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AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Zabul Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Zabul from January 2002 - June 2011: \$176.8 million

Estimated population: 270,600 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Qalat

Note: U.S.-led PRT



One of the most remote and sparsely populated areas of Afghanistan, the arid province of Zabul is traversed by the Arghandab and Tarnak rivers. Agricultural communities are established along these waterways, and the region has traditionally produced wheat, almonds, grapes, and apricots. However, severe drought has reduced the overall fertility of the land. The mainly Pashtun residents of Zabul are deeply conservative and their infrastructure is largely undeveloped. Although Zabul has several hospitals and health clinics, only Qalat City has electricity and only the Ring Road is paved.

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 distribution of seeds and fertilizer, improved irrigation, and training. USAID has also sponsored a number of livestock management and gender-focused programs to maintain capacity for legal agricultural activity in Zabul.

Current Activities:

- Expand the coverage area of the farm service center to new areas
- Enhance the farm service center services by establishing a demonstration greenhouse and through the sale of parts to build greenhouses
- Provide technical assistance and technical training to farmers
- Train Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Provide technical assistance to farmers to enhance their capacity for orchard management
- Improve the quality of grape through vineyard trellising
- Assist Afghan merchants to export pomegranates to international destinations of Australia, India, and EC
- Educate fresh fruit merchants and farmers on cold chain system

Accomplishments:

- Installed irrigation systems and a canal protection wall to provide a reliable water supply to farmers
- Introduced three new crop varieties in the province and established micro-nurseries and orchards



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- Provided training to 30 farmers and five traders to improve the quality of dried apricots resulting in the production of more than 87 metric tons of dried apricots produced
- Established one private, full-service AgDepot farm store that provides agriculture supplies and services to support key legal crops and promote improved animal health (the store and the training it provides has benefitted more than 3,000 households, provides farmers with access to modern production inputs, trained 1,077 producers, and created 11 full-time jobs)
- Established one self-sustaining veterinary field unit and four para-veterinarian units, and also trained para-veterinarians who provided disease diagnosis for 75,000 animals
- Improved cotton farming and production through the introduction of improved seed varieties and more efficient cotton gins
- Increased crop value through enhanced irrigation and greenhouse technology, better farm production practices, and marketing campaigns in Afghanistan and abroad
- Established the Zabul Farm Service Center that provides agricultural inputs and services, and has produced sales of \$584,000, created 11 full-time equivalent jobs, and has trained 1,615 farmers in agriculture related activities
- Contributed to the development of a rangeland law
- Established 123 hectares of new orchards for 652 farmers to improve the socio economic status of rural farmer's communities
- Trained 410 farmers on land preparation, layout, and planting techniques
- Trellised a 0.7 Ha vineyard demonstration plot to improve the quality of grapes

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

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

Summary: USAID supports democracy and governance in Zabul Province through legislative strengthening, electoral support, justice sector reform, media, and civil-society development.

Current Activities:

- Provide capacity-building training to civil-society organizations
- Support one radio station
- Provide training to the provincial council and the provincial municipality, which improves professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership.
- 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
- 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, increasing access to justice particularly for women, developing and implementing a case tracking system including professional training for judges and administrators on the system



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Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 17 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 12 sitting judges, 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
- Established the Zabul Provincial Department of Women's Affairs to raise women's status in society
- Promoted public participation in governance through civic education, election candidate training, 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
- Provided capacity-building training to two civil-society organizations
- Established one radio station
- Awarded 11 grants
- Trained 148 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 development in Zabul Province through expanding access to modern banking services and telecommunications.

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
- Support small and medium enterprises

Accomplishments:

- Installed two district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public
- Promoted economic data collection activities in Zabul province in order to introduce and improve Da Afghanistan Bank's (DAB) regional economic research and analytical functions in DAB zone offices



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- Built a new facility for the Zabul 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)
- Supported the MoF to conduct a two-day provincial budgeting consultation and training event for 40 provincial officials on the MoF's public financial management and reforms
- Implemented the automated Core Banking System in DAB Zabul Branch and trained staff in its use
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Zabul 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
- Supported 51 small and medium enterprises through internship programs and business development training
- Constructed markets in Qalat and Shahjoy districts to stimulate the local economy by creating more commercial activity in trading centers
- Assisted the provincial governor and the provincial reconstruction team to solve land rights issues related to the expansion of Forward Operating Base Wolverine in Shinkai District
- Trained and provided work opportunities to 50 high school students to date under a capacity-building internship program to build the professional skills of future business and government leaders
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Zabul Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection, the posting of accurate information, and headquarters reporting
- Assisted in hiring two MoF provincial budgeting officers to support provincial budgeting training activities and coordination among provincial officials and line ministries via the soon to be established provincial budgeting training hub in Kandahar
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to the 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 job training.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Zabul Province through national education projects. USAID has provided radio-based teacher support programs, in-service teacher training (INSET), and radio-based teacher support programs. USAID has also supported local communities through capacity strengthening by creating partnerships between non-governmental organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, by providing textbook support, literacy skills, and vocational school training, and by constructing and/or refurbishing schools.

Current Activities:

- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Supported five community-based school classes to expand access to and improve quality of education in areas where there were no formal schools
- Constructed one school
- Printed more than 465,400 textbooks



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

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 Zabul 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 six 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

Accomplishments:

- Trained 15,200 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 legal economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

Summary: The infrastructure program in Zabul Province focuses on improving roads and water facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Maintain the Zabul section of the Ring Road and strengthen the capacity of provincial staff of the Ministry of Public Works to implement road maintenance through Afghan contractors
- Conduct a feasibility study for the construction of a piped water system that will supply potable water to approximately 40,000 residents of Qalat City

Accomplishments:

- Improved the Qalat power distribution system to provide 24,000 people with access to electricity
- Improved the 170 km Zabul section of the Ring Road, shortening travel time, improving economic opportunities, and providing access to health services and educational institutions
- Constructed or refurbished 65 wells to increase access to water supply and improve the health of people, livestock, and crops
- Constructed the 1.3 km Qalat District Center Road, facilitating access to government and social services
- Improved the road from the Pakistani border to Shamulzay



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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 six technical assistants to the district governors of Tarnak wa Jaldak and Shahjoy focusing on office management, information technology/secretarial responsibilities and Taskara issuance to enhance their management and administrative capacities
- 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)
- Implement grants for war-affected families
- Provide basic literacy and numeracy, basic sanitation, and hygiene training for women from Qalat District using Afghan government approved training materials
- Support local farmers by installing a water management system and completing construction of the seed storage building at the Qalat Nursery

Accomplishments:

- Rehabilitated government facilities and meeting spaces in the provincial governor's compound in Qalat to enable government officials to work in a more professional environment
- Rehabilitated irrigation and water systems at the DAIL-supported Qalat nursery to increase access to irrigation and safe drinking water
- Increased the capacity of the Arghandab, Shahjoy and Tarnak wa Jaldak district governors' offices by installing solar panels to run computers and lights, as well as providing furnishings and information technology equipment to enhance the professional atmosphere of the offices
- Helped 55,400 people through labor intensive programs that improved city infrastructure, supported community development priorities, and offered temporary employment