



# Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for February 17 – February 24, 2004

Issue 47

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

### Recent Progress:

- **Providing Electricity to Kabul:** To date USAID has provided 8.5 million liters of emergency diesel fuel for the thermal power station in Kabul. The cost of this fuel was \$2.8 million out of the total \$5 million provided through the USAID donation program. Sixteen million additional liters of fuel are scheduled for delivery by March 2004. This fuel program has enabled 24-hour plant operation.



Fuel tanks that hold diesel fuel.

## 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.

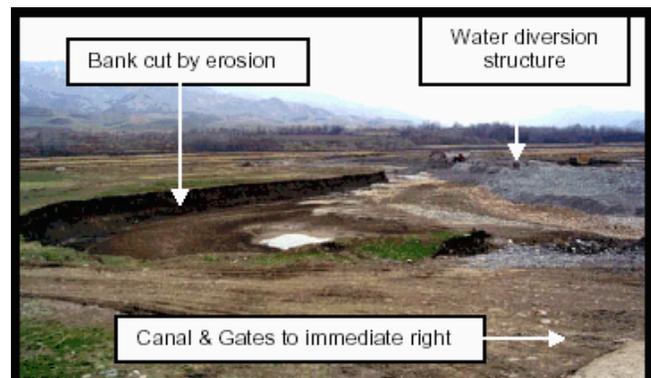
### Recent Progress

USAID's Rebuilding Agricultural Markets Program (RAMP) is a three-year program aimed at enhancing the food security and incomes of Afghanistan's rural population. It has two principal objectives to increase agricultural productivity and output and to facilitate effective linkages between producers, processors and markets. The program's budget is \$150 million.

- **Rehabilitating Irrigation Infrastructure:** Repairing irrigation systems has seasonal limitations, as the availability of large numbers of farmers to do this labor-intensive work is confined to the winter. Further, most structural work must be completed before early spring when the canal gates are opened for irrigation and to manage the flooding from the spring run-off. USAID irrigation projects are making rapid progress before the planting season begins.
- **Khanabad Irrigation Wall:** The Khanabad irrigation canal is in need of a retaining wall, as one of its banks has been considerably eroded. USAID contractors have diverted the Khanabad River and excavated 400 meters (1,300 feet) of soil in order to construct the foundation for a retaining wall along the canal's bank—over 60 Afghans are working to collect stones to be used in the construction of the wall. While this is a small-scale project, it will have a huge impact on farmers, as it protects over 34,000 hectares of farming land.



Khanabad irrigation system canal and gates, endangered by erosion.



The eroded Khanabad irrigation canal with the Khanabad River diverted.

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## 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.

- **Ministry of Public Health Capacity Building:** USAID contractors are working closely with the Ministry of Public Health to ensure that USAID assistance not only provides immediate health care needs, but also capacity-building within the ministry to develop sustainable national health care policies and programs. USAID contractors are working with the ministry to develop its yearly budget, human resources, ability to manage and track district by district community health care needs, hospital policies, and its public health education campaigns.
- **Capacity Building—Ministry of Public Health Budget:** USAID advisors assisted in developing and finalizing the Ministry of Public Health's yearly budget. Increases in funding from last year's budget will support programs that decrease child and maternal mortality rates, construct health clinics, improve hospital services, and train health care providers.
- **Capacity Building—Ministry of Public Health Human Resources:** USAID advisors are currently working with the Ministry of Public Health to develop a comprehensive plan to strengthen its human resources. The plan will provide a proposed course of action for capacity-building in management, administrative, and technical skills, which are all necessary when implementing national public health policies and programs.

### Recent Progress (continued):

- **Capacity Building—Ministry of Public Health Hospital Policies:** USAID staff recently worked with the ministry to revise its national hospital policy. Changes included specifying basic hospital standards and determining the distribution of hospitals and hospital beds throughout the country.
- **Capacity Building—Public Health Education Campaigns:** USAID contractors have developed, and are implementing a "Writing for Radio" course that trains Ministry of Public Health staff to write effective public health-related radio announcements geared toward women, children, and the specific health needs of a community. The goal of the training course is to facilitate an on-going program of radio message writing and broadcasting that is managed by the Ministry of Public Health's education and communication department.



*Photo of the model clinic in Qala-e-Qazi right before its completion on February 15, 2004.*



*Initial stages of construction of the Nak Pai clinic site in Kunduz province.*

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