



**Workshop on Local Government in Post-Conflict Situations:
Challenges for Improving Local Decision Making and
Service Delivery Capacities**

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CHALLENGES FACED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN POST CONFLICT SITUATIONS:

THE AFGHANISTAN PERSPECTIVE

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Situations: Challenges for Improving Local Decision
Making and Service Delivery Capacities
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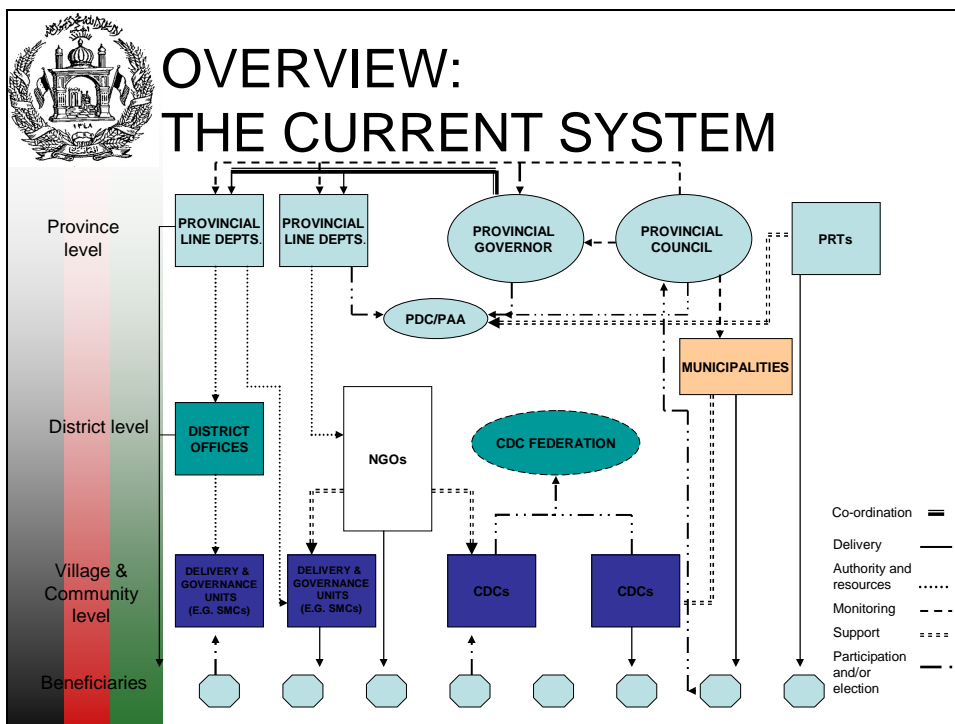
IN THIS PRESENTATION YOU WILL SEE...

- The current structure of local governance in Afghanistan
- Inherent problems in Afghan local governance system
- Post conflict challenges in local governance



IN THIS PRESENTATION YOU WILL SEE...

- Way forward:
 1. National policy opportunities
 2. IDLG and its strategic framework
 3. Key steps
- UNDP's role





INHERENT PROBLEMS IN AFGHAN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

- Local governance entities have meager revenues of their own
- No provision of private participation
- Hence poor quality of service
- No significant authority and power at sub national level



POST CONFLICT CHALLENGES IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

- Absence of war but not real peace
- Lack of viable institutions, capable of ensuring lasting security
- Lack of political will or capacity to provide public goods and services to its people
- Lack of National Vision or lack of political entrepreneurial skills to create or take advantage of opportunities to advance an all-inclusive development agenda
- The very word “state” is perceived as a negative reality by those who have suffered under repressive governments in the recent past
- It is looked at with equal suspicion by NGOs and human rights organizations whose sympathies are firmly on the side of those who have been the victims of that state.



WAY FORWARD: NATIONAL POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

- **Afghan Constitution:**
- Article 50: the citizens of Afghanistan have the right of access to the information from the government offices.
This right has no limits, unless it violates the rights of the others.
- Article 138: the government, while preserving the principle of centralism, shall delegate certain authorities to local administration units for promoting economic, social, and cultural affairs, and increasing the participation of people in the development of the nation.



WAY FORWARD: NATIONAL POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

- Article 140, 141 and 142: provide for
 - Elected district councils
 - Elected mayors and municipal councils
 - Elected village councils
- Article 140-146: members of these councils and mayors are elected by the local people through free, general, secret and direct elections for a period of three years.
- Article 156 sets up independent election commission for conduct of all elections in the country.
- Election law has assigned 5-15 members to district councils based on population.



IDLG STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This Strategic Framework is Based On:

- Constitution Of Afghanistan
- Presidential Mandate
- Afghanistan National Development Strategy
- Afghanistan Compact



KEY STEPS

- Focus on better security, service delivery, development and economic growth in the provinces, districts and municipalities
- Immediate actions to regain trust and confidence of the people
- Recruit competent staff and set up well-equipped IDLG office
- Monitor governance situation in the provinces, districts, municipalities and villages against benchmarks and governance indicators



KEY STEPS

- Special attention to provinces where security situation is volatile

Improve security through better governance, service delivery, development and economic growth in the provinces in the south and south east

- Appoint representative District Shuras

Appointment of up to 60 member District Shuras those are inclusive and representative of the district population, in all the districts. Involve these appointed District Shuras and Maliks in sub national governance so that communities can connect to the government.

- Involve local leaders intensively
- Coordination with PRTs through dialogue and discussions
- Appoint Afghan advisors to the provincial governors



KEY STEPS

- Create association of municipalities
- Involve tribal leaders in decision making
- Consult religious leaders
- Communicate with people through traditional and modern means



LONGTERM STRATEGIC EXPECTED RESULTS

- 1. By end-1391 (20 march 2013), all the provinces, districts, municipalities and villages in Afghanistan will have peace and stability, and environment conducive for development and equitable economic growth and, all afghan citizens will have equal opportunity to improve their lives.
- 2. By end-1388 (20 march 2010), the government will ensure formulation and implementation of sub-national governance policy and, its legal, regulatory and institutional framework. This will be done through A national dialogue on sub-national governance and, with technical support of international community.



UNDP'S ROLE

- UNDP Supports Sub National Governance and IDLG's Strategic Vision through a Number of Programs such as:
 - Afghanistan Sub National Governance Program (ASGP)
 - Civil Service Leadership Development (CSLD)
 - Capacity for Afghan Public Service Program (CAP)
 - Urban Development Group (UDG)
 - Accountability and Transparency (ACT)
 - Counter Narcotics Trust Fund (CNTF)
 - Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA)
 - Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS)
 - Bridging the Public Information Gap (BPIG)
 - National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP)
 - Making Budgets and Aid Work (MBAW)
 - National Joint Youth Program
 - Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan (SJSA)
 - Institutional Capacity Building for Gender Equality
 - Institutional Capacity Development Support Program for MoWA