

National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP)



A clinic building under repair in Lakan District, Khost Province

Project ID:

00011012 (DEX)

0011020 (NEX)

00011025 (Infrastructure Rehabilitation)

00011048 (Livelihood and National
Surveillance System)

Duration:

PHASE I 1 July 2002 – 31 Dec 2004

PHASE II 1 Jan 2005 – 31 Dec 2007

Component:

PROMOTION OF LIVELIHOODS

Total Budget (PHASE II):

US\$ 182.2 million

Unfunded (PHASE II):

US\$ 139.9 million

(1st July – 30 September 2005)

Third-Quarter Report

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Abbreviation Key

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
MoRR	Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation
MUDH	Ministry of Urban Development and Housing
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NABDP	National Area Based Development Programme
NEX	National Execution
NRVA	National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
NSS	National Surveillance System
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

The inception of the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) dates from a speech delivered by President Karzai at the Tokyo Conference in January 2002. President Karzai's core concept was to create a more strategic, long-term approach to reconstruction and development initiatives and to improve coordination between organisational actors in humanitarian aid, recovery, and development in Afghanistan.

On February 25, 2002, the government-led Afghan Assistance Coordination Authority (AACAA) invited the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to take the lead role in supporting the design and management of a national rural reconstruction programme. In cooperation with the United Nations and other international agencies, UNDP assisted the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in the planning, oversight and coordination of recovery and development efforts in selected areas of Afghanistan through the development of its National Area Based Development Programme.

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.

Under the UNDP-DEX programme, which began activities in 2002, three projects for immediate recovery, shelter construction in Shomali Plains, and fertilizer distribution were implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN-Habitat, and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), respectively.

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, with support from UNDP, has been executing projects to establish infrastructure in rural areas and develop the capacity of central and local government authorities to plan and manage recovery and rural livelihood projects.

Initially, NABDP was designed to focus on ten priority areas, covering seventeen provinces particularly impacted during the post-conflict and transitional period, including areas with populations directly affected by years of war and internal conflict, the return of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs), and areas hit by natural disasters such as earthquakes.¹

However, soon after the programme was launched, NABDP was extended to cover the entire country to respond to urgent needs of vulnerable populations in other areas of the country. As both the ministry and the NABDP project have increased their programme management capacity, additional programmes and projects for rural development have been formulated and implemented under the NABDP framework.

Under NABDP, the following projects have been implemented:

- National Area Based Development Programme (NEX) ,

¹ These priority areas are: i) Shomali Plains; ii) Dari-Suf, Yak-aw-lang and Central Bamyan; iii) Khawajaghar-Hazarbagh; iv) Takhar-Badakshan; v) Mazar; vi) Herat-Ghor; vii) Kandahar; viii) Paktia-Paktika; ix) Eastern Nangarhar, and x) Nahreen.



- Internally Displaced Persons & Refugee Reintegration,
- Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (DEX),
- Water for Internally Displaced Persons/Returnees,
- Rural Water & Sanitation,
- NABDP-UNOPS Recovery Support Project (DEX),
- USAID-Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Project (DEX),
- New Zealand PRT-Immediate Recovery Support Project (DEX), and
- Shamalan Canal Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project (DEX).



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The National Area Based Development Programme, currently the only UNDP programme under national execution, was established to provide resources and technical assistance to the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development in order to create an enabling environment for socio-economic recovery and longer-term macro-economic development in Afghanistan.

As the first UNDP programme in Afghanistan to be nationally executed through the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, the programme's policy, design and implementation is led by MRRD, which also provides for its general coordination and the oversight of all project activities. MRRD has maintained a firm commitment to the programme's development, and under the NEX modality, is successfully steering and managing NABDP.

The main objective of the NABDP NEX-Core Programme is to develop the capacity of central and local government institutions in the formulation and management of recovery and development strategies and implementation through participatory processes. NABDP is composed of three main components:

Immediate recovery support: Immediate recovery needs coordinated and met in priority areas.

Capacity development: Accountable and effective structures and systems of public administration in the planning, financial accounting, and management of development interventions are established and functional.

Macro-economic regeneration: Regional rural economic regeneration strategies formulated and implemented. This component will serve as the central focus of the programme in its second phase.

Although the geographical scope of NABDP's recovery support has heretofore been focused on ten of the most vulnerable areas in the country, the strong impact of programme activities have led to its expansion to all the provinces.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

National Area Based Development Programme National Execution Projects

IMMEDIATE RECOVERY PROJECTS

During the reporting period, NABDP continued the implementation of 58 sub-projects in 22 provinces under this component. These sub-projects cover a range of sector interventions, in the following areas:

- **Water supply & sanitation:** the construction of water wells, hand pumps, and piped systems;
- **Education:** construction of schools for children;
- **Irrigation:** construction and rehabilitation of canals/karez, dams, and retaining walls;
- **Public facilities:** the erection and maintenance of community centres, government buildings;
- **Public health:** construction of health clinics; and
- **Transport:** building of roads, culverts and bridges.

Furthermore, in the third quarter, NABDP started an additional 18 sub-projects in nine provinces. Total project costs have amounted to US\$2,167,348. A summary of the activities of these new projects is displayed in the table below.

Province	District	Project	Sector
Kabul	Center	Repairing of school facilities for 14 schools	Education
	Yakatoot	Road Graveling	Transportation
Jozjan	Ankhoy	Provision of computer and office equipment for RRD Office	Government Facilities
Baghlan	Pulikhomry	Provision of chairs, tables, for Zamankhail & Omar Farooq school	Education
Badakhshan	Kofab	Construction of primary school building	Education
Helmand	Center	RRD building Surrounding Wall	Government Facilities
Paktika	Center	RRD building Surrounding Wall	Government Facilities
Uruzgan	Khas Orozgan	Construction of a primary school	Education
	Chora	Construction of a primary school	Education
	Centre	Construction of store of Uruzgan RRD	Government Facilities
	Khas Orozgan	Construction of a primary school	Government Facilities
	Centre	Construction of MRRD compound wall	Government Facilities
	Chora	Construction of a primary school	Education
	Centre	Construction of Guard room of RRD	Government Facilities
Ghor	Cheghcheran	Construction of compound wall of RRD Office	Government Facilities
	Taiwara	Construction of primary school	Government Facilities
Nemroz	Center	Construction of RRD building Surrounding Wall	Government Facilities

NABDP also conducted field monitoring in seven provinces in the Northern Region and four provinces in the South-East Region. Although most projects have been completed or in progress without major obstacles, some projects require minor modifications. NABDP will further investigate these problems and determine action to be taken.



CAPACITY BUILDING

NABDP continued to support the establishment of Programme Management Office in MRRD. The basic structure of the office was put in place and the director was appointed by the MRRD minister. NABDP provided technical advice for MRRD in the design of the functional structures for the office in collaboration with the office of the MRRD Deputy Minister for programmes. NABDP also supported concept development for the organizational functions of technical support units at the regional level, and the draft concept paper was prepared for consultation with the MRRD and relevant stakeholders.

NABDP national advisors continued to provide technical and planning inputs for the development of the ministry's policy framework for rural development, which is called the MRRD Strategic Plan. During the reporting period, MRRD successfully proceeded a strategic planning and consultation to review the ministry's overall organizational vision and strategic initiatives established during the transitional period, with the objective of redefining the mandates of the MRRD as well as the government's rural development strategies.

The recruitment of Capacity Development Advisors and Organizational Development Advisors was undertaken. Those advisors will assume their duties in the beginning of October to support MRRD's institutional strengthening and capacity development.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NABDP has received a contribution from the Government of Japan, amounting to US\$3.4 million, to conduct regional socio-economic development assessment in four regions: Northern (Mazar-e-Sharif and neighboring provinces), Central (Bamyan and neighboring provinces), Eastern (Nangahar and neighboring provinces) and Southern (Kandahar and its neighboring provinces) as part of its support for the "Regional Development for Sustainable Peace" project.²

An international expert was recruited to lead the regional development assessments. The overall conceptual framework for regional economic development was developed, and terms of reference for the international consultants were prepared through consultations with major stakeholders. The outlines of the assessment were also presented in the first Steering Committee of the Regional Development for Sustainable Peace project, which was held on 7 September.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Most of the national programme staff for both central and provincial offices were recruited and assumed their duties during the reporting period. The recruitment process for international positions has been completed and new staff are expected to come to Kabul in early October.

After intensive consultations with MRRD and UNDP, it is decided that UNDP will recruit an international expert to lead finalization of the Phase II Programme Document in order to produce a good quality document, encompassing comprehensive conceptual framework and strategies for new development initiatives, such as alternative livelihoods for poppy-growing farmers and disarmament of illegal armed groups. UNDP has identified a potential candidate for this position and the expert plans to start his duties in October.

² The Regional Economic Development component covers all regions in the country. The regions/areas which will not be covered by the Japan's fund will be supported by contributions from the Belgium and Canadian governments.



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 was continued in the provinces of Paktia, Nuristan, Kunar, Ghazni, Paktika, Nimroz, Uruzgan, Zabul and Helmand without hindrance. During the third quarter, 174 water points and 2 pipe schemes were completed in these provinces. The construction work of 4 pipe schemes have been in progress. In addition, 845 latrines were completed, and 1,220 people received hygiene education during the reporting period.

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

For projects financed for 2004 with contributions from UNHCR, the final payment has been processed for thirteen implementing partners after the MRRD's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Department has carried out field monitoring and verified successful completion of the projects. During the third quarter, the M&E Department confirmed the completion of 452 water points and 653 latrines, assessing the functionality of the water facilities, the quality of construction work, and effectiveness of the hygiene education as well as caretakers & district-level mechanics training. As of the end of the reporting period, a total of 962 water points (more than 93% of the planned 1,031 water points with the 2004 contribution) and 1,392 latrines (89% of the planned 1,560 latrines). It is estimated that approximately 144,300 individuals have benefited from these projects.

The contracts of eleven projects for the 2005 UNHCR-supported projects were signed during the reporting period. These contracts cover the implementation of 430 water points and 667 latrines in different villages of nine provinces where great needs for supporting returnees are observed. By the end of the third quarter, the drilling of 43 water points has started.

In 2005, the hygiene education, training of scheme level caretakers and district mechanics component will be carried out by the private construction companies to enhance implementation capacity of the private companies. To this end, the project team organized a two-day "training of trainers" workshop in Kabul on hygiene education. More than 35 participants from the private companies, provincial RRDs and different departments of MRRD attended the workshop. In the workshop, the participants learned how to conduct hygiene education in their communities using the hygiene education guidelines, training materials and public information messages developed by the hygiene education working group and UNICEF.

Furthermore, the project team in the MRRD Water & Sanitation Department has mobilized a significant quantity of construction materials from provincial RRD warehouses. These materials can be utilised as in-kind contribution from MRRD to the projects to cover the budget deficits that exist between the funds available from UNHCR and the actual work quantities committed by the current contracts.



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

Through the support of UNHCR, channeled through NABDP, 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.

In the third quarter, the Reintegration Unit was nominated as a focal point for the Reintegration Task Force Group, which consists of Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH), Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (MoAAH), MRRD, UNHCR, and UNDP. The Group was established for a new government reintegration initiative to facilitate the return of refugees staying overseas by allocating land for them in the country and helping them start a new life in their motherland. The Unit convened regular meetings of the Task Force Group. Through the discussions in the meetings, the Group decided to form a joint technical survey team and conduct needs assessment surveys for the pilot sites. The survey team was composed of experts from MUDH, MRRD, UNDP and UNHCR. The team conducted needs assessment in Barkib and Parwan Province. The main objective of the mission was to assess the area for water, shelter, and road construction needs. The final report will be prepared soon and shared with all relevant organizations and donor agencies.

Furthermore, in coordination with the UNHCR Information Department, the Reintegration Unit has been providing the refugees living in Pakistan and Iran with updated information about MRRD National programmes and the situations in Afghanistan on regular basis through information flyers and different radio programmes which are specially designed for the Refugees living in Pakistan and Iran.

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 soon.

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

Under the oversight of USAID-PRT, over 150 rural infrastructure sub-projects were implemented in the second quarter. These projects included the delivery of agriculture extension services, transportation (roads, bridges and aviation) services, the construction of schools, clinics, government buildings, irrigation facilities and water points, the promotion of private sector growth and capacity development/training activities. In the second quarter, more than fifteen of these projects were completed.

NEW ZEALAND PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM IMMEDIATE RECOVERY SUPPORT PROJECT

The location of the first bridge has been detected in Shahrstan. During the reporting period, the survey, design, bill of quantities and tender process have been completed for the Shahrstan



Bridges in consultation with New Zealand PRT. The severe winter during the past few years and the scorching summer in the area created very difficult conditions for construction of bridges. In particular, as a result of excessive melting of snows last winter, the rivers reached levels that were never registered in the past, thereby preventing the access to many locations and changing the geography of the bridge sites. UNOPS team started the construction process at the site in a safe manner and ensuring the quality of the works. Two subcontracts have been awarded, who have started to work. By the end of the third quarter, abutments were constructed for Shahrstan Bridge and the construction work will continue in the fourth quarter.

(SHAMALAN CANAL INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION PROJECT)

This project has recently closed and will submit a final report in January 2006.

CHALLENGES

During the third quarter, the programme observed several challenges, and has carefully assessed and analysed them in order to determine the necessary measures to take in addressing these issues in the coming months.

Shortage of Office Space: The programme management office has been quickly expanding, and more than seven international staff are expected to be coming. MRRD also needs additional space for increased number of their staff. The ministry is constructing several office buildings in Darulaman area and several offices in the central compound in Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt will move to the Darulaman office. However, the construction of the buildings has been delayed in Darulaman, and there has been serious shortage of the office space in the central compound. NABDP has been consulting MRRD Deputy Minister for Administration and Finance to secure sufficient office space before new staff will join.

Shortfall in Funding for Phase II: NABDP has continued to engage in consultative dialogues to build commitments upon expressed interest from several international partners. In particular, the Government of Japan expressed interest in providing NABDP with an additional contribution for the implementation of development activities for the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) project. Some development partners have requested NABDP's expanded support for integrated rural development in poppy-concentrated provinces or target areas for the reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons. However, there is still a large shortage of funds for its Immediate Recovery component. NABDP is planning to organize a joint donor monitoring mission and a consultative donor meeting on the finalization of the Phase II Programme Document during the fourth quarter, through which the programme hopes to enhance its resource mobilization efforts and to identify and reach out to potential new partners.

Closure of UNHCR-funded Water and Sanitation Projects: The programme hopes to close these projects as soon as possible because the 2004 agreement between UNCHR and UNDP/NABDP has expired. Although a report of the M & E Department on the projects to verify the number of the completed wells and latrines is required by the MRRD's financial procedures for processing the final payments, MRRD M & E Department has delayed in dispatching its team to the field and completing monitoring reports. The Programme Team in the Water & Sanitation Department has been unable to yet confirm the total figures of the expenditure of its 2004 projects. This delays the disbursement of the second instalment of the 2005 contribution because the amount of the 2005 contribution needs to be adjusted in accordance with the leftover money from 2004. The Water & Sanitation Department is in close touch with the M&E Department and urge them to submit their monitoring report.

Direct Execution Projects: NABDP field monitoring identifies several problems on UNOPS infrastructure projects. Reporting on UNOPS-DEX projects again become less frequent. Intensive consultation between UNDP, UNOPS and NABDP at the senior management level should be held to establish an effective coordination on the operation and management of UNOPS-DEX projects. Such meetings should be convened in the next quarter, particularly closure of the Immediate Recovery Project and Shamaran Canal Project.

FINANCE

Expenditures made by NABDP during the third quarter of 2005 (1st July – 30th September 2005) are as follows:

Financial Report for 3rd Quarter for UNDP			
Activity	Donor	Disbursements	Grand Total
Training	USAID	(333)	(333)
Training Total		(333)	(333)
Woman Leadership Programme	UNDP	(25,816)	(25,816)
	ITALY	(8,341)	(8,341)
	USAID	(80)	(80)
Woman Leadership Programme Total		(34,237)	(34,237)
Economic Development	CIDA	600	600
Economic Development Total		600	600
Capacity Development	BELGIUM	365,912	365,912
	CIDA	677,414	677,414
	ITALY	332,419	332,419
Capacity Development Total		1,375,744	1,375,744
Immediate Recovery Projects	CIDA	36,800	36,800
	BELGIUM	714	714
	CIDA	470,926	470,926
Immediate Recovery Projects Total		508,440	508,440
Programme Management	UNDP	335	335
	BELGIUM	83,759	83,759
	CIDA	214,655	214,655
Programme Management Total		298,749	298,749
Support to MRRD	UNDP	(145,889)	(145,889)
	BELGIUM	210,486	210,486
	CIDA	415,244	415,244
	ITALY	(269,602)	(269,602)
	USAID	(30,953)	(30,953)
Support to MRRD Total		(241,685)	(241,685)
Capacity Building	UNDP	(1,756)	(1,756)
	ITALY	(85,896)	(85,896)
Capacity Building Total		(87,652)	(87,652)
UNHCR Water Supply Project	UNHCR	145,264	145,264
UNHCR Water Supply Project Total		145,264	145,264
UNHCR Reintegration Unit	UNHCR	11,562	11,562
	BELGIUM	445	445
UNHCR Reintegration Unit Total		12,007	12,007
USAID Water Supply Project	BELGIUM	1,466	1,466
	USAID	565,532	565,532
USAID Water Supply Project Total		566,998	566,998
CONVERT	UNHCR	(9,170)	(9,170)
	CIDA	(102,013)	(102,013)
	ITALY	(379,617)	(379,617)
	JAPAN	(44,074)	(44,074)
CONVERT Total		(534,874)	(534,874)
Grand Total		2,009,021	2,009,021

Please note that during the third quarter new activities were introduced into the ATLAS system (for Capacity Development, Economic Regeneration, and Immediate Recovery Projects) and as per management decisions, all expenditures under old activities were reversed to newly created activities. This is the reason that there are minus figures under most activities, meaning that expenditures were moved from one activity to another activity.

CONCLUSION

During the third quarter of 2005, the new programme management structures and functions were set in motion, and the programme has been gaining momentum. Each unit has set its activity goals and work plans for the next quarter. International experts plan to join the NABDP programme team in early October, and it is expected that the implementation of each component will be accelerated.

The programme has been engaging with consultations with the government, donor communities, and UN agencies to facilitate the advancement of other important development initiatives, such as the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups and the Alternative Livelihoods Programme. Although it requires more effort to establish detailed and cohesive strategies and implementation mechanisms for these initiatives, the programme has made steady process in consolidating a conceptual framework for these activities and pilot activities.

In the next quarter, NABDP plans to complete the transitional period from Phase I to Phase II. This includes finishing placement of international staff, finalization of the programme document and designing of the implementation strategies.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or enquiries with regards to this report, please feel free to contact any of the people listed below.

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