



**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
National Area-Based Development Programme**

SUMMARY OF DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**GHORYAN DISTRICT
HERAT PROVINCE**



**Developed by the Ghoryan District Development Assembly with the
facilitation of NABDP/MRRD and support of the District and Provincial Governor**

January 2009

1. Introduction

Over the last few years, the Government has shown increasing commitment to make its development interventions more effective, enduring, equitable and responsive to the needs and priorities of communities at the district level. In order to translate this commitment into action, the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed the concept of district development assembly and district development planning, which was subsequently linked with the sub-national consultation of Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the provincial development planning processes conducted between June and September 2007 per request of the Inter-ministerial Committee of the Government.

District development planning is perceived as opportune mechanism for enabling communities to take charge of planning processes for their district and thereby articulate their development needs and priorities. So, it was felt necessary to establish district level community institutions to materialize this community-led development planning process. Therefore, Ghoryan District formed a mixed (men and women) District Development Assembly (DDA) in January 2009. The clusters of CDCs and villages are presented in Annex II. The DDA enhances cooperation between the communities and the Government and ensures community participation in district development planning and management processes.

In January 2009, Ghoryan District welcomed a team of facilitators from the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to facilitate a comprehensive development process in the district. With their support, the DDA, the women's Advisory Committee of the DDA, and district Government representatives formulated a District Development Plan (DDP) for their district.

The development planning process comprised a number of stages: coordination of the planning process with local Government authorities, collection and verification of secondary data about the district, analysis of problems prevalent in the district, formulation of a development goal, objectives, strategies and activities, processing of the DDP and endorsement of the DDP by the District Governor.

This document explains the methodological approach for and the key outputs of the district development planning process. It is expected that this plan will enable provincial and national governments, as well as donor communities, to align their resources towards the relevant development aspirations of Ghoryan District.

2. District Profile

The facilitators collected the following secondary information about the district from the provincial authorities and presented it to the participants for review, the validity of which was subsequently confirmed by the participants:

Summary

General Information	
Population (based on information collected from the field)	207000

Area	7385 sq. km.
Number of villages	311
Average land ownership	1/2 jireeb per family
Sectoral Information	
Education	
Literacy rate	40% male and 15% female
Number of primary schools	9
Number of secondary schools	13
High schools	5
Health	
Average age of local population	45 years
Mortality rate	Generally 6% including 3% among children
Number of basic healthcare centre	5 basic health centres,
Number of health posts	60
Number of comprehensive health center	60
Number of pharmacies	30
Number of dispensaries	5
Access to basic healthcare services	80%
Basic infrastructure services	
Percentage of roads open to traffic in all seasons of the year	88%
Access to private/public electricity	60%

3.
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re Problem and its Causes

The participants used the “Problem Tree” analytical methodology to identify the core development problem and its underlying causes in the district as follows:

Weak economy and poverty has been indicated as the core problems of the district, due to low level of agricultural and livestock productions and quality, poor infrastructure and social services, and lack of extraction and excavation of natural mines such as salt, turquoise and other mines. With the destroyed condition of existing roads the residents face harsh problems while travelling from one place to another. The district lacks public sources of electricity because the relevant agencies have neglected to address the issue in the district. Similarly, most of the existing schools lacking buildings, while the Computer, English and other education promotion courses are not available resulting to very low literacy rate and high unemployment in the area. Since, the district does not have well-equipped and properly staffed health centres; therefore the number of drug addicts and maternal mortality rate is increasingly high throughout the district. The local population has proposed for construction of a large hall for holding locally established meetings and poetry festivals. The local agricultural and livestock productions (wheat, rice, milk and others) have got reduction owing to the shortage of improved seeds, chemical fertilizers, agricultural mechanization equipment, pesticides and other plants and animals diseases prevention remedies. The daily essential goods are imported from the outside areas of the district at much higher cost that have more deteriorated the existing poor economic condition of communities.

4. Development Goal

In order to address the core problem in the district, the participants formulated an overall development goal for the district as follows:

To improve the agricultural and livestock productions level and quality, and promote basic infrastructure and social services throughout the district

5. Development Objectives and Strategies

In order to achieve the overall development goal, the participants set four development objectives for the district and recommended strategies for achieving those objectives.

Objective One

To provide access to improved and standardised basic infrastructure services throughout the district.

Major Strategies

1. Provision of opportunities for extraction of local mines and other natural resources.
2. Establishment of a reliable and standardised transportation system.
3. Ensuring access to a reliable and affordable public source of electricity.

Objective Two

To provide better access to newly established and restored social services

Major Strategies

1. Ensuring access to effective healthcare services.
2. Establishment of better and standardized education systems throughout the district.
3. Creation of employment opportunities for the local unemployed.
4. Establishment of quality information and cultural services.

Objective Three

To ensure access to improved agricultural and livestock productions level and quality in the district

Major Strategies

1. Distribution of agricultural mechanization equipment and supplies.
2. Provision of improved seeds and chemical fertilizers for local farmers.
3. Provision of adequate irrigation water, genetically modified livestock and prevention of spread of animals diseases throughout the district.

6. Prioritized Projects Ideas

After having developed strategies, the participants identified and prioritized 33 project ideas to achieve the development objectives for the district. These priority project ideas were discussed in the Provincial Development Plan (PDP) workshop in August 2007 to ensure that community priority needs are articulated in provincial and national development plans of the Government.

For details regarding district development planning process, please refer to DDP local language versions which are available on www.mrrd-nabdp.org/af