
Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for June 3 to June 9

Issue 60

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:

- **Electoral Law Signed:** On May 27, President Karzai signed his country's new electoral law that establishes the legal framework for the elections to be held this fall. According to the law, each voter will have a single non-transferable vote. The new law brings the country one step closer to a democratically elected government that is based on the rule of law. The law requires that candidates for the legislature are elected by receiving the greatest number of votes, but only after the constitutional clause is met that requires—on average—two women from each province be represented in the legislature.
- **Elections Registration Update:** On 1 May, 160 elections registration sites were opened, and today, the number of sites have expanded to 720. Sites exist in all but three provinces, with 1,271 registration teams operating simultaneously. As of 26 May, 2.8 million Afghans have registered to vote, of which 32.5% are women. In recent days, registration is averaging over 50,000 per day. Registration is critical to the successful implementation of national elections this fall because it prepares and educates potential voters on the electoral process.

Recent Progress (continued):

- **Afghan Women Travel to Korea for Global Summit:** On May 25, a delegation of nine Afghan women left for Seoul, South Korea to join their counterparts around the world at the "Global Summit of Women 2004." The summit focused on networking technology, and the delegation was the first from Afghanistan to join an international women's conference. The women expect to share their experiences through forums and regional meetings.

Standing—Zakia Zaki, director of Radio Sulh, Aziza Dadmanish, construction company director, Dr. Soraya Sobhrang, Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs, Mahbooba Waizi, Afghan Women's Business Council director, Gul Jan, entrepreneur. Kneeling—Orzala Ashraf, HAWCA director, Storai Sadat, deputy manager for Ariana Financial Services.

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.

Recent Progress

- **Nationwide Livestock Health Program:** USAID is funding a nationwide animal health and vaccination program to treat over 6 million animals over the next three years. To date, over 2.3 million livestock have been either vaccinated or treated for disease since the start of the program. Farm animals are an important factor in the agricultural economy—it is estimated that 80% of the Afghan population has some reliance on livestock for their livelihoods and income. USAID's program will provide approximately 380 private veterinary field units that dispense vaccines and medicines to every province in Afghanistan. It is expected that the availability of these health services will result in a 10% annual increase in the livestock population.



A veterinary field unit dispensing vaccinations in Parwan province.

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:

- **USAID and Children:** USAID supports the Afghanistan "Child Protection Consortium on the Care and Protection of Children" which includes three of the world's leading agencies in assisting war-affected children. Afghanistan has been affected by war for over 25 years, thus most children have lived their entire lives in a war-based environment. (continued on next column)

Recent Progress (continued):

USAID and Children (continued): The program's goal is to enhance children's well being by increasing community based capacity for children's protection and psychosocial support, such as enabling communities to provide literacy and other educational programs. The consortium partners reached 44,624 direct child/youth beneficiaries with program activity during the first quarter of 2004.



A village woman provides women literacy classes to her fellow villagers for two hours per day. After one year, the class passed third grade equivalency exams.

SECURITY SITUATION

Security Incidents Involving USAID Reconstruction Programs

The incidents below occurred in 2003 and 2004 and were reported in the Associated Press.

- March 27, 2003, foreign aid worker for the International Committee of the Red Cross was shot and killed by suspected terrorists.
- May 3, 2003, Afghan de-miner killed, and another was seriously injured in a gun attack in Wardak province (eastern Afghanistan).
- May 24, 2003, two foreign engineers working for a German aid agency were critically wounded by bombs exploding by their vehicle near the eastern city of Jalalabad.
- August 13, 2003, two Afghans working for an Afghan aid organization were killed by gunmen and three were wounded in Ghazni.
- September 8, 2003, four Afghans working for a Danish aid group in the southeastern Ghazni province were tied up and executed by the roadside; another worker was wounded.
- September 24, 2003, two Afghans working for an aid organization were killed in an ambush in southern Helmand province.
- November 16, 2003, a UN foreign aid worker was shot dead in the city of Ghazni, and an Afghan colleague was wounded.
- February 14, 2004, four Afghan deminers were killed in a suspected Taliban ambush in western Farah province.
- February 22, 2004, a foreign aid worker for a US aid organization was shot dead by a lone gunman. Another foreign aid worker and a foreign aid security guard were seriously wounded in the incident.
- February 25, 2004, five Afghan aid workers working on a major government reconstruction project were shot and killed east of Kabul.
- March 5, 2004, foreign aid engineer was shot dead on Kabul-Kandahar highway in southern Zabul province.
- March 6, 2004, Afghan director for an Afghan aid agency was shot dead in Zabul province.
- April 27, 2004, two workers for an Afghan aid agency were killed in a raid on their office by suspected Taliban in Nuristan province.
- June 2, 2004, three foreign aid workers and two Afghans working for Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) were shot and killed in an attack in Badghis province (340 miles west of Kabul) by suspected Taliban insurgents.

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) | 0/0 | 7/5 |
| Persons Injured/Killed (since 11/02) | 17/31* | 36/49 |
| Other Hostile Attacks (since 3/04) | 1 | 19 |

* Includes incidents from 2003 and 2004 that occurred before June 3, 2004—the beginning of this report period.