



## UNITED NATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AFGHANISTAN

### Centre for Policy and Human Development

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

[01-07-2008 – 30-09-2008]

#### QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT (QUARTER 3, 2008)



Lecturers from eleven provincial universities during the peace-building workshop, Kabul University, August 26, 2008.

**Project ID:** 00050008

**Start Date:** 1 Jan 2006

**End Date:** 31 Dec 2009

**Component (MYFF):** Poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs

**Total Budget:** USD 2,457,828

**Implementing Partners/Responsible parties:**

Center for Policy and Human Development & Kabul University

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## I. Implementation progress

The following major activities, which are outlined in the Center for Policy and Human Development's (CPHD) annual work plan, were undertaken by CPHD during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2008.

### *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. This training course started on 29 April, 2008 and was completed on June 29, 2008.

The completion of the training was followed by two months of group field research projects in quarter 3 of 2008. Eight groups initiated their research projects, which is a requirement for the successful completion of the training course, on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

CPHD is working with three groups of university lecturers in facilitating their field research projects. The topics of the research projects include Drug Addicts and their Human Development Needs in the 6<sup>th</sup> district (Nahya); Patient Satisfaction in a Private Clinic and Human Development Assessment of Street Children in Kabul city.

It is anticipated that the research projects will be completed by the end of September and the research papers will be printed in *Serrana* academic journal publishes by CPHD.

Furthermore, the trainees, who are mainly Kabul university lecturers, have been encouraged to include human development concepts in their respective subjects in classrooms. The overall impact of these courses are to promote and support capacity building in teaching, advocacy and research in the area of human development in Afghan academic institutions.

#### *Establishing relations with other research and training centers*

During quarter three, CPHD contacted various institutions for collaboration purposes. Two institutions, Tiri Networks and Chr. Michelsen Institute are interested in collaborating with CPHD. Tiri, Making Integrity Work, which is an international Non Governmental Organization and based in England, has agreed to collaborate and work together in the field of integrity and human development. As part of this mutual collaboration, CPHD and Tiri have agreed;

1. To formalize the CPHD's activity in research, training and course development in the field of integrity in reconstruction and its links to human development;
2. To establish two post doctoral research fellows to train them as public integrity experts who would conduct research, devise short and long courses and train others in Afghan universities;
3. To carry out research on public integrity performance; and
4. To undertake joint Tiri-CPHD capacity development workshops for faculties of national universities.

The purpose of this collaboration is to have a positive impact on reconstruction policies by enhancing awareness and literacy of the reconstruction process, improved research available for the policy debate and to mainstream capacity and commitment to research and teach on the use of integrity to achieve national and human development ends.

Chr. Michelsen Institute which is an independent, non-profit research institution and an international center in policy-oriented and applied development research based in Bergen, Norway is interested to support our research activities. The detail of this support is under discussion.

## Serrana Magazine

CPHD in collaboration with the Scientific Research Center of Kabul University undertook an extensive effort to improve the quality of English, Dari and Pashto articles which are included in the first volume of *Serrana* academic journal. The publication date for the first volume of the journal was postponed due to the weak quality of the journal including design and copy editing. While continuing work towards improving the quality of the first issues, CPHD, Scientific Research Center of KU and a department within Kabul University that is a collaborator of CPHD for *Serrana*, have already started work on the second volume of the *Serrana* journal. Articles have been already submitted to the journal's board of advisors for publication. The review process will be continued during September 08 and we expect to publish the second volume by the end of quarter four.

## Guest Lecture Series

During this quarter, CPHD organized and successfully facilitated four guest lectures. Participation turns over in these lectures were around 80-100 people. The following paragraph gives a detailed description for each lecture.

Prof. Nadiri, former Co-chair of Joint Monitoring and Board and Chief Economic Advisor to the President delivered his lecture on 8th of July and the topic of his lecture was "Afghanistan National Development strategy (ANDS): Effective Implementation and Implications for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction" at CPHD. In this lecture, Prof. Nadiri presented justifications for the development of ANDS, its components and implications for economic growth and poverty reduction, and finally he talked about the coordination mechanism of national and international efforts for implementation and monitoring of the ANDS. The lecture was attended by more than 120 university lecturers, students, representatives of various ministries, and non-governmental agencies, private sector representatives and many national and international participants.

Dr. Wali Wardak's lecture on "Conflicts and their Impact on the Mental Health of Children" was delivered on 4th of August 2008 at CPHD. The event was attended by close to eighty individuals who included lecturers and students of Kabul University, employees of ministries of higher education and public health, representatives of health related governmental and non-governmental organizations, representatives of private health agencies and some dignitaries'.

Dr. Baha's lecture on "Promoting Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Human Development in Afghanistan" was delivered on 23rd July 2008. Dr. Baha who is a Principal Lecturer (Associate Professor) at the Faculty of Science and Engineering in the University of Brighton, United Kingdom, talked about ICTs in educational institutions in the developed countries; the present situation of ICT in educational institutions in Afghanistan; and the progress and the advantages of integrating ICT tools into the higher education system of Afghanistan. In addition to participation from Kabul University lecturers and students, many others from IT profession and representative of various relevant private and governmental institutions attended the lecture.

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 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 Kabul University 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.

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

### *Preparation NHDR 2009*

The preparatory work of NHDR 2009 started in this quarter. The National Board of Advisory, whose main task is to guide the process of NHDR 2009 development, was established. Members of relevant government institutions, private sector, civil society and Afghanistan's National Assembly were selected to become part of the NHDR Board. Terms of Reference for NHDR Board, NHDR 2009 work plan was developed. Consequently, work was initiated for selecting of the NHDR 2009. The process for selection of the theme involved organizing meetings with national policy makers, national and international academicians, members of the government of Afghanistan, civil societies. After the initial consultation meeting, the following themes were suggested: Health & Human Development; Rural Livelihood and Human Development; Social Inclusion & Human Development; Livelihood and Human Development; Challenges to Human Development in Afghanistan and ways for tackling these challenges; Poverty and water. A desk review of the suggested themes was undertaken by CPHD staff. During this process an analysis was conducted to identify already existence materials (research paper, government and donor documents, and laws), expected impact and risks for each suggested theme.

Furthermore, a consultation workshop was held with the lecturers of eleven public universities from different parts of Afghanistan. During this workshop the participants voted for three themes of water, livelihood and social exclusion. Subsequently, the NHDR Board, which met on September 18, selected water to be the theme of NHDR 2009. The Board members selected water resource management due to its potentially vital and influential role in agriculture, livestock, poverty alleviation, health, economic, unemployment and energy sector of the country.

In addition hiring processes for the recruitment of team for NHDR 2009 is already started.

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

### *Peace building and Human Development Workshop*

As a result of successful exchange between CPHD and United State's Peace Institute (USAIP) a workshop on Peace-building and Human Development was held from 09/08/08 to 13/08/08 at Kabul University, Afghanistan. The workshop participants included university lectures from all public higher education institutions in Afghanistan. The programme was designed as a crash-course about peace building concept and its implications within educational institutes. Forty-two university lecturers from eleven universities of Afghanistan participated in this workshop.

The primary purpose of this workshop was to introduce participants to peace building concepts and to help participants develop a sense of relevance and importance of these concepts in their classrooms lessons. Elements of peace building such as the understanding of conflict, identity and citizenship as key components for developing and stable peaceful society were introduced to the participants. Furthermore, the workshop provided a friendly environment for the various lectures to exchange ideas and learn from each other's experiences. The post training evaluation of the training programme provided information about the strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations for future similar events. The trainees observed the training as a useful mean for their capacity building in the field of education and peace-building activities in respective areas of their expertise.

## *Launching of Regional Human Development Report 2008*

The Asia Pacific Human Development Report "Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives: Accelerating Human Development in Asia and the Pacific" was launched on 20th August 2008 in the Ministry of Higher Education. The launch was a joint venture of CPHD and Accountability and Transparency (ACT) Project of UNDP. The event attracted up to 250 participants from Kabul University, relevant key public institutions, members of the National Assembly. During this event keynote speeches were delivered by Dr. Ahadi (Minister of Finance), Dr. Dadfar, (Minister of Higher Education) and Mr. Kai Eide (United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General to Afghanistan). Furthermore CPHD and ACT projects presented a summary of the content of the report and its recommendation. This event was reported at the national media such as RTA, Tolo Television and other local TV channels.

## *Launch of Book "Poverty Reduction that Works"*

The launching of this book, which is a collection of case-studies of different developing and less developed countries including Afghanistan, was conducted by CPHD on 31st of August 2008. This book which is produced by UNDP Regional Center in Colombo, presents a clear picture of human development activities in the region. The event was attended by around eighty Kabul University lectures, students from various relevant faculties especially of agriculture and veterinary, national and international NGOs' representatives. The author of "Dairy projects in Afghanistan" presented the case-study and its finding followed by the speeches by representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Deputy Dean of faculty agriculture which discussed the importance of such projects for the country.

## **II. Project implementation challenges**

### *Updated project risks and actions*

Kabul University campus is a politically charged place and as a consequence any changes in the dynamic of this environment may affect our work. The likely of the risk is unpredictable as it depends on the overall political change in the country. The government has put in place some restrictions that affect our daily work. For example, we are not able to have wider discussions or consultations on all subjects of human development with the students of the university. While the NHDR process is an inclusive and participatory process therefore CPHD work has been made sometimes difficult under these conditions. In order to overcome this risk, CPHD is working very closely with the management of the Kabul University for seeking their advice and guidance. (Annex 1: Risk Log).

## Updated project issues and actions

CPHD's activities are focused in three main areas of NDHR production, capacity building and exchange programmes. Funding unpredictability in quarter three will affect the delivery of results of CPHD activities. CPHD's work is affected by shortage of staff. This is because CPHD was not able to hire new staff due to unavailability of funds. We also, lost our Capacity Building and Exchange Programme Specialist, Dr. Ali Wardak. Now that CPHD has started working on production of NHDR 2009 there is a possibility that CPHD will not be able to work in Capacity building and Exchange Programme areas until we recruit new qualified staff. Finding staff to work in the area of research and policy work is extremely time-consuming and challenging in Afghanistan. CPHD has been granted new funds from UNDP's Core Budget and will strive to work closely with the CO to recruit qualified staff as soon as possible.

Additional issues involved in the production of NHDR 2009 are; The challenges include finding qualified writers for the report, unavailability of data and security risk for conducting research in some parts of the country. In order to overcome these CPHD will rely on its network with various research institutions to identify qualified individuals. In order to ensure that the quality of our analysis does not suffer and the NHDR 2009 depicts national realities, research will be conducted in collaboration with regional universities in order to minimize the insecurity risk.

## III. Financial status and utilization

### Financial status

Table 1: Contribution overview [start date of the project – end date of project]

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
UNDP	450,000	450,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>-</b>

### Financial utilization

Table 2: Quarterly expenditure by activity

Activity	BUDGET [year]	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE Q1	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE Q2	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE Q3	Total EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity 1	216077.73	92,120.91	126146.11	8688.99	226956.01	(10878.28)	105%
Activity 2	166922.3	5,136.00	23,313.35	84272.78	112722.13	54200.17	67.5%
Activity 3	67000	62	0		62	66938	0%
UNDP GMS							
<b>Total</b>	<b>450000</b>	<b>97,318.91</b>	<b>149459.46</b>	<b>92961.77</b>	<b>339740.14</b>	<b>110259.89</b>	<b>75.45%</b>

## Annexes

### Annex 1, the project Risk Log

CENTER FOR POLICY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CPHD)  
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#### RISK LOG

Risk identification							Risk Management				
ID	Date (Author)	Type	Description	Evaluation			Decision	Date	Mitigation measure / comments	Owner	Current Status
				Impact	Probability	Risk level					
				Critical Severe Moderate Minor Negligible	Certain Very likely Likely Seldom Unlikely	See Table above	Prevent Reduce Transfer Accept				Disappeared Decreasing No change Increasing
1	2008	Security		Severe	very likely	High	Accept	continuously	tow options are there to use; 1); To select the locations where the security let the project to implement its activities. 2); To use local resources to implement the activities of the project in the provinces where the security situation doesn't allow the project to be implemented.	CPHD/KU	Increasing

2	2008	Technical Staff Availability	Lack of technical staff both national and international in research, data collection and data analyzes which will highly affect the process of NHDRs development	Severe	Very Likely	High	to be reduced by looking for in different resource pools	3rd and 4th Qs of the year	there is a strategy for the issue to search all resource pools and also to announce the position in different ways through different communication means. The project will be specific on data management skills.	CPHD/KU	no change	
3	2008	Political Changes at the KU	that is usual that there are changes frequently in the past 4 years for the position of KU Chancellor. Each of the new chancellors has had a different political relations and ideas.	Critical	Very Likely	Extreme	Reduce by keeping productive and sound professional relation with the KU management	3rd and 4th Qs of the year	The project will never touch the political issues within the university and its activities locations. Will try to keep its position in a way that be accepted after any change in the political situation of the university.	CPHD/KU	Disappeared	
4	2008	Availability and access to Accurate and necessary Information	One of the obstacles to development projects in Afghanistan is lack of data, statistics and information about necessary data. Also, the access to data and information in some locations is from difficult to impossible.	Critical	Certain	Extreme	Accept and maximum use of the available data and information	3rd and 4th Qs of the year	the project will contact governmental and nongovernmental organizations who are involved in statistical activities, data collection, information gathering, and will try to use each single resource	CPHD/KU	no change	