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AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Badghis Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Badghis from January 2002 - June 2011: \$32.2 million

Estimated population: 440,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Qala-I-Naw

Note: Spanish-led PRT



Badghis, meaning *home of the winds*, was formed in 1964 from sections of the provinces of Hirat and Faryab. The population comprises mainly Dari-speaking Uzbeks and Tajiks. In Badghis, agriculture and animal husbandry are the main sources of income. The region produces wheat, barley, and sesame. Its pistachio forests, neglected during 30 years of war, are slowly being renewed. Badghis is traversed by the newly built Ring Road and has a small airport in Qala-I-Naw.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID prepares farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through veterinary services, improved irrigation, training, and food security.

Current Activities:

- Rehabilitate irrigation canals
- Build a market to increase agricultural trade in the area
- Improve wool harvest and processing

Accomplishments:

- Rehabilitated one canal to provide a reliable water supply to farmers
- Provided training to increase farmers' agricultural knowledge and to promote direct linkages between food brokers and farmers
- Established 20 rural farm stores in seven districts of the province, trained 15 staff, and established a provincial association of store owners
- Established 27 veterinary field units, trained 31 para-veterinarians, and administered more than three million vaccines and other medications
- Trained four technicians on using the National Agriculture Information System
- Distributed approximately 16,000 seed and fertilizer vouchers



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- Initiated three community constructed irrigation and canal protection projects that will protect 2,050 jeribs of agricultural land serving more than 1,100 families and have provided more than \$24,800 in wages for more than 240 affected community members working on these projects
- Established six wool spinning and carpet associations for women to produce their own yarn for carpet production
- Contributed to the development of the Rangeland Law on behalf of herders
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Supported provincial Kuchi Shura
- Paid \$522,700 in wages on 25 cash-for-work projects in Badghis
- Dewormed 941,000 sheep and goats
- Conducted melon fly training for more than 20,000 people resulting in a 118 percent increase in melon production

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality of government services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

Summary: USAID strengthens democracy and governance in Badghis Province through activities that assist the justice sector, media, civil-society, and governance development.

Current Activities:

- Provide capacity building training to civil-society organizations
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support his needs and serve as incentive to develop
- Create district-level governance councils under the auspices of the Independent Directorate for Local Government
- Develop the human and institutional capacity of the courts, increasing access to justice particularly for women, develops and implementing a case tracking system including professional training for judges and administrators on the system
- Train the Provincial Council on their roles, responsibilities, and development project monitoring and evaluation

Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 16 judges in the province
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the new Afghanistan Court Administration System, a case-management system that improves the courts' ability to manage cases and provide due process, leading to more effective and transparent rule of law



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- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for 14 sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for nine judicial candidates, providing judges with access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and trained all Afghanistan judges in the contents and importance of the code
- Trained judges in commercial law and in women's rights under Islam
- Built and renovated three district administration centers
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, thereby making information accessible even to those who cannot read
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers, improving professionalism, knowledge, and local leadership skills
- Promoted participation on a broader level, provided assistance with voter registration and election monitoring activities for the 2004-2005 elections
- Supported the 2008 voter registration exercise, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the elections, and ultimately helped conduct the 2009/2010 elections
- Trained 432 provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy
- Awarded seven grants

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.

Summary: USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes economic development through expanding access to telecommunications and automating banking services, and supporting small and medium enterprises.

Current Activities:

- Support Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) accounting and financial management department at DAB Badghis to implement the Core Bank System, DAB's automated transaction management and accounting system, which improves service delivery, funds transfers, and financial reporting functions
- Promote economic related information and data collection activities to build DAB regional economic research and analytical functions introduced in DAB zone offices
- Support the revenue reconciliation team of the Badghis Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Conduct budget training programs and provide technical assistance to provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates through support to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the training hub in Hirat
- Promote improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation
- Support district through an economic development grant to improve marketplace



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- Support a copy shop through an economic development grant to establish internet, copy, and translation services

Accomplishments:

- Conducted four business association training programs on marketing and association formation for 162 men and women
- Established 11 business and sector associations, which provide services and support to the private-sector
- Installed the revenue reconciliation and accounting database in the Badghis Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated MoF Financial Management System
- Installed three district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and copying services to district government officials and the public
- Promoted economic expansion and private-sector development through microcredit lending
- Disbursed more than \$834,000 in microfinance loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Improved quality of low value bank notes in circulation
- Trained five Baghdis officials during a west region provincial budgeting capacity building event in preparing budget estimates and planning to increase their participation in the national budget process to reflect local priorities
- Promoted economic related information and data collection activities to build DAB regional economic research and analytical functions introduced in DAB zone offices
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Badghis Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through increased availability of primary school textbooks.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Baghdis Province through national education projects. USAID has provided radio-based teacher support programs, textbook support, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Provided teacher training and literacy services to improve the quality of education
- Printed and distributed more than 860,000 primary education textbooks
- Constructed or refurbished 13 schools

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

Summary: USAID's principal investments in Badghis Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products and provision of training courses.



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Current Activities:

- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as condoms, water purification, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 15 communicable diseases in four sentinel sites
- Distribute community awareness materials for tuberculosis, diagnostic, treatment and training packages for tuberculosis including a database information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Train community health worker trainers and community health supervisors, and orient new non-governmental organization staff to expand the use of post-partum family planning

Accomplishments:

- Trained roughly 13,400 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community-development projects.

Current Activities:

- Provide stabilization assistance kits to families in Muqur and Qadis districts
- Construct a number of small-scale infrastructure including: boundary walls for schools, irrigation works, road graveling, canal cleaning, and school refurbishments throughout Muqur, Badghis, Qadis, and Bala Murghab districts
- Provide temporary employment and income opportunities for communities threatened by food insecurity through projects such as road rehabilitation and graveling, irrigation canal cleaning, home-based tailoring for women, culvert construction, and local water catchments
- Assist families who suffered losses as a result of international military operations against anti-government elements

Accomplishments:

- Provided furniture as needed to both provincial and district government facilities in Qadis and Muqur districts
- Rehabilitated 8.5 km of road in the Gulchin area of Muqur and Qadis districts
- Improved infrastructure through road rehabilitations, school boundary wall construction, and irrigation system rehabilitations across Muqur District
- Increased access to government services in Bala Murghab District through reconstruction of roads
- Completed the refurbishment of a clinic in Mohamad Zee Village
- Helped 16,300 people through labor-intensive, canal cleaning, tailoring and road graveling activities
- Assisted six families who suffered losses as a result of international military operations against anti-government elements with individual grants including small business, training, courses and equipment e.g. for tailoring and carpet weaving