

# United Nations Development Programme

## Afghanistan

### [Greening Afghanistan Initiative]

[01-04-2008 – 30-06-2008]

Quarterly Project Report - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2008



Afghanistan



Community Elders, Influentials and Mullahs attending Training on Environment

**Project ID: 00047565**

**Duration: 36 Months (September 2005 – September 2008)**

**Component (MYFF): Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development**

**Total Budget: \$1,982,604.00**

**Unfunded: \$952,091.00**

**Implementing Partners / Responsible Parties: UNDP**

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## I. Implementation progress

### Activities, deliverables, outputs from April to June 2008:

UNDP under the umbrella of the UN joint Programme GAIN (i.e.Green Afghanistan Initiative) is implementing the components 3. Capacity Building and Component 6. Adopt-A-Tree of the Integrated Environmental Protection Project which falls under the same Programme. This project is being implemented in four Northern provinces: Jawzjan, Sari Pul and Faryab Provinces funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Samangan Province with funding from the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) With the combined funding, this project has so far focused on five districts of the above-mentioned provinces, namely Sari Pul (Sari Pul Province), Sheberghan (Jawzjan Province), Maimana, Pashtoonkot (Faryab Province), and Hazrati Sultan District (Samangan Province).

The activities in the first three provinces with the USAID funding are carried out within the framework of "Provincial Reforestation and Integrated Environmental Protection Project (IEPP)", which is implemented jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The IEPP consists of six components, of which UNDP-GAIN covers the Components 3 "Capacity Building" and Component 6 "Adopt-a-Tree Programme."

Both the USAID and SDC funded activities were initiated in early 2008, and the progress in the 2nd quarter of 2008 were capacity building activities through holding training workshops for community members and government officials. Two workshops were conducted in Saripul and Sheberghan districts from 13-16 April and from 20-23 April 2008 respectively. The training workshops for Maimana, Pashtoon Kot and Hazrati Sultan districts have been planned for early July this year.

Furthermore training workshops are planned during July – August for Village Environment Committees. These sessions include topics about general environmental protection – which will be delivered through follow-on trainings to the communities by VECs. The sessions also include working with the VECs to build their capacity in identifying some of their priorities in environment and to include environment in their village level development plans.

At the school level, teacher patrons in each of the target school also get trained in environment and deliver follow-on trainings to their students while becoming supporting members of the Green Generation Clubs.

In all provinces / districts, UNDP-GAIN implements its activities in coordination with the provincial offices of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and of the Department of Education, community leaders, Community Development Councils (CDCs)/the Village Environment Committees (VECs) where they were established in the earlier phases of UNDP-GAIN, among other local stakeholders.

#### Progress towards IEPP Component 3 "Capacity Building" (UNDP-GAIN Component 1):

#### IEPP Output 3.1: 80 community based entity supported to instigate environmental planning and intervention in eight districts,

The target under the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the funding for USAID is the formation of 40 village environment committees (VECs) whereas UNDP has established 24 new village environment committees and supported 16 existing village environment committees that were

established under GAIN last year. These VECs are receiving trainings regarding the environment and support to mainstream environment into their village level development plans while part of their responsibility include delivering the general environment training to the community people. These VECs are established within the community development councils (CDCs) who have representatives from all areas of the village within the scope of the CDC and each member representing a cluster of houses will deliver the training to their own clusters. During the reporting period, 160 VEC members have been identified to participate in the planned training workshops which will be held in each district i.e. 40 members from 10 VECs in each of the four districts Saripul, Sheberghan, Maimana and Pashtoon Kot will be invited to the workshop.

This training will also be implemented in Hazrati Sultan district under SDC funding where 10 existing VECs have been strengthened.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of IEPP include establishment of 40 additional VECs and implementation of micro-environment projects through the same institutions.

**IEPP Output 3.2: 80 government officials, 1,600 women/men and community members/elders trained on environment-related issues in the same districts.**

**Target in the first phase: The target for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of funding i.e. up to the end of August 2008 is 40 government officials and 800 men/women and community members/elders.**

During the reporting period, the project held the community environmental training workshops for the 400 community members and 24 government officials in the two districts of Sari Pul and JawzJan. The set up included 200 community members in each of the districts – comprising of different social groups including Influential elders, religious leaders/mullahs and women and 12 participants from government like municipality, provincial council, NEPA DoA, and DoE. The sessions were planned for 100 participants at a time, however based on the recommendations from the 1<sup>st</sup> GAIN joint mission, these sessions are set to around 50 participants at a time in order to increase the efficiency of the trainings. The dates for these sessions in Saripul were between 13 – 16 April and for Sheberghan the trainings were delivered between 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 08). These trainings are meant to increase the environmental awareness of the participants. However participants are coming from among the influential groups within the society like Mullahs who convey the environmental messages through their religious preaches....

The below tables show the number of participants from communities and government attending the workshops. In the first day, the workshop was officially opened by Mr. Qotbuddin Shafaq, the Deputy Governor of Saripul,

**Table of planned and actual number of participants: (SARI PUL DISTRICT)**

	Planned # of participants		Total	Actual # of participants		Total	Percentage
	Community members	Government Officials		Community members	Government Officials		
Day 1	50	2	52	67	2	69	132.69%
Day 2	50	2	52	36	2	38	73.07%
Day 3	50	4	54	25	4	29	53.70%
Day 4	50	4	52	40	4	44	81.48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>85.23%</b>

As the table indicates, in the first day in Saripul, 69 women attended the workshop which was beyond our expectation. This was the result of the cooperation from the department of women affairs of the Saripul province. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the training targeted mainly the religious leaders/Mullahs. The participants actively participated in the workshop where the question and answer sessions also clarified most of the points.

As a result, the participants realized the importance of the workshop as well as the existence of some related governmental departments like NEPA and other participating government agencies in the province. They discussed the environmental situation in the districts and decided to contact municipality and NEPA to solve their environmental problems. They even sought clarifications on various factors affecting their local environments and the environmental risks associated.

In Sheberghan, the project invited the Governor to officially open the workshop, but due to his busy schedule, one of the high officials Mr. Haji Mohammad Akbar khan opened the workshop on his behalf. After the training sessions, the head of NEPA of Jawzjan and the head of the department of women affairs delivered short speeches to encourage the participants to protect the environment and convey the messages to others in their villages as well.

**Table of planned and actual number of participants: (SHEBERGHAN DISTRICT)**

Training Schedule	Planned # of participants		Total	Actual # of participants		Total	Percentage Present
	Community members	Government Officials		Community members	Government Officials		
Day 1	50	2	52	50	2	52	100%
Day 2	50	2	52	50	2	52	100%
Day 3	50	4	54	40	2	42	77.77%
Day 4	50	4	54	50	4	54	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>94.44%</b>

The normal start and end time for the workshop in the 3<sup>rd</sup> session was affected due to the delays by the local partners in informing the participants, however the session started and ended between 11:00 to 5:00 with great interest from the participants and the facilitators.

**IEPP Output 3.3: Environmental promotional materials produced and disseminated in the same districts.**

Production of GAIN Promotional materials are under procurement process, the distribution of the Promotional Materials will follow after the trainings to the communities, VECs and teacher patrons are delivered.

**Progress towards IEPP Component 6: Adopt-A-Tree (AAT) Programme:**

**Output 6.1: Adopt-A-Tree Programme implemented in 80 schools through which 56,000 saplings are planted and cared to survive.**

Target in the first phase (Nov 07- Aug 08): The adopt a tree programme has been implemented in 40 schools planting 28,000 saplings under USAID and in 10 schools planting 7,000 under SDC funding during the 1<sup>st</sup> reporting period. The project has been monitoring the condition of saplings distributed to schools in Saripul, Jawzjan and Hazrati Sultan districts.

The Green Generation Clubs will be established by electing club members, leaders and guiding teachers after the summer vacation when the schools are open and by then the teacher patrons trainings would have been delivered. A quick need assessment of capacities and environmental issues has been conducted in April 2008. Based on the assessment results, the agenda for the training of GGC guiding teachers have been prepared.

Under AAT, the plantation and survival of 35,000 saplings through 50 schools in the target provinces are ensured by sensitizing the school students of the importance of tree and reiterating on the importance of the lost tradition of tree plantation. The saplings planted in the school compounds will be looked after by the GGCs, under the general supervision by

the school administration. UNDP-GAIN will further support the schools and will provide tools for them to take care of the saplings planted in the schools compounds..

**GAIN Joint mission:**

From 15-19 June 2008, the second joint monitoring mission of IEPP was conducted by the representatives of USAID, UNDP, WFP and FAO offices in Kabul. They visited UNDP/GAIN office on 15<sup>th</sup> of June. During this visit, the field teams from UNDP and FAO briefed the mission about UNDP/GAIN activities in 4 target provinces of Faryab, Jawzjan, Saripul and Samangan. The mission visited the field project sites in Sheberghan, Maimana, Pashtoon Kot and Saripul districts under UNDP and FAO-GAIN activities, including some of the VECs, FAO nurseries and schools where the above AAT programme is being implemented. The mission could not hold a debriefing meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> of June 08 because of change on flight schedule and lack of time.

**Progress in SDC- funded activities in Samangan Province:**

The project had established eight VECs in Hazrat Sultan district of Samangan province last year and the VECs will be strengthened under the SDC funds in 2008. The VEC focal point from the project visited the district and identified 150 community members, men/women, elders, 8 government officials (from Department of Education, Department of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock and National Environment Protection Agency) to be trained in 2008 to raise their awareness and build their capacity to manage the environmental issues in their villages. An additional 32 VEC members will also be trained on environmental protection and greening to enable them to manage environmental issues and improve greening in their villages.

During the reporting period, the UNDP-GAIN project team/AAT focal point also visited this district and 3 out of 10 selected schools; to monitor the condition of planted saplings in the schools compound under AAT programme. The follow up visits, establishment of Green Generation Clubs GGCs, environmental briefing for students, competitions, teacher patrons training and procurement of packages for winner students are on hold until the requested budget is made available to the project.

**Technical support to the 400 women owned private nurseries established through WFP:**

As a follow up support to the newly selected 400 women owned private nurseries that were established under GAIN/WFP this year, the project M&E staff continued the monitoring of the nurseries, condition of saplings, survival rates and gave technical advice when required.

## II. Project implementation challenges

### *Updated project risks and actions*

**Adopt a Tree Programme:**

While part of the criteria for choosing the schools to implement the ATT programme was the availability of water, the severe climatic change over the season has decreased some of the water sources for irrigating the saplings. Additionally, the majority of the schools don't have any irrigation systems within the schools. This requires a solution for provision of water within the schools. The project is exploring options for redressing this.

## ***Updated project issues and actions***

**Due to the seasonal urgency, the saplings were distributed to the schools for adopt a tree, prior to establishment of school based green generation clubs and the provision of trainings on environment and specifics related to saplings and adopt a tree Programme. While a briefing was given to the departments of education and the administration of the school on the purpose and the concept of implementation of adopt a tree and how it relates to the education and sensitization of school students, some of the schools were found who have appointed the school gardener/cleaner to look after the saplings planted through ATT. As a lessons learnt, the establishment of the GGC should take place before the start of the winter vacation – as the winter season arrives, GAIN will have environmental champions at schools who will welcome the adopt a tree Programme and look after the saplings.**

### III. Financial status and utilization

#### Financial status

Table 1: Contribution overview [September 2005 – September 2008]

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
UNDP	696,913	696,913	
WFP	1,285,691	333,720	951,971
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,982,604</b>	<b>1,030,633</b>	<b>951,971</b>

#### Financial utilization

Table 2: Quarterly expenditure by activity

Activity	BUDGET [year]	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity 1 [Management Support]	0.00	-242.67	242.67	N/A
Activity 2 [Rural Awareness]	0.00	-43.68	43.68	N/A
Activity 3 [Integrated Environment Protection Activities]	180532.00	118,902.00	61630.00	65.86%
Activity 4 [SDC Environment Support]	36,828.00	29472.00	7356	80%
UNDP GMS (based on donor agreements)	16,360	8,990.00	7,370.00	55.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>233,720.00</b>	<b>157,077.65</b>	<b>76,642.35</b>	<b>67.2%</b>

Table 3: Quarterly expenditure by donor [1-Jan-08 to 31 Jun-08]

DONORS	ACTIVITY (as per approved budget)	2008 Budget	Q1 EXPENDITURES 01/01/08 - 31/06/08	BALANCE as of 31/06/08	DELIVERY RATE %
UNDP	Activity 1	-	(243)	243	#DIV/0!
	Activity 2	-	(44)	44	
GMS 5% (see agreement)		-	-	-	
<b>Subtotal DONOR I</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(286)</b>	<b>286</b>	
WFP	Activity3	180,532	118,902	61,630	67%
	Activity4	36,828	29,472	7,356	
GMS 5% (see agreement)		16,360	8,990	7,370	
<b>Subtotal DONOR III</b>		<b>233,720</b>	<b>157,364</b>	<b>76,356</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>233,720</b>	<b>157,078</b>	<b>76,642</b>	<b>67%</b>