

Travel report - Faryab/ Maymane: 8-17th November 2013

Brief Travel report/ Naqibullah Abrar, deputy team leader, NORPLAN

1. Objectives for visit: (Plans)

- To coordinate the activities in the provincial level among the NGOs and provincial RRD and provincial government covering hydrogeology/water supply activities
- To discuss possible sustainable technologies option for desalination with PRRD and NGOs
- To inform province about the project progress
- To discuss the possible three towns and collect information about candidate towns.
- To support the Geophysical survey team doing survey near to Maymane Airport

Below is a photo of the key staff involved in the project activities in Faryab>

From left, MRRD tow field assistances, PRRD driver, N. Abrar , Eng. Alim Merat PRRD director, Mansoor , Jalil, Popal head of program PRRD, Jawed , Mirwais, Hassan , Fahim and Ramaza



2. Planned schedule:

November 8th till November 17th.

Activities Plan										
Dates November	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Day	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Travel From Kabul to Heart										
Travel form Heart to Maymane and meeting the Geophysical survey team										
Field Visit with ICRC And PRRD to look how community doing operation and maintenance schemes										
Coordination meeting with NOGs working in Water Sector in the Maymane										
Meeting With the Provincial Governor										
Field Visit DACAAR projects and meeting Hassan and Jawed to discuss the field Survey										
Visit Damqul with DACAAR, PRRD										
Meeting With the Provincial Governor										
Meeting PRRD director and Travel to Heart										
Travel Day From Heart to Kabul										

3. Brief Summary of Activities:

3.1. Meeting Geophysical Survey Team:

After arrival Maymane city I have called for a meeting with our joint (MRRD, PRRD, DACAAR) team to discuss the following:

- Progress and status of the geophysical survey
- Security issues
- Involvement of local PRRD staff in the field survey for training purpose
- Logistic issues

Eng. Hassan Safi, Jawed and Hadi from DACAAR. Jalil, Mansoor and Ramazan from MRRD Eng. Popal, head of the program of PRRD and myself, Eng. N. Abrar were present in that meeting.

The two teams conducting geophysical surveys are progressing very well and they have managed to collect much data as requested by David Banks in his document for the geophysical survey. Before starting geophysical survey in the field I had to coordinate with MRRD to provide security for our staff. The security was very well managed by security forces even the governor himself met our survey teams and he promised his support to the team.

PRRD staff involvement was too weak and they were not interested to go to the field. The RPPD director clearly stated that the financial incentives are inadequate. This is unfortunately undermining the sustainability of the project follow up at the provincial level. Currently RRD staff are compensated by 10\$/ day for their food per day but the expectation was higher.

From transportation point of view MRRD team had some problem because of the limited transportation facilities then we have organized a rental car for them to use.

3.2. Field Visit with ICRC staff to visit their water supply scheme in Torpakhto area

ICRC has been designed and constructed a water supply network in Torpakhto Area, which located near to Maymane city; short information regarding this scheme is collected below in the table.

Water Source	Ground water
Turbine	Electricity motorized pump
Number of beneficiary	1000 family *7 people
Water stand taps	84
Reservoir capacity	86m ³
Total length of the newt work	?
Electricity expenses	30,000 Afn or 600\$ monthly
Mechanic Wage	7000 Afn or 120\$/month
Depth of the well	?
Water quality	Fresh
Money collection system	400 Afn./Tap

The scheme is operated by a community management system but it does not seem to be sustainable. The reason for lack of sustainability would most likely be poor social mobilization in the community. In addition, the engineering design was not good. At the end of the network water did not reach the last 14 standpipes. As a result, people had removed the taps hoping water would come but this was not good. Probably the capacity of the network is undersized.

The maintenance system was considered bad. Most of the things were running irregular like money collection from the people, payment of mechanic, and extra money for emergency repair of the scheme was not available, 80% of the taps were broken because for the poor design of the network water pressure was not considered in the different part of the scheme and there was no control Valves to control the system, because of that in same area when people getting less water than others they have broken the taps and they have remove the taps.

Because of some unknown reasons ICRC representative were not ready to join us the field trip.

Some pictures telling us field realities

<p>Water point in the project the stand tap was destroyed because of the water limitation the design was poor and water was not reaching to this tap community taken tap they have thinking that will help them for taking more water</p>	
<p>I had an interview with the village shura head near to water reservoir, he was happy for having the system but he show concerns about.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network design • Community mobilization for running the scheme • High expenses of the electricity • Mechanic wage • Absence of responsible governmental institution 	
<p>N. Abrar, mechanic, Eng. Popal PRRD and the community head.</p> <p>Mechanic has explaining how he is operating the system, cleaning reservoir management of electricity and others</p>	
<p>Water tap broken by community to get more water, low pressure at tap is cased to broken only 40liter water can get form about 1 hour</p>	

This scheme gives us an unfortunate illustration how schemes should not be planned and managed. The intended service is not available nor sustainable.

3.3. Coordination meeting with PRRD and WASH cluster NGOs

A coordination meeting was held at PRRD directorate. It was discussed how we can coordinate effectively and how to know each other activities to avoid duplication and

misunderstanding for planning the programs in the sustainable manner

The agenda for the meeting was

- Explanations of activities area and future plan
 - Coordination of the activities
 - Using Damqul as a pilot for training and testing possible technology option for desalination
 - Showing some possible technology option using solar stills
1. Most of the organization explain their activities area and show their interest for working in Damqul, as I found the meeting NCA, UNHCR, ICRC has plan to do water supply for Damqul but the government and PRRD does not seem to know and they don't know about the plans of the different organizations and even they (government and RRD) don't their own plan for that area.
 2. As mentioned, the coordination is the biggest challenge in the water sector in Faryab. I have called NGOs and Government to share information and plan and work effectively together for the province. This may lead to a coordinated and common plan for the sector. I have also point out the result of the weak communication in case of Damqul where three organizations have planned activities for the came area but without knowing of what the others are doing or planning to do. Finally after some explanation about the importance of coordination, the meeting agreed to have a monthly base regular WASH cluster meeting to discuses and share the plans, issues and to learn form each other's and share the experience.
 3. It's suggested by NORPLAN to coordinate between PRRD and the interested NGOs to nominate one of the NGO to support the funding for Damqul. We in NORPLAN will help to facilitate technical support like providing hydrogeological information, geophysical investigation selection of technology, field survey and etc. or we should share our possibilities to provide a sustainable water supply system for the people and form other side it could be a good chance for all to train as common team.
- Finally the decision has made to have a meeting next month where we should agree on some common understanding about Damqul and we should know who will do What for the next year and that common plan will share with local government authorities.
4. Deputy team leader Abrar has shared some possible technology option for desalination of water using solar stills. This idea was welcomed by the WASH cluster and it was very interesting for them and they have requested to provide more technical information about those solar stills like its workability, functionality, capacity and others, for the next trip to Maymane we have to provide them more details about and try to have some of those solar stills for testing.

S. No	Name	Organization	Designation	Phone	E- mail
1	Haji Azim	UNOCHA	Provincial officer	793001118	azimm@un.org
2	Amanullah Shahir	UNICEF	Wash officer	798597392	ashahir@unicef.org
3	Sayed Habibullah	UNAMA	Representative	799250548	habib4043@yahoo.com
4	Mohammad Haroon	ICRC	Water Supply Engineer	799159511	gharoon@icrc.org
5	Abdul Basir Sediqyar	UNHCR	Provincial officer	791990111	sediqyar@unhcr.org
6	Shah Mohammad	DACAAR	Field officer	799361021	
7	Mohammad Hassan Safi	DACAAR	Hydro geologist	799363992	hassan@dacaar.org
8	Mohammad Alim Marat	PRRD	Director	799187965	
9	Mouladad Popal	PRRD	Head of program	799473034	eng.mouladadp@gmail.com
10	Naqibullah Abrar	NORPLAN	Deputy T. Leader	776782054	naqib.380@gmail.com

3.4. Meeting with Provincial Governor Dr. Mohammadullah Batash

Agenda Points for Discussion:

- Brief on project progress and achievements
- Water supply conceptual design for three towns, preparation of proposals where the province take ownership
- Coordination in the provincial level
- Demonstration of some of the solar stills in the saline water area as a pilot
- Discussion about some possible and potential candidates for further training
- Hiring a local coordination body /staff for Maymane
- Using Damqul as a training area for sustainable water supply schemes
- Brief on project progress and achievements:

The NORPLAN deputy team Leader briefed the Provincial Governor about the project progress components while the PRRD director Eng. Alim Marat and the head of program of PRRD were present.

The project progress has explained with the below details

Hydrogeology:

- Existing data collection has been completed
- Field data has been collected from water points, soil, rivers,

springs, karezes, snow and rain.

- Field survey has been finished
- Geophysical investigation is in the progress
- A methodology has been drafted for field survey and data collection for a hydrogeology

GIS/MIS:

- Local GIS/MIS advisor has been hired
- Assessment has been done to find the gaps in the field of GIS/MIS
- Data has been collected and sort it in the geo database
- A draft format for hydrogeological map has been developed to illustrate following information
- Water point location map template
- Administrative map template
- Conductivity map template
- Static water level map template
- Geological map template
- Hydrogeological map template

Training and Capacity:

More than 16 training courses have been successfully completed covering both theoretical and practical aspects within the following topics;

- GIS/MIS
- Water Quality
- Hydrogeology
- Social Mobilization and community development for rural water supply projects
- Operation and maintenance of Rural water supply scheme
- Drilling Methodology

About 215 Different people has been trained form:

- MRRD
- PRRD
- MAIL
- MEW
- Kabul University students
- Polytechnic University
- Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation
- DACAAR
- NCA
- Others

Water Supply conceptual design and survey:

For doing water supply survey and conceptual design we have need strong support and involvement of the provincial authorities and special PRRD and NORPLAN team has been tried several time to have names with some primary data to start thinking about but still the government side not taken any strong steep toward.

Water supply conceptual design for three towns, preparation of proposals where the province take ownership

In this regards PRRD director and the head of the program has been assigned to work together ?? and follow up closely with NORPLAN team in the coordination with other NGOs and stake holders to prepare some primary data in order to be able to prepare a provincial project proposal for water supply and sanitation. This is proposed based on comments from NORAD's project officer suggestion presented to Director Qader, MRRD and Stoveland, Norplan Team leader during a meeting in Oslo in earlier this year. NORPLAN team would provide assistance to the province for making some strong proposals which should come from the province to MRRD to take their support and submit to NORAD and that must take place before the new year.

Coordination in the provincial level

The NORPLAN Deputy team leader informed the governor and emphasized on the coordination both in the provincial as with national with central MRRD, NORPLAN and other related stakeholders, the governor has been advised to have monthly report about the coordination of water related bodies through province by PRRD and he has approved to have such as mechanism he has also very in the support for having this monthly WASH cluster meeting in the provincial level, he will follow him self whether the monthly WASH cluster holed it or not and he will read their report each month.

Demonstration of some of the solar still in the saline water area as a pilot

The provincial governor was informed that NORPLAN team can provide technical support for having a joint efforts to have Damqul area as training area for the rest of the governmental, non governmental organization and privet sector where other NGOs my be NCA provide some financial support with coordination of local government. The governor supported this approach and asked for more focus on this important issue.

Discussion about some possible and potential candidates for trainings abroad

The Province is keen to have some candidate for the trainings abroad they wants to have the entire candidate from the province. After long discussion it's agreed that province should send a list of the relevant candidates and NORPLAN team will share that with central MRRD and after that some suitable candidate will assign for sending the training in the ?? manner.

Hiring a local coordination body

The province was informed that we have shared their request within the project plan and we will inform them about hiring of the mentioned person if its approved MRRD and NORAD then the hiring will take place according to role and regulations.

Using Damqul as a training area for sustainable water supply schemes

This idea has been support strongly by the governor but he was also keen to make a stronger coordination and introducing a sustainable water supply to be used, as an example throughout the province in it should reflected in the most problematic areas.

3.5. Field Visit DACAAR projects and meeting Hassan and Jawed to discuss the field Survey

I have visit Qutor village, which is located in the adjacent boundary of Maymane city to the south, the village has a very strong community managed water supply scheme, the survey, design and implementation has been done by DACAAR very nicely, before of the project start they have worked with the community with sustainable manner they done a great social development they have trained and advised the people how to run their water supply scheme for long time. The main point which I found that they have using the participatory development system. In this system community project ownership is so important because of operation and maintenance of the system, community contribution is one of the important things for creating project ownership among the people and this is the fundamental step toward the sustainability.

When I was visiting the other scheme in Torpakhto I have hardly found one villager to join me in inspecting the scheme and even the responsible NGO was not ready to join us in the field trip. In the case of the DACAAR implemented scheme I had a great support form the community as well form DACAAR, the community came from mosque just with a single call of the project mechanic. They community leaders explained the management system of the their scheme. They do not pay money to mechanic, they pay with wheat which is easy for the community to pay. The system was designed according to the economical and social condition of the community which is the exact sustainability.

Some technical project information is collected form the project area

Water Source	Ground water
Turbine	Electricity motorized pump
Number of beneficiary	1000 family *7 people
Water stand taps	33
Reservoir capacity	50 M3
Total length of the newt work	3.5km
Electricity expenses	15000 Afn.
Mechanic Wage	28kg/ year
Depth of the well	110 m
Water quality	Fresh
Money collection system	The amount is not fixed its collecting according to need

The other positive point, which I have found with DACAAR, implemented project they have providing hygiene education training parallel to the to project implementation and they have also provided some sanitation facilities which is supporting good water supply scheme and that is really the need of rural communities

A strong community water supply scheme management committee established is the result of good and strong social mobilization. They know the importance of their scheme and they work harder try to keep their scheme running.



3.6. Visit Damqul with DACAAR, PRRD

A team composing of DACAAR, PRRD and NORPLAN visited different parts of the Damqul area inspecting existing water points drilled by NCA near to Maymane river in the south. In the northern part of Damqul community drilled shallow well with saline water the total population of the area is estimated round about 3000 families and this number has increasing fast.

The NCA funded drilled well was said to have good water quality and a discharge of 10lit/sec but this information has been collected some time ago when the borehole was drilled 3 year back. There was no updated information about the water quality and yield of the well. In discussion with DACAAR they will test the water sample with the coordination of NCA. Pumping tests can be organized to provide information about yield of the well. Both DACAAR and ICRC both were asking NCA to provide a design for a network for the well so that other NGOs can plan their schemes/contribution to the Damqul area in complementary and coordinated manner.

Practically its required to bring all the parties to the table to provide a coherent plan for creating a sustainable water supply and that should take place. Such a meeting could perhaps take place during the next visit to Kabul by the team leader in NORPLAN. Likewise a follow up coordination meeting in Maymane is needed involving NORPLAN team leaders.

3.7. Review meeting /provincial governor.

At the end of the trip I meet the provincial governor to update him about the achievement of the trip and also I have share the possible project to make some strong proposal with provincial government he show interest in the projects you send me the list.

see also norplan.af

photos from Geophysical surveys in Faryab