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# FACT SHEET

## Hirat Province

### OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support to Hirat from January 2002 - June 2011: \$288.0 million

Estimated population: 1,640,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Hirat

Note: Italian-led PRT



Once considered a center of poetry and philosophy, the province of Hirat comprises mainly Pashtun and Tajik populations, with a small Hazara minority. The relatively flat area is traversed from east to west by the Hari Rud river valley. It hosts one of the country's richest agricultural communities, supporting the cultivation of crops such as wheat, grain, peas, watermelon, cumin, and sesame. While agriculture, livestock, and carpet weaving are the region's main sources of revenue, Hirat has a long-standing trade relationship with Iran, whose porous border to the west also witnesses rampant smuggling. The province boasts some of the best roads in the western region.

### 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 improved agricultural opportunities, veterinary services, market links, and training. USAID also promotes natural resource and biodiversity conservation in Hirat Province.

#### Current Activities:

- Develop a student farm or land laboratory to improve the learning environment for existing activities and provide teachers with research opportunities
- Develop laboratory exercises for all lab appropriate courses
- Support teachers in updating courses, developing course syllabi, developing laboratory exercises connected to lecture material, and purchasing needed supplies, equipment, and reference material
- Provide income to women via poultry raising
- Provide increased livelihood sustainability via improved wheat production
- Provide income to farmers via off-season production in greenhouses
- Identify appropriate agricultural technologies to increase agricultural productivity in areas subject to seasonal drought and high risks of land degradation, deforestation, or loss of biodiversity
- Establish demonstration plots of wheat crop using water conservation technologies in Enjil District



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- Provide technical assistance in irrigation and agricultural production technologies to staff members of MAIL, universities, and agricultural vocational schools

### Accomplishments:

- Rehabilitated 2,100 canals and 102 protection walls, established erosion controls and spillways, and improved water supplies in partnership with the Injil Water User Association
- Established more than 650 greenhouses, with more than 155 replicated by farmers after training, and 1,282 demonstration plots
- Improved nursery and greenhouse management and established seed storage facilities
- Distributed 100 greenhouses during spring 2008 to farmers from all districts enabling year-round cultivation of licit crops
- Established a Women Conservation Corps to provide income-generating opportunities for marginalized and vulnerable groups of Afghan society that provided 2,612 days of employment to workers, who planted more than 50,000 flowers
- Partnered with MAIL and the Afghanistan International Chamber of Commerce to host the Hirat AgFair for more than 20,000 participants (the fair boosted private-sector agriculture initiatives, educated farmers on modern farming techniques, and raised the profile of MAIL)
- Trained more than 2,000 farmers in melon fly control
- Installed an AgNet Internet communications system and weather station in the provincial MAIL office, providing access to a government database that supplies market, growing, and weather information to farmers
- Supported the establishment of 63 veterinary field units and trained 66 para-veterinarians
- Trained National Environmental Protection Agency officials on participatory natural resources management topics, which included encouraging cultural leaders to incorporate environmental messages into their communications with the public
- Trained 43,000 individuals in modern agriculture practices, such as crop cultivation methods, use of fertilizer, irrigation, weeding, and pest and disease management
- Developed a student demonstration farm including poultry and large animal facilities and adjacent forestry and forage areas
- Developed laboratory exercises used by professors and students
- Equipped an internet lab for student use
- Supported nine faculty members in obtaining a master's of science. degree from India and Purdue University
- Completed 12 karez and canal rehabilitation activities in Shindand District bringing 8,000 additional hectares of land under irrigation, benefitting 117,500 people and creating 5,600 jobs
- Established 71 demonstration plots of forage crops
- Trained 71 farmers and four Afghanistan government extension agents in forage production technologies using pearl millet variety
- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law on behalf of herders
- Conducted rangeland survey
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Supported provincial Kuchi Shura
- Conducted poultry distributions to more than 1,390 resource-poor women
- Supported honey production
- Worked with local resource poor farmers to make improved wheat seeds more widely available



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### 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 Hirat Province through activities that assist the justice sector, media, civil-society, and governance development.

#### Current Activities:

- Provide capacity building training to civil-society organizations
- Support two radio stations
- Provide technical assistance to improve the ability of the mayor and provincial staff to respond to citizen needs
- 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
- Train the provincial council on their roles and responsibilities and how to monitor and evaluate development projects

#### Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 79 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
- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for 60 sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for 67 judicial candidates, providing justices 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 provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code
- Built district administration buildings in three districts and designed a judicial facility in the provincial capital
- 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 for the general public and assistance with voter registration and election monitoring activities for the 2004-2005 presidential, national assembly, and provincial elections



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- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers
- Provided grants and training to civil-society organizations to promote women's rights, human rights, and community mediation and conflict analysis
- 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 capacity building training to 16 civil-society organizations
- Established two radio stations
- Coordinated, educated and directed the provincial council and provincial government representatives to participate in the Afghan national budget execution and program implementation work shop
- Awarded 133 grants
- Trained 514 civil servants in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy

### ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Goal:** Promote a thriving, legal economy led by the private-sector.

**Summary:** USAID promotes economic growth in Hirat Province through expanding access to telecommunications, automating banking services, improving the administration of land titles, supporting small and medium enterprises, strengthening operations and service delivery of Da Afghanistan Bank's (DAB) west regional office, promoting private-sector growth through operational and technical support to the Private Sector Development Subcommittee (PSD-SC), facilitating public/consumer education on a broad array of economic reform and governance issues through stakeholder events, training, and roundtables.

#### Current Activities:

- Assist Hirat Mustofiat/Ministry of Finance (MoF) to implement a provincial budgeting action plan, which will include a budget development and execution support for target directorates (to be determined by the MoF provincial budget team) and establishment of a regional provincial budgeting training hub
- Support the Afghanistan Central Business Registry (ACBR) to refine service delivery, including conducting an information campaign for ACBR, streamlining procedures, and achieving greater harmonization between other bodies providing business services (for example, licensing and Tax Identification Number offices) Support the Hirat Medium Taxpayers Office, with special focus on implementing taxpayer compliance and enforcement function to increase group tax filings
- Support the PSD-SC of the Hirat Provincial Development Committee's draft private-sector development implementation plan in support of the Hirat Provincial Strategic Plan, addressing and resolving constraints to private-sector development, investment, and competitiveness
- Support the privatization of state-owned enterprises, including the Hirat slaughterhouse and livestock, Kamaz 6, 7, and 9, Afghan fertilizer, and the Agriculture Development Bank
- Train and provide work opportunities to 360 university students under its capacity-building internship program to build the professional skills of Hirat Province's future business and government leaders
- Support slaughterhouse industry through a Global Development Alliance (GDA) establishing Afghanistan's first international-standard facility
- Support training of trainers program for potential entrepreneurs to gain business start-up skills
- Support industry through GDA to establish a cashmere processing facility



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

### Accomplishments:

- Conducted International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations minimum standards short-term training program in Hirat for 50 men and four women
- Assisted the Hirat Medium Taxpayer Office exceed its revenue collection target of \$2.2 million, with 3.5 months remaining in the tax year
- Assisted the PSD-SC to advocate for harmonization of business formalization procedures (i.e. licensing, registration, and tax payer ID issuance) at the provincial level, resulting in greater communication, information sharing, and procedural cooperation between these agencies, eliminating the need for business owners to travel to Kabul to complete required actions
- Assisted the PSD-SC to organize and drive resolution plans for investors at Hirat Industrial Park to receive formally registered title deeds to purchased lands at the park, unlocking a critical obstacle for access to finance (through secured lending), insurance protection, and park expansion
- Assisted the PSD-SC through active stakeholder engagement activities to brainstorm and draft an Implementation Plan for the province's Private Sector Development Plan
- Conducted 15 training and capacity building events for staff of Mustofiat (tax law and administration), DAB west zone office (monetary policy and economic analysis), budget and execution, and technical report writing
- Conducted 18 stakeholder engagement events reaching more than 1,000 participants centered on priority legal and regulatory reform initiatives covering financial sector laws, the draft electricity law and establishment of an independent electricity regulator, commercial sector laws, and constraints to private-sector development
- Co-sponsored the two-day Third National Conference on Afghanistan Saffron, which was attended by more than 15 representatives of government, business, universities, grower associations, and non-governmental organizations
- Created a restructuring plan for the Power Construction Enterprise for Hirat's assets, which will be transferred to Brishna Enterprise
- Disbursed more than \$8.5 million microfinance and \$15.4 million small-business loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Educated businesspeople, government officials, and women entrepreneurs on the South Asia Free Trade Agreement, other pending trade agreements, and updated commercial laws (the knowledge enabled Afghanistan's business community to operate more effectively under international trade regulations)
- Established the ACBR Hirat office, which has processed more than 3,500 applications since its launch in November 2009, generating more than \$36,000 in revenue
- Established the Hirat Medium Taxpayer Office, a major reform to increase tax payer compliance and revenues through building a professional, service-oriented tax administration operation (filing compliance has dramatically increased as have collections in all revenue categories)
- Helped the director of the Medium Taxpayer Office to initiate a weekly call-in radio program on taxes
- Implemented the Core Banking System in DAB Islam Qala and Torkhundi branches, DAB's automated transaction and financial management system, which dramatically improves service delivery, funds transfer capabilities, and accounting and financial-reporting functions
- Installed 14 district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public





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- Installed automation at the Hirat Mustofiat, enabling the revenue department to automatically generate these reports
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Hirat 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
- Performed the merger of the DAB Hirat branch CBS system with the head office, permitting real time inter-branch payment transfers (with the head office of five additional merged branches) and strengthening DAB consolidated financial reporting capabilities
- Promoted economic expansion and private-sector development through lending to a variety of businesses in the micro, small, and medium enterprise sector
- Provided 515 computers to local schools and equipped each with localized enterprise development software
- Provided grants to 30 small businesses and associations to strengthen Afghanistan's business community to facilitate business growth and enable associations to serve its members through training and business registration assistance
- Reorganized land titling documentation at the Makhzan court register with new cost-efficient technology, Afghans can easily access their property documents (before the reorganization, the land administration office was unable to properly document land transfers, provide proof of ownership documents, or prevent the registration of fraudulent deeds)
- Supported 1,614 small and medium enterprises through association grants, business development training, trade fairs, workshops, business events, roundtables, internship programs, and mentorships
- Supported Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) west region office in establishing a monetary policy and statistics function to include preparations for the regular production of a Survey of Regional Economic Activity and training delivery in macroeconomics, monetary policy, and statistics
- Trained 37 province officials during a west region provincial budgeting event in preparing budget estimates and planning to increase their participation in the national budget process to reflect local priorities
- Trained and provided work opportunities to 360 university students under its capacity-building internship program to build the professional skills of future business and government leaders
- Customs staff received training on exemptions, valuation, tariffs, certificates of origin, smuggling, penalties, and preparation of trade statistics to build a professional, modern customs authority
- Trained more than 2,000 individuals in business management, accounting, and association management (at least 53 business associations and alliances have either been started or supported through training, including carpet associations, women's associations, the Marble Mining and Finishing Association, and the Bulldozer and Loader Alliance)
- Transferred the assets, liabilities, employees, and all rights and obligations of the Hirat branch of Central Authority for Water Supply and Sanitation to a new corporation, Afghan Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation, that will lead to better water and sanitation services
- Supported the One Laptop Per Child program
- Assisted DAB west region office in its full implementation of core central bank functions, including monetary policy and statistics, financial sector supervision and risk management, and accounting and financial management
- Continued stakeholder engagement activities to promote awareness and information exchange on key Afghan government economic reform initiatives (i.e. policy, legal, and regulatory reforms) to derive full benefit and provincial impact of such reforms



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- Delivered financial literacy and management workshops to enhance business communities' financial management competencies, with the aim of helping businesses conform to legal obligations concerning tax compliance (maintaining books and records), ability to produce quality and accurate credit applications (access to finance), and general strengthening of business administration
- Launched Women in Government Internship program, with seven internships placements for graduates/seniors in counterpart offices (DAB west zone office, Hirat Mustofiat, and PSD-SC)
- Promoted non-cash settlement of customs collection at DAB Islam Qala and Torkhundi branches to improve transaction efficiency, risk reduction, remove opportunities for dishonest practices in large cash transactions, and speed up corresponding credits to Ministry of Finance Treasury Single Account
- Supported DAB in data and information collection from west region provinces in support of research and analytical function, to include production of draft papers for DAB publications, circulation to central and provincial level Afghan government offices, and internal DAB consumption
- Supported DAB to execute the Survey of Regional Economic Activity
- Supported the DAB zone office organize and conduct the quarterly Financial Sector Consultation Forum focused on issue identification and resolution on financial sector operations, economic development and growth, and provincial action to advance Afghanistan National Development Strategy objectives

### EDUCATION

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

**Summary:** USAID supports educational improvements in Hirat through four national education projects. USAID has provided in-service teacher training (INSET), developed in-school teacher support activities, provided radio-based teacher support programs, provided support to local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-governmental organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, provided literacy and vocational skills training, printed textbooks, trained education faculty professors, institutional development capacity, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

#### Current Activities:

- Offer an 18-month course in reading, writing, math, and critical thinking skills to youth and adults
- Conduct INSET 2 training for 5,868 teachers in grades 4-6 and 2,988 teachers in grades 7-12
- Develop Accelerate Learning materials and train trainers
- Deliver school management training 2
- Deliver INSET 3 focused on literacy and numeracy for primary teachers
- Train more than 11,500 primary and secondary school teachers and administrators in modern teaching methods via district-based teacher training teams
- Provide radio-based teacher support programs in order to supplement face-to-face training to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom
- Support 184 community-based classes, 22 accelerated learning classes, eight adult literacy, and 44 early childhood classes in eight districts
- Improve university students' computer skills and promoting the use of the internet through the ANGeL Center for Teaching and Learning at Hirat University



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- 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
- Sponsor education opportunities for professors in Afghanistan and abroad
- Construct a Faculty of Education at Hirat University
- Continue textbook support

### Accomplishments:

- Integrated 33 community based education classes into the Ministry of Education system
- Printed more than 7.5 million primary and secondary education textbooks
- Supported a development-focused adult literacy program to educate 2,400 Hirat residents who did not have the opportunity to pursue a formal education under the Taliban
- Established 191 community-based school classes in six districts to expand access and quality of education in areas where there are no formal schools
- Introduced a Teacher Standards Program and a Standards Working Committee for assessment and validation
- Established a Professional Development Center at Hirat University
- Established 669 literacy centers in 175 communities
- Trained approximately 24,450 teachers and 975 trainers in INSET training
- Established more than 1,050 Teacher Learning Circles in 522 schools
- Developed school improvement plans in 493 schools
- Established 480 school management committees
- Completed 22,503 teacher observations during the project life
- Established 72 school manager practicum groups for 505 school principals
- Constructed 53 schools

## HEALTH

**Goal:** Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the overall healthcare practices of individuals, families, and communities.

**Summary:** USAID's principal health investments in Hirat Province preventative healthcare come through support for the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS), including technical assistance to the Provincial Health Office and implementing non-governmental organizations, pre-service and refresher training for Midwives and community health workers, and the provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

### Current Activities:

- Support 53 health facilities to implement BPHS and EPHS
- Procure and distribute high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through 604 private sector outlets
- Support hospital-based and community-based midwifery education programs to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Fund province-wide Community Health Worker pre-service and refresher training





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- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in 11 sentinel sites
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the 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
- Support full implementation of tuberculosis activities including initial and refresher trainings on the treatment of tuberculosis, upgrading lab facilities, strengthening lab microscopy, and introducing or scaling-up community based initiatives such as community awareness of tuberculosis and treatment of tuberculosis by community health workers
- Distribute community awareness materials for tuberculosis: diagnostic, treatment, and training packages for tuberculosis including a database Information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Improve maternal health and child survival in five districts through growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Implement the Integrated Child Survival Package at the community level in Ghorian, Injil and Shindand districts, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Implement a pediatric hospital improvement initiative in the Hirat Provincial Hospital to improve child health
- Introduce a quality improvement collaborative between hospitals and health facilities to share best practices for reducing maternal and neonatal mortality
- Support the Ministry of Public Health to identify and select regional trainers for mental health
- Provide technical support for a regional clinical site to strengthen newborn care training
- Provide training on reproductive health and family planning to enable religious leaders to provide accurate information to communities
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians

### Accomplishments:

- Trained 15,000 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Established two model tuberculosis learning centers for health providers
- Procured and distributed high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives valued at \$2.3 million
- Graduated 130 midwives from the hospital- and community-based midwifery training programs
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS
- Established a learning center for the capacity development of Provincial Health Office staff in Hirat and other provinces

## INFRASTRUCTURE

**Goal:** Improve infrastructure 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 in Hirat Province focuses on the construction and maintenance of the road network while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available materials.

### Current Activities:

- Maintain the Hirat section of the Ring Road and two provincial roads to keep them passable at all times and to reduce vehicle operating expenses
- Strengthen the capacity of the provincial Road Maintenance Unit and Afghan contractors to conduct effective and sustainable road maintenance
- Conduct a wind resource assessment to determine the potential of harnessing wind energy as a source of power for rural communities outside the grid

### Accomplishments:

- Rehabilitated the 160 km Hirat section of the Ring Road to connect the province to the rest of the country, reducing travel time for passenger buses from Kabul and Kandahar by more than 70 percent
- Constructed 10 km of district center roads and 18 km of provincial roads, decreasing travel time, and facilitating transport of agricultural inputs and products

## 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 temporary employment and income opportunities through cash-for-work projects including road rehabilitation and graveling, irrigation canal cleaning, home-based tailoring for women, culvert construction, school rehabilitation, and provision of potable water
- Refurbish and equip schools with new boundary walls, drainage systems, latrines, and furniture across Hirat Province
- Provide temporary employment opportunities by rebuilding or refurbishing small-scale infrastructure such as canals, culverts, and road graveling through community stabilization grants and subcontracts across Hirat Province
- Provide furniture for the provincial governor's office
- Provide furniture for schools in Shindand District
- Equip Guzara Industrial Park Clinic with furniture and supplies
- Provide furniture for the Pashtun Zarghun Education Department
- Equip a number of youth groups and sports clubs across Hirat Province

### Accomplishments:

- Protected against floods through the construction of the one flood protection barrier, one canal, and one spillway
- Improved transportation by constructing or rehabilitating three roads, three bridges, and a culvert, resulting in greater ease of transportation and less wear and tear on vehicles



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- Refurbished and/or equipped district government offices with new furniture and office equipment.
- Refurbished and equipped schools and clinics
- Provided technical advisors for the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority, Department of Economy, Women Affairs, and the governor's office
- Trained Provincial Development Council members
- Provided a paid internship program to 160 at-risk individuals to apprentice at business firms in Guzara Industrial Park
- Assisted community efforts to re-gravel roads throughout the province, connecting remote villages to main roads and district centers
- Provided equipment and training for a women's group to continue a home-based fruit processing business in Guzara District
- Helped 48,700 people through labor intensive projects, canal cleaning, tailoring, and road gravelling
- Assisted 387 families who suffered losses as a result of international military operations against anti-government elements