

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development

2 December 2008

**Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Signs 10 DIAG Development
Project Contracts**

The Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) today signed 10 DIAG development project contracts worth approximately USD 2.1 million with private construction companies.

The Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Mohammad Ehsan Zia, the Vice-Chair of the Disarmament & Reintegration Commission (D&RC), and the Special Advisor to the President on Internal Security, Mohammad Masoom Stanikzai, and Kavil Adhikarkunneth Mohan, Acting Programme Director, Afghanistan New Beginning Programme, were present at the occasion.

The contracted projects include six social and cultural centers, maternity sections for two district hospitals, eight deep wells, and a library. These projects will be implemented in seven provinces, namely Wardak, Kapisa, Logar, Laghman, Kabul, Takhar, and Badakhshan, and will directly benefit 16,250 families.

Following the signing ceremony, H.E. Mohammad Ehsan Zia said:

“It is a matter of great honor and pleasure for me to see people turn towards peace and stability, laying down their weapons and thinking about the reconstruction and development of their villages”.

MRRD is currently preparing and implementing DIAG Development Projects in 62 districts. Of these, 10 have been signed today, 5 have been completed, and 14 are currently under construction, whilst the remaining 33 are under preparation.

Since the start of DIAG operations on June 11th 2005, 382 illegal armed groups have been disbanded, 43 districts have been declared DIAG-compliant, and a total of 42,369 weapons have been collected.