



Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for August 21 – August 27, 2003

Issue 27

United States Agency for International Development

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.

Recent Progress:

- On August 17, Radio Bamyān, a new USAID-funded independent radio station, began operations. Operating on 89.1 FM, Radio Bamyān reaches over 50,000 people in the central highlands of the Hazarajat. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony Afghan Vice President Karim Khalili welcomed the opening of Radio Bamyān and alluded to the important role radio has in informing citizens: "Afghans will soon have a constitution which will guarantee peace, national unity, democracy and public aspirations." Radio Bamyān is the second independent radio station supported by USAID to go on the air in the past two weeks.



Members of the public listen to speeches during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of Radio Bamyān.



Radio Bamyān's studios.

Expanding Educational Opportunity

Program Goals

- 1,000 schools and at least 18 provincial women's centers 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 age level.

Recent Progress

- Salary supplements for school teachers have continued during the 2003 school year, which started in April 2003. During the April - June 2003 period, 66,750 Afghan school teachers received this monthly supplement of 10 liters of vegetable oil per month. This program, which began in March 2002 for the 2002 school year, provides teachers a supplement representing approximately 25% of their monthly income. The United States is the sole in-kind donor of this program, administered through the World Food Programme.

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

- Fifteen applications to operate health clinics providing basic services have been recommended for funding by the health grants review committee. USAID is in the process of negotiating these agreements and will make the awards over the coming weeks. A second Request for Applications (RFA) will be issued in the next two months providing further funding for basic health services.

Fact Sheet on First Round of Grants for Basic Health Services*

- 7 Afghan NGOs and 6 international NGOs were recommended for funding (some NGOs submitted multiple applications).
- 9 provinces and 46 districts will receive health services.
- 1,780,000 persons in health care catchment area, including 908,000 women (51%) and 437,000 children.
- 117 basic health centers, comprehensive health centers, and referral hospitals (92 satellite clinics) will be operational under these grants.
- 500 female professional health workers will provide services.
- Approximately 7950 Community Health Workers will be trained under these grants. 3400 of these (43%) are targeted to be women.
- First round applicants will be awarded approximately \$25 million over three years under a \$63 million grants program.

* Figures are subject to revision pending results of final grant negotiations.

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 Leahy Initiative (named for Senator Patrick Leahy) provided \$2.5 million to USAID to support community projects in collaboration with the Afghan government in insecure areas in Nangarhar, Khost, and Paktika provinces in southeastern Afghanistan. To determine community priorities, *jirgas* (informal ruling councils) were organized including government officials, community members, and USAID engineers. To date, USAID has cleared 22 projects costing approximately \$1.6 million. The projects include a variety of irrigation and potable water projects as well as nearly 1,200 housing kits, composed of pre-assembled doors, windows, lintels, and beams.



Housing kits and project signage awaiting delivery as part of the Leahy Initiative.

Note: Progress on the Afghanistan Ring Road is reported in USAID's Weekly Afghan Road Update.