



MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (MRRD)  
**NATIONAL AREA-BASED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (NABDP)**  
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

**Report for the Month of Aqrab 1386**

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## **Introduction**

The information for this report was collected in a debriefing meeting where each component presented its inputs verbally. Each component of NABDP was asked to provide inputs under the same two headings: 1.) Issues and 2.) Progress achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables.

The information presented in this report is structured along the seven components of NABDP: community empowerment, economic regeneration, implementation support, institutional development, DIAG, CNTF, Belgian and USAID-funded WatSan.

## **Highlights of the Month**

The **Community Empowerment** unit in the current month formed 11 teams for the establishment of DDAs and the formulation of DDPs and deployed them to ten provinces. In addition, this unit developed a training module on local governance for the capacity building of DDAs and planned to pilot this training module in Nangarhar province.

The **Economic Regeneration** unit during this month has evaluated the “sub-sector/ value chain analysis” report for the western region (Herat) and comments were sent for revision of the report. The revised report has also been received. The quality of report of Western Region is very good. Further, the evaluation of the “value, chain analysis” report for the northern region is being completed.

The **Institutional Development** unit in collaboration with the OD&T department designed a ‘Training needs assessment’ that is related to each department’s profile. This profile aims to collect basic data on all MRRD’s staff who have attended/ not attended a training program sponsored by the MRRD. This data collection will be followed with a competency assessment exercise to determine MRRD Kabul Staff’s competencies and training needs.

**DIAG** has started the construction of a veterinary clinic for Kohistan 2, Kapisa province. The project is being implemented by local the local DDA, which will pave the way to other future projects to be implemented by community initiatives instead of contractors. A technical expert from the province was assigned for technical planning and supervision of the project.

### **1. Community Empowerment**

#### **Issues:**

There was no issue during this reporting period.

#### **Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:**

11 teams were formed for the establishment of DDAs and the formulation of DDPs. These 11 temas were now sent to ten provinces

At the same time the CE unit is concerned with building the capacity of DDAs. A training module on local governance has been developed and is now to be piloted in Nangarhar province. 22 men and four women participated in this pilot.

The CE unit finalized the DDP format and has now formed a team to review the information collected in the field and to put it into the developed format. At the same time

the field teams have been familiarized with the new format. So far the DDPa of seven districts have been edited in Pashtu and Dari.

The concept regarding women's participation in the DDA and the DDP has been developed and now has to be incorporated into the operational guidelines.

Six New DDAs established, of which four are mixed DDAs (50% male and %50 female)

To further increase the involvement of women two districts were visited to assess the women's participation in the DDA and DDP process.

A comprehensive report of the SNC/PDP process was completed and submitted to the programme manager for review.

In total 34 DDAs were established and the field work for the DDPs was completed for 34 districts.

## **2. Economic Regeneration**

### **Issues:**

An assessment of the Dulana solar dryer facility was conducted and it was found that it is not sustainable, as it does not make any profit. The villagers are not drying their grapes in the facility. Currently facility is unused. To overcome this problem a rural business development specialist will follow up the issue related enterprise development in consultation with the local community and develop a business plan.

The study conducted on the value chain for the central region was found to be very weak and the evaluation report and comments were submitted on 7 October 07. The revised report should have been submitted within two or three weeks. However, the revised report has not been received yet.

### **Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables**

As a part of the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP) the Ministry is looking into bottlenecks and gaps in the carpet sector which are obstacle to growth in the carpet industry. As per advice of the MRRD Minister, a questionnaire for the carpet sector to capture the problems and gaps was developed and has been given to Mr. Javid, who has forwarded it to the Minister's Office for translation and conduction of the survey.

The "Sub-Sector/ Value Chain Analysis" report for the western region (Herat) has been evaluated and comments were sent for the revision of the report. The revised report has also been received. The quality of report of Western Region is very good.

Further, for the northern region, the "value chain analysis" evaluation report is being completed and comments will be sent within one or two days.

The proposal for the southern and eastern region regarding the sub-sector analysis and business plan development project have been evaluated.

### **Balkh Visit**

The visit was aimed to review the work of Afghanaid in the North on the sub-sector analysis and the business plan development and it addressed the following objectives:

(i) Participation in three stakeholder consultation workshops:

- Carpet Sector Stakeholders' Workshop

- Almond Stakeholders' Meeting: Swedish Committee Office
- Melon Stakeholders' Meetings

- (ii) Field visit to research group of three sub-sectors
- (iii) Meeting with A4 Sheep Bank team to explore horizontal and vertical expansion opportunities in the rural area of Balkh province

Visited the Dulana solar drying facility for grape with the following objective:

- I. To determine what constraints present in the facility in respect of viable business. Major problems were highlighted during the discussion :
  - The Facility is not Economical
  - There is no market for the product
  - No operation and viability plan exists
- II. Recommended three candidates for hiring out of five short-listed for post of rural business development specialist, two of them are male and one is female.
- III. DACAAR for Western Region submitted their third project report on the technical feasibility and economic viability for the three sub-sectors for the proposed businesses in rural areas.

### **3. Institutional Development**

#### **Issues:**

Delay in the work related to the sub-national database of the PDCs due to other commitments which responsible line ministry representatives are engaged in.

#### **Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:**

Design of a profile related to 'Training needs assessment' was revised in collaboration with the OD&T department. This profile aims to collect basic data on all MRRD's staff that have attended/ not attended a training programme sponsored by the MRRD. This data collection will be followed with a competency assessment exercise to determine MRRD Kabul staffs' competencies and training needs.

The provincial profiles and organizational charts from the provincial capacity assessments have been entered on a database. An internal meeting was held to discuss the data to develop a summary design of a training plan.

- The result of the SWOT analysis for 28 PRRDs was roughly analyzed and a summary was extracted from the institutional profiles to discuss the training design
- The preliminary analysis of PRRD questionnaires has been done
- The data entry of training and capacity needs assessment for eight provinces (Herat, Faryab, Paktika, Ghazni, Uruzgan, Helmand, Kunduz and Takhar) has been completed
- The Institutional profiles of 28 provinces have been translated from Dari to English

Follow up and support of MRRD central departments on preparation of 1386 Operational Planning continued.

Several meetings were conducted with the supporting programmes of the CLDD (CE/NABDP, PAL, JSRP, and IRDP) to prepare the CLDD Operational Plan.

The CLDD assisted in conducting meetings with the supported programmes to prepare their plans based on the CLDD's Operational Plan.

Several meetings were held with the NRAP department regarding the development of their organizational chart, functions, etc.

The ID team conducted meetings with four departments (OD&T, HR, Planning and CLLD) as a preliminary exercise to prepare for the operational plan consolidation workshop which is to be conducted with the presence of HE the Minister.

The ID team supports the sub-national database of the PDCs. Regarding this a meeting a meeting was held with AIMS to change the feasibility study questionnaire and to finalize it.

The ID unit found that the selected ministries have not widened their support which was expected from them. Therefore, another letter was jointly written by MRRD and AIMS asking for greater collaboration.

A team of AIMS went to Mazar province to determine needs for the database and evaluate the provincial capacities. A group of AIMS, focal person of MoEc and MRRD spoke again with the selected ministries to draw attention to the PDC database assets & profile system.

MRRD's related department (OD&T) made presentations of Training Proposals.

Regarding recruitment, for the following position people have been shortlisted

- The Senior Institutional Development Advisor candidate has been short listed
- The Rural energy advisor candidate has been short-listed

The work on the ID component's plan for 2008 (planning and budgeting) is progressing. A training workshop has been started for the four PRRD deputy directors (from Laghman, Herat, Ghazni and Kandahar) including the central departments (OD&T, CLDD, RITS, NRAP and Social Protection) and ID component's staff.

#### **4. Implementation Support**

##### **Issues:**

- Security is one of the major problems
- Poor cooperation of the RITS department in finalizing the design and BoQ of projects
- Long processing duration in the procurement department causes delays in the project contracting
- Community conflicts upon the project site selection are one of the constraints
- Low capacity of the contractor in project implementation is a continuous problem
- Lack of the technical equipment is another main issue
- During excavation for the foundation of the Bilchiragh School in Faryab province, water raised up and the constructor stopped the construction until further instruction will be given
- All the school projects are designed without electrification in Faryab and Balkh provinces, while as reported there is 24 hours electricity available
- Clinics in the Faryab province lack boundary walls, water reservoir, guardroom and generator

## **Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:**

### **South Region**

- Kandahar: The numbers of projects has reached 384, with a budget of \$12,353,243
- For 376 projects the implementation has started
- Helmand: 59 projects (with a budget of \$4,537,295) out of which 16 have started
- Uruzgan: 26 projects (with a budget of \$3,408,922) out of which 17 projects have started
- Zabol: Nine projects (with a budget of \$921,938)
- Nimruz: Three projects (with a budget of \$52,361)

### **South East Region**

- There are 44 projects surveyed in Paktia province and the plotting for the surveyed projects is continuing
- There are four projects surveyed and designed in Khost province and submitted to the RITS for further action

### **Central and South West**

- The spring construction project documents for Lal wa Sarjungle district of Ghor province have been prepared and sent to the procurement department
- The documents of the construction project of the store and generator room for the PRRD in Daykundi province are prepared and submitted to the procurement department
- The Kham Reeg Retaining wall project of Parwan province and Surkh-e Parsa district documents have been prepared and have been sent to procurement
- The budget for the Chardehi High School construction in Ghoorband District of Parwan province has been approved and the contract was signed by the procurement department
- The work of Qarghnatoo health clinic, in the center of Bamyan province is ongoing and the percentage of work has reached 95 %
- The construction of Ladu Shahideen School, in the center of Bamyan province is ongoing and the percentage of work has reached to 35%
- The project of Zargaran Pipe scheme, in the center of Bamyan province is ongoing, the well drilling activities finished and the IP is still working on the water network
- The construction of Zer Kohi Legan Road, in Waras District of Bamyan province has reached 95%
- The construction of the road around the Governor's house of Bamyan province is ongoing and has reached 90%

### **East Region**

- The Contracts for 27 gabion wall projects are prepared and signed by the DDAs and the PRRD, but still remain to be signed by the MRRD leadership
- The work of the Basic Health Clinic (BHC) project in Goshta district has reached 12% and the Basic Health Clinic construction of Najmuljehad district of Behsood province has reached 25%

- The Community prioritized projects (DPP) budget allocation in 20 districts has been completed and the survey of eight selected projects has been done by the SU and the rest of work will follow
- Nine projects out of 36 prioritized community projects that were selected by the DDAs have been surveyed by the TSU team and are ready for design

### **North and North-East**

- Balkh province: There are eight ongoing projects, two projects were recently contracted and three projects were rejected by the RITS
- Bakhshan province: There are four ongoing projects and one project is ongoing
- Faryab province: There are three ongoing projects
- Baghlan province: One project is ongoing

## **5. DIAG**

### **Issues:**

The lack of capacity in the RITS and the Procurement department of MRRD continue to delay the implementation of the DIAG development projects. The DCU regularly contacted both the RITS and the Procurement department to ensure the status and accelerate the process of each project. However, structural reform including recruiting well-experienced experts on procurement or technical design seems the only solution for the issue.

The project implementation of Jawand district of Badghis has been suspended by DIAG due to lack of progress of DIAG operation. Although an IP has been selected and is ready to start implementation, the IP is not given the green light yet. Senior management of both the MRRD and DIAG should discuss this issue to find a solution.

### **Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:**

As current status of DIAG development project, the DCU is implementing or preparing the 23 DIAG development projects as follows:

<b>Summary of DIAG Development Projects Status</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>District</b>
1	01. completed	Mahmud Raqi
6	02. implementation ongoing	Shortepa, Pashtun Zarghun, Cha ab, Aab Kamari, Kohistan 2, Andkhoi
2	03. awaiting signature	Namak Aab, Mohmand Dara
0	04. working on the contract	
1	05. to be announced soon	Baharak
5	06. under design	Obeh, Farkhar, Salang, Bangi, Kohband
0	07. survey ongoing	

### DDI Districts Selection – Phase 2

5	08. tech. survey planned	Dara-e Noor, Farza, Murdyan, Noorgram, Jalrez
1	09. postponed due to DIAG operation	Jawand
2	10. will be identified soon	Khushi, Khuram & Sarbagh
<b>23</b>	<b>Total project</b>	

Implementation of the veterinary clinic project for Kohistan 2, Kapisa, has been started by the DDA, which hopefully will pave the way for future projects to be implemented by community initiatives, not by IPs. A technical expert from the province was assigned for technical planning and supervision of the project.

Regarding the DDA and the DDP processes for newly introduced 34 DIAG targeted districts, the Community Empowerment teams have started to send their teams to the districts.

Establishment of the DDAs and formulation of the DDPs and as well the identification of the DIAG development projects remain incomplete in the following 16 DIAG targeted districts except the districts for which “done” is indicated.

REGION	PROVINCE	No.	DISTRICTS	DDA & DDP/Schedule
NORTH	FARYAB	1	Qaramqul	Done
	SAR-I PUL	2	Sozma Qala	Done on 11 Nov
	JAWZJAN	3	Faizabad	by 31 Dec 07
	BALKH	4	Keshendi	Done
	SAMANGAN	5	Roye DoAab	by 30 Nov 07
NORTH EAST	BAGHLAN	6	Khenjan 1	by 31 Dec 07
		7	Khenjan 2	by 31 Dec 07
		8	Dahana-Ghori 1	by 31 Dec 07
		9	Dahana-Ghori 2	by 31 Dec 07
	KUNDUZ	10	Qala-e-Zal	Done on Nov 07
		11	Dasht-e-Archi	Done on Nov 07
	TAKHAR	12	Warsaj	Done
		13	Khwaja Ghar	Done
	BADAKHSHAN	14	Baharak	by 31 Mar 08
		15	Zebak	by 31 Mar 08
		16	Argo	by 31 Mar 08
17		Eshkashim	Done on 8 Nov	
18		Khahan	by 31 Mar 08	
19		Keran - Menjan	by 31 Mar 08	
CENTER	WARDAK	20	Maidan Shahr	by 31 Dec 07
	PARWAN	21	Bagram	Done on 22 Sep 07
	KABUL	22	Gull Darah	by 31 Dec 07
		23	Da Sabz	by 31 Dec 07
	LOGAR	24	Azrah	by 31 Dec 07
KAPISA	25	Kohistan 1	Done on 6 Oct 07	
EAST	NANGARHAR	26	Bati Kot	Done in August 07
		27	Khewa	Done in August 07

	LAGHMAN	28	Mehtarlam	Done in April 07
		29	Qarghaee	Done in April 07
<b>WEST</b>	HERAT	30	Kushk-e-Kuhna	Done on 8 Nov
	GHOR	31	Dolaina	by 30 Nov 07
<b>CENTRAL HIGHLAND</b>	BAMYAN	32	Shibir	Done on 11 Oct 07
		33	Saighan	Done on 4 Oct 07
<b>SOUTH</b>	NIMROZ	34	Chaghansor	Done in March 07
<b>Total 34 districts (18 done, 16 remaining)</b>				

Note: highlighted: the highest priority districts

The interview for hydropower engineer position for the HP project of Farkhar district has been conducted and the successful candidate is expected to arrive in several days. He will ensure all the technical points related to the HP project and estimate the cost.

## 6. CNTF

### Issues:

Regarding the road construction and Double Bituminous Surface Treatment (DBST) project in Murghab district of Badghis, the procurement department has sent a letter to the contractor to know if they still are not able to implement the project. The response is expected in a week time. The irrigation project in the Gurziwan, Faryab province will soon be put under tendering. The revision of this project took a lot of time in the RITS and the procurement departments.

### Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

The recent status of MRRD-CNTF projects is as follows:

#### 1. Out of the 19 CNTF funded projects:

Three projects, namely one canal cleaning project in Gurziwan, Faryab province, one protection wall project, Nangarhar province, and a canal rehabilitation project in Abikamari, Badghis province, are handed over to the MRRD after completion.

One protection wall project in Ghor province is also reported as completed. It needs MRRD monitors' verification which will be done soon.

Six projects are ongoing. Four projects, namely a road project in Qadis, Badghis province, and a suspension bridge project in Darqad, Takhar province, an intake project in Nahresaraj, Helmand province, as well as one RCC bridge in Gurziwan, Faryab province, are in the preparatory stage.

Three road projects in Murghab, and Qades of Badghis province are suspended. One irrigation project in Gurziwan, Faryab province, is under technical evaluation and finally one water supply project (87 deep wells) recently approved by the CNTF MB will be put under tendering soon.

2. Besides, 18 projects (with complete proposals and drawings) are submitted for the CNTF Management Board (MB) for approval (out of them, only one project (87 deep wells) in Balkh province have been recently approved).

3. Other 38 projects with the summary sheets are submitted to the CNTF technical team (TT) for comments. Once we have received green light from CNTF TT for the preparation of proposals for Samangan, Kunar, Laghman and Logar projects, since the process is suspended by CNTF MB until further notice.

## 7. Watsan (Belgium)

### Issues:

In Daykundi province, the contractor for the construction of 72 wells had completed their contracted activities, but the Daykundi RRD was not ready to verify their completion works for the final handover because the company collected a loan from the local markets of Daykundi.

The Company representative was advised to go to the local markets of Daykundi and refund the loans and clarify all the issues and show this to the RRD, so that they could forward the documents to WatSan and the further payments could be released.

The drought project of WatSan released two payments of NABDP-funded projects after checking and certification of contractor's documents, but the payments were in the procurement department up to 15 November 07.

WatSan assigned two people to the procurement department to follow the payment documents up.

### Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

#### Hard Component of the project

S.N	Location		Planned Activities			Up to date Completed Activities			Progress % age
	Province	District	Wells	Pipe Scheme	Stand Posts	Wells	Pipe Scheme	Stand Posts	
1	Daykundi	Neli, Sharistan, Sang Takht Bandar	72	0	0	72	0	0	100
2		Khidar and Geti	44	0	0	41	0	0	93.18
4	Ghor	Lal wa Sarjantal	100	0	0	60	0	0	120
5		Chigchiran, Murghab and Qurullah	111	0	0	57	0	0	51.35
6		Pasaband-dolaina, Chighchiran, Qara allahyar	90	0	0	90	0	0	100

Soft Component of the project

S.N	Project Location		Planned Activities		Up to date Completed Activities		Progress % age
	Province	District	Latrines	Hygiene Education (Person)	Latrines	Hygiene Education	
1	Daykundi	Neli, Sharistan, Sang Takht Bandar, Khidar and Geti	363	63,525	Contract Canceled with the Contractor		
2	Ghor	Lal wa Sarjangan, Chighchiran, Murghab, Qurullah, Pasaband-dolaina, Chighchiran, Qara allahyar	375	65,625	320	65,625	85.33

Note: for the financial status of the project please contact finance section of NABDP

## 7. Watsan (USAID)

### Issues:

As the project, time is over and there are still some activities at the final stage, which needed to be completed, a no-cost-extension request has been sent to the USAID main office for approval.

Till now the issue of no cost extension request is not clear for the implementing partners as well as the construction companies.

In Logar province the works progress is as it was last month due to the fact of the unclear status of the no-cost-extension request that has been sent to the USAID main office.

Payments of the IPs and construction companies are still pending at the procurement department. The mismanagement at the procurement department has reached to such an extent that some of USAID/WatSan payments processed about one and half month ago are still there not being processed.

Due to the low technical capacity of the IP in Maidan Shahr district of Maidan Wardak province, the IP managed only to fulfill 40% of the work.

**Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:**

To provide a picture of the location, and implementation percent progress of the ongoing and completed projects, the following table is provided:

No	Project Location		Planned Activities of the Project				Well Status		Progress (%)
	Province	District	Wells	Pipe Scheme	Water Reservoir	Stand Post	Completed	Ongoing	
1	Maidan-Wardak	Maid-Shar	8				8		100%
2	Maidan-Wardak	Maid-Shar	16				6	10	40%
2	Kabul	Zere Kotal		1	1	36			90%
4	Kabul	Khorasan		1	1	30			90%
	Kabul	Istalif		1	1	10			100%
5	Daykundi	Nili	9				9		100%
6	Maidan-Wardak	Maid-Shar		1		149			100%
7	Logar	M.Agha	18				17	1	95%
8	Logar	Pul Alam	32				25	7	80%
9	Logar	Baraki Barak	37				28	9	75%
10	Kapisa	Kohistan (II)	24				16	3	65%
11	Kapisa	Kohistan (I)	9				5	4	60%
12	Kapisa	Nejrab	12				6	6	50%

From the table it becomes clear that some of the IPs do work fairly slowly due to the fact that the status of the no-cost-extension is not clear. It has to be mentioned though that the no-cost-extension request was made too late and the report has to be revised several times, as not all the figures were provided.

**Outlook;**

NABDP is currently working in various areas trying to empower regional and provincial units and to build up the MRRD's departments' capacity. At the same time, NABDP is working at how to maintain this approach and how to speed up the implementation of projects. Also NABDP is working on the DDA and DDP process and has to widen up to all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

Thank you!