

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

**SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**HAZAR SMOOCH DISTRICT  
TAKHAR PROVINCE**

**Developed by the Hazar Smooch 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, Hazar smooch 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), the Women Sub-Committee of DDA 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 Hazar Smooch 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 Hazar Smooch 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 2003)	9774
Area (AIMS)	309 Sq. Km
Total number of villages	28
Sectoral Information	
<b>Education:</b>	
Number of primary schools	3
Number of secondary schools	1
Literacy level	3% men
<b>Health</b>	
Number of health centres	1
<b>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</b>	
Number of roads which are open in all seasons of the year	7.4% of roads in all seasons, 22.2 % in some seasons and 70.4% of villages have no access to road at all

## **DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT VISION**

The DDA developed the following development vision for Hazar Smooch district:

*It is envisioned that the Hazar Smooch District would have economic self-sufficiency, be more secure, have access to modern education system, reliable healthcare and modern infrastructural services, and establish an accountable, transparent and democratic government that will enforce human rights and implement the rule of law.*

## **DISTRICT SECTOR SITUATION, 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 Hazar Smooch district has been assessed relatively well. The security personnel are active, and the people of the district support the security personnel in maintaining security in the area and the rule of law is implemented. However, lack of building for police personnel, unawareness of the residents concerning rule of law, low capacity and unavailability of equipments for police and existing of illegally armed groups has created insecurity in the area. Moreover, lack of opportunity for private investment and jobs have reduced the cooperation of people with government, which can cause insecurity in the area.

#### **Goal**

To provide overall security and secured social life by building the capacity of security personnel, eradication of corruptions, construction of buildings for police, recruitment of adequate number of police and creation of job opportunities for the disarmed and jobless persons.

#### **Major Strategies**

- 1) Provision of access to the required building and adequate equipments for police department;
- 2) Recruitment of qualified and skilful police personnel;
- 3) Establishment of training courses and explanation of law for police;
- 4) Implementation of DIAG Program;
- 5) Encouragement of private sector investment and creation of job opportunities.

### **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. However, there are no governmental department buildings such as buildings for judicial system and security police and other public benefit buildings. District government personnel are not professional and educated, works are not done on time and the corrupt people are not prosecuted. Men and women rights are not equal due to negligence of the government, lack of educated persons, unavailability of residential buildings and transportation facilities for

personnel, interference of foreigners in freeing criminals from prisons and lack of punishment of criminals in accordance with penal code.

### **Goal**

To establish a strong and transparent administration where all the related laws and the equal rights of the general citizens are respected, increase personnel of the district, establish new offices and ensure human rights.

### **Major Strategies**

1. Provision of suitable working atmosphere for personnel and preparing meetings with the representatives of the people;
2. Recruitment of right persons for the right positions in the government offices;
3. Addressing the problems of the people and prevention of corruption in the offices;
4. Establishment of awareness program for the residents concerning their rights and related matters;
5. Ensuring protection of women rights, eradication of inadmissible customs and reinforcement of admissible customs.

## **Infrastructure and Natural Resources**

### **Situation Analysis**

The district has limited access to infrastructural services such as roads, local transportation, natural springs and jungles. Human resources and land for building constructions are available. And existing of security and donation of the world community is good a opportunity for the development of the district. However, jungles and living environment is destroyed due to negligence of the government and local people to protect them. And lack of safe drinking water and roads in the villages also has caused problems.

### **Goal**

To provide access to transportation and safe drinking water throughout the district

### **Major Strategies**

1. Provision of access to Public transportation for the whole residents;
2. Encouragement of people to cooperate with the government concerning protection of national investments and properties;
3. Construction of buildings for the district government departments;
4. Provision of safe drinking water to prevent diseases caused by water.

## **Education, Culture, Media and Sport**

### **Situation Analysis**

Hazar Smooch district is interested in getting education, and girls and boys have limited access to schools. Security is reliable and the world community provide aids for the district. However, Education department, schools and madrasa lack buildings. Schools are short of teachers, books, teaching materials, laboratories and furniture due to negligence of the government, inadequate salaries for teachers and small amount of education budget. Moreover, majority of men and women are illiterate and girls can't study more than 3<sup>rd</sup> class due to lack of women teachers, which has caused a great number of residents remain uneducated.

### **Goal**

To provide access to standardized education system and adequate educational facilities and build the capacity of teachers

### **Major Strategies**

1. Construction of building for the district education department;
2. Prevention of increase of illiteracy rate, and provision of educational services and required teaching materials for teachers;
3. Provision of educational services for women;
4. Increment of education budget and participation of people to provide more facilities for schools and students.

## **Health and Nutrition**

### **Situation Analysis**

Hazar Smooch district has only one clinic with a few doctors to provide healthcare services throughout the district. Local midwives, vaccination centres and safe drinking water are available in some villages of the district. However, healthcare services are not adequate to respond to all healthcare needs of the residents due to lack of health workers and medicines. Moreover, infants and maternal mortality rate is very high because of unavailability of roads, enough safe drinking water and lack of ambulance to transfer patients to clinics on time. Similarly awareness of people concerning sanitation and hygiene is very low.

### **Goal**

To provide access to modern and standardized health care services and safe environment, reduce infant and maternal mortality rate and prevent epidemic diseases

### **Major Strategies**

1. Provision of access to quality and adequate healthcare facilities throughout the district;
2. Establishment of suitable medicine storage and medical equipments;
3. Increase of awareness of people to prevent usual and frequently happening diseases;
4. Provision of access to ambulances;
5. Provision of safe drinking water to prevent water-born diseases.

## **Agriculture and Rural Development**

### **Situation Analysis**

A great majority of the people are busy in cultivation and animal husbandry activities. Human resources, natural springs and agricultural lands are available and poppy is not cultivated in the district. Women take part in agricultural and animal husbandry activities and a limited number of the people have access to aids provided by international aid agencies. However, the residents are deprived of mechanized agricultural equipments, improved seeds, animal treatment and medicines, agricultural cooperatives and microfinance provision system. Moreover, the people have no access to markets, adequate irrigation water, canals, kariz and dams due to negligence of the government and weak economy.

### **Goal**

To improve the quality and quantity of agricultural products by mechanization of agricultural equipments and provision of improved seeds for farmers

### **Major Strategies**

1. Improvement of quality and quantity of agricultural products to reduce poverty;
2. Provision of adequate irrigation water and regularization of water for all farms;
3. Prevention of plant and animal diseases;
4. Mechanization of agricultural system.

### **Social Protection**

#### **Situation Analysis**

The disabled and needy people have limited access to government provided donations, and aid provision programs have been planed to address emergency cases. Moreover, returnees have owned their properties and other belongings. However, houses have been built in risky areas where is no flood protection system is available due to lack of housing plan. Charity NGOs are not working in the district and war effects and remains are still noticeable, land mines, the disabled and widow-headed families have caused the district to be worried.

#### **Goal**

To provide access to a peaceful life by creation of job opportunities and stable income generation resources for the residents of the district

### **Major Strategies**

1. Protection of residential areas against floods;
2. Encouragement and provision of opportunity for private sector investment in the district;
3. Prevention of risky incidents and mine explosions which caused disability.

### **Economic Governance and Private Sector Development**

#### **Situation Analysis**

Handicrafts such as carpet and Kilim (local carpet) weaving are available, but majority of the residents have no access to local markets and job opportunities. Moreover, there is no marketing for local products and handicrafts are not produced systematically due to negligence of the government, and lack of private sector development in the district.

#### **Goal**

To develop the district economic growth, create job opportunities and encourage private sector to invest in the district

### **Major Strategies**

1. Creation of job and private sector investment opportunities in order to develop economic growth of the district;
2. Construction of a market for selling of local products and local businesses.

### **Prioritized Project Ideas**

After developing strategies and activities, the DDA identified and prioritized 40 project ideas to achieve the district development goals. 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.gov.af/nabdp>.