



CORPORATE CAPABILITY STATEMENT

Global Partnership for Afghanistan (GPFA) works with rural Afghans to create farm businesses that alleviate poverty, build sustainable livelihoods and promote economic development.

GPFA has helped farm families in 425 villages across 12 provinces to establish more than 15,000 businesses benefitting 100,000 men, women, and children.

GPFA partners with individuals, governments and institutions to provide the technical inputs, capital, supplies, and infrastructural and community support required to rebuild Afghanistan's agrarian economy and create a better future for Afghan farm families. A roster of GPFA's clients is listed at the end of this statement.

Strategies

- **Developing enterprises** to provide sustainable incomes
- **Building infrastructure** to enable the success of farm businesses
- **Supporting communities** to grow local economies and empower citizens
- **Strengthening institutions** to reinforce local governance and assure continuity

Activities

Developing Enterprises

1. Tree-based enterprises: GPFA assures farmers access to capital, supplies and training necessary to jumpstart farm businesses such as woodlots, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries.
2. Income-Generating Alternatives: GPFA provides farm families, in particular women, with opportunities to engage in agriculture-related micro-enterprises and income-generating activities including underground cold storage, greenhouses, vegetable gardens, beekeeping, and poultry-raising.
3. Farm-to-Market Initiatives: GPFA empowers farmers along the value chain by improving marketability, increasing market access, and enhancing returns on investments.

Building Infrastructure

4. Irrigation Options: GPFA encourages efficient use of water to increase farm productivity, expand arable land and decrease conflicts based on water shortages. Primary activities include introduction of new irrigation technologies, restoration of water channels, and reduction of water loss.

5. Watershed Rehabilitation: GPFA works to replenish underground water supplies by increasing land cover, including hillside planting and reforestation, conservation and erosion control. Staff trains communities on how to better manage and share natural resources.

6. Appropriate Technology: GPFA pilots and implements the use of small and intermediate technologies for agricultural and infrastructural support. GPFA promotes the use of greenhouses and helps farmers to install cold stores (root cellars) that allow them to store crops and thus command better market prices.

Supporting Communities

7. Membership Associations: GPFA helps farmers and nursery owners establish membership organizations that encourage innovation and pooling of knowledge, supply inputs, develop new market opportunities, and improve returns on investments.

8. Equal Opportunity: GPFA empowers weak and marginalized rural people – specifically women. GPFA creates economic opportunities through its staff of 40 plus Afghan women and vigorously advocates for a more active role for women in agriculture and community decision-making.

Strengthening Institutions

9. Institutional Capacity Building: GPFA strengthens local institutions to assume greater responsibility for development of Afghanistan's economy. Strategic partnerships between GPFA and Afghan government agencies support and improve service provision.

10. Skills Development: GPFA integrates training and skills development into all its initiatives. Partnerships with Kabul, Paktya, Khost and Albironi universities advance this work. Classes, pilot projects, workshops, and demonstration plots provide practical, hands-on agricultural education and training.

Services Provided

GPFA provides materials and services for small farmers and their families, rural communities, commercial farms, institutional clients, donors and philanthropists.

GPFA is prepared to:

- Provide plant materials – rootstocks, budwood, cuttings, seeds and saplings for local farmers, commercial farms, and forestry projects
- Establish and revitalize fruit and forestry nurseries, orchards, vineyards, woodlots and conservation areas
- Build and support low-cost underground storage units for fruits and vegetables
- Train and support vineyard owners
- Provide up-to-date knowledge and skills necessary for horticulture and farm forestry
- Conduct farmer field schools, farmer learning groups and exchange visits
- Mobilize farmers (men and women) to establish co-ops and producer associations

- Train students, recent graduates and farmers in agro-business and enterprise development
- Involve communities in conservation, irrigation and natural resource management programs

For institutional clients, GPFA can assist with:

- Agricultural project design, implementation and management
- Outreach and extension services
- Technical education and training
- Rapid appraisals, needs assessments, surveys
- Mobilization of farmers and communities
- Workshops and internships
- Participatory development strategies
- Business development and marketing
- Leadership development
- Facilities for workshops and training
- Programs of support for rural women
- Monitoring and evaluation

Services may be provided in the context of GPFA programs and projects, donor-assisted projects, at cost to small farmers, or on a fee for service basis to commercial growers, donors and implementing agencies. Fees are charged based on market considerations. Income earned is returned to support non-profit activities.

Training and Capacity Building

GPFA's Tree House Training Center in Guldara District, Kabul Province, is a cornerstone supporting GPFA programs and services throughout the country. The Center hosts more than 300 trainees per month including farmers, students, faculty, and government personnel. Many trainees travel from conflict-ridden areas where on-site training is impossible.

In addition, GPFA's expert staff delivers individual training, farmer field schools and learning groups, student internships, business advisory services and field-based demonstrations to support micro-enterprise development.

Women's Participation

GPFA's success in securing the participation of rural women throughout its programs is well-recognized. More than 40,000 women and girls have learned new skills, become financially secure, and now play a greater role in their families and communities.

To address the special needs and cultural considerations of Afghan women, GPFA is increasing its Kabul and field-based staff of 40 Afghan women. These professionals and village facilitators support rural women to establish new enterprises and income-generating activities.

Sustainability

A rigorous approach to the practicality and sustainability of projects is required in the Afghan context because of the severe infrastructural challenges. GPFA's work is simply not successful unless it is affordable and sustainable.

Examples of sustainable practices include: gravity-based irrigation methods, solar and wind-powered farm technologies, and recycling of farm waste to increase productivity.

Staff and Facilities

GPFA is headquartered in Kabul with a small supporting office in New York City, two regional and seven field offices in the provinces of Paktya, Logar, Wardak, Kapisa, Parwan, Paktya, and Khost as well as the Tree House Farm Forestry and Horticulture Training Center in Guldara District, Kabul Province.

GPFA has more than 180 staff operating in Afghanistan – all of whom are Afghan save our Executive Director. This has been a key to GPFA's success venturing into insecure areas and gaining local acceptance and cooperation.

Internal Controls

Global Partnership for Afghanistan is a certified tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 2002 in New York City. In Afghanistan, GPFA is registered as a non-governmental organization with the Ministry of Economy (#250, 2005). GPFA is registered with USAID in the state of New York. GPFA's Board of Directors consists of 13 prominent men and women. GPFA's Executive Director is based in Kabul. The Executive Director oversees both the New York and Kabul offices.

GPFA is audited and indirect cost rates are certified annually by US-based Certified Public Accountants Gelman, Rosenberg & Friedman and in accordance with USG A-133 standards. Internal controls assure appropriate cost allocation, compliance with international standards, property management, and adherence to special donor requirements.

GPFA uses Sage MIP internet-based fund accounting software for real time entry and tracking. Segregation of donor/project funding is available on request from donors or in accordance with funding restrictions.

Partnerships

GPFA maintains on-going relationships with government agencies, national and international organizations, universities, the private sector, foundations, and individual philanthropists.

Institutional clients include:

- Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)
- Afghan National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA)
- European Commission (EC)

- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- US Department of Defense Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP)
- US Department of State (DOS)
- Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ; formerly GTZ)
- Cornell University, International Institute for Food, Agriculture, and Development (CIIFAD)
- Individuals and Family Foundations

GPFA is fast becoming a major implementing partner for institutional clients pursuing avenues for effective and transparent applications of development assistance.

Client references and performance reviews are available upon request.

For Additional Information

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