Upper Indus Basin Network
Country progress report

By Mohammad Tayib Bromand
Co-Coordinator UIBN-Afghanistan Chapter
Progress on UIBN-Afghanistan Country Chapter

• Since the last UIBN-RSC meeting, Afghanistan held 3 country chapter meetings (2 in Kabul and 1 in Dubai)
• 1 organization added as a member of UIBN-AC: Afghanistan National Water and Environment Research Centre (ANWERC)
• 2 technical papers presented to the team: Gender and ground water
• 6 thematic working groups updated their progress
Progress on UIBN-Afghanistan Country Chapter

One Technical presentation was presented by Dr. Wasim Eqbal, Director of ANWERC on the 6th UIBN-AC meeting organized in Kabul, 23 February 2020.

**Topic of the Presentation:** Effective and sustainable researches and publications on Water Resources & Disaster risk reduction in UIB

- Few academic publications are available in the 6 thematic areas in Afghanistan, which UIBN is concentrated on.
- Identify indoor and outdoor Afghan researchers to conduct joint researchers on 6 selected topics
- Encourage the policy makers to formulate the policy and plans based on the findings of science and researches
Progress of the 6 Technical working groups (TWGs)

Progress of TWG 6:
Research on Gender and social inclusions considerations in the water resources management agencies (MEW & MAIL) was conducted by Mr. Mohammad Khalid Habibi & his researchers team from Gender Department Kabul University. Key findings were:

• Percentage of the female employees in MEW is 6% and in the MAIL is 4% compared to Afghan government policy which is 30%. Fewer women in leadership positions
• Women’s participation and inclusion is not highlighted clearly in the policies often in policy making
• Gender departments established in both ministries, emphasis on inclusion of women in policy making positions
Progress of TWG 4:
Research presentation delivered by Prof Naim Eqrar on Groundwater shortage and quality in Kabul city. Key findings of the research were:

- Due to low annual precipitation, rapid population growth (4 million inhabitants), the intensity of deep wells and over-pumping throughout the city, the groundwater level gradually declined by 0.5–1 meter
- The research paper approved to be published by ICIMOD in 2020
- Government should pay more attention on artificial recharge and formulate policy for public awareness on GW conservation
Progress based on intermediate outcomes of UIBN

• For sustainability and effective research, 6 technical groups transferred to ANWERC and coordinating by research center.

• Young and professional researchers will lead each 6 technical groups, mainly academia

• Afghanistan will introduce MSc and Ph.D students to regional universities to strengthen its capacity in research in 6 topics.

• Small research grants will allocate for scientific research in the 6 thematic areas

• Top policy makers attending in the UIBN – AC meetings

• More female researchers will be joint in technical working groups (3 females included in the TWGs)

• Hydro-meteorological observations network extend in mountainous area

• Research based curriculum will be consider in Kabul universities and other provinces

• Afghanistan is interested on scientific and research based cooperation in the UIBN platform
Future plans for the country chapter

- Afghanistan chapter will be coordinated by ANWERC and researchers and professors will lead each group.
- AC is willing to conduct joint research and studies on selected topics (50 sub-topics identified considering the needs of sectorial ministries).
- UIBN-AC asked other member countries in capacity enhancement of Afghan colleagues.
- Government will allocate research fund to ANWERC for sustainability of technical working groups.
- Indoor and outdoor Afghan researchers will be invited to joint the TWGs.
- Afghanistan plans to publish more scientific papers on 6 thematic areas in more reliable academic journals (in the next 6 months, Afghanistan will publish 3 papers).
- Monthly and quarterly meetings will be held to increase the TWGs outputs and outcomes.
- Afghanistan is willing to host the next RSC meeting in Kabul. Considering the security condition.
Thank you