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FACT SHEET

Bamyan Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Bamyan from January 2002 - June 2011: \$99.4 million

Estimated population: 400,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Bamyan

Note: New Zealand-led PRT



The mainly Hazara-populated province of Bamyan is situated on the ancient Silk Road and is most famous for the Buddhist monastery and Buddhas of Bamyan statues destroyed by the Taliban in 2001. The province is considered one of the most progressive for women's rights, and in 2005, appointed Afghanistan's first female governor. Bamyan's economy is dependent on animal husbandry and agriculture. Although the mountainous region has poor soil, its farmers are able to cultivate wheat, barley, and potatoes. There remains some hope that the tourism industry will be revitalized as the Afghan government has vowed to rebuild the Buddhist statues.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) intensifying agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorating agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitating watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, strengthen Afghans' confidence in their government by increasing 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 opportunities, veterinary services, financial systems, and training. USAID also promotes natural resource and biodiversity conservation in Bamyan province.

Current Activities:

- Train and equip community rangers for Band-e-Amir National Park (BANP) the Northern Plateau and Ajar Valley
- Create social organizations, educate the community about the value of BANP, and develop new revenue sources related to park tourism
- Provide full-time consultant to BANP, develop final management plan, hire community liaison personnel, and support the park warden
- Provide credit to commercial potato growers to access better agricultural inputs aiming at enhancing yields
- Restore arable areas and protect pasture area
- Plant approximately 43,000 additional saplings and cuttings
- Support new mud-walled and iron-framed greenhouses
- Train farmers in improved agro-techniques and practices



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- Establish a new collective center, new farmer groups, and new women's groups, linking approximately 400 new farmers and women into marketing cluster, providing ongoing business and marketing trainings to beneficiaries
- Provide technical assistance to farmers to enhance their capacity for orchard management.
- Provide technical assistance to poultry and kitchen garden beneficiaries to enhance their capacity in poultry management

Accomplishments:

- Trained 1,000 women in poultry production, egg marketing, and association capacity building
- Funded four micro-credit institutions to assist in restoring rural financial systems and to encourage commercial banks to extend revolving agricultural loans for agribusiness
- Introduced new potato production and seed replication techniques
- Conducted a rangeland and biodiversity assessment in the Ajar Valley and Band-e-Amir lake area
- Developed a 10 kilometer hiking trail within BANP and distributed environment campaign materials to school children
- Funded a local architectural firm to evaluate alternative sites for a new bazaar and campground in the visitor area of BANP, as well as developed guidelines for the reconstruction of restaurants, guesthouses, and shops and trained owners on the use and implementation of the guidelines as they reconstruct their businesses
- Brought 337,000 hectares of land under improved natural resource management and provided 12 staff of provincial agriculture department with training in natural resource management
- Established and supported 13 veterinary field units in Bamyan, and trained 13 para-veterinarians
- Distributed more than 6,000 vouchers to famers for seeds and fertilizer
- Established nine private full-service AgDepot farm stores that provide agricultural supplies and services to support key licit crops and animal health
- Established 140 hectares of orchards
- Registered 51 farmers with 12 hectars of land for orchard establishment
- Installed an AgNet Internet communications system in the provincial MAIL, providing access to the National Agriculture Information System database that supplies market, crop, and weather information to farmers
- Trained five Afghans from MAIL, the National Environmental Protection Agency, and community and other related organizations on community-based natural resource-management practices
- Provide additional natural-resource conservation and sustainable land management training in the areas of soil and water conservation, rangeland management, and cooking fuel conservation
- Developed the draft final management plan for BANP in consultation with local communities
- Assisted 15 villages around BANP to form and officially register a social organization, "Band-e-Amir Community Association" (BACA), which will have the legal authority to enter into benefit-sharing agreements with the Afghan government, allowing the local communities to directly benefit from the national park admission fees, etc., in addition to income they derive from commercial activities targeting tourists
- Established the first school-based environmental committees in Band-e-Amir communities in Bamyan
- Installed solar power in two schools
- Introduced and tested a new fuel-efficient stove with the local communities that will dramatically reduce shrub use and damage to rangelands and significantly reduce indoor pollution adversely affecting the health of women and children
- Facilitated the hiring of 14 new national park rangers and one clerk



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- Trained rangers to survey, monitor, and protect environmental resources, and also in skills associated with ecotourism including first aid, guide skills, cooking and sanitation, and English
- Approved a loan of \$926,750 to Bamyan potato cooperatives to extend credit to commercial potato growers
- Introduced at the community level low cost technologies that can be used to prevent erosion, restore arable lands, and increase biodiversity, coupled with the establishment of a watershed committee to best promote sustainability that resulted in communities restoring 40 hectares of arable lands and protecting 96 hectares of pasture lands with more than 30,350 meters of contour walls and 21,500 saplings planted, created employment for 317 Afghan households, and generated more than \$26,700 in wages
- Established 198 greenhouses, 186 demonstration plots, and 60 kitchen gardens, and trained farmers in improved agro-techniques and practices, marketing, and organizational skills
- Introduced improved seed varieties, taught farmers seed multiplication skills, and explained the value of proper post-harvest handling of crops
- Established linkages between 120 farmers clustered into eight collective centers, and four local vendors in the market, facilitating the sale of more than 4,500 KGs of produce (worth approximately \$6,780)
- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law on behalf of herders
- Conducted a rangeland survey
- Institutionalized three rangeland management technologies
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods and conflict resolution
- Established 290 hectares of new orchards for 1,182 farmers
- Trained 396 farmers on land preparation, layout, and planting techniques
- Distributed improved vegetable and alfalfa seeds to 532 farmers
- Established 50 kitchen gardens and 25 poultry units to enhance woman's role in food 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 supports building the capacity of government institutions and civil-society in Bamyan Province through activities that assist the justice sector, media, and civil-society.

Current Activities:

- Support a radio station
- Provide capacity building training to civil-society organizations
- Establish a Provincial Training Center in coordination with the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission
- 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
- Embed technical advisors in provincial line departments, who provide on-the-job training to civil servants to increase service delivery
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations



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- 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
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support her 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 23 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 18 sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for 12 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 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
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers, improving professionalism, knowledge, and local leadership skills
- Expand governance infrastructure, constructed three district buildings, and rehabilitated three ministries
- Established a bi-weekly magazine for young people focusing on democracy, human rights, women's and children's rights, and civil-society
- Provided funding to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission for buildings and infrastructure, human rights activities, and capacity building
- 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 station
- Provided on-going capacity building training and technical assistance to seven civil-society organizations in this province
- Coordinated, educated and directed the provincial council and provincial government representatives to participate in the Afghan national budget execution and program implementation work shop
- Trained 408 civil servants in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy
- Awarded 46 grants

ECONOMIC GROWTH



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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 Bamyan Province through automating banking services, expanding access to telecommunications, and supporting business associations.

Current Activities:

- Support the Ministry of Finance's 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:

- Assisted the provincial chamber of commerce and industry to conduct a training needs assessment of its members
- Expanded and refurbished three provincial branches of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), which operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private-sectors
- Trained 15 Bamyan 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
- Implemented the Core Banking System in DAB's Bamyan branch, an automated transaction and financial management system which dramatically improves service delivery, funds transfer capabilities, and accounting and financial reporting functions
- Increased economic opportunities and self-sustainability for women through entrepreneurship training for members of women's business associations
- Installed six district communications networks and four village communications networks, 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 Bamyan 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
- Provided training and business services for 50 small and medium enterprises
- Promoted the dissemination of economic related information and data collection activities to build regional economic research and analytical functions introduced in the DAB zone offices
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Bamyan Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection

EDUCATION



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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; improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Bamyan Province through three national education projects. USAID has provided radio-based teacher-support programs, supported local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-government organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, provided literacy and vocational schools training, printed textbooks, trained education faculty professors, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Provide face-to-face and radio-based teacher support programs to improve teachers' skills and their performance in the classroom
- Support 134 community-based schools, and 27 adult literacy classes to expand access and quality of education in areas where there are no formal schools
- Fund remedial education for out-of-school over age girls
- Foster 20 local youth councils for 400 young people (50 percent female) to increase youth participation in the reconstruction and advancement of their communities
- Train community leaders in community mobilization, program management, and functional literacy skills
- Work with the Faculty of Education at Bamyan University to improve the teaching skills of professors through training in pedagogy, subject knowledge, computer literacy, English language, institutional development, leadership, management, administration, professional attitudes, and teacher standards
- Construct a Faculty of Education at Bamyan University
- Continue the activities of the literacy centers in 179 communities
- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Integrated 16 community based education classes into the Ministry of Education system
- Extended nationwide Afghanistan-based master's of education program
- Established 674 literacy centers in 179 communities, which provide an 18-month course in reading, writing, math, and critical thinking skills to 16,300 youth and adults (51 percent female)
- Funded computer networking and basic software skills training at the university
- Supported a development-focused adult literacy program to educate 2,000 residents who did not have the opportunity to pursue a formal education under the Taliban
- Contributed to youth mobilization, with support from the Afghan government, through models of youth participation, civic education for reconstruction, and building democracy and development

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



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Current Activities:

- Support 50 health facilities to implement BPHS and EPHS
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in seven sentinel sites
- 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
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through 20 private sector outlets
- 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
- Implement a pediatric hospital improvement initiative in Bamyan Provincial Hospital to improve children's health at the hospital level
- Implement a child survival demonstration project at the community level in Shahfoladi district, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Implement the Integrated Child Survival Package at the community level in Shahfoladi and Shahidan districts, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Introduce a quality improvement collaborative between hospitals and health facilities to share best practices for reducing maternal and neonatal mortality
- Provide on-the-job training to health facilities based on quality assurance findings to ensure quality healthcare delivery
- Provide technical support to strengthen the Bamyan Provincial Hospital in order to serve as a clinical training site for the community-based midwifery training program
- Fund province-wide community midwifery and Community Health Worker training programs, and construct a Midwife Training Center to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Procure and distribute high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives
- Provide training on reproductive health and family planning to enable religious leaders to provide accurate information to communities
- Expand the community-based prevention of post-partum hemorrhage initiative for births not attended by skilled providers
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians

Accomplishments:

- Trained 9,600 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 \$1.2 million
- Established two model tuberculosis learning centers for health providers
- Graduated 64 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



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INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Summary: The infrastructure program in Bamyan Province focuses on constructing road, energy, and water systems, building the capacity of local workers, and supporting the provincial economy by using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Improve health and sanitation through the construction of potable water supply systems and latrines
- Improve access to electricity through the provision of 1,000 solar lanterns, and installation of solar street lights and solar home systems in Yakowlang District
- Develop a hydropower system that will benefit more than 18,000 residents of Topchi Village
- Design and construct community outreach and development projects in various villages

Accomplishments:

- Provided winter maintenance and temporary improvements to ensure that the Bamyan-Dushi remained passable during the winter season
- Completed the design work needed to reconstruct the Bamyan-Dushi Road, which will provide an alternate route to the Salang Pass, ensuring safe, year-round transportation between Kabul and Afghanistan's northern provinces
- Constructed 400 meters of drainage systems and retaining walls to improve sanitation and prevent floods
- Increased Bamyan's power supply by converting water mills into hydro-electric stations
- Refurbished the 2 km Bamyan Airport Road and rehabilitated five bridges, facilitating movement of goods and services
- Rehabilitated a 2 km extension of the Bamyan Airport road to the Bamyan bazaar to facilitate the transport of goods to and from Bamyan's marketplace

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve security, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and facilitate reconstruction to contribute to building the foundations of stabilization.

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 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 urban poor to support themselves and their families)
- Support small irrigation projects

Accomplishments:

- Provided a technical advisor and commodities to the Department of Economy, Department of Education, Department of Women's Affairs, and the Office of the Governor
- Supported the provincial development council through capacity building trainings



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- Provided commodities and renovations as needed to both provincial and district government facilities
- Constructed potato storage facilities that benefit approximately 30,000 households
- Offered vocational training opportunities in carpet weaving and beekeeping
- Supported the women's beekeeping project in Bamyan Center for the Dashte Aesa community that benefitted approximately 623 households
- Helped 35,300 people through labor intensive community-level programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment