



Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for November 13 – November 19, 2003

Issue 38

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:

- **Banking Law:** USAID economic advisors assisted in the adoption of two crucial banking laws by the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan's (TISA) cabinet. The laws establish the legal framework for the restoration of both central and commercial banking in Afghanistan. Last month, in a ceremony attended by US Treasury Secretary John Snow, Afghanistan's central bank issued a banking license to the First Micro Finance Bank of Afghanistan and a banking branch permit to Standard Chartered Bank of the United Kingdom.
- **Power in Kandahar:** Power is back on in Kandahar. On November 10, a ceremony was held as the Ministry of Water and Power began receiving the first supplies of

Recent Progress (continued):

emergency electrical power from USAID-provided diesel generators. In addition, generators are being procured for Lashkar Gah and Qalat.



Energy ceremony (left to right), Ghulam Jelani Jeles, Deputy Minister of Water and Power; David Sedney, Deputy Chief of the US Embassy in Kabul; and Eng. Mohammed Yusuf Pashtun, Governor of Kandahar.

Revitalizing Agriculture/Creating Jobs

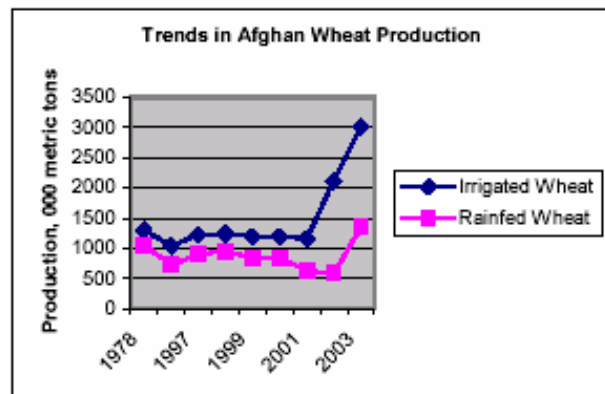
Program Goals

- 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

- **Wheat Production Boom:** As a result of USAID's emergency agricultural rehabilitation program, increased rain and other interventions, wheat production dramatically increased over the past two seasons. Rainfed wheat production climbed from 610,000 tons in 2001 to 1,345,000 tons in 2003. Improved technology, as well as better farmer access to needed inputs, contributed to this sizable increase. The average Afghan consumes, in the form of bread, more than 1.5 pounds of wheat a day; and through improved transportation and market infrastructure, USAID's Rebuilding Afghanistan's Agricultural Markets Program (RAMP) will ensure that in upcoming harvests the farmers with wheat surpluses in the north will have access to the wheat-deficient markets in the south.

Recent Progress (continued):



Wheat production from 1978 to 2003.

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.

- **Community Mapping:** REACH is implementing Community Mapping (CM) in eight districts in Herat and Faryab Provinces. CM is a color-coded health management information system tool to be used by illiterate and marginally literate community health workers to identify clients' needs and what services they are accessing. This information is used to plan activities and ensure adequate supplies to meet clients' requests.
- **Safe, Clean Water:** In Afghanistan more than one in four children do not survive beyond the age of five and diarrhea is the leading cause of death—killing about 85,000 children a year. Clorin, a chlorine compound used to treat water right before drinking, has been proven to kill most diarrhea-causing bacteria. Clorin was developed by the Centers for Disease Control as part of a campaign funded by USAID. It

Recent Progress (continued):

is being sold by the bottle to Afghan families at a cost of about 17 afghanis (USD \$0.36). One bottle provides safe drinking water to a family of six for 45 days; and during the month of October, 2,316 bottles were sold in Kabul. Clorin is also distributed in the cities of Herat, Mazar and Nangarhar.

- **Safe, Clean Water Media Outreach:** A contractor for USAID has purchased the rights to four new songs by one of Afghanistan's most popular singers—Farhad Darya. Mr. Darya has agreed to endorse Clorin in radio and television advertisements and poster campaigns. Currently, radio advertisements are broadcasted 5-7 days a week on Kabul's most popular stations—Radio Arman and Radio Khillid.



Afghan women participating in a community mapping session.

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

- **Afghanistan Primary Education Program (APEP):** APEP is a three-year USAID program designed to rebuild or construct new schools for communities that demonstrate a commitment to education by providing inputs such as labor, maintenance of school facilities, housing for teachers or other substantial contributions. Thus, ensuring that schools are functional centers of learning. APEP is currently underway in the Nangarhar, Faryab, Baghlan and Kunduz provinces.

Recent Progress (continued):

- **Teacher Training:** A critical need in rebuilding the nation is to upgrade the quality of teaching. The USAID education advisor in Afghanistan is working to develop a systemic nation-wide in-service training program for the existing 65,000 teachers, and coordinate a national pre-service training program for new teachers.
- **Higher Education:** USAID economic advisors are working with the Ministry of Higher Education to transfer World Bank grant funds to nine universities in various provinces throughout the country using the central bank's domestic payment capabilities—the grants will give the universities needed operating revenue.

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