



A PROVINCIAL SURVEY

OF

BALKH, JOWZJAN, SAMANGAN AND SARIPUL

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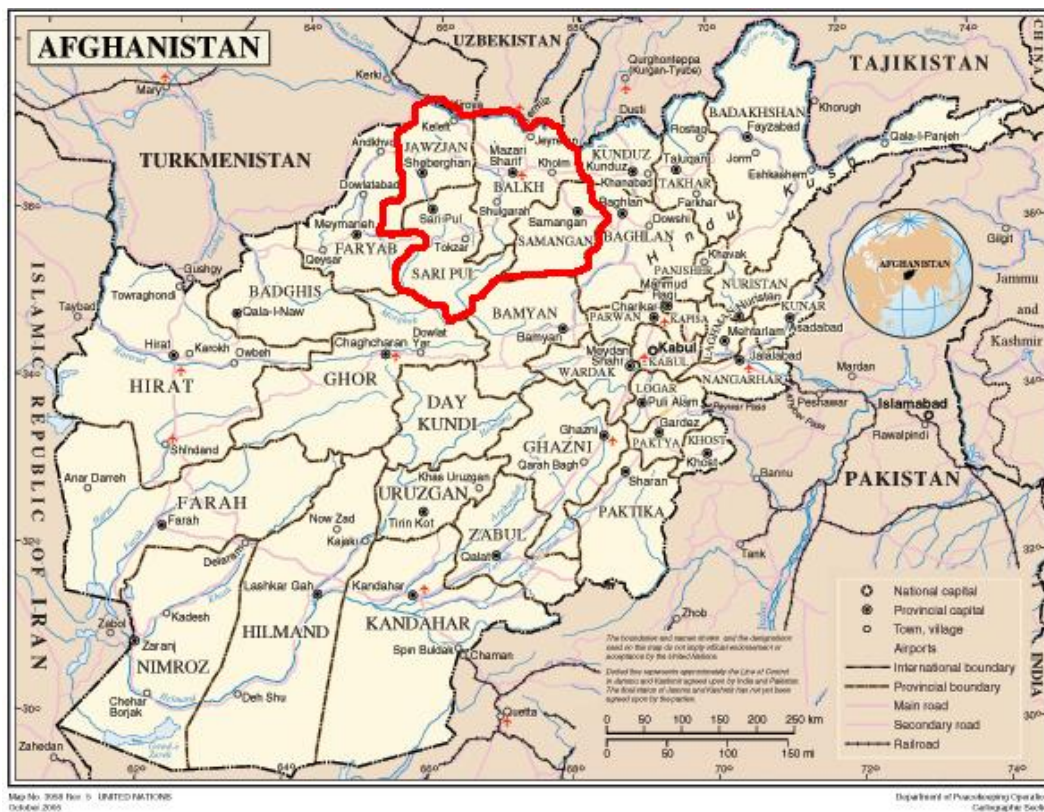
Front page: The new generation.

Photo: Börje Almqvist

PROVINCIAL MAP



MAP OF AFGHANISTAN



SUMMARY

The Area of Responsibility (AOR) of the Swedish-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) covers four provinces: Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul, with a total area of 56,308 square kilometres. For comparison, the PRT Area is larger than that of Switzerland and Kosovo combined. See map, page 3.

The population of the PRT Area is estimated to be some 2.3 million people. Around half of the population is below 15 years of age. The population is increasing rapidly, as most women start giving birth as teenagers. The average number of births per woman is 7.5.

The main ethnic groups in the PRT Area are Tajiks, Uzbeks, Turkmens, Hazaras, Pashtuns and so called Arabs. In the southern parts of Saripul and Samangan, the Hazaras are in majority. For details, see Provincial profiles, below.

The main languages are Dari (a Persian language), Uzbeki and Turkmen (both Turkic languages). The Pashtuns speak Pashtu. Many persons, mainly men, are bilingual.

The economy in the PRT Area is overwhelmingly based on **agriculture and livestock**, and, until recently, opium poppy cultivation and drug trafficking. In rural areas, rainfed subsistence farming predominates. In many remote areas, especially in Saripul and Samangan, livelihoods are medieval. People there live in extreme poverty with poor nutrition, without access to potable water, health services, education for their children, electricity, irrigation, employment or transport. In many households, food aid and remittances from male family members working in Iran and elsewhere are crucial for survival. Mazar-e-Sharif is the trade centre of the North, and Jowzjan has significant gas fields which are about to be exploited on a larger scale. In Mazar-e-Sharif and Sheberghan, the private sector with a relatively well-to-do emerging middle class is growing. However, urban slums with extremely **high levels of unemployment** are also growing.

In 2008, the four provinces are experiencing their most **severe drought** in eight years. In districts with rain-fed agriculture up to ninety per cent or more of the wheat harvest is lost. After the spring rains failed to arrive, many rivers, springs and wells have dried up. Domestic animals die for lack of fodder and water. People have to walk long distances to find water. The drought in combination with **global food price rises** has made the situation precarious for many people. The price of *naan* (a type of bread which is the basic food for most Afghans) has gone up to 12 Afs. from 4 Afs. in 2007. Some families have sold their land, personal belongings, and even their young daughters, and migrated to urban areas in search for income opportunities, water and food.

In 2007, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and UNFPA published A Socio-Economic and Demographic Profile. The Profile ranks the **social and economic well-being** in the 34 provinces of Afghanistan based on a series of indices including geographic accessibility, availability/accessibility of certain social and cultural services (health, education, government services, exposure to radio and television), shopping facilities, and economic activities. In this ranking, **Jowzjan came first, Balkh 9th, Samangan 13th and Saripul 31st.**

Governance. Poor subnational governance is a major source of insecurity and instability, and growing alienation of ordinary people from the government. It is characterised by inefficient administrative procedures and business processes; poor quality of services; an extreme shortage of adequately qualified professional staff; very limited budgets; corruption; inadequate transparency and accountability; very limited participation of ordinary people, especially women and youth; fragmentation and inter-ministerial rivalry; unclear delineation of responsibilities due to confusing and vague legislation, and multiple players (donors and

government); and extra-constitutional power centres, mainly warlords and local commanders. The training needs at all levels are overwhelming, especially in Saripul and Samangan. Lack of basic office equipment and supplies, reliable communication, transportation and fuel is another major problem.

Major donors/actors in the field of subnational governance are USAID and UNDP.

Development assistance. Apart from Helmand, Balkh is the province in Afghanistan which reportedly has received the most support for development projects in the past. Balkh has been favoured due to the relatively good security situation and strong leadership. But the trend is changing. Now more and more of the total development assistance to Afghanistan goes to the more “hostile” southern and eastern parts of the country. Governor Atta in Balkh and the Head of UNAMA in Mazar-e-Sharif are dissatisfied with this new situation. Large infrastructure projects are needed in the North, but sufficient money is not made available, and popular discontent is growing, they claim. USAID, the major donor in Afghanistan, is “shifting its concentration of funds” in favour of the South and the East of the country.

Of the four provinces in the PRT Area, Balkh is by far the major recipient of development assistance. **Saripul**, on the other hand, is described by UNAMA as “**the forgotten province**”. Saripul and Samangan are the least developed provinces in the PRT Area.

The various **multilateral organisations, bilateral actors and NGOs** providing development and humanitarian assistance are described in Chapter 3, below. The major donors in the PRT Area are USAID, the World Bank, and the German, Japanese and Swedish governments. Close to two hundred national and international NGOs are active in humanitarian and development assistance in the PRT Area. The coordination of all these actors at various levels leaves much to be desired.

Education. The 1386 (2007) School Survey Summary Report showed that nationwide, 34.9% of the students were female as compared to Balkh 40.9%, Jawzjan 36.3%, Saripul 35.3%, and Samangan 31.9%. Nationwide, the provinces with the lowest attendance rates (enrolled but not attending) were Kunduz (62.9%) and Saripul (64.8%). Nationwide, there were 149,417 teachers (27.7% female); of these, 9,920 teachers (48.7% female, the highest percentage in Afghanistan after Kabul) were in Balkh, 3,615 teachers (40.4% female) in Jowzjan, 1,841 teachers (20.6% female) in Samangan, and 3,069 teachers (24.8% female) in Saripul.

Many schools have been built or reconstructed since the fall of the Taliban, but many more are needed, especially in Saripul and Samangan. There is a gigantic need for more teacher training, especially for female teachers at the district level. There is also a great need for more school furniture and teaching materials. The major teacher training programmes in the PRT Area are run and/or funded by USAID (BESST), the World Bank/Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (EQUIP), UNICEF, the Germans, the Japanese and the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan.

Illiteracy rates among rural women are extremely high, around 98-99% in Samangan. There are hardly any possibilities for rural women to participate in adult education. Educational radio programmes are rare or non-existent. Very few students from poor families enter university, since they cannot afford to pay the bribes requested for enrolment.

Health. The most common medical problems and diseases are **reproductive health problems. The maternal mortality is extremely high.** Diarrhoea in summer, acute respiratory infections in winter, tuberculosis, worm infestations, scabies, and high levels of **chronic or seasonal malnutrition**, especially in remote areas, are all important causes for high mortality and morbidity rates. **Water-borne diseases** are common as access to clean

water is extremely inadequate in vast areas, often in combination with poor sanitation and hygiene. In addition, mental problems are common after 30 years of conflict.

There are no data on the prevalence of **HIV/AIDS** in the four provinces, and there are no major interventions for promoting awareness and prevention of this disease.

The health sector has made considerable progress in recent years. Still, the needs for health services, especially reproductive health services, remain dramatic. Few families have knowledge about and/or access to family planning services. **The need for qualified midwives is particularly acute**, especially in Samangan and Saripul, and rural areas of Balkh and Jowzjan.

Primary health care is provided through the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS). The World Bank is funding the BPHS in Balkh, Samangan and Saripul. The BPHS in Jowzjan is funded by USAID. NGOs are implementing the BPHS.

Energy. Most urban households in Balkh and Jowzjan have access to electricity, albeit on an irregular basis. Few rural households have access to electricity, with the exception of Jowzjan. A contract for gas exploration in Jowzjan by a British firm was signed in August 2008. The Governor of Jowzjan thinks that there will be enough gas to provide the whole PRT Area with electricity. At present, most electricity comes from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Major actors are the World Bank, the ADB and Germany.

Mines and UXOs (Unexploded Ordnances) constitute a problem in the four provinces, but compared to other parts of Afghanistan the situation is not quite as bad. Several NGOs and UNMACA are active in demining.

Rural Development. The National Solidarity Programme (NSP) is the major rural development programme the PRT Area. Most of the NSP projects in the PRT Area have dealt with water and sanitation, irrigation, roads including small bridges, generators and small micro-hydros, and education. According to the NSP Secretariat in Kabul, the NSP funds for the PRT Area will be finished by 2009. So far, the results in the PRT Area have not been evaluated. Reportedly, many CDCs are criticised for being dominated by mullahs and local commanders. The major funders are the World Bank/IDA and the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF).

Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul were **declared poppy free in 2008**. However, drug traffickers/processors and their political-military protectors are still active in the PRT Area. Reportedly, persons high up in the political hierarchy are involved in the narcotics business. A disturbing trend is the steady rise in cannabis cultivation. Another disturbing trend is the increasing rate of drug addiction.

There is a great need for **secondary roads**, especially in Samangan and Saripul. The World Bank, UNOPS and Sida are major actors in the construction of secondary roads.

Rule of law. There is a lack of certainty and consistency over legal sources. Written law, customary law and Sharia law exist side by side. In many parts, the “rule of the gun” and a culture of impunity prevail, which are exacerbated by the lack of efficient prosecutorial and judicial services. Criminals caught are often let free. Needless to say, the police cannot provide law and order without functioning courts and jails. Popular trust in judicial institutions remains low, which strengthens the power of local informal leaders, including commanders and ex-commanders. USA is the most important international actor in the National Justice Programme (NJP). Other major actors are Germany, Canada, the World Bank/ARTF, the European Commission (EC) and Finland.

The security situation in the PRT Area is relatively calm compared to the situation in other provinces. The main threats come from organised crime, including drug trafficking, power struggles between local and regional power holders, and ethnic conflicts, often about land and water. Reportedly, rapes of adults and children are becoming more frequent. Due to the drought and the deteriorating economic situation, there is a risk that the crime rate will increase. Cases are reported in which the Taliban and Al Qaeda have offered people money to commit crimes, including insurgency. Most recently, in November 2008, there has been an alarming increase in attacks on Afghan National Police (ANP) posts, and vehicles belonging to PRT and international organisations (e.g. UNMAC), particularly along the road between Mazar-e-Sharif and Jowzjan.

Water and sanitation. The effects of an increasing population and decreasing water supplies have led to extremely unequal patterns of water distribution for agriculture, livestock and household use. Conflicts over access to water are increasing. More irrigation is needed. A high percentage of the rural population lack access to clean water sources, and current programmes implemented through MRRD and NSP are inadequate to meet the needs. The same goes for access to sanitation facilities and exposure to basic hygiene education. Access to water and sanitation in urban areas also remains rudimentary, with a limited number of residents having access to running water.

Women. In parts of the PRT Area, new clinics and primary schools are improving the quality of life for women and girls. However, women's fundamental human rights are denied. Domestic violence against women is widespread and a cause of immense suffering. Impunity and the failure to provide justice and protection from abuse perpetuate violence against women. The perpetrators do not consider themselves criminal, and the local judiciary is often unwilling to respond to such cases when brought to their attention.

Strong social and cultural norms continue to limit women's role in society. In most communities, women are not allowed to leave the home without an accompanying male relative, so called *mahram*. Forced and underage marriages are common. Many women live in extreme isolation, further aggravated by lack of education and economic resources. Many adolescent girls die in childbirth, as their bodies have not reached full physical maturity. Rural women interviewed for this survey reported that constant pregnancies are a major difficulty in life. There is a huge need for increased reproductive health knowledge and access to such services in the PRT Area.



Women's education. Photo: Rafaela Persson

1 INTRODUCTION

The two main purposes of this provincial survey have been to compile existing information “within a set of themes and related programmes in development cooperation, including main actors and coverage,” and to give Sida basic information about the current political, economic, social, cultural and security situation within the provinces of Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul. **The Terms of Reference** for the survey are attached as Appendix I.

The survey is based on meetings in Balkh, Jowzjan and Samangan from 12 to 28 August 2008 and in Kabul from 28 to 29 August 2008. Among the interviewed persons are PRT civilian and military staff, including Mobile Observation Team members, UN, NGO and government staff at different levels, representatives of bilateral development cooperation organisations and local consulates, women’s groups and leaders, and, last but certainly not least, ordinary women and men in the provinces. Also persons in the Swedish Armed Forces, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida in Stockholm have been interviewed. A major part of the information in the survey comes from **extensive e-mail correspondence** with persons working in or for the provinces in the PRT Area. See Appendix II **List of Contacts**.

Likewise, a lot of information has been collected from various publications. See Appendix III **References**. **Acronyms** are explained in Appendix IV.

The Terms of Reference for the survey are comprehensive, and the information requested has not proved to be easily available, particularly in view of time constraints and limitations of movement under prevailing circumstances. Three areas remain in need of further study in order to provide adequate information:

One is private sector developments, including small-scale industries, manufacture, handicrafts, trade, transport and services which all fall outside the purview of most aid agencies working in Afghanistan today.¹

The second is the rapid growth of the urban slums. The urbanisation process is proceeding at a high rate all over Afghanistan and its implications should be studied in order to identify the strategic options available. Such an undertaking was clearly not feasible to embark upon as part of my mission to the PRT Area.

The third is the strategically important area of coordination of development assistance at central, provincial and district levels, between government ministries, departments and agencies, as well as between donors – multilateral, bilateral and NGOs. Such a study would require time and resources as well as access to senior levels of government and donor agencies. The subject is politically sensitive. A Swedish initiative in this regard might be welcome, and, in fact, meet a long-felt need.

In the absence of a real census and other reliable sources of data, **the statistics in this survey should be seen as rough estimates of limited reliability**.

¹ However, the survey does cover micro-finance projects funded by the World Bank, USAID, Hand-in-Hand and others, and some small and medium enterprise development initiatives.

Many people have been helpful in providing data for this survey. In particular, I would like to thank Colonel Bengt Alexandersson and his PRT staff, including the Development Advisers Ms Eva Joelsdotter Berg and Ms Anja Paajanen, Military Observation Team members, and the Police Advisers Mr Jyrki Aho and Mr Raimo Sintonen. I would also like to thank Ms Marguerite Roy, Head of the UNAMA Office, and her colleagues Ms Sheilagh Henry and Mr Ravshan Bakoev for their help and patience with me. Mr Hashem Zaray, Presidential Adviser and Governor of Jowzjan, has been generous in giving me time and useful information. Mr Jelani Popal, Director General of the IDLG, shared his valuable experience of local governance with me. My interpreter Mr Hamid Arman and driver Mr Hashim made travelling in the provinces a pleasant and educational experience for me. Mr Mattias Otterstedt in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm and Mr Andreas Stefansson with the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan in Kabul provided me with useful background information.

Last but certainly not least, Mr Carl Schönmeyr, with 45 years of experience of Afghanistan, and Ms Sara Gustafsson, Sida Programme Officer, have given inspiration and valuable comments on the first draft of the survey. Likewise, Dr Dmitry Pozhidaev, UNDP Institutional Development and Management Adviser of the Afghanistan Sub-National Governance Programme, has contributed generously and most constructively to the survey.



Uzbek boy looking for a bright future. Photo: Börje Almqvist

2 BASIC FACTS ABOUT BALKH, JOWZJAN, SAMANGAN AND SARIPUL

2.1 BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE FOUR PROVINCES

Area. The Area of Responsibility of the Swedish-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT)² covers four provinces: Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul, with a total area of 56,308 square kilometres. For comparison, this area is more than five times the size of Kosovo (10,887 sq.km.). It is larger in area than Switzerland (41,293 sq.km.) and Kosovo combined.

Districts. See map, page 2. There are 12 districts in Balkh; 11 districts in Jowzjan; 7 districts in Samangan and 7 districts in Saripul.

Population. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) of Afghanistan has estimated the total population of the four provinces in 2005-06 to be 2,325,400 persons: 48.9% women and 51.1% men. For comparison, the population in Kosovo in 2005 was estimated to be 2,470,000 persons. **The population is increasing rapidly.**³ Around half of the population is below 15 years of age. Most women have their first babies as teenagers, and the average number of births per woman in Afghanistan is 7.5 (UNDPc, 2007; specific data from the PRT Area are not available).

Ethnic Groups. Official data on the ethnic composition in Afghanistan are not available. The main ethnic groups in the PRT Area are Tajiks, Uzbeks, Turkmens, Hazaras, Pashtuns and so called Arabs.⁴ In the southern parts of Saripul and Samangan, the Hazaras are in majority. For details on ethnic groups, see the Provincial profiles, below.

Religion. The vast majority of the population in the PRT Area are Sunni Muslims. There is also a significant presence of Shi'a Muslims belonging to the Hazara ethnic community, particularly in Balkh and the southern parts of Samangan and Saripul. The Blue Mosque in Mazar-e-Sharif, allegedly containing the shrine of Ali, the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law, is one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Islam. There are still pockets of Ismailis, especially in Samangan, but most Ismailis were killed or (im)migrated during the Taliban period. Traditionally, the PRT Area has been a stronghold of Sufism.

² The official name is PRT MES (Mazar-e-Sharif), hereinafter referred to as the Swedish-led PRT or the PRT. Sweden has some 375 military staff in Afghanistan, the vast majority of them are posted in the Swedish-led PRT, which also has a civilian Swedish Development Adviser and a civilian Swedish Political Adviser. The PRT includes some 90 military staff and a few civilian staff from Finland. In addition, a US Representative from the US Department of State and a US Field Programme Officer from USAID are posted in the Swedish-led PRT. The Swedish military staff within ISAF will be increased to about 500 persons in 2009.

³ A high-level Afghan official interviewed for this survey said: **“What we need most [for development] in Afghanistan is snow, rain and zero population growth.”**

⁴ Large groups of Sunni Arabs living around Buchara fled to Afghanistan after the Russian conquest in the 19th century. They still call themselves Arabs, although they left the Arab world in the 14th century. They are bilingual in Uzbeki and Dari, but they do not speak Arabic (Blood, 2001).



The Blue Mosque in Mazar-e-Sharif

Photo: SCA



Whitebeards outside the Blue Mosque

Photo: Börje Almqvist

The Main Languages are Dari (a Persian language), Uzbeki and Turkmen (both Turkic languages). The Pashtuns speak Pashtu. Many persons, mainly men, are bilingual.

Rural-Urban Population. According to the CSO, 78 percent of the population in the four provinces was rural in 2005-06, and 22 percent was urban. Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of Balkh, is the fourth largest city in Afghanistan. The urban slums are growing as landless and impoverished migrants move from rural areas to larger towns in search for employment.

*

Separate Provincial profiles of Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul are presented below in Chapter 2.2-5, below. Some basic facts covering all four provinces are here presented in alphabetical order:

Agriculture and Livestock. The main source of income for the vast majority of the population in the PRT Area is subsistence agriculture and livestock, and, until recently, opium poppy cultivation. Agricultural production is constrained by an almost total dependence on irregular winter snows and spring rains for water. Irrigation systems are not well developed. Relatively little use is made of machines, chemical fertilizers, and pesticides. After the serious drought in 2008, large sections of the population in the PRT Area will depend on food aid for survival during the 2008-09 winter. For details on agriculture per province, see Chapter 2.2-5, below.

Communication Capacities. Overall, communication capacities in Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul are low. None of the provinces has a communication strategy or a communication plan. Technically, according to UNDP, communication capacities are limited to low-power TV, radio stations with a very limited coverage and outdated printing houses with a capacity to issue a newsletter about twice a month. In Balkh, however, there are several radio stations but their coverage is limited (UNDPb, 2007).

The percentage of households using **mobile phones** were Balkh 17% (only Kabul had a higher percentage: 47%), Jowzjan 11% (the third highest in Afghanistan), Samangan 2% and Saripul 1%, as compared to the national average of 8% (NRVA, 2007). According to PRT staff, there are several mobile phone networks covering different areas. In most communities where there is coverage, there is at least one person with a mobile phone. In some areas, e.g. Balkhab and Kohistanat districts in Saripul, there is no coverage at all.⁵

Comparisons with Provinces Outside the PRT Area. In 2007, the Central Statistics Office (CSO), with the financial and technical support of UNFPA, published A Socio-Economic and Demographic Profile. The Profile ranks the **social and economic well-being** in the 34 provinces based on a series of indices including geographic accessibility, availability/accessibility of certain social and cultural services (health, education, government services, exposure to radio and television), shopping facilities, and economic activities. In this ranking **Jowzjan came first, Balkh 9th, Samangan 13th and Saripul 31st**. Only Uruzgan, Zabul and Paktika ranked lower than Saripul.

⁵ Personal communication, Mr Hamid Arman, PRT Media Coordinator, 13 November 2008.

UNICEF made a similar ranking list in 2005 regarding the situation of children and mothers: **Balkh then ranked 16th, Jowzjan 18th, Saripul 23rd, and Samangan 25th**. Balkh ranked amongst the best five provinces for both overall and girls' primary school enrolment. Saripul ranked among the ten worst provinces for both under-5 mortality rates and maternal mortality ratios. For details, see Provincial profiles, Key indicators, below.

The National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) 2005, published by CSO and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in June 2007, reported that Kabul, Balkh and Herat had the highest female literacy rates in Afghanistan, and Saripul among the lowest due to lack of schools, teachers and roads. Female headed households were highest in Nimroz (9%) and Samangan (6%), as compared to the national average of 2%.

Development Assistance. Apart from Helmand, Balkh is reportedly the province in Afghanistan which has received the most support for development projects in the past. Balkh has been favoured due to the comparatively good security situation and strong leadership. But the trend is changing. Now more and more of the total development assistance to Afghanistan goes to the more "hostile" southern and eastern parts of the country. Both Governor Atta in Balkh and Ms Marguerite Roy, Head of UNAMA in Mazar-e-Sharif, are dissatisfied with this situation. Governor Atta is suggesting that the Swedish-led PRT should change name to PST (Provincial Security Team), since, in his opinion, the reconstruction provided is minimal. Large infrastructure projects are needed in the North, but sufficient money is not made available, and popular discontent is growing, they claim. USAID, the major donor, is "shifting its concentration of funds" in favour of the South and the East of the country.^{6 7}

Of the four provinces in the PRT Area, Balkh is by far the major recipient of development assistance. **Saripul**, on the other hand, is described by UNAMA as "**the forgotten province**".⁸ The various multilateral organisations, bilateral actors and NGOs giving development and humanitarian assistance in the PRT Area are presented in Chapter 3, below.

Disarmament. The Disbandment of Illegally Armed Groups (DIAG) is slow and few weapons have been handed over to the government. UNAMA estimates that some 40,000 illegal weapons are in circulation in the PRT Area.⁹

The Economy in the PRT Area is overwhelmingly based on agriculture and livestock, and, until recently, opium poppy cultivation and drug trafficking. In rural areas, rainfed subsistence farming predominates. In many remote areas, especially in Saripul and Samangan, people live in extreme poverty with poor nutrition, without access to potable water, health services, education for their children, electricity, irrigation, employment or transport. In many households, food aid and remittances from male family members working in Iran and elsewhere are crucial for survival. Mazar-e-

⁶ Personal Communication, Ms Marguerite Roy, Head of Office, UNAMA, 14 August 2008.

⁷ The Swedish Development Adviser and the USAID Field Programme Officer in the Swedish-led PRT disagree with this description. See also Chapter 3.2 about USAID, below.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

Sharif is the trade centre of the North, and Jowzjan has significant gas fields which are about to be exploited on a large scale. In Mazar-e-Sharif and Sheberghan, the private sector with a relatively well-to-do emerging middle class is growing. However, urban slums with extremely **high levels of unemployment** are also growing. Unemployment and underemployment, especially among youth, are major problems also in rural areas.¹⁰

Education. In January 2008, the Ministry of Education (MOE) published the 1386 (2007) School Survey Summary Report. It contains data on General Education (Grade 1-12), Islamic Education (Grade 1-14), Teacher Education (Grade 10-14), and Technical and Vocational Training (Grade 10-14). Non-formal Literacy Training (nine-month-course) and Community Based Education (CBE; Grade 1-6) are not included in the survey. Here are some of the findings:

- There were 5,950,455 students registered in MOE and CBE schools delivering primary and secondary education in mid-2007: 95.4% of the students were in General Education, 1.5% are in Islamic Education, 0.24% were in Teacher Training, 0.17% were in Technical/Vocational Training and 2.7% in CBE.
- Nationwide, 34.9% of the students were female as compared to Balkh 40.9%, Jawzjan 36.3%, Saripul 35.3%, and Samangan 31.9%. The lowest percentage of female students was found in Uruzgan, 8.8%.
- In total, there were 9,476 MOE schools in Afghanistan; of these, 359 were in Balkh, 211 in Jawzjan, 332 in Saripul and 187 in Samangan.
- There were 5,791,973 students in MOE schools; of these 366,750 students were in Balkh (6.3% of the total number of Afghan students), 120,042 in Jawzjan (2.1%), 99,188 in Saripul (1.7%) and 72,389 in Samangan (1.3%).
- Nationwide, 82.3% of the students were in primary school (Grades 1-6).
- Nationwide, the provinces with the lowest attendance rates (enrolled but not attending) were Kunduz (62.9%) and Saripul (64.8%).
- Nationwide, there were 149,417 teachers (72.3% male and 27.7% female); of these, 9,920 teachers (48.7% female, the highest percentage in Afghanistan after Kabul) were in Balkh, 3,615 teachers (40.4% female) in Jowzjan, 1,841 teachers (20.6% female) in Samangan, and 3,069 teachers (24.8% female) in Saripul.



Girls in primary school.

Photo: Börje Almqvist

¹⁰ See also Chapter 3.3 about the Hand-in-Hand project, supported by Percy Barnevik, aiming at creating two million jobs in rural parts of Afghanistan.

Few teachers in the Community Based Schools (CBS) participate in the MOE Teachers' Education Programme (TEP). UNICEF is the only larger actor trying to address this problem in the PRT Area, through a limited in-service training component for female teachers in rural areas, but it is far from meeting the needs.¹¹

A large number of schools have been built or reconstructed in the PRT Area after the fall of the Taliban, but in remote areas access to primary education is still limited, especially for girls. In one group of 14 village women in Balkh interviewed for this survey, none was willing to send their daughters to school as they deemed it too dangerous for the girls to walk to school. Villagers in Saripul have complained to a PRT Military Observation Team (MOT) that the Karzai interim government had promised to build 38 schools in their district, but, so far, only one of these schools has been built (PRT MOT, August 2008).

Schools are poorly equipped. In Samangan, for example, there are normally 40 to 80 children per class. Most of them have to sit on the floor since there are not enough chairs and tables. Sixty per cent of the schools have no furniture at all. Only two or three schools of the 111 schools in Samangan have electricity.¹²

A generation of women never had a chance to go to school during the Taliban period. According to the Education Department in Samangan, only one or two per cent of the women in the province are literate. There are no major initiatives offering adult education with literacy, numeracy, health, women's rights etc. for rural women in the PRT Area.¹³

Very few students from poor families enter university, since they cannot afford to pay the bribes requested for enrolment.¹⁴

The major education programmes in the PRT Area are funded and/or implemented by USAID (BESST), the World Bank/ARTF¹⁵ (EQUIP), UNICEF, the Germans, the Japanese and the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan. Several observers think that the coordination ought to be improved. The national TEP, run by MOE, offers short in-service training at the district level. Implementers are NGOs. USAID is the main funder in Balkh, Jowzjan and Saripul since 2006, and the World Bank/ARTF in Samangan from 2008. For details, see Chapter 3, below.

Energy. The majority of rural households in the PRT Area have no access to electricity. According to NRVA (2007), the highest access to electrical power in Afghanistan was reported by households in Nuristan (62%), Kabul (61%), Balkh (49%) and Jawzjan (42%); and the lowest in Badghis (0%). Most of the **urban** households in **Jowzjan (99%)** and **Balkh (95%)** had access to electricity.¹⁶ The

¹¹ Information from Mr Andreas Stefansson, SCA Programme Director, Kabul.

¹² Personal communication, Mr Abdul Jafar, Deputy Chief of Education, Samangan, 24 August 2008.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ One student interviewed said that the current "fee" for admission at Balkh University is up to \$2,000, August 2008.

¹⁵ ARTF is described in Chapter 3.1 under the World Bank, below.

¹⁶ However, no information is given about the (ir)regularity of supply.

corresponding figure for Kabul was 71%. In Samangan and Saripul, few households have access to electricity (NRVA, 2007).

During the 1980s, Jowzjan exported large amounts of natural gas to the Soviet Union. Gas was also brought in pipelines to Sheberghan and Mazar-e-Sharif, where there was a regular supply for light, cooking and heating. During the withdrawal of the Soviet troops in 1989, the natural gas fields were capped to prevent sabotage by the mujahideen. A contract for gas exploration in Jowzjan by a British firm was signed in August 2008. See Chapter 2.3 Provincial profile of Jowzjan, below.

Since there is strong solar radiation between May and September in the PRT Area, there is potential for use of solar energy. Through the NSP, micro-hydros have been installed in several villages.

At present, most of the electricity in the PRT Area comes from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Germany is financing electricity substations in Mazar-e-Sharif and Pul-e-Khumri as part of the Northern Transmission Line Project, connecting electricity from Uzbekistan to Kabul. See Chapter 3.2, below. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank are other major actors in the energy sector. See Chapter 3.1, below.

Governance. According to the 2004 Constitution, provinces and districts shall be governed by directly elected councils. The first elections for the provincial councils were held in September 2005. The elections for district councils which were also supposed to be held in 2005 had to be postponed.¹⁷ The Chief Executive at the provincial level is the Governor, who is appointed by the President. Governorships are distributed among influential regional and military groups. Afghanistan has a highly centralised system of governance, and the duties of the subnational elected councils are not clearly spelled out in the Constitution. Local governance is most often based on the financial and military strength of local leaders, and personal, ethnic and/or tribal loyalties (Library of Congress, 2008). Governor Atta, a former General and an ally of Ahmad Shah Masood, in Balkh is an example of a strong Governor.

Most stakeholders engaged in the delivery of security, development work and services to ordinary people agree that poor governance is a major source of insecurity and instability, and growing alienation of the population from the government. The Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG) was established by Presidential Decree in August 2007 to supervise Provincial Governors, District Governors, Provincial Councils and Municipalities and to ensure “open, transparent, accountable, participative, effective, coherent and inclusive governance based on consensus and rule of law”. Elimination of discrimination against women and corruption are stressed in the Decree (IDLG, 2008).

Subnational governance is characterised by inefficient administrative procedures and business processes; poor quality of services; an extreme shortage of adequately qualified professional staff; very limited budgets; corruption; inadequate transparency and accountability; inadequate participation of ordinary people, especially women and youth; fragmentation and inter-ministerial rivalry; unclear delineation of

¹⁷ The next elections for provincial and district councils are planned to be held in 2010.

responsibilities due to confusing and vague legislation, and multiple players (donors and government); and extra-constitutional power centres, mainly warlords and local commanders (IDLG, 2008).

The progress of the Public Administration Reform (PAR) is better in the PRT Area than in other parts of Afghanistan due to the favourable security situation. From the legal point of view, PAR has been completed in the provincial offices and in many district offices, but not in the municipalities. The PAR plan for the Mazar-e-Sharif Municipality has been developed and is due to start in early 2009. Under this plan, the Municipality is committed to recruit 30 per cent women for municipal posts.¹⁸ Major problems are still endemic corruption, low salaries in the civil service, lack of qualified staff, especially in Samangan and Saripul, and lack of training. The training needs at all levels are overwhelming. Coordination between the provincial capital and the districts, as well as between districts, is poor (UNDPa, 2007, UNDPb, 2007). Lack of basic office equipment and supplies, reliable communication, transportation and fuel is a major problem. UNDP recommends exposure trips and study trips abroad (e.g. Tajikistan) in addition to training programmes within Afghanistan.¹⁹

Regarding Public Finance Management (PFM) in the PRT Area, there is limited financial management at the provincial and district levels. Most financial decisions are taken in Kabul. The provinces and districts have limited budgets, mainly for salaries and fuel only.²⁰ In 2007, the Ministry of Finance launched the Provincial Budgeting Initiative designed to shift the primary responsibility of budget composition from the central ministry to the provincial departments of the ministries, and also to involve the other parts of the Provincial Administrations in creation and approval of budgets. At the present time, this programme is run on a pilot basis, in selected Ministries and in selected provinces, including Balkh in the North.

A manual for provincial budgeting was prepared in 2007 in the framework of the Provincial Budgeting Initiative. The Provincial Budgeting programme is well-conceived and should in principle solve a number of budgeting-related problems at the provincial level. However, due to the low capacity of the Provincial Departments and the Provincial Development Committees, many of the budgets produced in the provinces need extensive revision and additional work before they can be submitted to the Ministry of Finance. Hence, to a large extent the participating Ministries are still controlling the budgeting process. Lack of a specific budget envelope for provinces is another obstacle significantly impeding provincial planning and budgeting.²¹

See also Provincial Development Plans, below, and Community Development Councils (CDCs) under Rural Development/NSP, below.

¹⁸ Personal communication, Dr Dmitry Pozhidaev, UNDP/ASGP, Mazar-e-Sharif, 23 November 2008.

¹⁹ Ibid, 23 August 2008.

²⁰ The **average per capita recurrent government spending** (i.e. for wages, operations and maintenance) **by province** in the Solar Year (SY) 1385 (2006/07) was about Afs. 1,000 (appr. US\$20), ranging from Afs. 200 to Afs. 2,000. Jowzjan got Afs. 1,380, Balkh Afs. 1,350, Samangan Afs. 700 and Saripul Afs. 650. **The average per capita government spending for development by province** in SY 1385 was Afs. 296, ranging from Afs. 1 to Afs. 1,144. Saripul got appr. Afs. 975, Samangan appr. Afs.850, Jowzjan appr. Afs. 750 and Balkh appr. Afs. 650 (World Bank, b. August 2008).

²¹ Personal communication, Dr Dmitry Pozhidaev, UNDP/ASGP, Mazar-e-Sharif, 23 November 2008.

Health. The most common medical problems and diseases are reproductive health problems. **The maternal mortality is extremely high.** Diarrhoea in summer, acute respiratory infections in winter, tuberculosis, worm infestations, scabies, and high levels of chronic or seasonal malnutrition, especially in remote areas, are all important causes of high mortality and morbidity rates. Water-borne diseases are common as access to clean water is extremely inadequate in vast areas, often in combination with poor sanitation and hygiene. In addition, mental problems are common after thirty years of conflict. For details, see Key indicators in the Provincial profiles, below.

There are no data on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the four provinces, and there are no major interventions for promoting awareness and prevention of this disease.

In spite of a severe shortage of well trained staff and difficult logistics, **the health sector has made considerable progress in recent years.** The under-5 mortality rates have decreased. More rural women now receive prenatal care, and more deliveries take place in the presence of a trained birth attendant. Still, the needs for health services, especially reproductive health services, remain dramatic. Few couples have knowledge about and/or access to birth spacing services. Cp. Women, below. The number of female doctors, nurses and midwives has increased, but many more are needed, especially in remote areas. **The need for qualified community midwives is particularly acute.** This need is only partially met by the Community Midwifery Training conducted by the BPHS (Basic Package of Health Services) actors, and the Institute of Health Science in Mazar-e-Sharif. Many small clinics and a few small hospitals have been built, but more are needed, especially in Samangan and Saripul. In order to recruit female staff to remote areas, secondary roads, safe transport and accommodation have to be provided.

Primary health care is offered through the BPHS. The World Bank is funding the BPHS in Balkh with BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) as the Implementing Partner, in Samangan with AMI (Aide Médicale Internationale), and in Saripul with Ibn Sina. The BPHS in Jowzjan is funded by USAID, with Save the Children US and Step&Move as Implementing Partners.

Secondary and tertiary health services are covered through the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS). Germany will fund a modern and fully equipped provincial hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif. Sweden will finance the construction of a building for training of nurses and midwives in that hospital.

The Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provide services and training for the disabled in the PRT Area.

Mines and UXOs (Unexploded Ordnances). According to the Danish Demining Group (DDG), mines and UXOs constitute a problem in the four provinces, but compared to other parts of Afghanistan the situation is not quite as bad. There are mines and UXOs in the PRT Area, some in known locations, especially in Balkh and Saripul. Several NGOs and UNMACA (United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan) are active in demining.²²

²² Personal communication, Mr Alf Eliasson, Programme Officer, Sida, Stockholm, who studied the problem in the PRT Area in the spring of 2008, August 2008.

The Police. The Afghan National Police (ANP) is often seen more as a source of fear than of security by ordinary Afghans. Police salaries are low and corruption is rampant at all levels. A very high percentage of the police is illiterate. A national survey showed that over 80 per cent of the police tested positive for use of opium and/or cannabis. During the last year, there have been some improvements regarding police equipment, vehicles, uniforms and training in the PRT Area.²³ The pay and rank reform (PRR) is being implemented, but factional networks and drug alliances compete for posts, particularly lucrative ones which oversee smuggling routes. For example, in one district in Jowzjan, there was a new Chief of Police every week for seven consecutive weeks in July-August 2008. Whoever paid the highest bribe to the screening commission in Kabul got the post.²⁴

According to the International Crisis Group, the Karzai government lacks the political will to tackle the culture of impunity and to end political interference in police appointments and operations (ICG, 2007). However, according to the PRT Police Advisers, there have been some improvements in the ANP in Jowzjan since the arrival of Governor Zaray. The quality of the police in Saripul remains very low.

The major international actors in the police reform work are the European Union Police Mission to Afghanistan (EUPOL), Germany and USA.

Poppy Cultivation. According to the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) Afghanistan Opium Survey 2008, published in August 2008, 18 of the 34 provinces in the country were declared poppy free in 2008. Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul were all among the provinces declared poppy free in 2008. In 2007, 13 provinces were declared poppy free, among them Balkh and Samangan. UNODC defines a province as poppy free when it is estimated to have less than 100 hectares of opium cultivation. However, drug traffickers/processors and their political-military protectors are still active in the PRT Area. Reportedly, persons high up in the political hierarchy are involved in the narcotics business.

The PRT MOTs report growing discontent in rural communities for not receiving the promised compensation for ceasing opium poppy cultivation.²⁵

A disturbing trend is the steady rise in cannabis cultivation. According to UNODC, 33 per cent of the villages surveyed in Saripul cultivated cannabis in 2008. The corresponding figure for Balkh was 22 per cent. The increase was particularly sharp in some districts of Balkh. According to UNODC, cannabis can potentially earn a farmer more than opium poppies since it yields twice the quantity of drug per hectare and is cheaper and less labour intensive to grow (UNODC, 2007).

Another disturbing trend is the increasing rate of drug addiction. See Provincial profiles, below.

Power Holders. The main power holders in the PRT Area are Governor Atta and General Dostum. After the fall of the Taliban, there was considerable inter-factional

²³ Personal communication, Finnish PRT Police Advisers, Mazar-e-Sharif, 27 August 2008.

²⁴ Personal communication, MOT, Sheberghan, 19 August 2008.

²⁵ Ibid.

fighting between General Abdul Rashid Dostum of the Jumbesh-e-Melli and his commanders on one side, and General Ustad Atta of Jamiat-e-Islami with his commanders on the other side. After major clashes, the balance of power shifted to Atta's advantage by the end of 2003. Atta is now the uncontested Governor of Balkh, and the strongman of the North. Dostum maintains a powerbase at the grassroots level mainly in Faryab and Jowzjan, and parts of Saripul and parts of Samangan.

The provincial Governors are presented in the Provincial profiles, below.

Provincial Development Plans (PDPs). The PDPs were completed in 2007 in the four provinces of the PRT Area, as part of the Provincial Development Plan Initiative organised and run by the ANDS (Afghanistan National Development Strategy) Secretariat in June-August 2007. The Provincial Development Plans were intended to be planned and budgeted programmes for each province, based on interests and priorities expressed by local people and broadly consistent with Ministry strategies in each sector. The Plans were used in the development of the ANDS, and were also intended to be a tool for donor coordination in each province.²⁶

However, according to UNDP, PDP usefulness as a tool for provincial planning and budgeting is severely restricted by two aspects of the design process. First, none of the projects were costed. Second, no budget envelope for the implementation of the priority projects was provided or used. Thus, the process used to select priority projects was not structurally sound.²⁷ These problems are connected to a third overarching problem: the PDP process was not connected to a mechanism for implementation of selected projects. Except in the case where projects that were already in ministry plans were also included in the PDPs, there was no clearly defined path by which PDP projects could be funded and implemented.²⁸

ActionAid International has made a study called "Far from the Centre" on the PDP process in Jowzjan. They came to the conclusion that the Jowzjan PDPs are unrealistic "shopping-lists", not based on assessments reflecting the actual needs of people. There were no professional persons able to undertake a sound planning process. Almost all proposed projects dealt with construction. There was little or no coordination between different development actors. For example, two schools which had already been built by NSP the previous year were proposed to be constructed. There were hardly any proposals for much needed capacity-building and recruitment of competent staff (ActionAid, 2008).

Radio. A study of rural women's listening habits in a remote mountainous region of Samangan showed that women considered the broadcasts too difficult for them to understand and therefore only 12 per cent listened to the radio. Linguistic barriers (formal, very literary Dari was used instead of everyday, spoken Dari) and lack of relevance of radio programmes were major factors in low listening patterns. 44 per cent of the households surveyed owned a radio. All the women in the village were illiterate. Radio and word of mouth were often the women's only connection with the outside world. The women surveyed identified women's rights, proper Islam,

²⁶ Personal communication, Dr Dmitry Pozhidaev, UNDP/ASGP, 23 November 2008.

²⁷ In general, the PDPs are highly inflated. Balkh, for example, is requesting \$822mn for five years (\$165mn/year).

²⁸ Personal communication, Dr Dmitry Pozhidaev, UNDP, Mazar-e-Sahrif, 23 November 2008.

women's health, good childrearing, and family counselling as topics of relevance for them (Kamal, 2004). See also Communication Capacities, above.

Roads. The highway connecting Mazar-e-Sharif with Aybak, is of good quality. The highway from Mazar-e-Sharif to Sheberghan to Saripul, is also of good quality. In summer, the trip between Mazar-e-Sharif and Sheberghan takes two hours by car. In winter, the same trip may take eight hours or more, due to lack of snow clearing facilities.

However, most district roads, if at all trafficable, are of poor quality, especially in Saripul and Samangan. There is also a great need for small bridges and culverts. The PRT MOT in Saripul reported a maximum speed of five kilometres per hour in the southern parts of the province. Last winter, the WFP could not reach many remote areas with food aid, and food recipients had to walk long distances with donkeys and camels to get their supplies.²⁹ Another example: from Tarikak village, in Sozma Qala district in Saripul, it takes two days to walk to the nearest clinic (PRT MOT report, August 2008).

The National Rural Access Programme (NRAP; a continuation of NEEP, the National Emergency Employment Programme) is to "provide year-round access to basic services and facilities in rural areas". NRAP is implemented by the Ministry of Public Works (provincial roads), MRRD (district and village roads) and UNOPS. The Sida-funded Rural Access Improvement Project in Saripul and Samangan cooperates with and is complementary to NRAP/NERAP (National Emergency Rural Access Project) which is active in the four provinces of the PRT Area.³⁰

In 2007, three Swedish steel bridges (one with an 18m span and two with a 12m span) were installed in the Kohistanat district of Saripul. These bridges made it possible for WFP to deliver food aid to Kohistanat during an emergency. The following roads which have been given priority by the concerned Provincial Developments Councils (PDCs) are funded by Sida³¹:

- The Asyabad to Sozma Qala Road, with premix bituminous seal coat, in Saripul, 20km of 34km; implementing agency is UNOPS.
- The Abe Kely to Kal Gonbad Road, with gravel surface, in Samangan, 37.5km of 50km; implementing agency is UNOPS.

A socio-economic/baseline survey of the districts along the two roads will be completed in November 2008. The survey will establish benchmarks to measure impact of the roads in the future.³²

In the past, USAID has funded several road projects in the PRT area, for example the Faizabad Connector Road (1.8km) from the Faizabad District Centre to the Mazar-Sheberghan Highway, and the Sheberghan-Saripul road (53km). The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has funded the Balkh-Andkhai road (180km).

²⁹ Personal communication, Ms Marguerite Roy, UNAMA, 14 August 2008.

³⁰ Personal communication, Mr Sture Hjelm, Sida Consultant, October 2008.

³¹ Personal communication, Mr Karma Jimba, Project Director, UNOPS, Aybak/Kabul, September 2008.

³² Ibid.

The World Bank is now the leading donor agency in the road sector in the PRT Area. NRAP/NERAP is financed mainly by the World Bank/IDA, ARTF and the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF).³³



Samangan: the road between Aybak and Mazar-e-Sharif

Photo: Börje Almqvist

Rural Development. The National Solidarity Programme (NSP)³⁴ is the major rural development programme in the PRT Area. NSP, established in 2002, was designed with the dual objective of building community level governance, and assisting in reconstruction and development of rural communities. Block grants of between \$20,000 and \$60,000 were to be provided by the government to every village in Afghanistan. The original intention was that the village had to elect its leadership council by secret ballot, hold participatory meetings to design its own recovery plan and projects, and post its accounts in a public place (to preclude corruption). The government set the rules and managed the finances, and NGOs were contracted as Facilitating Partners (FPs) to manage the personnel, facilitate and support the programme, and organise elections of Community Development Councils (CDCs) at the local level.³⁵

The NSP is/has been active in all districts of Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul. The Facilitating Partners (FP) are UN Habitat, PIN (People in Need, a Czech NGO), CHA (Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance), CARE, ZOA (a Dutch NGO), ActionAid, GAA (German AgroAction), BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement

³³ Personal communication, Mr Sture Hjelm, Sida Consultant, October 2008.

³⁴ The information below on NSP has been provided by Jovitta Thomas, NSP Secretariat, Kabul, September 2008.

³⁵ Ghani, Ashraf & Lockhart, Clare. *Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World*. 2008.

Committee) and Solidarites (a French NGO). The FPs were contracted to mobilise 2,293 communities in the four provinces. According to the NSP Secretariat, 2,278 communities have been mobilised: CDCs have been elected and Community Development Plans (CDPs) have been completed. For details, see Appendix V, The National Solidarity Programme in the PRT Area.

Most of the NSP projects in the four provinces have dealt with water and sanitation, irrigation, roads including small bridges, generators and micro-hydros and education.

The total block grants disbursed to the four provinces as of 21 August 2008 were \$66.31mn (\$24.55mn for Balkh, \$13.04mn for Jowzjan, \$14.01mn for Samangan and \$14.71mn for Saripul). In addition, Facilitating Partners have been paid between \$8,400 and \$12,000 per community for facilitation. NSP also incurs costs for its provincial, regional and headquarters office operations, evaluations and other studies, MRRD incremental costs etc.

According to the NSP Secretariat in Kabul, there are several reports and evaluations available on NSP but none specific about the four provinces (of the Swedish-led PRT) that are of any significance. A MOT of the PRT has reported that in one community in Saripul, the cashier of the CDC took the NSP grant and built himself a fine house, with impunity. In another community, the villagers just shared the money, although there was a great need for a clinic. Reportedly, many CDCs are criticised for being dominated by mullahs and local commanders. A multi-year impact evaluation of the NSP is now underway. It will cover six provinces of Afghanistan, including Balkh.³⁶ However, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul are not covered by this impact evaluation.

The World Bank/IDA, the ARTF, and the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) are the main sources of financing³⁷ for the NSP. Through “preferencing”³⁸ via ARTF, Sida is funding the NSP in the PRT Area. The NSP is organised as a separate and temporary body answering to MRRD. A major concern is the sustainability of the CDCs and associated community development schemes, as most CDC block grants will be finished by 2008-09.³⁹

Rule of Law. There is a lack of certainty and consistency over legal sources. Written law, customary law and Sharia law exist side by side. In many parts, the “rule of the gun” and a culture of impunity prevail, which are exacerbated by the lack of efficient prosecutorial and judicial services. For example, in July 2008, at eleven o’clock in the morning, the mullah in the main mosque of Sheberghan was shot to death in his own mosque. There were three eye witnesses, but they “did not see anything,” and the killer could escape with impunity.⁴⁰ According to the PRT MOTs, cases of rape of both women and men, and children, in the PRT Area are not unusual, but the perpetrators are rarely sentenced. Criminals caught are often let free by paying bribes, or due to outside pressure. Needless to say, the police cannot provide law and order without functioning courts and jails. Popular trust in judicial institutions remains low,

³⁶ NSP website: “Evaluation Study of NSP Assesses Community Impacts”, autumn 2008.

³⁷ Information from The World Bank in Afghanistan, Country Update, July 2008.

³⁸ Also referred to as “soft earmarking”.

³⁹ Personal communication, Jovitta Thomas, NSP Secretariat, Kabul, 3 September 2008.

⁴⁰ Personal communication, PRT MOT, Sheberghan, 19 August 2008.

which strengthens the power of local informal leaders, including commanders and ex-commanders.

The US is the major actor in the National Justice Programme (NJP) which sets forth a five-year plan to strengthen the central justice institutions, namely the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, and the Attorney General's Office; expand justice assistance to the provinces; and improve coordination of donor programmes. The Provincial Justice Coordination Mechanism (PJCM), including one office in Mazar-e-Sharif, is a donor mechanism for coordinated and effective provincial justice assistance in expanding the rule of law. Other major donors are Germany, Canada, the World Bank/ARTF, the European Commission (EC), the United Kingdom and Finland.

The Security Situation in the PRT Area is relatively calm compared to the situation in other provinces. The eastern Jowzjan-western Balkh area has had a high incidence of attacks, particularly against international NGOs and contracting firms, but the main threats in the PRT Area come from organised crime, including drug trafficking, power struggles between local and regional power holders, and ethnic conflicts, often about land and water. Reportedly, rapes of adults and children are becoming more frequent.⁴¹ Most recently, in November 2008, there has been an alarming increase in attacks on ANP posts, and vehicles belonging to the PRT and international organisations, e.g. UNMAC, particularly along the road between Mazar-e-Sharif and Jowzjan.⁴²

Due to the drought and the deteriorating economic situation, there is a risk that more crimes will be committed. There are cases when the Taliban and Al Qaeda have offered people money to commit crimes, including insurgency. Reportedly, mullahs trained in Pakistan often get into conflict with mullahs trained in Afghanistan. Cp. the murder of the mullah in the main mosque in Sheberghan in July 2008 described in Rule of Law, above.

There is very limited popular support for the Taliban in the PRT Area, except for in a few enclaves inhabited by ethnic Pashtuns. These areas are mainly the Chimtal and Char Bolaq districts in Balkh, and secluded enclaves in Jowzjan and Saripul.

Water and Sanitation. In 2008, the PRT Area is experiencing its most severe drought in eight years. In districts with rainfed agriculture, up to ninety per cent or more of the wheat harvest is lost. After the spring rains failed to arrive, many rivers, springs and wells have dried up. The effects of increasing population and decreasing water supply have led to extremely unequal patterns of water distribution for agriculture, livestock and household use. In many areas there is acute water scarcity. Conflicts over access to water are increasing. More irrigation canals and wells are needed for agriculture. A high percentage of the rural population lack access to clean drinking water, and current programmes implemented through MRRD and NSP are inadequate to meet the needs. The same goes for access to sanitation facilities and exposure to basic hygiene education. Access to water and sanitation in urban areas

⁴¹ It may also be that information about the rapes reaches the public through the media more frequently now than earlier.

⁴² Personal communication, Dr Dmitry Pozhidaev, UNDP, Mazar-e-Sahrif, 23 November 2008.

also remains rudimentary, with a limited number of residents having access to running water.

Women. In many parts of the PRT Area, new clinics and primary schools are improving the quality of life for women and girls. However, women's fundamental human rights are denied. Domestic violence against women is a cause of immense suffering. Impunity and the failure to provide justice and protection from abuse perpetuate violence against women. The perpetrators do not consider themselves criminal, and the local judiciary is often unwilling to respond to such cases when brought to their attention.

Strong social and cultural norms continue to limit women's role in society. In most communities, women are not allowed to leave the home without an accompanying male relative, so called *mahram*. Forced and underage marriages are common. Often, girls and women are treated as an economic asset, with families receiving a price from the family of the groom. Many women live in extreme isolation, further aggravated by lack of education and economic resources. In Samangan, the Department of Education estimated that only one or two per cent of the women above 15 are literate (interview in August 2008).

Many adolescent girls die in childbirth, as their bodies have not reached full physical maturity. Rural women interviewed for this survey reported that constant pregnancies are a major difficulty in life. The fertility rate (total births per woman) in Afghanistan is reported to be 7.5.⁴³ The NRVA 2005, published by MRRD/CSO in June 2007, reported that married women up to the age of 49 years with knowledge of how to avoid pregnancy was 32% in Balkh, 15% in Jawzjan, 21% in Samangan and 17% in Saripul. The national average was 31%. There is a huge need for increased reproductive health knowledge and access to such services in the PRT Area.

2.2 PROVINCIAL PROFILE OF BALKH

Area:	17,249 square kilometres
Capital:	Mazar-e-Sharif, the fourth largest city in Afghanistan
Districts:	See map, page 2
Population:	1,073,000 persons (CSO, 2005-06), 48.9% women
Rural-Urban:	66% rural, 34% urban
Ethnic groups:	Chimtal is multi-ethnic with large Arab and Pashtun populations, and a significant Hazara minority; Char Bolaq has mainly Pashtuns and Hazaras, and Turkmens in the north; Dawlat Abad is multi-ethnic with Turkmens in majority; Marmul is almost exclusively Tajik; Char Kent is mainly Tajik and Uzbek, with a Sunni Hazara (Kawshi) minority; Zare is mainly Uzbek, Beloch and Hazara.
Governor:	Ustad Atta, Governor since July 2004, a Tajik from Balkh, Jamiat-e-Islami

⁴³ UNDP Human Development Report 2007/2008, New York: UNDP, 2008.

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Key indicators for Balkh (UNICEF, 2005)

Children

Under-18 population	678,000
Under-5 population	216,000
Annual number of births	54,027
Under-5 mortality rate	230
Deaths of under-5's per year	12,426

Child health and nutrition

Polio vaccination coverage	51%
DPT vaccination coverage	24.5%
Measles vaccination coverage	72.3%
Households consuming iodised salt	0.6%
Children 1-4 years with at least one form of disability	4%

Women

Women of child-bearing age	252,000
Maternal mortality ratio	1,800
Maternal deaths per year	972

Maternal health

Births attended by skilled birth attendant	7.6%
Births delivered at home	96%
Expectant mothers receiving ante-natal care	7.9%

Education

Net primary school attendance	71.8%
Net primary school girls' attendance	61.1%
Primary school age children out of school	66,000
Female literacy rate	12%
Number of illiterate women	245,000

Water and Sanitation

Population using safe water source	39.5%
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Threats to childhood

Women 20-24 married before age of 18	46.3%
Children 5-15 years involved in child labour	31.7%
Children under-5 with births registered	2,808

UNICEF then gave the following recommendations:

- Tackle serious abuses of child rights including early marriage and child labour
- Actively promote the use of iodised salt to help reduce risks of physical stunting, intellectual impairment and brain damage amongst newborn children
- Provide quality obstetric care services closer to women's homes to reduce number of maternal deaths

*

Balkh, with fertile agricultural land, has a high potential in the agricultural sector. Rehabilitation of the irrigation system has been ongoing for the last few years and big almond and apricot orchards are being planted. Intensive double cropping is possible in the northern plains. Mixed farming systems with livestock (especially for dairy products), field crops and horticulture dominate the sector. The main agricultural products are wheat, maize, potatoes, rice, soybeans, oil crops, cotton and tobacco (RRERS, a, 2008). Landless or near landless households are growing in number. In some parts of Char Bolaq, the percentage of landless households may be as high as 90 per cent (Pain, 2007). For information on the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP) pilot project in Khulm in Balkh, see Chapter 3.3 under the Hand in Hand Organisation Afghanistan (HiH AO), below. According to Mr Percy Barnevik, an initiator and sponsor of the programme, it will employ some two million Afghans in rural Afghanistan in a ten-year-period.

Balkh has six state-owned enterprises: a wheat processing plant constructed by the Russians, a textile factory (running with a loss), cotton gin and press facilities, the

North Fertilizer and Power Enterprise, the Kamaz Enterprises with a fleet of trucks for rent, and the Hayratan Technical Services for vehicle maintenance (not operational).⁴⁴

The more permissive security environment has allowed an economic expansion of Mazar-e-Sharif, partly fuelled by the profits of drug smuggling. Mazar-e-Sharif is the commercial centre of the northern provinces. There are several finance cooperatives (credit unions) in the province. Natural gas from Jowzjan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan is the main source of energy. Electricity is widely available in Mazar-e-Sharif, but not necessarily on a regular basis.

However, lack of legal and social structures required to provide an enabling environment for the development of businesses and agriculture in rural areas in Balkh remain a major problem.

Handicrafts such as production of carpets, rugs and jewellery are common throughout the province. A silk research centre is based in Mazar-e-Sharif (RRERS, a, 2006).

The UNODC Afghanistan Opium Poppy Free Roadmap and Provincial Profiles, published in December 2007, reported that the levels of drug use in Balkh are much higher than the national average. The level of drug use in rural areas of the province is the highest in the country. A very high level of drug use among children and women in Balkh was also recorded. There are three small drug treatment and rehabilitation centres in Mazar-e-Sharif; and, since early autumn 2008, one in Shortepa district, supported through the Islamic Relief funded by the Swedish Local Fund.⁴⁵ Additional services and information campaigns are needed urgently, according to UNODC.

The benefits from the opium economy for the rural population in Balkh have been considerable, especially in Char Bolaq and Chimtal, earlier the major opium poppy growing districts. For example, in 1999, there were two motorcycles and no motorbike shop in Char Bolaq. By 2006, there were more than 500 motorbikes and 11 motorbike shops in the district centre. Farm labourers and land owners have increased their incomes significantly, and the profits for provincial and district officials from informal opium taxation have been even greater (Pain, 2007).

The Chimtal district, especially the Nawshar area, has become notorious as a drug manufacturing/smuggling and weapons smuggling centre. The neighbouring Char Bolaq district is the base of a number of multi-ethnic criminal groups.

Tourism could become a source of income in the future since Balkh has a rich cultural and religious heritage.

Balkh has a tradition of high educational standards and a comparatively high literacy rate, also for women. Mazar-e-Sharif has a government university, called Balkh University, supported by several donors including the World Bank, a private Turkish university and a private college. Balkh University is the second largest university in Afghanistan (after Kabul University). It has faculties of medicine, engineering,

⁴⁴ Draft Provincial Development Plan for Balkh. No date.

⁴⁵ Information from "Halvårsrapport avseende Lokala Fonden", Swedish Embassy, Kabul, 13 October 2008.

economics, journalism, literature, law and science. Reportedly, Mazar-e-Sharif has the highest computer literacy rate in Afghanistan (RRERS, a, 2006).

During the first three days of the Taliban takeover of Mazar-e-Sharif in August 1998, they deliberately and systematically killed thousands of ethnic Hazara civilians. In some Hazara houses, they took away young women as maids saying they would be married off to the Taliban militia. The memories of these and other atrocities are still strong in the Hazara community.⁴⁶

2.3 PROVINCIAL PROFILE OF JOWZJAN

Area:	11,798 square kilometres
Capital:	Sheberghan
Districts:	See map, page 2
Population:	452,000 persons (CSO, 2005-06), 49.1% women
Rural-Urban:	80% rural, 20% urban
Ethnic groups:	The largest groups are Uzbek and Turkmen, but there are also Pashtuns and Arabs. Very few Tajiks. In addition, there are migrating Kuchis whose numbers vary with the season (some 80,000 in summer)
Governor:	Hashem Zaray, Governor since November 2007, and simultaneously Advisor to President Karzai, an Arab from Faryab

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Key indicators for Jowzjan (UNICEF, 2005)

Children		Child health and nutrition	
Under-18 population	239,000	Polio vaccination coverage	64.3%
Under-5 population	75,000	DPT vaccination coverage	21.4%
Annual number of births	18,829	Measles vaccination coverage	78.9%
Under-5 mortality rate	250	Households consuming iodised salt	1%
Deaths of under-5's per year	4,707	Children 1-4 years with at least one form of disability	3.4%
Women		Maternal health	
Women of child-bearing age	100,000	Births attended by skilled birth attendant	9.3%
Maternal mortality ratio	1,800	Births delivered at home	90%
Maternal deaths per year	339	Expectant mothers receiving ante-natal care	10.4%
Education		Water and Sanitation	
Net primary school attendance	48.7%	Population using safe water source	13.3%
Net primary school girls' attendance	26.5%	Threats to childhood	
Primary school age children out of school	46,000	Women 20-24 married before age of 18	33.2%
Female literacy rate	4%	Children 5-15 years involved in child labour	26.8%
Number of illiterate women	110,000	Children under-5 with births registered	9,450

⁴⁶ Amnesty International. "Thousands of civilians killed following Taleban takeover of Maxar-e Sharif". 3 September 1998.

UNICEF then gave the following recommendations:

- Increase access to education for girls
- Raise awareness and access to micronutrients , including salt and Vitamin A to help give children a healthy start in life
- Increase access to and usage of clean water sources, to prevent the threats of diarrhoeal disease – one of the major killers of children under the age of five

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In normal years, agricultural products grown in Jowzjan include wheat, barley, maize, melons, grapes, cotton, sugar, sesame, tobacco, and olives. Animal husbandry is a major source of income, especially dairy products, but also meat and wool. Many households produce carpets and rugs.

According to Governor Zaray, lack of water is the major problem in Jowzjan. During the drought in 2008, drinking-water has to be trucked in from Balkh and Saripul. The land is fertile, but there is not enough irrigation. The Governor would like assistance from Sweden to construct irrigation canals with water from the Amu Darya, to drill wells for drinking water, to train livestock veterinaries, to get more training for nurses and doctors, and education for young women who were not allowed to go to school during the Taliban period.⁴⁷

There are significant natural gas deposits in Jowzjan. In August 2008, President Karzai signed an agreement with a British petroleum company for explorations and extraction of gas in Jowzjan. The Governor believes that the gas extracted will suffice for electrification of the whole PRT Area.⁴⁸

Tearfund, a British NGO, recently conducted a food security assessment in four districts of Jowzjan. Farmers in water-scarce areas in the rainfed hill country of Qush Tapa/Darzab and the fringe irrigated districts of Mingajik and Mardyan reported losing 90-100% of their wheat crop this year. At the end of July 2008, 39.3% of the respondents reported using stored food, borrowing from kin, using savings to purchase food and migration to work in urban centres (stage 1); 54.5% reported reducing the number of meals per day, borrowing cash or food from merchants, selling livestock and domestic assets, begging and migrating for aid (stage 2); and 6.2% had **sold their land** and migrated permanently (the irreversible stage 3). In Qush Tapa district nine families had already **sold their daughters** (mostly between 8 and 13 years of age) for marriage to older men. Some 35 other families were actively seeking a buyer.⁴⁹

The UNODC Afghanistan Opium Poppy Free Roadmap and Provincial Profiles, published in December 2007, reported that the levels of drug use in Jowzjan are in line with the national average, but the high level of drug use, specially of opium, among children is of particular concern.

The Jowzjan Institute of Higher Education (sometimes referred to as university) has departments for teacher training and engineering.

⁴⁷ Personal communication, Governor Zaray, Sheberghan, 19 August 2008.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Personal communication, Mr Joel Hafvenstein, Programme Director, Tearfund, Jowzjan, 10 September 2008.

There are several reports from Amnesty International about severe human rights violations during and after the Taliban period in Jowzjan.

2.4 PROVINCIAL PROFILE OF SAMANGAN

Area:	11,262 square kilometres
Capital:	Aybak, also called Samangan
Districts:	See map, page 2
Population:	327,700 persons (CSO, 2005-06), 48.8% women
Rural-Urban:	93% rural, 7% urban
Ethnic groups:	Samangan is a province with mixed ethnicities: mainly Hazaras in the south, Tajiks in the east, Uzbeks in the northeast and central areas, and in the west a mixture of all, including small populations of Turkmens and Pashtuns
Governor:	Enayatullah Enayat, Governor since November 2007, an Uzbek/Pashtun from Faryab

*

Key indicators for Samangan (UNICEF, 2005)

Children		Child health and nutrition	
Under-18 population	184,000	Polio vaccination coverage	45.8%
Under-5 population	59,000	DPT vaccination coverage	16.9%
Annual number of births	14,648	Measles vaccination coverage	81%
Under-5 mortality rate	250	Households consuming iodised salt	4.8%
Deaths of under-5's per year	3,662	Children 1-4 years with at least one form of disability	2.6%
Women		Maternal health	
Women of child-bearing age	70,000	Births attended by skilled birth attendant	28.9%
Maternal mortality ratio	1,900	Births delivered at home	98%
Maternal deaths per year	278	Expectant mothers receiving ante-natal care	4.8%
Education		Water and Sanitation	
Net primary school attendance	57.6%	Population using safe water source	12.2%
Net primary school girls' attendance	44%	Threats to childhood	
Primary school age children out of school	28,000	Women 20-24 married before age of 18	49%
Female literacy rate	5%	Children 5-15 years involved in child labour	30%
Number of illiterate women	75,000	Children under-5 with births registered	767

UNICEF then gave the following recommendations:

- Increase routine immunisation levels to protect children against preventable diseases
- Reduce the incidence of early marriage, which can have a negative impact on young women's health
- Increase female literacy levels, which can help reduce poverty, reduce maternal mortality and improve women's status in the community

*

In normal years, the majority of the people in the province are engaged in cereal agriculture, especially wheat, rice and maize, and animal husbandry. Herbal products, for example caray and asfitida, are grown for export. Potatoes, vegetables, melons, cotton, oil seeds, sesame and strawberries are also grown. Mechanisation is at a very low level (RRERS, b, 2006). Drought resistant species such as almonds, apricots, pomegranates and pistachios are cultivated. In the past, the export of high quality almonds and pistachios was an important source of income for the province. Excellent almonds and pistachios are now cultivated with support from Afghanistan, but marketing is a problem. The almonds are bought at low cost by Pakistani traders who, in turn, sell them in Pakistan and India with a good profit.⁵⁰



Samangan in summer

Photo: Börje Almqvist

Lack of water is an acute problem in many parts of Samangan. In August 2008, there were reports of children starving to death and whole villages being deserted for lack of water. Adult men migrate to urban centres in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan to find work.

Samangan is an important centre for carpet and rug production. Before the Taliban period, there was a textile industry in the province, but it has been closed down. It gave employment opportunities for women.

Officials in the Department of Education in Samangan interviewed for this survey in August 2008 said the only help they got – good quality school buildings, teacher training at the district level (as female teachers are not allowed to travel without the

⁵⁰ Personal communication, Mr Ghulam Sakhi, Senior Agriculturist, Afghanistan, Aybak, 24 August 2008.

company of a male relative), books and supplies for the schools – came from the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), to which they were very grateful. In the past, some other NGO had built a few schools, but the quality was substandard. After the first winter, they fell apart.

Several persons interviewed for this survey in Samangan expressed a need for fire engines, trucks for waste collection, and simple tools like spades and snow-shovels. In case of fire, there are no fire engines in Aybak, and the whole bazaar would burn down in a few hours.

The UNODC Afghanistan Opium Poppy Free Roadmap and Provincial Profiles, published in December 2007, reported that the levels of drug use in Samangan were in line with the national average.

In March 2002, several villages in Samangan were hit by an earthquake. Hundreds of people were buried under the rubble of the destroyed houses. The World Food Programme (WFP) and the Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA) were in charge of the rescue work.

During the Taliban period, a wide range of war crimes were committed in Samangan, including horrendous massacres, the burning of whole villages and bazaars, food blockades and hostage-taking en masse of civilians. Human Rights Watch has reported that at least thirty-one Ismaili Hazara civilians were massacred near the Robatak pass in May 2000.



Teahouse in Aybak, Samangan

Photo: Katarina Larsson

2.5 PROVINCIAL PROFILE OF SARIPUL

Area:	15,999 square kilometres
Capital:	Saripul (municipality)
Districts:	See map, page 2
Population:	472,700 persons (CSO, 2005-06), 48.8% women
Rural-Urban:	93% rural, 7% urban; many observers who see Saripul Municipality with some 40,000 inhabitants as a village would claim that Saripul is 100% rural.
Ethnic groups:	Balkhab in the south is exclusively Hazara; Sancharak and Gosfundi are mixed Aimaq, Uzbek, Hazara and Sayyid Shia, with small Pashtun populations; the rest is mainly Uzbek with Pashtun, Hazara, Aimaq, and Arab minorities.
Governor:	Muhammad Bashir Qant Chahabi, Governor since August 2008, from Takhar

*

Key indicators for Saripul (UNICEF, 2005)

Children		Child health and nutrition	
Under-18 population	221,000	Polio vaccination coverage	45.8%
Under-5 population	71,000	DPT vaccination coverage	16.9%
Annual number of births	17,845	Measles vaccination coverage	83%
Under-5 mortality rate	260	Households consuming iodised salt	1.7%
Deaths of under-5's per year	4,640	Children 1-4 years with at least one form of disability	1.6%
Women		Maternal health	
Women of child-bearing age	83,000	Births attended by skilled birth attendant	0.4%
Maternal mortality ratio	2,100	Births delivered at home	100%
Maternal deaths per year	375	Expectant mothers receiving ante-natal care	2.3%
Education		Water and Sanitation	
Net primary school attendance	44.3%	Population using safe water source	6.9%
Net primary school girls' attendance	24.9%	Threats to childhood	
Primary school age children out of school	43,000	Women 20-24 married before age of 18	50.7%
Female literacy rate	5%	Children 5-15 years involved in child labour	33.7%
Number of illiterate women	88,000	Children under-5 with births registered	284

UNICEF then gave the following recommendations:

- Increase routine immunisation levels and increase access to clean water supply, to protect children against preventable diseases
- Reduce the incidence of early marriage, which can have a negative impact on young women's health
- Increase female literacy levels, which can help reduce poverty, reduce maternal mortality and improve women's status in the community
- Improve access to quality obstetric care and other maternal health services closer to women's homes
- Increase school enrolment for all children, with a special focus on girls' attendance

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Saripul is one of the poorest and most mountainous provinces in the country, with most of its residents depending on agriculture to survive. In a normal year, most households grow cereals, potatoes, onions, melons, grapes and walnuts. Another important source of income is animal husbandry for dairy products, meat and wool.

Lack of water is a major problem in large parts of Saripul, both for agriculture and household consumption. In 2008, the wheat harvest is less than half of that of a normal year in four districts. People in those districts will depend on food aid to survive the winter.

Very little government and international assistance goes to Saripul, which is characterised as **“the forgotten province”** by UNAMA.⁵¹ Except for the work of the Japanese Peace Winds, Global Partners and the Dutch ZOA, there are hardly any NGO activities in the province.

Confidence in government, PRT and international organisations is decreasing day by day in Saripul and support for the Taliban is growing in parts of the province, according to one of the interviewees.⁵² This impression was later confirmed by a UNAMA official.

Since the defeat of the Taliban in 2001, the province has experienced recurring conflicts between Jumbesh and Jamiat, as well as between the Shi’a parties. Old power structures with ex-commanders are surviving. Conflicts about land are common, especially between so called Arabs and Pashtuns. In 2007, a German development worker employed by the NGO GAA (German AgroAction, also called Welthungerhilfe) was murdered in Saripul. After the murder, GAA withdrew from the province. According to the PRT MOT, the quality of the police in Saripul is extremely low.

Sida is funding the construction of two roads and three bridges in Saripul. There is a great need for more roads, bridges and culverts. To travel from Mazar-e-Sharif to Balkhab takes two days (PRT MOT report, August 2008).

The UNODC Afghanistan Opium Poppy Free Roadmap and Provincial Profiles, published in December 2007, reported that the levels of drug use in Saripul are lower than the national average. Reportedly, last year gave a record harvest of opium poppy, and there are now stocks for four years.⁵³

Saripul was established as a province in 1988 out of the southern part of Jowzjan. The years of internal strife and lack of governance following the establishment of the province prevented development of government infrastructure in Saripul. Although the situation has somewhat improved after 2001 with a few governmental buildings constructed, the province still experiences a severe shortage of government infrastructure. Lack of a qualified local cadre is another challenge having a marked

⁵¹ Personal communication, Ms Maguerite Roy, Head of Office, UNAMA, 14 August 2008.

⁵² Personal communication, Mr Sayed Safayee, Member of the Provincial Council in Samangan, 14 August 2008.

⁵³ Ibid.

negative effect on the ability of local authorities to exercise an effective and efficient system of governance.⁵⁴

During the Taliban period, there were several massacres of civilians in Saripul. Hundreds were killed by the Taliban, in some cases with the active participation of local Pashtuns. In the Gosfundi and Sangcharak districts, more than 1,200 homes were set afire, orchards slashed, assets looted and burnt and wells destroyed.

3 MAIN ACTORS WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN THE PRT AREA

3.1 MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE PRT AREA

UNAMA (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan) has a regional office in Mazar-e-Sharif. It covers the Swedish PRT Area of Operation and Faryab province. UNAMA is a political mission, directed and supported by the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). UNAMA has two main pillars, one dealing with development and humanitarian issues, and the other handling political matters.

In March 2008, the United Nations Security Council extended the mandate of UNAMA for one year, until 23 March 2009. The tasks of UNAMA, as spelled out by the Security Council resolution 1806 (2008), are as follows⁵⁵:

- Promote more coherent support by the international community to the Afghan Government
- Strengthen cooperation with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)
- Provide political outreach through a strengthened and expanded presence throughout the country
- Provide good offices in support of Afghan-led reconciliation programmes
- Support efforts to improve governance and the rule of law and to combat corruption
- Play a central coordinating role to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid
- Monitor the human rights situation of civilians and coordinate human rights protection
- Support the electoral process through the Afghan Independent Electoral Commission
- Support regional cooperation in working for a more stable and prosperous Afghanistan

UNAMA's priorities include strengthening Afghan institutions and building the capacity of the Afghan Administration at all levels, including the development of

⁵⁴ Personal communication, Dr Dmitry Pozhidaev, UNDP, Mazar-e-Sahrif, 23 November 2008.

⁵⁵ UNAMA. www.unama-afg.org/about/overview.htm. 2008.

institutions of good governance, of law and order, and of security. Emphasis is also given to increasing employment and cash for work schemes, which provide income to families.⁵⁶

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Here follows a presentation of the major multilateral development and humanitarian organisations in the PRT Area of Responsibility, in alphabetical order:

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is financing road, power and irrigation projects in the North, such as the 140km Balkh-Samangan ringroad at an estimated cost of \$80m and the Rehabilitation of the Balkh River Basin Project, an irrigation project in Balkh and Jowzjan, at an estimated cost of \$10m.⁵⁷ Other ADB projects include road construction in Dara-e-Suf in Samangan, construction of the Siagerd canal in Saripul, and construction of several irrigation canals in Balkh and Jawzjan.⁵⁸ ADB has no office in the PRT Area of Responsibility. However, an ADB Regional Security Assistant is posted in Mazar-e-Sharif.

The European Commission (EC). Since 2002, EC has funded 77 projects in the four provinces: 36 in Balkh, 8 in Jowzjan, 22 in Samangan and 11 in Saripul. Of these, 23 projects are ongoing, as follows⁵⁹:

Balkh (16)

Partner	Sector	Project
- Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation	Agriculture/Rural Dev.	Livelihood Support in Shortipa/ Dehdadi
- Association Yamana	Pilots initiative	Fair Trade STEP
- UNDP	Governance, Rule of Law And Human Rights	Access to Justice at District Level (AJDL)
- Cooperation Centre for Afg.	Social Protection	Women's Shelter and Empowerment
- Medica Mondiale	Social Protection	Legal support for women/girls affected by family violence
- IAK Agrar Consulting	Agriculture/Rural Dev.	Animal Health and Horticulture
- Hungarian Interchurch Aid	Environment	Innovative waste management
- IOM	Governance	Support to prov. governance
- People in Need (PIN)	Agriculture/Rural Dev.	Income generation/training
- Roots of Peace	Agriculture/Rural Dev.	Almond Industry Dev. Project
- Liwal Ltd.	Agriculture/Rural Dev.	IT for Horticulture Project
- Save the Children-UK	Social Protection	Protecting the rights of disabled children
- Norwegian Refugee Council	Social Protection	Counselling/Legal assistance for returnees and IDPs
- Wenling Hongyuan Ltd	Private Sector Dev.	Hairatan Customs – civil works
- SCI Electronics, Kabul	Private Sector Dev.	Hairatan Customs – electricity
- Beijing Isotope Ltd	Private Sector Dev.	Hairatan – scanner

Jowzjan (2)

Partner	Sector	Project
- Action Aid	Governance, Rule of Law	Transparency – Budget Analysis
- Save the Children – UK	Social Protection	Protecting the rights of disabled children

⁵⁶ UNAMA coordinates development work, but has no budget of its own for development work.

⁵⁷ Personal communication, Mr Ravshan Bakoev, UNAMA, Mazar-e-Sahrif, 30 October 2008.

⁵⁸ UNAMA. Activity Reports -2008. Mazar-e-Sharif:UNAMA. 2008.

⁵⁹ Personal communication, Mr Hamed Safi, EC, Kabul, 11 September 2008.

Samangan (4)

Partner	Sector	Project
- Solidarites - Cooperation Centre for Afg.	Agriculture/Rural Dev. Social Protection	Food security for returnees/IDPs Women's Protection and Empowerment

Saripul (1)

Partner	Sector	Project
- Norwegian Refugee Council	Social Protection	Counselling/Legal assistance for IDPs and returnees

The EC is also funding a **PRT fund**, covering all PRTs in Afghanistan, for local governance projects to be implemented by PRTs in partnership with government or NGOs. This fund is administered by IOM. The maximum allocation per project is €500,000. A twenty per cent share is required from the applying PRT. The Swedish-led PRT has applied for €1mn for two governance projects, one in Balkh and one in Samangan. The request has not yet been approved.⁶⁰

ECHO (European Commission Humanitarian Aid) in Afghanistan is negotiating funding for the following humanitarian projects⁶¹ in the PRT Area:

- Balkh: Water and Sanitation projects in Zare district with PIN (People in Need); Response to drought with Cash for Work projects in Dawlatabad and Zare districts with PIN and ActionAid
- Jowzjan: Project assistance to returnees (shelter) in Mardyan district with ZOA; Response to drought with Cash for Work projects in Mingajik, Mardyan, Darzab and Qushtepa districts with ActionAid, Tearfund and ZOA
- Samangan: Response to drought with Cash for Work projects with ACF (Action Contre la Faim) and Solidarites

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) has an office in Mazar-e-Sharif covering the Northern Region. FAO is implementing the following projects, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)⁶²:

- The Dairy Project, including livestock health services and artificial insemination, is located in Dehdadi and Nahr-e-Shah districts of Balkh. Funded by Germany.
- The Melon Fly and Colorado Beetle Project is aiming at the eradication of the melon fly and Colorado beetle in the northern provinces. Funded by Norway.
- GAIN (Green Afghanistan Initiative) is a joint programme of several UN agencies, including FAO, UNDP, UNOPS, UNAMA, UNEP, WFP and the Afghan Government, meant to address the escalating environmental degradation in Afghanistan through reforestation, especially pistachio forests in Saripul, Jowzjan and Faryab. Funded by WFP and USAID.
- Irrigation projects focused on small irrigation canals for agriculture in the four provinces of the PRT Area plus Faryab. Funded by the World Bank.
- The Seed Project is supporting MAIL in variety development and multiplication of different classes of seed. Funded by the European Commission (EC).

IOM (International Organisation for Migration) has an office in Mazar-e-Sharif. IOM provides support to provincial governance (SPG), internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees (Assisted Voluntary Return, AVR) in the four provinces of the

⁶⁰ Personal communication, Ms Eva Joelsdotter Berg, Development Adviser, PRT Mazar-e-Sharif, 8 December 2008.

⁶¹ Personal communication, Ms Isabelle D'Hautd, ECHO, Kabul, 8 September 2008.

⁶² Personal communication, Mr Aria, FAO, Mazar-e-Sharif, 7 September 2008.

PRT Area.⁶³ IOM is also implementing agency for the EC fund for PRT/Local governance, see EC, above, and the USAID CHEF programme. See USAID, below.

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) has a compound in Mazar-e-Sharif. The major UNDP projects/programmes are as follows:

- **AIMS (Afghanistan Information Management Service)** has a regional office in Mazar-e-Sharif. It covers the Swedish PRT Area plus Faryab. AIMS has a mandate to build Information Management Capacity in the government, and to provide Information Management Services to the government and the broader humanitarian community. At present, AIMS has a core capability in Geographical Information Systems (GIS), database development and management, and integrated Management Information Systems (MIS).
- **ANBP (Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme)** was created in 2003 to assist the government in implementing Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants. ANBP is now involved in two security-related projects: the Anti-Personnel Mines and Ammunition Stockpile Destruction Project and the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) in all four provinces.
- **ASGP (Afghanistan Sub-national Governance Programme)** has been operating at the provincial and central level since 2006 using a number of ANDS benchmarks relating to good governance and Public Administration Reform. ASGP supports the Regional Offices of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (the IARCSC Office for the Northern Region is located in Mazar-e-Sharif) as well as the offices of Provincial and Districts Governors, Provincial Councils and Municipalities in all four provinces. This support includes development and application of streamlined administrative procedures, training and on-the-job coaching; improved information management and e-governance; upgrading of municipal services (primarily in solid waste management) and collection of municipal revenues; development of local representative democracy institutions and support to civil society. ASGP has a District Training Programme running in Balkh, Saripul, Samangan and Jawzjan, a pilot Solid Waste Management Programme in Mazar-e-Sharif, development of PGO/DGO infrastructure in Saripul and Samangan, etc.⁶⁴
- **GAIN (Greening Afghanistan Initiative)**. See FAO, above.
- **GEP (Gender Equality Programme)** works with gender issues in the Department of Women's Affairs in Mazar-e-Sharif. Covers the whole PRT Area.
- **UDG (Urban Development Group)** works with urban infrastructure support including drainage channels, market areas, women's resource centres, slaughter houses and public toilets in Mazar-e-Sharif.

UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), the UN lead agency for reproductive health, is not active in the PRT Area.⁶⁵ However, UNFPA has an office in the neighbouring Faryab province, where they implement projects in the Almar and Kohistan districts.⁶⁶

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)⁶⁷ has a Sub-office for the Northern Region (SOM) in Mazar-e-Sharif. It covers the Swedish PRT Area of Operation plus Faryab, Baghlan, Takhar, Kunduz and Badakhshan. UNHCR assists returning refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to come back and reintegrate "in safety and dignity" in their areas of origin. UNHCR provides factual and updated information on the general situation in the country for these groups.

⁶³ Personal communication, Mr Ravshan Bakoev, UNAMA, 30 October 2008.

⁶⁴ Personal communication, Dr Dmitry Pozhidaev, UNDP, Mazar-e-Sharif, 23 November 2008.

⁶⁵ This omission seems remarkable in view of the high maternal mortality ratio in the PRT Area.

⁶⁶ Personal communication, Mr Ravshan Bakoev, UNAMA, 30 October 2008.

⁶⁷ The information on UNHCR has been provided by Ms Debbie Elizondo, UNHCR, Mazar-e-Sharif on 4 September 2008. See also UNHCR, 2008.

UNHCR also provides repatriation packages (transportation, food and non-food items, and cash assistance).

The reintegration programmes comprise shelter, water points and income generating activities (IGA) in the form of Cash for Work (C4W) projects, e.g. building schools and public latrines, culverts, rehabilitation and construction of roads, cleaning of irrigation canals, carpet weaving, silk worm raising and tree planting.

From January to the end of July 2008, some 20,000 refugees have returned to the Northern region, the vast majority of them from Pakistan. Kunduz, Baghlan and Balkh remain the major return provinces in the North. Jowzjan had a large return of ethnic Turkmen refugees in October and November 2007, following the closure of the Jalozai camp in Pakistan.

The protection staff of UNHCR is mainly involved in human rights field monitoring missions to returnee areas. From January to the end of July 2008, 189 protection cases were handled in Jowzjan and Saripul. Legal problems such as human rights violations, property rights and land disputes are followed up by UNHCR and its cooperating partner the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC). In addition, UNHCR has an agreement with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) under the Information Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) project to follow up on land disputes. UNHCR also cooperates closely with UNAMA, WFP, UNICEF, IOM and ICRC.

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) has an office in Mazar-e-Sharif covering Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul. UNICEF's major programmes in the PRT Area are as follows⁶⁸:

- Health and Nutrition: Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI), Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition, Maternal Health (including training of midwives from underserved areas), School Health and establishment of USI/IDD (Universal Salt Iodization/Iodine Deficiency Disorder) surveillance system
- Water and Sanitation: Provision of water and sanitary latrines in schools and health centres, Hygiene education and promotion
- Education: Monitoring and reporting system for CBSs (Community Based Schools), Distribution of teaching-learning materials to primary school pupils and teachers, Construction of cost-effective schools, Providing recreation kits, Quality Primary Education with Special Focus on Girls and Orientation of PTAs (Parent Teacher Associations), Deworming of grade one through nine school children
- Women's Literacy and Empowerment: Establishment and continued support to literacy centres
- Child Protection: Deinstitutionalisation and community-based alternative care, Support to Juvenile Justice Reform (legal aid), Mine Risk Education, Revival of birth registration (in Balkh and Jowzjan only), Support to working/street children
- Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E): Training of government counterparts in basic PM&E, Providing Central Statistics Offices (CSOs) with computers, printers and scanners
- Emergency: Providing households with non-food items such as family kits, plastic sheets, jerry cans, and clothes during disasters

UNMACA (also written UNMAC; United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan) is involved in minefield clearance in all four provinces.⁶⁹

⁶⁸ Personal communication, Mr Ahmad Azizyar, UNICEF, Mazar-e-Sharif, 7 September 2008.

⁶⁹ UNAMA. United Nations Activity Reports, 2008.

UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) has an office in Mazar-e-Sharif. UNODC monitors and reports on the cultivation of illicit drugs, mainly opium poppy and cannabis, in the northern region. It is involved in capacity-building in the provincial offices of the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics, and in the counter-narcotics departments in the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice. UNODC is also supporting the Justice Support Centre (JSC) in Balkh, and advising on the construction of the new Balkh prison. In August 2008, the new office of the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics, funded by the Governments of Canada, Finland and Germany, was inaugurated in Mazar-e-Sharif.⁷⁰

In addition, UNODC runs a Drug Demand Reduction Action Team which conducts drug awareness workshops and refers drug addicts to a treatment centre in Shortepa district in Balkh province. The addiction rate in Shortepa is particularly high (UNODC, 2007).

UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Services) is the implementing agency for road construction funded by the World Bank and Sida. UNOPS has an office in Mazar-e-Sharif; and a shared office with the Ministry of Public Works in Aybak and Saripul for the Sida-funded road projects. See Chapter 2.1 Roads, above.



Rural transport in Balkh

Photo: Börje Almqvist

⁷⁰ Personal communication, Mr Lutf Rahman Lutfy, UNODC, Mazar-e-Sharif, 5 September 2008.

WFP (World Food Programme)⁷¹ has an office in Mazar-e-Sharif. WFP has appealed for international support twice in 2008, first in the beginning of the year to help those affected by the global rise in food prices, and after that in July to help those affected by the drought and continued assistance to those affected by high food prices. The food is distributed through various food-based programmes such as Food for Work, Food for Education, and Food for Training. Some food is stored for emergencies such as floods, earthquakes and displacements due to ethnic conflicts. Food is also provided to TB patients while they are undergoing medication for a set period of time.

WFP coordinates closely with relevant government departments and UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, FAO, UNDP and UNAMA.

WHO (World Health Organisation) has an office in Mazar-e-Sharif. WHO is implementing several of the health interventions funded by USAID, including the BPHS and the EPHS, the Disease Early Warning System, See USAID, below. In all four provinces, WHO is carrying out TB control, malaria control, leishmaniasis control (with EC support), and polio eradication (with UNICEF).⁷²

THE WORLD BANK. The Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) is administered by the World Bank on behalf of 28 donors and managed in conjunction with the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, UNAMA, and UNDP. It is the main mechanism for providing coordinated funding support to Afghanistan's recurrent budget and investments.⁷³

The International Development Association (IDA) is the part of the World Bank which helps the world's poorest countries. Established in 1960, IDA aims at reducing poverty by providing interest-free credits and grants for programmes which boost economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve people's living conditions. Repayments are stretched over 35 to 40 years, including a 10-year grace period. IDA also provides grants to countries at risk of debt distress.⁷⁴

Through IDA and ARTF, the World Bank is financing and/or administering eight national programmes/projects in the PRT Area of Responsibility. For details, see Appendix VI. The programmes and projects are as follows⁷⁵:

1. The Education Quality Improvement Programme (EQUIP) is active in all 34 provinces. It supports local-level grants for improving educational quality, increasing girls' attendance rates, building schools, and strengthening the Ministry's monitoring and quality assurance capacities. The construction of 227 schools in the PRT Area are financed through EQUIP.

2. The Afghanistan Skills Development Project is designed to increase the number of skilled Afghans and create a high-quality technical vocational education and

⁷¹ The information on WFP has been provided by Ms Hom Chhetri, WFP, Mazar-e-Sharif, 21 September 2008.

⁷² UNAMA Agencies Activity Reports, 2008.

⁷³ Information from The World Bank in Afghanistan, Country Update, July 2008.

⁷⁴ IDA website, November 2008.

⁷⁵ Personal communication, Mr Hugh Riddell, World Bank/ARTF, Kabul, 17 September 2008.

training system which is equitable, market responsive, and cost effective. Three institutions in Balkh: Institute of Oil and Gas, School of Agriculture, and School of Chemistry Technology. One institution in Jowzjan: Chemistry, Technology, Oil and Gas Institute. No activities in Samangan and Saripul.

3. The National Emergency Employment Programme (NEEP)/National Rural Access Programme (NRAP). NEEP was designed to provide employment in rural areas at a minimum wage, as a safety net, to as many people in as short a time as feasible, through rural access and irrigation rehabilitation sub-projects. NRAP is designed to provide year-round access to basic services and facilities in certain rural areas of Afghanistan. Through the World Bank funds for a total of 39 roads in the PRT Area have been provided.⁷⁶

4. The National Solidarity Programme (NSP) supports small-scale reconstruction and development activities identified by local Community Development Councils (CDCs) across the country. About 80 per cent of the community projects involve infrastructure such as irrigation, rural roads, electrification, and drinking water supply, all critical for the recovery of the rural economy, stability and governance. The World Bank/IDA/ARTF are the main sources of financing for the NSP. Sida is financing the NSP in Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul through ARTF “soft earmarking”. For details, see Appendix V and Appendix VI.

5. The Afghanistan Justice Sector Reform Project is active in Balkh, where a Legal Aid Office has been established. The project is not active in Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul.

6. The Emergency Irrigation Rehabilitation Project is helping to provide water to farms in the project areas, with improved reliable and equitable distribution of irrigation water. A regional office has been established in Mazar-e-Sharif. The project covers all four provinces.

7. The Health Sector Emergency Reconstruction and Development Project is helping to expand delivery of high-impact basic health services and ensure equitable access, particularly for women and children, in under-served rural areas. The World Bank is financing the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) in Balkh with BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) as the Implementing Partner, in Samangan with AMI (Aide Médicale Internationale) as the Implementing Partner, and in Saripul with Ibn Sina as the implementing Partner. The BPHS in Jowzjan is financed by USAID,

8. The Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) is active in the four PRT provinces with loans to Microfinance Institutions (MFI). MISFA aims to assist the government in developing a sustainable microfinance sector which will provide flexible, convenient, and affordable financial services to poor people.

⁷⁶ According to Mr Sture Hjelm, Sida Roads Consultant, NRAP (National Rural Access Programme) will replace NEEP in 2008. NERAP (National Emergency Rural Access Project) is a project under NRAP.

In addition, the **Rural Water Supply Project** aims at improving the health of rural communities by integrating health and hygiene education/awareness with the provision of water supply and sanitation services, and strengthening and building the capacities of central and provincial governments, NGOs, private sector, and the communities for sector development. This project is about to start working in eight provinces, including Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul.

The Kabul/Aybak/Mazar-e-Sharif Power Project (\$57mn) is at a preparatory stage. The aim is to provide reliable and quality power to the consumers in the target areas of Kabul, Aybak (Samangan) and Mazar-e-Sharif.

Balkh University is one of six universities in Afghanistan receiving World Bank aid.

Some of the programmes financed by the World Bank which are not present in the four PRT provinces are as follows:

- Afghanistan HIV/AIDS Prevention Project
- Avian Influenza Control and Human Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project
- Emergency Horticulture and Livestock Project
- Sustainable Development of Natural Resources Project

3.2 BILATERAL ACTORS IN THE PRT AREA

The major bilateral actors in development assistance to the four provinces are USA and Germany. The bilateral actors are here presented in alphabetical order:

FINLAND.⁷⁷ About half of Finland's €50mn contribution under the Afghanistan Compact for the period 2006-10 is channelled through ARTF. Finland has expressed a wish to the World Bank that half of its ARTF contribution should go to the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) and the Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA). Finland is also supporting the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) through UNDP, the UNODC Programme for Strengthening Provincial Capacity for Drug Control, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme) Environmental Management programme. In addition, support is given to the Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health Programme of Marie Stopes International.

In the PRT Area of Responsibility, Finland is supporting the training of a police force for crime scene investigations, the construction of a women's prison in Sherberghan, and later also a men's prison in Sheberghan, as well as literacy training for the police in Jowzjan and Saripul. The Prison Project in Sherberghan is run in cooperation with the Correction Systems Support Programme (CSSP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

⁷⁷ The information on Finland has been provided by Ms Anja Paajanen, the Finnish PRT Development Adviser, Mazar-e-Sharif, August 2008.

Finland has a Development Adviser in the PRT. In addition to other duties, she is assisting local organisations in applying for Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GAGP) from the Government of Japan (see Japan, below).

GERMANY.⁷⁸ A substantial part of the German development assistance to Afghanistan goes to so called ‘focus areas’ where there is a German military presence. The two German PRTs cover Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan. The ISAF Regional Command North, under German leadership, is located in Camp Marmul, Mazar-e-Sharif. In all, there are some 3,500 German military staff in Afghanistan, most of them in the North. In Camp Marmul alone, there are some 2,000 military staff.

Key sectors for development assistance are water, energy, basic education, sustainable economic development and good governance, especially rule of law, and gender. The German Police Project has a strong focus on police training. Germany has funded the publication of a comprehensive manual called Basics of Afghan Law and Criminal Justice, in Dari, Pashtu and English.

The yearly budget for development assistance to Afghanistan is some €140m, with funding from both the Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The PRTs have a Provincial Development Fund for ‘stabilisation projects’, but it is only a small fraction of the total development budget.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has an office in Mazar-e-Sharif. Most of the German development assistance in the Swedish PRT Area of Operation goes to Balkh.

In Balkh, Germany is present with the Basic Education Programme (BEPA), focussing on Teacher Training; the Sustainable Economic Development Programme, which, among other things, focuses on building capacity in the Afghan Chamber of Commerce; the GTZ (Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit) Rule of Law Project (see below), the DED (Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst) Car Workshop/ Vocational Training Project; the DED advisory assistance to the AIHRC (Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission) in Peace Building and Human Rights; the Horticulture and Livestock Project (HLP); and the Local Risk Management Office (LRMO). KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) will oversee the construction of a new Teacher Training Centre in 2008, together with the rehabilitation of five reference schools.

On behalf of the German Government, KfW is currently assessing a potential water supply system for Balkh City and the rehabilitation of the first stretch of the direct road between Khulm and Kunduz. In addition, KfW has financed and overseen the construction of electricity sub-stations in Mazar-e-Sharif and Pul-e-Khumri as part of the Northern Transmission Line Project (connecting electricity from Uzbekistan to Kabul). A modern and fully equipped Provincial Hospital in Balkh will be built and funded in the coming years, replacing the interim container hospital.

⁷⁸ The information on Germany has been provided by Mr Hendrik Schmitz Guinote, BMZ Development Commissioner, Mazar-e-Sharif, August-September 2008.

As a reaction to the drought, Germany is currently discussing with the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development (MRRD) the provision of funding for water trucking in Samangan, and is setting up a cash for work programme constructing roads, irrigation canals and water reservoirs through the NSP Implementing Partners in the provinces of Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul. There are plans to support disaster management (drought, floods, cold winters, snow clearance) with capacity building in the aforementioned provinces.

The **GTZ Rule of Law Project** opened a sub-office in Mazar in the beginning of 2008. It covers Mazar City and Dehdadi, Sholgar and Khulm districts of Balkh. During 2008 support is given to the LCSAWC (Legal and Cultural Services for Afghan Women and Children) Project which is focussing on Women's Rights by providing legal awareness to students, legal aid, and training of paralegals.⁷⁹ Support is also given to AHRO (Afghanistan Human Rights Organisation) Project for conducting a legal awareness workshop and providing free legal aid. In addition, there are plans for a follow-up training of Master Trainers in the Department of Justice in Mazar-e-Sharif.

The **Local Risk Management Office (LRMO)** in Mazar-e-Sharif has been established to provide safety and security information and services to German governmental organisations such as GTZ, DED and KfW Development Bank. LRMO covers the PRT Area of Operation plus Faryab. It coordinates closely with basically all national and international security cells within the region, including the PRTs, the UNDSS (United Nations Department of Safety and Security) and ANSO (Afghanistan NGO Safety Office).⁸⁰

INDIA⁸¹ has a Consulate General in Mazar-e-Sharif. The Consul General is authorised to approve of development projects in the four PRT provinces plus Faryab up to a value of \$1mn. So far, support has been given to the construction of clinics, schools, orphanages and public toilets. Every year, some 500 scholarships for studies in India for three years are given to Afghan students. Some of these students come from the northern provinces. Through the India Technical and Economic Cooperation, qualified adults are offered training in accounting and auditing in India for three to six months, at the expense of the Indian government. In the PRT Area, teams of three Indian doctors and three paramedics are training their Afghan counterparts in local hospitals and clinics.

IRAN. Iran is funding the construction of a library and a Faculty of Literature at Balkh University.⁸² Iran has a Consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif.

ITALY. In cooperation with UNODC and UNOPS, Italy is supporting the construction of a prison in Mazar-e-Sharif.⁸³

⁷⁹ The LCSAWC was established in 1974. Members are female university lecturers of the Law and Sharia Faculty at Balkh University, judges and prosecutors.

⁸⁰ Personal communication, Mr Harald Mundt, Risk Management Adviser, Mazar-e-Sharif, Sept. 2008.

⁸¹ The information on India has been provided by Mr Sham Mudgil, Consul General of India, Mazar-e-Sharif, 23 August 2008.

⁸² Personal communication, Mr Mohd. Zia, USAID, Mazar-e-Sharif, 21 August 2008.

⁸³ UNAMA. UN Agencies Activity Report, October 2008.

JAPAN.⁸⁴ The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has spent \$161.5mn on technical assistance in Afghanistan from FY2002 to FY2007. The priority geographical areas for JICA assistance are Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Bamiyan and Mazar-e-Sharif, where local JICA offices have been opened.

The priority sectors are Integrated Rural Development including agriculture and rural/community development; Education and Health including basic education, vocational training, public health, and reproductive health; and Infrastructure including urban development, public transportation, etc. The guiding principles in assistance are capacity development and human security.

During 2008, the JICA office in Mazar-e-Sharif has been funding five projects, all of them in Balkh province:

- 1. The Intercommunal Rural Development Project (IRDP)** in cooperation with MRRD clusters the NSP CDCs for implementation of common projects, both infrastructure and non-infrastructure.
- 2. The Strengthening Teacher Education Programme (STEP)** in cooperation with the Ministry of Education aims at upgrading skills and abilities of primary school teachers. A teacher's guide for grades one through three has been produced.
- 3. The Support for the Expansion and Improvement of Literacy Education in Afghanistan (LEAF)** aimed at capacity-building in the Literacy Department of the Ministry of Education.
- 4. The Project for the Improvement of City Roads in Mazar-e-Sharif.**
- 5. The Basic Vocational Training Project (BVTP)** in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) offers training for returnees, disabled and jobless youth in the use of computers, tailoring, plumbing, electric wiring and welding.

In addition, there is a JICA course in Reproductive Health in Kabul which qualified medical staff from all provinces may apply for.

The Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroot Projects (GAGP) for NGOs and CBOs (Community Based Organisations) in the social development sector provides support to small-scale development projects. Applications from the Swedish-led PRT Area are handled by the Finnish Development Adviser. So far, five schools have been built in Samangan with GAGP funding, facilitated by the Swedish-led PRT. See Finland above.

JICA will merge with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in October 2008. The new JICA will be the second largest donor agency in the world, providing both financial and technical assistance.

PAKISTAN has a large Consulate in Mazar-e- Sharif. Pakistan will finance a five-storey building, accommodating 2,500 students, for the Engineering Faculty at Balkh University. The cost will be some \$11mn. At present, there are no plans to start any other development projects in the PRT Area.⁸⁵

⁸⁴ The information on Japan has been provided by Ms Rumiko Nomura, JICA Assistant Resident Representative and Mr Mamoon Khawar, JICA Programme Officer, Kabul, September 2008.

⁸⁵ Personal communication, Mr Hamid Arman, PRT Media Coordinator, 3 November 2008.

Recently Pakistan opened a branch of the National Bank of Pakistan in Mazar-e-Sharif. Traders and businessmen benefit from credits on a commercial basis from this bank.⁸⁶

RUSSIA has a large Consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif. The Consulate has not replied to my e-mails, but according to UNAMA, Russia is donating 15,000 metric tons of wheat to all of Afghanistan for the winter.

SAUDI ARABIA has donated \$8.5mn for the construction of a building for the Economics Department at Balkh University (Qadiri, 2007).

SWEDEN.⁸⁷ Swedish support to Afghanistan goes mainly to primary education, especially for girls, through UNICEF; to health, education and services/advocacy for the disabled through the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA); unearmarked funds through the World Bank/ARTF as well as earmarked funds for the NSP; the road network via the Ministry of Public Works/UNOPS; mine clearance and awareness building through the Danish Demining Group (DDG); research through AREU (Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit); support through UNDP to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the elections; human rights projects and humanitarian assistance. The total spending in Afghanistan for development assistance in 2007 was 334MSEK.⁸⁸ In addition, around 28MSEK was allocated to humanitarian assistance and 19MSEK to Swedish NGOs (other than SCA) working in Afghanistan.

In 2008, 15-20 per cent of the Swedish contribution to Afghanistan is earmarked for assistance in the Swedish-led PRT Area of Responsibility. In 2008, the direct support to Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul includes funding of the following activities:

- Rural road construction including bridges and culverts in Samangan and Saripul through the Ministry of Public Works and UNOPS
- Support to the NSP (National Solidarity Programme) through a geographical 'soft earmarking' via ARTF /World Bank/Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in all four provinces
- Construction of four schools and two clinics in Balkh and Samangan within the Northern Development Project (NDP); teacher training in Samangan; as well as capacity-building, advocacy and services for the disabled in RAD (Rehabilitation of Afghans with Disabilities) in Balkh, Samangan and Jowzjan; all through the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)
- Funding of a building for the training of nurses and midwives in the new Provincial Hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif, to be built and funded by Germany.

⁸⁶ Personal communication, Mr Ravshan Bakoev, UNAMA, 30 October 2008.

⁸⁷ The information on Sweden has been provided by Ms Sara Gustafsson, Sida Country Team Afghanistan, Autumn 2008.

⁸⁸ For comparison, the 2008 budget for the Swedish military mission in Afghanistan, including some 375 military staff, is 822MSEK (Personal communication, Cdr Jan Dunmurray, 29 October 2008). The Swedish PRT budget for CIMIC (Civil Military Cooperation) for 2008 is 200,000SEK. The Finnish PRT budget for CIMIC for 2008 is €150,000.

- The Sida Local Fund was established in April 2008 to finance smaller interventions in the PRT Area. The Fund will be running for three years with an annual budget of 10MSEK in 2008, to be increased in 2009. The Fund will primarily be used for contributions in the prioritised areas of democracy and human rights, including women's rights and gender equality, as well as the legal sector with emphasis on the rule of law. So far, five projects have been approved and initiated, all in Balkh province:
 - 1. Training of journalists through IWPR (Institute for War and Peace Reporting) in Mazar-e-Sharif;
 - 2. Establishment of a family guidance centre/women's shelter in Mazar-e-Sharif through WAW (Women for Afghan Women) in Mazar-e-Sharif;
 - 3. Support to twenty 'violence free schools' in Balkh through Save the Children Sweden-Norway;
 - 4. Support to reproductive health in Mazar-e-Sharif and Dehdadi district in Balkh through Marie Stopes International; and
 - 5. Support to a rehabilitation clinic in Shortepa district in Balkh for drug addicts through Islamic Relief.

Sida (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) has a Development Adviser posted in the PRT. Her main duties are to advise the PRT Commander on development matters, to cooperate with Afghan authorities and the international community, and to monitor Sida support to the North.

SWITZERLAND.⁸⁹ The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has a yearly budget of some \$10mn for humanitarian and development assistance in Afghanistan. Through Helvetas, a Swiss NGO, the ILRC (Improving Livelihoods of Rural Communities) programme is implemented in three districts of Samangan. SDC has an office in Kabul.

TURKEY.⁹⁰ Between 2003 and 2007, the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) funded and oversaw the construction of two primary schools in Balkh, four primary schools in Jowzjan, one vocational training school for girls in Samangan, and one primary school and one clinic in Saripul. Since 2004, Turkey is funding the Mother and Child Care Hospital in Sheberghan, Jowzjan.

During 2008, TIKA has completed the construction of two high school buildings in Jowzjan. In addition, TIKA has signed an agreement to administer a high school for girls in Jowzjan. In the Upper Dara-e-Suf district of Samangan, a thirty-bed hospital has been constructed. In Balkh, two primary schools have been built, and in Saripul one primary school. The Turkic Languages Department at Balkh University has been provided with computers and Turkish literature. A teacher from the Turkish-Afghan School in Mazar-e-Sharif gives Turkish language classes at the same department.

⁸⁹ The information on Switzerland has been provided by Ms Brigitte Kauf, Helvetas Project Officer, Zürich, 9 September 2008.

⁹⁰ The information on Turkey has been provided by Mr Ozgun Arman, Consul General of Turkey, Mazar-e-Sharif, September 2008.

TIKA plans for the near future include the construction of a primary school, a dormitory for secondary school girl students and a park in the Aqcha district of Jowzjan. In Balkh province, a primary school will be built, and a City Park in Mazar-e-Sharif will be arranged. In addition, the ancient house where the Sufi thinker Mevlan-a Celaleddin-e Rumi was born will be restored.

Turkey has a Consulate General in Mazar-e-Sharif.

TURKMENISTAN. Last winter, which was extremely cold, the Turkmenistan government donated 500 tons of diesel fuel, 1,000 tons of wheat and clothes to people living in the provinces bordering Turkmenistan. Every year, 30 students from Afghanistan are given scholarships to study at university level in Turkmenistan.⁹¹

Turkmenistan has a Consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif.

UNITED KINGDOM. Through the Department for International Development (DFID), the UK is supporting the Alternative Livelihood Programme in the Balkh, Sholgara and Char Bolaq districts of Balkh province. These three districts have been prominent in opium poppy cultivation in the past. The British government is also supporting the Counter Narcotics Police in Mazar-e-Sharif.⁹²

USA. USAID⁹³ is the major donor in the PRT Area of Responsibility. USAID has a Field Programme Officer posted in the Swedish-led PRT. There are two levels of USAID programmes, as follows:

- **I. National programmes** (92 percent of the total USAID budget) which are run from the US Embassy in Kabul. The USAID/PRT Development Adviser has no influence over these programmes.
- **II. The Local Governance and Community Development (LGCD) Programme** (8 per cent of the total USAID budget) is run from the different PRTs in Afghanistan. These funds are unevenly distributed. The southern and eastern parts of Afghanistan get proportionately more funds than the North. Examples of LGCD support in Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul are:
 - **II.1. Support to local public administration and governance**, for example technical support to the Provincial Development Councils (Governors have very limited budgets), and workshops for administrative staff.
 - **II.2. Community Development Projects** are targeted to the districts where the NSP budget is finished. USAID can then step in to fund for example vocational training, basic agricultural training, and water schemes, including irrigation.
 - **II.3. Local Stability Initiatives** to promote 'peaceful coexistence of people and communities that have been divided by a history of conflict' by assisting local communities' efforts to alleviate human insecurity and to progress from hostility to coexistence.

⁹¹ Personal communication, Mr Merdan Khojarov, Consulate of Turkmenistan, Mazar-e-Sharif, 23 August 2008

⁹² UNAMA Agencies Activity Report: Balkh Province, October 2008.

⁹³ The information on USAID has been provided by Dr Paul Ware and Mr Mohd. Zia, USAID, Mazar-e-Sharif, and Ms Heather Smith, USAID, Kabul, August-September 2008.

- **II.4. Support to the PRT**, mainly provision of sector specialists, for example providing the services of a hydrologist before drilling a well.

In addition to these four components, USAID is running two grant projects in the PRT Area of Responsibility:

- **The Marketplace Development Grant (MDG) Project** targets the more remote districts which often are not targeted by mainstream aid programming due to poor security situations. The MDG Project has two main objectives: to improve commerce through the upgrading of marketplace infrastructure and to provide quick impact interventions which are readily visible to the Afghan public. Grants range in size from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- **The Community Based Small Grant (CBSG) Project.**

Other USAID local support includes the construction of an industrial park (completed) in Mazar-e-Sharif, and District Governors' offices in Jawzjan, Samangan and Saripul, as well as the renovation of the Courthouse and the construction of the Prosecutor's Office in Mazar-e-Sharif. Mazar food is another USAID project in Mazar City. It will cover 6,250 hectares of commercial farming.

Additional examples of USAID interventions implemented in the four provinces are support to the **Afghanistan Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED)**, the **Afghanistan Water, Agriculture and Technology Transforming (AWATT)**, the **Emerging Marketing Group (MEG)** and some micro-finance programs.

From Kabul, USAID is funding the national **BPHS (Basic Package of Health Services)**, the **EPHS (Essential Package of Hospital Services)**, the **HSSP (Health Service Support Project)** and the **Anti-tuberculosis Programme (NTP-DOTS)** in 13 provinces, including Jowzjan. The HSSP is implemented by the Johns Hopkins Programme for International Education in Gynaecology and Obstetrics. The NTP-DOTS programme is implemented by WHO. (The BPHS in Balkh, Samangan and Saripul is funded by the World Bank.)

USAID is also funding WHO and UNICEF to support polio surveillance and immunisation activities throughout Afghanistan.

The national USAID **Construction of Health and Education Facilities (CHEF) Programme**, 2007-11, \$56.7mn, is planning one intervention in the PRT Area: a 50-bed hospital in Aybak, Samangan with IOM (International Organisation for Migration) as Implementing Partner. CHEF is also funding ten Provincial Teacher Resource Colleges (PTRC), but not in the PRT Area of Operation.

The Basic Support for Institutionalising Child Survival-III (BASICS-III) (\$2mn) is a global programme supporting sustainable reductions of under-5 mortality. It includes Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), child nutrition, malaria prevention and immunisation.

In Primary Education, USAID is funding **BESST (Building Education Support Systems for Teachers)**, 2006-11, total estimated cost: \$48mn. BESST works directly with the Ministry of Education at all administrative levels in collaboration with national and international partners to improve the quality of teacher training. BESST has two main components: to improve primary school teaching, and to strengthen teacher training and support functions of the Ministry of Education.

The Partnership for Community Education in Afghanistan (PACE-A) Project, 2006-11, \$24mn, aims at increasing and strengthening high-quality community-based education in areas where there are no government schools. Implementing agency is CARE. The project has two components:

- to expand access to Community-Based Schools (CBS), strengthening community structures and improve the quality of community-based education
- to build long-term capacity of civil society organisations (CSO) and develop modes of cooperation between community-based and government schools

The Textbook Printing Project, 2007-11, has a budget of \$25mn. The project is run in partnership with the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) to print new curriculum textbooks for grades one through six. In 2008, 26 million new textbooks will be printed. The process for developing the curriculum for these textbooks was started in 2003 by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education. From 2002 to 2006, USAID funded the printing of 60 million textbooks.

The Faculties of Education Project, 2008-09, \$17mn, is a new project in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) to construct Faculties of Education at 16 universities around Afghanistan, including Balkh and Jowzjan. The project will also include capacity building focused on effective approaches for planning, financing and managing operations and maintenance of the new facilities. Implementing partner is the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The Learning for Community Empowerment Programme (LCEP-2), 2008-13, \$40mn, aims at providing adults in over 1,300 communities in Afghanistan with literacy and numeracy training integrated with productive skills training. By integrating productive skills into the literacy curriculum, as literacy progresses productive skills will also be enhanced, each building on the other. In addition, LCEP-2 will emphasise providing career pathways for women through their engagement in literacy, self help savings and investment groups, and by teaching basic entrepreneurship and business skills which will assist them to start small enterprises. Implementing agency is UN Habitat.⁹⁴

The Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP), 2006-08, \$2.1mn, focuses on youth development and civic responsibility. The goal of the project is to contribute to youth empowerment in Afghanistan through models of youth participation and civic education for reconstruction, building democracy and development. Implementing agency is UN Habitat. The programme is covering six provinces, including Balkh.

⁹⁴ I have asked USAID if this programme will be run in the PRT Area, but not received an answer.

In addition, USAID is funding the following on-going activities⁹⁵ in Balkh province⁹⁶:

Agriculture:

Advancing Afghan Agriculture Alliance (GDA)
Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Programme (ASAP)

Democracy and Governance:

Rule of Law Reform
Consortium for Elections and Political Processes (CEPPS)
Building Independent Media in Afghanistan
Initiative to Promote Afghan Civil Society (IPACS)

Economic Growth:

Agriculture, Rural Investment, and Enterprise Strengthening (ARIES)
Land Titling and Economic Restructuring Activity (LTERA)

Education:

Basic Education Programme/Building Education Support Systems for Teachers (ABEP/BESST), see also above
Higher Education Programme in Afghanistan, see also above
Afghan eQuality Alliances (AeQA)
Printing of Text Books, see also above

Health:

Polio Eradication Activities under Health and Emergency Response Support, see also above
Communication for Behaviour Change: Expanding Access to Private Sector Health Products and Services in Afghanistan (COMPRI-A)

PRT

Local Governance and Community Development (LGCD)

⁹⁵ USAID: Balkh Information Sheet, dated 20 March 2008.

⁹⁶ In spite of many request for additional information from USAID in Kabul regarding other USAID-funded programmes/projects in the four provinces in the PRT Area, I have, unfortunately, not received any answers. Nor was the USAID Field Programme Officer in the Swedish-led PRT able to help me, as he was newly recruited during my interview with him in August 2008. He had not been informed by USAID before being posted in the PRT in Mazar-e-Sharif. When I contacted him again in November, shortly before his resignation, he still could not provide the information.

3.3 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOs) IN THE PRT AREA

”Nongovernmental organisations... are often asked to implement the projects for which UN agencies and private contractors win large bids, or they can make their own appeals. Like UN agencies, they have grown rapidly over the last ten years to take on roles that substitute for state functions, often building and managing schools, clinics, and food distribution directly. These NGOs range from the good to the bad to the ugly, and their employees include both the dedicated and the narrowly opportunistic. For example, the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan kept schooling alive under the Taliban by mobilising resources and a network of dedicated staff to maintain education, including to girls...

...The aid system as currently configured tends to undermine rather than support state institutions. The thousands of small projects designed to aid a particular school, village or district end up recruiting the very teachers, administrators, and doctors they are designed to support to work instead as secretaries and drivers for international staff. The world spends billions of dollars on contracts with international firms for projects in developing countries, but since the emerging local private sector cannot understand the complicated contracting rules to put a bid together or fulfil the bid criteria, they cannot compete.”

From Fixing Failed States: A Framework for
Rebuilding a Fractured World, by Ashraf Ghani and
Clare Lockhart, 2008

”In Afghanistan, health facilities run by NGOs have been seen to perform better than those managed by the government. NGOs have the advantage of greater flexibility, they face little political interference – which means they can recruit the best qualified staff – and they do not have to follow often rigid civil service rules and regulations.”

From World Bank: Afghanistan health sector
provides lessons in development, by Benjamin
Loevinsohn, 2008

ACBAR (Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief) was founded in Peshawar in the 1980s as an umbrella organisation for NGOs working in Afghanistan and among Afghan refugees in Pakistan, to coordinate the activities of the NGOs. ACBAR has a regional office in Mazar-e-Sharif. The core functions of ACBAR are as follows:

- Coordination to avoid duplication of work and to identify gaps to be filled
- Planning NGO strategy to meet humanitarian, reconstruction and development aims
- Collection and dissemination of information relevant to humanitarian assistance and development
- Advocacy and policy formulation
- Information and resource centre, publication of reports on development issues

ANSO (Afghanistan NGO Safety Office) promotes security awareness and appropriate security behaviour among NGOs. ANSO has a regional office in Mazar-e-Sharif. It coordinates regularly and well with the national security organisations, the PRT, the UNDSS and ICRC. ANSO is funded by the European Commission (EC), the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and Welthungerhilfe.

ANSO estimates that there are close to 200 national and international NGOs doing humanitarian and development work in the northern region. All of them are not registered with ANSO. Some NGOs have their own security teams.⁹⁷

The provincial offices of the PRT would like to coordinate more with the NGOs, but many (most?) NGOs prefer not to be associated with ISAF.

*

ACBAR provides up-dated lists of which national and international NGOs are doing what in which province.⁹⁸ According to the latest ACBAR list (July 2008), some of the more experienced NGOs in the PRT Area are as follows:

ActionAid. A British NGO active in Balkh and Jowzjan with emergency work and education. Facilitating Partner in the NSP in six districts in Jowzjan.

ADWR (Association for Defence of Women's Rights). An Afghan NGO working with women's protection and empowerment in Balkh and Samangan. Legal counselling regarding cases of domestic violence, early marriage, divorce, rape, etc. Broadcasting TV programme called "Rights of Women" twice a month.⁹⁹

ACTED (l'Agence d'Aide à la Cooperation Technique et au Développement). A French NGO active in Balkh and Jowzjan with construction of deep wells, shelters, clinics and minor roads.

Afghanaid. A British NGO active in Samangan since 2002 with A Rights Based Approach to Livelihood Security (RBLs) in Samangan. Facilitating Partner in the NSP in three districts in Samangan.¹⁰⁰

AMI (Aide Médicale Internationale). A French NGO, Implementing Partner in the BPHS in Samangan.

ARCS (Afghan Red Crescent Society). An Afghan NGO. Cooperates with the ICRC in all four provinces. See below.

ARMP/AKDN (Afghanistan Rural Microcredit Programme/Aga Khan Development Network). An Aga Khan NGO active with agricultural business, including credits, in five districts in Balkh.

⁹⁷ There are at least ten international private security companies in the North, most of them American, British or South African.

⁹⁸ Updated lists can be found at www.acbar.org

⁹⁹ Personal communication, Ms Malalai Osmani, Director, ADWR, 23 August 2008.

¹⁰⁰ Personal communication, Mr Abdul Hussain et al, Afghanaid, Aybak, 24 August 2008.

ATC (Afghan Technical Consultants). An Afghan NGO active in demining in Balkh, Jowzjan, Saripul and Samangan.

BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee). A Bangladeshi NGO, Implementing Partner in BPHS in Balkh. BRAC is also active in Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul with micro-credits. Facilitating Partner in the NSP in three districts in Samangan.¹⁰¹

CARE. A US NGO, Facilitating Partner in the NSP in four districts in Balkh.

CCA (Cooperation Centre for Afghanistan). An Afghan NGO working with women's protection and empowerment, and legal counselling in Balkh and Samangan. Runs a Safe House in Mazar-e-Sharif.¹⁰²

CHA (Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance). An Afghan NGO, Facilitating Partner in the NSP in four districts of Balkh.

GGA (GermanAgro Action, Welthungerhilfe). A German NGO, Facilitating Partner in the NSP in three districts in Jowzjan. Integrated Community Development Programme in Balkh and Samangan.



Tanners' Common Interest Group, HiH AO, Khulm

Photo: Katarina Larsson

¹⁰¹ Personal communication, Mr Shahabuddin Ahmed, Programme Manager, BRAC, 17 July 2008.

¹⁰² Personal communication. Ms Filipa Schmitz Guinote et al, Adviser, CCA, 20-21 August 2008.

Hand in Hand Afghanistan Organisation (HiH AO). A Swedish-Afghan NGO which has cooperated with MRRD and the World Bank in formulating the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP). The AREDP Pilot Project was launched in September 2007 as a national community-based programme aiming at creating more than two million jobs in rural areas of Afghanistan during a ten-year period. The main objective of HiH AO is large-scale job creation through mass mobilisation of Afghan women and men into entrepreneurship through Common Interest Groups (CIGs), based on the experience of Hand in Hand in Tamil Nadu, India. HiH AO is currently running a pilot project in Khulm in Balkh. The dual purpose is to create 10,000 jobs over three years, and to supply MRRD/AREDP with benchmark data and lessons learned in the field. Dr. Percy Barnevik is a main donor and patron of Hand in Hand AO.¹⁰³

Helvetas. A Swiss NGO working with water and sanitation in the World Bank/ARTF-funded National Water and Sanitation Programme in Samangan, and the Improving Livelihoods of Rural Communities (ILRC, funded by SDC, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) focusing on education, basic health and market development in three districts in Samangan.¹⁰⁴

IAM (International Assistance Mission). An international Christian NGO with close ties to Örebromissionen. In Balkh since the mid-1990s. Runs an Eye Clinic serving the North of Afghanistan, with some 32,000 patient per year. Teaches Advanced English for Afghan development workers. Nurse training in a three-year nursing programme.¹⁰⁵

Ibn Sina. An Afghan NGO, Implementing Partner of the BPHS in Saripul.

ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross). An international NGO providing humanitarian assistance in Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul: tracing/family reunification; protection of detainees and civilians, emergency assistance (including water and sanitation installations) to victims directly affected by conflict; orthopaedic assistance to victims of conflict, especially mine victims; and cooperation and capacity-building with the ARCS (see above).¹⁰⁶

IRC (International Rescue Committee). A US NGO doing research on HIV in Balkh.

NPO/RRAA (Norwegian Project Office / Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan). A Norwegian NGO working with horticulture in Balkh.

NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council). A Norwegian NGO helping IDPs and returnees with legal counselling and information in Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul.

Peace Winds Japan (PWJ). A Japanese NGO working in Saripul since 2002 with restoration of infrastructure, agricultural support, including almond and walnut

¹⁰³ Personal communication, Mr Christer Persson, Executive Director, HiH AO, Kabul, 28 August 2008.

¹⁰⁴ Personal communication, Ms Brigitte Kauf, Project Officer, Helvetas, Zürich, 9 September 2008.

¹⁰⁵ Personal communication, Ms Kim Pulliam, Project Officer, IAM, 24 September 2008.

¹⁰⁶ Personal communication, Mr Sébastien Jancloes, Administrator, ICRC, 6 September 2008.

nurseries, and women's programmes, including literacy education and sericulture. PWJ has been conducting hydro/meteorological surveys since 2004 for both irrigated and rainfed agriculture. In 2008, PWJ is delivering drinking water to villages struck by drought.¹⁰⁷

PIN (People in Need). A Czech NGO working in Balkh and Jowzjan with agriculture; business development and marketing; primary education; and water and sanitation. Facilitating Partner in the NSP in five districts in Balkh.¹⁰⁸

Save the Children Sweden-Norway. A Swedish-Norwegian NGO, has just started working to support twenty "violence-free schools" in Balkh.¹⁰⁹

Save the Children UK. A British NGO active in Balkh, Jowzjan and Saripul with primary education, supplementary feeding and health education for out-of-school children/street children.¹¹⁰

Save the Children US. A US NGO active in training of midwives, teachers and administrators in Jowzjan, and training of teachers and administrators in Saripul. Implementing Partner (with Step&Move) in the BPHS in Jowzjan.



The new physiotherapy clinic built by SCA in Balkh district in Balkh province

Photo: Per Olsson

¹⁰⁷ Personal communication, Mr Atsushi Kojima, Country Director, PWJ, 28 July 2008.

¹⁰⁸ Personal communication, Ms Vera Exnerova, Head of Mission, PIN, 3 August 2008.

¹⁰⁹ Personal communication, Ms Inger Guddal, Country Manager, SC-Sw/No, 28 August 2008.

¹¹⁰ Personal communication, Mr Naqibullah Nazari, Project Director, SC-UK, 19 August 2008.

SCA (Swedish Committee for Afghanistan). A Swedish NGO active in 17 provinces in Afghanistan, including Balkh, Jowzjan and Samangan. SCA works primarily in the fields of education, health and disability. Since operations began in the early 1980s, emergency aid has gradually evolved into long-term development programmes. The focus has always been on vulnerable groups, primarily in rural, underserved areas. Through its activities, SCA aims at fighting poverty, supporting economic and social development and strengthening democratic development. The Swedish Committee has a very good reputation in the PRT Area.

Solidarites. A French NGO active as Facilitating Partner in the NSP in one district (Ruyi Du Ab) in Samangan.

Tearfund. A British Christian NGO working in four districts in Jowzjan with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food security and disaster risk reduction. Activities include cash-for-work, training in home vegetable cultivation techniques, dissemination of drought-resistant crop seeds, melon pest control, and livestock and fodder distribution. Tearfund is also cooperating with UNAMA in building up the capacity of the Provincial Disaster Management Committee (DMC) in Jowzjan. Disaster Management Teams (DMTs) operate in response to conflict and drought in areas which include early warning, emergency response, and relief effort coordination.¹¹¹

ZOA (Vluchtelingenorganisatie). A Dutch NGO working with water and sanitation, and emergency in Jowzjan and Saripul. Facilitating Partner in NSP in all districts in Saripul and in one district in Jowzjan.

¹¹¹ Personal communication, Mr Joel Hafvenstein, Programme Director, Tearfund, 10 September 2008.

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The survey has shown striking development needs in the PRT Area, including irrigation for agriculture, safe drinking water, rule of law and human rights for both women and men, education and capacity-building at all levels, improved governance, secondary roads, health, especially reproductive health and birth spacing, incomes from employment and improved agriculture, marketing, etc.

Based on the needs, as presented in the survey, and finance gaps in other donor's contributions, my recommendations for Sida support fall into **six** categories: **reproductive health** (items 1, 2, 3, 4, 11 and 13), **education** (items 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8), **gender mainstreaming and promotion of women's rights** (all items), **good governance** (parts of items 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11 and 13) and support to **infrastructure and local economic development** (items 2, 4, 5, 6, and 9). Items 2 and 10 could also be categorised as **improved aid effectiveness**. My recommendations for Sida support in the PRT Area are as follows:

1. Reproductive Health.¹¹² Around 24,000 women die before, during or just after child birth in Afghanistan every year. The estimated maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is 1,800, and the lifetime risk of maternal death is one in eight. In Samangan, the estimated MMR is 1,900, and in Saripul 2,100, which means an even higher risk of maternal death. **This is a silent emergency of terrifying proportions.**¹¹³ The corresponding figures for Sweden are MMR 3, and the lifetime risk of maternal death one in 17,400 (UNICEF, 2007).

The lack of progress in reducing maternal mortality highlights the low value placed on the lives of women and testifies to their limited influence in setting development priorities. Almost without exception, girls and adolescent women in rural areas are too young, too powerless and too marginalised to have any say as to whom and at what age they will marry, how many children they will have, and when (UNFPA, 2006).

According to UNDP, the fertility rate for Afghan women is 7.5 (UNDPc, 2007). If not reduced, this fertility rate will lead to an extremely rapid population growth. Few couples, especially in rural areas, have knowledge about modern contraceptive methods.¹¹⁴ Even fewer couples have access to such methods. There is a dramatic need for increased reproductive health knowledge and access to such services in the PRT Area.

It is recommended that Sida should support large-scale training of midwives in rural areas, especially in Saripul and Samangan, and in urban slums; enhancing the skills of existing midwives, female nurses and female doctors in reproductive health, as well as

¹¹² Interventions to further decrease the Infant Mortality Rate and the Under-5 Mortality Rate are also crucial, but in that case there is no political sensitivity among the donors preventing mobilisation of resources.

¹¹³ For comparison, the following figures apply to the **“loud” emergency (the war)** for the same period: “More than 4,000 people, around a third of them civilians, have been killed in Afghanistan this year as some 70,000 foreign troops backing Afghan security forces struggle to put down a Taliban insurgency...” The Sun, 23 November 2008.

¹¹⁴ The NRVA 2005, published by MRRD/CSO in June 2007, reported that married women up to the age of 49 years with knowledge of how to avoid pregnancy was 32% in Balkh, 15% in Jawzjan, 21% in Samangan and 17% in Saripul. The national average was 31%.

HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention; providing fully equipped maternity clinics; radio programmes and other communication efforts for men, including religious and other influential community leaders, and ordinary women and men on the importance of reproductive health and child spacing.¹¹⁵ The experience of the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) in training of midwives and integrating birth spacing into MCH (mother and child health) services should be fully utilised. The same goes for other aid agencies with similar experience in their country of origin, such as BRAC in Bangladesh.

Goal 5 of the Millenium Development Goals is improved maternal health.

2. Development Support Communication (DSC). Several factors constitute obstacles to development in the four provinces under review. The lack of physical infrastructure, the high rate of illiteracy, the shortage of schools, trained teachers and teaching materials, as well as the social isolation of women and girls within the rural communities all make it difficult to mobilise people for development and to accomplish the necessary outreach.

However, radio does offer an interesting potential for use even under unfavourable physical and social circumstances. It is cheap, widely available and does not require special skills, such as literacy. It is recommended that radio broadcasts to rural communities in the PRT Area should become an important tool and channel of communication in the process of promoting social and economic change and development in the area.

With the current population growth, it will take many years until all school-age children in the PRT Area can be offered a decent primary education, and, even longer, a decent secondary education. Many more teachers, especially female teachers, will have to be trained, teaching materials produced and tested, and schools built. Generations of adults, especially women, need adult education. The estimated women's illiteracy rate in Samangan is 98-99%. The training needs in the civil service are over-whelming. Civic education, including election information and debates, is also needed.

It is recommended that Sida should establish a new radio station covering the whole PRT Area. No such local radio station exists at present. The programmes to be broadcast could include the following contents:

- School radio for children in school and out of school (like the Swedish *skolradio* a few generations ago)
- Programmes for teachers and headmasters in the districts on pedagogical methods and subject matters, accompanied by textbooks and perhaps mobile teams for follow-up seminars
- Special programmes for women promoting women's rights and emancipation
- Adult education programmes for women and men offering knowledge and inspiration regarding basic democratic principles including women's rights, health,

¹¹⁵ In the Islamic context, the notion of birth spacing is more accepted than family planning. The Koran directly supports the idea of birth spacing.

including reproductive health, child rearing, family counselling, agriculture, news from the outside world, music, “infotainment” etc

- Interviews with respected religious leaders explaining the rights of women and girls, the importance of education for both girls and boys, child spacing, hygiene etc from an Islamic perspective
- PRT and UNAMA information, including success stories and information on mismanagement, to mobilise civil society
- Provincial and district council information

The programmes should be presented in simple language understood by village people, in Dari, Turkmen, Uzbeki and Pashtu. Female and male radio journalists should be trained to produce this kind of programmes, perhaps by BBC which has experience in the field. Village people could participate in debates through mobile phone sets and mobile radio teams. Battery-operated radio sets should be distributed. Whenever possible, batteries charged with solar energy should be used.

3. Capacity-Building. The survey has shown that there are dramatic needs for education and training at all levels: primary and secondary schools, higher education, vocational training, adult education, teacher training, including in-service training, and training of medical staff as well as provincial and district administrative staff, as well as elected members of provincial, district and community councils. But capacity-building is much more than just training. It also includes systems development, technical assistance, on-the-job coaching, infrastructure upgrading, etc.

There are already many international actors in government teacher training. However, teachers in Community Based Schools (CBSs) are not receiving much training. Sida may wish to consider providing additional funds for the Swedish Committee and/or UNICEF to expand this training.

Training of administrative staff and elected council members, health personnel, teachers and headmasters should be followed up through study tours to successful projects in the PRT Area (and possibly Bamyan, which is safe), primarily in Balkh and Jowzjan, but also in Samangan and Saripul. For more qualified participants including university staff, exposure trips and study tours to, for example, Tajikistan (where a version of Dari is spoken) could be organised through UNDP.

The proper functioning of the provincial, district (once elected in 2010) and community development councils require the provision and follow-up of adequate capacity-building efforts. The councils would have to learn how to manage simple ways of conducting meetings, plan and implement procurement of supplies, warehousing, keeping books and accounts, handling cash etc. Systems to manage such basic functions are available and tested in the NGO sphere and should be offered to the new development councils in the PRT Area.

4. Secondary Roads. It is recommended that Sida should support the construction and/or reconstruction of district roads, bridges and culverts in remote areas, especially in Samangan and Saripul. Several districts in the PRT Area are inaccessible from October/November to March/April because of heavy snow and poor roads, if any. Secondary roads are likely to improve the socio-economic situation through increased incomes, improved food security, increased well-being and reduced vulnerability, e.g.

- Improved health and education through easier access to services, particularly in areas such as pregnancy-related complications and girls' education
- Improved chances of recruiting staff, especially female staff, to schools and health facilities
- Improvement in securing supplies to schools, clinics and other development activities
- Improved access to new and/or existing markets
- Improved nutrition through better access to markets and a wider variety of food
- Reduced vulnerability to unexpected events and shocks from crop failure, drought, floods, earthquakes, accidents and poor security, through increased ability to get assistance from the outside world and to secure income from alternative sources
- Improved social networks through increased mobility
- Time-saving with new and more frequent transport facilities
- Improved possibilities for seasonal or short-term migration and commuting for employment in areas where there is a shortage of labour
- Reduced isolation in winter if the roads are cleared of snow
- Employment creation through road construction and maintenance, and snow clearance
- Increased security through increased presence of the police
- Reduced risk of return to opium poppy cultivation and production through increased presence of counter-narcotics staff

5. Agriculture and Irrigation. The needs of assistance in the fields of agriculture and irrigation are huge and well documented. Important large donors are providing assistance in this field, e.g. the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, USAID and German bilateral aid.

It has not been possible, in view of the time constraints established for this survey, to assess whether additional major interventions are needed in agriculture and irrigation, including animal husbandry, horticulture, forestry and environmental concerns.

6. Water Supply and Sanitation, including Hygiene Education, remain a priority need in the PRT Area, offering great opportunities for sustainable public health interventions. Both UNICEF and SCA have long experience in this field.

7. Educational Equipment, Materials and Furniture. Equipment and materials for primary schools are missing in the whole PRT Area, and should be provided in order to improve the quality of education. A beginning might be made in Samangan where SCA is engaged in construction of schools and teacher training: simple class-room furniture (to be made locally to give employment), radio/cassette recorders for broadcasts and language teaching, a world map and a map of Afghanistan for every class-room, a set of a few hundred library books for each school, and computers to a resource centre in Aybak, the provincial capital.

8. Scholarships. Bright female and male students from poor families cannot afford the costs – formal and informal – for university studies. Could Sida finance a scholarship programme for talented female and male students to study at Balkh University?

9. Trade Promotion. Linkages to promote trade should be explored, e.g. export of high-quality almonds and pistachios, and fruits such as melons, apricots, raisins and pomegranates from all four provinces.

10. Evaluation of the NSP in the PRT Area. Sida should initiate an evaluation and/or a seminar on the experience gathered and lessons learnt within the National Solidarity Programme in the **four** provinces of the PRT Area, in which a number of NGOs have been involved as Facilitating Partners.¹¹⁶ This experience should be documented and analysed as a matter of priority. Depending on the results of the exercise, Sida may wish to continue funding the NSP in the PRT Area.

11. Women's Organisations. Emerging Afghan NGOs with a potential for working for women's rights should be identified, and channels for possible cooperation with sister organisations, such as Kvinna till Kvinna (Woman to Woman) in Sweden, should be explored. Such exchanges of experiences between women's organisations and the establishment of networks for such purposes offer valuable opportunities for capacity-building both in NGO management and in advocacy.

12. Geographical priorities. Living conditions in **Saripul and Samangan** are particularly harsh. These two provinces need more development assistance than Balkh and Jowzjan, especially in basic infrastructure such as secondary roads and bridges, school buildings, water and sanitation, and clinics. Reproductive health interventions and capacity-building for teachers and headmasters, medical staff, mass media people, and provincial, district and community administrative staff and elected council members are needed in **all four provinces**.

13. Strategic focus. Within each of the above recommendations, **focus should be on women**, e.g. training of female teachers, community midwives, female nurses, female doctors and female radio journalists; support to female students at all levels; creation of adequate conditions for female civil servants, female politicians at all levels; credits to female entrepreneurs; support to NGOs working for women's rights etc.

¹¹⁶ A multi-year impact evaluation is underway from NSP Kabul. It will cover six provinces including Balkh. Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul are not covered by this impact evaluation.

A survey of the Provinces of Balkh, Samangan, Sar-e pol and Jowzjan in Afghanistan**080618****1. Background**

Swedish development co-operation is guided by the Swedish Country Strategy for Afghanistan 2006-2008 including the revisions to the Strategy (Government Decisions dated 2007-06-28 and 2008-03-06). A new Country Strategy process for Afghanistan is planned to take off in the autumn of 2008.

According to the revised Swedish Development Cooperation Strategy with Afghanistan, 15-20 per cent of the Swedish development cooperation should be directed to four northern provinces where the Swedish PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team) is present i.e. Jowzjan, Balkh, Sar-e Pol and Samangan.

Sida's current funding to Afghanistan is mainly channelled through ARTF, the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. Sida also provides assistance to education, mainly through UNICEF and SCA (Swedish Committee for Afghanistan), health, the transport sector (including capacity-development support to Ministry of Public Works and Ministry of Transport), financial sector, research (the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit) as well as human rights and democracy programmes i.e. election processes' support and building of parliament capacity. Support is also provided through a new Local Trust Fund with emphasis on HR/Democracy and Justice.

2. Objectives of the study

The main purposes of the survey are to

- 1) map existing information within a set of themes and related programmes within development co-operation, including main actors within development cooperation and coverage of existing development cooperation, and
- 2) give Sida basic information on the current political, economic, social, cultural and security situation within the provinces of Jowzjan, Balkh, Sar-e Pol and Samangan through looking at existing studies and information.

Focus shall be on number 1) and shall include the following:

The Consultant shall:

- Map out, list and collect existing studies/analyses of the four provinces of Jowzjan, Balkh, Sar-e Pol and Samangan on the following themes: governance/human rights (including PAR, PFM, the legal sector, SSR, sub-national governance/decentralisation, capacity-building, political institutions, civil society), health, education, gender, private sector development, infrastructure, agriculture, environment, water and sanitation and security.
- Assess whether any lack of information exist and/or there are sectors/themes that there is a lack of information about.
- List "basic facts"/statistics of each province as well as briefly describe/analyse the current political, economic, social, cultural and security situation. When describing the situation in the Northern provinces, this should be done in comparison with other provinces in Afghanistan.
- Study the assessment of needs and prioritisations of each province with reference to the Provincial Development Plans and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).
- Map out the main actors in the provinces including national and international actors within security, humanitarian assistance and development cooperation.
- Provide information on existing programmes with a national coverage, including programmes administered by the World Bank, the UN and major bilateral development partners, including information on these programmes presence in the four provinces.
- Provide information on the main existing programmes/projects that are only present in one or several of the four northern provinces.

- Describe/analyse in brief how co-ordination works (between and within security, humanitarian assistance, development cooperation), including taking into account the question of ownership and relations with actors at the national level.
- Identify possible finance gaps in donors' support to programmes relating to the themes mentioned above as well as to geographical coverage.

Scope of work

Ethnicity and gender should be taken into account when conducting the study. Furthermore, the perspectives of the poor and the rights perspective including the principles of non-discrimination, transparency, accountability as well as participation shall be taken into consideration.

The study shall include an executive summary (maximum 3 pages) and shall not exceed 40 pages excluding possible annexes.

The survey is broad in its content; it could be seen as a first step of studying the context of the provinces, the main actors and programmes as well as identifying information/finance gaps in development cooperation. Other studies related to specific sectors may be needed later on.

In addition to the tasks above, the Consultant should also make recommendations on direction of possible future support to Afghanistan and the northern provinces. Factors such as existing finance gaps in development cooperation, geographical coverage and Swedish comparative advantages should be taken into account in carrying out this task.

Methodology

The study should be performed through:

- studies of existing documentation/websites
- surveys/enquires to the most important stakeholders
- interviews and meetings to complement existing information and to facilitate analysis

The study should include a trip to Afghanistan and a visit to 2-4 of the northern provinces where the Swedish PRT is present.

Time frame and budget

Proposed activities and preliminary time plan:

1. Preparatory work – 4 weeks
2. Trip to Afghanistan – 2 weeks
3. Report-writing – 2 weeks

The Consultant shall submit a first draft of the report to Sida no later than 14 September. The report shall be subject to a presentation at Sida, preliminary 24 September. A final study should be Sida at hand no later than 8 October. A final version in hard copy as well as in electronic format shall be submitted to Sida.

The report shall be written in English.

The study can commence as soon as the contract is signed. The fieldtrip should take place in August 2008.

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Mr Farid Ahmad Dastgeer, Child Protection Officer, Mazar-e-Sharif

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*

Other Women's groups and leaders, ordinary women and men in the provinces
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Mr Ozgun Arman, Consul General of Turkey, Mazar-e-Sharif
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Ms Mubina, Director, Radio Rabia Balkhi, Mazar-e-Sharif
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Dr Bo Utas, Professor, Jarvso

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ACRONYMS

APPENDIX IV

ACBAR	Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief
ACF	Action Contre la Faim
ACTED	l'Agence d'Aide à la Cooperation Technique et au Développement
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
ADWR	Association for Defence of Women's Rights
AHRO	Afghanistan Human Rights Organisation
AIHCR	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
AIMS	Afghanistan Information Management Service
AKDN	Aga Khan Development Network
AMI	Aide Médicale Internationale
ANBP	Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
ANP	Afghan National Police
ANSO	Afghanistan NGO Security Office
ARCS	Afghan Red Crescent Society
AREDP	Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme
AREU	Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit
ARMP	Afghanistan Rural Microcredit Programme
ARRAF	Afghanistan Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency Falah
ARTF	Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
ATC	Afghan Technical Consultants
AVR	Assisted Voluntary Return
BASICS	Basic Support for Institutionalising Child Survival
BMZ	Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)
BEPA	Basic Education Programme
BESST	Building Education Support Systems for Teachers
BPHA	Basic Package of Health Services
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BVTP	Basic Vocational Training Project
CAWC	Central Afghanistan Welfare Committee
CBE	Community Based Education
CBS	Community Based School
CBSG	Community Based Small Grant
CCA	Cooperation Centre for Afghanistan
CDC	Community Development Council
CDP	Community Development Plan
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
CHEF	Construction of Health and Education Facilities
CIG	Common Interest Group
CP	Chief of Police
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSSP	Correction Systems Support Programme
C4W	Cash for Work
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DDG	Danish Demining Group
DED	Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst

DFID	Department for International Development
DHSA	Development and Humanitarian Services for Afghanistan
DIAG	Disbandment of Illegally Armed Group
DMC	Disaster Management Committee
DMT	Disaster Management Team
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DSC	Development Support Communication
EC	European Commission
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EPHS	Essential Package of Hospital Services
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunisation
EQUIP	Education Quality Improvement Programme
EUPOL	European Union Police Mission to Afghanistan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FP	Facilitating Partner
GAA	German Agro Action (Welthungerhilfe)
GAGP	Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects
GAIN	Greening Afghanistan Initiative
GEP	Gender Equality Programme
GP	Global Partners
GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HiHAO	Hand in Hand Afghanistan Organisation
HLP	Horticulture and Livestock Project
HSSP	Health Service Support Project
IAM	International Assistance Mission
IARCS	Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission
ICG	International Crisis Group
ICLA	Information Counselling and Legal Assistance
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDA	International Development Association
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
ILRC	Improving Livelihoods of Rural Communities
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IRC	International Rescue Committee
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
IWPR	Institute for War and Peace Reporting
IYCF	Infant And Young Child Feeding
JBIC	Japan Bank for International Cooperation
JDA	Joint Development Associates International
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JSC	Justice Support Centre
JSDF	Japan Social Development Fund
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
LCEP	Learning for Community Empowerment Programme
LCSAWC	Legal and Cultural Services for Afghan Women and Children

LEAF	Support for the Expansion and Improvement of Literacy Education in Afghanistan
LGCD	Local Governance and Community Development
LOTFA	Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan
LRMO	Local Risk Management Office
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MDG	Marketplace Development Grant
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MISFA	Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MOE/TED	Ministry of Education/Teacher Education Department
MOHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MOT	Military Observation Team
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NADBP	National Area-Based Development Programme
NDP	Northern Development Project
NEEP	National Emergency Employment Programme
NERAP	National Emergency Rural Access Project
NJP	National Justice Programme
NPO/RRAA	Norwegian Project Office/Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan
NRAP	National Rural Access Programme
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NRVA	National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
NSP	National Solidarity Programme
PACE-A	Partnership for Community Education in Afghanistan
PAR	Public Administration Reform
PDC	Provincial Development Council
PDP	Provincial Development Plan
PFM	Public Finance Management
PIN	People in Need
PJCM	Provincial Justice Coordination Mechanism
PRR	Pay and Rank Reform
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
PTRC	Provincial Teacher Training College
PWJ	Peace Winds Japan
RAD	Rehabilitation of Afghans with Disabilities
RRERS	Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies
SCA	Swedish Committee for Afghanistan
SC-Sw/No	Save the Children-Sweden/Norway
SC-UK	Save the Children-United Kingdom
SC-USA	Save the Children-USA
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SRSA	Swedish Rescue Services Agency
STEP	Strengthening Teacher Education Programme
TIKA	Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency
UDG	Urban Development Group
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNDP/ASGP	United Nations Development Programme/Afghanistan Sub-national Governance Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Fund for Women
UNMAC(A)	United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID	United States Agency for International Assistance
USI/IDD	Universal Salt Iodisation/Iodine Deficiency Disorder
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WAW	Women for Afghan Women
WFP	World Food Programme
WSUC	Water Supply and Sanitation User Committee
YEP	Youth Empowerment Programme

APPENDIX V

The National Solidarity Programme (NSP) in the PRT Area

PROVINCE	S.N.	DISTRICTS	DIST ID #	Facilitating Partner(s)/ No. of districts	# of communities FPs were/are contracted to facilitate in	# of communities mobilized	# of Community Development Councils (CDCs) elected	# of Community Development Plans (CDPs) completed
Balkh	1	Mazari Sharif	1601					
	2	Nahri Shahi	1602	UN Habitat	34	34	34	34
				PIN	2	2	2	2
	3	Zari	1603	PIN	104	104	104	104
	4	Shortepe	1604	PIN	33	33	33	33
	5	Dawlatabad	1605	CHA	60	60	60	60
	6	Balkh	1606	PIN	40	40	40	40
	7	Chahar Bolak	1607	CHA	85	85	85	85
	8	Chimtal	1608	CHA	79	79	79	79
	9	Sholgara	1609	CARE	112	112	111	111
	10	Kis hindih	1610	CHA	77	77	77	77
	11	Chahar Kint	1611	CARE	60	60	60	60
	12	Dihdadi	1612	UN Habitat	36	36	36	36
	13	Kaldar	1613	PIN	21	21	21	21
	14	Khulm	1614	CARE	75	75	75	75
15	Marmul	1615	CARE	25	25	25	25	
				14	843	843	842	842
Jawzjan	1	Shibirghan	1701	ZOA	80	80	80	80
	2	Khwaja Du Koh	1702	Action Aid	31	16	16	16
	3	Darzab	1703	Action Aid	57	57	57	57
	4	Mingajik	1704	Action Aid	31	31	31	31
	6	Aqcha	1706	GAA	54	54	54	54
	7	Mardyan	1707	Action Aid	20	20	20	20
	8	Fayzabad	1708	GAA	68	68	68	68
	9	Khamyab	1709	Action Aid	18	18	18	18
	10	Khaniga	1710	GAA	18	18	18	18
	11	Qesh tepe	1711	Action Aid	53	53	53	53
					10	430	415	415
Samangan	1	Aybak	1501	Afghan Aid	104	104	104	104
	2	Hazrati Sultan	1502	Afghan Aid	55	55	55	55
	3	Dare-i-Sufi bala	1503	BRAC	86	86	86	86
	4	Dara-i-Suf Payin	1504	BRAC	81	81	81	81
	5	Ruyi Du Ab	1505	Solidarites	67	67	67	67
	6	Khuram Wa Sarbagh	1506	BRAC	52	52	52	52
	7	Feroz Nakhchir	1507	Afghan Aid	17	17	17	17
				7	462	462	462	462
Sari Pul	1	Sari Pul	3101	ZOA	149	149	149	149
	2	Sancharak	3102	ZOA	81	81	81	81
	3	Kohis tana t	3103	ZOA	72	72	72	72
	4	Balkhab	3104	ZOA	72	72	72	72
	5	Sozma Qala	3105	ZOA	58	58	58	58
	6	Sayyad	3106	ZOA	43	43	43	43
	7	Gosfandi	3107	ZOA	83	83	83	83
				7	558	558	558	558

The World Bank in the PRT Area

	Balkh	Jowzjan	Samangan	Saripul
EQUIP	86 schools under construction	52 schools under construction	39 schools under construction	50 schools under construction
Skills Development	Institute of Oil & Gas Agriculture school	Chemistry, technology, oil & gas	Nothing	Nothing
NEEP/NRAP	Chemistry technology school	11 roads projects	15 roads projects	5 roads projects
NSP	8 roads projects	449 communities covered by NSP in 11 district. 641 NSP subprojects completed to date.	462 communities covered by NSP in 7 districts. 782 NSP subprojects completed to date.	558 communities covered by NSP in 7 districts. 447 NSP subprojects completed to date.
Justice	Legal aid office			
Irrigation	Emergency Irrigation Rehabilitation Project(EIRP) is active- Rehabilitation of (4)medium and smaller size irrigation sub-projects are completed	Active- Rehabilitation of (5)medium and smaller size irrigation schemes sub- projects are completed	Active- Rehabilitation of (28)medium and smaller size irrigation schemes sub- projects are completed and (2) are on going.	Active- Rehabilitation of (17)medium and smaller size irrigation schemes sub- projects are completed and (1) is on going.
Health (BPHS)	BRAC -1,000 health posts		AMl -140 health posts	Ibn Sina - 270 health posts

