

InterAction Member Activity Report

Afghanistan

*A Guide to Humanitarian and Development Efforts of
InterAction Member Agencies in Afghanistan*

May 2004



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fund for UNICEF

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Map of Afghanistan



Map Courtesy of CIA/World Fact Book

Background Summary

Afghanistan remains mired in a prolonged humanitarian crisis as it begins to emerge from more than 20 years of war. A decade of Soviet occupation followed by civil strife and the repressive Taliban regime left the country more deeply impoverished and without a functioning government, adequate infrastructure or essential social services. The situation was compounded following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 by the ensuing international military action. Many people sought refuge in neighboring countries, joining 3.7 million refugees that had already left Afghanistan in earlier years. Relief activities have prevented large-scale famine, and more than two million refugees have now returned home. A new Afghan government has been established and increased international access and aid commitments after the fall of the Taliban have raised the prospect of recovery. However, the government in Kabul is still struggling to restore order to the country, and widespread insecurity is hampering the efforts of aid organizations to provide assistance. Some of the major challenges facing humanitarian organizations are the issues of de-mining, facilitating the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees, and increasing output of agricultural products other than opium poppies. There is also the enormous task of holding free and fair elections, developing a sound financial and banking system, and rebuilding a fragile infrastructure.

Wars and invasions have played a large role in Afghanistan's history, starting with Alexander the Great and subsequent invasions by the Persians, Turks, and Mongols, among whom power vacillated for the next 11 centuries. In 642, the Arab invasion introduced Islam to the region. Afghanistan, as it is currently known, was formed in 1747 under the rule of Ahmad Shah Abdali of the Durrani Empire. In the 19th century, the expanding British and Russian empires clashed over Afghanistan, which resulted in three Anglo-Afghan wars in 70 years. It was only after the third war in 1919 that Afghans were able to declare independence and gain full control of their foreign affairs.

Mohammed Zahir Shah ascended the throne after the assassination of King Nadir Shah in 1933 and ruled over a relatively calm nation until 1973. In that year, a severe drought and an economic downturn set the conditions for a successful military coup led by Zahir's former Prime Minister, Sardar Mohammad Daoud. Five years of modest growth and stability were halted in 1978, when the Afghan Communist Party spearheaded a bloody coup that was followed by two decades of war and civil strife.

In 1979, the Soviet army invaded Afghanistan in order to preserve the faltering and unpopular Communist government. At its peak, this prolonged conflict produced an outflow of 6 million Afghan refugees to Pakistan and Iran. Almost a decade after the invasion, in 1988, the Geneva Peace Accords were signed, bringing an end to the conflict. In 1989, the USSR fully removed all of its troops, leaving behind a country scarred by constant upheaval and with a ruined economy and infrastructure. For the next several years, stability remained elusive as power repeatedly changed hands, resulting in political chaos and warlordism.

In 1996, the Taliban, a fundamentalist Islamic militia, captured Kabul and eventually gained control of 90 percent of the country. Under Taliban rule, religious fundamentalism was state policy, human rights were abused, and development halted. New regulations on foreign aid programs imposed further obstacles for humanitarian aid workers in Afghanistan.

In October 2001, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, US-led forces invaded Afghanistan in order to expunge the terrorist organization blamed for the attacks and oust its Taliban backers. Following the coalition's military victory, Afghan leaders met in Bonn in late 2001 and agreed on a plan for the creation of a new government. Hamid Karzai was inaugurated as the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Authority (AIA), and the following year he was elected President after a nationwide Loya Jirga. According to the Bonn Agreement, nationwide elections are to be held by June 2004.

According to the United Nations, Afghanistan is still near the bottom of human development indicator rankings and among the poorest states in the world. Basic infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, irrigation, canals, telecommunications, and electricity are lacking, damaged or inadequate in much of the country. Key institutions, such as the central bank, civil service, and the judicial system remain extremely weak. The majority of the population continues to suffer from insufficient nutrition, housing, clothing, and medical care.

Approximately 65 percent of the population in urban areas and 81 percent in rural areas do not have access to safe water. It has been reported that still only 25 percent of the urban population, and 12 percent in rural areas, have access to improved sanitation facilities. A mere 6 percent of the population has access to electricity.

Droughts, floods, and earthquakes have all added to the state of pernicious poverty that has plagued Afghanistan. From 1999 to 2002, Afghanistan suffered its worst drought in 30 years. The water shortage contributed to public health problems and lowered agricultural output.

Much of the population, including the landless rural poor, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, as well as people living in chronically food insecure areas and regions affected by persistent drought, still depend on food assistance provided by the humanitarian community. Prior to the prolonged war and drought, Afghan households were able to produce about 86 percent of their food. Now they are only able to cover about 59 percent of their total food requirements. Chronic malnutrition affects over 50 percent of children under five.

The need for international involvement in Afghanistan is heightened by one of the largest United Nations-assisted refugee repatriation efforts in history. Afghan refugees, mostly located in Iran and Pakistan, make up the largest refugee population in the world. But in 2002 alone, over 1.7 million Afghan refugees returned. In addition, there are an estimated 400,000 IDPs in the country, many of them former refugees.

Another aspect of the current humanitarian situation is the lasting effect that years of Taliban rule have had on Afghan women. Prior to the Taliban takeover, many women were able to escape traditional restrictions on their activities. However, many of them missed years of employment and now need intensive training and support to help them rejoin the labor market.

Although more girls are now attending school, on average girls make up only 30 percent of the student population. Six out of ten school age girls are still not receiving basic education, and in some provinces, girls have a one-in-a-hundred chance of going to school.

Access to healthcare for women was severely restricted during the Taliban era, and at 1,600 deaths per 100,000 live births the country is estimated to have the second highest maternal mortality rate in the world. According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Afghanistan also has the world's lowest child survival rate. Infant mortality is estimated at 165 per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality is as high as 257 per 1,000 live births. Life expectancy at birth in Afghanistan is 43 years, compared to 59 years for low-income countries worldwide.

Although NGOs have had a presence in Afghanistan for decades, aid organizations were able to enter the country in greater numbers after the Taliban regime was toppled. This momentum has been halted by the growing insecurity around the country. There is mounting concern that the Taliban is reorganizing, and that regional warlords will not relinquish power to the new government. The deteriorating security situation is a major deterrent for aid organizations as well as capital investment. NGOs have had to withdraw from the most dangerous parts of the country. Eighteen NGO workers were murdered in the fifteen months preceding publication of this report.

The presence of millions of landmines scattered throughout the country represents another security threat. Afghanistan is one of the world's most heavily mined countries. Most of the landmines are on agricultural land, which provides three-quarters of the country's income, making food production dangerous and difficult. Many landmines were placed in the small canals that irrigate farmland so farmers can't use the water for fear of detonating an explosive. Landmines have been cited as one reason why farmers are increasingly growing opium poppies, which require less land and water. Opium poppies, which are processed into heroin, also yield approximately eight times more income per hectare than wheat with less water, less labor, and fewer inputs. As a result, Afghanistan is once again the world's largest opium producer, accounting for more than 75 percent of worldwide opium poppy production. As much as 50 percent of Afghanistan's GDP is estimated to come from this single source. The inability of the central government to discourage poppy production is one reflection of its weakness. The profitability of the narcotics industry demonstrates the failure of governments where the drugs find their market to curb domestic demand.

Report Summary

This report offers international agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the media and the public an overview of the humanitarian and development assistance being provided to the people of Afghanistan by InterAction member agencies.

Twenty-eight member organizations have reported on their current or planned relief and development operations in Afghanistan. The programs address a broad range of sectors, including: agriculture and food production; business development; disaster and emergency relief; economic development; education and training; food security; gender issues; health; human rights, peace and conflict resolution; infrastructure rehabilitation; refugee and IDP assistance; and water and sanitation. These activities take place in a number of locations throughout the country.

The agencies in this report have presented various objectives for their programs in Afghanistan. Many deal with addressing the immediate needs of the refugee/IDP population through the distribution of food and non-food supplies, provision of health care services and education. Some agencies focus on particularly vulnerable populations, such as women and children. Other common themes among program objectives include human rights, agriculture, infrastructure rehabilitation and small business development.

Many of the agencies in this report work with the support of, or in coordination with, local and international partners.

Organizations by Sector Activity

Agriculture and Food Production

Action Against Hunger
Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.
CARE
Catholic Relief Services
Christian Children's Fund
Food for the Hungry
GOAL
International Relief and Development
The International Rescue Committee
Life for Relief & Development
Lutheran World Relief
Mercy Corps
Oxfam
Save the Children
United Methodist Committee on Relief
World Vision

Business Development

Life for Relief & Development
Lutheran World Relief
Save the Children
United Methodist Committee on Relief
World Concern

Civil Society

Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.
American Friends Service Committee
CARE
Concern Worldwide
Mercy Corps
Oxfam

DDR

Christian Children's Fund
The International Rescue Committee
US Fund for UNICEF
World Vision

Disaster and Emergency Relief

Action Against Hunger
Adventist Development and Relief
Agency International
CARE
Church World Service
Concern Worldwide
Life for Relief & Development
Lutheran World Relief
Save the Children
World Vision

Economic Development

Adventist Development and Relief
Agency International
Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.
Christian Children's Fund
Church World Service
GOAL
International Medical Corps
Mercy Corps
Oxfam
Relief International
United Methodist Committee on Relief

Education and Training

Adventist Development and Relief
Agency International
Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.
American Friends Service Committee
American Jewish World Service
CARE
Catholic Relief Services
Christian Children's Fund
Church World Service
Food for the Hungry
GOAL
Help the Afghan Children
International Medical Corps
The International Rescue Committee
Life for Relief & Development
Lutheran World Relief

Mercy Corps
Oxfam
Relief International
Save the Children
United Methodist Committee on Relief
US Fund for UNICEF
World Vision

Food Security

Action Against Hunger
Adventist Development and Relief
Agency International
Concern Worldwide
GOAL
World Concern
World Vision

Gender Issues

American Jewish World Service
CARE
Christian Children's Fund
GOAL
International Medical Corps
Life for Relief & Development
Lutheran World Relief
Oxfam
Relief International
Save the Children
US Fund for UNICEF

Health

Action Against Hunger
Adventist Development and Relief
Agency International
Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.
American Jewish World Service
Americares
Church World Service
Help the Afghan Children
International Medical Corps
The International Rescue Committee
Life for Relief & Development
Oxfam
Save the Children
United Methodist Committee on Relief
US Fund for UNICEF

World Vision

Human Rights, Peace & Conflict Resolution

American Friends Service Committee
CARE
Catholic Relief Services
Christian Children's Fund
Help the Afghan Children
Life for Relief & Development
Save the Children
United Methodist Committee on Relief

Infrastructure Rehabilitation

Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.
American Friends Service Committee
CARE
Christian Children's Fund
Concern Worldwide
GOAL
International Relief and Development
Oxfam

Refugee and IDP Assistance

Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.
Catholic Relief Services
GOAL
Life for Relief & Development
International Medical Corps
Save the Children
United Methodist Committee on Relief
USA For UNHCR
World Vision

Water and Sanitation

Action Against Hunger
CARE
Christian Children's Fund
Church World Service
Concern Worldwide
Life for Relief & Development
Oxfam
US Fund for UNICEF
World Vision

Glossary of Acronyms

Acronyms

ACF/USA
ADRA
AKF
AFSC
AJWS
CRS
CCF
CWS
HTAC
IMC
IRD
IRC
LWR
RI
UMCOR
WV

InterAction Member

Action Against Hunger/USA
Adventist Development and Relief Agency International
Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.
American Friends Service Committee
American Jewish World Service
Catholic Relief Services
Christian Children's Fund
Church World Service
Help the Afghan Children
International Medical Corps
International Relief and Development
International Rescue Committee
Lutheran World Relief
Relief International
United Methodist Committee on Relief
World Vision

Other Acronyms

ACBAR Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief
ACT Action by Churches Together
AIA Afghan Interim Authority
AIL Afghan Institute of Learning
AKDN Aga Khan Development Network
ARAO Afghan Rehabilitation and Agricultural Organization
CBOs Community-based Organizations
CHI Creating Hopes International
CHW Catholic Healthcare West
DFID Department for International Development
ECHO European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office
EU European Union
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICRC International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP Internally displaced person
IFRC International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IOM International Organization for Migration
MCH Maternal and Child Health Care
MoRR The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation
NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NFI Non-food Item
NGO Non-governmental Organization
NIS Newly Independent States

OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OFDA	USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
PHC	Primary Health Care
PRM	State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration
PVO	Private Voluntary Organization
RAP	Rural Assistance Project
RefWID	Refugee Women In Development
UN	United Nations
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
USAID	US Agency for International Development
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Action Against Hunger

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Introduction to Action Against Hunger

Action Against Hunger/Action Contre la Faim intervenes in crisis situations to bring immediate assistance to the victims of war and famine. The first victims are mostly women, children and minority groups. ACF/USA's four main approaches to fight against hunger are nutrition, food security, health, water and sanitation. On a longer-term basis, ACF/USA's objective is to help these victims to regain their autonomy by restoring their food self-sufficiency.

Action Against Hunger in Afghanistan

Action Against Hunger has been working in Afghanistan since 1995. The goal of ACF/USA in Afghanistan is to assist the most vulnerable population, who have been affected by more than 20 years of war and four years of drought.

Until 2002, ACF/USA was working in Kabul (medical-nutritional and water and sanitation programs), in Panjsheer and Shamali plain (Programs in Nutrition) and in Hâzaradjat (medical and Food security programs). Currently ACF is implementing nutritional and food security surveillance programs in 7 districts.

Kabul City

12 Therapeutic Feeding Centres admitting about 1,500 severely malnourished children per year; 2 Comprehensive Health Centres + 4 Basic Health Centres with an average of 11,500 curative consultations per month; Child Care Practices for 1,560 couples with malnourished children; water and sanitation activities covering about 300,000 persons; health education for about 15,000 households visited; vulnerability mapping.

Panjsheer Valley and Shamali Plain

3 Therapeutic Feeding Centres admitting 400 severely malnourished children per year + 8 Supplementary Feeding Centres admitting 7,000 moderately malnourished children per year.

Hâzaradjat (Districts of Sharestan and Daï Kundi)

3 Comprehensive Health Centres + 6 Basic Health Centres + 12 health posts; micro-projects in food security and water & sanitation.

Ghor (Tāiwara and Pasaband Districts)

Vegetable seed distributions to 2,500 families; water and sanitation program (construction of 50 wells).

Mazaar-e-Sharif

Water and sanitation program within schools.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency International

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Introduction to Adventist Development and Relief Agency International

ADRA International is an independent humanitarian agency established in 1984 for the specific purposes of individual and community development and disaster relief. ADRA has a presence in more than 120 countries.

ADRA strives to support the dignity that is inherent in each person. Committed to improving quality of human life, ADRA helps people in need, especially those most vulnerable such as women, children and the elderly. ADRA serves people without regard to their ethnic, political or religious association.

ADRA's development and relief work is divided among five core portfolio activities: Food Security, Economic Development, Primary Health, Disaster Preparedness and Response, and Basic Education.

Through humanitarian activities, ADRA is changing the world, one life at a time.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency International in Afghanistan

ADRA Afghanistan has been recognized by the government since May 2002 and is a member of ACBAR (NGO coordination body). Assistance has come to Afghanistan through the ADRA network since 1997. Since the establishment of ADRA Afghanistan it has had 49 projects in several sectors:

- Day care center teachers in Kabul trained for the CHW and TAB in the Central Highlands.
- A kindergarten and school for the blind assisted by material, food and teacher salaries.
- 25 hectares of fertile government land reclaimed from bush-land to start an agricultural training center for either poor, uneducated, landless locals, IDPs, or for reintegration of ex-soldiers who have been demobilized and disarmed to give them an economic future. Integrated in this training program are also cooperative and microfinance elements. Duration: 5 years.
- In the winter of 2002/3, over 35,000 of the most vulnerable families in 11 Provinces (parts or even entirely) benefited from quilts and mattresses made by

Afghan widows in Kabul and Jalalabad and over 10,000 families received a stove, tarpaulin and transparent plastic sheeting. Several thousand families received adult winter clothes (men and women). UNICEF children's clothes were distributed to 5,000 families as well as food and kitchen equipment.

- Capacity-building provided in a government training school for Internists by lecturing in Cardiology and by providing a modern ECG machine, counseling on the IC-rounds and teaching English one day per week for six months. The booklet, "*From Birth to 5 Years*" was edited into Dari. An English course was also given to doctors.
- Multiple projects in several orphanages (the largest with over 2,000 children) assisted with food, school materials, clothes, sports outfits, toys, teddy bears, as well as salaries and material for vocational training (VT) for tailoring, shoe making and carpentry.
- Several schools (the largest was for 1,250 boys and girls) were built or rehabilitated, equipped with chairs and tables and some with wells and recreation equipment.
- Several projects aimed at women empowerment with courses given in poultry raising, soap-making, leatherwork, and literacy courses including health education and geography of Afghanistan.
- Educational courses given to caretakers of pre-schoolers in many day care centers in Kabul and toys provided for the children.
- Developing the basis for the delivery of basic health for 250,000 people in two districts of the Bamyan Province in the Central Highlands The project began with the training and building up of a very limited infrastructure.
- Shelter, pit-latrines and wells constructed for 400 most vulnerable families last summer and shelter building in Dara-I-Nur District of the Nangarhar Province during the winter of 2002/3 for 660 most vulnerable families.
- School surveys completed in three provinces for the planning and selection of schools to be rehabilitated or newly constructed.

Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.

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Introduction to Aga Khan Foundation USA

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is a group of private development agencies founded by His Highness the Aga Khan that work in partnership to improve living conditions in the poorest regions of Asia and Africa. The Network's organizations have individual mandates that range from the fields of health and education to architecture, rural development and the promotion of private sector enterprise. The agencies combine their expertise and experience within a collective vision to build institutions and programs that help vulnerable communities. Working to catalyze change, AKDN promotes opportunities for communities and individuals – regardless of ethnicity, religion or gender – to attain dignity through self-reliance. Such activities include promoting agricultural programs, enterprise schemes, health programs, educational opportunities, and local organizations. To ensure that achievements prosper in the long run, AKDN is committed to working with communities at the grassroots. It seeks to help people build the capacity to make choices that affect their lives in creative, pragmatic, culturally appropriate, and financially effective ways.

AKDN agencies operate in social, economic and cultural development. Its social agencies include Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS), Aga Khan Education Services (AKES), and the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services (AKPBS), Aga Khan University (AKU) and University of Central Asia (UCA). AKFED is the only for-profit institution in the Network AKFED carries out AKDN's activities in economic development, serving essentially as an equity investor rather than a lender. AKFED's network of companies and financial institutions are grouped by sector of activity under Industrial Promotion Services, Tourism Promotion Services, Financial Services, Aviation Services and Media Services. And the Aga Khan Trust for Culture is a non-denominational philanthropic foundation that coordinates the cultural activities of AKDN.

Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. in Afghanistan

Objectives and Strategic Focus

The AKDN has been present in Afghanistan, through its affiliate agency Focus Humanitarian Assistance, since 1996. In October 2001, the AKDN transformed the existing humanitarian/rehabilitation effort in Afghanistan into a long-term development

program, focusing on agriculture-based area development in the northern provinces, and supporting national level programs in teacher training, nurse training, the establishment of a micro-finance institution, urban upgrading around historic sites and the establishment of a private not-for-profit health system in selected areas of the country. These efforts are complemented by private sector equity investments in tourism, hospitality sector, and telecommunications.

In March 2002, His Highness the Aga Khan visited Kabul and signed an Agreement of Co-operation with the Interim Administration, which provides a framework for the AKDN's work in Afghanistan. In addition to the \$75 million pledged by His Highness at the Tokyo Conference in January 2002, an additional \$2 million was made available to the Loya Jirga Commission to enable it to complete its work.

The Aga Khan Development Network's objectives in Afghanistan are to:

- Support the process of establishing a modern state in Afghanistan, with stable and mutually beneficial relations with its neighbours;
- Assist the process of establishing the foundations of a pluralistic society in which all ethnic groups, men and women have the opportunity to improve their lives and the freedom to practice their faith as a basic human right;
- Assist relevant partners to help refugees return to their areas of origin, and provide them with support to reacquire their assets and reconstruct their lives;
- Establish community-based and other development programs aimed at improving people's livelihoods and prospects.

AKDN's Geographical Location

- Area development initiatives aim to build an integrated, multi-sectoral rural development program covering sizeable populations. Geographically, these focus on selected districts in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Samangan, Bamyán and Parvan with a total population of approximately 1.4 million people.
- Sectoral development programs mostly focus on water and sanitation interventions in selected districts of Thakar, Kunduz, Balkh and Parvan.
- Urban-based programs, including support to cultural rehabilitation and urban regeneration, higher education, nursing and micro-finance enterprise development are carried out in Kabul, Puli-Khumri, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat and Jalalabad.

AKDN has central offices located in Kabul, 3 regional offices, and 13 district offices.

Programs

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

AKDN's Natural Resource Management program works to ensure access to appropriate farming inputs and encourage the adoption of improved and productive arable farming and livestock husbandry practices. The main approaches of the program are to:

- Optimize the use of locally available resources through participatory farming systems;
- Strengthen agriculture infrastructure at the village level;

- Introduce sustainable new agricultural technology and inputs;
- Encourage participation of women in all activities related to the food security of communities; and
- Reinforce the civil society and local capacities for recovery and development.

Activities include provision of diverse varieties of agriculture inputs, establishment of tree nurseries and watersheds, and animal husbandry. Training programs for village based agriculture officials are being developed to enable them to provide agriculture extension services to the targeted farmers.

Enterprise Development Program (EDP)

Increasing rural on-farm and off-farm cash incomes by developing and testing realistic and sustainable income generating opportunities that can be scaled up over time is the core approach of AKDN's program strategy. The EDP focuses on taking to scale pilot projects initiated in 2003 in apricot drying, bee keeping, establishing greenhouses and private nurseries, and local wool weaving. Efforts identify new avenues for income generation initiatives through market assessments and dialogue with local people.

Education

The education program aims to support the national agenda to raise the standard of education in Afghanistan by contributing to making it more relevant, effective and efficient, with a special emphasis on gender equity. The core elements of the program are to:

- Improve the quality of teaching in government schools in the target provinces, through strengthening of key education training institutions and Department of Education;
- Improve local support structures for schools through increased community involvement; and
- Ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for students through the rehabilitation of education infrastructure.

AKDN initiated the education program in Afghanistan in early 2002. Thus far, the main activities of the education program involve rehabilitation and construction of government schools, rehabilitation and support to teacher training activities of the two Teacher Training Colleges in Pul-I-Khumri and Sheghnan. Master trainers were hired and trained to conduct teacher-training programs in government schools. AKDN supported the Back to School campaign by distributing textbooks to 194 schools in Afghanistan.

Health – Aga Khan Health Service (AKHS)

AKDN is in the process of constructing Basic Health Centers and Comprehensive Health Centers in the core program areas. Four out of 7 health centers have already been opened and are fully operational with trained staff. Basic Health Workers and Traditional Birth Attendants have been selected by communities and are under going training provided by AKDN. In addition, AKDN supports a nurse-training program in Kabul.

The core elements of AKDN's health program in Afghanistan are to:

- Improve the health status of the population in selected districts with a particular emphasis on primary health care;
- Establish a community-based program with basic health facilities for village clusters and a strengthened referral system;
- Develop a unified system that includes a complimentary partnership with government and;
- Generate strong links with the government training institution for midwives and nurses, IMEI, which is supported through Aga Khan University's nurse-training programs and provide support for the Noor Eye Hospital in Kabul.

Community-Based Development

The community development approach transcends and incorporates all elements of AKDN's rural support programs. Community participation in AKDN interventions is mobilized through a network of Social Organisers who facilitate community development through participatory needs assessment; priority setting; solution definition; project identification and monitoring and evaluation.

Currently AKF is a facilitating partner for National Solidarity Programme (NSP), executed by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development with funding from the International Development Association. AKF's target area for the NSP is in Baghlan and Badakhshan Provinces. The primary role of the facilitating partner is to support an inclusive community planning process to reach consensus on priorities and project proposals, assist the community to develop eligible proposals that comply with NSP appraisal criteria, and assist the community with regard to its implementation of approved project proposals. Also the program introduces democratic governance principles at the grassroots level.

Infrastructure

Supporting the reconstruction and provision of new physical infrastructure is vital for the delivery of quality social services and economic development. AKDN's infrastructure program aims to:

- Rehabilitate and construct education and health infrastructure, as part of AKDN's long-term capacity building programs in these sectors;
- Increase access to safe water and sanitation through supporting communities in the construction of wells, piped water schemes and latrines, as well as providing health and hygiene education;
- Provide access to electricity through the introduction of micro- hydro power; and
- Rehabilitate and construct roads and bridges to overcome isolation of rural communities from access to markets and services.

Humanitarian Aid – FOCUS Europe

FOCUS Europe is an affiliated agency of AKDN and has been present in Afghanistan since 1996. The overall objective of the program is to respond to man-made disasters and mitigate the effects of the natural disasters. FOCUS does this through the distribution of food and non-food items to vulnerable communities in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Bamyan, Takhar, Kunduz, Samangan and Parvan through Food-for-Work and Food-for-Assets

Creation programs. Last year, FOCUS began a supplemental feeding program by distributing milk to approximately 20,000 schoolchildren in vulnerable areas of Badakhshan.

Refugee Repatriation – FOCUS Canada

FOCUS Canada is an affiliated agency of AKDN whose overall objective is to facilitate the return and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced people. Focus Canada has assisted 40,000 refugees to resettle from Pakistan and Iran; constructed 2,530 shelters and 28 wells in Baghlan and Bamyan; and supported vocational training, winter assistance for vulnerable families, land and asset reclamation assistance and social services referral programs for returnees.

Cultural Development

Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC)

Main elements of the program include:

Rehabilitate Babur garden, including the “Queen’s Palace”, the central pavilion, Babur’s tomb, Shah Jahan’s mosque and the whole irrigation system

- Rehabilitate historic housing district in Asheqan wa Arefan; and
- Restore Timur Shah mausoleum and re-structuring of the markets around the building and the square

Economic Development – Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED)

Micro Credit

Micro credit activities are being carried out in two zones in Kabul and five districts in Baghlan, in addition to the rural credit program in Badakhshan.

AKFED received a banking license for the establishment of the First Micro-Finance Bank in September 2003. The institution is the first of its kind to be established under the country’s new regulatory structure. The Bank will focus on the poor and undeserved and target small businesses, which are expected to be Afghanistan’s central source of economic growth and employment for the foreseeable future.

Investments in Hospitality Sector

Equity investment of \$25 million has been injected into the region through the re-development of the Kabul Serena Hotel (formerly the Kabul Hotel). This project is an investment in Afghanistan's hospitality sector and will allow AKDN to contribute to the development of the economy through the training of skilled manpower, reinvigoration of artisan and craft industries and an upgrading of the urban fabric in a sensitive manner.

Telecommunications

Working to improve the communication infrastructure in the country is considered a high priority for AKDN. To that end, AKFED is providing a GSM system for mobile communication initially targeted at six main cities in Afghanistan including, Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kunduz. The phased initiative, entailing an initial investment of \$55 million, is expected to expand its coverage to other cities

over the next four to five years. Subsequent phases will raise investment in the GSM network to \$120 million over the coming decade.

Special Concerns

Afghanistan today continues to face a challenging political, economic and social situation. AKDN's commitment to Afghanistan's reconstruction and development is long term, and its efforts are motivated by the priorities of Afghans at the community level. Core objectives include strengthening community mobilization, encouraging sustainable agricultural livelihoods, re-establishing national institutions, building human resource capacity and facilitating regional integration. AKDN's work is driven by its commitment to help the Afghan people establish a modern and pluralistic state. Echoing concerns of other development agencies and international donors, the priority for AKDN has been to make the shift from humanitarian activities to long-term development as soon as possible. However, the transition period has taken a longer time than anticipated. In the last two years AKDN focused more of its time in the transition process that resulted in delaying the development projects.

AKF is working in the areas where poppy cultivation has increased dramatically in the last two years. AKDN is implementing integrated rural rehabilitation activities to improve livelihoods and curb poppy production. The USA and UK Governments fund the current project. AKDN has initiated this project with the expectation that there will be law enforcement in the area. However the law enforcement has been weak and poppy cultivation has increased in the core program areas of AKDN. AKDN has had to adjust its program strategy in line with these developments. It is clear that the program itself, without being complemented by effective interdiction measures, will not be able to contribute to a reduction of opium production in the target areas.

American Friends Service Committee

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Introduction to the American Friends Service Committee

The American Friends Service Committee carries out service, development, social justice, and peace education. Founded in 1917 to provide conscientious objectors with an opportunity to aid civilian victims during World War I, the AFSC currently has work in 43 locations in the US and 22 locations worldwide.

The American Friends Service Committee in Afghanistan

AFSC work in Afghanistan is in the sector of Education and Peace Training and Psychosocial Wellness.

AFSC is constructing schools in several locations and supporting literacy training for women. Training courses in peace and psychosocial wellness will be developed with communities in the areas where we build schools. Community mobilization processes will be used to introduce school construction and community outreach. Peace and psychosocial wellness will be an integral part of all activities in our target areas.

American Jewish World Service

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Introduction to American Jewish World Service

American Jewish World Service is a not-for-profit international development organization that works on a non-sectarian basis, on behalf of the Jewish community, throughout the developing world and in Russia and Ukraine. AJWS provides humanitarian support, technical assistance, and skilled volunteers to local NGOs working on a variety of social programs including literacy, women's health, sustainable agriculture, education, and business development through micro-credit loans. Additionally, AJWS engages in international relief and reconstruction in response to natural and manmade disasters. Founded in 1985, AJWS provides a vehicle through which American Jews can be engaged as global citizens, working for the betterment of humanity.

American Jewish World Service in Afghanistan

Grant support to Afghan Institute of Learning to support a pilot regranting program, providing training, ongoing technical assistance and seed grants to three or four community based Afghan educational organizations in different regions of the country, and to support health education and services through the health clinic in Jaghartan, Herat and mobile health clinic reaching 45 villages in the surrounding area.

Grant support to Afghan Women's Resource Center to provide a year of literacy, health and life-skills training to one hundred women and girls in Khwaja Khel village, Parwan province.

AmeriCares

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Introduction to AmeriCares

AmeriCares is a nonprofit disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization that provides immediate response to emergency medical needs -- and supports long-term humanitarian assistance programs -- for all people around the world, irrespective of race, creed or political persuasion. AmeriCares solicits donations of medicines, medical supplies and other relief materials from U.S. and international manufacturers and delivers them quickly and efficiently to indigenous healthcare and welfare professionals around the world

AmeriCares in Afghanistan

AmeriCares' objectives for Afghanistan are to continue to provide ongoing humanitarian assistance in the form of medicines, medical supplies, and other relief materials (including blankets, children's boots, clothing, dental hygiene supplies, nutritional supplements, school supplies, etc.) through partners working in provinces including: Kabul, Kandahar, and Kapisa.

Since early in 2002, AmeriCares has been shipping supplies (via air and sea) to address the acute humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Most recently, AmeriCares shipped 10,000 pairs of Timberland children's boots, 2 sea containers of toothbrushes and toothpaste, as well as several shipments of medicines and supplies for dozens of health and social service facilities. The agency has also shipped medical equipment, including diagnostic equipment, vital signs and cardiac monitoring equipment, and a six-month supply of 5 essential medications for 44 health facilities in four different provinces. AmeriCares plans to send another shipment to Afghanistan in the coming weeks, including vitamins, diagnostic equipment, and other materials requested by our partners, and several of the main referral centers in Kabul.

AmeriCares intends to continue providing support to its partners, despite security constraints. AmeriCares believes that as security risks increase, and aid organizations are forced to leave, the needs also increase dramatically. The agency's model of partnering with local groups provides it with the ability to guarantee ongoing assistance even during the most difficult times. AmeriCares has visited Afghanistan several times, and intends to return in the coming months.

CARE

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Introduction to CARE

CARE is one of the world's leading humanitarian organizations fighting global poverty. CARE is committed to addressing the underlying causes of poverty and human suffering. The organization helps communities overcome poverty through programs in education, health, water and sanitation, food, agriculture and natural resources, economic development, and emergency response.

CARE in Afghanistan

CARE's current work in Afghanistan builds on a long and successful history dating back to the early 1960s. Although operations were suspended during the Soviet-Afghan conflict, CARE has maintained a constant presence in Afghanistan since 1989, even during the period of Taliban rule. As one of the few large international humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan during these difficult years, CARE established strong ties with the families and communities with whom it worked.

Almost all of CARE's work is currently concentrated in ten provinces in the southeast and center of the country: Bamiyan, Parwan, Kapisa, Kabul, Wardak, Logar, Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika and Khost. Over the next five years, CARE plans to reach even more high-need communities, with a focus on extremely impoverished areas not reached by other assistance. CARE is one of the largest poverty-fighting organizations currently working in Afghanistan, with a staff of nearly 800 people (99 percent Afghan).

In 2002 alone, CARE assisted more than 4.3 million people through the following emergency aid and community development programs:

- Emergency relief and rehabilitation, including food distribution and infrastructure repair;
- Water and sanitation provision, including health education;
- Assistance to vulnerable widows through the provision of food and vocational training;
- Rural programming to assist drought-stricken farming communities;
- Reconstruction of public works, such as roads, schools and irrigation systems;
- Basic education, with a focus on girls' education; and

- Local capacity building to strengthen the capability of Afghan organizations.

With its broad scope and reach, its lengthy history in Afghanistan, and its successes to date, CARE is widely seen at every level – from rural villages to the highest tiers of the Afghan government, as well as by the international donor community – as an effective, efficient and trusted partner in Afghanistan’s reconstruction.

CARE is launching a new five-year action plan¹ focusing on community self-reliance, peace and good governance, and women’s and children’s rights in poor and marginalized communities across Afghanistan. New and existing CARE programs fuel economic growth, create job opportunities, reinvigorate agricultural production, and strengthen the ability of Afghan organizations to fight poverty and promote peace and security, thus reducing and eventually eliminating their reliance on international aid organizations. CARE is positioned to respond to any emergency, providing assistance to help save lives and build community capacity to recover from disasters.

Peace and Good Governance

Looking ahead, one of CARE’s major priorities is to help strengthen the capacity of the Afghan government to provide social services to the Afghan poor and marginalized. While international donors have committed funds to strengthen the government’s capacity and authority, CARE is in the unique position of being able to share its technical expertise in developing and carrying out successful community programs that address underlying causes of poverty. CARE will therefore work in closer partnership with government ministries, including training and capacity building for ministry staff, while aiming to hold them accountable to their responsibilities to the Afghan poor. CARE already partners with many ministries, including Education and Rural Reconstruction and Development.

CARE plans to develop and integrate peace-building components, such as training in conflict resolution, into our education and rural assistance programs next year.

Advocacy

Since the fall of the Taliban, CARE has advocated intensively for policies that promote the rights of the Afghan poor by focusing on long-term reconstruction, reconciliation, security and expanded roles for Afghan women. To this end, CARE has issued three policy briefs in the past two years focusing on security, funding and other priority issues for Afghanistan’s future. CARE’s next policy brief will focus on the rights of Afghan women and will assess the progress made since the Taliban left power. CARE has also shared its on-the-ground knowledge with policymakers both inside and outside Afghanistan: in testimony before the U.S. Congress and meetings with the UN, NATO and Afghan officials. CARE also works in partnership with other non-governmental organizations on advocacy. CARE is an active member of ACBAR, the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghanistan, and the Human Rights Research and Advocacy

¹ The five-year plan was developed following lengthy analysis and discussion of the problems, challenges and opportunities facing Afghanistan, and builds on CARE’s expertise and technical capacity.

Consortium. CARE believes that its advocacy has had a significant long-term benefit in terms of improved security and the increased availability of critical reconstruction resources for the people of Afghanistan.

Women's and Children's Rights

CARE is seeking \$250,000 in funding to develop new programs to better address issues relating to women's and children's rights and needs, such as education, income generation and health care. This focus is especially important in Afghanistan, where traditional beliefs and practices have marginalized women and children.

CARE will also use these funds to expand its education program, which has grown and evolved significantly in the post-Taliban era. Originally focused on establishing and supporting community-managed schools in rural areas, CARE's approach is evolving to include accelerated learning programs for girls and women who lost many precious years of educational opportunities under the Taliban. CARE's community schools program currently educates more than 40,000 children (57 percent female), and the agency's Fast-Track program for older girls has enrolled more than 2,000 students in nine urban accelerated learning centers. Future plans include the gradual transition of the established community schools into public, government-supported schools and the continued development of new schools in remote, rural areas.

Emergency Relief and Reconstruction

In communities affected by drought and conflict, CARE's Emergency Response Program distributes food and tools, helps improve basic infrastructure (wells, roads, irrigation systems and houses), and supports various "food-for-work" and "cash-for-work" programs to jumpstart local economies and provide incentives for people to rebuild their homes and villages. The program also works with communities in the Shomali valley to rebuild their war-ravaged homes. CARE's Winter Income and Support Project (WISH), helps families most in need meet their basic shelter, health and heating needs during the winter by providing short-term employment. In 2003, CARE's emergency activities assisted more than 500,000 refugees and internally displaced people in returning home, supporting the rehabilitation of essential rural infrastructure and reconstruction efforts.

Water and Sanitation

CARE's Water and Sanitation Program provides clean drinking water and health education to improve the overall health of families in the cities of Kabul and Ghazni. In Kabul alone, CARE's two pumping stations provide clean water to more than 400,000 people.

Humanitarian Assistance for Widows

Families headed by widows are among Afghanistan's most destitute and vulnerable. To meet nutritional needs, CARE provides a monthly food ration of wheat, beans and cooking oil to 10,000 widows and their children (60,000 people in total). Widows also receive health education and vocational training, such as learning to raise chickens, vegetable gardening, sewing and embroidery. These activities build their self-sufficiency and confidence.

Support for Rural Areas

By increasing access to necessities such as productive land, clean water and employment opportunities, CARE's Rural Assistance Project (RAP) has fostered the repatriation and reintegration of refugee families into their home communities. In 2002, RAP reached 413,000 people in rural, drought-stricken communities.

Reconstruction of Public Works

One of CARE's newest programs is the Labor-Intensive Works Program that upgrades and repairs roads, irrigation systems, schools and clinics in 13 rural provinces. The program, implemented in collaboration with local partners and the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development, will generate jobs for up to 2 million people while improving essential infrastructure.

Basic Education

CARE's Education Program has two primary components: the Community Organized Primary Education (COPE) Project that establishes and supports village-run schools; and the new "Fast-Track" Project to help older girls (aged 9-14) complete their basic education in only three years. More than 46,000 children, 57 percent girls, are currently attending 480 COPE schools, and approximately 2,300 older girls are attending three "Fast-Track" schools in Kabul. CARE also works at the provincial, district and community level to enhance the capacity of the Afghan Ministry of Education to be responsive to community education needs. CARE has trained teachers and supervisors from the Ministry of Education. CARE is part of the Afghanistan Basic Education Consortium of four NGOs (CARE, CRS, International Rescue Committee and Save the Children/IS) that collaborates with the Ministry of Education to work with communities to improve girls' access to education.

Local Capacity Building

CARE is committed to building the capacity of local Afghan organizations to design and implement small-scale poverty eradication and peace-building programs, such as education, agricultural rehabilitation, infrastructure repair and vocational training. As part of the National Solidarity Program, CARE helps communities in Paktia and Ghazni elect development councils, identify community priorities, secure funding and carry out their projects. CARE's Partnership Umbrella Initiative also provides financial support and training in project design, financial management and organizational strengthening. CARE currently partners with several dozen local organizations in Afghanistan, including Aschiana, which provides education and vocational training to street children.

Catholic Relief Services

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Introduction to Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services is the official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Founded in 1943, the agency provides assistance to people in over 90 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. CRS is committed to provide assistance to the poor on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality.

Catholic Relief Services in Afghanistan

CRS has been assisting people of Afghanistan for the last twelve years, most recently through the Caritas Organization for Aid to Afghanistan, a cooperative effort on the part of CRS, Caritas Germany, Caritas France and Caritas Denmark. Since November 2001 the agency has focused on providing emergency assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan as well as reconstruction, rehabilitation and rural livelihood projects in Afghanistan to facilitate repatriation for the returning refugees and internally displaced population. CRS' activities include non-formal education for out of school youth, agriculture rehabilitation and livelihood support. The objective of all CRS interventions is ultimately to strengthen community capacities so that Afghan communities can lead the rebuilding process of Afghanistan.

Agricultural Rehabilitation and Rural Livelihoods Support

CRS/Afghanistan's Agricultural Rehabilitation program focuses on vulnerable communities with a high number of returnees and whose agricultural activities and structures have been severely affected by war, drought and population movement. The program is centered on rural communities in Herat, Ghowr and Kandahar Provinces. CRS and its partners work with local Shuras(village councils) to identify the community structures and systems that can be rehabilitated with the greatest affect on the agricultural potential of the community. These structures can include open irrigation canals, below ground irrigation canals (called karez), roads, household water structures, livestock water structures, water catchments, and other productive infrastructure. CRS and its partners rehabilitate these structures through cash for work, providing the beneficiaries with cash for immediate needs, as well as improved means to support their families into the future. Program participants: CRS serves 13,700 families (82,200 beneficiaries) through cash for work rehabilitation activities.

Rural Livelihoods

CRS/Afghanistan's Rural Livelihoods Support program is implemented in an integrated fashion with the rehabilitation project. In the same communities in rural Kandahar, Ghowr and Herat, CRS works with the local Shuras to identify the most vulnerable families from among the returnee and remainee groups. These families receive a grant of material inputs that they will use to generate income. An individual grant is flexible and depends on the request of the beneficiary. They can be for both farm and non-farm activities and can include tools, seeds, fertilizers, and raw materials for marketable carpets. The income from these activities will provide for basic needs and the continued livelihoods of the families.

Program Participants

The Rural Livelihood Support program serves 10,750 families (64,500 beneficiaries).

Education

Working in collaboration with a local Afghan NGO, YCDP and the Ministry of Education, CRS is implementing an accelerated education program for youth and demobilized fighters. The purpose of this program is to help rural youth, especially women, catch up with the schooling they had missed due to war, cultural constraints and poverty. By designing a compressed curriculum and using special teaching techniques, this education system ensures that students finish their regular school year within six months and can be integrated back into the regular school system.

CRS has set up these accelerated learning centers in 19 villages of Kapisa and Parwan provinces of Afghanistan. Innovative initiatives like involvement of community leaders, training of education facilitators and joyful learning pedagogy has led to the success of this program in rural Afghanistan.

Program participants: Through March 2004, 3,200 students and 222 education facilitators and facilitator trainers

CRS/Afghanistan also funded the rehabilitation of two large urban schools in Kabul. This project benefited a total of 15,000 students, including 10,000 girls.

Peace and Civic Empowerment

The CRS/Afghanistan program for peace and civic empowerment anchors peace building interventions within an emerging network of education and livelihood focused, civic structures in Parwan, Kapisa, Herat and Kandahar provinces of Afghanistan. CRS and its partners in all four provinces have supported the revitalization of traditional 'shuras'-local councils, which had been destroyed during the Taliban regime. These councils, consisting mainly of elders, are gatekeepers to community participation, mediate social issues and govern community resources. Strengthening of these strong civic structures will be key, not only for the sustainability of CRS' development initiatives but to pave the path for conflict resolution and peace building within and between communities.

In addition to its programs in Afghanistan, CRS also continues to support Afghan refugee camps in Peshawar. CRS has supplied food and non food items to 2,500 refugees in the Jalozai camp of Pakistan. Also water and sanitation systems were installed in old Bagzai, Asgharo and Basu camps. 935 Afghan women in these camps also received health and personal hygiene training.

Christian Children's Fund

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Introduction to Christian Children's Fund

CCF creates an environment of hope and respect for needy children of all cultures and beliefs in which they have opportunities to achieve their full potential and provides practical tools for positive change--to children, families and communities. CCF works for the well being of children by supporting locally led initiatives that strengthen families and communities, helping them overcome poverty and protect the rights of their children. CCF programs are comprehensive--incorporating health, education, nutrition and livelihood interventions that sustainably protect, nurture and develop children. CCF works in any environment where poverty, conflict and disaster threaten the well being of children.

Christian Children's Fund in Afghanistan

Agriculture

In December 2002, CCF distributed winter wheat seed and fertilizers in the Kunduz province to 650 poor farm families who will repay the value of the materials on in-kind basis to other vulnerable families in their communities; in the spring CCF distributed vegetable seeds and tool kits to 1,900 poor farmers in the Kunduz province. In autumn 2003, CCF was Implementing Partner for the FAO wheat seed distribution to 3,400 small farmers.

Construction

Under a UNFAO sponsored project, CCF is renovating the MAAH/FAO building in Kunduz. CCF has also completed the construction of three schools in the Taqhar province and is slated to complete an additional three with funding from BMZ and CCF Kinderhilfswerk. With the assistance of a grant from the US State Department, and BPRM, six schools have been completed - four in Kunduz and two in Faizabad.

Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants

CCF is the Implementing Partner for the Afghanistan New Beginning Project (UNDP funded) through which more 600 ex-combatants and their families benefit from a package including wheat seeds and fertilizers, livestock and kitchen gardening. Training courses aim both at increasing technical knowledge and skills, and at reintegration in the local community.

CCF is also the Implementing Partner for the UNICEF Underage Former Soldier Demobilization program in four provinces. In this community-based demobilization process former underage soldiers are registered, verified, and provided with a medical screening. The goal of the program is to end child recruitment and use of children and young people in armed conflict.

Education/Child Protection/Peace Building

CCF has undertaken a range of programs to assist Afghanistan's educational system and promote children's well-being, including teacher training, health and hygiene promotion, school construction and rehabilitation, vocational training, literacy training and non-formal schools for children unable to access government-run schools. CCF has rehabilitated or constructed 13 schools and one teachers' training institute in the Takhar and Kunduz provinces. In areas where school-aged children cannot attend schools, CCF sponsors non-formal education and psychosocial programs, which benefit nearly 4,500 children in the Takhar, Kunduz, Badakhshan and Balkh Provinces. Through these Child Centered Spaces, teachers and community caregivers conduct activities for children in the following areas: health education, sports/recreation, Dari, mathematics, music, art and poetry. Similarly, CCF supports youth literacy courses/life-skills training which benefit approximately 21,000 students throughout the four provinces. Likewise, CCF launched a vocational training program to assist more than 1,000 youth acquire skills in masonry, sheet-metal working, mechanics, tailoring, carpentry and carpet weaving. Working in close collaboration with local and provincial Departments of Education, CCF has developed a series of teacher training seminars, and has trained local teacher-trainers who have conducted seminars for female and male teachers in all government-run schools in the Takhar and Kunduz provinces, in Child Centered Spaces and for literacy teachers. Teacher training topics have included lesson planning, conflict resolution, peace building, child development, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and coping with stress. Likewise, health promotion programs focused on rural women and teachers have raised community awareness about basic techniques to maintain personal health and the health of their children.

Local/Grassroots Governance

CCF has established 40 community-based, inclusive Child Well-Being Committees to help mobilize villages around child protection issues and to monitor and guide efforts to support child protection. The Child Well-Being Committees were formed in large part through the recommendations of community elders and include mothers, fathers and youth. The Child Well-Being Committees have become sustainable grassroots structures and strong vehicles for capacity building regarding child protection.

Micro Enterprise Development/Women in Development

Income Generation--CCF's income generation program, funded by grants from UNHCR and UNAMA, targets vulnerable women and their families in the Kunduz, Badakhshan and Takhar provinces including war widows and mothers of vulnerable children (such as disabled or returning young soldiers). As part of the program, small loans are to be provided to more than 2,300 women and their families who form micro credit groups of 5-10 people in order to finance some of the following economic activities: agricultural

product processing, bakeries, weaving, and animal husbandry. Working through community-based structures and carefully selected and trained local women's NGOs, beneficiaries are chosen based upon high level of economic need and vulnerability, IDP and refugee status, strong motivation to participate, and likelihood of being able to work effectively and repay the loan. Beneficiaries are trained on the concepts and practices of basic income generation.

Vocational Training

Through an integrated program approach CCF also facilitates and monitors the implementation of vocational training for just over 2,500 vulnerable men and women in the Kunduz, Badakhshan, and Takhar provinces.

Shelters/Latrines

CCF's shelter assistance project in the Takhar Province has assisted 700 former IDPs, refugees, and vulnerable people lacking quality housing with family shelter kits and latrines. As with the provision of wells, CCF consulted with government and local community structures to choose those who most needed shelter assistance in accordance with transparent criteria. Those chosen to receive shelter kits received building materials and a small economic incentive to construct a two-room family house and latrine. Through community self-help mechanisms, some of the most vulnerable families were able to receive assistance with the construction of their shelters.

Water/Sanitation

With financial support from UNHCR, CCF completed the construction of 100 new wells and repaired an additional 205 wells in the Kunduz and Takhar Provinces. CCF implemented a UNICEF program to provide 140 blocks of latrines and safe sources of drinking water - through 81 borehole wells, five slow sand filters and five piping systems - to 96 schools in the Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan, and Baghlan provinces. Through consultations and active collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, donors and community-based structures and institutions, CCF has identified rural communities, schools and beneficiaries most in need of well projects. In partnership with the provincial and local governments and local communities, CCF worked with communities during the design, construction and care/maintenance phases of the water/sanitation project. Following the installation of new water systems, CCF conducted safe drinking water seminars and training on the prevention of communicable diseases for teachers, parents and children.

Church World Service

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Introduction to Church World Service

Church World Service (CWS), founded in 1946, is the relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry of 36 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations within the United States. Working in partnership with local organizations in more than 80 countries, CWS supports sustainable self-help development, meets emergency needs, aids refugees and addresses the root causes of poverty and powerlessness. CWS provides assistance without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, political affiliation or gender.

Through support including technical assistance, material aid and cash awards, CWS supports field offices and indigenous partners with a track record of accountability, integrity and long-term presence in the countries in which they work. CWS works to ensure positive, and sustainable changes through emergency response, reconstruction and development programs.

The mission statement of Church World Service is: Christians working together with partners to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote justice around the world. CWS achieves its mission by: covenanting with and among member communions to work ecumenically; witnessing to Christ's love with all people; working in partnership worldwide across faiths and cultures; promoting the dignity and rights of all people; meeting the basic needs of people.

Church World Service in Afghanistan

Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan is registered with the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan as an international NGO and is the regional office of Church World Service USA. The organization has been operational with its relief and development initiatives in Pakistan and Afghanistan, since 1954. CWS- P/A has offices in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Murree, Mansehra, Jalalabad and Kabul.

CWS P/A works with both faith-based and secular organizations on disaster management, disaster mitigation and preparedness and development projects serving marginalized communities. During past decades, the organization has strived to enhance access of the impoverished to basic amenities, such as potable water, food, health, shelter and education. Efforts have been focused on increasing the participation of families in the development process, in establishment of a democratic civil society and bridging the gap

between policy makers and development implementers, such as local bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community based organizations (CBOs). CWS adheres to the belief that communities themselves must set the agenda for change and that this approach encourages equal and even growth in communities.

CWS-P/A works in the areas of disaster response, capacity building and social and economic development. In 1997, CWS-P/A organized, in collaboration with Action by Churches Together (ACT), a national level Disaster Management Training Workshop that set the agenda for the establishment of a network of disaster response partners, called the Pak-Afghan Disaster Response Network.

The Pak-Afghan Disaster Response network consists of 13 regional organizations, working in the relief and development sector. For some time after its inception, the Pak-Afghan Disaster Response Network focused on information sharing regarding training and disasters. This included publications, Disaster Response Office (DRO) Updates and News and DRO Alerts and Warnings. In 1998 and 1999, however, after double earthquakes, cyclones and floods, the network became very active. The network has since led to an expansion of CWS-P/A activities and support of indigenous NGOs in the disaster areas, particularly within Afghanistan.

CWS currently has more than 80 trained disaster managers in the region and over 50 trained security managers. Each Disaster Manager has completed training in linking disasters and development; natural hazards; compound and complex disasters; disaster preparedness; vulnerability and risk Assessment; mitigation; capacity building; disaster assessment and response; rehabilitation and reconstruction; psycho-social and spiritual care; building disaster-resilient communities; terminology and phrase.

Emergency Response

CWS has provided 9,000 shelter kits to more than 63,000 people in Hazarejat, Kabul, and Lagman, Afghanistan and Quetta, Pakistan. CWS has also distributed quilts made by Afghan refugee women in Quetta (another CWS program) to families in Behsud and Yakwalng, Afghanistan and in refugee camps near Chaman, Pakistan.

Education

CWS has provided school desks, chairs and CWS "Gift of the Heart" School Kits for 50,000 students in 77 schools in the Hazarajat region in Afghanistan's Central Highlands. In a continuation of this program, CWS plans to provide another 50,000 students in 100 schools in Hazarajat with desks, chairs and school kits. A new addition to the CWS response will be teacher training and infrastructure improvements for damaged schools.

Shelter

CWS has assisted 1,500 families in 2003 and will assist 1,000 more in 2004 in the Shomali Valley, north of Kabul, with materials necessary for housing reconstruction, including windows, doors and other basic items. In addition, in 2004, CWS will provide all of these families with livelihood packages that include either seeds/tools or livestock/feed.

Income Generation

CWS is facilitating an income generation project for widows and women-headed households in Kabul and surrounding areas. Through this program, beneficiaries are given the necessary tools, raw materials and training to make marketable goods and then receive a cash payment when the finished item is returned to the center. In 2003 participants in this project made quilts for which they were paid \$3 per quilt. In 2004 school uniforms for girls will be made for which participants will be paid \$5 per uniform completed.

Water Systems

CWS assisted 12,000 people in Shib Kob and Arghestan districts through a variety of water resource programs. CWS supported partners in the construction/rehabilitation of 100 karezes and water catchment areas and provided training to community members on enhancing water collection and management techniques.

Health Care

CWS is continuing health programs serving approximately 170,000 people in Nangarhar Province and Mansehra District of Afghanistan and Pakistan respectively. The project goals are to continue providing preventive and essential curative health care services, strengthen community decision-making, and improve current health levels by supporting preventive and essential curative health care services for returning refugees, other Afghans in Nangarhar province, and refugees in Mansehra.

Specific Locations of programs

Afghanistan: Sorkh Rood District, Nangarhar; Pachir Wa Agaam District, Nangarhar; Shib Kob District; Ajristan District, Uruzgan Province; Kijran District, Uruzgan Province; Ghorband District; Arghestan District, Kandahar Province; Shomali Valley, Kabul Province; Kabul District, Kabul Province.

Concern Worldwide

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Introduction to Concern Worldwide

Concern Worldwide is a non-denominational voluntary organization dedicated to the relief, assistance and advancement of the poorest in the least developed countries of the world. Our mission is to enable absolutely poor people to achieve major achievements in their lives, which are sustainable without ongoing support from Concern. To this end we work with the poor themselves and with local and international partners who share our vision to create just and peaceful societies where the poor can exercise their fundamental rights.

Concern Worldwide in Afghanistan

Concern Worldwide has been operational in Afghanistan since 1998, responding initially to the humanitarian emergency that resulted from a series of earthquakes that year. Now in its sixth year of operation, Concern has focused its activities on four key sectors of intervention: food security; community infrastructure; water and sanitation, and emergency interventions. Common to these programs is an emphasis on community development and partnership, with a focus on women.

Geographically, Concern primarily focuses its programs in three districts in Badakhshan province, seven districts in Takhar province and two in Baghlan.

Badakhshan Program

Concern's work in two districts (Ragh & Khwaham) of Badakhshan will continue through 2004, supported primarily with funding from OFDA. The program is focused primarily on the area of infrastructure development (roads/bridges) with a government capacity building component; promoting the active participation of women through the continued development of Shuras; and livelihood security through agricultural development and irrigation projects. The expected outputs are as follows:

- Continued capacity development of Shuras and implementation of projects identified by villages through male and female Shuras.
- Improved infrastructure in target communities, with an emphasis on roads leading to increased access to markets and improved prices for produce.
- Improved food security in target communities.
- Improved access to clean water for personal use, and water for agricultural use.

Beneficiaries: Likely number of direct and indirect beneficiaries in the Badakshan program area will exceed 40,000 with a significant number being women and children.

Takhar North Program

Through funding from OFDA and the Irish Government, Concern is working with Shuras in 15 villages towards achieving the following outputs:

- Strengthened capacity of 15 Shuras to identify, analyze and address their prioritized problems.
- Improved infrastructure in target communities with particular emphasis on upgrading of roads, schools and agricultural infrastructure.
- Improved seed varieties (wheat, fruit & vegetables) available and used by target community.
- Improved food security in target communities.
- Improved access to clean water for personal use and water for agricultural use.

Beneficiaries: Likely number of direct and indirect beneficiaries in the Takhar North program area will exceed 70,000 with a significant number being women and children.

Takhar South Program

This program area comprises two districts, Fakhar and the problematic Khost wa Fereng. Khost wa Fereng was geographically isolated for a number of years as a result of no road access. Through mobilizing the community, Concern built two roads into the district: one winter route and one summer route. Concern remains committed to expanding its involvement in these districts to address the critical needs of those who, according to its nutrition surveys, remain the most vulnerable, in particular women and children.

Fakhar is much more accessible and significant progress has already been made in community infrastructure. Some progress has also been made in agriculture and community development. Continued capacity strengthening of Shuras and developing a strong food security program will be priorities in 2004. The program expects to achieve the following outputs:

- Improved capacity of Shuras to meet basic needs of 30 target communities.
- Strengthened capacity of community groups to identify, analyze and address their prioritized problems.
- Improved seed varieties (wheat, fruit & vegetables) available and used by target community.
- Improved infrastructure in target communities, emphasis on roads leading to increased access to markets and improved prices for produce.
- Improved food security in target communities.
- Improved access to clean water for personal use and water for agricultural use.

Beneficiaries: Likely number of direct and indirect beneficiaries in the Takhar South program area will exceed 50,000 with a significant number being women and children.

National Solidarity Program

In Warsaj District of Takhar South, Concern is implementing the National Solidarity Program (NSP). This program will assist in setting up village development councils, identify projects that benefit the whole community, and oversee the implementation of those projects. In the first year this program will cover 81 villages of Warsaj. The expected output is as follows:

- Village Development Councils selected among the 81 villages, received training, and have been facilitated to identify and implement projects that benefit the community.

Beneficiaries: There are 7,705 families in Warsaj District, and all will be targeted by this program.

Emergency Response & Preparedness

Concern Afghanistan has developed significant strengths in effective emergency response. In 2004 the agency plans to further invest in training, workshops and materials necessary to ensure adequate emergency response, and preparedness capacity, including rolling out Sphere training to all key program staff.

Food for the Hungry

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Introduction to Food for the Hungry

Food for the Hungry was founded in 1971 and helps some of the world's most disadvantaged people in 37 countries through child development programs, agriculture and clean-water projects, health and nutrition programs, education, micro-enterprise loans and emergency relief.

Food for the Hungry in Afghanistan

Food for the Hungry began operation in Afghanistan in 2002 with a staff of 20 and registered as an official NGO. With the completion of Food for the Hungry's work in Takhar, Balkh, and Jawzjan provinces, the agency is now working in Konduz and Kabul provinces in areas of education, food security, income generation, and water/sanitation. The Kabul office is the focal point for coordination between Food for the Hungry and its relief partners.

Child Development

The child development program in Konduz will be headed by Food for the Hungry's Korean office. Konduz is a province in the north of Afghanistan near the border to Tajikistan. This program is working with several communities, which are facing challenges with lack of proper education.

Agriculture

The agricultural program will educate the community to help restore grain production lost from past drought. To survive, families had sold off their livestock and other assets of worth.

Funding Sources

It is anticipated that these child development and agricultural programs will be funded by Food for the Hungry and other Korean governmental agencies, including the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). However KOICA funds are not used for indirect program support. The spiritual ministry program is being funded solely by Food for the Hungry.

Cooperative Efforts

Post 9/11, Food for the Hungry International developed two partnerships in Afghanistan. The first partnership, called ImPart, was between Central Asian Development Agency (CADA), North West Medical Teams International (NWMTI), World Concern Development Corporation (WCDC), and FHI/IRO in northeast Afghanistan (Takhar province). Joint Development Associates International, Inc (JDA) and FHI/IRO also signed a Memorandum of Agreement (M.O.U.) for work in northern Afghanistan (Balkh and Jawjzan provinces). In December of 2002, both M.O.U.s were completed.

GOAL

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Introduction to GOAL

Founded by its current Chief Executive John O'Shea in 1977, GOAL is an international humanitarian organization dedicated to the alleviation of suffering among the poorest of the poor in the developing world.

GOAL works towards ensuring that the poorest and most vulnerable in our world and those affected by humanitarian crises have access to the fundamental needs and rights of life, i.e., food, water, shelter, medical attention and primary education. It is non-denominational, non-governmental and non-political.

GOAL has responded to almost every major natural and man-made disaster and catastrophe in the past 26 years. It also implements rehabilitation and long-term development programs. GOAL is currently operational in 16 countries in the developing world.

GOAL in Afghanistan

GOAL operations in northern Afghanistan commenced July 2001 in response to a continuing three year drought, and the potential for widespread famine. Since that time GOAL Afghanistan has undertaken relief and rehabilitation projects in most provinces in north and northwestern Afghanistan. Projects are designed to address the needs of vulnerable communities, returning refugees and internally displaced persons. Relief operations initially focused on food distributions and the provision of shelter materials for those most at risk during winter months.

As the programme evolved, the result of the country situation stabilizing, interventions have focused largely on activities related to agriculture production; seed distributions, infrastructure construction or repair, pest control, livelihood improvements, capacity development and long term strengthening of local governance. During the past year GOAL Afghanistan's programme has also expanded to include peri urban Kabul. Activities have focused on vulnerable communities, returning refugees and internally displaced people. Project interventions have also been designed to address the needs of, in particular, women and girls in the areas of education, literacy and livelihood improvements.

Current major projects GOAL is implementing in Afghanistan include:

- The Emergency Food and Shelter Programme, in Samangan, Balkh and Jawzjan Provinces. This programme initially involved the provision of food aid to vulnerable communities. Current activities include the provision of support to vulnerable communities with shelter materials, water and sanitation supply, community infrastructure of access roads and primary schools, improved potable water and irrigation systems, provision of improved seed and agricultural technical advice and assistance to improve livelihoods and food security through agricultural support projects. This programme is funded by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.
- The Emergency Locust Mitigation Project in Jawzjan, Samangan, Balkh, Sari Pul, Takhar, Badakhshan, Kunduz, Faryab and Baghlan Provinces. This project involves controlling the population levels of the locust pest across northern Afghanistan and thereby reducing a major threat to agricultural production (mainly wheat). This programme was funded by the European Community Humanitarian Office and Ireland Aid. Funding for the year 2004 is currently being sought from the U.S. Agency for International Development.
- The Assisting Vulnerable Communities (to cope with return and resettlement) Project in Jawzjan Province. The project aims to assist communities in the recovery from the effects of long term drought and war. Project funded by the European Community Humanitarian Office.
- The Rehabilitation and Assistance to Vulnerable Communities Project in Samangan and Jawzjan Provinces and Kabul City. The project aims to assist communities in the recovery from the effects of long term drought and war, to support the re-integration of refugees and internally displaced persons by increasing food production through the provision of seeds and other inputs, rehabilitating potable and agricultural water systems, rehabilitating key rural infrastructure (market to garden roads) and increase income generating opportunities through the introduction of non-farm activities (e.g., community works). Project funded by the European Community Humanitarian Office.
- The Winter Assistance to Vulnerable Communities Project in Samangan and Jawzjan Provinces. This project aims to improve sustainable rural livelihoods, to assist communities in the recovery from the effects of long term drought and war and to assist civil society structures to improve their capacity to plan and manage development resources. Funded by the European Community Humanitarian Office.
- School Reconstruction Programme in Kabul City. Reconstruction of three existing schools and the construction of one new school. Project funded by the Development Cooperation Ireland.
- REFLECT Literacy Programme in Kabul City. Establishment of women's educational circles aimed at increasing access to knowledge at the community level. Funded by the Development Cooperation Ireland.
- The National Solidarity Programme in Jawzjan Province. GOAL currently implements the National Solidarity Programme in two Districts of Jawzjan Province. The National Solidarity Program has been established by the Afghan government to provide resources through block grants for community managed small-scale reconstruction and development in rural areas, and to promote more participatory and inclusive decision-making and governance at the village level. The goal of the

National Solidarity Programme is to reduce poverty through empowering communities with regard to improved governance regarding decision making on local level reconstruction and development, and through provision of resources to address these needs. The National Solidarity Programme promotes a new development paradigm whereby communities are empowered to make decisions and control resources during all stages of the project cycle. The National Solidarity Programme is funded from a variety of sources including the World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

- Rehabilitation and Livelihood Assistance to Vulnerable and Returning Groups Project in Kabul City. This project aims to improve sustainable urban livelihoods, to assist communities in the recovery from the effects of long term drought and war and to assist civil society to improve their capacity to plan and manage development resources. Project funded by Development Cooperation Ireland.

GOAL Afghanistan in 2004, has seen its programme activities move from being emergency related to more longer term development related. While still focussed on short term recovery, GOAL Afghanistan is now active in longer term developmental projects aimed at returnees and vulnerable communities. Major areas of activity in 2004 are likely to be in potable and agricultural water supply, sanitation, shelter and livelihood security as well as the capacity building of local institutions.

Help the Afghan Children

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Introduction to Help the Afghan Children

Our mission is to help Afghan children become educated, healthy, and productive citizens who are able to fully contribute to building Afghanistan's civil society. We accomplish this by working with supporting partners to establish model community-based schools in different regions of Afghanistan, providing training to local educators to enhance their professional capacities, developing and introducing innovative learning programs, and by establishing primary healthcare clinics near sponsored schools.

Help the Afghan Children in Afghanistan

Our vision is for an Afghanistan in which all children have access to healthcare, education, and are able to contribute positively to their families, communities, and nation. We envision Afghan children who have access to quality, comprehensive community-based schools to help them mature as individuals with the will and capability of bringing stability and prosperity to Afghanistan and the world.

ARIA Health Care Clinics

Our two clinics in Kabul and Nejrab, employ 12 doctors, 12 nurses, and 2 pharmacists who provide vital health services to approximately 100,000 patients each year. These clinics provide free quality health care including internal medicine, prenatal care, pediatric medicine, dental care, treating wounds, vaccinations, and immunizations.

Integrated Model Primary School (IMPS) Program

The IMPS Program is an initiative to build sustainable 'model schools' that can be replicated in various regions of Afghanistan. The Program is designed to accomplish several goals:

- enrich the curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education with classes in Peace Education, Computer Literacy, Health Education, and Environmental Studies
- incorporate modern teaching techniques, while being sensitive to the culture and values of Afghanistan's people
- implement ongoing monitoring mechanisms that will evaluate and report on the progress of children's education and the effectiveness of the curriculum
- actively engage parents in their children's education
- provide training and stipends for teachers that augment their current salary received from the Ministry of Education
- build, equip, and provide 2-year operational support for school facilities

- establish Mother and Child Health Clinics that are co-located with sponsored schools

Karte-Parwan Middle School

Karte-Parwan is a restored school in the capital city of Kabul, which includes 8 new classrooms, a computer room, and all new desks and chairs. There are 3,350 students from 1st to 9th grade attending in three shifts. In addition, there is a vocational workshop on the school grounds where students learn how assemble and repair bicycles and wheelchairs.

Abdullah bin Omar Primary School

After months of hard work, Abdullah bin Omar was the first primary school opened in the district of Paghman. With 26 classrooms and 52 teachers, 1,800 girls and boys will now attend school there in two shifts. Designated a 'model school' by the Ministry of Education, the students enjoy pilot programs in peace education, computer literacy, environmental awareness, and health education.

Badakhshi School for Girls

Situated where battles between the Northern Alliance and the Taliban once took place in the district of Nejrab, the Badakhshi School for Girls is a 20 classroom school, with a computer lab and library, where 1,400 girls will attend school in two shifts.

Health Education Program

A pilot health education program with the aims of teaching healthy lifestyles, preventative health practices, and providing vaccination, primary health and nutrition programs

Peace Education Program

A pilot Peace Education Program with the goal to promote peaceful living by helping children to learn to resolve conflicts by problem-solving means

Environmental Education Program

A pilot Environmental Education Program to enhance the understanding and appreciation of the students of their local environment

Computer Literacy Program

A specialty training software designed for children in Afghanistan with capabilities in Dari and English (This program is currently under development by HTAC); and establishing in each school a 15-station computer lab.

International Medical Corps

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Introduction to International Medical Corps

International Medical Corps is a global humanitarian nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives and relieving suffering through health care training and relief and development programs. Established in 1984 by volunteer doctors and nurses, IMC is a private, voluntary, nonpolitical, nonsectarian organization. Its mission is to improve the quality of life through health interventions and related activities that build local capacity in areas worldwide where few organizations dare to serve. By offering training and health care to local populations and medical assistance to people at highest risk, and with the flexibility to respond rapidly to emergency situations, IMC rehabilitates devastated health care systems and helps bring them back to self-reliance.

International Medical Corps in Afghanistan

IMC has worked in Afghanistan since 1984. Today, IMC provides a combination of primary, secondary, and tertiary health care, comprehensive health care training and integrated development programs, with a focus on women and children, as well as other displaced and vulnerable populations.

With the support of its donors and the Ministry of Public Health, this year IMC will operate 361 health posts, 40 comprehensive health centers, six basic health centers, four district hospitals and two emergency obstetric centers for more than 700,000 beneficiaries in nine provinces: Bamyan, Kabul, Khost, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Parwan, Paktika and Wardak.

In addition to providing health care directly, IMC trains Afghan health professionals, particularly women, creating a pool of skilled Afghan health care workers who provide

primary health care and education in such topics as pre- and post-natal care, immunizations, breastfeeding and nutrition.

IMC complements these programs with numerous cash-for-work projects, employing nearly 4,500 local laborers, both men and women, to maintain roads, build bridges and make quilts.

In addition to its work in Afghanistan, IMC provides primary health care from basic health units in five of the remaining Afghan refugee camps in the Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan, as well as from one urban mother and child health clinic and two emergency obstetric centers. Started in 1999, IMC's Pakistan program has focused on improving the self-reliance of female Afghan refugees and empowering them to provide basic health care with special emphasis on maternal and child health services.

International Relief and Development

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Introduction to International Relief and Development

International Relief and Development, Inc. (IRD) is a 501 (c)(3) charitable, humanitarian organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of people in the most economically deprived parts of the world by facilitating and supporting assistance that is tailored specifically to their needs.

Founded in 1998 by Dr. Arthur B. Keys, Jr., IRD has provided more than \$185 million in humanitarian assistance to Asia, Latin America, the Balkans, the Newly Independent States (NIS) and the Middle East. IRD continues to expand its operations in these geographical areas as well as to new regions that present the same social, political and technical challenges.

The mission of IRD is to reduce the suffering of the world's most vulnerable groups and provide tools and resources needed to increase their self-sufficiency.

International Relief and Development in Afghanistan

IRD plans to implement a program in the northeastern Kunduz and Baghlan provinces of Afghanistan. The program will be directed at improving and restoring necessary infrastructure and collateral activities in order to stimulate the rural agricultural economy of two provinces, and support Afghanistan's recovery following twenty-three years of war, and five years of drought. Sheladia Associates, Inc. will also contribute to the project. The objective of the program will be to construct farm to market roads and bridges, agriculturally related storage facilities, small sized dams for the provision of drinking water for livestock in pastures and catchments dams for erosion control and recharge of ground water, and work with various producers and marketing associations to improve the efficiency of all infrastructure investments. All activities will be related to the market and will have demonstrable economic impact.

The International Rescue Committee

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Introduction to The International Rescue Committee

The IRC is a leading private nonsectarian nonprofit organization providing relief, protection and resettlement services for refugees and victims of oppression or violent conflict for 70 years. The IRC is committed to freedom, human dignity and self-reliance. This commitment is reflected in well-planned global emergency relief, rehabilitation services, resettlement assistance and advocacy for refugees.

The International Rescue Committee in Afghanistan

The IRC's assistance to Afghan refugees began in Pakistan in 1980. After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, IRC activities in Afghanistan grew significantly, with more than 450 staff. Refugee relief activities in Pakistan continue to be run from Peshawar, while all Afghanistan rehabilitation projects are managed from Kabul and four regional field offices. IRC implements emergency programs designed to reduce mortality, morbidity and human suffering, as well as reconstruction and rehabilitation projects aimed at creating an environment for repatriation.

Description of Programs

Reintegration

Approximately 300,000 returnees and displaced persons benefited from reintegration programs, with beneficiaries selected from the most vulnerable communities to provide reintegration support and stem future flight. The program has successfully improved the health, education, economic and overall livelihood status of the target communities through programs in shelter, water, sanitation, irrigation, agriculture, small business development, education, health, and NGO capacity building. Locations: Paktya, Paktika, Logar, Kabul, Nangarhar, Farah, Herat, Ghor, Balkh and Badghis provinces.

Vocational Training

A major labor market survey was conducted to provide information to support selection of trainings that will lead to increased and better employment. Ultimately, a total of around 4,000 men and women will participate in vocational and/or entrepreneurship training. A number of innovative projects involving women have been established, including improved family horticulture using low-cost greenhouse technology, and

enhanced domestic service training for the fledgling guesthouse and catering industry. The program has also introduced the first Afghanistan grassroots micro-entrepreneur training program, suitable for those with limited literacy and numeracy skills.

Education

The IRC's long-standing reputation supporting quality education programs for Afghans dates back to the 1980s. Since 1988, education has focused on supporting home school classes in Afghan villages where there are no other opportunities for schooling. IRC now aims to formalize these schools so that the student learning achievement is accredited by Ministry of Education. In 2003, the IRC supported 15,000 students in 450 villages with teacher training for 1,750 teachers, half of whom will be from the government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, with an emphasis on female enrollment and recruiting female teachers.

Agriculture

The IRC has implemented agricultural programs in Afghanistan for more than ten years. The primary objective is to provide technical support and agricultural inputs to enhance the livelihood, security, health, nutritional status and earning potential of vulnerable families and village communities. Present priorities include seed multiplication centers; reforestation to increase production of fruits, nuts, fuel and timber; technical training programs for farmers; and development of small agro-business assistance to provide workers with necessary skills and capital to begin small-scale business enterprise.

Locations: Khost, Paktya, Ghor, Herat, Kabul, Nangarhar.

Protection

In 2002, the IRC established a regional Protection Unit to promote the rights of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and internally displaced persons, returnees and their host communities in Afghanistan. Activities include trainings, monitoring the rights of returnees, identifying most vulnerable refugees, identifying and seeking to mitigate threats to child protection and development. The IRC's property law project works on the newly evolving property laws and the rights of returning refugees and displaced persons.

Locations: Nangarhar, Balkh, Kabul.

Child Protection

IRC, along with partners Christian Children's Fund and Save the Children-US, is working to improve the psychological well-being and development of Afghan children. The program seeks to identify and reduce threats to Afghan children and youth; increase engagement of Afghan children, particularly vulnerable groups and war victims, with safe activities; and increase learning opportunities for Afghan youth, which improves their learning and positive participation in the community. Locations: 12 Herat villages.

Health

IRC has implemented Afghan health programs for more than two decades. Currently, the IRC funds, provides technical support and oversees a local partner providing primary health services in two districts in Northern Balkh Province, a primary focus of displaced

person return. The IRC works to increase quality and availability of primary health, mother and child health services and immunizations in remote areas. Locations: Balkh.

Afghanistan Non-Governmental Organizations' Security Offices (ANSO)

This project's mandate is to facilitate security decision-making by national NGOs and ECHO partners by providing a more cohesive operating environment for NGOs; advice on security policies and procedures; evacuation and emergency medical planning to better prepare NGOs to respond to incidents; trends and threat pattern analysis; intelligence sharing with UN security; and a communications pyramid or warden system. Locations: Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad, Mazar, Kandahar.

Partnerships with Afghan NGOs

The IRC has issued millions of dollars through sub-grants to more than two dozen local partners, who provide technical skills, equipment, labor and community ties to projects, while the IRC provides monitoring, evaluation and technical expertise. The IRC ensures sustainability by building the capacity of local NGOs through experience and training in project management, finance and operations.

Funding Sources

Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, SV/Dutch Government, European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office, United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (Afghan Transitional Authority/Administration), USAID-Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, European Union, Ford Foundation, McArthur Foundation, UNHCR, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Ireland Aid, UNICEF, American Red Cross, Asian Development Bank, US Department of Labor.

Scale of Programs

The IRC serves nearly two million beneficiaries.

Life for Relief & Development

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Introduction to Life for Relief & Development

LIFE for Relief & Development is dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the world regardless of race, color, religion or cultural background. LIFE strives to offer humanitarian services including health, education, social and economic services to victims of hunger, natural disasters, wars and other catastrophes through a variety of projects and programs.

Life for Relief & Development in Afghanistan

Objectives

- To promote social and economic equality particularly with respect to women and marginalized groups;
- To help individuals and communities to mobilize resources to meet their needs and secure their rights;
- To increase literacy rates and decrease drop-out rates of girls and boys throughout Afghanistan by providing education for the most vulnerable
- Promote adult literacy rates by providing adult education to women and men
- Advocate policies that protect and promote the rights of women, orphans, the poor and disabled in Afghanistan
- To develop self-reliance and financial security of Afghan households by providing technical training and education
- To work in cooperation with organizations that share our commitment to improve the well-being of the Afghan people

Sectors

- Agriculture and Food Production
“Food Security” project assessment completed for an agriculture project in Laghman Province that will include: household garden seeds and supplies, animal husbandry, gardening training, rehabilitation of water irrigation canal through Bisram Laghman, micro-finance for widows and disabled heads of household in the agriculture sector.
- Business Development, Cooperatives and Credit N/A
- Disaster and Emergency Relief

Pakistan Refugee Camps

- Distributed food twice to 30,000 people in Shamshatoo Camp, Peshawar
- Distributed food 6 times to 7,000 people in Barkaly Camp, Bajour Agency
- Distributed food to 11,000 people in Shalman Camp, Khyber Agency
- Distributed food to 8,000 people in Khattako Pul Camp, Peshawar
- Distributed food to 3,000 people in Akhora Khattak Camp, Peshawar
- Distributed winter coats and shawls to 9,000 people in Shamshatoo Camp, Peshawar
- Distributed winter coats and shawls to 7,000 people in Barkaly Camp, Bajour Agency
- Distributed winter coats and shawls to 1,000 Afghan refugees in Quetta
- Distributed sweaters and hats to 5,000 people in Shalman Camp, Khyber Agency
- Distributed sweaters and hats to 4,000 people in Akhora Khattak Camp, Peshawar
- Distributed sweaters and hats to 2,500 people in Barkaly Camp, Bajour Agency
- Distributed new cloth for 10,000 dresses in Khotki Camp, Bajour Agency
- Distributed new cloth for 3,500 dresses in Barkaly Camp, Bajour Agency
- Distributed emergency medicine to clinics in refugee camps in Chaman and Peshawar

Afghanistan

- Distributed food to 20,000 people in Jalalabad and Sar Shahi IDP camp
- Distributed food to 8,000 people in Laghman
- Distributed food to 3,000 people in Kabul
- Distributed scarves and mittens to 1,000 girl students in Kabul
- Distributed used clothing to 3,600 people in Kabul
- Distributed sweaters and gloves to 3,000 people in Kabul
- Distributed shoes and school uniforms to 500 students in Jalalabad
- Distributed shoes and school uniforms to 600 students in Laghman
- Distributed clothing and toys to Kabul orphan home
- Distributed emergency medicine to clinics in Laghman and Jalalabad

LIFE is prepared to provide assistance to Afghan refugees and the most vulnerable and needy throughout Afghanistan when urgent needs arise.

Education/Training

Afghanistan

- Donated 8,000 medical textbooks to Medical Colleges in Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif
- Donated nursing textbooks to Intermediate Nursing School, Kabul
- Distributed school bags and stationary to 500 students in Jalalabad
- Distributed school bags and stationary to 600 students in Laghman
- Distributed school bags and stationary to 200 students in Kabul
- Totally supporting 2 orphan high schools in Jalalabad and Laghman
- Donated 800 scientific and technical textbooks to Jalalabad University

Gender Issues/Women in Development

Afghanistan: Support given to women's training center in Laghman

Health Care

Afghanistan

- Distributed medicine, medical and surgical supplies to Rabiah Balki Maternity Hospital, Kabul
- Distributed medicine, medical and surgical supplies to Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital, Kabul
- Distributed hospital beds to Rabiah Balki Maternity Hospital, Kabul
- Donated medical textbooks to hospital libraries at Rabiah Balki Maternity Hospital, Kabul, Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital, Kabul and Laghman General Hospital
- Donated a new photocopy machine to Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital, Kabul
- Repaired the ambulance for the University Hospital in Jalalabad, Nangrahar
- Distributed 1,656 wheelchairs to Public Health Directorate and Hospitals in all Provinces throughout Afghanistan
- Distributed 2 wheelchairs to all Afghan Red Crescent Clinics in all Provinces throughout Afghanistan
- Distributed 176 wheelchairs to the Municipalities of each Provincial capital city throughout Afghanistan including 100 wheelchairs to Kabul municipality
- Distributed 6 wheelchairs to each airport throughout Afghanistan
- Distributed 2,375 wheelchairs to disabled individuals in cooperation with the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled in 19 Provinces throughout Afghanistan

Refugee and Migration Services

LIFE is working in close cooperation with the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR) in Peshawar to provide assistance to refugees as needs arise. LIFE plans to work in cooperation with UNHCR to assist in the repatriation of refugees throughout the NWFP.

Rural Development

LIFE takes a community based approach to rural development and is working toward uplifting rural communities by providing basic healthcare services, clean drinking water and education for all.

Education for Orphans

LIFE totally supports 2 orphan high schools in Nangrahar and Laghman Provinces by funding teachers salaries and running costs of school. Supplying stationary, school bags, beds, bedding, uniforms and shoes to orphans. LIFE has been asked by the Minister of Social Affairs to support 6 orphan schools in the eastern Provinces of Afghanistan. Number of Beneficiaries is 3,000 students. Cost is \$360,000 per year.

Support for Women's Development Center

LIFE provided tables, chairs, cloth and sewing tables for women's development center in Laghman Province. Number of Beneficiaries is 300 women. Cost is \$6,000 per year.

Handicapped/Widows Training Centers

The Minister of Martyrs and Disabled requested LIFE to open training centers throughout all Provinces to improve the lives of the most vulnerable. The adult literacy rate in Afghanistan is extremely low especially among the handicapped and women. LIFE is working on assessing the possibility of opening the first 3 centers in Kabul, Kandahar and Kunar Provinces. Number of Beneficiaries is 6,000. Cost to establish is \$150,000 and running costs are \$80,000 per year.

Physio/Occupational Therapy Centers

LIFE plans to open 2 physio/occupational therapy centers one in Kabul and one in Kandahar in cooperation with the Ministry of Martyrs and disabled. Number of Beneficiaries is 4,000. Cost to establish is \$100,000 and running costs are \$100,000 per year.

School Reconstruction

LIFE plans to rehabilitate schools in Laghman, Nangrahar and Kunar Provinces. Number of Beneficiaries is 2,000. Cost is \$60,000.

Water Supply Projects

LIFE recently assessed water treatment plants in Nangrahar, Laghman and Kabul Provinces and is planning to rehabilitate these water plants. Number of Beneficiaries is 20,000. Cost is \$150,000.

Girls Education

LIFE has met with community leaders in refugee camps in Pakistan and 2 Provinces in Afghanistan discussing the importance of allowing girls to complete their education. Dialogue with community leaders has been positive and LIFE plans to work with community leaders to increase attendance and decrease dropout rates of girl students. Number of Beneficiaries is 1,000.

Lutheran World Relief

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Introduction to Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) works with partners in 50 countries to help people grow food, improve health, strengthen communities, end conflict, build livelihoods, and recover from disasters.

Lutheran World Relief in Afghanistan

Promoting Self Sufficiency for Afghan Women

In Kabul, LWR's partner is RefWID (Refugee Women in Development), which works to strengthen the organizational capacity of Afghan women-led community-based groups and NGOs. Direct aid and seed money is provided to 60 Afghan women to create opportunities for long-term economic self-sufficiency. The "Training of Trainers" program involves 60 women in leadership training enabling them to share these capacities in their 10 respective community based groups. RefWID also produced a training manual entitled "Proposal Skills Handbook" and distributed the manual to participant NGOs. It was produced at the request of Afghan women who are desperately in need of printed information and training materials in Kabul.

Focus

- Education / Training
- Gender Issues/Women in Development
- Business Development, Cooperatives and Credit

Relief and Rehabilitation in Bagram district of Parwan Province

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) works through Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan on three programs: Disaster Response Program, Capacity Building Program, and Social Development Program. Assistance in resettlement provides 7,000 people with material to build a house with two rooms, one corridor, and one latrine. Shovels and other farming tools as well as seeds and grafts of indigenous plants are part of the 2,500 livelihood kits distributed to beneficiaries. To promote social development the collective decision-making process is being reestablished to ensure participation from representatives of the local authority and the community.

Focus

- Agriculture and Food Production
- Disaster and Emergency Relief

Mercy Corps

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Introduction to Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps is an international relief and development organization that exists to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities. The agency now operates in more than 30 countries reaching 5 million people worldwide. Mercy Corps has been operational in Afghanistan since 1986. During this time, we have completed approximately 50 projects spanning the spectrum of relief to development for internally displaced people, refugee returnees, Afghan farmers and their families, Afghan businesswomen as well as urban and rural Afghan communities.

Mercy Corp in Afghanistan

Mercy Corps' current programs in Afghanistan contribute to the agency's mission through agricultural and economic development initiatives and civil society programs that improve people's participation in community decision-making about available services and holding service providers accountable.

Agricultural Development

- **FOOD SECURITY FOR VULNERABLE RETURNEE FAMILIES AND PREVENTION OF SOIL EROSION IN SIX DISTRICTS OF TAKHAR AND KUNDUZ PROVINCES PROJECT:** This one-year, €700,000 ECHO-funded project increases the food and livelihood security of farming communities that have absorbed large numbers of returnees. The project rehabilitates existing agricultural infrastructure such as canals using a cash-for-work methodology. Food security for vulnerable farmers and women-headed households is increased by establishing kitchen gardens and providing related inputs and training. Soil erosion is curbed by planting saplings in irrigated areas, which also improves soil conditions. By the end of April of 2004, 15,000 people will benefit from the rehabilitation of 25 kilometers of irrigation canals. Up to 2,550 families will receive cash-for-work income as laborers on the projects. Kitchen gardens will improve the diversity of the food basket and the nutrient intake of 1,050 families and provide income potential through the sale of excess produce. In addition, 21,000 trees will be planted on 25 hectares of land.
- **SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN RURAL RECOVERY PROGRAM** (*currently on hold due to security conditions in Southern Afghanistan; slated to be moved to the Central Highlands region in 2004*) This two-year, €6.5 million European Commission-

funded project will lay the foundation for lasting peace and broader stability through sustainable community development, the promotion of participation of men, women and youth in deciding their country's future and reconstructing productive livelihoods. Mercy Corps will form Community Initiative Groups that will train 100 communities in 5 provinces to guide and sustain the process. Approximately 80,000 residents will benefit from improved infrastructure. Ten thousand families will benefit from cash-for-work income. The asset base of these communities will be strengthened through improvements in agricultural and livestock production and productivity, including vegetable and poultry enterprises for women and veterinary field units.

- **THE SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN SEED AND FARM SUPPLY:** The Southern Afghanistan Seed and Farm Supply is comprised of a combination of independent seed growers and Mercy Corps employees, who with FAO funds have produced Quality Declared seed for over 7 years. The primary goal of the seed and farm supply is to offer marginalized farmers the agriculture inputs, services and technologies that will help them create farming livelihoods that are economically viable, culturally appropriate and environmentally sound. Four seed processing centers in Helmand, Uruzgan and Kandahar Districts process cereal seed including wheat, barley, mung bean, rice and maize which is sold at 10% over the market price of local seed varieties, thereby improving the overall seed quality and food production in the area. Participating farmers also earn income through retaining a percentage of seed produced. Revenues from these sales will be used to further seed privatization and farm supply and services to rural farmers.
- **FRUIT AND ALMOND NURSERY, ORCHARD RE-ESTABLISHMENT AND MARKETING:** Mercy Corps has a long history of working with producers of fruit and nut crops in fruit production, post-harvest processing and marketing. Since 2000-01, Mercy Corps has initiated nurseries in the southern region of Afghanistan with the foresight to assist producers return land to fruit and nut production as soon as the drought broke. Although this effort has not been funded over recent months, there is wide scope for work to be multiplied and expanded and Mercy Corps has devised fundraising schemes to support the nurseries. At present, 45 private nurseries are being developed across Helmand, Uruzgan and Kandahar Provinces, containing roughly 250,000 saplings that will be ready for transplanting starting in spring of 2004. The types of saplings include almonds, plums, peaches, nectarines and apricots as well as grape and pomegranate cuttings. In addition, Mercy Corps conducts on-going training for young farmers at each nursery focused on nursery set-up, land preparation, seed storage, irrigation, grafting, fertilizer use, and provision of grafting materials.
- **WOMEN'S VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE EDUCATION & CIVIL SOCIETY:** In cooperation with the Helmand Departments of Agriculture, Women's Affairs and Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the provincial Governor, Mercy Corps is establishing a vocational agricultural center in Lashkar Gah, the capital city of Helmand Province in Southern Afghanistan. In the short term, the center will focus on building capacity, enhancing the status of women in the agricultural sector and offering skills training for food preservation and production which women can then

continue in their own homes. Mercy Corps will facilitate public events, such as the "Women in Agriculture" fair, which will promote the positive social and economic impact women can make to the city and their own families, and so enhancing the participation of women in civil society.

Economic Development

- **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN KABUL CITY:** Using \$139,266 in funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and funds from private donors, this project capitalizes on the momentum already generated by Mercy Corps' Chelsitun Women's Center. As a business "incubator", the project supports vocational training for 250 women and business training for 150 men and women as well as loan access and ongoing technical assistance to 100 loan recipients. The micro-lending portion of this program has transitioned and expanded into the Ariana Financial Services Group.
- **ARIANA FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP/MICROFINANCE INVESTMENT & SUPPORT FACILITY FOR AFGHANISTAN:** Mercy Corps is one of the first agencies in Afghanistan to receive funds for a microfinance institution. The Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund, administered jointly by the World Bank and the Afghan Government's Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, provided a grant of \$379,312 for equipment, training and operating expenses and a loan fund of \$90,000. Mercy Corps launched the initial 18-month phase of the program in Kabul City in September of 2003 by establishing the Ariana Financial Services Group (AFSG). AFSG's mission is to provide high quality and fair priced savings and loan products to clients, which will increase their incomes, expand their businesses and improve their quality of life. As of January of 2004, AFSG has disbursed 2,248 total loans for a total value of \$ 337,364. In 2004, AFSG will expand to Kunduz, providing loans to low-income people for the start-up or expansion of micro-enterprises.
- **WOMEN'S SMALL BUSINESS MARKET LINKAGES PROJECT:** With funding from the TOSA Foundation, Mercy Corps conducted a comprehensive market study about women's small business market linkages. Coupled with the Bill & Melinda Gates-funded program, pilot businesses based on trainings have begun, resulting in a successful exhibition 'Artezan' in January of 2004, highlighting women's handicrafts and products of innovative designs.

Civil Society

- **SHORT-TERM REINTEGRATION THROUGH COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN KABUL CITY PROJECT:** This 13.5 month, €1.1 million ECHO-funded project rebuilds neighborhoods, reconstructs infrastructure and improves household and community safety for recent returnees and new arrivals in Districts 5 and 8, two of the most seriously war-damaged areas of Kabul. In partnership with a local NGO focused on women's issues, Mercy Corps supervises the formation of representative volunteer community action groups that work with their community peers to identify, plan and design community-identified projects. Projects are selected according to set criteria and are funded jointly by Mercy Corps and the communities themselves. By the end

of the project in May of 2004, a total of 700 homes will be rehabilitated and at least 30 other community-identified projects will be completed.

- **HEALTH SERVICES HAND-OVER: SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASIC PACKAGE OF HEALTH SERVICES IN HELMAND PROVINCE THROUGH LOCAL NGOS PROJECT:** This one-year, \$500,000 project funded by the US State Department's Bureau for Refugees, Population and Migration ensures the continuity of life-sustaining healthcare services to support Afghan refugee return and durable reintegration. By end of the year, a local NGO will be able to successfully manage and administer all healthcare facilities previously managed by Mercy Corps in Helmand Province and to provide quality healthcare services on a daily basis. As a result, 75,000 – 100,000 Afghan facilities, including about 25,000 women and children, will receive preventative and curative healthcare and trained community health workers will be monitoring public health and providing basic treatment.
- **EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATION SUPPORT TO CONFLICT AFFECTED SCHOOL COMMUNITIES ON THE FORMER FRONTLINE IN WEST TAKHAR AND EAST KUNDUZ PROVINCES PROJECT:** This one-year, \$748,196 project is funded by the American Red Cross with funds from the America's Fund for Afghan Children (a pool of funds generated by the US Government in a call for all American children to donate \$1 to help their Afghan counterparts in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, tragedy.) Mercy Corps works with youth as well as the adults in their lives to identify and implement projects to address needs and areas of interest in education and recreation. Education quality will be improved through the provision of school supplies, equipment and teachers. The installation of latrines and sources of potable water will improve the educational environment and public health conditions. Health, hygiene and landmine awareness will be strengthened through targeted training. Improved recreational facilities will have obvious health benefits and improve children's skills in cooperation, concentration and teamwork.

Education/Literacy Initiatives

Through private donations, Mercy Corps is supporting educational literacy initiatives in both southern and northern regions of Afghanistan including:

YOUTH LIBRARY PROJECT: Working with Afghans for Civil Society and local schools, Mercy Corps is instilling a love of learning and offering recreational opportunities for youth at the Civil Society Resource Center, established jointly by the two agencies in Kandahar. The project gives children access to activities and books other than school materials.

CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE INITIATIVE LIBRARIES: Working with INTERSOS and UNHCR in the Internally Displaced Person Resettlement Camp of Zhare Dasht, Mercy Corps is supporting a network of settlements-based library units in 6 settlements, providing books and reading materials to under-resourced IDP schools.

LITERACY CLASSES: In the Northern province of Takhar, Mercy Corps is supporting literacy classes for young people too old to attend primary school, especially girls. The training of 12 literacy teachers provides 1,000 students, mostly young women, with the tools to read and write. Mercy Corps believes this is a sound investment in promoting education for their future children as well as giving them an opportunity for some independence in their daily activities such as marketing.

Oxfam

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Introduction to Oxfam

Oxfam is dedicated to creating lasting solutions to hunger, poverty, and social injustice through long-term partnerships with poor communities around the world. As a privately funded organization, Oxfam can speak with conviction and integrity as the agency challenges the structural barriers that foster conflict and human suffering and limit the skills, resources, and power of people to become self-sufficient.

Oxfam in Afghanistan

Oxfam began working directly in Afghanistan in 1989 providing emergency relief and assisting in longer-term development projects.

Currently we work with communities and partners in 16 provinces throughout the country. Oxfam has helped to set up and develop local community institutions, always ensuring the participation of women. Oxfam works on a number of different issues to improve people's livelihoods, to build social organizations, and to secure access to social services.

Oxfam's work has involved distributing WFP provided wheat through a number of Food for Work activities, which have included road construction, irrigation and canal reconstruction, school building, and provision of safe drinking water. As wheat production comes close to the pre-drought norms, food distribution will become less of a focus, as Oxfam works with communities to enable them to increase agricultural production and access education and health services.

Working in four districts in Hazarajat, in the Central Highlands, and two in Badakhshan Oxfam's rural development projects focus on livelihoods (seed distribution, tree planting in orchards, helping to reduce soil erosion), veterinary support, school building and teacher training, and health awareness with communities. Many of these activities are seasonal and are suspended during the winter months.

Oxfam is a key partner in implementing the National Solidarity Program (NSP) in Afghanistan. Oxfam is implementing the program with communities in nine districts across three provinces in the Central Highlands. The NSP has been established by the Afghan Government to develop the ability of Afghan communities to identify, plan, manage, and monitor their own reconstruction and development projects. Oxfam's

partnership with the Government will empower communities to make decisions and control resources during all stages of the project cycle. Oxfam will work with communities to build their capacity to identify their development priorities, develop project proposals and manage and implement these projects. Grants will be transferred directly from the provincial level Afghan government to communities, strengthening the links between provincial government structures and local communities and laying the foundations for accountable local governance in Afghanistan.

Relief International

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Introduction to Relief International

Relief International is a humanitarian, non-profit, non-sectarian agency providing emergency relief, rehabilitation and development assistance to victims of natural disasters and civil conflicts worldwide. RI's programs bridge the gap between immediate emergency relief and long term community development, through innovative programming that is multi-sectoral and grassroots based. This orientation promotes self reliance and the peaceful reintegration of populations. RI's programs are designed with the input and participation of target beneficiary groups such as women, children and the elderly, whose special needs are often neglected in disasters.

Relief International in Afghanistan

Relief International (RI) is a humanitarian non-profit agency that provides emergency relief, rehabilitation, and development assistance and programs services to vulnerable communities worldwide. RI is solely dedicated to reducing human suffering and is non-political and sectarian in its mission. RI's objectives are to:

- *Serve* the needs of the most vulnerable, particularly women and children, victims of natural disasters, civil conflicts, and the poor worldwide with a specific focus on neglected groups and cases;
- *Promote* self-reliance, peaceful coexistence, and reintegration of vulnerable groups;
- *Provide* holistic, multi-sectoral, sustainable, and pro-poor programs that bridge emergency relief and long-term development at the grassroots level;
- *Empower* communities through capacity building and by maximizing local resources in program design and implementation;
- *Protect* lives from physical injury or death and/or psychological trauma where present;
- *Uphold* the highest professional norms in program delivery, including accountability to donors and beneficiaries alike.

Relief International has programs in Afghanistan in Agriculture and Food Production, Business Development, Cooperatives and Credit, Education/Training, Gender Issues/Women in Development, Health Care, Human Rights/Peace/Conflict Resolution, Refugee and Migration Services, Rural Development and Infrastructure Development.

Creating and Restoring Alternative Livelihood Sources (CRALS)

CRALS is a multi-sectoral program to reduce the economic dependency of farmers on poppy cultivation as a livelihood strategy. This is accomplished through interventions such as the establishment of agricultural cooperatives, alternative crop and seed distribution, teaching of improved farming techniques, improvements to irrigation, roads, schools and health clinics and micro-credit schemes. The CRALS project has selected 10 districts in the Nangarhar Province for the implementation of the program activities. RI works with the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Planning, Agriculture, Education and Public Health. (\$3.3M in USG funding)

Libraries for Afghan Schools

This is a program to improve literacy rates in Afghanistan through the provision of libraries to selected schools in Kabul, Kapisa, Nangarhar and Takhar province. In addition to the provision of books and cabinets to store the books, training is provided to teachers at the participating schools in how to incorporate the new library resources into the curriculum. RI works with the Ministry of Education. (\$150K from a larger aid organization)

The Afghan Women's Development Centers (AWDC)

The AWDC program is aimed at improving the livelihoods of women in 4 provinces in Afghanistan (Nangarhar, Takhar, Laghman and Kabul). Women are taught in literacy and numeracy classes, health education, peace education, civic education and vocational education. RI partners with numerous local NGO's and the MOWA to increase the reach of the program and has programs specifically targeted at returnees, IDP's and women head of households. Dedicated structures to house the centers are being built in Takhar, Laghman and Nangarhar province. RI works with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Women's Affairs and numerous local NGO's. (\$1M from USG and private and corporate foundations)

The Global Citizenship and Youth Philanthropy (GCYP)

GCYP program combines media and education to empower international youth to affect change. This approach combining classroom based learning with internet based collaborative projects between school-aged children in Afghanistan and the United States. RI works with the Ministry of Education. (\$300K foundation grant)

Security has been the biggest impediment to the implementation of our programs. In Nangarhar province in particular, there have been numerous occasions when, for weeks on end, our expatriate staff were not able to go out to the villages to monitor the programs because of security concerns. Our school libraries program has been able to deliver books to all selected schools except for those in Nangarhar because of those same security concerns. Also, RI has scaled back the infrastructure improvement projects to focus more on the maintenance and proper operation of the projects we have already completed. Increasing this human capital is the key to ensure the sustainability of all the projects being implemented in Afghanistan to date.

Save the Children

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Introduction to Save the Children

Save the Children is an independent global development and relief organization that creates real and lasting change in the lives of children in need in the U.S. and more than 40 countries around the world

Save the Children in Afghanistan

Save the Children's Afghanistan programs are implemented in the education, health, economic opportunities and CEC (children in emergencies and crisis) sectors to (1) reduce young children's and families' vulnerability to disease and common health threats through ARI/CDD and community IMCI initiatives; maternal and child health, child survival and basic package of health services programs; (2) increase their security and safety through child- and family-focused, community-based landmine/UXO education and child protection and psychosocial support for children and youth; (3) improve young children's developmental and educational opportunities through early childhood development activities and gender-sensitive, basic education; and (4) support improved livelihood opportunities through food security and nutrition surveillance and micro credit programs.

Afghan refugee programs (managed by the Pakistan Field Office) in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province (in Haripur and Ghazi refugee villages) and Balochistan province included health and education programs, formal and non-formal education, micro credit, health education programs, and a working children's program.

Sectors

- Agriculture and Food Production (Food Security – see CEC, below)
- Business Development, Cooperatives and Credit: microcredit (Guaranteed Group Lending and Savings)
- Disaster and Emergency Relief: Children in Emergencies and Crisis
- Landmine Education Programs, including teacher and NGO training; Community-based Mine Risk Education; Psychosocial protection programs, including Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth and a Community-based Child Protection Monitoring and Response Initiative; food security and nutrition surveillance initiatives are a part of our CEC program

- Education/Training: Community-based, gender sensitive basic education for the Poor; Early Childhood Development
- Gender Issues/Women in Development
- Health Care: ARI/CDD (children < 5), including community outreach and education; Maternal/Child Health, including community outreach and education; Basic Package of Health Service delivery, including training of Community Health Workers, supporting community oversight of services and development of health care referrals systems; Child Survival
- Human Rights/Peace/Conflict Resolution: Founding and active member of Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium
- Refugee and Migration Services
- Rural Development

United Methodist Committee on Relief

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Introduction to United Methodist Committee on Relief

UMCOR-NGO is a not-for-profit organization that provides transitional development and relief assistance to communities in need around the world. We currently work in 10 countries. UMCOR-NGO is a non-proselytizing agency of the United Methodist Church that implements a wide variety of programs and strives to provide integrated assistance in areas of agriculture, community development, non-formal education, health, income generation and reconstruction.

Responding to natural or man-made disasters, UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering with open hearts to all religions and open doors to all people. UMCOR is a humanitarian, non-proselytizing agency of the United Methodist Church.

UMCOR-NGO provides transitional development and relief assistance internationally by working collaboratively with local communities to assist them in restoring social stability, revitalizing community structures, and empowering their members to retake control of their lives.

United Methodist Committee on Relief in Afghanistan

UMCOR initially responded to the events in Afghanistan with the submission of an Appeal to ACT International. Through this Appeal, funds totaling over \$1 million were received from UMCOR and Diakonie Austria. With these funds and in conjunction with Mercy Corps International, UMCOR distributed relief supplies in the form of shelter kits and non-food items to 2,000 families in the Takhar province of northern Afghanistan. Additionally, school kits donated to UMCOR were shipped to northern Afghanistan and were distributed to schools and schoolchildren in the region supported by the assistance of Christian Children's Fund.

Programs

Sustainable and Integrated Return to Bagram District

- Locations – Rabat Village, Bagram District, Parwan Province and Kabul, Afghanistan
- Scale – \$497,000; 300 families
- Partners – Norwegian Project Office / Rural Rehabilitation Association of Afghanistan

The Integrated Community Rehabilitation Project in Charikar

- Locations – Khalazai and Sanged Dara Villages, Charikar District, Parwan Province
- Scale – \$212,134; 140 families
- Partners – Norwegian Project Office / Rural Rehabilitation Association of Afghanistan

Establishment of Household Poultry Farms and Creation of Market Linkages

- Locations – Parwan province, Bagram District Village of Rabat and 7 hamlets
- Scale – \$20,073; 310 individuals
- Partners – Norwegian Project Office / Rural Rehabilitation Association of Afghanistan

Hygiene Kit Distribution

- Locations – Kabul
- Scale – 310 women
- Partners – Afghan Center (AC)

Agriculture and Food Production

UMCOR provides “in-kind grants” or material inputs, which enable the beneficiaries to generate a sustainable livelihood. Through the UMCOR Poultry Project chickens were distributed to 100 widows, who also received equipment for the maintenance of the animals. The widows will also receive training in raising techniques, incubation technology and care of chickens. UMCOR is seeking to implement a second poultry project for 100 chicken producers in neighboring Charikar. UMCOR recently approved funding for a similar income generation project to be implemented by NPO/RRAA in Paktiya province in South East Afghanistan. This will provide cows to 100 returning refugees and agricultural inputs to 100 farmers.

UMCOR provided agricultural inputs to enable local farmers to restore crop production in their region. This assistance, in the form of fruit and nut tree saplings or grape rootstock, was distributed to 200 families to enable them to establish orchards and vineyards and increase their income. More than 30,000 grape plants were distributed and beneficiaries received pruning sheers and training in grape production techniques. Farmers were also provided with improved wheat seed and fertilizer for planting in autumn 2002.

Business Development, Cooperatives and Credit

As part of the “Sustainable and Integrated Return to Bagram District” program, funds in the form of micro-credit loans were distributed to a total of 200 beneficiaries to support income generating activities. Beneficiaries received loans of up to \$200 each. UMCOR also provided corresponding training in business management or marketing. Due to the repayments from these micro-credit loans, an additional loan program assisting 100 beneficiaries is being implemented in the neighboring district of Charikar.

Education/Training

UMCOR reconstruction engineers have recently designed earthquake resilient structures that will provide suitable facilities so that children can attend school in an appropriate and safe environment. UMCOR has already renovated a high school for 1800 students in

Rokha (Pansheer district) and is seeking to continue reconstruction of school buildings in Charikar and Rokha, including rebuilding a girls' school. UMCOR has distributed thousands of school kits and teacher kits, containing a variety of stationery materials. One such School Kit Distribution took place in Bagram and Pansheer Districts in September 2003.

Health Care

In autumn 2003, Afghani women in Kabul were the recipients of a Hygiene Kit Distribution as part of a joint UMCOR / Afghan Center (AC) effort to access some of the most vulnerable people in the city. The distribution – the result of cooperation between UMCOR and the AC, an American NGO offering vocational training assistance to 760 women in Kabul – was funded by the US Government Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM). UMCOR also coordinated such distributions with Intersos and Maltheser, aiming to meet the needs of vulnerable women and disabled.

Human Rights/Peace/Conflict Resolution

UMCOR is preparing to take a role in the reintegration of former soldiers by providing job training and income generating activities. UMCOR will also seek to assist former child soldiers with psychosocial programming, vocational training and accelerated learning programs in order to give them the opportunity to begin life anew.

Refugee and Migration Services

In August 2003, UMCOR completed the “Sustainable and Integrated Return to Bagram District” program. Implemented by partner organization NPO/RRAA, the program provided permanent housing solutions for 300 families in Rabat village. In October 2003, UMCOR launched the “Integrated Community Rehabilitation Project in Charikar”, which will assist with rehabilitation of 140 homes as well as providing agricultural and income generation inputs. UMCOR plans to work with government authorities in the near future to aid in the reconstruction of medical health clinics that will aid in the health care of those who overcome the obstacles to return.

Rural Development

UMCOR provides assistance for the construction of 35 wells for daily water use and the rehabilitation of irrigation systems (each well has the capacity to irrigate 4 to 6 farms). Villagers have been trained in well and engine maintenance, as well as in efficient irrigation practices.

US Fund for UNICEF

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Introduction to US Fund for UNICEF

UNICEF continues to make great strides for children in the fields of health, nutrition, education, and protection. Millions have been immunized against measles, polio, and tetanus. Three salt iodation plants have opened in 2003 alone, which will greatly reduce the risk of mental and physical stunting due to iodine deficiency. Over 4 million children, including 1.2 million girls, are now in school, more than ever before in Afghanistan's history. UNICEF is with partners to develop a fully updated, student-friendly curriculum at the primary level. UNICEF is supporting a program to assist war-affected youth including child soldiers to return them to a normal, peaceful life through vocational and literacy classes.

US Fund for UNICEF in Afghanistan

Programs

- Eradicate polio, immunizing 5 million children in 2003.
- Immunize 6 million children against measles.
- Achieve and sustain 80 per cent coverage for the six major vaccine-preventable childhood diseases.
- Improve prenatal, natal and post-natal care coverage; establishing at least one obstetric care facility in every province of the country in 2003; improve training of health workers and support to healthcare facilities nationwide.
- Immunize 4.7 million women of childbearing age against tetanus by 2005.
- Achieve universal salt iodation in Afghanistan by 2004.
- Provide 4 million primary school children with access to high-quality education, especially for girls and hard-to-reach children. Provide basic training to at least 40,000 primary school teachers, including mine risk education skills.
- Provide clean water and sanitation facilities for about 2 million people, including installing a safe water point in every primary school in the country.
- Support the reform of the juvenile justice system, the demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers, and the adoption of appropriate policies and programs for children and youth in need of special protection.
- Contribute to reducing gender and regional disparities and poverty, establishing a base for the sustainable transition of the country from emergency to recovery and development phases.

USA for UNHCR

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Introduction to USA for UNHCR

Established by concerned American citizens, USA for UNHCR builds support in the United States for the humanitarian work of UNHCR and its partners. USA for UNHCR supports refugee programs in camps around the world, meeting unmet needs by providing resources from American individuals, corporations and foundations. In addition, USA for UNHCR reaches out to educate Americans in the United States about the plight of refugees through public education programs and events.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is responsible for protecting over 20 million people worldwide, including refugees, internally displaced people and former refugees who are returning to their homes. As the largest international humanitarian organization, UNHCR and its partners provide protection, water, shelter, healthcare and other types of assistance to refugees worldwide. UNHCR operates in 120 countries.

USA for UNHCR in Afghanistan

Objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in Afghanistan are to help the Islamic Transitional Authority of Afghanistan (ITAA) develop the ability to assist the safe return and reintegration of refugees and IDPs. Emphasis is placed on the facilitation of voluntary return of refugees and IDPs and the protection of their rights. UNHCR strives to include refugees and IDPs who successfully return home, in all major national development plans. The agency also strives to provide assistance for those who cannot return to their home areas. Major emphasis is also placed on working and strengthening ties with partner organizations in order to achieve the overall goals of reintegration and protection of refugee and IDPs.

Description of Program

Over the past two years Afghanistan has been one of the largest assisted voluntary refugee return programs in UNHCR's history. In 2003 (by mid-September), UNHCR helped 60,000 IDPs and 400,000 refugees return to their home societies in Afghanistan from Pakistan and the Republic of Iran. In 2004 the agency plans to help more than 700,000 Afghans return home, including 100,000 IDPs working closely with offices in neighboring countries and the governments of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In partnership with the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, and NGO partners, UNHCR will strive to build local capacity to handle the repatriation and reintegration of refugees.

Moreover, UNHCR will work the Afghan Government, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, to monitor the human rights of returnees and IDPs, identify protection-related obstacles to their return, and recommend how to remove those obstacles. UNHCR will also continue an information campaign to educate returnees about potential problems and a training program for local lawyers, teachers, and officials.

In addition, UNHCR will maintain its direct shelter assistance and water sector programs. Currently, the construction of 34,000 homes has been completed with another 16,000 housing shelters near completion. In collaboration with the ministries of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, MRRD, water channels are being negotiated through pre-existing national development programs, though 2,300 wells and water points have already been established, with 700 under construction. UNHCR is also in full support of the Government's IDP strategy, which focuses on community-based training and income generation programs to assist IDPs who are not yet able to return home.

World Concern

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Introduction to World Concern

World Concern's overall mission: Alleviating the physical and spiritual suffering of the poor through relief and development programs, providing them hope and opportunity to be in right relationship with God, one another and creation.

World Concern in Afghanistan

World Concern has worked in Afghanistan for quarter of a century. This project is producing and providing to the marketplace a highly nutritious porridge called Super Flour. This provides income to the women doing this production as well as food to the marketplace. The goal of this project is to bring people in Balkh and Jawzjan Provinces to a level where there is a sense of peace of mind through regular access to food and income.

Scale of programs

There are 7,350 beneficiaries.

Special concerns

Security in Afghanistan continues to be a concern.

World Vision

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Introduction to World Vision

World Vision International (WVI) brings 50 years of experience in the provision of humanitarian assistance and development aid to projects around the world. With over 7,700 programs operating in more than 100 countries, WVI is one of the largest privately funded PVOs in the world. Total resources from public and private sources for 2001 alone were in excess of US\$950 million, which supported programs serving over 75 million impoverished men, women and children worldwide. WVI is a partnership that includes seventeen support offices, six regional/sub-regional offices, 68 national offices and one international office. The partners share the goal of facilitating the exchange of resources and skills between the developed and developing world, to enable needy families and communities to live productive, self-reliant lives.

World Vision in Afghanistan

In late 2000, World Vision began to closely monitor the situation in Afghanistan and in the region; the extent of the growing drought exacerbated by the ongoing civil conflict became apparent. Further extensive discussions with a number of INGOs then took place. Discussions had been finalized with WFP to distribute 7,462 MT of wheat and projects were being designed to improve the water supplies and promote local food security. This was to be done through Food-For-Asset Creation (FoodAC) and through the distribution of Agricultural Packs.

Immediately following the events of September 11 2001, as the new Afghan crisis began to unfold, WV started distribution of emergency supplies, winter clothing and tents to displaced Afghans along the Tajikistan border, on the Iran/Afghan border at the Makaki Camp and in Quetta and Peshawar in Pakistan. Extensive discussions also took place with UNOCHA and the head of WFP for western Afghanistan. World Vision was strongly urged to become operational in western Afghanistan, in order to expand coverage in the region that traditionally has been less frequented by INGOs. At the same time there were detailed discussions with UNICEF in Islamabad about taking a leading role in implementing emergency nutrition programs in western Afghanistan.

Strategic Goal

World Vision International – Afghanistan operates in western provinces of Afghanistan with its headquarter in Herat and five (5) field-offices. (Three in Qalay-I-Naw, Jawand, Bala-Murghab Districts of Badghis Province; one in Farah City of Farah Province and one in Chaghcharan of Ghor Province) WV also has a liaison office in Kabul. WV is currently implementing an integrated, multi-sectoral program covering health care, agriculture/food security, water and education, with a focus on rehabilitation and recovery activities that enable populations to establish sustainable livelihoods.

Current Projects

World Vision is a registered NGO with the Interim Government of Afghanistan. World Vision co-operates fully with the relevant line ministries including the Ministries of Public Health, Education, Agriculture, Rural Relief and Development and files copies of its active proposals with the Ministry of Planning in Herat. WV attends the Area Coordination Meetings that include the NGOs and the Ministry of Planning on a monthly basis in Herat and Kabul. WV also attends the Provincial Coordination Meetings for Badghis Province on a monthly basis chaired by UNAMA, ACBAR and MOP. WV attends the health, agriculture, food security and water sector meetings. Through these forums, WV engages in coordination with the government ministries, International Organizations, local and international NGOs. WV provides monthly reports to the Ministry of Planning (MOP) detailing the projects and who we are working with

Special Concerns

Thus far the agency has encountered few constraints, with the exception that access to some areas is very poor because of bad weather and roads. Relationships with local authorities are very good and they are very cooperative. Other concerns could include difficulties in negotiating the low prices with local Transport Authorities as it is controlled by the local cartel. Increase in criminal activities (especially road robberies) has been reported recently.