

Third Annual Reports: Web Updates

GTF367 Relief International

Afghanistan: Alleviating Poverty through Good Governance

This DFID-funded programme contributes to poverty alleviation and good governance in Nimroz through the promotion of accountable and responsive governance at the village, district and provincial levels. It builds and complements the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) programme, working through local partnerships with community members, community organizations and government officials in the Zaranj, Kang, and Chakhansoor Districts.

The programme provides training for government officials in citizens' rights and has served to bring village-level concerns to the attention of district and provincial-level actors. Such activities allow for forums of engagement that strengthen links between local and district-level government.

During the third year, key achievements that have taken place:

- The graduation of 1,800 women from literacy courses. The results of the final exams were officially registered with the Provincial Education Department. A knock on benefit is incentive for continuing education, led by the example of women in Dah Marda village attending literacy courses without any external support from RI. The women's literacy classes doubly served as opportunities for awareness-raising on rights based issues.
- 240 CDC (Community Development Council) members, 45 DDA (District Development Assembly) members and 40 DG (District government) staff were trained on conflict resolution, community empowerment, participatory monitoring and evaluation and the role of local governance.
- Twelve community mobilizers and six district mobilizers (RI/GTF staff) were trained on MDG and ANDS, conflict resolution, governance, and gender equality.
- A total of 360 consultation meetings took place in year three between villagers and CDCs and with 60 authorities in attendance. Meetings focused on discussion of problems at the village level and advancement of ideas and recommendations for follow up by government officials.
- Within Kang, Chakhansoor, and Zaranj districts meetings were held to identify district level infrastructure priorities and to determine the level of community contribution and participation. Participants in the three districts successfully analysed and identified their respective district level priorities

These achievements all help with progress to building the capacity within communities to improve links with local government, where people become better able to represent their views and interests, and to hold governments accountable. The impact of these programmes will be to improve capabilities of local government structures to function more transparently and provide improved service delivery for citizens.

For further information on this programme, please visit <http://www.ri-uk.org/story.php?ID=6> and to access the Annual Reports and Mid-Term Review, please visit <http://www.ri-uk.org/newsroom/reports-and-policies.php>

