

## **Contribution of the Republic of Croatia to Stabilization and Recovery of Afghanistan**

### **Stability and Security**

Croatia has been engaged in Afghanistan since 2003 on a long-term basis. It has been providing military contribution through ISAF since February 2003. The contribution started with a platoon of military police deployed in Kabul, but has since been increased to 200 troops deployed as different units on several locations in Kabul, the north and the west of the country. In early autumn 2008 this contribution will be further increased to 300 troops.

Since 2006 Croatia has supported training and mentoring of the **Afghan National Army** (ANA) by contributing one Operational Mentoring Liaison Team (OMLT) to ISAF.

Croatian military contribution through ISAF will be continued and further increased.

In 2007 Croatia supported equipping of the ANA through a donation of 1.000 assault rifles and 300.000 rounds of ammunition. The donation was realized in partnership with Canada.

Since January 2005 Croatia has supported building of the **Afghan National Police** (ANP) in the Province of Badakhshan, through engagement of two police officers in the PRT Feyzabad. The police officers were engaged in monitoring, evaluation, advising and training (training the trainers) of the ANP, as a part of the German Police Project. Since July 2007 the Croatian police officers have become a part of the EUPOL Afghanistan mission. Currently one of them is working on coordination of the ANP reform.

In May 2007 the Croatian Parliament approved deployment of one staff officer to UNAMA, but the deployment is still pending.

### **Governance, Rule of Law, Elections and Capacity Building**

In line with the comprehensive approach, Croatia has supported the German-lead PRT in Feyzabad with a civilian team composed of a diplomat and two police advisors, since January 2005. They have been involved in a number of Rule of Law, reconstruction, development as well as capacity building projects. Two Croatian diplomats were the only foreign observers monitoring the parliamentary elections in the districts of the remote province of Badakhshan in 2005.

Until 2008 Croatia did not engage in development projects in Afghanistan, as it lacked legal and institutional framework for development assistance. However, it did engage in activities aimed at supporting Afghanistan in governance and capacity building, as well as in minor humanitarian projects

In December 2006 a study visit to Croatia was organized for three representatives of the Afghan Ministry for Women's Affairs, in order to acquaint them with Croatian experience in the areas of human rights, minority rights, gender issues and women empowerment.

Since 2006 Afghan diplomats have been invited to courses organized by the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Croatia. This activity will be continued.

### **Humanitarian projects**

- One ton of school material for Aziza Afghan Girls' High School in Kabul (2006)
- One year supply of medicines for an Afghan female patient with a kidney transplant (2007)
- School material, winter clothes and blankets for two orphanages in Feyzabad (2007)