



# UNDP Afghanistan Newsletter

## Herat City's Old Master Plan to be modernized with GIS

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Modern technology and computerized mapping system has encouraged the Department of Urban Development (DoUD) in Herat Province to reconsider the implementation of the city's Old Master Plan. According to Engineer Hameed Yunusi, Deputy Director of He-rat's DoUD, the urban development plan that was designed some 30 years ago cannot accommodate today's requirements and architectural criterions. "Currently we are working on the modernization, in fact on the renewal, of Herat City's Master Plan that is an old and under various circumstances, an underdeveloped sketch," said Mr. Yunusi.

The modernization of Herat City's Master Plan will be accomplished by Geographic Information System (GIS) that has been introduced to DoUD by the UNDP Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS) Project. According to Engineer Yunusi, there are eight qualified engineers and some other administrative staff at Herat's DoUD, most of which have received technical trainings on GIS and other computerized mapping and designing systems by the AIMS office in that province. In order to build capacity within DoUD in Herat and ensure further efficiency in day to day activities, UNDP/AIMS donated a Large Maps Printing Machine and a set of Computer to the DoUD. Further to the point, UNDP/

AIMS has expressed commitment in supporting DoUD to regularly upgrade staff capacity and provide technical trainings in the future.

Moreover, in line with the assessments done by various government departments in He-rat, UNDP/AIMS has actively provided technical support to the formulation of a Strategic Plan that sets forth specific professional recommendations for the protection of numerous historical locations in and around Herat City.

UNDP/AIMS was estab-

Within the overall context of diversified development in Afghanistan, UNDP/AIMS is seen as a reputable and reliable strategic partner with the core capabilities to deliver human capacity building and critical information management services to the Afghanistan government and the broader development community. Through its central Kabul office and five regional offices, UNDP/AIMS has played a critical role in providing a range of information management products and customized services, which were previously un-



*An expert describes the map of Herat City to Anita Nirody, UNDP Country Director.*

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lished in 2001 by UNOCHA through the merger of the new Humanitarian Information Centre for Afghanistan (HIC) and the existing Projects Management Information System (ProMIS). In 2002 AIMS collaborated with UNAMA (United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan) and was administered by UNDP.

available. UNDP/AIMS has also laid the foundation for effective data management in key line ministries and foresees expanding this foundation for planning, managing and monitoring reconstruction activities within Afghanistan.

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## US\$ 5 million to be spent on humanitarian and development in Panjwaye and Zharay districts of Kandahar Province

**I**n a recent contribution to UNDP's National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP), USAID contributed US\$ 5 million to bolster development and humanitarian activities for the people displaced by the recent fighting in Kandahar, especially in Panjwaye and Zharay districts.

UNDP/NABDP will use the funds in close collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) to implement 64 humanitarian and development projects which are identified by Community Development Councils (CDCs). The projects will be implemented utilizing the existing National Solidarity Programme (NSP) mechanisms. Some organizations have already provided humanitarian assistances to victim families of the recent conflicts in Panjwaye and Zharay and there are many different estimates on the number of people in need for such assistance. MRRD will conduct a quick situation analysis and needs assessment in the affected areas based on which the type and coverage of humanitarian assistance will be determined. The second component of the programme is designed to ensure rehabilitation and recovery for sustainable livelihoods in the conflict affected areas, UNDP/NABDP will implement development projects in Panjwaye and Zharay districts. Besides, an assess-

ment will be made of the damage done to vineyards and orchards in the area to plan for replacement where needed.

In Zharay district, eight quick recovery development projects will be implemented. The asphaltting of 50 km public roads will improve transportation in Kalak, Watan, Sartak, Kishano, Dewar and Lako Khel villages. In order to improve agriculture – a predominant means of life – three development projects will be implemented in nearly all villages of Zharay through which some 3000kg improved seeds, 400kg fertilizer, 500kg vegetable seeds and 2000kg insecticide and pesticide will be distributed to local farmers and gardeners. Moreover, in Tolokan and Salwagha villages a 15 km long drainage will be excavated to avoid flood vulnerability and reservoir will be constructed for water collection. Meanwhile, retaining walls and lining ditches will be built to improve agricultural irrigation system. Some 100,000 inhabitants of Zharay are expected to be the direct beneficiaries of the projects.

In Panjwaye district, 13 development projects, approved by community development council, will be implemented in some 15 villages. To improve local governance and pluralize public's participation in decision-making processes, a public meeting hall

will be constructed at the centre of Panjwaye district which will be used to accommodate public debates, meetings and Shoras. Four infrastructural projects will be implemented to bolster development in all Panjwaye district. A tertiary road (length 13 km, width 5-6km with 45 culverts) will be repaired that will connect Panjwaye to the Dand district. In addition, roads and bridges connecting the centre of Panjwaye districts and Mishaq, Pashmol, Ashraf and Tarnak villages will be repaired. In Safaid Rawan, Kahdonay, Rigwan, Khangekak, Zulokhan, Tolokan and some other villages of Panjwaye district six medium and 12 primary schools will be constructed. The construction of schools will enable and encourage many locals to allow their male as well as female children to their nearby located schools. Eleven new medical clinics will be established in Tangy Abad, Safid Rawan, Mumracy, Salehan, Nakhuni, Qasem Rubat, Panjakak, Zala Khan, Salawat, Chel Ghor and Regwa villages where 10% of the total cost will be shared by the local population. A new 30-bed hospital will be established in the centre of Panjwaye district having professional medical doctors, laboratory, ambulance and medical instruments. The population of Panjwaye will contributed 10% of the total cost for the construction of the hospital.

This contribution will extend the UNDP/NABDP services in Kandahar Province to 31 October 2007. Previously USAID funding to NABDP amounted to US\$ 3, 165, 309 to implement various development projects in Kandahar. UNDP/NABDP 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.

[www.undp.org.af](http://www.undp.org.af)

## Over fifty students learning Networking at Cisco In Herat University

30 male and 21 female students are studying Computer Networking and E-learning at the Cisco Networking Academy Training Centre that was established at the Faculty of Sciences in Herat University. Students started

their four-semester course in the beginning of 2006 and are expected to receive their Cisco Certified

Network Associate (CCNA) certificates in 2007, after completing 280 hours training and getting through the required test. Established in August 2005 at Herat University, the Cisco Academy is willing to increase the number of its students both from the University and other interested individuals. According to Mr. Nadeim Ghoryani, Instructor at Herat Cisco Academy, there is a US\$10 fee for the four-semester course for female and US\$20 for male students of the University, while outside applicants are charged US\$ 30 for female and US\$ 50

for male candidates. The fee difference for female and male demonstrates Cisco Academy's commitment to facilitate grounds for gender balance among Cisco students and thus promote women's higher education and expand em-

ployment opportunities for

2 Platform. The Cisco Networking Academy Program is a comprehensive e-learning program that has been launched in approximately 10,000 educational institutions in over 152 countries worldwide. Through a

partnership between UNDP, Cisco Systems, the Ministry of Com-

introduced in 2002. The Cisco Networking Academy Program in Afghanistan launched its first generation of Academies in Kabul, hosted by Kabul University's Faculty of Computer Science, the Ministry of Communications' Telecommunications Training Center and the Ministry of Women's Affairs. There are currently 727 students enrolled in the program, 32% of which are women. Since 2002, there are a total of 340 Cisco CCNA graduates, 32% of which are women, working at various private sector and public sector job positions in-country. In 2005, the Cisco Academy program graduated 183 students from three Academies in Kabul. Kabul University Regional Academy also trained 11 instructors from

Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, and Khost in July 2005. Internet connectivity service was started at each university site in November, and all three regional Academies launched CCNA 1 classes during the month of December 2005.



*Some female students of Cisco in Herat*

employment opportunities for women in Afghanistan. Besides the Cisco Certified Network Associate, the Cisco Academy in Herat is expected to issue its graduated students with the following distinguished certificates: Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP); World Organization of Webmasters Certified Web Design Apprentice (CWDS); CompTIA Network +, CompTIA A+ & CompTIA Server; and Sun Microsystems Programmer for Java

Academy Program was



*Male students, also, study computer programmes at Cisco Academy in Herat*



## Norway contributed an additional NOK 8.5 million to NABDP in Faryab Province

To enhance human security in the province of Faryab through establishing a programme of Comprehensive Rural Development (CRD), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Norway has agreed to provide a NOK 8.5 million addendum to its original commitment to UNDP National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP) with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) as implementing partner. A modification of assistance, describing the addendum, was signed between the UNDP Country Office and the Norwegian Embassy in Kabul.

The CRD Project will be implemented through the establishment of integrated and participatory community-based planning and investment mechanisms; and the CDR Project will address priority needs for social and economic infrastructure and services as well as farm and non-farm income and employment generation that will contribute to economic regeneration, sustainable poverty reduction and livelihood improvement.

The project will achieve its purposes through: a) establishing District Development Working Groups that will efficiently function and develop consensus-based District Development Plans; b) establishing and supporting the functionality of Provincial Development Committee (PDC) which will empower consensus-based Provincial Investment Plans; c) supporting the transparent community-led and sustainable investments in social and economic infrastructure and services; and d) supporting farm and non-farm income and employment generation initiatives. The project will

organize various training/coaching workshops in 14 districts allocating US\$ 64,000 per district. The project will also

data/info base and other basic equipments.

The Project was signed in July 2006 between the Norwegian MFA and UNDP-Afghanistan based on which the Government of Norway agreed to provide NOK 10,500,000 for 2006-2008.

NABDP 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 Af-

ghanistan to support community-based rural rehabilitation and development in an integrated, people-focused, inclusive and participatory manner. 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.



provide technical support to PDC facilitating

ghani- to support community-based rural

# I will never hold **Weapon** again I want my kids to become **Doctors** in the future

Four years ago, only a gun, a Klashnikov, was Hekmatullah's means of life. In his own words he was a "Mujahid doing Jihad". Life was hard and he lived under constant fear of being attacked and killed by rival militias. Not only that, he also did not have a credible and justifiable income to support his family: his

wife, two sons and a daughter. "It was the most annoying part of my life when, for the first time, my kids started asking me what I was doing and

what I needed the gun for?" Hekmatullah told me, adding that he could not convince his kids that he carried the gun for a legitimate cause. "No need for guns and bullets any more" he said. Hekmat is right. Peace and tranquility cannot be won by guns and

bullets.

Hekmatullah handed over his only gun to the democratically elected government of Afghanistan through the UNDP's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme and registered for the reintegration scheme. Today Hekmatullah is a happy man and

matullah is an active man and a smart shopkeeper. He managed to repay his loans in three months and is keen to expand his business with a bigger loan which he thinks should be repayable in a longer time.

"My kids are going to school. I am very happy for them. I want them to be-

Hekmatullah many privileges that once as a combatant he could hardly imagine having. He has a stable, peaceful and a promising civilian occupation that not only earns him pride and delight, but plays a crucial role in the general prosperity of his country men and women as well.



*Hekmatullah posing to a photograph in his grocery*

does not live under the scaring shade of the gun. He has a grocery shop in Herat City. According to a UNDP arrangement, Hekmatullah initially borrowed a total of US\$700 from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to set up his shop. He then applied for other loans and was given some 14000 Afg in two phases. Hek-

come doctors in the future." said Hekmatullah while serving his customers with a lasting smile on his face. The ex combatant has ambitious plans for his future. Owing to the profits from his grocery shop, he has bought a Flying Coach car which, according to him, transports passengers between Herat and Kabul. Life without gun has given

The UNDP's Afghanistan New Beginning Programme (ANBP) supported disarming over 63,000 combatants belonging to various armed groups whereby some 53,232 weapons are collected and handed over to Afghanistan's National Army (ANA). Through its demobilization and reintegration phases, the ANBP has provided ex combatants with education, training and/or job opportunities suited to their particular needs, interests and skills. Staffed primarily by Afghan personnel, the ANBP is based in Kabul, where its central office is linked to eight regional offices and a set of mobile units. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2006 some 40,785 ex-combatants have completed the reintegration process with a further 12,693 former soldiers currently enrolled in reintegration programmes.

*For More Information on Afghanistan's New Beginning Programme Please Visit: [www.anbpafg.org](http://www.anbpafg.org)*



## UNDP-Afghanistan Retreat Straightened Vision 2007

On November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, the UNDP Country Office in Afghanistan had its annual Staff Retreat through interactive and participatory sessions in Kabul. The retreat was organized to achieve a number of significant objectives such as team building and strategic planning, essential for the successful implementation of the UNDP Country Programme 2006-2008. *"The retreat was an excellent opportunity to familiarize with many new colleagues at UNDP Country Office (CO) and spot good friends among*

retreat. Highlighting the achievements and as- for all units to engage in an interaction on exploring ways to better sup-



sessing the weaknesses in 2006 was a crucial element of the retreat's overall objective. UNDP staffs were asked to re-

port each other; share inter-unit expectations; set forth concerted recommendations; and learn from each other's experiences. Now, it should be difficult for a programme officer at Democratization and Civil Society Empowerment Unit to understand the challenges of the Information Communication Technology (ICT) unit, yet the result of the exercise emerged rather fruitful. Many ideas and experiences, coming from diversity of backgrounds, were broadly shared.

throughout the two-day occasion. On the last day, a mix of national and international staff turned the hall into a joyfully friendly space by orchestrating a wonderful Attaan (a traditional group dancing) dancing, whistling and clapping exercise.

*What is your vision for UNDP-Afghanistan in 2008?* was yet another group-exercise that inspired many attendants to reveal their respective ideas and come up with a hand-made symbol describing UNDP vision 2008. From curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases to the gender equilibrium to the termination of poverty and the general prosperity of the Afghan population was the overall vision which participants adopted for Afghanistan.



*so many people that I work with"* said, Zia Izhar, a participant in the

flect on their challenges, priorities and action plans in 2007.

The retreat facilitated a wonderful opportunity

The retreat was also an opportunity to have fun and the organizers included a number of entertaining games and break-for-music



*Vision for a better Afghanistan*

Every year on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, the International Volunteers Day (IVD) is celebrated all over the world through many important and innovative activities and events.

Volunteerism is not only about being there and making a difference with hands on experience. At a personal level, volunteerism is all about how one can make a difference di-



Please feel free to make donations if you wish to make a difference in the lives of these children this winter.

We cannot help every orphan around the world but we can at least try and help the ones close to us. These children are the future of Afghanistan. They have hopes and dreams like every one of us. Let us all join hands and show them that

## Let us all make a difference through Volunteerism

rectly or indirectly in the lives of people who are in need. Contributions out of Philanthropy and compassion are one of the ways of expressing ones concern about people in need, and this reflects volunteerism. One small contribution can bring a big smile on a child's face.

Given the current situation in Afghanistan, this year we have decided to identify orphanages in Kabul, Herat, Mazar, Jalalabad, and Kunduz and collect donations in kind for these children. With the winter, the

outcome of the Orphanages needs assessment done by our focal points in these locations were that, many orphans are in need of shoes, warm clothing and blankets. They also need on the hygiene side soaps and laundry detergent. Other items such as toys and books would be useful as well. For the staff members who wish to contribute but feel that they do not have the items available, we suggest the following:

You will also be able to make contributions in cash. UNV in collaboration with UNAMA staff welfare committee will be involved in collecting these contribu-

tions. The procurement office will do all necessary purchases from a reliable vendor. The authentic bills of all the purchases made will be cc to everyone who contributed.

Our UNV volunteers acting as focal points for this project will also be involved in the collection of donations. Receipts with complete name, amount and e-mail will be issued to all the contributors. Transparency is our priority.

We will appreciate any assistance and cooperation from all the UN agencies staff members in making this a successful campaign.

there are people who care about them.

***"Towards the end of the day, volunteerism not only makes a difference in other people's lives but it also helps to reflect the person we are".***

For More Information on International Volunteer Day or United Nations Volunteers in Afghanistan, please contact:

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# *International Volunteer Day*

## *5th December, 2006*



**International  
Volunteer Day**

**Get involved**

[www.worldvolunteerweb.org/ivd](http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/ivd)



*Orphan Children around Afghanistan need your help for the harsh winter that is headed our way. A small donation can make a difference in the lives of these Children who do not have the warmth and love of a family. Let us all bring some warmth to them this winter.*

*Please donate and your generosity and kindness will be highly appreciated and felt by these Children.*

*"Volunteerism not only makes a difference in other people's lives but it also helps to reflect the person we are"*

*Donations can be made directly to UNV volunteers or to members of UNAMA Staff Welfare. For more information please contact:*

*Karma Loday at extn: 5030 or 070051845 UNOCA Compound  
AND*

*Monica Villarindo at extn: 4302 or 070282520 Compound B*

*We thank you on behalf of*



**UN**

**Volunteers**





UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

## Overview of UNDP in Afghanistan

UNDP has been present in Afghanistan since the 1950s, providing development assistance to the country and helping build the capacity of many national institutions. During the 1990s, while many government institutions were jeopardized by civil war and neglected by the Taliban regime, UNDP continued to assist communities throughout the country. During that decade, UNDP delivered US\$200 million of assistance to Afghanistan, using its own resources as well as those mobilized through bilateral partners and its extensive outreach throughout the country.

The human development challenge for Afghanistan is enormous. According to Afghanistan's National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2004, the Human Development Index ranks Afghanistan at 173 out of 178 countries worldwide and its MDG indicators are below the majority of Sub-Saharan African countries. There are only two countries with lower poverty indices than Afghanistan, where the majority of the population lives below the poverty line – 70 percent. The percentage of Afghans with access to safe drinking water source is one of the lowest in the world – 23 percent – while just 12 percent of the population have access to adequate sanitation. As a result, preventable diseases remain prevalent.

The depth of poverty in Afghanistan is reflected consistently in all human development indicators, revealing a mosaic of a nation in need of sustained assistance. Not surprisingly, therefore, Afghanistan has been identified as a global priority for addressing the Millennium Development Goals.

Since the Bonn Agreement was signed in December 2001, UNDP has delivered more than US\$600 million of assistance to Afghanistan.

Within Afghanistan's broad National Development Framework (NDF) are many cross-cutting priorities that address gender equality, security and the rule of law, administrative and financial reforms, human rights, environmental integrity, the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their communities, and reintegration of former combatants into society. Guided by the requirements set forth in the NDF, UNDP Afghanistan focuses its activities on the following UNDP global practice areas: poverty reduction, democratic governance, and crisis prevention and recovery.

All UNDP activities are undertaken in close collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan, UN agencies and donors. All UNDP programme activities aim to consolidate peace, enhance security and promote respect for the rule of law. UNDP projects also enhance government institutional capacity to provide public services and to create an enabling environment for legitimate livelihoods. UNDP works collaboratively with all partners to empower Afghan women and promote gender equality in Afghanistan, ensuring that gender issues are consistently mainstreamed and carefully paced.

The UNDP Afghanistan programme remains responsive to the changing needs of a nation still in transition from conflict to peace. Afghanistan is at a crucial point in moving from state building initiatives to emerging as a newly democratic state, and the opportunity to shift focus to longer term development and government support is at hand. Accordingly, the UNDP Afghanistan programme of activities is organized thematically into three pillars: State-Building & Government Support, Democratization & Civil Society Empowerment, and Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods.

As UNDP develops and implements its regular Country Programme in Afghanistan, a major focus on results-based management will remain. Future activities concentrate on institutionalizing accountability, transparency and integrity in the public service, continuing to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions such as the Constitution of Afghanistan, and further promoting access to and respect for justice and human rights for all Afghan citizens.

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