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## **FACT SHEET**

### **PROGRESS ON RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN DECEMBER 2007**

#### **Snapshot**

##### **Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) and reconstruction and development**

- PRT Qala-e-Naw (led by Spain) in Badghis province, Regional Command West, is currently completing the construction of a new provincial hospital at a cost of USD 2.9 million.
- PRT Chaghcharan (led by Lithuania) in Ghowr province, Regional Command West, has delivered three micro-hydro plans totalling USD 93,000, which are now providing power to 530 families. There are a further 25 such projects contracted for 2008, to be developed in partnership between the Ghowr Department of Energy, the Provincial Development Council, the Department of Water and Irrigation and the PRT.
- PRT Pol-e-Khomri (led by Hungary) in Baghlan province, Regional Command North, is involved in the construction of a flood prevention wall amounting to USD 166,000. The project has involved a local contract to undertake the work with close coordination between the PRT, the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development, and the local irrigation department.
- PRT Kandahar (led by Canada) in Kandahar province, Regional Command South, has recently assisted in the development of a pomegranate nursery in an area where farmers used to grow poppy. The project, amounting to USD 60,000, was completed in May 2007, and demonstrates a viable alternative to poppy production using a long-term and sustainable crop.

#### **The Afghan Country Stability Picture**

The Afghan Country Stability Picture (ACSP) is the first and only tool available to track countrywide R&D activities of all development actors reporting information within Afghanistan. Currently the ACSP contains information on more than 58,000 R&D projects for a total budget of almost USD 11 billion.

#### **The Afghan Human Development Report 2007**

The Afghan Human Development Report 2007: *Bridging Modernity and Tradition: Rule of Law and the Search for Justice*, published by the Center for Policy and Human Development

(CPHD)<sup>1</sup> stands as the first Afghan publication providing detailed data on the status of progress in the field of reconstruction and development.

The report draws upon progress made towards meeting the country's nine Millennium Development Goals: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; global partnership for development; and enhancing security.

Major findings include that:

- *'The economy has maintained a steady growth rate since 2002, setting the stage for the achievement of goal one'*;
- School enrolment has grown in the past five years from approximately 900,000 to nearly 5.4 million. The increase in school enrolment rates, particularly for girls, indicates that Afghanistan can reach its targets;
- Despite a persisting gap, 12.6% of female adults are now literate and women constitute 25% of the National Assembly, exemplifying a growing window of opportunity for women in Afghanistan;
- The infant mortality rate has fallen from 165/1,000 to 135/1,000, resulting in 40,000 more successful births each year. However, low literacy and a lack of access to safe drinking water, food and sanitation contribute to the still relatively high child mortality rate;
- Despite a low prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Afghanistan, risk of an epidemic spread of the virus remains high. The country ranks 17th out of the 22 countries with the highest tuberculosis levels. Although the incidence of malaria and tuberculosis have dropped, increased technical and financial assistance are still required to fully respond to these critical health issues.

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<sup>1</sup> The CPHD is the first Afghan policy research institution. It was co-founded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Kabul University in late 2005.