

*In partnership with the Government and the people of Afghanistan, UNDP is working to improve the lives of Afghan men and women and to help the country become more resilient. In all of its activities, UNDP promotes human rights, gender parity and the protection of the poorest and most vulnerable.*

## CONTEXT

With the withdrawal in 2014 of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Presidential elections in the same year, Afghanistan is in transition.

Afghan institutions will assume increased ownership and leadership over all aspects of the country's security, economic growth and development.

Afghanistan is still recovering from three decades of conflict and recurring natural disasters. Since 2001 there have been significant improvements in life expectancy, basic health and education, as well as rapid economic growth. More than five million Afghan refugees have returned home. Sixty percent of the Afghan population is under 20 years of age.

However, the country ranks 175th out of 187 nations on the UN Human Development Index. The national poverty rate is 36 percent; it means that about 9 million Afghans are unable to get enough food to lead active, healthy lives. Three out of four are illiterate.

The 2004 Afghan Constitution guarantees equal rights for women, who hold 27 percent of parliamentary seats. But only 12 percent of women are literate and they remain victims of discrimination and violence.

In spite of the challenges, 60 percent of Afghans say their country is moving in the right direction. To support the Afghan government and people as they rebuild their lives and their country, UNDP will continue to work with them in the areas of governance, rule of law, women empowerment and poverty reduction.

## About UNDP Afghanistan

UNDP Afghanistan works to achieve transformational change that will lead to freedom from poverty and insecurity for every Afghan, young or old, man or woman.

UNDP assists in the achievement of Afghanistan's own priorities outlined in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and National Priority Programmes, as well as international development frameworks such as the Millennium Development Goals, the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, and other global agreements in which Afghanistan participates.



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

United Nations  
Development Programme  
Afghanistan

UNDP Country Office  
Post Box No. 5  
UNOCA Complex, Jalalabad Road  
Kabul, Afghanistan

[www.af.undp.org](http://www.af.undp.org)

Follow UNDP Afghanistan on  
[Facebook.com/UNDPinAfghanistan](https://www.facebook.com/UNDPinAfghanistan)  
[Twitter.com/UNDPaf](https://twitter.com/UNDPaf)  
[Youtube.com/UNDPAfghanistan](https://www.youtube.com/UNDPAfghanistan)  
[Gplus.to/UNDPinAfghanistan](https://plus.google.com/UNDPinAfghanistan)



PHOTOS: UNDP Afghanistan



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# UNDP Afghanistan at a Glance



UNDP'S FOCUS IS TO PROMOTE EQUITABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FOR A MORE RESILIENT AFGHANISTAN. WE SUPPORT THE COUNTRY'S EFFORTS TO PURSUE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT BY:

- 1 Promoting inclusive and legitimate politics at all levels of the Afghan society, including assisting in the preparation of credible and fair elections.
- 2 Building capacities to promote stabilization, strengthen democratic governance and promote sustainable economic and social development.
- 3 Strengthening the rule of law, fulfilment of human rights, and increased access to legal and judicial services.
- 4 Empowering women in the legal, economic, social and political spheres.
- 5 Developing the capacity of national and sub-national institutions to deliver essential services and ensure that development gains are durable.
- 6 Managing natural resources in ways that contribute to poverty reduction and improved lives for the people of Afghanistan, while ensuring that economic development is environmentally sustainable.

**THE MDGS: EIGHT DEVELOPMENT GOALS \***  
AGREED UPON BY WORLD LEADERS



\* AFGHANISTAN HAS FORMULATED AN ADDITIONAL MDG ON "ENSURING SECURITY"

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
[www.af.undp.org](http://www.af.undp.org)

GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT: UNDP / SAYED OMER SADAAT



**MICRO-HYDRO POWER PLANT**  
• CLEAN ENERGY  
**Bamyan**

Lives are changing for the better in a village in Bamyan as a result of UNDP funded micro-hydro power plants.



**DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ASSEMBLY**  
• DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE  
**Kapisa**

UNDP helped establish District Development Assemblies (DDAs) in 388 of the 402 districts in the country. Each DDA is a forum for discussions on district level development planning and comprises about 30 members, 10 of whom have to be women.



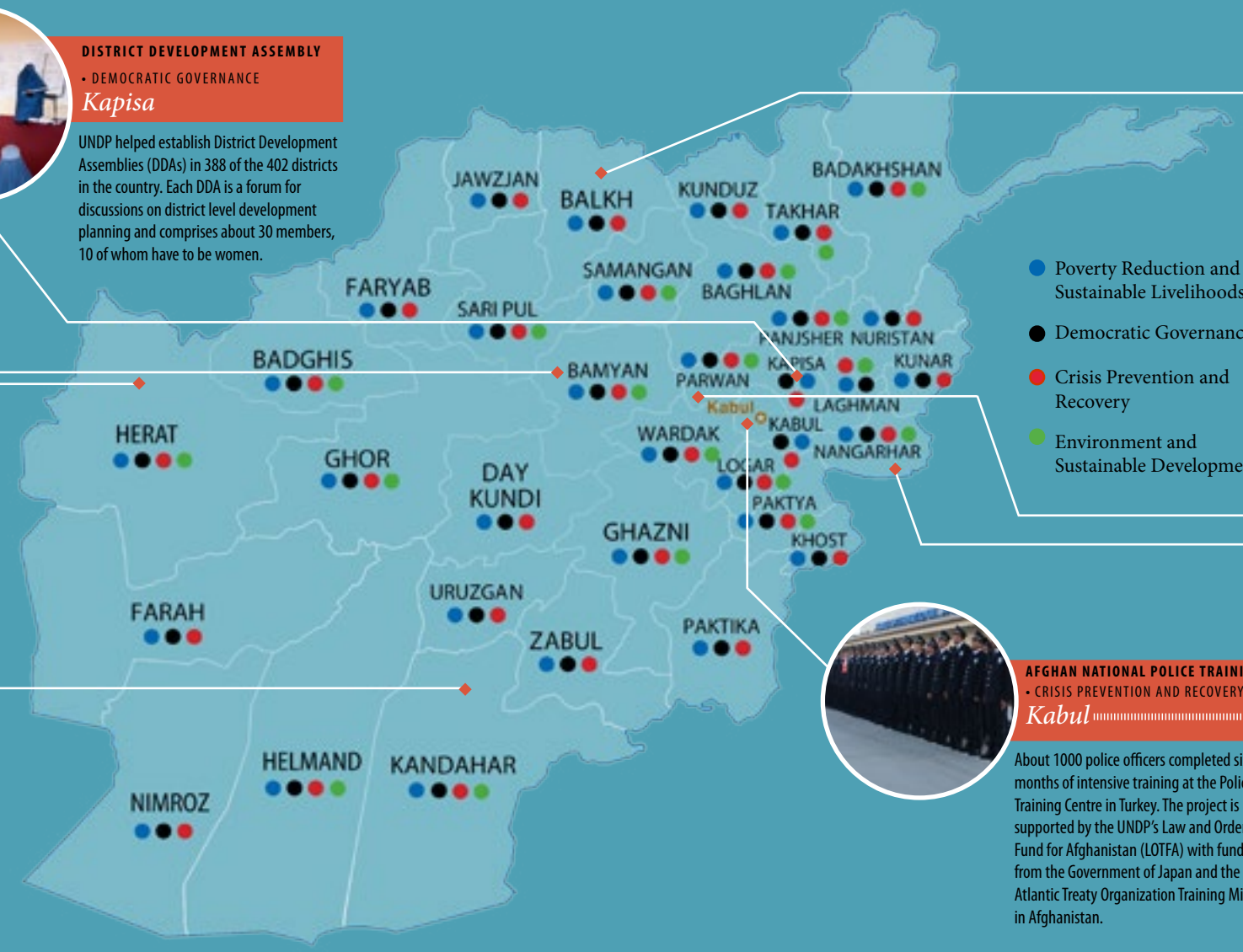
**CREATING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS**  
• PROTECTING LAND  
**Herat**

As a result of the protection wall built with support of UNDP's National Area-based Development Programme, farmers are able to harvest an abundant crop of tomatoes. "People are working back on lands that they had given up as dry and fallow", says Bibi Gul, a local farmer.



**REINTEGRATION OF FORMER INSURGENTS**  
• PEACE BUILDING  
**Kandahar**

Since 2010, 7220 former combatants, including local commanders, have renounced violence, accepted the constitution and reintegrated as productive members of their communities in the whole country with UNDP's assistance. In the photo, former insurgents handing over their weapons in Kandahar.



**WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**  
• DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE  
**Balkh**

Female Provincial Council Members of the provinces of Balkh, Jawzjan, Sari Pul, Samangan and Faryab prepare for the establishment of the UNDP-supported first female PC network to share experiences and strengthen their role and specific contribution to local development.



**GROWING MORE TREES**  
• BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION  
**Parwan**

UNDP promotes integration of sustainable environment management into mainstream development planning in Afghanistan.



**AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE TRAINING**  
• CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY  
**Kabul**

About 1000 police officers completed six months of intensive training at the Police Training Centre in Turkey. The project is supported by the UNDP's Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) with funding from the Government of Japan and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Training Mission in Afghanistan.



**LITERACY CLASS - POVERTY REDUCTION**  
**Nangarhar**

A UNDP-supported programme has taught 3,239 women and girls to read and write as part of a larger handicraft training programme to create better livelihoods.

## RESULTS

Development results are achieved through a number of projects in each of UNDP Afghanistan's focus areas. Here are a few examples:

### 1 Promoting inclusive and legitimate politics

Helping strengthen the Independent Election Commission for efficient and fair conduct of elections with wide public participation.

### 2 Building capacities

Assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) to develop a national policy on saffron production as a high-value alternative to the illegal poppy crops.

### 3 Strengthening the rule of law

Improved police and community relations institutionalized through the establishment of "police-e-mardumi" ("policing with the people"), an effort to rebuild trust between citizen and state.

### 4 Empowering women

Since 2007, established 24 legal help centres in four Afghan provinces for victims of gender-based violence and other vulnerable women. The programme is expanding to 19 provinces.

### 5 Building stronger institutions at subnational level

Assisted in the formulation of 26 provincial development plans, facilitating development and political participation at the provincial level.

### 6 Promoting livelihoods and managing natural resources

Since 2002, over 5.5 million labour days were created by the completion of 3,186 projects. Approximately 4.2 million people have access to improved transport infrastructure.