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51 reconstruction projects executed

KANDAHAR CITY (PAN): A Rural Rehabilitation and Development (RRD) official said more than 51 reconstruction projects had been completed in various districts of the southern Kandahar province, the birthplace of the Taliban movement. In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Eng. Abdul Mutalib Ashna said 33 of the development schemes were completed under the governments flagship project called the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) in three months. The remaining 18 were implemented by RRDs southern zone office in six months. He added a variety of plans --- supportive walls, small bridges, roads, piped water supply, sewing courses for women and meeting halls for area people --- were executed in accordance with demand of residents. Of the 33 projects implemented under NSP, nine projects were done in Arghandab, one in Spin Boldak, one in Daman, nine in Dand, four in Khakrez, two in Maiwand, four in Shaga and three in Zherai districts. Ashna explained the projects under NSP accounted for about \$16 millions granted by the World Bank, the Japanese government, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Thousands of people were provided job opportunities as part of the projects which would benefit more than 200,000 families, Ashna continued. Five uplift schemes were completed in Daman, as many in Dand, two in Shah Walikot, one in Takhta Pul, three in Arghandab and one in Kandahar City. Costing \$630,000 and benefiting over 20,000 families, the reconstruction projects were carried out with financial support from USAID, CIDA, the World Bank and the Japanese government.

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