



Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for May 26 to June 2

Issue 59

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:

- **Teacher Training College in Herat (western Afghanistan):** In May, President Karzai inaugurated the newly rehabilitated teacher training college in Herat. The college was rehabilitated in a collaborative effort between USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives and Herat's Provincial Reconstruction Team—one of many US-based joint civil military units located throughout Afghanistan. The facility has 22 lecture rooms, a library, a conference room, a computer room, and it can house 50 students from the western provinces. The college also has the capacity to provide refresher training for the 8,330 teachers currently teaching at 704 schools in the region, as well as to train new teachers who will staff the new USAID-funded schools that will be constructed this fall.
- **Domestic Revenue Generation and Public Utilities:** As Afghanistan's fiscal year comes to a close, final revenue figures for the entire country are showing a noticeable improvement in the central government's ability to both report and collect its revenue. While the target for the last fiscal year was \$201 million, the final unofficial estimates are closer to \$210 million—a noticeable improvement. Further, as part of USAID's economic governance program to increase domestic revenue, work has begun in the Ministry of Water and Power to develop a billing system for a limited group of public utilities customers who consume a large share of electricity and water. This process entails the identification of larger customers, development of a payment pattern, and production of computerized bills in both English and Dari.
- **USAID Advisors Strengthen the Capacity of the President's Office:** In May, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) provided technical support to the president's spokesperson's office by developing general guidelines for preparing and presenting the president's weekly radio message; assisting with staff training; and helping with the public relations plans for the president's upcoming trip to the United States. OTI's overall efforts to strengthen the government's public outreach capacity are critical especially when it comes to the issue of DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) and effectively presenting the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan's position to disarm all non-Afghan military militia by 2006. The president's spokesperson's office is an integral part of the DDR public outreach campaign.



Newly rehabilitated teacher training college in Herat.

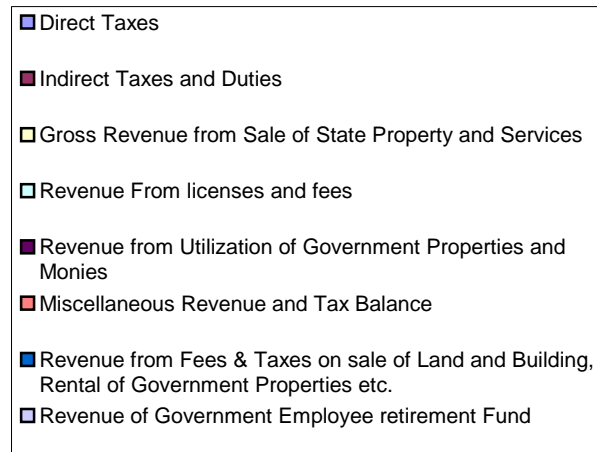
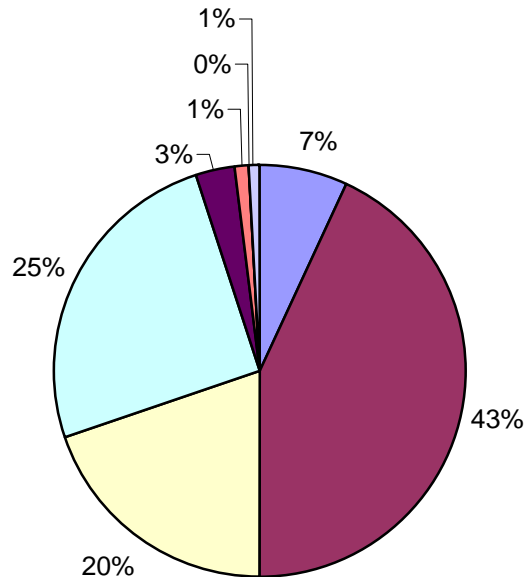


Chart delineating Afghanistan's domestic revenue generation for the last fiscal year.

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, and 6,000 clinic staff trained.
- Make safe water systems, contraceptives, mosquito nets and other health products available at reasonable prices using existing trading and marketing systems.
- Strengthen MOH capacity at the national and provincial levels for guiding effective health care policy; develop a public health education program; determine a sustainable health finance policy; strengthen human resource development; improve hospital management; and expand and improve the HMIS.

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.

- **US-Japanese Partnership:** On May 9, 2004 the Minister of Health was joined by the U.S. and Japanese Ambassadors and Dr. Anne Peterson, USAID Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Global Health, in celebrating the US-Japan partnership (continued in the next column).

Recent Progress (continued):

- **US-Japanese Partnership (continued):** The press conference highlighted the partnership as a model of donor cooperation in the health sector with specific efforts focused around constructing and equipping health centers; strengthening training programs that target women's health issues; and support to the expanded program of immunizations.



Dr. Feroz, Deputy Minister of Health, answers questions from the press with Ambassadors Zalmay Khalilzad and Kinichi Komano, and Dr. Anne Peterson, USAID Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Global Health.

SECURITY SITUATION

Security Incidents Involving USAID Reconstruction Programs

- In May, a bomb went off in Faryab Province outside an NGO office (500 feet) from an USAID contractor's office. No casualties reported.
- In May, two westerners (it is unknown if they were affiliated with a development organization) were found bludgeoned to death in western Kabul.
- May 20, four UN elections vehicles were destroyed and six damaged at the Jalalabad UNOPS compound. Other incidents against the UN elections operations in the east include the deaths of three Global Risk Strategies workers in Nuristan, the injury of one UN worker in an IED incident that destroyed a UN vehicle in Kunar, and a landmine incident destroying a UN vehicle in southern Nangarhar.

Accumulative Table of Security Incidents Involving USAID Reconstruction Programs

The table below reflects security incidents that have been reported by USAID's contractor for road construction, as well as the incidents mentioned above.

Indicator (Hostile Attacks)	Report Period	Cumulative Total
Persons Kidnapped/Released (since 11/02)	1/1	7/5
Persons Injured/Killed (since 11/02)	1/5	19/18
Other Hostile Attacks (since 3/04)	13	18