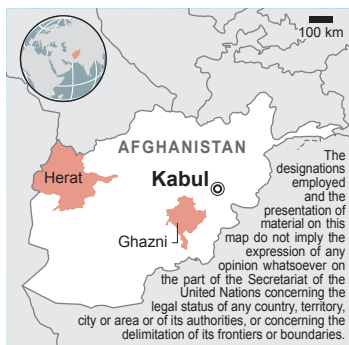


Assistance in reducing the humanitarian deficits of war-affected rural communities through increased agricultural productivity and income-generating activities



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Afghanistan

Duration: October 2004 to June 2008

Implementing UN Agencies: UNIDO

Other Implementing Partners: Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees

Budget: \$876,579

Key Words: Post-conflict reconstruction; alternative livelihoods; economic security

BACKGROUND

As of 2003, decades of armed conflict had destroyed much of Afghanistan's agricultural infrastructure, leaving the rural population without sufficient access to tools, machinery, irrigation systems and animal stock. These conditions left many rural Afghans dependent on food aid and often encouraged them to

seek employment as mercenaries or in illicit opium production in order to support their families. To restore self-sufficiency and offer alternatives to opium-poppy cultivation, assistance was required to restart the agricultural sector and to incubate viable opportunities for additional income generation.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to assist war-affected rural communities in Ghazni and Herat provinces by reducing their dependency on relief aid and empowering them towards sustainable and self-sufficient living. Through the provision of technical assistance, vulnerable rural communities, including IDPs and returnees, were supported in the cultivation

and processing of agricultural goods as well as the manufacture, repair and maintenance of farming tools. Meanwhile, household economies were further strengthened with the provision of income generating activities such as blacksmithing, carpentry and masonry.

BENEFICIARIES

The project focused on rural populations directly involved in agricultural and food production, namely poor smallholder farmers including internally

displaced persons and returnees as well as women's groups. Around 1,790 households (10,740 persons) in 43 villages participated in the project.