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Joint National Youth Programme



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List of acronyms

ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
ASGP	Afghanistan Subnational Governance Programme
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DMYA	Deputy Minister Office for Youth Affairs
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ILO	International Labour Organization
iPYC	Interim Provincial Youth Council
IYC	Independent Youth Commission
JNYP	Joint National Youth Programme
MoAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MoWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
MoSALMD	Ministry of Social Affairs, Labor, Martyred, Disabled
MOU	Memorandum Of Understanding
MCY	Ministry of Culture and Youth
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NSC	National Steering Committee
PYDP	Provincial Youth Development Plan
PC	Provincial Council
PDC	Provincial Development Council
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
TCC	Technical Coordination Committee
UN	United Nation
UNDAF	United Nation Development Assistance Framework
UNFPA	United Nation Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nation Children's Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nation Human Settlements Programme
UNDP	United Nation Development Fund
UNESCO	United Nation Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization
UNAMA	United Nation Assistance Mission to Afghanistan
UNV	United Nation Volunteer
YEP	Youth Empowerment Programme
YICC	Youth Information and Contact Center

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The JNYP consists of eight government ministries and nine UN partner agencies all working in partnership to respond to the needs of youth. Almost all UN partner agencies have their own funding and activities, however all are committed to working together to strengthen the impact of their individual activities for the benefit of youth. The partnership aims to strengthen the coordination and communication among government ministries, which is not always easy to do in practice, but is improving slowly through the JNYP Oversight meetings and Technical Coordination Committee meetings. The JNYP has received important support from the increased recognition of the importance of youth issues by the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) Secretariat, the combined activities of the government ministries and UN partners and the commitment of the present Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs (DMYA).

One of the main achievements has been the overall progress in increasing the visibility of youth issues in the ANDS benchmarks, as well as towards achieving these. Since the Programme's inception, the JNYP team has lobbied for youth issues to be more prominent in the ANDS. At the same time, all UN partner agencies have worked closely to align their programme areas to the benchmarks set by the ANDS and the Afghanistan Compact. JNYP activities align closely with the ANDS sectors related to social protection, sports, education, health, governance, rule of law and human rights, gender equality, and media. In early January 2008, the ANDS announced the creation of a new sector addressing media, culture and youth. With the ANDS commitments to youth issues, the JNYP is optimistic that it will be able to attract donors and Ministry of Finance to provide financial support to the programme.

Another key achievement during 2008 was the inclusion of youth in the new project document of UNICEF, in addition to children, which will support the resource mobilization and fund allocation for youth related activities.

In terms of the overall progress towards the UNDAF outcomes, the JNYP has taken initial steps to strengthen government capacity to support and provide services to youth. An assessment of the capacity of the DMYA national and sub national offices provided a baseline and an assessment of the desired capacity level for the national office and the 20 youth sub offices in the provinces. UNDP hired one international and one national coach/advisor seconded to the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs (DMoYA) to assist in the capacity development of DMYA. In addition, UNDP undertook a number of necessary required training such as English and computer courses for the upgrading of the skills of DMoYA staff

In targeted provinces UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-HABITAT have established sub-offices (centers/councils) working closely with their government counterparts to deliver equitable, efficient and effective services to the people in their respective areas.

The JNYP has contributed to increase the access of youth to livelihood opportunities through increased awareness, education and skills development. Both boys and girls were involved in the development and socio political processes. The JNYP partners conducted a national youth advocacy conference in Kabul. The conference hosted youths from all 34 provinces and resulted in a 16 item Youth Advocacy Declaration submitted to key government partners and other stakeholders.

The direct beneficiaries of the JNYP are youth between the ages of 14 and 25. The total number of youth, who benefited from the project in 2008 reached 79,328, with approximately 50,020 of these being females).

One of the challenges to the programme is lack of fund for planned activities and the other is lack of appropriate data and information regarding youth situation in Afghanistan. This lack of data has resulted in to specific obstacles. The first is the lack of a comprehensive youth assessment, which would assist the partners to respond to the needs of youth more effectively. Despite these challenges, the 2008 work plan was developed based on the individual assessments conducted by the separate partner agencies. The

other challenge relates to the lack of detailed information about the JNYP activities carried out by various partners, and their beneficiaries. The Programme is developing monitoring and evaluation tools to help partners gather more detailed, gender-sensitive, qualitative and quantitative information. Considering the above mentioned challenges/obstacles UNDP tried its best for capacity development of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, and now they have an adequate/equipped working environment and capacity to provide more effective delivery in 2009.

While the JNYP has made important contributions, initiatives under the programme have not been carried out in a programmatic and coordinated manner in line with the principles outlined for joint programming by the UN. The JNYP has the capacity to become a spearhead best practice programme for the One UN approach and for future joint programming and a genuine catalyst towards the overall UN aim of ensuring government ownership and improve government capacity.

It is recommended by the board that the JNYP should be reformulated in a consultative process between the UN agencies and government partners. The lessons learned during the two years of implementation should be considered. A new strategic focus with a view to strengthening the responsiveness of the JNYP to the situation of youth in Afghanistan, with particular emphasis on the role of youth in conflict prevention and peace building, could be considered.

In addition, focus should be given to strengthening the branding of the JNYP and ensuring that an effective communication strategy and plan are incorporated to increase the visibility of the JNYP. Sufficient funds to implement all JNYP activities through the development of a comprehensive joint resource mobilization strategy could also be a major focus. A formulation workshop with the UN agencies and Government of Afghanistan is planned for the first quarter of 2009.

I. CONTEXT

Sixty-eight percent of the population of Afghanistan is below the age of 25. This majority segment of the population is generally disfranchised, lacks educational and employment opportunities, and rarely participates in decision-making at community, province or national level. The situation of Afghan girls is of particular concern. The pressure caused by traditional practices result in several girls entering early marriage and early pregnancy, contributing to Afghanistan's dire maternal and infant mortality rates as well as low educational and literacy rates for particularly the female segment of the country. Youth literacy rates are low; 50 percent for boys and 18 percent for girls; secondary school enrolments are respectively 23 percent and 7 percent, and almost one percent of the Afghan population reaches higher education.

Youth experience few opportunities for skills development, incur high unemployment, and face high risk of alienation, exploitation and abuse, inducement from narcotics, illegal armed groups, and insurgency and terrorist groups. They are the most vulnerable group in the country.

As a response to the above, in late 2006 and early 2007, eight government ministries (the Ministry of Information and Culture, the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Ministry of Women's Affairs, and Ministry of Justice) and seven UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UNESCO, UNV, UNFPA and UNAMA) joined together to develop the Joint National Youth Programme (JNYP), under the leadership of the Ministry of Information and Culture's Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, with coordination support from UNDP. This Joint National Youth Programme document was signed by all partners in January 2007. In December 2007, ILO and FAO joined the Programme bringing the total number of UN agencies to nine.

The JNYP is Afghanistan's 5th UN joint programme and is designed to serve as a platform for the Government of Afghanistan, the international community, and the Afghan youth civil society to co-

ordinate youth programming and youth policy-making in support of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

The project will contribute to the development of a National Youth Strategy through public engagement, clear strategic guidelines and the participation of all levels of government and other necessary stakeholders. Its objectives are to increase youth participation in socio-political process, with an emphasis on national and local governance, democracy, reconstruction and peace building; and to increase access and participation of young women/men in the socio-economic development of the country, with an emphasis on education, skills development and employment opportunities.

The objectives of the JNYP meet the benchmarks and outcomes as approved in the ANDS and laid out in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP).

With the continued hard efforts of JNYP, the ANDS put youth as part of the Culture, Media and Youth sector in addition to youth issues being embedded in all other sectors.

The project is intended to support the realization of the following UNDAF outcomes:

Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights:

Outcome 2: By 2008, more accountable and more representative public administration is established at the national and sub-national levels, with improved delivery of services in an equitable, efficient and effective manner; and

Outcome 3: By 2008, communities and individuals, especially women and marginalized groups, participate effectively in the development and political processes in close partnerships with other UN Agencies [UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV, and UNESCO].

Health and Education:

Outcome 1: by 2008, Government capacity at all levels strengthened to formulate and implement appropriate policies and increase delivery of quality services, especially to areas of lowest coverage, incorporating community inputs.

Outcome 2: By 2008, community awareness of, and participation in, decision-making processes and service delivery are increased.

Project resources have been applied towards the achievement of CPAP outcome:

Outcome IV: People (men and women) empowered to participate in democratic and policy making process through increased access to information and awareness on constitutional rights.

Output IV: Civil society organizations and the media empowered to more effectively contribute to the nation's political, economic and social development].

II. PERFORMANCE REVIEW

PROGRESS REVIEW

A) OVERALL PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ANDS BENCHMARK(S).

Although mentioned briefly in the ANDS, but youth issues were not clearly identifiable. As a response to this lack of attention to youth, JNYP worked hard and closely with the ANDS specific sector teams to align their programme areas to the benchmarks set by the ANDS and the Afghanistan Compact. At the same

time, the DMYA and JNYP partners jointly advocated for youth issues to be more prominent in the ANDS. The combined efforts were rewarded with the ANDS announcing the addition of youth to an already established sector, thus creating the Media, Culture and Youth sector. They also announced that youth issues would be more prominent in the revised version of ANDS in 2009.

(i) Overall progress towards the UNDAF outcome.

The JNYP partners have worked diligently with government ministries, particularly the Office of the Deputy Minister for Youth Affairs, to assist in the development of capacity at the national and sub national levels. The Office of the Deputy Minister for Youth Affairs has also collaborated with the partner government ministries, the National Assembly, provincial governors in JNYP active provinces, and senior ANDS staff to respond to youth. Activities include a response to the Declaration developed at the Workshops during International Youth Day Conference and the establishment of and support to the youth centers.

Youth (boys and girls) from 34 provinces participated in the International Youth Day Conference held in Kabul and developed a 16 item Declaration on youth priorities which was submitted to the Ministry of Information and Culture and other related bodies for their action.

UN-HABITAT's Youth Empowerment Project established 120 local youth councils (60 boys' councils and 60 girls' councils) in 60 villages of six provinces (Farah, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Bamyan, Bulkh, and Kabul). The council members received refresher training in developed civic education modules to increase their participation in local governance and in socio political processes and develop skills in the following areas:

- Youth and local governance processes (youth and the community, volunteerism, governance, elections, service oriented leadership, conflict-resolution, peace-building, unity);
- Youth development planning (strategic planning, consultation, participation, social inclusion, gender, needs assessment, documentation, self-initiatives);
- Youth fund raising (youth funds, resource mobilization, local fund-raising, partnerships with community leaders, private sector and local NGOs, accounting);
- Youth project design (project design, proposal writing, budgeting, work-plan development);
- Youth project management (implementation, management, procurement, monitoring and evaluation, reporting).

JNYP has worked closely with the Office of the Deputy Minister for Youth Affairs and other line ministries to strengthen government capacity in policy and programme formulation. An international advisor was hired to assess the capacity of the Office of the Deputy Minister at central and provincial level. Based on recommendation of the mentioned assessment UNDP provided sufficient support to the office of the DMoYA for their capacity development

Youth awareness and participation in decision making processes and in service delivery has increased in some parts of the country. For example, the youth in Nangarhar province (boys and girls) have established close links with the governor's office and other government departments at the provincial level (e.g. Nangarhar youth have succeeded in bringing more than fifty civil society institutions together for consultations and created a youth federation for the eastern zone.

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

Youth have participated at different levels of decision-making in the socio-political process in a variety of ways. One of the most active areas was through the Youth Empowerment Programme (Youth councils) and youth centers collaborated with local decision-makers to organize national and international celebrations that include recognizing the role of teachers. Youth in the targeted JNYP provinces worked closely with local governments and community leaders to reach youth, families and general population through activities linked with the International Women Day Peace Day, AIDS Awareness Day, International Youth Day and others.

Youth were involved in participatory, transparent and democratic processes to achieve the following results:

- Develop youth priorities at the International Youth Day Conference in Kabul.
- Provide input to the capacity assessment of the DMoYA national and sub national offices.
- Create 120 youth development plans at the sub national governance levels.
- Set-up and participate in the running of 15 youth centers in 14 provinces.

The JNYP has contributed to youth having better access to livelihood opportunities through increased awareness, education and skills development. As an example, more than 800 youth (606 male and 200 female) were trained as community-based school teachers and approximately 24,234 youth were trained to teach in targeted provinces. Over 46,000 young women participated in literacy courses through 2,499 literacy centers. 13 youth centers were established in 12 different provinces and provided fast and easy information, health education and skill development trainings to youth. Youth were also provided life skills training related to sexual and reproductive health. Gender and Civic education modules were taught to 2,600 in 120 youth councils in the 6 provinces. Moreover, 600 youth and 70 school teachers received agriculture related vocational trainings.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT.

Institution building: During the reporting period, a capacity assessment of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs both in Kabul and provinces was conducted. The focus was to assess the office's capacity to respond to the needs of youth nation-wide and to assess the office's capacity to function effectively and efficiently. The assessment supported the ministry and the partners involved in this area to take constructive measures. As a result the skills in the following areas were enhanced.

- **Leadership skills enhancement:** The DMoYA led the planning and implementation of the International Youth Day conference and facilitated the creation of a Youth Declaration identifying 16 main youth priorities; conducted a six-day training workshop for the provincial directors of DMoYA, conducted a consultative meeting with the heads of each of the provincial DMoYA offices, collected and analyzed the information and received and used these as the baseline to improve the capacity; and facilitated an emergent leadership course for 8 DMoYA staff. The Deputy Minister participated in exposure visit to Tajikistan, two DMoYA staff and two CSOs representative participated in Youth Policy Formulation workshop in Doha, Qatar.
- **Staff skills development:** provided two well equipped containers as a space for the English language and computer course, hired two facilitators to be based at DMoYA and to continuously conduct English and computer classes for DMoYA staff. As a result ,20 DMoYA staff improved their oral and written English and computer skills. UNDP seconded international and national coaches provided on-the-job coaching and mentoring to DMoYA staff in different work areas to develop the capacity of the office of the DMoYA and to make them enable for leading of the entire program by their own in near future.

(i) Impact on direct and indirect beneficiaries.

The JNYP target beneficiaries in Afghanistan are between 12 to 25 years of age, which constitutes. The total numbers of youth benefiting from the project in 2008 were 79,946 (approximately 50,020 females and 29,926 male).

Beneficiaries by activity:

- 600 youth participated in the National youth day Conference (280 females and 320 males)

- 700 youth were members of Peer Educator Groups (350 females and 350 males)
- 136 youth participated in English lessons (68 females and 68 males)
- 100 youth received training in computer literacy (50 female and 50 males)
- 2,600 members of the Local Youth Councils received training on civic education (1300 females and 1,300 males)
- 806 youth (606 male and 200 female) were trained to be community based teachers
- 24,234 young men and women were trained to become school teachers in the Central and Northern zones
- 46,000 women from 34 provinces participated in 2,499 literacy centers and received literacy trainings as well as trainings on child rights, health education, etc.
- 4,000 youth had access to 15 youth centers and received information about risk factors affecting their life, health and education. They also received English and computer training.
- 600 youth received agriculture related vocational trainings
- 170 school teachers received agriculture trainings, and will in turn will transfer their findings to their students.

While the above mentioned support was provided in 2008, UNESCO plans to train 300,000 youth in 2009-2012 in 9 provinces through the Enhancing Literacy in Afghanistan (ELA) programme.

The indirect beneficiaries of the project are the government officials and community leaders as well as the private sector. These beneficiaries are essential to the success of the JNYP because they provide the environment for youth to participate in socio-political processes as well provide opportunities for youth to access education, skills development and employment opportunities. Because of their linkage and influence to the direct beneficiaries, JNYP involved the indirect beneficiaries as much as possible in the Programme to ensure the programme sustainability and commitment to youth.

While youth civil societies in different parts of the country were responding to youth needs, the government partners and community leaders initiated involvement of youth in decision making affecting governing issues. For example, the National Skills Development Programme led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, targeted youth as 80% of their beneficiaries, who will receive skills and vocational training in different parts of the country.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY REVIEW

(i) Participatory/consultative processes

The Deputy Minister Office for Youth Affairs chaired all the monthly Technical Coordination Committee meetings during the reporting period with the objective of reviewing progress of all partner agencies. Decisions were made using a collaborative process. In order to improve coordination and relations between the DM office and the partner agencies, the deputy minister, in coordination with the JNYP Project Management Unit, has met with each UN agencies and with the government ministries. During the reporting period, the involvement of ministry partners has improved because of this ongoing communication either through face to face meetings, emails or telephone calls with the line ministry representatives and some of the deputy ministers. The team has become more engaged with the JNYP partners through their participation in the Technical Coordination Meetings and individual youth advocacy responsibilities. JNYP conducted an Outcomes/Oversight Board meeting on Marc/25/08. The main decision of the Board was to reformulate the JNYP project document through a participatory manner with the JNYP partners. The purpose of the reformulation will be revising of the JNYP project document for joint activities, and to explicitly mention the role and responsibility of each UN agency especially administrative agency and DMoYA, and to extend the program up to end of 2010. Five working groups (National Youth Advocacy Conference, ANDS Youth Consultations in Provinces, Communication, Resource Mobilization,

and Youth Assessment) were created to design and implement activities using consultative processes. The Programme partners met regularly and provided information to assist in the development of a resource mobilization plan and a communication plan including the 4th component of JNYP (National youth volunteer corps /services).

(ii) Quality of partnerships

The partnerships between the JNYP UN partners and their national counterparts are strong and long-standing. Many of the partnerships have existed for several years and partners have a good understanding of each other's ways of working. On the other hand, there are challenges inherent in joint programming. For example, although the JNYP document was signed by Government Line Ministries, unfortunately their participation in the TCC, the Board, and working groups meetings remains more limited than was hoped, which has an impact on the overall quality of partnerships, the possibility of internal coordination and alignment between programme initiatives and the ability of government partners to share concerns and recommendations of benefit to the entire joint programme. Though, the participation has improved (especially in joint monitoring missions) to some extent, it requires further joint activities.

A goal of the project for the next year is also to strengthen partnerships with the youth civil societies and institutions and enhance consultations with them and participation from them as part of the national and sub national level activities

(iii) National Ownership.

Decisions regarding the JNYP, such as setting priorities, planning the implementation of activities, conducting joint monitoring and evaluation visits to the field, reporting, and discussing the allocation of human and financial resources, have been taken jointly with the government partners and the deputy ministry of youth. All major activities for 2008 were discussed with and approved by the government. Each of the UN partner agencies provided brief reports in writing and during regular meetings with the Deputy Minister. The Deputy Minister led the Technical Coordination Committee meetings and decisions were documented in the minutes. The government representatives are involved in each of the five working groups. Each provincial office was encouraged to collaborate with the national office as well as their counterparts in other provinces in the implementation of the activities when possible to strengthen a sense of national ownership.

(iv) Sustainability.

Through its different partners the JNYP trained some key staff of the DMoYA and other government partners in different fields of management, leadership and reporting, and recruited international/national consultants to ensure the day to day capacity building of the government partners and to provide technical and financial support to DMoYA for the celebration of international events, conducting of national/regional conferences. A number of meetings were facilitated for the DMoYA with the donors to ensure the programme is government owned. In addition to that, several youth centers were established in the government premises for the purpose of cost efficiency and to work closely with government and train government to take over of the programme. Negotiations with UN agencies having youth centers in rental houses were conducted in order to merge the centers with the government for sustainability purposes, capacity development and cost efficiency.

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

(i) Quality of monitoring.

In 2008, besides the individual agencies monitoring missions, two joint monitoring visits were conducted to Herat and Jalalabad provinces. During these monitoring missions, all partner agencies and government line ministries participated including the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs. During the Herat mission, all participants met with provincial authorities, visited UNICEF and UNFPA Youth Center. Based on the findings

and recommendations of the Herat mission, it was agreed to increase the number of Joint Monitoring Visits and to conduct a regional youth conference and TCC meeting to other provinces as well. The second monitoring mission was conducted to Jalalabad province, where JNYP partners met the Provincial Governor, conducted a one day regional youth conference and visited the UN-Habitat local youth councils and the UNICEF youth center. The Joint monitoring visits encouraged provincial government and provincial directorate of government partner ministries to support JNYP program and activities at provincial and local level and to coordinate their all youth related activities with the provincial youth directorate.

JNYP was also closely monitoring the day to day activities of the English and computer courses at DMOYA. the field activities of the UN agencies as per project documents was monitoring by each agencies and the result was shared with other partners during TCC meeting as well as in WG meetings, and project board meetings.

(ii) **Timely delivery of outputs.**

Although JNYP partners were not able to deliver 100% of the targeted outputs in a timely fashion, mainly because of insufficient resources, most of the planned activities were implemented according to the timeline and in coordination with partners and the Office of the Deputy Minister. Lack of technical staff in some agencies and the late finalization of the AWP for 2008, and the lack of a more specified model for joint coordination were also the factors contributing to non delivery of expected results.

III. PROJECT RESULTS SUMMARY

Component 1: Government capacity strengthened to support and provide services to youth.

Output 1: development planners and policy makers (government, aid agencies, donors) aware and responsive to the situation of youth in Afghanistan.

1.1.3 Conduct a mapping and capacity assessment of existing youth institutions (youth committees, youth CSOs, student associations, etc) in Afghanistan in a minimum of 7 provinces UNDP

The activity remained unfunded and was therefore handed over to the Open Society Institute., Once they succeed for this assessment they will share the data(result) of the assessment with JNYP.

1.1.6 Rapid assessment on street-based children in Kabul and interventions required for youth and families UNICEF

This project started in the two districts of Kabul through an NGO. Among the activities planned for the project is to conduct assessment of street-based children and advocate on family preservation services for street-based children.

1.1.10 Youth legal aid services established in all regions UNICEF

Legal aid services was established in 10 provinces (Kandahar, Heart, Jalalabad, Mazar, Ghazni, Bamiyan, Kundoz, Baghlan, Jozjan, Badghis) through a local NGO to provide legal services for children in conflict with the law. The NGO is providing the opportunity of legal services based on the required rule and regulations to children in conflict with the law. To date, 544 children including 27 girls have been provided with legal aid services. Over 75 youth volunteers were trained on legal literacy in the Kandahar, Jalalabad and Bamyan provinces.

1.1.11 Advocate for youth issues through enhanced promotion and visibility activities UNDP

International Women Day was celebrated on March 8 with all partners of JNYP and DMoYA in the Kabul women garden. A number of advocacy materials was distributed by UNDP and partners of JNYP during the ceremony. DMoYA and the DM of MoWA planted trees in the mentioned garden and a sign board designed by JNYP was launched in front of the planted trees. Hundreds of trees was provided by JNYP and donated for plantation in the mentioned garden.

International Youth Day was successfully celebrated; about six hundred people participated in the celebration ceremony, which included two people per province, participants from universities and school students, Civil Society representatives, UN agencies, and high government officials.

The youth have been organized in six working groups (Education, Health and Drug Abuse, Employment, Volunteerism, Local Governance, and Gender) and their recommendations were summarized in a declaration which was sent to government and other stakeholders. At the closure of the event, Mr. Farhad Darya, the UNDP good will Ambassador, conducted a concert.

Peace Day was celebrated on September 20 2008 at Kabul Medical University together with DMoYA, the Ministry of Higher Education, Kabul Medical University and other partners and stakeholders of the JNYP. More than 800 youth from different universities of Kabul, representatives of CSOs and government officials attended the conference. The Minister of Higher Education, DMoYA, the UN resident coordinator ai, the Deputy Minister for Women Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, the Chancellor of Kabul Medical University and religious leaders discussed peace and the responsibility of youth in peace building. Youth sang, the Sorod Meli (national anthem), an art competition and an exhibition, which reflected peace and development through their arts were parts of the celebration. The chancellor of the Kabul Medical Institute donated a park to youth and named it the Youth Peace Park, and UNDP supported DMoYA to build a peace symbol in the park placed at the Kabul Medical University. 700 CDs (life film) showed activities of JNYP/DMoYA and 400 project document provided by JNYP were distributed among the participants. At the end, UNDP provided gifts for champions of the art competition and talented students of different universities of Kabul. In addition to that, T-Shirts and caps were provided by UNAMA for peace day and distributed to peer educators of the Youth Information Center and for youth representatives of CSOs.

1.1.14 Conduct a comprehensive youth assessment on situation of youth in Afghanistan, with participation and capacity-building of youth and Government officials in the process including adolescent health issues (combined 1.1.1 and 1.1.7) UNDP

A comprehensive Youth Assessment was advertised through UNDP and other partners' websites. 28 National and International organizations applied and sent their expression of interest , 8 of whom were short listed and asked to submit their detailed technical and financial proposals. A team of the partner agencies evaluated the technical and financial proposals and finally selected Afghan CNN, a national firm, and a contract was awarded to them on November 3 2008. The firm, however, failed to perform according to the contract and their proposal. Because of the low performance the contract was prematurely terminated on January 14 2009 after the joint decision of partners in the TCC.

HE DMoYA said that for the time being we should postponed this assessment. He said that he will discuss this issue with the head of each UN agency contributed to this assessment.

Output 1.2: Strong mechanism of dialogue and lobbying between youth and Government established

1.2.2 Conduct regular consultations between youth groups/CSO's and Government (parliamentarians, ministerial officials, President's representative) UNDP

During the celebration of the International Youth Day, conference consultations and group discussions took place between youth, government officials, parliamentarians and representatives of CSOs on youth problem and how to engage youth in decision making. The Deputy Minister from the Ministry of Women Affairs participated in a Gender Working group and had a number of discussions/interventions during the session. The Director of Adolescent Health was part of a health working group discussion and representatives of CSOs participated in different group discussions with youth. The same discussion detained with the government official, CSOs representatives, and youth from education institutions/universities.

During the regional Youth Conference in the Eastern region, where youth from eastern provinces, university students, representatives from CSOs and Youth centers/councils, government officials, representatives of youth parliament were invited, the issues affecting youth at local level and how youth could be empowered youth to support government were discussed. Apart from that, individual meetings and discussion were conducted with the local authorities to support youth at regional and provincial level. The governor of Nangarhar province announced his full support and donated 12 stand computers to the youth directorate of Nangarhar province.

1.2.4 Refreshers planned for 120 Local Youth Councils across six provinces UNHABITAT

UN-Habitat Youth Empowerment Project facilitated, designed and delivered three refresher workshops of the delivered seven modules of civic education to 120 Local Youth Councils and the eight Module of civic education which was on Public speaking was designed and delivered to 120 LYCs by late 2008

Output 1.3: National youth strategy revised and youth-friendly policies developed through participatory processes and integrated in the ANDS

1.3.1 Facilitate participatory youth policy discussions between Government departments, donors, international and local agencies and youth CSOs UNDP

The draft policy documents for youth were collected from different sources in 2008. The draft policy documents will be analyzed and consolidated in early 2009, and will be then shared with all stakeholders through a workshop in order to finalize the National Youth Policy.

1.3.5 Develop national strategy on youth employment and youth entrepreneurship UNDP

ILO, in coordination with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Martyrs and Disabled, initiated the draft policy/strategy document on employment and will finalize it in 2009 with the collaboration of JNYP partners.

1.3.12 Facilitate youth exchange visits among provinces to strengthen networks and linkages among youth at the national level UNHABITAT

Due to security reasons, visits to provinces were amended to a three days conference under the name of Youth and Networking in Kabul. In late December 2008, more than 300 youth both male and female participated in this conference from the six provinces of Balkh, Bamyan, Farah, Kabul, Kandahar and Nangarhar.

1.3.13 Facilitate Local Youth Councils (LYCs) exchange visits at the province level to support sharing learning and ideas UNHABITAT

In every module of civic education, Local Youth Councils representatives are able to gather and share their experiences and lessons learned. Sharing of experiences are not only limited to the workshops, but LYCs

have arrangements of visits of councils. The impact of exchange visits at the provincial level has been very useful and has resulted in fruitful learnings.

1.3.14 Facilitate youth dialogue with the Deputy Minister's Office UNHABITAT

The Youth Empowerment Project is a good partner for the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs. Every month LYC representatives are meeting with the Directorate of Youth Affairs in respective provinces and are discussing and sharing their plans with them. This has been the case since the start of the project.

Output 1.4: Capacity of civil servants at central and provincial level enhanced to provide better services to young people

1.4.1 Conducting the Civil Service Leadership Development training Programme for MIC/MoE/MoHE/MoLSAM officials UNDP

Eight DMoYA/Ministry of Information and Culture staff attended the first and second workshops of the Emergent Leadership Programme (ELP) from 17 to 21 August and from November 2 to 18.

1.4.6 Training of judicial/law enforcement officials associated with administration of juvenile justice UNICEF

Initial meetings were held with the head of the police academy and other key players. a concept note will be developed to conduct the training for judicial/law enforcement officials associated with administration of juvenile justice.

1.4.7 Establishment of regional social workers coaching mechanism to work with juvenile rehabilitation facilities and other youth protection issues UNICEF

Training of social workers was conducted in 8 provinces (Paktiya, Herat, Ghazni, Bamiyan, Kundoz, Baghlan, Jalalabad, Kandahar). A Letter of Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Interior, the Attorney General's Office, and the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyred and Disabled on involving social workers upon the arrest of a child. The goal of the ministry is to enhance the cooperation between the different actors of juvenile justice to ensure legal standards are maintained and the best interest of the child ensured.

1.4.10 Improve English oral and written skills for up to 20 DMYA staff UNDP

English and computer trainings were provided to DMoYA staff in 2008. In 2009, the programme is going to be expanded to cover youth outside the ministry as well. In addition to that, UNDP provided two well equipped containers for classrooms and 12 stand computers with UPS and some office equipment, and internet facility for the capacity development of the office of the DMoYA.

1.4.13: Awareness raising and training workshop on working with youth in the agriculture sector for MAIL staff and relevant partners FAO

Agricultural training was provided to the UNFPA's youth center members and a vegetable garden was established in the UNFPA youth center in Herat province with support from the Provincial Department of Agriculture and FAO. Regular technical support to the youth center was provided as a follow up. In addition to the above, Training of Trainers nutrition trainings were provided to youth peer educators organized by UNFPA in Herat and Kabul. Besides technical support, vegetable seeds, seedlings and agricultural tools were distributed and three rounds of agricultural trainings were conducted by Ministry of agriculture, irrigation and live stock(MAIL) and FAO for 170 teachers between April and August. The first training was

on land preparation and sowing, the second on garden management and pest control and the third on harvesting. Nutrition education trainings were also provided.

1.4.14: Definition of MAIL's strategy for working with youth in agriculture FAO

MAIL-HED and FAO intend to further support youth activities in line with the JNYP and in close collaboration with the relevant ministry, while discussions on the further strategy and focus are still ongoing. The outcome will determine the future focus of MAIL-HED and FAO support.

1.4.15. Conduct the Coaches and Advisors Programme for the DMoYA officials UNDP

The objective of the coaching process in the DMoYA was to develop the capacities of the staff and Office of the deputy ministry as an institution committed to all-round development of the youth of Afghanistan and seeks to establish a perspective based on national and international values to fulfill their legitimate aspirations in economical, political, cultural, and social aspects vital to the achievement of the ANDS, Afghanistan Compact and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The coach/advisor provided support to the DMoYA in terms of capacity building of the in areas of Institutional Capacity Building, Resource Mobilization, Management of Joint National Youth Programme Activities, Preparation of Recommendation for the Improvement of the Deputy Minister Office, and Gender Mainstreaming.

The international coach/advisor assessed the training needs of the staff. Coaches were provided with on the job training on the various aspects of Project Cycle Management, Human Resource Management, Policy Design, Management Information System, and Financial Management through practical examples.

As institutional and individual capacity building are complementary, coaching was provided to the Principles Coaches for small grants programming aimed at institutional capacity building of the DMoYA. Under this initiative, a well equipped resource center, workshop center and meeting room were provided to the staff of the Deputy Minister Office.

Resource mobilization for the DMoYA was one of the priority items. The International Coach trained and built the capacity of the new Coaches so so they are able to design and develop proposals for resource mobilization.

Assistance was provided in developing the Draft National Youth Policy Strategy Paper and five year Plan for the DMoYA. These documents will transform the DMoYA into a capable organization, facilitating a multi-dimensional and integrated approach towards the development of the youth of Afghanistan, as national progress depends, crucially, on them.

The International Coach sensitized the DMoYA on gender issues. Gender has been incorporated as a thrust area in the National Youth Policy, the Five Year Plan, and the Strategy of the DMoYA.

1.4.16. Capacity building of MoPH/DMoYA and project staff UNFPA

Based on the proposal of the DMoYA, UNFPA agreed to support DMoYA to establish and run the Youth Resource Center in to DMoYA building. The UNFPA has already provided the IT equipment and office furniture to DMoYA for the center. The resource center will play a key role in collecting and sharing the information on ASRH(Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health), generating ASRH reports, linking provinces with the center and vice versa. UNFPA also supported some logistics and IT equipment to the DMoYA for the establishment of the workshop center, which will be used for organizing the workshops of DMoYA and provincial youth directorates to enhance their technical skills in the programme design,

implementation, and financial management and HR management. In addition to that the workshop center will also be used to organize the high level workshop for developing work plan in close consultation with the provinces.

The youth information center's staff were trained on monitoring of the programme activities. A scholarship was provided to the person in charge of the Poly Clinic Youth information and RH (Reproductive Health) Service Delivery Center to participate in two weeks' ASRH training programmes organized in Ankara Turkey. After the training lessons learnt were shared with other youth center staff and project staff.

1.4.17. Provide Technical assistance on ASRH to relevant JNYP undertakings UNFPA

UNFPA has provided the technical assistance to the JNYP undertakings on regular basis. UNFPA provided the technical supports to finalize the concept note of the joint youth assessment. Likewise, being the members of the Technical Committee of the ASRH, UNFPA youth center in-charges also provided the technical supports to the Ministry of Public Health for the revision of the technical guideline of the ASRH.

1.4.18 Conducting 4 Refresher workshops in 6 provinces of Afghanistan with DMYA Officers at all levels UNHABITAT

The UN-HABITAT Youth Empowerment Project has successfully conducted three refresher workshops, where 2,600 youth and 18 DMoYA Officers have participated in three refresher workshops. The workshops were on local governance and Youth Development Plans, fund raising and project design and Project Implementation and Networking.

Output 1.5: Regional ties, communication and collaboration with neighboring countries and regional organizations strengthened

1.5.4 Government officials participate in relevant youth events and exposure visits UNDP

UNDP facilitated the participation of two key staff members of the DMoYA in the Doha International Conference November 7-13 held in Qatar. The conference was attended by nationals of fifty countries and covered the topic of national youth policy formulation

1.5.4 Government officials participate in relevant youth events and exposure visits UNHABITAT

On December 20, YEP (Youth Empowerment Program) had its exposure visit to Tajikistan for the purpose of exchanging and sharing information. The exposure visit was led by the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and 9 young activists from 5 Provinces

The delegation visited several places and many youth committees and youth centers as well as their youth projects. The delegation also visited the general director of youth, sport and tourism the committee of the republic of Tajikistan, the minister of information and culture, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Dushanbe, Governor of Tursonzada Province, sport clubs, a university, Afghan refugees' school etc. The exposure visit was widely broadcasted by Medias such as Voice of America, First Network, National TV, Imroz radio, Youth weekly, Youth Voice. Finally a cooperative agreement was signed between two countries in Youth sector.

Component 2: Youth have better quality of life and improved access to livelihood opportunities, through increased awareness, education and skills development.

Output 2.1: Youth vocational, leadership and professional skills enhanced

2.1.1 More than 2,500 youth trained as community-based school teachers UNICEF

Teacher training for Community Based Schools was conducted in the central, Eastern, and Northern regions. All together, 606 young male and 200 female were trained to be community based teachers.

2.1.4 Establishment of Youth Service and Contact Centers in selected provinces UNICEF

Twelve Youth Information and Contact Centers in Mazar, Jalalabad, Bamiyan, Kandahar, Hirat, Kundoz, Daikundi, Nimroza, Paktiya, Faryab, Laghman and Badakhshan provinces continued the provision of fast and easy information to adolescent girls and boys through direct person to person or group counseling. Issues of counseling included HIV/AIDS, job placement, education, early and forced marriage, legal issues and family discrimination. During 2008, more than 4,000 youth (girls and boys) referred to the above Youth Centers for counseling. Out of 213 youth referred for job placement, 54 of them received jobs either in the training programmes or different organizations. Following the ToT training in Kabul, several training workshops were held on HIV/AIDS in the provinces. Meanwhile, more than 15 training workshops were held on ethical reporting, human rights and noxious of drugs. Various round tables were organized by youth in the local TV on prevention of early marriage, forced marriage and discrimination at families and communities.

Almost all of the Youth Centers have published youth magazines, covering issues on child protection, elimination of discriminations against women, health etc. Very close coordination continued with the Child Protection Action Networks and follow up was carried out on the individual cases on child rights violations at the provinces. Under Civic Engagement project, many advocacy activities for the rights of the child, prevention of early and forced marriage and HIV/AIDS have started in five provinces (Kandahar, Hirat, Jalalabad, Mazar and Bamiyan). The activities include girls and boys sport events, school quizzes competitions, round tables on TV and other cultural activities.

Necessary preparation, procurement of supply etc. have been completed to establish Youth Information and Contact Centers (YICC) in Helmand province. Preparations of establishing YICC in Kunar are underway and this center will be established in near future. Intensive trainings were conducted in two batches from 7-20 Sept on Psychosocial Care, Life Skills and Counseling Skills for more than 65 participants in the Deputy Ministry of Youth, Kabul. In the first batch (September 7-14) male and female counselors from the YICC, Youth volunteer counselors and Directors of Protection from the Office of Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs participated in the training. The second batch covered social workers from different NGOs working for child protection and staff of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. The overall goal of the training was to build the technical capacity of YICC counselors and UNICEF Partners in Afghanistan in strengthening the resilience and the protection of children and youth through a community based psychosocial approach. The training was conducted by the DMOYA with technical support from UNICEF and facilitated by two professors of Chellamuthu Institute of Mental Health and Rehabilitation of India. Follow up actions and recommendations were prepared to ensure field level implementation of the lessons learnt.

The 40-day peace campaign was conducted in all 7 YICCs by arranging youth sports events, round tables, quiz competitions, workshops/seminars, dramas/role play, publication etc. Thousands of young male and female participated in the peace campaign through YICC to mark the importance of peace building for development. This campaign ended with celebration of Peace Day on September 21. in all provinces by gatherings of youth, government official and media to highlight importance of peace as aim not as simply celebration.

2.1.13: Agriculture-related vocational skills training provided to 600 youth, with provision of equipment to support youth employment and income generation FAO

As per the work plan, 600 youth were trained on agricultural-related vocational training skills and equipped in terms of employment and income generation.

2.1.14 Establishment of 80 to 100 school gardens in 5 provinces (Bamyan, Badakshan, Herat, Kabul and Nangarhar) FAO

As part of the National Healthy Schools Initiative (HSI), school gardens were created and nutrition education was carried out in 89 school gardens in 5 provinces (Bamyan, Badakshan, Herat, Kabul and Nangarhar).

Competitions were organized to select the best 3 school gardens in each province, in Bamyan (on August 23) and in Herat (on August 27). Competitions were organized in Kabul, Badakshan and Nangarhar in the months of October and November. Sport gifts were distributed for the 3 best schools in the mentioned provinces. The purpose of these competitions was to increase students' participation and motivation to work in the garden, to identify the nutrition value of the vegetables as well as gain skills in vegetable production. The competitions should also encourage schools to maintain the gardens.

A close collaboration was established between the Kabul University, Faculty of Agriculture, and the MAIL-FAO school garden project in Kabul. 28 students of horticulture and economics assisted the school garden project in 15 schools. Their role was the supervision and monitoring of the garden activities and technical support to teachers as required (i.e. irrigation, plant care, plant protection from pests and proper harvest of the garden products). The aim was to provide students the possibility to gain practical field experience and assist them towards partial integration into field work and at the same time use their technical capacities to improve the quality of the gardens.

2.1.16 More than 6,000 youth trained to be school teachers UNICEF

Around 24,234 youth were trained to work as school teachers in the central and Northern zone of Afghanistan. This was followed by training of 175 trainers for facilitating teacher training in the provinces.

Output 2.2: Youth literacy, life-skills, leadership, civic education and human rights awareness enhanced

2.2.8: Establish and strengthen YIC's in selected areas UNFPA

UNFPA has supported the running of the three youth centers, two in Kabul and one in Herat. The project staff were trained on ASRH, all three Youth Information Centers were equipped with computers, internet facilities and English and computer classes.

The youth information centers are empowering the young people with communication skills on sexual and reproductive health to plan their future and think critically about their sexual and reproductive health. The centers are also providing access to sexual and reproductive health information and education through the health sessions and peer education approach. In addition, the Poly Clinic Youth Friendly Reproductive Health Service Delivery Center is also providing the SRH services to the young people in a youth friendly manner. It has also provided the counseling services to the young couples regarding the family planning. Through computer training, English language courses and counseling services of the youth information center young people are connecting with the livelihood and employment programmes available in the cities. The young people are also encouraged to participate fully in the development programmes of the communities through its various outreach activities.

There are currently 195 peer educators in Kabul (95 with Khusal Khan and 100 with Poly Clinic center) and 80 peer educators in Herat. Each peer educator has his/her own group of nine members. The peer

educators work as volunteers to disseminate the reproductive and sexual health messages to their group's members to increase awareness. From Khusal Khan Center 119 students have received English language training whereas 81 students are studying in computer course. At the Herat Youth Information Center 91 students are receiving training on health, 80 students are involved in English language courses, and 50 students attend the computer class. In the Poly Clinic Center there are 51 students in the health session, and the same number of peer educators is English Language course. However, there are 21 peer educators are in computer classes.

The youth mobilizers were mobilized for the supervision of the peer educators and monitoring of their activities in their communities or school. Peer educators also refer the complicated cases to the youth information center or nearest service or counseling center if they find any complications regarding the ASRH among their peers and friends requiring more counseling and treatment. The peer educators provide the detailed information regarding the service center or information center to the clients so they are able to seek additional help. In addition, they do a follow up with the clients.

2.2.9 Literacy courses for over 40,000 young women in 2,540 centers all over Afghanistan UNICEF

In 34 provinces, 2,499 literacy courses were established and over 46,000 young women have been attending these courses. The 9-month literacy courses help women to develop skills on child rights, health, education and overall hygiene. The project is implemented in close partnership form the Department of Literacy, Ministry of Education.

2.2.10. Support to youth literacy through LIFE Project (Literacy Initiative for Empowerment) UNESCO

In March 2008, the Programme for Enhancement of Literacy in Afghanistan (ELA) has started under the framework of the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE). ELA will provide basic/post-literacy programme for 300,000 youth (and adults) in 9 provinces (Badakhshan, Balkh, Bamiyan, Daikundy, Ghor, Nangrahar, Samangan, Paktika, Wardak) for a 3 years period (from 2009-2012) as well as need based skill development and micro-credit training, through which youth (and adults), who have missed out on educational opportunities during the conflict, will be educationally, socially, politically, and financially empowered.

ELA was in the preparatory phase during 2008, during which development of implementation structure and training materials, as well as recruitment of programme staff, started to prepare for field implementation expected to start from early 2009.

In addition, a small scale pilot programme has started in Shaidan village of the central district in Bamiyan in order to test strategies/methodologies for full scale implementation of ELA. For the pilot programme, literacy facilitators were selected from the village and received training. 16 basic-literacy classes (8 for female, 8 for male) have been established in the village, and 800 learners are currently participating in literacy class.

2.2.11: 2,600 Youth both male and female received trainings on Local Governance, Leadership, Management, Youth Development Planning, Project Management, Project Design, and Networking and Communication UN HABITAT

Since the approval of the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) approval in September 2006, and in the course of implementation, YEP has served as the turning point in the lives of more than 2,600 youth across six provinces in 120 Local Youth Councils (LYC). For the first time, YEP has focused on youth participation at the local level, allowing them to get involved in local decision-making processes, and organize themselves as an integral part of the community. Elections have been conducted for the establishment of LYCs in 60 rural and urban communities of six provinces, establishing 120 LYC (60 boys and 60 girls).

2600 youth have received experiential learning training, and have practiced the concepts of youth and the community, volunteerism, governance, elections, service-oriented leadership, conflict-resolution, peace-building, unity, strategic planning, consultation, participation, social inclusion and gender, needs assessment, documentation, self-initiative, youth fund, resource-mobilization, local fund-raising, partnerships with community leaders, private sector and local NGOs, accounting, project design, proposal writing, budgeting and work-plan and as a result have designed 120 proposals, which were successfully accepted by YEP and \$500.00 was allocated to every single LYC.

2.2.12: Community based Programme: Protecting Women and Youth Vulnerable to Drug Misuse UNESCO

Within the framework of the European Commission funded programme “Reducing Harm from Drug Use”, this project operated in Kabul Old City. The objective of this community based programme is to empower NEJAT Youth Center in Kharabat to provide daily access to medical services, care and support as well as basic education, especially to local women and youth vulnerable to drug addiction and HIV infection, so as to improve the livelihood of the target population and the community in general. The purpose of the youth centre in Kharabat is to facilitate the provision of a space for young people, who would have normally dropped out of school, enabling them to build on their self esteem and confidence through providing facilitates to undertake group and individual counseling and support, sports and recreation activities, developing skills in arts and mechanics and build skills in performance and drama to help engage with young people. The project also aims at improving basic education skills, such as literacy, numerical and writing skills. Courses are offered for youth, both boys and girls, in basic literacy combined with efforts to motivate pupils to return to formal schooling. Moreover, a great emphasis has been placed on raising awareness among the youths’ parents in relation to the importance of education, encouraging them to send their children to school. The programme aims at the general community in Kharabat, in public settings/areas and in formal private educational/tuition centers and courses.

Output 2.3: Youth reproductive health and family planning awareness

2.3.12: Develop a Youth-Friendly Service (YFS) training package for service providers and conduct training in 20 selected districts UNFPA

This activity has postponed to 2009

2.3.13: Develop IEC/BCC materials on ASRH with special focus on in and out of school youth. UNFPA

The UNFPA has developed three informative brochures about the activities of youth information centers and radio spots on HIV and AIDS. The aim of developing the brochures was to provide detailed information about the centers and encourage young people to visit the center. The brochures were distributed to a number of schools and universities in Kabul and Herat and in communities through outreach activities. UNFPA has also distributed a number of T-shirt with information about the youth to the young people.

In each quarter the youth centers organized an advocacy meeting with the parents to create a supportive environment around the programme in the community. In each meeting there were 30-40 parents of the peer educators and peer group members present to discuss the ASRH issues. Advocacy meetings were also held with the teachers and government authorities on the ASRH and peer education programmes. Because of the advocacy meetings, the schools are providing improved support to the youth information centers in disseminating the RH information among young people. In addition, the school and universities are also providing support to the centers to conduct outreach activities and awareness campaigns in their schools by providing space in their premises and permitting their students to participate in the programmes.

Khushal Khan YIC has developed a group of young people to perform a role play on different issues of ASRH at the community to create awareness. At the time of the International Youth Day and outreach programmes, the group performed the plays in different places, especially on prevention of HIV infection and the consequences of drug use. As per the annual work plan, all three Youth Information Centers organized outreach programmes least once a month with the involvement of the peer educators and students of the school and university. At the outreach programme, different types of informative brochures, T shirts, leaflets, etc., were distributed.

2.3.14 Development and dissemination of advocacy materials to raise awareness among young people on HIV&AIDS and drug abuse UNESCO

During 2008, UNESCO supported an Afghan NGO (NEJAT drug rehabilitation centre) in developing and disseminating advocacy materials on HIV and AIDS, targeting particularly youth. This NGO has developed a comprehensive drug rehabilitation programmes during the last 16 years in a variety of settings in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Advocacy materials developed include HIV and AIDS posters, pictures messages, short story magazines, picture books, notebooks and season calendars to raise awareness among youth and adults in the community. The activity has been carried out in the framework of the OPEC/UNESCO project on strengthening education sector responses to prevent HIV & AIDS in Afghanistan.

Development and dissemination of advocacy material were also achieved through awareness programmes among the communities, motivation of female to undertake volunteer treatment with the support of social workers and treatment of drug users (see output 2.3).

Output 2.4: Afghan youth exposed to knowledge, experiences and networks in other countries

2.4.2 Regional and international youth exchanges and participation in international events (trainings, meetings, conferences) especially in neighboring countries UNDP

UNDP facilitated the participation of the two key representatives of SCOs, and one programme associate of the UNDP country office in the Doha International Conference November 7-13 held in Qatar. The conference was attended by representatives of more than fifty countries, which was based on the national youth policy formulation.

JNYP deputy project manager attended 2008 South Asia sub-regional training course for Young Leaders in Governance in May/2008.

On 20 December 2008, YEP had its exposure visit to Tajikistan for the purpose of exchanging and sharing information. The exposure visit was led by the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and 9 young activists from 5 Provinces

The delegation visited several places and many youth committees and youth centers as well as their Youth projects.

Afghan youth also visited general director of youth, sport and tourism committee of the republic of Tajikistan, minister of information and culture, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Dushanbe, Governor of Tursonzada Province, sport clubs, a university, Afghan refugees' school etc. The exposure visit was widely broad coasted by media such as (Voice of America, First Network, National TV, Imroz radio, Youth weekly, Youth Voice). Finally a cooperative agreement was signed between two countries in Youth sector.

Component 3: Youth participation in governance and social-political processes enhanced

Output 3.3: Diverse youth development initiatives undertaken at community level

3.3.1 Support community-based youth initiative in the area of gender awareness and government empowerment UNDP

One of the main objectives of the Nangarhar regional conference was to support community based youth initiatives in the area of gender awareness and government empowerment. During the conference, representatives of the youth parliament held a presentation on gender and explained the importance of gender awareness at community level and a role play by local youth demonstrated this to participant.

3.3.4 Mobilize youth institutions (youth CSOs, youth committees, student associations, etc.) in 7 provinces and awareness-raising on engagement of youth in sub-national governance

During the celebration of the International Youth Day, and the Nangarhar regional conference, a number of youth representatives from different provinces were mobilized and awareness campaigns were held on engagement of youth in sub-national governance and gender issues.

Output 3.4: Provincial youth Councils established

The activities under output 3.4 (3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3, 3.4.5, and 3.4.7) were unfunded and due to lack of fund they were not implemented.

3.4.1 Election male and female youth delegates representing clusters of CSOs and/or youth committees of one district UNDP

3.4.2 Conduct provincial youth conferences in 7 provinces where youth delegates elect their interim provincial youth councils (iPYCs) in 7 provinces UNDP

3.4.3 Provision of basic assets and equipment for long-term functioning of iPYCs in 7 provinces UNDP

3.4.5 Secure rent-free office space for iPYCs secretariats through governor's Office, Municipality and Dept of Youth UNDP

3.4.7: 12 months operational costs support to IPYC Secretariat in 7 provinces UNDP

Output 3.5: Participation of youth in district/provincial development planning increased

3.5.2 Provincial Youth Conferences held in 7 provinces, in order to allow youth representatives, youth CSOs and youth committees to discuss the issues affecting young people in their provinces UNDP

JNYP was able to conduct a provincial youth conference in Nangarhar province, where more than three hundred youth came together for a one day conference. All UN partners and DMOYA national and provincial staff, including the Deputy Minister for Youth Affairs, participated in the conference, as did Provincial Governor and representatives of other government department. The Provincial Governor announced his strong support to the youth of the country, and suggested such valuable youth conferences to be held in other regions.

3.5.4 Support to youth-CPAN collaborative activities on child/youth protection in 10 provinces UNICEF

The Child Protection Action Network (CPAN) and Youth Information and Contact Centers (YICC) have developed a close partnership and coordination by participating in the regular CPAN meetings and referring case studies for legal services. YICC counselors and young journalists are closely working with CPAN to follow cases of children victims of various abuse and exploitation with law enforcement officials. YICC is referring cases of child rights violations to CPAN for referral and follow up.

Output 3.8: Resource allocations and decision/policy making at municipal, provincial and national level responsive to issues affecting youth

3.8.1 Develop strong relationships between the IPYCs and the PCs, PDCs, Governor's Offices, PRTs, Municipalities, Private Sector institutions and NGOs in the province UNDP

The IPYCs activity has been postponed due to lack of funds, but during the joint mission to Herat a number of discussions and meetings were conducted with government officials, youth representatives and PRT to develop increased and strengthened relations on which future work can be based.

3.8.2 Develop Provincial Youth Advocacy Strategies for each IPYC UNDP
The project and programme did not succeed to secure fund for the activity.

3.8.3 Secure funding from multiple sources (government, private sector, donors/aid agencies, membership fees, activity fees) to sustain operational and development costs of iPYCs UNDP
The project and programme did not succeed to secure fund for the activity.

3.8.4 Conduct youth public awareness-raising campaign through posters, radio, brochures and videos undertaken in 7 provinces UNDP
During the reporting period 1,200 brochures in three languages of Pashto, Dari and English were published, 400 project documents printed and 700 CDs from JNYP/DMoYA activities were developed and distributed among youth, CSOs representatives and government officials.

Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps

Output 4.3: Policies, procedure and systems put into place to enable youth volunteering in Afghanistan

With support from UNICEF, the DMoYA has assigned a consultant for three months to make a comprehensive assessment on the feasibility of the Youth Volunteer Corp, identify links of youth volunteers with the Youth Information and Contact Center, and with the indigenous process of youth volunteerism in Afghanistan.

The assessment will be done in three provinces; Kabul, Jalalabad and Mazar. Initially the work has started by developing questionnaires and methods of group discussions in Kabul. In January 2009, field work in Jalalabad and Mazar will start and local field researchers will conduct interview and group discussions with youth, both male and female. Strong focus will be sustained to involve youth from the existing youth projects of different JNYP partners like YICC from UNICEF and Youth Shuras of UN-Habitat. In addition, other youth who might not be involved in the current youth services in the urban and rural areas will be included.

4.3.1 Support to policy making on volunteerism UNDP

An international consultant was recruited by UNICEF and seconded to the office of the DMoYA to conduct a comprehensive assessment on feasibility of volunteerism. The questionnaire for the different methods of assessment was developed in a participatory manner. After completion, analysis and compilation of the assessment findings, the WG of NYVS should start work on policy making. In addition, several meetings were conducted with the donors and a presentation provided by JNYP office, presented to the donors for the support of national youth volunteerism. Concept note was prepared with the log frame and a proposal has been drafted, which will be finalized after the finding of the assessment and will be submitted to interested donors in 2009.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

Low level of youth-specific content in the ANDS:

The very existence and continuation of the Joint National Youth Programme is one measure that is currently available to signify the presence of Afghan youth as a source of common interest, power, and commitment to a democratic Afghan society and state. After significant lobbying by the JNYP for the ANDS to make youth issues a more prominent sector, the ANDS announced the creation of the Culture, Media and Youth sector. The Joint National Youth Programme, in close collaboration with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy Secretariat and the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs met with representatives of youth from the 34 provinces during the international youth day conference, which was covered by TV, radio and the newspaper broadcasts to ensure that the voice of youth is heard and their needs are incorporated into the national strategy.

Lack of data for adequate planning and reporting:

There are two main challenges related to the lack of availability of appropriate data about the youth. The first is the lack of a comprehensive youth assessment, which can assist the Programme to respond to the needs of youth more effectively. The delay in implementing this activity and the lack of analysis of youth issues has affected the development of the Programme. Partners are conducting their own rapid assessment to assist them with development of their individual work plans, but this is not sufficient as a platform for joint planning and programming, although information available from individual agencies could feed into the common database once created.. In order to track the impact and sustainability of activities, the JNYP will develop tools to gather more detailed, gender-sensitive qualitative and quantitative information and improve the reporting tools to ensure more comprehensive and mainstreamed information from participating agencies.

Lack of adequate human resources:

During 2008, most UN partner agencies had difficulties providing enough staff resources to work effectively on JNYP; this resulted in delays for implementation and resource mobilization. For example the JNYP project manager left the project in March 2008 and the project officer left the project in June 2008, but none were replaced because of fund shortage.

Initially the UNDP staff planned to move to the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs premises, but since the security of the Deputy Minister's Office was not sufficient to comply with UNDP security standards such a move could not be recommended. Other options to ensure more cost effective management are, however, being explored, including the sharing of office space and costs with other UNDP projects..

V. LESSONS LEARNT AND NEXT STEPS

Lessons learnt.

The main lessons learnt from 2008 are as follows:

- The Joint National Youth Programme plays an important role in bringing together experience and resources of UN agencies to complement the ANDS and the UNDAF outcomes and avoid duplication, if it is well planned and well coordinated. For this purpose, the project is going to be reviewed and reformulated after consultations with all partners. The reformulation process is going to be led by UNDP, RC office in consultation with the DMOYA and other partners during the first half of 2009.

- The joint youth advocacy conference is an effective mechanism to bring together youth from each province using the partnership with the DMoYA offices and the UN partner offices in the provinces.
- Through a collective effort, UN partners and some of their Government partners (MoPH, MoSALMD, MoE, MoHE, MoWA, and MoAL) can advocate successfully for greater response to youth needs (e.g. in the ANDS).
- The JNYP has an important role to play in coordinating specialized input from the various UN partner agencies – for example UNFPA led the efforts on adolescent reproductive health training, UNESCO on HIV/AIDS prevention, UNICEF on life skills education and information, UN-HABITAT for creating and supporting youth councils at the local and neighborhood level, and UNDP for supporting the capacity development of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs follow up of the assessment of capacity, and providing English/computer lessons, internet facility and office equipment.
- The planning process for the joint programme activities needs to be very thorough and significant time should be invested.
- It is very important to reformulate the JNYP project document and to establish unified management systems for the next phase of the programme, as there are a number of UN agencies and Government and youth institutions involved. These systems include:
 - A unified financial reporting mechanism
 - A unified understanding of terminology
 - A common reporting and monitoring systems
 - An agreement on shared administrative cost.
- It is very important to take time to consult with the JNYP partners and all stakeholders to develop the new project document including joint activities with clear roles and responsibilities of each party.

Recommendations.

While the JNYP has made important contributions, initiatives under the programme, have not been carried out in as programmatic and coordinated manner as recommendable in line with the principles outlined for joint programming by the UN. The JNYP has the capacity to become a spearhead best practice programme for the One UN approach and for future joint programming and a genuine catalyst towards the overall UN aim of ensuring government ownership and improve government capacity. A more coordinated approach will also allow for government partners, and in particular DMoYA, to oversee the programme and play a more coordinative and strategic role.

It is recommended by the board that the JNYP should be reformulated in a consultative process between the UN agencies and government partners. The lessons learned during the two years of implementation should be considered. A new strategic focus with a view to strengthening the responsiveness of the JNYP to the situation of youth in Afghanistan, with particular emphasis on the role of youth in conflict prevention and peace building, could be considered.

In addition, focus should be given to strengthening the branding of the JNYP and ensuring that an effective communication strategy and plan are incorporated to ensure the visibility of the JNYP. Sufficient funds to implement all JNYP activities through the development of a comprehensive joint resource mobilization strategy should also be a major focus. Stakeholders meetings should be facilitated and organized to this end. A formulation workshop with the UN agencies and Government of Afghanistan is planned for the end of first quarter of 2009.

VI. FINANCIAL STATUS AND UTILISATION

Table 1: Contribution overview [January, 2007 – December, 2008]

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTIO N BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
SPAIN/UNFPA	997,773	997,773	-
USAID	2,369,862	2,156,262	213,600
US GOV	750,000	750,000	-
NORAD, SIDA	900,000	900,000	-
UNICEF	7,962,718	6,333,408	1,629,310
UNESCO	93,283	93,283	-
UNV	72,000	32,000	40,000
FAO/Germany	197,000	197,000	-
ILO/ UK	920,000	920,000	-
UNDP Core	1,257,740	1,257,740	-
TOTAL	15,520,376	13,637,466	1,882,910

Table 2: Funding status (as of end of 2008)

DONOR NAME	RECEIVED	Period Prior to the Reporting Year	Reporting Year only	TOTAL	PROJECT BALANCE	Delivery tate (%)	Remarks
SPAIN/UNFPA	997,773	478,994	361,179	840,173	157,600	84%	
USAID	2,156,262	1,195,908	242,000	1,437,908	718,354	67%	
US GOV	750,000	750,000	-	750,000	-	100%	
NORAD, SIDA	900,000	900,000	-	900,000	-	100%	
UNICEF	6,333,408	1,911,301	2,188,319	4,099,620	2,233,788	65%	
UNESCO	93,283	49,420	43,863	93,283	-	100%	
UNV	32,000	32,000	-	32,000	-	100%	
FAO/Germany	197,000	-	38,200	38,200	158,800	19%	
ILO/ UK	920,000	-	-	-	920,000		Report not received yet
UNDP Core	1,257,740	624,937	552,827	1,177,764	79,976	94%	
TOTAL	13,637,466	5,942,560	3,426,388	9,368,948	4,268,518	69%	

Financial utilization

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

Activity	BUDGET [2008]	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity 1 : Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	1,590,845	850,611	740,234	53%
Activity 2: Youth Skills Development	3,150,563	1,196,343	1,954,220	38%
Activity 3 : Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social - political processes	197,000	593,268	-396,268	301%
Activity 4 : Youth Volunteer Corps	500,000	33,034	466,966	7%
Activity 5 : JP Coordination & Support	739,473	753,132	-13,659	101%
Total	6,177,881	3,426,388	2,751,493	55%

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

DONORS	ACTIVITY (as in ATLAS)	BUDGET 2008	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE	DELIVERY RATE (%)
SPAIN/UNFPA	Activity 1 : Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	262,300	109,002	153,298	
	Activity 2: Youth Skills Development	29,500	-	29,500	
	Activity 5 : JP Coordination & Support	300,000	252,177	47,823	
Subtotal UNFPA		591,800	361,179	230,621	61%
USAID	Activity 1 : Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	10,000	10,000	0	
	Activity 2: Youth Skills Development	60,000	60,000	0	
	Activity 3 : Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social - political processes	172,000	172,000	0	
Subtotal USAID		242,000	242,000	-	100%
UNICEF	Activity 1 : Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	1,160,518	672,237	488,281	
	Activity 2: Youth Skills Development	1,907,200	1,061,780	845,420	
	Activity 3 : Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social - political processes	25,000	421,268	-396,268	
	Activity 4 : Youth Volunteer Corps	500,000	33,034	466,966	
Subtotal UNICEF		3,592,718	2,188,319	1,404,399	61%
UNESCO	Activity 1 : Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	10,000	-	10,000	
	Activity 2: Youth Skills Development	43,863	43,863	0	
Subtotal UNESCO		53,863	43,863	10,000	81%
FAO/GERMANY	Activity 1 : Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	7,500	7,500	0	
	Activity 2: Youth Skills Development	190,000	30,700	159,300	
Subtotal FAO/ GEM		197,500	38,200	159,300	19%
ILO/ UK	Activity 2: Youth Skills Development	920,000	-	920,000	
Subtotal ILO/ UK		920,000	-	920,000	100%
UNDP	Activity 1 : Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	140,527	51,872	88,655	
	Activity 5 : JP Coordination & Support	439,473	500,955	-61,482	
Subtotal UNDP		580,000	552,827	27,173	95%
TOTAL		6,177,881	3,426,388	2,751,493	55%