



AFGHANISTAN

National Programme for Disaster Prevention

Disaster Context

Afghanistan is a disaster-prone country and is suffering from the effects of more than two decades of civil war. The need for emergency and disaster preparedness in Afghanistan is critical. In the past four years alone, four major earthquakes have devastated the lives of over 150,000 Afghans. In addition, the country is prone to flooding and landslides. During 2000-2001, both drought and conflict increased the population's misery. Afghanistan is still one of the most heavily mined and unexploded ordnance-filled countries in the world. Very few people have access to clean drinking water, basic health care, and other social services. Other hazards in Afghanistan include epidemics, locust swarms, and forest fires.

The institutional capacities to handle disasters as development issues are very limited. In the absence of a recognized central government, the aid community has provided significant contributions to emergency relief efforts. In response to developments in Afghanistan over the past year, UNDP has decided to develop the capacity of Afghanistan's Office of Disaster Preparedness (ODP), which lacks functioning assets, skilled human resources and modern management systems and is thus ill prepared to respond to the frequent natural disasters that plague the region.

Project Titles

- Emergency Support to the Office of Disaster Preparedness (AFG/02/006/07/34)
- National Area Based Development Programme - Rehabilitation of earthquake-affected houses in Nahrin district of Baghlan Province (AFG/02/005/07/34)

Sectors

- Capacity-building
- Policy development
- Disaster preparedness and mitigation

- Institutional strengthening
- Shelter

Funding

- AFG/02/006/07/34: UNDP provided \$50,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds
- AFG/02/005/07/34: The total contribution is \$303,168: \$100,000 from UNDP TRAC 1.1.3 funds and the remaining from cost-sharing funds received from the donor community

Partners

- ODP
- Ministry of Rural Development and Rehabilitation
- NGOs

Programme Activities

Emergency Support to the ODP:

- Training of ODP personnel in information and communications technologies, the English language, and modern disaster management techniques
- Reintroduction of the ODP to international organisations as a functioning government office
- Disaster preparedness education programmes in high-risk regions for local government officials, teachers, and families
- Development of a disaster awareness programme
- Provision of office and communication equipment

Rehabilitation of earthquake-affected houses in the Nahrin district of Baghlan Province:

- Construction of 500 shelters in earthquake-affected area