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# FACT SHEET

## Farah Province

### OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Farah from January 2002 - June 2011: \$164.7 million

Estimated population: 456,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Farah

Note: US-led PRT



The fourth largest of Afghanistan's provinces, Farah is a largely undeveloped and sparsely populated area. Situated in the west of Afghanistan, Farah's arid landscape is traversed by a single river that remains dry much of the summer. Although its predominately agricultural community cultivates wheat and barley, Farah's limited water supply and low water table complicate the task of cultivating legal crops. Many of Farah's mainly Pashtun (Barakzai and Noorzai) residents lived in Iran during Afghanistan's wars. Returnees, including those recently deported from Iran, have struggled to find adequate employment in this manufacturing and industry-poor province. This situation has been aggravated in recent months as Taliban and criminal insurgents have

moved their operations into Farah from neighboring Hilmand Province. In sum, Farah's residents suffer from economic marginalization and heightened criminal and insurgent activity, which disrupts governance progress and aid operations.

### 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 is preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through veterinary services, improved water management, and training.

### Accomplishments:

- Provided improved water supply to farmers, rehabilitated 45 canals and karezes
- Established 12 veterinary field units, which are independently operated by 12 trained para- veterinarians who continue to deliver life-saving vaccinations and other essential medications
- Installed an AgNet Internet communications system and weather station in the provincial MAIL, providing access to the National Agriculture Information System (NAIS) database
- Helped 4,400 women with poultry production, egg marketing, and business skills while promoting sustainable agriculture
- Rehabilitated more than 156 kilometers of gravel roadways and 414 kilometers of irrigation canals
- Distributed 15,000 seed and fertilizer vouchers
- Provided more than \$260,000 in wages to 1,265 Afghans through cash-for-work projects



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- Trained the provincial AgNet officer, who now collects and transmits local weather, market price, and agricultural production data to ministry headquarters and local farmers
- Provided training to increase farmers' agricultural knowledge and to promote direct linkages between food brokers and farmers
- Trained more than 3,000 poppy growers in licit alternative livelihood crops, new technologies, and improved agricultural practices
- Initiated alternative crop cultivation on 3,000 hectares of land, benefiting almost 4,000 families
- Trained 250 master trainers who have subsequently trained more than 23,000 farmers
- Provided 26 sets of farm tractors and machinery as in-kind grant program to 22 farmer cooperatives
- Donated and installed 500 greenhouses with production now generating a gross annual income of approximately \$3,400 per greenhouse
- Rehabilitated and improved more than 375 km of canals
- Constructed a wholesale produce market in Farah town that contains modernized space for 80 fruit and vegetable wholesale traders
- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods

### 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 supports democracy and governance in Farah 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
- Create district-level governance councils under the auspices of the Independent Directorate for Local Government
- 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
- Develop the human and institutional capacity of the courts, increasing access to justice particularly for women, developing and implementing a case tracking system including professional training for judges and administrators on the system

#### Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to all 18 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 11 sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for seven judicial candidates, providing judges access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code
- 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
- Promoted participation in governance through a number of programs, including civic education, voter registration, and election monitoring activities for 2004-2005 elections and, more recently, civic education training and dialogue sessions with government officials, mullahs, and sharia teachers
- Provided training to the provincial council, which improved professionalism, knowledge, and skills resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- 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
- Provided on-going capacity building training to four civil-society organizations
- Supported and upgraded the National Radio TV of Afghanistan radio station
- Awarded 19 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 in Farah Province through expanding access to telecommunications, automating banking services, and providing grants to small businesses.

#### Current Activities:

- Conduct budget training programs and provide technical assistance to provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates
- Promote economic expansion and private-sector development through marketplace development grants to a variety of businesses and supportive municipalities in the micro, small, and medium enterprise sector, such as Sheewan Bazar Construction and generators
- Assist in creating a women's tailoring association and business associations in fields including nursery management and poultry farming for improved access to productive machinery and training services

#### Accomplishments:

- Installed six district communications network centers in Farah Province, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Farah Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated Ministry of Finance Financial Management System



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- Improved quality of low value bank notes in circulation with disbursement of \$444,000 new notes to Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) Farah
- Trained 43 Farah 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
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB, that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private-sectors)
- Trained customs staff in customs legislation, responsibilities of customs officers, valuation and tariffs, certificates of origin, smuggling, and penalties to build a professional, modern customs authority
- Supported 34 small and medium enterprises through business development training, internship programs, and marketing strategies
- Provided grants to small businesses and associations to strengthen Afghanistan's business community, facilitate business growth, and enable associations to serve their members through training and business registration assistance
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation
- 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 Farah Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center

### EDUCATION

**Goal:** Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks; and improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability instruction.

**Summary:** USAID supports educational improvements in Farah Province through two national education projects. USAID has provided radio-based teacher support programs, literacy and vocational skills training, printed textbooks, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

#### Current Activities:

- Continue textbook printing (grades 1-4) and distribution support
- Fund remedial education for girls attending schools in two districts
- Support 121 community-based schools and 15 female adult literacy classes to expand access and quality of education in areas where there are no formal schools
- Work with the faculty of education to improve the teaching skills of professors through training in pedagogy, subject knowledge, computer literacy, English, institutional development, leadership, management, administration, professional attitudes, and teacher standards

#### Accomplishments:

- Constructed nine schools
- Established the Professional Development Center in the faculty of education of the university



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- Introduced a teacher standards program and a standards working committee for assessment and validation
- Printed and distributed more than 2.6 million primary education textbooks
- Provided radio-based teacher support programs to improve teachers' skills and performance
- Provided teacher training and literacy services to improve classroom education

### 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 health investments in Farah Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products, provision of training courses, support to the provincial hospital, and technical assistance to the Provincial Health Office and implementing non-governmental organizations.

#### Current Activities:

- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS
- Provide technical and financial support to the Farah Provincial Hospital to deliver high-quality EPHS and act as a referral center for the province
- Procure and distribute high-quality pharmaceuticals to the Farah Provincial Hospital
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in six sentinel sites
- Launch a community-based midwifery education program to reduce infant mortality and improve mothers' reproductive health
- 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-government organization staff, to expand the use of post-partum family planning
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians

#### Accomplishments:

- Trained 11,700 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Identified the first batch of 35 students who will be supported in the Community Midwifery Education program
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

### INFRASTRUCTURE

**Goal:** Improve infrastructure in order to create licit economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.



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**Summary:** The infrastructure program for Farah Province focuses on road construction while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using local materials.

### Current Activities:

- Maintain reconstructed roads and strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Public Works Provincial Office to manage road maintenance by Afghan contractors

### Accomplishments:

- Constructed bore wells to provide potable water supply to communities in Shib Koh District
- Reconstructed the Farah portion of the Kandahar-Hirat Highway (145 km) and constructed the 68 km road from Farah to the Ring Road, linking the province to the rest of the country

## 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:

- Support the standup of two local government district centers through provision of temporary office space, and furnishings
- Provide furniture for the Farah Rod boy's school in Bala Buluk District
- Rehabilitate canals, and clean repair tertiary roads to create employment opportunities through labor intensive projects in at-risk districts
- Assist families who suffered losses as a result of international military operations against anti-government elements

### Accomplishments:

- Created linkages and built confidence between communities and the district, provincial, and central levels of government primarily through small-scale infrastructure projects, including road graveling in nine villages
- Delivered a capacity-building training for government officials in Pusht Rod and Bala Buluk districts in preparation for their shift to newly-constructed offices
- Constructed critical village-level water and agriculture infrastructure projects, such as retaining walls and culverts, in the remote district of Gulistan
- Delivered assistance kits and livestock to 100 families in Gerani village, Bala Buluk District after losses occurred as a result of international military operations against insurgents
- Assisted 34 families to rebuild their houses, provided livestock to nine families, and provided an irrigation water pump to Pusht Rod, Massaw village after losses occurred as a result of international military operations against insurgents
- Assisted 400 families who suffered losses as a result of international military operations against anti-government elements
- Helped 82,400 people through labor-intensive activities in Farah city and surrounding villages and the Balbuluk stabilization infrastructure program





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