



AFGHANISTAN

Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups

| Project Overview | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Project Title | Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) |
| Project Duration | 2005–2011 |
| Funded by | Canada, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States |
| Implementing Partners | Disarmament and Reintegration Commission, Ministry of Interior, National Security Advisor, National Directorate for Security, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development |
| Previous Phase/Project | Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (Feb 2003–June 2005) |
| Objective | To support the Government of Afghanistan in improving human security and empowering existing government programmes for socio-economic development. |

existing government programmes for socio-economic development more effective, which enhances stability and the promotion of good governance.

Project Strategy

The project is based on the assumption that security may only be sustainably enhanced by tackling the underlying dynamics (e.g., poor governance, lack of economic opportunity, lack of state protection of assets and livelihoods) that cause groups to take up arms. The specific objectives are as follows:

- To improve security through the disarmament and disbandment of illegal armed groups.
- To provide basic development support to communities free from the threats of illegal armed groups, thereby allowing the full participation of disbanded members in community development and social activities, and to help create conditions necessary for the expansion of good governance throughout the country.

The project strategy rests on a simultaneous institutional and community-anchored approach that involves relevant ministries and traditional authorities to work collectively in tackling the socio-economic and developmental challenges that cause groups to take up arms.

The project is implemented through several national and sub-national bodies, particularly the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission, Ministry of Interior, the national security agencies, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, District Development Assemblies and Community Development Committees. The involvement of these bodies enhances national and local ownership of the project and sustainability. UNDP supports the Government through the provision of advisory, administrative, logistical and operational arrangements as well as seconding staff to the Joint Secretariat and the Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP).

Key Outputs and Key Activities

Situation Analysis

During much of the last 50 years, many parts of Afghanistan have been subject to significant levels of violence, with a state mechanism that has sometimes barely penetrated beyond the country's major urban centers. As a result, the population tends to be heavily armed, and conditioned to insecurity and coping without a significant state presence.

Following the successful transformation of Afghanistan's military forces into the Afghanistan National Army through the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) project, the Government of Afghanistan recognized the need to address the numerous illegal armed groups (IAGs) that have been destabilizing the country. Many of these groups are involved in human rights violations and illegal activities such as drug smuggling and human trafficking. DIAG assists the Government of Afghanistan in extending its authority through effective local governance, creating the conditions for establishing and maintaining security, and strengthening public support for the lawful institutions of the Afghan state. In addition, DIAG renders

Full support for weapons collection and the disbandment of illegal armed groups

- Establishment of joint planning support to the Government and enhancement of government capacity to ensure community security through weapons reduction
- Disarmament of targeted illegal armed groups: weapons collected and transferred to government control
- Change in the general public's perceptions, values and behaviour regarding illicit weapons possession and misuses, via a public awareness campaign

Full support for identification and monitoring of socioeconomic community development and governance interventions

- Community development consultation mechanisms established in each of the 34 provinces to cover up to 365 districts
- Socio-economic community development projects delivered; governance structures improved where possible; participation of disbanded group members in community development and social affairs

Key Achievements

- Over 43,000 light and heavy weapons collected
- 510 illegal armed groups disbanded
- 62 out of 104 targeted districts compliant with DIAG
- Nearly 31,000 metric tons of ammunition collected
- 66 development projects underway or completed
- 39 private security companies registered

Gender Perspective

DIAG weapons collection and disbandment activities are aimed primarily at men. However, DIAG promotes gender equality at the grassroots level through the selection of development projects in compliant districts. District Development Assemblies (DDAs) are responsible for submitting their preference of district development projects to DIAG. The formation and functioning of DDAs place considerable emphasis on mainstreaming gender and taking into account the varying needs of men and women. The DDAs tend to select development projects that confer benefits to both men/boys and women/girls, such as schools and health clinics. Some development projects benefit girls exclusively, such as the establishment of all-girls schools.

DIAG also directs many of its public information activities towards women. The campaigns often target women, to educate them about DIAG and the benefits of peace, which in turn gives greater support to the Government. Finally, DIAG's monitoring and evaluation mechanism actively seeks out women respondents and women's organizations to determine the impact that DIAG is having on women and the community as a whole.

Contact Information

For further information on this project, and for general information on UNDP work on armed violence prevention, community security and small arms, please contact:

Elisabeth Diaz
External Relations
Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
United Nations Development Programme
elisabeth.diaz@undp.org
+1 212 906 6175

www.undp.org/bcpr/smallarms

Last updated: May 2009