



USAID | **AFGHANISTAN**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM SOUTH (ALP/S)

ECONOMIC SAFETY NET AND GENDER ANALYSIS

Submitted By:

Chemonics International Inc.

In Collaboration With:

**Abt Associates Inc.
The Louis Berger Group Inc.
NRECA International Ltd.
Making Cents International**

April 2005

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Chemonics International Inc.

AFGHANISTAN ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM SOUTH (ALP/S)

ECONOMIC SAFETY NET AND GENDER ANALYSIS

Contract Number	GS-23F-9800H
Task Order Number	306-M-00-05-00516-00
Task Order Duration	15 February, 2005 - 14 February, 2009
Contractor Name	Chemonics International Inc.
Cognizant Technical Officer	A Merkel
Contracting Officer	Margaret Kline
Total Task Order Budget	\$119,899,744
Geographic Coverage	Helmand and Kandahar Provinces

April 2005

ii

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	1
SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION	2
1A. BACKGROUND	2
1B. VULNERABILITY	2
SECTION 2. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF WOMEN AND VULNERABLE GROUPS IN HELMAND AND KANDAHAR	4
2A. HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS	4
2B. RESOURCE LEVELS	4
2C. WOMEN	5
2D. ELDERLY MEMBERS	5
2E. DISABLED MEMBERS	6
2F. CHILDREN	6
SECTION 3. SURVEY RESULTS	7
3A. CURRENT ACTORS	7
3B. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	8
SECTION 4. RECOMMENDATIONS	11
4A. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS	11
ANNEX A. SURVEY FINDINGS	13
ANNEX B. LIST OF CONTACTS AND RESOURCES	27
ANNEX C. LIST OF SECONDARY DATA SOURCES/LITERATURE REVIEW	29

ACRONYMS

AL	Alternative Livelihood
ALP	Alternative Livelihoods Program
ALP/S	Alternative Livelihoods Program South
AREU	Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit
BRO	Bost Rehabilitation Organization
CBIP	Commodity Based Integrated Program
CDAP	Comprehensive Disabled Afghans Program
CDC	Community Development Council
DACAAR	Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees
DDR	Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration
DDS	District Development Shura
DRRD	Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GOA	Government of Afghanistan
HAFO	Helping Afghan Farmers Organization
HAVA	Helmand Arghandab Valley Authority
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IRRA	Institute for Relief and Rehabilitation of Afghanistan
LKRO	Loy Kandahar Reconstruction Organization
MAAH	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry
MOE	Ministry of Economy
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NEEP	National Emergency Employment Program
NRSP	National Rural Support Program
NRVA	National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
NSP	National Solidarity Program
PCB	Provincial Coordination Body
PDC	Provincial Development Committee
PDS	Provincial Development Shura
PRC	Physical Rehabilitation Center
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
RAMP	Rehabilitation of Agriculture Markets Program
VAM	Vulnerable Analysis and Mapping
VAU	Vulnerability Assessment Unit
WPF	World Food Program

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

The Alternative Livelihoods Program/Southern Region (ALP/S) is committed to improving the livelihoods of men and women, paying special attention to include women and vulnerable groups, including the disabled, the elderly and at-risk children. ALP/S will address the income and livelihood needs of women and vulnerable groups by designing AL activities that directly address these needs under the project's four technical components. In February and March of 2005 our team conducted an assessment in Helmand and Kandahar to assess the current situation, identify projects targeting women and vulnerable groups, and make recommendations on how better to involve these groups in AL activities. Section 1 of this report provides background information. Section 2 describes the current situation in Helmand and Kandahar. In Section 3 we present a summary of activities in Helmand and Kandahar that are targeting women and vulnerable groups and in Section 4 we present our recommendations.

1a. Background

Afghanistan has recently emerged from more than two decades of conflict and instability, which has led to a substantial increase in the vulnerability of households throughout the country. Afghanistan has also, in recent years, suffered through a multi year drought which has contributed to an increase in economically vulnerable Afghans. This drought was especially severe in southern Afghanistan where many areas, until this past winter, had experienced seven years of drought. As a result, the political, economic, and social instability which have become symptoms of post conflict Afghanistan, along with the economic damage caused by the recent drought, have expanded the number of vulnerable Afghans. Afghans now considered vulnerable include many previously productive members of the community, including some disabled, elderly and at risk children, who no longer have access to the resources necessary to support themselves. Years of conflict, along with the prolonged drought, have increased the number of Afghans who rely on other family members, neighbors, and donor assistance activities to supplement the minimal income they are able to generate.

In addition to members of the Afghan community who are traditionally categorized as vulnerable, in recent years women have often become further marginalized due to their exclusion from participation in income generating activities outside the household. This exclusion is a result of the influence of extreme conservatism promoted by the Taliban regime. During the Taliban's rule, women were prohibited from leaving their houses without male escorts, and were not permitted to work outside the home. Although close ties to the family home was common for most rural Afghan women before the rise of the Taliban, the Taliban's restrictions, along with the still unstable security situation in the South, have increased the incidence of restricting women's activities outside the home.

1b. Vulnerability

For the purposes of this report, "vulnerability" is defined as not having adequate access to the resources necessary to pursue basic livelihoods. Access to resources may be hampered by various types of events or processes which can be categorized as: (a) trends, which are usually long term in scope and can include population shifts, resource depletion, and other, similar

events, (b) shocks, which are more immediate and often unexpected events, such as droughts or political collapse, and (c) seasonality, which refers to generally cyclical trends such as temporary unemployment often found, for example, in the agricultural sector. Resources impacted by trends, shocks and seasonality include the social, financial, physical, and human capital necessary to support oneself and one's household¹. Lack of access to any of these resources can act as a further negative influence on secure livelihoods, and adds to personal vulnerability. Populations which are already poor, and which are therefore adversely affected by trends, shocks and/or seasonality, are then faced with decreased access to one or more sets of resources. This decreased access contributes to individuals becoming increasingly marginalized and vulnerable regarding their ability to pursue sufficient incomes for themselves, and their families.

¹ DFID definition, DFID Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheets, April 1999.

SECTION 2. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF WOMEN AND VULNERABLE GROUPS IN HELMAND AND KANDAHAR

2a. Household Characteristics

Households in Helmand and Kandahar engage in a variety of activities to support their livelihoods, including agricultural activities such as planting, irrigating and harvesting crops. Also included are non-farm activities such as sewing, tailoring, construction, small scale trade, and participation in relief activities. Households in Helmand and Kandahar tend to be slightly larger than the national average of 6.5 members per household. According to the NRVA survey results from Helmand and Kandahar, the average household size in the two provinces is seven. The majority of these households are headed by men, with survey results showing that women head only 8% of households in Helmand, and only 1% of households in Kandahar. These relatively small numbers are somewhat surprising given the large numbers of widows in the region, but this may be because many widows and their children are taken in by other male family members if the latter have the economic means to do so.

The devastating effects of the war can be shown further by the incidence of disability within households, which is in large part due to war injuries suffered by male household members. It is estimated that 7% of households in Helmand and 14% of households in Kandahar include members with either mental or physical disabilities. This places a further strain on households, and contributes to their overall vulnerability as they become responsible for providing for members which are not necessarily able to contribute to household productivity, at least not in the traditional sense.

The case is much worse for the poorest and most vulnerable of households in the South. In both Helmand and Kandahar the poorest, and therefore most vulnerable, households are also characterized as having the highest percentage of disabled members. In Helmand, 32% of the poorest households are described as having no able bodied workers and 18% of the poorest households are female headed. Similarly, in Kandahar 23% of the poorest households have no able bodied workers and 21% of the poorest households are female headed.

2b. Resource Levels

Though the strong tradition of Pashtunwali ensures that poorest and most vulnerable village members are taken care of by their extended families and the greater village, the increase in vulnerability for the region as a whole has led to the weakening of the traditional support structures in rural communities.

There is a wide disparity between the access to resource levels of the poorest households and the medium wealth groups in Helmand and Kandahar. In Helmand the poorest households own, on average, between 1.0 and 2.1 jeribs of land while the medium wealth group households own between 4.2 and 6.8 jeribs of land while in Kandahar the poorest households own on average

between 0.3 and 0.9 jeribs of land while the medium wealth households own between 2.7 and 4.4 jeribs of land.

Reduced water and water quality are by far the greatest resource constraints for rural households in the South with 56% of households in Helmand and 94% of households in Kandahar claiming that the largest limitation they experienced was reduced water quality and/or quantity, the next most often cited distress suffered was listed as an increase in food prices suffered by 9% of households in Helmand and insecurity and violence suffered by 3% of households in Kandahar. Though the main distress suffered by households were related to water use, there are a number of other constraints cited by households in both Helmand and Kandahar as adding to their inability to adequately provide for their households through farming activities: 37% of households in Kandahar listed lack of seeds as their most important farming constraint while 24% of households in Helmand listed lack of seeds and 25% listed lack of oxen or traction power as their main constraint.

2c. Women

Women play an important role and have a variety of distinct responsibilities within households. They have played a crucial role in ensuring the survival of their households in the face of the resource constraints and shocks throughout the war years and after. The Mercy Corps, Southern Afghanistan Women and Agriculture Report and the AREU report ascertain that women are involved in agricultural activities within their household compounds in both Kandahar and Helmand. The AREU “Rethinking Rural Livelihoods Report” also explains that women are involved in various income generation activities and contribute to household income yet because there are inequalities with regards to their access to resources, such as owning land and livestock, women who are the heads of their households face even more severe barriers to supporting their households. These “structural” inequalities that women face cause them to become particularly vulnerable to hardships and poverty.

2d. Elderly Members

Traditionally, elderly members have had a special place of importance within Afghan households and especially within the culture of Pashtunwali practiced in Kandahar and Helmand. The elderly are revered as resources for wisdom and knowledge transfer. The war and subsequent hardships placed on Afghan households has eroded some of their perceived importance because of resource strains placed on households supporting elderly members. Also, there has been a rise in the number of households headed by elderly men and women due to the loss of sons and able bodied male supporters during the war placing the burden of household support on the elderly themselves. In the past, elderly household members were relied upon for guidance and involved in major decision making at the village level. The respect given to village elders is demonstrated by the village level Shuras that are traditionally led by the village elders. Younger men have recently become more influential as a result of their political connections to the new power structure which is a hold over from the war. As this younger generation absorbs more responsibility, the elderly men at times become marginalized by the new politically connected “leaders”.

In terms of livelihoods support, the elderly are mainly involved in low intensity activities within the household compound. They may be engaged in tending family gardens within the household compound and small scale poultry and livestock production. Their contributions are not counted as a source of household income and they are generally not involved in decision making unless there are no able bodied men within the household to provide support. Due to the constraints of age involvement in heavy labor activities is not an option for elderly and therefore they are not targeted in cash for work activities. As there have not been any in depth surveys which focus on the role of the elderly poor sufficient data does not exist to develop appropriate economic safety net interventions specifically targeting them.

2e. Disabled Members

Although no national survey has been done, local surveys indicate that about 3% of the population of Afghanistan is disabled. In a population of 20 million this means about 700,000 children, women and men. War has disabled thousands, creating amputees, blindness, and paralysis. Weak preventive services have resulted in a high incidence of disabling diseases such as polio and tuberculosis in many areas. A high rate of birth complications, especially in undernourished women, with inadequate medical care gives rise to disabilities such as cerebral palsy. While people disabled by the war form a highly visible proportion of the disabled population, an equally significant but much less visible group are those with sensory and multiple impairments. Many disabled people are hidden from view, especially disabled women and children, trapped by their culture and lack of services within very narrow confines at home.

2f. Children

There is a large population of orphans and at risk children working on the streets of urban areas of Kandahar. Helmand does not have the same problem but there are also a substantial number of orphaned children or children missing one parent in Helmand. The Government of Afghanistan has committed itself to ensuring that all children who were left behind and unable to attend school during the Taliban's rule now have the opportunity to access education. Unfortunately, children from the poorest households are often times unable to fulfill their educational potential due to their responsibilities as breadwinners, they are relied upon by family members to earn income and support themselves as well. Many children are therefore engaging in menial labor both on farm and off farm. Often times, girls below the age of 10 also have mobility which their mothers and older female household members don't have; they act as important lifelines for the household by begging or engaging in low paying labor activities outside the home. Boys also serve as important lifelines and often times are the primary supporters of families with out able bodied male heads of household, this is the primary factor dissuading boys from the poorest households from attending school. In rural areas, an added factor is the lack of school availability and distance for boys and girls.

SECTION 3. SURVEY RESULTS

Our team conducted rapid surveys of assistance activities targeting vulnerable groups in both Kandahar and Helmand. The results of the surveys point to a concentration of aid in urban areas of Kandahar and the middle region of Helmand. Much of the most vulnerable groups living in remote rural areas of the provinces are not being targeted by assistance activities due to a variety of reasons including security, ease of operations, local capacity and funding levels. Below is a brief summary of the current actors operating in the provinces followed by a breakdown of activities in Kandahar and Helmand organized by vulnerable group.

3a. Current Actors

Kandahar

There are currently a number of organizations working in Kandahar on assistance activities targeted at vulnerable groups. While there have been some attempts at expanding these activities into more rural areas, most organizations are concentrated in urban areas due to security concerns. The data also shows that there is very little coordination and knowledge sharing between implementing organizations. Though this is a persistent nationwide problem of the GOA, it does seem that a reason for the lack of coordination in the South may also be tied to (a) the lack of capacity in implementing organizations to focus on coordination and collaboration and (b) the temporary or short term nature of many activities not lending themselves to establishing detailed procedures for coordination.

Activities range from working with street children in Kandahar city to providing microfinance loans to women in IDP camps. International NGOs include Save the Children UK, Mercy Corps, Oxfam and UN Habitat. The Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR) has an office in Kandahar but they are not currently implementing any activities there. The Kandahar office serves as the regional/zonal office for coordinating their water supply activities for the provinces of Nimroz and Herat. DACAAR was previously engaged in activities in Kandahar and implemented a health project for women that ended in 2004 and they have plans for future activities in the province. There are also quite a few local and national Afghan NGOs implementing assistance activities in Kandahar. According to one NGO the focus of their activity shifts depending on availability of funding as well as the security situation. Similar to the international actors, they work in a variety of sectors implementing activities ranging from providing health services for women to direct food handouts to vulnerable households. Many of these activities are short term/quick impact in nature and are not sustainable.

Helmand

Only a handful of organizations are currently operating in Helmand implementing activities targeted at addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. The main reason for the lack of activities in Helmand is the perceived security situation which is cited as preventing many organizations from operating in the province. The organizations which are implementing activities for vulnerable groups are largely focused in Lashkar Gah and the middle region of Helmand, leaving the most vulnerable areas of the province underserved. Activities range from providing

agricultural vocational training for women to promoting reforestation and environmentally sound income generation activities for vulnerable groups.

3b. Description of Activities

Activities for Women

There are a limited number of organizations in Kandahar and Helmand implementing assistance activities targeted at women. The majority of these projects are located in urban settings and do not target the most vulnerable women who live in more isolated rural areas. Nevertheless, there does seem to be an attempt on the part of a number of organizations to involve women living in Internally Displaced Persons' camps near urban areas. The IDPs constitute a portion of the most vulnerable as they lack land, tangible assets and a permanent village or community structure they can rely on for assistance.

The majority of assistance activities for women focus on building vocational and literacy skills in the hopes that the skills gained will enable women to find paying jobs or begin small scale businesses from their homes. Such initiatives have not had much success in linking women to existing markets, developing markets for women's goods, or linking women to future employment opportunities upon completion of the training. The lack of forward thinking and long term planning is perhaps symptomatic of the funding and security constraints faced by the majority of implementing organizations. The majority of vocational trainings for women focus on increasing skills in traditional sectors such as embroidery, tailoring, handicrafts, carpet weaving and baking which have weak marketing potential. The notable exception is the Oxfam Women' Economic Empowerment Project which is still in the design process but is planned to involve both training and market linkage components. Oxfam will select a group of women and provide them with literacy and vocational skills training in conjunction with business development training. Upon completion of the training they will link the graduates up with access to micro credit to start their own small businesses. Helping Afghan Farmer's Organization (HAFO) does not work with women but has developed a successful work training model which focuses on skills training as well as linking graduates with actual economic improvement opportunities. The men who participate in the HAFO project are trained in either mechanics, carpentry, metal work, embroidery and tailoring and then are linked up to local business, some have also gone on to start their own businesses. This model could be modified for women by signing agreements with local businesses which are willing to employ women.

Improving education levels amongst girls and women is essential for women to fully participate in the economic sector. Literacy and civic education lessons incorporated into a number of the vocational training programs to accelerate learning for girls who have not had the chance to attend school and for whom accelerated learning will enable them to be accepted into a grade level appropriate to their age. The accelerated learning classes are not altogether successful because of reluctance on the part of parents to allow their daughters to leave their homes to participate. Some of the reluctance is also due to security concerns resulting from a wave of child kidnappings recently in the Southern provinces.

Activities for the most vulnerable women are largely humanitarian and involve distributing food handouts to widows and residents in the IDP camps. Bost Rehabilitation Organization (BRO), a local NGO, implements a food for work activity for men in which they have also integrated a food distribution component for widows as part of a quick impact project. There are not any groups operating food for work projects for women which were marked as a preference over cash for work activities by women in Kandahar and Helmand in the 2003 NRVA survey.

Activities for Children

There are a small number of assistance activities targeting children in Kandahar but no similar activities for children in Helmand. The activities in Kandahar center on the provision of education and vocational skills training for vulnerable children including street children and children in IDP camps. There are also two projects implemented by BRO and Institution for Relief and Rehabilitation of Afghanistan (IRRA) in Kandahar dealing with the distribution of wheat to orphans in an IDP camp in Kandahar city.

Save the Children UK along with two local implementing partners, one of which is Loy Kandahar Reconstruction Organization (LKRO), currently operates four resource centers for street children working in the city of Kandahar. They target street children who are often times engaged in menial employment in the capital and attempt to work with them and their families by providing accelerated learning to help increase their education levels and enroll in primary school. The participating children range from ages 6 to 16 and the majority of these children are not in school so Save the Children UK works closely with the provincial Ministry of Education representatives to enroll eligible children in school.

The provincial Ministry of Education representative is currently not allowing children over the age of 14 to enter primary school so the project also provides vocational training for both boys and girls to enable them to become more employable. The vocational training is designed to help children who are either primary bread winners or whose income contributes a large portion to the family's well-being. Boys tend to be more interested in mechanics and construction activities while girls tend towards domestic activities such as tailoring, sewing, handicrafts etc. The learning centers provide skills training, literacy courses and awareness programs about rights as well as civic education to help integrate street children into the greater Kandahar society.

Save the Children has also begun a network of responsible governmental and non-governmental organizations to work towards child protection. In conjunction with participating public schools in the region, Save the Children works with students and teachers in bringing awareness towards the Child Rights Convention. The Save the Children Program Coordinator estimates there to be at least 3000 working children in the city of Kandahar but a survey is needed to correctly determine this number.

Intersos, an international NGO, also implements assistance activities for children in Kandahar. They focus on the provision of social and cultural events that are aired through local radios. While their intention is to reach the children in IDP camps, children in the city also benefit from listening to these programs.

Activities for Disabled Persons

There are only a small number of relief projects targeting disabled people and these are primarily dealing with food aid such as wheat distribution to disabled persons in IDP camps. In addition, the UNDP's Comprehensive Disabled Afghan's Program (CDAP) has been working in Afghanistan since 1995 and has previously funded activities in Kandahar through Guardians, a local NGO. Following a quality assessment mission undertaken in Herat and Kandahar by the CDAP senior policy advisor, a decision was taken to interrupt activities that did not perform up to quality requirements, while requests for proposals to identify implementing partners are being advertised.

Handicap International operates two activities in Kandahar; (a) Physical Rehabilitation Center (PRC) in Kandahar central hospital, and (b) Mine-Awareness. The PRC center provides free aid to all handicapped people in southern region of Afghanistan. The mine-awareness trainers for this program are volunteers. The percentage of disabled persons in Helmand is much less than in Kandahar but there are specific assistance activities targeting disabled persons in Helmand through the department of the disabled and widows which provides cash payments of 300 Afghanis to the 7000 disabled persons registered in Helmand.

Activities for the Elderly

Our assessment was unable to identify any projects in Helmand or Kandahar providing direct assistance to the elderly. Other members of their households may be involved in some of the assistance projects, especially the food distribution (wheat aid) but there are no projects designed to actively increase the participation of the elderly in income generation projects. There has not been an in depth survey of how many households are composed of elderly individuals without able bodied members to generate income, nor has a study been conducted on how to incorporate the elderly into economically productive activities.

SECTION 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of this assessment will be used by ALP/S to design AL activities in Kandahar and Helmand that directly address the needs of women and other vulnerable groups under the project's four technical components. In the section below we present several recommendations that will help guide ALP/S senior management in achieving this objective.

4a. Proposed Recommendations

1. ALP/S leadership must commit to the successful integration of women and other vulnerable groups into appropriate activities of the project. Special effort must be made to develop innovative and novel approaches to designing appropriate activities targeting the improvement of women's and vulnerable groups' livelihoods.
2. ALP/S should hire a Senior Gender and Economic Safety Net Specialist to ensure that issues of concern for woman and other vulnerable groups are fully and successfully integrated into ALP/S activities. The Senior Gender and Economic Safety Net Specialist must be involved in advising the design and implementation of all activities which could potentially involve women and vulnerable groups. The Senior Gender and Economic Safety Net Specialist must also have local counterparts with which to liaise and consult to better inform the work of ALP/S.
3. ALP/S should focus on developing both long term sustainable income generating activities as well as quick impact cash for work initiatives involving women and other vulnerable groups in the immediate stages of the project. It is important to ensure that long term initiatives are economically viable and based on actual market linkages. In many cases, special attention will be necessary for strengthening market linkages and building skills for production based on market needs. At the same time, cultural appropriateness must be taken into consideration for activities involving women and vulnerable groups.
4. ALP/S should design its monitoring and evaluation system as well as the strategic communications plan to be gender appropriate. The project must focus on capturing results and impacts of activities with women and other vulnerable groups, writing up and packaging the results as best practices and disseminating the best practices to key stakeholders. ALP/S must also work to ensure the design of appropriate media and information campaigns for women and vulnerable groups and that such information successfully reaches the intended beneficiaries.
5. Base line surveys should be conducted focused on cataloging the activities and contributions of women and other vulnerable groups to household well being in both Helmand and Kandahar.
6. ALP/S should involve local beneficiaries and stakeholders in a participatory approach in design of ALP/S activities. ALP/S, through the Gender and Economic Safety Net Specialist, must strive to work with NSP women's CDCs as well as men's CDCs and other village level Shuras where CDC's are not yet in place. The project must encourage buy in and invest necessary resources to promote the awareness of benefits of inclusion of women and vulnerable groups to village, district and provincial audiences.

7. ALP/S should coordination and collaboration with other entities working on issues of concern to women and other vulnerable groups in the Kandahar and Helmand as well as with national level stakeholders and other AL initiatives.
8. To promote knowledge transfer and institutional strengthening, it is imperative that the ALP/S Economic Safety net and Gender Specialist work with local and national government counterparts in addressing gender and economic safety net issues for it will be these counterparts which will carry on the work initiated by ALP/S at the conclusion of the project.

ANNEX A. SURVEY FINDINGS

KANDAHAR

1. Save the Children, UK

Funding Agency: ECHO

Current types of Activities: 4 resource centers for “working children” in the City of Kandahar. The centers provide skill training, literacy courses, awareness programs about rights. Save the Children has just begun a network of responsible governmental and non-governmental organizations to work towards child protection.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: The skill training is aimed at assisting these young working children to become economically independent and thus self-sufficient.

Location: The project is based in the City of Kandahar. Currently there are approximately 650 kids involved of which about 230 are girls. The children range from ages 7 to 16. All of these children are NOT in school now and SC works closely with the government education department to assist these kids.

GOA involved: Education Department

Special Notes: In conjunction with participating public schools in the region, Save the Children work with students and teachers in bringing awareness towards the Child Rights Convention. Mohammad Saeed confidently said that he believes that there are at least 3000 working children in the city of Kandahar but a survey is needed to correctly determine this number. This is a major problem in Kandahar for two reasons; 1) the influx of refugees and 2) the poor economic stability of the families here. In most households there is no father or a father that does not work, the young boys are sent to work to provide for the family. Priority from education is taken by the dire need for income for families.

Government agencies are generally happy with this program because it takes the burden off their shoulder.

Save the Children have learned that boys tend to gear towards the mechanic field of interest and girls towards the domestic – tailoring, sewing, etc.

2. Oxfam

Funding Agency: European Commission

Current types of Activities: There are three activities of Oxfam:

1. Sanitation and Waste Management
2. Drinking Water

3. Health Education for Women
4. *Literacy, Vocational Training Economic Empowerment Project for Women: Micro Credit

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: Economic Development (the Micro Credit Project will be implemented this year)

Location: District 2 & 6 of Kandahar, relatively well off areas of Kandahar

GOA involved: Municipality, Water Department

Special Notes: The health education for women is done door to door in districts 2 and 6. To date about 1700 homes have been visited and women in the homes have been given lessons on health and hygiene. The literacy and vocational training program is in the planning stages now and will begin this year.

3. Loy Kandahar Reconstruction Organization (LKRO)

Funding Agency: Save the Children

Current types of Activities: Children's Rights Awareness Program provides vocational training for 450 men and women in District 5 of Kandahar city. Girls are trained in embroidery and tailoring, boys are trained in mechanics. In addition, literacy programs are provided for the participants.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: The training can lead to economic development

Location: 5th District of Kandahar

GOA involved: The education department, police department and Women's Association are consulted about the activities.

Special Notes: LKRO wishes to expand its activities to other regions in Kandahar.

4. ActionAid

Funding Agency: EC

Current types of Activities: There are no activities now. A fellowship for 20 women for 2 months will start in April 2005. This program aims to help women in preparing them for work in the development field.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: Neither

Location: Kandahar City

GOA involved: None

Special Notes: In the past, this organization completed a 6 month training program in Maiwand district of Kandahar for 45 women in tailoring.

5. DACAAR

Funding Agency: self

Current types of Activities: NONE in Kandahar at this time.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: N/A

Location: Kandahar City

GOA involved: N/A

Special Notes: This office is designed for work in water supply in Nimroz and Herat. This is a Zonal office and DACAAR has completed a health education for women in Kandahar.

6. Voluntary Association for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan (VARA)

Funding Agency: Cordaid, WFP

Current types of Activities: Vocational Training programs for women in the IDPs. The training is in three different fields; chicken raising, carpet weaving, and tailoring and embroidering. VARA reports that over 5000 women participate in these projects.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: Both

Location: Kandahar Province and Helmand

GOA involved: Department of Refugees

Special Notes: VARA has done many of such training programs in the past. Last year, they contracted with UNHCR in the humanitarian aid of construction material to poor widows and new refugees in Kandahar.

7. Khorasan Therapy Corporation (KTC)

Funding Agency: Asian Development Bank

Current types of Activities: Currently the only project that is administered by KTC is the construction of a school and a basic health clinic in Spin Boldak. KTC has applied for funding for management training for women in South West Afghanistan.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: N/A

Location: Spin Boldak

GOA involved: N/A

Special Notes: N/A

8. Institution for Relief & Rehabilitation of Afghanistan (IRRA)

Funding Agency: UN, WFP

Current types of Activities: Currently there are no active programs for women or other vulnerable groups. Most of the activities are construction programs in Kandahar and Helmand.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: Humanitarian

Location: Helmand & Kandahar

GOA involved: N/A

Special Notes: This organization was run by Pakistani personnel, not a local Afghan NGO though it claims to be. The director claimed that they had vocational training programs for women in IDP camps in Helmand. In one camp called Mukhtar Camp a sewing and tailoring project was administered for 6 months for 120 women where the total number of women in the camp was 14,500. This project was funded by WFP, UNHCR and Cordaid. Handicapped people, widows and orphans were offered free food from the WFP section.

9. Reconstruction Authority for Afghanistan (RAFA)

Funding Agency: Cordaid

Current types of Activities: Currently there are no projects for vulnerable groups.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: N/A

Location: IDPs in Kandahar

GOA involved: N/A

Special Notes: This organization also claims that they have administered a 6 month training program for women in an IDP camp in Maiwand for sewing and embroidering. Due to security they no longer work there.

10. Bost Rehabilitation Organization (BRO)

Funding Agency: WFP

Current types of Activities: Food for work program for men

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: Humanitarian

Location: Nimroz, Uruzgon

GOA involved: RRD monitors their program

Special Notes: Widows, disabled people and orphans receive wheat for free through this project. The organization also is constructing a Conference Hall in Helmand through funding from PRT.

11. Guardians

Funding Agency: UNHCR

Current types of Activities: Currently Guardians is in a standby position with activities in Kandahar.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: N/A

Location: N/A

GOA involved: N/A

Special Notes: In 2004, through UNHCR funding, Guardians completed an income generation project for women in Zari Dasht (IDP Camp in Kandahar). This was a wool-spinning and blanket-making project that employed 1100 women in the blanket making and 1430 women in the wool-spinning. The project ended because funding ended (as UNHCR only funds emergency initiatives and no long term development projects).

Guardians were created to provide rehabilitation services for war victims. They have worked in education, water sanitation, community services, and income generation.

12. Central Asian Development Group (CADG)

Funding Agency: USAID

Current types of Activities: No active projects for women or vulnerable groups

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: Economic Development

Location: Kandahar and Helmand

GOA involved: Agriculture department, RRD

Special Notes: Current activities are in Kandahar and Helmand and include:

- Agriculture:
 - drip-irrigation projects
 - Nurseries
 - Narcotic Study for Zabul, Helmand, Kandahar & Uruzgon

 - Engineering:
 - 7 Km road for Arghandab
 - Kajaki dam in Helmand
 - Shamalan Canal drainage system in Helmand
 - Building of Schools in Helmand

 - Economic Development:
 - Oil factory in IDP – Zari Dasht
 - Bean cleaning and packaging – Daman district in Kandahar
-

13. Islamic Relief

Funding Agency: UK & USA Fundraising

Current types of Activities: No current activities in Kandahar. On standby for further funding.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: N/A

Location: Kandahar City

GOA involved: Dept of Education

Special Notes: Last year, Islamic Relief handled the WFP bakery project for women in Helmand. This project provided bread to 40,000 women. IR also ran a training program for school teachers (men and women) in Kandahar city.

14. Intersos

Funding Agency: UNHCR, ECHO

Current types of Activities: Humanitarian and development work in IDP camps. Activities include community services in education, training, medical referral and management skills. Water sanitation projects are implemented for the camps. Children's programs include social and cultural events that are aired through local radios. The intention is to reach the IDP camp children, but children in the city also benefit from listening to these programs. For women, vocational training programs are on-going in both Kandahar and Helmand. The training programs are in sewing and tailoring, carpet weaving and literacy programs. Currently, 340 women in Kandahar (zari dasht) benefit from the training program and 75 women in Helmand participate. In the literacy program, 3500 women benefit in Kandahar and 2000 women in Helmand. The length of the training programs range depending on the activity from 2 – 4 months.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: Both. The training programs aid women in providing assistance to help their families, but the long term goal is to prepare the women to become self-sufficient and economically independent.

Location: IDP camps in Kandahar and Helmand

GOA involved: Refugee Department

Special Notes: Intersos is also working on completing an assessment on women's feasibility in income generation projects in the IDP camps.

15. Helping Afghan Farmers Organization (HAFO)

Funding Agency: Cordaid, GTZ, JICA

Current types of Activities: Organization is on standby for funding.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: Economic Development through training programs

Location: Kandahar

GOA involved: Planning Dept, Social Affairs Dept.

Special Notes: HAFO has been active in vocational training in Kandahar. Past activities have focused on training young men in mechanical trainings, carpentry, metal work and embroidery and tailoring. Since the past three years, HAFO has had 350 graduates from various fields who

are now working with local businesses or have started their own businesses with the skills they have learned.

1.5 years ago, GTZ provided funding for women’s training program for 5 months and HAFO trained women in sewing, embroidery and tailoring. Now all of the training equipment is there, but no funding to continue the training program. The training was for 20 women.

16. UN-HABITAT

Funding Agency: UN, NSP/MRRD (World Bank), WFP

Current types of Activities: Two projects focus on women’s work. The National Solidarity Program works in the districts outside of the city of Kandahar and currently there are 56 total women’s Shuras in place (in three different districts: Arghandab-16, Daman-26, and Dand-17). When added, the total number of Shuras varies from the verbal account of 56. Each Shura has a minimum of 4 women and a maximum of 8 women (No clear answer was given about whether these women “really” were representatives of various clusters of homes or members of a large family in a village – the women answered yes for both). The women claimed that the women’s work was within the \$60,000 budget for each village – whereas NSP regional director stated that women’s Shuras get additional money. The Habitat employees stated that because the large sum of money is given to the men for their project, the women only get a couple hundred of dollars for their part – which leaves them to only work on very small projects. All of the 56 or 59 women’s Shuras run tailoring projects.

In the city of Kandahar, Habitat has 2 women’s centers in district 1 and 6. The women in district 1 work on a Pasta making project funded by WFP. This is a 3 month training program and this project was just funded for the 3rd time. A total of 94 women participate in this project and the profits of selling the pasta is put into a bakery project in the same center where women bake cookies and cakes to sell. A professional baker trains 10 women at a time from the 94 total Pasta making ladies.

The 6th district center is there for women to come and get embroidery work. This is a small project and the goods that the women produce are not marketed for sale.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: Both

Location: Kandahar City and 3 surrounding districts

GOA involved: N/A

Special Notes: It was difficult to arrange meetings with these women’s Shuras.

17. Mercy Corp (MC)

Funding Agency: Private MC funds and EC

Current types of Activities: No current activities for women in Kandahar. For farmers, there is the ARRP (Afghan Rural Recovery Program) that focuses on Agriculture and Animal health support. This is a 3 year program which will last until 2007.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: both

Location: Kandahar and Helmand

GOA involved: Dept. of Agriculture

Special Notes: There is a project in plans about home-agriculture for women where seeds will be provided to grow and then sell later for economic development of women in this region.

18. Handicap International

Funding Agency: EC, ECHO

Current types of Activities: There are two activities that are operated by Handicap: 1) Physical Rehabilitation Center (PRC) in Kandahar central hospital. This center provides free aid to all handicapped people in southern region of Afghanistan. The second activity is mine-awareness to aid in prevention of making people handicapped in Afghanistan. The trainers for this program are volunteers.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: Humanitarian Assistance

Location: Kandahar is a regional office for Zabul, Uruzgon, Helmand, and Nimroz

GOA involved: Dept of Handicapped

Special Notes: HI also aids the volunteers with school supplies for their children and other aid that comes to the region.

19. Afghans for Civil Society

Funding Agency: Sales of Products, past funders include OSI, IOM, NED

Current types of Activities: The following activities are currently projects of ACS:

- 1) Women's Income Generation Project: This project currently has 300 participants in all of the 6 districts of Kandahar City and the surrounding close villages. This is a home-based project that provides hand work for women. The women are paid by piece and the goal

of the project is to create a cooperative network of women involved in this work to eventually create a sustainable business that will provide a sustainable income for the women and their families.

- 2) **Women's Law Group:** This group of 5 women work on laws in Afghanistan pertaining to women and are in the planning stages of creating advocacy missions to improve the status of women in this society.
- 3) **Social activities:** In addition to serving as social outlets, these activities are geared towards empowering women in their business and entrepreneurship skills, i.e. the all women bazaar.
- 4) **Afghan Independent Radio:** This radio reaches all of Kandahar city, Arghandab district, Daman district, Dand district and half of Panjwai district. Content of radio programming includes the following subjects: Agriculture (anti-narcotic campaign), Health, Women's Issues, Children's Issues, Current Events, History, Science, Sport and any national programs that need attention.
 - a. Please note that ads for businesses and agencies can potentially make the radio stand on its feet.
- 5) **Civil Society Resource Center:** This is open to the public and facilities of internet, library and meeting halls are available for the people of Kandahar.
- 6) **Uruzgon Provincial Shura:** Empowering the people of Uruzgon to organize for improving their Province's conditions through infrastructure and economic development. The members of the Shura are not paid. Only travel and logistical expenses are paid by ACS.

Humanitarian Ass. /Economic Dev: Economic Development

Location: Kandahar and Uruzgon

GOA involved: none

Special Notes: We are in the planning stages of figuring whether ACS can open offices in Uruzgon and Helmand.

The following organizations in Kandahar were not available for interviews after two or more tries:

- ADA
- CHA
- Tearfund
- WADAN
- SARA

H E L M A N D

1. Mercy Corp

Funding Agency: Private MC funds and EC, USAID--RAMP/AIP

Current types of Activities: Through the ARRP (Afghan Rural Recovery Program) MC Helmand, 50 communities in 3 districts of Helmand have been chosen in which 12 women participate in each community totaling 600 women. This is an 18 month program that started in January 2005. The aim of this program is to work within Agriculture to sustain food security. The current activities include poultry training programs. The training program focuses on chicken management, disease prevention and incubation. At the end of the training program the women will be given 25 chicks with 50 Kg of food for the chickens. The idea is to increase this breed of chicken to eventually sell and eat at the homes of participants.

MC will also be providing training for the women that allow their homes as a center for training in vaccination and other basic taking care of chickens. She will become the basic vet on site for the rest of the participating women.

Humanitarian Ass./Economic Dev: Food Security

Location: Helmand (Bost, Nawe, Garam Ser districts)

GOA Involved: Dept of Agriculture

Special Notes: N/A

2. Women's Association (Local Women's Ministry Dept)

Funding Agency: Government of Afghanistan, PRT, CADG, Mercy Corp

Current types of Activities:

- 1) Sewing/Tailoring: Currently there are 30 students with 3 teachers teaching students to be able to sew for their families and communities. The program is run by a fee of 100 Afghanis that each student pays for the 3 months training program. Sewing machines for this program were provided by PRT.
- 2) English Courses: CADG assisted with the salary of the teacher for 30 students who attended daily classes to learn English initially. After the completion of the pilot session, the Association now offers classes to 50 women who pay 150 Afghanis fee for the course to run itself.
- 3) Poultry Training: VARA through the WFP "food for work" program offers training to 60 women for 3 months. This training will be offered 3 times, totaling 180 women trained at the end of the year. This project started on March 15, 2005. At the end of the training, 10 chicks will be given to each participating women.

Humanitarian Ass./Economic Dev: The sewing/tailoring is geared towards improving the economic development of women in Helmand.

Location: Lashkar Gah, Helmand

GOA involved: Women's Ministry

Special Notes: A new large office has just been built for the Association by IOM and PRT.

3. RRD

Funding Agency: Government of Afghanistan & UNDP

Current types of Activities: Monthly Coordination Meeting of NGOs and Government agencies.

Humanitarian Ass./Economic Dev: N/A

Location: Lashkar Gah, Helmand

GOA involved: Provincial Ministry Departments, Governor's Office

Special Notes: The PCC (Provincial Coordination Committee) is normally organized by the Planning Department, but because there is no planning department in Helmand, the RRD fulfils this activity. RRD also monitors projects by NGOs.

4. Dept of Handicap and Widows

Funding Agency: Government of Afghanistan

Current types of Activities: There are no activities other than the 300 Afghani salary to the 7000 registered handicapped citizens in Helmand.

Humanitarian Ass./Economic Dev: Humanitarian Assistance

Location: Helmand Province

GOA involved: Dept of Handicap

Special Notes: This government department has been approached by VARA, Intersos, WFP, MC and the PRT, but to date no assistance has been provided. The Dept personnel keeps requesting training programs to aid the handicapped people become self-sufficient because the 300 Afghani per month is not enough to live by, but no one has provided such a program yet.

Skill sets available among the handicapped: sewing, embroider, weaving, technical and mechanical work.

5. Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Funding Agency: MRRD/World Bank (NSP Program)

Current types of Activities: BRAC is the implementing partner of NSP in Helmand. NSP is currently in 4 districts of Helmand (of the total 14 districts). Up to date, there are a total of 336 CDCs with no specific women's Shuras in any of these areas yet. The areas where men have asked for activities for their women, machines have been bought to teach women how to sew and tailor for their families and neighbors.

Humanitarian Ass./Economic Dev: N/A

Location: Helmand (city and 3 surrounding districts)

GOA involved: RRD

Special Notes: The Helmand NSP was more interesting than the Kandahar NSP program. The men who were at the office did not seem to know much about the details of the project. The engineer who spoke to us did talk about the difficulty of running this program. The first difficulty is managing the people of the CDCs in the villages. Many of these people tend to provide services for themselves (or close to their personal contacts) rather than thinking about the large community they are serving. Because the decision is in their hand, BRAC members cannot interfere with the decisions that the CDCs make. He described the work of the NSP as "patching a torn tire rather than permanently fixing the tear." Overall the project seems to be working for the temporary basis, but he mentioned that no long term planning has been done for this project either.

6. Central Asian Development Group (CADG)

Funding Agency: USAID/RAMP

Current types of Activities: No specific work for women's activities, although CADG has assisted women's initiatives in the past with the Women's Association. There is a 45 day training program in Thailand in which 31 men from Helmand are attending. This training is for the Alternative Livelihood Quick Impact Program (ALQIP).

Humanitarian Ass./Economic Dev: Economic Development in general

Location: Helmand

GOA involved: N/A

Special Notes: N/A

Intersos and VARA are also operating in Helmand. Their offices could not be reached for this specific survey but they have been contacted previously by Chemonics and the following summary of their activities in Helmand was obtained:

VARA is currently implementing community nurseries and limited reforestation activities they would like to expand. Intersos is implementing vocational skills building activities for women and vulnerable persons as well as educational empowerment and literacy classes for at risk youth.

ANNEX B. LIST OF CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT NAME	CONTACT NUMBER	PROVINCE
Save the Children	Mohammad Saeed	070 306 245	Kandahar
Oxfam	Sadiquallah Fahim	070 278 837	Kandahar
Loy Kandahar Reconstruction Organization (LKRO)	Abdul Sattar Baryalai	070 302 908	Kandahar
ActionAid	Abdul Mubin Totakhel	070 305 816	Kandahar
DACAAR	Feda Mohammad	070 324 768	Kandahar
Voluntary Association for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan (VARA)	Abdul Safi and Najmuddin Mojadedi	070301653	Kandahar and Helmand
Khorasan Therapy Corporation (KTC)	Aminullah Soufiany	070 302 006	Kandahar
Institution for Relief & Rehabilitation of Afghanistan (IRRA)	Ghulam Muhammad	070 323 868	Kandahar
Reconstruction Authority for Afghanistan (RAFA)	Eng. Yusuf Khan	070 301 150	Kandahar
Bost Rehabilitation Organization (BRO)	Eng. Mateen	070 310 118	Kandahar
Guardians	Eng. Qaseem	070 384 455	Kandahar
Central Asian Development Group (CADG)	Eng. Rahmattullah and Brigido Solo	bcsolo@yahoo.com	Kandahar and Helmand
Islamic Relief	Abdul Hanan	n/a	Kandahar
Intersos	Marco Rotelli	070 305 557	Kandahar and Helmand
Helping Afghan Farmers Organization (HAFO)	Eng. Farooq	070 303 797	Kandahar
UN-HABITAT	Ms. Aisha	070 329 466	Kandahar
Mercy Corp (MC)	Hazrat Umer Khan (K) and Dr. Sardar (H)	070 300 728 (K) and 079 274 191 (H)	Kandahar and Helmand
Handicap International	Abdul Qadir	070 290 647	Kandahar
Afghans for Civil Society	Ms. Rangina Hamidi	070 303 819	Kandahar

Helmand Women's Association (Local Women's Ministry Dept)	Ms. Fouzea Ulomi	079466845	Helmand
Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development--Helmand (RRD)	Dr. M. Akbar Shaheed	079 469 614	Helmand
Department of Handicap and Widows--Helmand	Haji Mohibullah	079 251 486	Helmand
Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)	Engineer Eshaq	070-284189 (Kabul office number)	Helmand

ANNEX C. LIST OF SECONDARY DATA SOURCES/LITERATURE REVIEW

AREU. “The A to Z Guide to Afghan Assistance.” The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit. August 2004

Aziz, Zulaikha and Rojas, Mary. “RAMP Gender Strategy.” Chemonics/USAID. May 2004.

Christoplos, Ian. “Out of Step? Agricultural Policy and Afghan Livelihoods.” The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit. May 2004.

Cordaid. “Cordaia Policy on Vulnerable Groups.” Cordaid. September 2003.

DFID. “Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheets.” Department for International Development. April 1999.

Grace, Jo and Paine, Adam. “Rethinking Rural Livelihoods in Afghanistan.” The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit. June 2004.

Kane, Marilee. “Women and Opium in Badakhshan Province.” January 2004.

Mercy Corps Afghanistan. “Southern Afghanistan Women in Agriculture Strategy.” Mercy Corp Afghanistan. September 2004.

Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. “Gender and the NSP.” MRRD. 2005.

Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the World Food Program. “Report on Findings from the 2003 National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) in Rural Afghanistan. The Vulnerability Analysis Unit (VAU) of the MRRD and the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit (VAM) of the WFP. December 2004.

Tufts University. “Human Security and Livelihoods of Rural Afghans, 2002-2003.” Fienstien International Famine Center, Youth and Community Program, Tufts University, USA. June 2004.

UNODC. “Poppy Cultivation in Afghanistan—Search for Alternatives.” UN. February 2004.