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AFGHANISTAN

Date: June 2011

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FACT SHEET

Darunta Hydroelectric Power Plant Rehabilitation

OVERVIEW

USAID is rehabilitating, upgrading, and modernizing the Darunta Hydroelectric Plant to ensure reliable, long-term power for the people of eastern Afghanistan. The Darunta Irrigation and Hydroelectric Power project was commissioned in 1964, and is located on the Kabul River, 80 kilometers east of Kabul. The dam diverts irrigation water into the Nangarhar Irrigation Canal, which has its main facilities immediately upstream of the powerhouse.

The existing hydroelectric power plant houses three turbine generator units. Each unit has a capacity of 3.8 Megawatts, but all units combined now produce only 8 Megawatts of power. The Soviet-era generating equipment has not received any major repair since installation due to civil unrest during the past 30 years. The units are in poor operating condition and are at risk of failure. The power plant is not only the main source of power for the city of Jalalabad and the surrounding villages but also is essential for irrigation water pumping in the agriculture-dependent Jalalabad region. The Darunta Hydroelectric project is one part of a multi-donor program to work with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to provide diverse and reliable power across northern and eastern Afghanistan.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Rehabilitate, upgrade, and modernize the second of three turbine-generators at Darunta Hydroelectric Plant to ensure long-term reliability and operation at the maximum installed capacity
- Build local capacity through on-the-job training of local operators and technicians, as well as management, to ensure that they have the skills and resources needed to maintain the plant in the long-term

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Unit one will be rehabilitated and in service by late July 2011
- A new workshop will be constructed at the facility by early fall, 2011
- Units two and three will be rehabilitated by mid 2012