Afghanistan Programming Body
The first meeting of the Afghanistan Programming Body (APB) took place on Tuesday 10 November, under Japanese Chairmanship. The meeting began with an update on the current situation by the Head of UNSMA and the UN Coordinator. The draft constitution of the APB, allowing for minor modifications, was then approved, as were plans for the preparation of the 1999 Appeal. The strategy part of the Appeal will be prepared in time for the Tokyo meeting of the Afghan Support Group (7/8 December) together with a summary of financial requirements. The Appeal projects will be issued in mid-December.

The APB meeting ended with a briefing by the Japanese delegation on plans for the Tokyo ASG meeting.

Talks about the North
The UN is holding a meeting at 14.00 on 16 November to discuss northern Afghanistan. Representatives from UN agencies, ICRC, and NGOs are invited to come to discuss the current situation and review assistance activities.

For more information contact Eliane Duthoit, RCO for the Northern Region, at UNDP/UNOCHA.

Disappearing Wheat Stocks
The United Nations World Food Programme on 3 November delivered a strong protest to the Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, following confirmation that 1,500 tonnes of food aid has disappeared from WFP warehouses in Bamiyan and Yakawlang.

Also missing are three WFP pick-up trucks stored in WFP’s Bamiyan compound. A fourth truck was cannibalized for its parts. WFP also protested that its offices in Bamiyan and Yakawlang have been occupied by Talibin authorities.

The losses were confirmed following recent fighting in the area, during which the Taliban military forces took control of Bamiyan and Yakawlang in the Hazarajat region, west of Kabul.

BBC Afghan Education Projects
The Afghan Publishing House of the BBC Afghan Education Projects (AEP), with UNESCO’s financial support, has published three more illustrated story books for Afghan children based on folklore: “The Red Hen” highlights the importance and rewards of hard work; “Fire In The Jungle” tells about how to overcome a difficult situation by making firm decisions and “The Pigeon and The Crow” demonstrates how peace, tolerance and the avoidance of conflict wins trust and enables people to trust and coexist.

The stories are simple but convincing and have clear messages. The books, published in Dari and Pashto, can be obtained from the BBC Afghan Education Projects, in Peshawar.
**Assistance Update**

**Central Highland**
WFP field staff have begun monitoring food supplies in Jaghori and Malistan districts of Ghazni.

**Central Region**
A joint UNICEF/RRD mission visited water supply projects, implemented by the RRD in Logar Province.

The piped water supply system of Maidan Shar was completed and handed over to the community last week. The project was implemented by the community and the Rural Rehabilitation Department, with support from UNICEF.

Education, income generation and cultural programmes continued in UNCHS Community Fora in Kabul city. Water, sanitation, building recycling, and construction projects are ongoing.

WFP Kabul released 700 tonnes of wheat for food-for-work, bakery and repatriation projects in Kabul and Logar.

UNHCR Kabul awarded a shelter project for 40 families who have recently returned to their place of origin in Khak-e-Jabar.

FAO Crops monitored biological control of Woolly Apple Aphid in Kabul. The method has proved to be useful so far.

WHO provided supplies to clinics and hospitals in the Central Region.

**Eastern Region**
UNICEF provided education supplies for home-based girls’ schools in Qarghai district of Laghman, and handpumps with accessories to Kunar. The construction of 1,000 latrines, with support from UNICEF, was completed in Nangrahar last week.

**Northern Region**
Following discussions with the earthquake relief coordinating group, WFP is distributing wheat for shelter rehabilitation projects in the region.

**Southern Region**
FAO Crops monitored district and community trainers, farmer field schools activities and integrated protection and production implementation programmes in fruit growing districts of Paktia, Paktika, Ghazni and Kabul provinces.

WFP completed two food-for-work projects for malaria control and the restoration of electricity, and released food for repatriation and shelter projects in Kandahar, Uruzgan and Helmand provinces.

**Western Region**
WFP Herat monitored health and flood protection projects, and released 115 tonnes of wheat for institutional feeding, street children, and IDPs in Herat.

The sub-office is calling forward 1,800 tonnes of wheat from Kazakhstan through the northern supply pipeline. This is expected to arrive by the end of December. In the meantime, WFP is dispatching 400 tonnes of wheat from Termez buffer stocks, expected to reach Herat by late next week.

FAO Crops carried out early winter sunn pest survey in Golran, Kushk and Kushk-e-Kuhna districts of Herat.

Transportation of wheat from Ishkashim to Faizabad, as part of winter pre-positioning measure, continues.

WHO completed renovation of the TB department of Herat regional hospital, and trained 20 people as TBAs in two districts.
FAO Livestock has started the construction work of veterinary field units in Zindajan district of Herat.

UNICEF provided fuel and drugs to enhance the current activities of the malnutrition ward of the Herat hospital. Fuel was provided to oral rehydration corners in different clinics for EPI, and to paediatric wards. Winter clothes have been provided to people living in three emergency shelters.