

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

SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**WARSAJ DISTRICT
TAKHAR PROVINCE**



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

June 2006

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 June 2006, Warsaj 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 Mixed District Development Assembly (DDA) and District Government Representatives (hereinafter referred to as the participants) 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 summarises the methodological approach for and the key outputs of the district development planning process in Warsaj District. Complete DDP can be accessed at...

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:

Summary Table:

General Information	
Population (CSO 2004)	33506 People
Area (AIMS)	2705.3 Sq km
Total Number of Villages	94 Villages
Ethnic diversity	Uzbek, Tajik, Gojor, Pashai and Hazara
Mixture of population	Uzbek, Tajik, Pashai and Gojor

3. District Development Vision:

After having analyzed the situation in the district, the DDA developed the following development vision:

It is envisioned that Warsaj District would have complete peace and security, reduction of poverty, better access to healthcare and modern and standardised education system and services, better access to basic infrastructure services and a strong and transparent local Government administration that will equally implement the rule of law and protect fundamentals of human rights.

4. District Sector Situation, Development Goals and Strategies:

The participants used the SWOT analytical methodology to identify per ANDS sector the strengths/opportunities and weaknesses/threats of the district, 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 Sector

Sector Situation Analysis:

The security situation in Warsaj district has been assessed as relatively well with the existence of National Army and Police personnel and cooperation and coordination of inhabitants with them to impose law and order in the area and women are free to work in NGOs or public offices. The district has good relationship with its neighbours to better ensure peace and security throughout the district. However, the district security departments suffer from the shortage of adequately trained personnel, vehicles, military supplies and equipment, enough budgets to purchase its essential materials, proper and reliable transportation facilities, security check posts and lack of women recruitment in the security departments to establish women checkpoints in the areas. Similarly, DIAG program for disarming illegal armed groups has not been implemented yet to maintain security in the area and government can't control them easily these can be considered major obstacles for ensuring an overall peace and stability throughout the district.

Goal:

To ensure overall peace and security with secured social life for the entire population of the district

Strategies:

- Reinforcement of security departments with provision of essential technical equipment and supplies
- Terminate unskilled, unqualified and unprofessional personnel in the government offices
- Ensuring over all peace and security with secured social life for the general population of the district

Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights Sector:

Sector Situation Analysis:

The government rule of law is relatively imposed with the presence of judicial systems, government administration offices, human rights commission office, women affairs department, and human right is ensured in framework of Islam, rule of law imposed in the district by the government representatives and also poppy plant cultivation has been eradicated throughout the district. However, the inhabitants suffer from the shortage of qualified and professional personnel in the government departments, the prevailing culture of administrative corruption, practices of nepotism and partiality to certain parties and tribes in the district government offices. Similarly, lack of proper administration and adequate payment system the government staff are not working in interest these mentioned problems caused poverty and hanger in the district.

Goal:

To establish an empowered and transparent government administration, prevention of transgressed people of law and respect human rights across the district.

Strategies:

- Establishment of an accountable, transparent and effective government administration

Infrastructure and Natural Resources Sector

Sector Situation Analysis:

The district residents have relatively better access to basic infrastructure services such as roads between villages, bridges and natural mines like coal and other precious stones, vast land for construction of public housing and residential programs. However, the government and other relevant agencies have failed to provide professional and technical personnel, essential modern and latest supplies and equipments to extract and exploit natural mines of the district. And existing mines and natural resources being extracted and exploited illegally by the warlords and armed groups. However, most of the district bridges and roads have been destroyed making accessibility to remote areas of the district very difficult.

Goal:

To provide people better access to basic infrastructure services, protection of forests and jungles from deforestation and mines

Strategies:

- Better assistance and financial support from the national and international agencies in favour of regulated exploitation and extraction of mines and other natural resources of the district
- Improved access to better transportation and communication network coverage systems in the area

Education, Culture, Media and Sport Sector:**Sector Situation Analysis:**

The district has relatively better access to education system with the existence of some boys' and girls' primary, secondary and high schools, private education courses. Implemented awareness programs for students concerning the narcotics and administrative corruption, the inhabitants support the education system and encourage their children to get education and be educated and some national and international relief organisations aid assistance to education sector of the district. However, the district education sector suffer from the shortage of administrative and school buildings, qualified and well-trained teachers, especially female ones, library, essential supplies, equipment and teaching materials, transportation systems for male and female students and many girls cannot continue their education due to much distance from their houses to the schools. Lack of safe sources of drinking water and laboratories for practical work for the students of the district.

Goal:

To improve education level in the area by provision of adequate education supplies, equipment and teaching materials, building the capacity of both teachers and students throughout the district

Strategies:

- Upgrading the education department's capacity by provision of education facilities

Health and Nutrition Sector**Sector Situation Analysis:**

The district residents have access to basic healthcare services like health examination centres, male and female doctors in the existing health centres, private and governmental drug stores are present in the district to solve residents' problems. However, the existing health centres do not have the required capacity and supplies to address the medical needs of the largely populated areas of the district, especially lacking adequate male and female doctors, health physicians and nurses to extend health services to the pregnant women of the area. Moreover, due mainly to the shortage of a well-equipped and properly staffed district hospital the local inhabitants suffer from the wide spread of infectious and killing diseases in the district level.

Goal:

To improve basic healthcare services, reduce mother and child mortality rate, ensure environmental safety and reduce the spread of infectious diseases throughout the district

Strategies:

- Provision of quality and healthcare facilities for the entire population

Agriculture and Rural Development Sector:

Sector Situation Analysis:

District residents have access to long-standing irrigation systems, vast irrigable lands, natural forests, fruit trees such as apple, peaches apricots and others for sale and domestic consumption. Opportunities for investment such as apiculture, pisciculture forms and plastic factory are available. However, the farmers still use traditional farming methods in their agricultural activities so they suffer from low level of agricultural production due to lack of modern supplies, equipment and adequate veterinary clinics, agricultural cooperatives, profitable trade centre and marketing system, cold storage houses. Moreover, the government has failed to conduct field visits and conduct special training programmes for farmers concerning improved methods of farming and agricultural systems, and to prevent the uncontrolled destruction of natural forests caused by the illegal armed groups.

Goal:

To improve agricultural and livestock production levels and quality and mechanization of system in the district within the next five years

Strategies:

- Mechanization of agricultural system
- Provision of essential agricultural supplies, equipment and technology to promote agricultural production levels and quality

Social Protection Sector**Sector Situation Analysis:**

Communities have established a cooperative unit through which they assist each other during the natural disasters and emergency situations. The government with the close cooperation from the national and international agencies operating in the area provide relief assistance to the disabled, widows, orphans and other vulnerable groups and distribute assistances for vulnerable groups and needy groups. However, the aid is insufficient to meet the dire needs and ease the harsh living conditions of the vulnerable sector of the society. The district also lacks a disaster management office to establish a disaster management plan to facilitate timely assistance to the victims of natural disasters across the district.

Goal:

To improve livelihoods, provision of secured social life, release fear and anxiety and assist vulnerable groups within next few years in the district

Strategies:

- Upgrading the economic condition and living atmosphere of residents

Economic Governance and Private Sector Development Sector**Sector Situation Analysis:**

The district residents have access to natural resources such as coal and gemstone mines, abundant forests, and fruit tree gardens, the trees of apple, peaches and apricots, raw materials for handicraft that can provide income-regeneration opportunities for the population of the district. The district has also opportunities for establishment of plastic big making factories and fishing farms and apiculture form. However, the district suffers from the shortage of a profitable trade centre and marketing systems for produced goods and commodities and lack of a regulated plan for extraction of natural mines. Moreover, the government has failed to establish a regulated trade and investment policy to encourage wealthier people of the society to invest in private sectors in the area. Lack of handicraft training programs for the district women and yet haven't done any developmental programs to reduce poverty and hangar in the district.

Goal:

To promote economic development opportunities and financial independency programs, establish commerce and marketing system, an agricultural development bank, agricultural cooperative system in the area to improve the living condition of general population of the district within the next few years

Strategies:

- Creation of job and employment opportunities for the unemployed
- Regulated exploitation and excavation of natural mines and gemstones

5. Prioritized Project Ideas:

After having developed strategies and activities, the participants both men and women identified and prioritized **36** of project ideas to achieve the development goals for the district. 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.

Details of the prioritized projects can be found at www.mrrd-napdp.org