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PRESS RELEASE

The Central Statistics Organization of Afghanistan (CSO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) inaugurate a training of enumerators and supervisors for the first Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey in Bamyan Province

Bamyan, August 4th 2011

Dr. Habiba Sarabi, governor of Bamyan Province, Mr. Arie Hoekman, Representative of UNFPA, Mr. Makoto Matsuda, First Counselor of the Embassy of Japan and Mr. Sami Nabi, Chief of Field Operations of CSO, inaugurated on August 3rd the training of enumerators and supervisors for the first Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey in Bamyan Province.

“Everyone knows the importance of data and Bamyan Province feels valued to be the very first province to conduct the Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey. This data will show us what we need. We know how many people are enrolled in schools but we do not know how many are out of school. We have safety and security and are the first province to transition and we are thankful to Japan, CSO and UNFPA for their support” said Dr. Habiba Sarabi, governor of Bamyan Province.

“It is important to note that the SDES will first be conducted in Bamyan and is then expected to be rolled out across all 34 provinces in the country. The activity will not be limited just to the collection of data by the enumerators and supervisors selected among the youth and young adults of Bamyan province, but will also involve data processing and analysis involving young professionals from the province.” said Mr. Sami Nabi of the Central Statistics Organization in Afghanistan.

More than 400 enumerators will participate in the operation and the training will teach them how to collect reliable data during the Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey (SDES) that will start in September. The aim of this data collection is to provide planners, policy makers, administrators, and other public entities, academia, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other relevant organizations, as well as the public at large with accurate and reliable data for evidence-based planning, program development, and project monitoring and evaluation.

“Good data is essential for consensus building and making good decisions to both respond to problems and opportunities. Censuses, surveys and vital statistics provide critical data about people and their need. Knowing how many people live in a given area, who they are and where they live and work, is essential to guide plans, policies and programmes to meet people’s needs and improve their lives.” said Dr. Arie Hoekman, UNFPA Representative during the press conference.

The Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey is a fundamental opportunity to obtain complete and accurate information on the size, age and sex composition as well as marital status of the population; to gather information on educational characteristics of the population such as school attendance, educational attainment, and literacy; to collect data on the economic status of the population by asking about usual occupation and employment status. The SDES will also collect data on population movements (migration); functional difficulties, fertility, mortality, household and housing characteristics.

“The presence of data and analysis is indispensable for the development of Afghanistan and Japan will support this survey because better planning will improve services for the people of Bamyan.” Mr. Makoto Matsuda of the Embassy of Japan.

The Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey in Bamyan Province is implemented by CSO, supported by the provincial government, with the technical support of UNFPA and the financial support of the Government of Japan.

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