



MRRD Officially Inaugurated its New Office Facilities

Inside this issue:

MRRD Officially Inaugurated...	1
New Zealand contributes	2
MRRD Support's ANDS	2
Women's Issue and	3
MRRD Achievements	3
MRRD wins award of	4
Album of this edition	4

First voice – president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Ahmad Zia Masoud officially inaugurated the new office facilities of The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). This inauguration ceremony which was held on July 14, 2007 was attended by government high

MRRD Minister Mohammad Ehsan Zia said "Our top priority is to improve and enhance the working Capacities of our staff. Today, 90% of our workforce is computer literate, they know

clean drinking water networks, created 72,897 kilowatt electricity, constructed/ rehabilitated 3,236 km of canals, loaned 90 Million USD to 3, 25,000.00 individuals,

built 371 primary and high schools and has built 333 public build-ings...."

First voice – president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (IRA)

praised the development activities of the ministry and said that MRRD has been reducing the distance between the rural areas and the cities and it is trying to reduce poverty in the countryside. He called on the leadership of MRRD to use the experiences of other Development countries.



Installing and Deployment of Solar Water pumps

Based on selecting of powerful and Cost-less technology's strategy, the MRRD is considering solving the problem of lack of potable water with implementation of solar water pumps projects.

Currently, some projects of solar water pumps worth of 4,00,40000 afghanis has been implemented in Qala-e- Bakhtiar, Said munawar shah mena, abuzar Ghafari, Mahmud Tarzi, Tangi Saidan, kindergarten of Tahyae Maskan and in the clinics of Bagrami and Shewaki districts. It is worth mentioning that 90% work of these projects has been completed.

With implementation of these projects 24800 students of schools and patients of clinics in different part of Kabul will benefit from potable water.

These solar water pumps have power of 2 m³ at one hour, which has been tested in Shikh mesri camp and Sultan poor districts of Ningarhar province.

ranking officials, cabinet ministers, donors, Kabul based foreign diplomats and some of the MRRD facilitating partners. The construction work of the ministry's new office facilities started in 1383 which include a three story main building and 6 two story buildings with the capacity of 152 rooms and a conference hall.

how to use and exploit the internet for their research, administration, designs and financial issues. You would hardly find a hand-written letter in the ministry. All our Work is done by computers". The ministry has so far Constructed 10,996 km roads, 3047 meter bridges, dug 44,180 wells, constructed 3,327 water reservoirs, built 281 km of

New Zealand contributes NZ\$800,000 to Afghanistan Flagship Development Program

The New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) agreed to provide a contribution of NZ\$800,000 (US\$ 595,920) to the National Solidarity Program (NSP) of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD).



These funds will support local communities in Bamyán province to implement projects they have prioritized according to their own needs. Such projects typically include irrigation systems, local roads and infra-

structure, schools. The projects are managed by the communities, through councils they elect, and provide work to the local population. The Afghan Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Mohammad Ehsan Zia, expressed his deep gratitude to NZAID. *"The National Solidarity Program has been instrumental in reshaping the social and economic landscape of rural Afghanistan,"* he said. *"This grant will allow the program to reach out to new communities in Bamyán province, helping more of the poorest and most vulnerable."*

Under MRRD/NSP, about a half of the *community* projects involve productive infrastructure such as irrigation, roads and village electrification, thereby promoting productivity and stimulating local economies. A further

quarter involves safe water and sanitation which assures better health for the communities. More than 80 percent of all labour required under the subprojects, and paid by the block grants, is provided by the communities.

These NZAID funds are made available under New Zealand's official development assistance Complex Emergencies programme. The main focus of other NZAID funding for the period 2006-2009 is Bamyán Province, with particular attention to sustainable rural livelihoods and maternal and child health. NZAID continues to provide support to the Police Training project and the New Zealand Defence Force, which runs the Provincial Reconstruction Team, to facilitate development in the province.

MRRD Support's ANDS

MRRD is directly supporting the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) by coordinating and facilitating the ANDS Provincial Consultations Process happening across Afghanistan from June through August 2007. The consultations use the participatory methods developed and refined by MRRD's National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) in its work with District Development Assemblies (DDAs). These sub-national consultations ensure that the needs of communities, districts and provinces are harmonious with the national strategy (ANDS), and that this strategy is, in turn, in-line with the reali-

ties in the provinces. These will, it is hoped, encourage better coordination of ministry activities at the national and provincial level, improved institutional clarity, better formulation of Provincial Development Plans (PDPs), and new budgetary mechanism to address provincial needs. At least a quarter of participants in the process are women, and their particular concerns and needs, as well as other socially-excluded people such as minority groups (Kuchis) and people with disabilities, are mandated to be a part of every resulting

Women's Issues and NABDP

MRRD's National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) works on an ongoing basis to ensure that women's priorities are a part of community, district and provincial project plans and evaluations. NABDP also works with MRRD so that the responsibility for gender considerations and mainstreaming is shared by all staff, and that all staff are pro-active in identifying opportunities for gender considerations and mainstreaming. An example of this commit-

ment is the development of a women's District Development Assembly (DDA) in Pansjher Province, to ensure that women's community development priorities are given equal voice to men's and to identify approaches that could be used in other provinces. Another example is the manual developed by NABDP for increased women's inclusion in the Sub-National Consultation Process for the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANSD), with suggestions that

can be applied to other community, district and provincial consultations.



MRRD Achievements

Programme	Achievements
National Solidarity Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 16,700 Community Development Councils (CDCs) have been established throughout all 34 provinces. More than 16,500 CDCs have formulated Community Development Plans which define the project(s) the communities have chosen to implement. More than 27,800 NSP project proposals have been approved since its inception. Over 11,000 community projects have been completed and now improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of Afghans. Close to 11,500 projects are currently being implemented. The top five community needs are water supply and sanitation, transport, irrigation, power and education. Since 2002, NSP has financed nearly 22,500 projects in over 12,200 CDCs with over US \$284 million in grants.
National Rural Access Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Km of Road Rehabilitated Since Inception ----- 9,071 Number of Bridges Completed Since Inception ----- 101 Rm of Bridges Completed Since Inception ----- 925 Rm of Structures Completed Since Inception ----- 41,987 Irrigation Schemes ----- 384 Schools ----- 95 Clinics ----- 14 Water Supply Sector ----- 44 <p>Created labor days 13007912</p>
Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 200,000 clients in 20 provinces. 75% of clients are woman Nearly US\$100 million in cumulative loans have been disbursed 13 Micro Finance Institutions with 184 branches in 150 districts Average repayment rate of 98.5 %
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 8,100 water points Over 800 hand pumps 55 pipe schemes for water network 1,700 water reservoirs Hygiene education provided to more than 3.4 million people
National Area Based Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 167 District Development Assemblies (DDAs) have been established in 18 provinces Orientation training conducted for Provincial Development Committee (PDC) members in 17 provinces More than 800 MRRD employees received professional training.

Album

Of this Edition



MRRD wins award of excellence in using the Geographical Information System (GIS)

The application of GIS is recognized by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and other development institutions as a way to more clearly communicate development progress to donors, Afghan Government and the Afghan public at large. The Geographical Information System was first developed in

Environmental Science Research Institute (ESRI) software. Currently, there are more than 14,000 GIS users worldwide and the ESRI President Jack Dangermond solicited nomination of user sites from U.S regional office, vertical industry managers and international distributors. These were carefully



reviewed and evaluated and MRRD site stood out from among the more than 100,000 ESRI users' worldwide for being the only government institution which has thoroughly advanced the GIS technology and has in-

vested hugely in this field. It has excellent professional and technical staff that utilizes GIS more efficiently and meets the ministry's requirements. MRRD is also the only institution which has GIS web server that can produce web based mapping. Media were invited for the occasion and Mr. Dangermond congratulated MRRD Management Information System (MIS) manager Abdul Munir for taking the award for his ministry.

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The 2007 GIS international users' conference was held in San Diego Convention Centre, and it was exclusive to new and experienced users of Envi-

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