



Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for September 15 -29

Issue 66

United States Agency for International Development

STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT

Program Goals:

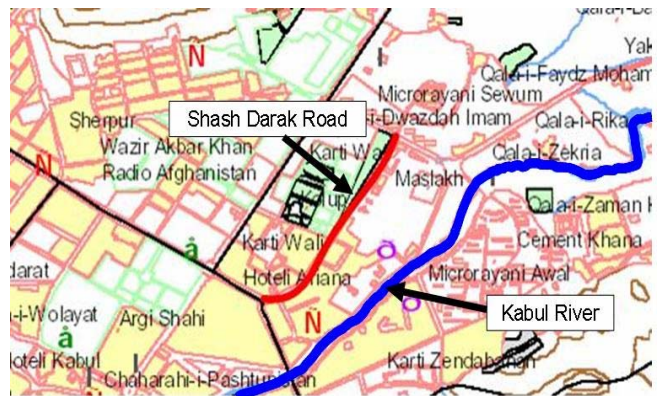
- Support the Bonn process: the Constitutional, Human Rights and Judicial Commissions; the 2004 elections; and a free and independent media.
 - Strengthen government budgeting, revenue generation (e.g., customs), monetary management, private-sector related legal and regulatory frameworks, and promote private enterprises.
 - Build capacity to carry out other legitimate-government functions and support reconstruction of health, judicial, education, economic, agricultural and transportation infrastructure.
- **Urban Road Rehabilitation:** USAID is rehabilitating Shash Darak Road (1.2 km) in Kabul. This important thoroughfare connects two sections of Kabul and serves a high traffic load. Widening and paving of urban roads like this one will ease congestion and cut travel time within the capital city. In addition, the roads are paved during nighttime, so as not to disrupt rush hour traffic circulation. Municipal officials are consulted on a regular basis to coordinate construction of the road.

Recent Progress:

- **Bamyan Radio Interviews US Ambassador:** U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad was recently interviewed on Bamyan Radio, which reaches approximately 50,000 listeners. During his visit to the station, the Ambassador responded to questions about his vision for the future of Afghanistan, specifically focusing on issues of improving security, supporting the upcoming elections and enhancing the productive potential of the Afghan people. The trip was so successful that the Ambassador plans to visit other radio stations throughout the country. Among the others interviewed was Dr. Sima Samar, the Chairperson of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.
- **Journalist Training in Balkh:** USAID grantee Sayara launched its Novice Journalism Training Program at Balkh University in Mazar-i-Sharif, which was modeled after the very successful program in Herat. The program will train print and radio journalism students to produce radio programming. As part of an intensive summer-school curriculum, the students produced the program Saday-e Jawan (Voice of Youth) focusing on issues of concern to young people in Mazar-e Sharif. Approximately 300 people, including the Deputy Governor, officials from the Ministry of Education, Balkh University, and the Consulate of Uzbekistan attended the launch ceremony.



Night crews work on Shash Darak Road in Kabul City.



Shash Darak is one of the major roads connecting the New City (Shahr-e Naw) to the Old City (Shahr-e Kuhna).

INCREASING ACCESS TO BASIC HEALTH CARE

Program Goals:

- 219 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:

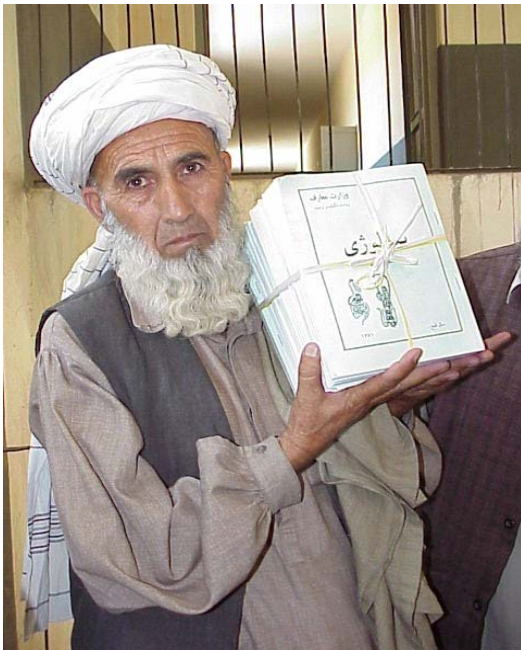
- **Midwife Education in Khost and Jawzjan:** Maternal mortality in Afghanistan is the highest in the world, at 1,600 deaths per 100,000 live births, compared to 7 per 1000 in the U.K. One of the leading causes of mortality is a lack of trained midwives, as 85% (99% in some provinces) of all births are not assisted by a skilled birth attendant. In early September, USAID-funded Midwife Education Programs opened throughout the country.

Recent Progress (continued):

In Khost and Jawzjan provinces, Community Midwife Education Programs began training 55 women, and in Jalalabad, the Hospital Midwife Program opened with 60 new students.



A woman is registered at a local health clinic.



Textbooks for primary education programs.

EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Program Goals:

- 274 schools and 14 provincial women's centers rehabilitated or constructed.
- 16 million textbooks printed & distributed for 2004 school year
- 30,000 classroom teachers trained.
- 170,000 students enrolled in accelerated learning programs to reach their appropriate grade level.

Recent Progress:

- **10 Million Textbooks Distributed:** In 2004, USAID has printed 15,084,060 textbooks and distributed 10,046,202 for use in its accelerated learning activities and other Ministry of Education (MoE) classes. The program also trains teachers, implements accelerated learning programs and provides advisers to the Ministry of Education. Primary education programs are underway in Nangarhar, Faryab, Baghlan and Kunduz provinces. Since 2002, USAID has published and distributed over 40 million textbooks.