



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

Weekly Activity Update: ELECTION SUPPORT

September 11 – 17, 2005

National Assembly and Provincial Council Elections



USAID/Afghanistan supported women's civic education.

USAID has supported the growth of democracy in Afghanistan through assistance to the bodies charged with running the elections and to the Afghan people to educate them in democratic processes. USAID supported the Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB), which provides election planning, operations and logistics for Afghanistan's 2005 elections.

In preparation for Afghanistan's 2005 elections, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided critical assistance to the JEMB and supported election-related activities and programs through its implementing partners and Afghan NGOs.

USAID/Afghanistan provided assistance to the JEMB so that elections could happen peacefully with reduced possibility of fraud. 2004 and 2005 milestones that were met as a result include:

- establishment of a permanent multi-ethnic, mixed gender, Afghan Independent Electoral Commission;
- establishment of the JEMB Media Commission;

- formation of the JEMB Electoral Complaints Commission;
- passage of the Electoral Law;
- establishment of a permanent electoral compound;
- establishment of Provincial Election Commissions;
- intensive training in election procedures for over 100 staff within the Central and Provincial Election Commissions; and
- support for the JEMB post-electoral strategy group.

ELECTION SUPPORT



USAID/Afghanistan 2005

Capacity building for Afghanistan's parliamentary elections: candidates and supporters receive training on Election Day procedures.

In 2004 and 2005, USAID/Afghanistan provided \$40 million to UNDP/JEMB and an additional \$25 million to support the elections through its primary implementing partners: The Asia Foundation (TAF), National Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI), and International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES). Afghan NGOs provided critical support towards the implementation of these programs.

To increase citizens' understanding of democracy and the electoral process, USAID/Afghanistan provided the following assistance to the Afghan people:

- civic and voter education in all 34 provinces;
- a countrywide voter information campaign;
- significant technical assistance to the central and provincial electoral bodies;
- training for Afghanistan's independent candidates and political party representatives;
- country-wide candidate agent training (up to 70,000 candidate agents);
- nation-wide distribution of civic education, polling and political outreach manuals;
- media training for journalists and independent candidates;
- national distribution of a candidate profile catalog in advance of the elections;
- sponsored campaign ads for candidates;
- national focus group study on election-related perceptions and attitudes;
- fostered the emergence of a multi-ethnic, mixed gender coalition of independent candidates; and
- domestic and international election observation.

Security Incidents

Number of Hostile Attacks: For this reporting period, there were twenty eight hostile attacks, in which one directly affected USAID operations. There was three persons killed, four persons injured, and four were kidnapped.

Recent Incidents: Due to Provincial Elections being held on September 18, there was an increase in security incidents. However these incidents failed at disrupting the elections. The more serious incidents included the murder of a Wolesi Jirga (WJ) candidate; an assassination attempt on WJ candidate, night letters to polling centers, candidate intimidation, and anti-election groups firing upon polling centers and convoys containing cast ballots.

