



NEW ROUND OF DDI (DISTRICT DIAG IMPLEMENTATION) TO BE LAUNCHED

Kabul –21 Feb 2008

On 21 February 2008, the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission (D&RC) will officially launch DDI Phase 3 (District DIAG Implementation) supported by the Afghanistan's New Beginning Programme (ANBP).

The first and second rounds of DDI are ongoing in 51 districts nationwide. DDI 3 will target 18 districts in the Central, East, North East, North and Central Highlands.

Through the DDI initiative, out of the actual 51 districts targeted, 23 districts have complied so far. Importantly, 172 Illegal Armed Groups (IAGs) have been disbanded through DIAG.

DIAG aims at eradicating the influence of illegal armed groups in Afghanistan, thus allowing the consolidation of peace, rule of law and prosperity in the country. By voluntarily surrendering their weapons, disbanding or severing links with armed groups, ex-commanders and government officials linked with these groups will demonstrate their support to the Government to build a safe and prosperous Afghanistan.

DDI enhances the socio-economic situation of communities through the creation of short-term employment opportunities for the implementation of development projects in compliant districts.

Moreover, DIAG is involved in many activities related to Illegal Armed Groups such as the vetting process for positions of deputy governors and district administrators and the preparation of parliamentary elections. One of its priorities is also to have Government officials linked to Illegal Armed Groups cut their relation with IAGs. These areas of work make DIAG, with the cooperation of ANBP and UNAMA reinforce government and international community efforts to promote good governance and the rule of law in Afghanistan.

DIAG program was launched on 11 June 2005 when officially announced by the Vice President His Excellency Mohammad Karim Khalili. As of 11 February 2008:

Since inception of DIAG, 37,247 weapons as well as 29,059 pieces of boxed and 321,413 pieces of unboxed ammunition have been handed over to and verified by ANBP collection teams in Afghanistan.

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