



QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT [1st Quarter, 2007]

**United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan
CISCO-USAID-UNDP NETWORKING ACADEMY ALLIANCE:
Developing a Sustainable Cisco Networking Academy Program in
Afghanistan
01 January 2007 – 31 March 2007**



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Unfunded: 350,000

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I. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

1- UPDATED PROJECT RISKS AND ACTIONS

Gender:

The recruitment of women is one of the major challenges at some of the Academies. Because of Afghan women's limited level of English and basic computer skills, the Academies are not able to easily recruit the targeted 50% female enrollment. Many of the female students found the CCNA curriculum too difficult, and some could not afford to pay the fees, and so they withdrew from the course. We decided to recruit women from high schools and universities to join the program with free tuition or significantly reduced fees. We also encouraged the Academies to offer all-women classes during the daytime when it is safer for women to attend courses alone. As a result, the TTC Academy was able to recruit 36 women and MoWA Academy has recruited 40 women to join the program.

The Project also encourages the participation of female instructors at the Academies to serve as role models for female students. The CNAP Afghanistan currently has 7 female and 11 male instructors. This year we would like to increase the number of female instructors, particularly in the provinces.

In order to prepare the new students for the CCNA program, new students will take the IT Essentials I&II courses prior to enrolling in the CCNA Program.

IT Essentials I: PC Hardware and Software, presents an in-depth exposure to computer hardware and operating systems. Students learn the functionality of hardware and software components. IT Essentials II: Network Operating Systems, is an intensive introduction to multi-user, multi-tasking network operating systems. Characteristics of the Linux, Windows 2000, NT, and XP network operating systems. Both courses are essential and beneficial for the new students who have never been exposed to the computer and field of Networking.

2- UPDATED PROJECT ISSUES AND ACTIONS

Electricity:

Stable power is one of the main infrastructure requirements of the Cisco Networking Academy Program. In the past, unstable power supply and commercial power outages, especially during the CCNA exams, have caused significant delays to the program schedule. One such incident occurred during this quarter at Balkh University Academy, where some of the paying students quit the program because Balkh Academy suffered power outages for two weeks. In order to eliminate this kind of problem, the project has shipped back-up generators for the Academy.

Internet connectivity:

Good and stable Internet connection is the second most important requirement of the Cisco Academies. The Academy program is an online web-based program and all the program material can be accessed online. Students must also take the chapter and final exams by logging to the Cisco site via Internet.

Recently the TTC building where the TTC Cisco located went through extensive renovation and the Internet connection has been affected. Therefore the project has sent the students to MoWA Academy in order to take their exams.

II. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Advanced ICT capacity of national human resources built

The Cisco Networking Academy Program (CNAP) in Afghanistan launched its first generation of Academies in Kabul, hosted by Kabul University's Faculty of Computer Science, TTC MoC's Telecommunications Training Center and the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA).

Currently the CNAP Afghanistan includes one Regional Academy at Kabul University and five Local Academies hosted at the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the MoC's Telecommunications Training Center Khost, Balkh, and Herat Universities. The program is in the process of officially launching two more academies at Kabul Education University and RANA Institute of Technology in Jalalabad.

1- Kabul Education University:

Kabul Education University is the third university established in the city of Kabul. The university trains students to become the future instructors in Afghanistan's primary and secondary schools. The university was established in the mid-80s and has six faculties (Natural science, Social science, Language and literature, Education, Physical Education, Special Education) with 4,650 students enrolled. The Department of Computer Science is part of the Faculty of Natural Science and currently has 280 students enrolled, with almost 50% female student's ratio.

The IT equipment, 25 PC's stabilizers, UPS, printer and projector were procured by UNDP procurement unit and delivered to the academy along with the Lab furniture (Computer desks & chairs.)

UNDP and HEP (Higher Education Program, USAID subcontractor for Higher Education Program) signed an MOU to share the cost of Lab renovation, networking, wireless Internet connection equipment and ISP fees. This is a good example of a partnership between an international organization, government and NGO.

The classroom for the Cisco academy was identified and renovated. Two of the computer science department instructors have been trained on IT Essentials as Cisco instructors. These two individual have graduated two years ago from Kabul University Computer Science Department and have knowledge of the CCNA program, degree program, beginning with the IT Essentials I&II course and later the CCNA course.

Currently 80 students from the department of Computer Science (50 male and 30 female) are taking IT essentials. The computer science department has agreed to integrate the Cisco curricula into its normal degree program, beginning with the IT Essentials I&II course and later the CCNA course.

2- Nangarhar Cisco Networking Academy:

Nangarhar University is the second oldest university in Afghanistan. It was established 40 years ago with the launch of the medical faculty.

The Cisco Networking Academy Program Manager traveled to Jalalabad and met the Nangarhar University Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and the Faculty staff regarding the potential launch of the academy in the Nangarhar University campus. However, the plan to launch the academy at the Nangarhar University compound was questioned due to the lack of female participants, adequate infrastructure and distance of the university campus from the town of Jalalabad. Instead it has been decided to open the academy within the college of education where more female are attending and it is located in the centre of the town and they are affiliated with RANA Technology, a private none profit IT center, where more than 1800 students, male and female are taking basic ICT training. Two Instructors were trained and certified as Cisco Instructor at the Kabul University Regional Academy, the IT Equipment (desk top Computer, printer, Projector UPS and stabilizer) were procured through UNDP procurement unit. According to the agreement between RANA Technology and ICT Project, the RANA institute of Technology will renovate the class room and will provide electricity and Internet connectivity. The Project Manager will travel to Jalalabad on the first week of April to check the work progress and finalize the launch of the academy.

3- Kabul University Cisco Networking Regional Academy

The Cisco Networking Academy at Kabul University Faculty of Computer Science is the first Networking Academy in Afghanistan, upgraded to a Regional Academy in July 2004. Currently there are 4 CCNA and 2 IT Essential classes in session for University students and outside professionals. At the start of the 1st quarter, the Regional Academy has enrolled 193 CCNA students and 43 IT Essentials students. Kabul University Cisco Regional Academy has a total of 300 CCNA graduates since 2002, 30% of which are women graduates. University students at Kabul University Faculty of Computer Science attend the Cisco Academy courses free of charge, whereas outside professionals in the evening courses pay USD \$100.00 per semester for the CCNA and IT Essential courses.

The Afghan e-Quality Alliances assisted the Faculty of Computer Science to improve and update their degree curriculum for undergraduate and graduate programs. The Cisco Networking Academy curricula, including the CCNA, IT Essentials, Network Security, Wireless LAN, and CCNP courses, were chosen by the alliance to become core courses in the Hardware & Networking track as part of the future degree course offerings.

4- MOC-TTC Cisco Networking Local Academy

UNDP in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Cisco Systems and the Ministry of Communications established a second academy at the Telecommunications Training Center (TTC) of the Ministry of Communication in September 2003. Currently there are 3 CCNA classes at TTC, with a total of 58 students (2 female, 56 male) enrolled. TTC students attend the Cisco

Academy courses for free of charge, and outside professionals pay USD \$45.00 per semester for the CCNA course. TTC Cisco Local Academy has a total of 81 CCNA graduates since 2003.

Currently there are 4 ITE I and one ITE II classes, with a total of 92 students (45 female, 47 male) enrolled.

As part of the gender initiative, ITU and CLI (Cisco learning institute) partnership have announced the award of 20 IT Essentials scholarships to women who would like to take classes at the TTC, thirty five applications were sent to them for selection. Twenty scholarship recipients was selected during the month of January 2007 by a committee made up of the Cisco Networking Academy hosting scholarship recipients, Cisco, ITU, the CATC and other local partners, such as the Ministry of Communications.

The scholarship was awarded to 20 female applicants based on the financial need, merit, past accomplishment, technical aptitude and language ability. The selected female student's class started on January 2nd this year and they are expected to be graduated during the month of April.

5- Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) Cisco Networking Local Academy

A core component of the Cisco-USAID-UNDP Networking Academy Program Alliance is the Gender Initiative. The goal of the project is to increase women's access to IT training and career opportunities. Therefore, the third Cisco Networking Academy was launched on December 14th 2003 at the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) in Kabul.

MoWA Cisco Academy launched IT Essentials classes as of last year, and began charging student fees for financial sustainability to help subsidize instructor salaries and classroom consumables. Twenty female students were graduated during the 1st quarter of this year. Also a total of 40 new students have enrolled in ITE I classes. Currently 105 female students are taking IT essentials and CCNA classes. The students pay 500 afghani per semester.

In keeping with the Ministry's mandate to provide access and opportunity to women, the program made a joint decision with the Minister to accept women students only for attendance in the MoWA Cisco Academy

Due to the high demand from female to enroll in the academy program, the project has decided to move the Academy class to a new location within the ministry with a larger classroom and more desk top computers to accommodate the student's demands.

6- Herat University Cisco Academy:

Herat University Cisco Academy was launched on March 14, 2006. Currently the academy has only one active CCNA1 class with 20 students. One of the reasons is that the Heart academy two

experienced instructors have left the academy. One of them was awarded the Fulbright scholarship to peruse his study in the US and the other Instructor has left the academy for some personal reason. The Two new Instructor candidates from the Faculty of Economics were trained on CCNA1& 2 and they are not quailed to teach CCNA 3&4. For the sustainability and quality of the program, the project is considering moving the academy from the faculty of economic to the department of computer Science which was established during the third quarter of last year.

7- Balkh University Academy:

The Balkh University Cisco Networking Local Academy was launched on April 2006. The academy has a total of four CCNA and two Inessentials classes with 146 students (46 female and 100 male). Balhk University Cisco academy started with two CCNA trained instructors, but due to the high demand for the program, the UNDP Cisco Project and Balkh University decided to train more instructors. Therefore two new instructor candidates (1 male and 1 female) were trained on CCNA1&2 and IT Essentials at the Kabul University Regional Academy in July.

University students at Balkh University attended the Cisco Academy courses free of charge during the 1st quarter of last year, but as of the second quarter, students are paying a fee at \$10 for female students and \$20 for male students per semester for cost recovery. The male students from outside of the university are paying a fee of \$50 per semester. Female students from outside of the university are paying \$25 per semester.

During this quarter due to unstable power supply and commercial power outages, especially during the CCNA exams, have caused significant delays to the program schedule, where some of the paying students quit the program because Balkh Academy suffered power outages for two weeks. In order to eliminate this kind of problem, the project has shipped back-up generators for the Academy.

8- Khost

The Khost Local Academy was officially launched on February 2006. Currently there are three CCNA and two ITE classes with the total of 62 students. The all-female class is comprised of 10 enrollees. Some of the women are from Khost University, others are from outside the university, and Most of these women have never received ICT training before, so they took basic computer skill courses such as MS Windows software, MS Word typing, and Internet skills before studying the CCNA course.

During the 1st quarter of 2007, there were 776 students enrolled in the program, 40% of those are women. The first round of IT Essentials I & II graduates from the academies in Kabul have graduated. The new IT Essential I&II classes have started at Balkh University and new classes have started at the University of Khost Cisco Academy.

Table 1: ITE and CCNA enrolled students in the Academies

Academy	CCNA/ITE Female Students	CCNA/ITE Male Students	Total CCNA /ITE Students	% Female Students	CCNA 4 Graduates
Kabul University	70	144	214	32%	300
Ministry of Women's Affairs	105	0	105	100%	88
Telecommunication Training Center (TTC)	48	100	148	32%	55
Herat University		20	20	0%	0
Balkh University	46	100	146	31%	0
Khost University	10	52	62	16%	0
Kabul Education university	38	43	81	46%	
Total	317	459	776	40%	443

Local partners in the field are assisting with the implementation of the Local Academies in the provinces, such as USAID Field Program / PRT in Khost. A contact has been made with USAID Field Program Officers in Mazar and Herat. They all showed their interest in collaborating with the program.

Because the project is still in the process of expansion of the CNAP in the provinces and adding new curricula, and there have been delays in Regional Academy instructor training due to the recent conflict in Lebanon, a no-cost extension request letter was signed with USAID for an 18 month extension of the program. A new proposal was presented to the donor to continue CNAP activities in 2007 -2008, and focus more on the gender mainstreaming and the program sustainability. The project is expecting to receive the new grant for the amount of \$350,000 USD from USAID during the month of August. An agreement was signed between the Country office and USAID on Dec 31st 2006. Please note that the money is not committed yet by the donor.

Gender:

The goal of the Afghan Women in Information Technology (AWIT) Initiative is to promote Afghan women's participation in Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) skills training and IT career paths and to empower Afghan women through the use of ICTs. The AWIT Initiative supports IT skills training as an empowerment tool for women by encouraging women to learn basic and advanced ICT skills as a way to enhance their employment opportunities. By engaging the support of industry partners, academic leaders, community and government officials, alumni and current students, the initiative also seeks to enable educational institutions in Afghanistan to make available the benefits of new technologies to women. In order to promote the participation of women in the field of IT the project has taken some initiative by awarding Women scholarship and tuition discount. As part of this 45 female students are taking ITE course at the TTC and Khost Academies for free of charge. Also students at MoWA academy are paying tuition of \$10 USD instead of \$25 USD.

Sustainability:

With a goal of financial sustainability, the Cisco Academies are charging minimal fees to students to recover costs for classroom consumables and instructor salary compensations. The University-affiliated Cisco Academies are managing their own cost recovery as independent institutions, however the Ministry-affiliated Cisco Academies like Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and Telecommunication Training Center (TTC), need a slower transition to gain knowledge of how to manage their cost-recovery funds so that they can become self-sustainable. So far the MoWA Academy has collected USD \$1800.00 in student fees, and the TTC Academy has collected more than USD \$8,000.00 in student fees. Therefore, UNDP Finance management unit has created a new budget accounts for these funds under Project ID based on the Cisco Academy program request.

The aim of Cisco Project is to provide financial transparency mechanism for these Academies by depositing their funds in a budget account and assisting/managing in the expenditure of these funds.

III. FINANCIAL STATUS AND UTILISATION

Table 1: Contribution Overview [24 September 2004 – 30 June 2008]

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
USAID	987,686	987,686	350,000*
Cisco System	91,750	91,750	-
TOTAL	1,079,436	1,079,436	350,000

Note: * This amount is expected to come in but has the status of a pledge not a binding commitment

FINANCIAL UTILIZATION

Table 2: Quarterly Expenditure by Activity [1 January 2007 – 31 March 2007]

Activity	BUDGET 2007	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity1: Project Mgnt/Admin	178,316	**37,868	140,448	21%
Activity2: CCNA Course	90,534	33,176	57,358	36%
Activity5: Network Security	19,391	0	19,391	0%
Activity6: Wireless LAN	8,861	0	8,861	0%
Activity7:Gender Sustainability	62,002	4,883	57,119	8%
UNDP GMS	17,955	3,796	14,159	21%
Total	377,059	79,723	297,336	21%

Note: ** This figure comes from project as Atlas finance has not reflected expenditure for staffing by end March 2007

Table 3: Quarterly Expenditure by Donor [1 Jan 2007 –31 March 2007]

DONORS	ACTIVITY (as per approved budget)	2007 Budget	Q1 EXPENDITURES 01/01/07- 31/03/07	BALANCE as of 31/03/07	DELIVERY RATE %
USAID	Activity1: Project Management	164,546	37,868	126,678	
	Activity 2: CCNA Courses	90,534	33,176	57,358	
	Activity 5: Inetwork Security	19,391	-	19,391	
	Activity 6:Wireless LAN	8,861	-	8,861	
	Activity7:Gender and Sustainability	62,002	4,883	57,119	
GMS 5%		17,267	3,796	13,471	22%
Subtotal USAID		362,601	79,723	282,878	
Cisco System	Activity 1: Project Management	13,770	-	13,770	
	GMS 5%	688		688	
Subtotal Cisco System		14,458	-	14,458	0%
Total		377,059	79,723	297,336	21%