

DAI Shaping a more livable world.

DAI in Afghanistan



Our development work in Afghanistan goes back decades, its footprint is extensive, and its capabilities in the Afghan development context are unmatched.

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Bruce Spake Managing Director for Afghanistan +1 301 771 7605 bruce_spake@dai.com DAI's work in Afghanistan dates back to 1976, with the design of a rural development project in the Mohammed Agha District. Since then, DAI has carried out more than 25 assignments in the country, including 17 major, long-term projects. We have operated in all 34 Afghan provinces and maintain numerous principal offices. Total DAI staff on the ground number approximately 930, 95 percent of them local citizens. DAI also employs an extensive security staff through our partner, Edinburgh International.

Building on a legacy of delivering tangible results while offering donors demonstrable and measurable value, DAI is currently entrusted with seven U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) initiatives, outlined below:

Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East, and West (IDEA-NEW, 2009-2014, \$159.8 million). Afghan farmers cultivate opium poppy because they need to feed their families and for many poor rural Afghans, poppy growing is the only reliable source of cash, credit, and access to cropland. IDEA-NEW is dissuading Afghans from growing poppy by increasing access to legal, commercially viable, alternative sources of income.

Select Results

- Created 25,000 full-time jobs in agriculture and the private sector.
- Created 3,300 labor-intensive rural jobs.
- Employed 27,000 local community members on community-identified projects, paying \$5.1 million in wages.
- Completed 120 community projects.
- Helped entrepreneurs start 1,750 rural enterprises for men and women.
- Expanded sustainable agriculture production by 6,000 hectares.
- Provided business skills training to 1,100 men and 2,700 women.

A Model of Success

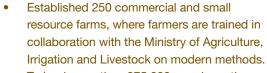
DAI's Alternative Development Program (ADP), funded by USAID, improved the lives of literally millions of people in Afghanistan's eastern region between 2005 and 2009. It reached 2,600 communities, bringing 24,000 hectares of land into licit agricultural production, generating more than 17,000 full-time jobs, and training more than 118,000 farmers, government officials, and small business owners. More than a quarter of a million subsistence farmers were provided with inputs and technical assistance that raised their incomes anywhere from 60 to 125 percent. ADP's cash-for-work programs alone generated more than 6 million person-days of local employment, breathing life into local economies and leaving behind more than 200 infrastructure improvements. ADP's successor, IDEA-NEW, is now extending its community-driven, Afghan-led approach into northern and western Afghanistan. A Philadelphia Inquirer journalist who travelled to Afghanistan to visit the program called IDEA-NEW a "model of success."



The Javed Afghan Wheat Thresher Company is selling threshers to farmers on credit for the first time, thanks to the Agricultural Credit Enhancement Program.







- Trained more than 275,000 people on these resource farms and through other agriculture and livestock programs.
- Brought 8,500 hectares of cropland under irrigation in targeted areas.
- Trained 100,000 Ministry staff on melon-fly control, increasing participant farmers' yields by 113 percent and sales by 46 percent.
- Ninety-seven percent of IDEA-NEW project staff members are Afghans, many in senior management positions.
- Procured \$13 million from Afghan vendors;
 we prioritize local procurement.

Agricultural Credit Enhancement Program

(2010–2014, \$75.1 million). For more than 25 years, Afghan farmers did not have access to agricultural credit, seriously constraining the growth of farming. DAI is managing a \$100 million USAID grant to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to provide credit to commercial farmers, who repay their loans after harvest. Our technical assistance helps assure that farmers and others who borrow from the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) are prepared to sustain and succeed.

Select Results

- Developed an Islamic finance toolbox to facilitate credit to farmers using culturally acceptable lending mechanisms.
- Established the ADF, a nonbank stand-alone financial institution owned by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, governed by a Board of Directors. The ADF operates from a main office in Kabul and regional offices in Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif, Bamyan, Herat, and Kandahar, employing

- more than 100 young professionals.
- Processed loans worth \$77 million to financial and nonfinancial intermediaries that are directly benefiting 21,000 small commercial farmers in 31 provinces. Indirect beneficiaries exceed 100,000 rural households.
- Lent \$1.4 million to women-owned enterprises through the flagship Zahra program.
- Received repayments worth almost \$16.5 million, while keeping the ADF's default rate below 5 percent.

Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Populations, Regional Commands East, West, and North (2010–2014, \$170 million). Afghan cities have long suffered from underinvestment, limited support, low revenues, and weak institutional capacity. As a result, services and infrastructure in municipalities are minimal. These three projects—RAMP UP East (based in Jalalabad), RAMP UP North (Mazar-e-Sharif), and RAMP UP West (Kabul)—support provincial capitals. Their customers are municipal officials such as mayors, revenue officers, and engineers as well as the citizens who benefit from services.

Select Results-RAMP UP East, North, and West

- Trained hundreds of officials from more than 30 municipalities in finance, public administration, revenue, business registration, public outreach, construction management, public works maintenance, and anticorruption.
- Assisted municipalities to implement dozens
 of projects identified by citizens as urgent, including construction of sidewalks and parking lots; rehabilitation of roads, bridges, and
 drainage canals; and building of boulevards,
 garbage bins, and public green spaces.
- Automated line ministry budget preparation.
- Developed standard operating procedures focused on service delivery for the Independent Directorate of Local Governance.



- Launched business licensing and fee-forservice for services to the private sector.
- Introduced monthly citizen forums, municipal newsletters, infrastructure project opening and closing ceremonies, media interviews, and public awareness activities.
- Trained female engineers in quality assurance and employ female engineers as interns with the RAMP UP East central office.
- Developed property register for a property tax, a linchpin of municipal financing.
- Trained municipal officials in gender sensitivity and mainstreaming.
- Formed Service Delivery Advisory Groups that liaise between citizens and officials.
- Supported municipal officials to hold budget hearings that allowed for citizen input.
- Supported municipalities to hold Youth and the Municipality seminars, bringing together young people with their government to discuss city planning and youth involvement.
- Established multistakeholder Economic
 Development Steering Committees to facilitate the inclusive development of Strategic
 Economic Development Plans.

Stability in Key Areas-North (SIKA-North, 2012–2014, \$23.7 million). This project seeks to create more resilient communities that perceive their government officials as delivering public services and responsive to local problems. This is critical to stability, as Afghans generally assert that government effectiveness improves their personal sense of physical security, community resilience, and comforting predictabilty. We work

through and for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, whose district officials plan, design, implement, and monitor projects targeted at improving service provision in key, at-risk areas.

Sample Activities

- Identify sources of instability using the Stability Analysis Mechanism tool that enables districts to pinpoint issues that undermine peace, predictability, and productivity.
- Build Stability Working Groups of key local Afghans who host forums and identify and discuss local issues.
- Promote district-level communication among government and nongovernment stakeholders to more efficiently create localized stability-based activities and support their implementation.
- Build capacity at entities such as District
 Development Assemblies to address the
 sources of instability, provide services to their
 communities, and improve provincial-district
 coordination



By the end of the program, our goal is for parliamentary committees to be actively reviewing legislation and conducting policy oversight as MPs increase dialogue with citizens, civil society, and media.

The Parliament will create a cadre of staff able to provide regular, topical research, and legislative and budget analysis to MPs. Parliament will also provide a stronger and more consistent check on the executive branch and operate as a more independent and effective legislative, representative, and oversight body.

Sample Activities

- Provide issue-based, on-the-job training so parliamentary staff will immediately begin conducting budget analysis and legislative research themselves.
- Increase outreach work done by Parliament.
- Improve the capacity of Parliament to provide effective oversight of the executive branch.









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