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AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Uruzgan Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Uruzgan from January 2002 - June 2011: \$77.0 million

Estimated population: 312,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Tirin Kot

Note: Dutch-led PRT



The mountainous region of Uruzgan is situated in southern Afghanistan. In March 2004, Daykundi Province was carved out of an area in the north, leaving Uruzgan with a majority Pashtun population. Although Uruzgan has some mineral resources, including coal and fluoride, agriculture is the primary source of livelihood. Uruzgan's farmers cultivate grains, apricots, and almonds and continue to benefit from a plethora of irrigation and dam construction activities designed to address drought and flooding problems.

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 irrigation, agricultural opportunities, veterinary services, and training.

Current Activities:

- Establish a farm service center
- Provide regular technical assistance to farmers to enhance their capacity for orchard management

Accomplishments:

- Established four self-sustaining veterinary field units and provided training for staff in disease diagnosis and artificial insemination
- Provided more than 76,000 vaccinations and 83,500 medications to livestock
- Visited seven villages in Tirin Kot District, and established nurseries of almonds and apricots
- Trained 30 farmers in the use of insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and ordenticides, and apricot and almond post-harvest practices and technologies
- To increase agricultural capacity, provided training to farmers in crop production and marketing, and developed experimental agriculture plots in four districts



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- Rehabilitated irrigation structures including the Jim Mohd and Joya Safeed canals and Kahanaka and Kijuwane flood walls to improve crop yields and decrease flooding
- Developed skills and created employment opportunities through cash-for-work projects for nearly 12,000 Afghans, providing \$2 million in wages
- Constructed or rehabilitated 27 canals, 25 karezes (irrigation systems), and 43 flood protection walls
- Provided 17,000 almond tree seedlings to farmers to create opportunities for licit agriculture in a poppy-growing region
- Provided accessible and affordable agricultural inputs, seeds and fertilizer, to promote the production of wheat and other staple food crops, as well as to reduce dependence on poppy
- Distributed seed and fertilizer vouchers to 17,200 farmers
- Distributed 60 greenhouses to 60 beneficiaries (seven female) and 160 low plastic tunnels to 80 beneficiaries (15 female) in two districts
- Distributed 90 metric tons of improved corn and mung bean seed, and 225 metric tons of urea fertilizer to 1,500 farmers to plant 1,800 hectares of land
- Distributed 4,200 T-trellises to 35 vineyard owners in three districts
- Provided agricultural productivity training on environmental and other considerations to 1,300 farmers in three districts
- Provided training to beneficiaries in poultry production and marketing activities and distributed 20,000 chickens to 50 female beneficiaries, 2,400 feeders and drinkers, and 112.5 metric tons of feed
- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law on behalf of herders
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Established 104 hectares of new orchards for 445 farmers
- Trained 396 farmers on land preparation, layout, and planting techniques

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 Uruzgan Province through activities including legislative strengthening, electoral support, justice sector reform, media, and civil-society development.

Current Activities:

- Support a radio station in Tirin Kot
- Raise awareness of legal rights and human rights among schoolchildren
- Providing training to the provincial council, which results 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: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development
- 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



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- 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
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations

Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 13 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 five sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for one judicial candidate, providing judges access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, thereby making information accessible even to those who cannot read
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers
- Promoted public participation in governance through civic education, election candidate training, voter registration, and election monitoring for the 2004-2005 elections
- 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 one radio station
- Awarded three grants

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.

Summary: USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes economic development in Uruzgan Province through expanding access to credit, telecommunications, and a modern banking system.

Current Activities:

- Conduct budget training programs and provide technical assistance to provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates through support to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the training hub in Kandahar province



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- Support community-owned and managed Islamic investment and finance cooperatives, which provide financial services to members

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 two district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public at large
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Uruzgan 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
- Constructed a drainage system in the Tirin Kot Farmers' Market, improving sanitation and accessibility in the rainy season
- Provided funding for the creation of a local radio station that broadcasts economic information for local businesspeople
- Trained and provided work opportunities to 44 high school students to date under a capacity-building internship program to build the professional skills of future business and government leaders
- Promoted economic expansion and private-sector development through micro-credit lending
- Disbursed approximately \$700,000 in microfinance loans
- Established three Islamic investment and finance cooperatives with more than 2, 800 members (three percent women)
- Disbursed more than \$1.6 million in sharia-compliant loans
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Uruzgan Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting
- Supported accounting and financial management department at Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) Uruzgan to prepare for implementation of the Core Bank System, DAB's automated transaction management and accounting system, which dramatically improves service delivery, funds transfers, and financial reporting functions
- 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, support community-based education, increase availability of primary school textbooks.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Uruzgan Province through national education projects. USAID provides radio-based teacher support programs, support to local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-governmental organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, textbook support, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Provide radio-based teacher support programs to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom



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- Support 100 emergency community-based classes in which nearly 3,000 students of an internally displaced population/refugees are enrolled
- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Integrated 100 emergency community based education classes into the Ministry of Education system
- Constructed one school
- Printed more than 485,000 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 Uruzgan Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products 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 four sentinel sites
- Distribute community awareness materials for tuberculosis, diagnostic, treatment and training packages for tuberculosis including a database information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Train community health worker trainers and community health supervisors, and orient new non-government organization staff, to expand the use of post-partum family planning

Accomplishments:

- Trained 14,300 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare

INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Summary: The infrastructure program in Uruzgan Province focuses on the maintenance of roads and expansion of transport facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Maintain the first 43 km of the Kandahar to Tirin Kot Road to facilitate travel and reduce vehicle operating costs
- Strengthen the capacity of the provincial Road Maintenance Unit to implement an effective road maintenance program utilizing Afghan contractors
- Construct 180 meter long Regak bridge, promoting economic activity



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Accomplishments:

- Constructed or refurbished 73 wells to increase access to water supply and improve the health of people, livestock, and crops
- Improved 83 km of the Kandahar to Tirin Kot Road, shortening travel time, improving economic opportunities, and providing access to health services and educational institutions
- Improved sections of the Chora to Gizab Road to connect Daykundi and Uruzgan provinces

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 small-business kits, start-up training assistance, and livestock assistance for war-affected families
- Assist families harmed through incidents between international military forces and insurgents in Chora District
- 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)
- Provide community stabilization grants to community members in volatile districts of Gizab, Shawali Kot, and Char Chineh, with a focus on road and irrigation rehabilitation
- Support women in Tirin Kot District through health and hygiene training using Department of Public Health approved training curriculum
- Equip a youth resource center in the Tirin Kot Department of Youth, Information and Culture building to support 400 youth and provide literacy, computer, and site management training workshops

Accomplishments:

- Trained senior civil servants using training modules developed by Afghanistan's Civil Service Commission
- Trained Ministry of Agriculture workers on irrigation, forestry skills, livestock management, how to work with farmers' associations, strategic communication skills, and developing a work plan
- Delivered livestock and 135 kits to 27 war-affected families in Kajaran District
- Provided technical assistance to the Office of the Governor to develop more effective planning and delivery of disaster management services
- Provided on-the-job training to 15 provincial government officials in six ministries including the Office of the Governor, the Provincial Development Committee, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
- Provided a second session of daily on-the-job training to 28 provincial government officials in six ministries including the Office of the Governor, the Provincial Development Committee, Department of Public Health, Department of Education, and Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
- Administered nine small grants worth approximately \$70,000 for community development activities in Shaihide Hassass District
- Refurbished the four-kilometer Kovar road from Dehrawad to Mullah Hamdow High School
- Rehabilitated strategic crossing point of Garmaab River in Tirin Kot District



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- Improved farming in Tirin Kot District through an intensive work program to refurbish three irrigation projects worth approximately \$23,000
- Supported 180 women by providing home economic and literacy training to 60 women from Dehrawud, Tirin Kot, and Chora districts, respectively, in cooperation with the Tirin Kot Department of Women's Affairs
- Directly benefited 56,400 people through labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment