

HOPEREIMAGINED



**UNDP AND JAPAN
TRANSFORMING LIVES
IN AFGHANISTAN**

April 2021-June 2023

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A partnership that saves lives and build communities

“Even in their darkest and most uncertain hours, the Afghan people have been able to count on the enduring support of UNDP and the Government of Japan.

Undoubtedly, the last 2+ years have been incredibly challenging for Afghanistan and its people. By continuing to fund our work, Japan has helped to make it possible for UNDP to stay and deliver basic human needs services to millions of people, with projects running all across the country.

These initiatives have made people safer and healthier, generated incomes, boosted businesses and local economies, protected the environment, reduced the chance of future violence through the promotion of dialogue, and prepared communities to better withstand floods, droughts and other natural disasters.

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Japan, we’ve been able to provide not just the basics like water and livelihoods, but also hope for a better future.”

- Mr. Stephen Rodrigues,
UNDP Resident Representative



Strong partnership is the key to progress in Afghanistan

Japan in partnership with UNDP has been supporting Afghan communities to cope with unprecedented challenges that they face. The development alliance between the Government of Japan and UNDP has enabled Afghanistan to make substantial progress in human security, health, livelihoods, economy, environment and more.

Showing the fruits of Japan and UNDP's cooperation in Afghanistan, this photobook provides a snapshot of results with photos and key quotes from communities supported by UNDP's Japan-funded projects for the period from April 2021 to June 2023.

Working together with UNDP, Japan will continue to support Afghanistan and its people to enhance their ability to address current and emerging challenges and make a positive impact on the lives of many people. The partnership between Japan and UNDP demonstrates the spirit of solidarity in pursuit of a bright future that Afghanistan deserves.

- H.E. Mr. Takashi Okada,
Ambassador of Japan to Afghanistan





Making people safer

With Japanese support, UNDP has worked on local security plans and community dialogues, reducing the chance of future violence.

“

“I have received encouragement and acceptance from family and community members.”

- Dena,
female mediator trained by UNDP

261

civil society organizations
engaged in peacebuilding
and advocacy



In Herat, young women and men are actively engaged in tackling social issues and fostering community cohesion. Through dedicated social cohesion sessions, these passionate individuals acquire skills in negotiation and conflict management, becoming powerful advocates for their rights and catalysts for conflict resolution.



Parwana, a young woman from Herat, stands as a shining example of community participation and empowerment. With newfound skills gained through social cohesion sessions, she has emerged as a successful advocate, championing the rights of her community and facilitating peaceful resolution to conflicts.



Keeping families healthy

Japan has helped UNDP fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, bring clinics and clean water to remote villages, and provide COVID information to schools and communities.

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"I don't have the means to buy medicine, and the hospital is very far from our village. The arrival of the mobile clinic to our village has solved a critical issue in our lives. Today, I received medicine and I am content."

- Arghand,
patient at a mobile health clinic in Badghis

429

schools and health facilities with medical supplies and materials, including COVID-19 related



Healthcare professionals supported by UNDP bring much-needed relief to individuals who otherwise lack access to healthcare services, especially in rural areas like this.



Meet this remarkable group of medical professionals who have served thousands of villagers at mobile health clinics supported by UNDP. Through their efforts, access to quality medical care is becoming a reality for many.



A mobile medical team in rural Badghis provides medicine to a local patient. This team travels to remote areas, ensuring that healthcare services reach those in underserved communities.



An elderly woman in rural Badghis walks to a UNDP-supported mobile clinic that has brought professional healthcare for the first time to her remote village.



These supplies from UNDP allow dedicated healthcare professionals in remote parts of Badghis to deliver the care that community members desperately need.



Growing the economy...

Japanese support has empowered thousands of people to set up new businesses with the equipment and renewable energy they need to grow. Together, we've also trained women and young people and introduced new markets for Afghanistan's women-led enterprises.

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“This course will allow me to find a decent job or open my own shop to repair solar systems.”

- Habib,
technical skills trainee from Ghor

833,811

men and women supported through jobs, livelihoods and cash-for-work schemes (Women: 219,155)

8,967

micro, small and medium enterprises supported (Women-led/run: 7,011)



These laborers are working on a flood wall in Dara-i-Noor, Nangarhar province. This protects the community from the impacts of climate change and provides valuable cash-for-work opportunities.



Mohammad Jamal carries bundles of freshly harvested sugar cane in Charmesra village of Behsod district of Nangarhar province. As part of the agricultural supply chain, Mohammad plays a vital role in ensuring that the produce reaches its destination. Through his hard work and dedication, he contributes to the local economy and supports the livelihoods of many.



In a bustling agro-business fair held in Kabul, tradesman Abdul Jabar takes centre stage as he displays a wide range of Afghanistan's finest dry fruits and nuts. From succulent raisins to aromatic almonds, each product reflects the rich agricultural heritage of the country.



At a trade fair held by UNDP in Kabul, Haji Zaher, a dried fruit tradesman, engages in a productive business meeting with Uzra Amini, a dry fruit producer and processor. Their encounter shows the potential for more collaboration within Afghanistan's thriving dried fruit industry as they discuss market trends, quality standards and innovative practices.

"I'm thrilled to have participated in this exhibition because it significantly boosted our product sales and led me to secure a major contract." Said Uzra Amini, a business women from Balkh



In a powerful display of empowerment, a women entrepreneur proudly showcases a range of products, all produced by women. From handicrafts to artisanal goods, each item represents the talent, creativity, and resilience of women in business.

"Displaying our products at the Dubai Exhibition highlighted Afghan women's skills. The global visibility of our handicrafts enhanced sales prices and enabled foreign exports." Mezhdeh Rasouli, Handicrafts, Balkh.



... and supporting farmers

With seeds, equipment and training, we have helped farmers grow more, even in harsh conditions made worse by climate change. New irrigation canals and flood walls protect crops and rangeland from flooding and drought and new roads make it easier for farmers to get to markets, boosting their profits.

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“I will be able to provide my daughter with medicine, books, stationery and clothing.”

- Babujana,
widow and dairy farmer in Nangarhar



UNDP is strengthening the agricultural sector by providing farmers with infrastructure, farming techniques, modern equipment and improved seeds, leading to bountiful harvests like this one in Zangoyee village of Jalalabad City, Nangarhar province.



In the outskirts of Jalalabad, Zangoyee village is hoping for a better harvest season thanks to the construction of an irrigation canal by UNDP. Increased yields will boost income for farmers like Haji Malik, making their families healthier and more secure.

In Charnesra village, near Jalalabad, a newly constructed road offers a lifeline for agricultural communities, enabling them to transport their valuable crops to the market more efficiently.

Sayed Mohammad, a local farmer, eagerly anticipates the upcoming season, knowing that his vegetable crops will now reach the market sooner and in better condition, minimising spoilage and maximising profits.





As part of UNDP’s initiative to support livelihoods and foster livestock farming in the western region, Fatima, the only breadwinner in her family, was provided with two goats. Now she has a sustainable source of income and dairy products to complement basic meals at home.

“Given my circumstances as a widow with health challenges, these goats bring hope. They yield kids twice a year. I’ll sell the males to support females’ upkeep and grow my dairy business.” Fatemeh, Livestock Farmer, Badghis.



In rural Afghanistan, women like Syedmoma play a pivotal economic role through small-scale livestock farming. Their efforts not only sustain their own families but also contribute to the national economy. By empowering farmers in rural areas, UNDP is fostering economic growth, promoting sustainable agriculture and ensuring a brighter future for communities across Afghanistan.

“Through a business course, I acquired skills and bought two cows. Learning business basics, quality dairy production, and distribution, I’m confident I’ll succeed. With proper cattle care, I’ll provide for myself and create opportunities for others.” Sayedmoma, Livestock Farmer, Herat.



In Herat, “Khan Mohammad is provided with improved seeds, fertilizer, agricultural pesticide equipment, and other tools to boost crop productivity.

“I received training on modern farming, which will help me yield more from my crops,” said Abdul Basit.”



Saboor’s smile says it all as he receives agricultural supplies including improved seeds, fertilizer, and equipment. These essentials will empower him to cultivate his land with greater efficiency and optimism.



Boosting cross-border trade

Japan and UNDP are helping farmers and businesses find new markets abroad, as well as providing the skills, equipment and infrastructure needed for Afghans to capture more of the value chain inside their own borders.

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“I learned a lot in four months. Now I can repair heaters water pumps and other electric devices, I will open my own shop.”

- Najeebullah,
graduate of a UNDP course in Balkh



Fariba, a young businesswoman, prepares Qorot, a local dry yogurt delicacy. Thanks to financial support from UNDP's programme, Fariba has been able to revive her business, which almost failed during the political upheaval and economic collapse of 2021. Equipped with new marketing and business skills, she is now embracing a brighter future for her enterprise. "Given the achievements I've witnessed in my relatively short business journey, I envision myself as an international businesswoman in the future."



Fariba was in her last year at law school when women were banned from higher education. It was a devastating blow, but the success of her business is giving her new hope for the future.



Fariba has not only revitalised her own business but also provided jobs for other women, transforming lives in her community.



Anahita Mohammadi, a talented local artist in Bamyan, proudly exhibits her art, including wood-burning calligraphy, paintings and handmade jewellery boxes. She is one of almost 9,000 women who received entrepreneurship training and cash grants to revive and expand their businesses in the aftermath of the economic crisis in 2021.

“Joining Imam Abu Hanifa exhibition boosted my confidence and increased my sales. Grateful and happy.”



Raiza Ibrahimi, a skilled entrepreneur, specialises in producing traditional dresses, scarves, jewellery and handicrafts. She runs a successful shop in Bamyan city and also joins market days at Band-e-Amir National Park. Raiza was one of almost 9,000 entrepreneurs who received support to acquire new skills. Today, she stands as a testament to the success of women in business.



Meet a remarkable entrepreneur who has undergone extensive training in marketing, packaging, and business preparation. With a keen eye for quality and a passion for her craft, she has established a thriving business and has become a role model for aspiring entrepreneurs in her town.



Entrepreneurship meets pride in one's heritage! A women entrepreneur takes centre stage at Band-e-Amir market, showcasing an embroidered image of the ancient Silk Road as it passes Bamyán's majestic Buddha statues. With support from UNDP, she has mastered new business and marketing techniques, leveraging them to boost her sales and proudly share the cultural heritage of her region.



UNDP is empowering women entrepreneurs in Afghanistan with new skills and market access for traditional products. These women are preserving Afghan cultural heritage and their craftsmanship attracts tourists and powers economic growth in towns and rural areas.



Zahara Wafa is an entrepreneur based in Bamyan city. Her shop in the local bazaar for women's outfits, handicrafts, and jewellery is part of a vibrant community of women-led businesses. Through a comprehensive training program, she has honed her business skills, and with financial support from UNDP, has successfully expanded her enterprise. Zahara's story showcases the transformative power of empowerment and highlights the vital role of women in driving economic growth and sustainability in Bamyan.

"With UNDP's support, I bought materials, rehired employees, boosted production, secured contracts in Kabul and Herat, and transformed my business and life. Now with 60 employees, I have strong sales and income, and I'm overjoyed." Zahra, Handicrafts, Bamyan.



Masooma Ibrahimy, a woman entrepreneur, captivates her customers with handcraft products in the bazaar at Bamyan's Band-e-Amir National Park.

"Through two Kabul exhibitions, I connected with fellow women in trade, sold well-priced products, and used the earnings to enhance our workshop, boosting production and sales. I'm grateful and delighted." Masomeh, Handicrafts, Bamyan.



Coping with emergencies

After the economic collapse of 2021, Japan-funded cash-for-work programmes helped families buy food, keep children in school and get access to medicine and other essential supplies.

Now the fruits of this work – including newly built irrigation canals, dams and floodwalls – will protect Afghans and their homes and farms when the next climate disaster strikes.

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“I have been able to contribute to protecting local property and land and also earn a living for my family.”

- Khalid,
a villager in flood-prone region near Mazar-e-Sherif

1,111,274

men and women helped to access to health, education and alternative energy



This photo captures the spirit of resilience as communities come together to rebuild lives and homes after an earthquake in Paktika. Reconstruction efforts have been made possible by local determination combined with support from organisations like UNDP.



A big smile from Ahmadullah as he works on a protection wall in Nangarhar province. This crucial infrastructure project aims to safeguard communities, homes, and farmlands from the destructive impact of seasonal flash floods and rising river waters. Ahmadullah's efforts symbolise the resilience of local residents and their determination to protect their livelihoods and create a safer environment for future generations.



Mohammad Nasim poses with his children after participating in a cash-for-work project that has enabled him to improve his family's living conditions and buy essential goods.



Naimatullah joined a cash-for-work project in Nangarhar, helping to build a road and flood-protection wall for his community while supporting his family. This initiative, replicated in various parts of the country, has become a lifeline for thousands of men and women during economic crisis.



The Langarkhana Canal in Mazar-e-Sharif has become a lifeline for local communities during flash rains. With its strategic location and design, the canal helps divert and manage excess water, preventing flooding and protecting surrounding areas.



Saving the environment

By funding solar power systems and efficient cooking facilities, Japan has supported UNDP to reduce emissions and deforestation. This helps stop diseases caused by air pollution and allows schools, clinics and businesses to keep their doors open during power cuts – or get power for the first time in remote areas.

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“This [cookstove] doesn’t produce smoke or harm our health. People are also desperate right now to reduce costs in any way they can.”

*- Khadija,
villager in Bamyan*

5,054

facilities powered by renewable energy (4,988 health facilities; 66 educational institutes)



In a rural community, the installation of solar panels has brought a ray of light and hope for farmers. Alongside other farming equipment, these solar panels provide clean energy, enabling farmers to maximise their harvest. The transition to clean energy not only promotes sustainability but also reduces reliance on traditional energy sources, leading to cost savings and environmental benefits these farmers in Balkh province.



In the city of Mahmood Raqi, center of Kapisa province, a small clinic embraces sustainable energy by installing UNDP solar panels on its roof. This initiative helps enhance healthcare services for the community, ensuring uninterrupted medical services and improved patient experiences.



Thanks to solar-powered energy, the emergency response unit of a health facility in Kapisa is operational. 62-year-old Abdul Karim is now receiving essential health support for his serious health issues.



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“We are grateful to UNDP and Japan for their projects that have brought positive changes to our lives. Your partnership with us, the people of Afghanistan, has been long-lasting and impactful. Thank you for making a difference in our community.”

Haji Malikdad, Community elder, Guldara district Kabul

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