

SUPPORT TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNANCE (SPG)



Overview

Democratic governance and the protection of human rights is the cornerstone of sustainable political progress in Afghanistan, but the country still faces complex administrative challenges particularly at the provincial level. Provinces in Afghanistan vary in size, ethnic and religious composition, climate, security and level of economic development.

Recognizing the diversity and the unique development needs of Afghanistan's various provinces, the Government has embarked upon a decentralization policy and approved the establishment of Provincial Development Committees (PDCs) to formulate a Provincial Development Plan (PDP) for each province. The PDPs are designed to ensure better planning, allocation of resources and delivery of development programmes and services.

The majority of PDPs were reportedly prepared while the formulation exercise was still ongoing in some provinces. Stakeholders, including international organizations, Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) and civil society, have been consulted during the process. The Afghan government is committed to integrate the identified needs of each province into the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

PROJECT OUTLINE

IOM administers a European Commission (EC) funded programme that supports the provincial reconstruction efforts of the Government with a special focus on governance, rule of law and human rights. The programme aims to promote better governance and strengthen provincial and district administrations through a province-specific and holistic approach.

The program, launched in February 2007, serves to strengthen the Government of Afghanistan's capacity to meet needs at the sub-national level

through projects designed to assist line ministries, provincial councils and rule of law institutions, including the police and judiciary.

Prior to the submission of project proposals, the PRT civilian component conducts a provincial needs assessment to make an analysis of governance of the province in question, and identifies priority actions and target groups to be assisted.

The projects are proposed and implemented by selected governmental or non-governmental partners of the civilian component of the PRTs led or

Donor	European Commission
Timeframe	February 2007 - February 2009
Budget	EUR 10.3 million
Target Areas	Kabul, Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, Faryab, Baghlan, Ghor, Herat, Badghis, Helmand, Uruzgan and Logar



supported by EU Member States or the PRTs themselves. All approved projects must be in line with the PDC.

To support the program, the EC has set up a Provincial Reconstruction Facility (PRF) fund and IOM has been appointed to administer the fund, by facilitating the assessment of project proposals, disbursement of grants and the monitoring of activities.

The programme is operational in Kabul and 15 other provinces, namely Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, Faryab, Baghlan, Ghor, Herat, Badghis, Helmand, Uruzgan and Logar.

With a budget of EUR 10.3 million, the program will continue until February 2009 and will ultimately contribute to enhancing service delivery, security and overall political stability across the country through building the capacity of provincial governance.

Political instability is often a major cause of population displacement. IOM therefore considers community stabilization as key to ensuring the successful reintegration of returning migrants.

What is IOM?

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an inter-governmental organization with 125 member states, a further 16 observer states and offices in over 100 countries. IOM works to ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian and other forms of assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced persons.

In Afghanistan, IOM programmes are implemented in close coordination with national government counterparts and are designed to support the goals of the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

BY NUMBERS

8	grants awarded
8	Provincial Need Assessments (PNA) completed
1	Project proposals of PRTs in the pipeline
4	New PRTs expressed interest in submitting proposals
16	Provinces where the programme is operational
12	PRTs eligible to apply for the fund

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