



Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for September 11 – September 24, 2003

Issue 30

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 September 7, President Karzai signed a decree postponing the Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ) until December—allowing more time for preparations, but still within the guidelines laid out by the Bonn Accords. Preparations during this past week to ensure a successful CLJ included: *(continued in next column)*

Recent Progress (continued):

- Mobilization of USAID teams to eight regions of Afghanistan to register electors of delegates to the CLJ. Registration began this past week in Kunduz and all eight regions will begin registration by September 28.
- Printing and delivery of copies of the draft Constitution. 7000 copies will be delivered to official recipients and an additional 50,000 to the general public. One part of the document will contain the final report from the Constitutional public consultative process. Results of this process were stored in a database for analysis; USAID verified the data analysis in order to complete the report.

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

- A ribboncutting ceremony for a new kindergarten at the Mariam Lyceum in Kabul took place on September 13. The kindergarten will care for the children of teachers and staff, almost all of whom are women. Mariam Lyceum, renovated by USAID in 2002, is one of the largest schools for girls in Kabul with 8,100 girl students.



Children sing during the Mariam Lyceum Kindergarten groundbreaking.

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

- On September 11, USAID awarded a contract for the construction of Tarin and Aghelak bridges located in Uruzgan province. The bridges are expected to cost just over \$2 million. The contractor has now mobilized and is scheduled to complete the project within four months.



Sultan Mohammed with his household's newly completed safflower oil press. This demonstration press is located in Istalif, a large community that uses safflower for cooking and other household needs. USAID supported this income-generation project with training and some start-up materials; all other materials and labor were provided by project beneficiaries.

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

- Groundbreaking for the construction of the first of 400 clinics to be built or rehabilitated over three years took place on September 13, 2003. The model health clinic is being built in Qala-e-Qazi in Kabul Province. Seventy-eight new clinics are scheduled to be built by the end of 2003. Of these, 51 will be 7 room basic health centers designed to provide services to a population of 30,000. The remaining 28 clinics will be 11 room comprehensive health centers providing a slightly higher level of health care to a catchment area of 30,000 – 60,000 people.
- The prestigious British medical weekly, *The Lancet*, reported in its September 13, 2003 issue, that despite widespread press coverage of some of the world's worst health statistics: "Scratch the surface of Afghanistan's depressing health statistics, however, and an impressive example of post-conflict reconstruction is revealed."

The editorial cited both "immediate service delivery and long-term policy planning" as areas of progress in Afghanistan's health sector, pointing to 94% national coverage rate for measles vaccinations and a comprehensive health facility survey as examples. USAID's role in these successes includes vaccinating 2.26 million of the 11 million children vaccinated for measles and implementing the comprehensive health facility survey. The survey is serving as the basis for donors' clinic construction and service delivery efforts, including USAID's construction of 400 new and rebuilt clinics.



Children wait patiently at the groundbreaking ceremony.



A local resident considers the design for the new health clinic at the groundbreaking ceremony on September 13.



Minister of Health Dr. Seddique speaks at the health clinic groundbreaking ceremony.

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