

National Solidarity Programme (NSP)

Background

The National Solidarity Programme (NSP), established in mid-2003, is the flag-ship, national priority programme of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoA). It was set up with initial support from the World Bank/International Development Association (WB/IDA). The aim is to empower Afghans to reduce poverty through establishing and strengthening a national network of self-governing community institutions. The NSP was conceived, cultivated and developed according to Afghan traditions, especially "Ashar", which is communities working together to build common facilities and making collective decisions to solve problems, as well as the Islamic values of unity, equity and justice.

Rationale

NSP is the primary vehicle used to build social capital by promoting good **local governance**, thereby **empowering rural communities** to make decisions on their own lives and livelihoods. Empowered rural communities collectively contribute to increased human security. The programme is **inclusive**, supporting entire communities including the **poorest and most vulnerable** people.

Objectives

The objectives of NSP are to lay the foundation for community-level **good governance** and support community-managed sub-projects that improve **rural communities' access to social and productive infrastructures and services**.

Implementation Strategies

- NSP is implemented under the guidance of the Steering Committee, which – under the chairmanship of the second Vice-President of Afghanistan – is comprised of the representatives of the concerned line-ministries, donor representatives (as observers). The NSP Management headed by the Executive Director, supervises the programme implementation and financial management. It is supported by an international Management Support Consultant team. Through Facilitating Partners (FPs), NSP mobilizes communities and supports the establishment of a framework for village level, consultative decision making and representative local leadership. Currently, 29 NGOs and one UN agency are working as FPs, covering 34 provinces.
- NSP strongly promotes a unique development paradigm, whereby communities can make important decisions and participate in all stages of their development, contributing their own resources. With support from FPs, communities elect their leaders and representatives to form voluntary Community Development Councils (CDCs) through a transparent and democratic process.
- Assisted by FPs, CDCs identify and prioritise community development needs, develop Community Development Plans and design community initiative projects in consultation with all members of the community.
- CDCs mobilise community resources and receive Block Grants (on average US\$27,000 per community) from NSP to implement community projects based on their Community Development Plans. CDCs are responsible for the management of all stages of project implementation and provide the community lead to implement the projects.

Summary of Achievements to Date

- **Coverage of NSP:** As of 20th November 2008, NSP has covered 351 districts across all 34 provinces.



Carpet weaving project: A source of income for rural women



CDC election: rural residents take part in democratic election process



Canal construction project: Increasing productivity of agriculture

◆ **Election and Training of the CDC:** As of 20th November 2008, 21,706 CDCs have been established through a democratic election process. Both men and women have participated in the CDC election in every village. Training has been delivered to the CDCs on the election process, the importance of people's contribution and the effective planning of development interventions. As of 20th November 2008, 21,465 CDCs have formulated their Community Development Plans.

◆ **Block Grants:** As of 25th December 2008 a total of US\$ 567,556,804 of block grants has been committed, of which US\$ 556,486,167 has been disbursed to 19,088 communities for their projects.

◆ **Implementation of Community Projects:** Addressing the priority needs that the communities themselves have selected, the NSP has been supporting a total of 39,899 community projects as of 25th December 2008. These projects include construction of irrigation facilities, roads and bridges, schools, water supply facilities, clinics, as well as income generation and vocational training projects. The majority of projects concern the following sectors: water supply and sanitation (25%), transport (22%), irrigation (17%), power generation (16%), education (12%) and miscellaneous projects (2%).

◆ **District School Construction and Rehabilitation Window Project (DSCRW):** DSCRW was established to reconstruct/rehabilitate schools through NSP at district level. Through planning meetings, comprising of CDC representatives, education and local authority representatives, 25 District Management Committees (DMCs) have been established and trained to oversee the DSCRW school construction /rehabilitation. As of November 2008, 34 schools have been completed and handed over to the Ministry of Education. Civil work is ongoing for another 38 schools.



CDC conference: Developing coordinated approaches



Drinking water project: Giving rural residents access to safe drinking water



Toileting project: Developing women's skills for a better future

National Rural Access Programme (NRAP)

(formerly called NEEP)

Background

The National Emergency Employment Program (NEEP) was launched in 2002, aiming to increase access to rural infrastructure for local communities and to provide employment opportunities for rural laborers. As a result of a joint assessment of NEEP conducted by the World Bank, ILO and the government of Afghanistan in early 2005, the program was reviewed and restructured to make a smooth transition to more development-centred assistance in Afghanistan. To mark the beginning of a new phase, NEEP was renamed the "National Rural Access Program (NRAP)" with a more strategic focus on the provision of a rural road access network that will connect households and communities to essential services and markets.

Rationale

NRAP supports enhanced livelihoods by ensuring all rural communities are serviced with access to basic facilities, services, and goods and helps individuals and households, to manage risks through the provision of targeted employment. The Programme provides the development of quality rural access infrastructure and a mechanism whereby temporary employment will provide a safety net for vulnerable rural people.

Objectives

The objectives of NRAP include:

- Establish a quality rural road network that connects all villages to basic rural infrastructures and services, such as markets, health care and schools.
- Provide increased employment opportunities through using labour intensive methods and a private sector-led approach for all works.
- Enhance the capacity of communities and the private sector to manage, deliver and maintain public transportation facilities through on-the-job capacity development.

Implementation Strategies

- NRAP is a joint national priority program that is executed by Ministry of Public works (MoPW) and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD).
- Under the two ministries, UNOPS is responsible for implementation. Project works are contracted to the private sector and communities (L1 and L2 contracts).
- UNOPS also provides technical support in developing standards and norms for rural roads, surfacing options and maintenance. In addition, UNOPS supports capacity development of the ministries in procurement, contracting, financial management and monitoring.

Summary of Achievements to date

- **Reconstruction and renovation of rural roads:** A total of more than 1094 km of roads have been rehabilitated in 312 districts of 34 provinces.
- **Construction and rehabilitation of bridges and roads' infrastructures:** 108 bridges with total length of 1,568m; 6,881 culverts, washes and retaining walls with total length of 74,653 m were rehabilitated and or constructed.
- **Construction and rehabilitation of rural infrastructures:** NEEP/NRAP has either constructed or rehabilitated 384 small irrigation schemes, 95 schools, 14 clinics, 44 drinking water reservoir, and 204 water wells with hand pumps. Furthermore, NEEP provided shelters to 105 vulnerable families who were living in the caves around Buddha Sculptures in the mountains in Bamyan province.
- **Employment Generation:** Through the rehabilitation and renovation of



Construction of a wash culvert in Ander Dist, Ghazni province in October 2004.



Wash culvert constructed in ash Shakardara, Kabul, November 2004.



Alikheel School being constructed Deh Sabz, Kabul, November 2004.

the above-mentioned activities, a total of 14,304,020 million days of wage labour were generated.

- Training of ex-combatants through NEEP/ RAL project:** Under NEEP, the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration/Rural Livelihood Support (NEEP-DDR/RLS) project was launched in August 2004 to provide livelihood opportunities to demobilize soldiers. The targeted number of ex-combatants to be trained is 3,270 of which 2,796 persons have completed their training. Presently 325 persons are under training in project management and craft skills.
- Winterization:** During the past winter, 1,129 km road was cleaned from snow to keep the roads open.
- Capacity Building:** 56 technical training sessions have been conducted for 1,450 NRAP and MRRD employees.
- Preparation of Rural Roads Master Plan and IRRIP (Interim Rural Roads Investment Plan):** Most of the resources for NRAP/MRRD are coming from the international donor community the funding for implementation of project are not sufficient to fund all the necessary projects across the country. To invest the limited available resources effectively and efficiently, the preparation of a rural road network and multi-year investment plan were required. For the preparation of such a rural road network master plan, the PIU-NRAP / MRRD prepared a Rural Roads Master plan and Interim Rural Road Investment Plan (IRRIP). Through the successful conduct of 2-day planning workshops in different provinces it has collected essential information about existing rural roads at the district level. In this exercise NRAP-MRRD considered the connectivity of the rural road network on provincial maps. NRAP-MRRD established a computerized database. In addition the communities specified the need for new roads. The planning exercise has been completed in the 34 provinces and entered into the database. The GIS unit is working on putting the network on the maps and has been able to complete 34 provinces that are editing data. The preparation of mid and long term investment plan prepared which is a very valuable document for the program.

National Emergency Rural Access Project (NERAP): is one of the NRAPs new projects which designed by national experts of the program with support of international colleagues. This project is funded by IDA through World Bank and ARTF.

The proposed IDA grant of US\$ 112 million will be implemented over three years. The project will co-fund the government's National Rural Access Program (NRAP) and will continue the WB support to this very important priority program. The expected project presentation to the WB board was November 2007. The proposed NERAP includes the following three components:

- Improvement of secondary roads by MoPW, US\$53.9 million
- Improvement of tertiary road by MRRD, US\$51.9 million and
- Institutional strengthening, capacity building, project management and program development, US\$6.3 million

Plan for 2008 (1387)

The major activities planned for 2007 (1386) include:

- Construction and reconstruction of 1,225 km rural roads
- Maintenance of 3,000 km basic roads

Financial Information

Financial Information NRAP-MRRD 1387 (21 March 2008)				
Required funding for 1387	Approved Budget as per the decree	1387 Funding / Pledges/ Commitments	Total Fund Resourced for 1387 so far	Donors
68.59 million	33.8 million	11,300,000.00	51,950,000	ARTF, CIDA, EC, DfID, Japan, World Bank/IDA/CNTF/Australian Aid, DFID/Helmand, Dutch
Required Budget for the next four years (2006-2009)				
500 Million USD				



Disarmed officers and soldiers were trained for road construction engineering under NEEP/RAL Reintegration Programme in 2005, Qargha Dam- Taq Zafar Paghman, Kabul.



Worsaj Bridge in Worsaj, Takhar Province constructed in June 2005.



Construction of road in Yaftal Yawan, Badakhshan Province in 2005.

Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA)

Background

The Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) was launched by the Government of Afghanistan and began operating in June 2003, providing financial services in rural areas where formal banking services are unavailable for the poor. It was the first facility of its kind, pooling diverse donor funding mechanisms and converting them into streamlined, flexible support to microfinance institutions in Afghanistan, tailored to local priorities and accompanied by technical assistance and strong performance monitoring. Since then, MISFA has been providing investment funds to a wide range of microfinance institutions (MFIs) committed to providing large scale financial services to the poor and vulnerable of Afghanistan as well as institution-building support to MFIs.

Rationale

MISFA plays a primary role in promoting **enhanced sustainable livelihoods through the provision of microfinance services**, particularly focusing on the poor and most vulnerable to help individuals and households better manage risks.

MISFA serves as a multi-donor wholesale **financial intermediary for the microfinance sector** as well as assisting in the **institutional development of microfinance institutions**.

Objectives

MISFA is committed to building a system that provides flexible, convenient and affordable financial services for poor people throughout Afghanistan. The goal is to build an integrated financial sector, removing the barriers that separate the microfinance community from the broader financial system, and, ultimately, to provide access to financial services for all. MISFA is also pledged to building sustainable MFIs that offer competitive, transparent and effective services. Ensuring financial discipline and improve efficiency of MFIs is one of the priorities of MISFA. MISFA is committed to supporting MFIs that will be operationally sustainable by their fifth year. MISFA's vision is to help Afghans improve their livelihoods, make the transition from dependence on humanitarian assistance to economic independence and to empower them to build on their entrepreneurial spirit and skills.

Implementation Strategies

- MISFA focuses on providing financial services to vulnerable groups, (women, disabled and working poor), by providing credit. Generally, loans range from \$100 to \$700 (5,000 - 35,000 Afs) from 3 and 12 months. The average size of loan is \$200 (10,000 Afs).
- MISFA's micro-credit activities are implemented through 13 MFIs. Beginning as a national or international NGO, MFIs breakaway from the parent organization and eventually become a self-sustaining Afghan microfinance service provider.
- MFIs for MISFA are selected from credit unions, NGOs, and banks, among others. Appraisals assess the organizations' understanding of client demand, management, capacity for outreach, cost-effectiveness, transparency, and willingness to build a long term self-sustainable Afghan institution. Funding proposals are developed by MFIs in close collaboration with MISFA and approved by MISFA Board of Directors.
- MISFA provides loans and grants. Loans provided for the provision of micro-credit to rural households and when repaid are reinvested in more credit. Much of grant funds are utilized by MFIs to fund services provided to clients, training of staff and setting up service hubs in rural locations. Grants provided to MFIs will be reduced over a three to four year period, and it is expected that these organizations will be self-sustaining within



A craftsman shop supported by MISFA loan in Bamyan



MISFA loan helped a flower shop owner in Kabul to make more business.



Training on micro-finance for MISFA MFIs.

5 years. MISFA charges the MFIs a fee for services provided, which will enable MISFA to become self-sustainable.

Summary of Achievements to Date

- MISFA as an Autonomous Entity:** MISFA was established within MRRD as a semi-independent wholesale financial intermediary for the microfinance sector. In March 2006, MISFA registered under Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) and became an independent entity with a board of directors comprised of representatives from the government and the private sector and microfinance experts representing donor agencies.
- Geographical Coverage of the Sector:** To date, MISFA has signed contracts with 15 MFIs, and expects to have more MFIs in near future. As of February 2008, these MFIs have opened 261 branches in 111 rural districts and in 23 provincial centers.
- Micro-credits and Savings:** Microfinance is one of the most vibrant sectors and is an integral part of the total financial sector. To date, MFIs have 361,000 active clients (savings and borrowers) with an outstanding loan portfolio of US\$483,000,000. The cumulative repayment rate is nearly 90%.
- Microfinance Support for Women:** At present, there are over 173,852 women clients, which is approximately 70% of the MISFA clients. MISFA has trained over 400 Afghan women in microfinance. Also, two thirds of more than 1871 microfinance staff are women.

Plan:

MISFA anticipates that it will reach at least 600,000 poor households in most provinces by the end of 2008. Four of the MFIs have already reached operational self-sufficiency and most of the others will likely achieve sustainability by the end of 2008."

Financial Information

1386 (21 March 2006- 20 March 2007)			
Required Resources for 1386	Total Fund Resourced for 1386 so far	Estimated expenditures	Donors
50.2	50.2	42.2	ARTF, DFID, Canada, USID
1387			
Proposed Budget	Donated Amount	Shortfall	Donars
68.2	59.7	8.5	ARTF, DFID, Canada
Required Budget for the next three years (2006-2009)			
US\$m			



A group meeting of MISFA clients



A bicycle repair shop established with MRRD loan in Behsud, Nangarhar



A group meeting of MISFA clients.

Rural Water Supply & Sanitation (RuWATSAN)

Background

MRRD has set the goal to provide over 15 million rural people with basic services for water supply (25 litres of safe water per day per person) and sanitation facilities over the next 5 years. To achieve this target, MRRD aims to construct at least 100,000 water points across the country through the Rural Water & Sanitation (Ru-WatSan) projects executed by the MRRD Water and Sanitation Department. Furthermore, 2.5 million households will be educated on water, sanitation and hygiene issues to raise awareness of the importance of safe drinking water and prevention of waterborne diseases.

Rationale

Access to safe water and sanitation is a basic human right. The provision of safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation to households and communities enhances health by reducing death and disease through waterborne diseases, allowing individuals to fully participate and strengthen their livelihood strategies.

Objectives

The objectives of Ru-WatSan include:

- Provide rural communities with sustainable access to potable water sources and sanitation facilities.
- Strengthen the capacity of rural communities for service delivery, operation and maintenance, and the sustainable use of water supply and sanitation facilities.
- Improve public hygiene and environmental sanitation.

Implementation Strategies

As the lead ministry, MRRD is responsible to ensure that the policies and plans determined under the 5-year national policy framework for the water sector are implemented in a timely manner. MRRD takes an overall facilitation and coordination role, including policy, planning and development, resource mobilization and allocation, monitoring and evaluation, and information management. Close collaboration is established with other line ministries such as the Ministries of Health, Women's Affairs, Education and Haj to maximise accelerated coverage, cost-effectiveness and efficiency in delivery of water and sanitation services.

The Water & Sanitation Department of MRRD implements Ru-WatSan projects. In general, construction of water or sanitation facilities is packaged with community mobilization, health and hygiene education, and repair and maintenance training to maximise health benefits and ensure sustainability. The programme uses local technology and methods. Direct service delivery is outsourced to facilitating partners – NGOs and private sector - who will assist the communities in implementation. MRRD plays a regulatory and facilitating role, supervising and monitoring contractors' quality of works. MRRD also supports developing and strengthening a strong private sector and NGOs that can serve rural areas through providing water engineer and maintenance training.

Summary of Achievements to Date

- **Establishment of a national framework for the water sector:** The 5-year national policy framework was developed and approved. Institutional structures in the government to facilitate public investment in the water sector have been realigned with the national plan and policy.



A piped water system was constructed in Buldak District, Kandahar Province, 2005.



Water Engineers examining water quality of the well constructed by WatSan Programme in Bamyan.



Community hygiene education conducted in Zurmat District, Paktia Province, 2004.

MRRD has played the lead role and strengthened its capacity to manage water and sanitation projects, and develop policies and strategies.

- ◆ **Construction of water points/sources:** Ru-WatSan has constructed 11371 water wells and installed 859 hand pumps in rural areas and schools, benefiting over one million people across the country. To date, 59 pipe schemes for water networks have been constructed, benefiting over 1989925 people. In addition, 2578 water reservoirs were constructed or rehabilitated, benefiting approximately 2.6 million people.
- ◆ **Sanitation facilities and hygiene education:** A total of 23844 latrines have been constructed either in houses or schools, benefiting 167188 people and children. Ru-WatSan has also provided hygiene education for more than 10 million people across the country.
- ◆ **Specialized training on water & sanitation:** To ensure that water and sanitation projects meet the needs of the communities and create sustainable impacts on health and environmental sanitation, Ru-WatSan has provided various trainings for a total of 3500 MRRD staff, as well as representatives from NGOs and private companies. The topics of these training include policy making, planning, management, community mobilization and consultation and hygiene education, as well as the basics of hydrology and water engineering, and construction techniques for water wells.

Plan for 2008 (1387)

- ◆ Construct 7852 water points consisting of wells and Pipe schemes to provide rural villages potable water for 1374100 people nation wide.
- ◆ 16092 latrines will be constructed and provide hygiene education training for more than 981500 people to enhance sanitation in rural areas.
- ◆ Establish water maintenance mechanisms in 217 rural areas to ensure sustainability of water supply facilities.

Financial Information:

2007			
Required Resources for 1387	Total Fund Resourced for 1387 so far	Shortfall	Donors
US\$65m	US\$16.5m	US\$48.5m	USAID, SDC, UNDP DFID, UNICEF, ARTF.



A water well constructed in Khost Province, 2005.



Drilling a well in Lajamangal district, Paktia Province.



Latrines constructed in Dand Patan district, Paktia Province.

National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP)

Background

National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) is one of the six closely interlinked National Priority Programs and Projects of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in Afghanistan. The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) is the lead executing agency. The project is nationally executed with UNDP support.

NABDP began in 2002 when the need for an integrated long-term rural development programme became clear. Applying the lessons learned from Phase I, NABDP's Phase II (2006-2008) aims to contribute to the sustainable reduction of poverty and improvement of livelihoods in rural Afghanistan, and to empower communities to articulate and address their needs and priorities. In addition, NABDP supports the Government in providing community-based rural rehabilitation and development in an integrated, people-focused, inclusive and participatory manner. The overall strategy is to support the establishment of an integrated planning and implementation framework for a comprehensive, coordinated, pro-poor and pro-growth approach to rural development.

Implementation of NABDP takes place mainly through four closely interlinked main components, and several cross cutting themes:

Community Empowerment

Supporting the creation and development of gender-sensitive District Development Assemblies (DDAs), District Development Plans (DDPs), and Provincial Development Plans (PDPs).

Institutional Development

This component strengthens MRRD institutional capacity and technical capabilities to enable it to effectively fulfill its mandate of promoting rural regeneration and livelihoods at all levels.

Implementation Support

Strengthening MRRD's implementation capacity to mobilize its own resources, as well as public and private resources, to effectively coordinate and implement social and economic rural infrastructure development projects.

Economic Regeneration

Building the capacity of MRRD to formulate and regularly update regional economic regeneration policies and strategies, identify viable interventions for economic investment, poverty reduction and improving livelihoods and provide frameworks for comprehensive rural development planning at regional, provincial and district levels.

Cross-cutting Themes

Gender

NABDP aims at achieving equitable participation in selecting district representatives and ensuring an equitable voice in development planning, decision-making and project implementation, and gender equity in access to information and training.

Energy for Rural Development in Afghanistan

ERDA is a new sub-component of NABDP which aim to bring sustainable energy generation to the rural areas of Afghanistan which currently lack a reliable electricity supply, as well as contribute to the development of rural energy policy.

CNTF

NABDP also implements development projects aimed at promoting alternative livelihoods through funding provided to MRRD by CNTF.

DIAG

In addition, NABDP supports the implementation of the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) initiative, which aims to establish a secure environment by disbanding illegally armed groups on the basis of voluntary compliance through community development incentives.

Achievements

Community Empowerment

- 304 District Development Assemblies (DDAs) have been established in 33 provinces, each one of which has formulated a District Development Plan (DDP).
- 111 District Development Plans for Laghman, Panjsher, Kandahar, Balkh, Farah, Nooristan, Bamian, Uruzgan, Faryab, Hilmand and Parwan Provinces are available on our website: www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp
- The Community Empowerment Component established two mixed DDAs in Faiz Abad and Khaniqa Districts of Jawzjan Province.



A 180-meter long bridge on Arghandab River in Kandahar is under construction by MRRD's National Area-Based Development Programme, the funding of which has been provided by CIDA.



Completion of the Construction work of a 10,000-liter water reservoir in Aqcha District of Jawzjan Province



Panjsher Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development building is under construction.

Implementation Support

- In total, since Phase II began, 366 projects have been completed, 328 are ongoing and another 60 are in the planning stages.
- The Ghoshta retaining wall, the Kotee Taran retaining wall, and the Najmul Jihad Clinic project were completed in Nangarhar.
- A total of 37 projects in Badakhshan, Sarepul, Nooristan and Paktika are under technical survey through CNTF.
- Five CNTF projects, namely two bridge projects at Bangi and Darqad in Takahr, one reservoir and one water supply project in Balkh, and one protection wall project in Samangan are ongoing.
- Three pipe schemes have been recently completed in Kabul by WatSan USAID.
- The total number of beneficiaries profiting from NABDP infrastructure projects is approximately 2.5m people.

Institutional Development

- The Institutional Development Unit conducted PCM overview workshops for Northeastern region PRRDs (Badakhshan, Takhar, Kundoz and Baghlan)
- The Institutional Development Unit, along with MRRD HR Department, is currently reviewing the ToRs and job descriptions for all MRRD employees.

Economic Regeneration

- NABDP has provided financial and technical support to the setting up of the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme, which aims to kick-start economic growth and employment opportunities in rural areas.
- The Economic Regeneration Unit evaluated 17 proposals for SME implementation support in Balkh, Bamian and Hirat received from thirteen organizations.
- Roodat shawl Making Factory project requested by the DDA of Rodaat District of Nangarhar Province was technically and economically evaluated. The final report was drafted and a presentation prepared.

Rural Energy:

- ERDA staff has provided policy guidance on the final draft of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy.
- A pilot programme of sustainable energy projects, such as micro-hydro units and biogas plants, are planned for seven provinces across Afghanistan.
- ERDA engineers visited Baharak, Zebak, Ishkasem, Wakhan and Khash Districts of Badakhshan Province to identify potential hydropower sites.

Future Priorities:

- Formation of gender-sensitive DDAs in all districts of Afghanistan.
- Development of the NABDP Phase III concept for 2009 and beyond.
- Completion of priority development projects which are still ongoing in the provinces.
- Continue strengthening the capacity, reach and credibility of the MRRD and other government bodies involved with local development.
- Deepening support for the planning and coordination process will ensure participation, transparency and accountability at the provincial and district levels.
- The community development process will become increasingly inclusive, gathering broader input from civil society and the private sector and encouraging the growth of both.
- The NABDP will continue to assist MRRD in addressing the issues which cause primary constraints on rural development in Afghanistan, such as alternative livelihoods for poppy-ridden areas and disarmament of illegal armed groups, through an integrated rural development approach.

Financial Information

Jan-Dec 2008			
Total Planned Budget	Available Budget	Shortfall	Donors
US \$ 104 m	US \$ 71 m	US \$ 33 m	CIDA, Belgium, Norway, Japan, DIAG, UNDP, DFID, Netherlands, USAID



An NABDP facilitator encourages the people in Argo District of Badakhshan to take part in their district development planning process.



A workgroup of Argo DDA identifies priority projects to be incorporated in their District Development Plan.



A DDA member in Kunar facilitates the process of selecting priority projects for their district.

Social Protection Department (SPD)

Background

The Social Protection department of MRRD is mandated to respond to natural, environmental and other calamities/disasters and to mobilize and facilitate resources for the affected people – provide them with basic needs such as food, drinking water, clothing and shelter away from the scene of disasters in safe and secure areas. It is also tasked to clear and keep open rural roads during the winter period.. Moreover, the directorate is also responsible to educate people in disaster prone areas how to cope with natural disasters.

It is also mandated to help in facilitation of resources for the livelihoods of the returnees and displaced people of Afghanistan and to make sure the aid is reached to those individuals and families who deserve it most.

The department executes its activities through three interlinked units:

- 1. Emergency Response Unit:** The task of the unit is to mitigate humanitarian vulnerability through relief activities. The objectives of the Unit include mitigating the effects of natural hazards through the implementation mitigation projects, mitigating the human vulnerability through delivering aid to the disaster affected people and rescuing the lives of affected and vulnerable individuals/families and communities.

Recent experiences of emergency response shows between 300 to 500 people lose their lives to natural disasters. These disasters include flash floods, avalanches, earthquakes and the outbreak of contagious diseases The Emergency Response Unit through the relief and hazard reduction activities contributes a great deal in the wellbeing of the rural population of Afghanistan.

- 2. Food Assistance Unit:** The Unit works very closely with the World Food Programme (WFP) and implements their Food for Work Programme (FFWP) and Food for Asset Programme (FFAP). WFPs current operation aims to provide 550,000 metric tonnes of food aid to over 7 million Afghans between January 2006 and December 2008- at a cost of US\$ 378 million. The food for work schemes of WFP provide food to Afghans as they build or repair community assets, including roads, bridges, schools, reservoirs and irrigation systems. In the first six months of 2007, WFP supported 2.9 million people through food for work projects.

WFP also runs an Emergency Food Assistance Programmes and it allows the agency to respond rapidly when communities are struck by natural disasters or armed conflict. From January to June 2007, over 325,000 people affected by natural disasters received a total of 8,800 tonnes of food.

- 3. Reintegration Unit:** The unit works in close coordination with UNHCR, the key tasks of this unit are the needs assessments of the returnees and displaced people. These include highlighting their needs for land to build their houses on, provision of clean drinking water, school buildings and health clinics. The Unit is mandated to establish a sympathetic net working environment with all programmes of MRRD and other relevant organization to help and find ways of livelihoods for the returnees and the displaced people of Afghanistan

The government is committed and to this effect decreed in 2005 that all refugees and internally displaced persons will be provided assistance for rehabilitation and integration in their local communities by the end



Putting up emergency embankment on Amu River in Qalai Zal Dist, in Kunduz Province



Gabions are being distiches to the flood variable provinces



Land Allocation Site in Baghlan Province (khwaja Alwan)

of 2010. This benchmark falls under 'Sector 7' of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. To this end, a national reintegration strategy has been developed together with UNHCR, MRRD, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Refugees and the European Union.

Rationale

The rationale behind the establishment of the directorate was to enable MRRD to help and to respond efficiently, effectively and timely in times of social calamities, natural and environmental disasters, help to facilitate for the returnees and the displaced people to resettle and above all to help and support the basic needs of the most vulnerable section of Afghanistan society. In line with the Ministry's vision, mission and strategy, the ultimate aim of the directorate is helping to reducing poverty in the country by finding employment and other means of helping the poorest individuals and families in rural Afghanistan. All activities of the directorate are linked with the strategic objectives of MRRD: **Improved Rural Wellbeing**

Objectives

The sole purpose of the social protection directorate is to move the most vulnerable people from the scene of natural and environmental disaster areas to safe places and to make sure their basic needs such as food, clean drinking water, clothing, shelter and medical care are met in timely, efficient and effective manner. It is also mandated to help in facilitation of resources for the livelihoods of the returnees and displaced people of Afghanistan and to make sure the aid is reached to those individuals and families who deserve it most.

Implementation Strategies

The implementation arrangements vary from case to case, according to the type of disaster and its location. However, MRRD plays a leading role in organizing and coordinating emergency relief assistance to the disaster-affected populations in rural areas.

MRRD has strengthened its preparedness for natural calamities in the following areas:

- Inter-ministerial early warning and preparedness system established and developed, identifying the potential impacts of shocks.
- Climate monitoring and forecasts (snow coverage & rainfall).
- Rapid Emergency Needs Assessments of emergencies affecting rural communities and the recommendation of mitigation measures.
- Provision and coordination of assistance to vulnerable communities unable to help themselves.
- Training of NSP Community Development Councils in Disaster Preparedness.

Summary of Achievements to Date

• **Drought Response:** The drought occurred last year was one of the worst for the past seven years. MRRD provided approximately 102,075.92 metric tons of food aid to nearly 3.5 million drought affected people and distributed emergency assistance materials to almost 2 million people. To meet an urgent need of water supply, 6,946 wells with hand pumps, 20 water network schemes along with and 12,047 latrines were constructed in 34 provinces, serving more than 1200,000 families. In addition, utilizing the Provincial Emergency Fund (US\$1,503,000), 502 deep and semi-deep wells were constructed and 58 water tankers were purchased or rented to provide clean water to the affected areas in 29 provinces.

• **Winterization:** MRRD has been playing a lead role in providing winterization support for the vulnerable families for the past seven years. The winterization assistance implemented by MRRD include:

- Provision of non-food materials (i.e., 7,033 tents, 12,796 blankets, 12,000 pieces of plastic sheets, 18,000 stoves, 25,000 bags of charcoals, 15,000 windows/doors) for more than 90,000 needy people, including returnees, displaced and vulnerable people in 98 districts of 26 provinces in winters of 2007 & 2008 (year 1386 and 1387).
- Distribution of non-food materials (i.e., 4,350 tents, 8,000 sheets of blankets and quilts, 6,357 bags of charcoals) to vulnerable families in 128 districts of 26 provinces during the winter 2006 (1386) as well as provision of 6,664 metric tons of food materials through WFP's Food for Work programme for 4.2 million families in these provinces.



Distributing charcoal to the vulnerable families in Kabul



Clearing snow on the road in the Shahidan District, Bamyan



Distributing food for variable families, Ghor

- Snow clearance of total of 4,061km of roads securing road access for 8 million people in 22 provinces in collaboration with Ministry of Public Works and UNOPS. This operation also created employment for 8,830 people, generating 140,000 labour days.
- ◆ **Emergency assistance for floods:** Extremely heavy snow fall in 2006 & 2007 (1386 - 1387) caused floods in the major rivers in Afghanistan with massive mounts of melted snow water. The major assistance provided by MRRD include:
 - Provision of 74,470 boxes of gabion steel and 841,000 bags of sand to protect villages along the major rivers in 26 provinces from possible floods.
 - Distribution of 7,033 tents and 12,796 sheets of blankets to 12,000 flood victim families in 98 districts of 26 provinces (Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Bamian, Kunar, Nooristan, Laghman, Takhar, Nangarhar, Balkh, Kapisa, Parwan, Samangan, Khost, Paktia, Panjshir, Jawzjan, Sari pul, Faryab, Dikondi, Kabul, Bamyan).
- ◆ **Emergency Assistance for IDPs and returnees:** During the winter 2007 - 2008 (1386 - 1387), MRRD in coordination with the Afghan Red Crescent Society helped 835 displaced or returnee families without shelter to evaluate to government buildings in Technicom, Afshar, and the fifth directorate office of Kabul Municipality. The Afghan Red Crescent Society distributed food and emergency assistance materials to these families.
- ◆ **Food Aid for vulnerable people:** MRRD led free distribution of 53,000 metric ton of food materials for 10 million people in year 1385; 234,000 metric tons for 6.9 million people in 1386; and 6,664 234,000 metric tons for 4.2 million people in 1387. The beneficiaries of such food aid were rural communities affected by droughts or other natural disasters, Kochies, returnee families, IDPs, mothers and children suffer from chronic malnutrition, hospital patients, school students and teachers.



Blankets and tents were donated by the international community to MRRD, for flood-affected families

Financial Information:

1385 (21 March 2006- 20 March 2007)			
Required Resources for 1387	Total Fund Resourced for 1387 so far	Shortfall	Donors
45,000,000	25,000,000	20,000,000	Japan, UNDP, Holland