

**Afghanistan Weekly Situation Report  
Relief, Recovery and Reconstruction  
25-31 October 2002**

**Critical Issues**

**Afghanistan Currency Exchange Operation:**

- In total, the Da Afghanistan Bank (Central Bank) has exchanged (on a nationwide level) approximately 1 - 1.3 Trillion old (Afs) against 1 - 1.3 Billion new Afs. The destruction of the old notes is slightly 'backlogging'; up to date approximately 500 Bn old Afs has been destroyed (with shredding machines as well as with incinerators).
- The process is fairly on track with around 20 - 25 Exchange Points (EP) around the country active (in process to be expanded during the coming week(s) to, in total, 47 EPs). In addition to the EPs, around 1,200 money traders are active in exchanging the old currency to the new with the general public.

**National Winter Preparedness Plan:**

- WFP has enough food to assist the identified caseload of vulnerable population in inaccessible rural areas (1.3 m people). The internally displaced/returnees and urban population determined as vulnerable to winter (383,000 people) will be serviced through WFP regular programme.
- \$ 6.7 m is the value estimated for the procurement and distribution of tents (3,000 pcs), blankets (over 100,000 pcs), plastic sheeting (11,000 pcs), stoves (48,000 pcs), mineral coal (18,000 MT), doors/door frames (12,000 pcs) and other shelter and house repair materials.

**Central Area**

**Security Situation: Phase 3**

- Kabul is, generally, steadily returning to a more stable situation, however, on the night of the 25-26 October, four girls' schools were reported attacked by rockets or set on fire in Wardak province. Two schools were in Maiden-Shar; one was in Nirch and one in Jalrez district. Leaflets were posted at the mosque in the villages of the torched schools decrying the education of girls.

**Provision of Assistance**

Coordination

- A round of Provincial Coordination Body (PCB) meetings in the city of Kabul and the provinces in the central region were held during the reporting period. Themes of the PCBs concentrated on improved information flow to strengthen the PCBs and provincial authority, and identification of achievements over the last months.

Winter

In the Parwan PCB, the provincial authorities briefed on the activities to keep open the Salang Pass during the winter, through intervention by ACTED and the anticipated start-up of a Turkish consortium for improvement of the tunnel ventilation system, galleries etc.

Health

- With the objective to address the gaps in the health service in Kapisa province, a coordination meeting was held at the Central Area Office in Kabul on 27 October with participation of key health organizations and MoPH official with interest in Kapisa health system.

- National immunisation days for polio vaccination took place during the three days of 23-25 October.
- ICRC is considering to extend presence at the Gulbahar hospital to March 2003 from initial intend to withdraw by year-end and MSF-F has agreed to continue the provision of essential drugs to the Gulbahar hospital until end March 2003.

## Central Highlands Area

### **Security Situation: Phase 3**

The situation in Kahmard is improving, but in some areas is still tense. The situation in the remainder of the region is reported to be stable.

### **Provision of Assistance**

#### Refugee/IDP/Returnees

- UNHCR checkpoint indicated a return of 138 families from Iran this week, mainly to Waras and Panjao districts. These areas also continue to register the highest displacement of population for economic reasons (588 families have been displaced since March from these districts). Sixty percent of these returnees claim that they have not been assisted and in many instances have been forced to depart Iran.
- Thirty families have left Bamyan province this week due to economic reasons. The primary destination is Kabul City. All the districts of Bamyan province (excluding for Bamyan district itself) have been seen emigration.
- Substantial returns of ethnic Hazara continue to Sharestan and Daikundi, where UNAMA has reported human rights violations.

#### Food Assistance

- WFP have coordinated with their implementing partners (IPs) in all 10 districts. However, it was revealed that more capacity is required for the districts of Sharistan, Waras, Panjao and Daikundi. NGOs that have the capacity to distribute food in any of these districts have been encouraged to coordinate with WFP and UNAMA.
- Daikundi, Waras, Panjao and Sharistan are amongst the poorest, most underserved districts of the Central Highlands Area. Food security is a major issue in all four districts.

#### Human Rights

- A large number of Tajiks have returned from mainly Darban in Kahmard to Bamyan during this reporting period. They are being assisted by UNHCR and Solidarite.

#### Gender

- On 28 October a Gender Coordination meeting was held. It was agreed that UNAMA will play the lead role supported by the UNHCR protection unit. Much interest has been expressed towards a strong gender unit for the region. It was concluded that there will be a meeting once a month to take up issues and share information.

## Western Area

### **Security Situation: Phase 3-4**

- During the reporting period, the security situation in Herat and its surrounding area remained calm. Low-level road banditries continue throughout the region.
- The security situation on the Herat-Shindand highway at night has been improved due to frequent patrolling by the Military/Police forces on the road.

- Armed men robbed World Vision (an INGO) warehouse at distribution point in Ab-Barik Village in Badghis province last week where food commodities were stored for future distribution.

### **Provision of Assistance**

#### Winter

The Planning process for the Area-based Contingency Plan, for the winter, is well underway where major actors in the plan including UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP will articulate their strategies shortly. The key elements of strategies include advance pre-positioning of food stocks in inaccessible areas, road works for known problem spots, snow clearing base camps in known blockage areas, identification of high risk rural IDPs/returnee locations and pre-winter NFI distribution.

#### Refugee/IDP/Returnees

- Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MRR), UNHCR and UNAMA are promoting active dialogue on affected Kutchis who are currently falling into an assistance gap particularly as winter approaches.

#### Health

WHO reports a high incidence of Malaria in Sang-I-atish and Dar-I-Boom of Badghis Province where presently AREA and MSF are responding with mobile teams.

#### Food Assistance

- WFP is pre-positioning two thirds of quantities of food indicated by the VAM for the 9 -month period to sites across the Region which would be available for distribution by approved programmes, or if needed in emergency situations.
- To avoid any potential nutritional crisis, WFP and UNICEF are working closely with the Implementing Partners ACF, CHA, IMC and ICMC in Taywara and Passaband to distribute Vitamin C along with supplementary food (UNIMIX), oil and pulses.
- In addition to the Emergency Seed Distribution programme FAO will distribute wheat seed and fertilizers to contract seed distributors this coming week.

## **Southern Area**

### **Security Situation: Phase 4**

- Although the overall situation in the Southern Area is calm it is still punctuated with some minor incidents.
- On 30 October, a WFP team on mission to Spinboldak district was forced to transport a dead soldier (reportedly shot by his CO) to Spinboldok hospital.

### **Provision of Assistance**

#### Coordination

- A British Government high ranking delegation headed by Clare Short, Secretary for Development visited the Kandahar on 29 October. The delegation held separate meetings with the Kandahar governor and a group of UN agencies and INGOs working in the Area. Each individual agency informed the delegation regarding their activities and reported the diversity of needs.

#### Health

WHO started Malaria Prevalence survey in Pnjwai, Kandahar City, Deshu, Nawa Barakzai, Nahri Saraj, Musa Qala and Nawzad districts. The survey started on 22 October and will be completed within 20 days.

### Drug Control

- The poppy cultivation season is ongoing and based on local reports from various sources many farmers in this area have again started growing poppy crops. In the past few months many delegations from various parties: government, donors, international organizations visited this area, no specific plan for continued eradication of poppy with the loss of rural income offset by other development/employment assistance programs has yet emerged. The poppy eradication activities earlier this year (April - May 2002) had resulted in the unemployment of vast numbers of rural poor (seasonally estimated at over 0.25 million people).

## Northern Area

### **Security Situation: Phase 4**

- The security situation in the Northern Region continues to be very tense.

## Northeast Area

### **Security Situation: Phase 3**

- In general the security situation in the Northeast is calm.
- It has been reported that some people were forced out from Shughnan district of Badakhshan province. A joint political and humanitarian mission from UNAMA and UNICEF together with representative from the Governor's office is now in the area to assess the situation.
- A special military commission has been established in Kunduz composed of representatives from the Army, Police, Security Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Governor's office. The commission's objective is to collect weapons from the districts into a military base in Kunduz.

### **Provision of Assistance**

#### Health

- There was a report of an outbreak of whooping cough in Badakhshan district of Darwaz. A team from WHO and UNICEF Kabul traveled by land to the area to investigate.
- The National Immunisation Days campaign took place from 22 to 25 October.

#### Water and Sanitation

- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development in organizing a workshop on water and sanitation where a work-plan was developed for 2003.

#### Human Rights

- The commission on Gujur people has conducted its first joint mission to Farqhar district of Takhar province. The team consisted of a UNAMA representative, the Deputy Commander of the 6<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, local authorities and military commanders. Around 50 local people participated in the meeting. General Daoud gave clear instructions that any prejudice against ethnic groups under whatever pretexts will be brought to justice.

## Eastern Area

### **Security Situation: Phase 4**

The overall security situation in the region remained calm. However, There have been a series of minor incidents or rocketing, detonation of explosive devices and armed robberies.

### **Provision of Assistance**

#### Coordination

- The UN system and civic authorities in Jalalabad are collaborating in “kick-starting” employment generation activities, through the UNDP REAP scheme. The first projects are due to be inaugurated on 4 November and will generate employment initially for 900 people (ultimately rising to 15,000). The initiative has strengthened the partnership between government departments and the United Nations. In particular, it has aided the Planning Department to start developing a coordinating and information gathering role within the government system and it has also helped the Municipality to emerge as a lead implementing agency for urban areas.

#### Drug Control

- Drug strategy issues were again raised on numerous occasions during the week, as poppy planting time is approaching and farmers throughout the region must make their decision on whether or not to plant opium. The Abdul Haq Foundation has launched a UN-funded awareness raising programme (based on community meetings), to campaign against opium planting. UNDCP visited Jalalabad during the week to consult with key actors and propel the work of establishing a joint office with the government office of drugs control.

## Southeastern Area

*UNAMA is in the process of establishing an integrated office in Gardez. Security updates, as well as information received regarding relief, recovery and reconstruction activities will be provided.*

### **Security Situation: Phase 3-4**

- The security situation remains considerably tense and volatile in this area.
- UN operation has not yet received security clearance for missions to Khost.