



Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for July 31 – August 6, 2003

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Special Edition: Progress to Date

This week's edition of *Rebuilding Afghanistan* summarizes USAID's results in Afghanistan, from the beginning of fiscal year 2002 (October 1, 2001) to the present. Summarized below are results for key reconstruction indicators (e.g., textbooks distributed, kilometers of rural road repaired, etc.). These results were achieved both through earlier programs in humanitarian assistance and more recent, longer-term development programs. Physical infrastructure results include the products of cash-for-work, food-for-work, and food-for-asset-creation programs funded by USAID.

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.

Agricultural Irrigation Infrastructure Rebuilt: Includes rehabilitation of canals, karezes (traditional Afghan underground irrigation tunnels), reservoirs, diversion dams and other catchment structures. Work includes desilting and cleaning waterways, repairing stone masonry, and building retaining walls. Projects vary in size from 1 km to over 20 km in length. **7,443** projects

Fertilizer Distributed: Provision of fertilizer contributed to Afghanistan's expected 2003 wheat harvest of 4.6 million metric tons (projected), its best harvest in over two decades. USAID distributed fertilizer through private dealers to over 100,000 farmers in 13 provinces during the fall 2002 planting, which is now being harvested. **12,439** metric tons

Seeds Distributed: Provision of drought resistant, higher yielding varieties of wheat have also been a key factor in the successful 2003 harvest. Current work is testing and distributing higher yielding varieties of potato, maize, mung bean, and rice. **9,252** metric tons

Person-Days of Labor Provided: Through cash-for-work, food-for-work, and food-for-asset-creation projects, USAID has paid for a wide variety of physical infrastructure reconstruction projects. 23 million person-days of labor is the equivalent of one month of labor (a typical job duration) for over 1 million Afghans. **23,330,000** person-days

Rural Roads Repaired: Road rehabilitation work clears drainage ditches, creates a "crown" shape to ensure drainage, compacts the roadbed, fills potholes, and ensures cross drainage. Road rehabilitation provides access to deliver humanitarian supplies and to transport products to markets for the over 70% of Afghans employed in the agricultural sector. Accompanying these 7,269 kilometers of road rehabilitation have been 615 road-related infrastructure projects, including reconstruction of retaining walls and culverts. **7,269** kms

Bridges and Tunnels Repaired: Bridges and tunnels are essential components of a functioning transportation network and often represent key linchpins in linking the country together. **74** units

Strengthening the Government

Program Goals:

- Support the Bonn process: the Constitutional, Human Rights, and Judicial Commissions; the June 2004 elections; and a free and independent media.
- Improve government access to revenue (e.g., customs).
- Build capacity to carry out other legitimate government functions and support; reconstruction of health, judicial, education, economic, agricultural and transportation infrastructure.

Journalists Trained: To support responsible journalism and the development of a free and independent media, broadcast and print journalists are being trained to report on political, social, and economic issues to better inform the Afghan public. **326** journalists

Radio Stations Supported: Afghans rely heavily on radio for their news, information, and entertainment. USAID is supporting the creation of community radio stations as well as equipment and logistical assistance for Kabul's first independent FM radio station, Arman (Hope) FM. **31** stations

Advisors to Ministries Provided: Through work in each sector, USAID-funded advisors (several of whom returned from the Afghan diaspora) work closely with Afghan government ministries, often sitting in the Ministries' offices to improve coordination and responsiveness. **136** advisors

Afghan Staff to Ministries: Also funded by USAID are Afghan staff who are helping the Afghan government become operational. **879** staff

Cash Support to Government: Through the World Bank-managed Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), the Afghan government has access to funds to help pay salaries and cover other operational expenses while sources of governmental revenue are improved. **\$58,000,000**

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 accelerated learning programs to reach their appropriate grade level.

Textbooks Printed and Distributed: USAID has printed and distributed millions of textbooks in Dari and Pashtu for the 2002 and 2003 school years, contributing to tremendous growth in school enrollment, from approximately 1 million children in 2001 to 3 million in 2002 to an estimated 4.5 million in 2003. **25,631,000** books

Schools Repaired or Constructed: Schools are being repaired and constructed through cash-for-work, food-for-work, food-for-asset-creation and small grants programs. This total includes primary schools, kindergartens, teacher training colleges, vocational schools, and a university. **203** schools

Teachers Trained: During the 2002 school year 1600 primary school teachers, 74% of whom were women, were trained in a 15 day course in updated teaching methods. This school year an additional 1500 are being trained. The total excludes 30,000 teacher supply kits distributed for the 2002 school year and a teacher training distance learning course currently being rolled out to the provinces. **3,107** teachers

Teachers Whose Salary Is Supplemented: Since March 2002, Afghan teachers are receiving an in-kind salary supplement in the form of vegetable oil, a valued commodity in Afghanistan. The supplement represents 26% of their monthly income. **50,000** teachers

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 systems.
- 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.

Measles Immunizations/Malaria Treatment Provided: Afghanistan now has over 90% coverage for measles vaccinations, in part through USAID funding. Treatment was provided for 700,000 cases of malaria. This total does not include 4.5 million people who received public education and insecticide-treated bednets. **5,820,000** people

Potable Water Infrastructure Rebuilt: Includes cleaning and rehabilitating springs, digging wells and installing pumps, building water catchment structures, and repairing water distribution systems. Majority of projects are for villages, small towns, and clusters of houses; total excludes major projects in Kandahar and Kunduz, which improved water quality, availability, and reliability of their water distribution systems for 700,000 people. **3,637** projects

Health Facilities Assisted: Operational support, including staffing, equipment, and pharmaceuticals, for basic health clinics, obstetrics centers, hospitals, and feeding centers. **163** facilities

Basic Health Access Provided: Provinces and regions with the least access to basic health care were targeted and operational support was provided through NGOs for 89 clinics serving a catchment area of 2.5 million people. In less than a year of operation, 191,724 patients have been treated. **2,500,000** people

Shelter Provided: To meet the needs of returning refugees and help winterize dwellings for Afghan families, winterization kits, door and window kits, and other forms of shelter improvement have been provided. **47,421** shelters