



Press office:

For immediate release

Poverty Status in Afghanistan, A Profile based on National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) 2007/08, a Joint Report of Ministry of Economy and World Bank, officially launched.

Kabul – The joint report of MoEc and WB was launched today through a high-level official ceremony held at the conference hall of Ministry of Economy. The launching ceremony was chaired by HE Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, the Minister of Economy, and a large number of government ministers and heads of international development agencies participated.

The report assesses the level of poverty overall and its distribution across provinces of Afghanistan. It also describes the socioeconomic characteristics of those who are poor, illustrates the differences among the poor, and identifies characteristics that are correlated with poverty status. The headline poverty statistic from the report is that 36 percent of the population is poor, meaning that approximately 9 million Afghans are not able to meet their minimum basic needs. While 36 percent of the population cannot even meet this minimum of consumption needs, there are many more people who are consuming at levels just barely above the poverty line and are highly susceptible to becoming poor. More than half of the population is consuming less than 120 percent of the poverty line (that is, 20 percent more than the poverty line). One small, negative shock has the potential to move many individuals into poverty.

In his opening remarks HE Minister Arghandiwal thanked and congratulated all the involved agencies and individuals on their endeavors for the completion of this important report, he said, the release of this report is very timely because the Government of Afghanistan is now prioritizing the ANDS through the clustering process in which programs are being developed for donor funding. He also pointed out that the poverty estimates in this report can serve as a baseline for the monitoring and evaluation of future poverty-reduction programs. He reminded to the participants on the importance of findings in this report that it can provide definitive, evidence-based analysis that can serve as a valuable input to the line Ministries and their international partners to improve the pro-poor focus of their programs.

The Ministry of Economy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan also took the opportunity to express its continued appreciation to the international community partners working towards the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. He expressed his gratitude to World Bank (WB), European Union (EU), UK Department for International Development (DfID), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and others for their financial and technical support to the NRVA and in turn, the development of this report. He wished success for the

future collaborative efforts within government ministries and between government and international partners.

Josephine Bassinette, World Bank acting Country Director for Afghanistan also expressed her gratitude to all parties involved in the collection of the NRVA data, and the analysis that led to this report.

For further information, please contact,

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