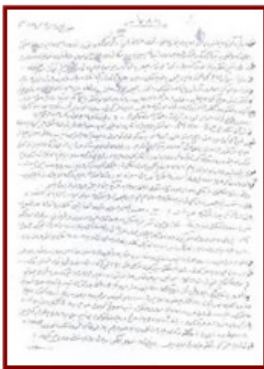


Peace agreement in Mehmandara district, Nangarhar province

In July 2007, the National Area-Based Development Programme (**NABDP**) initiated project activities aimed at ensuring sustainable rural development and promoting human security in the border provinces of Afghanistan. Through support from the Government of Japan, NABDP's Border Stabilization Project (**BSP**) reached Nangarhar province, one of seven targeted locations in the country. The BSP launched a comprehensive set of interventions to effectively address poverty and insecurity through a people-centred approach, so that the voices of community members could be heard, their expectations met and their economic opportunities enhanced in a climate of peace. To this end, a District Development Assembly (**DDA**), composed of representatives selected by the communities, was established in Mohmandara district, to help identify and achieve the development priorities of the district.



The Mohmandara Peace Agreement

One of the first actions prioritised by the DDA in Mohmandara district was to hold a *jirga* (meeting) with tribal leaders of a neighbouring Pakistan border community, Pakhtoon Khwa. The aim of this meeting was to create a conducive, secure, and supportive environment for implementation of various development projects in the district. On 19 December 2007, a peace agreement was signed with the tribal leaders of Pakhtoon Khwa. As a

result of the DDA's efforts, there is now not only cross-border agreement to support the implementation of development projects, but the tribal groups also ensure the safety and security of the community and development actors in the area. Moreover, the communities agreed that they will no longer support any anti-government elements and will participate in government efforts to improve the condition of rural communities in Afghanistan. As an action to honour the peace agreement, one villager who had been captured by cross-border anti-government elements was released unharmed in January 2008.

Two years after the establishment of the DDA, the community in Mohmandara district has been able to participate actively in various projects such as construction of a protection wall to prevent flash floods, construction of a well for drinking water and irrigation, initiation of a literacy class and vocational training opportunities, and several economic regeneration activities through support to Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises. According to the villagers, the security situation continues to improve, resulting in easier access to food, health facilities and other public services within the district.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.