



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

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



SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Gizab District, Urozgan Province



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

5 Dec. 2007

1. 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 Dec. 2007, Gizab 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 male/female District Development Assembly (DDA) and district Government representatives formulated a District Development Plan (DDP) for their district. 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 summarizes the methodological approach for and the key outputs of the district development planning process in Gizab District.

2. 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	
Total population as of 2003 (Central Statistics Office)	75,503
Total area	3,636 sq. km
Total villages	217
Average size of land holding per family	1 jirib (2,000 square meters)
Ethnic composition	Pashtun, Tajik and Hazara
Sectoral Information	
Education:	
High schools	2
Primary schools	37 for boys and 10 for girls
Secondary schools	3
Home-based schools	100 for boys and for girls (mixed schools)
Literacy courses	7 for girls
Health:	

Life expectancy	50 years
Basic Health Centre	2
Health posts	15
Population having access to health services	70%
Infrastructure and Natural Resources:	
Total length of unpaved roads	200 km
Villages not connected to roads	60%
Forest	5 sq. km
Families having access to electricity	5%
Villages without access to safe drinking water	5%

3. Core Problem and its Causes

The participants used the “Problem Tree” analytical methodology to identify the core development problem and its underlying causes in the district as follows:

Overwhelming poverty is considered to be the core problem of the district. Due to skyrocketing inflation and lack of livelihood opportunities, a lot of people cannot afford to buy essential food commodities.

The main reasons for the poverty are poor security, shortage of irrigation water and negligence of the socio-economic situation of the district. Unemployment is very high, and most people lack the skills to earn a decent livelihood. Criminal activities, including kidnapping of government and international agencies’ employees, are taking place at a very high rate, preventing reconstruction and investment in the district. Due to the protracted drought and destruction of irrigation system, the district has very little water for irrigation, causing a substantial drop in agricultural production.

4. Development Goal

The participants formulated the following goal to address the core problem in the district:

To ensure reliable security and peace, and improve the socio-economic conditions of the district

5. Development Objectives and Strategies

In order to achieve the development goal, the participants set four development objectives for the district and recommended strategies for achieving them.

Objective One:

To ensure overall security in the area

Major Strategies:

- Elimination of administrative corruption and recruitment on the basis of merits
- Creation of tribal councils to work as a bridge between the local people and government authorities

- Implementation of the Disarmament of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) programme
- Clearing the district from the Taliban
- Strengthening of police forces and restoration of all local government institutions

Objective two:

To promote agricultural and livestock productions and to improve access to infrastructure services

Major Strategies:

- Mechanization of agricultural and livestock production
- Provision of improved seeds and chemical fertilizers
- Prevention of plant and livestock diseases and rehabilitation of pastures
- Connection of the district centre with its villages and capital of the province
- Provision of a reliable and affordable source of energy

Objective Three:

To provide people with better access to social services and promote economic independence

Major Strategy:

- Construction of new schools and restoration of the existing ones, and improving cooperation between school administration and students' parents
- Provision of equal enrollment opportunities for boys and girls, and creation of learning opportunities for parents of students
- Building the capacity of teachers; recruitment on the basis of merits in the education departments; increasing the salary of teachers; and provision of equipments to the departments of education
- Recruitment of health personnel on the basis of qualifications
- Construction of hospitals, clinics, health centers and maternity wards

Objective Four:

To improve employment opportunities

Major Strategies:

- Exploitation of mineral resources
- Provision of employment and vocational and technical training opportunities
- Combating poppy cultivation and provision of alternative livelihood for farmers

6. District Development Project Ideas

After having developed strategies, the participants identified and prioritized 53 project ideas – about seven per sector- to achieve the development objectives for the district, none of which were proposed by women due to lack of participation. Some of these priority project ideas were

discussed and included in the provincial development plan (PDP) to ensure that community priority needs are articulated in provincial and national development plans of the Government. The PDP was prepared in *month 2007* in a process of sub-national consultation and provincial development planning workshops.