



# UNDP Afghanistan Newsletter

## UNDP took active part in UN Day celebration at Kabul University

19 October 2006

The 61<sup>st</sup> foundation anniversary of the United Nations (UN) was marked through an interactive session at Kabul University. The Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE); the Kabul University; and the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences assisted in the organization of the UN Day on October 18, 2006. The Minister of Higher Education, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG), the Chancellor of Kabul University, the heads of UN agencies, professor, teachers and a large number of students from different faculties of Kabul University participated in the UN Day event. In the concluding part of the event, a Questions and Answers session was held where the UN Panel engaged in an open debate on the UN role in Afghanistan. Answering a question on the prospects for the development of Afghanistan Mr. Yonus Payab, Assistant to UNDP Country Director in Afghanistan, said "UNDP is committed in supporting Afghans in their efforts for development and progress. Since last five years, UNDP has undertaken tremendous endeavors to enable the Government and the non-governmental institutions in Afghanistan meet their Millennium Development Goals, take long strides towards a viable democratic governing system, and empower the establishment and functionality of well-organized institutions that can provide efficient services to the people of Afghanistan."

In addition to speeches and Q &



A session, some UN agencies set up photo-cum-activities exhibitions outside the auditorium of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences. UNDP distributed over 50 copies of Afghanistan's National Human Development Report (NHDR) in Dari and English, over 50 copies of Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), some 10 copies of Human Development Report 2005 and hundreds of other informative leaflets and posters to the students of Kabul University. UNDP Human Resources (HR) had, meanwhile, sufficient copies of National Vacancies Announcements and staff members provided elaborated information on UNDP recruitments procedures to the interested students.

In the immediate aftermath of the World War II, October 24, 1945, all conditions were fulfilled and the UN came into existence. Four years of planning and the hope of many years had materialized in an international organization designed to end war and promote peace, justice and better living for all

mankind. The name "United Nations", coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was first used in the "Declaration by United Nations" of 1 January 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers. United Nations Day, celebrated internationally on 24 October, was held a week earlier in Afghanistan this year as next week Afghanistan will be celebrating the Muslim festival of Eid ul Fitr to mark the end of Ramadan.

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### For further information:

Akmal Dawi,  
National Public Information Officer  
tel: +93 (0)70 20 11 22  
email: [akmal.dawi@undp.org](mailto:akmal.dawi@undp.org)

## 15 out of 53 Senior Provincial Posts have undergone Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) in He-rat

In a recent mission to He-rat Province, Anita Nirody, UNDP Country Director in Afghanistan, availed the opportunity to discuss a number of mutually beneficial issues with the Governor of He-rat, H.E. Saeed Hussain Anwary.

Reiterating UNDP's commitment in supporting Afghans in their efforts to human development and institutional improvement, Anita Nirody briefed Governor Anwary on various UNDP-led developmental programmes in He-rat Province. "UNDP's Afghanistan's New Beginning Programme (ANBP) has offered a unique opportunity for Afghans to take long strides towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. The Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups, well known as DIAG, is a crucial phase of all endeavors that are undertaken to ensure sustainable security throughout Afghanistan – a prerequisite for reconstruction and development." Said UNDP's Country Director.

Welcoming UNDP's mission to He-rat, Governor Anwary presented a detailed picture of reformative, reconstruction and developmental activities in He-rat Province and neighboring provinces. According to Governor Anwary, 15 out of 53 Senior Provincial Posts have undergone the Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) mechanism and the process is on going in a number of Provincial Departments. "We have ensured all procedures required for the effective implementation of the PRR. In addition to Retraining, Reskilling



*UNDP's Mission meeting the governor of He-rat province, H.E. Mr. Anwary*

& Redeployment (RRR) of senior provincial posts, we have worked on new Terms of References (ToRs) that would enable us to institutionalize effective, transparent and competent administration." said Governor Anwary.

In order to bolster developmental programmes and bring in even more transparency, effectiveness and broader civil participation, UNDP has supported the establishment and thereafter improve the functionality of Provincial Development Councils (PDCs) in nearly all provinces of Afghanistan. Answering a question on the modality of CDCs involvement in the overall planning and implementation of developmental projects in He-rat Province, Governor Anwary emphasized on the high expectations from PDCs that, according to him, lacks adequate resources and

capacity in accomplishing their responsibilities effectively.

Over the last decade, Afghanistan has suffered its longest ever draught. In Governor Anwary's words "67-to-76% of the farmers in He-rat are affected by the negative implications of the drought making life much difficult for thousands of farmer and their families. Yet the government does not have sufficient resources to meet their needs thoroughly." Nonetheless, the construction of *Salma* Dam – to be completed in the foreseeable future – is, in Governor Anwary's view, a promising issue that can instigate tremendous agricultural, environmental and industrial development in He-rat and surrounding provinces.

The Governor of He-rat told the UNDP mission that "corruption" is at the top of his reformist agenda. "We have some

considerable insufficiencies in law enforcing provincial bodies." said Governor Anwary. According to the Governor of He-rat, sometimes the mechanisms for the implementation of law faces challenges - for long numerous legal cases are awaiting their final verdict; some criminal cases are deliberately ignored and sometimes criminals are released shortly after their arrest; and off course some institutions that should observe the implementation of law are systematically under-resourced. Nevertheless, H.E. Mr. Anwary expressed his optimism that his reformist agenda as well as the efforts of newly appointed Attorney General, H.E. Mr. Abdul Jabar Sabbit, would bring in fruitful outcomes.



## 450 Developmental Projects anticipated for the year 1385 in He-rat

**D**evelopment for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD) in He-rat has virtually completed the Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) programme by re-appointing Over 90% of all its staff. According to H.E. Mr. Agha Mohammad Siddique, Director of He-rat's DRRD, all the staff that have undergone through the PPR programme receive Super Skill salary - significantly higher than their previous payment.

In a joint meeting between Antia Nirody, UNDP Country Director in Afghanistan, and Directors of Departments of Economy, DRRD, Department of Martyrs, Disables and Social Affairs (DMDSA) and an expert from the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) in He-rat a number of developmental and reformative issues were discussed. "The PRR programme has been effectively implemented in nearly all departments in He-rat Province. The Department of Women's Affairs has thoroughly completed the PPR; the Department of Health 50%; the DRRD 90%; the Departments of Agriculture, Telecommunication, Public Works and Justice 30%; and the Department of Economy has implemented over 40% of the same process." said Ayubullah, the expert from IARCSC.

UNDP is assisting the Training and Development Department of the IARCSC in conceiving and organizing training and development programs for qualified civil servants and to build capacity within the Department. Based on the immediate



*Left to Right: H.E. Mr. Saeed Mohammad Hussaini, H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmad Mansoori and H.E. Mr. Ayubullah*

priorities identified by the Government, UNDP supports the IARCSC in: (i) formulation of an overall training policy; (ii) the development of a short-term training and development strategy; (iii) the development of a leadership development strategy; and (iv) the development of a training and development strategy for the provincial and district level.

The PRR and the capacity building programme, supported by UNDP, have tremendous positive implications for all the diverse processes of developmental projects including consultation, planning, implementation, supervision etc. In the words of H.E. Engineer Ali Ahmad Mansoori, Director of Department of Economy in He-rat, "we have effectively finalized our Provincial Development Plan (PDP) through a broad process of professional consultation, transparent verification and collaborative

interaction among all concerned institutions. Accordingly, we anticipated 450 developmental projects for the current year, 1384, to be implemented in He-rat Province." Engineer Mansoori, however, raised concerns on the funding part of the anticipated projects which, in his opinion, is not sufficient and does not correspond to the desired level.

There are some 600 skilled workers waiting for employment opportunities in He-rat Province. According to H.E. Mr. Saeed Mohammad Hussaini, Director of DMDSA in He-rat, in coordination with UNDP/Afghanistan's New Beginning Programme (ANBP) a large number of ex combatants, that can also be included in skilled workers category, are supported in finding diversity of employment opportunities. Mr. Hussaini further emphasized that "unfortunately, the government lacks the capacity to recruit all

skilled workers in He-rat. Yet we have some alternative places i.e. private sector, non-governmental organizations etc that can help us create employment opportunities."

Lisa Simrique Singh, Senior Programme Officer at UNDP Country Office in Afghanistan, briefed Mr. Hussaini on the Re-integration component of the ANBP that in her own words "has two main targets: capacity building within relevant departments and reintegrating ex combatants into civilian life through a multifaceted mechanism." According to Lisa Singh there are detailed lists of ex combatants with ANBP that will be used, in close consultation with the line government departments, to explore and create sustainable employment opportunities for thousands of individuals undergoing the reintegration programme.

## New building accommodates Justice and Judicial Departments of Herat Province

In a recent mission to Herat Province, Anita Nirody, UNDP Country Director in Afghanistan, took part in the inauguration ceremony of the New Joint Judicial Facility (NJJF) at Herat's Provincial Compound.

The NJJF is comprised of 48 administrative offices, 15 executive offices, library, archive room, conference room and a court hall. The project is implemented by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) through a US\$675,000 joint contribution of the UNDP, the Government of Canada, the Government of UK and the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT). In her remarks at the NJJF inaugurating ceremony the UNDP Country Director said: "The new Herat Provincial Courthouse in Herat City is a visible expression of Afghanistan's commitment to the rule of law. The courthouse provides a forum in which justice can be dispensed and conducted in a professional manner. In this facility citizens of Afghanistan will gain access to justice, exercise their rights and resolve their disputes. Judges will apply the laws of Afghanistan fairly and efficiently and with complete integrity. In this way the entire community will benefit and the rule of law will be enhanced. The completion of the new Herat Provincial Courthouse reflects progress toward the strengthening of the Afghan justice system as well as a step toward a more peaceful and prosperous nation."

The construction of NJJF is part of the UNDP-led efforts that support reformation and capacity-building in Afghanistan's Justice and Judicial System.

Thanking UNDP and other donor agencies for their contribution to the construction of NJJF, the Director of Herat's Secondary Court, Mawlawi Khudai Daad, said "the construction of this building is a crucial investment in promoting the capacity and improving the efficiency of Justice and Judicial services in Herat. We have 15 Preliminary and 3 Secondary Courts with adequate professional staff that provides efficient services not only for the population of Herat, but for the people from Farah, Nimroz and Badghis Provinces as well." The Director of Herat's Secondary Court, meanwhile, called upon donor countries to finance the electrification, the installation of heaters and air conditioning systems and the facilitation of office furniture to NJJF.

The new four-floor Joint Judicial Facility is located in a 4000 sqm land within Herat's Provincial Compound where various government departments are positioned to provide fast and effective services.

Services.

Speaking to the participants of NJJF inaugurating ceremony, the Governor of Herat Province, Mr. Saeed Hussain Anwary, called on judges, prosecutors and other civil servants to avail the available opportunities and do their best in terminating the sources of corruption within government offices. "It is the responsibility of judges and prosecutors to inhibit and restrain the occurrence of corruption in the civil offices and support the effective enforcement of law. I hope our judges and prosecutors would be able to use this new facility in empowering the reform process; ensuring that right is upheld; and supporting the efforts to uproot corruption and injustice.", said Governor Anwary.

UNDP and its international partners, chiefly the Government of Italy, are involved in the restoration and empowerment of an efficient, transparent and well-organized Justice and Judicial

System in Afghanistan. UNDP's justice-sector strategy is to integrate the development and reform of national legal codes and traditional justice mechanisms with grassroots initiatives building demand for justice-sector services at the district level while also addressing justice supply requirements. UNDP implements the Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan (SJSa) project that supports the development of the permanent justice institutions of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the legal education institutions with capacity building and technical advice as well as infrastructure and equipment inputs. The broad scope of SJSa enables it to address the multifaceted needs of the justice sector reform. This provides the project with the flexibility and elasticity to meet numerous ever-evolving short-term challenges, while supporting development of long-term sustainable strategies. SJSa began on 1 January 2006 with duration of 36 months.



*UNDP Afghanistan Country Director, Anita Nirody, cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the NJJF in Herat*

## UNDP/NPAD to ensure more effectiveness, efficiency and relevance with another USAID contribution

A contribution of US\$ 1,200,000 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will enable National Programme for Action on Disability (NPAD) to continue its vital support to millions of Afghans with disability. A Modification of Assistance was signed between UNDP Afghanistan and USAID financing the continuation of NPAD from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008. The Modification of Assistance requires NPAD to:

- A)** Continue and augment the provision of grassroots services for disabled people in Afghanistan.
- B)** Enhance the capacity and ability of civil society groups made up of and representing disabled people.
- C)** Assist the government in the further development and implementation of policies and laws that positively change the environment for the disabled.

UNDP will maintain the implementation of NPAD in close partnership with the Ministry of Martyrs, Disabilities and Social Affairs, while collaborating with the Ministry of Education; Ministry of Public Health; NGOs; and other UN agencies.

NPAD's 2006-2008 Action Plan is based on three main components; Education, Health and International Obligations.

### **Education:**

The number of children between

7 and 14 years old with disabilities is estimated to be around 200,000. Under the Afghanistan Constitution, all children have a right to receive a free education. However, access to education and enrollment for children with disabilities has not kept pace with the general trends in education over the last few years. This indirect discrimination against children with disabilities and particularly girls means that more than 75% of children with disabilities are currently not receiving any form of education. At present the Ministry of Education (MOE) undergoing a reform process in which education of children with disabilities is being considered both in strategic plans and in structure. With targeted inputs, coordinated efforts by stakeholders, and strategic lobbying by people with disabilities at this crucial time, the education of children with disabilities could be effectively addressed through the mainstream education reform and the foundation laid for ongoing efforts over the years. The MOE currently recognizes and relies on NPAD's role in coordinating these efforts. While the MOE acknowledges the importance of the disability component of education, they admit that without NPAD's direct input, competing priority may lessen the attention be paid to this area.

### **Health:**

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) has only recently focused on disability. The new version of the policy and guidelines for the Basic Package of Health Services now includes disability and mental health as two of the 9 priority areas. Some early recognition of disability is evident in the National Health Policy, ANDS strategies,

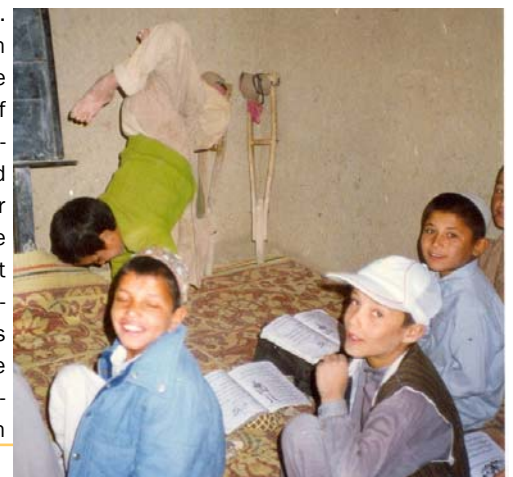
and physiotherapy has been identified as one of the services of various levels of health facilities. NPAD has been involved with MOPH in this role since July 2005. This Ministry recognizes the fact that the gains made in this area are entirely due to the direct input, technical support and guidance from NPAD. The Program is now identified by the MOPH as the sole vehicle for their further policy and capacity development in the disability area. With a strong policy in place, the MOPH needs ongoing technical advice on strategies for turning policy into practice through existing mainstream programmes and in the definition of additional programmes. Disability is now high up on the national agenda and the NPAD will continue to advocate that it remains a national priority.

### **International Obligation:**

Afghanistan is expected to be one of the first Member States to ratify the new UN Convention on Disability. While the government of Afghanistan is aware of the legal and moral obligations of State Parties, they are not yet in a position to practically meet all these obligations. Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) have been gaining increased awareness of their rights and the government's responsibility to ensure these. NPAD has been working to enhance the capacity of DPOs to constructively and effectively lobby for the rights of the disabled, while at the same time providing awareness training to line ministries and organizations on

methods for mainstreaming people with disabilities. This process although only recently started has so far made important gains. The voice of people with disabilities is now being heard on radio and TV, through special programs that address the issues and challenges that they face in their daily lives. The ANDS is currently being used as a basis for appropriate strategies within ministries, with relevant legislation being drafted to guarantee a barrier free society. In order to achieve these interventions in advocacy and civic education must be ongoing to ensure that government and civil society remain aware of their obligations. DPO's will be encouraged to shoulder a greater responsibility for self-advocacy.

UNDP initiated the National Programme for Action on Disability (NPAD) in March 2005, replacing the Comprehensive Disabled Afghans' Programme (CDAP), respectively. NPAD has supported Afghan authorities to ensure the rightful inclusion of people with disabilities through the definition and delivery of a twin track approach to disability through Capacity Building, Advocacy and Coordination.





## UNDP/LOTFA Computerized Payroll Courses Graduated 45 Police Officers

Forty Five police officers, from different departments of Ministry of Interior (Mol), received their certificates of achievements at the end of a six-day computer training course, conducted in two phases. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the Computerized Payroll Course through its Law and Order Trust Fund Afghanistan (LOTFA). Graduated police officers will computerize not only the Payroll System they will create a Personnel Database for different departments of Mol thereby ensuring more efficiency, speed and transparency.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, LOTFA's Deputy Project Manager, Mr. Mir Aqa Dost, said "computer trainings will enable police officer to do in one hour, what they do in days. The Computerized Payroll System is an inevitable format for all the government departments that want to simplify their financial interactions with the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank."

The graduation of 45 police officers marked the sixth round of Computerized Payroll Courses that, so far, has trained 120

police officers from 31 provinces of the country.

Distributing the certificates of achievements to the graduated officers, Brigadier General Sardar Mohammad Kohdamani, Deputy Director of Department of Education at Mol, said "no longer can we call police to an officer that only wears uniform, our police officer should know about technology and work with computer. The Computerization of our Payroll System indicates the fact that we are building a competent police force."

The computerization unit has been working from August 2004 on the development of an Electronic Payroll System (EPS) for the police force. The software was tested in Kabul and Ghazni provinces in early 2005. Computer training for the human resources of the Police Headquarters is planned in three groups, each group with 22 participants from 11 provinces (2 participants per province). The system has been deployed in the following 30 provinces: Parwan, Kapisa, Panjshir, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar, Balkh, Samangan, Logar, Wardak, Jowzjan, Kabul, Lagman, Nangarhar, Khost, Paktia, Badakhshan, Herat, Faryab, Kandahar, Helmand,



***Brig. General Sardar Mohammad Kohdamani awards a certificate to a graduated officer.***

Zabul, Ghor, Badghais, Farah, Bamiyan, Saripool, Urozgan, Nemrooz and Ghazni. The deployment of EPS has been launched at Mol headquarters.

In May 2002 UNDP established a Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) to enable police to return to operation throughout the country, with the following priorities: (i) Nationwide payment of police staff remuneration; (ii) Acquisition of non-lethal equipment; (iii) Rehabilitation of police facilities; (iv) Gender orientation; and (v) Institutional development.

Salaries, food allowance, as well as other allowances, for the

Afghan National Police have been paid on a regular basis since November 2002. The amount disbursed by LOTFA over this period totaled US \$193 million. During the Phase IV of the LOTFA Project, remuneration has been paid up to the month of August 2006 for all police forces in 34 provinces.

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## 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.

United Nations Development Programme, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul, Afghanistan  
tel: +93 (0) 20 212 4000 or +93 (0) 20 212 4076

**For more information on any of these stories, or to make contributions, please contact:**  
Akmal Dawi, National Public Information Officer; tel: +93 (0)70201122; email: [akmal.dawi@undp.org](mailto:akmal.dawi@undp.org)

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