



Infrastructure Development
The bridge in the village Pol-e Qandahari is one of eleven bridges repaired by the Czech PRT.



Water
Clearing and reconstruction of Surkhab Dam is the largest project of the Czech PRT.



Veterinary Medicine
The PRT assists veterinary doctors in the Logar province with the vaccination of farm animals.



Education
In an isolated district of Azra the PRT is building a high school for more than 1,200 students.



Women's Rights
In the Khushi district the Czech PRT built two schools for 600 girls.



Supporting the Afghan Police and Army
The PRT built a training and educational center, which will help improve the skills of 600 policemen.



Health Care
The Czech PRT donated the provincial government of Logar seven ambulance cars for transporting patient.



Media
The Czech PRT supplied technical equipment to the radio station Millie Paygham.



Agriculture
The Czech PRT is reconstructing milk collection points throughout the province. The quality of milk affects the level of profits of the local farmers.



- Projects implemented in the field of**
-  Veterinary Medicine
 -  Education
 -  Agriculture
 -  Water
 -  Health Care
 -  Supporting the Afghan Police and Army
 -  Women's Rights
 -  Media
 -  Infrastructure Development



▲ **VETERINARY MEDICINE.** Projects in veterinary medicine are part of the program supporting agriculture in Logar. These include educational workshops for both state and private vets, vaccination of farm animals, information campaigns on dangerous diseases or supplies of hepatitis vaccines.



▲ **EDUCATION.** After the completion of construction of the high school in the Azra district, the building will be handed over to the Afghan Ministry of Education. The PRT assists the Afghan government securing the basic services for the population, i.e. access to education and health care, and better quality infrastructure. On completion, the PRT hands over all development projects to the Afghan government.



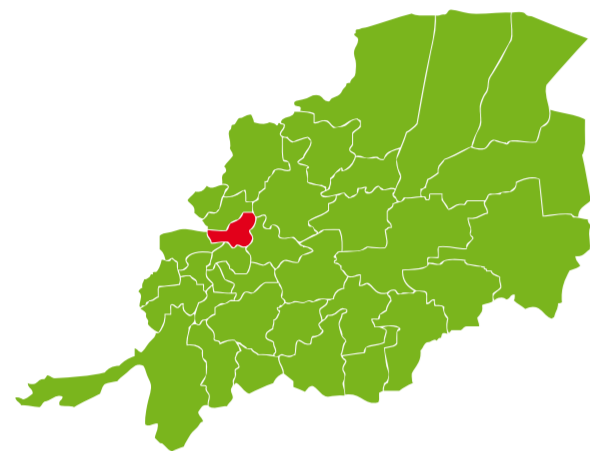
▲ **WATER.** 145 people found work for 10 months thanks to the reconstruction of the Surkhab Dam. Creation of new jobs for Logar population belongs to the goals of the Czech team. The PRT built or repaired 5 weirs, channels and protective walls.



▲ **WOMEN RIGHTS.** In the Khushi valley, girls had to learn how to read and write at home or in the mosques. Since 2009 more than 600 girls attend two new schools built by the Czech PRT. Support for women rights is a recurring element in the PRT's projects.



▲ **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.** Because of the high costs, the restoration of infrastructure represents one of the biggest challenges for the Afghan government. The Czech reconstruction team carried out research for the construction of 70 km of roads. In 2009 the PRT financed the reconstruction of 11 bridges and built 3 new ones.



CZECH PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM IN LOGAR, AFGHANISTAN

Czech Republic making a difference in Afghanistan.

More than 25 years of violent conflicts have had a disastrous impact on all aspects of life in Afghanistan, including its economy, administration, infrastructure, education and health care. Despite the fact that the Taliban no longer rules the country, Afghan infrastructure is still in shambles and half of the population lives in poverty. The Czech Republic has joined the fight against terrorism and poverty by supporting economic growth and the formation of an effective government, thus helping to eradicate the conditions that lead to the support of insurgents.

At the invitation of Afghanistan's government and under a United Nations mandate, twenty six Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) participate in a NATO-led ISAF mission in Afghanistan. Their goal is to extend the authority of the central government and to assist in providing the security, stability and basic services. In March 2008 the Czech Republic assumed responsibility for the PRT operating in the eastern province of Logar.

The PRT combines civilian experts from the Czech Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Czech Army military, whose role is to maintain a secure environment for reconstruction projects. The members of the civilian team include construction engineers, development specialists and experts in areas such as agriculture, security, media or veterinary medicine. These specialists cooperate with the provincial government, councils of elders (suras) and other representatives of local communities to extend their capacities and, through a broad range of joint projects, to have a positive impact on the province both in mid and long-term.

On the basis of the Afghan government's Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the Afghanistan Compact, the reconstruction has three main priorities:

- 1) The promotion of good governance and increased security;
- 2) Social and economic development resulting in the reduction of poverty and enhancing economic self-sufficiency, especially in agriculture and the reconstruction of irrigation canals;
- 3) Support for the Afghan government in providing basic services to the population, namely education, health care and revitalization of the infrastructure.

The PRT implements these goals mainly through the projects affecting the Afghan National Police and Army, development of agriculture and veterinary medicine, reconstruction of schools, hospitals, irrigation systems and infrastructure, enhancement of women's rights and development of independent media.



▲ **AGRICULTURE.** Dairy farming is an important part of subsistence for thousands of people in Logar. The Czech PRT works on reconstructing milk collection points throughout the province. The higher the quality of the milk, the greater the return for the farmer.



▲ **HEALTH CARE.** The Afghan health care system has been paralyzed by the years of protracted armed conflict. Besides the insufficient capacity of health care facilities, the means for transportation of patients are also very limited, so PRT donated seven ambulance cars for patient transportation. Among other projects, the Czech PRT reconstructed two hospital wards.



▲ **ASSISTING AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY AND AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE.** One of the priorities of the Czech reconstruction team is strengthening security in Logar. It is based on the assumption that a safe environment is absolutely necessary for development in other areas.



▲ **MEDIA.** Afghan media constantly battle with the lack of financial resources and qualified personnel. The Czech PRT supplied technical equipment to two Logar radio stations and assisted with the training of 16 journalists. Three more completed an internship at Radio Free Europe in Prague.

In terms of development strategy, the PRT adheres to the principles of:

- **Sustainability.** The PRT supports the capacity of local communities in taking control of newly constructed buildings. The PRT respects local authorities, discusses every phase of each project with both the local government and representatives of local communities (suras).
- **Strengthening the provincial government.** Civilian experts always cooperate with the provincial authorities, which boosts not only the local government but also the confidence of the local population in their government and its ability to provide essential services.
- **Building a stable economy.** By commissioning local companies and using local suppliers and work force, the PRT builds the capacity of those companies and simultaneously supports economic stability in the province.
- **Long-term impact.** The PRT gives preference to long-term solutions over an instantaneous effect, e.g. a school building is renovated, rather than supplying the children with a tent.
- **Transparency.** When commissioning local companies the PRT follows clearly stated rules in a transparent way so that no person or legal entity appears to be favored over the others. This attitude also sets standards for ethical conduct in the Afghan market environment.

Support good governance and security

Strengthening the capacity of provincial government to focus on the support of human rights in addition to other goals. Readiness of the security forces to take action as a key condition for the departure of coalition forces from Afghanistan.

Present situation:
The unstable situation is related not only to gaps in the justice system and law enforcement but also the inadequate functioning of security forces:

- The country lacks mechanisms for enforcing the law, a functioning judicial system and prison capacity.
- The Afghan National Police (ANP) lacks basic equipment and respectable facilities for their service.
- The majority of the policemen are illiterate without knowledge of basic rules of self-defense or handling weapons.
- The PRT repaired five police checkpoints for 80 policemen on the main road to Logar from Kabul.
- Three additional police checkpoints will be built by the year 2010.
- For the ANP the PRT built an educational and training center with a climbing tower and an obstacle course.
- A new protection wall will shelter the police headquarters in the provincial capital Pol-e Alam.

- The PRT reconstructed infrastructure at the Afghan National Army base for 800 soldiers.
- PRT is building a provincial prison facility meeting the requirements of the International Red Cross.

The authority of both the central and provincial governments also depends also on how well the population is informed:

- Before 2009, the state radio station could not broadcast due to the lack of equipment.
- The authorities have not developed an effective communication strategy and the population rarely find out about their activities.
- The PRT reinforces the position of the government through media campaigns on reconstruction projects.
- 16 journalists from Logar took training courses jointly organized by the PRT.
- The state radio station started broadcasting thanks to the technical equipment provided by the PRT
- The PRT offered several weeks of training for Logar journalists at Radio Free Europe in Prague.

According to the UN criteria the situation of Afghan women is the second worse in the world:

- The majority of Afghan women do not get a single chance to visit a doctor in their lifetime, thousands die during pregnancy or childbirth.
- Several thousands of Logar women went through a training course about the elections organized by the PRT.
- Almost 2,000 women took part in festivities and an educational campaign on women's rights in connection with International Women's Day.
- 400 women received a donation of basic household and hygienic items.
- The Czech PRT supports on a regular basis exhibitions and sales of products made by women.
- The PRT increases human rights awareness by media campaigns in various radio stations.

Social and economic development

Social and economic development aimed at poverty reduction and boosting economic self-sufficiency

Prolonged violent conflicts have had a negative impact on Afghan economy and job opportunities:

- The rate of unemployment is more than 40%.
- According to the latest surveys from 2003, 53% of the population was living below the poverty line, i.e. one less than one dollar per day.

- The PRT cooperates on joint projects with Afghan companies and provides work opportunities for people from Logar province.
- Every day more than a thousand people earn at least 4 dollars working on Czech PRT projects.

There are practically no opportunities for professional training in the province:

- The farmers depend on occasional training courses organized by Czech PRT.
- The skills are handed down from generation to generation for hundreds of years.
- Insufficient technical knowledge of the farmers means that the full potential of the soil is not exploited.
- An agricultural and mechanical boarding school will be opened for 1,000 high school students in the provincial capital Pol-e Alam.

Farming is the most important form of sustenance in Logar but its development faces many fundamental challenges:

- Most farmers lack basic equipment, good quality seeds and fertilizers.
- The use of modern technology is a rarity, most farmers use what are essentially medieval methods.
- There is no opportunity for specialized professional training in Logar.
- In 2009 more than 1,100 farmers took part in training courses provided by the PRT.
- The PRT is building two milk collection centers and distributed 1,520 containers of good quality stainless steel. Both projects will significantly increase the milk quality and the profit of the farmers.
- The PRT built 5 storage cellars for fruit and vegetables, which will help the farmers sell their products, even at times when the market prices are higher.
- The PRT distributed 80 tons of good quality seeds and 150 tons of fertilizers to the farming co-operatives. This should triple the output.

Agricultural proceeds depend directly on local water resources:

- During the last decades, the traditional irrigation system was largely destroyed.
- Water retention is usually achieved by improvised weirs, made of clay and sandbags.
- 3,500 farmers acquired access to water thanks to a complete renovation of the Surkhab Dam, the only functioning dam in the province.
- The PRT constructed or reconstructed seven weirs and irrigation canals for 6,500 farmers.
- The reconstructed water works are also provided with explanatory panels educating the community about maintenance.

Assistance to the Afghan government in providing essential services

Building up the local population's confidence in their government and its capacity to provide basic services, such as education and accessible health care.

Education in Afghanistan is one of the most neglected areas:

- Only 50% of children go to school on a regular basis.
- Only 20% of teachers are qualified.
- 60% of children take classes in tents or other makeshift conditions.
- PRT repaired, expanded or built 77 classrooms in nine elementary and secondary schools. Three more schools are under construction.

Education for women is a very slow process:

- Only 16% of women can write and read.
- Only 20% of all schools are intended to educate girls.
- A third of all districts in the country have no schools at all.
- More than a thousand Logar girls will be able to study in three new schools.

Nine years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghan health care is still in shambles.

- Insufficient capacity of hospital wards forces the staff to leave their patients in hallways and in some cases in tents.
- The doctors face a shortage of medicine and equipment, another problem is access to electricity and clean water.
- The average life expectancy of an Afghan citizen is 44 years.
- The mortality rate of children younger than 1 year is the third highest in the world.
- The PRT expanded two district hospital wards.
- The PRT helps with supplies of medicines for medical facilities.
- The PRT supplies the health ministry with hepatitis vaccines and organizes educational campaigns against the spread of diseases.

Czech Republic's priorities

- *Main Goal*
- Current State
- Czech Republic's contribution

