

USAID / AGRICULTURE SECTOR SUPPORT PROJECT

Agriculture & Rural Rehabilitation

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Briefing Paper

February 1991



VOLUNTEERS IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Mir Mohammad Sediq, Chief of Party

USAID / AGRICULTURE SECTOR SUPPORT PROJECT

Agriculture & Rural Rehabilitation

Afghanistan



**Agriculture Rehabilitation Schemes (ARSs) in Afghanistan
As of February 1991**

VOLUNTEERS IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

BRIEFING PAPER

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A study of the conditions of Afghan Agriculture began in November 1986. The Agriculture Sector Project (ASSP) started in April 1987. In June 1987, the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) contracted with Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA) to assist with the implementation of the ASSP with activities in both agriculture and rural rehabilitation.

The long-term goals of the project were three in number. First, to work for the rehabilitation of the agriculture infrastructure in Afghanistan in order to help restore agricultural productivity so badly needed. Second, to train Afghans in the skills and technology needed to carry out the rehabilitation efforts now in progress and scheduled for the future. And third, to develop an organization capable of continuing to provide rural rehabilitation services in Afghanistan now and in the future.

Under the Cooperative Agreement signed in March 1990, VITA is "responsible for assuring the ongoing rehabilitation of rural infrastructure facilities in Afghanistan; and assessing the feasibility of establishing an independent and sustainable Afghan rural works entity." The new program is designated the Agriculture & Rural Rehabilitation (ARR) component of the ASSP.

The specific objectives of the program, with brief descriptions taken from the text of the Cooperative Agreement, are as follows:

- A. Irrigation – develop and execute an irrigation implementation program for each ARS.
- B. Rural Roads and Bridges – develop and execute a rural roads and bridges program for each ARS.
- C. Engineering Services – a sub-grant will be for the provision of technical engineering services to develop and implement major engineering projects.
- D. ARS Planning – planning for ongoing and new ARS locations ... in areas where they will have a substantial impact on national food production and agricultural productivity.
- E. Training – prepare a training plan ... accompanied by a training needs assessment, which will include ... an assessment of the additional training and skills needed to implement the objectives of this agreement.

- F Monitoring – develop and employ a monitoring system which will provide timely verification of the progress of all ... rehabilitation activities.
- G. Afghan Entity Development –develop a Statement of Work for a subcontract to assist ... in conducting an assessment of the feasibility of establishing an independent Afghan entity capable of implementing rural infrastructure rehabilitation as well as attracting financial and other resources from bilateral and multilateral donors.

I. STAFF AND STRUCTURE

- A. The contractor, Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA), is a private American voluntary organization.
- B. The senior project staff includes:
 - 1. Engineer Mohammad Sediq, Chief of Party (former President of the Afghan Rural Development Department).
 - 2. Robert MacMakin, Deputy Chief of Party, who had worked in Afghanistan for 15 years.
 - 3. Russell Wallace, Chief Financial Officer, who joined VITA in September.
 - 4. Engineer A. A. Bahrami, Chief Engineering Services Officer, who joined VITA in November.
- C. The qualified staff consists of 141 trained and experienced personnel working in Peshawar and 156 working in the 16 Agricultural Rehabilitation Schemes (ARS) inside Afghanistan. There is a staff of 10 in the branch office in Quetta serving the southern and western ARSs.

The staff is drawn heavily from pre-war employees of the Rural Development Department and the Ministry of Agriculture, already trained and oriented to the present task.

- 1. The Afghan staff comes from all seven Tanzeems in the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen.
- 2. All staff are VITA employees and work under direct VITA supervision. Staff inside Afghanistan report to the directorate of field co-ordination.

II. AGRICULTURE REHABILITATION SCHEMES (ARS)

- A. VITA is working in 16 ARSs in the southwest and northeastern quadrants of Afghanistan. They are in Kandahar, Ghazni, Wardak, Paktika, Baghlan, Logar, Parwan, Kapisa, Kabul, Takhar, Kunar, Paktya, Kunduz, Bamyan, Farah, and Herat provinces.
- B. The ARSs have staffs of from 8 to 13 persons, with the majority being engineers and technicians, the rest being support staff.

III. RURAL WORKS ACTIVITIES

A. Irrigation

- 1 The following statistics, from the project beginning in March 1987 through February 1991, give an idea of the scope of the work done and also of the tremendous backlog of requests for assistance that have yet to be addressed.

COMPLETED IRRIGATION PROJECTS	=	2,210
PROJECTS IN PROGRESS end February 1991	=	1,078
REQUESTS RECEIVED	=	37,013

B. Roads

- 1 Work on roads in Afghanistan is both rehabilitation of damaged roads and new road construction to avoid areas controlled by the Kabul regime.

COMPLETED ROADS	=	11
PROJECTS IN PROGRESS end February 1991	=	12
REQUESTS RECEIVED	=	2,894

C. Bridges

- 1 Both motor and foot cable bridges have been built under the project and eleven additional bridges have been approved for construction during this project year.

COMPLETED BRIDGES	=	10
PROJECTS IN PROGRESS end February 1991	=	6
REQUESTS RECEIVED	=	7,024

IV. TRAINING LOCAL STAFF

1. Eleven in-service and on-the-job training programs of up to 3 months were conducted for technicians and managers for upgrading the capabilities of staff.
2. A training program was held from Dec. 1, 1989 to February 1990 at the VITA, offices in Peshawar. Thirty-one technicians and 30 agriculturalists from various ARSs participated. In addition there were 23 tractor and thresher operators and 7 nursery personnel.
3. A ten weeks course on surveying, drafting, cost estimation, construction, and inspections was conducted by VITA in December 1990 and will finish on February 28th, 1991.

B. Under the Cooperative Agreement to date the following training activities have taken place:

1. April-May - ARS directors workshop - preparing implementation plan
2. June - Monitors assigned to ARSs, two week course
3. June-October - English classes for staff, after hours - IRC
4. August-September - Training Director to USDA course in Virginia
5. September-October - Three senior staff to USDA course in USA
6. September - Tractor operators and mechanics to Millat Tractors, Lahore, for three week course
7. September - ARS administrative clerks in Peshawar for a two week course in accounting and record keeping - IRC
8. October/November - USDA course for senior management in Peshawar - 15 VITA staff and six participants from DAI, VVSC, RAFA, and MinAg - trainers Howard Opper and Rhey Palmer.
9. November - two-week planning workshop for ARS officers in Peshawar

C. Planned for next few months

1. In December 90, a consultant from the University of Wyoming was expected to come to Peshawar to plan a training program for engineers, but due to the present Gulf crisis he has not come so far.
2. Besides the Rural Works Activities already mentioned it would be worthwhile to add here that in addition to those, our normal routine

rehabilitation works in the ARSs is going on as planned.

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STATUS REPORT

Agricultural Infrastructure Activities

As of end February 1991

KIND OF PROJECTS	UNDER CON- STRUCTION AS OF 31/3/90	COMPLETED DURING PRIOR CONTRACT (3/87-3/90)	UNDER CON- STRUCTION AS OF 28/2/91	COMPLETED UNDER COOP. AGREEMENT (4/90-12/91)	COMPLETED TOTAL PROJECT FROM 3/87 TO 2/91
IRRIGATION					
a) Karez	1160	1036	980	845	1881
b) Other	138	88	98	241	329
TOTAL	1298	1124	1078	1086	2210
WATER SUPPLY (POTABLE)					
		1		4	5
ROADS					
a) New	4	5	2	2	7
b) Rehab.	3	3	10		4
BRIDGES					
a) Motor	2	3	3	3	6
b) Foot/Cable	3	4	3		4
TOTAL	1310	1140	1096	1096	2236

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STATUS REPORT

Agricultural Infrastructure Activities

Project beginning to February 12th, 1991

KIND OF PROJECTS	REQUESTED	SURVEYED	DESIGNED	ESTIMATED	SANCTIONED	UNDER CON- STRUCTION	SUSPENDED	COMPLETED	MONITORED
IRRIGATION									
a) Karez	18467	4272	4272	4272	3031	980	46	1881	2350
b) Other	18546	1416	1027	1027	760	98	18	329	378
TOTAL	37013	3688	5299	5299	3791	1078	64	2210	2728
WATER SUPPLY (POTABLE)									
	885	21	5	5	5	0	0	5	5
ROADS									
a) New	635	47	36	36	12	2	0	7	9
b) Rehab.	2259	58	35	35	22	10	0	4	12
BRIDGES									
a) Motor	6999	69	21	21	13	3	1	6	9
b) Foot/Cable	25	10	10	10	9	3	0	4	7
TOTAL									
	47816	5893	5406	5406	3852	1096	65	2236	2770

NOTE:

- Karezes under construction include 980 inside ARSs.
- The total number of irrigation projects under construction (1078) is based on reports reaching Peshawar. The actual total is probably higher, but the data is still in the field with the staff.
- Of the projects which are either completed (2236) or under construction (1096), a total of 2770 or 81.54% have been independently monitored by VITA staff to confirm that work is in progress or completed. Further, some of these subprojects have been monitored as many as three or four times.
- Based on requests received to date for rural roads (more than 2894) the planning section has determined the average length of the typical rural road as 15 km. This figure will be used in future planning.
- Total Number of beneficiaries for completed projects:

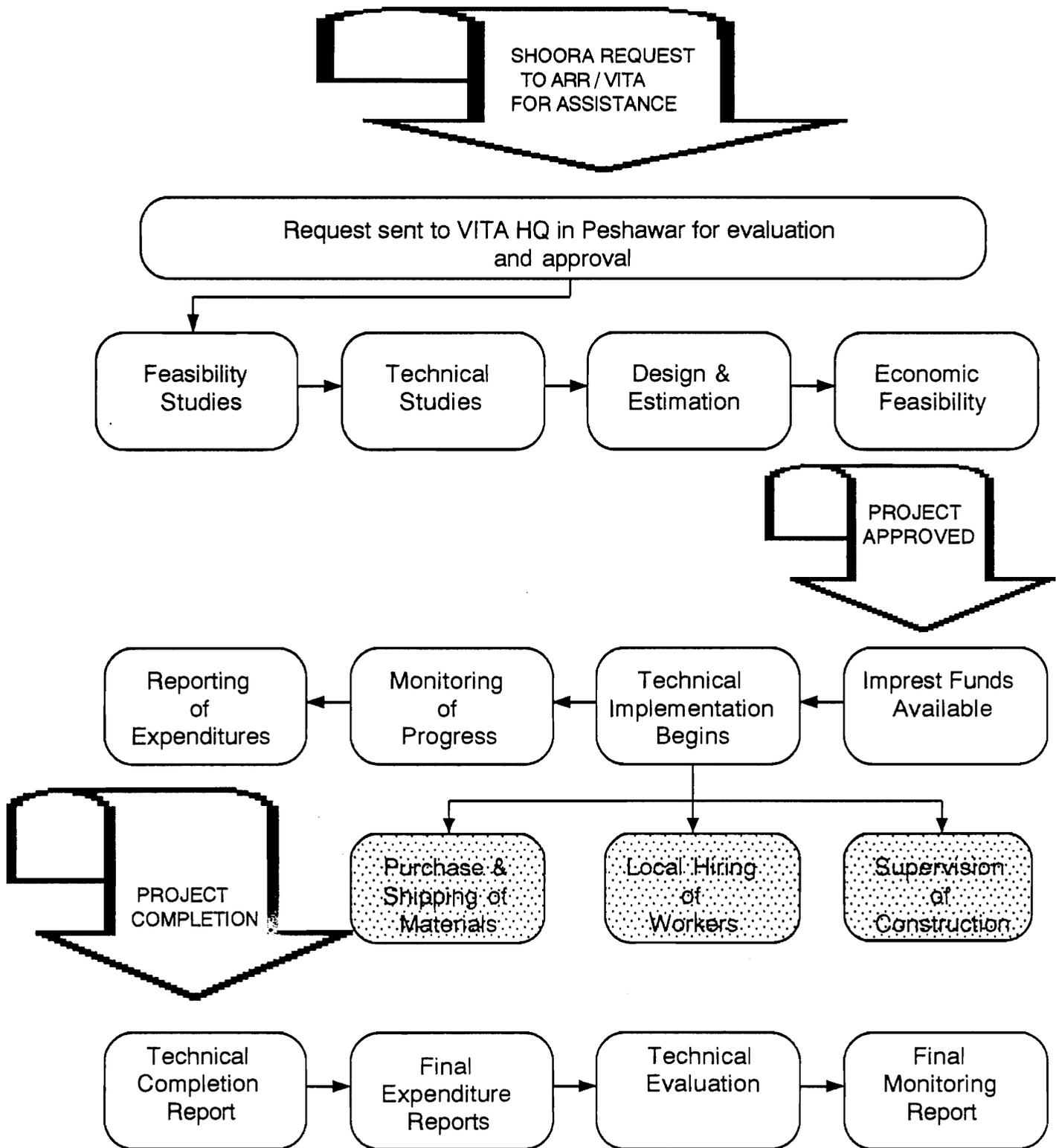
a. Karez and other irrigation	231,300 families *
b. Feeder roads	121,000 families **
Total	352,300 families

* For karez, 60 families/ per unit, jus 360 families per unit

** Roads 11,000 families per unit

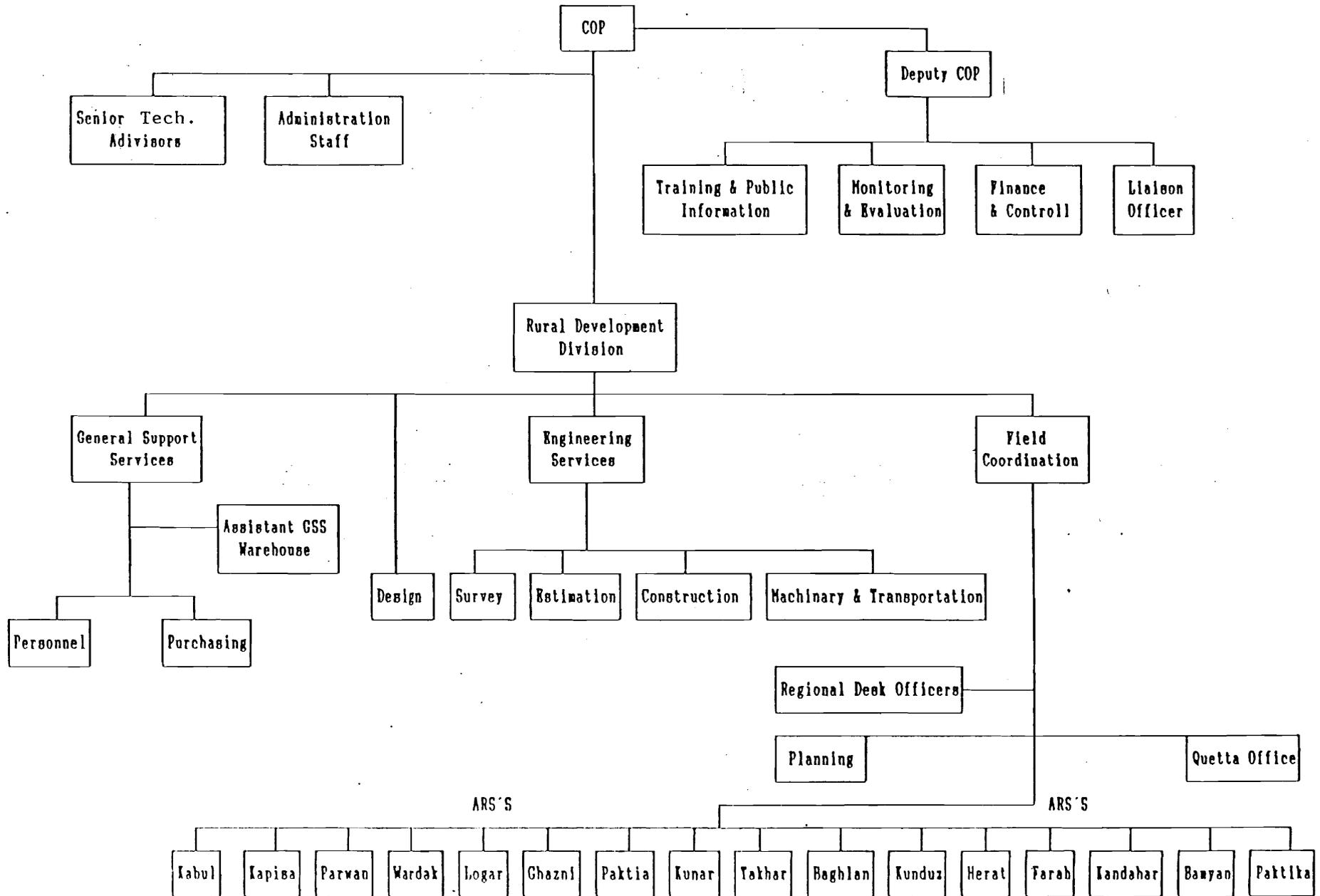
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FLOW CHART OF A TYPICAL PROJECT



Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA)

(USAID) Afghanistan Agriculture & Rural Rehabilitation Project Organizational Chart 1990



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