



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

Report for the Month of Dalwa 1386

Introduction	2
1. Community Empowerment.....	2
Issues:	2
Progress achieved against outputs/deliverables:	3
2. Economic Regeneration	3
Issues:	3
Progress achieved against outputs/deliverables:	3-4
3. Institutional Development	5
Issues:	5
Progress achieved against outputs/deliverables:	5
4. Implementation Support	6
Issues:	6
Progress achieved against outputs/deliverables:	6
5. DIAG	7
Issues:	7
Progress achieved against outputs/deliverables:	7
6. CNTF	8
Issues:	8
Progress achieved against outputs/deliverables:	8
7. WatSan- (Belgium)	9
Issues:	9
Progress achieved against outputs/deliverables:	9
8. WatSan (USAID)	10
Issues:	10
Progress achieved against outputs/deliverables:	11
Outlook.....	11

Introduction

The information in 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, and Belgian and USAID-funded WatSan.

Highlights of the Month

The **Community Empowerment** unit established six District Development Assemblies (DDAs) comprising male and female members, during the reporting period. Four of these DDAs are in Kunar, one is in Kabul and one is in Wardak.

The **Institutional Development** unit held two training workshops on Curriculum Development and one for the Community Empowerment unit.

In Helmand province, the **Institutional Support** unit has contracted 19 new projects, designed 27 projects and, with the help of DDAs, identified 144 possible projects. In addition, H.E. Minister signed for 57 projects in Kandahar.

The **Economic Regeneration** unit evaluated the EOI's (Expressions of interest) for Business Development Services (BDS) and Enterprise Implementation Support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Balkh, Bamyan, Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar for Regional Rural Economic Regeneration through Rural Enterprise Development

1. Community Empowerment

Issues:

- The Provincial Governor of Kabul refused to allow the establishment of a DDA in Gul Dara district as he has some concerns about the CDC establishment which he wishes to discuss with H.E. Minister. Therefore, the community empowerment unit postponed DDA/DDP establishment and formulation selected by DIAG in Gul Dara District.
- The security situation was unsatisfactory in Bak and Yaqobi districts; therefore, some DDA members were unable to participate in Module 1 (Local Governance) training. As a military operation is underway in Bak and Yaqobi Districts of Khost, the DDA members will continue with their workshops in the center of Khost province.
- Many CE staff lack access to the Internet, which constrains their work progress and communication.
- Shortage of laptops for the Community Empowerment staff, especially who are going on field visits. This can potentially impair work progress.
- The present building lacks enough space for all the CE staff. Therefore, the CE component has requested that the component be shifted to another building where enough space is available.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/Deliverables

- The Community Empowerment Component established six mixed DDAs in the following districts:
 1. Deh Sabz District of Kabul Province.
 2. Maidan District of Maidan Wardak Province
 3. Asad Abad District of Kunar Province.
 4. Wata Pur District of Kunar Province.
 5. Manogai District of Kunar Province.
 6. Chapa Dara district of Kunar Province.
- In the above-mentioned six mixed DDAs, the role of women was notable. 10 out of 24 core members of DDAs are women, who widely participated in the workshops and addressed their priorities.
- Gender mainstreaming in project cycle management is ongoing.
- The initial version of DDA Capacity Building Concept has been drafted and circulated for comments.
- The training materials (daily schedule, contents, handouts and facilitators guide for Module 1, 2 and 3) have been partially translated into local languages, Pashto and Dari.
- The CB unit developed (with pilot component) Module-3 (Procurement and financial management) in close consultation with the Procurement and Finance sections of NABDP.
- The CB unit contributed to reviewing the training proposal submitted by BRAC for the Training of Trainers (ToT)
- Based on the reports of the facilitating partner (IRC), they conducted Module 1 (Local Governance) training at seven districts of Khost and in 27th of January in Jaji Maidan district of Khost.
- 28 DDPs of Laghman, Panjshir and Kandahar provinces are now on the website and we encourage everyone to visit our website (www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp) and send in their comments.
- 52 DDPs are in various processing stages e.g. translating, editing etc during the reporting period.

2. Economic Regeneration

Issues:

- A tax exemption letter for consulting organizations has been requested by the NABDP finance department. Afghanaid has submitted relevant documents. DACAAR has partially submitted.
- Original bill issue for reimbursable expenses with DACAAR has yet to be settled.
- The staffing shortage, including the abrupt resignation of two staff, affected economic regeneration activities.
- The process of recruitment (TOR /Vacancy announcement submitted to HR) for Rural Business Development Specialists, two male, two female and one Programme Assistant (intern), has been initiated.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables

- Three business plans, received from DACAAR (by west region team) on Saffron, Silk, and Cashmere, were evaluated, and comments have been sent to them for revising the business plans as per comments.

- The ER unit sent draft TOR for SME Implementation Support, on 21st Jan, 08 to all NABDP units Heads, AREDP/MRRD Team and Deputy Minister Programme for comments. The comments/input received from Deputy Minister and others are incorporated. As per advice of Deputy Minister, the final draft will be presented again during the current week to the AREDP Team and potential implementing partners for any further feedback.
- The ER unit evaluated the EOI's (Expressions of interest) for Business Development Services (BDS) and Enterprise Implementation Support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Balkh, Bamyan, Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar for Regional Rural Economic Regeneration through Rural Enterprise Development by the Deputy Minister-approved evaluation committee. In total, thirteen organizations applied in response to EOI published in three national news papers and MRRD/UNDP websites and e-mail listing. Considering the experience and human resource profile, the evaluation committee recommended that all the organizations be short-listed. The EOI evaluation report was approved by the Deputy Minister. RFP will be sent to them shortly after final discussion on TOR,
- One team member of ER unit accompanied the UNDP mission (assistant country director and Programme Officer) to Dulana Solar Dryer Plant to discuss resolving the land and plant ownership of the facility with the CDC and other community members.
- Evaluation of Technical feasibility and Economic Viability reports for the Central regions for three sub-sectors, Potato, Carpet, and Tourism has been done. Comments will be sent to them shortly.
- Draft TOR for SME Implementation Support, was sent to all NABDP Units Heads, AREDP/MRRD Team and Deputy Minister Programme for comments. The comments/input received from Deputy Minister and others have been incorporated in the TOR and submitted to Programme Manager. As per the advice of the Deputy Minister, the final draft of TOR was sent to all short listed potential implementing partners on 7th Feb. 2008 for any further feedback/comments.
- Evaluation of draft business plans (SME for: Almond, Carpet, and Melon) for the Northern region have been completed, and comments for revising the business plans are being sent.
- A presentation was made to the Canada/CIDA Growth Mission on economic development and economic regeneration achievements and future plans. The Canada/CIDA Growth Mission is visiting Afghanistan to make an assessment for CIDA's future sector strategy and livelihood Programme. Another meeting on Economic Regeneration issues has been requested by the Mission on Wednesday 13th Feb. in the CIDA support office.
- The Economic Regeneration/NABDP collaboration with A4 Sheep Bank (Balkh) Project, currently implemented by MFL Thailand Foundations, is in progress. There is plan to jointly do the value added income generating activities in the A4SB project. A draft MOU is being prepared for executing joint activities. In this collaboration, ER/NABDP plans to cover the local Afghan staff costs of A4SB for the period until new funding is available.
- Visitors from the Ministry of Commerce and Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) came to learn more on the work of ER value chain/business plans.

3. Institutional Development

Issues:

- MRRD is working on restructuring its central departments, making use of the NABDP Institutional Development Component, which may somewhat affect the ID work plan for 2008.
- Delays in response to our requests from the MRRD Administration.
- Our arrangements for an exposure visit to India are being delayed because of the holdup from the ministry in responding to our requests, letters, etc.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

- A basic level TOT workshop on Curriculum Development from 26-30 January 08 was conducted at NABDP conference room. 20 participants, including three women, took part in the workshop.
- The follow-up workshop for this was held from 7-9 of February with 15 participants.
- Training materials for our workshops outsourced for translation are in progress. The checking of the translated training materials is in progress.
- We prepared training material for PCM workshop being held from 16-20 February 2008.
- The list of participants who will be part of the exposure visit to India has been sent to the international relations unit for further steps. It appears that we may have to reschedule the exposure tour for April or May 2008.
- Afghanistan Assets & Profile Management System (PDC database):
 - a. Various meetings were conducted with AIMS, Mr. Shirzai, Mr. Zirak, Mr. Ajmiri, and Mr. Najimi concerning assets and provincial profiles.
 - b. NABDP manager was updated on the initiative and next steps after an internal meeting with AIMS & NABDP.
 - c. The feasibility study draft report was completed.
 - d. Working is underway on the first version of the prototype database and interface. The first version will be ready by mid-March.
- The ID unit work with the Strategic Advisory Team on the **MRRD Personnel and Qualification Review** is ongoing. A project charter for this has been finalized and approved by the MRRD Minister. This project will examine the human resource allocation in each department and validate that each department possesses sufficient number of people with the appropriate skills.
- A meeting was held with Deputy Minister Asif Rahmi regarding the possibility of initiating a study on 'Situational Analysis of Rural Road Maintenance in Afghanistan' to support NRAP. The local ILO coordinator, Lionel, Feda and NRAP team also participated in the meeting. It was decided that the scope of the study could be expanded to a 'Situational Analysis of Rural Infrastructure in Afghanistan.' The Deputy Minister welcomed the idea of ILO involvement in this effort. He agreed that NABDP should coordinate the initial activities to facilitate such a study.
- We are supporting the HR department on development of job descriptions/ TOR renewal process initiated by the Independent Civil Services Commission
- THE ID Team facilitated a TOT for Community Empowerment component from 10-14 February 08.

- The assessment of the central departments on PCM and OD is in progress. Dr. Ahmad Fahim working with HR, Dr. Saidal Pazhwak working with RITS, Mr. Abdul Azim Doosti working with CLDD, Mr. Abdullah Aziz working with RLED. Each of them is working towards a draft of the outcome of their analysis and presenting their work-in-progress.
- Institutional Development support was provided to the newly-started 'Energy for Rural Development in Afghanistan' (ERDA) program. This is a sub-unit of the NABDP that is linked to the ID Component and located in the RLED. A preliminary meeting was facilitated by the ID team to help ERDA identify possible launching activities, organizational linkages, etc.

4. Implementation Support

Issues:

- Implementation of the Chintal bridge project in Balkh has not been undertaken due to the contractor being unqualified.
- Due to lack of design engineers, some surveyed projects (roads, water systems, and irrigation) are awaiting design in the North and Northeast.
- Due to lack of survey engineers in Helmand, 144 projects haven't been surveyed yet.
- Construction of a school building in Badakhshan and a deep well has been stopped due to the contractor's refusal to honor obligations, and an inappropriate design, respectively.
- The beneficiary of a water supply scheme in Spinboldak complained about the defects in the construction. A joint technical team of NABDP and the RRD Kandahar office have gone there to investigate the actual problem
- The TSU office in Kunduz has been facing problems with power shortages.
- The request for a generator made by the Balkh regional office has not received due attention yet.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

- In total, since Phase II began, out of 468 projects, 229 have been completed, 179 are ongoing and the remaining 60 have yet to start.
- 19 projects were newly contracted (all of them are irrigation projects in Helmand).
- Six projects surveyed in Jalalabad are now in the design stage.
- A gabion filling project in Qarabagh of Kabul has been redesigned and will be contracted soon.
- Preparation for initiating more projects in Helmand is underway.
- 144 new projects were identified by DDAs in Helmand.
- 27 new projects were designed in Helmand.
- 57 new projects were signed for by H.E Minister in Kandahar; 53 new projects are under different stages of the procurement process.
- A total of 11 community projects have been prepared and sent to Uruzgan for the DDAs to sign.
- Survey for various projects have been completed in Daman district.
- A meeting was held to sort out the coordination mechanism and expedite implementation of projects in Helmand. The IS unit agreed to send a team led by Deputy Minister of Admin and Finance to set up system and initiate implementation.
- The IS unit, using the revised DDPs, has prepared a list of priority projects which will serve as a guide in project selection in Helmand province.

- Design work on two roads with a length of 18km is in final stage - one is completed.
- Design rectification of a 15m bridge in Aqcha district, and a 3km retaining wall and 16km long aqueduct in Qarabagh, Kabul, has been completed.
- Two ISU staff members (PRDA and RM) were assigned to provide support to emergency response department in the field as per their request.
- Projects were monitored by Kabul NABDP team in the North and Northeast regions.
- An interview for the Head of ISU taken place, the result of which will be announced soon.

5. DIAG

Issues:

- A lack of capacity in RITS continues to delay the implementation of DIAG development projects. For example, surveys have not been conducted for some projects for several months. DIAG Coordination Unit (DCU) regularly contacted RITS to ensure the status and accelerate the progress of each project. However, structural reforms, including recruiting experienced experts in procurement or technical design, seems the only solution for the issue.
- The Jawand district development project issue was discussed in the DIAG Bi-weekly meeting and the key participants decided to put the project on hold until the weapon collection process is successfully implemented. The MRRD Procurement Department should share the issue with the implementation partner and convince the selected them to wait until the completion of weapon collection process.

Progress achieved against outputs/deliverables

The DIAG Coordination Unit is implementing, or preparing, a total of 31 development projects in 31 districts of the country. The status of these development projects is as follows:

- One district development project completed.
- Eight districts development projects are under implementation.
- One development project is pending due to the weapon surrendering process.
- One development project is under the tendering process in the MRRD procurement department.
- Seven development projects are under design in MRRD RITS department.
- The technical survey of one development project is ongoing.
- The technical survey of twelve development projects has been planned by the MRRD RITS department.
- The Kohistan-dow district veterinary clinic is under construction. 40% of the work of this development project has been completed by the DDA with the technical support of a hired field engineer.
- The MHP project's complete document, with project fund allocation sheet attached, was submitted to the international procurement section for the international tendering process. According to the international procurement section the project document process will take seven working days.

- District Development Assemblies (DDA) have been established in 60 out of 73 districts and the establishment and formulation of the remaining 13 DDAs and DDPs are planned to be covered in the next two months by the Community Empowerment Unit.

6. CNTF

Issues:

- Due to security reasons, the work on 21 km of road in Murghab district of Badghis province cannot be started. Therefore, the CNTF Management Board (MB) formally closed the project on 29/11/07. A letter from MRRD has been sent to MCN/CNTF which requested the re-allocation of Murghab funds to Balkh and Chimtal Roads, and asked for more funds to cover the cost of Blakh road.
- The Nahresaraj Intake Construction project in Helmand province needs extra funding for diverting Helmand river water from the intake construction site. A formal request for more fund for this extra work has also submitted to MCN/CNTF. The fate of both projects will be decided in the next CNTF Management Board meeting.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverable

- The status of CNTF projects during last two weeks was as follows:
 - Seven ongoing projects are currently stopped due to the cold weather (winter break).
 - As per contractor, the Nahresaraj, Helmand intake project is in its preparatory stage. The contractor started the excavation of the channel to divert the Helmand river water from the site where the intake will be rehabilitated.
 - The design and re-estimation process of two road sub-projects in Qades, Badghis province is in the final stage, the revised version will be submitted to HE. Minister's approval soon.
 - The MRRD procurement department received the tenders for a diversion dam project of Gurziwan, Faryab province and a water supply project (87m-deep wells) of Balkh province. The documents will soon be submitted to the Technical Evaluation Committee for further processing.
- The Final Completion Report on Nangarhar protection walls has been submitted to CNTF.

According to H.E. Minister MRRD, a total of **USD 4.5 million** is allocated from CNTF through MRRD for six provinces of Kunar (\$250,000), Sarepul (\$250,000), Nooristan (\$500,000), Ghazni (\$1,000,000), Paktika (\$1,000,000), and Badakhshan (\$1,500,000). The MRRD working teams have been assigned to identify projects in those provinces in consultation with provincial shuras/authorities. So far, the technical documents of Badakhshan (14 projects) and Kunar (three projects) have been sent to the MRRD Procurement Department for technical evaluation. The project identification process for other provinces is underway.

7. WatSan (Belgium)

Issues:

Activities are stopped due to the winter weather. There are no new issues to be reported. Please see last month's report for the issues which can be addressed as soon as snowfall completely stops and roads are opened.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverable

Hard Component of the project

S.No	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	Completed
2		Khidar and Geti	44	0	0	44	0	0	Completed
4	Ghor	Lal wa Sarjanganal	100	0	0	60	0	0	Agreed with WatSan to Cancel the contract*
5		Chighchiran, Murghab and Qurullah	111	0	0	57	0	0	51.35% complete project ongoing
6		Pasaband-Dolaina, Chighchiran, Qara allahyar	90	0	0	90	0	0	Completed

Soft Component of the project

S.No	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	375	65,625	100

8. WatSan (USAID)

Issues:

- USAID's Headquarters refused no cost extension of WatSan/USAID projects, and suggested time extension only to close the project. They also asked us to submit them the final report.
- WatSan has reported this issue to MRRD, in response to which the Deputy Minister ordered to close the project and release payments to IPs according to the actual onsite work.
- We have 11 ongoing projects in Kabul, Kapisa, Maidan, Wardak and Logar provinces, from which the three Kabul pipe scheme construction projects in Kabul and are 98 % completed. However, due to the cold weather, the final testing of pipe schemes is not possible. In the near future, a monitoring team will visit Kapisa, Maidan, Wardak and Logar provinces.
- In Nijrab district of Kapisa province, a contract for 12 wells has been signed with PQCC Construction Company, for a duration of two months. However, after three and half months from the expiry date of the contract, the company was not able to proceed with its project work. Therefore, USAID/WatSan has the right to adhere to the MRRD procurement rules and regulations and cancel their contract accordingly.
- Similarly, In Maidan Shahr district of Maidan Wardak province, a contract of 16 wells had been signed with a construction company, but even after four and half months of the contract expiring, the IP, due to its low technical capacity, had not completed more than 40% of the contracted target wells.

Since last month, no progress has been observed. *Refer to the table given in the next section.* After successive notices in the past, they were asked to finish their work, otherwise USAID WatSan will terminate the contract as per MRRD procurement rules and regulations.

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			100%
4	Kabul	Khorasan		1	1	30			100%
	Kabul	Istalif		1	1	10			100%
5	Dai - Kundi	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				32	0	100%
9	Logar	Baraki Barak	37				32	2	90%
10	Kapisa	Kohistan (II)	24				22	2	85%
11	Kapisa	Kohistan (I)	9				7	2	75%
12	Kapisa	Nejrab	12				6	6	50%

According to the above performance table, there are several IP's who have displayed slow work progress, but they are expected to finish soon. The hygiene and sanitation component of the projects in some of the above regions is on the verge of being completed. Reporting has been done on a regular basis to the USAID/WatSan.

Outlook:

NABDP is currently working in various areas trying to empower regional and provincial units and to build up the MRRD's departments' capacity. The forthcoming spring weather will allow many project activities to resume work and hasten the completion of delayed projects. Furthermore, NABDP is working to extend the DDA and DDP process to all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.