



## QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT, QUARTER 2, 2008

### United Nations Development Programme Afghanistan

### Centre for Policy and Human Development

(Capacity Building for Human Development Teaching, Research, and Policy Advocacy)

[01-04-2008 – 30-06-2008]



Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, United Kingdom Ambassador in Afghanistan, giving a speech to Kabul university students and lectures during the closing ceremony of Rule of Law and Gender Workshops, CPHD, Kabul University, Thursday, May 15, 2008.

**Project ID:** 00050008  
**Duration:** Two Years  
**Component (MYFF):** Poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs  
**Total Budget:** USD 740, 830  
**Unfunded budget:** USD 290,830  
**Implementing Partners/Responsible parties:** Centre for Policy and Human Development & Kabul University

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## I. Project Implementation Challenges

### *Updated project risks and actions*

Dr. Ashraf, the chancellor of KU, has recently resigned from his post. It remains to be seen who will take over his post. We might observe policy changes once the new person is onboard which might affect the implementation of the CPHD project. We have, thus far, enjoyed a collaborative, friendly and supportive relationship with the KU. The likelihood of this risk is minor and furthermore we have taken appropriate step to ensure that the changes will not affect our project. Our project document, which outlines the terms of our engagement with KU, was signed by Dr. Ashraf prior to his departure.

### *Updated project issues and actions*

Inadequate funding; CPHD's institutional development issues; as well as inadequate project space are some key issues that hinder our work. CPHD has not attracted donors' funding and thus most of its funding comes from the UNDP Core budget. There is an urgent need for resources mobilization to take places in order to cover the cost of activities outlined in the annual project work plan. This issue has been discussed with the management of the UNDP Country office and CPHD will prepare a resource mobilization strategy in the next quarter and also will start contacting relevant donors for their support.

CPHD is a relatively young organization and it requires its structure to be revised, Annual Work plan to be reviewed to ensure that different activities of CPHD are continuing on a regular basis. Work on NHDR 2009 has started and CPHD is continuously providing capacity building workshops and other exchange activities. The current structure and staffing numbers are not adequate for implementing activities outlined in the project document. CPHD management will review the current structure and annual plan and will recommend changes which will be discussed with UNDP country office.

Since last two quarter, CPHD has been engaged in providing training workshops/seminars to university professors from KU and other universities. Space in CPHD office cannot accommodate more than 25 individuals for a programme. Additionally, most of our guest lectures were held outside of CPHD office, in the court yard. This will be problematic in the winter and harsh summer days. CPHD is in discussion with KU for getting additional space for its activities such as training, workshops and lectures to a larger audience.

## II. Implementation progress

The following is a description of progress made during the second quarter of 2008 towards implementation of the activities which are outlined in the Centre for Policy and Human Development's Annual Work plan.

### **Output 1: To improve and inform policy making, advocacy and information sharing**

#### Conducting a research methodology training course

A six-month training course on research methodology and human development core concept was designed. The training course started on 29 April, 2008 and it is expected to be completed in September, 2008. Dr. Ashraf, Former Chancellor of Kabul University (KU); Dr. Aminyar, Senior Advisor for Higher Education; Mrs. Karokheil, member of the National Assembly and Dr. Sarwari from UNDP country office inaugurated the training course by giving keynote speeches about the

importance of research and human development in a ceremony which was attended by more than 100 KU students and lectures.

The Human Development course, a six months long training course mainly for KU lecturers, is jointly developed and implemented by Center for Policy and Human Development (CPHD) and the National Centre for Policy Research (NCPR). NCPR completed the Social Research Methods training component of the course. Site visits of the NCPR's training course by CPHD staff showed somewhat satisfactory results. A review of the training materials by NCPR demonstrates that the materials used for the training were outdated and not based on recent research methodology. However, a final evaluation report of the NCPR's performance will be drafted after the completion of the entire training course.

The second component of the training is dedicated to the subject of human development in Afghanistan and it is expected to be completed on July 31, 2008. Dr. Seeta Prabhu, Assistant Country Director of UNDP, India, facilitated four lectures about the core concepts of human development, measuring human development indices and process of drafting national human development report. In addition to the involvement of Dr. Prabhu, CPHD staff and other national experts will facilitate lectures on issues such as human security; poverty: manifestations and the idea of "pro-poor policy"; education and human progress; gender and human development; governance and human development; rule of law and human development; globalization and human development and environment and human development in the coming month. Regular feedback is collected on the quality of the lectures and materials. A final program evaluation is planned for the end of the training for both components of the training.

After the completion of the two components, the participants will be required to work on eight dissertation papers that are focused on human development related topics. Academic staff at both CPHD and NCPR will supervise the dissertations.

### Establishing relations with other research and training centers

CPHD staff established networks with both national and international institutions. As part of this networking, CPHD staff developed university profiles for eleven public universities in Afghanistan; held rule of law, gender and human development training workshop with partnership with international organization of Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales; increased the participation of provincial universities in CPHD's rule of law, gender workshops and peace building training programme.

Another example of networking, CPHD in collaboration with the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and NCPR, will hold peace building and textbook writing workshops for the lecturers of provincial universities in August 2008.

### Identification the board of writers, advisors and editors for *Serrana* magazine

The board of writers and advisors and editors for *Serrana* magazine have been identified and selected in collaboration with Scientific Research Center of Kabul University. During the past quarter, the board of director held a couple of meetings. Additionally, writers submitted their articles for publication. After extensive discussion and consultations, the board selected 14 articles to be published in the first volume of *Serrana* magazine, which will be published by July 15, 2008. The publication of one magazine during each quarter, an activity related to output one of CPHD project, is not feasible at the current time. Publication of *Serrana* is a relatively new activity in KU. The capacity, viable networks and structure needed for generation of new knowledge are not adequate. Thus, a recommendation has been made, jointly by CPHD and Scientific Research Center of KU, which is that the *Serrana* magazine should be published once every four months instead of quarterly publication.

### Guest Lecture Series

Prof. Shad Sargand gave a lecture, "Strategic Planning and Capacity Building for a Sustainable Infrastructure for Afghanistan: The Role for an Afghan Infrastructure Institute (AII)". This event was attended not only by university professors, students and but also attracted staff from Ministry of Public Work, Ministry of Transport, USAID and representative of the private sector. The lecture was followed up by a meeting of interested institutions and individuals regarding the possibility of establishing a new institution within KU to enhance the capacity of the Afghans in infrastructure projects, with a special focus on quality assurance improvement which can also contribute to aid effectiveness and job creation in Afghanistan.

### Short-term training module for the concept of HD methodology

Articles on core concepts of human development are translated into national languages of Dari and Pashto. In order to establish a link between the concept of human development to the current socio-economic and political realities of Afghanistan, national and international experts, who are working in Afghanistan, have been asked to participate in the Human Development Training course. These experts will prepare materials on issues such as human security; poverty: manifestations and the idea of "pro-poor-policy"; education and human development; gender and human development; governance and human development; rule of law and human development; globalization, trade, migration and human development; environment and human development. Produced materials by the experts will be assessed and compiled into a folder with friendly language and presentation to be used for future training in universities across the country. Furthermore, the produced materials will assist CPHD in developing a full fledged human development curriculum to be used by policy makers as well academia.

### **Output 2: Data Updating and assessment of possibility to calculate the HDI, GDI, and HPI**

Articles relevant to core concept of human development were identified and translated into national languages of Dari and Pashto. Furthermore, country and regional reports of diverse themes have collected from the internet. In addition to collection specific articles and reports relevant to the subject of human development, CPHD staff undertook an extensive exercise in collecting reports and articles published on various topics from organizations such as Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, Agency Coordinating Body For Afghan Relief, World Bank and Asian Development Bank. As a result of this effort the quantity and variety of the in-house library materials have substantively improved.

### Translation, publication and dissemination of selected parts of HDRs;

Due to a strong reaction from the Supreme Court of Afghanistan regarding the NHDR 2007, a decision was made not to widely disseminate the report.

But small scale dissemination at the national level has taken place. CPHD sent copies of the report to all provincial universities and other relevant institutions. Furthermore, plans are underway to disseminate the report during the consultation of the upcoming NHDR (2009).

While the reaction of some quarters of the Government of Afghanistan, notably the justice branch has been not so positive towards NDHR 2007, the international community's reaction has been extremely positive and it has generated healthy debates and discussions. Mostly recently, a one day conference was held in Oslo, Norway to discuss the report. This event was attended by H.E. Ambassador Said Jawad Tayeb the current ambassador of Afghanistan to the US.

Additionally, United States Institute for Peace (USIP) is designing a pilot study of the "hybrid model of formal and informal justice", a recommendation of NHDR 2007. More information regarding this pilot project will be provided in the next report.

Preparation for the next NHDR;

The preparatory work of NHDR 2009 has started. A tentative work plan has been developed; a list of possible themes, to be discussed by the advisory board, has been prepared. The consultation will be carried in the third quarter. Additionally, a tentative list of individuals and institutions to participate in the board of advisors and international expert committee has been drafted.

**Output 3: The promotion of scholarly exchange for faculty and students of Afghanistan universities**

**Workshop on Peace-building and Human Development**

Curriculum for the peace building workshop, which has been produced by USIP in collaboration with CPHD, is being reviewed, "Afganized" and translated in Dari and Pashto languages.

**CPHD staff visit to an established regional centre on Human Development**

A short term visit of CPHD core staff to an established regional centre that works on human development for exchange ideas and experiences did not take place in this quarter. This is due to heavy load of work in this quarter as CPHD staff were engaged in training workshops which are currently underway.

While a visit to another human development centre did not take place but CPHD staff managed to take advantage of Dr. Prabhu's visit to CPHD and to learned about India's experience with human development. CPHD staff gained familiarity with the production process of national, provincial and city human reports in India, a country with the largest number of NHDR publication. Furthermore, Dr. Prabau provided many useful recommendations regarding efficiency and sustainability of CPHD, its structure, preparation of NHDR, networking with other institutions worldwide.

### III. Financial status and utilization

#### Financial status

Table 1: Contribution overview [January 2008- December 31 2008 ]

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
UNDP	300,000	300,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>-</b>

Table 2: Quarterly expenditure by activity

Activity	BUDGET [2008]	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE (Q1)	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE (Q2)	Total EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity 1: Management Support	205000	92,120.91	126146.11	218,267.02	(13,267.02)	106%
Activity 2: Exchange and capacity building	28000	5,136.00	23,313.35	218,267.02	(449.35)	102%
Activity 3: Preparation of NHDR	67000	62	0	62	66938	0%
UNDP GMS (based on donor agreements)						
<b>Total</b>	<b>300000</b>	<b>97,318.91</b>	<b>149,459.46</b>	<b>246,778.37</b>	<b>53,221.63</b>	

Note: The above figure is reported from CDR and Payroll information from UNDP country office.