



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 11, 2008

Public Inquiries: +93 (0) 799 564 907

<http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

PRESS RELEASE

Kabul family benefit from food distribution

100kg of USA wheat distributed per qualifying household

Kabul, Afghanistan | March 11, 2008 — Minister of Agriculture Obaidullah Ramin and the United Nations World Food Programme began food distributions in Kabul on Sunday, March 9 to qualifying households in District 12.

The food distribution is in response to a joint appeal from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan requesting additional food assistance due to increased food prices. During the past twelve months, wheat flour has seen an average price increase of nearly 60 percent and prices for vegetable oil have increased over 40 percent. This has caused considerable hardship for Afghans dependent on low labor wages – the resources will provide a temporary safety net for vulnerable households with low purchasing power.

The appeal called for 89,000 tons of assorted commodities worth \$77 million to benefit 2.55 million people nationwide. The United States Government provided a rapid response to the food aid appeal with roughly 30,000 tons of wheat worth \$20 million that are being distributed in Kabul, Faizabad, Mazar, Kandahar, and Jalalabad.

The recent appeal is in addition to the 180,000 tons of food that the United Nations World Food Programme planned to deliver this year to 3.7 million people recovering from natural disasters and civil unrest. In the upcoming months, urban and rural households around the country will receive commodities such as wheat, vegetable oil, and salt through the World Food Programme's relief and recovery operations.

###