

Afghanistan in Color 2012!



USAID and the government of Afghanistan are working together to eradicate waterborne diseases which harm thousands of Afghan children each year. To help solve this problem, USAID has funded over 3,000 new and renovated wells throughout the country that now provide clean, safe drinking water for more than 615,000 people.

Over 22 varieties of grapes were planted on the Ministry of Agriculture's research farm to establish a grape foundation nursery. USAID-funded projects introduced trellising, a practice that increases the quality of grapes and overall yields.



Afghan honey production was traditionally low, while domestic demand and prices are high. These conditions present great potential for beekeepers, and the northeast region of Afghanistan has a very suitable climate and terrain for beekeeping. USAID is working with honey farmers to improve the volume and quality of honey production in order to meet rising local demand.



Thousands of people in rural Afghanistan are learning to manage natural resources in ways that generate economic benefits for families, while also protecting pristine landscapes and rare species such as the snow leopard. Nearly 7,000 people have seen their incomes rise thanks to USAID's Improving Livelihoods and Governance through Natural Resource Management (ILG-NRM) program. These activities have attracted tourists back to Afghanistan's protected areas, including Band-e-Amir National Park.





Firoza is one of 117 members of the Ghoryan Women Saffron Association in Herat province. Firoza and her fellow members received a USAID-funded loan which gave them access to fertilizers, pesticides, and harvest baskets. This allowed the saffron growers to increase productivity and product quality. The Agricultural Development Fund, which provided the loan, was established with a \$100 million grant from USAID to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL).



For the first time, thanks to an Agricultural Credit Enhancement loan, Aminullah is able to buy fertilizer and pesticide for his 12 acres of ancestral land in northern Afghanistan. He reaped a rich harvest, at least 20% more than before. The quality of his produce has also improved, and Aminullah is now able to sell it to an exporter who sells fruits and nuts to India.



Agriculture is the backbone of the Afghan economy and society. Due to limited resources, Afghan farmers mainly use simple and traditional equipment. USAID, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) is mechanizing the agriculture sector to increase agricultural productivity in Afghanistan.



Sadeqa Khavari graduated from a midwifery school in Bamyán province in 2007. She then worked for two years as a community midwife, before moving to Kabul to work in one of Kabul's private hospitals that employs several graduates of USAID-supported midwifery schools. USAID has trained more than 1,800 midwives, over half of all midwives trained in the past 10 years.



Household silk production is a traditional activity in northern Afghanistan where silk is used to make carpets and textiles. USAID programs promote silk worm cultivation and the weaving of fine silk cloth. Many of the jobs these new industries create enable women to earn a living in the home to support their family. USAID's IDEA-NEW project is training over 400 women in this craft.



Ms. Weeda Sarfarazy works for a Herat-based company called Negin Saffron. Saffron flourishes in western Afghanistan and is one of Afghanistan's many high-value agricultural products. In early December, Afghan businesswomen from around the country gathered in Kabul for a two-day exhibition organized by USAID. The expedition gave Afghan businesswomen an opportunity to grow their businesses and contribute to their country's economy.



The increasing popularity of television is providing a critical source of news and entertainment across Afghanistan. USAID's media development initiatives support the construction and upgrade of provincial TV stations to improve broadcast quality and expand TV access to underserved and remote communities. USAID has supported more than 50 community radio stations and trained nearly 11,500 journalists.



In 2002, Afghanistan had only 50 kilometers of intact roads, much of them littered with mines. Over the last 10 years USAID has paved nearly 2,000 kilometers of road throughout Afghanistan, including Shebirghan Road (photo) located in Jawzjan province.



USAID is the largest donor to the World Food Program (WFP) in Afghanistan, supporting conflict and disaster-affected communities, internally displaced people, and other vulnerable groups (including malnourished children and pregnant women) whose food security has been adversely affected by shocks. Since 2010, USAID/Afghanistan has provided WFP with US\$293.8 million in cash and food assistance.



Roughly eight million students are now enrolled in primary and secondary schools, 37% of which are female, and USAID has distributed more than 100 million textbooks for grades one through twelve. USAID's education strategy meets the urgent and expanding need for schools, trained teachers, textbooks, and innovative approaches to expand access to education.



Nearly 4,000 wheat farmers benefited from USAID's Agricultural Development Fund last year. This project has helped more than 15,000 farmers in 25 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.

“ The measure of a life well lived and a job well done is not told in a news cycle but in the accumulation of thousands of hours and actions.



Alex Thier
Assistant to the Administrator and Director
Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, USAID

Nice job USAID/Afghanistan!

Agriculture

- ★ Established more than 446 veterinary field units
- ★ Administered more than 26 million vaccinations to livestock
- ★ Trained more than 633,000 men and women in improved farm and business skills in FY 2010
- ★ Established a \$100 million Agricultural Development Fund to provide loans to Afghan farmers and on-lending organizations
- ★ Brought 310,121 hectares of alternative crops under cultivation
- ★ Established 18 farm service centers that provide access to high quality seeds, fertilizer, and other inputs, and serve as centers for access to market and technical information
- ★ Facilitated \$268,275,909 in increased sales of licit farm and non-farm products in assisted areas



Health

- ★ Life expectancy in Afghanistan increased by 20+ years since 2002
- ★ Since 2002, infant mortality declined by 57%, child mortality dropped by 62%, and maternal mortality fell to almost 22% of previous levels
- ★ More than 21,000 health care providers have been trained by USAID, including over 1,800 midwives – over half of all midwives trained in the past 10 years
- ★ 37% of Afghan women now use modern family planning methods in the 13 USAID-funded provinces – almost double the national average
- ★ Supported the creation of the Disease Early Warning System, a national system of infectious disease surveillance

Gender

- ★ Almost 750,000 women and children receive health treatment monthly with USAID support
- ★ Over a hundred thousand micro-finance loans worth \$85.7million have been extended to women
- ★ Twenty seven percent of seats in the Parliament, one governor, three cabinet, and 120 judicial positions are now held by women
- ★ More than 223,125 Afghans (132,660 female) received literacy and numeracy skills training in 20+ provinces

Infrastructure

- ★ Provided clean water to 615,000 Afghans
- ★ 3,000 wells built
- ★ Over 2000km of roads have been built, including 63km of the Gardez-Khost road
- ★ Completed construction on 615 schools country-wide, most recently the Ghazi boys' and Sardar girls' high schools, providing education for 12,000 students in Kabul City
- ★ In 2002, only 6% of Afghans had access to reliable electricity. Today, over 20% have access, largely due to our partnerships and work
- ★ Facilitated 172 additional megawatts to the national power grid, and assisted in connecting more than 3.3 million new people to the electrical grid

Economic Growth

- ★ WIG program- provided government internships for over 300 women— with a 75% placement rate in a variety of jobs
- ★ 493,489 jobs created through EG programs
- ★ Introduced streamlined customs procedures at seven locations across Afghanistan, saving valuable time and millions of dollars of expenses
- ★ Afghanistan Small and Medium Enterprise Development programs have supported more than 11,000 Afghan businesses and helped create 1,300 new enterprises
- ★ 490 businesswomen from 15 provinces have participated in nine business and gender workshops
- ★ Facilitated \$7.3 million private sector loans approved with \$28.9 million in loan applications in the pipeline
- ★ In partnership with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry , expanded Central Business Registry to Mazar, Herat, Kunduz, and Jalalabad regions and registered 22,875 businesses

Education

- ★ Approximately eight million students are now enrolled in primary and secondary schools (37% female)
- ★ University enrollment has grown to 95,209 (17,967 females)
- ★ Supported 105,000 students annually in remote community-based schools
- ★ Distributed more than 100 million textbooks for grades one through twelve
- ★ Trained more than 74,000 teachers in 11 USAID-supported provinces
- ★ Built or refurbished more than 680 schools
- ★ Benefitted at least 1,700 professors and 10,000 students through computer literacy and English proficiency programs
- ★ 35,033 participants have completed apprenticeship programs are (23,354 female)

Democracy & Governance



- ★ Trained more than 600 judges and strengthened the Supreme Court
- ★ Improved capacity of the National Assembly to provide more effective oversight of the budget and legislative processes
- ★ Created more than 115 district community councils and trained 8,052 community council members on management, good governance, conflict resolution, peace building, and disaster risk reduction
- ★ Trained 16,000 civil servants (26% of whom are women) in core administrative functions
- ★ Funded more than 50 community radio stations and trained more than 11,440 journalists
- ★ Facilitated 506 community dialogues for 12,959 individuals – discussed pressing community needs, local solutions, and action plans to address their needs
- ★ Increased municipal revenue in 34 municipalities, including Kabul Municipality, leading to improved service delivery based on community input