

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)

Monthly Program Report: March 2007

Program Name: National Solidarity Programme (NSP)

Duration of NSP Phase I: May 2003 to September 2006; Duration of NSP Phase II: October 2006 to September 2010

Table 1: NSP/MRRD Funding and Expenditure Status as of 31st March 2007

(All amounts are shown in US\$ millions and rounded off to 0.00)

Grants/Donor Reference	Funds Received Before the End of 1384			Expenditure as of the End of 1384			Funds Received/Approved and Expenditure in 1385/1386				
	Received Prior to 1384 (A)	Received in 1384 (B)	Total funds received (C=A+B)	Prior to 1384 (D)	1384 (E)	Total at end of 1384 (F=D+E)	Available balance for 1385 (G=C-F)	Received/ approved in 1385 (H)	Total funds for 1385 (I=G+H)	Expend iture up to 31 st March 2007 (J)	Balance as of 31 st March 2007 (K=I-J)
WB IDA H009 Part B	27.00		27.00	27.00		27.00					
WB IDA H0720	96.87		96.87	60.00	36.54	96.54	0.34		0.34	0.34	0.00
ARTF 53939	27.00	47.20	74.20	27.00	47.17	74.17	0.03	95.78	95.80	82.55	13.26
MoF Bridge Funds Letter No. 46831								41.19	41.19	41.19	0.01
Denmark Acct. No. 27022	8.50	0.57	9.07	4.99	1.20	6.20	2.87	5.00	7.87	5.66	2.21
Norway Acct No. 27049	1.29	0.31	1.60				1.60		1.60	1.60	0.00
JSDF 54367		10.97	10.97		10.86	10.86	0.12	15.11	15.22	15.22	0.00
WB IDA H1740		27.09	27.09		27.09	27.09					0.00
WB IDA H2090								42.18	42.18	41.70	0.48
JSDF CB 51429	1.48		1.48	0.31	1.11	1.42	0.06		0.06		0.06
Dutch Grant for Baghlan Acct. No. 27198								0.86	0.86		0.86
Switzerland Acct. No. 27188								1.54	1.54		1.54
Total	162.15	86.14	248.29	119.30	123.97	243.27	5.02	201.65	206.67	188.26	18.41

Source: NSP Finance Department (Details for 1382 and 1383 are available if required).

Table 2: Main Output Indicators and Achievements as of 31st March 2007

Indicator	Increases/Decreases During the Month of March 2007	Total as of 28th February 2007	Total as of 31st March 2007
2A			
No. of Provinces	0	34	34
No. of Districts	0	279	279
No. of Facilitating Partners personnel deployed	227	5,579	5,806
No. of Communities Contracted for NSP to FPs	-68	17,406	17,338
No. of Communities Mobilized	87	16,827	16,914
No. of Community Development Councils Elected	159	16,343	16,502
No. of Community Development Plans Completed	195	16,068	16,263
2B			
No. of Sub-Project Proposals Submitted	1,200	26,355	27,555
No. of Sub-project Proposals Approved	1,078	25,525	26,603
No. of Sub-Projects Completed	409	10,001	10,410

Table 2A is based on inputs from FPs and as shown in the National Status Report; Table2B is based on the NSP Provincial Management Units' Monthly Reports for this period.

Table 3: Main NSP Achievements by CDC Project Sector as of 31st March 2007

No.	Sector	Total No. of Subprojects Financed in March 2007	Total No. of Subprojects Financed as of 28th February 2007	Total No. of Subprojects Financed Since Start of Program as of 31st March 2007
01	Agriculture	0	20	20
02	Education	0	2,351	2,351
03	Emergency Response	0	10	10
04	Health	0	23	23
05	Irrigation	0	3,891	3,891
06	Livelihood	0	1,918	1,918
07	Power	0	3,389	3,389
08	Public Building	0	22	22
09	Rural Development	0	344	344
10	Transport	0	4,763	4,763
11	Water Supply & Sanitation	0	5,727	5,727
	Total	0	22,458	22,458

Source: NSP MIS Department

Progress in March 2007

In March 2007, NSP Facilitating Partner (FPs) helped communities elect 159 new Community Development Councils (CDCs) using a participatory and transparent process. In addition, 195 communities completed their Community Development Plans (CDPs) and prepared 1,200 sub-project proposals with the help of FPs, which were then submitted to the NSP provincial offices for review. During the month of March, 1,078 sub-project proposals were approved covering a wide range of sectors, and a total of 409 subprojects were completed.

Key Problem(s), Constraint(s) and Solution(s) in March 2007

- Block Grants: There were no block grant fund replenishments available and hence no disbursements to communities could be made from 15th February 2007. The NSP Management is continuing to work with the MRRD and donors to secure more and timely funding for the Programme.

Main Plans for April 2007

- Continuing procurement process for the selection of NSP FPs for NSP II.
- CDC Jirga on diesel generator projects funded by NSP in the past.
- Preparations for CDC by-laws publicity campaign.

Success Story: NSP Connects Villages With Physical Infrastructure and Solidarity

Eight villages located in Arghandab and Zahri, approximately twenty kilometers east and west of the provincial capital of Kandahar, namely Shahabuddin Qalacha, Haji Awrang Kele, Berana, Balosan, Ali Shah Khan, Manja Kele, Haji Hakim Kele and Zool Deh, were mainly dependent on agriculture. However without a proper road to connect them to the town, selling their produce or purchasing agricultural tools, fertilizers etc were very difficult. When NSP was introduced into these villages and after the CDCs were formed, they were united in their decision that their top-priority project to be funded by NSP block grants would be a road that connected them to each other and to the town centre.

The planned road project was to connect the eight villages and intersect with the main road at Shaaga, an intersection that separates Zahri in the west and Arghandab in the east. It would cost approximately AFA 800,000 and the community members gladly contributed the required 10% of the total costs. In addition, one of the residents named Ahmad Sha, generously donated 288sqm of land towards the road project.

The road project is now nearly complete and the villagers rejoice in both the physical infrastructure that provides them accessibility to the market/town and also to the better standards of life it has resulted in.

“Our village didn’t have a road before,” said Mustafa, a resident of one of the Zahri villages. “When one of our community members was gravely ill, we had to carry him/her on our shoulders or on horseback to reach the main paved road. Often the sick person passed away before we reached a health centre. Now, with the road to provide us quick transport possibilities, we don’t have to worry about that anymore.”

“Previously we had to move to Pakistan or Iran to find work,” said Mahmood, a resident of one of the Arghandab villages. “But now (because of this project), we have found work within our own village!”

The NSP operates in nine of the 16 Kandahar districts to improve local governance and help reduce poverty by working together with the communities to address their development needs.



NSP Road Project, Zahrai, Kandahar

Table 5: Key Contact Persons

Name and Position	Organization/Dept.	Email and Telephone
Wais Ahmad Barmak, Executive Director	MRRD-NSP	w.ahmad@nspafghanistan.org 079-9041533
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