

**United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan**

**Centre for Policy and Human Development
ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT
[01-01-2008 – 31-12-2008]**



University Lectures during Peace-building training workshop in CPHD Conference Room, 2008.

Project ID:00050008
Duration: 2006-2009,
Strategic Plan:
Total Budget: USD 2,457,828 (Revised)
Unfunded: 0
Implementing Partners/Responsible parties:
CHPD/Kabul University

Table of Contents

Executive summary	3
I. Context.....	5
II. Performance review	6
Progress review	6
1. Overall progress towards the CPAP outcome and output(s)	6
2. Capacity development	6
3. Impact on direct and indirect beneficiaries	7
Implementation strategy review	7
1. Participatory/consultative processes	7
2. Quality of partnerships.....	8
3. National ownership	8
4. Sustainability.....	9
Management effectiveness review	9
1. Quality of monitoring	9
2. Timely delivery of outputs	10
3. Resources allocation	11
4. Cost-effective use of inputs	11
III. Project results summary	12
V. Implementation challenges.....	17
Project risks and actions.....	17
Project issues and actions	17
V. Lessons learnt and next steps.....	19
Lessons learnt	19
Recommendations.....	19
VI. Financial status and utilization.....	21
Financial status.....	21
Financial utilization	22
Table 4: Annual expenditure by donor [1 January – 31 December]	22

Executive summary

During 2008, CPHD has played an important role as a research and training centre in Kabul University and paving the way for the creation of a research culture in Afghanistan.

A six-month-long integrated certification programme in Human Development and Social Research was conducted, including four short-term training workshops. Moreover, CPHD's guest lecturers given by Afghan and international scholars and researchers proved very useful and popular by providing an open atmosphere conducive for intellectual debates and discussions among KU lecturers, students, and members of Kabul-based diplomats, aid workers and others.

Human Development and Social Research Methodologies Training: This program was aimed to support capacity building of lecturers in the areas of Human Development D and SRM, with the ultimate goal of facilitating the transition of the project to its national counterpart, Kabul University. In total, 38 participants were enrolled in the training sessions.

Short-Term Training Programs: In the year 2008, CPHD facilitated four short-term training workshops, peace-building, rule of law, gender and human development and curriculum development.

The Peace-building Training Program introduced participants to peace-building concepts and peace-building practices for mainstreaming into their classrooms and 42 lecturers from all public universities of Afghanistan attended this training. The Rule of Law Training aimed to increase the knowledge of participants about the implication of rule of law and its importance for human development in Afghanistan. The Gender and Human Development workshop focused on links between human development and gender. While , the Curriculum Development Training Workshop assisted university instructors/professors in the designing of curriculum and textbook writing based on new teaching methodologies and in accordance with current challenges of higher education systems in Afghanistan.

Guest Lecture Series: Open to any interested individuals or organizations, CPHD organized and successfully facilitated seven guest lectures on various issues related to the human development concept. Average participation for each of the lectures was 80-100 people.

Research Projects: CPHD, along with Kabul University's Social Science department, conducted three research projects: Street children of Kabul and their human development need; Drug addiction and its impacts on human development; and Patient satisfaction of private clinics in Kabul, all of which will be published in the third issue of Serrana Academic journal. Additionally, CPHD, in collaboration with water relevant departments of Kabul University, designed three research projects: the concentration of fluoride in drinking water of Northern provinces; factors influencing the contamination of water in Kabul; and a case study of conflicts over farming water.

Academic Exchange Program: With the objective of providing opportunities for Afghan academics/researchers and their international counterparts to exchange ideas, research and teaching experiences through a variety of mutual scholarly interests, CPHD offered the following activities in 2008:

1. **Human Development and Education Training in IGIDR-Mumbai:** CPHD arranged two weeks academic training on Human Development and Education in April 2008 for 19 Afghan academics. The training was conducted at the Indra Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai-India.
2. **Serrana Academic Journal:** CPHD, along with the collaboration of Kabul University, revived Serrana journal, the first academic research journal in Kabul University. It will be

published very soon by newly-established Research Center. University faculty, then as in now, contributed to this publication and made way for sharing their ideas in their respective subjects with the academic community.

- 3. Social Research Methodologies Training Program in India:** A two-week training program on social research methodologies under CPHD's academic exchange mandate for university lecturers was designed for lectures from water relevant departments of Kabul University.

In conclusion, CPHD has become fully functional institution and is now funded and technically supported by UNDP and Kabul University with a potential to be a nationally managed institution. In order to make CPHD a sustainable part of the policy research and advocacy, it is recommended that the project has to be extended for a longer term, and for existing strategy to be developed; more advocacy related be carried in the NHDR area; research capacity to be supported and additional exchange activities, such as creating research fellow and internship programmes, to be established; and support for holding national and international conferences to be secured and adequate support for the NHDR 2009 provided.

I. Context

Human development is about expanding people's choices to realise dignified and fulfilling lives. The concept of Human Development, as an alternative development paradigm that views people as both the agents of change and objects of development, is highly relevant to post-conflict country like Afghanistan.

Afghanistan needs a development vision based on the long-term needs and aspirations of the Afghan people. Such a vision can be derived through participatory approaches once information is made available, data gathered and analyzed, and options debated in public. In this regard, UNDP decided to launch a long-term commitment to support the establishment and expansion of human development policies and indicators through the production of biennial Afghanistan Human Development Reports (HDR) at Kabul University's Center for Policy and Human Development (CPHD). These reports are expected to result in improved information sharing and advocacy about human development and will stimulate research and studies on various development challenges in Afghanistan. The production of Afghanistan's HDRs will require a systematic collection, verification and analysis of data in order to produce indicators that could be monitored and progress tracked on human development in Afghanistan.

In order to achieve this objective, there is a need to train a new generation of teachers and students capable of engaging with current human development issues in Afghanistan. Afghan academics and University students need to be introduced to the concept, measurement methods, tools and various other dimensions of human development. There is also a need to equip academics and students with relevant research methods, so that they are able to conduct original research that directly contributes to building knowledge about human development. Furthermore, academic staff – especially at Kabul University - needs to be familiarized with new pedagogical methods.

Thus, the core objective of the project is to support long-term capacity for research, advocacy, and to teach human development in Afghanistan. The project also aims to provide policy recommendation on human development issues in Afghanistan. Such recommendations are expected to build national capacity for formulating and influencing people-oriented development strategies and solutions. Through its various components, the project seeks to support and strengthen data collection efforts at the national level, including methodologies for data collection and analysis that will also influence UNDP programme/project formulation and policies. It also seeks to serve as a platform for action among civil society actors, engaging them in healthy public debates about human development issues in Afghanistan.

In order to implement the various aspects of the project and achieve its key objectives as described above, the Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD) was established by UNDP in Kabul University in 2006. The main outputs of CPHD activities include producing Afghanistan's National Human Development Report and Academic Exchange and Capacity Building programmes. The implantation of each of these activities is described in the section under performance review. The primary beneficiaries of the project are students and lecturers of Kabul University but CPHD has also included lecturers from provincial university in some training workshops.

Afghanistan's National Development Strategy, MDGs and HD reports are all mutually supporting documents. ANDS is a medium-term action plan describing national poverty reduction plans for Afghanistan, whereas the MDG report describes the progress and status of global poverty reduction targets and HDR is an in-depth, nationally owned policy analysis document with bold policy messages that is expected to generate debate and catalyze action for human development.

CPHD is intended to support the realization of the UNDAF outcome V, "greater government capacity for formulating gender sensitive pro-poor policies and programmatic targeting taking into account human development concerns". Project resources have been applied towards the

achievement of CPAP outcome #3, promotion of sustainable livelihoods for the poor and CPAP output(s) [xx].

II. Performance review

Progress review

1. Overall progress towards the CPAP outcome and output(s)

During 2008, CPHD supported capacity building efforts of Kabul University for formulating the pro-poor policies and programmatic targeting in consideration of Human Development. The project conducted 4 training workshops and HD training courses for government employees and academia so as to enable them in formulating pro-poor and gender sensitive policies. Furthermore, the capacity for formulating pro-poor policies will be further supported with the involvement of the government in the preparation of NHDR 2009. A board of 17 members, 10 of which are from relevant government institutions is selected to oversee the preparation of the NHDR, which will include specific pro-poor policy recommendations.

During 2008, CPHD significantly contributed to policy dialogue by organizing guest lecture series, research projects and supported the publication of Kabul University's academic journal. Through these activities, a friendly environment for debating development issues were provided where both students, lecturers, members of the government and NGOs were able to openly discuss and debate on a development hurdle..

2. Capacity development

In 2008, as part of a lesson learned from CPHD's activities in 2007, the project focused on implementing adequate capacity building activities. An integrated Human Development and Research Methods certification program was designed and 42 lectures and government officials successfully completed the training. Through this training the participants gained valuable knowledge about the concept and theories of human development, its main dimensions and the ways and approaches used for their measurement. Human Development Reports were discussed and used as part of the teaching materials; approaches to link the concept of human development to their original field of research in the interested areas were practiced. Specifically, the training programs covered the origin, concept and theories of human development, measurement of its key dimensions; economic growth in relation to human development; gender from a human development perspective; governance and Human Development; rule of law and Human Development; Poverty and Human Development; Education and human Development; Environment and Human Development; Globalization, Trade and Human Development; and the production of Afghanistan's Human Development Reports.

Furthermore, in order to enhance the capacity of lecturers, the project organized two weeks of academic training on Human Development and Education for 20 lecturers of Kabul University. The training was conducted in Indra Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), a renowned research institution known for its contribution to India's National Human Development Report. The training programme, in addition to introducing lecturers to the theoretical concept of human development, provided them with the opportunity to establish links between Afghan academics/researchers and those of the IGIDR. The establishment of such links was aimed at facilitating exchange of ideas, research and teaching methodologies applied by India's higher education institutions in the field of economics. A total of 51 training sessions, which included lectures and twenty presentations, were delivered by experienced professors of IGIDR.

The above-mentioned trainings supported integration of human development concept in both teaching and research activities in the social science departments of Kabul University.

The project also facilitated a workshop on Curriculum Development which was offered to 42 lecturers from Kabul University and other provincial universities. The workshop assisted the university to design its social science curriculum, incorporating new teaching methodologies. Through this training program, the lecturers were introduced to instructional strategies and learning style theories; applied knowledge of research to teaching and learning in the social science field; development of curriculum and highly engaging lesson plans to discuss and exchange ideas and to formulate lessons-learned documents.

The lecturers of Kabul University and provincial universities were introduced to peace-building concepts which helped participants develop a sense of the concept and its relevance in their classroom discussions. Elements of peace-building such as the understanding of conflict, identity and citizenship were focused at which are also key factors for developing a stable and peaceful society. The workshop provided participants with substantive knowledge of these elements and the corresponding skills to model them in society so that the effect spreads from their classrooms, among their colleagues and students and into their local communities.

Participants were introduced to key analytical frameworks in understanding conflict and conflict resolution processes; the connection between teaching methods and the knowledge, skills and attitudes of peace-building. They also learned application of various interactive teaching methods in order to impart peace-building knowledge, transfer skills to their students and through them to the community. Such communication and facilitation skills will further help in their professional and daily lives to resolve conflicts peacefully.

3. Impact on direct and indirect beneficiaries

Kabul University (KU) professors and students are the main beneficiaries of the CPHD activities, while the output of the project has indirect affect on the life of a wider group of the society. Since its inception, the project beneficiaries, particularly those at Kabul University, have shown keen interest in CPHD activities, from inauguration to launch of regional and global reports, to lecture series and individual consultations. A growing number of professors and students are now familiar with the concept of HD, messages of the NHDR 2005, NHDR 2007 and key activities of the CPHD. Students of KU were the main audience during the guest lecture services and they actively participated in all sessions. These lectures provided an excellent atmosphere conducive for healthy debate and discussions among the participants. These lectures aimed at helping percipients – especially KU students-to develop capacities for exchange views peacefully and rationally. These lectures and debates also helped KU students learn about new ideas; allowing them to take a stance on certain issues and to debate them constructively.

The publication of Serrana Academic journal is having a significant impact on both direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project. By publishing informative research-based articles and academic theories, Serrana helps in redeveloping the academic community, and contributing to knowledge development in and beyond Kabul University. Furthermore, it will also helps to share the academic work conducted at KU with the international development community in Afghanistan and abroad, and further support the establish a forum for dialogue between KU and other humanitarian, development agencies and government institutions and hence contributes to the development process in the country.

Implementation strategy review

1. Participatory/consultative processes

CPHD was envisaged as a result of an earlier consultative and participatory process of producing Afghanistan's first ever NHDR 2004. The Minister of higher education, Chancellor of Kabul University, Minister of RRD, Minister of Finance, intellectuals, academic and political leaders were consulted in the course of formulation of the project and preparation of the second National Human Development Report 2007. Local leaders and authorities, tribal elders and members of district councils were consulted during the drafting process of the NHDR. Their views and concerns

were actively reflected in the report. Further and targeted consultation and interactions were initiated in the capacity building phase of the project and commencement of its activities. Chancellor of Kabul University and the Minister of Higher Education has been key partners while the project was fully backed by UNDP.

During this year, further consultations on HD were held through meetings, gatherings and day-long workshops in which media, civil society organizations, leaders, academics, analysts, professors, journalists, members of parliament, government officials, NGO representatives and others were invited, taking an active part in CPHD activities.

2. Quality of partnerships

Institutionalizing human development and its inclusion in the country's higher education system through establishment of the Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD) was one of the unique initiatives reflecting the nature of partnership with the University of Kabul. During 2008 this partnership was further strengthened at both formal and informal levels. The CPHD project board, in which the Chancellor of Kabul University is a member, was established. The board reviewed and endorsed CPHD's annual work-plan for 2009. In addition to its relations with Kabul University, in 2008 CPHD managed to establish working relations with the social science departments of public higher education institutions in eleven provinces.

CPHD also maintained close working relations with the Human Development Report Unit of UNDP's regional center in Colombo. The two centers, in collaboration with the UNDP's Gender Equity Project, are working on thematic papers which will influence the Human Development Report for Asia and the Pacific.

CPHD has established good relations with three international institutions involved in HD-related research (United State's Institution for Peace, Human Rights Bar Association of Wales and England, Tiri Network). Additionally, CPHD has partnered with local institutions such as National Center for Policy research and KAPU on research and training projects. All of these partnerships have positively contributed to the quality of CPHD's work and could provide the possibilities for joint research and training programs in the future.

3. National ownership

CPHD supports Kabul University in its role to introduce and assess HD in Afghanistan. In 2008, CPHD managed to establish a CPHD Project Board drawn from a rich and diverse national spectrum of individuals to oversee CPHD's activities, including utilization of resources and monitoring the project activities.

To ensure broad based engagements and inclusive participation, extensive consultation has taken place both formally and informally with government partners, not only limited to Kabul University but extended to the outside university environment, on the NHDR 2009 theme and research and training activities.

NHDR theme's ownership extends beyond the involvement of KU and includes partnership and consultations with local policy experts, provincial university lecturers, key government institutions in the centre and CSO. The theme of NHDR 2009 was selected through a consultative process. For this purpose, the project has established the NHDR Advisory Board in 2008. The Advisory Board is the steering committee overseeing the drafting of the National Human Development Report (NHDR) and is expected to provide the substantive guidance to the report. The members of the Advisory Board include Kabul University, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, National Environmental Protection Agency, Central Statistical office, a member of the Afghan Parliament, Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission and a representative from the Private Sector. During the initial period, the Board

helped in deciding the theme of the HD report, approved the outline and work-plan, selected the authors of the NHDR, and helped commissioning background papers.

4. Sustainability

According to the project document revision 1, the project was supposed to be transitioning to full government ownership by the end of 2007; therefore, the first two years of the project are fully funded from the core funds of UNDP. Considering the frequent change in the leadership of the Kabul University, it was decided to extend the project for another two years. A lot of effort, time and resources are invested in the centre's human resources capacity building, especially the authors and project management. Improved opportunities for professional research work have relatively increased the pool of qualified Afghans to take on leadership roles in human development research, teaching and advocacy. UNDP, with foresight, has allocated sufficient funds to retain the current capacity, key to CPHD's sustenance as an institution tasked to do more than just producing a National Human Development Report (NHDR). However, funding will need to be allocated at the initial stage from core sources so as to enable management of CPHD to raise additional sources in the future. This will enable the management of CPHD to sustain the project activities and personnel.

In terms of sustainability of the partnership with KU, CPHD is on solid grounds should it continue to enjoy the trust and support of the university leadership. The CPHD management team have had regular interaction, collaboration and consultation in order to make CPHD an integral part of the university community. This will, in the long-term, enable the management of Kabul University to take over the management of the project as expected.

However, there is a considerable capacity challenge, both in the know-how and resources that should allow an ideal and successful takeover of the project management by Kabul University. Administrative issues exist between the Ministry of Higher Education and Kabul University that needs to be resolved. Exiting the project at the end of 2009 will jeopardize all the efforts and work that has gone into establishing the center. Despite some support from the international community, the university still suffers from capacity constraints and all signs of "brain drain" still exist on campus. Majority of university lecturers do not have training in modern teaching methods. There is still lack of standardized curriculums and the lecturers are still using their notes as classroom textbooks. The students are still expected to memorize teachers' notes and building analytical and critically thinking skills is not considered very important. There also seems to be tension between the old and new generation of academia. It is rather difficult for the young scholars who have been recently trained abroad to have an active role in the development of Kabul University. Under such circumstances, unless major changes are introduced, handing the project over to the government may have serious consequences as it may become an institution that is dominated by old methods of research.

Management effectiveness review

The present management structure has some structural flaws that need to be addressed. There is some disconnection between the project outputs and the management structure. This includes no position for media and communication officer and insufficient full-time research and capacity building officers to deal with relevant issues. Additionally, the resource centre/library management is a full-time job that is not considered in the present structure. Also, there is need for more policy work which requires researchers to be involved in the center. The research work is essential to produce policy papers and to assist the university lectures with research work.

1. Quality of monitoring

During 2008, an evaluation of outcome 5 of the UNDP Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) studied the results achieved by CPHD up to date, and likely to be achieved by the end of 2009. The recommendations from the evaluation report stated that "CPHD and its predecessor projects have produced two well-received and highly-regarded national human development reports. It has also

contributed to greater appreciation of development issues in Afghanistan through improved capacity among teachers and students at Kabul University (through innovative activities like the resuscitation of a Kabul University academic journal that had been dormant for almost 30 years)". The evaluation recommends that "the new CPHD must have duration of ten years, must be present in at least three, if not more universities, other than University of Kabul, and must make investing in Afghan nationals' capacity a core element of its work." ¹ CPHD welcomes outcome evaluation recommendations and looks forward to working with the UNDP CO for materializing the recommendations.

On the daily monitoring of the project and its activities, the project advisory board and the leadership of Kabul University has played an effective. Kabul University management recommendation regarding the nature of CPHD's project has been useful for making CPHD an integral part of the research community of Kabul University. Additionally, the NHDR Advisory Board is playing a vital role in monitoring the progress made towards drafting the NHDR 09 report.

2. Timely delivery of outputs

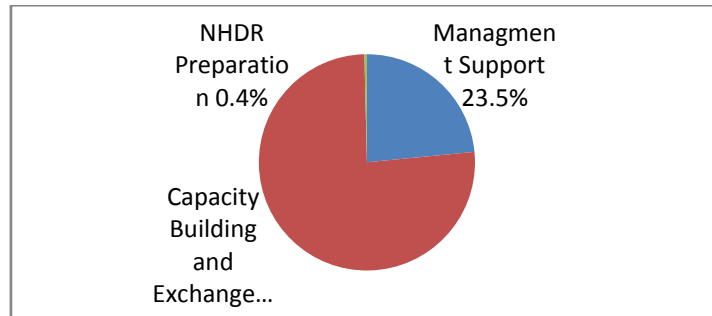
CPHD's staff productivity has been instrumental to timely delivery of the project outputs. During the reporting period, the project work plan has been closely adhered to and all activities were delivered without significant delay.. A board of editor and chief-editor was established to oversee the publication of this journal. Sufficient support was provided from CPHD, however, due to lack of prior experience with academic articles by the board members, and lack of agreed standards, the journal publication did not take place on time. More support and time was required by CPHD to improve the quality of the articles. It is planned for next year that a CPHD staff with extensive experience in academic articles and editing will work with the chief-editor of the journal in order to make it feasible that quality articles are submitted and the journal is published in a timely manner.

¹ Mosharraf Zaidi, Country Programme Action Plan, Outcome 5 (Policy Dialogue), Evaluation July-August, 2008

3. Resources allocation

During year 2009 the allocation of resources has been sufficient, CPHD delivery rate was more than 107% of the allocated funds. The largest component of the budget was for capacity building and exchange followed by CPHD operation cost.

Table 2: CPHD Cost Break Down



4. Cost-effective use of inputs

During this year CPHD team tried its best to make sure that the resources allocated for this project were used effectively. Below is a brief description:

- 1- Staff input: project staff, both short and long term, has been paid with adequate salary and benefit packages as per UNDP guidelines.
- 2- Recurring and operational costs: operational costs are within normal range and consistent with the latest budget revision.

In 2008, CPHD used the allocated budget in a cost effective manner. The recurring and operational costs were within normal range and the constraints of the budgetary revision.

III. Project results summary

The project outputs for the current phase of the have been fairly consistent with the project work plan as well as the project results framework. Below is a description of all major outputs and the manner in which they were achieved:

Capacity Building Activities:

Supporting capacity development of Kabul University students and lecturers in the area of human development policy research is particularly of great importance within the CPHD/UNDP-Afghanistan mandate. During 2008, CPHD conducted certificate training on HD and research methods for KU lecturers, four short-term training workshops, and seven guest lectures. Moreover, three field research projects were co-implemented by CPHD and KU lecturers. As a result of these activities, which is described in more detail in the following sections, the relationship between Kabul University and CPHD was strengthened and new networks was established with all public provincial universities. Furthermore, these activities give momentum to the ownership of Kabul University towards the CPHD project.

CPHD 2009 Long-Term and Short-Term Training			
	Training Workshops	Participants	No. of Participants
1	HD and Research Method Training	Lecturers of Kabul University Social Science Department, Teacher's training institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	38
2	Peace-building	Lectures of Social Science Department of 11 provincial universities	40
3	Rule of Law and HD	Social Science Department Lecturers of KU	30
4	Gender and HD	Lecturers of KU, Attorney General's Office, Supreme Court, Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission	21
5	Curriculum Development	Lectures of Social Science Department of 11 provincial universities	42
6	HD	Lecturers of Social Science Department of KU	

Human Development and Social Research Methodologies Training:

CPHD conducted a six-month Human Development and Social Research Methodologies (SRM) certificate-training program for KU lecturers. The ultimate aim of this training was to strengthen the capacity of KU lecturers for effectively contributing to policy dialogue through policy research.

A total of 38 participants enrolled in this training. The participants were mainly Kabul University lectures but a limited numbers of trainees from other public institutions, including Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, and University of Social Sciences in Kabul, also participated in the workshop. The launch of HDR in 2007 generated hot discussions around the country. These discussions were found effective in the promotion of the HD concept both in academia and governmental circles, which further initiated interest of KU lecturers about the HD concept. The program consisted of three parts; human development core concept introduction, social research methodologies, and group field research projects.

Initially, participants were introduced to research methods through NCPR, a sub-contractor for this training, and then CPHD was responsible for providing training on HD. The human development part of the training, covered by seven topics and 17 sessions, was designed as a participatory teaching methodology. Dr. Seeta, Assistant Country Director of UNDP (India) facilitated four lectures on the core concepts of human development, measuring human development indices and processes of drafting reports. Subsequently, CPHD staff as well as national and international experts delivered lecturers on linking the concept of human development to development

challenges of Afghanistan with discussion on topics such as human security; poverty; the idea of “pro-poor policy” and its manifestations; 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. The two components of the training, human development and social research methodology, were followed by practical field research projects. Participants were divided into eight groups in which they selected a HD-related research question to be examined by field research.

Short-Term Training Programs:

During 2008, CPHD facilitated four short-term training workshops; peace-building, rule of law, gender and human development and curriculum development.

1. Peace-building Training Program: a four-day peace building training workshop conducted in collaboration with United States Institute Peace (USIP) from 09th to 13th August 2008 at Kabul University. The primary purpose of this workshop was to introduce participants to peace building concepts and to help participants how to mainstream peace-building practices in their classrooms. Elements of peace building such as the understanding of conflict, identity and citizenship, are key components for developing a stable and peaceful society. This workshop taught participants substantive knowledge of these elements and the corresponding skills to model them in society so that the effect spreads from their classrooms, among their colleagues and students, and into their local communities.

2. Rule of Law Training: A four-day training workshop on Rule of Law and Human Development was conducted by CPHD from 11th to 15th of May in 2008. The training was conducted in partnership with the international organization of Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, and was aimed to increase the knowledge of participants about the implication of rule of law and its importance for human development in Afghanistan. Lecturers from five provincial universities, including Kabul University, attended the event.

3. Gender and Human Development Workshop: A three-day workshop on Gender and HD was facilitated on 8th May. The participants from various academic, civil, public and private institutions attended the discussion, which was facilitated by gender experts from Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales and Afghanistan’s Independent Human Rights Commission.

4. Curriculum Development: The Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD) with support from United States Institute of Peace, in order to assist in the reconstruction of the higher education systems, organized a curriculum-developing training workshop at Kabul University from 23rd of July to 3rd of August. About 42 participants from all universities across Afghanistan attended this useful workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to assist the university instructors/professors in the designing of curriculum and textbook writing based on new teaching methodologies and in accordance to current challenges of higher education system in Afghanistan.

Guest Lecture Series:

During 2008, CPHD organized and successfully facilitated eight guest lectures on various issues related to the human development concept. The average participation turnout for each of the lectures was about 80-100 people. The lecturers were open to interested individuals or organizations, however, the main and target audience were university lecturers and students. The following paragraph gives a detailed description of some of the lectures.

- Professor Nadiri, former Co-chair of Joint Monitoring and Board, and Chief Economic Advisor to the President, delivered his lecture on 8th of July, the topic being “Afghanistan’s National Development Strategy (ANDS): Effective Implementation and Implications for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction” at CPHD. In his 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, 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 fourth of August, 2008, at CPHD. The event was attended by approximately eighty individuals, including 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, an associate professor at the Faculty of Science and Engineering, University of Brighton in the United Kingdom, talked about ICTs in educational institutions in developed countries and presented the current situation of ICTs in educational institutions in Afghanistan. Furthermore, he presented policy recommendations for integrating ICT tools into the higher education system of Afghanistan.
- Prof. Shad Sargand gave a lecture titled "Strategic Planning and Capacity Building for a Sustainable Infrastructure for Afghanistan: The Role for an Afghan Infrastructure Institute (All.)" This event was attended not only by university professors and students, but also attracted staff from the Ministry of Public Work, Ministry of Transport, USAID and representatives 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 Afghans in infrastructure projects, with a special focus on quality assurance improvement, which can also contribute to aid effectiveness and job creation in Afghanistan.

Research Projects:

During 2008, CPHD conducted three field research projects in collaboration with the university lecturers, and commissioned four research projects to NCPR. The research projects were initiated in the third quarter of the year, while the design, formulation, data collection, analysis and partial report writing was done in the last quarter.

1. *Street children of Kabul and their human development needs:* A cross-sectional and descriptive study aimed to explore the socio-economic status and human development needs of street children in Kabul. Street children, according to the study, are defined as those children aged between five to 18 years who are spending most of their daily time selling, working, or begging on the streets. A total sample size of 154 street children was included as the study population of the study. Data was collected through a structured questionnaire, having eight parts and about 80 questions. Both descriptive and inferential analyses were utilized for getting a hold of the desired objectives. CPHD will independently publish the final report of the study in the first quarter of 2009 in two languages, English and Dari, depending on the availability of funding.

2. *Drug addiction and its impacts on human development:* This is a case study of six drug addicts in Kabul city. This research project studies the impacts of drug addiction on human development of the subjects. The selection criteria for the cases were based on the socio-economic status of the drug addicts. Six cases were identified and studied in an in-depth manner for consecutive periods. The findings of the study could not necessarily be generalized to other drug addicts but this study can pave the road to further analytical and descriptive studies of the subjects. The report of the study will be published in the first quarter of 2009, depending on the availability of funding.

3. *Patient satisfaction of private clinics in Kabul:* This is an organizational case study examining the satisfaction of patients regarding the service delivery of private clinics in Kabul city. A structured questionnaire based on the ground realities of the country was developed as the data

collection tool for the study. The study was conducted in four private clinics/hospitals located in various parts of Kabul. Physical infrastructure and location of the clinics/hospitals was defined as the selection criteria, based on the subjective judgment of the researchers.

Water-Related Research: Additionally, CPHD initiated consultation with KU lecturers regarding some possible field research projects about water-related issues in 2009. These projects may contribute to ANHDR 2009. In this regard, three research papers are agreed upon to be conducted in the first two quarters of 2009. These potential research projects may address the following problems:

1. The concentration of fluoride in drinking water of northern provinces;
2. Factors influential in the contamination of water in Kabul;
3. Farming-water based conflicts

The technical design of the studies will be finalized within the first quarter of the current fiscal year, while its implementation phase will expand into the second quarter.

Academic Exchange Program:

The general objective of the Academic Exchange Training Programme is to establish and facilitate the development of links between Afghan academics/researchers and their counterparts in other parts of the world, especially in the region. The development of such links is aimed at providing opportunities for Afghan academics/researchers and their international counterparts to exchange ideas, research and teaching experiences through a variety of mutual scholarly interests. In 2008, CPHD successfully implemented the following activities:

1. **Human Development and Education Training in IGIDR-Mumbai:** In order to enhance the capacity of lecturers, particularly in the field of Human Development and education, CPHD arranged a two weeks academic training on Human Development and Education in April 2008 for 19 Afghan academics. The training was conducted at the Indra Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai-India. The trainees came from various technical and academic backgrounds, which are relevant to various aspects of human development concepts. Class lectures, participatory discussions between the trainers and the trainees, and 15 minutes of pre-specified topic presentations by each trainee, were used as the training methods for the training. The lectures were delivered by visiting Indian professors, who had expertise in various specific fields of human development throughout India. The lectures included a discussion about topics such as MDGs, Primary Health Care, components of HD, political economy, local governance, and gender, to name a few.

2. **Social Research Methodologies Training Program in India:** In the last quarter of 2008, CPHD planned and designed a two-week training program on social research methodologies under its academic exchange mandate for university lecturers. The training was designed as a capacity building tool for potential researchers, who will contribute to AHDR in 2009 through their own field research projects about water-related issues in Afghanistan. Eleven lecturers from five selective faculties, namely law and political science, agriculture, economic, geo-sciences and Islamic law, were chosen. The researchers will receive two weeks of theoretical and practical crash courses on social research methodologies. After accomplishing the training, each of the lecturers will conduct their field research project under the direct supervision of CPHD. The trip to India's Indira Gandhi Institutions was postponed due to administrative issues in the UNDP CO. The activity will be completed in the first quarter of 2009.

3. **Serrana Magazine:** CPHD had the privilege of effectively contributing to the revitalizing process of "Serrana," Kabul University's academic journal. In 2008, CPHD was keenly involved in

activities regarding the first publication of the journal. Research articles for the first edition of the journal were collected, reviewed, edited and finalized by the board of editors designated by the Scientific Research Centre for this purpose. CPHD, in collaboration with the Scientific Research Centre 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 the Serrana academic journal. The publication date for the first volume of the journal was postponed due to the inadequate quality of the journal, which involved issues such as design and copy editing. While continuing work towards improving the quality of the first few issues, CPHD and the Scientific Research Centre, a department within Kabul University, have already started work on the second volume of the Serrana journal. Articles have been already submitted to the journal's board of editors for publication. Due to the lack of adequate fund for the journal, the timely publication of the journal's editions have been postponed intermittently.

4. **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 in collaboration with the Accountability and Transparency Project of UNDP. The event attracted up to 250 participants from Kabul University, relevant key public institutions, and from 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 level, including RTA, Tulo Television and other local television channels.

5. **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 case studies of various development projects in the region. The event was attended by approximately eighty Kabul University lectures, students from various relevant faculties, especially from agriculture and veterinary, national and international NGOs' representatives. The author of "Dairy projects in Afghanistan" presented the case-study and its finding, followed by speeches delivered by representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Deputy Dean of faculty of agriculture, which discussed the relevance of such projects for the country.

Collaboration with relevant national and international institutions: Good-quality and expanded collaboration of CPHD with other national and international relevant institutions was influential in conducting various components of capacity building and academic exchange programs. In this regard, CPHD established and/or expanded its collaboration with the following institutions; UNDP-India, United State Institute of Peace (USIP), The Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC), Indra Gandhi Institute of Developmental Research (IGIDR), eleven provincial universities of Afghanistan, and Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC). The mentioned institutions contributed to various programs of capacity building and academic exchange components of CPHD, including HD and SRM training, short-term trainings, guest lecture series, academic exchange programs and two weeks HD trainings.

V. Implementation challenges

Running and maintaining the Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD), as the first project of its kind to be established and implemented in close partnership with a government institution, has been a rewarding but a challenging task.

Today, CPHD, a promising institution, fully and adequately staffed and managed, is rooting itself in the higher education system and policy development strands of the Afghan government. During 2008, some serious implementation issues were encountered, some of which are mentioned below:

Project risks and actions

The leadership of Kabul University changed during 2008 due to some internal issues and a new Chancellor was appointed in the middle of the year. As a result of this shift, there were some speculations that there could be a policy change towards CPHD which might affect the output of the project. In order to overcome this risk, the project coordinator and CPHD staff increased their communication with the Vice-Chancellor and prepared a presentation and a project fact-sheet to the newly appointed chancellor. Also, a project board was established in order to involve the chancellor in the day to day operations of the project and for monitoring its activities. As a result, CPHD is enjoying a cordial and supportive relationship with the university management.

Another risk-encounter during 2008 was due to political tensions on campus over language policies among the student of KU . CPHD, along with the consultation of university management, restricted some of its activities such as consultation with the students on wider topics of NHDR in order to avoid getting into political debates which could have become out of control and contribute negatively to the image of the project and university.

Political instability of the project site is yet another risk to the project; the project site is not in the most secure part of Kabul. In order to minimize avoidable risk to the project and its staff, the Project Coordinator invited the Chief Security Officer of the UNDP for advice on implementing extra measures. As requested by the Chief Security Officer, CPHD is planning to build a wall around the project site, has already build a safe room and is in the process of getting a VHF base system.

Project issues and actions

Inadequate funding, small number of staff, in addition to inadequate project space, were some key issues hindering CPHD's work in 2008.

Financial Resources: Challenges remain in regards to securing donor funding for the project mainly due to two factors. The first reason is that the project did not have a project coordinator for seven months and does not have a deputy coordinator since over a year. As a result, the management of CPHD was hampered. During 2008, CPHD prepared a concept paper for resource mobilization and with the assistance from the Partnership and Donor Relations Office of UNDP, circulated the concept papers to donors with research and policy work portfolio. Unfortunately, the contacted donors did not positively respond to the request by CPHD. For many donors, CPHD is seen mainly responsible for producing Afghanistan's NHDR, a flagship of UNDP. Although CPHD has engaged in research projects and training and it hoped that with the publication of its policy research work and training activities, CPHD is seen not only as an institution responsible for producing ANHDRs but also for supporting capacity building for quality research and policy work.

Staff Capacity: CPHD's activities are adversely affected by shortage of staff (most of CPHD's activities are undertaken by four core staffs). Unavailability of funds, as described above, and overall research capacity constrains in the country are some of the major factors contributing to the small staff numbers. Finding qualified staff to work in the area of research and policy work is

extremely time-consuming and challenging in Afghanistan. The post for the deputy coordinator has been announced three times but the project still does not have a deputy coordinator. Plans are underway to enhance the research capacity of CPHD by recruiting experienced researchers from the existing pool of university professors and graduates and or through paid internship opportunities, a project which will be created in 2009. This should help affordability and sustainability at the same time.

NHDR 09 Preparation: Challenges in this area include finding qualified writers for the report, unavailability of data and possible security risks 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 so to minimize the insecurity risk.

Space: In 2008, CPHD was engaged in providing training workshops/seminars to university professors from Kabul University and other universities. Space in CPHD office was not sufficient to accommodate more than 25 individuals. Additionally, most of our guest lecturers were held outside of CPHD office, in the court yard. This will be problematic in the winter and hot summer days. CPHD, due to its good relations with the management of Kabul University, was given permission to use a building near the current CPHD building. Funds for rehabilitation of the building were secured from UNDP Core funds and the construction work is almost completed; the building will become available for use in the spring of 2009.

V. Lessons learnt and next steps

Lessons learnt

During 2008, the university was pleased with CPHD activities of capacity support and exchange program. Thus it is important that sufficient support is provided in these elements of the project during 2009, while the Centre undertakes the preparation of NHDR 2009.

As mentioned in the first section of this document, key recommendations of AHDR-2007 and its critical analysis were met with an angry response by the Afghan Supreme Court. Although one key functions of HDRs is to create healthy debates about important societal issues, this experience would seem to indicate that some key Afghan state institutions are not yet prepared to accept critical analysis, however constructive it may be. Thus, an important lesson to be learnt from the publication of AHDR-2007 is that critical analyses should be presented in a language that is more diplomatic and less explicit. Also, in order to prevent arousing political sensitivities in this fragile social and political environment, it is important to get relevant institutions heavily involved in the process of the production of future National Human Development Reports for Afghanistan.

Recommendations

CPHD Human Development as a young centre has been able to achieve most of its objective in relatively short period of its existence. The Centre has been able to mobilize a team of researchers, writers and analysts to produce Afghanistan Human Development Report 05 and 07. The NHDR 07 was written by a team of Afghans. Through the production of the report, it has attracted wide range of international and national recognitions. It is precisely because of this recognition that CPHD has been able to develop close collaborative ties with Bar Human Rights Committee (BHRC) for England and Wales (UK), and the with United States Institute of Peace (USIP).

Furthermore, CPHD has played an important role in paving the way for the creation of a research culture at Kabul University during 2008. It has initiated collaboration between CPHD, KU Centre for Scientific Research and National Centre for Policy Research. As a result of this initiation, , certification programme in Human Development in Social Research was developed, and four short-term training workshops were conducted. Moreover, CPHD's guest lecturers given by Afghan and international scholars and researchers proved very useful and popular by providing an open atmosphere conducive for healthy debate and discussions among KU lecturers, especially students, and members of Kabul-based diplomats, aid workers and others.

In order to make CPHD a sustainable part of the policy research and advocacy, continuous support both financial and political is needed. Some specific recommendations in improving the overall impact of the project are as follow:

- While the main beneficiaries of CPHD have been the lectures and students of Kabul University more focus have been, and should be, given to capacity support of the students. It is recommended that activities in 2009 should be tailored for working with the students of social science departments as this will also help with training the next generation of Afghans to take on the leadership of the Centre. One specific idea could be the creation of an internship program for senior students in CPHD and organizing policy dialogues with the students;
- While provincial university lecturers attended some training, it is recommended that CPHD and UNDP CO should make more efforts to enlarge the participation of provincial lecturers and students in CPHD's activities. Working with the provincial universities will not only enlarge the impact of the project at the national level but will also improve the quality of research, especially considering that conducting research in remote parts of the country is difficult and thus involving the lecturers and students from the provinces will curtail some of the challenges.

It is also recommended that synergies with other UNDP projects for establishing branches of CPHD in some universities should be sought;

- Projects should be prolonged behind its timeline as indicated in the project document. Also, an exit strategy for the centre should be drafted.
- After developing a standardized and internationally accepted human development curriculum in local languages, a human development and research method training programme should be offered where rigorous requirements for the certification should be developed (not only just attendance but written exams should be monitored). Also, approval of such certification with Ministry of Higher Education should be cleared;
- Adequate financial and political support should be granted to the project so that CPHD is involvement in policy research and training, as well as producing NHDR 2009. Some specific capacity building and exchange activities which will affectively contribute to policy research and dialogue are as follow:
 - As part of the Exchange program, creating a Research Fellow Program by giving young Afghan researchers an opportunity to present and conduct research work, and to present the latter for discussion at the university by holding policy discussions and also contributing to Serrana Academic journal;
 - Creating roundtable discussions and forums on a regular basis where young researchers will present a paper on policy papers of their area of interest; these presentations will be followed by open discussions, providing valuable feedback and suggestions for the researcher;
 - Offering internship opportunities to young aspirants who are interested to pursue policy and research-oriented careers in CPHD. CPHD internships will provide national and international interns with an excellent opportunity to interact closely with lecturers and academia and to gain first-hand exposure to developmental issues and critical development policy challenges facing Afghanistan. CPHD will involve the interns in its ongoing research programmes, where they will be required to provide supervised research inputs and or work with university lecturers on research projects. The internship will also provide a scope to participate in various in-house, national and international dialogues organized by CPHD;
 - CPHD's research activity is mandated to supply two complementary demands: to sustain CPHD's dialogue process with research-based informed inputs and to undertake research in key areas and on critical issues which are prioritized through the dialogue process. Thus, it is vital to enlarge CPHD's Capacity Building and Exchange unit and having them work closely with the NHDR unit and policy advocacy specialist;
 - Organizing national and international Conferences bring out the perspectives and concerns of the Afghans on the future of the country. The Conference will open a door of communication for young people and will provide a platform to discuss contemporary critical issues. Selected outputs emerging out of the various programme components will be presented at the conference.
- The theme of the upcoming NHDR in the area of water sharing and integrity in water sector may include discussions controversial/political in nature, while every effort will be taken to keep the recommendations explicit and involving the relevant parties in the process of drafting the report, high political level support will be needed from the UNDP CO

VI. Financial status and utilization

Financial status

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

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
UNDP	618,500	618,500	-
TOTAL	618,500	618,500	-

Table 2: Funding status (as of the end of the year)

DONOR NAME	RECEIVED*	EXPENDITURES			PROJECT BALANCE	EARMARKED**	AVAILABLE FUNDING (as of 1 Jan of the next year)	REMARKS
		Period Prior to the Reporting Year	Reporting Year Only	TOTAL				
UNDP	618,500		2008	664,066	(45,566)		790,000	-
Total	618,500		2008	664,066	(45,566)		790,000	-

Financial utilization

Table 3: Annual expenditure by activity [1 January – 31 December 2008]

Activity	BUDGET [year]	EXPENDITURES ²	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity 1 - Management Support	313977.73	155827.67	158150.06	49.63%
Activity2 - Exchange and capacity building	227022.27	505708.39	-278686.12	222.75%
Activity 3 - Preparation of NHDR	77500	2530	74970	3.26%
UNDP GMS (based on donor agreements)	0	0	0	
Total	618500	664066.06	(45566.06)	107.36%

Table 4: Annual expenditure by donor [1 January – 31 December]

Donor	Activity	EXPENDITURES 2008	in BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
UNDP	Activity 1 - Management Support	155827.67	158150.06	49.63%
	Activity2 - Exchange and capacity building	505708.39	-278686.12	222.75%
	Activity 3 - Preparation of NHDR	2530	74970	3.26%
	UNDP GMS (based on donor agreements)	0	0	
	Total	664066.06	(45566.06)	107.36%

The expenditure figure is based on the provisional information reflected in the ATLAS