



# Rebuilding Afghanistan

Progress Update for July 9 – July 16, 2003

Issue 21

United States Agency for International Development

## Strengthening the Government

### Program Goals

- Support the Bonn process, specifically the Constitutional, Human Rights, and Judicial Commissions, and the June 2004 elections, as well as establish a free and independent media.
- Improve Afghan government's access to sources of revenue, including customs.
- Build up Afghan government's capacity to carry out legitimate government functions, including revenue, and support reconstruction of country's health, judicial, education, economic, and transportation infrastructure.

### Recent Progress

USAID-financed advisors are working to lay the groundwork for increased trade and investment in Afghanistan:

- USAID Advisor accompanied Director of the Kabul Airport Customs House to World Customs Organization (WCO) Session in Brussels. 161 members of WCO accepted Afghanistan as a member of the harmonized system convention; a first step to introducing a new tariff system.
- The property documents for Kabul province are being physically reorganized and catalogued, along with renovation of the storage area. The project will be completed by August 15. A follow-on project of computerization of the documents is in the process of being developed.

## Recent Progress, Continued

Technical assistance continues to help the Central Bank to improve its operations and staff capability.

- The Central Bank established telecommunications connectivity with its 35 provincial branches. As of June 30, 100 employees were trained on the new systems. All branches have begun to send daily accounting and transactional reports to the head office. This connectivity is a key milestone in establishment of a payment system and will improve performance and accountability to the Bank's head office.
- The Central Bank produced a balance sheet for Afghan fiscal year 1381 (March 21, 2002 – March 20, 2003). This was the first time that the Bank had produced a balance sheet since 1996. US Accounting Advisor is working with Bank staff to improve the daily trial balance process and will produce monthly and quarterly balance sheets and income statements, greatly improving the Bank's financial management capability.

## 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 repaired/constructed to increase water use efficiency by 50% and agricultural productivity by 20%.
- 1000 km of improved village feeder roads rehabilitated.
- 1000 village agricultural market centers built.

### Recent Progress

- USAID is working in Ghazni, Herat, Farah, Kandahar, and Zabul provinces to rebuild traditional infrastructure known as karez, underground tunnels which transport water from collection areas to villages. In the first four months of 2003 in Farah, Kandahar, and Zabul, 188 karezes with a total length of 335 km, fed by 3750 wells were cleaned and repaired. On average this work increased water flow by over 100% and increased irrigated land area by 20%. 13,000 people directly benefited from the improved karezes.



Entrance to karez: Afghan laborers descend into underground tunnels like this one to clean accumulated silt and make repairs.



Girl collects water from covered pump fed by a rehabilitated karez.

## Expanding Educational Opportunity

### Program Goals

- 1,000 schools rehabilitated or constructed
- 10 million textbooks printed and distributed for 2003 school year
- 30,000 classroom teachers trained
- 60,000 students enrolled in school at age-appropriate levels through accelerated learning programs

### Recent Progress

- Textbook Update: All new textbooks for the 2003 school year are printed and delivered to Ministry of Education/UNICEF. MOE/UNICEF will finalize distributing books to schools throughout Afghanistan during the upcoming quarter.

Afghan schoolchildren hold up new textbooks printed and distributed by USAID.



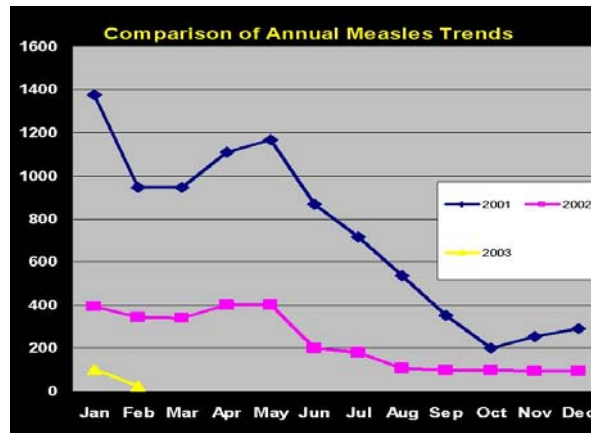
## Increasing Access to Basic Health Care

### Program Goals

- 400 health centers renovated or constructed in rural areas
- 13 million women and children given access to basic health care through grants to NGOs to operate clinics
- 3,300 new community health workers, 180 midwives, 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

- Voice of America is now airing a series of radio messages and dramas to help inform Afghan parents how to protect their children from diarrhea, one of the leading killers of Afghan children. The programming promotes an increase in consumption of fluids during diarrhea episodes, gives instructions and benefits of use of clean water additives such as *Clorin*, and emphasizes the importance of handwashing. VOA, which airs 12 hours of Pashto and Dari programming per day airs approximately 40 messages and one drama per week.
- 11 million children were vaccinated against measles in 2002 and 2003 resulting in greater than 90% national coverage. The U.S. vaccinated 4,300,000 of this total and is providing \$1.5 million for cold chain improvements, the infrastructure needed for nation-wide vaccination campaigns.



Graph (courtesy of UNICEF) shows number of measles cases by month for 2001 (in blue), 2002 (in fuchsia), and 2003 (in yellow).