

ADB Assistance to Afghanistan

In December 2002, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the first loan made by an international financial institution to Afghanistan in over 23 years. The \$150 million Post-conflict Multisector Program loan will support policy reforms, public infrastructure

investment, and capacity building to promote economic growth and recovery in the war-torn country. A second \$150 million loan was approved in June 2003. The Emergency Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project will rebuild important road and power infrastructure

in the country. ADB has also approved several grants to Afghanistan to fund capacity-building technical assistance and pilot projects in Afghanistan's transport, health, and education sectors.

The following is a list of ADB assistance to Afghanistan to date.

Date Approved	Amount	Type of Assistance
30 May 2002	\$14.5 million	Grant Technical Assistance

Capacity Building for Reconstruction and Development

This grant, made through ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF), is composed of 19 components and is helping strengthen the ability of various government ministries and departments to formulate policies and plans and implement projects in a range of sectors. Equipment, computers, and vehicles delivered under the grant program have improved the operational capacity of the Government. Training of government staff is also under way.

Date Approved	Amount	Type of Assistance
30 May 2002	\$500,000	Grant Technical Assistance

Disaster Preparedness and Management Capacity Building

This grant, made through the TASF, is helping strengthen Afghanistan's Office of Disaster Preparedness. Under the grant, an assessment of the institutional environment, technical capacity, and training and equipment needs of the Office was completed in October 2002. A basic risk-management training course was carried out in Kabul for 30 participants in December 2002 and a high-level awareness and skills development tour was organized for senior officials of the Office in January and February 2003. A further training course for selected Office staff is scheduled for July 2003 to help extend awareness to the provinces.

Date Approved	Amount	Type of Assistance
10 September 2002	\$4 million	Grant Pilot Project

Community-Based Gender-Sensitive Basic Education for the Poor

ADB is administering a grant of \$4 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), financed by the Government of Japan, to help rebuild Afghanistan's education system through the construction of new facilities and the provision of necessary equipment and materials. Training is also being provided for teachers and school administrators.

Date Approved	Amount	Type of Assistance
3 October 2002	\$15 million	Grant Pilot Project

Road Employment Project for Settlement and Integration of Returning Refugees and Displaced Persons

ADB is administering a grant of \$15 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), financed by the Government of Japan, to rehabilitate a large portion of the 105-kilometer Kandahar to Spin Boldak road, one of the country's major links with its neighbors. The project's social components include training to develop skills in road construction, supporting education for children and adults, and providing basic health services and microcredit for returning refugees and displaced persons, including demobilized combatants.

Date Approved
4 December 2002

Amount
\$150 million

Type of Assistance
Loan

Postconflict Multisector Program

This loan from ADB's Asian Development Fund (ADF), the Bank's concessional lending window for its least developed members, supports policy and institutional reforms to improve governance and strengthen the financial, transport, and energy sectors. The first tranche of \$100 million was released on 6 December 2002. The major areas of reform are currency, banking and central bank laws, payments system, fiscal management and transparency, governance, institutional efficiency and effectiveness of ministries and agencies, regulatory framework for transport, private sector participation, and reliability of energy systems. The second tranche of \$50 million will be disbursed December 2003.

Date Approved
19 December 2002

Amount
\$3 million

Type of Assistance
Grant Pilot Project

Primary Health Care Partnership for the Poor

ADB is administering a grant of \$3 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), financed by the Government of Japan, to explore how the Ministry of Health can effectively contract nongovernment organizations to develop community-based primary health care and thereby reduce rural poverty. The project will support the development of community organizations to construct, upgrade, and maintain small health centers, water supply facilities, and toilets. It will also establish community-managed health centers for clusters of villages in 10 districts. The project aims to reduce child mortality rates by 30% over 3 years and reduce common infectious diseases, child malnutrition, and maternal mortality rates.

Date Approved
3 June 2003

Amount
\$150 million

Type of Assistance
Loan

Emergency Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

This loan from the ADF will rehabilitate and reconstruct 447 kilometers of the primary national road network from Pule Khumri to Mazar-i-Sharif, Sheberghan, and Andkhoy, including a link to Uzbekistan. The project will also repair or rebuild power transmission lines in the northern provinces and the power distribution system in Kabul, as well as damaged gas production, transmission, and distribution facilities in Sheberghan, including the natural gas pipeline to Mazar-i-Sharif.

