

National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP)



A school building under construction in Roy Do Aab District, Samangan Province.

Project ID:

00011012 (DEX)

0011020 (NEX)

00011025 (Infrastructure Rehabilitation)

Duration:

PHASE I 1 July 2002 – 31 Dec 2005

PHASE II 1 Jan 2006 – 31 Dec 2008

Component:

PROMOTION OF LIVELIHOODS

Total Budget (PHASE II):

US\$ 182.2 million

Unfunded (PHASE II):

US\$ 139.9 million

(1 January – 31 March 2006)

First-Quarter Report

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Abbreviation Key

AIMS	Afghanistan Information Management Services
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
DEX	Direct Execution
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DSRSG	Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LPAC	Local Programme Appraisal Committee
MoAAH	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry
MoE	Ministry of Economy
MoRR	Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation
MUDH	Ministry of Urban Development
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NABDP	National Area Based Development Programme
NEX	National Execution
NSP	National Solidarity Programme
NSS	National Surveillance System
PDC	Provincial Development Committee
PMA	Provincial Management Advisor
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
RRD	Rural Rehabilitation and Development Provincial Department
RurWatSan	Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID	United States Agency for International Development



BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAMME

In the National Development Framework, the Afghan Government commits to an integrated and programmatic approach to building human and social capital. One large-scale government programme using this approach is the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP). The NABDP aims to promote urgent recovery and longer-term development in priority areas while building the government's capacity to lead and coordinate participatory approaches to development in all provinces. The first phase of NABDP was launched in April 2002. The programme focused on three main components: i) immediate recovery support; ii) capacity development; and iii) macro-economic regeneration.

The design of NABDP Phase II began in late 2004. Based on the recommendation of the Local Project Appraisal Committee and through extensive consultations with the Government of Afghanistan, donors and other key stakeholders, the Programme management team revised the key components and developed the conceptual framework for Phase II. An international expert was also hired to assist with writing up the new project document which was finally approved at the Local Project Appraisal Committee meeting of 12 February 2006.

The project document NABDP Phase II was signed between the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 22 February 2006.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

NABDP Phase II aims to contribute to the sustainable reduction of poverty and improvement of livelihoods in rural Afghanistan, by empowering communities, through community institutions, to articulate and address their needs and priorities, and by helping to enable the Government of Afghanistan to support community-based rural rehabilitation and development in an integrated, people-focused, inclusive and participatory manner. The programme works toward this goal by supporting the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), in line with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the UNDP Country Programme. The overall strategy is to support the establishment of an integrated planning and implementation framework for a comprehensive (multi-sector, multi-level and multi-agency), coordinated, pro-poor and pro-growth approach to rural development.

Towards this purpose, NABDP-II will focus on producing the following **outcomes**:

- 1) Communities empowered to articulate and address their needs and priorities in relation to poverty reduction and livelihoods improvement through participation in comprehensive rural development planning and implementation processes and through expert inputs in regional economic regeneration strategies.
- 2) A well-established institutional capacity and technical capability in MRRD to fulfill its mandate of promoting rural regeneration and livelihoods and supporting the implementation and management of comprehensive rural development strategies/plans in a participatory, coordinated and sustainable manner.

This will be achieved through the following interlinked **programme support components**:

- 1) **Community Empowerment:** Participatory and consultative mechanisms established at district/provincial level resulting in integrated rural development planning processes.
- 2) **Economic Regeneration:** Capacity in MRRD/Government established to formulate and regularly update comprehensive regional economic regeneration policies & strategies, identifying viable interventions for economic investment, poverty reduction and improving livelihoods.
- 3) **Institutional Development:** Institutional capacity and technical capabilities of MRRD and strategic partners strengthened to fulfil its mandate of promoting rural regeneration and livelihoods.
- 4) **Implementation Support:** MRRD's implementation capacity strengthened, private and public resources mobilized, and implementation arrangements among partners/stakeholders coordinated to deliver economic regeneration and rural development projects.

Particular attention will be directed towards the inclusion and benefit of farmers dependent on poppy cultivation, disarmed militias, returning refugees, IDPs and the rural vulnerable, including the Kuchi population. Partnerships will be established with UNHCR, UNICEF, ANBP and others to ensure the mainstreaming of the Reintegration Programme, the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups Programme, alternative livelihoods initiatives and other priority programmes into the broader framework of comprehensive rural development under the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). All activities will be undertaken on the principle of (1) maximizing consultation and the participation of

stakeholders and beneficiaries, (2) coordination and synergies with other programmes and initiatives, and (3) sustainability of results and outcomes.

NABDP is currently implemented through two different execution modalities:

- 1) Direct Execution (DEX) by UNDP, and
- 2) National Execution (NEX) by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

All the programmes and projects implemented under the overall NABDP framework are listed in the table below.

<i>NABDP MRRD-related Projects</i>					
Thematic Categorization	Project Number	Project Title	Donors	Implementing Agencies	Implementation Modality
NEX Core	11020 (AFG/02/011/01/99)	NABDP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Empowerment • Economic Regeneration • Institutional Development • Implementation Support 	Canada, Belgium, Japan, USAID	MRRD	NEX
Water & Sanitation	11020 (AFG/02/011/01/99)	Water for IDP/Refugees	UNHCR	MRRD WatSan Dept	NEX
		Rural Water Sanitation	USAID	MRRD WatSan Dept	NEX
Reintegration	11020 (AFG/02/011/01/99)	IDP & Refugee Reintegration	UNHCR	MRRD Reintegration	NEX
	11020 (AFG/02/011/01/99)	Durable Solutions for IDP's Project	UNDP-BCPR	UNDP/MRRD Reintegration	DEX
<i>NABDP UNOPS-executed Projects</i>					
Thematic Categorization	Project Number	Project Title	Donor	Implementing Agencies	Implementation Modality
Rural Infrastructure Support*	11012 (AFG/02/005/01/34)	Recovery Support Project	Italy/Malaysia	UNOPS	DEX
		Winterization	USAID	UNOPS	DEX
	11025 (AFG/02/U24/JA/31)	Shamalan Canal/Feeder Roads (Integral part of NABDP)	Sweden	UNOPS	DEX
PRT	11012 (AFG/02/005/01/34)	NZ-PRT Immediate Recovery Support Project	New Zealand	UNOPS	DEX
	11020 (AFG/02/011/01/99)	USAID PRT Quick Impact Projects	USAID	UNOPS	NEX

*All activities under these projects were completed in 2005. The project closure process is currently on-going.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

Activities and Achievements: Summary Matrix

Programme Intended Outcomes (2006-2008)	2006 Output Targets	Achievements in the 1 st Quarter of 2006
<p>Communities empowered to articulate and address their needs and priorities in relation to poverty reduction and livelihoods improvement through participation in comprehensive rural development planning and implementation processes and through expert inputs in regional economic regeneration strategies.</p> <p>A well-established institutional capacity and technical capability in MRRD to fulfill its mandate of promoting rural regeneration and livelihoods and support the implementation and management of comprehensive rural development strategies/plans in a participatory, coordinated and sustainable manner.</p>	<p>Comprehensive rural development plans developed, based on community development processes and economic regeneration assessments and strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation Strategies for Community Empowerment was prepared • Preparatory activities for district planning have started in Kandahar. • Consultation with potential partner programmes has started to develop guideline for establishment of DDWG and district planning exercise.
	<p>Rural development policies developed and adopted by Government and other relevant stakeholders, providing frameworks for viable interventions for economic regeneration, poverty reduction and improving livelihoods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tender documents for Rural Economic Regeneration Assessments & Strategies were prepared and duly announced by MRRD. • Evaluation of the tender for an implementing company for Rural Economic Regeneration Assessments & Strategies was conducted. • Technical and logistical support provided for facilitating preparation of rural enterprise projects supported by the Thai and Indian governments.
	<p>Strengthened management and implementation capacity of MRRD and relevant partner institutions to address rural development and economic regeneration needs and priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory activities for the Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for the PDC orientation training were undertaken. • Pilot PDC training was conducted in Kandahar • The implementation strategy for PDC support and a MoU was drafted between MRRD and the MoE. • Consultations with AIMS to establish a Provincial database were carried out • An initial situation assessment of MRRD Planning Dept. was conducted and a draft strategy of restructuring was prepared.
	<p>High-quality and sustainable community-led rural development and economic regeneration investments that reduce poverty and improve livelihoods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 infrastructure projects continued to be implemented in 21 provinces under NABDP Core. • 221 water points and 3 piped schemes were constructed under USAID-funded WatSan project and 400 water points and 558 latrines were constructed under UNHCR-funded WatSan Project. Over 50,000 people received hygiene education by both projects. • Needs assessments in 5 pilot provinces have been conducted in development of land allocation initiatives for landless returnees. Inter-agency consultation on these initiatives has been undertaken. • 27 infrastructure projects continued to be implemented under the USAID-PRT project.

First-quarter Activities and Achievements

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Implementation Strategy: The implementation strategy for Community Empowerment Component was drafted and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and potential partners has been undertaken to finalize the strategy and the work plan.

Kandahar Pilot: Priority is given to piloting the component in Kandahar, to support the CIDA funded Integrated Alternative Livelihoods Project. Staff have travelled to Kandahar



and held discussions with the Governor's office and the provincial departments, community representatives and potential implementing partners. A pilot District Development Working Group (DDWG) meeting will be held in mid April in Daman district of Kandahar to test the methodology for DDWG establishment and planning. The methodology will provide a basis for field level work and will be continuously revised and refined to take account of the special requirements and conditions of each locality.

Consultation and Coordination: Meetings have been held with the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) to identify opportunities for collaboration and synergies in anticipation of the NSP Phase 2 plans to work at the district level. It has been agreed that the two programmes will work together to develop standard guidelines for district-level community facilitation. As a result, meetings between NABDP and NSP have been regularly held to develop a common framework and understanding of the establishment of DDWG. Such dialogues and close liaison between the two programmes will continue to ensure sharing information and lessons learned and establish effective coordination between the two programmes.

The Community Empowerment Team also participated in UNAMA workshops on the provincial planning process and examining ways of linking district and provincial planning by DDWG and Provincial Development Committee (PDC) with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) benchmarks.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Regional Socio-Economic Assessment: Following the completion of the Terms of Reference for the regional rural development assessment, a Call for Expressions of Interest (CEI) was posted on the MRRD and DGMarket websites on 11 February. The overall objective of this study is to generate *socio-economic assessments and development strategies for regional rural economic regeneration in Afghanistan*. The study is meant to provide a detailed and comprehensive understanding of: i) development contexts and issues; ii) the direct and indirect linkages between the various local, regional and sub-regional characteristics and issues; iii) the trends in these characteristics and linkages over time; iv) the opportunities and barriers to improving the livelihoods and social and economic development prospects for people and communities that may exist at the rural community/district, sub-region and regional levels; v) the potential growth projections that the various regional characteristics would suggest; and vi) potential regional development scenarios/strategies that the assessment would suggest are possible/optimal.

In addition to the general announcement, several companies known to MRRD and NABDP were proactively contacted to alert them on the CEI. In total twelve companies and institutions expressed their interest by the deadline of 28 February. Given the complexity and comprehensiveness of the assessments, it was decided in consultation with the MRRD Procurement Department, to shortlist all companies that had expressed interest so as to obtain the widest possible choice of proposals. The Request for Proposal (RFP) prepared in compliance with the World Bank / International Development Association (IDA) standards, was sent to the short-listed companies and institutions. It was also posted on the MRRD website.

The deadline for receiving proposals was 28 March. The method of selection that was adopted was Quality-Based (QBS) as opposed to Quality- and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS). By the deadline of 28 March, three proposals were received. The Evaluation Committee (comprised of the MRRD Deputy Minister of Programmes, the NABDP Economic Development Consultant and three staff of the MRRD Procurement Department) finalized evaluation and provided a recommendation by the beginning of April, after which the financial proposal of the highest scoring company was opened and contract negotiations could start. Progress is on track and the work is expected to commence early June.

Recruitment of Staff: The Senior Economic Development Advisor position remains vacant and is expected to be filled sometime in June. In the meantime, NABDP recruited a short term international Economic Development Consultant for a two-and-a-half month period to follow-up on the selection of a consultancy firm for the regional assessment, assist with the recruitment of Senior Economic Development Advisor, and provide technical advice to MRRD and NABDP on initiatives related to rural economic development.

Other Rural Economic Regeneration Initiatives: NABDP has been assisting MRRD in developing a strategy for supporting non-farm rural enterprise development. MRRD has been studying the experience of Thailand in promoting “One Village One Product” (OVOP) initiatives. NABDP will be supporting the visit of a delegation from Thailand in early April to assess the conditions for adopting the OVOP approach in Afghanistan. NABDP is also providing financial and logistical support for hosting the mission from the Government of India to conduct a nationwide needs assessment for promotion of small and medium rural enterprises. The NABDP Economic Regeneration Unit will be assisting the MRRD in the follow up activities based on the findings and recommendations of the studies.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Support for PDCs: The Ministry of Economy (MoE) has been tasked with supporting the establishment and development of Provincial Development Committees (PDCs) and acting as their secretariat. MRRD has been asked by the Government to assist, through the NABDP, the MoE in this task. The NABDP has started to work on the development of orientation and training materials for the Provincial Development Councils (PDCs). NABDP is supporting the training of a number of the MRRD and Ministry of Economy staff as trainers/facilitators and developing training manuals for PDCs. MRRD’s Strategic Planning for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (SPSRL) project has agreed to provide a principal trainer for this purpose. Design and delivery of training workshops for PDCs by Afghan civil servants in native languages will enhance the impact of the training. The initiative would also further develop the capacity of these MRRD staff in the design of training materials and the delivery of training.

Initially, a total of 22 potential trainers (17 from the Ministry of Economy (MoE) and 5 from the MRRD) have been selected for the planned Training of Trainers (ToT) in April. Work is also underway for preparation of training manuals for PDCs. In the meantime, Programme staff met with the members of the newly established PDC in Kandahar to support their initial orientation on their responsibilities and to gather information about perceived training needs. Close working relationships have been also established with the Kandahar Department of Economy. Programme staff also visited Kapisa to observe the proceedings of PDC meeting there.

After receiving feedback from the Senior Management of MRRD, the draft PDC Assistance implementation strategy is now being revised. The initial draft of the Memorandum of Understanding between MRRD and MoE has been also prepared and submitted to the two parties for comments and feedback. As part of its PDC assistance activity, NABDP is also supporting the development of a database of provincial profile and asset inventory. NABDP has been exploring various options and has consulted the Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) in this regard.

MRRD Planning Department Restructuring: MRRD has decided to restructure the Planning Department and transform it into the leading department for managing and coordinating MRRD programmes. NABDP conducted an initial situation assessment of the Department and a proposal for restructuring of the Planning Department, including work plan and timeline has been produced and submitted to MRRD senior management for approval.

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Implementation of Rural Infrastructure Projects: During the reporting period, NABDP continued the implementation of 58 sub-projects in 21 provinces under this component. These sub-projects cover a range of sector interventions, in the following areas:

- **Water supply & sanitation (4 projects):** the construction of water wells, hand pumps, and piped systems;
- **Education (22 projects) :** construction of schools;
- **Irrigation (6 projects):** construction and rehabilitation of canals/karez, check-dams, and retaining walls;
- **Public facilities (18 projects):** the erection and maintenance of community centres, government buildings;
- **Public health (3 projects) :** construction of health clinics; and
- **Transport (5 projects):** rehabilitation of roads and construction of culverts and bridges.

During the reporting period, two projects in Samangan and Laghman were completed. Work on two projects in Uruzgan for construction of government building and canal cleaning as well as a project in Wardak for school construction commenced in the first quarter.

Unit Restructuring and Recruitment of Staff: The current Programmes Support Unit, responsible for the immediate recovery projects component under phase I, as well as the support and supervision of Regional Coordinators/Advisors and other programme staff in the regions, has been planned to be re-organised as the Implementation Support Unit. An International Implementation Support Advisor who will lead the Unit has been recruited. An action plan for restructuring the Unit and establishing an effective project management cycle is under preparation.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Approval of Programme Document Phase II: The LPAC was held on 12 February to approve the draft NABDP Phase II Programme Document. Based on the recommendations made by the LPAC members, the document was revised. The final version of the document was duly signed by the representatives of MRRD and UNDP on 22 February.



Programme Management Team Meetings: Now that there is a national programme director in place and a number of new staff are in key positions, regular programme management meetings are being held to share information and coordinate activities. Currently the meetings are held on weekly basis. At present, the Management Team consists of: 1) National Director, 2) Programme Manager; 2) Deputy Manager (Operations); 4) Programme Coordinator/Monitoring and Reporting Advisor; 5) Advisors representing the 4 key components; and 6) Specialist Advisors (HR, Finance, Procurement, and MIS). Furthermore, regular programme review meetings with the Deputy Minister (Programmes) are planned to be held initially on a weekly basis.

Reporting Arrangements: The Management Team is currently considering arrangements for effective reporting. In addition to the review and improvement of quarterly reports mainly aimed at donors and other external stakeholders, the intention is to produce monthly updates with supporting detailed reports – primarily to aid the Management Team and UNDP/MRRD senior management but also to facilitate the production of quarterly reports. Furthermore, each component unit is now in the process of developing indicators for activities achievements as well as systems for gender disaggregated data collection.

Donor Relations: The first quarterly Steering Committee meeting will be held on 17 May. Donors’ joint monitoring visits will be organised on a quarterly basis, preferably immediately prior to or after the Steering Committee meetings.

Water and Sanitation Projects

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)

The implementation of USAID-supported rural water and sanitation projects continued in the provinces of Paktia, Nuristan, Kunar, Ghazni, Paktika, Nimroz, Kapisa, Maidan-Wardak, Laghman, Nangahar, Khost, Kandahar and Kabul. During the reporting period, 221 water points and 3 pipe schemes were completed. Construction work for 62 water points and 1 pipe scheme is on going. In addition, 1,042 latrines were completed and 288 latrines are in progress. A total of 5,465 families (38,255 individuals) received hygiene education. The hygiene training for 2,838 people is under way. The outputs of these projects achieved during the first quarter are summarized in the table below:

Sector	Unit	Completed	On-going
Water Supply	Water Point	221	62
Pipe Schemes	No.	3	1
Water Reservoir	No.	3	0
Sanitation	Latrine	1,042	288
Hygiene Education	Beneficiaries (People)	38,255	2,834

During the first quarter, contracts for training and community education (“soft ware” activities) for Logar, Kapisa, Kabul, Maidan-Wardak, Helmand, Nuristan and Dai-Kundi were signed with respective facilitating partners. The total amount of these contracts is USD 942,295. Also, contracts with total value of USD 209,832 were approved for construction

work in Zabul and Helmand provinces. The bidding process for construction work for Maidan-Wardak and Dai-Kundi provinces has commenced.

The training sessions for water & sanitation engineers, which have been conducted by DACAAR since July 2005 were completed in March 2006. In total, nearly 300 engineers from MRRD and 50 from NGOs received trainings on various subjects related to water and sanitation engineering and project implementation. The types of training courses and the number of trainees are listed below:

Subject	No. Courses	No. of MRRD trainees	No. of NGO trainees	Total
Basic Hydrogeology	4	41	6	47
Planning	4	43	7	50
Social Organization	4	47	12	59
Surveying	4	53	8	61
Water Quality	4	47	11	58
Well Construction	5	68	6	74
Total	25	299	50	349

These trainings are part of the WatSan project's capacity development focus, as the 349 engineers receiving training come from all parts of the country and all provincial offices 34

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS SUPPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

Through contributions from UNHCR, the project aims at constructing 430 water points, 667 demonstrative latrines and providing hygiene education for 64,500 individuals, facilitating establishment of community water management committees, and training 430 scheme level caretakers and 32 area mechanics. The activities target 32 different districts in 11 provinces, with a relatively high number of returnees and IDPs. The achievements of the construction of water points (WPs) and latrines are listed below:

Province	Planned		Completed in First Quarter of 2006		Total completed to date	
	WPs	Latrines	WPs	Latrines	WPs	Latrines
Herat	75	116	1	0	75	116
Saripul	50	77	24	4	50	77
Baghlan	50	78	33	19	50	78
Jowzjan	50	78	22	78	50	78
Faryab	50	77	43	69	50	69
Uruzgan	35	54	16	7	22	14
Kandahar	65	101	1	55	65	101
Nimroz	25	39	18	15	23	25
Daikundi	30	47	15	0	15	0
Nangarhar	7	20	0	0	0	0
Total	437	687	173	247	400	558

The liquidation period of this project was extended to the end of May 2006 so that works that had been interrupted due to harsh winter season and poor security conditions could continue.



During the reporting period, the project successfully completed construction of 173 water points and 247 latrines. Around 20,000 persons were provided with hygiene education, and a total of 195 individuals from local communities were trained as Area Mechanics (22) and Scheme-level Caretakers (173).

In addition, the project conducted a MRRD-UNHCR-UNDP WatSan Program Review Workshop to assess the achievements of its two years implementation of the project. Furthermore, the WatSan Department facilitated a meeting to address the needs of potable water for Aziri tribe returnees in Wardak province, which will be funded through USAID WatSan Programme.

Support for the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) Reintegration Unit

With the support of UNHCR, the Reintegration Unit has continued to play a coordination role in mainstreaming the reintegration issues of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugee returnees into MRRD national development programming. The Reintegration Unit is serving as the secretariat for the Reintegration Task Force Working Group on support for landless returnees, which is comprised of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), MRRD, Ministry of Urban Development (MUD), UNDP and UNHCR.

During the reporting period, the Reintegration Unit with the representatives from the Joint Working Group and technical staff visited the 5 pilot provinces of Logar, Nangahar, Balkh, Baghlan, Herat and Ghazni Provinces to assess the situation and identify needs for promotion of land distribution initiatives for returnees. The Joint Working Group successfully completed a needs assessment survey in 5 pilot provinces. Given the slow progress of land allocation in Balkh Province, the Joint Working Group decided that it would be more effective to include Ghazni province as a pilot province instead of Balkh.

The Reintegration Unit maintained close coordination with all stakeholders and collected the reports from different ministries and organizations. The Unit compiled information gathered from needs assessment visits and exiting reports and assisted the Joint Working Group in preparing a draft final report on the land distribution programme in the five pilot provinces. The finalized proposal for the pilot phase in the five provinces will be submitted to interested donors and parties for their consideration of funding.

Coordination with Relevant Ministries and International Agencies: In order to build a strong coordination bridge between all the stakeholders and to share information, the Reintegration Unit arranged a joint working group session in March and invited people from different agencies, such as UNDP, NABDP, UNHCR, and the MRRD WatSan Department. The main purpose of this working session was to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Reintegration Unit, exchange information on other reintegration initiatives, and provide the members with updates on the land allocation programme. It was decided that such meetings should be held on a regular basis to promote inter-agency cooperation and information sharing.



United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Direct Execution Projects

RECOVERY SUPPORT PROJECT

It is reported that all the recovery projects under the NABDP-UNOPS Recovery Support Project were completed. The closure process has started, and UNOPS will submit a final report shortly.

SHAMALAN CANAL INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION PROJECT

This project was recently closed upon completion of all planned activities. The closure process will start, and UNOPS will submit a final report shortly.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT-PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM PROJECT (USAID-PRT)

During the reporting period, 27 rural infrastructure projects were implemented under the USAID-PRT. These projects included the construction of government buildings, transportation (roads and bridges), clinics, and schools. In the first quarter, the following 7 projects were completed in Nangahar, Kandahar, Zabul, and Badakhshan provinces.

Nangahar (Jalalabad):

PRT JBD 033: Jalalabad City Water Supply. And what does this project do?

PRT JBD 046: Procurement of 200 Nickel Based Power Distribution Poles.

Kandahar (Kandahar city):

PRT KDH 007: Renovation of Mirwais Hospital, Kandahar.

PRT KDH 018: Renovation of Kandahar Airport Terminal Building.

Zabul (Qalat):

PRT QLT 017: WFP GAIN Training Center.

PRT QLT 024: Rehabilitation of Qalat city round-about and a monument park.

Badakhshan (Faizabad):

PRT FZD 016: Landslide and flood prevention surveys.

NEW ZEALAND PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM IMMEDIATE RECOVERY SUPPORT PROJECT

Implementation of five projects for construction of the following bridges in Bamyan: Espedia Bridge (NZPRT-BYN-001), Saighan Bridge (NZPRT-BYN-002), Bamyan Bazaar Road (NZPRT-BYN-003), Jalmish Bailey Bridge (NZPRT-BYN-005); and Jolai Valley Bridge (NZPRT-BYN-006), was suspended during the first quarter due to severe winter conditions in Bamyan. Construction work for these bridges resumed in late April.



CHALLENGES

During the reporting period, the programme faced several challenges which have been carefully assessed and analysed in order to determine the necessary measures to address them in the coming months.

Staffing: Recruitment of staff is the key challenge and has proved to be particularly difficult and time-consuming. This seems to be primarily due to perceived security concerns. As a result a number of key positions have yet to be filled. However, there are a baseline number of staff members in key positions to enable the programme to move forward with the programme delivery. Recruitment for the remaining key positions is the top priority.

Work on developing implementation strategies and activity plans for the key components is in progress. This is taking longer than anticipated as most key staff have only recently joined the programme and a number of key positions have yet to be filled. However, the recruitment process has accelerated in March, and the programme expects more activities under each component to start in April.

Security: Poor security in some provinces remains a challenge for monitoring the infrastructure projects. NABDP is in close collaboration with MRRD Security Unit and utilizing local MRRD staff stationed in provinces for monitoring.

FINANCES

The two tables below reflect expenditures made by NABDP during the first quarter of 2006 (1 January – 31 March 2006), as recorded in UNDP's ATLAS system.

As this is a quarterly statement, all figures below are provisional. The figures in parentheses represent adjustments that were made in Q1 to correct for previous erroneous charges. An additional USD \$400,000 in encumbrances for the first quarter are not reflected below at the time of the creation of this report as a new budget revision will be required to post them in ATLAS

Table: Activity wise expenditure report 1 January to 31 March 2006 (all figures in USD)

Programme	Project	Activity	Activity Title	Total
NABDP	DEX--00011012	ACTIVITY1	Operating NABDP Mgt Unit	106,811
		ACTIVITY6	Durable Solutions for IDPs	5,356
	DEX--00011012 Total			112,167
	NEX--00011020	ACTIVITY16	Econ. Development	41
		ACTIVITY17	Capacity Development	45,537
		ACTIVITY18	Immediate Recovery Projects	70,926
		ACTIVITY19	Programme Management	41,853
		ACTIVITY2	Support to MRRD	(309)
		ACTIVITY20	Community Empowerment	54,427
		ACTIVITY3	Capacity Building of MRRD	(65,188)
		ACTIVITY5	UNHCR Water Supply	289,587
ACTIVITY6	UNHCR Reintegration	632		
ACTIVITY7	USAID Water Supply	1,018,993		
NEX--00011020 Total			1,456,499	
TOTAL				1,568,666



CONCLUSION

After a year's preparation, the programme has been formally launched following the signing of the Programme Document on 22 February 2006.

The main achievement during this period was the finalisation and approval of the programme document for the second phase of the programme. This document outlines the framework for programme's activities according to its objectives. Implementation of phase II has also started with concentration on planning for the year ahead. Implementation strategies and work plans for each component should be completed by the end of the first quarter. Progress has also been made with establishing links and coordination with other MRRD national programmes, particularly the NSP, the programme has contributed to promoting collaboration with other ministries by participating in an inter-ministerial mission to Kandahar.

While recruitment of suitable national and international staff remains the key challenge, progress has also been made in establishing the team to carry the programme forward. With the arrival of new staff members during the second quarter, the programme delivery is expected to gain greater momentum.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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