAG events. It took advantage of the annual Buzkashi tournament which takes place on the Afghan New Year (20 March) to spread the message of DIAG, with over 3,000 copies of "Frequently Asked Questions and Relevant Answers" distributed to the audience of several thousand people. In the city, over one thousand posters were displayed with ANBP staff distributing over 3,000 leaflets, hangings and stickers at the three entrance gates of the main highways into the city. Recognizing that many women frequent the Blue Mosque shortly after the New Year, the Regional Office coordinated with the Public Information section in the central office for a public information campaign geared towards women. The event is scheduled to take place on 2 April at the Blue Mosque with speeches and roundtables for women by women.

#### *Northeast*

##### *Badakhshan Province*

Two districts in Badakhshan province launched Public Information campaigns on 9 and 10 March. In Darayem and Teshkan districts a large number of IAG commanders, community elders and Islamic scholars attended. Clergy members were informed about DIAG and requested to disseminate messages in support of DIAG at Friday prayers. During the gatherings, the Public Information provincial team which consisted of representatives from the Departments of Hajj & Islamic Affairs and Information & Culture, and provincial council members spoke about DIAG and its importance for developments and security.

##### *Baghlan Province*

On 20 February, in Baghlan Jadid district over 250 community elders, clergy, IAG leaders and community members participated. Clergy were informed about DIAG and requested to disseminate messages in support of DIAG at Friday prayers. DIAG posters were posted in all district officials' offices and in the main squares. On 28 February a similar event took place in Tala Wa Barfaz district. In addition, the Provincial Governor, ANBP's Regional Office Manager and other provincial council members held a press conference at Pul-i Khumri Police Headquarters where media were briefed on DIAG achievements.

##### *Kunduz Province*

Imam Sahib district saw the launch of a multi-day Public Information campaign where several villages with over 450 community elders, Islamic scholars, IAG commanders and community members participated (14-17 March). The participants were briefed on DIAG and its advantages to the community, while preachers from several key mosques were trained for their onward DIAG disseminations. DIAG posters were posted in all district officials' offices and in the main squares.

##### *Takhar Province*

On 21 February, Ishkamish district launched a Public Information campaign with participating 220 community elders, Islamic scholars, IAG leaders and community members. The clergy were informed about DIAG and requested to disseminate messages in support of DIAG at Friday prayers. DIAG posters were posted throughout the district.

#### *Southeast*

##### *Ghazni Province*

In Ghazni Province, outreach campaigns took place in Deh Yak district (7 January), Kheshek district (17 January) and Qalati Villages of Ghazni (29 January) targeting the local population where explanations on the Gun Law and the impact of DIAG on peace, security and rehabilitation of the country were given by the Department of Information & Culture. DIAG posters were also distributed. Outreach campaign for local leaders took place in Rasheedan district on 10 February

led by the Department of Hajj & Islamic Affairs and a separate outreach campaign targeting tribal leaders from Khowaja Omari district took place on 10 March.

#### *Khost Province*

In Khost Province, *Sul-e Paygham* Radio broadcasted information about DIAG on 10 January, and on 23 January Khost Radio broadcasted the governor's message encouraging illegal armed groups to handover their weapons and ammunition to DIAG. In terms of television, DIAG activities were broadcasted from Khost Television on 8 March and Provincial Council meetings were reported on a regular basis. ANBP hosted a meeting with elders from Bak, Alisher, Lakan districts and Ayoub Khil villages of Khost on 12 February to encourage their support on DIAG. Similarly a meeting was hosted by the clergy of Matoon, Nader Shah Kot and Lakan districts on 19 February for the same purpose. Finally ANBP travelled to Dowamanda district for Public Information outreach on 22 February.

#### *Paktiya Province*

In Paktiya Province, outreach campaigns took place in Chamkhani (24-25 February) and Zurmat (22-25 February) districts where explanations on the Gun Law and the impact of DIAG on peace, security and rehabilitation of the country were given by the Department of Information & Culture. DIAG posters were also distributed. Furthermore a roundtable discussion took place with participation by the Department of Hajj and Islamic Affairs, clergy and the Public Information which was broadcasted through local television and radio. In addition, Provincial Council meetings were regularly recorded and broadcasted through local television and radio stations.

### *South*

#### *Kandahar Province and environs*

Owing to the security situation in the south, the provinces of Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul and Helmand have received limited public information. Nevertheless, in the first quarter, all provinces had DIAG messages aired on the local radio stations and posters distributed in the provincial centres.

#### *Nimroz Province*

In the South, owing to the deteriorating security situation, Public Information efforts focused only in Nimroz province and began in the fourth quarter of 2007 with introductory meetings held at the district centres to introduce DIAG. Following these introductory meetings, regular meetings were held in the first quarter to provide updates on the progress of DIAG. These meetings are led by the government (Departments of Information & Culture and Religious Affairs) under the direct supervision of the governor and DIAG team. Nimroz province has implemented an ambitious six-month campaign (January to June 2008) including meetings with tribal elders, clergy and IAG commanders to encourage their support in the DIAG process; meetings with the Department of Education, teachers and students (both male and female) to discuss the needs and importance of weapons collection; recruitment of two persons by the Department of Religious Affairs for each districts whose responsibilities will include hosting a joint meeting with tribal elders, IAG commanders, the district manager, chief of police and representatives from the National Directorate of Security to coordinate DIAG. In terms of broadcasting, interviews and talks have been regularly aired on local television and radio stations. In Nimroz public and cable television stations, two-minute messages on DIAG have been aired twice weekly.

### *West*

#### *Herat Province*

In Herat, the Regional Office used various media, ranging from a weekly DIAG column to road shows, to promote DIAG and raise awareness of current efforts. It initiated a regular television programme through the local television station that covers DIAG activities and its outcomes. By the end of the first quarter, three 20 minute episodes were created and broadcasted twice weekly (once in the evening and once during the day). They will continue to be aired in the second

quarter. In addition, to promote DIAG two short dramas approximately 15 minutes each were produced, filmed and broadcasted through the local television station and mobile cinemas. A number of television and radio spots were aired locally that focused on DIAG messages and the Gun Law. DIAG documentary films from field missions were broadcasted in local television and will continue to be broadcasted next quarter. Finally, a local newspaper *Etefaq-e Islam* has one column dedicated to DIAG articles once a week. This is in addition to news articles published in the newspaper on DIAG events. Whilst DIAG coverage has been comprehensive in Herat region, future publicity efforts will focus on utilizing the mobile cinema / road shows to a greater extent as its coverage is wide. Also, with the warming weather, Public Information activities will extend to other western provinces.

#### *Central*

##### *Bamyan Province*

In spite of the unusually harsh winter, Yawkalang district hosted a three-day Public Information campaign in early March to promote DIAG to local officials, community elders, religious and political leaders, members of civil society, teacher, respected members of the community and the media. At the same time, this opportunity was used to encourage IAG commanders to comply with DIAG. Recognizing the imperative for peace and the need for development in their district, the people showed overwhelming support to the DIAG programme.

##### *Kabul Province*

In addition to the large media coverage for DIAG compliance ceremonies in Kabul and surrounding provinces, DIAG CDs were distributed to six provincial Departments of Information & Culture to be aired on local radio stations. In Kabul province a workshop took place in the last week of March with local clergy to brief them on DIAG and request their support in public gatherings at Friday prayers and other religious events. In addition, Kabul Regional Office took advantage of its central location by arranging an interview for Aljazeera International Television with Mr Aziz Ahmadzai, Acting Head of the Joint Secretariat, which was aired on 5 March. On 10 March, Vice Chair of the D&R Commission Mr Stanekzai had an interview with *Salaam Watandar* national radio in Kabul.