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AFGHANISTAN

**ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS
PROGRAM - EASTERN REGION**

Biweekly Report

May 1-15, 2007



Disabled laborer at work on Nokor Khil cobblestone road, Khogyani District in Nangarhar

• ALP/E General Information

• Project	• Alternative Livelihoods Program – Eastern Region
• Start Date	• 15 February, 2005 (contract signing)
• End Date	• 14 February, 2009
• Contract Number	• GS-10F-0359M
• Order Number	• 306-M-00-05-00515-00
• Cognizant Technical Officer	• Patrick Ludgate
• Contracting Officer	• Marilyn Bianco
• Geographic Coverage	• Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar and Nuristan Provinces

ALP/E'S MISSION STATEMENT

The overall objective of ALP/E is to accelerate broad-based, sustainable economic development in the Eastern Region, providing the population with licit livelihood options, and contributing to the elimination of poppy production as an economic element. This will be accomplished by working with the public and private sectors to increase the competitiveness and diversity of regional agricultural and non-agricultural sub-sectors; improving access to markets, inputs and business services; consolidating the presence of supportive public and productive infrastructure; building public and private sector capacity to function in a competitive and transparent economy; and addressing the needs of populations that are heavily reliant on the poppy economy.



I. Executive Summary

- Transported, laid out orchards and established over 2,000 walnut trees, planting 200 jeribs of land in Parun District in Nuristan, as part of the Fruit Marketing Program.
- Sold 28 metric tons of Loquat, strawberry, apricot and peach worth US\$12,300 during the first 2 weeks of May produced by 81 farmers from 11 districts in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman provinces. The prices paid to the members of the ALP/E Fruit Marketing Groups were on average 31 percent above those paid to non-beneficiaries, which constitutes a clear indication of the success of this program.
- Implemented an aggressive extension campaign by ALP/E's subcontractors for the management of established fruit and nut orchards to ensure that the orchards are properly irrigated. This is particularly critical in the next 90 days, as temperatures are expected to rise to around 55 degrees Celsius, which puts all plants in stress, especially those recently planted.
- Visited 1,769 farmers growing 4,690 Jeribs of fruit orchards by IF HOPE technicians
- Distribution of improved seeds and fertilizers under the REVAMP and TIMER programs begins in the third week of May using a selection of high-yielding vegetable varieties and hybrids.
- Continued work on the 43 active CFW projects, employing a total of 29,031 persons generating 55,705 days during the reporting period*. To date, ALP/E has generated a total of 1,747,607 person days employment through community chosen and constructed projects.
- Completion of Ghauchak, Lawangapor and Metrani roads is close. Shega village road is completed as far as the planned activities are concerned, but additional work is being done now. On Ghauchak road, ongoing maintenance is now done by a small team that is appointed from the communities. They are supervised by ALP/E engineer. The maintenance of this road will serve as a pilot to provide information for a program of road maintenance in cooperation with MRRD/MOPW planned in annual workplan three.
- Facilitated a visit from staff of the Afghan Rural Finance Center (part of USAID's AERIES program) who were conducting a due diligence information gathering effort in support of the pending \$700,000 loan request for participants in the ALP/E Poultry Program.
- Concluded a joint visit with ASMED staff to the Mansoor Helmand Edible Oil and Soap company in Nangarhar as part of a PSD effort to provide the necessary equipment for this and other cottonseed processors to provide oil that is legal for food use. Currently these factories must either take their expressed oil to Pakistan for refining, sell it illegally, or use it for a much lower value product, the manufacture of laundry soap.
- Processed over 2 MT of fruits and high value vegetables for the continuation of the *Pride of Eastern Region* at Le Bistro, Kabul by the women of the Surkhrod Pack House.
- Selection of sites and beneficiaries has been selected in Smarkhail, Surkhrod and Besoud for the semi-commercial herb project. Over 4 acres of land has been prepared and training is planned for next week.
- Construction work of fish ponds is in progress in selected sites and excavation by the owners is complete on 10 out of 20 ponds. ALP/E is coordinating with GTZ on this activity.

II. Sector Activities

A. Agribusiness

Perennial crops

ALP/E Agribusiness Activities Growing in Nuristan Province

In addition to the ongoing programs for the expansion of area planted with fruit and nuts in Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar provinces, Field Technicians of ALP/E's Fruit Marketing Program carried out a daunting assignment in Nuristan this spring, transporting and planting over 2,000 walnut saplings, enough to plant 200 jeribs of land in Parun District. This region is characterized by a volatile security situation and absence of roads; nonetheless the team used donkeys and human porters to transport the trees during the dormant season and returned recently as the weather improved walking long distances to lay out the planting sites.

In a similar parallel effort, the Fruit Marketing Program planted 250 Jeribs of apple trees in Waygal District of Nuristan Province. These initiatives are progressively bringing long term new economic opportunities to war-torn and neglected areas of the country.



Young ALP/E agronomists helping Nuristani farmers to layout and plant new walnut orchards

Fruit Marketing Groups off to a good start in 2007

As the fruit season begins, Fruit Marketing Groups formed in 2006 are increasingly benefiting from bigger yields, improved quality and collective marketing. During the first 2 weeks of May alone, 81 farmers of 11 districts of Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman provinces sold 28 metric tons of Loquats, strawberries, apricots and peaches worth US\$12,300. The prices paid to members of Fruit Marketing Groups were 31 percent above those paid to non-beneficiaries, which constitutes one clear indication of the success of this program.



A proud member of the local Fruit Marketing Group in Chaparhar District of Nangarhar

Orchard Establishment and Irrigation Practices

ALP/E’s subcontractors, IFHope and Roots of Peace, are establishing new fruit and nut orchards throughout the region. Following up on the spring planting season they are now engaged in an aggressive extension campaign to ensure that all the fruit tree orchards in the region are properly irrigated. This is particularly critical in the next 90 days, as temperatures are expected to rise to around 55 degrees Celsius, which puts all the plants under stress, especially those recently planted.

Activities for the promotion of proper irrigation can include the provision of technical advice about orchard layout and irrigation channels, assistance in the solution of water rights issues and support in negotiations with village elders to give priority in the provision of water to farmers with young orchards.

During the reporting period, IF HOPE’s technicians visited 1,769 farmers growing 4,690 Jeribs of fruit orchards. The major observations included areas with insect attack such as aphids, leaf miner and grasshoppers. Gummosis was also present in stone fruits.



Orchard established by an ALP/E subcontractor one year after planting

Annual Horticulture

ALP/E Promotion of Eastern Region Produce and Handicrafts continues in Kabul

ALP/E's *Commercial Demonstration Farms* has a number of crops that will soon reach harvest stage; the project is currently facilitating field days for fruit and vegetable traders and retailers as a mechanism to introduce them to the new crop varieties and techniques and to facilitate trade negotiations between producers and wholesalers.

Summer crops expected include melons, watermelons, okra, cucumber, onion, tomatoes and herbs. Farmers and traders are also making arrangements to export this season's products to Dubai, planning to ship combinations of seasonal fruits and vegetables to this expanding market.

The distribution of improved vegetable seeds and fertilizers under the REVAMP and TIMER programs begins in the third week of May using a selection of high-yielding vegetable varieties and hybrids with market demand.

On the evening of May 10th, ALP/E in collaboration with private fruit and vegetable traders launched "Pride of the Eastern Region at Le Bistro, a weeklong festival of produce and handicrafts from Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar and Nuristan". This event, which will end on May 16, seeks to raise the profile of the region and continue to build the reputation of Eastern Afghanistan as a reliable supplier of high-value horticultural products to high end markets in the capital.



Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the Honorable M. Sharif Sharifi delivering his remarks at Le Bistro

Mr. Dan de Mirmont, owner and Chef at Le Bistro Restaurant in Kabul played a crucial role in planning the event, through which Le Bistro is encouraging the hospitality industry to procure local products and help develop the Afghan economy.

The launching ceremony was attended by Members of Parliament from Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Honorable Mohammad Sharif Sharifi, and several other government officials and representatives of international organizations.

During his speech, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture congratulated ALP/E for its success in rehabilitating commercial agriculture, and on the extent to which farmers from the Eastern Region are progressively regaining ground in the local, regional and international markets.

Handicrafts from Eastern Afghanistan were also at the center of the event, as several women groups from Laghman and Nangarhar provinces displayed and sold a variety of products with new designs developed through assistance from ALP/E.

Pride of the Eastern Region at Le Bistro

Come and Enjoy the Fusion of Afghan Gourmet Produce and French Cuisine

A Festival of Food and Handicrafts from Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar and Nuristan

On May 11-16, 2007,
Le Bistro will be serving a variety of dishes prepared with vegetables and fruit from "The Garden of Afghanistan" and hosting an exhibition of crafts made by artisans from the Eastern Region.

Le Bistro Restaurant
Shah Bobo Jan Road, off Chicken Street,
by the Ministry of Interior and
Roshan Commercial Center, Kabul
Reservations at 0093 (0) 799598852

Amour et Chocolat
Le Bistro

With Support from the USAID
Alternative Livelihoods Program
for the Eastern Region (ALP/E)

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Staple Crops

This ALP/E project activity, in part subcontracted out to ICARDA has three major components; Adaptive Research, Technology Dissemination and Seeds Systems.

During the reporting period, the subcontractor supervised the planting of rice seedlings and the harvest and data collection of wheat trials. Potato trials are now passing the tuber stage and undergoing irrigation and weeding.

Activities in support of technology dissemination included two field days in Kunar province to demonstrate improved agronomic practices for wheat and potato. These field days were attended by 414 farmers, in addition to officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.

ICARDA submitted the documentation for the registration of 12 Village-Based Seed Enterprises to AISA and Ministry of Agriculture officials conducted field inspections for seeds certification. ICARDA is currently processing customs clearance of seed cleaners to process the improved wheat seed currently being harvested.



Harvest of wheat trials

B. Infrastructure Development

Productive Infrastructure Projects (PIP)

The status of ALP/E's Productive Infrastructure Projects (PIP) as of 15 May is presented below:

Province	Technical Feasibility Completed	Engineering Survey and Design Completed	Projects Under Tender Process	Contracts Awarded	Work Completed
Nangarhar	4	4	3	1	0
Laghman	2	2	1	1	1
Kunar (*)	0	2	0	0	0
Total	6	8	4	2	1

NB: (*) - One project has been moved to CFW and the other was cancelled as this project being implemented by other agency.

Capacity Building

Construction Trades Training Center (CTTC): The 14th Class of ALP/E supported Tradesmen, 43 in number, which started on May 5, 2007, continued their 30-day training course in trade skills at CTTC.

Nuristan Road Inventory Team (NuRIT)

Following a request from the Nuristan PRT and discussions with the local officials, the NuRIT was formed during the reporting period as part of the road network capacity-building project for the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in Nuristan.

Initially, the work has been planned to focus on the inventory of the current road conditions and mapping the road network starting with the main roads moving down to the tertiary level roads and beginning in three districts of Nuristan Province in Western Nuristan. It is planned to progressively expand these mapping and condition inventory activities to Central and Eastern Nuristan districts as the weather improves and the security situation allows movement around the districts to survey and map the roads.

In April, the ALP/E Infrastructure and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Units completed the training of four staff from the Nuristan MPW and MRRD on the uses of GPS and inventory forms including field training. The Director of MPW and the Deputy Director of RRD, Nuristan also attended the training course.



NuRIT Training at ALP/E 2 attended by the Director of MoPW, Deputy Director of RRD and Staff

The CTTC completed class 13, a one month training of 34 trade workers on 2 May as detailed below.

Type of training	Total	By province				By Gender	
		Nangarhar	Laghman	Kunar	Nuristan	Male	Female
Electrician	7	5	0	2	0	7	
Carpenter	5	5	0	0	0	5	
Painter	3	3	0	0	0	3	
Plumbing	4	4	0	0	0	4	
Mason	12	10	0	2	0	12	
Steel Fixing	3	3	0	0	0	3	
Total Trainees						34	

Improving Infrastructure and Access to Services, Government Facilities and Markets:

Mashina Gravel Road (7.5km): HADF, the contractor for this road, continues to maintain the road.

Kama DBST Road (14.6 km): Work continued on the improvement of the Kama Road by the contractor SKB-Saboor Joint Venture. A progress of 10% out of 15% programmed has been recorded on the preparatory works. Stones for the macadam, from the selected borrow area were identified by the Director of Public Works, ALP staff and the contractor's Project Manager. The stones from the quarry were selected, signed and kept as samples for future reference.

Work is progressing a little behind schedule of the monthly work plan. The invoice from the contractor was received and is under process for payment.



Construction of a Retaining Wall at Kam road in a rocky area

Abizai Bridge: Work continued on finalizing the evaluation of the 18 bids received for this bridge reconstruction.

Sherzad to Hisarak Gravel Road (15 km):

Bid evaluation is in progress. **The technical evaluation has been completed and recommendations have been made and the file has been forwarded to Operation Section for further action.**

Lal Pur to Guldag DBST Road (12 km):

One bidder was technically evaluated as the highest rated and was asked to submit their audited Financial Statements for the past 3 years. **The Company has submitted the documents on May 13 to ALP/E.**

Barabad to Mangwal Gravel Road (11 km)

The PIF for this project for implementation under CFW rather than as a PIP has been prepared.

Qasimabad DBST and Gravel Road (5.7km)

The evaluation of the bids for this project is on-going.

Surveys carried out by ALP/E Survey Teams

The ALP/E survey teams have continued to carry out setting out of the levels for cut and fills along the ongoing cobblestone road construction in Nangarhar and Laghman provinces.

In addition, a survey team was fully occupied during this period with the mutual check survey of the Kama road with the contractor SKB-Saboor Joint Venture.

Another design and survey team has moved to Nuristan province to assist in the collection of data for the design and mapping of a planned cobblestone road in Paroun, Nuristan.

Productive Infrastructure Projects (PIP)

PROJECT	PIP NUMBER	LOCATION	DESIGN, % BY DAI	BUILT, %	IMPELMENTER	COMMENT
Mashina Road Improvement – 7.5 km	PIP 090201	Qarghai, Laghman	100	100	HADF	Work completed, road now under maintenance period.
Abizai Bridge 4x`17m Span	PIP 090101	Mehtarlam, Laghman	100	0	TBD	Evaluation is in the final stages, a draft contract has been prepared.
Kama DBST Road - 14.6 km	PIP 081801	Kama, Nangarhar	100	10%	SBK/Saboor	Actual work progress is 10% against the planned target of 15%.
Qasim Abad Road – 5.7 km	PIP 082101	Behsud Nangarhar	100	0	TBD	The bid Evaluation for this project is still in progress.
Sherzad to Hesarak Road – Section-I 15.1 km	PIP 080301	Sherzad, Hesarak, Nangarhar	100	0	TBD	Clarification meetings were held and the bid evaluation is still in progress.
Lal Pur Road-12 km	PIP 081501	Lal Pur, Nangarhar	100	0	TBD	Evaluation is in progress. The required documents have been prepared.
Barabad to Mangwal Road, 11.75km Section-I,	PIP 101501	Khas Kunar, Kunar	100	0	TBD	Technical Feasibility being prepared. This project has been moved to the CFW program.

Cash-for-work (CFW) Projects

ALP/E has continued its work with the communities on the 43 active CFW projects, which employed a total of 29,031 persons and generated 55,705 employment days during the reporting period*. To date, ALP/E has generated a total of 1,747,607 person days using community labor to implement infrastructure projects.

Summary of CFW Projects by Province, May 1-15, 2007

PROVINCE	TOTAL OF APPROVED PROJECTS	PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED PROJECTS	ACTIVE PROJECTS THIS PERIOD	STOPPED PROJECTS	OTHER PENDING APPROVED PROJECTS	PERSON DAYS OF EMPLOYMENT THIS PERIOD*
Nangarhar	92	56	34	0	0	37,014
Laghman	43	35	5	0	0	10,464
Kunar	19	12	3	0	0	4,314
Nuristan	1	0	1	0	0	3,913
TOTAL	151	107	43	0	0	55,705

* For accounting purposes this number is from April 1-15, 2007

Completion of Planned Activities under Annual Workplan Two

USAID's ALP/E infrastructure activities in the eastern region are working with communities to select project priorities within their local areas for rehabilitation and then working closely with the communities to design and then build these projects, employing local skilled and unskilled labor supervised by ALP/E engineers and providing badly needed jobs for Afghan citizens in the eastern region. One successful and sizeable activity of the ALP/E community infrastructure program, trains and then employs local men to build cobblestone roads in their communities. By design, these roads are chosen, located and built in places to give the most benefit to the community—allowing for more efficient access to main markets and roads, and government services and healthcare facilities.

The Ghauchak, Lawangapor and Metrani cobblestone roads are now being completed. Shega village road is completed as far as the planned activities are concerned, but some additional work has been added. On

Ghauchak road, ongoing maintenance is being done by a small team that was selected by and appointed from the communities. They are supervised by an ALP/E engineer. The maintenance of this road will serve as a pilot for a planned road maintenance in cooperation with MRRD/MOPW under annual workplan three.

New and Completed CFW Projects, May 1-15, 2007

PROVINCE	# OF NEW PROJECTS (RE)STARTED THIS PERIOD	# OF PROJECTS COMPLETED THIS PERIOD
Nangarhar	0	0
Laghman	0	1
Kunar	0	0
Nuristan	0	0
TOTAL	0	1

Follow up training for cobble stone layers

A follow up training for cobble stone laborers is on-going. The trainers spend 2 days out in the field on each cobblestone road under construction. There, they work directly with the community laborers and the site engineers to go through all the practices and specifications and order of work to arrive at a good quality road. The training addresses all the following issues: Review of practices: Are the specifications being followed? Are the site engineers and the cobblestone laborers all following the same practices? What, if any, are the differences? Any bad practices observed? Is the order of activities according to the specifications practiced? This review on the site of the field versus the classroom practices is followed up by recommendations for corrective actions, instructions to the site engineers and problems are identified for further follow up. The Quality Control engineer from ALP/E joins the field meetings and reports on the training and activities. The CTTC trainers also submit one report on each road where they carry out training. ALP/E is compiling the reports and the findings to conclude this follow up training which is scheduled till early June with general recommendations.



Trainers on Darunta Bypass and Shamshapur cobblestone road selecting proper cobbles according to specifications



Survey in Nuristan Province

On 12 May the ALP/E survey team left for Pashki to start a detailed survey of the 18.2 km road from Pashki to Pronce. Earlier attempts to send the survey team had failed due to roads being blocked. The team will survey the road in detail, make cross sections and identify where excavation, rock cutting, structures and retaining walls are required to build a good quality road. The survey team will also identify sources for the needed materials in the area. The survey will also assess whether the planned cobblestone surface is feasible and desired along the entire 18.2 km. On the 22 May the team is expected to return to the office with all the data and start the design and project implementation forms. By mid- June the documents will be ready to submit to USAID for approval.



Snow with rubble blocking the road along the whole length of the road Pashki - Province

Delays due to harvesting of poppy

Some projects in Khogyani, Shinwar, Nazian, etc are slowing down because of a shortage of laborers who are being attracted away by the higher daily pay they can receive harvesting poppy. This harvesting does not occur close to the ALP/E projects, but some of the laborers are traveling to the poppy fields in the district where they can make more money. Some projects have only 20% of the required laborers present. So we are expecting some delays in terms of the estimated completion date. This is a temporary problem and at the end of May, all of the ALP/E projects should be back at 100% capacity again.



Road construction activities are ongoing in the remote district of Dara-i-Noor. The Dudrak road is expected to be completed in August 2007.

Ongoing construction of Kaga canal in Dih Bala district of Nangarhar



Cash-For-Work Projects by Province

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT CODE	% IMPLEMENTED APR 16-30, 2007	% IMPLEMENTED MAY 1-15, 2007	REMARKS
Nangarhar (Roads)				
Ghauchak Cobblestone Road	CFW-080207	additional maintenance works going on	PILOT maintenance works going on	ACTIVE,
Shamshapoor Cobble Stone Road third reach	CFW-080208	54%	55%	ACTIVE
Adam Khil road	CFW-080210	12%	22%	ACTIVE
Kodi Khil Cobblestone Road	CFW-080407	39%	47%	ACTIVE
Nokor Khil, cobble stone road	CFW-080508	22%	24%	ACTIVE
Spin Jumat Road	CFW-080607	42%	53%	ACTIVE
Pacher cobble stone road	CFW-080702	55%	57%	ACTIVE
Pekha Abdul Khil Road	CFW-081003	52%	64%	ACTIVE
Zysar Cobblestone Road	CFW-081102	74%	76%	ACTIVE

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT CODE	% IMPLEMENTED APR 16-30, 2007	% IMPLEMENTED MAY 1-15, 2007	REMARKS
Katali and Daga roads	CFW-081303	26%	31%	ACTIVE
Chardehi Cobblestone road	CFW-081703	67%	70%	ACTIVE
Shega Cobblestone road	CFW-081903	97%	98%	ACTIVE
Dodrak Road Improvement	CFW-082003	18%	23%	ACTIVE
Metrani Cobblestone Road	CFW-082103	96%	98%	ACTIVE
Nangarhar (Non Road)				
Jukan Intakes and FP	CFW-080303	22%	27%	ACTIVE
Lajkar Canal Intakes	CFW-080304	22%	27%	ACTIVE
Nemla Irrigation Intake and Canal Repair	CFW-080504	27%	30%	ACTIVE
Kaga Canal Intake and Protection walls	CFW-080509	25%	34%	ACTIVE
Kaga Canal repair Dih Bala	CFW-080801	29%	34%	ACTIVE
Shulgar Canal repair	CFW-080803	30%	41%	ACTIVE
Baro Canal Improvements	CFW-080901	65%	76%	ACTIVE
Khan Moh. Khan Intake	CFW-080902	55%	61%	ACTIVE
Shulgar Flood Protection	CFW-081206	58%	75%	ACTIVE
Spin Khower Wash embankment repairs	CFW-081302	64%	74%	ACTIVE
Hazanaw Wash Bank Repairs	CFW-081401	50%	54%	ACTIVE
Basawal Banbaba Flood Protection	CFW-081404	50%	60%	ACTIVE
Sada Canal Intake	CFW-081501	35%	39%	ACTIVE
Kharbandi and Khawezi Flood Protection Dikes	CFW-081606	18%	20%	ACTIVE
Grabawa Flood Protection Dikes	CFW-081704	16%	18%	ACTIVE
Kachara and Gorik Flood Protection	CFW-081905	70%	80%	ACTIVE
Sepai Flood Protection works	CFW-082101	4%	10%	ACTIVE
Miro Kalai Flood works	CFW-082102	9%	15%	ACTIVE
Spin Jumat Embankment	CFW-082204	96%	98%	ACTIVE
Binigah II Flood Protection	CFW-082206	93%	95%	ACTIVE
Laghman (Road)				
Deh Malakh to Tajkari and Qala Safi road	CFW-090116	12%	20%	ACTIVE
Daronta Bypass Cobblestone Road, Third Reach	CFW-090213	80%	83%	ACTIVE
Dehziarat-Omarzai Cobblestone Road	CFW-090121	56%	60%	ACTIVE
Mahigeran Cobblestone Road	CFW-090215	34%	38%	ACTIVE
Lara Mora Road Improvement	CFW-090219	84%	100%	Completed this period
Laghman (Non Road)				
Haji Gul Dad Flood protection	CFW-090220	18%	20%	ACTIVE
Kunar (Road)				
Seend Wala Chawkay Canal Protection	CFW-101302	23%	35%	ACTIVE
Chindrawi road	CFW-101505	31%	45%	ACTIVE
Kunar (Non Road)				
Nurgal Seend Wala Canal Aqueduct	CFW-101405	48%	55%	ACTIVE
Nuristan (Road)				
Dakor to Mashfa Cobblestone Road	CFW-300801	56%	70%	ACTIVE

C. Private Sector Development

Met with local entrepreneurs to discuss and provide technical assistance in the development of a poultry and dairy operation in Surkhrod District. Currently, under construction are a self-financed dairy barn with adjacent veterinary and calving facilities as well as a paddock and bunkhouse. Expansion in operations is planned to include the construction of a feed mill (poultry, cattle, and cattle concentrate) and a hatchery. PSD will work with the farm owners to develop a request for funding if appropriate and to provide technical assistance as requested.



Pir Ahmad Farm's New Dairy Barn – Surkhrod District, Nangarhar Province

PSD is assisting the Mayor of Nangarhar in improving the food safety and sanitary conditions at the proposed new site for the Jalalabad Fruit and Vegetable Retail Market. The Market has neither water nor toilet facilities. PSD contacted ASMED which will be providing a deep water well and toilets for the facility. PSD also contacted the local PRT, who have agreed to construct the necessary water tower on site. PSD has also done some preliminary work, in cooperation with ALP/E Agri-business, to study the potential relocation of the Jalalabad Wholesale Poultry Market.

The first half of a two-part Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Certification food safety training course was provided to ALP/E GME and Surkhrod Pack House staff. The course will be completed in the forthcoming week and internationally recognized certificates will be awarded to those that successfully complete the course.

PSD hosted a visit by staff from the Afghan Rural Finance Center who were conducting a due diligence information gathering effort in support of the pending \$700,000 loan request for the ALP/E Poultry Program.

Worked continued with the AL-Riyaz Packing Factory (APC) to develop a local facility to produce cardboard and wooden packaging. PSD has assisted the company in collecting the necessary data to prepare funding request in an effort to secure a \$50,250(US) grant from ASMED, and a \$100,000 loan. from ARFC (Afghanistan Rural Finance Center). The owner will make an \$116,000 personal investment in building this badly needed facility.

Continued to work with the Sabawoon Feed Mill to implement their project that recently received funding. This effort included completing the funding agreement and distribution schedule required by ASMED as well as assistance in securing contract bids for the delivery of the primary feed mill equipment. A schedule for the project was developed as was assistance for the design and layout of the facility. PSD will also provide requested assistance to the company by reviewing their equipment purchase contracts and provide additional technical assistance as required.

Provided assistance to the AEADC (Afghanistan Eastern Agriculture Development Company). AEADC in planning for the expansion of the company that includes training 200 women and 100 men to become contract producers of fresh mushrooms. In addition, they would like to expand their operation of vegetable drying and fruit candies production by installing new machinery and developing a plant that meets good food safety standards.

A joint visit by the ASMED and the ALP/E teams (which included ALP/E, COP, PSD Manager, PSD Officer and the ASMED Regional Manager, and a Consultant, Business Development Specialist) was made to the Mansoor Helmand Edible Oil and Soap company as part of a PSD effort to provide the necessary equipment for this and other cottonseed processors to provide oil that is legal for food use. Currently these factories must either take their oil to Pakistan for refining, sell it illegally, or use it for a much lower value product, the manufacture of laundry soap.

A. BDC (Business Development Center) Activities:

The PSD and ASMED managers jointly met with several representatives from the Department of Defense Contract Management Agency-Joint Contracting Command-Afghanistan Contracting Operations Office, at their request, to discuss difficulties they are having in soliciting proposals from Afghan businesses. The result of that meeting was the development of a concept for a Contract Solicitation and Referral Center to be developed at the BDC, funded by DOD, and perhaps to be used as a model for the other locations in Afghanistan. PSD prepared a draft of a proposal to do so and submitted it to DOD for their consideration.

PSD manager also shared the initial draft proposal for this Contract Solicitation and Referral Center with the BDC Board of directors explaining that basically the BDC would receive solicitations for proposals, translate these proposals into Pashto and Dari, post these on their web page, and then distribute these solicitations to interested parties. Assistance would also be provided to interested parties in preparing proposals in response to listed opportunities as well as classes for interested business people who which to more actively participate in the bidding process. In addition, the Center would feature a fee-for-service blue print facility with a plotter and supporting computer. Such a blue print facility does not exist in the Eastern Region necessitating travel for this service to Pakistan or Kabul. This proposal was most welcome and appreciated by the board members.

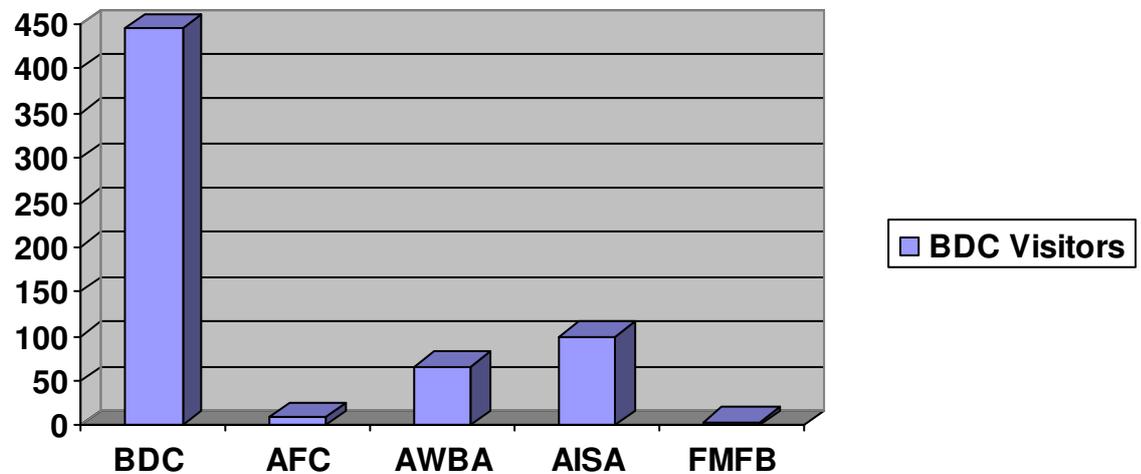
Additional support to the BDC as part of the ongoing capacity building included meetings with the Board of Directors and BDC director to delineate their areas of activities, responsibilities and authorities between the Board members and BDC director to minimize miscommunication between the two groups.

This period, the BDC provided Business Management training to 46 individual businessmen, referred 22 businessmen to FMFB (First Micro Finance Bank) who requested a loan, 11 businessmen who expressed a desire to lease machinery were referred to AFC (Afghanistan Finance Company), 16 businessmen who wanted to register their businesses were referred to AISA (Afghanistan Investment Support Agency) and two business plans were developed for businesses. The BDC internet facility was used for 70 hours by 7 individual businessmen during the reporting period. BDC also provide advisory services to 14 businessmen.

A meeting was held with the Chairman and some members of cotton association at the BDC office. The association needs help in member capacity building and to increase profitability of their operations. They were advised to introduce their members to receive trainings at the BDC. In addition, they were guided to contact the PSD and ASMED offices for receiving further assistance. PSD is currently working on a request for funding and business plan for securing and installing a cotton bailing machine(s) to assist the cotton gin operators in transporting and selling the ginned cotton.

Held meeting with the Director of AIB (Afghanistan International Bank) and he stated that when AIB wants to give loan to businessmen, according to the bank's rules which require a guarantee/security from him; the Nangarhar Justice Court Department delays the matter for unknown reasons. ER-BDC director told him

that the director of this department isn't present in Nangarhar now and when he returns, BDC will discuss the issue with him.



D. Gender and Micro-enterprise Development

Eastern Region Handicraft Production and Marketing Center

ALP/E GME is assisting the Eastern Region Handicraft Association in the provision of raw materials and improved designs to make quality marketable handicrafts. An exhibition of the crafts made by artisans and handicraft association members of eastern region was displayed at the *Pride of the Eastern Region* event at Le Bistro, Kabul. The handicraft center delegates are exploring the possibilities of opening a gallery in Kabul and visited other women owned handicraft retail shops in Kabul. This event was the first trip to Kabul for Jamila, the President of the ER Handicraft Association, and her first time to participate in such an exhibition.



Handicrafts at Pride of the Eastern Region event

Surkhrod Vegetable Packing Facility:

The Surkhrod road packing facility continued its efforts in packing, grading and shipping high quality fruit and vegetable products to markets. The Pack house processed over 2 MT of fruits and high value vegetables for *Pride of Eastern Region* at Le Bistro, Kabul.

Commercial Vegetable Nurseries:

The Ministry of Agriculture has requested that ALP/E provide spring crop vegetable seedlings for the Badambagh (Ag Fair 2007) site in Kabul.

Semi-commercial Herb:

Sites and beneficiaries have been selected in Smarkhail, Surkhrod and Besoud. Over 4 acres of land has been prepared. ALP/E is planning a training next week.



A fish farm being established in Hajjano village, Bati Kot

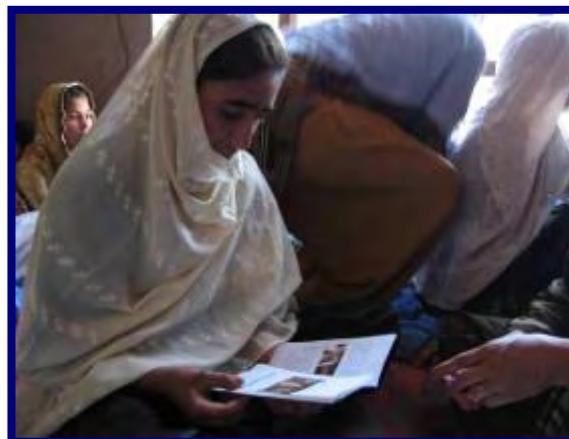
Fish Farms:

The construction work of fish ponds is in progress in selected sites and excavation of 10 out of 20 ponds is completed. GME fishery team received training in aquaculture principles, selection of site, soil, and water and pond construction. A Fish tour was organized for GME team in Darunta fish farms to see the existing fish farming facility. Meetings were held with fingerlings suppliers to source and supply fingerlings for the fish project.

Commercial Poultry Development Program:

The GME staff accompanied the PSD team in meeting the potential investors of poultry feed mill and hatchery and reviewed a proposal of a breeder farm which will be established in Besoud.

The GME team continued avian influenza awareness campaign among women in Nangarhar and Laghman. To date 1,618 women from SHGs and villages have been trained by two female para vets with basic information on avian influenza (bird Flu) diagnosis, etiology, transmission, control, prevention, vaccination, surveillance, signs and symptoms.



One of the course participants is reading Avian Influenza brochure.

The women's Fruit and Forestry Nursery Program:

During the bi weekly period the GME monitoring team conducted monitoring of 40 fruit and forestry nurseries in Laghman and Nangarhar Provinces. Maintenance is ongoing in all nurseries by the farmers.

Gender and Micro-enterprise Development

PROJECT	DATA	KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Four women-owned forestry nurseries	40 of families benefited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On-going, forestry and fruit & nut seeds have been sown.
Women-owned Fish Farms	20 Fish farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On-going Fish ponds construction in Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar
Surkhrod Vegetable Packing Facility	10 female operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On-going, Grading and Packing of 2 MT of fruit and vegetables for pride of the Eastern Region, at Le Bistro Kabul.
Establishment of 6 women-owned vegetable nurseries	59 nursery operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transplanted saplings from 4 nurseries to demo plots (eggplant, pepper, cucumber, okra & watermelon).Greenhouses prepared & disinfected for next cycle.
Poultry farms	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AI surveillance program for women of ER. To date 1,618 women from SHGs and villages have been trained

E. Institutional Capacity Development

Support to Associations

Fruit Growers Association

On May 3rd, the Association celebrated its official opening with a ceremony attended by over 40 participants. The Association's Director briefed the audience on achievements to date and future plans. The major milestones include: opening their office; hiring a manager and an accountant who have developed a monthly newsletter, with two issues already distributed to the membership. The next tasks include: collecting membership fees; opening a bank account; and addressing member needs including organizing wholesale fruit sales, business and technical training, and finding new markets.



In the new FGA office, FGA officials in discussion with Wholesaler representative

Fruit and Vegetable Wholesaler Association

On May 9 the Dubai Agricultural Exhibition participants shared their experiences with the Association membership at an official presentation attended by an ALP/E marketing unit staff member.

On May 6, the Afghan Institute of Business Management, AIBM, began a 5-day training course on “Effective Business Marketing & Its Importance for Business Development”. One participant said that prior to the training he never thought about clients; he was just selling and buying. Now, however, he realizes his business depends on clients and will pay more attention to their requirements. He learned how to find new markets, and since his business is seasonal, he learned planning techniques to avoid the pitfalls of seasonal gluts.

Nangarhar Agri Input Dealer Association

The ALP/E CBD specialist met with the board members and it was agreed that ALP/E will provide the Association with office equipment, and support for a manager and an accountant. The association has been benefiting through participation in a number of ALP/E sponsored training programs.

Carpet Producer Association

The association has, at long last, opened its office and received office equipment.

Laghman Handicraft Producers Association

Organized a 6-day business skills training beginning May 5 for the Laghman Handicraft Producers Association. The training took place in Laghman in Gomain village. One trainee, Benazira, said, *“I never thought that I was in business, I realize now that I have to plan, consider my budget before buying materials, look at the quality of material, estimate prices and think about clients’ needs.”*



Developing a marketing plan during Business Skills Training



Business Skills Training certificate distribution

Government Ministries

Directorate of Agriculture

During the reporting period, the ICB activities with the Directorate of Agriculture in Kunar included the following: Project management training was delivered to 20 Agricultural Directorate staff from May 2-6. At the completion of the training, Mr. Marsel, Deputy Director, said, "We never broke down a project into components, never monitored it, and never had any deadlines. Now we have better understanding of how to properly run a project. It will take practice and some time before we develop these new skills into a habit. The department now has a wall chart with some project activities to be monitored." The training certificate distribution was attended by several honored guests: The Governor of Kunar, Mr. Salize Dedar and his deputy, Mr. Adji Noor Mohmad, the local Commander General Abdul Jalal, Mayor Adji Seb Amin, and Tribal Department Head Mr. Adji Doust Mahmad. The governor expressed his appreciation and thanked ALP/E for the training.



Kunar Governor Salize Dedar awards certificates during closing ceremony for project management training.



Project Management training in Kunar – participants are developing project activities and a monitoring plan.



Nangarhar DOWA – staff participate in office management training delivered by AIBM

In addition, initial computer and English training was completed with the Governor and local government officials also in attendance at the certification distribution. The local television station broadcast the ceremonies. ICB also completed logistics for upcoming project management training in Laghman.

The Vegetable Crop Manual for district extension workers, compiled by Nangarhar University Professor Mr. Najimuddin Najim is under committee review comprised of representatives from Nangarhar University, the ALP/E vegetable specialists and a representative of the Directorate of Agriculture. It will be translated into Pashto, printed and distributed in July to the Agricultural Directorates. In August, training of the extension workers will take place in the three provinces.

Directorate of Women's Affairs

On May 7 the first publication of the Regional Women's Magazine *Saloo* was celebrated at the Communication Centre in Jalalabad. Prior to the next issue a new publishing house with better knowledge of Pashto will be selected. 2,000 copies of the magazine have been distributed to DOWA offices. The six-month English language training, delivered in all three provinces, has ended. The DOWA has requested an extension to bring the trainees to a higher level of proficiency in order to improve their requests for proposals and funding requests.

Business Skills Development

ALP/E received the revised SABA training manual and now the training specialist is making sure that there are no grammatical or technical errors. The SABA training is ongoing in 4 schools in Nangarhar. The training specialist provides regular monitoring and mentoring for the teachers. The students are very enthusiastic and motivated to establish their own businesses, as highlighted from the following comments:

Benafsha: *"When I finish my school and SABA training I will establish computer and English training center. I will apply skills and knowledge I've learned in SABA Business skills training. I mean by the help of SABA training, I can establish training center. I am very happy from it."*

Rona: *"I have Handicraft business at my home. Thanks to SABA business skills training I can calculate my expenses, revenue, setting price, treat customers well and find markets for my product in the city market. I can find cloth seller shops to sell the product made by me and my family."*

Lima: *"I have carpet business in my home. Now I can sell them directly to the city market. The courage to do this was given to me by SABA training."*

II. Required Performance Data

Annex I. ALP/E Activity Level Indicators*, May 1-15, 2007

Indicator	Added (Bi-weekly)		Target (LOP)	Total LOP(To date)	Target (FY 07)	Target (FY 08)	By province(To date)				By Gender(To date)	
	Previous	Current					Nangarhar	Laghman	Kunar	Nuristan	Male	Female
Total Kms irrigation and drainage canals and karezes ALP # km	Previous	1.08	2,581	2,417	2,581	2,581	2,398.24	15.77	2.21	-		
	Current	0.78+					0.69	0.01	0.08	-		
	Total	1.86					2,398.93	15.78	2.29	-		
ALP Kms. of rural roads repaired in poppy regions # km	Previous	9.1	548	404.9	548	548	315.74	26.19	51.77	3.65		
	Current	7.6+					4.46	1.86	0.35	0.91		
	Total	16.6					320.20	28.06	52.12	4.56		
ALP/E Hectares of improved irrigation as a result of ALP infrastructure works # hec	Previous	30	233,060	125,978 ²	233,060	233,060	118,195	6,861	922	-		
	Current	-					-	-	-			
	Total	30					118,195	6,861	922	-		
ALP/E Amount paid in CFW in AL programs USD (\$)	Previous	223,442	18,092,363	16,666,978	18,092,363	18,092,363	13,161,841	2,464,873	673,127	134,808	14,678,132	223,442
	Current	232,330*					156,395	43,011	18,405	14,519	223,412	232,330
	Total	455,772					13,318,236	2,507,884	691,532	149,327	14,901,544	455,772
ALP/E Afghans paid through CFW salaries #	Previous	899	179,000	163,031 ³	179,000	179,000	148,893	10,740	2,089	480	140,962	899
	Current	829*					500	157	172	-	813	829
	Total	1,728					149,393	10,897	2,261	480	141,775	1,728
ALP/E Total labor days for CFW #	Previous	55,176	4,767,708	4,715,315	4,767,708	4,767,708	3,806,906	641,069	169,408	42,227	4,144,733	55,176
	Current	55,705*					37,014	10,464	4,314	3,913	53,492	55,705
	Total	110,881					3,843,920	651,533	173,722	46,140	4,198,225	110,881
Afghans trained in business skills #	Previous	183	7,000	5,729	5,200	7,000	3,934	905	476	21	1,973	183
	Current	393					236	63	93	1	322	393
	Total	576					4,170	968	569	22	2,295	576
Farmers trained in agricultural practices in targeted poppy provinces under ALP #	Previous	45	175,000	104,490	155,000	175,000	59,798	27,447	15,937	1	100,644	45
	Current	1,307					551	-	756	-	1,307	1,307
	Total	1,352					60,349	27,447	16,693	1	101,951	1,352
Farmers receiving seed and fertilizer #	Previous	-	177,961	169,901	177,961	177,961	100,261	37,800	27,840	4,000	169,901	-
	Current	-					-	-	-	-	-	
	Total	-					100,261	37,800	27,840	4,000	169,901	-

* The table shows aggregated figures of both ALP and AINP project

² This is an estimate. Actual figures will be reported following GIS Verification Survey in May, 2007

³ This figure is a sum of "top number" of persons worked on all CFW projects

+This is an estimate based on percentage completed.

*For accounting purposes, this period is 1-15 April, 2007

IV. PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

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