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LIST OF ACROMYNS

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
MCY	Ministry of Culture and Youth
MoAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MoLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoSALMD	Ministry of Social Affairs, Labor, Martyred, Disabled
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NSC	National Steering Committee
PC	Provincial Council
PDC	Provincial Development Council
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
PYDP	Provincial Youth Development Plan
TCC	Technical Coordination Committee
UN	United Nation
UNAMA	United Nation Assistance Mission to Afghanistan
UNDAF	United Nation Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nation Development Fund
UNESCO	United Nation Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nation Population Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nation Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nation Children’s Fund
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. This Programme represents a unique and new partnership arrangement that deserves commendation. Almost all UN partner agencies have their own funding and activities and don't necessarily 'need to work in partnership' -- 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 recognition 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.

One of the main achievements has been the overall progress towards the ANDS benchmark. Over the last eight months, 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 / Compact. JNYP activities fit closely under 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 team announced the creation of a new sector addressing media, culture and youth. With the ANDS committed to youth issues, the JNYP is optimistic about being able to attract donors and the Ministry of Finance to provide financial support to the JNYP and DMYA.

Another key achievement was a majority vote by more than 170 parliamentarians for the creation of an Independent Youth Directorate that will report directly to the President's office. This high level of support for youth issues is very encouraging. The decision will be finalized early 2008.

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 desired capacity level for the national office and the 14 youth sub offices in the provinces which will increase to 26. The Ministry of Information and Culture has created a special Advisory Group to develop the DMYA's vision, mission, objectives and budget. In targeted provinces, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-HABITAT have established suboffices and are 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 youth having better access to livelihood opportunities through increased awareness, education and skills development. For example, more than 2500 youth were trained as community-based school teachers, and approximately 4000 young women were trained to teach in targeted provinces. Over 20,000 young women participated in literacy courses and 3541 at-risk youth received vocational training in areas such as tailoring, carpentry, mechanics, and plumbing. 360 youth were trained as facilitators to plan and conduct youth assessments and youth surveys. Youth were also provided life skills training related to sexual and reproductive health. Over 100 youth in Kabul participated as elected members of the pilot youth parliament to experience the processes of democracy.

Both boys and girls were involved in the development and social political processes. The partners conducted a national youth advocacy conference in Kabul for youth from all 34 provinces which resulted in a 13 item Youth Advocacy Declaration submitted to key Government partners. 60 local

youth councils were established in 60 villages of six provinces and each council consists of 10 boys and 10 girls. The youth council in Nangarhar province is a particularly good example of one that has established close links with the governor's office and other government departments at the provincial level, working closely with the Ministry of Culture and Information, Ministry of Justice, media organizations, prisons authorities, and their community. These same youth have succeeded in bringing more than fifty civil society institutions together as a youth federation in the eastern zone.

Direct beneficiaries are youth between the ages of 14 and 25. The total numbers of youth reached in 2007 were 34,925 (approximately 2,698 males and 32,437 females).

There are two main challenges related to the lack of appropriate data in the Programme. The first is the lack of a comprehensive youth assessment which would assist the partners to respond to the needs of youth more effectively. Although the assessment was initiated at the end of 2006 it has not been conducted for a variety of reasons. The delay has affected the development of the Programme due to the lack of analysis of youth issues which is required for the development of the overall and annual work plans. Despite this challenge, the 2008 work plan was developed based on the individual assessments conducted by the separate partner agencies. UNDP plans to announce the Request for Proposals for the comprehensive youth assessment in the first quarter of 2008. 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.

UNDP, the coordinating partner supporting the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, had a slow start due to the lack of staff and premises. During the last 8 months, UNDP has been building its own internal capacity by recruiting staff, identifying and shifting to a suitable location and building relationships and capacity with the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and its partners to work together. Both UNDP and the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs now have an adequate working environment to provide more effective delivery in 2008.

The main accomplishments were as follows:

- The Joint National Youth Programme brought together experience and resources to complement the ANDS and the UNDAF outcomes and assisted in avoiding duplications.
- Through a collective effort, UN partners and some of their Government partners (MoPH, MoSALMD, MoE, MoHE, MoWA, and MoAL) advocated successfully for greater response to youth needs in the ANDS.
- The joint youth advocacy conference brought together youth from each province using the partnership with the DMYA offices and the UN partner offices in the provinces.

Lessons learned include the following:

- Specialized input complemented agency efforts and financial commitments – 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 neighborhoods levels, and UNDP for supporting the capacity development of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs through the planning of an assessment of capacity, and providing English lessons.
- The planning process needs to be very thorough and significant time should be invested.
- It is very important to establish unified management systems at the beginning, as there are a number of UN, Government and youth institutions involved. Systems should include a unified financial reporting mechanism, a unified understanding of terminology and a common reporting and monitoring system.

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 levels. The situation of Afghan girls is of particular concern - under traditional pressures they enter early marriage and early pregnancy, contributing to Afghanistan's dire maternal mortality rates and infant mortality rates. Youth literacy rates are low; 50 percent for boys and 18 percent for girls. Secondary school enrolments are respectively twenty three percent and seven percent and less than one percent of the Afghan population reaches higher education.

Youth have few opportunities for skills development, incur high unemployment, and face high risk of alienation, exploitation and abuse, and of involvement in the narcotics trade or drug use, 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 (Ministry of Information and Culture, Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education, 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 six UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UNESCO, UNV, UNFPA and UNAMA) joined together to develop the Joint National Youth Programme, 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 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 Joint National Youth Programme (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 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 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 Joint National Youth Programme meet the benchmarks / outcomes as approved in the ANDS, UNDAF and CPAP and articulated as follows:

The vision emphasizes "...the importance of investments in health, education, skills development and vocational training..." "...heavily investing in youth to ensure that our school and university graduates are equipped for technical, managerial and leadership roles in the workplace of tomorrow"...

(Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, iANDS, Vol. 1, December 2005)

Within the ANDS, youth issues are embedded in seven out of eight sectors (social protection, sports, education, health, governance, rule of law and human rights, gender equity and media).

The project is intended to support the realization of 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

Content:

Overall progress towards the ANDS benchmark(s).

Although mentioned briefly in the ANDS, youth issues are not a cross cutting theme nor are they clearly identifiable. As a response to this lack of attention to youth, JNYP partners have been working closely with the ANDS specific sector teams to align their Programme areas to the benchmarks set by the ANDS/Compact. At the same time the DMYA and partners jointly advocated for youth issues to be more prominent in the ANDS. In early January, our 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 in the 2009 plans.

Both the JNYP and the ANDS have identified focal points that meet regularly to strengthen the relationship and information sharing. The ANDS focal point participates in Technical Coordination meetings, cooperates and coordinates with the Office of the Deputy Minister, and has been invited by the Advisory (Technical) Group set up by the Deputy Minister. As part of the partnership strengthening with the other partner ministries and UN agencies, the ANDS focal point joined other selected individuals to attend the International Youth Policy Symposium in Goa, India, August 2007. This group will be working with ANDS to further strengthen the youth component and to have youth rights sufficiently reflected in the ANDS.

The ANDS team is participating in the design of the provincial youth consultations to be held in early 2008. ANDS will provide facilitators to the sub national youth consultations and collect information to further enhance youth issues in the national vision.

Overall progress towards the UNDAF outcomes

Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights:

Outcome 2 of UNDAF (see Context) was contributed to by activities linked to JNYP Component 1 'Government capacity to support and provide services to youth strengthened'.

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 youth advocacy conference, the establishment of and support to the pilot youth parliament in Kabul, and the creation of youth centers in Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad, and Mazar Sharif.

Outcome 3 of the UNDAF (See Context) is met by activities set out by JNYP Component 2 'Youth have better quality of life and improved access to livelihood opportunities through increased awareness, education and skills development' and Component 3 'Youth participation in governance and social-political processes enhanced'.

Youth (boys and girls) from 34 provinces participated in workshops and developed a 13 item Declaration on youth priorities which was submitted to the Ministry of Information and Culture and ANDS 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, Balkh, and Kabul). The council members received training to increase their participation in local governance and in social 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); and
- Youth project management (implementation, management, procurement, monitoring and evaluation, reporting).

JNYP Component 4 'Mechanisms are in place to engage youth in volunteering for peace and development' responds to UNDAF outcome 3, however due to lack of funding in 2007 the activities were postponed to the next year.

Health and Education:

Outcome 1 (see context) is met by Component 1.

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. Appropriate data on the situation of youth to assist in the formulation of policy and programmes is required. Therefore, JNYP has planned a comprehensive youth assessment, a mapping and capacity assessment of youth organizations, and a sub national consultation with youth to collect and analyze data for policy, programmes, and project formulation. The three activities will be conducted in 2008.

Outcome 2 (see previous section) is met by the activities set out in Component 1, 2 and 3.

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 (eg Ministry of Culture and Information, Ministry of Justice, media, prison authorities, and community leaders). In collaboration with JNYP partners Nangarhar youth have succeeded in bringing more than fifty civil society institutions together for consultations and created a youth federation for the eastern zone.

(i) **Overall progress towards the expected Programme outcome(s)**

Expected Programme outcomes;

1. Afghan youth participate effectively in social-political process, with emphasis on national and local governance, democracy, reconstruction and peace building.

Youth have participated at different levels of decision-making in the social-political process in a variety of ways. One of the most active areas was through the Youth Empowerment Programme which established 120 local youth councils (60 boys councils and 60 girls councils) in 60 villages of six provinces (Farah, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Bamyan, Balkh, and Kabul). Youth councils collaborate 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 international peace day, AIDS awareness day, international youth day and others.

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

- Developed youth priorities at the national youth advocacy conference in Kabul.
- Provided input to the capacity assessment of the DMYA national and sub national offices.
- Participated in an international youth policy symposium.
- Created 120 youth development plans at the sub governance levels.
- Set-up and participate in the running of five youth centers in Kabul, Mazar Sharif, Herat, and Jalalabad.

2. Afghan young men and women have access to, and participate in, the socio-economic development, with emphasis on education, skill development and employment opportunity.

The JNYP has contributed to youth having better access to livelihood opportunities through increased awareness, education and skills development. For example, more than 2500 youth were trained as community-based school teachers and approximately 4000 young women were trained to teach in targeted provinces. Over 20,000 young women participated in literacy courses and 3541 at-risk youth received vocational training in areas such as tailoring, carpentry, mechanics, and plumbing. 360 youth were trained as facilitators to plan and conduct youth assessments and youth surveys. Youth were also provided life skills training related to sexual and reproductive health. Over 100 youth in Kabul participated as elected members of the pilot youth parliament to experience the processes of democracy.

(ii) **Capacity Development.**

The Programme contributed to the capacity development of the national counterpart even when the available resources were minimal. Main achievements were identified in the areas of institution building, leadership skills enhancement, staff skills development, and understanding of youth policy. The following provides more details for each area:

- Institution building: A capacity assessment of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs (national and provincial) was conducted. The focus of the assessment was to assess the Office's capacity to respond to the needs of the youth nation-wide and to assess the

Office's capacity to function effectively and efficiently. The results of the assessment were immediately acted upon by the Deputy Minister.

- **Leadership skills enhancement:** The DMYA led the planning and implementation of the youth advocacy conference and facilitated the creation of a Youth Declaration identifying 13 main youth priorities; worked closely with ANDS to develop the material for the Conference workshops with emphasis on the JNYP, ANDS, and MDGs; conducted a consultative meeting with the heads of each of the provincial DMYA offices, collected and analyzed the information collected and will use the information to improve the capacity; started a data base for youth institutions and agreed for the need to conduct a mapping and capacity assessment of youth institutions to further enhance the data base; and encouraged the UN Agencies to conduct comprehensive youth assessment in order to assist the Office with information to assist in making decisions about policies and programmes.
- **Staff skills development:** 20 DMYA staff improved in their oral and written English. The DMYA, the DMYA special advisor and the JNYP project manager participated in the UN Youth Assembly in New York where the Deputy Minister developed and presented the key note address to the participants on the JNYP and its importance nationally and internationally. A network was formed to share information. The DMYA staff developed a job description for a consultant to work in the area of improved management and administration for one year through the UNDP Coaches and Advisors Programme.
- **Understanding of youth policy:** Eight ministry representatives and one ANDS participant were brought together at a youth policy symposium to learn to develop guidelines, tools and a Declaration on youth empowerment and participation. The team (all members of the Technical Coordination Committee) is now part of an ongoing international network of people interested in ensuring youth participation as the fundamental basis for youth policy and practice. Their capacity will enrich the National Youth Policy and Action Plan formulation processes in the JNYP.

(iii) **Impact on direct and indirect beneficiaries.**

The JNYP target beneficiaries in Afghanistan are between 12 to 25 years of age which is between 30-35% of the population. The total numbers of youth reached in 2007 were 34,925 (approximately 32,437 females and 2,698 Males). The breakdown is as follows:

- 217 youth participated in National Advocacy Conference (79 females and 138 males)
- 1147 youth received health education (574 females and 573 males)
- 700 youth were member of Peer Educator Groups (350 females and 350 males)
- 136 youth participated in English lessons (68 females and 68 males)
- 100 youth received training on computer (50 female and 50 males)
- 2582 members of the Local Youth Councils received training on civic education (1291 females and 1291 males)
- 240 youth trained as facilitators of youth assessments (120 females and 120 males)
- 4000 young women trained as school teachers in 9 provinces
- 18 youth recruited as staff three Youth Information and Contact Center; (6 females and 12 males).
- 3541 at risk youth received vocational training, literacy, life skills, health education and gender awareness in 9 provinces
- ongoing literacy courses for over 20,000 young women

- Youth in Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Takhar, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Balkh, Samangan, Panjsher, SariPul, Jawzjan, and Paktia received HIV/AIDS awareness education.

The indirect beneficiaries are the Government 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 social-political processes as well provide opportunities for youth to access education, skills development and employment opportunities. It is essential the JNYP involves the indirect beneficiaries as much as possible in the Programme to ensure its sustainability and commitment to youth. The breakdown of indirect beneficiaries includes the following:

- 252 school teachers from different provinces of Afghanistan (Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Takhar, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Balkh, Samangan, Panjsher, SariPul, Jawzjan, and Paktia) and from different districts of Kabul (District one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, nine, eleven, twelve, fourteen and sixteen) were trained on HIV/AIDS prevention
- 5,500 copies of Teacher Training Manual and 9,500 copies of HIV/AIDS Education Advocacy Toolkit distributed both in Dari and Pashtu to officials, teacher training institutions and schools teachers. This material will be used to train other teachers and students at school level.
- 10 people of eight line ministries, one person from ANDS, and 3 people from DMYA participated in Goa, India International Symposium on National Youth Policy (3 females and 10 males).
- 22 DMYA staff benefited from English language course (3 females and 19 males)
- 42 DMYA staff participated in youth policy and programme development; (6 females and 38 males).
- 2 staff from the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs participated in UN Youth Assembly in New York (2 male).

In addition, youth civil societies in different parts of the country are responding to youth needs and government partners and community leaders are involving youth in decision making that would affect governing issues. For example the MoLSAMD National Skills Development Project has targeted 80% of their beneficiaries to be youth 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 five Technical Coordination Committee meetings during the last eight months 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 DM office and the partner agencies the new deputy minister (since September) has been meeting with each UN agencies two or three times a week. The involvement of ministry partners has improved because of ongoing communication either through face to face meetings, emails or telephone calls with the line ministry representatives and some of the deputy ministers. As part of the participatory team building efforts the partner ministries focal points participated in an international youth policy symposium in India. The team has become more committed to the JNYP through their participation in the Technical Coordination Meetings and individual youth advocacy responsibilities. JNYP conducted two Outcomes/Oversight Board meetings. Two main decisions of the Board were to extend the JNYP to end of 2010, and include FAO and ILO as partners in the JNYP. There were five working groups (National Youth Advocacy Conference, ANDS Youth Consultations in Provinces, Communication, Resource Mobilization, and Youth Assessment) created to design and implement activities using consultative processes. The Programme partners met regularly

and provided information to assist in the submission of five resource mobilization concepts, the development of a resource mobilization plan and a communication plan including a brochure in three languages.

(ii) **Quality of partnerships.**

The partnerships between JNYP UN partners and their national counterparts are strong and long-standing. Many of the partnerships have existed for a few years and partners have a good understanding of each others' 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 TCC, Board, and working groups meetings was not as much as we had hoped for in the early part of the year. The participation has improved but there can be more participation among the ministries in joint activities.

A goal of the project for the next is year is also to strengthen partnerships with the youth civil societies and institutions and have enhanced consultation with them and participation from them at the national and sub national level activities.

(iii) **National Ownership.**

Decisions regarding the JNYP are taken jointly with the Deputy Minister and include 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. Activities for 2007 were discussed with and approved by the Deputy Minister. Each of the UN partner agencies provided brief reports in writing and during regular meetings with the Deputy Minister. The Deputy Minister led the five Technical Coordination Committee meetings and decisions were documented in the minutes. The office also was/is 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. In order to strengthen a sense of national ownership there needs to be more ownership by the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs staff and the partner ministries.

(iv) **Sustainability.**

There were four key achievements to contribute to the sustainability of the impact of the JNYP. First, more than 170 parliamentarians agreed on the need to promote youth issues through the creation of an Independent Youth Commission which would report directly to the President's office. Secondly, the ANDS included youth in a revised sector "Media, Culture and Youth" and youth issues will be included in the 2009 work plan. These achievements should encourage the Ministry of Finance (and hopefully donor) contributions to youth issues in the future. A third achievement was the completion of an assessment of the capacity of the DMYA national and sub national offices, providing a baseline and justification for improving the capacity. Finally, the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs subnational offices are established in 14 provinces and will be extended to 26 in the next year. Overall, the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs has become more active, more responsible, and more accountable toward youth and their communities.

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

(i) **Quality of monitoring.**

Each partner agency has been monitoring and reporting their results and achievements. However the quality of qualitative and quantitative reporting needs to improve. Partners

continue to provide more quantitative rather than qualitative information. In addition the data is not broken down adequately and therefore it is very challenging to follow up on the achievements.

UN agencies have conducted monitoring missions. UNICEF visited their centres and activities in Herat, Balkh, Jalalabad, and Kandahar. UN-HABITAT, in collaboration with the provincial Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs staff, conducted trips to six project provinces. UNFPA monitors their centers in Kabul. All three agencies have included the Deputy Minister in their missions.

Twelve of the fourteen provincial directors of the Office of the Deputy Minister participated in a three day assessment workshop at the National office. The directors provided information about their needs, staff issues, and their relation with youth and the community. They shared their expectations, including the status of coordination and cooperation with the Office of the Deputy Minister, other government ministries and UN agencies. The information was analyzed and used for the capacity assessment of Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs national and sub national offices, and will be used for future planning and decision making as well.

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

The expected annual targets / outputs were planned and identified as funded or unfunded. Although JNYP partners were not able to deliver 100% of the targeted outputs in a timely fashion, most of the planned activities were implemented according to the timeline and in coordination with partners and the Office of the Deputy Minister. The main reason planned outputs were not delivered was due to lack of funding for 2007.

(iii) **Resource Allocation.**

We were unable to report on resource allocation due to lack of information from the partners.

(iv) **Cost-effective use of inputs.**

We were unable to do an assessment of the cost-effective use of information due to lack of information from the partners.

III. PROJECT RESULTS SUMMARY

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

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

Activity 1.1.1 Qualitative and quantitative research study (Kabul and Herat) to assess adolescent health issues and their determinants with the help of external experts in collaboration of partners. [UNFPA]

UNFPA withdrew their commitment to be the lead agency to conduct the assessment and the Technical Coordination Committee agreed UNDP would take on this assignment. The Memorandums of Understanding and Request for Proposals were revised, and plans were developed to transfer financial contributions from agencies to UNDP. The Request for Proposals will be advertised in early 2008 and the assessment will begin in March 2008.

Activity 1.1.2 Support to assessment on the situation of Afghan youth particularly in areas of physical education/sports, literacy, educational situation and HIV/AIDS. [UNESCO]

UNESCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2007 to contribute USD 10,000 to the comprehensive youth assessment and this activity will be integrated into the comprehensive youth assessment.

Activity 1.1.3 Mapping and capacity assessment of existing youth institutions (youth committees, youth organisations, student associations, etc.) in Afghanistan (at least for 7 provinces done thoroughly) [UNDP]

The Request for Proposals was advertised, an agency was successful in its bid and the assessment should begin early 2008.

Activity 1.1.4 Initial database developed of youth NGOs/CSOs organizations of Afghanistan. UN-HABITAT

The initial database was to support the youth assessment but due to the delay of the youth assessment the funds were used to introduce 30 staff from the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs to civic education. Youth were also introduced to various methods of Participatory Learning and Action Planning.

Activity 1.1.5 Assessment study on the situation of the youth in Afghan, rural/urban areas, aggregated by gender and age. Results published and distributed to relevant Government, donor, civil society and youth support agencies in Afghanistan UN-HABITAT

The funds for this activity were transferred to training youth in Participatory Learning and Action Planning in six Provinces of Afghanistan namely Balkh, Bamyan, Farah, Kabul, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Youth learned how to assess the needs and problems in their communities in the following four thematic areas: participation in local governance, civic education, livelihood opportunities and creative approaches to promoting art, heritage and culture. The methodology was then applied to assess the capacity of key youth institutions.

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

The terms of reference have been finalized and the implementing partner identified.

Activity 1.1.7 Support to a comprehensive study on the situation of youth in Afghanistan especially in regards to protection issues, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, employment and education. [UNICEF]

Research tools are yet to be finalized.

Activity 1.1.8 Support to a comprehensive study on situation of youth in Afghanistan, with participation and capacity-building of youth and Government officials in the process. [UNDP]

UNFPA withdrew their commitment to be the lead agency to conduct the assessment during 2007. The Technical Coordination Committee agreed that UNDP would take on this assignment. The Memorandum of Understandings and Request for Proposals has been revised, the financial contributions have been transferred and the RFP will be announced in 2008. This activity is likely to commence in March 2008.

Activity 1.1.9 Youth and Volunteerism Assessment (expectations interests, challenges, appropriate incentives, etc). [UNDP]

This was not completed due to lack of funding.

Activity 1.1.10: Youth legal aid services established in all regions. [UNV, UNICEF]

The implementing partner has been identified and a project cooperation agreement to implement legal aid for children and youth is being signed at the time of this report. The activity has been implemented in 11 model child protection action network provinces in all regions. To date over 360 individual abuse cases have been addressed.

Activity 1.1.11: Youth advocacy /promotion/visibility activities. [UNDP]

The 'National Youth Advocacy Conference' was held in August 2007 to provide youth with the opportunity to inform the Government of their needs. 217 youth (138 male and 79 females) representing all 34 provinces in Afghanistan reviewed the Joint National Youth Programme - including its response to the MDGs and the ANDS. A draft Declaration of 320 youth issues was presented to UN agencies and ministries. The Declaration was later summarized into 13 key issues and provided to the JNYP partners and the ANDS Secretariat for further integration into youth programmes and policies. Follow up youth consultations in close collaboration with the ANDS Secretariat will be held in the provinces in 2008.

Activity 1.1.12: Youth Empowerment advocacy and visibility activities. [UN-HABITAT]

The USAID funded 'Youth Empowerment Programme' produced a 15 minute promotional film entitled 'Development and Changes by Civic Education'. Other promotional materials included 300 T-shirts, a brochure, monthly newsletters, and 3000 newspapers. The material was

distributed to the Office of the Minister of Youth Affairs and the 120 councils in 6 provinces (Balkh, Kabul, Bamyan, Farah, Nangarhar and Kandahar).

Activity 1.1.13: Needs assessment/ capacity building of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and focal points for Joint National Youth Programme ministries. [UNDP]

As part of improving the capacity of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs the Deputy Minister was invited to be a key note speaker at the UN Youth Assembly in New York where he advocated for youth issues on a national and international level. A network was developed to share information on building youth skills and exchanges.

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

Activity 1.2.1 Establishment of parliamentarians youth caucus [UNDP]

This activity will be conducted in 2009.

Activity 1.2.2: Regular consultations between youth groups/civil society organizations and Government (Parliamentarians, Ministerial officials, President's representative). [UNDP]

In progress as part of Activity 1.3.1

Activity 1.2.3 Revival of youth advisory/consultative group [UNDP]

This activity will be conducted in 2009.

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

Activity 1.3.1: Facilitating participatory youth policy discussions between Government departments, donors, international and local agencies and youth civil society organizations. [UNDP]

As a follow up to the Youth Advocacy Conference and Youth Issues Declaration, a Working Group, in collaboration with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) Secretariat, developed a plan to consult with youth in the provinces and districts. The consultations will provide information for youth issues to be incorporated into a Media, Culture and Youth sector within the ANDS.

Activity 1.3.2 Facilitating youth / youth CSOs participation in ANDS [UNDP]

Consultation with youth at the national level has been conducted. The sub national consultation has been postponed due to the lack of an acceptable registration process to identify suitable representation from youth. The sub national consultation will be conducted in 2008.

Activity 1.3.3: Regular policy, strategy and advisory support to the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs through increased youth participation to refine the National Youth Strategy and develop youth friendly policies. [UN-HABITAT]

A policy and strategy advisor worked with the Minister of Youth Affairs to revise the UN-HABITAT component of the JNYP. Discussions were held to develop plans for youth friendly policies at all levels. This consultation is ongoing and will be completed in March 2008.

Activity 1.3.4: Development of working modalities for street based children/youth intervention. [UNICEF]

As a follow up to the one-week study tour to Indonesia to observe targeted interventions for care and protection of the most vulnerable adolescent, with a special focus on street-based youth at risk of HIV/AIDS, UNICEF organized a post-study trip workshop. This was organized jointly with the Ministry of Public Health and was aimed to develop a HIV/AIDS prevention strategy for those most at risk and vulnerable adolescents. Over 50 representatives from NGOs-many of them from the provinces, participated in the workshop. It was agreed that a comprehensive assessment is required to determine the most at risk and vulnerable adolescents in Afghanistan. UNICEF is now finalizing a Terms of Reference for this assessment.

Activity 1.3.5: Development of national strategy on youth employment and youth entrepreneurship. [UNDP]

To be conducted in 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007.

Activity 1.3.6 Development of national policy on Physical Education/Sports [UNESCO]

These funds were transferred to activity 2.3.10 regarding training on HIV & AIDS preventive education due to lack of activity on sports policy.

Activity 1.3.7: Development of appropriate volunteerism policies, rules and legislation for Afghanistan [UNV/UNDP]

To be conducted in 2008, subject to funding availability, due to lack of funds in 2007. Proposals have been submitted to two funding sources.

Activity 1.3.8: Support to development of rehabilitation/ reintegration programme for children in conflict with the law. [UNICEF]

An action plan for the transfer of children from a closed juvenile rehabilitation center to an open center has been developed jointly with UNODC, the Italian Justice Project and the Ministry of Justice.

Activity 1.3.9: Development and implementation of provincial plans of action for implementing the national strategy for at-risk children. [UNICEF]

Model Child Protection Action Networks have closely monitored child protection cases in 11 selected provinces, in close collaboration with the police and the Afghan Independent Human rights Commission. Over 100 cases of child rights violations have been referred to provincial networks during 2007. Model Networks have completed mapping and assessments of child protection services in their respective provinces. This exercise is the first step in developing a functional and effective referral system in the province to support children who are in need of special protection. Capacity building of child protection service providers has started in nine provinces.

Activity 1.3.10: Revise the National Child and Adolescent Health Policy and Strategy and develop national standards and tools. [UNFPA, UNESCO]

UNFPA has been assigned to lead the Ministry of Public Health Working Group on Adolescent Health to revise the National Children and Adolescent Health Policy and Strategy. The Group meets weekly and is working on a plan to study examples of similar policies from neighboring countries, to analyze existing data/statistics and to help identify the policy gaps. The process has been slow partly because of limited engagement by government counterparts and other partners.

Activity 1.3.11: Training manuals, operational guidelines and toolkits regarding participation of young women and men in local governance and community development, produced and distributed among various stakeholders. [UN-HABITAT]

Local youth council's members, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs staff, and community elders received the Participatory Learning and Action Planning modules on youth and local governance, youth development planning, youth fund raising, and youth project design. They also were recipients of training manuals, operational guidelines and toolkits.

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

Activity 1.4.1: Civil Service Leadership Development Training Programme for Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs officials. [UNDP]

To be conducted in 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007.

Activity 1.4.2: Coaches and Advisors Programme for the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs officials. [UNDP]

To be conducted in 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007.

Activity 1.4.3: Capacity building activities (participation in training and workshops) for Programme staff of Ministries. [UNFPA]

Four government staff (from the Ministry of Public Health and the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs) and five Youth Center staff with representatives from UNFPA implementing partners received an orientation and introduction to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health.

Activity 1.4.4: Training of 15 DMYA officials in youth assessment skills. [UN-HABITAT]

UN HABITAT trained 18 staff from Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs (national and provincial) and a number of youth from youth councils in Participatory Learning and Action Planning processes in 6 provinces of Afghanistan (Kabul, Farah, Nangarhar, Balkh, Kandahar, and Bamyan). Civic education was a key topic.

Activity 1.4.5: 42 Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs officials at the central and provincial level trained in youth rights, gender, leadership, transparency, accountability, volunteerism, community development, governance, conflict-resolution, peace building, development planning, strategic planning, consultation, project design, project management, resource mobilization, partnership building, monitoring and evaluation, learning cycle,

community theatre, awareness raising strategies, establishing external linkages, community education strategies, advocacy and networking. [UN-HABITAT]

42 staff of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs officials from central and provincial levels participated in workshops to assist in their programme and policy development knowledge and skills. Topics included youth rights, gender, leadership, transparency, accountability, volunteerism, community development, governance, conflict-resolution, peace building, development planning, strategic planning, consultation, project design, and fund raising.

Activity 1.4.6: Training of judicial/law enforcement officials associated with administration of juvenile justice. [UNICEF]

Public sector reform has been slow in the justice sector, hence the appointment and deployment of new officials is not yet completed in many provincial judicial institutions. Therefore the training of juvenile judges and prosecutors training has been postponed until the appointment process is completed.

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

Social work regional coaching has started in the North, Central, East and South regions. Trainee social workers were selected in six provinces in those regions. The initial orientation was conducted in September 2007 in order to emphasize links between the social work coaching system and the Child Protection Action Network. Over 2,000 children have been reached.

Activity 1.4.8: 22 Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs staff trained to implement the Youth Empowerment Programme including in the areas of management, policy making, and grants disbursement, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, communications, research and assessment, provincial coordination, learning cycle, advocacy and strategic planning. [UN-HABITAT]

20 Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs staff have been regularly working with Youth Empowerment staff in order to be trained to train others in management, policy making, and grants disbursement, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, communications, research and assessment, provincial coordination, learning cycle, advocacy and strategic planning,.

Activity 1.4.9: 10-15 MCY officers and BKJ (Barnane Khudsaze Jawanan; changed to YEP) staff equipped with practical knowledge of non-formal education, youth leadership and community education strategies adopted in Latin America to develop effective curriculum, training and delivery mechanism for the BKJ civic education. [UN-HABITAT]

18 Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs staff improved in their knowledge about non-formal education, youth leadership and community education strategies adopted in Latin America. This knowledge will be used to develop effective curriculum and effective training and delivery mechanisms for the Youth Empowerment Project civic education component.

Activity 1.4.10: English course for 20 staff of Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs. [UNDP]

Ongoing individual and group English classes were provided to 22 staff five times a week for six months. The three levels were beginner, intermediate and advanced. The course evaluation will be conducted in February 2008.

Activity 1.4.11: Office equipment and vehicle contribution to MCY. [UNFPA]

UNFPA provided office equipment for the youth information center of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs including computer workstations, furniture, audio/video equipment, two generators, heaters, air conditioners, fans, electric/wooden heaters, cupboards, a digital camera, and internet. The equipment will be used by Government staff and peer educators. A vehicle was also purchased and will be available early 2008. In the meantime UNFPA has rented a vehicle for the smooth running of activities.

Activity 1.4.12: Office equipment and vehicle contribution to MoPH. [UNFPA]

The funds for this activity are combined with the achievements of Activity 1.4.11.

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

Activity 1.5.2: Regional exchange visits between youth Government officials of Afghanistan and neighboring countries. [UNDP]

Selection criteria were developed and 13 participants were selected to participate in an International Symposium on youth policy in India (ten from Line Ministries, one from Afghanistan National Development Strategy Secretariat and two from UNDP). Five additional participants were identified by UN-HABITAT. The Symposium, held in October 2007, provided the participants with knowledge and tools to become more aware and responsive to the situation of youth in Afghanistan.

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

Activity 2.1.1: More than 2500 youth trained as community-based school teachers. [UNICEF]

During 2007, more than 1,000 young teachers were trained as community-based school teachers throughout various provinces in Afghanistan.

Activity 2.1.2: More than 4000 young women trained to be school teachers. [UNICEF]

During 2007, more than 4000 young women school teachers were trained as school teachers in different provinces.

Activity 2.1.3: Reintegration Programme: Vocational training, apprenticeships and basic business skills training for 10,500 at-risk youth (war affected, out-of-school, internally displaced people, street youth, girls, etc.). [UNICEF]

Vocational training in tailoring, carpentry, mechanics, and plumbing involved more than 3,541 children associated with armed forces and groups and other children affected by armed conflict in Herat, Farah, Ghor, Badghis, Khost, Paktika, Ghazni, Faryab and Kandahar provinces.

Activity 2.1.4: Establishment of Youth Service and Contact Centers in selected provinces. [UNICEF]

UNICEF in close partnership with the Deputy Ministry of Youth established three Youth Information & Contact Centers (YICC) in Nangarhar, Kunduz, and Herat. In order to create a joint youth centre in Herat and in Balkh joint field missions were conducted with UNFPA. Recruitment of key positions for the Centres has been completed in Nangarhar, Bamyan, Kunduz and Balkh. Youth media groups have been set up in Nangarhar. Inter-regional exchange visits to Jalalabad Centre (in Nangarhar province) were conducted for the DMYA staff from Balkh and Bamyan provinces.

Premises for six centres have been provided by the Deputy Ministry of Youth of which three were formally opened. Youth Federations, represented by 30-40 youth from different civil societies, clubs and groups, were established in Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat provinces. The youth federation meets to discuss youth issues related to education, health and youth protection. They have developed six month plans - various educational, health, cultural and protection issues and developed plans of action for the next six months.

Activity 2.1.5: Over 1000 youth trained in vocational skills and given 12-month work experiences through the volunteer corps (see also point 6.5). [UNICEF]

This activity was unfunded, therefore not done.

Activity 2.1.6: 132 youth in Kabul, Kandahar, Balkh, Jalalabad, Farah, Bamyan (66 boys, 66 girls) trained as facilitators of youth assessments and youth surveys. [UN-HABITAT]

360 Youth in Kabul, Kandahar, Balkh, Jalalabad, Farah, Bamyan (180 boys, and 180 girls) were trained as facilitators for youth assessments and youth surveys.

Activity 2.1.7: More than 2400 youth (1200 girls and 1200 boys from 6 provinces), trained in development planning, project design, project management, resource-mobilization, partnership-building, monitoring and evaluation, community education strategies, advocacy and networking. [UN-HABITAT]

More than 2580 youth (1290 girls and 1290 boys from 6 provinces) were trained in project design and management, resource-mobilization, partnership-building, monitoring and evaluation, community education strategies, advocacy, and networking.

Activity 2.1.8: 200 youth (100 boys and 100 girls), including provincial youth mobilizers and members of provincial and national youth councils, trained in managerial and professional governance skills including Fundraising, Advocacy, Strategy Development, Development Planning, Consultation, Election Processes, Negotiation, Networking/Partnership Building, HR/Management, Youth Counseling, Policy Development, Public Sector Awareness, Accountability and Good Governance. [UNDP]

This activity was not completed as there are, to date, no funds available for its implementation.

Activity 2.1.9: Over 1400 youth (700 boys and 700 girls), members of youth civil society organizations, trained in managerial and professional governance skills including development planning, consultation, networking/partnership building, and good governance. [UNDP]

Due to the delay of the Mapping and Capacity Assessment of the Youth Institutions (Activity 1.1.3), this activity will be transferred to 2008. Once we have the data base of the main youth institutions we will be able to identify our target groups for training and be able to monitor their application of the skills and knowledge.

Activity 2.1.10: Consultations about the rights and responsibilities of youth in relationship to communities (done in 60 villages and neighborhoods). [UN-HABITAT]

Consultations were conducted with 120 local youth council members on youth responsibilities related to self, family, community, districts, provinces, country and the global community. Posters showing the seven stages were shared with the youth and later distributed to participating youth related NGO, Ministries and UN Agencies.

Activity 2.1.11: Literacy courses for over 20,000 young women in 1,468 centers all over Afghanistan. [UNICEF]

Literacy courses were provided for over 20,000 young women in 1,468 centers all over Afghanistan.

Activity 2.1.12: Reintegration Programme: Life-skills training (numeracy, literacy, mine risk awareness, human rights education, mediation/conflict resolution) for 10,500 at-risk youth (war affected, out-of-school, internally displaced people, street youth, girls, etc.). [UNICEF]

Literacy training, life skills training (mine risk education, conflict resolution, child rights awareness) and health education was provided to 3,541 children associated with armed forces and groups and other children affected by armed conflict in the above mentioned nine provinces.

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

Activity 2.2.1: Youth leadership and life skills training for youth peer groups. [UNFPA]

Life skills training related to Sexual and Reproductive Health for adolescents was part of the Peer Education Programme carried out at the Youth Centers in Kabul. Discussions were held with other agencies to identify possible co-training in similar topics and a plan is being developed to provide youth leadership skills training.

Activity 2.2.2: Development of community learning modules on child protection issues (child marriage), youth rights, gender to be integrated in the HABITAT and UNDP youth training Programme, in youth service centers and other youth educational avenues. [UNICEF]

The Terms of reference are in progress.

Activity 2.2.3: 200 youth (100 boys and 100 girls), including provincial youth mobilizers and members of provincial and national youth councils, trained in leadership and life-skills including Volunteerism, Gender Awareness and Leadership. [UNICEF]

This activity was not completed due to lack of funds.

Activity 2.2.4: Over 1,400 youth (700 boys and 700 girls), members of youth civil society organizations trained in leadership, and life-skills including volunteerism and gender awareness. [UNDP]

Due to the delay of the Mapping and Capacity Assessment of the Youth Institutions (Activity 1.1.3), this activity will be transferred to 2008. Once we have the data base of the main youth institutions we will be able to identify our target groups for training and be able to monitor their application of the skills and knowledge.

Activity 2.2.5: SEAL Youth Parliament project - youth from 34 provinces of Afghanistan selected, trained and participating in a model parliamentary consultation process. [UNDP]

To be conducted in 2008 because we need to first create a data base of youth institutions and then elect representatives from all provinces for the youth parliament.

Activity 2.2.6: Development of Information, Education and Communication material for safe migration and prevention of youth trafficking/smuggling. [UNICEF]

Review of the existing materials has been under way during the reporting period. The available materials often focus on better-educated and literate population and are often found to be too difficult for a grass-roots level audience.

Activity 2.2.7: More than 2400 youth (1200 girls & 1200 boys from 6 different provinces) trained in youth rights, gender, leadership, transparency, accountability, volunteerism, unity, community development, governance, conflict-resolution, peace-building, development planning, strategic planning, consultation, project design, project management, resource-mobilization, partnership-building, M&E, learning cycle, community theater, awareness raising strategies, establishing external linkages, resource mobilization, fund raising, community education strategies, advocacy, networking; gender, leadership, volunteerism, community development, governance, conflict-resolution, consultation, partnership-building, community education strategies, advocacy and networking. [UN-HABITAT]

2580 youth(1290 girls and 1290 boys) (180 more than targeted) from 6 provinces, were trained in youth rights, gender, leadership, transparency, accountability, volunteerism, unity, community development, governance, conflict-resolution, resource mobilization, fund raising, community education strategies, advocacy, consultation, and partnership-building.

Output 2.3: Youth reproductive health and family planning awareness

Activity 2.3.1: Establishment of two Youth Information Centers (Kabul and Herat) to empower youth and adolescents of the respective areas. [UNFPA]

UNFPA established one youth information center in Kabul city and the second in Khoshal khan district. The centre staff consists of two youth mobilizers/trainers (one female and one male), one English instructor, one computer instructor, three security guards, and one cleaner. The Centre in Herat is in progress and should be opened early 2008. Additional centres will be opened in 2008.

Activity 2.3.2: Reintegration Programme: 10,500 at-risk youth (war affected, out-of-school, internally displaced people, street youth, girls, etc.) trained in health education, gender and HIV/AIDS awareness. [UNICEF]

Life skills training (mine risk education, conflict resolution, child rights awareness) and health education as part of a UNICEF-assisted Reintegration project was conducted for 3,541 children associated with armed forces and groups and other children affected by armed conflict in the above mentioned nine provinces.

Activity 2.3.3: Establishment 2 Youth Friendly Service Delivery Centers in Kabul and Herat. [UNFPA]

Ongoing training provided to youth in the two Youth Centers in Kabul city. A joint mission with UNICEF was conducted to Herat to establish a third centre. This joint effort will reduce the duplication of UN supported interventions and increase coordination and collaboration.

Activity 2.3.4: Adolescent Reproductive Health Counseling Training on Sexual Reproductive Health issues to youth and service providers. [UNFPA]

Training on the basics of ASRH (adolescent sexual and reproductive health) was conducted for 11 people, 5 persons from two youth centers, 2 Ministry of Public Health, 2 Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs staff, and 2 persons from UNFPA implementing partners at UNFPA country office.

Activity 2.3.5: Work with government to include information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS in high school curriculum. [UNFPA]

Staff from the Ministry of Public Health and the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs with Youth Centre staff received an orientation to Adolescent Reproductive Health Counseling Training on Sexual Reproductive Health. Plans were developed for training on psycho-social counseling awareness to all staff of the two Youth Centers in Kabul and a one week awareness training on psycho-social health and counseling for the peer educators of the two Youth Centers.

Activity 2.3.6: Develop and publish a monthly bulletin, cartoon series related with life skills and sexual reproductive health in national newspapers. [UNFPA]

The Ministry of Public Health and its government partners working in the field of youth, education, HIV/AIDS, and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health have been asked by UNFPA to establish a Working Group to work on HIV/AIDS prevention messages that will include Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health information in the national high school curriculum. UNESCO and other UN partners were invited to support this joint effort.

Activity 2.3.7 Organize Programme at high school level focusing on adolescents and youth issue using electronic media. [UNFPA]

Information, education, and communication materials have not been developed due to a shortage of staff. UNFPA has advertised for staff to work on this activity.

Activity 2.3.8: Programme orientation and community sensitization on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health issues for the key stakeholders in the community. [UNFPA]

UNFPA participated in two events to sensitize the communities on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health issues. They provided financial and human resources to the National Youth advocacy Conference (Activity 1.1.11) and peer educators from the two Centres participated in the discussions. One of the youth issues in the declaration was related to the need for youth sexual and reproductive health support.

In August, UNFPA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, organized an advocacy conference with key stakeholders at the Central Polyclinic in Kabul, where one of the Youth Centers is located. The purpose of this event was to obtain increased political support and create an enabling environment for the work on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health. In addition, the purpose was to strengthen the referral systems between health care facilities such as the Kabul hospitals, HIV/AIDS Centers, Psycho-Social Counseling Centers, schools and UNFPA Youth Information Centers.

Activity 2.3.9: Adaptation and development of Adolescent Reproductive Health Information, Education and Communication materials for the use of adolescents and youth regarding RTIs/HIV/AIDS, gender based violence and gender equity and equality, and substance abuse. [UNFPA]

Limited materials have already been developed. A plan was developed to create material on a wider scale in collaboration with partners.

Activity 2.3.10: Trainings on HIV-AIDS. [UNESCO]

UNESCO organized a workshop for 29 Master Trainers on the use of the “Teacher Training Manual for HIV & AIDS Preventive Education” in classroom settings (February 2007). From this workshop, Master Trainers were selected to conduct orientation and training workshops in April 2007 in Kabul. Over 100 trainers were trained on how to teach this subject to students with the objective of raising awareness among youth through peer strategies. A follow-up training workshop was organized in November 2007 targeting 123 teachers from schools and teacher training colleges from 15 provinces of Afghanistan. Teachers were trained on the use of the Teacher Training Manual in order to increase awareness among young people, have a better understanding of HIV & AIDS, teach this subject to teachers and students, and improve knowledge and attitudes on HIV and AIDS.

As a follow-up to these workshops, 5,500 copies of Teacher Training Manual and 9,500 copies of an HIV & AIDS Education Advocacy Toolkit are being distributed both in Dari and Pashto to officials, teacher training institutions and school teachers. These materials will be used to train other teachers and students at school level.

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

Activity 2.4.1: Individual youth fellowships and international and regional exchanges/exposure visits. [UN-HABITAT]

The Youth Empowerment Programme developed a plan for the second visit to India as a follow up from its first visit in the first quarter.

Activity 2.4.2: Regional and international youth exchanges and participation in international events (trainings, meetings, conferences) especially in neighboring countries. [UNDP]

To be conducted in 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007. We are also waiting for the data base of youth institutions and outcomes of the international youth symposium on youth policy to assist in the planning.

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

Output 3.1: Local youth committees (m/f) established in villages and urban neighborhoods

Activity 3.1.1: Peer group formation of 40-45 groups, and regular peer group activities conducted and basic Peer Educators Training in Kabul and Herat through NGOs. [UNFPA]

106 peer educators, selected with equal gender representation, received basic peer educator training in the Kabul two youth centers.

Activity 3.1.2: 120 youth committees (60 female and 60 male) established in 60 villages/neighborhoods of Afghanistan (10 x 6 provinces) and constituting membership in the National Youth Network. [UN-HABITAT]

As mentioned under activity 2.2.1, peer educators are being trained as part of the ongoing activities at the Youth Centers in Kabul. The Youth Council in Herat is yet to be established.

Activity 3.1.3: 60 youth development plans designed for 60 villages/neighborhoods. [UN-HABITAT]

120 youth development plans were designed for 60 villages/neighborhoods. The Participatory Learning and Action Planning report will include the detailed report on the youth development plans. It was done on time and within budget.

Output 3.2: Local youth development plans designed

Activity 3.2.1: Establishment of local youth fund and youth fund-raising activities. [UN-HABITAT]

120 youth development plans were designed by youth. The fund raising activities have started on time and will continue into the next quarter.

Activity 3.2.2: More than 60 'Stop & Act' performances and other educational-artistic activities occurring in community gatherings. [UN-HABITAT]

Module six of the Youth Empowerment Civic education was the Stop & Act show. The Stop & Act show was delivered to 120 Local Youth Councils and more than 120 Stop and Act shows were performed by youth.

Activity 3.2.3: 60-120 youth self-initiated community service projects. [UN-HABITAT]

100 self-initiated projects were developed by youth in six provinces. The initiatives include tailoring courses, home tuitions, handicrafts tuitions, English lessons and support to computer centers.

Output 3.3: Diverse youth development initiatives undertaken at community level

Activity 3.3.4: Mobilization of youth institutions (youth civil society organizations, youth committees, student associations, etc.) in 7 provinces and awareness-raising on engagement of youth in sub-national governance. [UNDP]

This activity cannot be conducted until we have conducted the mapping and capacity assessment of the youth institutions (Activity 1.1.3). This activity was transferred to 2008.

Output 3.4: Provincial youth Councils established

Proposals particularly for the output have been submitted to donors. The fund is expected to come in the second quarter of the 2008. The activities under the output will be then implemented.

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

Activities 3.5.1, 3.5.2 and 3.5.3 under this output have not been conducted due the lack of resources in 2007.

Activity 3.5.4: Support to Child Protection Action Networks and collaborative activities on child/youth protection in 10 provinces. [UNICEF]

The Model Child Protection Action Network representatives in 11 provinces worked with youth groups. They completed a mapping and assessment of child protection services in respective provinces. The youth groups were identified in this mapping exercise as potential partners for a child protection response. UNICEF, in collaboration with the MoLSA, is currently setting up a joint website for the Networks and the Information Centers. The website aims to provide a public forum for youth media groups and journalism students to share their work and be more informed on child protection, child rights and youth activities.

Output 3.6 National Youth Council established

Activity 3.6.2: Securing rent-free office space for iAYC through MCY. [UNDP]

Not conducted due to lack of funds.

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

Activities (3.8.1, 3.8.7 and 3.8.8) under this output have not been conducted due the lack of resources in 2007.

Component 4: Mechanisms are in place to engage youth in volunteering for peace and development.

The remaining outputs under Component 4 (other than 4.1.1) were not carried out in 2007 due to a lack of funding. The activities will be conducted in 2008 depending on the availability of funds. Proposals have been submitted to a number of funding sources.

Output 4.1: Enabling environment for promoting youth volunteerism in Afghanistan created

Activity 4.1.1 Volunteer Infrastructure assessment/preparatory mission (Dec 06) [UNV]

Activity 4.1.1: The terms of reference for the coordinator position were revised in August to incorporate a youth-centred approach to the youth volunteer corps development. Several potential candidates are being reviewed.

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 plans to meet with youth from the 34 provinces including the district and village levels during the second quarter of 2008. These consultations are a follow up to the youth consultations that occurred in August in Kabul and will be covered by TV, radio and the newspaper to ensure that the voice of youth is heard and their needs incorporated into the national strategy.

Lack of data for adequate planning and reporting:

There are two main challenges related to the lack of appropriate data in the JNYP. The first is the lack of a comprehensive youth assessment which would assist the Programme to respond to the needs of youth more effectively. Although the assessment was initiated end of 2006 it has not been conducted to date for a variety of reasons. For example, after seven months UNFPA, due to lack of staff and lack of support from the JNYP partners, handed over the responsibility to UNDP. During the remaining months, with the agreement of the DMYA and the TCC, MOUs were revised and signed with the six assessment partners (UNDP, UNFPA, UNV, UNESCO, UNICEF, and UNDP/ASGP) and financial contributions were transferred to UNDP. The delay in implementing this activity and lack of analysis of youth issues has affected the development of the Programme. Partners are conducting their own rapid assessment to assist in their individual development of work plans and UNDP plans to announce the Request for Proposals in the first quarter of 2008. The other challenge is the lack of information from the UN agencies related to their activities, including specific information about the direct and indirect beneficiaries. 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.

Lack of adequate human resources:

During 2007, most UN partner agencies had difficulty providing enough staff resources to work effectively on the JNYP; this resulted in delays for implementation and resource mobilization. For example the JNYP project manager arrived at the end of April and worked alone with the DMYA until August when the second staff member was hired. A third staff member joined in November still leaving a huge gap in the staff requirements to support the DMYA in the implementation and resource mobilization of the JNYP. Additional staff could not be hired due to the lack of office space. Initially the UNDP staff planned to move to the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs premises however the premises could not be cleared by UN security. At the end of the year suitable office space for the UNDP staff was secured and 3 more positions were advertised. UN agencies have added more staff to work on the JNYP and the DMYA has assigned focal points from his Office to each agency.

One of the main critical success factors in 2007 was the political commitment of 170 parliamentarians to support the creation of an Independent Youth Directorate which will report directly to the Office of the President. Final decisions will be made in early 2008.

V. LESSONS LEARNT AND NEXT STEPS

(1) Lessons learnt.

The main lessons drawn from 2007 were as follows:

- The Joint National Youth Programme plays an important role in bringing together experience and resources to complement the ANDS and the UNDAF outcomes and avoid duplication.
- The joint youth advocacy conference is an effective mechanism to bring together youth from each province using the partnership with the DMYA 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 neighborhoods levels, and UNDP for supporting the capacity development of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs through the planning of an assessment of capacity, and providing English lessons.
- The planning process needs to be very thorough and significant time should be invested.
- It is very important to establish unified management systems at the beginning, as there are a number of UN, Government and youth institutions involved. These systems include:
 - A unified financial reporting mechanism
 - A unified understanding of terminology
 - A common reporting and monitoring systems
- It is very important to take time to consult with the JNYP partners and all stakeholders to develop effective and acceptable HIV and AIDS materials to be used as a module in Afghanistan.

(2) Recommendations.

The main recommendations are in the area of project management, capacity development of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, and youth skills development with focus on employment opportunities. Project management should focus on resource mobilization and communication. It will be important to bring in the necessary funding to the Programme as well as promote the ‘voice of youth’ through a variety of mechanisms such as TV, radio, newsletters, brochures, posters and social marketing.

As part of the capacity development of government the following activities are recommended:

- A mapping and capacity assessment of existing youth institutions (youth committees, youth CSOs, student associations, etc.) in Afghanistan should be conducted in a minimum of 7 provinces to establish a data base.
- Youth issues should be advocated through enhanced promotion and visibility activities
- A comprehensive youth assessment on the situation of youth in Afghanistan with participation and capacity building of youth and Government officials should be undertaken.

- Regular consultations between youth groups/CSOs and Government (parliamentarians, ministerial official and President's representative) should be conducted as part of the establishment of interim Provincial Youth Councils in 7 provinces.
- Participatory youth policy discussions between Government departments, donors, international and local agencies and youth CSOs should be held to assist in the development of the National Strategy on Youth Employment and Youth Entrepreneurship. Another key activity should be to advocate for youth issues in the ANDS through youth consultations in the provinces.
- Capacity development initiatives should be undertaken for government staff and should include collaboration with the UNDP Civil Service Leadership Development Training Programme for partner ministry officials, the UNDP Coaches and Advisors Programme with the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, and provision of English classes for DMYA staff.
- Government officials should be able to participate in relevant youth events and exposure visits to establish networks between Afghanistan and neighboring countries.

Recommendations related to youth skills include the creation of provincial youth councils, the development of youth employment centers and activities, and the design of a youth volunteer corps.

VI. FINANCIAL STATUS AND UTILISATION

(1) Financial Status.

Table 1: Contribution Overview [January 2007 – December 2008]¹

Donor Name	Contribution		Balance
	Committed	Received	
SPAIN/UNFPA	450,000	450,000	0
USAID	2,156,262	1,700,000	456,262
US GOV	750,000	750,000	0
NORAD, SIDA	900,000	900,000	0
UNICEF	4,370,000	3,670,000	700,000
UNESCO	26,000	49,420	-23,420
UNV	72,000	32,000	40,000
UNDP Core	677,740	677,740	0
Total	9,402,002	8,229,160	1,172,842

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

Financial Status

DONOR NAME	RECEIVED	EXPENDITURES			PROJECT BALANCE	EARMARKED	AVAILABLE FUNDING (as of 1 Jan of the next year)	REMARKS
		Period Prior to the Reporting Year	Reporting Year Only	TOTAL				
SPAIN / UNFPA	450,000		478,994	478,994	-28,994			
USAID	1,700,000		1,195,908	1,195,908	504,092			
US GOV	750,000	750,000		750,000	0			
NORAD SIDA	900,000	900,000		900,000	0			
UNICEF	3,670,000		1,911,301	1,911,301	1,758,699			
UNV	32,000		0	0	32,000			
UNESCO	49,420	-	49,420	49,420	0		-	
UNDP	677,740		610,192	610,192	67,548			
TOTAL	8,229,160	1,650,000	4,245,815	5,895,815	2,333,345	-		

(2) **Financial Utilization.**

Table 3: Annual Expenditure by Activity [1 January – 31 December]

Component	BUDGET [2007]	EXPENDITURES 2007	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	1,501,571	560,922	940,649	37%
Component 2: Youth Skills Development	1,984,588	2,324,564	-339,976	117%
Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social –political processes	975,881	636,843	339,038	65%
Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps	375,500	-	375,500	0%
Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	661,412	723,486	-62,074	109%
Total	5,498,952	4,245,815	1,253,137	77%

UNFPA INFORMATION NOT INCLUDED IN TABLE 3 AND 4 BECAUSE IT WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

Table 4: Annual Expenditure by Donor [1 January – 31 December]

DONORS	ACTIVITY	BUDGET 2007	EXPENDITURES 2007	BALANCE	Delivery Rate
Spain	Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	123,500	87,116	36,384	71%
	Component 2: Youth Skills Development	159,000	169,341	- 10,341	107%
	Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes	10,000	13,319	- 3,319	133%
	Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps	-	-	-	0%
	Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	157,500	209,218	- 51,718	133%
	GMS%				-
Subtotal Spain		450,000	478,994	- 28,994	106%
USAID	Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	51,950	38,922	13,028	75%
	Component 2: Youth Skills Development	915,881	578,493	337,388	63%

	Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes	915,881	578,493	337,388	63%
	Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps	-	-	-	0
	Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	-	-	-	0
GMS %				-	
Subtotal USAID		1,883,712	1,195,908	687,804	63%
UNICEF	Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	1,070,000	337,804	732,196	31.57%
	Component 2: Youth Skills Development	880,000	1,503,466	- 623,466	170.85%
	Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes	50,000	45,031	4,969	90.06%
	Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps	360,500		360,500	0.00%
	Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	50,000	25,000	25,000	50.00%
GMS %				-	
Subtotal UNICEF		2,410,500	1,911,301	499,199	79.29%
UNDP	Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	196,121	87,080	109,041	44%
	Component 2: Youth Skills Development	27,707	33,844	- 6,137	122%
	Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes	-	-	-	0
	Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps	-	-	-	0
	Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	453,912	489,268	35,356	108%
GMS %				-	
Subtotal UNFP		677,740	610,192	67,548	90%
UNV	Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	45,000		45,000	
	Component 2: Youth Skills Development	-		-	
	Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes	-		-	
	Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps	15,000		15,000	
	Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	-		-	
GMS%				-	
Subtotal UNV		60,000	-	60,000	
UNESCO	Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	15,000	10,000	5,000	67%
	Component 2: Youth Skills Development	2,000	39,420	37,420	1971%
	Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes			-	

	Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps			-	
	Component 5: JP Coordination & Support			-	
GMS%				-	
Subtotal UNESCO		17,000	49,420	- 32,420	291%
				-	
TOTAL		5,498,952	4,245,815	1,253,137	77%

ANNEXES

- (1) **Annual Work Plan (or RRF)**