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AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Khost Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Khost from January 2002 - June 2011: \$134.6 million

Estimated population: 512,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Khost

Note: U.S.-led PRT



Situated in the southeast of Afghanistan, this mountainous province shares a border and tribal identity with the neighboring Waziristan region in Pakistan. This province has been a main transit point for internally displaced peoples and continues to host a number of refugee camps. As a result, much emergency aid has been focused on the region in recent years as the international community works to return displaced Afghans to their homes.

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 focuses on preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved agricultural inputs, irrigation, veterinary services, finance, and training.

Current Activities:

- Train Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Provide regular technical assistance to orchard beneficiaries in order to enhance their capacity for orchard management

Accomplishments:

- Trained para-veterinarians and established one self-sustaining veterinary field unit in the province
- Established 22 hectares of orchards
- Improved agriculture infrastructure through the rehabilitation of irrigation systems and farm-to-market roads in order to increase agricultural productivity and sales
- Contributed to the development of a rangeland law
- Supported the provincial Kuchi Shura
- Established 232 hectares of new orchards for 580 farmers
- Trained 1,726 farmers on land preparation, layout, and planting techniques



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DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

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

Summary: USAID builds the capacity of government institutions and civil-society to improve the accountability of government, as well as the quality and quantity of government services to citizens in Khost Province through activities that support the justice sector, media, civil-society, and governance development.

Current Activities:

- Support a radio and television station in Khost. Access to independent news and information is crucial to the development of an Afghan society willing and able to make well-informed, thoughtful choices with regard to individual rights, security, and governance
- Provide capacity building training to civil-society organizations
- Promote women's rights by strengthening the Ministry of Women's Affairs' capacity to advocate for the needs of women at the national level through strategic planning, communications, and institution building
- Provide training to the provincial council, which improves professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Provide assistance to improve the ability of the mayor and municipal staff to respond to citizen needs and to provide essential public services such as power, water, sanitation, safe roads, and waste management
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy
- 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 technical assistance to political parties and political party leaders through training
- Support the development of issue based coalitions and parliamentary caucuses to help members of parliament develop and coordinate parliamentary groupings
- Support the development and outreach efforts of civil-society organizations of dedicated to advancing women's rights in Afghanistan through democratic processes
- Provide advocacy and journalism training for youth and students
- Support accountable municipal governance, improved municipal delivery of public services, and improved generation and management of municipal revenue in provincial capitals
- 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, increase access to justice particularly for women, and develop and implement 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 23 judges
- 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 15 sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for three 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
- To promote effective local governance, conducting civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers
- Supported human rights through awareness-raising programs
- 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
- Established a radio and television station Provided capacity building training to six civil-society organizations
- Awarded 32 grants
- Trained 2,488 civil servants in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy

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 a legal economy in Khost Province through expanding access to telecommunications and modern banking services and through supporting small and medium enterprises.

Current Activities:

- Support the Ministry of Finance's (MoF) provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the Jalalabad training hub, to conduct budgeting training programs and provide technical assistance to provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates

Accomplishments:

- Facilitated and launched an Afghan government effort to connect provincial government offices with Kabul through broadband technology (this government communications network facilitates active, transparent governance by linking national- and local-level decision-makers)
- Installed nine district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public
- Promoted economic related information and data collection activities to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) regional economic research and analytical function introduced in DAB zone offices
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided additional communications technology and 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)



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- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Khost 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
- Trained 45 Khost officials in effective planning and budget estimate preparation to increase their participation in the national budget process by developing inputs that better reflect local needs and priorities
- Customs staff received training on customs law, detections, data entry, tariffs, valuation, and preparation of trade statistics to build a professional, modern customs authority
- Reorganized land titling documentation systems at the Makhzan court register with new cost-efficient technology so that Afghans can more 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)
- Provided private-sector economic opportunities through capacity building for the Afghanistan International Chamber of Commerce and agribusiness associations
- Trained and provided work opportunities to 161 students through a capacity-building internship program to build the professional skills of future business and government leaders
- Constructed a cold storage facility for apples, allowing farmers to provide fresh produce to markets
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending
- Disbursed more than \$216,300 in medium-sized loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Supported the privatization of state-owned enterprises, including the Afghan Fertilizer Enterprise
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Khost Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks; 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 Khost through three national education projects. USAID has provided in-service teacher training (INSET), developed in-school teacher support activities (ITSA), radio-based teacher support programs, support to local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-governmental organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, printed textbooks, trained education faculty professors, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Provide INSET 2 training
- Develop accelerated learning materials and train trainers
- Conduct school management training 2
- Conduct INSET 3 training focused on literacy and numeracy for primary teachers
- Continue textbook support.
- Provide face-to-face and radio-based teacher support programs for nearly 3,000 teachers to improve their skills and performance in the classroom



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- Support the community-based education (11 adult literacy and eight early childhood classes) in six districts of the province in areas where there are no formal schools or schools for girls
- Support 52 emergency community-based school of internally displaced population/refugee
- Improve students' computer skills and promoting the use of the Internet through the ANGeL Center for Teaching and Learning at Shaik Zayed University
- 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:

- Integrated 81 community based education classes into the Ministry of Education system
- Provided educational opportunities for 9,790 Khost residents who had no previous formal education
- Trained approximately 5,200 teachers and 300 trainers in INSET training
- Established more than 234 teacher learning circles in 107 schools
- Developed school improvement plans in 90 schools
- Established 99 school management committees
- Completed 15,200 teacher observations during the project life
- Printed more than 1.6 million textbooks
- Established 60 school manager practicum groups for 130 school principals
- Constructed 48 schools
- Established the Professional Development Center at the university
- **Introduced a teacher standards program and a standards working committee for assessment and validation at the university**

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 Khost 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 community midwives and community health workers, and the provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

Current Activities:

- Support 28 health facilities to implement BPHS and EPHS
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in seven sentinel sites
- Implement the Integrated Child Survival Package at the community level in Nadirshkot, Jaji-Maidan district, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Procure and distribute high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives
- Fund a province-wide community-based midwifery training program and construct a Midwife Training Center to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- 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



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- 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 of community awareness materials for tuberculosis, diagnostic, treatment and training packages for tuberculosis including a database information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Establish health facility quality assurance committees to ensure skilled healthcare providers
- Fund a province-wide community-based midwifery education program to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- 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
- Fund province-wide Community Health Worker pre-service and refresher training

Accomplishments:

- Established two model tuberculosis learning centers for health providers
- Trained 19,500 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Procured and distributed high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives valued at \$810,000
- Graduated 60 midwives from the community-based midwifery training program
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Summary: The infrastructure program for Khost Province focuses on the construction of roads, renewable energy systems, and water and sanitation facilities, while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Rehabilitate the 101 km road connecting Khost Province near the Pakistani border to Gardez, and on to the Ring Road to connect the isolated province of Khost to the rest of the country, and open up opportunities for regional trade with Pakistan, in addition to providing Khost residents with all-weather access to government and social services
- Install solar home systems to provide electricity to approximately 2,500 residents of Nader Shah Kot District and provide 2,300 solar lanterns to residents of 10 villages in Khost Matun

Accomplishments:



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- Completed 24 bore wells that provide potable water to over 4,000 residents of Nadir Sha Kot
- Constructed or refurbished 247 wells to increase access to water supply, improving the health of people, livestock, and crops
- Constructed or refurbished 440 latrines to improve hygiene and sanitation
- Provided stability and protection from floods through the construction of three retaining walls, including the Khost to Gardez Road retaining wall
- Funded the construction/rehabilitation of eight district administration buildings to improve access to government services
- Constructed the 10 km gravel road from Tani to Shekhamir, reducing travel time and providing access to health services and educational institutions
- Constructed 8 km of the Musa Khel to Khost Mela gravel road

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:

- Assess the environment for economic development in major population centers through the provision of a bazaar assessment
- Conduct vocational training for vulnerable groups, such as women and refugees, in remote and volatile districts
- Provide community-implemented unskilled labor opportunities through community-selected stabilization grants to improve transportation and irrigation infrastructure in Dwamonda District near the Khost-Gardez Road
- Support community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)

Accomplishments:

- Generated employment opportunities and improved water management through dam and canal rehabilitation
- Provided technical assistance during the Afghanistan National Development Strategy process
- Provided baking training to 40 women through a local women's non-government organization
- Provided school supplies, lab equipment, and teaching materials for 70 primary and middle schools in Matun, Gurbaz, Tani, Mandozai, and Nadar Shah Kot districts
- Improved government service delivery through the placement of technical advisors in ten key government offices, providing mentoring, on-the-job training and capacity building skills
- Supported community stabilization through multiple activities assisting the reintegration of 225 mid and low-level Taliban fighters and their families by providing skills to fighters who wished to stop fighting
- Repaired 16.8 km of secondary/tertiary road in remote villages, improving local transportation, access to government services and access to district centers
- Improved 12.5 km of irrigation infrastructure throughout the district



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- Conducted vocational training for priority groups such as women and refugees
- Supported educational services in the province by establishing six school and public libraries throughout the province at the request of the community
- Built the capacity of provincial leaders through basic management, English, computer, and administration training programs
- Supported the mayor and Director of Women's Affairs to upgrade and maintain the Khost Women's Park
- Increased the number of development and stabilization projects integrated through the Provincial Development Committee process
- Supported the provision of community, district, and provincial government and community development resources mobilized in accordance with the district and provincial strategies
- Provided potable water by installing solar water filters at 20 district health clinics
- Improved the quality of education and equitable access to academic skills by providing school supplies to schools in four districts and refurbishing a leading girls' school in Khost City
- Supported comprehensive support for the Department of Energy through a revenue assessment, financial training, safety training and infrastructure upgrades
- Repaired 9.6 km of secondary/tertiary road in remote villages, improving local transportation, access to government services and access to district centers
- Improved security at district schools by constructing 871 meters of boundary walls at schools selected by the Department of Education
- Helped 6,600 people through community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment
- Helped 25 families through the delivery of small businesses and standard kits as recovery assistance for losses sustained due to international military operations against anti-government elements