

QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT [Q2 2007]

United Nations Development Programme Afghanistan AliceGhan Project April – June 2007



Participants during the Inauguration Function



H.E. Minister Ustad Mohammad Akbar and H. E. Governor Haji Din Mohammadd Cutting the Ribbon

Project ID: 00051619
Duration: September 2006 – December 2008
Component (MYFF):
Total Budget: 7,271,706.00
Unfunded: N/A
Implementing Partners/Responsible parties: UNDP, MORR, MOUD

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I. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

1.1 Introduction

Fully financed by the Government of Australia, the AliceGhan project aims to provide a sustainable settlement through community built housing and sustainable livelihood support for 1,400 eligible returnees and IDPs in Barikab village. The Record of Understanding entered into between Government of Australia, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is that land will be provided by Government of Afghanistan in accordance to Presidential Decree 104, Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations (MoRR) will undertake the beneficiary selection, Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) will develop the proposed physical site plan design and UNDP will manage the project. The project activities have been supported by the involvement of various project partners such as Kabul Governor's Office, United Nations (UN) United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) (who are observing the Beneficiary selection committee) and UN-Habitat that assisted in the design development during the project formulation process.

The name "AliceGhan" derives from a combination of names "Alice Spring" – a place in Australia which has strong linkage with Afghan migrants to Australia – and "Afghanistan", symbolizing the partnership and commitment of these two countries to materialize this resettlement project. On an immediate note, given the project implementation on the ground has commenced this quarter, implementation challenges facing the Project are the provision of water to the Project site and the speedy selection of beneficiaries.

1.2 Risks Associated with Alice Ghan Project

Land had been allocated for the Alice Ghan Project without a prior feasibility study or criteria to inform or guide land selection and land allocation to assess proposed settlement viability. Therefore the required investment or viability to sustain a continuous supply of water supply will be uncertain until such time as water supply has been professionally assessed, verified and annual operating and maintenance costs ascertained. Without water it will impossible to have a sustainable settlement or community at AliceGhan. This is currently being assessed. The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) had estimated that 1,400 vulnerable families be settled at Barikab project site which would require 2,030 cubic meters of water per day. To meet this demand the Hydro-Geological Department of Ministry of Mines and Industries (MoMI) had recommended tapping the perennial sources of water located on a private land at Qala-e-Shahi in Qarabagh district from the project site.

A series of meetings led by Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations (MoRR), Governor of Kabul and District Governor of Qarabagh were held with local communities of Qala-e-Shahi village to persuade them to provide surplus underground water from their land to returned refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) that will be re-settled in Barikab. The Project is grateful to communities in Qala-e-Shahi, Qarabagh district for supporting the construction of water supply network from their private land to AliceGhan Project site.

Two memorandums of understanding were signed between the owners of the land Messrs. Mohammad Alam S/O Zaralam, and Abdul Hakim S/O Abdul Qauom and the Government officials to provide water to AliceGhan Project site on 16 April 2007. The owner has agreed to donate the land for water to MoRR without any attached pre-conditions. Agreements were signed by other community leaders Kaka Juma Gul Khan, Malik Mir Alam, Abdul Rahim Talwar, Qarabagh District Governor, Mohammad Kazam Khan Sayaad, Director of Reintegration Department, MoRR, and Mohammad

Sayeed Stomaan, Head of DoRR Kabul Province (see Annex 2 for Memorandum of Understanding signed).

MOUD has asked Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation (AUWSSCo) to carry out the feasibility study of the site located at Qala-e-Shahi and prepare the bid document for the test drilling. After the selection of the contractor the test drill will be conducted at the site, and water flow from the site will be measured. According to estimates prepared by MoMI the discharge capacity is expected to be approximately 20 to 25 liters per second.

The biggest risk to the project is that if water is not available at the site, beneficiary population will not have water for survival. The implications of these risks are that all project activities will have to be stopped and the Government will have to allocate land at a different location with sufficient sources of water for the re-settlement of refugees.

1.3 Formation of Beneficiary Selection Committee

1,400 vulnerable families will be selected for the AliceGhan project among the beneficiaries for the land distribution in Barikab by MoRR based on the Presidential Decree 104.

As stipulated in the signed AliceGhan Project Document, a Beneficiary Selection Committee (BSC) was formed under the AliceGhan First Board Meeting. It has been divided into members and observers, and the Terms of Reference have been drafted and approved by MORR (see Annex for the list of members and observers).

The Beneficiary Selection checklist was revised based on the feedback received from the first Project Board Meeting. Terms of Reference for the BSC members and observers was drafted and finalized. Comments and inputs from UNHCR and the Australian Embassy have been incorporated.

Three meetings related to beneficiary selection process and finalisation of BSC Members and Observers were held with MoRR. As of 5th July, a total of 170 vulnerable beneficiary families were pre-selected by the MoRR selection teams. MoRR will schedule a meeting of BSC members and observers so that the process of finalization of beneficiaries can be initiated from the pre-selection list.

II. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

The target site is Barikab, Qarabagh District in the north of Kabul Province, where the project will have 1,400 homes built by the beneficiary communities as their contribution to the project. In measures to improve the socio-economic prospects to achieve a sustainable community at Alice Ghan will be integrated within the development process. The Alice Ghan Project site is one amongst several sites earmarked by the Government for settlement of returnees, refugees and IDPs across the country. Beneficiary participation, building of sustainable community and the creation of a replicable model for the future returnee/ IDP settlement construction are core principles that will guide the planning and implementation of project activities to try to achieve as much as possible a thriving sustainable community and settlement.

AliceGhan aims to support community-built mud brick housing based using labor intensive construction methods. This is based on the principle of maximizing benefits for a maximum number of beneficiaries. Beneficiaries will be selected by the project's Beneficiary Selection Committee, with priority given to female headed households, disabled, vulnerable and highly impoverished families. They will be provided with housing construction materials to build their own homes and given the

necessary training, skills and oversight from the project. Deep wells, access roads, community centre, clinic and school are part of the site plan in a design developed by MOUD.

The second quarter this year was marked with some excellent achievements, as outlined in the following pages. This included the first Steering Committee meeting held on 2 May 2007 followed by the Inauguration Ceremony at Barikab site on 21 June 2007.

AliceGhan Project began this quarter with the recruitment of Project Manager and Project Coordinator during April 2007. Based on the implementation schedule attached in Annex 1, the tasks completed during the period 1 April and 30 June 2007 are presented in this quarterly report. Tasks completed are broadly divided into:

- a) Topography, land use and road map;
- b) Settlement and structural design improvements are on-going through a joint Alice Ghan Working group recently established involving Ministry of Urban Development and Urban Development Group.
- c) First Project Board meeting;
- d) Preparation of Bid Documents;
- e) Technical Evaluation of Bids;
- f) Inauguration of AliceGhan Project;
- g) Construction Phase; and
- h) Coordination among Stakeholders.

2.1 Topography, Land Use and Road Map

Following the preparation of the topography map by MoUD during April 2007, joint field visits were conducted to Barikab site by members and experts from MoUD, MoRR, UNDP Urban Development Group and Country Office. Based on the discussions that took place at the project site and MoUD, the land use and road map was prepared by MoUD. Following a critical design appraisal in early July 2007 by Urban Development Group & MOUD various measures were identified to improve the overall proposed design to integrate well –tried design aspects that will significantly improve prospects to achieve a sustainable settlement, sustainable community and give regard to economic considerations and reducing overall infrastructure costs such as unnecessary roads.

2.2 Architectural and Structural Design of Infrastructures

AliceGhan project team has completed the engineering design/drawings, bill of quantities, cost estimates of the following buildings together with their standard specifications in collaboration with different Ministries:

- The Ministry of Education gave its approval for the design of a school with ten class rooms (see Annex 4).
- The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has accepted the design of clinic.
- The sample design of 1,400 houses, each with two rooms, internal bathroom and an external latrine was finalized.
- The design of road, temporary water supply, school, carpentry vocational workshop, temporary tent camp (this included layout and temporary latrines), site office building and community centre have been completed.

The design documents includes ground floor plan, front and side elevations, roof plan layout, cross sections at different junctions, details of structures like staircases, handles and windows.

2.3 First Project Executive Group Meeting

The First Project Executive Group Meeting was held on 2 May, 2007. A summary of project objectives was presented followed by project progress, future plans and priorities. The Meeting endorsed the programme Work Plan and the preparation of:

- City and Road Map
- Project Work Plan
- Sources of Water supply
- Formation of Beneficiary Selection Committee
- Format for Identification of Project Beneficiaries
- Establishment of Community Development Council and Groups.

The next Project Board Meeting is scheduled on 18th July 2007.

2.4 Preparation of Bid Documents

- Request for quotations (RFQ) from potential bidders were prepared for the construction of one temporary deep well at the project site. These announcements were posted on the web-sites.
- Expressions of Interest (Eol) were completed for construction of carpentry workshop, carpentry tools, and temporary camp for the beneficiaries, one deep well, water reservoir tanks and water pipe network, school, 3.5 km. of primary and tertiary roads, and houses. They were posted on web-sites.
- Bid documents have been finalized for construction of roads, houses and school.

Bid documents were developed for the Project to provide guidance to contractors on different aspects of construction such as the scope of work, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities etc. They are divided into the following sections:

Bid Documents:

Section 1 – Instruction to Bidders

Section 2 – Model Contract for Works

Section 3 – General Conditions of Contracts for Civil Works

Section 4 – Scope of Work

Section 5 – Specifications

Section 6 – Drawings

Section 7 – Bill of Quantities

Section 8 – Sample Forms

2.5 Technical Evaluation of Bids

The qualifications, capacity, and resources of proposed subcontractors were taken into account in assessing the bids. After the pre-screening of bid documents, selected contractors were recommended for technical evaluation.

The technical evaluation criteria for the selection of the bidder consists of qualification and competence of key staff for the assignment, experience in integrating community development

groups into construction projects, experience in the construction/rehabilitation of the selected area, construction equipments, and financial capabilities.

Evaluation of bids for tools for carpentry vocational training, construction of temporary water well, carpentry workshop and temporary tents at project site are completed and contracts have been awarded.

Technical Evaluation of potential bidders for roads and schools are currently being done.

2.6 Inauguration of the AliceGhan Project

Following the commemoration of the World Refugee Day today, on 21st June 2007, UNDP hosted an official on-site inauguration ceremony of the AliceGhan initiative in support of Afghan returnee refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) at the Barikab site.

Among the high level participants of the AliceGhan inauguration ceremony were: His Excellency (H.E.) Minister Ustad Mohammad Akbar, Minister of Refugees and Returnees; H. E. Haji Din Mohammad, Governor of Kabul;

Mr. Abdul Rahim Talwar, Qarabagh District Governor; Eng. Khojan Faizudin Sediqi, Representative of MoUD; Mr. Salvatore Lombardo, Representative of UNHCR; community elders from the surrounding villages; and Henri-François Morand, UNDP Senior Deputy Country Director.

In his message addressed for this occasion, H.E. Mr. Brett Hackett, the Ambassador of Australia to Afghanistan, stated: "The Australian Government is proud to support the work of the Afghan Government and United Nations in assisting Afghan refugees and displaced persons to return home. The AliceGhan project is a partnership which will provide housing and sustainable reintegration support for many returnees to Afghanistan and should serve as a model for similar projects elsewhere in Afghanistan in the future."

H.E. Minister Ustad Mohammad Akbar, stated that it was a pleasure for him to attend the inauguration ceremony of AliceGhan project. He highlighted that the Government of Afghanistan continues to seek assistance and support of Australia, UNDP and other International Communities for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

H.E. Haji Din Mohd. Governor of Kabul province welcomed the returns of refugees to their homeland. He mentioned that the AliceGhan project is playing a significant role by providing shelter/home for refugees and IDPs from neighboring countries like Iran and Pakistan.

At the end of the ceremony the foundation stone of the construction work was laid by H. E. Minister Ustad Mohammad Akbar and H. E. Haji Din Mohd, Kabul Governor, which officially opens the construction phase of the AliceGhan Project.

2.7 START OF THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE

A carpentry workshop and one temporary deep well are currently being constructed at the site. The demarcation and assessment of the AliceGhan project site for de-mining has



started and is ongoing. UNMACA are currently assessing, defusing and clearing unexploded ordinances (UXOs) at the site.

Construction of Carpentry Workshop in
Progress, 27 June 2007

2.8 Empowerment of Community Development Groups

Before starting the physical construction work in the AliceGhan project site, it is imperative to plan the maintenance and sustainability measures. This will be possible only by empowering the beneficiary community through their integration (participation) into the construction works.

The community empowerment approach of this project is through development and empowerment of Community Development Groups (CDGs). The aim is to allow the representatives of communities, CDGs, to act as a catalyst for the social and economic development of project beneficiaries and to be a vehicle for promoting sustainable livelihoods. The focus is clearly on CDGs as the drivers of development who then work with UNDP and other selected Implementing Partners. This is based on the belief that beneficiaries can improve their economic and social status provided they are given the opportunity to do so right from the start of infrastructure projects.

This approach will link the communities with implementing partners to create a collaborative relationship for the successful implementation of the project, and will identify and simultaneously, build the capacity of CDGs to construct and maintain the outputs of the AliceGhan project.

Towards ensuring that beneficiaries have a sustainable avenue for livelihood options even after the completion of the project, the project will focus on developing CDGs / beneficiaries' skills during the construction phase and generating community-based savings to sustain their own infrastructure and services.

3.0 ALICEGHAN RECASTING

The Urban Development Group will be undertaking a comprehensive evaluation and re-costing exercise to assess the Gaps and Opportunities that need to be addressed. This will assess and propose the additional investments required to reduce the risks and ensure that Alice Ghan Project does achieve its intended purpose. This purpose is to achieve a thriving, sustainable community and settlement at Alice Ghan where there is the appropriate level of infrastructure services and social support for the estimated 10,000 vulnerable communities, low income, refugees and IDPS to permanently settle and thrive at Alice Ghan. Major consideration will need to be given to integrate from the outset measures to form a cohesive and sustainable community where appropriate considerations for income generation, livelihood and community asset infrastructure are integrated into the development process. As Alice Ghan is also intended to be a model approach it will be important to ensure its success.

III. FINANCIAL STATUS AND UTILISATION

Table 1: Contribution Overview [September 2006 – December 2008]^[2]

Status of Overall Donor Contributions to AliceGhan Project
Resources

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS (US D)		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE (US D)
	Committed	Expendature	
Australian Government	2,671,757	6,368	2,665,389
Australian Government – DIMA	4,599,949	124,660	4,475,289
TOTAL	7,271,706	131,028	7,140,678

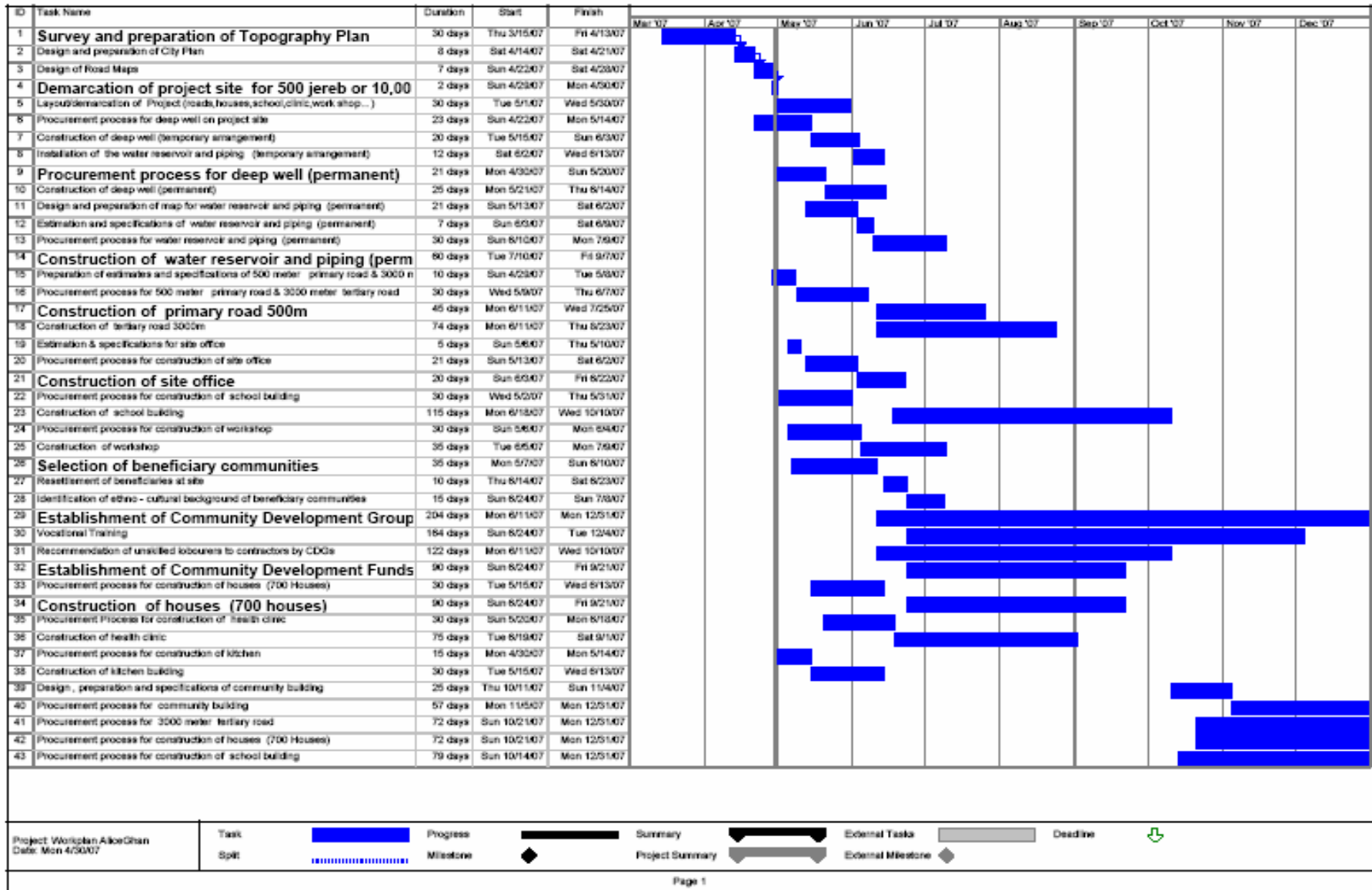
**The *Earmarked* column should specify if any donors have earmarked their funding to a specific activity or other requirement.

Table 2: Quarterly Expenditure by Activity [1 Jan – 30 June 2007]

ACTIVITIES		Budget (Annual)	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE	DELIVERY RATE %
ACTIVITY1	Project Support	824,177	118,202	705,975	14.342
ACTIVITY2	Housing construction	2,381,912	2,034	2,379,878	0.085
ACTIVITY 3	Basic infrastructure construction	954,163	1,620	952,543	0.170
ACTIVITY 4	Support for sustainable livelihood	279,823		279,823	-
GMS 7%		326,346	9,172	317,174	2.81
Total		4,662,079	131,028	4,531,051	

Table 3: Quarterly Expenditure by Donor [1 Jan – 30 June 2007]

Donor	Activity	Activity Description	Expenditure
00056	ACTIVITY01	Project Support	5112.68
	ACTIVITY02	Housing Construction	810
GMS (7%)			445.79
Sub-total 00056			6,368.47
10813	ACTIVITY01	Project Support	113,089.63
	ACTIVITY02	Housing Construction	1,224.00
	ACTIVITY03	Basic Infrastructure Constr.	1,620.00
GMS (7%)			8,726.19
Sub-total 10813			124,659.82
Grand Total			131,028.29



Annex 2: Memorandum of Understanding
United Nations Development Programme
Qarabagh District Governor
Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation
Department of Refugees and Repatriation
Owner of the Land
Local Community Leaders

1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) relates to the AliceGhan Project of UNDP funded by the Australian Government who will construct a new township settlement for the returnees refugees and IDPs of Kabul Province at Barikab area with close cooperation of Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Mines and Industries helped pointing out the locations of the deep wells in the private land, thus a protocol with the local community of Qarabagh District Qala-e-Shahi Village regarding construction of deep wells is agreed and signed as below.

2. This MOU describes the responsibilities of UNDP, Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation Kabul Province, Qarabagh District and Local community leaders.

- a. The ownership of the land for these two deep wells will henceforth belong to Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation.
- b. **UNDP** will implement the water project directly after completion of the activities these deep wells will hand over to AliceGhan Project beneficiaries.
- c. Local Community of Qarabagh is not entitled to get illegal benefit from the water of these wells.
- d. Qarabagh District Authority is responsible to provide security during project implementation and after completion and facilitate to provide good relations with Local community.
- e. **The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) and Kabul Province Refugees and Repatriation Department (DoRR)** upon completion and hand over of the Deep wells will be fully responsible for all maintenance of the deep wells. UNDP will have no further obligations with regard to the property.
- f. The owner of the land Mr. Mohammad Alam S/O Zar Alam is happy and agreed to donate the land to MoRR with out any condition and stipulation in order to provide water for AliceGhan Project Beneficiaries.

3. **This MOU is signed and dated:**

Abdul Rahim Talwar
Qarabagh District Governor

Date:

Mohammad Kazam Khan Sayaad,
Director of Reintegration Department of MoRR

Date

Mohammad Sayeed Stomaan
Head of DoRR Kabul Province

Date:

Mohammad Alam S/O Zar Alam
Owner of the Land

Date:

Local Community Leaders

1. Kaka Juma Gul

2. Malik Mir Alam (Masjidi)

Date:

UNDP Kabul office Representative

Date:

Annex 3: Beneficiary Selection Committee

List of members and observers:

Members:

- Ministry of Refugee and Repatriation (MoRR) – Chairperson
- Kabul Province/Department of Refugee and Repatriation (DoRR) – member
- Afghan Red Crescent Society - member
- Community Development Council representatives – member (from phase II)
- Implementing Partner / Operations Partner (IP/OP) – member if identified earlier

Observers:

1. Australian Embassy representative - observer
2. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - observer
3. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Observer