

Project Inauguration to Mark the Completion of the 7000th Project in NSP under UN-HABITAT's Facilitation in Afghanistan

Rural Communities in the Afghan Province of Parwan organized a ceremony on 23rd May 2009, to celebrate completion of the 7,000th project of the Government of Afghanistan's flagship National Solidarity Program (NSP) that has been facilitated by UN-HABITAT. The program is jointly funded by the World Bank and the Government of Afghanistan. The program was organized in the compound of a recently completed school building in Qadir Khill village where an inauguration ceremony was performed. The celebrations were attended by the Governor of the Province Mr. Basir Salangi, District Governor Mr. Agha Shirin, Chief of Police of Baghlan Mr. Abdul Rahman Syedkhili, Deputy Executive Director of



Mr. Salangi, Mr. Fazel and Mr. Slingsby
Inaugurating the completed school building



Inauguration of gravel road and retaining
wall project in Madadkhil Village

NSP Mr. Hayatullah Fazel, Country Representative of UN-HABITAT Mr. Michael Slingsby, DPCM and CTA of UN-HABITAT Mr. Bijay Karmacharya and other distinguished staff members of the Government, the Program and UN-HABITAT.

On the occasion completion certificates were handed over to representatives from 38 villages in the districts of Jabelsaraj where projects had been successfully completed under NSP.

NSP facilitates reconstruction and rehabilitation of rural community infrastructure across the country through a "people's process" that is also based on Islamic Principles. Communities are organized into Community Development Councils (CDCs) through a democratic

election process in the villages. Communities take the lead in planning and implementation of infrastructure and Human Capital Development (HCD) projects through the direct block grants transferred to them by the program. NSP follows a facilitated social mobilization process to lay the foundation for community and state institution building from the grass root level and to rebuild the infrastructure devastated by 30 years of war.

Speaking on the occasion the Governor of the Province highlighted the contribution of the program in bringing people together to rebuild the war trodden country.

Mr. Michael Slingsby expressed his satisfaction with the successful completion of such a large number of projects across the country under UN-HABITAT's facilitation. Mr. Karmacharya attributed the success of the program to the dedication of communities, supportive government leadership and to the team of young staff members who are committed and determined to achieve national development. He stressed that NSP does not only rebuild the damaged infrastructures but also reconciles broken hearts and minds.

NSP has an inherent element of peace building in it since it mobilizes the masses in a nation building process. As many as 27,917 projects have been completed across the country under this program and almost 21,000 are currently ongoing. NSP helps communities build schools, water supply networks, health posts, roads, culverts, micro-hydro powers project etc., according to the needs identified by the communities themselves.