

Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS) Building Information Management Capacity



Technology Awareness Training Workshop to Senior Staff of Civil Service Commission
Government of Afghanistan, conducted by AIMS June 2006.

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Unfounded Budget: 0

Second Quarter Report 2006

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) was established in 2002 and is administered by UNDP. AIMS was established to help the Government of Afghanistan (GOA) and the broader humanitarian community to work more effectively through providing products and services in the field of information management, particularly building information management capacity in government. The link between the need for information and ensuring an efficient and effective reconstruction effort of Afghanistan is very strong. Without it, policies will be weak, prioritization will be impossible, and decisions on projects will be inaccurate.

With a central office based in Kabul and five regional offices, AIMS has distributed over 50,000 maps (topographic, road, administrative, and thematic) and trained over 1000 civil servants in basic English, basic computer, geographic information systems, use of global positioning systems (GPS), and database management. AIMS has earned a strong reputation for its product and services and built relationships with twenty-three (23) key line ministries and agencies including the AGCHO in five regions and the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

The project established geocodes that provide a unique identification to every province, district, and settlement in Afghanistan. Through the geocodes and other national data sets, government at national, regional, and local levels and other stakeholders have been able to collect and analyze relevant information necessary to evaluate needs and monitor reconstruction responses.

AIMS' capacity building activities are implemented in a context where capacities in administration, communications, and management are very low. By building capacities of civil servants and through training in information management technology and applications, AIMS has raised the level of competency of government staff, increased workflow efficiency, and enhanced planning capacities of key line ministries. The relevance is high, and it will remain so, as it contributes to improved governance, transparency, accountability, and efficiency in development.

At the sub-national levels, the five field offices support regional government structures, which closely relates with provincial government. With the decentralization of government and increasing development activities, the capacities of these regional offices must be strengthened so as to effectively support local planning initiatives and provisions of reliable information. All the regional offices have had a direct impact on their communities through a diverse set of activities related to capacity building and multisector support to UN agencies in the relief and reconstruction effort in Afghanistan. The qualified national staff, their expertise, and their commitment to active information distribution has led to their position as a trusted partner and service provider in the regions. This accounts for the higher service impact of 3.3 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, while the impact in the Kabul area is rated as 2.7 by all stakeholders. Due to AIMS' strong positive impact in the regions as a service provider and leading capacity builder, it is recommended that management and donors increase investment support for AIMS regional operations to strengthen their human, infrastructural, and technical capacities in order to improve data management, to increase training offerings, and to play a critical role in supporting regional development and local government administration.

- Staff is the primary resource and stakeholder of high performance and sustainable projects and organizations and their welfare is critical to achieving project mission and objectives.

One of the most positive aspects of AIMS technical team is their very high level of expectation and dedication to improving the quality of products and services. However AIMS needs institutional development support to help improve its capacity and organizational culture.

AIMS has been an unqualified success in building critical enabling skills (English and computer literacy) and IM technical skills particularly in government and is strategically positioned for delivering high-valued, quality IM products and services including professional skills training in Afghanistan.

Given the current leadership commitment and competence, the development of AIMS strategic map for the future and achieving effective governance in GOA, it is recommended that the project life be extended for additional three years beyond July 2006.

BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAMME

AIMS project, which started in February 2003, was the continuation of a former UNOCHA operation. AIMS began as a Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) under UNOCHA. Its mandate was to provide GIS, standards, and map distribution; to collect data from organizations; and to provide UN and NGOs with project support. A USAID-sponsored project to provide offices and equipment to the HIC in 2002 was critical in establishing AIMS in Kabul.

AIMS is leading the development of a harmonized approach to IM in Afghanistan. AIMS has a mandate to build *information management capacity* within the GOA and to provide *information management services* to the government and the broader humanitarian community. AIMS promotes standards for common data and technology and free flow of information. It achieves this through focused customer service, product excellence, and capacity building; AIMS also supports information policy development.

The overall project objectives of AIMS include the following:

- To build information management capacity in government
- To provide information management services to organizations involved in humanitarian and development activities.

AIMS has provided support to over twenty-three (23) government ministries along with its operation from five (5) regional offices that provide information product and advisory services nationwide. Currently, greater emphasis is being placed on building capacity in local government. This is achieved through the provision of the following services:

Customer Services

- Product Services: access to hard and soft copies of map - through paper maps, CDs and website
- Training Services: providing specialist training, general orientation, counterpart training, and project tuition
- Advisory Services: providing information standards, data collection, database design, and data management
- Ministry Liaison Services: providing project support, specialist team development, and collaboration with other agencies to leverage inputs.

Technical Services

- GIS: providing digital mapping, customize map, and distribution of technical files
- MIS: supporting standards, shareable systems and compatible information fields, largely focused on government and developing specialized systems for specific line operations

Organizational Framework

AIMS is a professional technical service and capacity building organization that operates flexibly to meet the needs of key customers consistent with its mandate, namely to build information management capacity in the Government of Afghanistan. The AIMS structure also supports humanitarian and development organizations working in partnership with UN agencies and NGOs in providing equipment, training, and advisory support to the GOA, with the ultimate goal of establishing self-sufficient information management units in all ministries.

Table: Outlining the General Approach to Achieve Objectives

OUTLINE OF THE AIMS APPROACH	
Project Objectives	Project Activities
To build information management capacity in government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan including its capacity to disseminate information to the public. • Provide direct support to government and all levels of the relief and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.
To provide information management services to organizations involved in humanitarian and development activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information products and services to the government and the assistance community. • Promote best practices in information management throughout the assistance community, particularly the use of common data standards.

Table: Results Framework

RESULTS FRAMEWORK	
Project Objectives	Expected Results/Indicators
To build information management capacity in government	<p>Increased central capacity for information management in government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-establish a functioning GIS department within AGCHO and functioning information management/data units in key ministries. • Strengthen cooperation between AIMS and the AACA Aid Coordination Unit. • Move towards common sector, geographical and donor-implementing partner coding, thereby facilitating data exchange and policy-relevant analysis. <p>Increased regional capacity for information management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop sub-national capacities to gather data for central analysis. <p>Longer-term approaches to improved data management in government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop proposals for government and data management as appropriate. • Provide technical assistance to the Government to prepare a national strategy on information management.
To provide information management services to organizations involved in humanitarian and development activities	A range of products and services that includes basic map products, a growing network of technical data, walk-in advisory service, data analysis, and information management support
To move towards an exit from UNDP oversight	Development of a sustainable national public information management service entity – “A Center of Excellence for Information Management Services”

Relevance and Rationale for AIMS

The following provide justifications for the value of IM services, the positive impact on the government and development operating environments, and basis for AIMS continuity and expansion.

- All stakeholders, whether GOA, donor, or international and national organizations, agreed that the establishment of AIMS has been an indispensable contribution during the difficult period of re-establishing the nation state and putting in place a viable public sector that can provide essential services to the population.
- Due to demand for accountability, efficiency, transparency, and effective public management at all levels, government has realized the need to have systematically organized information in order to respond to the specific requirements of donors and development partners.
- The information which government ministries and agencies must organize and manage in order to respond to specific and implied requirements is complex and transcends conventional sectoral divisions.

The nature and form of governance are changing as a result of many factors, most notably the rise of new technologies (GIS) and their impact on the availability and distribution of the information.

- Afghanistan information landscape reveals a fragile and inadequate information infrastructure that is unable to ensure integrity of government-held information or to support the deeper dimensions. Unless government can ensure the integrity and accessibility of its records, the confidence that citizens have in democracy will wither.

“With the decentralization of government and the emergence of the parliament, the next two to three years will be a boom period for AIMS.”

—Senior UNDP Official, Afghanistan

There is an urgent and increasing need for trained information technology and information management work force, from basic to advance levels, in Afghanistan's public sector. A sustainable development environment depends on a cross boundary flow of high quality, accessible information. Overcoming the constraints to public sector development can best be achieved through institutional capacity building, improved public sector management, building of sound enabling environments for effective administration, introducing standards and ensuring compliance, labour market training and skills enhancement, land titling and the adoption of a result-oriented performance information system by all levels of government (Securing Afghanistan's Future—A Government International Agency Report, March 2004).

Reconstruction progress is dependent on government possessing adequate capacity to interface with developers, donor countries, and international community. Existing skill-sets within the national labour pool are not yet matched to the structural requirements of national recovery. Human capital development would be as critical as a good investment climate. By making social and human capital the first pillar in its National Development Framework, the GOA has signalled to its own people and to the international community the importance it accords human and social investments.

“We have calculated that if the wars had not occurred, Afghanistan today would have similar levels of development to its neighbours in Central Asia. Afghanistan has made tremendous progress during the past three years, and there is hope that human development can rise quickly to a higher plane . . .”

—Senior World Bank Afghanistan Official

The realization of the potential of geo-information systems in supporting sustainable development and government accountability requires the design, implementation, and sustainability of interdisciplinary geo-information and decision support systems to realize sustainable development outcomes at different levels for specific user groups. One way to achieve better development results on the ground is to improve the coordination and effectiveness of where and how development partners deliver aid. The UN agencies are dominant actors in the humanitarian and development areas and are committed to a coordinated mechanism with harmonized information to avoid duplication, harmful competition, pursuit of conflicting agendas and geographic concentration of operations.

“We do not have the capacity and tools to achieve coordination efficiency; in this regard, we need AIMS.”

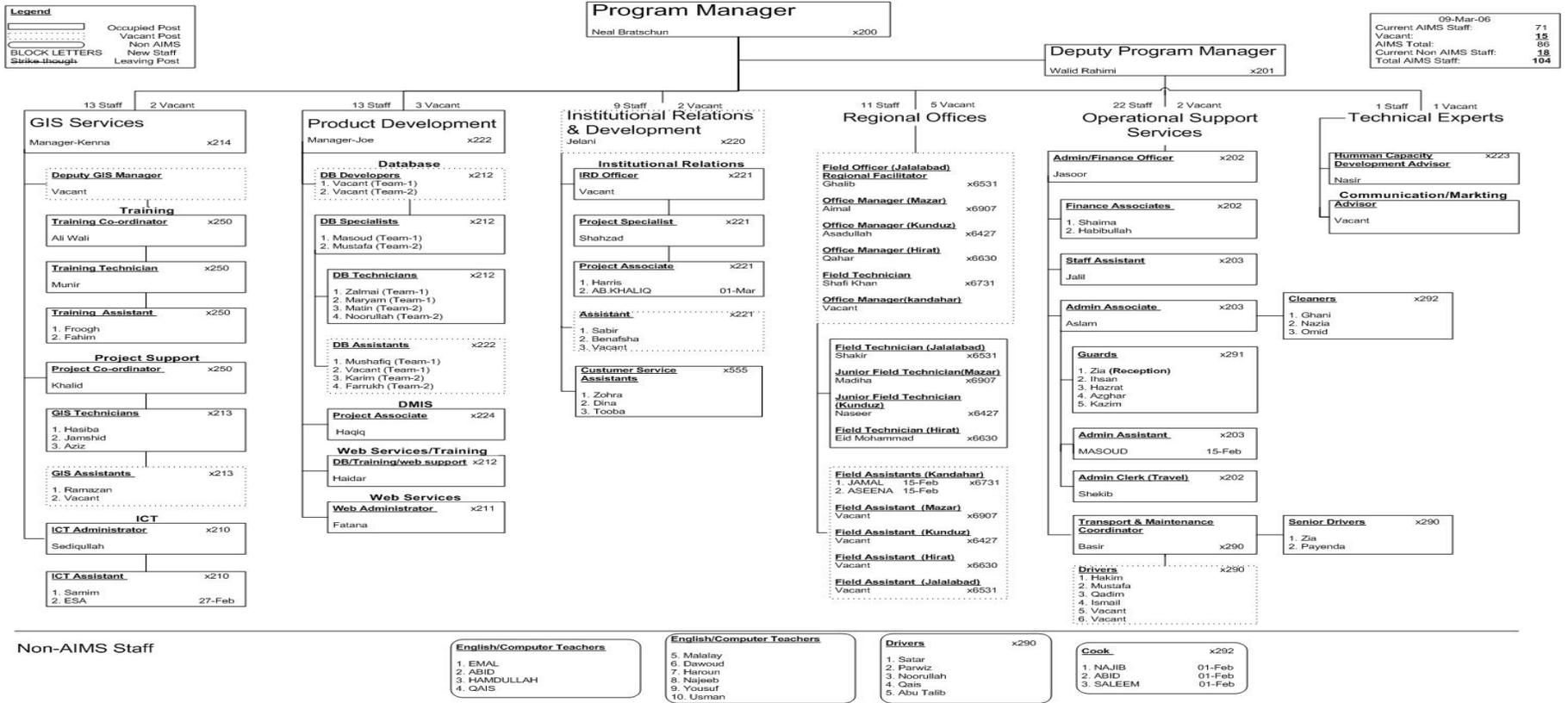
—Senior Official, United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan

The operationalization of the sustainable land management concept in Afghanistan demands the integration of many disparate data sets of varying pedigree that look to information technology (IT) and IM for solutions.

These issues present an obvious need for AIMS’ product and services. The rationale for building information management capacity in the GOA and providing information services to the development community is more relevant today, and will be in the years to come, until Afghanistan achieves substantial growth and development, particularly in its human development index.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Afghanistan Information Management Services Organogram



MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

1 PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

1.1 AIMS TRANSITIONAL PLAN AND PROJECT DOCUMENT

The draft AIMS Transitional Plan (ATP) and Project Document August 2006-July 2008 has been prepared and submitted to USAID for reviewing. This project document present AIMS 1 year transitional plan from August 2006 to July 2007 and 1 year sustainable operations August 2007 to July 2008. With effective final approval of this document AIMS will build it's five years operational plan.

1.2 AIMS SUSTAINABILITY BENCHMARKS (AUGUST 2006 – July)

The following table presents the quarterly sustainability targets for AIMS. Progress on these benchmarks will be validated through a quarterly performance and impact evaluation.

Sustainability Component	Sub-Area	Baseline	Oct 2006 Target	Jan 2007 Target	Apr 2007 Target	Jul 2007 Target
Strong, Effective Board of Directors		20 %	30%	40%	50%	70%
Competent Strategic Leadership and Management		50 %	55%	65%	70%	80%
Marketable Products and Services	Software Development	60 %	65%	70%	75%	80%
	Integrated IM	40 %	60%	70%	75%	80%
Physical Infrastructure	Kabul	80 %	85%	85%	85%	85%
	Regions	30 %	35%	45%	55%	70%
Human Resource and Human Capital Development	HR Base	80 %	80%	80%	80%	85%
	HCD	50 %	55%	60%	65%	75%
Internal Processes, Including Procurement & Financial Management		35 %	45%	70%	70%	70%
Institutional Relations and Marketing		35 %	45%	55%	65%	70%
ICT		60 %	65%	70%	75%	80%
Legal Counsel		5%	20%	40%	60%	80%
5-Year Business Plan		20 %	20%	50%	80%	100%

1.3 AIMS RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Resource mobilization solicitation of fund raising, USAID requested for the project document which present AIMS Transitional Plan and sustainable operations for 2 years funding to AIMS Project. The draft document are submitted to USAID for further reviewing and recommendation. A meeting is booked by with EC head of delegation and UNDP DCD (Programme) and AIMS Programme Manager to discuss EC support and contribution to secure AIMS funding.

1.4 AIMS HUMAN CAPITAL TRAINING

The Deputy Program Manager attended 1st session (3 days) Project Leadership, Management and Communication training course in Dubai. The Staff Assistant participated in 6 days office management training in Kabul. The Program Manager has conducted 4 Competency building program to AIMS staff.

GIS SERVICES

1. BACKGROUND

The GIS services is to provide professional GIS services to the broader humanitarian community in Afghanistan, on a cost-recovery basis.

The main goals and objectives of the GIS services in AIMS remains:

1. Provision of Geospatial capacity development to GoA;
2. Provision of Geospatial technical support to humanitarian community.

To meet the above objectives the GIS Services needs both skills enhancement and capacity development and increased staff.

It is important to note that to provide professional services to the Afghan community requires effective international partnerships to support this initiative. Currently AIMS have strong partnerships with:

USGS (United States Geological Survey) for the development of NSDI and GoA capacity development;

ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) for GoA capacity development

2. AIMS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

2.1. HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The GIS Services now has seven national staff with two national acting GIS managers. The staff have been divided into two sections: training and technical project support and management.

2.2. GIS SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

An intensive on-line GIS learning programme has been established in the GIS Services to equip the staff with the necessary advanced skills to provide support to GoA GIS capacity development. This has proven to be a highly successful and effective methodology for empowering the staff with the necessary enabling skills. The training is on-going.

2.3. INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CERTIFICATION

One member of the GIS Services training core has completed and passed the ESRI international certification exam. This will provide the GIS Services with the ability to deliver internationally certified training courses to GoA and NGO's in Afghanistan. Prior to this, Afghanistan did not have any internationally certified trainers.

2.4. AIMS TRAINING CERTIFICATES

The training room at AIMS has been restructured and overhauled to meet international safety standards and to provide a more professional environment for training. New software will be installed and certified training courses will be delivered when this is complete. Completion date is 10 July 2006.

2.5. GIS USER GROUP

Geospatial technical sessions has been carried out by AIMS staff and it is planned to merge the existent group to the AIMS GIS USER GROUP MEETINGS and next gathering will be held at AIMS office in July 2006.

3. COST RECOVERY MECHANISIMS AND PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The GIS Services is now well established and providing professional GIS Services to clients.

3.1. USG/UNDP

The AIMS GIS Services had been contracted by UDG () to provide a series of maps depicting the activities of various UDG projects. The project completed on 10 April 2006 and the contract and payment for the services was paid on a cost recovery fee basis to AIMS office.

3.2. GEOBASE/USAID

The GIS section has started to create a series of maps for the late stages of phase one of Geobase project and it will be completed by the end of June 2006.

3.3. WATLANDS/UNEP

The wetlands project of UNEP contracted AIMS to prepare large scale maps for their project, MoU was written and the maps were completed and delivered on 20 April 2006 on cost recovery fee basis.

3.4. OTHER PROJECTS

Several other clients have requested services and are in the process of finalizing the contracts. These include NSP, AREU and HealthNet International.

4. GEOSPATIAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN GOA

4.1. MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (MRRD)

Several beneficial meetings have been held with staff in MRRD. The meetings focus on the objective to establish a large centralized GIS unit in MRRD to provide services to all the projects requiring mapping components. A concept paper is submitted.

4.2. MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING (MUDH)

The MUDH have approached AIMS to design and implement a capacity development framework for the geospatial technologies in the Ministry. A proposal was submitted in late 2005 and has been approved by the Ministry.

INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT (IRD)

1. BACKGROUND

The main focus of IRD services is to provide professional institutional services, strengthen and expand AIMS relationship with Government of Afghanistan and the development community to achieve its strategic goals. Following is the IRD main tasks and projects accomplished during the 2nd quarter 2006.

- ♦ Handover and inauguration of GIS Labs and final reports (MRRD-KU-MoC)
- ♦ Ensure full operation of 8 GIS Labs in ministries and departments
- ♦ Build enabling environment for information management in 10 ministries
- ♦ Conduct needs assessment and develop training plan for 13 Government ministries.
- ♦ Coordinate database training once a month mainly for government staff through AIMS Product Development services department.
- ♦ Coordinate and facilitate GIS training two times a month for government staff
- ♦ Develop a standard framework, materials and guidelines for Technology Awareness Workshops
- ♦ Establish relationship with target provinces around Kabul
- ♦ Map Printing, scanning and distribution.
- ♦ Develop fact sheets for government ministries and departments
- ♦ Arranged Technology Awareness Workshops (TAW) for MoAAHF and CSC
- ♦ Arranged International Training on Leadership and Management in Dubai
- ♦ Government Staffing Assessment
- ♦ Provision of office furniture and computer equipment to Kabul Municipality
- ♦ Certificate distribution ceremony in Kabul Municipality and Kabul University
- ♦ Quality control of AIMS Calendar 2006 (new Afghan year).

2. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL TO THE GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENT

2.1. CSO

Basic English and computer programme, training, ongoing

- ♦ Training of 15 staff in MS Access, completed
- ♦ Training of 15 staff in Basic English, completed

2.2. KABUL MUNICIPALITY

- ♦ Training of 22 staff in Basic English and Computer programmes successfully completed
- ♦ Basic English and Computer training is in progress to 40 staff, ongoing 3rd session.

2.3. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (MOC)

- ♦ Training of 89 staff in Basic English and computer programmes
- ♦ Inauguration and Opening GIS Lab

2.4. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION CULTURE AND TOURISM (MOIC)

- ♦ Training of 45 staff in Basic computer programmes
- ♦ Training of 26 staff in Basic English

2.5. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES (MOAAHF)

- ♦ Training of 63 staff in Basic computer programmes
- ♦ The 2nd Technology Awareness workshop was organized to 15 officials of Land Reform Department
- ♦ ICT services and on job training to Land Reform Department

2.6. KABUL UNIVERSITY (GOEBASE-SCIENCES FACULTY)

- ♦ Inauguration and Opening GIS Lab
- ♦ Training of 5 staff in GIS
- ♦ Training of 8 staff in Basic English and Computer programmes

3. FACT SHEET

4. FACT SHEETS

The fact sheets for the below mentioned ministries and departments have been updated, the rest await information from the Ministries themselves:

AGCHO, CSO, KM, MoHE, MoC, MoE, MoF, MoIC, MoJ, MoPH, MoPW, MRRD, MoT, MUDH, MoWA, MoTA, MoAAHF, MoMD, MoCN, MoFA, MoEW, MoHP, MoRR, MoEd, MoC, MoMI and Kabul University.

5. AIMS HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

The IRD Manger attends 3 days Project Leadership, Management and Communication training in Dubai.

IRD staff attended numerous workshop, presentation and conferences organized by various organizations.

6. CONFERENCES AND PUBICATION

Arrange boot during ICT Conference and hall for AIMS Product, development and published AIMS Brochures in English and Dari. Prepared two articles for UNDP booklet.



**Mr. Nazifi, President of Kabul University and Mr. Neal Bratschun AIMS
Programme Manager
GIS Lab inauguration ceremony
Faculty of Geo-Science, Kabul University, Government of Afghanistan**

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1.1 DISASTER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (DMIS)

The development of the web-based application called DMIS was completed. The application was handed over to MRRD-MIS. Currently the application is configured and operational in MRRD Intranet. Upon the request of MRRD and as agreed upon, the PD will host the application for one year.

1.2 GEOBASE

GeoBase was evaluated amongst other databases used by USAID in other countries, the report showed ranked GeoBase top in the list but requested modifications generally in the areas of user interface, reporting, and the data model. All the recommendation regarding to the improvement of GeoBase were incorporated in GeoBase 2.1. The 2.1 GeoBase version is now completed and being piloted.

PINNACLE -Monitoring Benchmarks, Goals, & Timelines – The Afghanistan Compact, ANDS & MDGs

AIMS continues working with ANDS, CSO, and the UN and have been involved series of discussions in refining the framework in monitoring the compact, ANDS and MDGs.

1.3 FAO EIRP PROJECT TRACKING MIS

AIMS concluded an agreement with FAO in developing a project tracking MIS for its Emergency Irrigation Rehabilitation Project (EIRP). The project commenced in the first quarter and currently is in piloting stage of the completion.

1.4 WEB SERVICES

A survey of government ministry websites, web capability, and web needs was concluded and a database was developed storing survey data. As the first priority, the DDP project was started, all of the project necessary activities have been taken and currently the project is in requirement analysis stage. The project is expected to end by next quarter 2006. the MOWA website project is also in discussion between PD and ministry of Women Affairs. The scoping document has been sent to them and the PD is waiting feedback.

1.5 AIMS CERTIFIED DATABASE ASSISTANT TRAINING (ACDA)

Training commenced late in February 2006 due to the web services survey. MIS/Database is held at the AIMS office with participants from government ministries.

2. AIMS HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Project Leadership, Management, and Communications training course was held in Dubai, UAE from 27 – 29 March 2006. The training benefited one of Database specialists.

3. CHALLENGES

- ◆ A more expectations from GeoBase users on the GeoBase modification
- ◆ Reclassification of staff proved an uphill task
- ◆ Configuration of dedicated web server, leading to PD staff to explore new things

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

1. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1.1 HUMAN RESOURCES

Recruitment of 12 National staff; 1 Database Specialist, 2 Database Technician, 2 Database Assistant, 1 Finance Associate, 1 Field Assistant, 1 Driver/Mechanic and 4 Basic English and Computer Instructor.

Internal promotion of 7 AIMS staff through Human Capacity Development programme 3 Regional Managers, 1 Web-Programmer, 1 Sr. GIS Specialist and 2 GIS Technician.

Initiate the recruitment process of 3 UNVs International, 11 National; 1 Database Developer, 1 Database SQL Analyst, 1 Software development consultant, 1 Regional Development Specialist, 1 Web/Graphic designer, 1 Web-Assistant, GIS Trainer/Technician, 1 Cleaner and 3 Drivers.

Departure of 2 Internationals 1 GIS Manager and 1 Human Capacity Developer and 4 Nationals 1 Field Technician, 1 Finance Associate, 1 Field Assistant and 1 Office Cleaner.

1.2 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Administrative support and actions such as procurement of two HAICE buses, Computers, Printers, Scanner, Fire extinguisher, First Aid Kits, fuel and furniture. Office spaces allocation of newly hired staff, travel arrangement of AIMS staff, renovation, maintenance and repairs of offices.

1.3 AIMS OSS HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

The two Operational support staff, Admin/Finance Officer and Transport Coordinator attended one day Leadership training course in Kabul.

1.4 FINANCE

Please find the AIMS 2nd Quarter financial report

Table: Expenditure Report: Second Quarter 2006

Activity	Actual Exp. Apr & May 06	Estimated Exp. June 06	Total Expenditure
ACTIVITY1	44,839.74	72,419.87	117,259.61
ACTIVITY2	62,248.09	31,124.05	93,372.14
ACTIVITY3	110,253.20	55,126.60	165,379.80
ACTIVITY4	25,707.20	22,853.60	48,560.80
ACTIVITY5	1,028.40	514.20	1,542.60
ACTIVITY6	16,114.20	8,057.10	24,171.30
ACTIVITY7	30.00	5,015.00	5,045.00
ACTIVITY8	6,442.73	8,221.37	14,664.10
ACTIVITY9	-	-	-
ACTIVITY10	52,133.63	26,066.82	78,200.45
ACTIVITY11	-	-	-
ACTIVITY12	-	25,000.00	25,000.00
Total	318,797.19	254,398.60	573,195.79
UNDP Overhead	15,939.86	12,719.93	28,659.79
Grand Total	334,737.05	267,118.52	601,855.57

Budgeted amount

723,805.29

Overall delivery in %

83.15

REGIONAL SERVICES

1. BACKGROUND

Afghanistan Information management Services (AIMS) is building capacity in sub-national level through five regional offices across the country. The regional offices in Mazar-e-Sharif, Hirat, Kandahar, Kunduz and Jalalabad are closely working with various key government departments and provincial governments for enabling environment, skills training, setting up GIS and data-processing unit

The general goal is to develop regional information management capacity in five regions in Afghanistan (Hirat, Mazar, Kunduz, Kandahar & Jalalabad). This will bring the sub-national government in digital information age through introduction of Geographic Information System (GIS) and information management for planning and tracking development projects.

2. ACHIEVEMENTS

AIMS government capacity building and equipping program is an exemplary initiative by AIMS regional offices.

- Secured more than US\$ 320K for government mostly for staff training and equipping the Government
 Departments with hardware and software.
- Trained 365 civil servants across the region in Basic English and computer skills.
- Development of Regional Information Management Plan.
- Joint Project collaboration with Donors and development partners on targeted regional projects.
- Establishment of 15 GIS and Data processing units for data collection and reporting.
- Provision of Basic English and Computer training for 365 core provincial government staff.

Timely and successful provision of AIMS services and maps in the regions.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

Regional Services	
AGCHO Capacity Building	<p>Kandahar: AGCHO Capacity Building project (Computer Training)</p> <p>Jalalabad: USAID/PRT Funded the construction of office building for AGCHO Regional office Basic English and Computer Training</p> <p>Mazar I Sharif: AGCHO Capacity Building Project (English Training) AGCHO Capacity Building Project (Computer Training)</p> <p>Hirat: AIMS WR office has been keeping continues relation, providing IT support to AGCHO regional office. An official hand over ceremony of equipments to AGCHO was held on 29th May 2006 with more than 30 Heads of Provincial Departments and Deputy Governor of Hirat attended the ceremony</p> <p>Kunduz: AGCHO Capacity Building Project (English Training)</p>
Regional Advisory Services (annex 1)	Advisory services provided to 11 organizations including some government departments in the 5 regional offices
Regional Project Collaboration (Annex 2)	AIMS participated in 16 joint projects with a variety of government departments, NGOs, and UN organizations. Most of these involved mapping or database support.
Regional Government Services	All regions participated in capacity building activities. These took a variety of forms including project proposal development, fund raising, project monitoring, direct training and project collaboration with 11 different government departments through AIMS 5 regional offices.
Capacity Building Project	AIMS is involved in a variety of Capacity Building projects in 5 regions with government Departments (AGCHO, CSO, MRRD, Municipality, MUDH): Setting up GIS/DB Lab, Map Printing Lab, Basic English & Computing course, Training on Data collection & Data entry at provincial level, Cadastral survey & technique.
Regional Technical Services (annex 4)	Technical support was provided to 6 different government & UN agencies in four regional locations

Regional Training Services (annex 3)	The regional offices trained 88 government staff and 2 UN/NGO staff in different field of information knowledge management and technology
Regional Map Distribution (annex 5)	Five regional offices distributed total number of 929 Different size maps (A4, A3, A2, A1) and 212 CD products.

1 ANNEX 1: REGIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Location	Type of Activity / Project	Name of Ministry / Org
Kandahar	Construction	JICA
Kandahar	Pilot project for community development	JICA PCI
Kandahar	National Solidarity Program	UN-Habitat
Kandahar	Kandahar city boundaries	Municipality
Kandahar	Construction projects	ADA, HAPA, HRA
Kandahar	Security maps, Agencies locations	ANSO
Kandahar	Security maps	UNDSS
Kandahar	Sectoral Activities tracking system pilot project	Mo Economy
Kandahar	Health maps	Mo Health
Kandahar	WDDW data collections, analysis	UNAMA
Kandahar	Security, Projects locations	Chemonics
Kandahar	Refugees data and locations in Zheri	UNHCR
Kandahar	Roads construction	UNOPS
Kandahar	Health data, information	WHO
Kunduz	Using map for managing staff shuttle buses	UNDP/ANBP
Kunduz	Provide GIS services for last floods in Kunduz	Natural Disaster Committee/ KRBP/ Irrigation Department
Kunduz	Providing River and Settlements Shape files	KRBP
Hirat	Use of GIS in Agriculture and Engineering	Hirat University
Jalalabad	Data collection and Mapping	RAMP/DAI/USAID
Jalalabad	Data collection and Analysis for MDGs	UNAMA/UNICEF/WHO/WFP/UNHCR/UNDP-UDG
Jalalabad	Data collection on Urban Development in city	URD Group
Jalalabad	Data sharing and Collaboration	ROTARY Club
Mazar	Data collection and survey	CESVI
Mazar	Data Managements and Geo-Codes	ASSET
Mazar	Using map for managing staff shuttle buses	UNDP/ANBP

2 **ANNEX 2: REGIONAL PROJECT COLLABORATION**

Location	Project	AIMS Contribution	Organization1	Organization2
Kandahar	Kandahar city security movement box	Analyzing and mapping the data	UNDSS	UNAMA
Kandahar	Customized topographic maps of Kandahar	Prepare district based maps	USAID	Chemonics
Kandahar	Customized topographic maps of Hilmand	Prepare district based maps	USAID	Chemonics
Kandahar	Pilot Project of city profile	Provided information and data for the pilot project	UN-Habitat	
Kandahar	WDWW matrix update	Update Matrix of WDWW South	UNAMA	Govt and Agencies
Kandahar	WDWW Database training	Train in using database	UNAMA	
Kandahar	Skill Survey of Govt employee	Government Tech. staff assessment	AIMS-KDH AIMS-JAL	All Govt Depts of Jalalabad
Kandahar	General Survey of Govt Depts.	Collect General information of all Govt depts in terms of technical equipments etc.	AIMS-KDH AIMS-JAL	All Govt Depts of Kandahar
Kandahar	Update Location of UN & International organization	Update Agencies map	UNDSS	ANSO
Kunduz	ANBP Staff Shuttle buses route map	Analyzing and mapping the data	UNDP/ANBP	
Kunduz	Road Sector Project Mapping	Analyzing and mapping the data	UNOPS	
Kunduz	Update Location of UN & International organization	UN & International organization location update in Kunduz new City Map	UNDSS	
Kunduz	Geographic Dept of Hirat University	Training of 20 Geo Dept students (Male and Female) in English to be ready for our next computer and GIS trainings.	Government	
Hirat	Hirat Univ. Geographic Dept CB Project (English)	Training of 12 Geo Dept students in English to be ready for our next GIS trainings.	Government	
Hirat	CSO/Economic Dept CB Project (English)	Training of 8 CSO staff in Basic English Language	Government	
Hirat	UNHCR Water Well Program Coverage Area Map	Location of villages in western region where UNHCR has well program	UN	
Hirat	Hirat City Land Use Urban Planning	IT and GIS support in making of shape files and analysis of the data.	Government	
Hirat	Western Region Map Catalogue	Making of a map catalogue including of Provincial	Hirat University	
Jalalabad	Flood assessment for Jalalabad city and surrounding areas	Elevation model and mapping	USAID	
Jalalabad	Weapon collection sites for DIAG	Data analysis and mapping	UNDP/ANBP	
Jalalabad	Updating Nangarhar Road Construction Projects	Data compilation and mapping	UNOPS/PRT/DAI	
Jalalabad	Capacity building project for AGCHO	Training 21 staff of AGCHO in Basic English	Government	
Mazar	Update Location of UN & International organization	UN & International organization location update in Mazar new City Map	ANSO	
Mazar	WDWW mapping	Data analysis and mapping.	MRRD	
Mazar	ANBP Staff Shuttle buses route map	Analyzing and mapping the data	UNDP/ANBP	

3 ANNEX 3: REGIONAL TRAINING

Location	Type	Partners	Trainer	# Gov	# UN/NGO	Status
Hirat	English	University/Geog.Dept	Commercial	12		On-Going
Hirat	English	CSO/Economic Dept	Commercial	8		On-Going
Hirat	GIS Training	Urban Development	AIMS	5		Planned
Hirat	Basic GIS Training	Agriculture Faculty	AIMS	6		Planned
Kandahar	Basic Computers Training	AGCHO/CSO	Training Center	12		On-Going
Kandahar	GPS training	AGCHO	AIMS	12		Planned
Kandahar	Basic Computers Training	CSO	Training Center	4		Planned
Mazar	MIS Training	MRRD	AIMS	5		On-Going
Jalalabad	Basic English	AGCHO	Training Centre	21		On-Going
Jalalabad	Basic GIS and Arc View	USAID/DAI	AIMS		2	Completed
Jalalabad	GPS Use	MRRD	AIMS	8		Completed
Jalalabad	Computer	AGCHO	Commercial	21		On-Going

4 ANNEX 4: REGIONAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Location	Type	Partners	Status
Hirat	Handing over of equipments to AGCHO	AGCHO	Complete
Hirat	IT and GIS Support to MOUDH	MOUDH	Complete
Mazar	Building IM capacity in 5 Government Departments	Government	Planned
Kunduz	Building IM capacity in 5 Government Departments	Government	Planned
Kandahar	Technical support of WDW database to UNAMA	UNAMA	On-Going
Kandahar	Establishment of GIS Lab for AGCHO Kandahar and its trouble shooting	AGCHO	On-Going
Jalalabad	Establishment of GIS Lab for Jalalabad Municipality and troubleshooting.	Municipality	On-Going
Jalalabad	Establishment of GIS Lab for Department of MoUD and troubleshooting	MoUD	On-Going
Jalalabad	Building IM capacity in MoPW	MoPW	Planned

5 ANNEX 5: REGIONAL MAP DISTRIBUTION

Location	# Maps	# CDs	Income
Hirat	470	95	Map charges are not yet implemented in regional offices
Kandahar	261	15	
Mazar	88	41	
Jalalabad	269	72	
Kunduz	75	4	

2. CONCLUSION

Afghanistan is currently undergoing radical change, with government reforms seeking to establish effective line ministries and implement large national programmes in all areas promoting poverty reduction, good governance, democracy, human rights, infrastructure construction, and development. AIMS has indeed developed as a capable “project organization” to carry out not only information management capacity building, but human capital development activities necessary to enable effective government operations to provide goods and services for the people of Afghanistan. AIMS has also enabled UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and other development partners to develop mapping capability and database skills, providing customer services to share information, maps, data, and standards information around Afghanistan through five regional offices and a central office in Kabul.

Despite its achievements, the overall result is moderately satisfactory because of the weak strategic positioning of AIMS providing leadership, direction, and technical advice within the purview of its competence and relevance, i.e., information management as it applies to Afghanistan National Development Framework and the area of supporting decision-making through relevant tools and information management policies. The GOA and the broader humanitarian community is not harnessing the full potential of advanced IM capacity, in particular GIS. Collecting and combining many types of information provides a repository, but does not necessarily achieve much in terms of fostering performance and MIS as enablers for development goals. Information Management can be a powerful tool for development at both the micro and national level by increasing its role in supporting decision-making, increasing the effectiveness and reach of development interventions, enhancing good governance, and lowering the cost of public goods and services delivery. AIMS management is known for its hard work and technical competence, but needs to increase its overall knowledge of sustainable development in general, and in particular of Afghanistan’s vision and strategy for development.

Another critical area where AIMS can have a proven value is in the delivery of professional certified information management training, in particular in geographic information system applications. Through its regional presence and credibility, AIMS can facilitate IM technical training beyond basic levels to enable trainees to obtain jobs in government, development community and private sector. By providing IM/GIS professional technical training in the regions, AIMS will be contributing to workforce development, income generation, and poverty reduction, and will be enhancing regional and provincial productivity.

AIMS can make a valuable contribution to sustainable environmental management by improving monitoring and response systems and facilitating enabling environment for more efficient use. Scarcity of relevant and reliable information has always been a substantial obstacle to more effective environmental management. With the collection, processing, and dissemination of information, IM enables a better understanding of issues such as climate change and biodiversity and helps to monitor ecological conditions so that prevention and mitigation measures can be activated. In Nepal, computer imaging has been used to build a land resource database for Arun River Basin. This has generated the first ever basin-wide map of land use indicating forest degradation hotspots. The database, together with simulation models, was crucial to designing and implementing the land management program for the area. Indeed, there is “**no end to the options of AIMS,**” as David Saunders said, former AIMS Project Manager.

To move to the “next level” by improving its performance and achieving better results in the future, AIMS must do the following:

- Improve significantly its strategic positioning in the GOA and within the National Development Framework.
- Improve internal capacities and operational strategy, and leverage regional positioning for basic and advanced capacity enablement in all the five municipalities.
- Add a basic level of institutional capacity to IM capacity in order to be sustainable as enabler of government and institutions.

- Target IM capacity building to the overall strategic plans and priorities of government ministries.
- Define capacity building more broadly to include management and professional and competency building skills for effective public administration and decision-making.
- Allow user demands to drive IM capacity building, identified and realized through direct participation and ownership.

Strategic Alliances—Bilateral and multilateral agencies play a major role in supporting GOA. At present, beyond the administrative relationship with UNDP and the provision of products and services when requested, AIMS has no mechanism in place that enables it to interact and cooperate with the bilateral and multilateral agencies.

The poor relationship of AIMS in this area precludes AIMS from contributing and partnering to deliver IM services for large-scale development projects across all the sectors. Collaboration and cooperation on strategic national project levels are important in the longer-term perspective in that they provide a great advantage to mainstream IM, in particular geo-spatial solutions and human capacity building into key policies and development projects. The collaboration with the bilateral and multilateral community is strategic to achieving better results.

Human Capacity - Education is a key component of a country's transformation towards actively and fully participating in the global information society.

As shown in the training outputs, basic English and basic computer training in government has a major impact on enhancing efficiency, accountability and transparency of processes. Basic literacy is of crucial importance for development, and as such, is one of the development imperatives adopted by the UN Millennium Summit. However, for the purpose of adopting a capacity building strategy that deploys IM as an enabler, it is an absolute requirement that IM capacity building begins with a high literacy rate.

Creating favourable enabling environments, such as basic English and basic computer training, is important in developing a critical mass of knowledgeable workers, technology users, and motivated civil servants. This also helps to enhance the sustainability of the infrastructure and capacity built. Based on this lesson, it is recommended that AIMS invest in and implement effective strategy to take advantage of the potential of basic English and basic computer training to accelerate its IM capacity programmes, particularly in the regions and provinces.

3. CONTACT INFORMATION

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