

FACT SHEET

Post Conflict Reforms

Outline of the Program

March 2006



Soldiers attending a disarmament event.



Controlled destruction of anti-personnel mines.

Post Conflict Reforms (PCR) is a cross cutting program dealing with the security sector issues that arise upon the cessation of fighting. Left unresolved, the issues may reignite, fetter or delay the Mission's reconstruction efforts and its wider objectives, one of which is to support the wishes of the people through the authority of the Government.

PCR is a general term used for the numerous interrelated initiatives that are being addressed in Country.

- The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of the Afghan Military Forces (DDR)
- The Cantonment of Heavy Weapons
- The Anti Personnel Mines and Ammunition Stockpile Destruction Program (APMASD)
- The Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG)
- The reform of the Afghan National Police (ANP)
- The creation of the Afghan National Army (ANA)

From the above, the Mission has financially focused on one particular area – DDR, monitoring and supporting the UN program both directly and in directly, through parallel initiatives.

USAID funded PCR projects

1. Direct support towards the UN 's Afghanistan's New Beginning's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Program **\$9m**
2. Established a national SME loan fund where borrowers are encouraged to hire DDR personnel **\$4m**
3. Primary funder for the nationwide program to canton all known Heavy Weapons **\$1.37m**
4. Established and funds the GoA's Disarmament and Reintegration Commission Secretariat **\$0.7m**
5. Established and funded the Joint Office of DDR Public Information to assist the UN's ANBP' PI program **\$0.45m**
6. Funded the provision of the MoD's Officers registration database **\$0.15m**
7. Piloted "beyond the R" DDR initiatives providing dedicated microfinance and employment assistance and business development center's, together with numerous other initiatives, to identify and demonstrate that sustainable programs can continue beyond the short life of the UN DDR program –which closes in June 06 – in the mid to long term **\$0.5m**
8. Contribution to the UN APMSD project. **\$.83m**

Total \$17m

Assistance to Afghanistan (continued)



DDR'd members of the Afghan Military Forces who chose to join the ANA.



Ammunition stockpile being prepared for disposal

Parallel Initiatives

USAID has been exploring numerous initiatives targeted at DDR'd personnel to ensure the Reintegration offered is sustainable in the short to mid term. Five regional Employment Assistance and business Development Centers (EADC) registered DDR personnel seeking employment and or wishing to find better jobs. However, identifying vacancies, addressing prejudices against employing soldiers or peer pressure to employ relatives made placement a difficult task. In areas where, the majority of DDR'd personnel are self employed, business advice was developed to assist the businesses which it is hoped will become sustainable in the mid to long term and be the employers of the future.

Two DDR microfinance projects were piloted in the regions. Group lending programs were developed to provide funds to enable DDR'd personnel's businesses to grow whilst developing track records that would allow them to apply for larger loans.

The key PCR programs for USAID comprise: The UN's Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of the Afghan Military Forces.

The Japanese led UN ANBP program has disarmed 63,380 AMF officers and soldiers and placed them into various reintegration training options. USAID has worked both directly and indirectly to support the UN program to ensure that the personnel are truly reintegrated, employed and become valuable members of society. DDR'd personnel are a special group of people worthy of a \$142m UN program and must not be forgotten.

Heavy Weapons Cantonment

The cantonment of over 12,500 serviceable or repairable heavy weapons from within communities to secure storage sites reassures and builds confidence amongst the public that still remembers and fears their destructive power. The Heavy Weapons are taken to regional cantonment sites where they are deactivated by removing the breech blocks, machine guns and fuel pumps and guarded by the MoD to prevent their misuse.

The Challenge

After almost 25 years of conflict, a lost generation must learn to live by the rule of law, permanently return to their communities and find viable employment in the fifth poorest country in the world. It is therefore essential that the environment is established to ensure that the communities have the confidence to return, settle and invest in a sustainable future in a landscape that is often scarred by the remnants of war and memories of the recent past. *Richard Scarth March '06.*

Further detailed information is available on www.ddrafg.com