



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

Report for the Month of Qwas 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, Belgium and USAID-funded WatSan.

Highlights of the Month

The **Community Empowerment** unit in the current month formed four teams for the establishment of the DDAs and the formulation of the DDPs. Twenty five new DDAs/P were established/ formulated of which, 18 are mixed DDAs (54% male and 46% and only in Nuristan DDAs members were not mixed).

The **Economic Regeneration** unit during this month evaluated the technical feasibility and economic viability report of the western region for the sub-sector analysis and business plan development project of DACAAR for three sub-sectors namely; saffron, silk, and cashmere, comments were sent and asked to resubmit the revised report.

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, the implementation of the 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.

Community Empowerment

Issues:

- Rescheduling of the flight to Helmand caused the delay of planned activities

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

- Establishment/ Formulation of the DDA/DDP and editing

Four teams for the establishment of the DDAs and the formulation of the DDPs were formed. Twenty-five New DDAs/P were established/ formulated of which, 18 are mixed DDAs (54% male and 46% and only in Nuristan DDAs members were not mixed).

The complete information is as following:

- In five districts of Daykundi province, there were mixed DDA and the total number of the DDA members were 144 of which 73 males and 71 females DDA (51% and 49%)
 - In seven districts of Sar-i Pul province, the total number of mixed DDAs was 55% male and 45% female
 - In seven districts of Nuristan province, the total number of DDAs members was 100% male and 26% female. The number of participants in mixed DDAs was 79% male and 29% female
 - In Gizab district of Uruzgan province the number of mixed DDAs was 50% of male and 50% of female
 - In five districts of Bamyan province, the DDA process was mixed and the number of participants was 58% male and 42% female
 - The community empowerment unit in the current month formed two teams of the DDA and assigned them to Baghlan and Logar provinces
 - Since DIAG considered Khenjan and Dehnay Ghory of Baghlan province and Azra of Logar province as the priority targeted districts. Therefore, according to the plan two teams have been assigned to cover Azra of Logar province and Baghlan for the establishment of the DDAs and formulation of the DDPs.
 - The community empowerment unit edited 13 districts's DDPs in Pashto and Dari languages based on the specific format and translated three DDPs in to English
 - Performances of sixty-three staff members were evaluated and submitted to HR for further actions
 - According to the request of UNDP deputy country director all provinces (35 PDPs) were summarized and indicated their key issues in a table, and submitted to UNDP
 - Revised draft of operational guideline developed and submitted to international CADA
 - Certificates of Appreciation were awarded by H.E the minister of MRRD and UNDP country director to all those staff actively involved in the SNC and the PDP process (NABDP-CE, ARDP, DAI, MoE, CLDD, PRRDDs)
- Project Identification for fund mobilization

The community empowerment team assigned to Helmand province in order to facilitate the revision of the DDP in coordination with the existent PDP for seven districts of (Bost, Nad Ali, Marja, Kajaki, Sangin, Nahr-e-Saraj, and Musa Qala). There will be 10-15 DDAs members in this process from each district. These members informing them from the fund availability and identification of projects based on developed criteria, which are (about 7 million USD budget, donated by DFID, one million per district).

- Capacity building

In addition, this unit developed pilot trainings through FPs (Module 1 on local governance and Module 2 on conflict resolution and gender equity) in Surkhrod district of Nangarhar province and prepared curriculum for the capacity building of the DDA. There are 22 men and four women participated.

2. Economic Regeneration

Issues:

Both DACAAR team requested for no cost extension of the project (sub-sector analysis and business plan development), no cost of extension were approved (for one month) by the deputy minister of Programme for both teams.

The Dulana solar dryer facility is not sustainable in respect of viable businesses; villagers are not drying their grapes in the facility. Currently facility is empty, to overcome this problem rural business development specialist is in the process of negotiation with community and UNDP relevant staff, he will find more issues related to enterprise development in consultation with local community and develop business plan.

The Central Region Team studies were found very weak, and the evaluation report/ comments were submitted on 7th October; and revised report should have been submitted within 2-3 weeks. However, revised report has not been received yet.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables

The Economic Regeneration unit evaluated the technical feasibility and economic viability report of the western region for the sub-sector analysis and business plan development project of DACAAR for three sub-sectors namely; saffron, silk, and cashmere, comments were sent and asked to resubmit the revised report.

The Economic Regeneration unit evaluated the technical feasibility and economic viability report of the Northern region (Afghanaid) for three sub-sectors almond, carpet, and melon enterprises for the northern region , comments were sent and asked to resubmit the revised report.

- Mission with the Minister to the North region to follow up the A4 sheep bank Project for exploring value added enterprise development opportunities
- Visit to Herat to participate in the stakeholder meeting arranged by DACAAR for three identified sub-sectors, The core objectives of this visit were:
 1. To participate in the stakeholders meeting organized by DACAAR on sub sector analysis of saffron, cashmere and silk
 2. To better understand the stakeholders' role in the Sub-Sectors and assess long-term sustainable partnerships with the stakeholders most relevant to the Project
 3. To better understand the important issues concerning the Business Plan Development; this would form the basis of our market-oriented projects through the provincial partnerships we developed

The economic regeneration unit, prepared Request for Expression of Interest to hire one or more organizations to provide the Business development services (BDS) and Enterprise Implementation Support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Balkh,

Bamyan, Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar. The Regional Rural Economic Regeneration through the Rural Enterprise Development to rural entrepreneurs and employees of the enterprises which will start work in coming months identified by facilitating partners (DACAAR, Afghanaid).

The economic regeneration unit, organized one day workshop for three facilitating partners (Afghanaid North, DACAAR, West, Center) they presented progress report in the sub-sector analysis and the business plan development project in front of Senior management team of NABDP , Deputy Minister of programme and Economic regeneration team on 4th of December.

The economic regeneration unit visited Rodat district of Nangarhar province for pre-feasibility investigation of textile factory, organized meeting with the district development assembly to know in depth the practicability of textile factory in Rodat District.

The economic regeneration unit visited Balkh for need assessment of some group of women trained by the FAO in Tailoring, embroidery, carpet weaving and to categorize them in their respective expertise that they achieved during the training and provide them realistic opportunity for businesses.

3. Institutional Development

Issues:

The Institutional Development unit started the assessment process of MRRD's central departments as per its working plan. The institutional development unit now understands that MRRD is working on restructuring central departments. This information was not available to them earlier. This may somewhat affect ID work plan for 2008 as MRRD is suggesting ID unit to hold the assessment until their restructuring exercise is complete.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

- The Institutional Development team drafted its action plan for 2008
- The ID team started its preparatory work with assigned key departments to assess PMC, current capacity of central departments and available physical resources.
- Some training materials outsourced to be translate by the end of 15th January, 08
- A new member Mr. Sattar has joined the ID team on fifth of Dec 07
- Two ID colleagues participated in the certificate delivery ceremony to sub-national consultation process & the PDP facilitators
- Training on the PMC & OD completed (started from Nov 17th till 29th, 07). There were 22 participants from four provinces (Herat, Ghazni, Kandahar, and Laghman) and five central departments (OD&T, CLLD, RITS, and RLED, NRAP)
- List of participant which they will be part of training tour to have practical experience completed and shared with the program manager for further steps
- Draft report of Training needs assessment for provincial department has been completed and submitted
- Internal meeting for Institutional Development plan conducted and a plan drafted and shared among the ID team

- Meeting with AIMS concern the PDC assets and profile sub-national database feasibility study draft report conducted
- The PDC assets and profile database meeting among different agencies (NABDP, AIMS, AKDN, ARD-LGCD, DAI, USAID/CBP, and UNDP/ASGP) conducted
- AIMS plan for the PDC sub-national database in first phase (feasibility study) will be completed and first draft will be ready by the end of December
- Follow up and support of the MRRD central departments on preparation of 1386 Operational Planning continued.
 - a. Several meetings conducted with supporting programs of the CLDD (CE/NABDP, PAL, JSPR, and IRDP) for preparation of CLDD Operational Plan
 - b. The ID unit helped CLDD conduct meetings to prepare their plan based on the CLDD's Operational Plan
- Meeting with the NRAP/Roads department continued and the draft structure with purpose for each pillar developed
- Members of the ID team attend the second Meeting of the Working group on the Capacity Development, set up by the MRRD under the chairpersonship of the Deputy Minister Programs

4. Implementation Support

Issues:

- Lack of design engineers was discussed with the RITS directorate and decisions are taken to complete the gap of designers and surveyors not employed yet
- Lack of the technical equipments (Theodolite and level), was also discussed with the RITS and NABDP to be taken action unfortunately no action taken yet
- Poor coordination between the RRD engineers and the TSU in regions is under negotiation as well no result yet
- Balabagh bridge contract is signed, while the community has not agreed upon the original site of construction, no response so far
- Lack of engineers in Gardez TSU
- Progress of Chimtal bridge lags behind schedule
- Construction of health clinic in Belchiragh district is not making progress
- One road construction faces budget constraint as it was started without budget assurance
- Security is considered as general risk for all development activities in all five southern region provinces
- For some projects season & climate is considered as another challenge, because of season, some projects should be implemented on appropriate season other wise climate will not allow us to work
- Low capacity of IPs
- Due to the contractors, flee from the area, school projects in Saighan, Yakawlang and Shibar districts of Bamian province are started but not completed and still on hold, conflict resolution committee to take decision

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

East Region

- Construction of Basic Health clinic (BHC) project in Goshta district of Nangarhar province has reached to 20%
- BHC construction of Najmuljehad village of Behsood district in Nangarhar province has progressed to 35%
- School construction in Dorbaba district of Nangarhar has started and progressed to 5% unfortunately the contracted has left the area and the work is stopped
- 27 gabion wall projects tripartite contracts are signed by DM program and ready for implementation
- The Community prioritized projects budget allocation in 20 districts has been completed and the survey of 12 selected projects by the TSU has been done and are in design stage

South Region

- Two projects (intakes, retaining wall) are designed
- 25 projects are surveyed to be plotted and designed
- In the beginning of this month the IS unit had one week training on PCM, LFW, and MS. for all RMs, PRDAs, CH.Engs. and few program staff in Kabul with field visit from Jalal Abad
- During this month a team of Eng. from Kandahar went to Uruzgan to do survey and determine the number of projects which is identified by DDAs.
- The senior national advisor (SNA) for southern region has traveled in Kandahar to prepare report to USAID and AILP projects because duration of the budget for USAID exhausted on end of October
- In this month we have around \$10 million earmarked for Helmand from DFID
- SNA for southern region is now in Kandahar to do some recruitment for Helmand, and Nimruz

Northern Region

- Implementation of 29 projects initiated and included the following:
 - School building-16
 - water supply-5
 - Road/Bridge-3
 - Health sector-4
 - Protection wall -1

North Eastern Region

- Two school projects are ongoing
- Five transport projects are ongoing
- One water supply project is under construction

Central Region

Bamyan province:

- The Qarghnatoo health clinic, in centre of Bamyan province is ongoing and work percentage has reached to 100 %
- The ladu shahideen school construction in center of Bamyan province is on hold due to cold season
- The Zargaran Pipe scheme project, in centre of Bamyan is ongoing the well boring activities are finish and the IP is working on the water network
- The Zer Kohi Legan Road construction, in Waras District of Bamyan province is completed and ready for handover
- The Road around the Governor house of Bamyan Governor is ongoing and reached to 99%
- The Road construction in Waras district of Bmaian has progressed to 60%
- The Waras clinic expansion to hospital project's work stone masonry has completed and on hold due to cold weather

Dikondi Province:

- Two water supply projects in Shahristan and Sangtakht are completed and water supply project in Nili is on going
- School building in the Sangtakhat has progressed 12% and in Temran district 10% and Kijran has progressed to 8%
- Ghaff bridge construction has progressed to 25%

5. DIAG

Issues:

A lack of capacity in the RITS of MRRD continues to delay the implementation of DIAG development projects. DIAG Coordination Unit (DCU) regularly contacted both the RITS and the Procurement 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 province 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 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 28 DIAG development projects as follows:

Summary of DIAG Development Projects Status		
No.	Status	District

1	01. completed	Mahmud Raqi
8	02. implementation ongoing	Shortepa, Pashtun Zarghun, Cha ab, Aab Kamari, Kohistan 2, Namak Aab, Andkhoi, Mohmand Dara
1	03. announced soon	Baharak
5	04. designing	Obeh, Farkhar, Salang, Bangi, Kohband
5	05. tech survey planned	Dara-e-Noor, Farza, Murdyan, Noorgram, Jalrez
1	06. postponed due to DIAG operation	Jawand
7	7. will be identified soon	Khushi, Khuram&Sarbagh, Sozma Qala, Saighan, Koshiki Kuna, Qalae Zal, Dolaina
28	Total project	

The implementation of the 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. 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, Community Empowerment teams have started to deploy to the districts. Establishment of the DDAs and formulation of the DDPs and as well the identification of DIAG development projects remain incomplete in the following 14 DIAG target districts except districts indicating, "Done".

DDI Districts Selection – Phase 2				
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	Done on 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
	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
EAST	NANGARHAR	25	Kohistan 1	Done on 6 Oct 07
		26	Bati Kot	Done in August 07
	LAGHMAN	27	Khewa	Done in August 07
		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	NIMRUZ	34	Chaghansor	Done in March 07
Total 34 districts (20 done, 14 remaining)				

* highlighted: the remaining districts

DCU including a hydropower engineer and RITS engineers for the HP project of Farkhar district conducted field survey for the HP project. The HP engineer and the RITS engineers are working to ensure all the technical points related to the HP project and estimate the cost.

6. CNTF

Issues:

Due to the security reasons the work of 21 km road in Murghab district of Badghis province could not be started. The CNTF Management Board (MB) formally closed the project on 29/11/07. We prepared a letter in which we have requested that the Murghab money to be transferred to Balkh and Chemtal Raods in Balkh province and requested for more money as well to cover the Blakh road cost.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

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

- One project (Construction of Protection wall in Ghor) is completed, however not handed over yet.
- Seven projects are ongoing
- Three projects namely, two road projects in Qadis, Badghis, a suspension bridge project in Darqad, Takhar, are under re-estimation and review
- A revised RCC bridge in Gurziwan, Faryab, recently contracted, and it can not be started due to the cold weather in the area
- Two road sub projects in Murghab of Badghis province which could not be started due to security reasons, were closed by CNTF MB
- A revised diversion dam project in Gurziwan, Faryab province will be put under re-tendering soon
- One water supply project (87 deep wells) in Balkh is under technical evaluation/review.

7. Watsan (Belgium)

Issues:

In Daykundi construction works are complete both companies requested their final payments, WatSan requested the M&E department for final monitoring and project handover but due to snow fall monitoring teams can not complete their job.

In Ghor province MCC and DACAAR completed the contracted activities and waiting for their final payments, request has been sent to M&E department for final monitoring and handover.

Contractor for construction 50 bore wells (changed to 100 dug wells) in Lal-o-Sarjanganl completed 60 wells while they are not ready to work next year to complete the remaining 40 wells. Company brought completion report certified by Ghor RRD and DACAAR and requesting this and project payment and project closure.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

Hard Component of the project

SN	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	44	0	0	100
4	Ghor	Lal wa Sarjantal	100	0	0	60	0	0	60
5		Chighchiran, 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

Sn	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 Sarjantal, 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 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.

The same type of contract of 12 wells has been done with another construction company, PQCC at the Nejrab district of Kapisa province for about two months but even after two and half months of the expiry of the contract, the company could not proceed onward with its hardware works.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

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	8				8		100%
2	Maidan-Wardak	Maid-Shar	16				6	10	40%
2	Kabul	Zere Kotal		1	1	36			95%
4	Kabul	Khorasan		1	1	30			95%
	Kabul	Istalif		1	1	10			100%
5	Daykundi	Nili	9				9		100%
6	Maidan-Wardak	Maidan-Shar		1		149			100%
7	Logar	M.Agha	18				17	1	95%
8	Logar	Pul Alam	32				27	5	85%
9	Logar	Baraki Barak	37				30	7	80%
10	Kapisa	Kohistan (II)	24				21	3	80%
11	Kapisa	Kohistan (I)	9				6	3	65%
12	Kapisa	Nejrab	12				6	6	50%

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

As clear from the above performance table, there are limited IPs whose works are faint some how and may expectedly finish soon.

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!