

## Report for the Month of Jawza 1386

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## **Introduction**

After the project implementation had been slowed down during the winter due to difficult weather conditions. The community mobilization and implementation units now increasingly face worsened security conditions as barriers that slow down the implementation processes. As a consequence of the worsening security situation it also becomes more difficult to find good implementation partners and the quality of projects is suffering in some parts of the country accordingly.

The Provincial Development Planning Process is ongoing. Many new staff have particularly been hired for this purpose and the team is moving from province to province, as assigned by the Minister and hoping to finish the process in the given time frame, until the end of August 07.

Because of the intense work load and the fact that a lot staff members have often been in the field, internal and external communication has been difficult. Accordingly, it has been difficult to collect information for reports and to provide quality reports on time. The team from now on will use a new procedure hoping to increase the quality of reporting and better meet deadlines. In regard to the website a lot of effort has been made to present various documents online and a lot of documents are now available on [www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp](http://www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp) which also makes it easier for externals to get access to up-to-date information.

## **Community Empowerment**

### **Sub-National Consultation and Provincial Development Planning**

The following section discusses the rationale for NABDP and its Community Empowerment component involvement in sub-national consultation (SNC) and provincial development planning (PDP) which serves as a take-off for discussions on SNC PDP in the coming months.

The Sub-National Consultation and Provincial Development Planning (SNC-PDP) are two interlinked government-led processes who share a common objective of providing the government and Afghans nationwide with the opportunity to discuss ministry strategies with local communities. At the SNC, communities validate the ministry strategies in the light of situations in respective provinces. The output of the SNC is an enriched line ministry strategy that will be consolidated and further consulted with national level stakeholders. This SNC is the first of its kind to utilize an extensive stakeholder consultation process at sub-national level in Afghanistan.

The provincial development planning is a step towards aligning community needs and priorities with national strategies through constructive discussions with line ministries based on the outcome of the SNC. During the discussions communities and line ministry representatives agree on list of priorities based on the ministries' strategies. The outcome of the planning is a Provincial Development Plan (PDP) that contains various elements including: development projects of each province, the target location of projects, intended beneficiaries, lead agency/ ministry and potential support. In many provinces PDPs have been developed and strategies of some line ministries have been consulted. The assessment conducted by ANDS has shown a number of problems with the PDPs and line ministry consultations, including: inadequate involvement of communities, lack of alignment of PDP with the national budgeting framework, lack of standard procedure for the SNC and PDP. In addition, the PDPs were also prepared by external organizations which did not capture the "heart and mind" of the government.

Discussions at the Afghan Development Forum Inter-Ministerial Committee on Sub-National Consultation and Provincial Development Planning resulted in the appointment of the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) to lead the operational execution of the SNC PDP for entire Afghanistan. For MRRD, acceptance of the inter-ministerial appointment embodies the recognition of its strengths and an opportunity to advocate community participation in local governance and development which is among its core values.

Two reasons why NABDP was selected by MRRD to lead the SNC/ PDP:

- (i) NABDP's scope and mandate: is to establish sub-national structures, ie., District Development Assemblies (DDA), supporting the preparation of Provincial Development Plans (PDP) and institutional capacity building of communities and Provincial Development Committees (PDC) nationwide. The DDAs are established building on the Community Development Councils (CDCs) who were chosen by the communities through direct popular vote.

- (ii) The relevance of the current task and availability of in-house expertise: NABDP has developed the MRRD's operational strategy for community empowerment and is currently leading the establishment of District Development Assemblies and giving support to the preparation of Provincial Development Plans (PDP). NABDP has already established 167 DDAs covering approximately 44% of Afghanistan. Further, NABDP through its Community Empowerment component has a team of national and international staffs who have been trained in regard to the MRRD's Community Empowerment strategy and can be made available for the SNC PDP.

The need to link community and village collective decisions to sub-national development planning and decision process is one of MRRD's goals in regard to governance and development. In the past development planning and decision making on development were largely undertaken at provincial centers with minimal or no involvement of communities. NABDP through its Community Empowerment (CE) component has made it possible to realize this linkage through the establishment of DDAs, formulation of DDPs and incorporation of the consolidated DDPs into the Provincial Development Planning process. In addition, through its work with the Ministry of Economy the Community Empowerment component has successfully advocated support to communities by allowing community representatives to be part of the PDC. In addition, the NABDP's Community Empowerment component's growing experience on Provincial Development Planning (PDP) in support to the Ministry of Economy that started in Kandahar and Laghman has grown stronger.

In support to communities, partnerships have been established. The CE component has launched partnership agreements and succeeded to formalize contracts with two facilitating partners- the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and BRAC Afghanistan (BRAC). Further, the Community Empowerment component also provided technical support to DIAG for the establishment of DDAs and formulation of DDPs where DIAG will provide funding for identified priority projects.

### **Project Implementation Challenges**

- MRRD has committed to lead the SNC/ PDP where NABDP due to its capacity and flexibility has been selected to represent MRRD in the operational management of the SNC and the PDP. This was a political decision that requires refocusing of plans and resources that compromises NABDP CE component's current work and targets.
- The deadline for the completion of the SNC/ PDP which is August (2007) is too tight and puts heavy pressure onto the operational implementation and requires total dedication of time and resources from the CE component.
- Lack of women who are able and willing to join the SNC/ PDP.
- Delay (about four months in the procurement department) in launching contracts with IRC and BRAC

### **Risks and Issues**

The normal business of the Community Empowerment component has to be refocused and plans re-scheduled.

## **Implementation Progress**

- SNC and PDP implementation are on-going in the provinces of Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz and Baghlan.
- Translation of the project component of PDP into English.
- Support to DDA/P's work in DIAG-target districts.

## **Other Completed Activities**

In general, the major accomplishment during this month has been setting up the foundation for SNC/ PDP which includes recruitment of personnel, planning, organization, and deployment of teams and covers the following:

- Completed the SNC/ PDP proposal, developed the implementation and the team deployment plan, developed the SNC/ PDP operational methodology and prepared the Memorandum of Understanding for the Inter-Ministerial Committee of SNC and PDP.
- Recruited, oriented, and deployed 27 national facilitators (22 men and five women) for the SNC and PDP. Recruited four internationals (two men and two women (three to report on 1 July 07)).
- Recruited and deployed three Community Empowerment- regular staff based in Kabul and temporarily assigned to SNC/ PDP.
- Presented the SNC-PDP operational framework in the 1<sup>st</sup> ISAF PRT national conference in Afghanistan, attended by top leaders of ISAF/ PRT.
- Successfully tested the SNC/ PDP operational methodology in two provinces- Kapisa and Parwan that resulted in the development of a SNC-PDP handbook, now used by field teams.
- Established five DDAs and formulated five DDPs for the DIAG programme covering Herat and Badghis provinces.
- The SNC/ PDP were completed in Kapisa and Parwan with over 38% of women representatives from communities (Kapisa 40% and Parwan 37%).
- Oriented IRC and BRAC on the DDA/P operational methodology.

## **Plan for the Next Month**

- (i) Submit ten PDPs to the ANDS Secretariat.
- (ii) Complete SNC/ PDP in 60% of 34 provinces.
- (iii) Complete 80% of DIAG DDA/P targets.
- (iv) Launch IRC and BRAC activities in their respective provinces- Khost and Nangarhar.

## **Economic Regeneration**

### **Project Implementation Challenges**

Regional Economic Development Unit faced major challenges due to shortage of professional consulting organizations who can work in the area of Economic Development in Afghanistan. Seven consulting organizations had committed to submit

the proposal for Sub-sector Analysis and Business Plan Development to RRERS Unit of NABDP. However, by 12 June 07, the last date for submitting the proposal, only three organizations submitted the proposals. Other organization expressed their inability to submit the proposal.

### **Risks and Issues**

Technically qualified organizations for RRERS project, like DACAAR and Afghanaid refused to submit proposals for Nangarhar and Kandahar due to poor security.

### **Implementation Progress**

#### **Pre-Proposal Conference: 29 May, 2007, NABDP Conference Room: Sub-Sector Analysis and Business Plan Development:**

This meeting was organized in accordance with instructions to consultants provided in reference 1.3 of Data Sheet in the Request for Proposal (RFP). The main objective of the pre-proposal conference was to clarify the issues related to Terms of Reference (ToR/RFP) of the project. Fourteen participants, including the NABDP Programme Manager, and MRRD Procurement Unit representative, participated in the meeting. Meeting minutes were sent to all the participants

#### **Final Proposal Evaluation Report: Sub-Sector Analysis and Business Plan Development. 12-17 June 07:**

The last date for submitting the proposal was 12th June 2007. A committee was approved by the Deputy Minister on 9 June 07, for carrying out the technical and financial evaluation of the proposals. Only Afghanaid, with 91 scores, and DACAAR, with 89 scores, qualified in technical evaluation. On 14 June, at 10.30 am financial proposal for Afghanaid and DACAAR were opened in the presence of the Evaluation Committee and representatives from Afghanaid and DACAAR. All the details of the technical and financial reports are available in the relevant file of the project. Finally, for the western region (Herat) DACAAR and for the Northern region (Balkh) Afghanaid were recommended for being awarded the contract.

#### **The Following Other Activities Were Completed:**

- Participated in the MRRD Rural Enterprise Development Programme Stakeholders Workshop on 27 May 07.
- Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) for Oversight Consultant (OC) for Mass Mobilization into Entrepreneurship (MME) was prepared and discussed with the NABDP Programme Manager, the Rural Enterprise Development Unit of MRRD, and the Deputy Minister.
- The RFEOI for the MME was approved by the Deputy Minister and it was sent to the MRRD Procurement department for publication. MRRD Procurement arranged to publish it in the Kabul Times on 30 May 07.
- A report was made on: UNDP Roundtable Discussion on “Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Nurturing an Enabling Environment for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development in Afghanistan”, 2 June 07 and was sent to the Deputy Minister.
- A report was made on the Workshop on “Future Directions for Horticulture in Afghanistan” Thursday 31 May 07, “Horticulture Development Review Mission to Afghanistan” (European Union) sent to H.E., the Minister.

- A modified Proposal for “Gabion Weaving Vocational Training and Production: Promotion of Income Generating Activities (IGA) in Kandahar” was submitted to Deputy Minister/ Minister MRRD on 30 May 07.

#### **Plan for the Next Month:**

- Evaluation of Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) for Oversight Consultant (OC) for Mass Mobilization into Entrepreneurship (MME).
- Preparation of Technical Evaluation and Monitoring Plan on Sub-Sector Analysis and Business Plan Development studies for Herat and Balkh regions.
- Field visit to Herat and Balkh regions for initiating the Sub-sector Analysis and Business Plan Development studies.

### **Institutional Development**

#### **Project Implementation Challenges - Issues**

The delay and suspension of flights and the local security situation are likely to affect the preparation, coordination and facilitation of Sub-National Consultation (SNC) and Provincial Development Council (PDC) process in several provinces.

#### **Implementation Progress**

- The review and preparation of the LogFrame and Work Plan both in English and Dari versions for the Planning Department (PD) are completed.
- The follow-up workshop on operationalization of the MRRD Strategic Intent for the Planning Department (PD) has been completed.
- The workshop on the operationalization of the MRRD Strategic Intent for Rural Livelihood and Energy Department (RLED) is completed.
- The documentation of the operationalization workshop for the RLED in English and Dari are completed, the draft report is ready.
- The preparation, coordination and facilitation of the Sub-National Consultation & Provincial Development Council Process with the Governors, RRD Directors, PMAs, RCs, ASP Advisors, Women Affaires Department, PRT, Provincial Councils and UNAMA in Kapisa, Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan, Badakhshan, Bamyán, Helmand, Zabul, Nimruz, Uruzgan, Kandahar and Daykundi provinces are completed.
- The workshop on operationalization of the MRRD Strategic Intent for Water and Sanitation (WatSan) department are completed.
- Participation in the two days workshop on MRRD Strategic Intent Awareness for provincial & central Directors of MRRD.

#### **Meetings Attended by Members of the ID Team Include the Following:**

- Meeting and contacts held with the CLDD department regarding the implementation of the MRRD Strategic Intent.
- Meeting and discussion held with the departments of PD & CDD for introducing two staff members from each department, in order to participate and learn the conduction of the operationalization workshops on the MRRD Strategic Intent for central and provincial departments of the MRRD.
- Regular ID team meetings were held for improving our approach to work.

- Detailed discussion held with Administration, Planning, CLDD, RITS, NRAP, Finance, Emergency Response regarding capacity building and their alignment to the Strategic Intent of the MRRD.
- One of the team members participated in a **Consensus-Building Workshop on Institutional Capacity Building for Gender Equity** organized by UNDP.

### **Plan for the Next Month**

- Preparation, coordination and facilitation of Sub-National Consultation (SNC) & Provincial Development Council (PDC) Process with the Governors, RRD Directors, PMAs, RCs, ASP Advisors, Women Affairs Department, PRT, Provincial Councils and UNAMA in Ghazni, Khost, Paktya, Paktika, Logar, Wardak and Kabul provinces.
- Documentation, translation, completion and review of LF & WP for WatSan department.
- Support to be provided to the MRRD Strategic Intent Implementation matrix through holding workshops with directors of various departments.
- Support the departments of RITS, Plan, CLDD, RLED and WatSan regarding finalization of LF & WP for their departments.

## **Implementation Support**

### **Implementation Progress**

#### ***East and South-Eastern Region***

##### **Nangarhar Province**

The negotiation with the community regarding the Balabagh bridge site selection took place in cooperation with the RRD director. The final discussion is taken up by the community and is documented and signed by the district governor and finally to be submitted by the RRD director to Kabul.

Regarding the DDA establishment and the DDP formulation in Nangarhar the contract was signed with BRAC. BRAC started their activities and provided an action plan.

The final discussion with NSP headquarters took place. It was decided that in the near future NSP will start sharing its regional office in the eastern zone with NABDP and costs will be shared by half. A MoU was prepared and sent to NSP for comments.

### **Project Implementation Challenges**

- Lack of surveyor and AutoCAD engineer in the eastern zone
- The present staff of BRAC might not have enough experience for conducting DDA/DDP establishing workshops
- Two months (June and July) might not enough for the completion of 22 districts DDA/DDP establishment
- We are still under pressure from Kunar and Nuristan Governors regarding the fact that no DDAs were established there yet.

##### **Laghman Province**

All NABDP projects were completed and handed over to the relevant departments in Laghman except the retaining wall in Qalai Mansoor, which is completed to 98%.

The DDA establishment and DDPs formulation for all districts, including Mehterlam, has been completed.

Twelve sub-projects are surveyed for CNTF-funding by the TSU engineers for the eastern region.

### **Kunar Province**

The TSU engineers for the eastern region are busy with the designing for the seven sub-projects for CNTF funding.

### **Paktya Province**

The following CNTF projects technical survey is under process by TSU engineers. The **Calculation** of the technical survey has been completed by the assigned TSU eng.:

- 1- Intake Bandakai Hasan Mohammad in Mandozi- Ismail-Khail district
- 2- Intake of Kanda in Kundai village in Khost
- 3- Retaining wall of Dandapan in Shamal area of Khost
- 4- Intake of Tandi-peeran – canal in Khost

The short listed **38** Irrigation projects, prioritized by DDAs in different districts of Paktiya, were discussed with the chairmen and deputies to specify the projects for the technical surveying that will be undertaken in short considering the given context.

### **Ghazni Province**

In Nawor district of Ghazni the people have reached consensus for the selection of the location for the eight class school building and the work is about to start.

### **Khost Province**

A meeting was arranged by IRC and the PRRD in Khost, in the governor's guest house, where all provincial line ministries, religious leaders, district seniors and UNAMA were invited and the establishment of the DDA and formulation of the DDP was announced for those districts, which have not yet been covered by NSP.

### **Plan for the Next Month**

All those sub-projects identified by DDAs for irrigation projects are to be surveyed and designed and a BoQ is to be prepared for further actions.

Three projects in Nangarhar are to be contracted and the implementation is to be started.

### **Southern Region (Kandahar, Uruzgan, Helmand, Nimruz, Zabul)**

As first region for the decentralization strategy, all necessary steps of the PCM have been taken in Kandahar like project identification, surveying, designing and procurement etc.

#### **The following are the provinces covered by PAG Funding:**

**Kandahar:** A continuous process has been started, in a daily basis numerous projects are being identified, surveyed and designed etc. The total number of projects identified by the communities is now 1,438 which makes **195 projects more than last month**. As we mentioned in last report total No of projects surveyed in Kandahar were 432 by our TSU engineers. The progress from last month is **24**, the total number of projects surveyed is now 456. **The** total number of contracted projects up to date, with DDAs and construction companies are 283, 30 more than last month. The actual number of started projects up to date are 257, **30** projects more than last month.

**Uruzgan:**

- In last month's report the total number of projects surveyed was 110, but now the number rose to 117 in all six districts of Uruzgan
- The total number of projects identified by the communities in last month is 13
- The total no. of projects designed is 17
- The total no. of projects contracted is six and actually started is one

**Zabul:** Up to now the total no. of projects contracted is 11

**Helmand:**

- The total no. of projects surveyed by the Kandahar TSU In 13 districts of Helmand province are six
- The total no. of projects designed is 18
- The total no. of projects started is eight

**Nimruz:** The total no of projects contracted is three

**Projects Implementation Challenges:****Security and Weak IPs**

Due to bad security situation it is difficult to do proper and timely monitoring. In addition, due to bad security situation it is very hard to find good and qualified IPs.

**Risk and Issues**

Climate is a challenge. Some projects have to be implemented in the right season otherwise the climate will not allow us to work e.g. in irrigation.

Plan for the Next Month

Containing survey, design the No of projects identified by community and after completion of those necessary steps procuring and doing proper monitoring of started project

**North and North Eastern Regions**

**Balkh:**

- Eleven NABDP projects have been announced and all the projects are under technical and financial evaluation.
- Chimtal Bridge: the work is stopped and the company got one month more extension for the implementation.
- Two *kanda* projects are under process, i.e. seven *kanda* in Chimtal and seven *kanda* in Zari.

**Faryab;**

- Out of 12 projects, 10 are ongoing. More than 40%% of the work is done for the Gulquduq clinic and the Dowlatabad wells.
- Two projects (Bilchiragh and Pashtoonkot) were announced in Kabul last week.

**Badakhshan:**

- The Yaftal and Argo school construction projects are ongoing
- The Kofab school construction is completed and is ready to be hand over

- A community based project is approved by H.E, the Minister, in this project people will make the road between Ishkashim and Shughnan, NABDP will pay for fuel, salary and equipment

Baghlan:

- 4 projects are ongoing; among these a suspension bridge is completed and ready for inauguration

Takhar: Two bridges are under construction, one is contracted with QNCC/ KMCC.

### Central and South-Western Regions

#### **Project Implementation Challenges**

- The MRRD procurement department is slow in processing project proposals which hinder the implementation process as there are only six months of working season in Bamyan
- Two projects for Bamyan and three projects for Daykundi have been rejected after the bidding
- No internet facilities in regional office
- Absence of financial system for payment of TSU engineers DSA/ transportation cost etc.

If the rejected projects are delayed by procurement the working season will be finished and the project will be implemented for the next year.

#### **Staff and Government Authority Relevant Problems:**

- Admin/ Finance officer needs to be recruited as Dr.Salem Sediqi can not manage all these aspects
- The Governor, Municipality and PRRD think that the TSU is limited to Bamyan
- The PRRD used the TSU engineers for the surveying & designing of some projects without any consultation with the Regional Manager
- The PRRD does not use its own engineers, even for a simple tasks
- Among the TSU engineers are some unqualified ones who can not do their assigned job
- The procurement dep. should inform the reg. manager when the work has started so that the work can be monitored
- The Monitoring team from MRRD usually take the vehicle of Regional managers for weeks and if the vehicle is not around they get a payment to rent a vehicle & they insist on renting a vehicle only for their purpose (which is sometimes 1000 USD)

#### **Implementation Progress**

The projects design for surveyed projects in Badakhshan have been completed by the TSU engineers and all mentioned document has been brought to Kabul to the RITS department for further processing.

The project surveying for the DDAs in Kitti and Kijran was completed by the TSU engineers and they have started surveying in Sang-e Takht district.

The work on the road project for the Government compound has been done to 8% in Bamyan.

For two projects (Ladu Shaheedan eight-classroom school and Qarghana sub-clinic) the documents were evaluated by the procurement department and will be submitted for contracting to HE, the Minister.

Regarding the expansion of the Waras clinic into a hospital the bidding document was rejected by procurement department.

The designs of the Surkh Parsa projects (road and bridge) have been completed by TSU engineers and the documents have been sent to the MRRD for further processing.

### **Plan for the Next Month**

- Follow-up of the problematic projects with Mr. Matiullah
- Writing proposals for three projects
- Follow-up on designed projects of Daykundi in the MRRD
- Following the Rejected Project of Bamyan & Daykundi in the MRRD
- Support to the regional office
- Solving the TSU's and regional office's problems

### **DIAG**

#### **Project Implementation Challenges - Risks**

DIAG is facing security concerns all over the country, particularly in the south, east and west regions where police and military forces are insufficiently capable of protecting communities in the regions. Effectiveness of law prohibiting people to possess weapons without registration, which provides legal basis for DIAG operation, is questionable. Lack of political commitment to DIAG at any social levels creates an environment where only unsatisfactory results of weapon collection and disbandment of IAGs are anticipated. All those external and uncontrollable factors directly or indirectly hamper DIAG operation.

#### **Issues**

The lack of extra manpower in Community Empowerment Unit still poses a headache to the NABDP DIAG Coordination Unit (DCU). The DCU prepared the action plan for the District DIAG Implementation (DDI) project, in which DDA and DDP processes in the nineteen DIAG target district are expected to be completed by the end of June. The DCU, however, suggests that the processes will be completed by the end of July.

A lack of capacity in RITS and Procurement departments of MRRD continues to delay the process of DIAG development implementation.

A more fundamental issue to be solved is that a great portion of DIAG development funding allocated to NABDP and NSP remains untouched. Because the implementation of DIAG development project always follows the result of DIAG weapon collection and disbandment activities (the DIAG operation) and the DIAG operation did not bring about a successful result so far, MRRD does not have a free hand to go ahead with implementing a DIAG development project.

### **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS**

The District DIAG Implementation (DDI) project requested NABDP DIAG Coordination Unit (DCU) to accelerate the establishment of DDAs in the DIAG target districts by using the NABDP-DIAG development budget. A newly-established Community Empowerment

Team with the help of the Ministry of Women's Affairs for the DIAG target districts was deployed to Herat and Badghis. The team set up DDAs, consolidated DDPs and identified the most suitable DIAG development projects in the four target districts in the respective provinces of the western region.

The designing of a hydro-power plant in Farkhar district, Takhar province, has almost been completed by the RITS department. The budget based on the estimated cost was agreed at a higher level (Minister, Ambassador of Japan, and Disarmament and Reintegration Commission (D&R Commission)).

Redesigning and re-evaluation of the cost were completed by RITS for a Veterinary Clinic in Kohistan 2, Kapisa province. The procurement process will start soon.

The agreement by stakeholders on a Girls' Secondary School in Cha Ab, Takhar province, will be confirmed soon so that the procurement process can start.

The Community-Led Development Department (CLDD) assists DCU to expedite DDA establishment and DDP formulation processes in the remaining DIAG target districts. They will get trained in a couple of days and be sent to Kohband, Kapisa, to start the DDA and DDP process. A Facilitating Partner, BRAC, is tasked to establish DDAs and formulate DDPs in Nangarhar, including two DIAG target districts.

The contents of the MoU between MRRD and D&R Commission on DIAG development were agreed upon at working level. A higher level in each side is consulted in this regard. The Minister will participate in DIAG's Tokyo Conference held on 21 June 07.

### **Plan for the Next Month**

The DIAG Community Empowerment Team will continue the DDA and DDP process and the identification of DIAG development projects in the remaining target districts.

The planning/ implementation of the hydro power plant, the veterinary clinic and the girls' secondary school projects will continue.

### **CNTF**

#### **Project Implementation Challenges - Risks**

The main challenge to CNT projects in the current month of Jawza was the bad security condition. For example, due to security reason two road projects in Murghab district of Badghis province could not be started as planned.

#### **Implementation Progress**

Out of 18 CNTF-Funded Projects, two projects are completed, seven projects are ongoing, two projects are under design/ estimation in the RITS department, one project is under technical evaluation, two projects are under tendering and four projects have recently been contracted and are currently in the preparatory stage.

In addition to the above mentioned projects, 13 projects are under discussion with CNTF for further funding. Besides, eleven projects that are under technical surveying.

## **Plan for the Next Month**

- Contacting companies for providing bi-weekly updates on MRRD-CNTF projects to all stakeholders (MCN,CNTF, UNDP, etc)
- Follow up the process of detail technical survey of five projects in Badghis, Kunar, Khost, Paktia and Kandahar
- Follow up of 13 MRRD submitted projects to CNTF for funding
- Submission of new projects to CNTF for funding

## **WatSan- Belgian-Funded**

### **Project Implementation Challenges - Risks**

Since the beginning there are mainly three kinds of risks technical, social and environmental risks. The capacity of private construction companies is poor. They lack technical capacity and expert staff regarding water and sanitation as well as regarding necessary equipment. Also the capacity of the provincial RRDs is limited, mainly in terms of qualified professionals, and in monitoring matters. Consequently, the unit could only partly perform the anticipated duties on time.

The quality of the initially conducted studies is poor and there is a lack of data regarding the aquifers<sup>1</sup> and hydro-geology of the target areas causes failure of some wells and wastes useful resources.

### **Procurement Procedures**

The procurement procedures have been slowing down the whole implementation process. The chain of accountability is very long. As a result private companies feel that they are responsible to the center rather than to the PRRD's and the communities. Due to a continued difficult security situation, many WatSan projects had to be put on hold. During the winter project implementation had to be suspended due to frost and lots of snow. This was especially the case in Ghor and Daykundi.

### **Issues**

Currently there are two main issues in rural WatSan projects funded by Belgium through NABDP. Due to cold weather conditions, the construction companies in Ghor and Daykundi could not manage to complete their activities on time hence they require a No-Cost Extension. The extension procedure was explained to the companies and we are receiving their request for no-cost-extension but due to the remoteness of the provinces we have only received two requests, one from Ghor and one from Daykundi.

The second issue is that the work volume contracted is more than the norm we have (40-50) wells per company, while actually 111 water points are contracted to one company, which may cause delays regarding the completion of work.

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<sup>1</sup> An **aquifer** is an underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock or unconsolidated materials (gravel, sand, silt, or clay) from which groundwater can be usefully extracted using a water well.

## IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

### Hard Component (Well Construction and Pipe Schemes)

Province	District	Company	Water Points Contracted	Water Points Completed	Budget(\$)		
					Total	Paid	Balance
Daykundi	Neli, Shahrstan, Sang Takht Bandar	SSCC	72	20	163,571	0	163,571
	Khidr and Geti	PCRC	44	18	114,393	45,757.6	68635.4
Ghor	Lal wa sarjangle	MACEC	50	12	121,500	0	121,500
	Chigchiran, Murghan and Qurullah	NCC	111	22	317,571	0	317,571
	Pasband-Dolaina, Chighchiran, Qar Allahyar	MCC	90	36	182,880	73152	109,728
	Saghar	NSRPRC	40	40	80,383	64,306.4	16,076.6
Uruzgan	3	HFCC	100	100	236,960	236,960	0
Nimruz	2	RCC	50	50	87,302	69,841.6	17,460.4
<b>Total</b>			<b>557</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>1,304,560</b>	<b>490,017.6</b>	<b>814,542.4</b>

### Soft Component (Latrines and Hygiene Education)

Province	District	Company	Latrines Contracted	Latrines Completed	Budget(\$)		
					Total	Paid	Balance
Daykundi	Neli, Shahrstan, Sang Takht Bandar Khidr and Geti	ROA	363	70	127,659	0	127,659
Ghor	Lal wa sarjangle Chigchiran, Murghan and Saghar	DACAAR	375	375	195,000	156,000	39,000
Uruzgan	3	COOPI	300	300	138,180	138,180	0
Nimruz	2	COOPI	150	150	73,777	73,777	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>1188</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>534,616</b>	<b>367,957</b>	<b>166,659</b>

## **Plan for the Next Month**

Monitoring teams will be sent to the field, to monitor the progress and quality of the work done. The monthly coordination meeting with implementing and facilitating partners will be held on 30 June at the MRRD WatSan department. Another priority will be to process the no-cost-extensions of the companies.

## **WatSan – USAID-Funded**

### **Project Implementation Challenges - Risks and Issues**

In Maidan Shar district, Maidan Wardak province, Kohistan and Nijrab districts, Kapisa province, and Istalif district, Kabul province the evaluation of offers was done. The submitted offers did not pass the technical minimum requirements and according to procurement due to the low request for proposals, it will be re-announced.

In Barak and Pul Alam districts, Logar province, a company, which was requested for improving of its technical capacity and providing adequate number of drilling machines was started with construction activities.

In Nilli district, Daykundi province, construction work of nine wells was finished. Installation of hand pumps will be finished in next month.

In Khorasan district, Kabul province, after the selection of the new well location and no objection by the local community for starting with construction activities, the project was started and construction work is now ongoing.

The WatSan department was facing problems with long and not cleared payment and procurement procedures applied by the procurement department.

For the operation and maintenance programme component, a modified proposal was reviewed. According to the instruction by the procurement department a modified proposal should be sent for re-announcement.

In Nooristan province, district Paroon, construction of two pipe schemes, 90% of the work was done. Monitoring will be conducted by the PRRD. Due to poor security condition the monitoring team was not allowed to visit the site.

Meetings with implementing partners and theRRD representatives took place on weekly basis. A training in hygiene education for hygiene education trainers involved in projects in provinces Logar, Kapisa, Daykundi, Maidan Wardak and Nooristan was conducted.

## **Implementation Progress**

The following table provides an overview of project locations, project status and percentage of progress in construction of water points:

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	Maidan-Shar	24				8		33%
2	Kabul	Zere Kotal		1	1	36			60%
3	Kabul	Istalif		1	1	10			Tender procedure is ongoing
4	Kabul	Khorasan (15)		1	1	30			30%
5	Day - kundi	Nili	9				7	2	80%
6	Maidan-Wardak	Maidan-Shar		1		149			100% Handover is ongoing
7	Logar	Mohammad Agha	18				17	1	90%
8	Logar	Pul Alam	32				12	6	35%
9	Logar	Baraki Barak	37				8	4	20%
10	Kapisa	Kohistan (I)	9						Tender procedure is ongoing
11	Kapisa	Kohistan (II)	24				8	4	30%
12	Kapisa	Nijrab	12						Tender procedure is ongoing
13	Nuristan	Paron		1	1	11			100%
14	Nuristan	Paron		1	1	20			80%

### Plan for the Next Month

- Award the contracts for the projects in Kapisa, Maidan Wardak and Kabul provinces and start with the construction work.
- Finish the projects in Daykundi and pipe scheme component in Maidan Wardak.
- Finish the projects in Nooristan and Logar, district Mohammad Agha.
- Reduce delay in payments of the companies through developing cooperation with the procurement and financial departments of the MRRD.
- Monitoring of projects.
- Award the contract for the operation and maintenance programme component.

## Financial Utilization and Status

Categories	Budget		Funding Status		Expenditure			Balance fund avail. 1385	% of funding utilized
	Beginning of the year		Total Commit.s	Total fund avail. 1386	Expend. Commit.s (Total to date)	Disburs. to vendors to date	Outstand. Commit.s		
	Requested Budget	Approved Budget (As per decree)							
A	B	F	G	H	I	J = H-I	K = G - H	L	
International Staff salaries	6,492,700	-	1,300,000	3,106,031	3,484,500	1,407,493	2,077,007	(378,469)	112%
National Staff salaries	5,904,850	-	542,600	3,867,993	6,347,975	2,153,996	4,193,979	(2,479,982)	164%
Capacity Building	3,850,000	-	54,800	2,176,484	2,650,000	124,555	2,525,445	(473,516)	122%
Micro Economic Expend.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Sub - Projects	57,620,692	-	5,483,302	53,504,490	58,239,983	5,527,427	52,712,556	(4,735,493)	109%
Operating Expenses	1,621,163	-	102,400	1,047,093	1,130,000	340,945	789,055	(82,907)	108%
Goods/Equipment	1,659,177	-	320,000	1,115,660	951,677	175,720	775,957	163,983	85%
UNDP GMS	3,794,929	-	536,694	3,179,268	3,831,797	545,514	3,286,282	(652,529)	121%
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,943,511</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,339,796</b>	<b>67,997,019</b>	<b>76,635,932</b>	<b>10,275,650</b>	<b>66,360,282</b>	<b>(8,638,913)</b>	<b>113%</b>

## **Outlook**

As the NABDP programme is growing extensively and taking on new tasks, it has to be made sure that procedures are consolidated and that the different components continue to share information, especially lessons learnt in order to build on each others experience. The communications unit will facilitate this process by organizing bi-weekly and monthly debriefing and reporting meetings. As a result components will be informed about each other's work and the reporting will be hopefully better and in a more timely manner, as information will be presented verbally by representatives of the different components and will be put together into the existing reporting format.

The accelerated implementation process in Kandahar is continuing, as more and more projects are being identified. CIDA is now approached regarding a new proposal and also a new agreement is about to be reached with the Dutch for Uruzgan and Norway for Faryab and also including un-earmarked funding.