



United Nations Development Programme Afghanistan

Regional Initiative for Sustainable Economy (RISE) Programme

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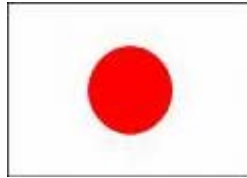
Annual Project Report

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RISE Donors



Japan

Acronyms

AMAC	Area Mine Action Centre
ANBP	Afghanistan New Beginning Programme
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
CDCs	Community Development Councils
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CPD	Country Programme Document
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
DoAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DoUD	Department of Urban Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of UN
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Organisation of Migration
IPs	Implementation Partners
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MoUD	Ministry of Urban Development
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PBGA	Peace Building Grant Aid
PDCs	Provincial Development Committees
RISE	Regional Initiative for Sustainable Economy
UDG	Urban Development Group
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNMACA	UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan
UXOs	Unexploded ordnances

Executive Summary

The RISE programme takes an integrated approach to tackling challenges in regional development and aims to contribute towards the goals identified in the country's development strategy, as well as to the goals set by UNDP as its assistance framework and action plan. In 2006, the RISE programme made significant progress in all four areas of activity in its three target provinces.

Activity 1: Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) capacity building for local government authorities (PDCs): In 2006, several M&E training workshops were held in the urban centres of the three target provinces: Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kandahar. In Jalalabad, some on-site M&E exercises were also conducted and the first set of M&E reports were produced. M&E workshops and on-site exercises will also be carried out in the three provinces by the end of the project period. The expected tangible output of this activity is the preparation of M&E reports by the participating government authorities (PDCs).

Activity 2: Employment generation through infrastructure support: Out of 39 initially planned sub-projects, 7 have been completed. As a result of the no-cost extension granted in November 2006, 10 more sub-projects were added in Nangarhar and Balkh Provinces, where the works advanced at a relatively faster pace than in Kandahar, which suffered from security constraints. As of the end of 2006, 67,910 labour days of employment were generated, with priority given to the most vulnerable social groups. In all provinces, efforts are being made to complete all the infrastructure works within the timeframe of the project.

Activity 3: Empowerment of vulnerable farmers: All the agricultural input distribution (such as wheat seed, fruit stone seed, basic farming equipments, livestock, etc. for 2,000 selected beneficiaries) and related training activities are progressing smoothly. As of end 2006, a total of 660 fruit tree nurseries were established, and over 624 green houses were installed in the three target provinces. Five fish ponds were established in Nangarhar and Balkh, and preparation for over 70 vineyard nurseries is now well underway in Kandahar. Efforts have been made to procure items locally in order to contribute to the local economy and to ensure cost-effectiveness. It has turned out that more rigorous quality control is needed than was earlier expected, and resulted in valuable lessons learnt.

Activity 4: Mine/UXO survey & clearance: In all the three target regions, the RISE project sites were surveyed and cleared. In Balkh and Nangarhar the contamination level of mines/UXOs (unexploded ordnance) turned out to be much less than was earlier expected, and the RISE demining teams have been deployed for humanitarian demining purposes to cover wider areas. In Kandahar, demining works continue for RISE and surrounding areas, but the security constraints have caused activities to be suspended in some districts. In 2006, the demining teams funded by the RISE project cleared a total of 413,485 square meters, and 256 anti-personnel mines, 1,527 UXOs and 269, 678 fragments were removed and destroyed. The no-cost extension of the project permitted the addition of a new activity, Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victim Assistance (VA), at the end of 2006.

Several constraints in project implementation, particularly those caused by the security deterioration in the south of the country, as well as changes within local government were experienced in 2006. Delay in administrative processes arising in main part because of the adjustment process or lack of capacity within the project team, also affected the implementation schedule. To improve the efficiency of the processes, workshops on finance and procurement issues were organised for better understanding and compliance of the processes

This report presents the progress on the four components of the RISE project towards the stated goals, while reviewing the project's performances, implementation strategy, and management effectiveness together with several implementation issues. The concluding section of the report examines lessons learnt for the future implementation of the project in 2007 and beyond.

1. Context

Funded by the Government of Japan within the funding framework of the Peace Building Grant Aid (PBGA), RISE is designed to contribute to an enabling environment for longer term sustainable economy through medium term capacity development for local authorities and immediate & short-term support in the form of employment generation, infrastructure upgrading, farmer empowerment and mine/UXO clearance. In selecting beneficiaries, RISE gives priority to the vulnerable groups including ex-combatants, returnees, IDPs, Afghans with Disabilities and women. The project also supports a number of government ministries/departments, in particular, the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MoAIL).

RISE supports the achievement of the following government priorities and target outcomes as specified in the strategic documents as below:

Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (i-ANDS):

Pillar I, Security: RISE supports this pillar of the ANDS through its mine/UXO survey & clearance component.

Pillar III, Economic and Social Development: RISE contributes through its infrastructure support & employment generation work, as well as agricultural support all targeting the vulnerable groups of society (including returnees & IDPs, ex-combatants, the disabled and women).

RISE also contributes to the achievement of the following 2006-2008 UN development frameworks:

UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF):

RISE contributes to Outcome 2 of UNDAF “By 2008, opportunities, skills, land and infrastructure that allow for active participation in a strengthened formal economy and private sector are improved, particularly for poor and vulnerable groups”. This is being achieved through the provision of employment, skills development opportunities, urban and rural infrastructure support and agricultural support, all intended to lay a basis for improved economic activity. The target beneficiaries include members of various vulnerable groups.

UNDP Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) 2006-2008:

Equally, RISE contributes to Output 8 of the CPAP: “Vulnerable groups (ex-combatants, returnees, disabled, women) empowered through improved access to social and economic opportunities”, by promoting the employment, skills development and agriculture productivity support especially targeting vulnerable groups. Some of the infrastructure works are selected also to specially benefit vulnerable members of the society, namely Disability Access Centre and Women’s Access Centres constructed in the urban centres of the three target provinces.

2. Performance Review

2.1 Progress Review

Overall progress towards the I-ANDS benchmarks:

Overall, RISE is making a significant contribution to the i-ANDS benchmarks, in particular, with respect to Sectors 3.1 (Infrastructure and Natural Resources), Sector 3.4 (Agriculture & Rural Development), Sector 3.5 (Social Protection). More specifically, RISE supports the following programmes under Pillar III:

- Programme 3.1.6: Urban Development
- Programme 3.4.1: Agriculture
- Programme 3.4.2: Rural Infrastructure
- Programme 3.5.2: Support to Vulnerable Women
- Programme 3.5.3: Support to Unemployed Youth & Demobilised Soldiers
- Programme 3.5.4: Support to the Disabled
- Programme 3.5.5: Refugees & Returnees

Overall Progress towards the UNDAF Outcome and CPAP outcome/outputs:

CPAP Indicator 8.1: Number of people receiving employment opportunities through skills training, agriculture support and small business starters support;

In 2006, through its planned 39 infrastructure projects in the three target provinces, 67,910 labour days were generated by RISE, with priority given to vulnerable groups. 25,000 labour days were provided for returnees/IDPs. 814 labour days were provided to Afghans with Disabilities. 139 labour days were provided to women, including 18 labour days in Kandahar where the realm of “women’s work” is highly constricted by prevailing cultural norms.

The labourers were also given opportunities to improve their vocational skills (mainly in construction) through formal training sessions or on-the-job training. Some of the trained labourers were “upgraded” in their fields, from unskilled positions to semi-skilled positions, or even to skilled labour positions which provide much higher wages. Some ex-combatants who had already acquired certain skills during the process of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) were promoted to supervisory roles during the course of their engagement in the RISE infrastructure work.

The Disability Access Centres and Women’s Access Centres under construction by the RISE programme will promote activities for mainstreaming socially vulnerable groups into the economic life of the community, providing them with increased livelihood opportunities.

FAO has been implementing agricultural projects to promote agricultural diversity and productivity by providing seeds, fertiliser and technical support to 2,000 selected vulnerable farmers. 12 small infrastructure sub-projects have been designed and undertaken by UDG in the same areas to optimise FAO’s intervention.

CPAP Indicator 8.5: Improved access to land, grazing areas, roads, and social infrastructures in areas cleared from mines

Culverts built by UDG are already contributing to better accessibility and sanitation of market areas and roads in the cities of Mazar, Jalalabad and Kandahar. UDG’s infrastructure projects have been selected from priority lists made by the municipality and Department of Urban Development

(DoUD) in each region in order to contribute to an enabling environment for economic activities. Thus, the infrastructure activities prioritize the construction of gravel roads, culverts, and drainage systems to promote agriculture-related business by increasing hygiene and accessibility to the city. Within the city, the creation of infrastructure supporting hygiene and accessibility of vegetable markets and butchers was a priority.

In order to improve accessibility and mobility in areas currently contaminated by mines and UXOs, in another component of the RISE project, UNMACA has been guiding and coordinating the work of local demining NGOs to conduct survey and clearance in and around the UDG and FAO project sites. Through this activity, the RISE project contributes to reducing the risk of landmine and UXO casualties, and creates a better environment for sustainable livelihoods. Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victim Assistance (VA) activities have also been conducted as part of the demining component, in order to raise awareness and proper knowledge of mines/UXOs, and to facilitate social and economic integration of mine/UXO victims within the target areas. It is estimated that in 2006, 5 to 10 % of all demining activities by local NGOs in Afghanistan were conducted through the demining component of the RISE project.

Capacity Development

UDG provided M&E trainings and exercises to members of relevant local authorities or PDCs in areas where local governance structures/associations are functional. These local authorities thus acquired M&E knowledge and skills which are expected to be useful for their future involvement in development projects, whether in coordination, implementation or management. In addition, UDG has ensured close consultation and collaboration with local government in actual project implementation which is expected to contribute to the increased understanding of project cycle management of these officials.

M&E lectures/workshops were conducted in Mazar and Jalalabad. In Mazar, 23 officials of relevant local departments completed the entire M&E course provided by UDG Mazar. In Jalalabad, M&E workshops were conducted not only for the PDC members but also for the Community Development Councils (CDCs) in the RISE target villages, in response to the direct request from the CDC members. Due to security reasons, several planned workshops had to be cancelled in Kandahar, but UDG Kandahar conducted a 2-day workshop in late July 2006. 41 people, including participants from other UN agencies joined the workshop.

Impact on direct and indirect beneficiaries

UDG infrastructure construction projects have generated job opportunities with chances of skill training to the local communities. The sub-projects under RISE generated job opportunities for targeted vulnerable groups, especially returnees / IDPs (who benefited from 37% of all labour days created in 2006) and ex-combatants.

In Jalalabad, one returnee was selected as an unskilled labourer in the *Training in Housing Construction* project and obtained on-the-job skills in plumbing and fitting water pumps. After completion of the project, he started his new career as a skilled labourer in UDG's public toilet construction project. His new job enabled him to purchase two sheep for his family of 8, and to send his children to school, something which he could not afford before.

In many cases, ex-combatants with construction skills acquired in DDR processes are employed as skilled labourers and later promoted to assume supervisory roles in the construction sites. Employment opportunities for ex-combatants as skilled labourers encourage their new career options, and their supervisory role in the project sites promotes their management skills and provides a sense of pride through career advancement.

UDG has encouraged employment of Afghans with Disabilities in its project implementation. In Disability Access Centre construction projects in Mazar and Jalalabad, UDG has employed as many

Afghans with Disabilities as possible and has worked to incorporate their views and feedback in the design and implementation of construction projects. UDG Jalalabad reported that one disabled participant has been employed as unskilled labour for concrete slab casting in drainage projects. He has a family of 13, and due to his job, can afford to send his children to school. He is gaining valuable skills in concrete curing and bar bending that will help him in locating jobs more easily in the future. The rates of Afghans with Disabilities and women participating in labour opportunities generated by UDG infrastructure projects have been comparatively low due to the physical labour and out-of-doors nature of the work, but this rate of participation for both groups is expected to increase when construction of the three Disability Access Centres and two Women's Access Centres is completed in 2007. The local governments, especially the local DoUD, are also direct beneficiaries as well as monitoring partners for all the infrastructure projects. Additionally, the general users of the facilities constructed or upgraded by UDG in both the urban and rural areas can also be considered as direct beneficiaries.

About 20 people from PDCs and CDCs in each region have benefited from UDG M&E capacity building workshops, where they gained an understanding of basic M&E concept. UDG focused on providing lectures and organizing workshops during the year, and the positive impact of the M&E training activities shows in the initiatives taken by local government already. In Mazar, for instance, some members of the PDC voluntarily visited UDG's drainage project and market project after attending an M&E workshop that addressed questions and technical issues of projects raised by the PDC members. In Jalalabad, M&E lectures for PDC and CDCs resulted in increased attention to monitoring of development projects, and the CDC in Amberkhana village and the PDC in Jalalabad city produced the first monitoring reports on UDG projects with support from the UDG Jalalabad office.

It is still early to evaluate the impact of infrastructure that UDG has been constructing, but interviews revealed that the drainage construction is already having a positive impact on the businesses of local shopkeepers in Jalalabad. Those shop-owners who have shops near UDG covered drainage facilities expressed appreciation for the cleaner and healthier environment around their businesses, and reported improved rate and quality of business transactions.

Four village communities in Balkh province expressed their appreciation for UDG-rehabilitated irrigation channels and roads with culverts, and they informed UDG that the construction and rehabilitation activities will have two important effects: 1) the rehabilitated irrigation channels will decrease water disputes between villages significantly, and 2) the roads with culverts will permit vehicles to enter villages even in rainy seasons which will facilitate the transport of their agricultural products to markets year-round. Villagers in those 4 villages previously had to use donkeys to convey their products from their villages to the main road, and reload the products to vehicles.

The direct beneficiaries of the FAO component of the programme are the 2,000 farmers who have been selected to receive the agricultural packages through FAO beneficiary selection criteria. 5 beneficiaries established their fish ponds by raising 500 fingerlings in each fish pond. As of end 2006, a total of 660 fruit tree nurseries were established, 624 green houses have been installed in the three target provinces, and technical training has been provided to the farmers.

UNMACA has been conducting humanitarian demining across a large area within the target regions. The direct beneficiaries include those working in the project sites (project staff, labourers and farmers) but there are also a countless number of indirect beneficiaries who enjoy the increased safety in their daily activities.

2.2 Implementation strategy review

Participatory/consultative processes

The RISE programme has been conducted with the close participation, consultation and collaboration with the government counterparts (especially MoUD and MoAIL and their regional departments), the donor (the Government of Japan), as well as partner UN agencies (FAO and UNMACA). The overall participatory/consultative process of this programme has been quite successful in 2006, and it formed the basis of the smooth implementation of various activities as well as effective resolution of encountered problems.

RISE has two major channels of consultation and participation with government with regards to implementation and decision making. First, the Steering Committee meetings of the Peace Building Grant Aid of the Japanese government provide a forum for GoA-UN-GoJ cooperation to make decisions on strategic direction and implementation issues; and second; the selection process for infrastructure and agriculture projects connects RISE to the local governance structures in the three target provinces.

Thus far, five Steering Committee (SC) meetings of PBGA (covering the RISE programme), were organised on a quarterly basis since August 2005, with participation of representatives from the Embassy of Japan, Afghan government counterparts from the MoUD, MoAIL, MRRD, the National Area Based Development Programme which is also covered by the PBGA, as well as the UN implementation agencies (UNDP, FAO and UNMACA). The SC meetings are normally co-chaired by the Embassy of Japan and UNDP as the lead agency of the RISE programme. Suggestions and recommendations generated from the SC meetings are recorded in minutes and followed up accordingly.

UDG and FAO have regular contact with their respective counterpart ministries, MoUD and MoAIL. Both infrastructure sub-projects and agricultural sub-projects were selected and designed in close consultation with these government counterparts, both at the central and regional level.

UNMACA has been working on behalf of the Afghan government, and conducted general surveys with local government and communities to collect history of mine incidents and information of mine/UXO contaminated areas. According to the information from the result of the survey, UNMACA finds high-impacted areas of mine/UXOs and decides the priority area for humanitarian demining.

Quality of partnerships

The RISE programme has been operating on multiple streams of partnership which all supported the effective implementation of the activities in 2006. Through partnership with RISE implementation partner agencies FAO and UNMACA, RISE has been implemented to achieve multi-sectoral, region-wide and optimum impact with an integrated development approach. Activities of all the three agencies are designed to be directly linked with each other for maximum impact towards regional economic development. For instance, some of UDG's infrastructure projects were selected in such a way to augment the impact of FAO's agricultural intervention, by directly supporting farming activities with irrigation channels, or upgrading urban market areas and road culverts for better accessibility to the market to indirectly support marketing potentials, better circulation of agricultural products and cash in the targeted regions. UNMACA's co-ordination in demining activities is vital not only to support the smooth and safe implementation of all RISE activities, but also in order to increase access of local communities to arable land and improve market accessibility by increasing rural access to urban centres. It therefore supports the overall expected impact of the UNDP and FAO activities on regional economic development.

To facilitate the partnerships among three implementation agencies, co-ordination meetings (Technical Working Group meetings) are held on a monthly basis in Kabul and in the provinces, in

order to keep all the partners abreast of risks, issues, progress, items for action and to ensure that maximum coordination is maintained.

At the regional level, UDG has been closely working with the local authorities, not least with DoUD. While the selection and design of infrastructure projects as well as contingent issues of land allocation are discussed and decided with the relevant municipalities and ministry departments (such as Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled for the Disability Access Centres, and the Department of Women's Affairs for Women's Access Centres), all infrastructure designs are submitted to MoUD for its approval before commencement of construction works. The DUD provides monitors for each project and checks the quality of work in all the targeted regions and deal with technical challenges in construction processes in the field together.

UDG regional offices have paid attention to the beneficiaries who obtain job opportunities in their project implementation and been coordinating with the offices of the Afghanistan's New Beginning Programme (ANBP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Organisation of Migration (IOM) for labour referrals and to promote the employment of ex-combatants, returnees and IDPs in UDG's projects as much as possible.

FAO has been closely working with the Extension Department of MoAIL in the process of selecting beneficiaries and providing technical training to Implementation Partners (IPs), which in turn directly train the RISE beneficiary farmers.

National Ownership

UDG's infrastructure projects in targeted cities (Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kandahar) were selected through prioritised requests from municipalities and in consultation with DoUD/MoUD and governors offices. Letters of agreement are signed between UDG and municipality, DUD, and governor, stating that the local government is the ultimate owner of the infrastructure constructed under RISE, and is responsible for necessary maintenance after official handover from UNDP. DUD monitors who check the quality of work during construction are expected to be technical focal points for maintenance.

UDG's activity on M&E capacity building for local authorities is intended to increase the sense of government ownership of development projects, and also to actually ensure the ownership in the longer term.

In FAO targeted villages, villagers have contributed a part of their daily labour and materials to UDG infrastructure projects. Extension works of Department of Agriculture and Irrigation (DoAIL) were involved in the beneficiary selection process and have been monitoring FAO's projects.

Sustainability

As stated above, the M&E training for the relevant local authorities is to ensure the ultimate government ownership of, and thus the sustainability of development projects, including RISE itself.

Also proper handover of the urban infrastructure projects to the local authorities with formal agreement on the usage and maintenance will ensure the sustainability of the project impact.

As for the agricultural component of the RISE programme, FAO has been working with the government extension workers of DoAIL as well as local IPs including appropriate knowledge transfer / capacity building, in order to ensure that the agricultural support and activities initiated by FAO under RISE will continue well after the end of the project period.

2.3 Management effectiveness review

Quality of monitoring

The overall monitoring of the RISE programme by the donor and government counterparts is ensured through the regular Steering Committee meetings. Progress on each activity is reported and feedback from the SC is recorded for proper follow up. Apart from the SC mechanism, regular reports are sent to the donor and the government counterparts in the form of quarterly reports from UNDP. Whenever updates are requested officially or unofficially by the donor or the ministries, appropriate information is provided.

Monitoring of each activity by the RISE partner agencies is done in various forms. Monitoring missions have been conducted from Kabul to the regions a number of times in 2006, either by individual agency or jointly with the partner agencies, and at times involving donor representatives. For instance, a joint monitoring mission with first and second secretaries of the Embassy of Japan, relevant ministry departments together with FAO and UNMACA was organized in Mazar (July 2006) and Jalalabad (June 2006).

Project progress is also monitored through regular reporting from the regions. UDG Kabul office receives weekly reports from all the three regional offices. FAO and UNMACA follow their own internal reporting and monitoring mechanisms to monitor the project within the respective agencies, and report to UNDP either at the Technical Working Group meetings, Steering Committee meetings or in the form of quarterly reports on a regular basis.

As a whole, the monitoring mechanism of the RISE programme has functioned well in 2006. In 2007, however, as the all the project activities are expected to reach significant progress milestones on many fronts, and be completed in 2007, more rigorous monitoring and management will be required.

Timely delivery of outputs

In 2006 the project implementation was delayed due to various factors, but most significantly due to the security conditions in the south of Afghanistan. The RISE partner agencies were compelled to change target districts twice at the beginning of the implementation phase as a consequence of the security deterioration in Kandahar. This led to the delay in the beneficiary selection processes, especially with regards to the FAO-implemented agricultural projects. Due to the nature of the agricultural projects which depend on the cycle of seasons, even the few months of delay at the beginning of the implementation phase resulted in carry over of certain activities to the next agricultural season. As some of UDG's infrastructure projects were to be implemented in FAO's selected target villages, the delay in FAO projects in turn affected UDG project implementation as well.

The RISE partner agencies made significant efforts to make up for the delay. However, as a result of the mid-term assessment conducted in September / October 2006, including the review of the expenditures, technical and financial projection, UNDP, FAO and UNMACA jointly concluded that all the project activities could not be completed and the funds could not be fully spent by the end of the timeframe defined in the project document, which was until January 2006.

Therefore, the RISE partner agencies, with the endorsement of the Steering Committee, requested the Government of Japan for a five-month no-cost extension of RISE. Approval from the donor was granted in November 2006, and the project period was extended until end June 2007.

Resource Allocation

Out of the total budget USD 12,712,050, USD 8,500,125 (66.87%) is budgeted for development activities (including international development consultants) and the rest USD 4,211,925 (33.13%) is

reserved for operational costs including regular (local) staff salary and office running costs. (Figures according to the latest budget revision approved by the Government of Japan in November 2006)

Cost-effective use of inputs

Despite the initial delays as described above, the project made a substantial progress in 2006, and it is expected to complete activities with full use of the available resources in 2007, thanks to the no-cost extension granted by the donor. Also thanks to the budget revision approved along with the no-cost extension, the programme has achieved higher cost-effectiveness than initially estimated.

As a result of the mid-term assessment carried out in autumn 2006, it was confirmed that the UNMACA –implemented activities would require a smaller budget than initially planned as in the Project Document. This was mainly due to the fact that: (1) the earlier budgeting had been done with the expectation of engaging international demining companies, while after further consultation with UNDP, it was agreed to engage local demining NGOs instead; and (2) as a result of the survey conducted immediately the identification/ confirmation of RISE project target districts, it became clear that mine/UXO risks were much lower than initially expected at the RISE project sites. These reasons, combined with the initial delay, resulted in a surplus of USD 1,818,952 (including UNDP's General Management Service costs) in the UNMACA component of the RISE budget. Therefore, at the same time as the no-cost extension was proposed, the RISE partner agencies proposed a budget revision to: (1) reallocate a portion of the surplus funds from UNMACA to the other two implementing partners, UDG and FAO in order to increase the number of infrastructure and agricultural sub-projects to achieve a greater impact for a greater number of beneficiaries; (2) introduce a new activity component under UNMACA, namely the Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victim Assistance (VA) component; and (3) include a budget for visibility and programme evaluation. This budget and activity revision was also approved by the Government of Japan as well as the Steering Committee, thus ensuring further cost-effectiveness of the programme as a whole.

3. Project Results Summary

Under the RISE programme, four sectors of development activities have been implemented with an integrated approach towards longer-term regional economic development, while offering short-term, immediate assistance to the most vulnerable groups of society. Linkages between different activities have been created by harmonization between UDG infrastructure projects and FAO's agriculture projects, with UNMACA's mine clearance activity playing a vital role in facilitating the implementation of the activities undertaken by these two agencies. The programme as a whole has thus worked to prepare a basis for a marketing cycle of agricultural products and cash flow between urban and rural areas in the targeted provinces. The sustainability of results achieved will be supported by UDG's M&E training for local government which is designed to ensure ownership and sustainability of development projects in the target areas, including but not limited to those currently on-going under RISE.

Results towards expected output 1: Government authorities possess basic understanding and skills in project monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

The capacity of local government to execute M&E is essential to ensure successful and sustainable implementation of development projects, and to increase government ownership of the projects.

UDG conducted M&E trainings and exercises for Joint Monitoring Teams (JMT) which included local government officials in the three targeted regions. Once the Provincial Development Committees (PDCs) were fully established with the mandate to co-ordinate all development activities in respective provinces, members of the JMT became core members of PDC.

In 2006, an M&E handbook was developed by the UDG regional managers, which was used as a basis to standardize lectures and workshops about the basic concepts of M&E and project cycle management. In 2007, it is expected that the trained JMT or PDC members will apply their acquired knowledge and skills to actually conduct M&E of UDG projects as well as other development activities. A tangible expected output of this activity is M&E reports on UDG's RISE projects, to be produced by JMT or PDC members with consultation of UDG regional offices by the end of the project period.

M&E workshops were co-ordinated with other UN agencies and their officers also participated. About 40 people joined the workshops in each region, and M&E certificates were provided to those who participated in all the workshops conducted by UDG. Although UDG has been able to conduct only one workshop in **Kandahar** due to security constraints, local government of Kandahar has been showing great interest in such M&E training. In **Mazar**, local government has demonstrated a particularly strong commitment to learn the basics of M&E. Some of the PDC members even voluntarily visited some of UDG projects in Mazar city and reported the result to PDC. In **Jalalabad**, on the other hand, PDC members did not demonstrate a strong commitment to receive M&E training, which made it difficult for UDG to conduct M&E workshops for them, though UDG still keeps communicating with the PDC chairperson on this matter. In lieu of the PDC training, therefore, to date several workshops have been conducted for the Community Development Councils (CDCs) in three FAO target villages upon CDCs' strong request. One PDC group and another CDC in rural area of Nangarhar have already conducted an actual on-site M&E exercise with UDG projects and issued M&E reports.

In 2007, UDG is planning to conduct M&E exercises by physically visiting UDG projects. In this exercise, PDC members are expected to utilize their M&E knowledge, assess the progress and achievements of UDG projects, and write their M&E reports based on their findings. As stated above), they are expected to produce M&E reports and present them at the last Steering Committee meeting of the project (expected in summer 2007).

Results towards the expected output 2: *Employment opportunities broadened through skill development and generated through implementation of rehabilitation of infrastructure related to economic development*

This component of the programme aims to create much needed job opportunities in coordination with ANBP and UNHCR, and promote sustainable livelihood and economic development for villages in Balkh, Nangahar and Kandahar, supported by improved urban infrastructure.

As of end 2006, 67,910 labour days were generated in 39 UDG infrastructure projects under the RISE programme. About 45% of them were provided to targeted socially-vulnerable group (returnees, IDPs, Afghans with Disabilities and women) and ex-combatants (for more details, please see Annex 1).

Mazar, Balkh Province:

The Shadiyan Road drainage and footpath has been completed in Mazar. That road is one of the main roads leading to Haaraf Ali's Shrine in the centre of the city, and it has huge potential to be developed as a backbone of regional economic activities in the city. This road is currently under rehabilitation by a Tajik company, and UDG's project was carried out in coordination with the company to increase accessibility within the city to the new market area as well as to the Disability Access Centre which is also being constructed by UDG under RISE. The Shadiyan Road and new market projects are linked to FAO's agriculture project and expected to promote the marketing of the diversified and increased amount of agricultural products in Mazar city. Small infrastructure projects in FAO targeted villages including irrigation channels, feeder graveling roads and culverts made about 50% progress in 2006, with strong commitment, daily labour and even some construction materials contribution from the beneficiary communities themselves.

Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province:

In Jalalabad, training on house construction was provided to trainees who were returnees, ex-combatants and women. According to the impact assessment of the training project some of the trainees were able to find a job due to the masonry skills they obtained through participating in the UDG training, and are currently working for other construction activities in Jalalabad city.

Four out of eight drainage channels beside busy roads in Jalalabad city were completed for better storm water management and more space for traffic and trading, while the rest of the drainage channels are also about to be completed in early 2007. Jalalabad city used to have no or improper drainages and heavy rainfall overflows on the surface of main roads and disturbs economic activities.

UDG closely consulted with the municipality and DoUD on the implementation of the drainage channel project and received great appreciation from these government counterparts, as well as local shopkeepers for the quality of the drainage channels constructed. The municipality is now constructing footpaths alongside the drainage structures by UDG. The drainage channels are covered with concrete slabs which also create more space for traffic and parking, and also contributes to the creation of a cleaner and more hygienic environment for roadside shopkeepers and pedestrians.

Construction of the Disability Access Centre has just been started due to the delay in identification of the location. Construction of the butcher's market is under preparation, and its design has just been completed for submission to DoUD at the time of writing. As for the slaughter house project, UDG contracted a specialised company for designing.

Four UDG projects for optimising FAO activities in villages in Nangarhar made a good progress except one change of target villages. One out of four projects was shifted to a different site from where it had been planned originally, in order to avoid duplication with a similar project had been under process by a local NGO, and therefore started a little late compared to others. All the other projects in the FAO villages have been well under way.

Kandahar, Kandahar Province:

Construction of 15 drainage channels in Kandahar city was completed, and rehabilitation of a main canal and construction of Women’s Access Centre are in progress. The UDG culverts and the main canal project are expected to remedy problems of flash flood water experienced by the city in the last 2 years. Construction of the Women’s Access Centre was requested by the Department of Women’s Affairs, especially by the former head of the Department, Ama Jan, who was assassinated in September 2006. The slaughter house project, Disability Access Centre and three projects in the FAO target villages are located outside the UN security box, and UDG has had difficulties in implementing them due to the UN security regulations. Although UDG national staff in Kandahar have been trying to implement the slaughter house and the Disability Access Centre directly, the IPs have been engaged with the projects in the FAO villages with close monitoring conducted by staff of the DoAIL, Department of Electricity, and local shuras.

For an overview of all infrastructure projects conducted in three targeted regions, please refer to Annex 2.

Results towards the expected output 3: *Farmers will be empowered to improve the diversity and productivity of their agricultural activities in the regions.*

Agriculture is the main industry supporting the Afghan economy. However, a lack of diversity in agricultural products and low productivity have kept Afghan economy stagnant and rendered the Afghans dependent on import of agricultural products from neighbouring countries. Therefore, improving the diversity of agricultural products and increasing agricultural productivity is a key to the development of the country. Under the RISE programme, FAO distributes basic packages (basic agricultural tools, wheat and fertilizer) and optional packages (stone fruit tree seeds, intensive vegetable production, fishery, grape production and live stock production) together with technical training and supervision for beneficiaries.

Beneficiary selection of FAO’s agriculture projects was hampered by the security situation in Kandahar, and targeted districts had to be revised. Accordingly, a number of the agricultural packages were changed in order to adjust to the needs of beneficiaries in the new target districts as recommended by DoAIL in Kandahar. The selection process was completed in July 2006 in collaboration with local community shuras, local district governments and extension workers of DoAIL.

The number of targeted villages and optional packages in each Province

Province	No. of target villages		FTN	IVP	VYP	FPP	LSP	Total
Nangarhar	41		303	286	0	5	276	870
Balkh	27		212	223	0	0	195	630
Kandahar	16		165	134	72	0	129	500
Total	84		680	643	72	5	600	2,000

- FTN Fruit tree nursery production kits
- IVP Intensive vegetable production kits
- VYP Vineyard production kits
- FPP Fishery pond production kits
- LSP Livestock production kits

For details of basic and optional packages, please see Annex 3.

Over 90% of items purchased for the packages were procured locally, thus contributing to local economy.

Despite the initial delay in implementation, by end 2006 total 660 fruit nurseries in three provinces were established (Balkh 207, Nangarhar 303, Kandahar 150), total 624 greenhouses were distributed and installed (Balkh 223, Nangarhar 286, Kandahar 115), and five fishery ponds were established in Balkh and Nangarhar provinces as a part of the optional packages. In Balkh, the assessment in autumn 2006 revealed that some 70 % of the fruit nurseries showed good enough growth to start the budding phase. In Nangarhar, a total of 2,500 fingerlings were released in the five ponds in August 2006, with supervision of FAO technical staff, the IP and DoAIL extension workers.

Technical training on the use of the provided agricultural packages is one of the components of the FAO activity area, which is intended to build the beneficiaries' capacity to effectively continue farming activities well after the completion of the programme. A number of training sessions were conducted for extension workers of MoAIL and DoAIL together with IPs both in Kabul and the target provinces, on techniques and skills such as post-harvest container (silo) management, budding, grafting and pruning, and fruit tree nursery / intensive vegetable production.

Results towards the expected output 4: *Arable land will be surveyed and cleared of mines and UXO in the project target regions*

Landmines and UXOs have been a great threat to the people of Afghanistan for a long time, and their continuing existence hampers efficient and effective land use and development, let alone free movement of the people. Through this component under RISE, UNMACA has surveyed the project sites to minimise the mine/UXO risks and contribute to increasing economic activities, which is one of the programme's main support areas.

In 2006, UNMACA coordinated activities of local demining NGOs and completed survey of 68 FAO targeted villages and 39 UDG project sites. The survey result revealed that there were very insignificant demining requirements at the project sites of FAO and UDG and their surrounding areas in Balkh and Nangarhar provinces. Therefore, the RISE-funded demining teams have been deployed to accommodate wider needs of humanitarian demining in the same regions, under the co-ordination of the Area Mine Action Centre (AMAC) in the respective regions and under supervision of UNMACA. In Kandahar, however, demining activities are under way for the UDG and FAO project sites under severe security conditions.

In 2006, the demining teams funded by the RISE project cleared 413,485 square meters in total. 256 anti-personnel mines, 1,527 UXOs and 269, 678 fragments were removed and destroyed. As a result of no-cost extension, a new activity of Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victim Assistance (VA) was added to this component at the end of 2006.

4. Implementation Issues

Security constraints

In Afghanistan, the security situation remains an issue of serious concern. During the course of RISE implementation, security risks had a serious impact, especially in Kandahar. This issue has been reported to Steering Committee meetings and the security deterioration in the south necessitated the programme to shift target districts twice as a mitigation measure. The security situation across the country does not allow easy monitoring of sub-projects, especially for international staff members.

In Kandahar, as a mitigation measure to counteract slow progress in implementation and monitoring caused by restrictions on the movements, UNDP decided to engage IPs to implement the projects in the FAO targeted villages while undertaking joint monitoring with UN-Habitat, DoAIL, Department of Electricity and community shuras. In this way, daily monitoring will be conducted by shuras and IPs, and weekly monitoring visits will be made by the relevant Departments according to a defined monitoring format provided by UDG.

Delay in design approval and change of local government officials

Obtaining approval on infrastructure design from MoUD and DoUD was time-consuming exercise. In addition, UDG experienced a challenge of personnel change within local government which necessitated the partnership building from the beginning and delayed the approval processes as well.

In Jalalabad, mayors have changed a few times in 2006 and it took additional time to raise awareness of the programme and establish new working relationship with the new mayors, before being able to request the approval of the mayors on project designs. The head of DoUD also changed once in Nangarhar. In Mazar, the previous head of DoUD was reluctant to take the responsibility of approving project designs, and requested UDG to obtain approval from MoUD in Kabul even when it was not necessary as MoUD rules. After the arrival of the new head of DoUD this problem was resolved.

To counter the risks associated with personnel turnover within the local governing institutions, the UDG Regional Managers call meetings and obtain signed letters of agreement on the projects every time a new person in-charge arrives. UDG Kabul also addresses this risk by holding frequent meetings with MoUD, which oversees the DoUDs' involvement in the RISE programme from the centre.

Weak commitment on M&E training in local government

In Jalalabad, lack of commitment of the local government on M&E training led to difficulty in conducting M&E capacity building activities. Some regular meetings were cancelled due to the lack of interest on the side of the PDC members.

UDG Jalalabad has been trying to alleviate this situation by dividing the PDC members into small groups of interested members and conducting workshops for such groups, rather than aiming at holding a unified training session for the entire PDC.

HR turnovers within the project team

In 2006 both UDG and UNMACA experienced some changes in the RISE-related staffing at the project management level. In reality, the high turnover rate of international staff is a generic problem of the UN community in Afghanistan. This, especially in the case of UNDP-UDG, presented

a challenge in terms of team oversight and staff morale. However, backstopping and increased authority of some staff members, and following the project management structure prescribed in UNDP's Results Based Management Guide, UNDP has been coping with this challenge quite well.

The RISE implementation agencies have tried their best to alleviate the various challenges faced during the course of implementation. Among all, the no-cost extension and major budget revision approved by the Government of Japan has helped most in terms of allowing more time and flexibility to counter the problems caused by the unexpected or inevitable challenges.

5. Lessons Learnt and Next Steps

Implementation modality for infrastructure construction

The RISE programme was initially designed in 2005. The main structure of the infrastructure and employment generation component was largely inherited from UNDP's Recovery and Employment of Afghanistan (REAP) programme, which had been carried out in the same target provinces as RISE (apart from Kabul) and completed with success by the former entity of the UNDP Urban Development Group in 2002-2004. The value of the intervention for immediate impact (especially targeting vulnerable groups) remains valuable in today's Afghanistan, and UDG possesses the needed expertise for this type of intervention. However, in the course of the RISE implementation since early 2006 it was felt that due to the transition of overall development focus within Afghanistan from immediate recovery to longer-term sustainable development, UNDP's role in urban development should more focus on the policy and strategic intervention in the urban sector rather than engaging in direct implementation of infrastructure projects.

Involvement of private companies or local NGOs as contractors (IPs) with management / oversight of UNDP should be encouraged in the future programmes / projects after RISE, as it would support local economy as well as their capacity development. In an ideal course, such oversight responsibilities should be gradually shifted to the local government, upon appropriate capacity development. With appropriate pro-poor regional policy and strategy, the benefit of improved local economy would reach the most vulnerable groups of society, which the RISE programme also targets with priority.

Value of joint initiative

The multi-sectoral joint activities of RISE involving UNDP, FAO and UNMACA have proved to be highly meaningful in terms of achieving an integrated development initiative with geographically as well as thematically broader perspective. This type of joint programme allows identification of effective projects through multi-agency and multi-ministerial consultation, information sharing on different development priorities, and helps avoid working with wrong assumptions. Properly implemented with good coordination, it would also help achieve good synergy effects and high cost-effectiveness eventually.

Duration of the implementation period

The programme's original duration of one year was in retrospect much too short for a programme which includes a substantial agricultural component dependent on the seasonality of certain activities. This is particularly true in Afghanistan, where security constraints often affect the timing of the implementation as well as selection of the target sites, as has been the case with RISE so far. In order to ensure solid achievements combined with monitoring, this type of programme / project should be designed with a longer time span.

6. Financial Status and Utilisation

Financial Status

Table 1: Contribution Overview [start date of the project – end date of project]

Donor	Contributions		Contribution Balance
	Committed	Received	
Government of Japan	12,712,050	12,712,050	-
Total	12,712,050	12,712,050	0

Table 2: Funding Status (as of the end of 2006)

Donor	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				
Government of Japan	12,712,050	-	5,807,484	5,807,484	6,904,566	-	6,904,566	
Total	12,712,050	0	5,807,484	5,807,484	6,904,566	0	6,904,566	

Financial Utilisation

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

Activity	Budget (Year)	Expenditures	Balance	Delivery Rate
ACTIVITY 1 (M&E capacity building)	568,594.00	525,396.18	43,197.82	92.40%
ACTIVITY 2 (Employment through infrastructure construction)	3,566,857.00	2,749,650.00	817,207.00	77.09%
ACTIVITY 3 (Farmer empowerment)*	1,993,226.00	949,002.25	1,044,223.75	47.61%
ACTIVITY 4 (Mine clearance)*	1,908,653.00	1,452,997.00	455,656.00	76.13%
UNDP GMS	401,867.00	130,438.35	271,428.65	32.46%
Total	8,439,197.00	5,807,483.78	2,631,713.22	68.82%

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

Donors	Activity	Budget (Year)	Expenditures	Balance	Delivery Rate	Remarks
Government of Japan	ACTIVITY 1 (M&E capacity building)	568,594.00	525,396.18	43,197.82	92.40%	
	ACTIVITY 2 (Employment thru infra)	3,566,857.00	2,749,650.00	817,207.00	77.09%	
	ACTIVITY 3 (Farmer empowerment)	1,993,226.00	949,002.25	1,044,223.75	47.61%	* See below.
	ACTIVITY 4 (Mine clearance)	1,908,653.00	1,452,997.00	455,656.00	76.13%	* See below.
	GMS	401,867.00	130,438.35	271,428.65	32.46%	
	Sub Total (Japan)	8,439,197.00	5,807,483.78	2,631,713.22	68.82%	
Total		8,439,197.00	5,807,483.78	2,631,713.22	68.82%	

* Note: Please note that all annual figures above are subject to later adjustment . The figures of Activity 3 (FAO) and Activity 4 (UNMACA) are up to the third quarter of 2006, and are **uncertified**. The updated annual financial report is awaited from FAO and UNOPS (contracted on behalf of UNMACA).

Annexes

List of Annexes

Annex 1	Job opportunity : Labour days in RISE Programme in 2006
Annex 2	List of UDG projects and their progress
Annex 3	FAO basic and optional packages
Annex 4	Pictures of UDG project sites

Annex 1: Job opportunity: Labour days in projects in RISE Programme in 2006

Category of laborers from each social group

Region	Ex-combatants	%	Returnees / IDPs	%	Afghans with Disabilities	%	Women	%	Others	%	Total
Balkh	2,586	20.34%	279	2.19%	169	1.33%	5	0.04%	9,677	76.10%	12,716
Nangarhar	1,143	3.13%	23,009	62.91%	627	1.71%	96	0.26%	11,698	31.99%	36,573
Kandahar	1,020	5.48%	1,810	9.72%	18	0.10%	38	0.20%	15,735	84.50%	18,621
Total	4,749	6.99%	25,098	36.96%	814	1.20%	139	0.20%	37,110	54.65%	67,910

* One labour day = opportunity for one person to obtain a job for a day

67,910 labour days

Annex 2: List of UDG projects and their progress

Sub-projects	Brief description	Start/End	Remarks
UDG Mazar			
M&E training and exercise	Lectures and workshop were completed. Exercises are planned for 2007	April 06 /	Ongoing
MZ 01: Shadiyan road drainage and footpath: 2km	This road is one of main roads lead to famous blue mosque.	28 May 06 / 23 Nov 06	Completed
MZ 02: Market	It is connected to Shadiyan road, next to a stadium. 4 hangers are under construction.	13 Sep 06 /	76%
MZ 03: 3 Public toilets	One of three location was requested to be changed by Municipality recently	19 Nov 06 /	Preparation
MZ 04: Disability Access Centre	It is located close to Shadiyan road.	17 Oct 06 /	32%
MZ 05: Women's Access Centre	For Department of Women's Affairs with request from the Governor	6 Nov 06 /	33%
MZ 06: Babayadgar village	2 km feeder gravelling road to Mazar city and 5 culverts	13 Nov 06 /	88%
MZ 07: Ulmarab Uzbekia village	300 m feeder gravelling road, irrigation channel, 3 culverts and local latrine	13 Nov 06 /	46%
MZ 08: Sharak Turkmania village	40 culverts	13 Nov 06 /	58%
MZ 09: Langhana village	Rehabilitation of irrigation channel and 3 culverts	21 Nov 06 /	59%
UDG Jalalabad			
M&E training and exercise	Trainings are temporary suspended due to change in local government	April 06 /	Ongoing
JAL 01: Drainage 1: 300 m	From Chawki Mastofiat to Haji Wakil Market	11 June 06 /	95%
JAL 02: Drainage 2: 695 m	From Chawki Zargari to Haji Nizam Markit	30 April 06 /	98%
JAL 03: Drainage 3: 100 m	From Chawki Mokhabirat to Chaplaq Froshi street	26 April 06 / 19 Nov 06	Completed
JAL 04: Drainage 4: 220 m	From Chawki Mokhabirat to TV Station	15 May 06 / 19 Nov 06	Completed
JAL 05: Drainage 5: 880 m	From Chawki Mokhabirat to Talashi Chawk	11 Jul 06 / 26 Dec 06	Completed
JAL 06: Drainage 6: 600 m	From Chawk-e-Talashy To Millie Bus Station	20 Jun 06 /	98%
JAL 07: Drainage 7: 280 m	From Millie Bus Station to Former Hammam	19 Jun 06 / 28 Dec	Completed

		06	
JAL 08: Public toilet	It is located in Daram Sal	12 Jul 06 /	78%
JAL 09: Public toilet	It is located in old Torkham bus station	19 Jul 06 /	70%
JAL 10: Training in house construction	Rehabilitation of a house burned in riot, including training of labourers	24 April 06 / 13 Jul 06	Completed
JAL 11: Miran village	Intake and spill way of irrigation channel construction	10 Jun 06 /	99%
JAL 12 a and b: Bilayari/Mast and Zerjoe village	Rehabilitation of 7 km feeder gravelling road and culvert construction	15 Dec 06 /	0.50%
JAL 13: Charbagh village	Rehabilitation of main irrigation channel and 4 culverts	25 Jul 06 /	96%
JAL 14: Amberkhana village	Cleaning Karez	26 Nov 06 /	62%
JAL 15: Disability Access Centre	Located inside the Social Affairs and Martyr and Disabled departments compound	26 Nov 06 /	4%
JAL 16: Butcher's market	Municipality and butchers' union request us for constructing shops for 5 district of Jalalabad city. The design was just developed in consultation with butchers' union		Preparation
JAL 17: Slaughter house	It will be located near to New Kabul Bus-Station, beyond Joyi 7. UDG is requesting Ministry to introduce construction companies to design the slaughter house.		Preparation
JAL 18: Drainage 8: 250 m	This is a expansion of other 7 drainages to adjust the length of them	20 Jun 06 /	95%
UDG Kandahar			
M&E training and exercise	Several workshops were cancelled due to security reasons. The motivation of local government to study M&E is high, so UDG will try to organise workshop near future.	Jul 06 /	Ongoing
KDH 01: Main canal: 1 km	It is one of main canals in Kandahar city.	29 Jun 06 /	63%
KDH 02: Women's Access Centre	2-story building for Department of Women's Affairs	29 Jun 06 /	38%
KDH 03: 15 Culverts	They are located Inside Kandahar city	29 Jun 06 / 31 Oct 06	Completed
KDH 04: Slaughter house	It will be located outside of security box		Preparation
KDH 05: Disability Access Centre	It will be located outside of security box		Preparation
KDH 06: 4 Drainages: 3.8 km	They are for a park in Kandahar city next to the main road of Kandahar city		Preparation
KDH 07 a and b: Gundigan and Karz village	Rehabilitation of irrigation channel and construction of water dividers		Preparation
KDH 07 c: Bala Karz village	Installation of electric wiring for water pump etc		Preparation

Annex 3: FAO basic and optional packages

Each of the 2,000 beneficiaries receives the following basic inputs:

- Wheat seed/fertilizer: 50 kg of quality-declared wheat seed, along with 50 kg of diammonium phosphate (DAP) and 50 kg of UREA fertilizer for cultivation of two *jerib* (0.4 ha) of land;
- Kitchen gardening vegetable seed: the vegetable seed kit is composed of the following open pollinated varieties and quantities sufficient for cultivation of 0.5 *jerib* (0.1 ha) of land: tomato (5g), onion (10g), egg plant (5g), cauliflower (5g), cabbage (5g), carrot (5g), bean (100g), okra (50g), squash (10g);
- Hand tool: the hand tool kit is composed of a shovel, a spade, a watering can, a trowel, an improved harvesting sickle and hoe as well as a wheel barrow; and
- Post-harvest storage: each beneficiary will receive two galvanized metallic-made post-harvest storage containers, with a total capacity of 370 kg (one of 120 kg capacity and one of 250 kg) for wheat grain, together with wooden-pallets.

Beneficiaries have the choice of one of several agricultural livelihood options. The packages will be assigned based on a needs/feasibility assessment of targeted areas:

- Fruit tree nursery production: The fruit tree nursery kit is composed of seeds, root stocks cuttings, budded trees for budding/grafting material (a combination of apple, plum, peach and pomegranate), small amounts of agrochemicals, material for fencing, pruning equipment and a sprayer. Fruit tree inputs distributed under the project should be sufficient for the establishment of 0.5 *jerib* (0.1 ha) fruit tree nursery;
- Vineyard production: The vineyard nursery kit includes approximately 2,500 cuttings, small amounts of agrochemicals, material for fencing, and a sprayer. Vineyard inputs distributed under the project should be sufficient for the establishment of a 500 square meters vineyard nursery;
- Intensive vegetable production: High-yielding vegetable seed includes capsicum, tomato, carrot, bean, and okra. The small-scale drip irrigation kit (for greenhouse production) includes a water tank, distributors and drip pipe. Enough material to construct a 150 square meters plastic greenhouse tunnel will be provided;
- Fisheries Equipment for small-scale fish ponds (250 square meters) includes supplies for pond construction, fingerlings, fish, food, etc.; and
- Livestock services: The livestock includes one cow/ox or ten sheep/goats (with an appropriate male/female ratio to promote breeding).

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