



# Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for October 30 – November 5, 2003

Issue 36

United States Agency for International Development

## Strengthening the Government

### Program Goals

- Support the Bonn process: the Constitutional, Human Rights, and Judicial Commissions; the elections scheduled for June 2004; 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:

- **Assistance to the CLJ Registration Process:** USAID is a major contributor for the CLJ registration. USAID provided the critical organizational, logistical and planning investments that allowed the CLJ registrations to take place throughout Afghanistan.
- **Customs Reform:** Two customs reform teams have been set up in the regional customs houses in Herat and Jalalabad. These teams will begin the regional process of implementing the customs reforms that have been developed and piloted at the Kabul airport and the Kabul customs house. One of the teams' tasks will be to map the regional customs operations, and for the first time get an accurate picture of the size and nature of the regional operations.

### Recent Progress (continued):

- **Tax Administration:** As an important step to increasing central government revenue through taxes, tax identification numbers (TIN) are being issued to a variety of entities. As of October 23, the Ministry of Finance has issued 136 TINs, of which 99 were issued to importers. As of October 31, traders without a TIN will not be allowed to import. Diplomatic missions, international organizations, ISAF, US military and imports of fresh foodstuffs and automobiles will continue to be able to import without a TIN.



All importers must now have a TIN in order to import.

## Increasing Access to Basic Health Care

### Program Goals

- 400 health centers renovated or constructed in rural areas, providing services to an estimated 12 million people.
- 11 million beneficiaries assured improved access to basic services in 13 provinces; 4.4 million women and children given access to services through USAID's health care initiative grants.
- 3,400 new community health workers, 990 midwives, 6,000 clinic staff trained.
- Make safe water systems, iodized salt, contraceptives, mosquito nets and other health products available at reasonable prices using existing trading and marketing systems.
- Develop a public health education program with the Ministry of Health (MOH); strengthen MOH capacity at the national and provincial levels for guiding effective health care policy.

### Recent Progress:

The USAID-funded REACH (Rural Expansion of Afghanistan's Community-Based Healthcare) program aims to improve the health of women of reproductive age and children under 5 years of age through increased use of basic health services in rural areas.

### Recent Progress (continued):

- **MOH Capacity Building:** The Management Strengthening Resource Center, part of the Institute of Management for the MOH is under construction. The center will provide space for REACH staff who are working directly with the MOH.
- **Access to Services:** After the initial round of REACH grant funds, approximately 485,000 women of reproductive age will benefit from increased access to the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS). It is anticipated that with the second round, benefactors will increase to more than 550,000.



## 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

In July 2003, USAID initiated a three year, \$150 million agricultural program. The program's following irrigation projects have been identified to accelerate results and jump-start the agricultural economy of Afghanistan:

- USAID is investing \$1.15 million to de-silt and widen more than 90 kilometers of irrigation canals. As a result, over 35,000 hectares of prime agricultural land will receive a reliable source of water for irrigation. Further rehabilitation of the canals includes the repair or replacement of damaged or destroyed water intakes, canal banks, protection walls, turnouts and sluice gates.
- The construction of four water intakes along the Khanabad River allows for over 50,000 hectares of land to be irrigated for the production of wheat, cotton and rice. As a result of increased production, 25 kilometers of secondary roads will be upgraded to allow farmers to move their produce to regional markets.
- Check dams are under construction and will form community water reservoirs for storing rain water and to prevent erosion. The check dams will enable farmers to harvest rainwater and divert stored water to underground aquifers, raising water levels for both wells and the traditional underground aqueducts called "karezes".



*Desilting the right canal of the Sardeh Irrigation System. The right canal is 21.5 km long and irrigates 6,800 ha. It will have the capacity to convey 7.2 cubic meters per second after it is restored to its original dimensions.*



*Rock excavation for the new spillway for Zana Khan Dam. The new spillway will be able to convey up to 25 cubic meters per second of water. It will be 7 meters wide and over 100 meters long when completed. It will be constructed using reinforced concrete and stone masonry.*

---

## Expanding Educational Opportunity

### Program Goals

- 1,000 schools and at least 18 provincial women's centers rehabilitated or constructed.
- 10.2 million textbooks printed & distributed for 2003 school year
- 30,000 classroom teachers trained.
- 80,000 students enrolled in accelerated learning programs to reach their appropriate grade level.

### Recent Progress

- **The Afghan Women's Leadership Discussion Series (WLDS) in the Shomali Plain:** USAID is funding the WLDS program as an Afghanistan Quick Impact Project, and Chemonics is the implementing contractor. WLDS is a mentoring program for Afghan junior professional women working for NGOs, government entities and the private sector. The series is held monthly in Dari and features at least one female speaker who is in a leadership position. Issues discussed include professional growth; common obstacles in the workplace; pressure faced from society and family for working outside the home; and the role of women in the rebuilding of Afghanistan.



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