



# Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for November 6 – November 12, 2003

Issue 37

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 planning, budgeting, revenue generation (e.g., customs), monetary management, and private-sector related legal and regulatory frameworks.
- Build capacity to carry out other legitimate government functions and support reconstruction of health, judicial, education, economic, agricultural and transportation infrastructure.

### Recent Progress:

- **Tax Administration:** Afghanistan will soon have a new source of revenue. The rent tax measure passed the cabinet in October and is expected to be signed into law by the President soon. It is a 20% flat tax on rental income, assessed on the landlord but withheld by the tenants. The tax is imposed on rental income from office space, residential accommodations, commercial premises and industrial property.

### Recent Progress (continued):

- **Power in Kandahar:** The Kajaki Dam generators—the main source of electricity to Kandahar—have broken down. USAID has committed over \$9 million towards the provision of emergency power supplies to Kandahar. On November 10, the Ministry of Water and Power began receiving the first supplies of emergency electric power from USAID provided diesel generators to meet priority needs of the Kandaharis during the winter.
- **Power in Lashkar Gah and Qalat:** USAID is also working to bring in diesel generators (3.3 and 1.9 MW, respectively) to provide emergency power supplies to Lashkar Gah and Qalat, the other major southern cities affected by the loss of power from the Kajaki dam and the breakdown of power supplies. The target dates for inaugurating power supplies for these units is November 15 in Qalat and December 1 in Lashkar Gah.

## 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 Public Health (MOPH); strengthen MOPH 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.

- **Hospital and Health Facility Management:** REACH is assisting the MOPH to establish and procure a list of standard equipment required to provide the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS). The equipment will be furnished to the new clinics constructed by REFS. The BPHS includes maternal and newborn care, child health care and immunization, public nutrition, control of communicable diseases, mental health care, disability care and supply of essential drugs.

### Recent Progress (continued):

- **Provincial Support and Strengthening:** In collaboration with the MOPH provincial liaison, USAID contractor conducted a management capacity assessment of the Provincial Health Office in Takhar province. The assessment piloted a methodology to be applied in the other provinces supported by REACH, most immediately Bamyan. The assessment indicated that there would be benefits to involving non-health NGOs—that have community outreach programs—in health-related activities.



Foundation work for Tamdai Basic Clinic in Ghazni's Qarabagh district is nearly half complete

## 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

- **Labor Survey Findings:** According to findings from a survey conducted in the spring of 2003 and funded by the US Department of Labor, the typical Afghan business is family-owned, and employs one to two workers, where less than one percent of private businesses surveyed have more than 15 workers. The survey found that rural and urban businesses, respectively, generate \$83 and \$131 per month. Although business confidence was found to be quite high—97% surveyed expect their businesses to grow in the next year—financial services were a constant request.
- **Micro-Financing Services:** USAID is providing \$5 million through the Microfinance Investment and Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA), for small agricultural and rural enterprises to expand or improve their operations. Through MISFA, a diverse range of microfinance approaches have been designed to provide essential credit services to farmers and businesses. The project is also supported by the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), the Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), the Japanese Social Development Fund and potentially the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).



*Newly laid asphalt treated road base near Ghazni..*



*Workers repair the stone masonry on the downstream face of the Zana Khan dam.*

## 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

To date USAID has rehabilitated/constructed over 200 schools, including daycare centers, primary and secondary schools, teacher training institutes and vocational centers. Other accomplishments/activities include:

- 26 schools are currently under construction.
- Supported the Back-to-School campaign by printing 25 million textbooks for 2.9 million students, 30 % of whom were girls.
- Trained 3,600 teachers.
- Produced and distributed 30,000 teacher instructional material kits.
- Provided a curriculum development workshop for the Ministry of Education, NGOs involved in the education sector and critical donors.

### Recent Progress (continued):

- Established an accelerated learning program to address the problems of retention of over-aged students and lack of access for out-of-school youth. 15,000 students are currently enrolled in the program.
- Provided food salary supplement to 55,000 teachers, valued at 26% of monthly income.
- Provides food rations as incentives for families to send their daughters to school.



*Ghulam Sakhi High School in Ghazni's Nawar district, showing 50% of the foundation completed.*

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