

QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT [Q2, 2008]

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan

Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG)

01-04-2008 – 30-06-2008



A section of the illegal armed groups, who surrendered their weapons at a ceremony on 7 May 2008 on the banks of the Sholgara River in Kishendeh District of Balkh Province. Over 100 community elders, district administrators and police officials, representatives from DIAG and ANBP and the media attended the DIAG ceremony.

Project ID:	00043604
Duration:	January 2005 – March 2009
Component (MYFF):	2.7 Public administration reform and anti-corruption
Total Budget:	USD 22,309,678
Unfunded:	Nil

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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 highest levels of government continued to remain engaged in Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) albeit less directly. Though a Steering Committee meeting was set to take place in the second quarter, scheduling conflicts owing to the Paris Conference of 12 June prevented the meeting from taking place. As a result the Steering Committee meeting has been postponed. Of note in April the Vice Chairman of the Disarmament & Reintegration (D&R) Commission and Special Advisor to the president Mr Masoom Stanekzai began a three month sabbatical in the United States. Nevertheless Mr Stanekzai has continued supporting DIAG efforts remotely. In his absence Minister for the Rural Rehabilitation and Development Ehsan Zia serves as the Acting Vice Chairman of the D&R Commission.

Transition to the Government

The second quarter enjoyed some progress in the way of transitioning DIAG from the UN to the government. Though funding has not yet been made available from UNDP's Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) for the construction of the DIAG unit within the Ministry of Interior (MoI), ANBP agreed to 'bridge' the money in the interim. Once funding is made available through LOTFA, ANBP will be reimbursed. As a result, the construction of the office structure for the DIAG unit was completed in the second quarter. Of note the LOTFA funding also includes the provision of office equipment and furniture. Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP) is currently in discussion with the UNDP Country Office to facilitate the formalities for making available LOTFA funding for the purposes of DIAG.

During the second quarter, the UN completed the civilian recruitment through Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development's (MRRD) National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP) of four engineers and one DIAG coordinator. Once NABDP issues the contracts the five recruited civilians will begin training, which is currently estimated to start in July.

Likewise, a MoI appointments panel with D&R Commission input selected the police staff for the central unit of 24 staff plus some 10 temporary support staff, primarily to work in the DIAG Unit under the Counter-Terrorism Unit. Currently the list is sitting with His Excellency Minister Zarar Ahmad Moqbel for his signature. Subject to his approval, the candidates will be informed that they have been selected and training will commence in unison with the civilian staff in July.

Private Security Companies

During the second quarter, much work was done to progress the registration of Private Security Companies (PSC). Whilst the law has not yet been ratified by the parliament, the interim guideline regulation and the Guidelines for the Higher Coordination Board (HCB) issued by His Excellency Second Vice President Khalili to the Ministry of Interior went into effect. In early April the UN and the government held meetings for PSCs to inform them of the rules and procedures. By the deadline of 29 May, 36 PSCs had registered and were issued temporary licenses, and an additional 15 showed interest in registering and once the 36 are complete, registration documents will be accepted from the new registrants. Unfortunately, the HCB who is the decision making body for accepting or rejecting registration applications has yet to issue official licenses to PSCs owing to technicalities. Though the decree stipulates that registration must be finalized by 16 July, it is unlikely that at this rate it will be met. As such, ANBP is considering advocating for putting into effect a clause that pushes the deadline to 16 September. At the time of writing, ANBP has arranged to meet with the government in early third quarter to address this critical issue. Separately, with regard to the PSC database, all relevant information was added during the

second quarter but an official database is not yet being utilized owing to a lack of staff and the LOTFA funding not having yet been released to purchase the hardware for the Mol.

Weapons Registration

With the three-day training conducted by ANBP in the first quarter to train the Mol staff on how to use the new Weapons Registration software, the database has been functioning well in the second quarter with over 12,220 entries inputted since the beginning of operation. Concurrent with the registration is the issuing of weapons registration cards which require among other materials (identification card, printer and ribbons) blank cards. At the request of the Mol, ANBP issued blank cards. This card stocks should last through the third quarter.

At the same time, ANBP's mentor on Weapons Registration began work in the second quarter to draft the Standing Operating Procedures in order to improve the procedures based on the current legislation. The draft was produced and currently under consideration by the Weapons Registration & Licensing Office in the Mol.

Recognizing the need for interagency cooperation in order to facilitate a national approach to the control of firearms and to minimize legal access to firearms for illicit activity, ANBP worked with the Police Department, Police Intelligence Department and the Criminal Investigation Department by facilitating the process leading to a draft Joint Cooperation Plan. The plan was approved by the Deputy Minister of Interior for Security Affairs and was circulated to the respective Mol departments on 31 May. It is too early to assess the effectiveness of the plan.

This is in addition to ANBP's work in the first quarter to produce and print application and weapons registration forms with improved content, and basic firearm safety leaflets for distribution to applicants at the Weapons Registration & Licensing Office in the Mol.

Government Officials Linked to Illegal Armed Groups (GOLIAGs)

The complex issue of removing Government Officials Linked to Illegal Armed Groups (GOLIAGs) continued to prove challenging in the second quarter. Prior to his sabbatical departure, Minister Stanekzai wrote a letter to 6 ministries regarding the issue of GOLIAGs. Five of the ministries gave favourable responses indicating a willingness to support DIAG efforts to disband the related groups. ANBP continued to additionally put pressure of Mol to take up the issue as well. Of the 72 GOLIAGs who were targeted at the provincial level, 25 GOLIAGs still retained their post.

Remapping Procedure

Inaccessibility to credible, precise and unbiased information on IAGs has been one of the major challenges of successfully implementing DIAG, which in turn prevents the ability to properly enforce DIAG when necessary. In response the D&R Commission began work in May on a remapping procedure which will increase accountability to governors and security departments in the government. A draft presidential decree was submitted to the second vice president's office late in June. The deadline for the procedure is 15 Asad (5 August 2008).

Consolidation of IAG Database for the Joint Secretariat

During the second quarter, ANBP finalized the restructuring and redesign of the IAG database. Currently, ANBP programmers are developing software for the database and its interface. Programming and testing are expected to be completed in the third quarter. This exercise is a continuation of last year's efforts to improve the database and use it as a tool for collecting relevant information on IAGs, have better overview and as a result better control of the disbandment activities and finally improve and streamline decision making process by providing for relevant information. This is also part of the effort to set up a system that will be transferred to the Mol DIAG unit at the end of the ANBP programme.

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

Statistics on Weapons Collected

At the end of the second quarter alone, ANBP in support of the Ministry of Defence verified 3,804 weapons (3,514 light weapons and 290 heavy weapons), increasing the overall total to 42,214 weapons (37,686 light weapons and 4,528 heavy weapons).

District DIAG Implementation (DDI)

With the third round of District DIAG Implementation (DDI) launched in the first quarter, the second quarter saw many negotiations taking place between targeted districts and the government. To date of the 70 DDI districts targeted, 35 districts complied and 3,804 weapons (3,132 operational) have been deposited under the DDI process since its inception of which 444 weapons (332 operational) were collected in the second quarter of 2008. At the same time, discussions began to include an additional 10 districts in the north, northeast, central region and the west under the fourth round of DDI.

By the end of the second quarter, a total of 338 IAG commanders since Program inception had 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). Following the hallmark 300 groups disbanding, on 2 June the Deputy Minister of Interior Mr Munir Mangal and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General Mr Christopher Alexander held a joint press conference, attended by a larger number of media representatives .

Of note the Joint Secretariat has been working with the Ministry of Interior's Focused District Development (FDD)¹ which provides police reform by retraining police forces in targeted districts. The coordination efforts ensure that retrained police learn about their role in promoting DIAG, including for example the proper procedures for handling confiscated weapons, which by presidential decree must go through the DIAG programme. To that end the Joint Secretariat has produced a training manual that is used in FDD's training programme. Despite the small overlap between FDD and DDI districts, cooperation has been good taking advantage of the two programmes' synergy. Participation of the DIAG Operations officer in FDD's District Assessment Reconstruction Team training 4 and 5 shows the cooperation prevailing between DIAG and FDD.

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

The Public Information section in the Central Office built on activities designed and initiated in the first quarter. Following discussions in the first quarter with His Excellency the Minister of Hajj and Islamic Affairs Niamatullah Shahrani, the ministry and ANBP hosted a workshop for 75 senior clerics from the Kabul area on 3 June. This one-day 'training-of-trainers' focused on DIAG messages for dissemination in the clerics' mosques and subsidiary mosques. The workshop concluded with a press conference heavily attended by media. Following the workshop, international media (mainly radio) conducted studio discussions with the government and UN regarding DIAG. Early indications suggest that the initiative with the clerics was very well received. Additionally, a system has been set in place to monitor the impact, where by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs has agreed to observe on behalf of ANBP and note the promotion and discussion of DIAG by trained local religious leaders. Should indications be favourable, ANBP will expand efforts to initiate similar activities in the regions.

¹ The Mol is supported by Combined Security Transition Comment – Afghanistan (CSTC-A).

The second quarter also saw the production and dissemination of 6000 ANBP calendars. These desk calendars were in Dari and Pashto only and based on the Afghan solar calendar (year 1387). Photos and images focused on ANBP's activities with messages on the benefits of a land free from the threat of violence. These calendars were distributed by both the Central and Regional ANBP Offices to government partners, UN agencies and media.

With the documentary on the achievements of DIAG project completed in the first quarter, it was translated into Dari in the second quarter. This 25-minute documentary was disseminated among donor and civil society partners at the Paris Conference on Afghanistan in June and was distributed to Regional Offices, government partners and media.

Following the 2 June joint press conference, media attention on DIAG increased including a live studio discussion on Voice of America with the Acting Head of the Joint Secretariat Mr Aziz Ahmadzai. Radio and Television Afghanistan (RTA) also made a documentary on DIAG in which they broadcasted the previous clips of Mr Alexander speaking about DIAG and of an interview with Mr Ahmadzai. RTA aired the documentary in June 2008.

The DIAG tri-fold, which the US Embassy created and ANBP supported, was translated in Dari and Pashto in the second quarter.² Distribution of the tri-fold is expected during the third quarter.

The central office Public Information section continued with regular activities such as arranging press visits and events, monitoring the media, issuing press releases and updating the websites. The Regional Offices continued implementing public information activities at the provincial and district level, including a DIAG poetry contest in Kandahar and a large DIAG ceremony in the Governor's Hall in Herat. All activities were done in coordination with the Public Information section in the central office. Overall, the output of the ANBP's Public Information work during the second quarter has resulted in activities growing not only in scale but substance and creativity, assisting in generating an ever-greater response of education and support of the public towards DIAG. 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.

As in the first quarter, during the second quarter the Joint Secretariat worked with 43 districts on DIAG development projects. Of note, on 19 May the construction of the Basic Health Clinic was completed in Pashtun Zarghun District (Herat Province); however auxiliary construction, including the compound wall, guard house and drinking well have not yet been built. The Joint Secretariat discussed this issue with the MRRD's National Area Based Development Programme and with the approval of Japan, whose funds as principle donor, will be used the MRRD began the paperwork for procurement of the materials. Construction has tentatively been set to commence in the third quarter. Once completed, the clinic will staff approximately 20 employees and benefit the 20 villages in the district with a population of approximately 40,000. Additionally, the clinic will act as a hard example of the positive gains members of disbanded illegal armed groups can help deliver to their communities when complying with the Program.

At the end of the second quarter, physical construction of DIAG community development projects continued in seven districts: Shortepa District (Balkh Province), Cha Ab District (Takhar Province), Kohistan 2 District (Kapisa Province), Aab Kamari District (Baghdis Province), Andkhoy District (Faryab Province), Mohmand Dara District (Nangahar Province) and Namak Aab District (Takhar

² The English version was prepared in the first quarter.

Province). On 1 July, a press conference was held at the MRRD with Minister Zia signing seven new development contracts in the presence of the Embassy of Japan who has earmarked funding for DIAG projects.

In addition to the eight districts mentioned above, the Joint Secretariat worked with 34 other districts in the second 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 43 districts,³ the Joint Secretariat engaged primarily with the MRRD and the UNDP/MRRD 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. By the end of the second quarter a total of 15 development projects were being implemented.

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

In the second quarter, no districts that are part of DDI lacked District Development Assemblies (DDAs). Created by MRRD / NABDP, District Development Assemblies conduct needs-assessments for district level development projects. The Joint Secretariat agreed assist the MRRD in creating DDAs in DIAG-targeted districts that lacked DDAs. Currently all 43 DDI districts with development projects have DDAs.

II. Project Implementation Challenges

Updated Project Risks and Actions

Security

The worsening security situation in some regions precludes efforts to carry out surveys and the transport of ammunition - especially in the East, South and parts of Western Afghanistan. Three security incidents occurred in the second quarter that may have great impact on future ANBP operations. Firstly, the attack in Kandahar City on 13 June 2008 raised concerns regarding the ability to deliver outputs in the city, one of the few parts of the southern region which is still accessible. Secondly, on 3 June in a DIAG mission en route from Ghazni to Kabul an ANBP convoy got caught in crossfire between Anti-Government Elements and the Afghan National Police (ANP). The UN Protection Unit (also part of the ANP) responded superbly with no injuries sustained. Finally, on 18 June an ANBP mission⁴ en route from Shebrehghan to Mazar-e Sharif was deliberately targeted by assailants who shot directly at the convoy. Whilst the impact of these attacks on programme delivery is currently minimal (amounting to no more than temporary road closures by the United Nations Department for Safety and Security) it has raised larger concerns on a programmatic level. ANBP is reviewing and where needed revising the Standard Operating Procedures for emergency cases. Currently, all road missions in the regions will require two-vehicle convoy, preferably with armoured vehicles.

Political Will

Political will has weakened in the second quarter with many key government officials either remaining passive or actively not cooperating in the handover of DIAG to the government in a clear and transparent manner. Though Minister Stanekzai has been informed his absence has resulted with little follow up. Nevertheless, ANBP remains seized of the matter, meeting regularly with relevant government officials to address the matter.

³ Including the completed project in Mahmud Raqi District, the Joint Secretariat is engaged with 43 districts.

⁴ This mission was carried out for the Anti-Personnel Mine & Ammunition Stockpile Destruction (APMASD) project.

Government Capacity

The overall ability of government capacity to uphold the rule of law remained weak. Too many security vacuums still exist as a direct consequence of this, whereby the Mol cannot enforce disbandment. Additionally, 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 to better carry out decisions made by the D&R Commission.

Updated Project Issues and Actions

Funding

During the second quarter, ANBP extended the DIAG mandate to 31 March 2009 in line with its capacity building efforts. For the DIAG project, the additional funding requirement has been adjusted to approximately \$9.1 million. Japan's generous contribution of ¥477 million (USD 4.5 million) in June has significantly alleviated the shortfall. Other donors have indicated willingness to donate but no commitments have been signed. Should requisite funding not be forthcoming, ANBP will have to close the project early.

Recruitment

Whilst recruitment for police officers in Kabul was completed in early June, the submitted list has not yet been signed by the Interior Minister. Should the minister not approve the list in a timely manner it will jeopardize the project's ability to deliver its outputs in a timely manner. Currently, ANBP is in close contact with Mol to obtain the minister's signature. Similarly, recruitment for civilian posts remained incomplete because LOTFA funding earmarked for these posts has not yet been released by UNDP. Currently, ANBP is in close contact with UNDP to rectify this situation.

III. Financial Status and Utilization

Table 1: Contribution Overview [February 2005 – March 2009]

DONOR	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
Japan	5,695,010	5,695,010	-
UK	4,711,770	4,711,770	-
Canada - 78	3,623,544	3,623,544	-
Canada-550	1,472,031	1,472,031	-
Switzerland	1,500,000	1,500,000	-
Denmark	1,362,916	1,362,916	-
Italy	1,317,523	1,317,523	-
Netherlands	1,204,819	1,204,819	-
Norway	722,064	722,064	-
UNDP Core	500,000	500,000	-
USA	200,000	200,000	-
TOTAL	20,309,678	22,309,678	-

Table 2: 2008 Expenditure by Activity [1 January 2008 – 30 June 2008]

Table 2: Quarterly Expenditure by Activity (1 January - 30 June-08)

Activity	BUDGET [2008]	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (1 Jan - 31 Mar-08)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (1 Apr- 30 Jun-08)	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity 1: Project Management	1,977,526	494,351.28	1,202,109	281,065.26	86%
Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Col	640,463	244,217.19	246,557	149,688.64	77%
Activity 3: Regional Development Cap	1,276,174	415,473.71	363,399	497,301.10	61%
Activity 5: Integrated Technology Sys	433,437	189,140.24	158,367	85,930.13	80%
Activity 7: Public Information	345,900	135,772.47	107,105	103,022.06	70%
Activity 8: D & R Commission	625,281	153,241.33	492,255	(20,214.94)	103%
UNDP GMS 5%	206,476	85,905	100,744	19,827	90%
UNDP GMS 7%	103,550	-	49,350	54,200	48%
Total	5,608,807	1,718,101	2,719,887	1,170,819	79%

Table 3: 2008 Expenditure by Donor [1 January 2008 – 30 June 2008] Mine & Ammo
Negative figures in the expenditures reflect adjustments made by ATLAS.

Donor	Activity	Budget (2008)	Total Expenditure (1Jan - 31Mar-08)	Total Expenditure (1April - 30 June-08)	Balance as of 30 June 08	Delivery Rate %
Canada	Activity 1: Project Management	114,014	27,028	140,876	(53,890)	125%
	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	6,057	5,576	1,753	(1,273)	
	Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	410	410	-	-	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	851	851	-	-	
	Activity 8:D & R Commission	95,547	1,911	93,636	-	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	11,415	1,883	12,435	(2,903)	
Subtotal Canada		228,295	37,659	248,701	(58,065)	
Japan	Activity 1: Project Management	280,960	216,481	147,976	(83,498)	91%
	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	-	-	2,403	(2,403)	
	Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	919,793	363,359	235,239	321,195	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	293,828	182,689	139,584	(28,445)	
	Activity 7: Public Information	250,558	135,617	82,387	32,553	
	Activity 8:D & R Commission	398,604	145,533	300,634	(47,563)	
UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	112,829	54,931	47,801	10,097		
Subtotal Japan		2,256,572	1,098,610	956,024	201,937	
Netherlands	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	85	85	(1,648)	1,648	-57%
	Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	617	617	-	-	
	Activity 8:D & R Commission	798	90	-	708	
UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	79	42	(87)	124		
Subtotal Netherlands		1,579	833	(1,735)	2,480	
Italy	Activity 1: Project Management	274,943	3,337	167,731	103,875	69%
	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	84,667	21,760	44,964	17,942	
	Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	-	(23)	4,761	(4,738)	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	9,000	5,600	5,600	(2,200)	
UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	19,401	1,614	11,740	6,046		
Subtotal Italy		388,011	32,289	234,797	120,925	
UK	Activity 1: Project Management	412,126	206,912	247,077	(41,864)	111%
	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	88,470	87,536	12,385	(11,451)	
	Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	-	-	-	-	
	Activity 8:D & R Commission	5,585	5,585	-	-	
UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	26,641	15,791	13,656	(2,806)		
Subtotal UK		532,822	315,825	273,118	(56,121)	
USA	Activity 1: Project Management	128,754	-	125,223	3,531	77%
	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	35,904	1,929	159	33,816	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	8,666	102	6,599	1,966	
Subtotal USA		173,324	2,030	131,982	39,312	
Denmark	Activity 1: Project Management	91,431	(3,315)	24,659	70,088	2%
	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	15,000	-	(13,275)	28,275	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	12,000	-	(5,600)	17,600	
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	6,233	(174)	304	6,103	
Subtotal Denmark		124,664	(3,490)	6,088	122,066	
Norway	Activity 1: Project Management	115,952	40,593	58,554	16,805	94%
	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	250,390	129,712	96,910	23,768	
	Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	36,429	52,045	2,155	(17,771)	
	Activity 7: Public Information	155	155	-	-	
	Activity 8:D & R Commission	122	122	-	-	
UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	21,213	11,717	8,296	1,200		
Subtotal Norway		424,261	234,344	165,915	24,002	
Switzerland	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	-	-	(9)	9	-10%
	UNDP GMS 5% - See the Donor Agreement	-	-	(0)	0	
Subtotal Switzerland		-	-	(10)	10	
CIDA	Activity 1: Project Management	559,346	-	290,012	269,334	48%
	Activity 2: Arms and Ammunition Collection	159,889	-	102,914	56,975	
	Activity 3: Regional Development Capacity	318,925	-	121,244	197,681	
	Activity 5: Integrated Technology Systems	117,758	-	18,783	98,975	
	Activity 7: Public Information	95,187	-	24,718	70,469	
	Activity 8:D & R Commission	124,625	-	97,986	26,639	
	UNDP GMS 7% - See the Donor Agreement	103,550	0	49,350	54,199	
Subtotal CIDA		1,479,280	0	705,006	774,274	
Total		5,608,807	1,718,101	2,719,887	1,170,819	79%

Note: Figures in mines will be adjusted in next budget revision.

IV. Annex

Annex 1: Summary of Public Information Activities by Province

North

Balkh Province

As indicated in the previous report the Regional Office took advantage of its location during the Afghan New Year when thousands of Afghan make their pilgrimage to the Blue Mosque in Mazar-e Sharif and hosted an event on 2 April geared towards women. The event was well received with information on DIAG given to the women and some interviews conducted on camera.

Jawzjan Province

Three extensive events were held in Jawzjan Province in the second quarter to promote DIAG. From 21 to 25 April, in Aqcha Districts approximately 200 individuals including government officials (i.e. the District Attorney, head of the National Directorate for Security and head of the ANP), IAG commanders and media attended. A similar event was held in Mengajek District from 25 to 29 May with approximately 500 individuals in attendance as well as in Khwaja Do Koh district from 22 to 26 June, with approximately 550 in attendance.

Sari Pul Province

In Sari Pul Province two extensive events were held in the second quarter to promote DIAG. From 14 to 16 May in Kohistanat District approximately 300 individuals including 15 head clergy, government officials (i.e. the District Attorney, head of the National Directorate for Security, head of the ANP, head of the Department of Agriculture and members of the provincial council) and media attended. The aim of the campaign was to brief the clergy, who are the heads of the major mosques in the district, about the DIAG process. Likewise, from 23 to 25 June a similar event was held in the central villages of Sari Pul Province.

Northeast

Baghlan Province

Following the 20 February Public Information campaign, another was launched on 10 June in Baghlan Jadid District where key DIAG stakeholders and community were informed of DDI initiatives with approximately 200 individuals participating. DIAG paraphernalia was distributed.

Kunduz Province

Likewise, Imam Sahib District saw the launch of Public Information campaign on 8 May where key DIAG stakeholders and community were informed of DDI initiatives with approximately 200 individuals participating. DIAG paraphernalia was distributed.

Takhar Province

On 18 April, Hazar Sumuch District launched a Public Information campaign with participating 220 community elders, Islamic scholars, IAG leaders and community members to inform them of DDI initiatives.

Southeast

Ghazni Province

Impressive efforts continued to spread DIAG messages to the local population with a DIAG drama broadcasted on Ghazni Radio Television Afghanistan on 8 June. Several public information campaigns were conducted across many districts in the province, namely Deh Yak (12 May), Khwaja Omari (26 May and 16 June) and Naw Abad (26 June) Districts of Ghazni, as well as in Khatamul Nabeyeen mosque in Ghazni City (20 June). Additionally the Department of Information and Culture (DoIC) hosted a series of events starting by inviting local elders to Ghazni Centre on 7 April for a roundtable discussion on the role of DIAG in bringing peace. This event was broadcasted through Ghazni Radio Television Afghanistan. Following this event the DoIC invited Jihadi commanders and local leaders from Jaghato District to discuss the role and importance of DIAG in creating peace. On 9 May the DoIC partnered with the Department of Hajj and Islamic Affairs to disseminate information on DIAG to the local community in Ghazni Centre Mosque during Friday Prayers.

Khost Province

In Khost Province, a variety of activities took place to promote DIAG in the districts. Several public information campaigns were conducted throughout the province namely in Ali Shair (13 April), Nadershah Kot (24 April), Jaji Maidan (23 May) and Dowmonda Districts targeting district elders, clergy members and tribal elders with messages about DIAG's objectives and the Gun Law. A similar campaign took place in Ismail Khail District on 13 May targeting district elders, tribal leaders, clergy members and the head of PTS to discuss DIAG and the impact of DDI. A round table was held on 19 May with community elders, clergy leaders, the head of PTS and representatives from the Department of Hajj and Islamic Affairs met in the centre of Khost to discuss the effect of weapons on security. This meeting was broadcasted through Radio and Television of Khost. In addition to meetings, DIAG documents were published in *Nasehat* and *Zawan Zowak* newspaper and DIAG messages were broadcasted from Khost Radio and Television.

Paktiya Province

As in Khost Province, many activities took place in Paktiya Province to promote DIAG in the districts. Public information campaigns were conducted throughout the province namely in Garda Chelai (6 April) and Wazi Zadran (7 April) Districts targeting district elders, clergy members and tribal elders with messages about DIAG's objectives and the Gun Law. A similar campaign took place in Chamkani and Lajja Mangal Districts on 13 and 14 May targeting district elders, tribal leaders, clergy members and the head of PTS to discuss DIAG and the impact of DDI. Roundtables were held on 17 April, 15 May, 2 June and 29 June with the Provincial Development Council, Chief of Police representative, clergy members and former Jihadi commanders to discuss the impact of peace and security. These events received local media coverage. Additionally Provincial Council meetings were broadcasted through local Radio and Television programmes on 7 May, 21 May, 4 June and 25 June.

Paktika Province

In the second quarter PI activities increased in Paktika Province. Public information campaigns were conducted throughout the province namely in Khair Kot (5 April), Omna (20 April), Zarghun Sahar (22 May) and Mata Khan (24 May) Districts targeting district elders, clergy members and tribal elders with messages about DIAG's objectives and the Gun Law. Roundtables were held on 7 April and 20 May with the Provincial Development Council, Chief of Police representative, clergy members and former Jihadi commanders to discuss the impact of peace and security. A separate roundtable was held with elders and clergy members of Barmal District to discuss the impact of DIAG. Twice monthly roundtables are conducted with the DoIC and the Department of Hajj and Islamic Affairs. Finally local radio stations broadcast DIAG messages regularly.

South

Southern provinces

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

Kandahar Province

In May the Regional Office sponsored a poetry competition in Kandahar City with approximately 400 participants from Jalalabad, Pakistan, Helmand, Zabul and Kandahar. The Regional Office provided refreshment and gifts to participants

Nimroz Province

Progress continued in Nimroz Province in the second quarter with increased involvement from the Department of Hajj and Islamic Affairs as well as the Department of Education. Regular visits to the department offices ensured that the government continued pushing IAGs to disband. Of note, Nimroz is the only province in the southern region with a district in DDI.

West

Herat Province

In Herat Province, the Regional Office used various media, ranging from a weekly DIAG column to road shows, to promote DIAG and raise awareness of current efforts. In the second quarter, efforts were made to target the clergy with meetings held in Adraskan and Koshk Districts (Herat Province). The clergy were encouraged to spread DIAG messages to communities through their Friday Prayers speeches and individual meeting with the IAGs and communities. They were also informed of the benefits of community development projects. Of note, with Afghan Mother's Day in June, the Department of Women Affairs celebrated by holding a gathering of influential women. DIAG public information played an active role in spreading the DIAG messages among the attendees. On 3 July a DIAG ceremony was held in the Herat governor's hall hosted with the objective of promoting DIAG with an emphasis on DDI in all districts of Herat Province. Approximately 350 attended including high ranking authorities and influential members of the community and certificates were handed out to active DIAG committees.

Routine DIAG television programmes continued to be produced and broadcasted bi-weekly on local television, as well as the weekly column on DIAG in the local newspaper *Etefaq-e Islam*. Additionally, talk shows, interviews, reports and four films (approximately 15 minutes each) were produced on DIAG. Mobile cinemas / road shows continued throughout the province in the districts of Obeh, Pashtun Zarghun, Koshk Kohne, Robat Sangi, Golran, Kohsan and Adraskan.

Central

Kabul Province

In addition to supporting several of ANBP's Central Office Public Information events, the Public Information Office of Kabul Regional Office conducted outreach activities. In June, the Regional Office attended Provincial Council meetings in Panjshir, Parwan, Kapisa, Logar and Wardak Provinces to distribute DIAG calendars, DIAG documentary video (to be broadcasted through local TVs and radios) and discuss public awareness campaign in the provinces with heads of the Department of Information and Culture and the Department of Hajj and Islamic Affairs. Additionally, with Kabulis going on picnics during the weekends at Qargha Dam outside of Kabul, on Friday 23 May the Public Information Associate went to the picnic area and distributed DIAG posters, hangers, information sheets, leaflets and stickers to picnic goers.