



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

Report for the Month of Saur 1387

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Executive Summary

- The Community Empowerment Participatory Planning Unit established two mixed DDAs in Wakhan and Argo districts, and one male DDA with a women's group in Kuran Wa Menjan district of Badakhshan province.
- The District Development Plans of nine provinces (Laghman, Panjsher, Farah, Nooristan, Bamyan, Kandahar, Balkh, Uruzgan and Faryab) have been finalized and uploaded to the NABDP website.: www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp.
- The Economic Regeneration Unit evaluates proposals for SME implementation support. This unit had sent a request for proposals to thirteen shortlisted organizations, and received seventeen proposals from seven organizations for rural enterprise for three provinces - Balkh, Hirat and Bamyan.
- The Institutional Development Unit conducted PCM overview workshops for Northeastern region PRRDs (Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz and Baghlan)
- The contract for a retaining wall near Khinjan central mosque in Baghlan province has been signed. Based on the report, 30% of the work will be done by CDCs under the supervision of the DDA.
- The number of DIAG-targeted projects outstanding has decreased from nine to seven when compared against the previous month.
- A total of 10 projects in Sarepul province, nine projects in Nooristan and eight projects in Paktika are undergoing technical survey and design by CNTF.
- Three pipe schemes have been recently completed in Kabul by WatSan USAID.
- ERDA engineers visited five districts of Badakhshan Province – Baharak, Zebak, Ishkasem, Wakhan and Khash – to identify potential hydropower sites.

1. Community Empowerment

Issues:

- Most of Community Empowerment staff have no access to the internet. For work purposes, it is essential for them to be connected to internet, and CE staff would like to see an increase in bandwidth from 128 kbps to 256 kbps
- The contract of CE building has ended, and due to the shortage of appropriate space for all CE staff, the CE staffs have to move building. They propose finding a new building with 15 rooms, a conference room and other accessories.
- The CE component has already requested much-needed office supplies, but these have not yet been prepared or purchased
- A Lack of specific resources and materials for the Disaster Management Unit (DMU) training module. Therefore, DMU recommended disaster management training for staff based on the national and international levels
- Difficulty in air flights and transportation have caused delays in official trips
- Due to insecurity in some provinces, the teams could not travel to certain districts, so the DDA members were invited to the provincial center for trainings.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/Deliverables

- The Participatory Planning Unit of CE established two mixed DDAs in Wakhan and Argo districts, and one male DDA with women's group in Kuran Wa Menjan district of Badakhshan province.
- The Capacity Building Unit (CBU) conducted Training of Trainers (ToT) for central and provincial training teams.
- CE deployed teams for recruitment of female provincial trainers for the Border Provinces Project in Nangarhar, Balkh, Faryab, Kunar, Helmand and Kundahar
- Recruitment of provincial trainers (particularly female) in the above mentioned provinces.
- CE's CBU reviewed DMU modules for further action.
- CBU conducted ToT for newly recruited provincial trainers in the Border project provinces.
- Provincial Training Teams of CBU started training of the DDAs in the Border project provinces.
- Evaluation of activities of facilitating partners (BRAC + IRC) in two provinces (Nangarhar and Khost).

- DMU had joint coordination and consultation meetings with CDMP/ANDMA, and the Social Protection Department of MRRD.
- DMU is preparing a training module for DDAs and has been working on a concept paper on disaster management.
- Amendment in the identification of the 30 target districts and five target provinces has been completed by DMU.

2. Economic Regeneration

Issues:

Among the technically qualified proposals, the IRC proposals for Cashmere and Silk in Hirat proposed significantly higher international input than allowed in the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the SME implementation support. The high international experts input resulted in an unreasonably costly financial proposal. Due to this issues, the IRC proposals were put on hold for contract negotiations.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables

Evaluation of the proposals for SME Implementation Support continued. RFP (Request for Proposals) was sent to thirteen short listed organizations. Seventeen proposals, from seven organizations, were received for rural enterprise (SMEs) implementation support, for three provinces - Balkh, Bamyan, and Hirat. Technical Proposals were distributed among the evaluation committee members approved by Deputy Minister of Programmes. All seventeen proposals were technically evaluated by the members of evaluation committee, averaging all the individual marks of evaluation committee members. The minimum technical qualifying mark was 75 out of 100 points. Ten proposals qualified technically.

- The lists of technically qualified organizations are given below:

Average Score of Technical Evaluation of Proposals (SME implementation Support)				
NABDP/UNDP/MRRD (Economic Regeneration)				
Organization	Province	SME Implementation Support	Average Score	Technically Qualified
SDO	Balkh	Carpet Cutting and Washing	82.25	Yes
	Hirat	Saffron	76.00	Yes
IRC	Hirat	Silk	82.00	Yes
		Cashmere	82.50	Yes
CCA	Bamyan	Potato Storage	77.75	Yes
Hand in Hand	Balkh	Carpet Cutting and Washing	77.00	Yes
		Almond	83.50	Yes
		Melon	81.50	Yes
ACTED	Balkh	Melon	80.00	Yes
GRSP	Bamyan	Carpet Cutting and Washing	78.00	Yes

3. Institutional Development

Issue:

- The lack of an assistant in the ID unit meant that financial and administration activities had to be done by National Institutional Development Advisors (NIDA)

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables

- The reviewing of all MRRD employees' ToRs assigned in a committee by MRRD leadership with the assistance of HR Department advisors continued. The delegation of IARCSC continued work in this regard as well.
- Conduct PCM overview workshops for Northeastern region PRRDs (Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz and Baghlan)
- Work with the Strategic Advisory team on MRRD structures continued. A project charter for structures has been finalized and approved by H.E Minister. This project will examine the human resource allocation in each department and validate that each department possesses the sufficient number of people with the appropriate skills.
- Conducted preparatory work for a PCM overview workshop for Northwestern region PRRDs.
- Conduct preparatory work for the Rural Development in Border Provinces Project.
- Held meeting with HE Deputy Minister for Programmes, presented the ID unit plan and achievements in 2008 and received a new assignment - working with DDAs.
- Conducted preparatory work and attended meeting regarding DDAs.
- Worked on the PDC database with AIMS:
 - a. First version of database has been completed and reviewed by Ministry of Economy
 - b. Work on supporting material is in progress - training documents, database user manual, training CD.
 - c. Held meeting with ASGP and IDLG, AIMS and AIRD to obtain their support for a sub-national database, and how to work with them for DDP activities

4. Implementation Support

Issues:

An official letter was sent to MRRD from RRD Balkh regarding the poor quality of Abulkhizria school in Sholgara. In the letter, they complained about the low capacity of the contractor. A decision has not yet been made on action.

Most of the contractor companies in Faryab are already delayed in the completion of work. The companies do not have enough budget to run the projects and they rely on payment installments from NABDP, which can take a long time to process.

In Helmand, the contractor companies are facing major problems as payments are delayed for long time in Kabul. The ISU have arranged a meeting of representatives of CCs with HE D.M. for admin / finance in the HARDP office in Lashker Gah. After discussion, the Deputy Minister instructed the relevant departments of HQ with necessary changes on the process in order to speed up the payment process.

The Bala Bagh bridge issue is still pending due to community problems. The PRRD director and Mr. Asim are now trying to resolve these problems.

North and Northeast

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables

The contract for the retaining wall near Khinjan central mosque in Baghlan province is signed and the work is ongoing. Based on the report, 30% of the work is being done by the CDCs under the supervision of the DDA. The total cost of this project is \$15,784. This project is almost completed and ready for handover to RRD.

The contract for completion of Chimtal Bridge is being circulated again. The documents will come to Kabul for technical evaluation in order to identify the winner.

The contract for three Kandas in Tandorak village of Charkent district of Balkh has signed by of H.E Minister. The cost of this project is about \$ 7,807, the total beneficiary is around 900 families and the work scope is 108M³.

Southern and Eastern Regions -Kandahar

Almost 2100 projects have been requested by local communities in Kandahar. So far the MRRD/NABDP regional office has only been able to survey around 597 of these projects. The number of contracted projects in Kandahar has reached 424 so far and there are currently a large number that are under procurement.

Helmand

1473 projects have been requested by local communities through DDAs in Helmand, The total number of selected projects are 610 - 76 projects are under survey , 342 are already surveyed, 43 projects are under design, 299 projects are already designed, 31 projects are under procurement, 239 projects are contracted and 146 projects have started.

Uruzgan

203 projects have been surveyed in Uruzgan province. The total number of projects designed is 118, and the rest are in the design process by TSU in Kandahar. In addition, the number of contracted projects is 71, and 13 more projects are under procurement. The survey process for other projects in Uruzgan is ongoing and will continue until all prioritized projects of local communities have been surveyed.

Nimruz

Six projects have been contracted in the past few months. Three projects were funded by UNICEF in 2007 while the other three are funded by NABDP/Belgium.

Nangarhar

The selection of projects for the Border Provinces project was completed, and from the 20 districts 3-5 projects per each district were selected from the DDP prioritized project list. In addition, of the 27 gabion protection wall projects, seven have still not started. The recruitment of four engineers for the eastern region, particularly Kunar and Nangarhar, is in progress and will be completed soon.

Kunar

The selection of Border projects was completed successfully in Kunar, and 3-5 projects per each district were selected. Out of 17 projects, nine projects which have been prioritized by H.E Minister have been selected.

5. DIAG

Issues:

Regarding the delay caused by RITS dept, it has been officially approved by the donor to hire four engineers dedicated to DIAG. The selection is currently ongoing and the personnel are expected to join MRRD in June. These engineers are expected to rectify the delay occurring during the S&D and BoQ stages, which are currently taking 3-10 months.

With regard to the delay caused by inadequate project identification, which has resulted in either ceiling excess or project re-selection, a briefing session was conducted by Minister's Advisor (Eng. Hakeem) for the Joint Secretariat staff members on 25 May. In the workshop, the logic behind the pricing system for typical projects was explained in detail so that JS personnel are better informed about what type of projects are financially appropriate for DIAG development. The DIAG unit and JS will develop a list of project pricing guidelines, which is to be distributed to the Provincial Security Team of JS upon completion.

Progress achieved against outputs:

- One project was completed on 19 May 2008: Pashtun Zarghun in Hirat (Compliance 79%)

- The following three new projects have been identified since the last reporting period:
 - Azrah (Logar) Maternity section of district hospital
 - Baharak (Badakhshan) Maternity section of dist hospital
 - Zebak (Badakhshan) 16 classroom school
- The number of projects outstanding from last year has decreased from nine to seven when compared against the previous month:

Status	19 May	31 March	29 February
Completed	2	1	1
Construction	7	7	8
Announced	10	0	1
Announced soon (procurement)	0	8	5
Estimation	1	2	-
Design	5	5	4
Survey	4	4	3
Survey planned	2	3	8
Identified	2	0	2
Pending due to operation	3	3	1
Pending due to other reasons	7	4	0
Total	43	37	33

6. CNTF

Issues:

Due to the security reasons, work on 21 km of road in Murghab district of Badghis province could not start. Therefore, the CNTF Management Board (MB) formally closed the project on 29/11/07. A letter from MRRD has been sent to MCN/CNTF, in which the re-allocation of Murghab funds to Balkh and Chemtal Raods in Balkh province, and extra funds to cover the Balkh road cost, were requested.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverable

1. The status of CNTF approved projects is as follows:

- Four projects, namely two bridge projects of Bangi and Darqad in Takahr, one diversion dam in Faryab and one water supply project in Balkh are ongoing
- Five projects have been suspended - Badghis road due to design revision, one bridge project in Faryab due to flooding, one reservoir of Balkh due to social problems and Balabuluk due to security.
- Baghlan road project started crash production in the preparatory stage;
- Based on a Helmand RRD letter dated 13 April 2008, the preparatory work (channel excavation for diverting the Helmand river water) was completed on 6 April 2008. The contractor requested a time extension in order to start the implementation of the original project. The cost estimation for the excavation of the diversion channel and necessary revision of the original project is in progress in RITS. As soon as the revision of the original project and cost

estimation for the channel excavation is finalized, the exact amount of the required extra funding will be submitted to CNTF.

2. As per H.E. MRRD Minister, a total of USD 10.5 million is allocated from MOF through MRRD for seven poor provinces namely Sarepul (\$1500,000), Nooristan (\$1,500,000), Ghor (\$1,500,000), Paktika (\$1,500,000), Badghis (\$1,500,000), Daykundi (\$1,500,000) and Nimruz (\$1,500,000). The survey and design of projects which have been selected by the provincial authorities is in progress.
3. Besides, 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 project status of the above mentioned six provinces is as follows:
 - o Five water supply project of Badakhshan and three Kunar projects are under technical evaluation;
 - o The technical documents of nine Badakhshan projects have been sent for tendering;
 - o Ghazni Guest House/Heavy Machinery purchasing proposals are sent to MCN/CNTF for approval;
 - o A total of 10 projects in Sarepul province, nine projects in Nooristan and eight projects in Paktika are under technical survey and design.

7. WatSan (Belgium)

Issues:

In Daykundi province, initial construction of 130 bore wells was contracted with two different contractors i.e. 44 and 86 wells, in five districts of the province.

The contractor for 86 wells found the strata hard and requested an amendment of the project from 8-10 inches well diameter to 12-18 inches. Due to the difference in the cost of boring, the number of wells was reduced to 72 wells.

Later, it was found that the contractor constructed the wells with diameter of between 8 and 10 inches and completed all 72 wells. Payments will be paid according to their actual work i.e. their cost for 8-10 inches diameter of boring.

According to MRRD Conflict Resolution Commission's decision, the contractor should complete the initially contracted 86 well in two months, However, the contractor is not ready for this. Furthermore, MRRD recently contracted additional bore wells in Daykundi.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverable

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,	72	0	0	72	0	0	100

		Sang Takht Bandar							
2		Khidar and Geti	44	0	0	100	0	0	100
4	Ghor	Lal wa Sarjantal	100	0	0	60	0	0	Canceled
5		Chighchiran, Murghab and Qurullah	111	0	0	65	0	0	58.56
6		Pasaband-dolaina, Chighchiran, Qara Allahyar	90	0	0	100	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

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

8. WatSan (USAID)

Issues:

- 16 water wells, contracted with a construction company in Maidan District of Maidan Wardak Province, have not been completed four and a half months after the expected completion date of the project. Only 40% of the project has been completed and the rest is remaining. As a result, Ru/WatSan has sent a

complaint letter to procurement department about delays caused by the contractor. The MRRD Procurement Department are working to find a solution for this issue as soon as possible.

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

- There are three ongoing WatSan projects in Nijrab, Kohistan 1 and Kohistan 2.
- Three pipe schemes have been recently completed in Kabul. The monitoring teams are now in site to hand over the mentioned projects.
- Another ten WatSan projects in Kapisa and Logar are in the liquidation period.

No	Project Location		Planned Activities of the Project				Well Status		Progress (%)
	Province	District	Wells	Pipe Scheme	Water Reservoir	Stand Post	Completed	On going	
1	Maidan-Wardak	Maid-Shar	8				8	0	100%
2	Maidan-Wardak	Maid-Shar	16				6	10	40%
2	Kabul	Zere Kotal		1	1	36	36	0	100%
4	Kabul	Khorasan		1	1	30	30	0	100%
	Kabul	Istalif		1	1	10	10	0	100%
5	Dai – Kundi	Nili	9				9	0	100%
6	Maidan-Wardak	Maid-Shar		1		149	150	0	100%
7	Logar	M.Agha	18				18	0	100%
8	Logar	Pul Alam	32				32	0	100%
9	Logar	Baraki Barak	37				37	0	100%
10	Kapisa	Kohistan (II)	24				21	3	87%
11	Kapisa	Kohistan (I)	9				7	2	78%
12	Kapisa	Nejrab	12				9	3	75%

9. Energy for Rural Development of Afghanistan (ERDA)

Issues:

- No issues were reported

Progress Achieved against Outputs/ Deliverables:

- Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of two Micro Hydropower Plants in Bamyan Province:

A team consisting of two ERDA engineers visited Bamyan Center for detailed study of two micro hydropower projects from April 14 to 18, which will be developed with the funding support of Asian Development Bank (ADB). The team is preparing a detailed project report (DPR) for both projects. Dara Sadaat MHP, with the installed capacity of 18 kW, will provide electricity to Gholang Kash CDC, comprising of Dalak, Jawkar and Zarsang settlement clusters in Bamyan Center district. About 275 households will have access to electricity. The 2nd MHP is located right in Bamyan city with a potential capacity of 30 kW.

- Interaction with Deputy Minister of Finance on Potential Hydropower plants in Badkshshan province

The ERDA team discussed with H.E. DM Finance on potential sites for hydropower development in Badakhshan Province. DM Shahrani briefed the ERDA team on the potential of different areas of the province and urged ERDA to identify as many sites as possible in remote areas that will not be covered by the grid in near future. He suggested that ERDA/NABDP/MRRD should present these sites in the next Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting for approval for development.

- Pre-feasibility Study of Potential Hydropower Sites in Badakhshan Province

ERDA engineers visited five districts of Badakhshan Province – Baharak, Zebak, Ishkasem, Wakhan and Khash – to identify potential hydropower sites. ERDA had identified Wakhan and Zebak districts for implementation of micro hydropower plants through Japan Border Provinces Funding. The ERDA Team identified 16 micro hydropower sites in Zebak, Ishkasem and Wakhan districts. One site each from Zebak and Wakhan will be developed with the Japan Border Provinces Fund and the rest will be submitted to Inter Ministerial Committee on Hydropower for development with ADB support. Another ERDA Team will visit Zebak and Wakhan soon to carry out detailed studies.

In addition, the ERDA Team also identified a site for development of a Mini Hydropower Project in Khash District and bigger projects in Baharak District.

Table 1: Potential MHP in Badkshshan Province

S/N	District	Villages	Flow (lps)	Head (m)	Power (kW)	No of families
1	Zebak District	Razrok	165	30	20	140
2		Zarkhan	150	30	20	135

3		Dashti Khan, Dand, Shingok and Kazdon	200	20	20	172
4	Ishkashem District	Gharan, Gulbagh, Badard, Safidsang, Darmadar, Waned	300	30	45	350
5		Bazgir	200	20	20	210
6		Andaj	50	20	5	34
7	Wakhan District	Qazedeh, Wark, Kashni Khan	300	30	45	378
8		Shakhauer	100	25	12	78
9		Sareshkhauer	50	20	5	51
10		Wurgan Payan	40	20	4	39
11		Wurgan Bala	50	20	5	42
12		Pugish	200	20	20	
13		Khandud	200	50	50	364
14		Sast	100	50	25	180
15		Yamit	150	25	15	130
16		Sarkand	100	10	5	32
17	Khash	All district	500	125	500	4300
	Total				816	6635

Outlook:

NABDP is currently working in various areas trying to empower regional and provincial units and to build up the MRRD's departments' capacity. Work will continue on the roll-out of projects and initiatives funded by the Japan Border Provinces Project by all components. Furthermore, NABDP is working to extend the DDA and DDP process to all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. The delivery of the Mid-term Review Team's report will also allow planning to begin for NABDP Phase III.