



QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT, QUARTER 3, 2007

United Nations Development Programme, Afghanistan

Centre for Policy and Human Development

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

01-07-2007 – 30-09-2007



Kemal Dervis, UNDP Administrator during his speech at AHDR launch in New York and Professor Eshaq Nadri, Senior Economic Advisor to the President of Afghanistan (*right*)

Project ID: 00050008

Duration: Two Years

Component (MYFF):

Total Budget: US\$ 716832 (2007)

Unfunded: 0

Implementing Partners/Responsible parties:

Centre for Policy and Human Development and Kabul University

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I. Implementation progress

Preparation of Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007

The preparation of Afghanistan Human Development Report (AHDR) 2007 was completed in June 2007. The third quarter mainly focused on the production aspects of the AHDR 2007.

AHDR 2007 Production

During the production period, considering that a clear and user-friendly presentation style maximizes the impact of the report, attractive visuals, fluid language and a creative style was ensured to attract the interest of the target audience and to powerfully convey the report's essential messages.

The report was published in a user-friendly format and has now been translated into national languages (Pashto and Dari) to ensure that it is accessible to a wide range of local institutions and the general public.

Pashto and Dari translators were identified and contracted after a careful selection process. A team of two editors for each version was also identified. Three out of four editors were recruited from within Kabul University (KU) as a step towards establishing a closer working relation between the two. The translation of both Pashto and Dari versions underwent several rounds of editing and cross checking to ensure due quality. The layout of the report was prepared by a local company with quality oversight by the CPHD team.

AHDR 2007 advocacy and outreach

AHDR Outreach and Advocacy Strategy

The implementation of the AHDR 2007 outreach and advocacy strategy (which had been finalised in the previous quarter) was initiated during this quarter. One of the very important components of the strategy is to build a coalition with media, civil society and the Government of Afghanistan. Therefore, a detailed planning is underway to implement the strategy more effectively.

Dissemination of HD concepts through media and other sources

The media has a big role to play in advocating for human development concept. CPHD has been in contact with local and international media to disseminate AHDR 2007 messages and key findings. A one day workshop for local media will be held before the launch to train the journalists on human development concept, enhance their conceptual understanding, enable them to effectively deliver key messages and link their work with aspects of HD.

Presentation of AHDR 2007 during Rule of Law Conference on Afghanistan in Rome

The Centre for Policy and Human Development worked hard to prepare the AHDR 2007 for the Rule of Law Conference on Afghanistan in Rome, Italy. The report was presented to a mix of audience representing donor governments and other organizations working in Afghanistan especially in the area of Rule of Law and Human Rights. The report received considerable attention and interest from the audience. Copies of the report were distributed during the conference.

AHDR Launch in New York

The CPHD and UNDP Afghanistan in collaboration with UNDP's Communication Office in New York and the UN Peace Building Office launched the Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007 during the 62nd UN General Assembly session.

The launch included the participation of Kemal Dervis, UNDP's Administrator and Professor Ishaq Nadri, Senior Economic Advisor to the President of Afghanistan.

During the launch, Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan, in a statement read during the launch by Professor Nadri stated, "In analyzing the challenges of human development and the rule of law, this Report advocates a bold and creative approach to strengthening the justice institutions in Afghanistan". He also stated, " While remaining committed to universal principles of human rights and Afghan laws, we believe that the state and traditional justice bodies working together can help make justice and the rule of law more readily available to Afghans. "

"The findings of the 2007 Afghanistan Human Development Report reveal that despite decades of war, Afghanistan has made measurable progress with regard to some key dimensions of human development as well as towards achieving Afghanistan's development goals," said Kemal Derviş. He continued, "With the spectre of violence and uncertainty lifting ever so gradually from Afghanistan the need to expand prospects of life and human development across the length and breadth of the country assume ever-greater urgency."

During this event, a Panel Discussion on the Report was deftly moderated by David Morrison, Director of Communications, with key speakers being Professor Nadri, Dr. Daud Saba and Dr. Barnett Rubin. Dr Ali Wardak. CPHD made a slide presentation teasing out the main messages of the Report. The launch was attended by an extremely appreciative audience numbering around 75 people, representing diverse streams of public life. The AHDR launch, as you can well imagine, was competing with a plethora of other events during one of the busiest weeks on the UN Calendar due to the on-going 62nd session of the UN General Assembly.

AHDR Launch in Washington

The AHDR New York launch was followed by a well received event in Washington at the United States Institute of Peace, organised jointly by CPHD, UNDP's Liaison Office in Washington DC and the USIP. The discussion was moderated by Alex Thier from USIP and the panel included Dr. Ali Wardak from CPHD and Professor Barnett Rubin from New York University.

Dr. Wardak made a solid presentation on the main thesis of the report. He highlighted the effort of the report in describing the mutually reinforcing relationship between progress on human development attainments and the rule of law and concisely explained the research and thinking behind the 'hybrid' model for the justice system proposed in the report. The hybrid model proposed by the report involves alternative dispute resolution and human rights monitoring.

The panel called attention to the fact that the HDRs were UNDP contribution and how the organization was supporting the preparation of national human development reports in several countries around the world.



FL: Alex Thier, Dr. Wardak, and Dr. Barnett Rubin during AHDR 2007 Panel Discussion in Washington DC

The discussion panel described rule of law as a key issue for Afghanistan. The panel members also mentioned that the 2007 report is innovative in linking, human development with the rule of law, an attempt that has been made for the first time which is very consistent with the current concerns of the people of Afghanistan. In addition, the relevance of linking the Millennium Development Goals, security and human security and other rule of law related issues were discussed during the event.

The event received an audience of about 80 highly interested and keen Afghan watchers from the US Administration, human rights groups, think-tanks and media. Copies of the report were distributed to the audience.

AHDR 2007 Launch in Afghanistan

CPHD in partnership with UNDP Afghanistan is planning a Kabul launch – the date for Kabul launch is yet to be finalized but it is recommended that the launch takes place after Eid holidays. CPHD is planning a workshop for local media outlets before the Kabul launch in to ensure that the reports messages are delivered through different channels at national level. A preliminary draft of the Kabul launch agenda is prepared.

AHDR 2007 Launch in Provinces

At least two launches in the provinces are planned to take place after the Kabul launch. The dates and agenda will be finalized soon.

AHDR 2007 on the Web

The home page of the AHDR 2007 was created and uploaded in time with the New York and Washington events. The report will be available online in Pashto and Dari languages in time with Kabul launch.

Fostering UNDP and CPHD relationship with Kabul University

CPHD has started a round of meetings with Kabul University management to discuss its relationship with KU. Meetings were organized with the KU Chancellor and heads of faculties to brief them on CPHD activities. The Chancellor emphasized the necessity of involving KU management in the decisions made by CPHD in implementing its programmes. The heads of the faculties insisted that the KU students and lecturers be involved in CPHD activities and should benefit from CPHD existence at KU.

The KU chancellor also emphasized coordination amongst research centres at Kabul University and requested CPHD to take a lead on this. The project team assured the Chancellor that CPHD will soon start its Capacity Building and Exchange Programmes and will involve KU students and lecturers in its future research work. As a positive gesture to demonstrate that CPHD and UNDP wants to work closely with KU, three editors were recruited from Kabul University's Language and Literature Faculty to edit the Pashto and Dari versions of the AHDR 2007.

Meetings were held with the National Centre for Policy Research (NCPR) and Kabul University's Centre for Scientific Research to introduce CPHD to them and know about their activities. Following possible areas of collaboration were also discussed;

- Developing a research journal – all three centres to be involved;
- Developing a certification programme in social research and Human Development jointly with NCPR;

Designing/initiating Capacity Building and Exchange Programmes

The CPHD team has held meetings with the KU management and deans of the relevant faculties to discuss the Capacity Building and Exchange Programmes. This exercise is being carried out as part of designing these programmes and to assure KU that CPHD has the desire to involve KU management in its activities.

Two main components of Capacity Building programme will be 1) certificate programme in social research and Human Development 2) lecture series. The certificate programme could be jointly implemented by CPHD and NCPR (National Centre for Policy Research. This needs to be discussed in the project board meeting.

CPHD team is in regular contact with relevant potential partners to design the exchange programme. A number of scholars have been identified and contacted to deliver lectures at CPHD and a list is being prepared for this year's CPHD lectures. Lecturers from Kabul University are also invited to take part to ensure that KU is involved in CPHD activities.

II. Project implementation challenges

After its successful inauguration in 2006, CPHD has faced numerous challenges some of which have been addressed and more needs to be done to establish and consolidate its reputation as a sustainable policy research institution with the capacity to lead Human Development agenda in the country. In this regard, the following is a snapshot of some relevant risks and issues that need to be mitigated and addressed during the next quarter.

UPDATED PROJECT RISKS AND ACTIONS

Project exit strategy and handover to Kabul University

According to the project document signed between UNDP and KU, UNDP will manage the project for two years through the Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD) and then will transfer, by the end of 2007, full management authority to Kabul University with financial support to be continued during the third year also.

Despite two years of capacity building in the area of Human Development through CPHD, there still is a lack of capacity within Kabul University to manage a research institution which can effectively lead the human development agenda in the country. Considering this, the issue of timing of the formal handover of the CPHD to KU should be considered from the perspective of aligning KU capacity building on HD issues and the due process by which they can take over formal leadership. In this regard, an exit plan should be prepared, agreed upon with KU for ensuring capacity building, transitional support and greater ownership of the CPHD by KU. There is a need for UNDP's direct involvement for at least two years more to build the capacity at KU which could eventually run the Centre successfully in achieving its objectives. UNDP's senior management has been informed and a discussion will start with the KU management soon.

Lack of adequate leadership

At this stage, CPHD is led by the Afghanistan Human Development Report (AHDR) Coordinator who is appointed by UNDP. However to establish early on an effective strategic and leadership vision for the centre it is important to separate the management of the CPHD project from the leadership of the Centre itself. This has serious implications on the national ownership of a research centre with the aim to produce independent reports.

The Project Steering Committee should deliberate on this issue on guiding establishing a clear strategy for the centre to achieve its goals. This would also help CPHD to become a sustainable policy research institution with a strong leadership.

UPDATED PROJECT ISSUES AND ACTIONS

Project Issues

Lack of coherence between project objectives, results framework and AWP

One of the urgent issues to be addressed is the lack of coherence between objectives, results framework and annual work plan of the project. There are instances that the objectives and results framework do not share consistent arrangements. In addition, this has complicated the process of annual planning. For example, the promotion of scholarly exchanges among faculty and students of Afghanistan universities with faculty and students from universities outside of Afghanistan is one of the specific aims of the project which is not reflected in the results framework. In contrast, the annual work plan reflects this as one of the three project components – the other two components are preparation/follow up of Afghanistan Human Development Report and capacity building for Human Development.

It is important to build coherence between objectives, results framework and the annual work plan of the project in order to ensure timely and envisaged deliverables. This could be done through a thorough analysis of the project aims/objectives and harmonizing results framework and annual work plan in accordance with those aims/objective. A one day workshop for the CPHD management with the help of Policy and Programme Support Unit is recommended to carry out this analysis and propose possible corrections to the results framework and/or the annual work plan. Sub plans should follow this process in order to achieve deliverables.

Lack of training and mentoring plan for project staff

As a knowledge based organization, one of the major commitments of UNDP is providing a learning environment. A learning management plan and allocation of resources for strengthening the skills of the CPHD staff is lacking. A staff training and mentoring plan is being worked out to ensure that CPHD staff have the necessary skills to carry out their duties more effectively and more efficiently.

III. Financial status and utilization

Financial status

Table 1: Contribution overview [01-01-2007 – 31-12-07]

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
UNDP	716832	716832	-
TOTAL	716,832	716,832	-

Financial utilization

Table 2: Quarterly expenditure by activity [1 January – 30 September]

Activity	BUDGET 2007	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
ACTIVITY01: Institutional Set up	216,374	368,282	(151,908)	170%
ACTIVITY02: Preparatory Phase	232,780	100,598	132,182	43%
ACTIVITY03: Launch and Follow up	267,678	12587	255,091	5%
UNDP GMS	0	0	0	
Total	716,832	481,467	235,365	67%

Table 3: Quarterly expenditure by donor [1 January– 30 September]

DONORS	ACTIVITY	2007 Budget	Q1- Q3 EXPENDITURES	BALANCE	DELIVERY RATE %
			01/01/07 - 30/09/07	as of 30/09/07	
UNDP Core	ACTIVITY01: Institutional Set up	216,374	368,282	-151,908	170%
	ACTIVITY02: Preparatory Phase	232,780	100,598	132,182	43%
	ACTIVITY03: Launch and Follow up	267,678	12,587	255,091	5%
Total		716,832	481,467	235,365	67%

Annexes

Annual Work Plan

External