



REGIONAL AFGHAN MUNICIPALITIES PROGRAM FOR URBAN POPULATIONS – REGIONAL COMMAND NORTH

MONTHLY REPORT: September 2012



Photo: Local TV Journalist in Sar-e-pul interviews Canal Cleaning Project labors. - September 19, 2012

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Abbreviations & Terms

CLIN	Contract Line Item Number
CO	Contracting Officer
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
DAI	Development Alternatives, Incorporated
DoWA	Department of Woman's Affairs
EA	Embedded Advisor
GDMA	General Directorate of Municipal Affairs
GIRoA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTL	Municipal Team Leader
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PAAG	Public Administration Advisory Group
PBB	Performance Based Budgeting
PBT	Project-Based Training
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
RAMP UP	Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Populations (USAID program)
RC (E,W,N,S)	ISAF Regional Command East, West, North, South
SDAG	Service Delivery Advisory Group
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SOW	Scope of Work
TA	Technical Assistance
TAMIS	Technical Assistance Management Information System
TOR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of trainers
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government

Terms

<i>Gozar</i>	Neighborhood
<i>Kalantar / Wakil</i>	Nahya or gozar representative
<i>Moustoufiat</i>	The provincial-level branch of the Ministry of Finance
<i>Nahya</i>	Municipal District
<i>Qaryadars</i>	Village leaders
<i>Safayi</i>	Service charge and property tax
<i>Tashkeel</i>	Administrative structure of a GIRoA entity
<i>Zarang</i>	Three-wheeled motorized vehicle

About RAMP UP North

Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Populations for Regional Command North (RAMP UP North) is working to create effective, responsive, democratic, transparent and accountable municipal governance in the nine provinces comprising the International Security Assistance Force's (ISAF's) Regional Command North.

RAMP UP North will: 1) increase the capacity of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) municipal officials, 2) markedly improve the delivery of municipal services to citizens in target municipalities, and 3) increase municipal capacity to enable, support, and sustain economic growth.

As a result of the program, Afghans citizens will receive better services, understand the responsibilities of municipal leaders, play an active role in the municipal decision-making process and see local governance structures as legitimate.

Executive Summary

During the reporting period, RAMP UP North progressed on schedule, completing all Round One projects and actively implementing six Round Two projects. RAMP UP North also worked with SDAGs and municipalities to identify and develop Round Three projects.

RAMP UP North advisors were also actively engaged in a second round of anti-corruption training for municipal officials in Pul-e-Khumri and Sar-e-Pul. Embedded Advisors participated in a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on Gender Mainstreaming from September 4-5, and then organized a workshop in Mazar-e-Sharif for the Municipality.

Programmatic Highlights

- RAMP UP North closed-out six of the nine Round One projects.
- Seven of the Round Two projects are being implemented and the Pul-e-Khumri **Family Park Construction** is scheduled to start early October. RAMP UP advisors in Faizabad are looking for a new project location for the **Public Latrine** project for the second round and the Mazar-e-Sharif **Trash Collection** project is scheduled to start in mid-October.
- Round Three projects made progress with concepts for the Sheberghan **Central Park Improvement and Sports Area** and the Taloqan **Parking Lot Construction** sent to the COR for approval in late September. Both the Aybak and Sar-e-Pul projects are undergoing feasibility checks. While proposals are under development for the Faizabad **Park Improvement and Parking Lot** and Kunduz **Drainage System Reconstruction** projects.
- **Sar-e-Pul Post Flood Assistance:** The **Canal Cleaning** project started in mid-September and the canals in Sar-e-Pul City District 1 and District 2 were cleaned by the end of the month. On Sept. 16, the bid opening and bid evaluation for the **Footpath Bridge and Protection Wall** project was conducted in the RAMP UP North main office which was attended by the Procurement Manager of Sar-e-Pul Municipality along with the RAMP UP North Municipal Team Leader.
- Business registration and licensing activities continued this month in all five targeted municipalities- Aybak, Faizabad, Pul-e-Khumri, Sar-e-Pul, and Taloqan. By the end of the reporting period many new licenses were developed and distributed to the business owners.
- Public Administration Advisors from all nine municipalities participated in a Gender Mainstreaming ToT Workshop on Sept. 4-5, at the RAMP UP North Regional Office in Mazar-e-Sharif. The purpose for this ToT was to deliver Gender Mainstreaming Workshops to the municipal officials later.



Trash Collection project is officially handed over to the Mayor of Taloqan. –September 26, 2012



SDAG Meeting held in Kunduz for selection of Round Four projects. - September 27, 2012



Sar-e-Pul. RAMP UP North Embedded Advisor and Municipality Officials monitor a Round Two project. - September 11, 2012



RAMP UP North advisors and staff participate in a Gender Mainstreaming Workshop at the Regional Office in Mazar-e-Sharif. - November 4, 2012

Programming Activities

Capacity Building

RAMP UP North capacity-building support was provided through technical assistance and general support to municipal officials and SDAG members on monitoring Round Two projects. For example in Maymana and Sheberghan RAMP UP advisors helped municipal officials and SDAG members monitor the **Public Latrine Construction** projects.

Technical Assistance (TA)

RAMP UP North advisors continued to provide technical assistance through practical methods such as planning Round Two and Round Three projects as well as business license registration. They also provided technical assistance to municipal officials and SDAG members on the procurement and implementation of the Round Two selection and feasibility check of the Round Three projects. Advisors in Taloqan worked with municipal officials to hold kick off meeting for **Park Improvement** project, Sept. 30.

RAMP UP North advisors also continued to provide technical assistance to municipalities on how to enforce the payment of business registration taxes in a timely manner.

Consultations

RAMP UP advisors also provided consultation to the municipal officials, SDAG members and business *kalanters* in various topics such as acceleration of the business registration process, selection of Round Three and Round Four projects.

Regional Workshops/Conferences

Public Administration Advisors from all nine municipalities participated in a Gender Mainstreaming ToT Workshop on Sept. 4-5 at the RAMP UP North Regional Office in Mazar-e-Sharif. The purpose for this ToT was to enable the new trainers to deliver Gender Mainstreaming Workshops to municipal officials in each of their municipalities.

Following the ToT, the RAMP UP North team in Mazar-e-sharif Municipality conducted a gender mainstreaming workshop, Sept. 26. The training was attended by municipal officials and staff of 10 districts of the municipality. Topics such as gender in the Afghanistan Constitution, Afghanistan National Development Strategy and National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan were discussed. Gender workshops will be held in the other 8 municipalities at the beginning of October.

In September, advisors also conducted the second round of the fraud awareness workshops. The workshop was conducted in Pul-e-Khumri on Sept. 3 with 20 municipal officials, in Sar-e-Pul, Sept. 5 with nine municipal officials and in Faizabad on Sept. 24 with two municipal officials.

Sustainable Service Delivery Improvement Sub-projects

All Round One projects are completed and six of the nine have been officially closed-out. The Mazar-e-Sharif District 5 **Trash Collection** project will be closed-out in early October. It is anticipated that the Sheberghan **Trash Bin Installation** project and the Maymana **Park Improvement** project will also be closed-out in October.

The RAMP UP North teams in Faizabad, Taloqan and Kunduz facilitated official handover and close out ceremonies for Round One projects in their respective municipalities. The ceremonies in Taloqan and Faizabad occurred on September 26 and in Kunduz on September 27. In Kunduz, the 12 *zarangs* used in the **Trash Collection** project were handed over to the Mayor by RAMP UP North program officials. There were 28 people at the ceremony including municipal officials, SDAG members and four media representatives including a journalist from AI Monthly Report



The bid opening and evaluation for Round Two project in Faizabad. - September 2, 2012



The second round of the Fraud Awareness Training in Pul-e-Khumri was conducted by RAMP UP North advisors. - September 3, 2012



Gender Mainstreaming Training in Mazar-e-Sharif Municipality. -September 26, 2012



SDAG member, Mayor and Municipality officials discuss the progress of RAMP UP North projects and future plans in Faizabad. - September 11, 2012

Jazeera International News Agency. The other three journalists were from local TV and Radio stations for Kunduz.

In Faizabad, the close-out ceremony was held on Sept. 26, with 17 people participating including municipal officials, SDAG members (4 female) and journalists. The Trash Collection project was handed over to the Mayor in the presence of all the participants. In Taloqan 21 people participated in the close out including nine municipal officials and 12 SDAG members including one female.

By the end of September, most of the Round Two projects that were in the procurement phase in August had entered into the implementation phase; and the projects that had started in August, were also progressing. For example, the Maymana **Public Latrine Construction**, started on Aug. 8, was already 15 percent complete. The contractor completed construction of the septic tank and stone masonry. He also completed the construction of the water well about 50 percent.

In Kunduz, the **City Park Improvement** project contractor delivered the drilling machine to the project site for well digging and the overall work of the project has been completed about 40 percent. The Sar-e-Pul **City Market Improvement** project contractor completed the excavation of the PCC ditches on the market grounds and started work on the stone masonry wall inside the ditches. In Mazar-e-Sharif Municipality with the technical support from RAMP UP North, Municipal District 3 officials held a meeting with District 3 kalanders regarding coordination of the Trash Collection Project. The initial clean-up and the distribution of flyers to raise the awareness of the project with District 3 residents were also discussed. The project in Mazar-e-Sharif is supposed to officially start in mid-October. The kick-off meeting for the implementation of Taloqan Family Park Construction was held on Sept. 30, with the Mayor, municipal officials, SDAG members, media and contractor in attendance. On Sept. 29, a senior delegation from RAMP-UP North paid a visit to the project site for Aybak Public Latrine Construction project. The construction of the latrine is progressing on schedule.

Round Three projects are progressing at various rates. In September, some municipalities were doing the feasibility check, some were working on the proposal, some municipalities were working on legal issues related to the project land while still others have issued the concept to the COR for approval.

The RAMP UP North team in Kunduz worked on the project proposal and submittals of the **Drainage System Reconstruction** project. While, in Sar-e-Pul, the RAMP UP North team began working on the feasibility check list for Round Three projects. In Mazar-e-Sharif, District 8 officials led a Project Beneficiary Group (PBG) meeting where officials and community members discussed the design of **Bukhdi Park Improvement** project.

In Maymana, the RAMP UP North team and municipal officials worked with the Governor to discuss the land dispute of the Bus Terminal project site. The Governor committed to finalizing the issue during the upcoming Provincial Development Committee meeting.



Maymana Public Latrine project site visit. – September, 2012



Mazar-e-Sharif trash collection zarang. – September 2012



The Mayor of Aybak inaugurates the Round Two project. - September 4, 2012

RAMP UP North Project Updates

Municipality	Project Name	Project Round	% Complete	Comments
Aybak	Central Park Improvement	R1	100%	Completed
	Grain Market Public Latrine Construction and City Park Public Latrine Renovation	R2	25%	Quality improved after PO Inspection
	Football Stadium	R3	-	Feasibility check for proposed projects, ongoing.
	TBD	R4	-	SDAG meeting Sept. 26 to prioritize projects for R4
Faizabad	Trash Collection	R1	100%	Complete and move to closed upon receipt of documents
	Latrine Construction	R2	-	Notice to Proceed (NTP) issued and subcontractor to begin Sept. 25
	Park Improvement & Parking Lot Construction	R3	-	Concept approved by COR. Proposal is expected in early October.
	TBD	R4	-	SDAG meeting Sept. 27 to prioritize R4 projects

Kunduz	Trash Collection	R1	100%	Complete and move to closed upon receipt of documents
	City Park Improvement	R2	40%	Quality improved after PO Inspection but behind schedule
	Drainage System Reconstruction	R3	-	Concept approved by COR. Proposal being written.
	TBD	R4	-	SDAG meeting Sept. 27 to prioritize R4 projects
Maymana	Women's Park Rehabilitation	R1	100%	Warranty period complete. Final check and review Sept. 27
	Public Latrine Construction	R2	15%	Subcontractor instructed to implement recovery plan to bring project back on schedule
	Bus Terminal	R3	-	Land acquisition still under review.
Mazar-e-Sharif	TBD	R4	-	SDAG meeting Sept. 25 to prioritize projects for R4
	Trash Collection	R1	100%	Complete and move to closed upon receipt of documents
	Trash Collection, District 3	R2	-	Planned start date, Oct. 2.
	Bukhdi Park Construction, District 8	R3	-	COR concept approval pending.
Pul-e-Khumri	TBD	R4	-	SDAG meeting to be scheduled
	Trash Collection	R1	100%	Complete and move to closed upon receipt of documents
	Family Park Construction	R2	-	Vetting approval received, preconference meeting complete. NTP issued to start Nov. 1
	Public Latrine	R3	-	Project location may change
Sar-e-Pul	TBD	R4	-	SDAG meeting to be scheduled
	Central Park Rehabilitation	R1	100%	Complete and move to closed upon receipt of documents
	City Market Improvement	R2	20%	Work progress accelerated after meeting with PO
	Trash Collection	R3	-	MTL to confirm if this sub project will proceed (Compliments PFAP)
Sheberghan	TBD	R4	-	SDAG meeting to be scheduled
	Trash Collection	R1	100%	Complete and move to closed upon receipt of documents
	Latrine Construction	R2	48%	On schedule
	Park Improvement & Sports Area Construction	R3	-	Concept submitted to COR, Sept. 20
Taloqan	TBD	R4	-	SDAG meeting Sept. 24 to prioritize R4 projects
	Trash Collection	R1	100%	Complete and move to closed upon receipt of documents
	City Park Improvement	R2	25%	Work behind schedule, working with contractor to develop a recovery plan
	Parking Lot Construction	R3	-	Concept submitted to COR, Sept. 24
	TBD	R4	-	SDAG meeting Sept. 26 to prioritize R4 projects

Revenue Generation

The business registration process continued on schedule in all five targeted municipalities. By the end of the reporting period many new licenses had been developed and distributed to business owners. RAMP UP North advisors are using different methods including business kalanters meetings, media campaigns and other public outreach methods to accelerate the distribution of licenses. The data related to Aybak may increase dramatically at the beginning of October as many businesses have received their tax bills and are making their payments to the bank in order to receive their licenses.

Business Registration and Licensing

Municipality	Registered Businesses and Licenses Issued (Baseline-1390)	Newly Registered Businesses (1391)	Printed Tax Bills	# of Licenses Issued	% Increase in Registered Businesses
Faizabad	884	2,106	All	993	138%
Taloqan	1,600	4,510	All	1,660	182%
Pul-e-Khumri	3,300	3,836	All	1,160	16%
Aybak	1,395	1,924	All	1,068	38%
Sar-e-Pul	1,184	1,555	All	117	31%
Grand Total	8,363	13,931	-	4,998	66.5%

Sar-e-Pul Post-Flood Assistance Project

Projects related to the Sar-e-Pul Post-Flood Assistance projects are on schedule. The **Canal Cleaning** project opening ceremony was conducted by the Sar-e-Pul RAMP UP North team, Sept. 16. The event was attended by 20 people including the Mayor, PAAG and SDAG members, Director of Economy, CSO and Women-for-Women. The ceremony was covered by local television media (RTA, Ariana).

As of the end of the month, all of the canals in Sar-e-Pul City's District 1 and District 2 were cleaned.

On Sept. 16, the bid opening and bid evaluation for the **Footpath Bridge** and **Protection Wall** was conducted in the RAMP UP North regional office, and was attended by the Procurement Manager of Sar-e-Pul municipality along with the RAMP UP North Municipal Team Leader. After careful bid evaluation the **Footpath Bridge** and **Protection Wall** projects were awarded. All of the post-flood assistance projects were carefully monitored by the RAMP UP North provincial and regional teams. As a result, it was discovered that the masonry wall for the flood protection was not being constructed according to the project design; thus, the contractor was advised to demolish and reconstruct the wall.

Planned Activities, October

RAMP UP North advisors will focus on the following activities in October:

- Progress on RAMP UP North projects will continue in October on Round Two and Round Three projects. There will be also SDAG meetings for the selection of Round Four projects. Kickoff meetings are planned for Round Two projects in Pul-e-Khumri, Mazar-e-Sharif and Faizabad.
- RAMP UP North will continue to implement the Sar-e-Pul Post-Flood Assistance Project, with the completion of the Canal Cleaning project in mid-October. Kickoff meetings will be held for the road rehabilitation projects, and the construction of the footbridge and the flood protection wall will take place in October.
- **Gender Mainstreaming Trainings** will be held for the embedded advisors in early October. RAMP UP North advisors will begin implementing gender awareness and mainstreaming training at the municipal level with support from the RAMP UP North Community Engagement and Technical Team during October. In each municipality Gender Mainstreaming action plans will be developed
- RAMP UP North advisors will continue to support the business registration and licensing process in Aybak, Faizabad, Taloqan, Sar-e-Pul and Pul-e-Khumri, and continue to follow up with municipalities in developing enforcement mechanisms for the payment of business registration taxes.