

“For A Safer Future”

Hungarian development efforts in Afghanistan

A member of NATO, Hungary has been involved in Afghanistan since 2003. In 2006, Hungary took over the position of lead nation of the Provincial Reconstruction Team operating the North Eastern province of Baghlan from The Netherlands. PRTs advise and work with provincial and district governments to help improve security and extend the authority of the Afghan Government. Since October 2006, a Hungarian military contingent has been deployed in Baghlan in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a UN-authorized, NATO-led mission. Soldiers of the Hungarian Defence Forces are contributing to sustaining peace and security in Baghlan. Hungarian policemen are assisting the training of the local police force and will also take part in the EU's special police training mission (EUPOL).

The aim of the Hungarian development activities is to help promote sustainable long-term development and the establishment of a self-sustaining economy. We therefore attach great importance in the context of our activities in all areas of development to the creation of employment through our involvement in education and training, as well as by transferring technologies and know-how and improving infrastructure and healthcare. Our objectives, among others, are to reduce poverty and to enhance „good governance”, including through the promotion of human rights and the improvement of the situation of women in the society.

Hungary is determined to support Afghanistan's democratic development through the implementation of development programmes designed to promote the reconstruction of country. Our main objectives are to support nation-building, to help promote economic growth, to reduce poverty, as well as to facilitate development and security. Hungarian projects are designed to enhancing primary education, improving the health care system, and to assist the private sector in creating legal employment, particularly in rural areas.

In 2007, the Hungarian contribution to the development efforts amounted to 3 million USD. A major part of the bilateral development assistance has been allocated to projects implemented in Baghlan Province. Most of the support has been channelled through two international renowned Hungarian non-profit organisations, the Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) and the Baptist Aid. Parallel to the non-governmental presence, other Hungarian ministries have also been involved in the implementation of the reconstruction projects in Afghanistan in their area of specialty.

The planning Hungarian development activities has taken into account the goals outlined in Afghanistan's economic and social development strategy have. The projects contained therein aim at achieving pro-poor, private sector-led growth. Along with strengthening democracy, priority is given to the enhancement of the national health care system, the reduction of infant, child, and maternal mortality, as well as to improving the level of primary education and increasing the school enrolment rate.

Hungarian projects include the construction of a brickyard near Pul-e Khumri, the products of which are used in the building and reconstruction of primary schools (in Etehad, Dushi, Pul-e

Khumri), as well as the modernization of the Baghlan Pedagogic High School and equipment of the latter with the necessary infrastructure, the establishment of a community midwife education programme, providing health care institutions with expertise and equipment, providing agricultural know-how and basic devices for farmers, renovation of flood control and irrigation works, constructing a small hydropower station to supply small communities with electricity, etc.

Hungary co-operates with Greece and The Netherlands in implementing development projects in Afghanistan. Hungarian projects have also been supported by Japan and the EC.

Objectives, activities and priorities of the already implemented and currently running development programmes:

- Establishment small-scale plants, purchase and transfer of equipment, starting the production
 - Construction of a brick-factory, provision of equipment and the launch of its operation
 - Establishment of small hydropower stations
- Implementation of agricultural development programmes, support to agricultural cooperatives and small-scale enterprises, provision of instruments, training of employees, technology-transfer and the launch of production
 - Fruit dehydration – establishing family enterprises, support to families without male breadwinners
 - Agricultural training for cooperatives and family farms, provision of instruments
 - Veterinary training
 - Vaccination of animals
- Training for employees
 - Carpet-weaving course for women
- Construction and equipping primary and secondary schools
- Infrastructure support to the Teachers' Training College in Baghlan
- Midwife training
- Water management: construction of irrigation and canal systems, erecting flood protection systems (dykes, river-bed regulation)
- Construction and equipping of clinics
- Police training

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