



Uruzgan Rural Access Program - Afghanistan

Fact sheet: March 2015

Overview

Australia is supporting the Uruzgan Rural Access Program (URAP) to improve access to basic services such as markets, health clinics and schools, encourage greater social interaction and provide economic opportunities by maintaining, rehabilitating and constructing rural roads and bridges. Australia's \$25 million support commenced in October 2012 and will end in December 2015.

URAP is a quadripartite Agreement between Australia, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and Afghanistan's Ministries of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and Public Works. URAP aligns, where possible, with Afghan Government National Rural Access Program (NRAP) partners and methods of delivery.

Objective

Australia's intervention has provided a greater percentage of the Uruzgan rural population with all-weather access to basic services and encouraged greater social interaction, enhanced security and consolidated peace dividends.

The project's objectives are:

- › construct 27 kilometres of two-lane gravel road (secondary) from Sorkh Lez to Chenartu
- › construct 75 kilometres and maintain 170 kilometres of one-lane gravel roads (tertiary)
- › further strengthen provincial government capacity to improve construction supervision and quality, and to maintain Uruzgan's road infrastructure after the project concludes.

Activities in Uruzgan

In 2013, Australia completed construction of 14 kilometres of road from Tarin Kowt (the Provincial Capital) to Sorkh Lez. URAP is now constructing the remaining 27 kilometres from Sorkh Lez to the district centre of Chenartu. In 2014, the project constructed tertiary roads in the three inner districts of Tarin Kowt, Dehrawud and Chora. Further tertiary road activities have been approved for 2015 - rehabilitation of 43 kilometres, maintenance of 86 kilometres and construction of three bridges totalling 35 metres.



Results achieved in Uruzgan

In line with the broader NRAP program, MRRD contracted democratically elected Community Development Councils to undertake all tertiary road activities, with UNOPS oversight.

To date:

- › In Tarin Kowt District, 13 contracts (total contract value of \$621,689) rehabilitated 12 kilometres of single lane gravel roads and maintained a further 23 kilometres, providing employment totalling 33,563 labour days.
- › In Dehrawud District, 14 contracts (total contract value of \$636,538) rehabilitated 12 kilometres of single lane gravel roads and maintained a further 31 kilometres, providing employment totalling 27,259 labour days.
- › In Chora District, 12 contracts (total contract value of \$516,568) rehabilitated 12.4 kilometres of single lane gravel roads and maintained a further 32 kilometres, providing employment totalling 27,697 labour days.



Photo credits: UNOPS 2014

National Rural Access Program (NRAP) in Afghanistan

Two decades of civil war severely damaged all levels of Afghanistan's estimated 123,000 kilometres of road network. Launched in 2002, NRAP is one of the Afghan Government's National Priority Programs. It is a multi-donor program executed jointly by MRRD (for tertiary roads) and MPW (for secondary roads). The Afghan Government has engaged UNOPS to assist project implementation and financial management, with its roles since 2002 evolving from Implementing Partner to Implementing Consultant. NRAP covers all 34 provinces but has delivered few roads in Uruzgan. Works are carried out by local contractors and communities. The World Bank and its Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund has approved NRAP funding of \$332 million from October 2012 to March 2018.

NRAP objectives:

- › Establish a quality rural road network that connects all villages to basic rural infrastructures and services, such as markets, health care and schools.
- › Provide increased employment opportunities through using labour intensive methods and a private sector-led approach for all works.
- › Enhance the capacity of communities and the private sector to manage, deliver and maintain public transportation facilities through on-the-job capacity development.

NRAP achievements from November 2002 to February 2015 include:

- › 13,661 kilometres of secondary and tertiary roads rehabilitated
- › Over 21 million labour days generated
- › Over 249,000 metres of structures (culverts, retaining walls) completed
- › Over 6,300 metres of bridges completed