



Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for September 4 – September 10, 2003

Issue 29

United States Agency for International Development

Strengthening the Government

Program Goals	Recent Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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.	<p>USAID is working with the Afghan government's Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled to assist disabled veterans, increase their job opportunities and build Ministry capacity. Recent progress on this project includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Delivery of 40 computers for the Ministry. Computer training will take place the week of September 15 in Ministry offices in Jalalabad. More training will take place in Ministry offices in Mazar and Kandahar in the next two to three months.Submission of proposals on September 1 to operate 5 Community Rehabilitation Centers around Kabul. These Centers will be operated by organizations of disabled persons in partnership with international NGOs. The Ministry and USAID are now evaluating these proposals, and expect to be make awards for operation of these Centers soon.After much discussion, the Government of Afghanistan is about to approve a new central bank law and a new banking law. The central bank law will provide a statutory underpinning for Afghanistan's Central Bank to carry out the standard functions of a central bank, including bank supervision, monetary policy, currency management, etc. The banking law will provide the legal framework for a private banking system in Afghanistan, critically necessary to make payments and eventually provide bank lending, letters of credit, etc. <p>USAID supported both the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance in this process. USAID was engaged in explaining the rationale for the new system, helping draft the laws, translating the laws, and supporting the consideration of the resulting product by the Government of Afghanistan.</p>

Revitalizing Agriculture/Creating Jobs

Program Goals	Recent Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This week, ribbon-cutting ceremonies at the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL) opened MoAL's refurbished audio recording studio and newly-installed digital recording and editing equipment. The facility is a key part of the Agricultural Radio Project to provide farm families with the information they need to increase production and income. Before the fierce battles of the 1990s, MoAL produced a popular agricultural radio show. The new facility in conjunction with training of 15 MoAL staff on use of the equipment, will allow the Ministry to regain its wide listenership with advice on up-to-date agricultural techniques. The Project's weekly agricultural radio program, <i>Sow Well, Reap Well</i>, is well known by farmers, who can relate to the wise old Baba Dehkan, a regularly featured guest on the show, presented by Enayat Safi. With low literacy rates in rural areas, radio is an essential media for transmitting information on agriculture.

Expanding Educational Opportunity

Program Goals	Recent Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1,000 schools and at least 18 provincial women's centers rehabilitated or constructed.10 million textbooks printed and distributed for 2003 school year30,000 classroom teachers trained.60,000 students enrolled in accelerated learning programs to reach their appropriate age level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus on School Construction: Throughout the Fall 2002 and Spring 2003, USAID funded a series of cash-for-work projects to draw labor away from the poppy harvest and build community infrastructure. Those projects are now complete. In Nangarhar province, known for its poppy production, USAID built 10 new schools serving 6600 students and rehabilitated 5 schools serving 4,425 students. Of these 11,000 students, over 4600 are girls; three of the 15 schools are for girls only, serving 1080, 1000, and 775 girls respectively. Presented on this and the following page is a gallery of those now-completed projects.

Focus on School Construction: Nangarhar Province



Haiderkhel village, Achin district, Nangarhar: Mastbaba Primary School



Mandarkhil village, Chaparhar district, Nangarhar:
Mandarkhil Primary School



Pierakhil village, Khogyani district, Nangarhar: Pierakhil Primary School



Morgy village, Pachir wa Agam district, Nangarhar:
Agam Girls' Primary School



Pattlaw village, Sherzad district, Nangarhar: Pattlaw Primary School



Fatehabad village, Surkh Rod district, Nanga.: Fatehabad Primary School



Lalma village, Chaparhar district, Nangarhar: Lalma Primary School



Roghano village, Rodat district, Nangarhar: Roghano Primary School Rehab

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