

# UN Development Assistance Framework to Support the Afghanistan National Development Strategy

No Development without Peace, No Peace without Development, neither without Human Rights

Afghanistan is at a crucial stage in its struggle to rise out of poverty and conflict. Despite visible progress, the intensifying insurgency adds to the critical need for the international community to do more to help Afghans build an effective state and promote equitable economic growth. The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) charts how the Government and its partners can achieve this and meet the country's development needs. In light of national priorities and UN capabilities and expertise, the thirty-three members of the UN Country Team jointly and extensively consulted national and international partners and developed a framework of support for the ANDS.

## UN System Comparative Advantages in Afghanistan

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), based on extended inter-agency analysis of UN programmes and operations, identified the UN's key comparative advantages in Afghanistan, including:

- Unique combination of UN Organisations' capacity to bring their resources and activities together and ensure that they are used in a coherent way;
- Decentralised field presence and capability for rapid response to development and humanitarian challenges;
- Local, regional, international and multi-sectoral technical expertise with long-standing, Afghanistan-specific experience;
- The reliability of its partnership with both central and local Government;
- Capacities to support integrated follow-up to standards, as articulated in international declarations, conventions and the UN conferences;
- Capacities to support policy formation and implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of programmes;
- Capacities to mobilise technical, human and financial resources.

## Key Areas of Intervention

### A. Good Governance, Peace and Stability

Good governance, peace and stability are critical for sustainable solutions to development challenges facing Afghanistan. This priority area focuses on strengthening people's trust in the state, tackling corruption, fighting impunity, enhancing respect for human rights, building effective institutions and increasing access to justice. Under this priority area, the UN will strengthen national capacities and continue its engagement in de-mining, improved border

management, reform of the security sector, measures to strengthen the rule of law, efforts to curb the drug trade and facilitate an inclusive, participatory and peaceful society.

### B. Sustainable Livelihoods: Agriculture, Food Security and Income Opportunities

The UN will scale up its programmes to address the issue of poverty in its widest sense in response to the call of the Government of Afghanistan.

The UN programmes will strive to improve and diversify food at the household level, expand irrigation networks, provide better quality seeds and implement food security programmes. UN agencies will also strengthen national capacity to address natural disasters and manage natural resources in ways that reduce poverty and resolve disputes. The UN will expand efforts to improve and diversify the skills and work opportunities that Afghans need to increase their incomes, especially for youth.

### C. Basic Social Services: Education, Health, Water and Sanitation

Ignorance, illiteracy and disease, compounded by poor living conditions create an immense obstacle to productivity, thereby keeping the poor in perpetual poverty.

The goal of the UN common response will be to complement Government's efforts to support literacy and vocational training, primary and secondary schooling, and higher education. The UN Country Team will strive to improve health systems and services, safe drinking water, sanitation and healthier lifestyles.

These programmes will empower poor and vulnerable Afghans and address issues of supply, demand and access.

**In light of the complexity of development challenges in Afghanistan, the UN has chosen two major implementation approaches:**

- a. Building institutional capacity at the provincial, district and local levels

Trust and mutual cooperation between the people and the Government is a prerequisite for stability, as well as for poverty reduction in all parts of the country. The UN Country Team recognises the responsibility of all UN agencies to build the capacity of their counterpart line ministries at the sub-national level and to work hand in hand on improving service delivery.

In this process, the UN is well-placed to help the Government to better engage with people and their communities, and facilitate participatory planning and implementation.

# UN Development Assistance Framework to Support the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (2010–2013)

## b. A more coordinated UN:

UN agencies will make a particular effort to deliver more and to engage jointly in a few under-served provinces, pulling together their expertise and capacity. These comprehensive provincial packages should bring about visible changes in the life of Afghans in relatively stable areas that have benefited less from the peace dividend. A UN Common Fund will be established to mobilise resources and ensure more equitable distribution of assistance and to give an incentive to agencies to work jointly. Through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the UN plans to deliver approximately USD 4 billion in assistance in the years 2010 to 2013.

The UNDAF process is monitored continuously, based on indicators at the outcome and output levels. Through annual reviews with the Government and other counterparts, UN programmes are adjusted to ensure the best possible fit with the evolving situation and optimum impact.

## Achievements and Lessons: 2002-2008

With support from the UN and its partners, Afghanistan has made significant progress since 2001. GDP per capita has increased by 70% since 2002, over three million Afghans have benefited from rural water and sanitation projects and well over 20,000 Community Development Committees have been set up throughout the country. More than six million children have enrolled in school, and 85% of the population now live in districts with access to basic health services. UN agencies have helped to clear over 7.7 million pieces of unexploded ordnance, and have supported the return of over 5 million refugees. Working closely together UNAMA, UN agencies and their partners made possible democratic elections in 2004 with a voter turnout of 75%, and helped the Government draft and abide by a modern constitution founded on Islamic principles that codifies the rule of law, democratic governance and human rights for all. Despite these achievements, military and security challenges have led to the reduction of resources for development and building state capacity. Rural development, agriculture, education and local institutions are yet to receive attention they merit, particularly in peaceful areas where programmes could have the most impact. Humanitarian, security, political and development efforts need to be coordinated much more effectively.

Source: Afghanistan Moving Forward. Achievements 2002-2008

