



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

Report for the Month of Jadi 1386

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

Introduction

The information for this report was collected in the same order 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, Belgium and USAID-funded WatSan.

Highlights of the Month

The **Community Empowerment** unit in the current month established one DDA/ P in Logar province and refreshed DDPs in six districts of Helmand province. Also another core work of community empowerment unit was the translation of 40 DDP summaries into English language.

The **Economic Regeneration** unit during this month has evaluated three business plans received from DACAAR (west region team) and comments have been finalized and will be sent shortly.

The **Institutional Development** unit stated their work on assessment of PCM and OD with assigned departments. Their concerned colleagues has been working with HR, RITS, CLDD, RLED and M&E departments and the statues of works are existed in different stages.

DIAG, the implementation of Veterinary clinic project for Kohistan 2 of Kapisa is ongoing by local initiatives (DDA), which will pave the way to other future projects that will be implemented by community initiatives, not by IPs. Up to now 50 percent of work has been complete so far.

Community Empowerment

Issues:

- There was no specific issue so far.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

- The community empowerment unit established DDA/ P in Logar province and refreshed the DDPs in the six districts of Helmand province
- The CE unit has deployed one DDA/ P field for Kabul and a team for Kunar province is assigned
- The DDP processing of two provinces (Laghman and Panjshir) completed and progresses in other provinces are completed in different stages
- 40 DDP summaries were translated in to English, of which 12 summaries are edited
- The CE unit checked the implementation status of project ideas identified in DDPs in 19 provinces and result shows that 101 projects are ongoing and 167 are completed

- The CE unit completed a pilot training of Module 3 in Nangarhar
- Completed preparation of a facilitator's guide for training Module 2 and draft handouts of Module 1 and 2 completed
- The CE conducted gender assessment in the DDA and the DDP processes and produced a report (visited Kapisa and Parwasn, Kundoz and discussed with the DDA members)
- In addition, CE conducted face to face interview and focus group discussions to assess the existing gender approached in PCM and to mainstream gender in NABDP operational guidelines

2. Economic Regeneration

Issues:

Afghanaid requested for no cost extension of the project (sub-sector analysis and business plan development), no cost extension request has been approved.

The Economic Regeneration unit has received payment request for reimbursable amount of west region (DACAAR) without original bills, NABDP's finance section is not accepting expenditure list without original bills, but DACAAR finance section is also arguing that they can't give original bills , DACAAR keep the original bills.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables

- The economic regeneration unit has sent comments against revised technical feasibility and economic viability report of western region for sub-sector analysis and business plan development project of DACAAR for three sub-sectors namely, saffron, silk, and cashmere.
- Comments sent against revised technical feasibility and economic viability report of Northern region (Afghanaid) for three sub-sectors almond, carpet, and melon enterprises for the northern region.
- The ER unit has evaluated three business plans received from DACAAR (west region team) and comments have been finalized and will be sent shortly
- The ER unit prepared a simple business plan questionnaire for micro enterprises for data collection of pr-feasibility data from Rodat district of Nangarhar province,
- The ER unit drafted TOR for implementation support for enterprise establishment from four drafts TOR developed earlier for each component of business development services and implementation support
- The ER unit received (hard as well as soft copy of EOI) 11 organizations interest to provide Business development services (BDS) and Enterprise Implementation Support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Balkh, Bamyan, Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar Regional Rural Economic Regeneration through Rural Enterprise Development in response of RFEOI published on 12, 13, 15 December in three newspapers as well as in NABDP & MRRD websites
- The ER unit has evaluated DACAAR (central region team) sub-sector analysis report, sent comments that they improved the report according to the comments and submitted the updated version of report. The report was accepted.

3. Institutional Development

Issues:

Unwillingness of some departmental directors to cooperate is remained an issues; some of the directors were unwilling to cooperate in the assessment of their departments. So, through H.E Minister Office and an official letter by Deputy Minister of programme, the ID unit was eventually being able to convince them to cooperate in the process.

The Ministry's effort at restructuring MRRD departments/ programmes in Kabul is caused another problem. The ID unit now understands that MRRD is working on restructuring central departments. This may somewhat affect ID work plan for 2008.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

- The ID colleagues started their work (assess PCM and OD) with assigned departments; HR, RITS, CLDD, RLED and the status of works are as follow:
 - Preparatory step: Each National Institutional Development Advisor are working with one or two assigned department(s) and are working closely with the director or a focal person assigned for the task
 - The ID are collecting available secondary data from departments such as official documents and other materials
 - A review of secondary data is now in progress
- Translation of training materials is not in Dari , so it is outsourced and progressing
- An exposure visit to India for selected MRRD staff during February 2008 (first half) is in the making. Preliminary meetings with officials of the Government of India, was held in December. Other related administrative work is progressing here. The list of participants for this visit has been finalized by MRRD. The budget has been approved.
- Assets and profiles management system (PDC database)
 - Conduct different meeting with AIMS, Mr. Shirzai, Mr. Ajmiri and Mr. Najimi concern assets and profile of provinces
 - Working on feasibility study draft report to be finalize
 - Working on first version of database prototype and interface
- Support for AIRD is being provided to develop job-descriptions for various positions in the Institute
- The MRRD has constituted a strategic Advisory Team to advice the Minister on restructuring the MRRD departments and programs. The ID component is very actively involved in this effort
- One of the National Advisors has resigned from the ID team for personal reasons

4. Implementation Support

Issues:

- Implementation of the Chintal bridge project in Balkh has not been undertaken due to unqualified contractor

- Due to lack of design engineers around 20 surveyed projects (roads, water scheme, irrigation) are awaiting for design in north and north east
- Recently concluded field mission reported that the regional office in Mazar-e-Sharif is unsuitable place as it is in dilapidated condition

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

- Total 449 projects are in the second phase till now , of which 229 completed, 160 ongoing and 60 not started yet
- Two projects were paid new tranche from finance unit
- 28 projects were newly contracted (27 Gabion projects in Jalal Abad and one school project in Mazar all this projects signed with communities). Gabion projects were re-tendered due to the price escalation of gabion wires. New contracts have been awarded.
- Six projects are surveyed in Jalalabad
- One project in Kabul, Qarabagh, Gabion project has been signed and the TSU engineer has gone to the site to verify the design so that the project can be started
- Preparation for launching project implementation in Helmand is underway
- One PRDA and one admin/ finance staff hired for Helmand programme and are being trained in Kabul
- Six ISU staff (PRDA, RM) are deputed to community empowerment unit to provide support in field on request
- North and north east regions projects were monitored by Kabul NABDP team
- The ISU staff had meeting with NC, to discuss ISU job related issues, problems, recommendations, and plan for future activities refining/ improving MIS/ communication channel that is recognized as important aspect
- Mr.Stephane Sourdin joined IS unit as Rural Development Advisor. Mr. Karwandoy, SNA, resigned from NABDP effective end of January 2008 and also, Mr. Stephen Maynard, Community Development Advisor resigned on December 22 ,2007.
- Similarly, contract of PRDA for Zabul province was terminated due to no fund availability for the province. However, he is advised to come to NABDP Kabul to explore the possibility of working as SM in Helmand

5. DIAG

Issues:

A lack of capacity in the RITS of MRRD continues to delay the implementation of the DIAG development projects. DCU regularly contacted the RITS 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 Implementation Partner (IP) has been selected and is ready to start implementation, the IP is not given the green light yet. Senior management of both MRRD and DIAG should discuss on this issue for possible solution.

Progress achieved against outputs/deliverables

As current status of DIAG development project, DCU is implementing or preparing for 48 DIAG development projects as follows:

Summary of DIAG Development Projects Status		
No.	Status	District
1	01. completed	Mahmud Raqi (Canal Cleaning)
8	02. implementation ongoing	Shortepea (vet clinic), Aab Kamari (BHC), Cha ab (girls 16 class school), Pashtun Zarghoon (BHC), Kohistan 2 (vet clinic), Andkhoi (maternity section), Namak Aab (girls 16 class school), Mohmand Dara (16 class school)
1	03. announced soon	Suzma-qala (vet clinic)
6	04. designing	Farkhar (MHP), Bangi (1.6km gravelling & wall), Salang (20m bridge), Farza (girls 24 class school), Obeh (culture center), Kohband (14km gravelling)
1	05. survey ongoing	Dara-e-Noor (16 class school)
10	06. survey planned	Jalrez (12class school), Noorgram (BHC), Murdyan (intake & water controlling gate), Khuram&Sarbagh (3km gabion), Dow-lina (BHC), Qala-e-Zal (16 class school), Saighan (40 deep wells) Kushk-e-Kuna (bridge), Khushi (maternity section) ,Warsaj (14km gravelling)
2	07. postponed due to DIAG operation	Jawand (16 class school), Baharak (8 deep wells)
19	08. will be identified	Qaramqul, Keshendi, Roye-Doab, Eshkashim, Khenjan1, Khenjan2, Dahana Ghor1, Dahana Ghor2, Dasht-e-Archi, Khwaja Ghar, Bagram, Azrah, Kohistan1, Bati Kot, Khewa, Mehtarlam, Qarghaee, Shibir, Chaghansor
48	Total project	

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DCU with the help of a hydropower engineer and RITS engineers for the HP project of Farkhar district completed designing and estimation of the cost. It will be given the green light for further action.

Regarding the DDA and the DDP processes for newly introduced 34 DIAG targeted districts, Community Empowerment teams continued to deploy to the districts. Establishment of the DDAs, formulation of the DDPs and the identification of DIAG development projects remain incomplete in the following nine DIAG target districts except districts indicating "Done".

DDI Districts Selection – Phase 2				
REGION	PROVINCE	No.	DISTRICTS	DDA & DDP/Schedule
NORTH	FARYAB	1	Qaramqul	Done
	SARI PUL	2	Sozma Qala	Done on 11 Nov
	JAWZJAN	3	Faizabad	by 31 Jan 08
	BALKH	4	Keshendi	Done
	SAMANGAN	5	Roye DoAab	Done on 30 Nov 07
NORTH EAST	BAGHLAN	6	Khenjan 1	Done in Jan 08
		7	Khenjan 2	Done in Jan 08
		8	Dahana-Ghori 1	Done in Jan 08
		9	Dahana-Ghori 2	Done in Jan 08
	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 Jan 08
		23	Da Sabz	by 31 Jan 08
	LOGAR	24	Azrah	Done in Dec 07
KAPISA	25	Kohistan 1	Done on 6 Oct 07	
	NANGARHAR	26	Bati Kot	Done in August 07
27		Khewa	Done in August 07	
EAST	LAGHMAN	28	Mehtarlam	Done in April 07
		29	Qarghaee	Done in April 07
WEST	HERAT	30	Kushk-e-Kuhna	Done on 8 Nov
	GHOR	31	Dolaina	Done on 30 Nov 07
CENTRAL HIGHLAND	BAMYAN	32	Shibir	Done on 11 Oct 07
		33	Saighan	Done on 4 Oct 07
SOUTH	NIMROZ	34	Chaghansor	Done in March 07
Total 34 districts (25 done, nine remaining)				

* highlighted: the remaining districts

6. CNTF

Issues:

Due to the security reasons, the work of 21 km road in Murghab district of Badghis province could not 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 and in which the re-allocation of Murghab funds to Balkh and Chemtal Raods in Balkh province as well some more funds to cover the Balkh road cost is requested.

The Helmand Intake project also need some extra funds for diverting Helmand river water from the site where the intake supposed to be constructed. A formal request for more funds for the mentioned project is also requested from CNTF. The fate of both projects will be cleared in the next Management Board meeting.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverable

- The status of CNTF projects during this month was as follows:
 - a. Seven projects are ongoing,
 - b. One bridge project namely, 18 meter RCC bridge in Gurziwan Faryab is suspended due to cold weather,
 - c. Two road sub-projects in Qades of Badghis province are suspended and are under re-survey and re-estimation,
 - d. One diversion dam project in Gurziwan, Faryab province is under technical evaluation, and
 - e. One water supply project (87 deep wells) are under tendering in Balkh province

- The Draft Report of the Priority Projects from Provincial Development Plan (PDP) list has been prepared together with other line ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Ministry of Energy and Water, Ministry of Public Works and CNTF for Badakhshan, Balkh, Nangarhar and Farah, and submitted for comments/approval to CNTF MB. CNTF MB approved the draft and requested the CNTF and the Ministerial Technical Committee to include Herat province as well. A donor/ ministerial committee meeting supposed to be held ASAP to approve the budget for the provincial approach.

7. Watsan (Belgium)

Issues:

In Daykundi construction works are complete both companies requested their final payments, while reports reveal that work quality is not according to standards provided to them and Daykundi PRRD approved their 40% payments.

It was discussed with the Daykundi RRD director, he promised that he will make companies solve all physical problems in the contract and will inform WatSan to send monitoring and handover teams.

In Ghor province all companies completed their contracted activities and waiting for the final monitoring and handover. While only one company in Chigchiran, Murghab and

Qurullah completed their 57 out 111 wells and required more time to complete the remaining activities.

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 Sarjangan	100	0	0	60	0	0	Agreed with WatSan to Cancel the contract*
5		Chigchiran, 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

7. Watsan (USAID)

Issues:

As reported last time, some projects in Kabul and its suburbs are at the liquidation period and hence need to be monitored and paid then for their works after evaluation. But the no cost extension request for ongoing projects is still hanging around in the USAID main office and we did not get any official response for its approval or refusal. Due to this fact some implementing partners do hesitate to accelerate their works fearing of the loss of their money incase of the negative response of the USAID main office. Although in Kabul, software and hardware works are almost finished and we are waiting for the request of the IPs to let us send a team to the site and hand over it to the PRRD. This can be seen clearly in the projects' recent progressive status in the next section which reveals the dim progress of the implementing partners in their hardware works.

In Nijrab distract of Kapisa province a contract of 16 wells has been signed with PQCC construction company, for about two months but even after three and half months of the expiry of the contract, the company could not proceed onward with its hardware works.

The same type of contract In Maidan Shahr district of the Maidan Wardak province, a contract of 16 wells had been signed with a construction company but even after two and half months of the expiry of the contract, the IP could hardly work 40% out of the

contracted targeted wells due to its low technical capacity. Since last month no improvement is being seen in their works, refer to the table given in the next section.

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			95%
	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				29	3	90%
9	Logar	Baraki Barak	37				32	5	85%
10	Kapisa	Kohistan (II)	24				22	2	85%
11	Kapisa	Kohistan (I)	9				7	2	75%
12	Kapisa	Nejrab	12				6	6	50%

The hygiene and sanitation component of the projects in some of the above regions is on the verge of completion, reporting is done on 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. 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!