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AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Logar Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Logar from January 2002 - June 2011: \$95.9 million

Estimated population: 349,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Puli Alam

Note: Czech-led PRT



Logar Province, located 100 kilometers south of Kabul, is a Pashtun area periodically crossed by nomadic tribes. Logar is lined to the south and east by the rugged Kharwar mountain range where miners dig for copper. Agriculture drives the economy in this region, and its farmers cultivate a variety of grains and fruits. Although residents have limited access to basic services, Logar Province has seen a considerable amount of reconstruction since the fall of the Taliban. Every district now has a health facility, and the province has recently seen the completion of a major road, several schools, radio stations, and municipal buildings.

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 capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID prepares farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through crop revitalization, livestock development, improvement of irrigation and roads, and training.

Current Activities:

- Train Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Renovate a farm service center showroom
- Provide technical assistance and technical training to the farm service center extension team, Afghan government extension staff, and area farmers
- Establish a farm service center
- Provide technical assistance to farmers to enhance their capacity for orchard management
- Improve quality of grape harvest through vineyard trellising
- Apply the grape value chain approach to improve the product quality, grading, packing, packaging, pre-cooling, transporting and marketing of grapes, apricots, apples, and pomegranates in new international markets

Accomplishments:

- Improved irrigation, rehabilitated roads, and provided training to rebuild agricultural markets
- Established 69 woodlots; planted around 920,000 and cuttings; trained 1,334 individuals on orchard, fruit nursery, and forestry management



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- Brought 41 hectares of land under improved natural resource management, resulting in 79 full time equivalent jobs and increased sales of licit farm and non-farm products by \$68,000
- Established 16 private, full-service AgDepot farm stores that provide agriculture supplies and services to support key legal crops and promote improved animal health
- Promoted livestock health by establishing a veterinary field unit that provides vaccinations and medical care
- Rehabilitated and developed one dam to provide a reliable water supply for farmers
- Funded five training sessions to increase agricultural output and local knowledge of modern agricultural practices
- Supported the revitalization of local vineyards to boost agricultural capacity
- Established 10 demonstration plots for forage crops in Puli Alam and Mohammad Agha districts and trained 10 farmers and two extension agents in forage crop production technologies
- Contributed to the development of the Rangeland Law on behalf of herders
- Supported the provincial Kuchi Shura
- Established 70.4 hectares of new orchards and provided training on land preparation, layout and planting techniques for 252 farmers
- Exported 28 MT of fresh grapes using improved packaging techniques to Islamabad

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

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

Summary: USAID supports democracy and governance in Logar Province through justice sector, media, civil-society, and governance development.

Current Activities:

- Provide capacity-building training to civil-society organizations
- Support radio stations, including Voice of Afghan Women
- 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
- Support accountable municipal governance, improved municipal delivery of public services, and improved generation and management of municipal revenue in provincial capitals

Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 30 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 25 sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for 25 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
- Constructed one provincial judicial facility and one district administration building
- 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 public participation in governance through civic education for more than 152,800 citizens, election candidate training, and election monitoring for the 2004-2005 elections
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through organizing town halls, civic education training, and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers
- 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 three civil-society organizations
- Established two radio stations
- Awarded 26 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 economic growth in Logar Province through expanding access to automating banking services and telecommunications, and supporting small and medium enterprises.

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
- Support a community-owned and managed Islamic investment and finance cooperative, which provides financial services to members

Accomplishments:

- Facilitated and launched the Afghan government (Afghan government) effort to connect provincial government offices with Kabul through broadband technology (this Government Communications Network facilitates active, transparent governance)
- Installed three district communications network centers and six satellite-based communications stations in Logar, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provides telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public



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- Promote economic related information and data collection activities to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) regional economic research and analytical function introduced in DAB zone offices
- Expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB, implemented an automated Core Banking System, and provided additional communications technology and training for bank staff (the bank 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)
- Reorganized land titling documentation systems at the Makhzan court register with new cost-efficient technology, enabling Afghans to 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)
- Conducted a banking survey in July 2007 to determine basic banking habits of the public, including the extent that bank accounts are used, whether banks were used for changing money, and to gauge the interest in obtaining bank loans to start new businesses or purchase homes
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Logar 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
- Trained 46 Logar 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
- Provide grants to small businesses and associations to facilitate business growth and enable associations to serve their members through training and business registration assistance
- Provided private-sector economic opportunities through a small grant to the Consolidated Agricultural Storage Association of Logar Province
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending
- Disbursed approximately \$721,000 in microfinance loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Established an Islamic investment and finance cooperative with 257 members
- Disbursed more than \$134,600 in sharia-compliant loans
- Support the revenue reconciliation team of the Logar Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting
- Promote 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 training and increased availability of primary school textbooks; support community-based education; and improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability instruction.

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

Current Activities:



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- Provide radio-based teacher support programs to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom
- Support 101 community-based classes in five districts to expand access and quality of education in areas where there are no formal schools
- Support 22 emergency community-based classes to expand access and quality of education to internally displaced population/refugee
- Offer the 18 month program in literacy and productive skills to 2,000 youth and adults in 24 communities through 80 literacy centers
- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Integrated 58 community based and 22 emergency community based education classes into the Ministry of Education system
- Established 80 literacy centers for 1,975 youth and adults (82 percent female) in 24 communities
- Constructed 19 schools
- Printed more than 1.3 million textbooks

HEALTH

Goal: Improve 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 Logar Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products, pre-service training for community midwives, and provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

Current Activities:

- 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 seven sentinel sites
- Launch a community-based midwifery education program to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- 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
- 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

Accomplishments:

- Trained 12,500 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

INFRASTRUCTURE



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

Summary: The infrastructure program in Logar Province focuses on the construction of road and water facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the local economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Improve health and sanitation through the conduct of community-led training on hygiene behavior and the construction of additional wells
- Construct major portions of the Azra to Sherzad Road and the Qasem Khel to Berkaray Road
- Maintain the national highways in Logar Province and strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Public Works' Provincial Road Maintenance Unit to manage road maintenance by Afghan contractors

Accomplishments:

- Constructed 445 new wells in Baraki Barak, Kharwar and Pul-e-Alam
- Improved health and sanitation through the construction of 30 water wells in Pul-e-Alam and the rehabilitation or construction of over 1,000 latrines
- Reconstructed the 42 km Kabul to Gardez Road, the 35 km Puli Alam to Ring Road, one district center road, and a bridge, connecting the province to the rest of the country
- Rehabilitated 5,650 dams and irrigation structures to increase access to water supply and improve the health of people, livestock, and crops

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:

- Promote women's rights and gender equality through leadership and management training for women in government, and vocational and literacy training
- Enhance local governance in Mohammad Agha by providing on-site technical assistance and training for government departments, the Provincial Development Council, and Community Development Councils
- Support local farmers in Puli Alam, Mohammad Agha, and Kharwar districts through basic livestock management training
- Provide tailoring training for women in Mohammad Agha, Charkh, Baraki Barak, and Puli Alam districts
- Repair roads damaged by IED blasts
- 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:

- Rehabilitated the main government offices in Puli Alam District and supplied information technology equipment and furniture
- Constructed an irrigation water reservoir in Azra District



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- Provided collection facilities at 15 health centers for TB diagnosis
- Promoted women's rights and gender equality through leadership and management training for women in government, and vocational and literacy training
- Completed 23 road repair projects
- Provided equipment for 20 school science labs
- Conducted vocational training for 90 internally displaced people to enhance economic opportunities, reduce poverty, and contribute to stability
- Provided tailoring training for 80 women
- Helped 30,700 people through community-level work programs that improve community support for development priorities and offer temporary employment