

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



Mullahs in Herat receive training on gender and women's rights

Herat, June 24, 2009 – The United Nations Development Programme together with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Ministry of Hajj & Religious Affairs, today, officially launched the first phase of a Gender and Women's Rights Training Programme for 250 Mullahs in Herat Province. Besides the ministers of Women's Affairs and Hajj and Governor of Herat; local mullahs, community leaders and representatives of civil society, NGOs and UN agencies participated in the launching ceremonies of the Training Programme.

Gender Equality Project of UNDP and respective provincial departments of Women's Affairs and Religious Affairs, in partnership with civil society organization will give training on gender and women rights to 250 selected community and local religious leaders from 5 districts of Herat. The participants will be trained to actively engage in promoting awareness on the importance of women's participation in socio-economic development, prevention of violence against women and increased access of women to information, education and justice.



The Programme will use already existing initiatives and will work closely with progressive mullahs and local leaders to integrate a gender equality perspective into their training and capacity building activities. Connections between gender equality, the teachings of Islam, the constitutional rights and the development goals of the Government of Afghanistan which altogether contribute to peaceful and prosperous communities will be highlighted in the training.

The Gender Equality Project is a collaboration between the Government of Afghanistan and UNDP with the ministries of Women's Affairs and Economy being the main counterparts. The overall goal of the Project is to promote gender equity and women's rights in Afghanistan. The Project is in line with the goals set out in the ANDS for gender equity and consistent with the Millennium Development Goals of gender equality and empowerment of women.

Should you need further information on this press release or any other UNDP programme in Afghanistan, please contact Fezeh Hosseini, UNDP-Afghanistan Public Information Officer on (+93) 0700 475 714 or (+ 93) (0) 20 212 4098 or email to fezeh.hosseini@undp.org

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