

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

**SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**YANGI QALA DISTRICT  
TAKHAR PROVINCE**

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

**June 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 June 2006, Yangi Qala 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 (hereafter referred to as 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 explains the methodological approach for and the key outputs of the 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 Yangi Qala 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)	39389
Area (AIMS)	247 sq. km.
Number of villages	64
Percentage of roads open before the traffic	64.8% in all seasons, 16.7% in some seasons, 14.8% villages do not have access to roads and information not available concerning 3.7% roads.

## District Development Vision

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

***It is envisioned that Yangi Qala District would have improved peace and security and access to asphalted and gravelled roads, modern and standardised education system catering to both boys and girls, quality healthcare services, mechanised agricultural system, thriving economy, reliable and affordable public electricity and transportation system, and a strong and transparent local Government administration that will equally implement the rule of law and protect fundamental human rights***

## **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**

The local security departments with cooperation and collaboration of local communities strive hard to maintain peace and stability throughout the district. However, since the DIAG programme has not been implemented and the existing government forces lacking adequately trained personnel, essential supplies, equipment and logistical materials, therefore security condition is not satisfactory in some parts of the district.

#### **Goal**

To ensure a better living condition for the local communities with a complete security and free of mental stress and challenges throughout the district.

#### **Major Strategies**

1. Reinforcement of local security departments with provision of essential supplies and equipment.
2. Elimination of administrative corruption in local security departments.

### **Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights**

#### **Situation Analysis**

The local government administration, its relevant departments and judicial systems are striving hard to address the issues of entire population of the district. The residents support the implementation of a complete rule of law and imposition of the human rights respect in the area. However, since the local population has less information and knowledge concerning the rule of law and human rights issue, therefore women rights and other government-imposed laws are not properly respected. Moreover, well-educated and skilled individuals have not been recruited in the local offices and Priority Reforms and Restructuring (PRR) process has not been implemented in the public departments leading to high administrative corruption in the district public departments.

#### **Goal**

To establish an empowered and transparent local government administration that will equally and effectively implement the government-imposed laws on all sectors of the society.

#### **Major Strategies**

1. Building the capacity of and conducting special training programmes for the governmental departments' employees.
2. Implementation of the human rights respect and imposition of the government relevant laws throughout the district.

## **Infrastructure and Natural Resources**

### **Situation Analysis**

The district residents have a strong interest for development of basic infrastructure so they work day and night to improve transportation system of their district. However, in spite of their hard efforts they still face transportation challenges due to destroyed condition of existing roads. Although, the district has adequate construction stones and gravels but the government has failed to asphalt the local roads and construct retaining walls. The district has access to adequate irrigation water from Amoo River, vast natural forests that have controlled to some extent the destruction caused by floods and also the forests have significant role in refreshing weather condition in the region. In addition, the district confronted with shortage of budget, technical personnel, modern supplies, equipment and machineries to extract the natural mines, thus the illegal armed groups have the control of natural mines in their hands.

### **Goal**

To improve access to basic infrastructure services, regulated exploitation and extraction of natural resources and water systems to develop livelihood and economic independency in the district.

### **Major Strategies**

1. Protection of local mines and other natural resources and sustainable use of them.
2. Provision of reliable transportation and telecommunication network coverage systems throughout the district.
3. Sustainable exploitation of water resources of the district.

## **Education**

### **Situation Analysis**

The district has access to limited educational services such as schools for boys and girls, Madrasa (religious schools), literacy improvement centres, teachers and other privately owned and operated literacy courses. The National Solidarity Programme (NSP) cooperates with the local communities in construction of new and restoration of existing schools with the residents support education system and encourage their children to get educated. However, most of the existing Madrasas and schools lack its buildings, professional teachers, essential educational supplies, equipment and teaching materials leading to lower literacy rate in the district. In addition, the district lacks a university to enable the students continue their education.

### **Goal**

To provide professional and well-trained teachers, standardised education curricula necessary education supplies, equipment and technology to facilitate improvement of education rate throughout the district.

### **Major Strategies**

1. Improvement of education directorate in the district.
2. Provision of essential educational supplies, equipment and teaching materials for teachers as well as students.

## **Health**

### **Situation Analysis**

Local residents have some access to basic healthcare services such as 3 health centres, few doctors, nurses, local midwives, medical examination offices, and regulated implemented vaccination programmes. But in spite of all these, the rates of infant and maternal mortality, child malnutrition and the spread of infectious diseases are very high in the area due to lack of a well equipped and properly staffed district hospital, sub-health centres with professional male and female doctors and shortage of improved sources of drinking water for the general communities.

### **Goal**

To reduce the spread of contagious diseases, infant and maternal mortality rates by providing adequate basic healthcare services and safe sources of drinking water for the entire population of the district.

### **Major Strategies**

1. Improvement of healthcare services in the district.
2. Expansion of healthcare opportunities to the rural and remote areas of the district.

## **Agriculture and Rural Development**

### **Situation Analysis**

Agricultural, livestock and horticultural production activities are the major field for local communities with access to agricultural lands, irrigation systems, old and traditional agricultural methods and implements, veterinary clinics, some improved seeds and chemical fertilizers. However, the local population face with shortage of adequate canals and other irrigation systems to provide the required water for agricultural lands, enough veterinary clinics with technical personnel, pesticides and quality agro-medicines. In addition, the improved seeds and chemical fertilizers distributed by the government to the local farmers are not much enough to suffice the needs of local farmers. In addition, due to the general government neglect and weak economic condition of local population the illegal tree-cutting and deforestation is on going in the area which is a very harsh economic setback for the overall population of the district.

### **Goal**

To improve economy and living condition of general communities with improvement of agricultural and livestock productions level and quality, provision of agricultural mechanisation equipment and technology for farmers, and establishment of agricultural farms and cooperatives across the district.

### **Major Strategies**

1. Provision of adequate agricultural water with construction of new and restoration of existing irrigation systems.
2. Improvement of facilities to the farmers and livestock holders.

## **Social Protection**

### **Situation Analysis**

The returnees, widows, poor women-headed families, orphans and the victims of natural disasters such as seasonal floods and earthquakes receive some manner of assistance from the relevant agencies, and the local communities collaborate and cooperate with each other on the time of emergencies and natural disasters. To develop the economic condition of their families,

the women are engaged in handicraft activities. However, this assistance is not sufficient enough to resolve the needs of vulnerable groups and the local government has failed to establish a trade centre and marketing system for the sale of women handicrafts and other locally produced commodities.

### **Goal**

To establish an economically improved, free of any distress and problem living condition for the overall population of the district.

### **Major Strategies**

1. Establishment of a better living condition with provision of necessary daily life opportunities in the district.

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

### **Situation Analysis**

Carpet and rug weaving centres do exist to create employment opportunities for some unemployed, while men and women are jointly striving to develop economic condition of their families. Since majority of local population are engaged in agricultural and livestock productions so their daily livelihoods are mostly dependent on these productions. However, the government has neglected to establish a proper trade centre for locally produced goods, create employment opportunities for the unemployed and dedicate its attention for the development and economic independency of entire population of the district.

### **Goal**

To establish a more developed and standardised economic condition, and promote private sector activities to reduce poverty throughout the district.

### **Major Strategies**

1. Regulated exploitation and extraction of mines and other natural resources.
2. Creation of employment opportunities for the unemployed.
3. Promotion of economic development and financial independency programmes in the area.

### **Prioritized Project Ideas**

After having developed strategies and activities, the participants identified and prioritized 45 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.

For details regarding district development planning process, please refer to DDP local language versions which are available on [www.mrrd-nabdp.org](http://www.mrrd-nabdp.org)