An integrated approach

Security and stability are essential conditions for development. That is why the Netherlands believes that in conflict-prone regions, development programmes are not enough. They need to be combined with action on the political, military and economic fronts. This integrated approach (Defence, Development and Diplomacy) is essential to achieving lasting peace, security and development.

Ministers Verhagen, Van Middelkoop and Koenders visit Afghanistan

The Dutch ministers for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Development Cooperation, Maxime Verhagen, Eimert van Middelkoop and Bert Koenders, visited Afghanistan from 19-21 March 2007. This joint visit underlined the 3 D, or integrated, approach: Diplomacy, Defence and Development reinforce each other.

With this visit the ministers reaffirmed the commitment of the new Netherlands cabinet to Afghanistan. The Netherlands is a substantial contributor in terms of 2000 personnel on the ground, through ISAF and as we are spending more than 70 million Euro annually on development cooperation in Afghanistan, mainly through UN and World Bank channels.

The ministers visited Kabul, Kandahar and Deh Rawood (Uruzgan province) and met with president Karzai, COMISAF MacNeill, COM RC South Van Loon, governour Munib, partner countries, EU and UNAMA, human rights organisations and development NGO's.

Newsflashes

28 March 2007 | Baghlan Cheese Factory Inaugurated

Deputy Minister for Agriculture Jawad opened the Baghlan Cheese Factory in Industrial Baghlan on 28 March. The cheese factory project was implemented by the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) and funded by the Government of the Netherlands.

The cheese factory project was part of a bigger project to rehabilitate the dairy sector in the province of Baghlan. The Netherlands established an ISAF-PRT in Pol-e Khomri, capital of Baghlan, from 2004 until 2006.

23 Mar 2007 | The Netherlands contributes €3 million extra for Uruzgan

An additional contribution of €3 million by the Netherlands to Uruzgan will go to strengthening police capacity and improving other aspects of public safety in the Afghan province. Foreign minister Maxime Verhagen announced the contribution at the end of a visit to Afghanistan, during which he was accompanied by defence minister Bert van Middelkoop and development minister Bert Koenders.

Beneficiaries include the courts and the police in Uruzgan. The money will go to a police academy and better police equipment, such as cars.

About 1,500 Dutch troops are stationed in Uruzgan as part of the NATO effort to bring stability and reconstruction to southern Afghanistan. The ministers also visited Dutch troops.
19 March 2007 | TFU provides assistance in Afghanistan flooding crisis
Dutch troops are assisting in a relief operation after heavy flooding in the Deh Rawod district south west of their base. As a result of severe rainfall, the river Helmand has burst its banks at several points. Minister for Development Cooperation Koenders made €100,000 available for emergency aid.

Where possible, Task Force Uruzgan soldiers have been distributing blankets and food parcels, and leading civilians to safety.

18 March 2007 | Shura with Afghan police
For the first time a shura, or meeting, has been held with the commanders of all checkpoints manned by the Afghan police in Tarin Kowt and Chora districts.

16 March 2007 | Australia’s PM visits Kamp Holland
The Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard, paid a surprise visit to Afghanistan on Thursday (15 March). He also visited the Dutch base Kamp Holland in Tarin Kowt (Uruzgan province).

14 March 2007 | New Afghan soldiers undergoing training
Sixty Afghan National Auxiliary Police (ANAP) recruits received their diploma recently. Instructors of the Dutch Royal Military and Border Police and the American civilian security company Dynacorps taught them basic police skills in an intensive training course.

On Wednesday 14 March, another 40 Afghan soldiers began their training with the Afghan National Army (ANA) at Kamp Holland in Tarin Kowt. The soldiers are being trained by ANA instructors, who are supervised by the Dutch Operational Mentoring Liaison Team (NLD-OMLT).

11 March 2007 | International Women’s Day Celebrations in Tarin Kowt
On 11 March, Minister Fristha for Women’s Affairs in Uruzgan celebrated International Women’s Day in Tarin Kowt, together with over 50 local Afghan women, among them teachers, hospital staff, female ISAF personnel and local women.

As a gift, the Minister gave the women fabric which she had purchased with the help of the Dutch/Australian PRT and Task Force Uruzgan.

To emphasise the important role of women in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, Governor Munib of Uruzgan was also present at the celebrations. “In his speech he thanked all the women for helping to make this special day happen,” said Major Eric Jonkers, spokesperson for Task Force Uruzgan.

9 March 2007 | Dutch support for ISAF operation Achilles
Dutch forces based in the Afghan province of Uruzgan started their manoeuvre in support of ISAF Operation Achilles this morning. In addition to their regular activities, Dutch and Afghan forces will be monitoring movements along the Helmand – Uruzgan border, in what is known as ‘Operation Rakhman’.

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