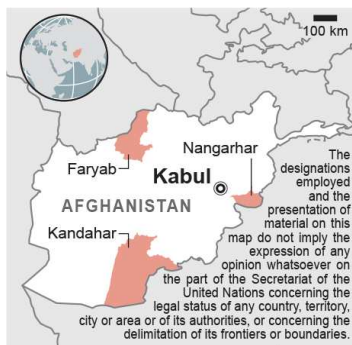


Support for community empowerment through training and food-for-work to improve school infrastructure in Afghanistan



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Afghanistan

Duration: January 2006 to December 2007

Implementing UN Agencies: WFP

Other Implementing Partners: Ministries of Education and Rural Rehabilitation and Development

Budget: \$2,725,390.54

Key Words: Post-conflict reconstruction; education; IDPs; refugees; food security; empowerment

BACKGROUND

The destruction of educational infrastructure, attrition of trained educators and impediments to enrolment (widespread violence, social opposition to the education of females, etc.) had left Afghanistan's educational indicators among the lowest in the world. Among the country's many challenges was the repair and reconstruction of its school facilities – 70 to 80 percent of which had been damaged or destroyed due to the ongoing instability and conflict. Two-thirds of

the country's three million students attended classes in damaged buildings and temporary settings and lacked sufficient water and sanitation facilities. As refugees and IDPs returned, the situation became even more dire. In concert with an ongoing food-for-education programme, the project supported a food-for-work programme in food insecure districts of Kandahar, Nangarhar and Faryab provinces.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project aimed to contribute to the successful implementation of the Government's policies and priorities in the education sector, particularly the attainment of universal primary education by improving adequate, equitable and quality education. To this end, through skill training and learning-by-

doing, poor and vulnerable groups were empowered to participate in the physical improvement of classroom facilities and teachers' housing. At the same time, the project provided access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities and improved nutrition for school children and the wider community.

BENEFICIARIES

The communities targeted by the project were in food deficient areas where refugees were returning in increasing numbers. In collaboration with the

communities in the project, WFP identified 30 schools and communities that were in critical need of assistance.