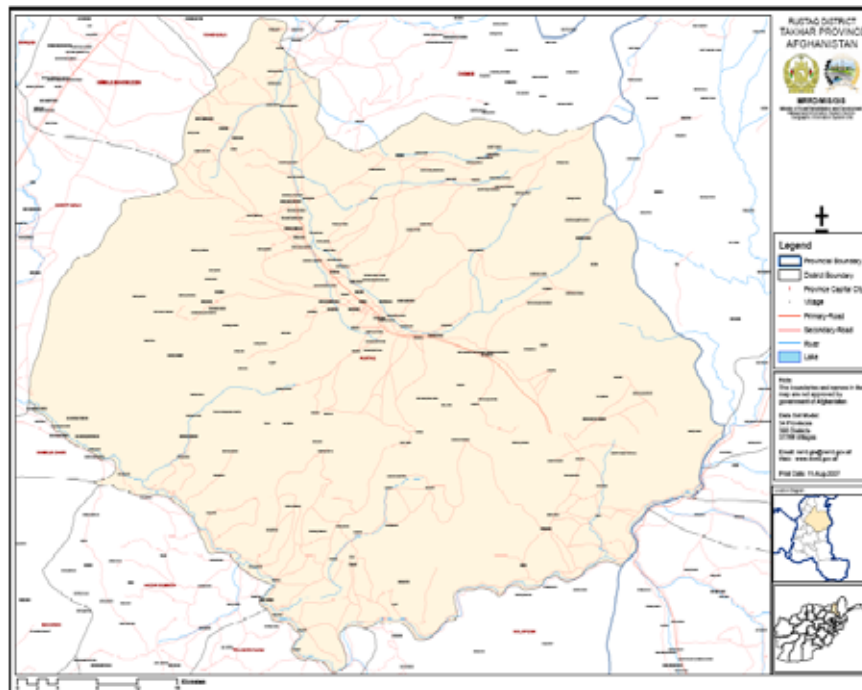


**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
National Area Based Development Programme**

SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**ROSTAQ DISTRICT
TAKHAR PROVINCE**



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

July 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 July 2006, Rostaq 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 District Development Assembly (DDA), Women Advisory Committee and District Government representatives (hereinafter referred to as the participants) formulated a District Development Plan (DDP) for their district. The plan was developed through a community-led process which enabled 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 Rostaq District. It is expected that this plan will enable Provincial and National governments, as well as donor communities, to align their resources towards the relevant development aspirations of Rostaq 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:

Summary Table:

| General Information | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Population (CSO 2003) | 122993 People |
| Area (AIMS) | 1939 Sq. Km |
| Total number of villages | 179 Villages |
| Ethnic diversity | Uzbek, Tajik, Gojor and Pashaai |

3. District Development Vision:

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

Better access to standard education and reliable healthcare services, reduction of poverty, gravelled and asphalted roads and would have secured social life, economic self-sufficiency in upcoming years.

4. 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:

Generally, security situation in Rostaq district has been assessed relatively well. National security and the national police forces are functioning well, and thus the residents have relatively peaceful life because the district security personnel are active and the community cooperate with security personnel with full preparation. However, presence of unprofessional staff due to recruitment base on relationship and friendship, lack of vehicles and transportation facilities, essential equipments, check posts and inadequate salary for personnel and presence of illegal armed persons in the district cause insecurities. Similarly, DIAG program for disarming illegal armed groups has not been yet implemented to maintain security in the area and government can't control them easily.

Goal:

To ensure overall peace, stability and secured social life and implementation of rule of law equally in the district

Major Strategies:

- Provision of access to adequate equipments, facilities and armour
- Provision of developmental program throughout the district
- Elimination of corruption and bribery in the district

Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights

Situation Analysis:

The rule of law is relatively imposed across the district, Judiciary system; district governor and human rights department are functioning and human right is ensured in framework of Islam, residents' desire for equally implementation of rule of law in the district. However, existence of corruption, bribes, and recruitment of unskilled and unqualified personnel on the basis of relationship, partiality and favouritism has created irregularity and unemployment opportunities for talented, skilful and experienced workers. Similarly, domination of warlords over key work and unawareness of people regarding the constitution and Human Rights respect specially women. Women participation is less and are not involving them in decision making. Similarly, due to lack of proper and well managed administration and payment system the salary is not enough for the government personnel and can't survive their lives therefore they cultivate poppy in the district.

Goal:

To establish a strong and transparent administration where all the related laws and the equal rights of the general citizens are respected and eradication of poppy in the district

Major Strategies:

- Disarm illegal armed groups
- Building the capacity of government personnel
- Establishment of awareness program concerning human rights and implementation of rule of law
- People access to residential lands and settlements
- Provision of job and employment opportunities for disarmed groups in the district

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Situation Analysis:

The district has limited access to infrastructure services such as, roads, bridges and forest. For urbanization and master plan land is available. However, most of the roads and bridges in the district are dilapidated and make accessibility to remote villages difficult and people of the district are suffering from lack of electricity, dams for energy and irrigation, retaining walls along the riverbanks. Lack of enough budgets for purchasing modern equipments and qualified personnel for extraction and exploitation of mines. In addition, Jungles and forest have been cut by the warlords and illegal armed groups all the above difficulties and inadequacies are the result of negligence of the government and other agencies. The issues have affected the general people of the area.

Goal:

To provide people better accesses to basic infrastructure services and protection of forest from deforestation

Major Strategies:

- Protection of forests from deforestation
- Provision of better access to proper transportation system

Education, Culture, Media and Sport

Situation Analysis:

Rostaq district residents' are interested in getting education and assessed relatively well with 47 schools and has access to Primary, Secondary, literacy courses and High schools for both boys and girls for the students. Similarly, teachers are providing awareness courses and programs concerning narcotics and harms of narcotics for the students in schools. Moreover, the teacher training institute for building the capacity of teachers are present. However, lack of buildings to the education department and schools due to shortage of lands and lands have been usurped by the warlords in last two decades of war. On the other hand, both schools and the education department lack library, school equipments, teaching materials, enough budget for salary increment of teachers and workers, qualified and professional teachers especially female and no attention from the education department in providing trainings courses and workshops for capacity building of teachers. Moreover, most children in the remote areas of the district don't have access to schools lack of transportation facilities.

Goal:

To develop education level through capacity development programs, provision of access to standardized education system, provision of facilities for both students and teachers in order to reduce illiteracy rate in the district.

Major Strategies:

- Developing education level and provision of education facilities for both students and teachers to boost education sector

Health and Nutrition

Situation Analysis:

Rostaq residents have access to 6 clinics, male and female medical doctors, nurses and midwives providing healthcare facilities to the district residents. Vaccination program against major child diseases and rabies is active and implementing the program throughout the district. In addition, rush

of doctors in the city lack of proper and well managed plan to recruit doctors and enough salary for remote areas, lack of attention of government in provision of training courses and workshops for capacity building of the doctors and health personnel, lack of qualified and professional healthcare personnel in the clinics especially Surgeon and female doctors in clinics. Mortality rate is very high in the district due to lack of quality medical drugs and existing drugs in medical stores are expired, presence of new and unqualified, untrained doctors, different diseases, laboratories and lack of technicians in the health clinics.

Goal:

To provide access to modern and standardized health care services and safe environment for the district residents

Major Strategies:

- Building the capacity of existing health personnel
- Provision of quality healthcare services and facilities

Agriculture and Rural Development

Situation Analysis:

As majority of district residents are engaged in agriculture and livestock production, canals, rivers and agricultural lands are available for the orchards. On the other hand, Agricultural department and cooperatives are also available in the district. Women are also participating to boost the agricultural and livestock production level and livestock rate in the district. However, the level of agricultural output is low because farmers rely on traditional farming equipments and machineries they lack modern agricultural equipments and veterinary clinics. Similarly, lack of cold storage houses, training courses, agricultural facilities and field visits by agriculture department to advice farmers about improvement of farming methods and technologies has created obstacle in the way of agriculture development, finally it is required to acquire the attention of the government to protect natural resources which cut and utilised illegally by armed groups.

Goal:

To improve the quality and quantity of agricultural and livestock production levels through mechanization system, provision of improved seeds, irrigation water and establishment of agricultural and livestock cooperatives

Major Strategies:

- Establishment of income generation system for the orchards of the district
- Improving agricultural and livestock production levels and quality

Social Protection

Situation Analysis:

The community has social safety nets whereby they support and assist one another during disasters and emergencies. Government and aid agencies provide limited welfare assistance to the disabled, returnees, needy groups, vulnerable groups and other natural disaster affected families, but the provided aids are insufficient and often take place untimely. Moreover, residents of the district suffer from chronic poverty and lack of job opportunities and the absence of a disaster management office and disaster management plan also makes it difficult to create coordination between the district and the government to distribute lands and to carry out help services. Orphans of the district are suffering from illiteracy as there is no orphanage and no other opportunities.

Goal:

To provide access to a peaceful life by creation of job opportunities and other benefits and assistances for vulnerable groups within next few years

Major Strategies:

- Upgrading the economic condition and living atmosphere of residents

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

As majority of district residents are engaged in agriculture and livestock production, canals, rivers and agricultural lands are available for the orchards. In mentioned district the main agricultural productions are wheat, corn, sugarcane, and chickpea. Similarly, carpet and kilim weaving and tailoring are the art of this district and also jungles, natural mines, which plays a vital role in economic development of the district. However, lack of professional and experienced engineers, modern and updated machineries the mines and natural resources managed and exploited poorly. Similarly, lack of job opportunities and lack of a coherent government strategy to support private sector development has stifled local investments and similarly unavailability of international market for handicraft and agricultural products are also the major problems which confronting the communities.

Goal:

To establish fruit and dairy processing factory, provision of workshops and trainings regarding the new methods of cultivation, encouragement of women and private sectors investment to boost district's economy

Major Strategies:

- Creation of employment opportunities for needy groups

5. Prioritized Project Ideas:

After developing strategies and activities, the male DDA participants identified and prioritized **35** project ideas to achieve the district development goals in which 6 project ideas were identified by women participants. It is expected that these projects will be discussed in the provincial development planning process to ensure that community priority needs are included in the provincial and national development plans.

For more details refer to <http://www.mrrd-nabdp.org>