

# National Rural Access Programme (NRAP)

*(formerly called NEEP)*

## Background

The National Emergency Employment Program (NEEP) was launched in 2002, aiming to increase access to rural infrastructure for local communities and to provide employment opportunities for rural labors. As a result of a joint assessment of NEEP conducted by the World Bank, ILO and the government of Afghanistan in early 2005, the program was reviewed and restructured to make a smooth transition to more development-centred assistance in Afghanistan. To mark the beginning of a new phase, NEEP was renamed the "National Rural Access Program NRAP" with a more strategic focus on the provision of a rural road access network that will connect households and communities to essential services and markets.

## Rationale

NRAP supports enhanced livelihoods by ensuring all rural communities are serviced with access to basic facilities, services, and goods and helps individuals and households, to manage risks through the provision of targeted employment. The Programme provides the development of quality rural access infrastructure and a mechanism whereby temporary employment will provide a safety net for vulnerable rural people.

## Objectives

The objectives of NRAP include:

- Establish a quality rural road network that connects all villages to basic rural infrastructures and services, such as markets, health care and schools.
- Provide increased employment opportunities through using labour intensive methods and a private sector-led approach for all works.
- Enhance the capacity of communities and the private sector to manage, deliver and maintain public transportation facilities through on-the-job capacity development.

## Implementation Strategies

- NRAP is a joint national priority program that is executed by Ministry of Public works (MoPW) and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD).
- Under the two ministries, UNOPS is responsible for implementation. Project works are contracted to the private sector and communities (L1 and L2 contracts).
- UNOPS also provides technical support in developing standards and norms for rural roads, surfacing options and maintenance. In addition, UNOPS supports capacity development of the ministries in procurement, contracting, financial management and monitoring.

## Summary of Achievements to Date

- **Reconstruction and renovation of rural roads:**  
A total of more than 9,333 km of roads have been rehabilitated in 292 districts of 34 provinces.
- **Construction and rehabilitation of bridges and transportation infrastructures:** 102 bridges with total length of 1,137m; 3,372 culverts, washes and retaining walls with total length of 36,886.8m.
- **Construction and rehabilitation of rural infrastructures:** NEEP/NRAP has either constructed or rehabilitated 384 small irrigation schemes, 95 schools, 14 clinics, 44 drinking water storages, and 204 dug wells with hand pumps. Furthermore, NEEP provided shelters to 105 vulnerable families who were living in the caves around the Buddha's Sculptures in the mountains in Bamyan province.



Construction of a wash culvert in Ander Dist, Ghazni province in October 2004.



Wash culvert constructed in ash Shakardara, Kabul, November 2004.



Alikheel School being constructed Deh Sabz, Kabul, November 2004.

• **Employment opportunity creation:** Through the rehabilitation and renovation of the above-mentioned activities, a total of 13,599,361 million days of wage labour were generated. Approximately 431,614 people directly benefited and over 2,805,495 people indirectly benefited from the programme.

• **Training of ex-combatants through NEEP/RAL project:** Under NEEP, the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration/Rural Livelihood Support (NEEP-DDR/RLS) project was launched in August 2004 to provide livelihood opportunities to demobilized soldiers. The targeted number of ex-combatants to be trained is 3,270 of which 2,775 persons have completed their training. Presently 438 persons are under training in project management and craft skills. The targeted length of the road rehabilitation for this project is 378 km with 29 sub-projects.

• **Winterization:** During the past winters, 1093 km road were cleaned of snow to keep the roads open.

• **Capacity Building:** 56 technical training sessions has been conducted for 1,450 NRAP and MRRD employees.

• **Preparation of Rural Roads Master Plan and Preparation of IRRIP (Interim Rural Roads Investment Plan):** The resources for NRAP-MRRD are coming from the international donor community and organizations, but are not sufficient to fund all the necessary projects across the country. To invest the limited available resources effectively and efficiently, the preparation of a rural road network and multi-year investment plan was required.

For the preparation of such a rural road network master plan,, PIU-NRAP MRRD prepared a for the preparation of Rural Roads Master plan and preparation of Interim Rural Road Investment Plan (IRRIP). Through the successful conduct of 2-day planning workshops in different provinces it has collected essential information about existing rural roads at the district level. In this exercise NRAP-MRRD considered the connectivity of the rural road network on provincial maps. NRAP-MRRD established a data base for this purpose and computerized the collected data. In addition the communities specified the need for new roads. The planning exercise has been completed in the 34 provinces and entered into the data base. The GIS unit is working on putting the network on the maps and has been able to complete 15 provinces.

The preparation of mid to long term investment plan is under preparation of the PIU-NRAP-MRRD which would be a very valuable document for the program. The PIU-MRRD is planning to finalize this document by September 2007, and present it to MRRD.

### Plan for 2007 (1386)

**The major activities planned for 2007 (1386) include:**

- Construction and reconstruction of 500 km rural road
- Maintenance of 1,700 km basic roads

### Financial Information

Financial Information NRAP-MRRD 1386 (21 March 2007 20 March 2008)					
Required Resources for 1386	Approved Budget as per the decree – mid term review	1386 Funding / Pledges/ Commitments	Total Fund Resourced for 1386 so far	Shortfall	Donors
82,350,000.00	82,350,000.00	14,500,000.00	17,240,000.00	62,760,000.00	ARTF, CIDA, EC, DfID, Japan, World Bank/IDA/CNTF/Australian Aid, DFID, Helmand. PPF/NERAP
Required Budget for the next four years (2006-2009)					
500 Million USD					



Disarmed officers and soldiers were trained for road construction engineering under NEEP/RAL Reintegration Programme in 2005, Qargha Dam- Taque Zafar Paghman, Kabul.



Worsaj Bridge in Worsaj, Takhar Province is being constructed in June 2005.



Construction of the road in Yaftal Yawan, Badakhshan Province in 2005.