Afghanistan: Rebuilding Infrastructure in a Post-Conflict State

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December 17, 2007
Presentation Outline

• Afghanistan – Geography & Recent History
• USAID’s Infrastructure Program
  – Roads
  – Power
  – Buildings
• Lessons Learned
AFGHANISTAN – GEOGRAPHY & RECENT HISTORY
Afghanistan
Afghanistan: Geography & People

- Capital: Kabul
- Area: 647,500 sq km (slightly smaller than Texas)
- Population: 31,056,997 (July 2006 est.)
- Population growth rate: 2.67%
- Life expectancy at birth: 43.3 years
- Ethnic groups: Pashtun 42%, Tajik 27%, Hazara 9%, Uzbek 9%, Aimak 4%, Turkmen 3%, Baloch 2%, other 4%
- Religions: Sunni Muslim 80%, Shi'a Muslim 19%, other 1%
- Languages: Afghan Persian or Dari (official) 50%, Pashtu (official) 35%, Turkic languages (primarily Uzbek and Turkmen) 11%, 30 minor languages (primarily Balochi and Pashai) 4%, much bilingualism
Afghanistan: Recent History

- 1970’s: A poorly developed nation
- 1979 to 1989: Soviet occupation & resistance
- 1990’s: Civil war & Taliban rule
- 2001: Taliban driven from power by US & local forces
- 2002 to present: GOA and donors rebuilding a country that has suffered over 20 years of conflict
Loss of vegetation has caused serious soil erosion across the country, such as in this village near Mazar-e-Sharif.
USAID ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

USAID supports Afghanistan in its pledge to fully develop a stable, legitimate, and democratic state in which the voices of the Afghan people are heard.
USAID Assistance to Afghanistan

- INFRASTRUCTURE (roads, power, buildings, irrigation)
- ECONOMIC GROWTH
- DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE
- SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA)
- ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM
- HEALTH
- EDUCATION
- AGRICULTURE
- PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION
- REINTEGRATING FORMER COMBATANTS
USAID ROADS PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN
Roads: Overview

- Road construction and rehabilitation is one of the key USG priorities in Afghanistan.

- Over 60% of Afghans live within 50 KM of the regional highway, the Ring Road, making it critical for trade and economic development.

- The restoration of an efficient transport sector is essential to strengthen unity of Afghanistan and promote economic recovery and development.

- USAID assistance initially focused on the reconstruction of the Ring Road, and has evolved to the reconstruction of secondary and district center roads.
Goals

- Increase security
- Support economic growth by linking farms to markets and increasing access to services
- Support regional trade/economic growth by building internal provincial links and land bridge with Pakistan and northern neighbors

Approach

- USAID’s comprehensive roads strategy is carried out through three programs:
  - Infrastructure Program
  - Alternative Livelihoods Program
  - Agriculture Development Program

“Jingle truck” accident due to poor roads
To date, USAID has constructed over 2,500km of roads

**Infrastructure Program (over 1,500km)**
- 715km of the Ring Road
  - Kabul-Kandahar highway (389 km)
  - Kandahar-Herat highway (326 km)
- Over 800km of secondary roads
  - 730km paved
  - 73km district and district center roads

**Alternative Livelihoods Program**
- 485km of rural cobblestone and gravel roads

**Agriculture Development Program**
- 589km of rural roads

- 75% of employees working on this project are Afghans gaining technical expertise.

*Pul e Alam Road, Logar, 2006.*
### Reduced Travel Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Before Road Rehab</th>
<th>After Road Rehab</th>
<th>% Reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kabul – Kandahar (483km)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Taxi</td>
<td>10-12 hrs</td>
<td>5-6 hrs</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mini-Bus</td>
<td>16 hrs + (1 night stopover)</td>
<td>7-8 hrs (no stopover)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kandahar – Herat (564km)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Taxi</td>
<td>9-10 hrs</td>
<td>6-7 hrs</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mini-bus</td>
<td>15-17 hrs</td>
<td>8-9 hrs</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabul – Jalalabad (180km)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Taxi</td>
<td>3-5 hrs</td>
<td>1.5 – 2 hrs</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mini-bus</td>
<td>4-5 hrs</td>
<td>2 – 2.5 hrs</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Reduced Freight Costs and Transport Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Before Road Rehab</th>
<th>After Road Rehab</th>
<th>% Reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kabul – Kandahar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Travel Time</td>
<td>30 hrs</td>
<td>10-12 hrs</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cost/Kg</td>
<td>$0.15</td>
<td>$0.05</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kandahar – Herat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Travel Time</td>
<td>40 hrs</td>
<td>12-14hrs</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cost/Kg</td>
<td>$0.20</td>
<td>$0.07</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabul – Jalalabad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Travel Time</td>
<td>6 hrs</td>
<td>2 hrs</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cost/Kg</td>
<td>$0.08</td>
<td>$0.06</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USAID POWER PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN
Energy Challenges in Afghanistan – Considerable!

- 85% of population relies on traditional fuels to meet energy needs, leading to serious deforestation in the country (Source: ADB)
- Only 4% of population with limited access to electricity (use only 16 kwh/capita annually, one of world’s lowest)
- Power grid severely damaged by years of war
- Weakened energy institutions
- Shortage of trained energy workforce
- Limited financial resources
- Inhospitable private investment climate
- Rugged topography
USAID’s Power Program is a comprehensive Strategic program with four parallel components:

- Increasing and maintaining the power generation capacity in the Kabul and Kandahar areas.
- Increasing power supply with cost-effective imports and the installation of new, gas-fired electricity production.
- Rebuilding and expanding generation, transmission, and distribution assets by region, and adding small distributed facilities to broaden impact in isolated rural areas.
- Building human and institutional capacity to sustain sector operations.

- The strategy is designed to minimize the risk of incomplete systems, stranded assets, and unforeseen budget overruns, and to take advantage of previous or parallel investments.
- The program also supports the new longer-term USG “Energy Corridor” initiative to bring energy from Central to South Asia.
Energy: Activities

• **Northern Electric Power System (NEPS)** – Impacts potentially 50% of population
  - GoA initiative, with multi-donor funding of $700 million
  - Consists of generation, transmission, and distribution
  - Combination of imported power with domestically generated power, providing a “least cost” electrical power solution for Afghanistan.

• **Southern Electric Power System (SEPS)** – Impacts potentially 8% of population
  - All USG (USAID) Funding - Total investment of $78 million
  - Kajaki Hydroelectric Rehabilitation
  - New 220 kV Line to Kandahar/Lashkar Gah from Kajaki
  - Rehab 110 kV Line – Supply towns along corridor
Northern Electric Power System (NEPS)
Southern Electric Power System (SEPS)
Energy: Issues

- **Intensifying efforts in the south**
  - Building critical infrastructure to permit stability and economic growth
  - Focusing on providing power to populations of Kandahar and Helmand.

- **Progress slower than anticipated**
  - De-mining delaying construction
  - Damage to infrastructure greater than estimated
  - Delays in resource mobilization

- **USG provision of fuel & power to Kabul**
  - USG stopped supplying Kabul with fuel due to budgetary constraints and sustainability concerns, but now building a 100 MW diesel plant.

- **Donor Coordination**
  - In the beginning, donor coordination encountered some hiccups, but has since been generally good

- **Sustainability of Investments**
  - Institutions and financial flows are weak
  - NEPS management contract(s)
  - Operating contract pilots
USAID BUILDINGS PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN

USAID has constructed over 700 schools and 675 clinics to promote a better educated and healthier population. The rehabilitated Kabul Women’s Dormitory provides housing for 1,200 women and enables women from rural villages to attend one of seven colleges in Kabul.
Number of Schools & Clinics Constructed By Province

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>SCHOOLS</th>
<th>CLINICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - 15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16 - 30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>31 - 45</td>
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<tr>
<td>46 +</td>
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Updated: October 2006
Lessons Learned

- Cooperator/contractor capabilities must be matched to project size, and reduced management units must be weighed against over-burdening a given organization with too many tasks.
- The project mix must include small rural projects in addition to those in the major political/economic centers for balance.
- Capacity-building, institutional strengthening, creating an enabling environment for the private sector, and cost recovery efforts must begin as early as possible – bricks & mortar is not enough.
- Donor coordination is a must, but as projects grow larger and more complex, aligning resources, schedules, and standards grows more difficult.
- Active post-conflict countries not only require close ties to the military, but also higher resource (de-mining, security) and personnel (stress, casualties) costs.
- Political (diplomacy) and military (defense) priorities often require what are recognized as sub-optimal USAID investments in development.
Thank You!

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