

# ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPEMENT PROGRAMME AFGHANISTHAN 2016-2020

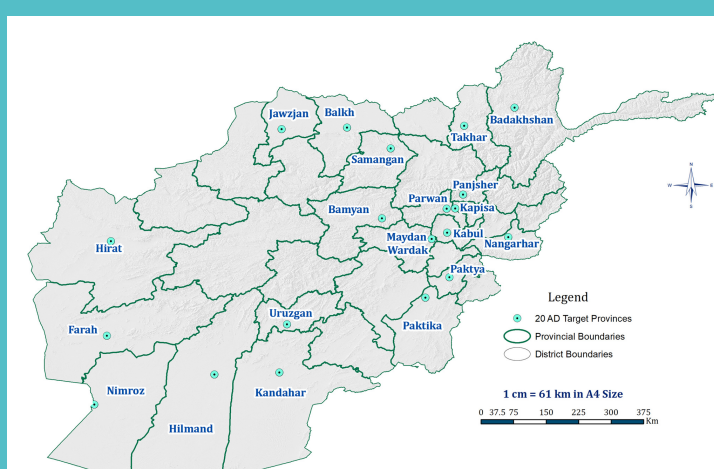
## Achievements at a Glance

UNODC's Alternative Development Programme aims to encourage communities in Afghanistan to move away from illicit cultivation and sale of poppy, and adopt licit entrepreneurial avenues for a sustainable livelihood. The programme supports 60,312 beneficiaries in 20 provinces - out of which 28,800 (48%) are women - with capacity building support through training; exposure visits; exchange programmes; input distribution of tools and equipment; quality seeds and fertiliser; improved technology installation; wastage reduction, packaging, branding and market support.

The programmes are more than subsistence programmes, they place special emphasis on women's economic empowerment, and produce multiple socio-economic impact as they empower women who play such an important role in changing lives, well beyond their own, touching also the lives of their family and community. In doing so, the project is contributing to peace and stability, which are significantly associated with the reduction of illicit crop cultivation. The programme has supported women to recover from drug addiction, build their income generation capacity, support their leadership and community participation.

The UNODC experience and analysis shows that success in alternative development does not come quickly, as it is dependent on long-term investments that enhance human development, gender equality and women's empowerment, land governance, security, the rule of law, institutional presence and sustainability.

According to the 2020 World Drug Report, Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium, accounting for approximately 84 per cent of global opium production over the past five years. Opium poppy cultivation has continued over the last several decades, and has been a defining feature for Afghanistan's socio-economic landscape for over two decades\*. Given the fact that a third of the combined legal and illegal Afghan economy is based on the illegal opium industry, counter-narcotics policy is currently one of the most important elements of domestic politics. Consequently, UNODC's Alternative Development Programme was designed in collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan to support and develop innovative community-based alternative development interventions in accordance with national strategies.



**Alternative Development Intervention Provinces**

\*UNODC and the World Bank, Afghanistan's Drug Industry, November 2006)

**27,829 total jobs** created under the programme



Opium cultivation dropped by **66%** in areas where the programme was being implemented, against **50%** decrease on average in other areas

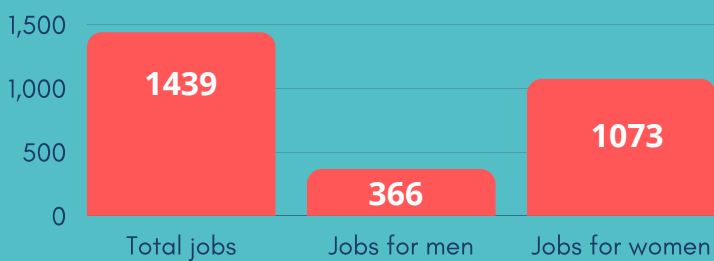
**1,262 hectares** converted from poppy cultivation to licit cultivation

**787 hectares** converted from barren land to licit cultivation

**USD 15.34 million** total income generated

## VEGETABLE CULTIVATION & PRODUCTION

- 224** greenhouses established
- 200** low tunnels (small vegetable nursery)
- 1,016** kitchen gardens established
- 0.78** million net income generated



## CROP SEED DISTRIBUTION

- 326.9 tons** of potatoes, wheat, peas, beans given to **6538** farmers in **5** provinces
- 19** flax and sesame seed processing units established
- 1,047** jobs created from saffron production (**14.8% for women**)
- 78.5** unit yield increased
- 6,919** jobs created in total
- USD 0.96 Million** net income generated

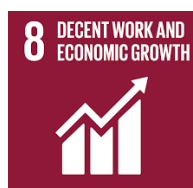
## ORCHARDS & VINEYARDS

- 891 hectares** of apple, pistachio, almond, walnut and grape orchards and vineyards established
- 16 hectares** of citrus orchards installed with drip irrigation system
- 117 fruits and non-fruit nurseries** established
- 5,081** jobs created
- 1.2 million** net income generated

## IRRIGATION CANAL CONSTRUCTION

- 52** irrigation canals, reservoirs, dams, and structures constructed
- 787** hectares of barren land converted to irrigable land
- 563** hectares of poppy land converted to licit cultivation
- 520** jobs created

### THE PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTES TO SDG



## WATERSHED & LAND STABILIZATION

**300** hectares brought to be protected from grazing and wind erosion

**80** hectares of Atriplex and Halaxylon planted to protect land from wind erosion

**50%** of sand movement eroding top soil decreased

**80** communities benefited

**625** jobs created



## VOCATIONAL TRAINING & HANDICRAFT

**640** women trained on improving handicraft skills

**340** women received sewing machines and support on managing tailoring business

**20** women trained on hair styling and beauty parlour services

**1,000** jobs created for women



## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SUPPORT

**5,829** cowsheds rehabilitated

**580.9** tons of concentrate feed distributed

**5,829** women trained on dairy processing

**290** dairy processing groups formed

**38** milk collection centers established

**20** veterinary field unit established

**629,208** animals treated and vaccinated

**23,323** tons of fresh milk produced

**USD 7.6 million net income generated**



**5,961 jobs created for women**

## POULTRY PRODUCTION & MANAGEMENT

**4,990**

chicken coops constructed

**10**

broiler chicken farms established

**5,000**

women trained on backyard poultry management

**154,700**

chicken pullets distributed

**1,003**

tons of concentrate feed distributed

**19.76 million** eggs produced

**5,020**

jobs created for women



**USD 4.6 million**

net income generated

## WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

In Afghanistan, opium poppy is cultivated in areas with a very strong culture of gender inequality and is more likely to occur in villages where girls have no access to schools (UNODC World Drug Report 2018). This is in line with the strong correlation observed between gender equality, the empowerment of women, and peaceful societies. The programme aims to enhance women's awareness, strengthen their capacities, support their economic engagement, and promote their leadership development and participation in decision-making. The programme witnessed high participation of women in dairy and poultry management, vegetable cultivation and handicrafts entrepreneurship. The project endline report by an implementing partner shows that direct recipients have largely moved away from narcotics cultivation, while their neighbours, who were not project beneficiaries, have also reduced narcotics cultivation by 80%.

Per month, female beneficiaries earn on an average:

**AFN 300** from selling eggs

**AFN 4,544** from selling dairy products

**AFN 5,000** from selling handicrafts

\*1 USD = 76 AFN

**139** entrepreneurs supported

**30** entrepreneurs provided with exposure visit to neighboring countries

**13** exhibitions conducted at national level

**671** exhibitions conducted at provincial level

**200** jobs created for women

## ENHANCING MARKET ACCESS

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT TO FARMERS

**Farmer Call Center** established for MAIL

**3,000**

calls received weekly at the call centre

**55,000**

registered callers receiving advise regularly

**20,000**

calls received in the year 2020

**17**

jobs created, out of which **3** are female

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Over **5,000** posters on counter narcotics distributed to **546** communities in **20** provinces
- 2** documentaries developed and broadcasted on **4** popular national TV channels reaching **15 million** people
- 15,665** social contracts signed by community elders and beneficiaries to not cultivate poppy
- Multiple awareness events conducted at schools to inform student about the dangers of poppy production and use.

