



# Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for April 21 – April 27  
Issue 55

United States Agency for International Development

## STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT

### Program Goals

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

- **Reconstruction of Courthouses and Other Judicial Facilities:** USAID is supporting the Government of Afghanistan to rebuild its judicial system. On Sunday, April 11, Ambassador Khalilzad inaugurated the USAID-funded, newly rehabilitated Paktia Appeals Court in Gardez. This is one of two justice sector facilities completed to date; the other is the Balkh Appeals Court in Mazar-e-Sharif. Construction is also currently underway on additional facilities in Kabul, Kandahar and Nangahar. By this summer, 16 judicial rehabilitation projects will be completed.
- **Micro-power Plants Bring Power to 14,000 Rural Afghans.** Relatively inexpensive micro-hydro power systems are bringing power to about 14,000 people in remote villages in eight of Afghanistan's 32 provinces. (continued in next column)

### Recent Progress (continued):

- **Micro-power (continued):** A typical arrangement is to use a small intake canal and convert a traditional watermill into a micro hydro-power system. USAID has invested \$300,000 for 54 new systems. Communities generally provide the unskilled labor to install the systems and manage, on a volunteer basis, the control rooms and generators that make the system function.



Exterior view of newly-rebuilt Gardez Appeals Court.



Raising the Afghan flag at the newly-rebuilt Mazar Appeals Court.



USAID plaque at the Mazar Appeals Court.

## REVITALIZING AGRICULTURE/CREATING JOBS

### Program Goals

- Increased marketable output of \$250 million in agriculture
- More than 500,000 farm family beneficiaries
- A reliable source of water provided to more than 500,000 hectares of land through irrigation rehabilitation
- 1,000 km of improved village feeder roads rehabilitated.
- Construction of over 100 village agricultural market centers.



*An Afghan boy proudly rides the winner of the 'Best Camel' prize.*

### Recent Progress

The Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Kunduz, Afghanistan is led by the German military and staffed with civilian agencies, including USAID. The PRT recently held a Farmer's Day Ceremony in that city, similar to a country fair in the United States. Below are photos from the event.



*Schoolgirls read an Agriculture Day poem to the audience.*

## EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

### Program Goals

- 1,000 schools and 17 provincial women's centers rehabilitated or constructed.
- 16 million textbooks printed & distributed for 2004 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) is a three-year USAID program designed to provide educational opportunities for communities that demonstrate a commitment to education. The program trains teachers, provides textbooks, implements accelerated learning programs, and provides advisers to the Ministry of Education.

- At the end of March, coinciding with the start of the new Afghan school year, USAID started Accelerated Learning classes for 45,000 new students in seven provinces. Accelerated Learning is directed at students who have been out of school and, thus, behind for their age. The classes enable them to "catch up" to a grade level more appropriate for their age in the regular curriculum. This program is specially aimed at girls and young women, who had been excluded from education under the Taliban. To start these classes on-time, USAID trained 1,400 teachers. With the start-up of these new classes, USAID now provides accelerated learning classes in a total of 10 provinces with a total of 60,000 students enrolled.

### Recent Progress (continued):



*Afghan girls examine their new Accelerated Learning textbooks.*



*An Accelerated Learning teacher (on left) leads his class.*