



USAID: Rebuilding Afghanistan

Progress Update for July 3 – July 9, 2003
Issue 20

Strengthening the Afghan Government

Program Goals

- Improve Afghan government's access to sources of revenue through Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) contributions and customs operations improvements.
- Support the Bonn process, specifically the Constitutional process, the June 2004 elections, and the Human Rights and Judicial commissions.
- Establish a free and independent media in Afghanistan.
- Build up Afghan government's infrastructure and improve its operations for legitimate government functions.

Recent Progress

- Provincial officials in Badakhshan province can now communicate, for the first time, with the central government in Kabul and the rest of the world via e-mail. Badakhshan was the first province to be provided e-mail service by USAID using the CODAN high frequency radio system, which USAID installed earlier this year. E-mail connectivity through CODAN radio is challenging in Afghanistan due to the country's mountains. USAID will continue testing and providing e-mail service to all 32 provincial governments in Afghanistan in coming months.

Revitalizing Agriculture/Creating Jobs

Program Goals

- 100% increase in average productivity for 500,000 farm families through improved technologies, better infrastructure, and access to markets.
- 615 irrigation projects to increase water use efficiency by 50% and agricultural productivity by 20%.
- 1000 km of improved village feeder roads.
- 1000 village agricultural market centers.

Recent Progress

USAID is implementing reconstruction activities for critical agricultural irrigation infrastructure.

- Afghan government officials approached USAID with an assessment of the Sar-e-Haus dam (pictured), warning of potentially imminent failure and massive flooding during this spring's snow melt season, if emergency repair work was not done. USAID completed emergency rehabilitation work despite its isolated location, which complicated transport of materials. The work ensures potable and irrigation water supplies to over 40,000 inhabitants in Faryab province.
- In the past week, draft assessments for the Moghul Khil and Mohammad Agha canals in Logar province were completed; a draft assessment is near completion for the Nari Karim canal in Lagman province. Bids on RFPs for Zana Khan Dam and Sardeh Dam and Irrigation System in Ghazni have now been received for review and selection.



Sar-e-Haus Dam before emergency rehabilitation.



Worker Operating Valves in Repaired Gallery of Sar-e-Haus Dam



Sar-e-Haus Dam after emergency rehabilitation. Note reinforced walls added by USAID to prevent dam failure.

Increasing Access to Basic Health Care

Program Goals

- 400 health centers renovated or constructed in needy areas
- 13 million women and children with access to basic health care through grants to NGOs to operate clinics
- 3,300 new community health workers trained; 180 midwives trained; 4860 clinic staff trained
- Make oral rehydration salts, iodized salt, contraceptives, mosquito nets, and other health products available at reasonable prices using existing trading and marketing system
- Develop public health education program with the Ministry of Health (MOH); strengthen MOH capacity at the national, provincial and district levels for guiding health care

Recent Progress

USAID has just completed a \$1.7 million urban water supply and sanitation project to make immediate, high-impact improvements in services in Kabul, Kandahar, and Kunduz.

- In Kandahar, improvements were completed for the immediate benefit of 500,000 people who are directly served by the network/ water supply distribution system – by providing an additional 20,000 gallons of water per day, increasing the length of time water is supplied to the network by three to four hours per day, increasing the pumping capacity of the city water system by 25 percent and extending services to 5,000 people that previously did not have services.
- In Kunduz, improvements were completed for the immediate benefit of 150,000 people, supplying clean drinking water to areas without services and providing sanitary latrines that improved human waste disposal to individual families (900 people) and eliminated direct discharge of untreated human waste to the streets of Kunduz, a serious public health danger.
- In Kabul, USAID worked to improve central government capacity to provide services. USAID provided dump and crane trucks to the Afghan Ministry of Irrigation to improve their deep well drilling capacity. USAID led development of a new “Technical Guideline for Assessment and Development of Water Supply Systems” to help the Ministry of Urban Development coordinate efforts by donors and NGOs to improve water supply throughout Afghanistan.



USAID constructed this storage reservoir to improve water supply in Kandahar.



Community members gather to use new well and pump built by USAID in Kunduz.