



جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
وزارت احیاء و انکشاف دهات
برنامه ملی انکشاف ساحوی

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت
د کلیو د بیارغونې او پراختیا وزارت
د سیمیز پراختیا ملی پروګرام



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
National Area Based Development Programme

SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

FARAH CENTRE DISTRICT FARAH PROVINCE



Developed by the Farah Centre District Development Assembly with the facilitation of NABDP/MRRD and support of District and Provincial Governors

July 2006

Introduction

Over the last few years, the Government has shown increasing commitment to make its strategies more responsive to the development needs and priorities of communities at the district level. This commitment was born out of the need to make development intervention more effective, enduring, equitable, and people-oriented. Accordingly, district development planning was perceived as an opportune mechanism for enabling the envisaged consultative, people-oriented development.

In July 2006, Farah Centre District welcomed a team of facilitators from the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) to facilitate a comprehensive development planning process in the district. With the support of NABDP facilitators, the District Development Assembly (DDA) and district Government representatives formulated a District Development Plan (DDP) for their district, in which local women did not participate largely due to traditional and security restrictions. The plan was developed in a community-led process and thus enabled the communities to articulate their priority needs and recommend strategies for addressing them.

The process of DDP formulation comprised a number of stages: collection and validation of secondary data about the district; analysis of the strengths/opportunities and weaknesses/threats of the district; definition of development vision and goals and development of strategies, activities and project ideas for addressing the development priority needs of the district.

This document summarises the methodological approach for and the key outputs of the district development planning process in Farah Centre District.

District Profile

The facilitators collected the following secondary data about the district from the provincial authorities and presented it to the DDA for review, the validity of which was subsequently confirmed by the DDA:

General Information	
Population (CSO 2004)	109,409
Area (AIMS)	3,463 sq. km.
Number of villages	263
Number of vulnerable families (estimates provided by local authorities)	868 internally displaced families, 641 returnee families, 656 disabled-headed families, 595 women-headed families
Ethnic diversity	Pashtun and Tajik

Situation Analysis, Development Goals and Strategies

The participants used the SWOT analytical methodology to identify the strengths/opportunities and weaknesses/threats of the district per each Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) sector, the outcome of which was used as the basis for formulating development goals for the district. They subsequently developed strategies and project ideas for achieving those goals.

Security

Situation Analysis

The security situation in sub-urban Farrah Centre has been assessed relatively peaceful, and the various local Government security forces and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), with the cooperation of the local communities and tribal councils, strive to maintain that peace and impose law and order in the area. However, the local security forces lack the capacity to reduce crimes such as child abductions and robberies, bring criminals to justice, eliminate administrative corruption, and properly punish criminals rather than releasing them from jails with bribes prior to prosecution, and implement disarmament programmes in the district. Moreover, local security departments lack of professional work discipline and recruit on the basis of nepotism and partiality towards certain parties and tribal affiliations.

Goal

To ensure better overall peace and security in the district by providing essential military and combat equipment, capacity building and special training programmes to security personnel.

Major Strategies

1. Establishment of security posts throughout the district to better maintain security and peace in the area.
2. Recruitment of security personnel on the basis of qualification and merit, and complete implementation of Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) Programme in the local security departments in a transparent process.
3. Provision of capacity building and special training programmes for the local security forces.
4. Reinforcement of local Government security forces with essential military and combat equipment, supplies, vehicles and adequately trained personnel.
5. Provision of incremented salary scale, employment incentives and benefits for local security personnel.

Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights

Situation Analysis

The rule of law is reasonably implemented in the area and the various branches of the judicial systems, human rights office, and local Government departments function in the district. However, the local Government administration has shortage of professional personnel and fails to recruit on the basis of qualification and merit rather than certain party and tribal affiliations, reduce administrative corruption in public offices, collaborate and consult with local communities and tribal councils in Government activities and planning, and conduct public awareness campaigns concerning the Law, and human rights within the framework of Islam.

Goal

To establish a strong, transparent, and accountable local Government administration that will effectively implement the rule of law, include the local communities and tribal councils in its planning and decision making, conduct public awareness campaigns concerning the Law and human rights, and ensure equal justice for all sectors of the population.

Major Strategies

1. Appointment of local judges on the basis of qualification and merit rather than certain party and tribal affiliations.
2. Recruitment of Government personnel on the basis of qualification and merit rather than certain party and tribal affiliations.

3. Establishment of public awareness campaigns concerning the Law and human rights.
4. Better collaboration and consultations with the local communities and tribal councils in Government decision making and implementing the rule of law.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Situation Analysis

Local residents have reasonably limited access to basic infrastructure services such as roads, private transportation systems, telecommunications network coverage, privately produced electricity, and irrigation canals. Moreover, the area has shortage of paved roads and lacks adequate irrigation systems, river dykes, intakes and canals, telecommunications network coverage throughout the area, reliable and affordable public electricity, riverbank flood protection walls, and regulated deforestation.

Goal

To provide access to basic infrastructure such as asphalted roads to link the district centre to its villages, a public transportation system, telecommunications network coverage, and reliable and affordable source of public electricity to facilitate local economic and social development.

Major Strategies

1. Construction of new and restoration of existing roads in the district.
2. Establishment of telecommunication systems and stations in the area.
3. Construction of hydropower stations and provision of public electricity from neighbouring countries.
4. Construction of new and restoration of existing irrigation systems, canals, karizes, river dykes and intakes.

Education

Situation Analysis

The local education system has developed relatively well with schools catering to both boys and girls, privately operated literacy and training centres, Madrasas (religious schools) and land for construction of new public schools. However, due to continues conflicts in the area, the district's education standards are low, schools lack professional and qualified personnel, education equipment and materials, and some schools lack buildings and are operated under tents and in open space.

Goal

To provide equal access and rights to a standardised education system with qualified teachers, education equipment and materials, libraries, and capacity building and special training programmes for teachers.

Major Strategies

1. Reformation of the school curricula to raise the standards of education in the district.
2. Provision of capacity building and special training programmes for the education staff.
3. Construction of buildings for schools without facilities.
4. Construction of a residential township for teachers and education personnel.
5. Establishment of school transportation systems for teachers and students.

Health

Situation Analysis

The basic healthcare system has reasonably developed in the area, with a district hospital, health centres, pharmacies, dentistry clinics, and a national organisation, Coordination for Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) assisting in the development of the health sector. However, the existing health centres have a shortage of professional medical staff, quality medicines, medical equipment and supplies, and ambulances. Moreover, the local health sector fails to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, reduce infant and maternal mortality rates and overcrowding at the local hospital, and conduct public health awareness campaigns environmental safety, personal hygiene and sanitation. In addition, the district lacks a health inspector's unit to ensure health regulation conformity and curb the sale of low quality and expired drugs by local pharmacies.

Goal

To expand basic healthcare services by establishing health centres throughout the district, prevent the spread of infectious diseases and reduce infant and maternal mortality rates in the area.

Major Strategies

1. Establishment of safe sources of drinking water throughout the district.
2. Construction of new health centres throughout the district with provisions of essential medical equipment and supplies and professional personnel.
3. Establishment of mobile clinics for the local Kuchi (nomad) community.
4. Establishment of public health awareness campaigns concerning environmental safety, hygiene and sanitation.

Agriculture and Rural Development

Situation Analysis

A great majority of local residents are engaged in agricultural and livestock activities with access to irrigable lands, agricultural mechanisation equipment, irrigation systems, canals and karizes, and national and international organisations such as ADA, Coordination for Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), the United Nations Fund for Agricultural Organisation (UNFAO) and ADF assisting in local agricultural development and provision safe sources of drinking water. However, farmers lack better access to improved seeds, chemical fertilisers, pesticides and other plant and animal disease prevention remedies, agricultural mechanisation equipment, and adequate irrigation systems, intakes, canals and water reservoirs. In addition, the district lacks research farms, cold storages for longer preservation of agricultural productions, processing centres, a trade centre and profitable marketing systems for locally produced goods and commodities, and better coordination between donor organisations and the local communities to assess their priority needs and assist accordingly.

Goal

To improve agricultural and livestock production levels and quality by constructing adequate irrigation systems and providing agricultural mechanisation equipment and capacity building programmes for local farmers.

Major Strategies

1. Distribution of improved seeds, chemical fertilisers and agricultural mechanisation equipment for local farmers.
2. Establishment of micro-finance programmes and a local agricultural development bank.
3. Establishment of veterinary clinics and provision of pesticides and other plant and animal disease prevention remedies.
4. Establishment of research farms, greenhouses and nurseries in the area.
5. Construction of new and restoration of existing irrigation systems, canals and intakes.

Social Protection

Situation Analysis

The local vulnerable population receives some short-term relief and assistance from various Government departments and organisations such as Coordination for Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), ADA, Red Crescent, and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). However, local vulnerable groups suffer from harsh living conditions and lack of long-term assistance and social services such as residential settlements for returnees and the internally displaced, public housing for the homeless, vocational training centres and employment opportunities.

Goal

To improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups, provide adequate social services and employment opportunities, and take proper measures to mitigate the destruction and devastation caused by natural disasters such as an information centre and early warning systems in the area.

Major Strategies

1. Creation of employment opportunities for the local vulnerable population.
2. Provision of emergency relief aid in the aftermath of natural disasters, and adequate social services for local vulnerable groups.
3. Construction of flood protection and retaining walls for agricultural and residential areas.
4. Establishment of residential settlements and public housing for local returnees and other vulnerable groups.

Economic Governance and Private Sector Development

Situation Analysis

Most residents earn their income from agricultural and livestock activities, while some earn their living from small businesses and trade, carpentry, machine repair, and handicraft productions such as carpet weaving, tailoring and embroidery. Moreover, an ice factory and some private construction companies operate in the area, and the private sector has invested in various industries. However, many businesses and investors have departed the area due to unstable security conditions, the local residents suffer from a weak economy and high transportation fares from the villages to the district centre, and the local Government administration fails to develop profitable marketing systems for the trade and export of locally produced goods, and control the import of low quality foreign items which inflate the market value of locally produced commodities,

Goal

To improve the living standards in the district by boosting the local economy, creating employment opportunities and promoting private sector development in the area.

Major Strategies

1. Establishment of vocational training centres for handicrafts and other skills.
2. Promotion of small industries such as handicrafts production.
3. Provision of special incentives, privileges and stable security conditions for outside investment and local private sector development.
4. Establishment of micro-finance programmes and a local development bank.

Prioritized Project Ideas

After having developed strategies and activities, the participants identified and prioritized 34 project ideas of various sectors to achieve the development goals for the district, none of which were proposed by women due to lack of participation. It is expected that these priority project ideas will be discussed in a provincial development planning process to ensure that community priority needs are articulated in the government's provincial and national development plans.