

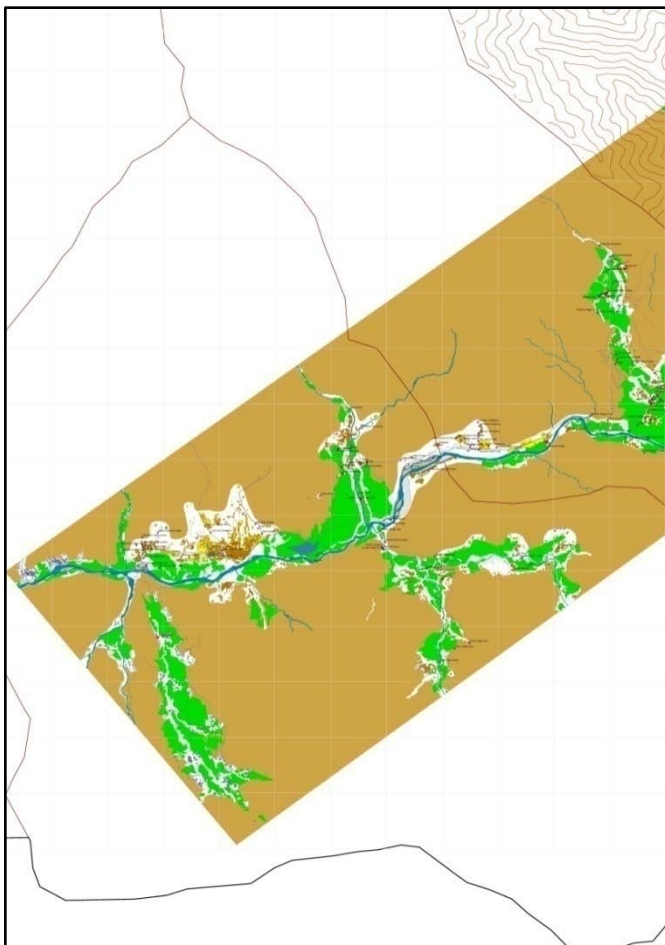
Municipal Strengthening Program For Afghanistan

Project Name: Afghanistan Municipal Strengthening Program
Client Name: International City/County Management Association,
United States Agency for International Development
Country: Afghanistan
Length of assignment: 2008-2009

Project Brief

The focus of the Afghanistan Municipal Strengthening Program (AMSP) was to strengthen the capacity of the municipal level government in selected provincial capital cities located primarily in South East Afghanistan. The goal of the program was to improve citizen satisfaction with municipal level government in the selected capital cities by demonstrably enhancing the delivery of public services and improving the quality of life in each community. The urban planning component achieved the following this project:

- Improved urban planning process in each AMSP city achieved through initiation, development, finalization and initial implementation of a Strategic Municipal Action Plan (SMAP) that is broadly supported by the community and approved by a local political body.
- Expedited local project-approval process that facilitates economic development and helps alleviate unemployment in each AMSP city.
- “Leave behind” cadre of municipal staff in each AMSP city who are competent practitioners the field of land-use planning and urban development and who are able to perform their jobs in accordance with international “best management practices” as applied under Afghanistan law and the national government framework.



Detailed Description of the Actual Services Provided by UMC

- Prepared Base Maps for each of the 8 provincial capital cities in the AMSP through procurement of satellite images. Local Afghan personnel were trained to conduct ground verification of the digitized maps.

- Facilitated and provided technical assistance to the ICMA local staff located in each provincial capital city; these staff members in turn assisted local public officials and MUD&H regional staff in each city in preparing, publicly vetting and gaining broad-based community support and official approval for a 5-year SMAP.
- Assisted organizing public consultations for the development of Bazarak/Panjshir city's 5-10 year SMAP. Facilitated preliminary data collection for other AMSP cities.
- Prepared training material for “Strategic Planning” process and “master plan formulation process” for inclusion in an ICMA-prepared and distributed manual on “how to govern” at the municipal level in Afghanistan.
- Developed 10-hour module outline and teaching materials (e.g., case studies, background notes, reference documents, etc.) on urban planning that was used as part of a 60-hour adult education course (including text and audio-visual teaching aids) in basic public administration for municipal-level officials and staff in Afghanistan.

