

How to Tackle Illicit Narcotics in Afghanistan

# ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS IN AFGHANISTAN

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## **Pillars of the Counter-narcotics Strategy**

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## **Key Facts from 2004 UNODC Survey (2)**

### **Regional distribution and shifts**

**All 34 provinces affected**

### **Top 6**

**Helmand: up 91% to 29,000 ha**

**Nangarhar: up 49% to 28,200 ha**

**Badakhshan: up 22% to 15,600ha**

**Uruzgan: up 55% to 11,080ha**

**Ghor: up 32% to 4,983ha**

**Kandahar: up 62% to 4,959ha**

**Consistent strong increases in northern provinces  
(e.g. Balkh: up over 100% to 2,400ha;  
19 fold increase in Herat)**

## **Early evidence from 2005**

**Decreases in many provinces**

**Nangahar, Helmand sharpest decreases**

**Possible rationale**

- 1. Strong messages from President, enforced by provincial authorities**
- 2. Crop eradication and threat of eradication**
- 3. Over-production in 2004 – poor prices, low yields**
- 4. Reduced access to services (e.g. credit)**
- 5. Expectations of more technical assistance?**

# Alternative Livelihoods Purpose Statement

*Rural people currently or potentially  
involved in illicit poppy cultivation  
have access to sustainable licit  
alternative ways of making a living*



# Livelihoods: Definitions and Concepts



## What are: *Sustainable Alternative Livelihoods?*

- *Livelihood*: Capabilities, assets and activities for a means of living.
- *Sustainable* : essential resources and support services must be available to maintain the livelihood.
- *Alternative* livelihoods – replacing economic dependence on illicit narcotics with alternative legal activities.

## What Alternatives are Available?

- **Agriculture** will continue to be major source of income for rural population for strategy period
- Social **safety nets** (including **public works**) will be required for vulnerable groups forced or encouraged out of poppy production
- In the longer term, **private sector development** will be key to sustainability. We need to establish the foundations now.
- **Migration and remittances** – important now; what role in the future?





Approach to Alternative  
Livelihoods

## Some Guiding Principles

- Understanding local economy and incentive structures
- Different stakeholder groups: winners and losers
- Mainstreaming CN in national programmes
- Field testing, promotion and up-scaling
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Policies/strategies informed by field evidence



## Ways of Working

- *An emphasis on coordination – with Afghan Government and International Community*
- Technical assistance in designing strategy and implementation plans.
- Through national programmes under NDB
- Through area-based rural/ agricultural development programmes – Badakhshan, Bamiyan
- Accelerating development in focus provinces
- Pooling resources through Trust Funds
- Forums for lesson sharing and coordination - ALWG

# Strategic Objectives

- An enabling Policy and regulatory environment and good governance.
  - On-farm and off-farm income generation opportunities, tested and accessible to rural people.
  - Improving resilience to natural or economic shocks
  - Improved capacity of government and civil society
  - Improved access to inputs, services and markets
  - Productive rural infrastructure created or rehabilitated
- *Note: Interventions may cover >1 objective*

## **Enabling Policy and Regulatory Environment**

- Technical assistance on land policy and land administration reform with Asian Development Bank
- Scoping study of incentive funds to encourage production, processing and marketing of licit products
- Assessment of scope for improved market access



## **Access to on- and off-farm Income**

- Alternative Livelihoods in Badakhshan (Badakhshan NGO Development Forum)
- Sustainable Agricultural Livelihoods in the Eastern Hazarajat (FAO)
- Alternative Agricultural Livelihoods Programme (FAO)
- Research in Alternative Livelihoods Fund (ICARDA)

## **Improved Resilience**

- Community Stabilisation Initiative (labour intensive public works) in Badakhshan (IOM)
- Labour Intensive public works rolled out to 10 further provinces under National Emergency Employment Programme (NEEP - pipeline)
- Contributions to emergency appeals – seed, fertiliser, food aid.

## Capacity Building

- Support to Strategic Planning for SRL (GRM) – in MAAHF and MRRD
- Capacity building of Counter-narcotics institutions (pipeline)
- Building community development councils at village level – National Solidarity Programme
- Capacity building of local government and NGOs through BDF, SALEH, RALF etc.
- Strategic Communication (Equal Access)

## **Improving Access to Services**

- Micro-credit through MISFA, including pilots of opium debt re-financing (including contribution of RALF 01-08)
- Agricultural extension and veterinary Services through BDF, SALEH, AALP
- Business Development Services (BDF etc)

# Infrastructure Rehabilitation

- Village infrastructure through National Solidarity Programme
- Feeder roads through CSI (IOM, Badakhshan and NEEP)



## Some Achievements to date

- >7000 villages have elected development councils and are implementing development plans under NSP
- > 60,000 borrowers engaged in micro-business using credit under MISFA
- >25,000 farmers accessing agricultural inputs under BDF
- Veterinary services and income generating opportunities pioneered through BDF
- 32 community plans under implementation under SALEH
- 10 RALF projects operational

## **Some targets for 2005/1384**

- >3 million labour days of cash for work opportunities in focus provinces
- National Solidarity Programme reaches additional 36 districts in focus provinces (combined target).
- MISFA borrowers total 250,000 (combined target by end 1384)
- 10 RALF projects operational with monitoring and evaluation system and lesson sharing platform in place
- Coordinated agricultural livelihoods strategy in place
- Counter-narcotics Trust Fund leveraging additional resources for Alternative Livelihoods.