

## **A word from the Country Director –**

During 2007, the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC) stayed its course. While recognizing the relentless difficulties in rebuilding the country, the often slow pace of progress, and the further deteriorated security situation, the NAC remained committed to its purpose to support the development of Afghanistan and through its programs and projects improve the daily lives of the mostly rural population of Afghanistan.

The NAC continued implementing projects in the areas of health, education, rural development, and the environment, with women an important beneficiary population, positively affecting hundreds of thousands of Afghan citizens in the north, central-south and eastern parts of the country. These projects have been in line with relevant Afghan respective Ministries' strategies, supporting the Government's efforts at providing cohesive and uniform basic public services to the people. Hence, the NAC has uninterruptedly contributed to the country's notable improvements, especially in making health care and education accessible to an increased number of people. NAC's projects have also provided potable water supplies to communities and enhanced the environment.

Despite the serious problems the country continues to face, the positive achievements to which many stakeholders have contributed, among which the NAC, should give all those involved hope that results can be achieved, regardless of the major problems the country still faces.

The NAC thanks its donors for their continuous commitment to the development of Afghanistan. It thanks all its Afghan and foreign partners and its own staff for their hard work during the past year.

The NAC remains convinced that a better future for Afghanistan is possible.

Zamarai Ahmadzai  
Country Director

# The Year in Review

## A General Overview

Some predicted that year 2007 was going to be a “crucial turning point”, but neither prominent success nor critical failure have occurred. A crucial decade rather than a crucial year may express a more insightful, realistic and committed view about Afghanistan. Efforts by concerned Afghans and foreigners alike have continued to strive to produce the former and have prevented the latter.

According to existing assessments, as of 2004 about two years after the arrival of foreign troops and development agencies to Afghanistan and the installation of an Interim Government in 2002, the security situation in the country that had never stabilized, continued to deteriorate each year. Thus 2007 was the worst year yet in terms of security. Notably, the number of attacks against national and international workers increased. Regardless of the media publicity generated by the affected foreigners, Afghans make up the great majority of victims, among fighters and civilians.

Regardless, Afghanistan has continued to improve its health care system, its infant mortality rate and school enrollment, while its economy continued to grow. Still Afghanistan remains among the poorest countries in the world according to the UN National Human Development Index.

Among the most significant indigenous factors that contribute to this situation are the resilience of insurgents in opposing Government and foreign presence; historical in-country regional fiefdoms with current repercussion in terms of local conflicts; violent crime, corruption and the increase of poppy cultivation; weak institutions after 25 years of war and bad governance.

Much debate and some thought has taken place during 2007 inside and outside of the country in an attempt to identify the shortcomings of the international community’s contribution to improving both the security situation in Afghanistan and its national development, as well as more efficient measures for the international to undertake.

Various Afghan and foreign stakeholders have been expressing differing views. Some have advocated the withdrawal of foreign troops from the country arguing that it is their presence that is largely responsible for what they claim is a worsening security situation. Others oppose it fearing that a civil war would ensue and have pushed for increased military action. Analysis and conclusions on whether the fight by the Afghan Government and foreign troops against the insurgents is being won or lost are equally divergent.

Debates have thus opposed those proponents who believe that sufficient civilian development efforts can bring about stability and security with no or limited military action, to those who prioritize increased military action aimed at putting down the insurgents, which they consider to be a prerequisite for substantive development to take

root. A general consensus seems to have been reached that neither of the two stances will provide the solution to the current Afghan predicament.

The criticisms expressed as regards development aid efforts and effectiveness, among other, include: a) insufficient aid volume; b) inefficient use of existing aid, among which: large proportion of funds being channeled back to the donor countries; disproportionate amounts spent on projects of limited value; lack of coordination among donors creating redundancy; lack of professional rigor among donors and implementing agencies leading to low impact; and c) the majority of aid funds sidestep the Government which donors endeavor to support. Serious blame for the slow pace of development has also been directed toward the Afghan Government and other Afghan actors.

Plagued with nearly the entire spectrum of major problems a country can experience –a quarter of a century of war and civil war, continuous insurgency, limited central control over the country, wide-spread criminality, drugs, illiteracy of about a third of the adult population, religious extremism, the subjugation of women, and regional tensions-, efforts to identify “the problem” and “the solution” for Afghanistan will not reap results.

It is now generally recognized by thoughtful Afghans and foreign stakeholders, that efforts at (re-)building a country that was among the least developed in the world before the invasion by the Soviet Union in 1979 triggering several wars, is a task that requires patience, perseverance and continuous honest evaluation of the relevance of set strategies and programs and the quality of their implementation, with a view to continuously improving them. The task is long-term.

# **About the NAC**

## ***The Organization's Background***

The NAC is a membership organization which was established shortly after the invasion of Afghanistan by foreign troops in 1979. Local solidarity committees were quickly set up throughout Norway through which their members generated public opinion against the invasion as well as conducted fund-raising campaigns in order to raise money to assist the growing number of Afghans caught in the middle of the conflict. The NAC opened its first office in Peshawar, Pakistan, in 1983, followed by a field office in Ghazni in 1986, and in Keshem, Badakhshan province, in 1991. In 1997, NAC opened a liaison office in Kabul to provide more direct support to the operations in Afghanistan, which became its main office 2002. NAC continued to expand its support inside Afghanistan with at one time programs in the northeastern, eastern and southeastern parts of the country. Currently, its Country Office remains headquartered in Kabul. It is responsible for program development and management of the operations in Afghanistan, while projects are implement from its 2 Regional Offices respectively in Badakhshan and Ghazni.

The NAC Head Office is located in Oslo, Norway. The Head Office disseminates information regarding Afghanistan to the Norwegian public, raises funds in Norway and oversees the work of the organization in Afghanistan. Overall strategy is finalized at NAC's Annual Meetings based on a consultative process between the Oslo and Kabul offices.

## ***Its Policy and Strategy***

The NAC remains a non-political, non-religious and non-profit organization. It is founded on the principle of maintaining a strong solidarity with the Afghan people. Its main goal is to contribute to building a stable future for Afghanistan, through programs and projects that directly affect and improve the lives of its citizens.

In recent years, the NAC has been implementing programs and projects aimed at improving the quality of people's lives through providing them with a range of basic services and infrastructure in the areas of education, health, rural development and the environment. All the programs/projects include a component that supports women. It has been doing so in often remote and/or dangerous areas of the country, reaching those most in need. It has generally succeeded in maintaining its projects going regardless of security incidents encountered.

The NAC maintains a required degree of flexibility and has learned to adjust its work in terms of programs and projects it implements, responding to evolving situations. Since 2001 and with the initiation of the democratic process in the country after more than 2 decades of war and bad governance, the NAC, as many other organizations, made a strategic decision to reduce its relief assistance activities and to focus on its long-term

development programs. Further, it consolidated its programs in fewer provinces and in specific thematic areas. In 2007, the NAC was fully operational in Ghazni and in Badakhshan provinces. It also continued its project support in Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province.

The NAC responds directly to requests placed to it by local communities and involve the latter in the planning and implementation of projects. Over the years, it has developed close relationships with the communities it serves. The NAC remains an independent organization. As appropriate, and with a view to supporting the Government's positive efforts in rebuilding the country, and supplementing the latter's implementation capacity where it still lacks it, the NAC currently also works in cooperation with relevant Afghan Ministries.

As a measure to ensure sustainability, to build Afghan capacity, and to secure a future smooth handover, the NAC has been staffed entirely by Afghan nationals since 2005, at the exception of 1 to 2 consultants employed on a need basis. Materials used are to the highest possible extent domestically produced and purchased, and the organization endeavours to ensure that project implementation is cost effective.

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## Health Care and Health Education

Year 2007 brought hope thanks to the progress in some indicators of health. The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health & Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Kabul Afghanistan, July 4, 2007 survey study states:

“The delivery of public health service is improving steadily in Afghanistan as the Ministry of Public Health makes progress towards meeting its goals...

...According to the assessment, more female patients than male patients used outpatient services, and the poor were more likely to use public sector services than the non-poor, which is in line with the Ministry of Public Health’s stated goal for equitable health care...

...In 29 provinces of Afghanistan, researchers estimated that of every 1,000 children born in Afghanistan, on average 129 die in the first year of life (infant mortality rate) and 191 die before reaching the age of five years (under 5 mortality rate). These estimates provide evidence that infant and child mortality has likely decreased in Afghanistan in recent years. Previous estimates for the year 2000 place the infant mortality rate in Afghanistan at 165 per one thousand live births and the under-five mortality rate at 257 per one thousand live births.

The percentage of women in rural Afghanistan receiving antenatal care during pregnancy from a skilled provider increased from an estimated 4.6 in 2003 to 32.2 in 2006. Over the same time period, the percentage of women in rural Afghanistan who had a doctor, nurse or midwife assist with their last delivery increased from 6.0 to 18.9.

More children are receiving vital childhood immunizations. The percentage of children 12-23 months of age in rural Afghanistan who received the BCG vaccine to protect against tuberculosis increased from an estimated 56.5 in 2003 to 70.2 in 2006.

The percentage of children 12-23 months of age in rural Afghanistan who received the full dosage of oral polio vaccine increased to 69.7 in 2006, from 29.9 in 2003.”

However, in addition to its continuous efforts in providing, expanding and improving its regular health services, in 2007 Afghanistan’s Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) as well as its implementing partners were faced with the challenge to additionally delivering health services to:

a) Persons victims of the coldest winter in the past 30 years with temperatures dropping below -20 degrees Celsius in some parts of the country. The cold weather resulted in a natural disaster due to the lack of adequately heated houses, appropriate winter clothing, proper nutrition, and access to those affected blocked by impracticable roads covered by snow. On 8 January 2008, the MoPH declared a “Public Health Alert”. As of early February 2008, according to the MoPH, 333 persons died as a direct

result of the cold, however the Afghan Natural Disaster Management Authorities cited the total number of fatalities to be 700, mostly children and the elderly. It further informed of another 200 that suffered from frost resulting in amputation of fingers, toes and feet. Afghanistan was supported by UN agencies and international NGOs in dealing with this difficult situation.

b) Persons wounded during armed conflict, which included both military personnel and civilians treated in MoPH health facilities in the field.

### **NAC's Contribution**

NAC's Health Program continued to contribute to the enhancement of Afghanistan's health services during 2007 with increased energy and enthusiasm resulting in significant achievements. It worked side by side with its Afghan partners including the MoPH in Kabul and at the provincial level in Ghazni, the Institute of Health Services (IHS) in Jalalabad and HEWAD and UMCA, its two Afghan NGOs implementing partners.

NAC started its activities in the health sector in 1986 when it ran mobile emergency health assistance clinics. After 1992, NAC upgraded its mobile clinics to a network of stationary health clinics equipped with basic medical equipment and staffed with all level health workers. In addition, NAC supported education of female medical students, female nursing students and training of midwives in the eastern region of the country. It continues to provide support to midwife training at the IHS in Jalalabad city. NAC has a total of 22 years experience in providing primary health care services in Afghanistan. It has 20 years experience working in Ghazni province of which 5, from 2004 to date, in implementing the MoPH standard Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) in insecure and remote areas.

#### ***Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS)***

At the end of 2004, NAC competed and was awarded its first contract by the MoPH for the implementation of BPHS in 7 districts of Ghazni province. HEWAD and UMCA joined NAC's BPHS in December 2004. The second contract started in May 2005 and was revised in April 2007. Under the last revision, the NAC is to provide health services through 2 District Hospitals (DH), 9 Comprehensive Health Centers (CHC), 9 Basic Health Centers (BHC). In addition, health care is promoted through 226 Community Health Posts (CHP). The staff employed under the BPHS is 196 (169 males and 27 females), while 365 (226 male and 139 female) Community Health Workers work on a voluntary basis.

Over the years, the NAC has acquired valuable knowledge and understanding of the situation on the ground and has established good relationships with the communities it serves. It has been working in situations of armed conflict and post conflict and is able to deal with incidents as they occur. During 2007, thanks to the continued positive relations with and favorable reputation of the NAC among local communities and their

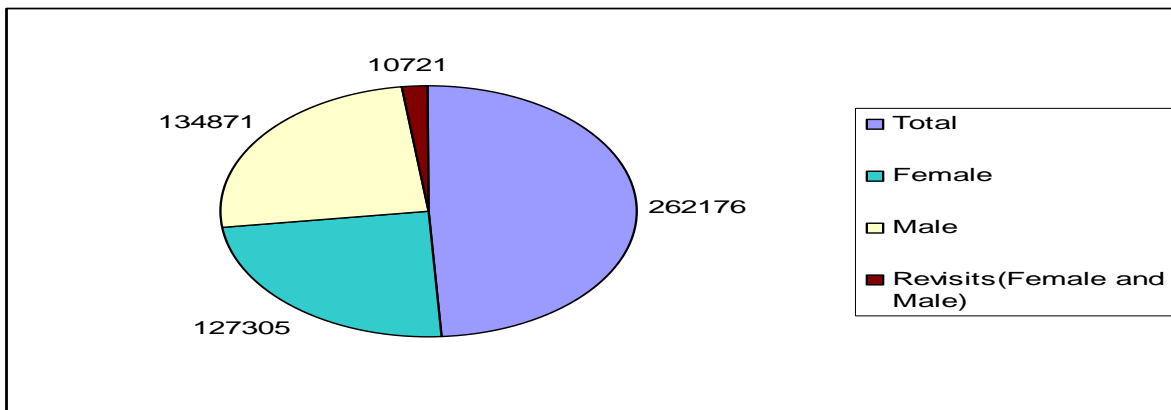


*Nurse assisting patient  
injured by wood splinter during wood cutting  
Gailan CHC, Gailan district, Ghazni province*

respective health shuras which the NAC can call upon, several incidents of kidnappings of medical staff were resolved positively.

In order to respond to the health needs brought about by the harsh Afghan winter in 2007, the MoPH requested its NGO implementing partners to set-up mobile clinics in order to ensure health services are provided to those persons living in remote areas without means or appropriate means of transport to the

closest relevant health facility. The NAC established 20 mobile teams in its catchment area. In addition, under the standard MoPH winterization program and in anticipation of an increased number of winter illnesses such as pneumonia and other acute respiratory infections, the NAC, in a timely fashion, provided sufficient heating wood and additional medicines to its health facilities. At a MoPH Winterization Response Meeting, the Deputy Minister of Public Health expressed its appreciation for the performance of 10 NGOs (among dozens), of which the NAC, in implementing the additional and special requirements of the BPHS during the harsh winter.



*NAC BPHS patient count 2007*

In 2007, a total of 262,176 patients were treated for a vast array of illnesses in NAC's 20 BPHS run health facilities. In the 2 district hospitals, 596 minor and major surgeries were successfully performed without resulting complications.

The good performance of NAC's implementation of the BPHS is also in part due to the capacity building opportunities it provided to its implementing partners' and its own staff. During 2007, a total of 111 (88 male and 23 female) management and technical staff attended trainings in Ghazni, Kabul and Paktya provinces. Course subjects included: Financial/Quick book, Human Resource Management, Leadership, Behavior Changes and Communication, Report Writing, Proposal Writing, Gender, Health Management Information System, Expanded Program on Immunization, Midwifery (refresher course), Family Planning, Directly Observed Treatment Short Course and Mental Health.

In 2007, 47,048 children under-five were examined and screened for malnutrition, out of which 630 were suffering from severe malnutrition and 3,112 diagnosed with mild malnutrition. Despite a worsening security situation, coverage of Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) was higher than planned. The average percentage of EPI for children under one year of age was: BCG 103%, OPV3 103 %<sup>1</sup>, DPT3 93% and Measles 71%.

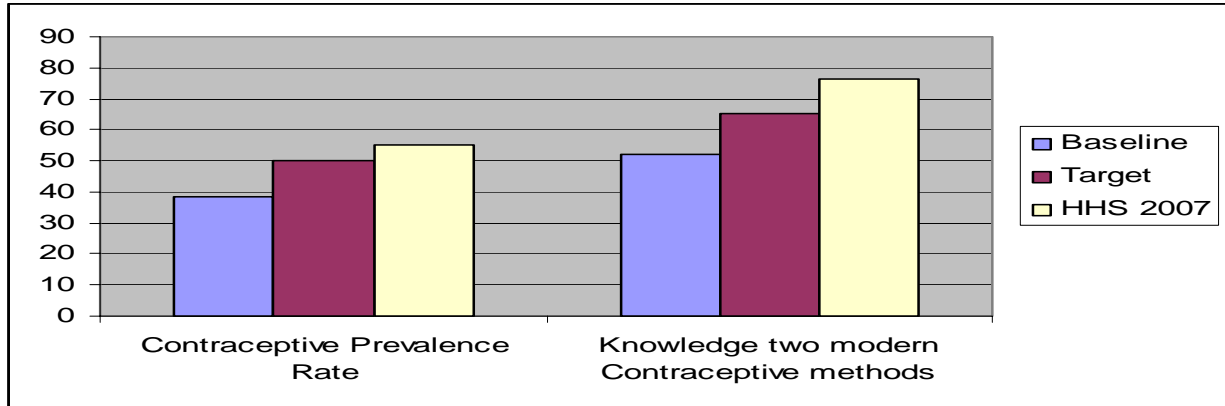


*Laboratory Technician  
fixing specimen slide for investigation,  
Askerkot CHC, Qarabagh district, Ghazni Province*

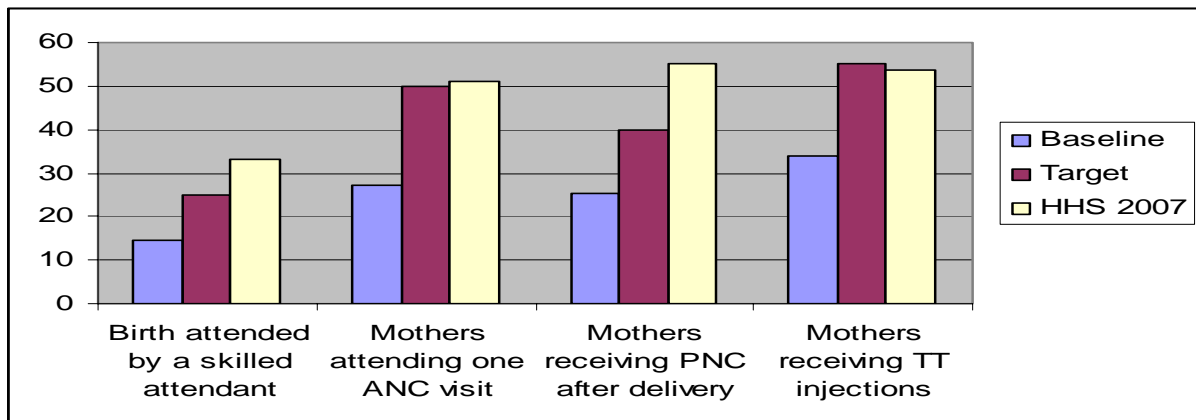
BPHS' main tool for measuring outcome is the 10 indicators House Hold Survey (HHS) mandated by USAID and approved by the MoPH for the BPHSs that the former funds in 13 provinces. An initial baseline HHS was performed at the start of BPHS implementation. A mid-term HHS was carried out in November 2007 by qualified external staff and BPHS CHWs. The analysis of the results was submitted to the MoPH and the USAID Health Services Support Project. The latter perform on-site sample verification before finalising and rating their findings. Despite the security challenge, HHS shows that NAC's BPHS was the third best, following those delivered in Kabul and Takhar provinces. The latter two are not comparable with Ghazni due to Ghazni's severe security situation and shortage of professional medical staff, especially female staff. Indeed, the situation in Kabul is significantly more favourable than in the provinces while Takhar is a generally secure area where health professional are more willing to work. In addition, NAC and its two implementing partners, HEWAD and UMCA, received appreciation letters from the Ghazni Provincial Health Directorate (PHD) for their high performance. Their good management and cooperation with the Ghazni PHD and other health stakeholders was noted. The below charts provide an illustration of HHS 2007 results.

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<sup>1</sup> The MoPH mandated the use of the Country Statistical Office population data of 2006. Population growth and returnees are therefore not accounted for, which explains the higher than 100% immunization target.



*Reproductive Health  
Comparative chart: baseline, targets and achievements from 2005 to 2007  
NAC BPHS*



*Maternal Health  
ANC (Ante Natal Care), PNC (Post Natal Care)  
Comparative chart: baseline, targets and achievement of HHS 2007  
NAC BPHS*

**Mother and Child Health clinic**

In 2007, NAC, in partnership with HEWAD, continued running the Mother and Child Health (MCH) clinic in Jalalabad, capital of Nangahar. The clinic caters to vulnerable women and children, many of whom are from neighboring rural areas where there are no female health professionals, and Internally Displaced Persons residing near the clinic. The clinic employs 18 staff of which 14 are females.



*Midwife examining patient, MCH clinic  
Jalalabad, Nangarhar province*

The clinic provides routine, curative and preventive services among which: obstetrics/gynaecology, oral re-hydration, dental care, health education. The clinic also runs a laboratory and a pharmacy. The laboratory conducts routine blood, urine, stool, pregnancy, blood grouping, widal, brucellosis, hepatitis B, TB and malaria tests. Medication is dispensed at appropriate low cost according to MoPH standards and free-of-charge for the extremely poor. During 2007, a fully equipment vaccination point, a proper delivery table, maternal delivery beds and laboratory accessories enhanced the clinic's equipment. NAC believes improved health status can best be achieved by actively involving the community in the identification of its own problems and their solutions. In 2006, a female Health Shura was established at the MCH clinic comprising 3 MCH health staff and 8 volunteer women from the local community. The Health Shura dispenses health education at the clinic

and through daily home visits, focusing on hygiene, HIV/AIDs, family planning, vaccination, while basic women's rights are also addressed. This set-up provides women increased opportunities to express and share concerns in privacy related to their physical and psychological well being.

The clinic also provides the MoPH with a set-up for practical medical training for midwife students and graduated medical doctors respectively from the IHS and the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses section of the Provincial Health Directorate.

During 2007, the clinic carried out the following consultations and services:



*Laboratory technician taking blood sample for testing  
MCH clinic, Jalalabad, Nangarhar province*

23,156	Women and children were treated;
2,988	Women received TT vaccines;
7,271	Children under-five were vaccinated;
1,204	Patients received dressing services;
48,943	Clients attended health education sessions within and outside the clinic;
5,422	Laboratory tests were performed;
48	Deliveries were attended.



*Health Education session on HIV/AIDS transmission  
by un-safe blood transfusion,  
MCH clinic, Jalalabad, Nangarhar province*

In addition, the clinic provided vaccinations through the EPI within its premises as well as through outreach activities. This included participation in the National Immunization Days for Tetanus Toxide (TT) and polio eradication. Its Health Shura was active in raising community awareness of the importance of vaccination.

### ***Midwifery Education Project***

Afghanistan's Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is the world's third highest at a ratio of 1,600 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. A significant cause of high MMR in a cultural environment which, with few exceptions, does not allow women to be treated by male health professionals, is the alarming shortage of trained female health workers. The training of female midwives and their employment in rural BPHS facilities are



*Midwifery student checking blood pressure of pregnant woman during practical training, MCH clinic, Jalalabad, Nangarhar province*

crucial. At the end of 2007, Afghanistan had 2000 certified midwives throughout the country. The MoPH targets to train 8,000 midwives all over Afghanistan by 2015.

NAC has been supporting the Midwife Education project at the IHS, an arm of the MoPH, in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province, since 2002. One hundred and ninety six (196) midwives graduated from this project, that is, almost 20% of currently certified midwives. The great majority of them have returned

to their home districts in the provinces of Nuristan, Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar, where they are presently working as midwives within BPHS facilities. A couple have stayed at the IHS to teach, while a few others have been employed by NGOs working in health.

The Midwife Education curriculum includes theoretical and in-clinic practical training. In addition to the standard MoPH midwife curricula, optional computer and English language classes are offered to the students, all of which have opted for them.

In 2007, as planned, 21 students graduated, 25 were under training in their second semester, and 25 students were newly enrolled into the Midwife Education project.

The NAC also provided capacity building to 35 (5 male and 30 female) IHS managerial and technical staff among which midwife teachers. Courses offered included: Strategic Planning and Leadership, Effective Teaching, Baby Friendly Hospital Initiatives, Basic Emergency Obstetric Care, diarrhoeal diseases, knowledge of BPHS, and gender awareness in Kabul, Nangarhar province and Bangladesh. In addition, internal regular teaching sessions on different topics were held among teachers.

The IHS Midwife Education includes safe student boarding facilities within the premises of the IHS. The boarding facilities offer a permanent nursery for toddlers accompanying their mothers, and separate areas for visiting mahrams (unmarriageable kin) and for males visiting their daughters and wives. During 2007, NAC has financed hostel accommodation for 20 students including food, heating fuel and other necessary materials as well as transport for students from the IHS to clinic sites for in-clinic practical training and for those students staying with relatives within the city.

In addition to being a marked contribution to improving the health of Afghan women, this project also significantly contributes to the advancement of women in Afghanistan. It provides women with the type of professional education which just about guarantees

them work after graduation. Most of the formally trained midwives become members of the Afghan Midwife Association, an Association whose purpose is to set the profession's standards and to ensure its professionalism and midwives' rights. Employment and income in turn increases a woman's self-reliance and diminishes her total dependence on the male members of her family. It enables women to share responsibility for providing for their family's needs and improving its standard of living. Women's social status within their families and communities is enhanced as they become more active participants in both, gain respect, and are no longer ignored but are included in decision-making processes. This project, in addition to ensuring women's right to healthcare, also contributes to women's right to work and gender equality.

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## Support to Education

During 2007, the status of Afghanistan's education continued to improve with, as of August 2007, 5,675,951 children enrolled in formal general education schools representing 95,39% of the total students enrolled in schools under the Ministry of Education (MoE). The remainder are enrolled in community based, Islamic, technical and vocational and teacher training schools.<sup>2</sup>

This increase of some 750,000 students within about a year took place regardless of the setbacks in education witnessed during 2007 mostly in the southern part of the country where a bigger number of schools either destroyed or closed preventing over 300,000 children to attend school and where a larger number of teachers and students were threatened or killed as part of an anti-government campaign, among other targeting education.

Regardless of the positive trend in school enrollment, some 40% of children still remain out of school. Further, the figures provided describe only school enrollment. School drop-out rates remain significant. Though the Afghan Constitution stipulates that education is mandatory for boys and girls up to grade 9, boys start dropping out of school as of grade 4 and girls as of grade 3. A sharp drop is seen when reaching grades 7 and 8. Thus, the year saw 796,703 children enrolled in grade 1; 233,046 in grade 8; and 69,065 in grade 12.<sup>3</sup>

The Afghan education system still needs to strengthen in terms of quantity and quality of services provided, that will to a significant extent contribute to further increasing school enrollment and pursuance of education. This is one of Afghanistan's highest priorities. Indeed, "...Historically education plays an important role, not only in developing capital, but also in promoting societal cohesion through the development of

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<sup>2</sup> Source: 1386 (2007) Schools Survey Summary Report, Survey Period May 2007-August 2007, EMIS Dept, Dept of Planning, Dalw 1386 (Jan 2008)

<sup>3</sup> Source: same as above footnote 1

values and social and national identities. Education is not only the right but it is the means by which rights endure and economic and social developments become sustainable. Similarly, education is one of the building blocks of human development and it is not just a basic right, but also a foundation for progress in other areas, including health, nutrition and the development of institutions and democracy.”<sup>4</sup>

### **NAC’s Contribution**

During 2007, the NAC continued implementing its various educational activities including Teacher Training (TT), the provision of school materials and support to 2 Afghan refugee schools in Pakistan. It expanded its literacy and vocational training project, provided capacity building to working adults, and further raised awareness on the rights of women. These projects are described below.

#### ***Teacher Training***

*Teacher Education Program (TEP), Inset I: enhancing teachers’ pedagogical skills.* With the continued rise in school enrollment, reaching almost 6 million at the end of 2007, the need for qualified teachers remains a major challenge for Afghanistan’s Ministry of Education (MoE). Aware of Afghanistan’s very traditional environment influencing its concept of education and recognizing that the interaction between teachers and students is essential for learning to be effective, the MoE’s first Teacher Training (TT) manual, Inset I, focuses on teachers’ pedagogical skills. In 2007, the MoE continued to seek support from non-governmental development actors for the training of teachers. The NAC has been implementing TT since 1990. Since 2006, in support to the recent MoE’s education reform strategy, it has aligned itself with TEP standards.

During 2007, the NAC implemented Inset I in Ghazni and Badakhshan provinces. In Ghazni, 177 teachers (*120 male & 57 female*) were trained and in Badakhshan 400 (*231 male & 169 female*). The teachers were selected based on a need assessment carried out jointly by the concerned District Education Departments and NAC’s Teacher Trainers.

Female teachers were especially targeted in view of the country’s persistent need to increase girls’ school enrollment. In view of the fact that co-educational education is limited to grade 3, after which children and teachers are strictly separated within the school system until university, increasing the number of qualified female teachers is a prerequisite to increasing girls’ school enrollment and school attendance. Whether girls will pursue their education beyond compulsory grade 9, whether they will study at university, or aim at becoming professional women, whatever their possibilities or choices will be, education will improve their present status within their family, community and society as a whole, in turn positively impacting on the development capacity of Afghanistan.

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<sup>4</sup> Source: “Perspective of Education and Contemporary Social Issues”, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Amin, former Educational Advisor at Peshawar University.

Security has not been a major problem in Badakhshan, NAC Teacher Trainers were able to reach schools in very remote and underserved districts. However, in Ghazni province, insecurity increased during the year. Among other, NGO staff were kidnapped and/or threatened by anti-government elements especially while on travel. Therefore, NAC's Teacher Training project had to be restricted to Ghazni city and a few adjacent districts where the security was relatively better.



*Teacher Training workshop, Khamchan school,  
Faizabad, Badakhshan province*

**Subject teaching: enhancing teachers' subject knowledge.** Another largely recognized weakness of school teachers is that the majority have not completed high-school, mainly a result of more than 2 decades of continuous war. The major problem that the MoE is faced with is the non-availability of subject competent teachers especially from grades 7 - 12.

In Ghazni, teachers identified their own shortcomings in subject knowledge. Based on the information they provided, the Director of the provincial MoE requested the NAC to provide complementary training to teachers in science and social sciences. The NAC used its existing materials for this purpose, awaiting for the MoE to prepare its own TEP curricula for subject knowledge.

A total of 66 male teachers have been trained on core subjects. Until subject knowledge courses reach a wider range of teachers, the trained teachers will share their newly acquired knowledge with their colleagues.



*Substance knowledge training regrouping teachers grade 7 – 12 from several schools  
Ghazni city, Ghazni province*

The outcome of both these types of trainings is satisfactory. Teacher education directly contributed to the enhancement of teachers' classroom performance as teachers readily use the new methodologies, skills and knowledge acquired. Children's learning has improved as a consequence.

	<b>GHAZNI PROVINCE</b>	<b>BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
<b>Number of schools</b>	<b>6 (in 2 districts)</b>	<b>45 (in 13 districts)</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Student beneficiaries</b>	<b>8050 boys 5450 girls</b>	<b>11932 boys 10732 girls</b>	<b>19982 boys 16182 girls</b>
<b>Type of training</b>			
<b>&gt; TEP</b>			
<b>High school (10 – 12)</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Middle (7 – 9)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>Primary (1 – 6)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>311</b>
<b>Total TEP</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>577</b>
<b>&gt; Subject knowledge Grades 7 – 12</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>870 girls 8094 boys</b>
<b>Teachers' sex</b>			
<b>Male</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>351</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>226</b>
<b>TOTAL TEACHERS TRAINED</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>643</b>

### ***Gender awareness: raising teachers' awareness about gender***

NAC's program strategy incorporates women as a cross-cutting issue. All of its programs include women as beneficiaries, while some of its projects exclusively target women. In addition to ensuring a relatively high percentage of women teachers participate in its TT project, the project offered an additional optional one day workshop on basic gender concepts, a first step in raising awareness on gender issues. All teachers that received TT were included. Eight gender awareness workshops were held in Ghazni and 13 in Badakhshan. In the latter, students, parents and representatives of the provincial MoE swelled the number of workshop participants.

### ***Provision of school materials***

Generally, schools' contribution to teachers' and students' school materials is limited to providing students textbooks. Studies have shown that in many cases a great number of children, particularly girls, as boys' schooling within a family usually takes priority, do not attend school because they do not have access to simple student school supplies such as notebooks, pen, pencils, pencil sharpeners and other similar items. Teachers lack administrative logbooks. Schools also often lack pedagogical materials such as school libraries and laboratories as well as basic school furniture.



*Distribution of stationery to Aashooqan school  
Tagab-Keshem district, Badakhshan province*

The NAC provided these items to 143 (114 in Badakhshan and 29 in Ghazni) schools as per the below chart based on a prior needs assessment. The distribution of materials took place in the presence of parents, community representatives and provincial MoE.

<b>ITEMS DISTRIBUTED</b> → <b>NUMBER &amp; SCHOOL LOCATION</b> ↓	<b>STUDENT SCHOOL SUPPLIES</b>	<b>SCHOOL LIBRARIES</b>	<b>STUDENT DESK &amp; BENCHES</b>	<b>TEACHER LOGBOOKS</b>	<b>SCHOOL OFFICE FURNITURE</b>
29 Ghazni	114,400	10	648	30,350	2
41 Badakhshan	154,427	15	0	75,611	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>268,827</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>105,961</b>	<b>2</b>

In Badakhshan 17457 students, of which 7363 girls, directly benefited from the donated items; in Ghazni, 10400 students, of which 7880 girls.

### ***Support to Schools in Pakistan***

Since 1984, NAC has been supporting two Afghan refugee girls' schools located in Peshawar, Pakistan, where a large number of Afghan refugees are settled. The NAC is thus fully in line with the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, other international conventions and the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergency (INEE) which stipulate the right of refugees to education. The number of students in these 2 schools has remained largely the same indicating a continuous need.

*Astrid Marken (Bi Bi Khadija) school:* The school is located in a rented private house easily accessible to all students. It covers grades 1 – 12. The present student enrolment is 420 pupils, of which 192 girls. The school caters to children from disadvantaged families, whose parents for the majority are daily wage laborers. Though the school collects students' monthly fee, these are negligible and cannot meet the school's requirements.

*Bi Bi Aaysha high school:* This school is also located in Peshawar and covers grades 1 – 12. The total number of the students is 385, of which 261 girls while the remainder are boys, grades 1 to 3.

NAC's education staff and the MoE's personnel at the Afghan consulate in Peshawar monitored the schools several times during the year. The schools are in line with the requirements of the Afghan MoE and the academic standard of the students found satisfactory.

## **Friendship schools**

NAC facilitates contact between schools in Afghanistan and Norway. In 2007, Vinderen Primary School in Oslo and Gul Dara primary school in Kabul province, initiated friendship relations. Children exchanged letters and drawings. Through this interaction



*Vinderen Primary School, "Friendship Days"  
Oslo, Norway, March 2007*

children learn about each others' differing cultures and identify their similarities. In March, the children at the Vinderen school organised "Friendship Days" that included an exhibit about Afghanistan and fund raising. The funds were used to purchase playground equipment for the Gul Dara school. The Krohnengen School in Bergen continued its Christmas fund raising activities in 2006 and 2007, which funds in 2007 have been used and will be used in 2008 to support schools through NAC's Education Department.

## **Literacy & Vocational Training (L&VT)**

The need to capacitate adult women in Afghanistan, of whom some 80% are illiterate and who have had little exposure to more than rudimentary and, sometimes harmful, child rearing and household practices, is a necessary and integral part of development. Women –making up approximately half of the population of a country- must be ensured education whether they will ultimately choose to devote their lives to their family, work outside of their homes, or otherwise participate in the life of their community.

The training: In 2007, 60 more illiterate and unemployed women enrolled in NAC's L&VT project, 30 in each of the L&VT centers in the provincial capitals of Ghazni and Badakhshan. Set criteria were used in order to ensure that truly needy women were selected. The training consisted of: a) literacy according to MoE's manual for adult literacy which condenses reading, writing and counting skills equal to third grade in a 9 month course; b) Islamic education; c) sewing skills. The choice for the latter was made based on 2 main considerations: 1) easy to utilise in the privacy of the home, especially in the very restrictive and conservative environment of Ghazni or, at any future time, in an external setting; 2) can be utilized to provide services to external clients or for private family needs. During the training period, in order to compensate for the time the trainees will not have spent on daily household chores, the NAC provided a US\$ 30/month supporting allowance to each trainee.

The marketing: In order to allow a quick start-up, upon graduation the beneficiaries are provided with sewing machines and a set of basic sewing accessories. During 2007, the NAC also aimed at boosting the generation of income of its 60 2006 L&VT graduated seamstresses. Grass roots marketing workshops were organised for this purpose. The graduated seamstresses were divided into working groups, a preliminary step for creating a small enterprise in the future. Several initiatives were taken to link the graduated seamstresses to the local market: a) in Badakhshan, the working groups location were identified with sign boards; b) the NAC helped link the seamstresses to private local store keepers who placed small pilot orders; c) the graduated trainees products were advertised at local fares.



*Sewing course at NAC's Literacy & Vocational Training center  
Faizabad, Badakhshan province*

The income generation: The project reaped immediate results with the graduated seamstresses earning from 1000 to 3500 Afs per month, which income can be considered considerable when taking into consideration that the earners were until recently illiterate and for the great majority are first time earners in one of the poorest provinces of Afghanistan. In addition, 5 of the graduated seamstresses have been employed as tailoring trainers by the foreign NGO AGEF and the ICRC in Badakhshan. Regardless of the physical remoteness and high level of poverty in Badakhshan, the success of the L&VT project in terms of income generation for the graduates has been greater in Badakhshan than in Ghazni, due in part to the restrictions placed on women in the latter.

*The change in status:* Similarly to the Midwife Education project, this project is a contribution to the advancement of women. Women's newly acquired literacy and income generating skills diminishes their total dependence on the male members of their family. Their status in the family and society is enhanced as they financially share responsibility in directly contributing to household needs and as they are better equipped to participate in the on-goings of their communities. Their accomplishments stimulate social and cultural changes in the community and set positive examples for other women.



*Women's Day Celebration, 8 March 2007  
Vocational Training center, Faizabad, Badakhshan province*

To further promote the rights of women, the NAC celebrated Women's Day at the L&VT centers in both Faizabad and Ghazni. Ministry representatives were invited. The celebration gathered some 30 people in Faizabad and about 60 in Ghazni, where the majority of the guests were females, at the exception of 2 NAC male staff.

### ***Capacity Building***

Following the establishment of the Afghan Interim Government in 2002, the reconstruction of the country began. While conventional school education is a crucial investment in the future development of the country, its development cannot wait a generation. There is an equally important need to build the capacity of currently employed adults whose education and professional experience has for the most part been obstructed during 25 years of war and bad governance. These men and women

are presently the country's main work force on whose capacity the country must be able to depend.

The NAC has ensured formal training opportunities for its staff and that of its partner organizations to increase their knowledge and skills in both managerial and technical areas of work, with the latter including subjects relevant to NAC's thematic areas of work.

<b>TYPE OF COURSE</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>
Managerial	NAC	62	21	83
Technical	NAC	13	6	19
Managerial	HEWAD	19	5	24
Technical	HEWAD	15	7	22
Managerial	UMCA	9	0	9
Technical	UMCA	0	0	15
Managerial	IHS	3	11	14
Technical	IHS	5	30	35
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>126</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>206</b>

Among the above, a 3 day Hygiene Education workshop is included delivered by NAC's Health Department to NAC's support staff, namely its cooks, cleaners, guards and female staff from its Vocational Training project. The NAC offers Hygiene Education workshops to external interested parties.

### ***Women in and post conflict:***

No level of education and development can be effective without promoting and ensuring the rights of women. The NAC held 3 one-day workshops on UN Resolution 1325 in Ghazni, Kabul and Jalalabad respectively. The workshops were conducted by a member of NAC's Women's Board. A total of 73 Afghans, mostly women from Government institutions and civil society representatives participated. The NAC compiled and published, in Pashto and Dari languages, 2000 brochures on the Resolution. The NAC also identified and facilitated the travel of 3 Afghan women to participate at the "Networking Conference" on women's role in and after conflict situations, organized by FOKUS, a Norwegian women's NGO, in Thailand end of January 2007. These were 2 midwife trainers and 1 medical doctor respectively from the IHS and from the MCH clinic in Jalalabad.

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## **Protecting and Re-habilitating the Environment**

During 2007, the country continued to suffer from natural disasters. Drought, heavy snows isolating remote villages, avalanches, floods, and landslides are recurrent in

Afghanistan. The country, with one of the world's lowest levels of development, has been facing extreme difficulties in dealing with such disasters, both in preventing them and alleviating their effects. The ultimate result has been the loss of lives, and through the death of livestock and destruction of arable lands and rural local infrastructure, the loss of livelihoods. Altogether, these developments lead to rural migration toward cities or to neighboring countries, creating social instability.

Protecting and re-habilitating the environment are therefore important in order to reduce nutrient loss and maximize soil fertility, boost agricultural production and ensure food security for 75% of Afghanistan's population that depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation and Livestock' (MAIL) 2005 Master Plan includes 7 programs of which one focuses on natural resources.

### **NAC's Contribution**

The NAC further supported MAIL's goals and objectives in terms of rehabilitation of the environment through the implementation of its Environmental Program in Badakhshan province, initiated in 1997. NAC's Environmental Program specifically addresses forestation, watershed management and the establishment of nurseries, which are among the major elements of the Natural Resource program of MAIL's Master Plan. The NAC also promotes environmental awareness and provides technical assistance in the field.

### ***Social Forestry***

The NAC kept on managing 5 Demonstration Farms with nurseries on behalf of the Forestry Department of MAIL. These Demonstration Farms provide seedlings and saplings of a variety of botanical species suitable to the Afghan agro-ecological zone and traditional knowledge. With a view to encouraging and assisting communities and farmers to establish their own nurseries and tree planting, saplings are distributed free-of-charge to interested persons or are used for direct forestation activities by interested public institutions, the NAC and other NGOs. NAC's largest Demonstration Farm is located in Keshem district, which is also endowed with a recreational park used by Keshem residents. The others are in Farmanqully district, Shuhada district, and near Faizabad city, the capital of Badakhshan. The fifth is in Kalafgan district, in Takhar province, just across the provincial boundary line.

In 2008, procedures will be initiated to gradually hand-over these Demonstrations Farms to the relevant public institutions and local communities, to whom the NAC will provide intensive capacity building.



*Labourers at work at Keshem's Demonstration Farm  
Keshem district, Badakhshan province*

### ***Watershed Management***

Years of war, continuous poverty resulting in the cutting of trees for household use or illegal trade, lack of environmental awareness combined with recurrent droughts resulted in the loss of 85% of Afghanistan's forests leaving much of its mountainous terrain barren and prone to soil erosion, floods and landslides, while significantly reducing the fertility of its agricultural soil.

In order to enhance the living environment and contribute to reducing the risk of these natural disasters and to reclaim degraded slopes, in 2007, the NAC undertook the following activities:

- Assisted the Saraya community, Keshem district, with technical assistance and the provision of saplings for the expansion of the existing 2 hectares of watershed plantation that the NAC established in 2001, with another 1000 meters of terraces, on which 1000 saplings have been planted. The community provided 250 saplings from its own community nursery;
- Prepared 4,980 meters of new terraces and planted pine and thoja trees in Dah Kalan Khumbok, Khumbok district, specifically aimed at protecting the village's girls' school from the risk of landslides;

- Repaired 20,000 meter of old terraces of earlier planted watershed plantations in Keshem and Faizabad and planted 1,043 pine and thoja bushes on the same;
- The NAC also continued to maintain previously set-up watershed plantations and, as relevant, provided further technical advice to the communities on their sustainable preservation.

These projects are also significant in terms of livelihoods as they provide opportunities for daily labour to unemployed and impoverished members of the local rural communities.



*Irrigation of pine saplings, Keshem Demonstration Farm  
Keshem district, Badakhshan province.*

### ***Forest Protection Program***

NAC's 2 forest Protection Officers carried-on their regular monitoring of forests and informal awareness raising on the medium to long-term importance of forest protection among communities in Keshem district and the Teshkan valley. Over the years, a gradual decrease in incidences of tree cutting could be observed. The forest Protection Officers also provide advice on good agricultural practices.

### ***Women's garden in Faizabad***

Under the authority of the provincial MoWA, a Women's Garden on 4 hectares of land in Dasht-i-Qurogh near Faizabad, was initially established with the support of the World Food Program (WFP). It has been further developed by the NAC over the past couple of years following a request by the provincial MoWA and the provincial Governor. In 2007, the NAC planted 500 pine, 36 apple, 45 peach, 30 apricot saplings, 300 thoja bushes, 1400 mulberry seedlings, 200 willow and 185 poplars. It also sew soya beans on 2911 sqm that serve as demonstration plots. Its other major related activities were: the repair of old and digging of new irrigation canals, watering, soil fertilization, weeding. The 80 women who worked on the Women's Garden were paid food for work while male laborers were paid in cash.

The Garden will gradually be handed over to the MoWA, during which period the MoWA and the NAC will work together to set-up a scheme that will ensure further agricultural exploitation and marketing of its produce. The MoWA will call upon women already familiar with the Garden or who have participated in agricultural training, to work in and reap the proceeds of the Garden.

### ***"Foster Mums" – Women work for the environment***

NAC's "Foster Mums" project specifically targets widowed women with a view to providing this mostly destitute group of women with an opportunity for income generation while simultaneously contributing to the improvement of the environment. Namely, widows are engaged to nurse pine saplings in their yards. Within the latter's the NAC sets-up a small nursing area and provides the widows with required basic tools and training. After 10 months, the trees are either transferred to NAC's nurseries or permanently planted on NAC's various a- and re-forestation projects on private, community or Government owned land.

In 2007, NAC managed 250 "Foster Mums" working for salary or for food for work. Of these, 190 were newly selected widows, while 60 of them selected in 2006 continued their participation on the project. Ninety five worked in Faizabad, 132 in Keshem district and 23 in Tagab-e-Keshem district. The "Foster Mums" project was initiated in 2002.

### ***Recreational Park in Faizabad***

NAC established a recreational park in Faizabad, the capital of Badakhshan province, following requests by the local community and the Faizabad municipality supported by Badakhshan's Governor. The park is 1.5 hectares on which 264 pine saplings and 177 thoja bushes have been planted. In addition, 77 poplar trees have been planted around the park. It is protected with barbed wire. The park is used by men and boys and is located near a football field.

## **Sapling Enumeration Survey**

A sapling enumeration survey was conducted in October 2007. The survey provides the sapling census in the NAC Demonstration Farms and other nurseries available for transplant at the end of the year.

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>FRUIT TREES</b>	<b>NONE FRUIT TREES</b>	<b>FLOWER</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>
Keshem Keshem district	12754	112564	1155	126473
Farmanquli Tagab-i-Keshem	5167	33330	0	38497
Shuhada Shuhada district	2025	13400	0	15425
Kalafgan Kalafgan district Takhar province	1076	20526	0	21602
Dasht-e-Qurogh, Faizabad	5764	104907	0	110671
Woman garden Faizabad	4527	17803	0	22330
Jar-i-Shababa Nursery Keshem district	0	4347	0	4347
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31463</b>	<b>324630</b>	<b>1155</b>	<b>357248</b>

*Saplings available at NAC managed tree nurseries end of 2007  
Badakhshan province*

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## **RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

In order to provide basic public services to the mostly rural population of Afghanistan, the Government, with the support of external partners, has been re-building basic physical infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, potable water supplies, electricity and roads that were destroyed or decayed during years of war and, in many cases, providing these for the first time where there were none before.

Much has been achieved but the needs remain immense. School buildings are required to accommodate the continuously growing number of children enrolling in school, some 80% of the population remains without access to safe drinking water, 90% remain without electricity and most of Afghanistan still needs proper roads to connect communities to essential services and markets.

## NAC's Contribution

The NAC focuses especially on supporting the Ministries of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and Education respectively in further expanding rural infrastructure.

In 2007, it continued its construction work managing the process of school construction in Ghazni and Badakhshan provinces, of school infrastructure enhancement in Kabul province, and that of the construction of safe water supplies in Badakhshan's rural areas.

During the year, the NAC either completed projects started in 2006 and 2007 or initiated new ones. Among the completed projects are: 5 potable water reservoirs in Badakhshan, 2 schools in Badakhshan and 3 in Ghazni, and 1 surrounding wall and 1 clean water supply in 1 school in Kabul province.

### *Potable Water Supplies*



*Water point in Doghalat-e-Qalan  
Argu district, Badakhshan province*

The benefits of accessible and safe drinking water in the Afghan context are multi-fold: improvement of health status and reduction of death due to water born diseases. Consequently, human and livestock productivity are increased. In addition, it frees up time for productive activities, especially as regards women and girls who are mainly responsible for fetching water. Thus women can participate in income generating activities, while girls can attend school.

In line with MRRD's "A Strategic Intent 1386-1388 (2007-2009) Building on Success", the NAC is one of MRRD's partners in terms of improving "the well-being of people in rural areas by providing basic infrastructure" and in the "identification of needs, participatory planning, funding, implementation, monitoring and evaluation".

The 5 clean water supplies built in 2007 are:

<b>Village District</b>	<b>NUMBER OF HUMAN BENEFICIARIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF ANIMAL BENEFICIARIES</b>
Dogahlat Kalan; Argo district	3003	2900
Dahan Dara; Yaftal district	1650	5550
Koshem Dara; Lower Yaftal district;	469	1500
Qazi Keshlaq; Daryem district;	1260	1500
Khame Mir; Upper Yaftal district	539	1340
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6921</b>	<b>12790</b>

In addition, the NAC initiated the construction of 3 clean water supplies respectively in the districts of Keshem, Tagab-i-Keshen and Teshkan, Badakhshan province, that will be completed in 2008 and benefit 22,400 humans and 11,000 livestock.



*Water reservoir in Koshem Dara  
Yaftal district, Badakhshan province*

## **School construction**

MoE's "National Education Strategy Plan for Afghanistan 2007-2011" includes among its goals that 90% of schools have buildings, with appropriate facilities for boys and girls. According to the MoE "1386 (2007) Schools Survey Summary Report/Survey period May 2007 to August 2007" nationwide there are 42,003 classrooms available while 73,208 are needed. The Survey further informs that the national average of students per classroom is 135 students (the survey however does not specified whether the calculation took into account the number of children enrolled or attending classes nor multiple school shifts).

Recognizing that education is one of the essential pillars of development, the NAC was keen to further contribute to providing children and teachers with adequate school buildings. It built and continues to build schools in remote areas of Badakhshan province, while in Ghazni province, where security considerations have prevented access to many parts of the province, it has been constrained to built schools only in Ghazni city, especially in view of the fact that education is a chosen target by anti-government elements.

<b>Schools completed in 2007 – Badakhshan province</b>			
<b>School name District</b>	<b>Pupil/student beneficiaries</b>	<b>Boys-Girls- Mixed</b>	<b>Grade level</b>
Hasrat Khumbuk, Tagab-i- Keshem district	485	Girls	1 – 9
Shakar Lab, Yaftal district + school admin building	668	Girls	1 – 12



*Shakar Lab Girls' school, handed over to the Ministry of Education in July 2007*

*Yaftal district, Badakhshan province*

<b>Schools completed in 2007 – Ghazni province</b>			
<b>School name District</b>	<b>Pupil/student beneficiaries</b>	<b>Boys-Girls Mixed (rotating shifts)</b>	<b>Grade level</b>
Wali Asaar Ghazni city	1719	Mixed	1 – 12
Qala Amir, Ghazni city	931	Mixed	1 – 12

<b>Other school related construction completed in 2007</b>				
<b>Type of projects</b>	<b>School name District Province</b>	<b>Pupil/student beneficiaries</b>	<b>Boys- Girls Mixed</b>	<b>Grade level</b>
School surrounding was	Gul Dara, Gul Dara district Kabul province	560	Girls  Boys primary only	6 – 8  1 – 5
Potable water supply	-	-	-	-

In addition, the NAC initiated the following school related construction which will be completed in 2008: 3 schools in Ghazni, of which 2 with rotating shifts for girls and boys grades 1 – 6 and 1 boys school for grades 1 – 12; 2 girls schools in Badakhshan, of which 1 grades 1-6; 1 surrounding wall for the Wali Asaar school in Ghazni.



*Tir Garan girls' school, construction initiated in 2007 to be completed in 2008*

The Law on Non-Governmental Organizations of 2005, whose objective is to promote in particular the development of small and medium size construction firms, forbids NGOs to perform construction work themselves. Alternatively, they may contract private firms. Thus NAC's construction projects in 2007 were contracted out to external companies. A transparent bidding procedure was followed, which included public bid openings at which representatives from the bidding firms, that of the MoE and MRRD were invited to attend.

For all its construction work, the NAC ensures that the projects undertaken are based on requests by the local communities and the relevant Ministries.

These projects guarantee the fulfillment of internationally recognized basic human rights such as access to safe drinking water and education. They also provide opportunities for daily work to impoverished laborers and boost the Afghan private sector by employing private Afghan firms.

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## **DONOR SUPPORT**

During 2007, the implementation of NAC's projects was funded by the following donors: the Norwegian Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), FOKUS as well as the Norwegian Embassy in Afghanistan; the US Agency for International Development (USAID) through the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Afghan MoPH; the German Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT); and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The NAC thanks all its donors as well as all individuals and entities that have supported its work throughout the year and made it possible to continue making a contribution to the development of Afghanistan.

### **Funding in USD**

<b>DONOR</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
NORWEGIAN EMBASSY in Afghanistan	1,498,971	753,400
NORAD	477,206	695,807
FOKUS	184,927	141,177
FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL	7,055	141,177
<b>Total Norwegian funding</b>	<b>2,168,159</b>	<b>1,590,384</b>
USAID REACH	-	380,402
USAID through WHO & Afghan MoPH	1,007,646	597,515
WHO project income	20,785	5,523

<b>Total USAID/WHO</b>	<b>1,028,431</b>	<b>983,440</b>
GERMAN PRT, Badakhshan	-	115,911
IOM	-	79,427
NAC contingency use funds	-	4,583
<b>Total others</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>199,921</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,196,590</b>	<b>2,773,745</b>

In addition, the WFP donated 503.632 metric tones of food stuffs in kind.

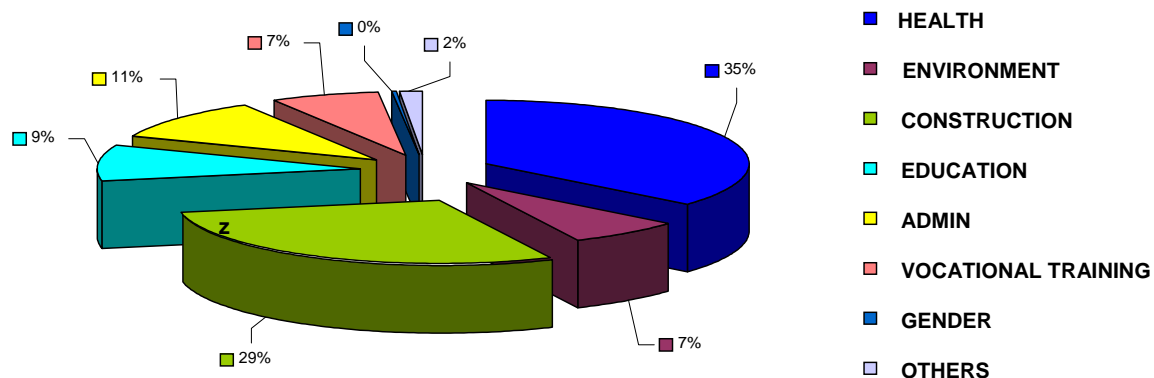
### Expenditure by Sector in USD

SECTOR	2007	2006
HEALTH	1,150,000	1,102,535
ENVIRONMENT	230,462	239,572
CONSTRUCTION	914,958	584,131
EDUCATION	297,394	387,699
ADMINISTRATION	338,401	262,365
VOCATIONAL TRAINING	212,736	151,225
GENDER	4,099	16,349
OTHERS	48,540	29,869
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,196,590</b>	<b>2,773,745</b>

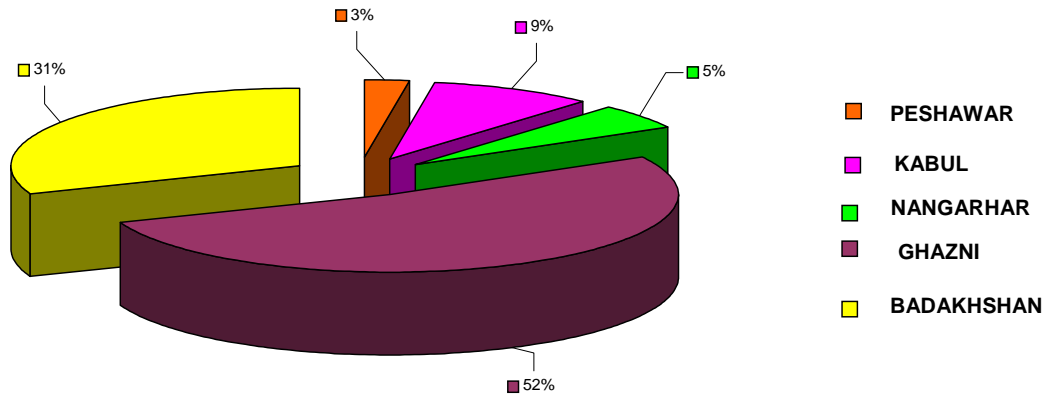
### Expenditure by Geographical Area in USD

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	2007	2006
PESHAWAR	80,222	82,298
KABUL	291,020	170,003
EASTERN	173,664	133,373
GHAZNI	1,664,512	1,428,373
BADAKHSHAN	987,172	959,698
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,196,590</b>	<b>2,773,745</b>

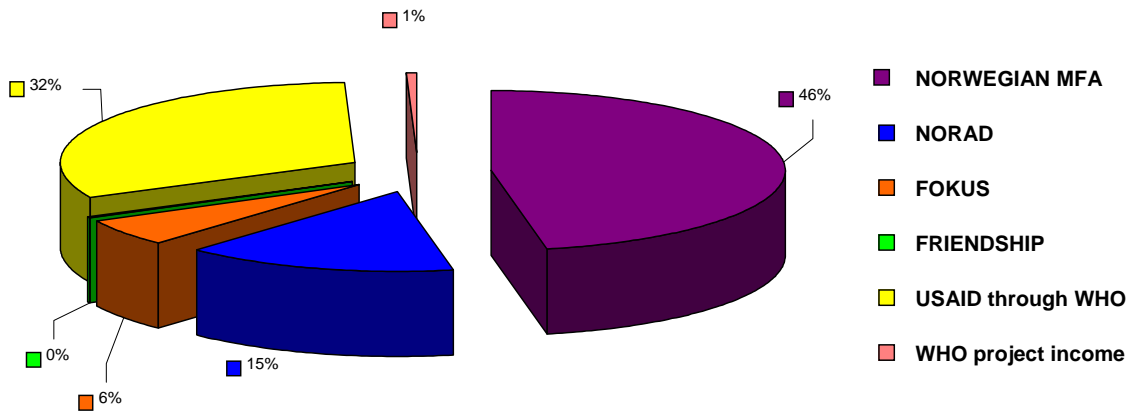
### Expenditure sector wise



## Expenditure according to geographical area



## Donor contribution



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## NAC's Information Activities in Norway

Raising awareness and understanding about Afghanistan among Norway's population is an integral part of NAC's contribution to the development of Afghanistan. The related activities in 2007 included:

**Written media:** The NAC published two issues of "Afghanistan-Nytt" magazine covering a wide range of topics and views. 3200 copies were distributed free of charge to private persons and public institutions.

**Electronic media:** The NAC runs a Norwegian language web-site ([www.afghanistan.no](http://www.afghanistan.no)) that provides information on its work and specific topics of interest. In 2007, a page on women in Afghanistan was launched covering the historical development of Afghan women's rights, their political participation, reproductive health and challenges related to tradition.

**Seminars:** The holding of several seminars with an attendance of 20 to up to 100 participants. These included:

*June 10 -Afghan refugees:*

Repatriation of large number of Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan is ongoing. In Norway, Afghan asylum seekers organised a march in protest of being denied asylum. The seminar questioned the situation of returning refugees in Afghanistan.

*October 3- 6 –International Clean Water Campaign:*

The NAC helped organise the International Clean Water Campaign at Blå at which some 20 Norwegian NGOs took part, and participated at it focusing on the problems related to safe drinking water in Afghanistan.

*November 15 –Documentary films and debate:*

In cooperation with Oslo Documentary Film, two documentary films from Afghanistan were shown at "Park Teateret" in Oslo. "Loosing Hope", produced by the Information Agency IRIN, describes the still very difficult health situation of Afghan women. "Enemies of Happiness" follows Malalai Joya, the Afghan female politician, from 2002 and into 2005 during her campaign to become Member of Parliament. Following the films' broadcasting, discussions with the audience were led by Shukria Barakzai, female Member of the Afghan Parliament and founder and editor of an Afghan women's newspaper, and Denise Kandiyoty, Researcher at the School of Oriental African Studies (SOAS) in London.

*November 16 –Women as active participants in society in Afghanistan after 2001:*

Shukria Barakzai (see above), Noor Marjan, Program Coordinator at the Afghan Women Skills Development Centre, Dr. Saeeda Saeede, Physician and development worker from Herat, and Denise Kandiyoty (see above) discussed the current status of the work on women's rights in Afghanistan; how to boost Afghan ownership of the fight for female participation; and how Afghan women can best organize themselves.

Norwegian NGOs were invited to discuss possibilities for cooperation with their Afghan female counterparts. The networking is on-going.

## **Organizational Structure and Administration**

**NAC's Oslo Head Office.** Its Board, headed by a Chairwoman, consists of 10 members, of whom 2 are of Afghan origin. The NAC has 4 committees: the Project Group, Women's Committee and Information Committee as well as a Local Committee in the city of Bergen. The members of the Board and those of the committees work on a volunteer basis. The Secretary General works on a full time basis.

**NAC's Kabul Country Office.** It supports its 2 Regional Offices in Ghazni city, Ghazni, and Faizabad, Badakhshan, and 1 sub-office in Keshem district, Badakhshan. It is also responsible for ensuring appropriate cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan, namely its line Ministries, UN Agencies and other national and international NGO's working in the country. Each of NAC's thematic areas of work –Health, Education, Environment, Engineering-Construction- is headed by a Line Manager. The Regional Offices are managed by Regional Program Managers.

The NAC maintains one staff house in respectively Kabul, Ghazni, Faizabad and Keshem in order to provide accommodation to its staff based on specific needs criteria.

### **Staffing**

Office Location	PERMANENT STAFF		PROJECT STAFF	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Kabul	30	31		
Badakhshan	31	42	31	12
Ghazni	31	27	269	278
Jalalabad			41	39
Peshawar			79	65
<b>TOTAL (as of December 2007)</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>394</b>

### **Audits and evaluations**

The NAC regularly performs external yearly financial audits. In addition, its Norwegian donors commissioned evaluations of its administrative and financial capacity and of its MCH clinic and Midwife Education projects.

The NAC is registered as an NGO with the authorities in both Norway and Afghanistan. It is a member of ACBAR, the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief.

## NAC Head Office Oslo, Norway

### Board Members 2007 - 2008

Chair	Eva Sover
Vice Chair	Tonje Merethe Viken
Board Member	Britt Kejo
1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy Board Member	Terje Skaufjord
Project Group Representative	Hege Jacobsen
Information Group Representative	Kari Solas Paulsen
Information Group Deputy	Mujtaba Mastoor
Women's Board Member	Noor Sabah Nael
Women's Board Deputy	Masuda Dostyar
Bergen Local Committee Representative	Sigmund Loland

During 2007, the following Board Members resigned: Carl Hofslie and Thomas Frantvold, Project Group Representatives, Ragnhild Waage, Deputy Representative of the Bergen Local Committee, and Solveig Sandalsnes, Board Member.

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**NAC Country Office  
Afghanistan**

**Senior Staff 2007**

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Program Advisor  
Health Manager  
Education Manager  
Engineering Manager  
Finance Manager  
Administration Manager  
IT Officer

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Marina Coblentz  
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