



NSP National Solidarity Program

Community-driven
Development Program



Program Overview

Afghanistan's flagship national priority program the National Solidarity Program (NSP) is the primary vehicle that is building social and physical capital by **promoting good local governance and prioritized development planning and implementation**, thereby **empowering rural communities** to take control over their lives and livelihoods. Empowered rural communities collectively contribute to increased human security, conflict resolution and consequently nation building. The program is **inclusive** and supports entire communities including **the poorest and most vulnerable** people.

NSP is executed by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development and implemented through 21 facilitating partners. The Program currently covers nearly two-thirds of the country's districts (276 out of 364) in 34 provinces, serving over 8.3 million people.

Total Funds Received as of Nov 2006: US\$ 392.06 million
Total Expenditure as of March 2006: US\$ 243.28 million

Program Highlights

- Electing representatives to a Community Development Council (CDC) through secret ballot.
- Community mobilization and training to develop the Capacities to identify needs-based & self-initiated projects.
- Preparation of prioritized Community Development Plans through a democratic and participatory processes.
- Design and implementation of Community infrastructure projects funded through block grants.

*for the people
with the people
by the people*

- Procurement of goods and services required for implementing the chosen projects through transparent and accountable means.
- Community monitoring and social audit of project implementation and fund management.
- Conflict resolution within and between communities by CDCs.
- Community advocacy by CDCs with donors, district and provincial authorities and traditional leaders.



Results Achieved

- Program cover two-thirds of all rural districts in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan
- 15,404 male and female **Community Development Councils (CDCs) elected and functioning**
- 14,668 **Community Development Plans** have been formulated.
- **23,685 rural development projects have been identified** ranging from water supply and sanitation to agriculture and irrigation, from livelihoods promotion to health and education, and proposals submitted for block grants.
- **8,631 projects have been successfully implemented** and managed to completion by community councils.
- **US\$145,257,482 of block grants has been committed; US\$ 94,685,816 has been disbursed** for projects.

Lessons Learned

Programs of a truly national nature promote nation building and solidarity in post-conflict situations. NSP is recognized by the people as a government-led initiative for the people which has been accomplished through a mutually reinforcing partnership with non-government agencies. Recognition of CDCs as the legitimate representatives of communities particularly in relation to planning and implementing locally initiated needs-based projects across all sectors ensuring community ownership and thereby maintenance of community infrastructure.

www.nspafghanistan.org

Wais Ahmad Barmak | Executive Director NSP | Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)
Kabul, Afghanistan | Email: w.ahmad@nspafghanistan.org | Mobile: +93 (0) 799 041 533



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