

Solar system providing energy for ventilation, lighting and other equipment is part of each cold storage for stocking up the production of vegetables and fruits. Ten tons of vegetables and fruits can be stored in each cold storage.
Photo: Iva Zimová

“I used to dry vegetables and fruit on the ground under the sun and a big part of the production was destroyed every year because it was contaminated by mold. If my raisins will be clean and of good quality, I could sell them for three times more money.” Saiaid Shah (44), a farmer from Naushar village.



▲ The Czech PRT donated twenty solar dryers to Logar agriculture cooperatives and organized a training workshop on how to use dryers for the members of the cooperatives. At least 20 kilograms of fruits or vegetables can be dried in one solar dryer. Assistance in food processing is included in the so called Provincial Development Plan, the key document created by local communities in Logar.
Photo: Karla Štěpánková

▲ Civilian experts from PRT met the elders from Khoshi district to discuss potential development projects. Regular discussions and meetings with both formal and informal key local players is one of the conditions successful work of the Czech PRT in Logar.
Photo: Karla Štěpánková

Czech Republic making a difference in Afghanistan

Nearly twenty-five years of war and violence devastated Afghanistan's economy and society. The Taliban was forced out of power in 2001, but half of Afghanistan's people still live in absolute poverty and much of the infrastructure is destroyed. To rebuild the country, combat terrorism and reduce poverty, the Czech Republic is working to create economic growth, effective and representative governance, and the human capital base needed to eliminate the conditions that breed extremism.

The Czech Republic assumed responsibility for the Logar Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in March 2008. Twenty-six PRTs throughout Afghanistan help the democratically-elected government extend its authority and ability to govern, rebuild the nation, and provide services to its citizens.

Based at FOB Shank in the Eastern province of Logar, the Czech Republic PRT is located in a conservative province, the former home to several Al-Qaeda training bases during the Taliban regime. Logar is now among the Afghan provinces most targeted by insurgents and for that one of the provinces in greatest need of support.

Currently, the PRT combines the expertise of civil engineers, agriculture, media and security experts, development specialists, and the military. It supports key initiatives in the province and carries out a broad range of enabling roles.

The PRT works on projects that have an impact in the long, medium, and short term. The most important achievements will be those that foster long-term, sustainable benefits to the Afghan people. At the same time, “quick impact” projects are also being carried out across the province to respond to the immediate needs that Afghans face in their daily lives.

Czech PRT assists in reducing poverty

☛ Czech PRT helps farmers to improve methods for drying fruits and vegetables. PRT donates solar dryers for agriculture cooperatives. More than 900 members of the cooperatives will benefit from the project.

☛ Czech PRT plans to build four milk collection centers in Logar. Thanks to modern technologies the Logar cooperatives will be able to compete on the Afghan market in the field of dairy production.

☛ Czech PRT donates 1250 milk cans to farmers in Logar to improve the hygienic standards of the final dairy products.

☛ Czech PRT handed over four cold storages to farmers. The cold storage for stocking up the production of vegetables and fruits, mostly apples, potatoes and onions, will benefit hundreds of farmers from the cooperatives and will enable them to store their produce and sell it when the prices increase.

☛ Over 1000 workers from Logar work daily on PRT's construction projects and get their salary from these jobs every week.

PRT supports education in Logar

☛ Czech PRT's education strategy is designed to support basic education, higher education, and literacy.

☛ By the year 2009, eight schools for almost 12 000 children will have been constructed.

☛ Czech PRT has refurbished and equipped girls' schools scorched by insurgents.

PRT's active involvement in Logar health sector

☛ In cooperation with a local NGO, the PRT has purchased seven ambulance cars to serve all district hospitals.

☛ Two health clinics have been constructed providing additional bed capacity badly needed in Logar.

☛ To combat shortage of medicine, The PRT has supplied Logar health facilities with three to five months' worth of medicine.

☛ To complement the needs for sustainable development, the PRT has financed professional and vocational trainings for hospital staff in three districts.

Strengthening Governance and PRT support for ANSF

☛ Czech Republic is committed to supporting democracy, the rule of law and human rights in Afghanistan by building local capacity of line ministries and strengthening their services

☛ Czech Military Police trains Afghan National Police and civilian experts provide advice and support on improving the Police Training Academy in Logar.

☛ Czech PRT has undertaken plans to retrofit five checkpoints along Kabul-Gardez Road.

☛ In line with the rule of law program, PRT, in joint effort with Afghan Ministry of Justice, has funded construction of a new prison facility in central Logar.

Other activities

☛ Retrofits Surchab Dam, the only working dam in Logar.

☛ Czech PRT has repaired weirs and irrigation canals.

☛ Reconstructs several bridges and also surveys of the reconstruction roads development projects prepared by Czechs and their Afghan partners.

☛ Czech PRT repairs 30 kilometers of roads reducing travel time and increasing access to schools, clinics and markets.

☛ Czech PRT supports Afghan media as part of its broader strategy to support the democratic transition in Afghanistan.



Czech Republic making a difference in Afghanistan

www.prtlogar.cz

More information: www.prtlogar.cz



Czech Republic



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Like Afghan National Forces, the centers of local governance are often attacked by insurgents. The Mohammad Agha district center protection wall will help increase security of Afghan officials in Logar province. Building of several kilometers of walls protecting schools or police checkpoints are among other Czech PRT projects.
Photo: Karla Štěpánková ▶



Ribbon cutting ceremony where the Czech Republic PRT handed over a cold storage to agricultural cooperative in Kolangar village, Logar province. The cold storage will be used by two hundred farmers from the Kolangar agricultural cooperative.
Photo: Iva Zimová ▶



◀ Petr Kavka, the Czech PRT civil engineer discusses the reconstruction of the Babus boys' primary school with the principal and other teachers. The involvement of the local community in preparation of each up lift project is the key principal of the work of Czech PRT. Reconstruction projects are implemented solely by Afghan partners. Photo: Karla Štěpánková



“Shortage of schools is our main problem. Another serious problem is the security situation in Logar. Some people do not want development of our country, they do not want girls to go to schools.”
Mr. Zadran, the director of Education Department.



▲ Almost 12 000 Logar students now taught under the open sky or in run down buildings will go to schools retrofitted by the Czech PRT in 2009. Photo: Karla Štěpánková

“Our people are happy that PRT helps us and we are ready to assist and support the construction companies which will undertake the projects.”
Mr. Hakim Abdul, the head of the Provincial Council.

▲ Fifty local nationals found a job at the reconstruction of the Sher Afghan Weir. The PRT local employment strategy is one of the conditions set for the winning contractor companies in order to ensure that income stays in the villages where projects are implemented. Retrofitted weir was handed over to Afghan Ministry of Water and Irrigation in the November 2008 and enables hundreds of farmers to effectively manage water.
Photo: Karla Štěpánková



◀ Following a number of consultations with local players and particularly line ministry, assessments and consequently the bidders' conference, the Czech PRT will chose winning Afghan companies that will undertake the reconstruction. Czech PRT is building seven schools in Logar province.
Photo: Karla Štěpánková