



Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for July 17 – July 23, 2003

Issue 22

United States Agency for International Development

Strengthening the Government

Recent Progress

A new computer media training center has just opened in the journalism school at Herat University, through a grant to Media Action International (MAI). Preparing to broadcast by FM transmitter from their own university station, journalism students – both young men and women – are learning to use new computers, radio recording and editing software.

The journalism department director is thrilled: "These computers bring our department into the 21st century and will help these journalism students become the most professional in the country!"

Program Goals

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

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

The Women's Farming Project teaches widows to farm and provides literacy classes and training to establish women's markets. As the project was beginning, the participants were given rice and oil as an incentive; they now earn cash income, along with food for their children.

The Herat Department of Agriculture donated the land for the training; FAO donated the seed and fertilizer; literacy classes are offered by the Women's Office at the Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development; and childcare is provided by other women in the project. The women are now working the land and preparing to sell the produce from their first season.

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, 4,860 clinic staff trained.
- Oral rehydration salts, iodized salt, contraceptives, mosquito nets, and other health products made available at reasonable prices using existing trade and market system.
- Public health education program of Ministry of Health strengthened; strengthen MOH capacity at the national, provincial and district levels for guiding health care.

Recent Progress

The Request for Applications (RFA) for the Rural Expansion of Afghanistan's Community-Based Health Care (REACH) grants program was issued on June 10, 2003, focusing on implementing the Basic Package of Health Services for women and children. RFAs were distributed to more than 100 NGOs currently providing health care services in the country.

Guidelines for Medical Equipment Donations and Drug Donation Guidelines in English and Dari were finalized and printed and are being distributed to the donor agencies, embassies and other interested organizations.



An NGO worker compounds drugs at a USAID-supported health clinic.