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Country programmes and related matters

Draft country programme document for Afghanistan  
(2010-2013)

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Draft country programme document for Afghanistan (2010-2013)
I. Situation analysis

1. The UNDP draft country programme document for Afghanistan for 2010-2013 is designed to advance and deepen the progress made in the previous cycle in promoting stabilization, state-building and governance, and strengthening democratic institutions in the country. It has been formulated in consultation with the Government and development partners and reflects the national development priorities articulated in the Afghanistan national development strategy and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) priorities, and takes account that UNDP operates under the overall mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

2. Afghanistan had made progress since December 2001 in the aftermath of a generation of conflict that left the country devastated, but recent upsurge in violence has stalled and in some areas reversed progress. While the gross domestic product has grown steadily, to $12,850 million in 2008, the 24 per cent inflation rate places in increasing burden on the poor. Growing insecurity and the recurrence of violence affect service delivery, accessibility, private-sector development and employment, and causes population displacement. Anti-government elements, combined with factional, tribal and community conflicts, all contribute to instability. Weak rule of law, corruption, narco-trafficking and an inability to protect the civilian population in many areas, and their basic human rights remain a major cause for concern. The most affected tend to be the poor and vulnerable, particularly the women. With a female literacy rate of a mere 14 per cent, Afghan women face formidable challenges. Gender based violence is very high and access to justice as well as livelihood opportunities is severely limited for women. At the same time, humanitarian space is being squeezed, with over 30 per cent of the territory inaccessible to UN, implementing partners and even Government service providers. Humanitarian aid is being increasingly met by military based actors causing confusion in perception in the minds of the people.

3. The human development indicator for Afghanistan is not available, but other indicators depict the challenge: a 42.9-year life expectancy (2005 data). The under-five mortality rate – 191 per 1,000 live births – shows modest improvement, as does the infant mortality rate, down to 129 per 1,000 live births, but both are among the highest in the world. While the adult literacy rate is 28 per cent – one of the lowest in the world – primary completion rates are gradually improving (from 25 per cent to 38 per cent since 2005). The most significant improvement has been witnessed in the maternal mortality rate, cut in half from a staggering 1,600 to 800 per 100,000 births over the past few years. In critical Millennium Development Goals, such as extreme poverty and hunger, the trend is regressing: 42 per cent of population lives below the poverty line, as compared to 33 per cent in 2005. The poorest now comprise 10.5 per cent of the population, as compared to 9.3 per cent in 2005, and 39 per cent of the population receive less than the minimum level of dietary energy consumption, compared to 30 per cent in 2005. Despite the efforts of the international community and the enormous resources invested, human development is showing improvement only in the health and education indicators.

4. The foundation for a viable, sustainable new democracy has been laid and a new constitution adopted. Presidential, parliamentary and provincial elections were successfully held in 2004-2005 and the next round of presidential and provincial elections will be held in August 2009. Public administration and services have gradually been restored, especially in respect of health, education and rural development. National security forces play an increasingly important role in the stabilization effort. Parliament is functioning, the national budget cycle is being observed, and modest levels of revenues to the treasury are being generated. At the subnational level, while provincial governance systems are slowly emerging, the outreach of national programmes is limited.

5. The private sector and civil society are fragile, though economic growth is stable. In 2008, 89 per cent of the total national budget was funded from external sources. While the development budget is still funded entirely by international donors, only 40 per cent of the operational budget is mobilized locally. This underlines the need for the international community to remain engaged in supporting Afghanistan. The international community, increasingly coordinated by the United Nations, serves as an important pillar of support to the Afghan people in this transition.
6. Significant challenges remain. Overall, the analysis shows that security, governance and human development challenges are inextricably linked, and long-term investments targeting the poorest will be required to ensure that the human development trajectory of the country is in the right direction. The Afghanistan national development strategy has been formulated and adopted. It projects “a vision of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan, based on the principles of Islam, outlining the priorities of the Government in terms of security, governance, development and humanitarian domains”. The Government, in consultation with the international community, has developed a strategic plan for its implementation and is moving forward with it.

II. Past cooperation and lessons learned

7. Since early 2002 the UNDP programme in Afghanistan has supported stabilization, state-building, governance and development, so far disbursing in the region of $1.5 billion. UNDP support, in partnership with the Government, the United Nations system, the donor community and other development stakeholders, has contributed to the emergency Loya Jirga; adoption of the Constitution; presidential, parliamentary and provincial council elections; institutional development through capacity-building to the legislature, the judicial and executive arms of the state, and key ministries, Government agencies and commissions at the national and subnational levels. UNDP has played a key role in the management of the Law and Order Trust Fund, which supports the Government in developing and maintaining the national police force and in efforts to stabilize the internal security environment. Like many other strategic UNDP programmes in Afghanistan, the Trust Fund has benefited, and continues to benefit, from the very active support of donors. Major demobilization, disarmament and rehabilitation and area-based livelihoods and reconstruction programmes have taken place nationwide. UNDP also supported the formulation of the first ever, Millennium Development Goals-based Afghanistan national development strategy, and the Government is institutionalizing and promoting its implementation.

8. The new country programme builds on the lessons from the assessment of development results for the period 2002-2007, which was recently completed by the UNDP Evaluation Office. The assessment pointed to the need for UNDP to strengthen its coherence and provide more substantive programmes in the next phase of assistance, building on the new direction adopted in 2005. It recommended that UNDP adopt a more direct presence outside Kabul to enhance the outreach of its programmes to ordinary Afghans. While this has to be balanced with security concerns, it is a key objective in this new country programme, as an emphasis on secure provinces in the past cycle undermined development for large segments of the population. UNDP invested heavily in central institutional development; however, the positive impact of the lives of Afghans was limited, and more must be done to improve state-society relationships, trust and confidence. To strengthen accountability, the assessment recommended improved reporting of development results from UNDP interventions and better integration of UNDP programmes and coordination with UNAMA and the United Nations system as a whole. It noted that the donor practice of paying government salaries and supplements and creating externally funded implementation units affected sustainability.

9. The new country programme takes these lessons and recommendations into account and will build on the foundations laid during the last cycle. It will focus on institution-building and will support ongoing efforts to systematically build capacities within the Government and civil society and to deepen the functioning of transparent and accountable democratic governance. Emphasis will be increasingly placed on subnational governance, a pro-poor private sector, and livelihood development programmes aimed towards the most vulnerable groups.

III. Proposed programme

10. The proposed programme is aligned with the UNDAF outcomes, which are: (a) Fostering good governance, peace and stability; (b) Promoting sustainable livelihoods, with a focus on agriculture, rural development, food security and income generation; (c) Providing basic social services –
education and health. The programme focuses on the first two UNDAF outcomes. UNDP will contribute to the drive for subnational stabilization, governance and development through support to Government, and will provide substantial impetus to the integrated UNAMA approach. UNDP proposes to strengthen subnational presence to improve coordination among its programmes, build stronger partnership with United Nations organizations, government counterparts, bilateral donors, the private sector and civil society organizations, among others.

11. Taking into account the Afghanistan national development strategy, the UNDAF, the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011 and the comparative advantages of UNDP, four key programmatic areas have been identified for the new country programme:

(a) **Stabilization and peacebuilding.** Afghanistan is unstable, and conflict and violence continue to challenge security. The security and stabilization priorities presented in the national development strategy are critical. UNDP will support the reform of security-sector institutions to make them more effective, legitimate and transparent structures and assist in moving towards a rights-respecting state accountable to its citizens. Rule-of-law programming will support the justice sector, and programmes of disarmament, reconciliation, conflict resolution, governance and development will be implemented with sharpened coordination for greater impact at the local level. Emphasis will be placed on conflict resolution and conflict-sensitive approaches.

(b) **Strengthening democratic governance.** UNDP will work in several mutually reinforcing areas to promote good governance at the national and subnational levels, covering leadership training, administration reform and service delivery improvements; accountability mechanisms; e-governance and communications. Support will be provided to democratic institutions at the national, provincial, municipal, district and village levels; citizen participation and private sector partnerships; promotion of the rule of law and equality of opportunity. Efforts will be made to improve the responsiveness and performance of national and subnational institutions to the priorities of local people.

(c) **Livelihoods, natural resource management and disaster risk reduction.** UNDP will continue to pursue comprehensive rural and urban livelihood programmes and comprehensive rural and urban livelihood programmes in support of government efforts to promote sustainable development and environmental protection nationally. Programmes will deepen district-led governance and development initiatives; providing support to the comprehensive agriculture and rural development programme of the Government. Early recovery initiatives will engage the local public, the private sector and civil society in rural electrification and renewable energy; and community contracting modalities that maximize local employment opportunities and foster better ownership, productivity, sustainability and higher rates of return from public investments. The country programme will enhance national capacity for disaster risk reduction, as well as crisis prevention and recovery efforts. UNDP will formulate a longer term strategic partnership framework through its Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, leading to improved UNDP effectiveness and coherence in peacebuilding, recovery and disaster risk management.

(d) **National development policies for economic growth and poverty reduction.** In its support to the national policy formulation of the Government, UNDP will continue to invest in capacity-building for national development policymaking and its integration with the national budget as a tool for policy and coordination. It will support economic and social policies that spur sustainable, equitable growth, the implementation and coordination of the Afghanistan national development strategy, and the building of a national results monitoring and evaluation platform crucial for accurate reporting on the progress made by the country towards attaining its MDG targets through national programmes across the country. Two substantive policy priorities will be at the heart of the human development planning content of UNDP support in this regard – the advancement and equality of women and the promotion of human rights.

12. In all four areas, UNDP will support national ownership, capacity development, policy formulation, and coordination, in collaboration with UNAMA.

13. As a cross-cutting issue, UNDP will continue its advocacy and programme of support to the Government for increasing the role of Afghan women in peacebuilding, governance and develop-
ment through implementation of the national action plan for women, including human rights, participation, employment, independence and advocacy. UNDP will champion the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 in respect of women in conflict and will further mainstream gender empowerment and equality across the entire country programme portfolio.

IV. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation

14. A programme board will be established to endorse and monitor the progress of the country programme using information provided by the outcome and project boards. To enhance results-based management, UNDP will support national monitoring and evaluation systems pertinent to poverty reduction and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals with data disaggregated by gender and district, in support of the national poverty profile. An evaluation plan for the period of the country programme has been developed.

15. From an analytical and policy perspective, UNDP will seek to strengthen country office capabilities in the following areas: (a) Conflict prevention and peacebuilding; (b) Economic analysis for attainment of the Millennium Development Goals; (c) Capacity-building and mentoring; (d) Gender empowerment and equality; and (e) Coordination of UNDP subnational programmes.

16. UNDP will hold quarterly project-based board meetings and will improve the quality and timeliness of results-based reporting, monitoring and evaluation. To strengthen implementation, performance business centres have been established within core national programmes to provide stronger operational support. Internal memoranda of understanding have been devised to establish service delivery standards for core operational services. The UNDP accountability framework, quality assurance oversight, risk management and standard audit controls are firmly in place.

17. Direct implementation will be the principal modality for the UNDP programme in Afghanistan, although across the lifespan of the country programme a gradual shift to the national implementation modality will be actively pursued where capacities are proven. The harmonized approach to cash transfers will be adopted by the Executive Committee agencies. Through the United Nations resident coordinator system, the United Nations country team and UNAMA, UNDP will support the Government through joint data collection and analysis, joint programming, and joint monitoring and evaluation.

18. Partnerships will be deepened with bilateral and multilateral donors sharing the mutual aspiration for a long-term nationally owned and led development approach that seeks to invest in the building of durable national institutions.

19. The country programme will be of the order of $1.1 billion, of which $99 million will be regular resources and the remainder, other resources, including resource mobilization.
### National priority

#### UNDAF outcome
Priority area: Good governance, peace and stability
1. Stabilization process is strengthened through effective integrated United Nations support to the Government and communities
2. The institutions of democratic governance are integrated components of the nation-state

#### Relevant MDGs
AFG MDG Goal-9: Enhance Security; MDG 3 - Promote gender equality and empower women

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<th>Country programme outputs</th>
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| Stabilization and peacebuilding | 1. Capacity in state and non-state institutions increased to contribute to overall stabilization and peacebuilding  
**Indicator:** Increased access to provinces/districts for development interventions, particularly in the non-secure provinces.  
**Baseline:** Low level of accessibility in vulnerable provinces/districts;  
**Target:** 30% reduction in number of inaccessible districts (compared to current number of inaccessible districts).  
**Indicator:** Perception of the communities regarding improved security;  
**Baseline:** 2009 (1387) Survey (UNAMA/Omnibus) results on people’s perception on insecurity at the provincial/district levels;  
**Target:** 20% increase from the baseline in positive perception of security in provinces/districts. | 1.1.1 Levels of public confidence in the Afghan National Police.  
**Baseline:** 89% and 82% (2008 survey);  
**Target:** 3% increase  
1.1.2. UNAMA survey on accessibility of districts by the administration  
1.1.3. UNDSS security incident data  
1.1.4. Number and percentage of women in the Afghan National Police (ANP) | 1.1.1. Number of illegal armed groups demobilized and reintegrated.  
**Target:**  
1.2. State and non-state actors plan an increasingly active role in promoting peacebuilding and reconciliation | Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ministry of Defense, National Security Directorate, Disarmament and Reintegration Commission, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), International Security Assistance Force, United Nations Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development (MRRD), National Security Advisor | Regular: 14.05  
Other: 490.00 |

### National priority
2. Governance, rule of law and human rights: Strengthen democratic processes and institutions, human rights, the rule of law, delivery of public services and government accountability.

#### UNDAF outcome
Priority area: Good governance, peace and stability

**Outcome 1.** Stabilization process is strengthened through effective integrated United Nations support to the Government and communities  
**Outcome 2.** Government capacity to deliver services to the poor and vulnerable is enhanced  
**Outcome 3.** The institutions of democratic governance are integrated components of the nation-state

#### Programme component 2. Strengthening democratic governance:
(a) Effective, responsive, accessible and fair justice systems promote the rule of law, including both formal and informal processes, with due consideration on the rights

| (a) Effective, responsive, accessible and fair justice systems promote the rule of law, including both formal and informal processes, with due consideration on the rights | 2. Effectiveness of the justice system is improved and access to justice is increased.  
**Indicator:** Public perception of the ability of State Courts to effectively deliver of justice  
**Baseline:** 52% (AF survey 2008);  
**Target:** 55%  
**Indicator:** Reduction in perception of corruption in justice mechanisms;  
2.1. Capacities at all levels of the justice system are enhanced.  
2.1.1 Level of public perception that Courts resolve cases promptly  
**Baseline:** 38% (AF survey 2008);  
**Target:** 42% (Check survey)  
2.2. Access to justice and awareness of and respect for human rights  
2.2.1 Public perception among men and women of access to State Courts | Mol, Parliament, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) | Regular: 10.49  
Other: 50.00 |
of the poor, women and vulnerable groups;

**Baseline:** Percentage of population believing that corruption is a major impediment in accessing fair justice;
**Target:** Reduction of perception of corruption by 30%

2.3. Capacity of state institutions to comply with international human rights obligations is strengthened.

- **Baseline:** National survey, 7%
- **Target:** Less than 5% difference

(b) National, regional and local levels of governance expand their capacities to manage the equitable delivery of public services and support conflict reduction;

3. Government has improved ability to deliver services to foster human development and elected bodies have greater oversight capacity.

- **Indicator:** Number of clients satisfied with improved service delivery of public sector.
- **Indicator:** Public perception of government performance combating corruption.
- **Baseline:** 66% neg. opinion (2008 survey)
- **Target:** Decrease by 10%

- **Indicator:** Rank of Afghanistan on Transparency International index.
- **Baseline:** None
- **Target:** Establishment of human rights support unit in MoJ; research unit in Parliament

3.1. Inclusive legislation, policies and programmes are in place to provide for service delivery

- **3.1.1.** Presence of legislation and policies to address human development-sensitive service delivery at national and sub-national level.
  - **Baseline:** Draft subnational governance policy submitted for Cabinet approval, national youth policy drafted.
  - **Target:** Subnational governance policy translated into a legal and regulatory framework and appropriate roles for relevant government bodies formulated, national youth policy finalized.

- **3.1.2.** Presence of systems and processes for government bodies to manage and monitor human development-sensitive service delivery.
  - **Baseline:** basic capacity and framework in place.
  - **Target:** Performance measurement systems and policy, financial, recruitment, audit and procurement guidelines and work processes designed and approved and training in these carried out in # of government bodies at the national and subnational level for # of civil servants.

3.2. Improved capacity of elected bodies to provide effective oversight

- **3.2.1.** No. of national and subnational elected bodies engaged in planning, participatory consultations, financing and budgetary decision making processes
  - **Baseline:** Subnational level – none;

3.3. Capacity of state and non-state actors at national and subnational

- **3.3.1.** People’s knowledge on public rights and access to information; **Baseline:** 2009
| (c) Legislatures, regional elected bodies, and local assemblies have strengthened institutional capacity, enabling them to represent their constituents more effectively | 4. The state and non-state institution is better able to promote democratic participation and be accountable to the public. *Indicator*: Level of public confidence that voting can bring about change. *Baseline*: 68% (2008 survey); *Target*: 70% *Indicator*: IEC with capacity to conduct free and fair elections with high levels of citizen participation; *Baseline*: Low IEC capacity, heavy outside dependency; *Indicator*: Proportion of population considering that Parliament is addressing the major problems of people in our country. *Baseline*: 65% (2008 survey); *Target*: 70% *Indicator*: Number of legislation passed by the National Assembly; *Baseline*: Number of legislation passed by the 1st democratically elected National Assembly; *Target*: Increase in number of legislations passed compared to the past National Assembly. | 4.1. A strengthened Independent Electoral Commission and well-informed electorate (including women and marginalized groups) contribute to free and fair elections. – (1387) People’s perception study; *Target*: Improvement 4.1.1. IEC able to manage future elections with decreased levels of international technical and financial support. *Baseline*: $400 million budget; 90 int’l staff; *Target*: 50 int’l staff, $300 million budget 4.1.2. Level of confidence of the population in the Independent Electoral Commission *Baseline*: 57% (AF survey 2008); *Target*: 70% 4.1.3. Level of public confidence in the fairness of the elections process. (monitoring data) | Independent Election Commission (IEC), Parliament, MRRD, ANP | Regular: 11.10 | Other: 300.00 |
| National priority | 3. Economic and social development: reduce poverty, ensure sustainable development through a private-sector-led market economy, improve human development indicators, and make significant progress towards the MDG. | | | | |
| UNDAF outcome | Priority area: sustainable livelihoods: agriculture, food security and income opportunities Outcome 5. Improved capacity to manage natural resources to support poverty reduction and dispute resolution, and to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters. Outcome 6. Opportunities for decent work and income are improved and diversified, especially for vulnerable groups. | Relevant MDGs | Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability | | |
| Programme component 3. Livelihoods, natural resources management, and disaster risk reduction. | 5. Capacities of national and local governance bodies are improved for better natural resources and disasters risk management *Indicator*: Environmental protection concept mainstreamed in development process; *Baseline*: 0; *Target*: Environmental impact assessment mainstreamed in investment and social development project formulation *Indicator*: Areas under forestry and watersheds having under improved management system; *Baseline*: As in UNDAF results matrix; *Target As in UNDAF results matrix* *Indicator*: Reduction in losses (both human and assets) to natural disasters; *Baseline*: | 5.1. Government capacity to develop policies to manage natural resources enhanced. 5.1. Number of policy formulation initiatives led by the Government using in-house capacity 5.2. Subnational institutions and communities are better able to promote environmental protection and use natural resources responsibly. 5.2.1. Sound environment and natural resource management policies are in place at national and subnational levels 5.2.2. Number of communities involved in sustainable environmental protection activities; *Baseline*: Sporadic small-scale (group initiatives) activities run by aid agencies/NGOs; *Target*: Communities of 200 villages implement sustainable environmental and natural resource management activities 5.3. Government and communities 5.3.1. Presence of updated national and | Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), MRRD, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MoAIL), National Environmental Protection Agency, United Nations system: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) World Food Programme (WFP), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) | Regular: 13.90 | Other: 62.00 |
| Programme component 3. National development policies for economic growth and poverty reduction | 6. Increased opportunities for income generation through the promotion of diversified livelihoods, private sector development and public-private partnerships. Indicator: Percentage of households living under the poverty line; Baseline: 42% of the households below poverty line (National risk and vulnerability assessment, 2007); Target: Reduction by 10% compared to the base year 6.1. Government has greater capacity to foster an enabling environment for poverty reduction and private sector development. 6.1.1 Number of pro-poor policies are in place; Target: Increased # 6.1.2 Policy and legal frameworks for employment and access to market and private sector development are in place. Target: Increased # 6.2. Government capacity enhanced to establish regional level partnerships for promotion of trade and development 6.2.1 Number of regional initiatives and partnerships participated and endorsed by the Government 6.3. Sustainable livelihoods promoted through district and community based development initiatives and development of productive rural infrastructures. 6.3.1 Number of district and community based development initiatives undertaken; Baseline: ad-hoc community based initiatives; Target: initiatives undertaken in 20% districts 6.3.2 Number of rural infrastructure development projects piloted at the community level Baseline: National Area-Based Development Programme survey) Target: Number increased by 100% 6.3.3 Number of private sector initiatives supported; Baseline: Weak private sector; high under employment; Target: programme undertaken in all district covered by the project 6.4 Increased access to sustainable illicit livelihoods for Afghan households in every province who are engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, poppy and opium production 6.4.1 Prevalence of poppy production in every province of Afghanistan Baseline: 2008 UNODC survey; Target: decrease in every province | Afghanistan Investment Support Agency, MRRD, MoAIL, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Ministry of Economy, Kabul University, Chief Economic Advisor to the President, Municipalities, United Nations system: FAO, UNHCR, WFP, International Labour Organization, Habitat, United Nations Office for Project Services, UNODC | Regular: 24.50 Other: 70.00 |

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<td></td>
<td>national data; <strong>Target:</strong> 10% reduction in loss of lives to natural disasters</td>
<td>have better capacity for disaster risk reduction.</td>
<td>subnational disaster risk management strategies; <strong>Baseline:</strong> ANDMA business plan; <strong>Target:</strong> in all provinces 5.3.2. Effectiveness of the Afghan National Disaster Management Agency response. 5.3.3. Number of communities participating in implementation of local disaster risk reduction plans. 5.3.4. Participation of women in ANDMA local planning and capacity building exercises.</td>
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