

CID-Bologna supporting the Afghanistan National Development Strategy – April 2009

The Centre for International Development in Bologna is currently providing a short, intensive training course on poverty statistics and the drafting of the poverty profile for Afghanistan within the NSS Project of support to the **Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS)**.

As we know, Afghanistan is facing fundamental economic and social change. To measure progress in social and economic development, as well as in poverty reduction, the Government of Afghanistan (GOA) wants to improve access to information on the socio-economic and living conditions of the population, in order to adapt policy to the changing economic environment, especially in the social sectors, and allow monitoring of the impact of such policies on the more vulnerable groups in the country.

The **National Surveillance System (NSS) Project**, funded by the EC, was designed to assist the Government of Afghanistan in addressing its acute and multiple data needs to inform and prioritize the reconstruction and development efforts; in order to contribute to data collection in the area of poverty alleviation, food security, livelihood and vulnerability.

Two of the main components of the NSS Project are the **National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) Survey** for which the findings are going to be presented in a publication, and the **Poverty Profile** to be included in the ANDS. An NRVA Report has already been produced for 2005 and a WB draft report has been done for 2005-2007 based on the NRVA data. This analysis had a focus on poverty, although data had seasonal. A new, annual set of data is now available. The new **ANDS**, former PRSP, will include conclusions from the new NRVA report. Support to the ANDS is provided, among others, by the EC, the WB, DFID, and USAID.

The **Poverty Profile** will include a detailed and in-depth analysis of the main features and determinants of poverty in Afghanistan, incidence, depth and severity of poverty by the most relevant social dimensions.

CID's support is two-fold: first, to provide a group of functionaries from the Ministry of Reconstruction and Rural Development and the Central Statistical Office with main tools in poverty analysis, analysis of data using the NRVA survey and drafting of the poverty profile; secondly, to provide the NSS project team and the ANDS drafting team with an updated poverty profile. The training course is currently taking place in Bologna, while in-country missions might be required at a later stage.