



United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan

[Greening Afghanistan Initiative]

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Quarterly Project Report [3rd Quarter, 2008]



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Duration: September 2005 to September 2009
Component (MYFF): Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development
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Unfunded: 1,605,050.00
Implementing Partners/Responsible parties: UNDP

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I. Implementation progress

Activities, deliverables, outputs from July to September 2008:

During the third quarter of 2008, the implementation of UNDP GAIN IEPP focused mostly on the capacity building and awareness raising component. This was done through holding training workshops to the communities, government officials, teacher patrons and members of the village environment committees. The project progresses made towards achievement of outputs are explained under each output as following:

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,

Through the 3rd quarter, the 40 village environment committees that were established earlier this year - were provided with specific training on greening and environmental awareness and village environmental development issues. These VECs were established within the existing community development councils (CDCs) who have representatives from all areas of the village. The environment committees consist of 4 executive CDC members including the head, deputy head, treasurer and secretary. While most of the VECs attended with 4 of the executive members, some VECs participated with less than 4 members which resulted in lesser numbers participating than invited. This said, a number of 143 executive community members from 40 community entities have been trained to activate 40 village environment committees in Saripul, Sheberghan, Maimana and Pashtoon Kot districts proportioning 10 VECs in each district.

The below table indicates the planned and actual number of VEC members participated in the workshops.

District	No.of invited		Actual No.of		Remarks
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Maimana	40	0	31	0	78%
Pashtoon Kot	40	0	40	0	100%
Saripul	40	0	34	0	85%
Sheberghan	40	0	38	0	95%
Total	160	0	143	0	90.00%

The trained village environment committees have delivered environmental awareness to the people within their villages. These VECs are also supported to mainstream greening and environmental protection into their village level development plans through sessions where they identified their village level environmental priorities. In order to strengthen the capacity of the village environment committees, as well as to make sure environment is incorporated into the village development plans, the team also worked with them to prepare proposals for grants of \$1,000.00 to deliver micro-environment projects which are implemented by these committees.

UNDP/GAIN also distributed the project proposal format and list of activities for the micro environment grants to the VEC members and explained to them how to come up with proposals. Dates were specified to the VECs for initial submission of proposals and 27 VECs out of 40 submitted their initial proposals for grants. However there will be a need for follow up sessions to train the VECs on particular common problems especially on the alignment of the proposed activities to GAIN mandate.

The proposals received include: 11 water wells, 3 diversion dams, 2 nurseries, 9 public toilets, 1 retaining wall construction and 1 construction of culvert. Some of the VECs have proposed two activities within the cost of \$1000.00. However the project team will be closely monitoring these proposals to see whether they are in line with the mandate of GAIN.



The communities are contributing up to 30% of the micro projects cost usually in kind and in the form of free labor, time and material. The VECs were requested to open a bank account in one of the banks to transfer the grants directly to their accounts. While some of the VECs provided their bank accounts some of them are starting to improve their financial system.

IEPP Output 3.2: 96 government officials, 1,600 women/men and community members/elders trained on environment-related issues in 8 districts,

During the reporting period, the project held training workshops for the community members and government officials on environmental protection and greening for the 400 community members, men/women and 24 government officials in two districts of Maimana and Pashtoon Kot. The same training was delivered to the 400 community members in Jowzjan and Maimana provinces during the 2nd quarter.

The 400 community members comprised of influential elders, religious leaders/Mulas and women and the 12 government officials included officials from RRD, DoA, DoWA, Municipality and NEPA.

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, and women participants mostly include teachers who pass on the environmental messages to various levels in the community.

The women participation in the community training sessions was better than expected. The below table indicates the planned and actual number of participants in the workshops.

District	Planned number		Total	Actual number		Total	Remarks
	Male	Female		Male	Female		
Maimana	162	50	212	138	60	198	93.39%
Pashtoon Kot	162	50	212	143	53	196	92.45%
Total	324	100	424	281	113	394	92.92%

The workshops were conducted through full- day sessions covering 53 participants per session.

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.

During the reporting period, the activities under this component included environmental trainings and awareness raising and monitoring activities.

During the reporting period 80 teacher patrons were trained in Maimana, Pashtoon Kot, Saripul and Sheberghan districts. These teacher patrons come from the 40 schools where GGCs are established. They are holding the leading role in the Green Generation Clubs who direct the other members of the GGCs comprising student representatives from all the classes through various greening activities and environmental awareness raising in schools.

The full day environmental training sessions were delivered for 20 teachers from each district of Maimana, Pastoon Kot, Sheberghan and SariPul. The topics included general environment, greening and how they could lead the GGCs towards school level environmental interventions – while disseminating the environmental messages throughout the school.

The schools also received 50 GAIN training manuals and 200 associated flip charts which could be used in training other teachers and students. These materials remain with the green generation clubs within the schools.

Following the trainings delivered to the teacher patrons, there were also awareness raising sessions that was directly delivered to the school students in the schools. These awareness raising sessions included awareness about the general environment and sensitizing the school students about the importance of tree and the individual responsibility towards greening – the example of which could start by protecting and surviving the saplings already planted in schools.

In 20 schools in SariPul and Shebrghan districts, school students participated in the environmental competition. Through these competitions, the school students involve in drawing pictures and writing essays about environment. After the competitions, the pictures and essays are reviewed by a committee including the school administration and the teacher patrons after which students receive prizes for the best drawings/essays. The prizes are composed of stationary items. Through these competitions, 1,200 prizes have been awarded to the winning students.



The monitoring of the 50 schools (including Hazrat Sultan District) where adopt a tree Programme is implemented is in progress, so far the survival rate of the saplings is around 75%, however the more exact survival rate for the total number of saplings should be available by next quarter.

Other achievements during the reporting period:

Support to the 800 women private nurseries established under WFP:

Through the reporting period, 751 nurseries have been reached through monitoring, mentoring and technical advise to the women private nursery owners. Out of the total number of 800 nurseries, 49 nurseries could not be reached due to security problems, however BRAC ensured UNDP to reach the remaining 49 nurseries and provided technical advice.

From the WFP side, these activities were formally handed over to the government within the 2nd quarter of the year, however the monitoring and technical advice to the women nurseries, following the provision of inputs was delivered throughout the 3rd quarter of 2008. This main aim was to ensure that the women are technically competent to run their privately owned nurseries – especially focusing on technical aspects.

In order to conduct a precise study about the survival rate, a random sample of 20 nurseries were monitored. Last year the same exercise indicated a survival rate of over 95% while this year, the study shows around 91% survival rate.

Please see the table below:

S/N	Name of the Nursery Farm	District	Village	No of Sapling received by beneficiary	Numbers Alive	Numbers Dead
1	Nazanin	Nahr Shahi	Baba yadgar	2,500	2,480	20
20	Zia jan		Takhtapol	2,500	2,400	100

60	Shah Begum		Khord Langerkhana	2,500	2,350	150
80	Rakia		Khord Langerkhana	2,500	2,450	50
100	Aziza		Chughdak	2,500	2,385	115
120	Razia	Khulm	Mirza Qasim	2,500	2,000	500
140	Shah jan		Sher Ali Khan	2,500	1,500	1,000
160	Dil Jan		Esmat Big	2,500	2,000	500
180	Suraya		Sayd Motaher	2,500	1,800	700
200	Parwen		Tapashikhy	2,500	2,440	60
220	Nafisa	Dehdadi	Kod-i-Barq	2,500	2,350	150
240	Farishta		Kod-i-Barq	2,500	2,000	500
260	Mina		Sher Abad	2,500	2,480	20
280	Humaira		Baba Qoshqar	2,500	2,430	70
300	Sema		Gojara Sobhan Bahi	2,500	2,480	20
320	Samya	Balkh	Borya Baf	2,500	2,400	100
330	Shah Bibi		Koshkak	2,500	2,400	100
335	Amina		Koshkak	2,500	2,420	80
340	Sidiqa		Sayed Abad	2,500	2,410	90
351	Shah Jan		Aufmalik	2,500	2,390	110
Grand Total				50,000	45,565	4,435

UNDP/GAIN has also planted a number of 170 saplings within the office compound. Fertilizers were applied under the supervision of GAIN female monitors and as observed the saplings are growing well.

II. Project implementation challenges

Updated project risks and actions

Shortage of water remains a high risk for the greening activities, especially for the adopt a tree Programme. Meanwhile most of the proposals received for the micro-environment grants include small solutions for water and irrigation, which should reach these problems at some communities.

Some of the schools are suggesting the provision of such micro grants which should sustain the adopt a tree Programme at schools.

There are some security uncertainties in working with the 4 districts of Qarqi, Sozma Qala, Almar and Qaisar during the 2nd phase of IEPP. The security updates report altering situational reports on security. UNDP will be working jointly with FAO to work out such issues which are common concern to both of the agencies who are following the same security guidelines.

Updated project issues and actions

III. Financial status and utilization

Financial status

Table 1: Contribution overview [September 2005 – December 2009]

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
UNDP	782,087	696,913	85,174
WFP	993,311	908,137	85,174
TOTAL	1,775,398	1,605,050	170,348

Financial utilization

Table 2: Quarterly expenditure by activity

Activity	BUDGET [2008]	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity 1	0.00	-273.98	273.98	#DIV/0!
Activity 2	0.00	-43.68	43.68	#DIV/0!
Activity 3	273,532	184,764	88,768.00	67.54%
Activity 4	36,828.00	36,828	0	100%
UNDP GMS (7%)	23,360.00	16,360.00	7,000.00	70%
Total	333,720	237,634.34	96,085.66	70%

Table 3: Quarterly expenditure by donor [start date – end date of quarter]

DONORS	ACTIVITY	2008 Budget	Q3 EXPENDITURES 01/01/08 - 31/09/08	BALANCE as of 31/09/08	DELIVERY RATE %
UNDP	Activity 1	-	(274)	274	
	Activity 2	-	(44)	44	
Subtotal DONOR II		-	(318)	318	0%
WFP	Activity3	273,532	184,767	88,765	
	Activity4	36,828	36,828	0	
GMS 7%		23,360	16,360	7,000	
Subtotal DONOR III		333,720	237,955	95,765	71%
Total		333,720	237,637	96,083	71%