



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

د افغانستان اسلامی جمهوریت
د کلیو د بیارغونې او پراختیا وزارت
ملی سیمه ایز پرمختیایی پروگرام



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

SUMMARY OF DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SHAHRAK DISTRICT GHOR PROVINCE



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

November 2007

Introduction

Over the last few years, the Government has shown increasing commitment to make its development interventions more effective, enduring, equitable and responsive to the needs and priorities of communities at the district level. In order to translate this commitment into action, the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed the concept of district development assembly and district development planning, which was subsequently linked with the sub-national consultation of Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the provincial development planning processes conducted between June and September 2007 per request of the Inter-ministerial Committee of the Government.

District development planning is perceived as opportune mechanism for enabling communities to take charge of planning processes for their district and thereby articulate their development needs and priorities. So, it was felt necessary to establish district level community institutions to materialize this community-led development planning process. Therefore, Shahrak District formed a District Development Assembly (DDA), representing Community Development Councils (CDCs), women advisory committee and the representatives of the local Government in November 2007. The clusters of CDCs and villages are presented in Annex II of full DDP. The DDA enhances cooperation between the communities and Government and ensures community participation in district development planning and management processes.

In November 2007, Shahrak District welcomed a team of facilitators from the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to facilitate a comprehensive development process in the district. With their support, the DDA, women advisory committee and the district Government representatives formulated a District Development Plan (DDP) for their district.

The development planning process comprised a number of stages: coordination of the planning process with local Government authorities, collection and verification of secondary data about the district, analysis of problems prevalent in the district, formulation of a development goal, objectives, strategies and activities, processing of the DDP and endorsement of the DDP by the District Governor.

This document explains the methodological approach for and the key outputs of the district development planning process. 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 Shahrak District.

District Profile

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

General Information	
Population (CSO 2003)	57888
Area (AIMS)	4350 sq. km.
Number of villages	195
Average land ownership	1 jireeb per family
Ethnic diversity	100% Tajik
Sectoral Information	
Education	
Number of primary schools	9
Number of secondary schools	14
Number of high schools	2
Health	
Number of basic clinics/health centers	1 comprehensive health center, 2 basic health centers, 11 drugstores
Access to basic healthcare services	80%
Infrastructure and natural services	
Access to safe drinking water	10%
Access to private/public electricity	0
Access to non-graveled roads	50%
Access to bazaar and district centre	20%
Main handicrafts	Rug weaving
Agricultural productions	wheat, barley and potato

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:

The residents of Shahrak District suffer from a very weak economy and severe poverty due to lack of road linkage between villages and district centre, low level of agriculture and livestock productions, inaccessibility to healthcare services and security problems. The residents have limited access to basic infrastructure services such as road links between villages and the district centre, which disables people in taking their agricultural products to bazaar on time. The level of agricultural and livestock products are too lower to suffice daily needs of the residents, and weak social services have brought high rate of illiteracy and infants and maternal mortality among the people. Moreover, insecurity such as abduction, murders and theft have caused uneasiness and problems for local people, traders, investors and private sectors; they can't invest their businesses in the district, such conditions have affected the economy of the people and have led them to poverty and indigence.

Development Goal

In order to address the core problem in the district, the participants formulated an overall development goal for the district as follows:

To construct roads and link villages to the district centre, improve local agricultural and livestock production levels and quality, mechanize agricultural system, provide better access to quality education and healthcare services, implement the rule of law and to provide overall security in the district

Development Objectives and Strategies

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

Objective One

To construct roads, bridges and culverts that links the villages to the district centre

Major Strategies

1. Acquiring the attention of the charity NGOs and the Government to construct new and reconstruct the existing linking roads, bridges and culverts
2. Insuring overall peace and security across the district
3. Establishment of reliable and affordable public transportation system and construction of retaining walls
4. Acquiring attention and cooperation of the district residents in roads and bridges construction

Objective Two

To improve agricultural and livestock production levels and quality, and provide access to mechanized agricultural and livestock system

Major Strategies

1. Provision of adequate irrigation water and agricultural mechanisation equipments
2. Establishment of trainings and capacity building workshops for farmers
3. Distribution of pesticides and other plant and animal disease prevention remedies
4. Establishment of agriculture and livestock farms

Objective Three

To provide better access to social services and healthcare facilities

Major Strategies

1. Recruitment of qualified teachers and provision of essential education equipments and materials for schools
2. Provision of improved access to basic healthcare services and recruitment of professional and experienced physician
3. Improvement of living standards for local vulnerable groups (the disabled, families of martyrs and returnees) by attaining Government and relevant NGOs attention
4. Construction of an equipped hospital in the district centre

Objective Four

To implement the rule of law and ensure overall peace and security

Major Strategies

1. Complete implementation of the Disarmament of Illegally Armed Groups (DIAG) Programme in the district and establishment of security posts
2. Reinforcement and equally implementation of rule of law across the district
3. Recruitment of professional and guarantor security police
4. Complete elimination of administrative corruption and reduction of poverty level

Prioritized Projects Ideas

After having developed strategies, the participants identified and prioritized 56 project ideas to achieve the development objectives for the district, 23 of which were proposed by women. Four of these 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 August 2007 in a process of sub-national consultation and provincial development planning workshops.