

UNDP

**DEMOCRATIZATION &
CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAMME**

**United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan Country Office**

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UNDP in Afghanistan

The United Nations must continue to play its central and impartial role in the international efforts to assist the Afghan people in consolidating peace in Afghanistan and rebuilding their country

Security Council [Resolution 1536](#) (2004)

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. The level of malnutrition in Afghanistan is one of the highest in the world – 70 percent. The percentage of Afghans with access to a sufficient water source is the lowest in the world – 13 percent. The majority of the population is living below the UN-defined poverty line – 56 percent. 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.

UNDP Programme

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.

DEMOCRATIZATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

The ‘Democratization & Civil Society Empowerment’ Unit aims to develop and support programmes to build governance for local recovery and development, focusing on three main areas:

1. Support to Democratic Processes
2. Rebuilding of the Justice Sector
3. Promotion of Human Rights and Gender Equality.
4. Civil Society Empowerment

In this context, UNDP is supporting: i) participatory and broad-based elections and a constitution that guarantee basic rights, freedom of association, expression and participation and protection under the law; ii) the commissions for justice reform, human rights, civil service and the constitutional process; iii) the development of an interim legal framework and its capacity to deliver governance-related ‘services’; iv) training of new parliamentary members and staff; v) capacity building initiatives for political parties and civil society organizations; and vi) the empowerment of women through initiatives that help them reach positions of political leadership and gain access to legislative deliberation.

The Democratization & Civil Society Empowerment Team consists of six country office staff and five programme managers. The head of the programme is Ms. Sitara, Assistant Country Director.

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Democratization & Citizens' Participation

VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS PROGRAMME

The Joint Electoral Management Body announced in July 2004 that presidential elections would be held on 9 October 2004, with parliamentary and provincial/district council elections held in spring 2005. Subsequently, the presidential elections were successfully held on 9 October 2004 with over eight million voters (of whom 42% were women), out of the 10.5 million successfully registered by 20 August 2004 through the Voter Registration Programme, casting their ballots, resulting in the election of President Hamid Karzai.

Nine Afghan Electoral Commissioners were appointed by the President on 24 January 2005. The Independent Electoral Commission is the Governmental authority paving the way for the 2005 elections. In the upcoming Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections, UNAMA will remain in charge of political oversight. UNDP will manage the fund and donor relations, and UNOPS will be the implementing agent for all electoral activities.

Following the Presidential Elections, an addendum forming an integral part of the 2004 Afghan Elections Project was signed on 28 March 2005 reflecting the activities to be undertaken to facilitate the Wolesi Jirga (House of People) and Provincial Council Elections on 18 September 2005. The Project is facilitating the work of the newly established Independent Afghan Electoral Commission and the Joint Electoral Management Body in the following areas:

- Resource mobilization and management;
- Operational support, including additions and corrections to the register of voters;
- Polling;
- Risk management/security;
- Public outreach;
- Facilitation of international electoral observation.

As with Voter Registration and Elections 2004, special measures have been taken to cater to women, as in the past they were excluded from Afghanistan's political processes through nationwide civic education activities.

Achievements:

- The registration process began in the first week of December 2003 and completed on 20 August 2004 with approximately 10.5 million people registered to vote in the 9 October Presidential Elections, including over 41% of them female voters;
- The registration and electoral preparation processes were accompanied by nationwide public information and civic education campaigns, using both face-to-face methodologies as well as mass media (particularly radio), but also including community mobilization events and civil society partnerships;
- Sufficient funds were mobilised and received to carry out all necessary activities related to the Voter Registration and Presidential Elections, including out-of-country voter registration and voting;
- A Media Results Centre was established with updates on the elections provided on a daily basis, while public outreach was achieved through the 'Witness Project' assisting Afghan television to broadcast electoral activities around the nation;
- International and domestic observer groups were successfully supported through regular information sharing and workshops;
- Presidential Elections were successfully held on 9 October 2004 throughout Afghanistan and in Pakistan and Iran for refugees;

- An external audit was successfully conducted for the Voter Registration Project;
- A substantive revision of 2004 Afghan Elections Project to accommodate the activities related to Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections 2005 was approved;
- An Operational Concept of Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections 2005 was developed by JEMB Secretariat;
- First quarterly report of the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections 2005 submitted to the donors.

Challenges and Risks:

The following factors will determine whether the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections can be held on 18 September 2005:

- Necessary political decisions are taken by the Government;
- Sufficient pledges are made by the donors and funding is received in time;
- Funding gap is fully met by the donors;
- An appropriate level of security prevails throughout Afghanistan;
- Sufficient capacity of the Independent Electoral Commission built by the end of Elections 2005 activities.

Future Priorities:

- Develop a project in support to the capacity building of the newly established Independent Electoral Commission addressing the needs beyond the current electoral timeframe and support;
- Resource mobilisation based on the new budgetary requirements;
- Timely quarterly reporting to the donors.

Partnerships and Resources:

Voter Registration Project (VRP)

Budget: US\$ 95.8 million.

(US\$ 8 million in-kind)

Donors: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, EC, Finland, Japan, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, UK, USA, Sweden and South Africa.

Elections Project (Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections 2005)

Target Budget: USD 148,665,087

Carry-over from VRP and Elections Project (Presidential Elections 2004): USD 16,027,851

Donors (as of 1 May 05) : USA, Greece, Switzerland, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, UK and Denmark

Shortfall: USD 103,846,032

Focal Point: Hiroko Takagi, Senior Programme Officer (hiroko.takagi@undp.org)

Promotion of Rights & Equality

REBUILDING THE JUSTICE SECTOR OF AFGHANISTAN (RJSA)

Background:

Through a joint programme with UNAMA and the Governments of Italy (the lead donor in the justice sector), Canada, and the United Kingdom, the UNDP has been assisting and funding the Judicial Reform Commission, established by the Bonn Agreement, since its inception in June 2002. The project is supporting the Government in complying with its priorities and commitments set out in the Berlin work plan in the areas of rule of law and justice. In doing so, the project is supporting the permanent justice institutions and the legal education institutions with capacity development activities and technical advice as well as infrastructure and equipment inputs.

The UNDP is currently finalizing a new project document for the proposed follow-up; the “Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan” project. This will reflect a different involvement of national partners as signatories, where the main partner would have to be the Ministry of Justice, but it will not signal a change in the current policy of engaging all justice institutions. In addition, the project’s duration should be extended to reflect its continued activities and the ongoing clarification of justice reform needs, which is more possible now than previously envisaged.

Achievements:

- **Legal framework:** The UNDP is providing ongoing support and funding to the Judicial Reform Commission, so that it may successfully continue to carry out its mandate.
- **Institutional development:** The UNDP is providing ongoing advice and support to the permanent justice institutions and Law Faculty in developing themselves. The specialists, assigned by the UNDP to each institution, assist on a daily basis on a number of tasks, especially those related to institutional development, but also legal or legally sensitive issues. Their focus is on capacity transfer.
- **Institutional reform:** With support from the UNDP, the permanent justice institutions are implementing the Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) Programme within the justice sector. On 26th April, eight departments of the Ministry of Justice received approval for Phase II of the PRR process, and are about to recruit for 1,498 positions. The same is expected to happen soon within the Attorney General’s Office, which is currently on phase I of the process.
- **Consultation:** UNDP has taken the lead in assisting the permanent justice institutions in their discussions with donors, through the Consultative Group process. Through this process, achievements have been made in the formulation and monitoring of a number of development projects, under Government ownership.
- **Training of legal actors:** Besides performing its specific mandate, the Judicial Reform Commission, with UNDP funding and support, is also running a post-graduate legal training course which is expected to turn into a national legal training centre. The second one-year course is now underway - with 143 students enrolled.
- **Infrastructure and equipment:** The UNDP supported the permanent justice institutions, in meeting their needs for infrastructural improvements and new equipment. Among other achievements, the rehabilitation of the Ministry of Justice headquarters has been completed. Construction and rehabilitation are ongoing in Kabul and five more provinces: Herat, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, and Paktia. Equipment such as vehicles and electronic appliances are regularly provided to the institutions.
- **Finance:** The UNDP has supported the permanent justice institutions in developing a financial management capacity. This is being achieved through the work of a new Counterpart Chief Financial Officer, to support the institutions in carrying out their responsibilities for public expenditure management.
- **Communications:** The UNDP has developed a communications structure within the programme, to be followed by support to the communications capacity of the permanent justice institutions and Kabul

University's Law Faculty. A Communications and Public Information Specialist has been hired for this purpose, with a view to transfer capacity to the national staff as soon as possible.

- **Law Curriculum:** The UNDP has provided support to the Law Faculty in designing a new curriculum. The Law Curriculum Development Committee, which has worked since October 2004 under the guidance of UNDP's specialists, has produced a second draft of the new curriculum for approval. In parallel, support continues for the improvement of infrastructure as well as library resources.

- **Access to justice:** The UNDP is currently planning for new initiatives to improve access to justice. These will focus on the recognition of the importance of traditional justice mechanisms that exist in Afghanistan, while ensuring that such mechanisms are in compliance with national laws and international standards, and that Government ownership and control are achieved. Cost sharing agreements have been signed with donors, while project documents are being finalized. Meanwhile, recruitment and acquisition of necessary equipment are already underway.

Future Priorities:

- Finalize project document for the follow-up "Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan" project
- Continue fundraising through current and new donors
- Support the public administrative reform and the financial management reform in the permanent justice institutions
- Establish a permanent National Legal Training Centre to strengthen the capacity of judicial actors in delivering justice throughout the country
- Provide support to the establishment of a Supreme Court and judicial system that comply with the new Constitution and operate in compliance with national law and international standards
- Provide support in drafting key laws for the administration of justice, including the criminal and civil codes, the penal management law, and the juvenile justice code.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget:	USD 5,978,228.00
Received Budget:	USD 5,978,228.00
Shortfall:	USD 0

Number of current project staff: 8 international and 12 national staff

Focal Point: Ibrahim Hassan, Programme Associate (hassan.ibrahim@undp.org)

Programme Manager: Siphosami Malunga (siphosami.malunga@undp.org)

SUPPORT FOR THE AFGHAN INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

To assist in the establishment of the Independent Human Rights Commission in early 2002, the UNDP supported UNAMA and the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (UNOHCHR) to facilitate four Afghan Working Groups, which drafted programme proposals to introduce and expand human rights policy, human rights education, transitional justice, human rights for women and monitoring and investigation of human rights violations. This constituted the basis for the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) work programme. The project, which commenced on 24 October 2002 and expired on 24 October 2004, was extended for six months in the first steering committee meeting held in September 2004. The second steering committee meeting, convened on 26 April 2005, extended the project until the end of 2005.

Achievements:

- The AIHRC is now reflected in the Constitution, under Article 58, as a permanent national human rights institution.
- In addition to the AIHRC headquarters in Kabul, which is also covering the central region, seven regional offices have opened in Herat, Bamiyan, Mazar, Jalalabad, Gardez, Kandahar, and in Kunduz. Furthermore, three provincial offices have opened in Maymana, Badakshan and Daykundi and 397 staff recruited (of which 250 are in the provinces).
- The Commission has developed and implemented a set of policies and rules that apply to the institution and its staff, including recruitment procedures, salary scales, terms and conditions of employment, promotion and disciplinary procedures. These have been published in a staff manual.
- Six programme units created: Investigation and Monitoring, Transitional Justice, Women's Rights, Children's Rights, Human Rights Education, Research and Policy and Policy and Media.
- Training and workshops conducted in women's rights, children's rights and human rights education in Kabul and all regional and provincial offices.
- Production and broadcast of radio-based and TV programmes on human rights are ongoing.
- AIHRC chairs the Human Rights Advisory Group. The Advisory Group brings together donors, UN agencies, international NGOs and Afghan governmental and non-governmental organisations to discuss human rights issues and to make recommendations, either to the Government or to thematic consultative groups established by the Government.
- A Chief Technical Advisor and thematic technical advisors in the fields of human rights education and women's rights who were actively supporting the AIHRC in defining and implementing its work programme completed their contracts by the end of 2004.
- The Commission has received 2,271 complaints in 2004, which involved 4,436 cases of human rights violations. Monitoring of prisons was carried out and 407 persons, who were detained without being sentenced by a legal court, were released from the prisons.
- The transitional justice consultation was completed and Call for Justice report published in January 2005 with recommendations for a national strategy on Transitional Justice. A total of 15,500 copies were printed (7000 in Dari, 7000 in Pashto and 1500 in English) and were widely distributed. The consultation focuses on Afghans' views on how to tackle transitional justice crimes.
- 12,000 copies of a human rights magazine printed and distributed monthly.
- Human Rights unit created in the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Women's Affairs, Education, Defence and Foreign Affairs.
- Translation and distribution of international human rights conventions into Dari and Pashto is carried out by the board of translations and a series of books, including the publications of UNOHCHR, have been translated into Dari and Pashto and distributed throughout the country by the regional and provincial offices of AIHRC.

- A new research and policy unit has been established to analyse the research conducted by all sections.
- A countrywide domestic violence survey has been completed and its preliminary analysis was conducted and presented to the advisory group.
- An external evaluation was conducted and completed in January 2005 by two international consultants. Comments by the Commission were sent to be incorporated into the report.
- A draft three-year work plan has been prepared by the Commission and would be finalized soon.

Future Priorities:

- Capacity development of the Commission's staff, especially in the satellite office, in the areas of program, management and financial management, is ongoing.
- In furtherance of the work plan agreed by the Government in Berlin, the AIHRC is supporting the nationwide verification of political rights prior to the elections, in partnership with UNAMA. Three reports have been released so far, and other reports will be issued soon.
- The AIHRC is starting a construction programme for a new Kabul headquarters and the satellite offices. The Government has provided the land.
- A printing press unit also will be established soon. The machines have been procured from Heidelberg Agency in Kabul. The printing hall is currently under construction.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 13,000,000

Received Budget: US\$ 12,883,806

Shortfall: US\$ 116,194

Donors: Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, UK, New Zealand, UNDP core funds and the USA.

Focal Point: Mohammad Ibrahim Hassan, Programme Associate (hassan.ibrahim@undp.org)
Project Manager: Richard Bennett (bennetr@un.org)

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

The project aims to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), with a particular focus on the Training and Advocacy Department of the MoWA; and other ministries in support of its strategic approach to institutionalise the gender mainstreaming process and strengthen inter-ministerial collaboration. The main activities include:

- Capacity building for gender mainstreaming in the areas of gender awareness, gender and development, gender analysis and mainstreaming.
- Capacity building for strengthening institutional functioning in the areas of public administration and financial management.
- Establishment of a gender training institute.
- Institutional capacity building at the provincial level.
- Institutionalizing gender mainstreaming through outreach to other ministries and provinces.
- Coordination with the Minister as part of her core Gender Advisory Group.
- Capacity building in the area of gender advocacy.

Achievements:

- In collaboration with MoWA provincial offices, the MoWA Training Department and the Afghan Women's Network, gender training, follow-up programmes were implemented in Parwan, Kandahar, Ghazni, Logar and Herat provinces. This programme is also being expanded to five other provinces of Kunduz, Nangarhar, Bamiyan, Badakhshan, and Mazar.
- Establishment of formal partnership between 11 ministries and UNDP to build capacity of ministerial staff for gender mainstreaming. A total of 35 courses have been conducted for these ministries. 468 people were trained in 2004.
- Capacity building of non-governmental organizations in gender mainstreaming.
- Establishment and capacity building of the MoWA Training and Advocacy Department.
- Capacity building of MoWA departments in the areas of reporting, management, leadership, finance, accounting, monitoring and evaluation and training of trainers.
- Construction of MoWA Training and Advocacy building, inaugurated on 29 November 2004.
- Development of a gender manual based on the Afghan context and culture, and curriculum development for the Gender Training Institute.
- Capacity building of MoWA's key departments in launching of advocacy campaigns in relation to Violence Against Women International Day and International Women's Day.
- Establishment of a Gender Training Institute (GTI). A joint commitment has been established among MoWA, Kabul University and UNDP to institutionalise gender courses.
- Support has been provided for the MoWA Training and Advocacy Department to develop its staff ToR's and Department's Organigram for PRR (Priority Reforms and Restructuring Commission).
- Computer Center in MoWA- The computer center, established with support from the UNDP and managed by the MoWA training department, has offered computer training for the staff, other women, and civil society representatives. A total of 256 students were graduated, of which 230 were female. At the moment, there are 105 students of which 96 are female.

Future Priorities:

The project aims to further enhance the activities undertaken thus far, which focus more on immediate support to assist the Ministry to develop some operational capacity. In addition, by using the recently received Luxemburg funds, the project will assist the Ministry to conduct its substantive programmatic work, including through formalized and accredited training by:

- Full establishment and operationalization of the gender-training institute.
- Building institutional capacity at the provincial level.
- Institutionalizing gender mainstreaming through outreach to other Ministries.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 2,289,276

Received Budget: US\$ 2,289,276

Shortfall: US\$ 0

Donors: French Trust Fund, Belgium, Luxemburg and UNDP Core Resources.

Focal Points: Lilly Seraj, Programme Assistant (lilly.seraj@undp.org)

Project Manager: Fulya Vekiloglu (fulya.vekiloglu@undp.org)

NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ACTION ON DISABILITY (NPAD)

The recently launched, National Programme for Action on Disability (NPAD), evolved from the Comprehensive Disabled Afghans Programme (CDAP) which started in 1995, as a UNDP / UNOPS initiative to address the needs of disabled people in Afghanistan. Much of the work of CDAP took the form of direct provision of services in community-based rehabilitation and socio-economic activities, training, policy development, and capacity building of certain functions of the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled (MMD) and support of welfare reform.

Following the findings of an evaluation in 2003, a decision was made that CDAP should cease direct service provision and instead focus on subcontracting services to NGOs with relevant expertise in the sector. With the shift back to UNDP in August 2004, as the direct implementing agency, it was also agreed that the new programme direction should focus much more on policy definition, development and wider institutional reform with the Government of Afghanistan to establish appropriate structures and processes for the coordination of the disability sector.

In response to the evaluation of the programme in 2003, CDAP underwent a process of transformation in 2004 from direct implementation to a pure policy and sub-contracting programme with extensive monitoring, training, evaluation and technical support to NGOs in the field of disability. The UNDP initiated a redefinition process of the programme in the final quarter of 2004, following the recommendations of the evaluation. This was done in strong consultation with a range of key ministries of the government (including the Ministries of Health, Education, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Labor and Social Affairs and Martyrs and Disabled), international agencies, NGOs and Disabled People's Organization (DPOs). Subsequent to this consultation and design process, the CDAP programme evolved to a new three-year programme, National Programme for Action on Disability (NPAD), which was formally launched in the final week of March 2005.

Achievements

- Formal agreement and signing of the new Programme Document (NPAD) with MMD and MOLSA in March 2005.
- Recruitment of new national and international advisors and Programme staff to strengthen capacity and delivery by the Programme
- With MMD and Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) in consultation with DPOs and NGOs facilitated and defined a plan for full participation of disabled people in the forthcoming parliamentary election process based on learnings and experience of Presidential elections.
- A two-day workshop on physical access issues for 30 participants representing disabled people, NGOs, government and donors was held. During this workshop and subsequent series of meetings and discussions with government, DPOs, construction companies, donors and international agencies responsible for funding and reconstruction in Afghanistan, practical guidelines and standards on physical access in the context of reconstruction of Afghanistan were prepared in March.
- A two-year strategy and operational plan for action on the rights of disabled people and advocacy was produced in consultation with government, disabled people, DPOs, NGOs, Human Rights Commission, and other rights based organizations.
- Two day workshop on disability rights and advocacy for 20 disabled people representing DPOs, Human Rights Commission and NGOs
- With technical and financial support to Afghanistan National Association of Deaf (ANAD), 16 deaf sign language experts from throughout the country met in a workshop and contributed to the development of a further 200+ signs making a total of 2500 signs. ANAD, with support from NPAD, also conducted a meeting with all NGOs working in deaf education in the country and produced a plan of action to achieve stronger

coordination and cooperation between the NGO, DPO and government on deaf education and community awareness.

- ANAD is contracted for a 12-month period to expand work in sign language development and deaf education nationally.
- Through 8 service contracts in the first quarter of 2005 in 4 localities (Kabul and Central Province and the East), providing rehabilitation and support to 8,122 disabled people (5426 men / boys and 2696 women / girls). The range of services includes vocational training, physiotherapy, special education for the hearing impaired, and health awareness, among others.
- Issued a further 6 new service contracts worth US\$500,000 in Herat and Kandahar in education, livelihoods, community awareness and community rehabilitation services

Challenges and Risks:

- Government limited capacity to understand disability and the needs of disabled people, and low technical capacity in leadership, policy and programme development which may slow delivery rate and achievement of outcomes
- Technical and organizational capacity of disability service providers to be better able to provide the range and quality of services needed to meet disabled people, in particular those more marginalized and excluded, such as people with sensory impairments (visual and hearing), learning disability and disabled women
- Weak organizational definition and capacity of DPOs which have been established to advocate on disability rights may result in limited voice and participation of disabled people
- Continued political uncertainty particularly in the run-up to the parliamentary elections in September 2005 may adversely affect decision making and commitment by government to the Programme
- Ongoing insecurity in certain areas of country which limits preparedness and capacity of NGOs to deliver services and other Programme activities
- Current stance of the government in relation to NGOs may make coordinated efforts and cooperation between government and NGO more difficult to achieve
- Lack of allocation of specific funding by the government and donors for disabled people and other vulnerable groups in the National Development budget will limit the Programme delivery and may demotivate stakeholders.
- Awarding of service contracts to NGOs has been slower in part due to organizational capacity but additionally ongoing issues of insecurity means there is a lack of potential contractors able to provide the required services in certain areas of the country, in particular the south and south west

Future Priorities

- Establishment of a coordination and information management unit within the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled to support the Minister and senior decision makers in the Ministry to develop strategies in disability sector drawing upon synergies in development activities of NGOs.
- Preparation and dissemination of a resource pack on practical guidelines and standards on physical access in the context of reconstruction of Afghanistan to key players in the disability sector including concerned government ministries, NGOs, donors, and construction companies involved in Afghanistan reconstruction.
- Situational assessment and advice on enhancing welfare reform process for MMD,
- Construction of new welfare office for use by MMD for disbursement of welfare payments
- Launch new programme work in leadership training and advocacy for DPOs
- Establish technical support units in disability in the MOE and MOPH
- Coordinate an inter-ministerial and interagency task group to finalise national disability policy draft document.
- Provide further support to Afghan National Association of the Deaf in support of the ongoing expansion of Afghan sign language.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget (2005 – 7): US\$ 10,900,000

Received Budget: US\$ 3,800,000

Shortfall: US\$ 7,100,000

Current donors: CIDA, Germany, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, France, Sweden, USAID, UNDP

Number of Project Staff: 20 (national and international)

Focal Point: Lilly Seraj (lilly.seraj@undp.org)

Project Manager: Sarah Dyer (sarah.dyer@undp.org, sdyer@disability.gov.af)

Information Officer: Walid Wardark(wardark@disability.gov.af)

Pipeline

FIGHTING CORRUPTION

The Office of the President has asked UNDP to support its newly established anti-corruption unit. UNDP will provide technical assistance to the office by fielding a mission to assess the magnitude of the problem and the capacity needs of the government. This initial assessment will aim to provide key strategic recommendations on priority areas for reform based on a long-term, holistic initial framework for institutionalizing accountability, transparency and integrity in the public service of Afghanistan.

The mission may be conducted jointly with other UN organizations, but further support to the President's Anti-Corruption Unit will depend on the mission's recommendations.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AFTER THE ELECTIONS

The Constitution of Afghanistan calls for the establishment of a bi-cameral National Assembly and an Independent Electoral Commission. A National Representation Capacity Building Preparatory Assistance was developed to provide immediate support for preparatory activities, including the recruitment of technical advisors and the fielding of a consultant team to assess the situation, consult key stakeholders, develop the work plan and finalize project documents. The first component of the project will focus on building the capacity of the Afghan Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) to train future commissioners and the staff of the current Interim Afghan Electoral Commission. The second component will focus on supporting the establishment and building the capacity of a Parliamentary Secretariat that will, in turn, support the activities of the newly elected members of the National Assembly. As an initial step, a needs assessment will be conducted to develop a comprehensive support package.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

This programme aims to support access to justice at the district level, particularly for disadvantaged groups. The programme will strengthen the Government's emphasis and role in providing accessible and efficient justice services outside of Kabul and sensitizing the Government to incorporating a human rights perspective in justice sector reform. The envisaged activities encompass rehabilitation and refurbishment of district justice centres (including courts, Attorney General's offices and Ministry of Justice buildings); training of provincial and district justice staff on human rights in the administration of justice, criminal law, family and land law; enhancement of the awareness of the legal system and basic rights in mullahs and community leaders; enhancement of the awareness of the public of their rights through public information campaigns and legal education; and provision of legal aid. This programme responds to the need of the Government to expand its visible presence outside of Kabul, and will be implemented in coordination with other state-building and justice programmes in the provinces and districts.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY ON HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY REPORTING

Afghanistan is a party to most of the major international human rights treaties. It has an obligation to implement the treaties and to periodically report on its progress to the treaty body committees. While these human rights treaty reporting obligations were not met during the period of conflict, the Transitional Government has given a priority to human rights treaty reporting and made it part of its current work plan.

In support of the Transitional Government, the project aims to build sustainable capacity for meeting the implementation and reporting obligations under international human rights treaties to which Afghanistan is a party. Its main components include capacity building of governmental staff and non-governmental stakeholders; the establishment of a database as a monitoring and controlling instrument; and the creation of an institutional mechanism to participate in and support the reporting process. At the end of the project period, it is envisaged that the Government of Afghanistan, and in particular the unit responsible for human rights treaty reporting, will have an enhanced capacity to respond to treaty reporting obligations in a competent and timely manner and with the participation of line ministries and non-governmental stakeholders. Specifically, the project will culminate in the finalization of the common core document and one treaty-specific report, as set out in the revised treaty reporting guidelines.