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FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009



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Cover photo: Afghans working at bead making. Canada is helping the Government of Afghanistan to deliver basic services to its people, and to encourage economic development, including through the microfinance sector.

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Foreword

In accordance with the motion passed by the House of Commons on March 13, 2008, we are honoured to place before Parliament this seventh quarterly report on Canada's engagement in Afghanistan. This report addresses the period from October 1 to December 31, 2009.

While Canada's role in Afghanistan is most often associated with our continuing work in the southern province of Kandahar, the impact of Canadian initiatives extends well beyond provincial boundaries, as we seek to assist the Afghan people with developing a more stable, secure and democratic country. In this quarterly report, we focus on Canada's efforts in Afghanistan on a national scale, while updating progress on each of our six mission priorities and three signature projects.

Since the conclusion of this reporting quarter, Afghanistan's political environment remains unsettled following the 2009 presidential elections. While a majority of Cabinet positions were filled as of early 2010, a full Cabinet had not yet been sworn in, as Parliament exercised its constitutionally mandated role to approve nominees. Canada stands ready to assist the Afghan administration with future measures it undertakes to advance democratic governance.

For the people of Afghanistan, and for coalition soldiers and civilians, insurgent violence remains a constant reality. For Canadians, the December 30, 2009 attack on Canadian Forces that killed five and injured another five Canadians, and the deaths of two more soldiers in two separate incidents in January and February, bear witness to the courage of those, military and civilian alike, who work so selflessly in the face of such danger.

Earlier in December 2009, U.S. President Barack Obama announced that a major military and civilian surge will take place in Afghanistan in the early part of 2010. We welcome this critical commitment from the largest of our coalition partners in Afghanistan, which holds promise for improving security while generating new prospects for economic development.

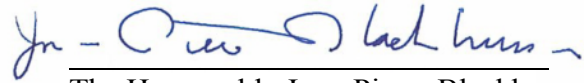
We note as well that the international community came together in London on January 28, 2010, for a conference on Afghanistan. This conference presented an important opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the international community to work with the Government of Afghanistan in bringing stability, good governance, self-sufficiency and security to the country. Canada was pleased to contribute to the proceedings and, while there, announced a \$25 million contribution to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in support of counter-narcotic efforts.

Once again, we stand in praise of the men and women of the Canadian Forces and our civilian staff, who seek to help Afghanistan achieve peace and security. With all Canadians, we honour in our collective memory those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and those who have been wounded, along with their families. Their dedication will never be forgotten.

Our next report will cover the period January 1 to March 31, 2010.



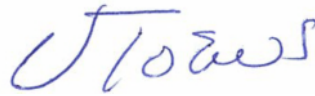
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Minister of National Defence



The Honourable Vic Toews
Minister of Public Safety



The Honourable Beverley J. Oda
Minister of International Cooperation

Table of Contents

Summary..... 1

I. Introduction..... 2

II. The Quarterly Context 2

III. Canadian Priorities: Reporting Progress 3

IV. Conclusion 10

Appendix..... 11

Summary

- Canada's engagement in Afghanistan centred on building Afghan capacity in the face of ongoing insurgent violence. While Canadian priorities were largely concentrated in Kandahar, Canada was active at the national level with respect to military support, development and diplomacy.
- Canadian Task Force Kandahar reinforced its counterinsurgency leadership role, with a new area of operations concentrated on Kandahar City and surrounding districts, and gained command of an additional U.S. infantry battalion. Operation Kalay continued to move forward, providing enduring security and quick impact projects for numerous villages through a series of counterinsurgency operations.
- The Afghan National Army continued to demonstrate its ability to plan and execute security initiatives, and Canada helped to address issues of recruitment and retention within the Afghan National Security Forces.
- Canada advanced its education signature initiative, completing two more schools and continuing the construction of 28 more while playing a major role in the country's education sector, including by providing literacy training to 23,500 Kandaharis and vocational training to more than 4,150 Kandaharis to date, exceeding established targets.
- The rehabilitation of the Dahla Dam and irrigation system—Canada's second signature project—also progressed on schedule with preparation for dry season work and consultations with Afghan professionals.
- Canada's third signature project—eradicating polio—continued to be implemented this quarter. Two national campaigns reached some 95 percent of a targeted seven million children.
- Canada supported Afghan agricultural production and alternative crops by distributing wheat seeds to 7,725 Afghan farmers, and assisted with several national-level economic initiatives.
- Canadian funding helped clear more than 52,000 land mines and provided mine risk education to 40,000 individuals in Kandahar—the latter achieving Canada's target. The number of land mine victims in Afghanistan dropped to its lowest point in the past 10 years.
- Canada continued to support Afghan and Pakistani efforts to improve security along their border, by facilitating joint meetings on modern border management. Canada played a key role in developing the curriculum for the new Afghan National Customs Academy, opening in January 2010.
- Canada also continued to assist the Afghan administration's efforts against corruption, funding anti-corruption activities and providing expertise to Afghan ministries.

I. Introduction

As 2009 closed, Canada continued to make inroads on a number of key priorities and signature projects in Afghanistan, and continued to focus on creating an environment of stability and sustainability in Afghan security, governance and development. Where progress has been made this quarter, it has been earned through the determination and hard work of our military and civilian staff and through close collaboration with the Afghan government, our allies and other partners.

Canada's military and civilian work in Afghanistan has increasingly centred on building local capacity in the province of Kandahar, with additional engagements at the national level to help Afghans rebuild their country as a stable, secure, democratic and self-sufficient society. In doing so, we have established a model for security and stability—building blocks for economic development—that is being applied by our NATO partners in the south and other parts of the country.

Canada's engagement in Afghanistan is guided by six priorities, which were established to reflect not only the priorities of the Afghan government, but also Canadian strengths. As Canada was assigned responsibility for the province of Kandahar, our priorities naturally assumed a provincial focus, and these quarterly reports have subsequently highlighted our Kandahar-based activities.

But Canada's work in Kandahar is only part of the story. Indeed, we are doing much at the national level to help Afghans rebuild their society and many of our Kandahar-focused initiatives have national impacts. This particular report, covering the period from October 1 to December 31, 2009, describes some of these national-level activities in order to provide a more complete picture of our ongoing work in Afghanistan.

II. The Quarterly Context

The environment in Afghanistan underwent considerable transition throughout this quarter, from the conclusion of the presidential election, to President Hamid Karzai's inauguration speech emphasizing, among other issues, anti-corruption and the rule of law, to U.S. President Barack Obama's December announcement of a major surge of additional American military and civilian assets, concentrated in the south and to be complemented by additional forces from a number of NATO countries.

In this quarter, the 43-nation International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) —which includes 2,800 largely Kandahar-based Canadian Forces—increased by approximately 5,000 soldiers to reach 112,000, up from a force strength of 51,000 last year. ISAF and the Afghan National Security Forces continued to carry out operations and implement counterinsurgency activities, supported by a new ISAF Joint Command Headquarters that is dedicated to implementing a comprehensive and coordinated counterinsurgency and support for Afghan governance and development.

In mid-December, Canada's Task Force Kandahar assumed command of a third American battalion deployed to Kandahar, a reflection of the mutual trust and interdependence of our two countries' engagement in Afghanistan. The task force retained responsibility for conducting counterinsurgency operations in critically important Kandahar City and the heavily populated surrounding districts, and the area of responsibility for the Canadian Forces was reconfigured to a smaller range of territory, but now includes the key district of Arghandab. This concentration of forces will enhance our whole-of-government efforts to provide security and support in and around Kandahar City.

Operation Kalay (Pashto for "village") stabilization operations also continued to move forward, providing protection, increased employment opportunities and quick impact projects for Afghans living in a number of villages in the Panjwayi and Dand districts of Kandahar province. Employing all of Task Force Kandahar's combat forces, this approach underscores the fact that civilian-led development and governance activities can take place and be maintained only with the establishment of sufficient security. This strategy has been adopted by NATO in other regions of Afghanistan and is another example of the national impact of Canada's efforts to improve the lives of the Afghan people.

In this quarter, however, the security environment for Canadian military and civilian operations continued to be impeded by a dangerous and patient insurgency that seeks destabilization through the constant threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and targeted suicide attacks, underscored with a campaign of intimidation in local communities and projects employing Afghans. The October insurgent attack on a UN guest house in Kabul that killed and wounded several Afghans, UN employees and international security personnel was a tragic illustration of an insurgency that is ever present.

For Canadians, no events were more tragic than those that took the lives of eight Canadians in four separate IED incidents, two in October and two in December.

III. Canadian Priorities: Reporting Progress

Canada's engagement in Afghanistan is defined and guided by six specific, but interrelated, priorities: enable the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in Kandahar to sustain a more secure environment and promote law and order; strengthen Afghan institutional capacity to deliver basic services; provide humanitarian aid to extremely vulnerable people; enhance border security with facilitation of Afghan-Pakistani dialogue; help advance Afghanistan's capacity for democratic governance; and facilitate Afghan-led political reconciliation.

Importantly, Canada's priorities in Afghanistan are not isolated spheres of activity; progress in one priority area can drive progress in others. For example, a more secure environment leads to economic opportunity and facilitates the provision of humanitarian services to impoverished or displaced Afghans. Enabling the delivery of basic services—education, health, water—by the Afghan government can in turn build trust in domestic governance and thus work to support a more stabilized Afghanistan.

Within the summary that follows, we highlight activities in which Canada is engaged at the national level, toward making Afghanistan better governed, more secure and stable. Progress on activities that correspond to our established benchmarks is summarized in the Appendix to this report.

Priority 1: Enable the Afghan National Security Forces in Kandahar to sustain a more secure environment and promote law and order.

The Afghan National Security Forces include the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the Afghan National Police (ANP).

In this quarter, the ANA successfully carried out a number of kandak- (battalion) sized operations, demonstrating improvements in its abilities to plan and execute its security responsibilities within Panjwayi District. The planned November runoff for the presidential election was supported by ANA security preparations, and security plans for Eid celebrations were successfully developed without assistance from coalition forces.

Canadian Forces in Afghanistan are also involved in several initiatives designed to improve security on a national level, largely through our active support to ISAF headquarters and the new ISAF Joint Command. In addition to providing the ISAF chief spokesperson, Canada leads the ISAF Joint Command “Plans and Projects” organization, which translates counterinsurgency plans into concrete missions and increased support for governance and development initiatives. In direct support of the ANSF at the national level, Canada contributes expertise and leadership to the NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan, and is the lead nation for the Afghan Army Junior Officers Staff Course, from which 39 students graduated in December.



In December 2009, Canada congratulated the Afghan National Army on the graduation of 39 students from its second Junior Officer Staff Course (JOSC) in Kabul. The JOSC is the primary component of the Staff and Language Training Centre – Afghanistan project, which was announced by the Government of Canada in 2008.

The 2011 Canadian objective for the ANA—that the ANA in Kandahar will demonstrate an increased capacity to conduct operations and sustain a more secure environment in key districts of Kandahar, with support from ISAF allies—continues to be challenged by issues relating to attrition, retention and recruiting. Leave granted to soldiers around the Eid holiday and following the presidential elections likely contributed to decreased ANA capacity in this quarter. Until targeted ANA growth is realized, benchmarks for shouldering the security burden and leading security operations will continue to be a challenge. A 40 percent pay increase for ANA soldiers appears to have stimulated recruiting, an impact that will continue to be monitored.

In this quarter, Canadian civilian police and correctional services specialists launched a number of training, mentoring and institution-based initiatives in support of our established objective for the Afghan National Police: that by 2011, the ANP will demonstrate an increased capacity to promote law and order in key districts of Kandahar, supported by justice-sector and corrections capabilities.

Among key achievements this quarter was the signing of the Kandahar Model Police Project (KMPP) Charter by the Afghan Minister of the Interior and the Canadian Ambassador. Designed to assist with stability and security improvements, the KMPP focuses on teaming ANP officers with Canadian police mentors, and on making the ANP more responsive to the people of Kandahar and more accountable to government. Although the KMPP will only be initiated in Kandahar province for now, the signing of the charter effectively commits the Afghan government to support its implementation in Kandahar.

Sustainable growth and maintenance of acceptable quality standards are major challenges with respect to the ANP and corrections officers. Recruitment, retention and attrition of police officers, exacerbated by low pay and constant security threats, are issues that continue to challenge Canadian mentors and trainers.

In this quarter, Canada supported the approval of an ANP pay and incentive package aimed at stemming attrition and increasing recruitment—a package that included a pay raise for all ANP (bringing them to parity with ANA salaries), a longevity raise every three years, and an increase in Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay for high- and medium-threat areas. Canada supports ANP salaries through a significant contribution to the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan.

As a final note on ANSF progress in this quarter, it is widely recognized that securing Kandahar province and its capital is critical to the entire counterinsurgency campaign in Afghanistan. As the birthplace of the Taliban, and therefore an important symbolic target, and as an economic hub, the security of Kandahar is pivotal to Afghanistan's integrity as a viable, multi-ethnic nation. Canadian-led advancements in achieving stability in the south are essential to achieving a sustainable peace at the national level across all of Afghanistan.

Priority 2: Strengthen Afghan institutional capacity to deliver core services and promote economic growth, enhancing the confidence of Kandaharis in their government.

The Canadian objective for this priority is critical to Afghan confidence in its own government's capabilities: by 2011, Canada expects that Kandahar's provincial administration and core ministries of the Afghan government will be better able to provide basic services to key districts of Kandahar province.

Basic services involve the dependable provision of education, health care, sanitation, road infrastructure and clean water for homes and farmland; further to this, basic services build confidence in government, which in turn supports security. Nationally, the Government of Afghanistan does not yet have the necessary capacity to deliver these services, and the situation is further hampered at the provincial and district levels.

Our successes to date in supporting the provision of basic services and the promotion of job-oriented growth in Kandahar can be linked to our experience, and that of our partners, in delivering effective education and economic programs nationally, as we adapt models and partnerships that have proven successful in other provinces to the more challenging environment in the south.

Canada provides strong support to the Afghan Ministry of Education to implement Afghanistan's National Education Strategic Plan, as a lead donor to the Education Quality Improvement Project (EQUIP). With respect to building, expanding or repairing 50 schools in key Kandahar districts—a Canadian signature project—two schools were completed in this quarter despite difficult security conditions. A total of 14 schools have now been built or rehabilitated, and another 28 are under construction.

Since 2001, Canada has contributed to a fund that, by 2013, will have helped build more than 1,500 formal schools nationwide. Canada has also established 3,700 community-based schools and accelerated learning centres in rural and remote areas across the country, including more than 200 in Kandahar. These schools are providing education to more than 100,000 students nationwide, the majority of whom are girls who would otherwise have no access to education. Canada also plays a major role in literacy and vocational training, with more than 23,500 individuals having completed literacy training programs and more than 4,150 individuals completing vocational training to date.



In November 2009, Canada's Ambassador to Afghanistan, William Crosbie, visited a community-based school near Kabul. Funded by the Government of Canada, the non-governmental organization BRAC manages one of the largest community-based education programs in Afghanistan.

Canada's other signature project under this priority—the rehabilitation of the Dahla Dam and irrigation system—also saw progress this quarter. The project team moved to Kandahar and began preparations for the dry season (January to March) when physical work on the irrigation system can begin. Extensive consultations with Afghan government representatives and technical professionals have provided important input on the project's planning and design, greatly enhancing its likelihood of success in a highly insecure environment.

Most Afghans depend, directly or indirectly, on agriculture for survival. Our signature project to rehabilitate the Dahla Dam is critical to the implementation of Afghanistan's new National Agriculture Development Framework in the south. By facilitating improved irrigation and agricultural services benefiting the fertile Arghandab valley, Canada is helping to restore Kandahar as Afghanistan's agricultural heartland.

Helping Afghan farmers can also encourage the shift in product cultivation from opium poppies to other crops, such as wheat, and thereby contribute to inhibiting trade in narcotics and the corruption it manifests. In this quarter, Canada supported the distribution of wheat seeds, fertilizers and agriculture services to 7,725 Kandahar farmers in time for the winter planting season. By collaborating with the Afghan government and working with agricultural cooperatives on distribution, Canada is helping to build Afghan national capacity to deliver efficient, accountable agricultural services.

Canada also supports a number of other economic initiatives that have national-level implications. For example, Canada has contributed to the extension of microfinance loans nationally through the Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan, and exceeded our 2011 loan targets in Kandahar in the previous quarter. Canada is also a strong supporter of the National Solidarity Program that provides grants for village-level development projects to address needs in improving water and sanitation, schools, roads and local energy.

Afghanistan Challenge

Since the Government of Canada and partners launched the Afghanistan Challenge in May 2009, Canadians have contributed more than \$280,000 to support vocational training, microfinance and scholarships for women in Afghanistan. The Government of Canada is matching these contributions dollar for dollar, doubling the investment made by Canadians to development in Afghanistan.

Visit www.afghanistanchallenge.ca for more information.

In this quarter, Canada also supported the first small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) trade fair, held in Kandahar City, that enabled 3,000 participants from Kandahar, Helmand, Kabul, Herat and Jalalabad to showcase their wares, forge business links and access new marketing opportunities. The fair generated approximately US\$50,000 in business deals.

Priority 3: Provide humanitarian assistance for extremely vulnerable people, including refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.

Afghanistan is one of the most impoverished countries in the world, with millions of Afghans in constant, desperate need of international aid. For this priority, Canada's 2011 objective is for humanitarian assistance to be accessible to the most vulnerable people, including Afghan refugees, and to returnees and internally displaced persons in Kandahar.

In this quarter, Canada continued to implement its third signature project: eradicating polio at the national level. Implemented by the World Health Organization and UNICEF, more than seven million children were targeted nationally for vaccinations, and over 95 percent of children in accessible areas of the country were reached despite ongoing insecurity. Afghanistan is also the first country to use a newly introduced bivalent vaccine, which provides protection against two strains of polio with a single dose, and is thus expected to significantly improve the chances of stopping transmission of the disease.

Canada is also making a major contribution to mine action. During this quarter in Kandahar, Canada's funding helped clear more than 52,000 mines and provided mine risk education to more than 40,000 individuals. Clearly this work, including Canadian-funded action at the national level, is having a significant impact: during this quarter, the number of land-mine victims in Afghanistan dropped significantly and farmers are regaining access to land that had been previously unusable for agriculture.

Melons Replace Mines

In Baghlan province 19 minefields denied locals access to their land and killed or maimed villagers. The clearance of mines has returned land to productive use: "I thank the demining personnel who have taken the risk and cleared my agricultural land. I ask for the rest of our agricultural land to be cleared so that we can cultivate without fear."

~ Anar Gul, local resident ~

In this quarter, Canada supported national efforts by the UN High Commission for Refugees to distribute winterization packages for needy Afghans, including blankets, plastic sheeting and warm clothing.

Priority 4: Enhance border security, with facilitation of bilateral dialogue between Afghan and Pakistani authorities.

Building capacity for sustainable Afghan security, governance and development is in large part dependent on actions taken that will strengthen the management of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. This strengthening will in turn help to inhibit the flow of insurgents and criminal activity while enabling legitimate travel and supporting trade and trade transit between the two countries, all of which have an impact on Afghanistan's national security and economic development.

The Canadian objective for border security is that, by 2011, Afghan institutions, in cooperation with Pakistan, will exercise stronger capacity to manage the border and foster economic development in the border area.

In this quarter, progress continued on the implementation of the Dubai Process Action Plan, a March 2009 joint Afghanistan-Pakistan document outlining activities to promote border cooperation in the areas of counter-narcotics, law enforcement, managing the movement of people and customs. Following the first set of Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Working Group meetings on counter-narcotics and managing the movement of people that took place earlier in 2009, Canada facilitated a second set of meetings on all four areas of work in November. Progress was achieved on the implementation of several projects and a new list of projects was approved, including the development of drug treatment centres and building the capacity of law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order in the border region.

Canadian support has also been instrumental in the development of the new Afghan National Customs Academy, which opened in January 2010 with a Canada Border Services Agency official serving as deputy dean and another as senior trainer. A senior Canadian civilian police officer continues to mentor the head of the Afghan Border Police, facilitate border planning among all players and assist with corruption investigations.

Priority 5: Help advance Afghanistan's capacity for democratic governance by contributing to effective, accountable public institutions and electoral processes.

By 2011, Canada expects that national, provincial and local institutions, particularly in Kandahar province, will exhibit an increasing capacity for democratic governance in the deliberation and delivery of public programs and services, and in carrying out democratic elections. However, we recognize the challenges inherent in this objective, particularly in light of the recent electoral



From October 1 to December 31, 2009, Canadian funding helped the World Food Programme distribute more than 95,000 tonnes of food to Afghans in need.

experiences. We will therefore continue to support the Government of Afghanistan's efforts to reform and transform the institutions that are needed for credible, transparent and inclusive elections.

A major step toward sustainable governance reform involves a need for significant Afghan-led actions against corruption, as President Karzai pledged in his November 19 inauguration address.

In this quarter, Canada continued to provide assistance to the Government of Afghanistan through a number of anti-corruption initiatives and projects. These included the deployment of a Canadian anti-corruption advisor to the Afghan Attorney General's Office; the signing of a \$1.5 million grant arrangement with the United Nations Development Program to support anti-corruption activities in the Ministry of Education; assistance from Canadian police mentors in developing an anti-corruption strategy for the Ministry of the Interior and the ANP; and measures to foster Afghan capacity for sound public financial systems and management, including participation in the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund Incentive Program, which supports the Afghan government's domestic revenue agenda, asset declaration and public sector reform.

Canada continues to contribute to national-level projects geared to strengthening electoral processes in Afghanistan. These projects are largely focused on improving the political participation of women as voters, candidates or election workers; and civic education. In addition, Canada worked in this quarter to improve the capacity of the Afghan government by providing technical assistance to a number of key ministries and institutions, including the Independent Directorate for Local Governance.

Priority 6: Facilitate Afghan-led efforts toward political reconciliation.

President Karzai's November 19 inauguration speech also noted that political reconciliation would be a priority for his new government. By 2011, we expect that national and provincial Afghan government initiatives will encourage political reconciliation, and receive timely support from Canada. While the extended presidential election and delays in nominating the new government limited progress on reconciliation in this quarter, Canada continues to facilitate work on this priority.

Canada also continues to support the Afghanistan Government Media and Information Centre in Kabul, which distributes information, links local communities with the national government and could enable a dialogue on reconciliation issues affecting all Afghan citizens.



The age-old practice of shuras (community meetings) is a valuable tool that encourages dialogue between Afghans, as well as with the international community.

IV. Conclusion

The final quarter of 2009 represented another chapter of Canadian leadership and perseverance in Afghanistan. Canada's signature projects and related development work in education, agriculture and health care continued to advance, building strength and capacity in highly vulnerable social and economic sectors. The Canadian counterinsurgency model of stabilization at the local level holds promise for other regions of the country; and the influx of additional military and civilian experience and expertise from our coalition partners presents an opportunity for progress in Afghanistan's overall security, governance and development. As Afghanistan moves into 2010, Canada's mission remains, first and foremost, to help Afghans rebuild their country as a stable, secure, democratic and self-sufficient society.

Appendix

Vision:

A more secure Kandahar that is better governed and can deliver basic services to its citizens, supported by a more capable national government that can better provide for its security, manage its borders and sustain stability and reconstruction gains over the longer term.

Priorities:

- Training and Mentoring Afghan National Security Forces
- Basic Services
- Humanitarian Assistance
- Border Security and Dialogue
- Democratic Development and National Institutions
- Political Reconciliation

To support this vision and the priorities laid out in this report, the Government of Canada has identified a number of benchmarks and progress indicators that will help to:

- gauge levels of progress being achieved, or not, as the case may be;
- identify if and when adjustments to its approach are required, given the complex environment; and
- report results frankly to Canadians.

Benchmarking in Afghanistan is a difficult task with reporting dependent on gathering information while operating in a conflict zone.

- *Benchmarks* are reference points that help assess progress in specific priority areas. The benchmarks are in some cases quantitative, providing numerical targets, and in other cases qualitative, for instance gauging public perception or assessing the implementation of policies and programs.
- *Progress indicators* provide more specific information on how work is proceeding against those reference points. The challenge with progress indicators is in the ability to regularly report against them on a quarterly basis.
- *Baselines* refer to the status of developments associated with the progress indicators, are a fixed point, and will not change over time.
- *Targets* are the level of progress that we hope to achieve by 2011. Some targets have already been met.

Training and Mentoring Afghan National Security Forces

Context: Benchmarks to measure Afghan National Army (ANA) progress are very precise and consistent with NATO's overall ANA training initiatives. To strengthen the policing, justice and corrections sectors, our benchmarks include both quantitative and qualitative indicators. A number of external factors will affect our ability to make progress in these areas. Insurgent violence deliberately targeting Afghan police has resulted in high rates of death, injury and desertion, which degrade police effectiveness and limit our ability to track trained police officers. Canada is one of many actors contributing to rule-of-law reform. Afghan ministries are leading this process and key international partners are playing critical roles.

Benchmark: *Increase in the number of ANA kandaks (army battalions) in Kandahar capable of conducting near-autonomous security operations, and increase in the capability of their brigade headquarters.*

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
The number of ANA kandaks (and their brigade headquarters) capable of planning, executing and sustaining near-autonomous operations.	One of the five ANA kandaks is fully capable of planning, executing and sustaining near-autonomous operations (June 2008).	To have four of the five ANA kandaks (and their brigade headquarters) fully capable of planning, executing and sustaining near-autonomous operations.	The ANA brigade headquarters and two of the six kandaks are fully capable of planning, executing and sustaining near-autonomous operations. This represents an increase of one kandak over the last quarter.

Benchmark: *Increase and/or maintain the effective strength (troops trained, ready and available for operations) of Kandahar-based ANA kandaks and their brigade headquarters.*

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
The effective strength of the Kandahar-based ANA kandaks (and their brigade headquarters).	One of the five ANA kandaks has an effective strength of 67% and the remainder currently have an effective strength of over 80%. The ANA brigade headquarters has an effective strength of 77% (June 2008).	To sustain the level of effective strength of the Kandahar-based ANA kandaks (and their brigade headquarters) at 70% or higher.	Due to a reduction in the number of ANA soldiers available for operations when soldiers were granted leave around the Eid holiday and following the presidential elections, neither the brigade headquarters nor any of the kandaks had an effective strength of 70% or higher this quarter.

Benchmark: Progressive increase in the security burden shouldered by the ANA in the Area of Responsibility (AOR) of the Canadian Forces.¹

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
The percentage of total security operations in the Canadian Forces AOR that are executed by the ANA.	45% of total security operations in the Canadian Forces AOR are executed by the ANA (April 2009).	65% of total security operations in the Canadian Forces AOR are executed by the ANA.	Due to the changes in the Canadian Forces AOR, there are now proportionately fewer ANA forces directly operating with Canadian Forces, as ANA forces were paired with the increased number of U.S. forces. Consequently, the percentage of operations executed by the ANA has declined this quarter, to 58% of total security operations.
The percentage of total security operations in the Canadian Forces AOR that are led by the ANA.	45% of total security operations in the Canadian Forces AOR are led by the ANA (April 2009).	65% of total security operations in the Canadian Forces AOR are led by the ANA.	Due to the changes in the Canadian Forces AOR, there are now proportionately fewer ANA forces directly operating with Canadian Forces, as ANA forces were paired with the increased number of U.S. forces. Consequently, the percentage of operations led by the ANA has declined this quarter, to 51% of total security operations.

Benchmark: To increase the number of key districts where the ANA are perceived by the majority of the population to be a professional and effective force that contributes to their well-being in key districts of Kandahar province.

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
The number of key districts where the ANA has an approval rating of 85% or more. ²	In four of the six key districts the ANA has an approval rating of 85% or more (June 2008).	To maintain and/or increase the number of key districts where the ANA has an 85% approval rating.	The ANA had an approval rating of 85% or better in one of the six key districts.

¹ “Total security operations” include ANA operations, ANA operations with international coalition forces and operations undertaken by international coalition forces without ANA participation. “Executed” means operations in which the ANA participated. “Led” means operations that were planned by the ANA and in which ANA forces participated.

² Approval rating for the ANA is defined as being perceived as a professional and capable force.

Benchmark: Increase in the number of key districts of Kandahar province where there is a perceived improvement of security conditions.

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
The number of key districts where the majority of Kandaharis perceive security as improving.	In zero of the six key districts, a majority of Kandaharis feel secure or perceive security as improving (June 2008).	The majority of Kandaharis in all six of the key districts feel secure or perceive security as improving.	Kandaharis did not perceive security as improving in any of the six key districts.

Benchmark: Increased Afghan National Police (ANP) capacity to provide effective police services in key districts of Kandahar.

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
The number of ANP trained in Kandahar.	25% of the ANP in key districts have completed Focused District Development (FDD) training (August 2008). ³	80% of key district ANP forces will have completed Focused District Development (FDD) training.	FDD training was completed by 75 additional ANP in the key districts this quarter, for a total of 2,105 officers, or 100% of ANP forces in key districts. Due to high attrition rates, this percentage rate will fluctuate from quarter to quarter. Note that FDD training for new recruits is ongoing.
The number of ANP forces in key districts assessed at Capability Milestone 2: capable of planning, executing and sustaining near-autonomous operations. ⁴	0% of ANP forces in key districts are capable of planning, executing and sustaining near-autonomous operations (August 2008).	80% of ANP forces in key districts are capable of planning, executing and sustaining near-autonomous operations.	Three of 17 police units, or 18%, are assessed at Capability Milestone 2. This represents an increase of one police unit over the last quarter.

³ Focused District Development (FDD) is a six-phase police reform program that involves retraining, equipping and mentoring district police forces as consolidated units, over six to eight months (but generally lasts longer).

⁴ FDD is assessed by Capability Milestones. Capability Milestone 2 is defined as “the police unit, staff function or installation can conduct basic law and order operations, management or leadership tasks (appropriate to local circumstances) with occasional assistance from an international advisor or police mentor team.”

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
The number of ANP infrastructure and equipment projects completed in Kandahar.	Five permanent substations have been constructed and equipped in key districts (August 2008).	15 new infrastructure projects, such as construction of substations or checkpoints, and 15 upgrades to existing ANP facilities are completed in key districts in Kandahar province. All 15 new facilities built by Canada in Kandahar province are provided with basic equipment required to run a functioning police unit.	No new infrastructure projects were completed this quarter, keeping the to-date totals at 13 infrastructure projects and six upgrades to existing ANP facilities.

Benchmark: Improved detention facilities in Kandahar that support the work of the Afghan National Police (ANP).

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
The number of infrastructure and equipment projects completed in Sarpoza prison and the Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS) detention centre in Kandahar.	Immediate repairs were made in the wake of the attack on Sarpoza prison. Detailed needs assessments for ongoing infrastructure upgrades at both NDS and Sarpoza have been completed and project plans have been developed in consultation with the Afghan government (August 2008).	19 planned infrastructure projects, such as repairs to security infrastructure and refurbishment of prisoner quarters, are completed in Sarpoza prison in keeping with international standards and best practices. 12 planned equipment purchases, such as communications equipment, uniforms and office furnishing, are delivered to Sarpoza prison in keeping with international standards and best practices.	Three infrastructure projects to refurbish a staff training room, administrative area and kitchen, and one equipment purchase to enhance staff security were completed, bringing the to-date totals to 15 infrastructure projects and 10 equipment purchases.

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
The number of corrections officials trained and mentored in Kandahar.	23 corrections officers (30%) and one senior manager (50%) have successfully completed initial corrections training; and two senior managers (100%) are participating in management training (August 2008).	100% of corrections officers and managers will have successfully completed their initial and advanced training programs.	86 correctional officers, or 100% at current staffing levels, have completed initial and advanced corrections training, and 16 senior managers, or 100%, received initial management training. A program to train certified trainers is underway. "Sustainment training" for new recruits is also being delivered on an ongoing basis. The percentage of corrections officers trained will fluctuate between reporting periods as a result of ongoing changes in Afghan staffing levels.

Benchmark: Improved justice sector: a working court system in Kandahar City with competent judges, prosecutors, defence lawyers and administrative personnel in place.

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
The number of training programs in place for justice officials Kandahar.	There are no current training programs for justice officials in Kandahar (August 2008).	Four training programs for justice officials in Kandahar are made available for those practising law and those involved in administering the legal system.	A legal training course, which covered issues relating to the Afghan constitution and laws, human rights, and anti-corruption, was provided to ANP prosecutors and defence counsels this quarter.
The number of justice sector infrastructure and equipment projects completed in Kandahar.	Minimal judicial infrastructure exists. The Attorney General and Ministry of Justice building requires repair. In Kandahar City, there is one courthouse which is in disrepair and housing for judges and prosecutors is inadequate. In the other districts, there are only three courthouses, all of which require upgrading.	Five justice facilities, including the ANP Prosecutor's Office, Attorney General's Office and High Court are built or rehabilitated to support the formal justice system in Kandahar City. Three justice facilities, including the Land Registry Office (Cadastre), ANP Prosecutor's Office and High Court are equipped to support the formal justice system in Kandahar City.	Two infrastructure projects in support of justice institutions were completed (Attorney General's Office and High Court), and one is ongoing, for a to-date total of two infrastructure projects completed. Equipment was delivered to the ANP Prosecutor's Office, for a to-date total of three equipment purchases.

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
Improved Ministry of Justice capacity to draft, revise, translate and promulgate laws passed by the Afghan government.	Afghan Ministry of Justice's legislative drafting unit lacks the required capacity, processes and infrastructure to draft, revise, translate and promulgate legislation in an effective and timely manner (August 2008).	The Afghan Ministry of Justice's legislative drafting unit achieves improved capacity.	A Canadian-funded technical advisor to the Ministry of Justice's Legislative Drafting Unit facilitated equipment purchases, infrastructure development and the provision of legal and language training programs for ministry officials, all of which have contributed to increased capacity of the Legislative Drafting Unit.

Basic Services

Context: A number of benchmarks have been established under this priority, though some are less tangible than others as they are based on Afghan perception and will be measured against findings from public opinion research. It is important to note that polling in a complex environment like Kandahar is challenging and results may not always be reliable.

In the case of the Dahla Dam signature project, some key indicators have been established relating to the area of land irrigated and number of jobs created.

*Benchmark: The Dahla Dam and its irrigation and canal system rehabilitated, generating jobs and fostering agriculture. *Canadian Signature Project**

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
Progress in the rehabilitation of the physical structures of the Dahla Dam and its irrigation components.	Access road completed and bridge nearing completion (March 2009).	Completion of all planned rehabilitation activities in accordance with the project plan.	Nothing significant to report this quarter on the rehabilitation of the physical structures but, as planned, extensive consultations with Afghan stakeholders took place, with a view to improving the security in and around the site in preparation for the upcoming dry season, when rehabilitation work can resume.
Number of jobs created by the Dahla Dam project.	Project plan is in development and will be finalized in the fall of 2008.	10,000 seasonal jobs created by the project.	50 jobs were created this quarter for a cumulative total of 405.

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
Number of hectares of land benefiting from improved irrigation and water management.	20,000 hectares of land currently have access to irrigation (to varying degree and quality) via the Dahla Dam and its irrigation system	30,000 hectares in total benefiting from improved irrigation and water management.	Progress against this indicator will not be realized or reported until the project advances to the irrigation phase, which is expected by mid 2010.

Benchmark: A total of 50 schools built, expanded or repaired in Kandahar. *Canadian Signature Project*

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
Number of school projects (built, expanded or repaired) in key districts.	19 school projects contracted and one school project completed (June 2008).	50 schools built, expanded or repaired.	Two schools were completed this quarter for a total of 14. Another 28 schools are currently under construction.

Benchmark: Local and provincial institutions able to meet and implement the objectives of the National Education Strategic Plan for Afghanistan.

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
Number of teachers trained in Kandahar.	No teachers trained as yet through Canadian programming (June 2008).	3,000 trained teachers.	197 teachers received training this quarter for a cumulative total of 341.

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
Number of people receiving literacy training, vocational education and skills development.	More than 5,000 individuals have received literacy training. Some 735 individuals have received vocational training (2007).	20,000 additional individuals to receive literacy training. 1,070 additional individuals to receive vocational training.	TARGET ACHIEVED: With the completion of literacy training programs this quarter, over 23,500 individuals have received literacy training and over 4,150 individuals have received vocational training. Both figures are cumulative totals.

Benchmark: Provincial institutions and community groups able to identify and implement infrastructure projects.

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
Percentage of communities in key districts that have completed infrastructure projects undertaken by the locally elected bodies.	60% of communities in key districts have completed infrastructure projects (December 2007).	75% of communities in key districts have completed infrastructure projects.	70% of communities in key districts have completed infrastructure projects, an increase from 68% last quarter.

Benchmark: Kandaharis have confidence in the ability of the government in Kandahar to deliver basic services, particularly education and water, and job-oriented economic growth.

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
Percentage of Kandaharis who perceive an improvement in dependable delivery of services.	75% of Kandaharis polled indicate they are satisfied with efforts of provincial and local-level government to improve quality of life. 64% of Kandaharis polled are somewhat or very satisfied with provision of education. 39% of polled Kandaharis indicated they are satisfied with employment (February 2008).	To maintain and improve on perception of service delivery.	No data was collected regarding perception of quality of life this quarter. 52% of Kandaharis polled are satisfied with provision of education and 46% are satisfied with employment in their communities. Both of these are increases over last quarter.

Benchmark: New economic opportunities created in key districts for Kandaharis.

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
The number of business enterprises and cooperatives operating in key districts.	206 agricultural cooperatives registered (April 2006) and 72 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) operating (July 2008).	Steady expansion of the number of enterprises in key districts.	During the last two quarters of 2009, over 500 new businesses registered in Kandahar, raising the cumulative total to over 1,100.
The number of microfinance and savings clients served.	30 microfinance loans provided to clients in Kandahar (March 2008).	Loans for 500 clients in Kandahar through the Microfinance Investment Support Facility.	TARGET ACHIEVED: Loans for over 75 clients were provided this quarter for a cumulative total of over 1,100 clients in Kandahar.

Humanitarian Assistance

Context: The first benchmark in this priority includes a series of quantitative and qualitative measures, as no single indicator is comprehensive enough to provide a complete picture. Considered together, they will help to provide an assessment of progress.

The challenges for this priority are not in the indicators themselves, but in the ability to report against them on a quarterly basis given that evaluations and assessments are undertaken across longer time frames. The evolving nature of security can challenge humanitarian access and limit the ability to report publicly on some efforts below the national level. It is also important to note that with some information, such as mine victims, officially reported numbers are only estimates given that many accidents go unreported.

Benchmark: Achievement of polio eradication in Afghanistan. *Canadian Signature Project*

<p>Progress Indicator The number of children receiving the polio vaccine during each of the multiple national campaigns conducted annually—multiple vaccinations are required to stop transmission of polio.</p>	<p>Baseline In 2007, approximately 27.7 million vaccinations were administered to 7 million children during four national campaigns (2007).</p>	<p>2011 Target Eradication by vaccination by 2009.</p>	<p>Quarterly Result In October, November and December, over 376,000, 386,500 and 391,500 children respectively were vaccinated in Kandahar. This represents 93%, 95.5% and 96.8% of the targeted children reached in each campaign.</p>
<p>Progress Indicator The number of polio cases reported.</p>	<p>Baseline 17 cases reported nationally (2007).</p>	<p>2011 Target Eradication by 2009.</p>	<p>Quarterly Result 16 new cases of polio were identified this quarter, bringing the 2009 total to 38, including 21 cases in Kandahar.</p>

Benchmark: Public institutions able to plan and coordinate emergency assistance and support to vulnerable populations in Kandahar.

<p>Progress Indicator Quantity of humanitarian food aid delivered in response to need.</p>	<p>Baseline 6.7 million Afghans (approximately 21%) supported with food aid, representing 214,000 tonnes of food against an identified need where 30% of the Afghan population were considered chronically food insecure (January-December 2007).</p>	<p>2011 Target Maintain and/or improve the number of Afghans receiving food assistance in proportion to need.</p>	<p>Quarterly Result During the quarter, Canadian funding helped the World Food Programme provide over 95,500 tonnes of food nationally.</p>
<p>Progress Indicator The capacity of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC) to put in place effective disaster preparedness plans.</p>	<p>Baseline The PDMC and United Nations in Kandahar developed a comprehensive contingency plan for a severe winter in 2007 and anticipated spring floods. Two training sessions were provided for the PDMC on disaster management.</p>	<p>2011 Target By 2011, PDMC will have developed comprehensive strategies and coordination mechanisms for responding to disasters.</p>	<p>Quarterly Result Nothing significant to report this quarter, although Canada continued to work with Afghan partners to identify opportunities to further build capacity in response to disasters.</p>

<p>Progress Indicator</p> <p>The access that vulnerable populations—women, children, disabled persons, returnees and internally displaced persons—have to essential quality health services.</p>	<p>Baseline</p> <p>111 health care staff have received training (June 2008).</p>	<p>2011 Target</p> <p>500 health care workers trained.</p>	<p>Quarterly Result</p> <p>TARGET ACHIEVED: During this quarter, 47 health care workers were trained, for a cumulative total of 731.</p>
<p>Progress Indicator</p> <p>The amount of land released and made available for communities as a result of survey and clearance of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) nationally and in Kandahar.</p>	<p>Baseline</p> <p>From March 2007 to March 2008, 180 square kilometres of land were released and made available nationally.</p>	<p>2011 Target</p> <p>A cumulative total of 500 square kilometres of land released and made available.</p>	<p>Quarterly Result</p> <p>Over 0.75 square kilometres of land in Kandahar were released as a result of clearance and survey. As implementing partners have reconciled their data, a cumulative total of 2.3 square kilometres of land have been cleared and released. National figures will be reported in the next quarter.</p>
<p>Progress Indicator</p> <p>The number of people receiving mine awareness education in Kandahar.</p>	<p>Baseline</p> <p>From March 2007 to March 2008, 33,500 individuals were provided with mine-awareness education.</p>	<p>2011 Target</p> <p>200,000 individuals provided with mine-awareness education.</p>	<p>Quarterly Result</p> <p>TARGET ACHIEVED: Over 40,000 Kandaharis received mine-risk education training during the quarter, for a cumulative total of over 220,000.</p>

Border Security and Dialogue

Context: Border security and dialogue are ultimately contingent on strong relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan and on the resolution of some long-standing issues. Canada's benchmarks for this priority include qualitative and quantitative progress indicators to assess the effectiveness of Afghan and Pakistani border management efforts, including bilateral cooperation. As the border is long, its terrain difficult and its infrastructure underdeveloped, obtaining baseline information and establishing targets are challenging. Canada has already begun to work with the Afghan and Pakistani governments to identify infrastructure, training and other needs. This information will be essential to refining Canada's baselines and targets in the future.

Benchmark: Regular discussions on border issues.

Progress Indicator Increased dialogue between Pakistani and Afghan officials through mechanisms including Canadian-sponsored workshops.	Baseline Three Canadian-sponsored workshops have been held to date. Key mechanisms for discussions were suspended by Afghanistan in July 2008 (August 2008).	2011 Target Sustainable mechanisms for regular and substantive discussions across a broad array of issues are in place and operating for senior officials.	Quarterly Result In November, Pakistani and Afghan officials participated in Joint Working Group meetings under the Dubai Process (customs, law enforcement, counter-narcotics and movement of people). Pakistani and Afghan officials are working on preparations for subsequent meetings under the Canadian-funded Dubai Process.
Progress Indicator Increased cooperation at Kandahar-Baluchistan border.	Baseline Regular Canadian-facilitated discussions at Kandahar-Baluchistan border are continuing.	2011 Target Mechanisms at border in place for regular and substantive discussions across a broad array of issues.	Quarterly Result Nothing significant to report this quarter.

Benchmark: Better managed border crossings on the Kandahar-Baluchistan border.

Progress Indicator Training completed by border officials.	Baseline No training provided to date (August 2008).	2011 Target A tailored training curriculum for new recruits in international customs procedures and a senior management development program for Afghan Customs will be developed by September 2009. NEW: 150-200 Afghan Customs officials and 3 or 4 Afghan Customs trainers trained by 2011.	Quarterly Result The Canada Border Services Agency continued to finalize the curriculum of the National Customs Academy, in consultation with Afghan authorities and international partners. The National Customs Academy will open in mid-January 2010.
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Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
Key infrastructure projects completed, including procurement of equipment.	Assessment of infrastructure needs not yet complete; some equipment purchases underway (August 2008).	Construction completed of a Joint District Coordination Centre in Spin Boldak. Infrastructure and equipment improvements completed at Weish border crossing in Kandahar, based on the results of a feasibility study to be completed in March 2009.	The Joint District Coordination Centre's anticipated opening has been postponed, as construction is not yet complete. Nothing significant to report this quarter on the Weish border crossing. Equipment has been redeployed to the Baluchistan/Kandahar border to assist the Pakistani government in securing the border.

Democratic Development and National Institutions

Context: Given the nature of the first benchmark, measures will include quantitative data such as internationally recognized Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) assessments in addition to qualitative assessments of ministry-specific evaluation activities and public perception assessed through polling.

The Government of Afghanistan intends to hold two elections before 2011: a presidential election and provincial council elections in 2009, and the election of parliament and district councils in 2010.

Canada will actively contribute in this area but it is important to recall that Canada is one of many actors. The Afghan government is leading, with support from the international community.

Benchmark: *Key Afghan government institutions able to plan, resource, manage and maintain the delivery of services including at the subnational level.*

Progress Indicator	Baseline	2011 Target	Quarterly Result
Provinces have established long-term provincial strategic plans that are aligned with Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) objectives.	Zero provinces have completed a provincial strategic plan (PSP) (March 2009).	All 34 provinces have completed a provincial strategic plan. Kandahar will have demonstrated progress in implementing its strategic plan against identified timelines.	PSP development was initiated in two additional provinces (Uruzgan and Herat) and progress was advanced in the other four pilot provinces (Balkh, Takhar, Laghman and Bamyān). Additionally, Kandahar took preliminary steps toward the PSP development process.

Progress Indicator
Effective planning and budgeting mechanisms in place.

Baseline
The difference between planned and actual government spending is 9.7% (April 2008).

2011 Target
The difference between planned and actual government spending should be less than or equal to 5%.

Quarterly Result
Nothing significant to report this quarter, as the specific data for measuring effective planning and budgeting is only available on an annual basis.

Progress Indicator
Better government monitoring and reporting mechanisms in place to ensure transparency.

Baseline
Comprehensiveness of budget execution and financial reports, frequency and public access to them (PEFA rating): 3 (April 2008).

2011 Target
Comprehensiveness of budget execution and financial reports, frequency and public access to them (PEFA rating): 3+.

Quarterly Result
PEFA results are produced only every two years. A PEFA assessment is planned for Afghanistan in 2010. However, a pre-budget financial outlook published by the Afghan government in December 2009, forecast an increase next fiscal year in domestic revenues as a percentage of operating expenditures.

Benchmark: Afghanistan's ability to manage upcoming elections.

Progress Indicator
The establishment of a national voter registry.

Baseline
Pilot voter registration process carried out in three selected provinces (April 2008).

2011 Target
Update of registry completed in a four-phased approach, in advance of 2009 presidential elections:
- 14 provinces registered in phase I;
- 10 additional provinces registered in phase II;
- 6 additional provinces registered in phase III; and
- 4 additional provinces including Kandahar registered in phase IV.*

* The target was updated as the Government of Afghanistan's plan for voter registration was finalized.

Quarterly Result
Nothing significant to report this quarter, given the conclusion of presidential and provincial council elections in November 2009.

<p>Progress Indicator The number of registered voters nationally.</p>	<p>Baseline Approximately 12.6 million voters in the existing registry (2005).</p>	<p>2011 Target Two million new registrants added to the current registry in advance of the 2009 presidential and provincial council elections; 500,000 new registrants added to the 2009 registry in advance of the 2010 parliamentary and district council elections.</p>	<p>Quarterly Result Nothing significant to report this quarter, given the conclusion of presidential and provincial council elections in November 2009.</p>
<p>Progress Indicator The percentage of voter turnout.</p>	<p>Baseline 70% of registered voters participated in the last presidential elections; 51.5% of registered voters participated in the last parliamentary and provincial council elections.</p>	<p>2011 Target 70% turnout for men; 40% turnout for women. These targets are consistent with figures currently being used by the UNDP ELECT project.</p>	<p>Quarterly Result The Independent Elections Commission has not published any updated figures this quarter.</p>
<p>Progress Indicator The establishment of an independent electoral complaints commission.</p>	<p>Baseline An independent electoral complaints commission does not currently exist (August 2008).</p>	<p>2011 Target Establishment of an independent electoral complaints commission.</p>	<p>Quarterly Result The Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) has established 34 provincial offices. The ECC has finalized its decisions on all complaints from both the presidential and provincial council elections.</p>

Political Reconciliation

Context: Ultimately, only the Afghan government has the authority to pursue political reconciliation; Canada and other international partners will play supporting roles. Progress indicators to measure this benchmark include the identification of Afghan institutions and officials responsible for moving reconciliation forward, as well as the establishment of a transparent and effective process for reconciling insurgents.

Afghanistan cannot secure peace or realize its governance and development objectives by military means alone. An Afghan-led, internationally supported reconciliation process can serve to foster sustainable peace.

Benchmark: The Government of Afghanistan increasingly able to promote reconciliation among Afghans.

Progress Indicator The Afghan government identifies the institutions and officials responsible for promoting Afghan reconciliation and a national reconciliation process is established.	Baseline A clear institutional focal point and process have yet to be identified (August 2008).	2011 Target A lead authority is moving the reconciliation process forward.	Quarterly Result There are no further results this quarter. The time frame for a national reconciliation strategy will depend on decisions to be taken by the new Afghan government.
Progress Indicator The Afghan government is better able to communicate with Afghans about reconciliation.	Baseline The Government of Afghanistan's ability to share information about its programs, policies and objectives in a timely manner is limited (August 2008).	2011 Target The Government of Afghanistan is actively sharing information, at the national, provincial and district levels, regarding its programs, policies and objectives for reconciliation.	Quarterly Result Nothing significant to report this quarter.