

Mr. Ernest J. Barbour, RD

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Requirements for the Establishment of the Socio-Economic Research Unit within HAVA: Meeting the Conditions Precedent of the Helmand Project Agreement

The three elements in the establishment of the Socio-Economic Research Unit within HAVA are: An official letter written by the President (Acting) of HAVA establishing the unit as an element within HAVA; Personnel assigned on a permanent basis to work within the unit; and adequate budget to carry out the proposed activities. The details outlined below represent the conclusions reached in joint discussions among myself, Frydoon Shairay of DP and Ghulam Farouq of the Statistics and Planning Office (P&S) HAVA.

1. The letter requirement noted above is fairly clear. It is a bureaucratic procedure and requirement that sanctions an activity within HAVA and locates the responsibility to accomplish it. For example, this was done before any activity was possible within HAVA in the accomplishment of the FES.
2. The personnel requirement is clearly defined. In the proposal for the unit, it was agreed that 6 people would be required to accomplish the goals. Since the field requirements of the unit are likely to be a bit slow in starting in Phase II, half that number should be required in place to meet the condition. These three should, however, be over and above the P&S normal personnel level and specifically assigned to carry out the Research Unit's activities as a full-time assignment.
3. The budget requirement could result in a problem. At present P&S has a budget for its usual activities, part of which can be diverted in the project's initial stages to accomplish the Research Unit's activities. This may be possible during the first 3-6 months of the project. But to meet the CP, the budget needed amounts to about af\$ 500,000 per year according to Mr. Farouq's estimate. Again, the first year requirements may not be so great if the project (probably) gets a slow start. The amount includes items like fuel for vehicles required for the field work, per diem, etc.

The above summarizes the CP requirements that should be presented to the government relative to the establishment of the Socio-Economic Research Unit within HAVA. From the USAID side, one element could help in the early stages of the activity. New vehicles for the unit are part of the equipment package for the project

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and while P&S has at present one Russian jeep and perhaps 4 motorcycles assigned to it, there will be a need for more transport if the required field work is to be accomplished in a timely manner during the early stages of Phase II. When the request for a grant of two used vehicles (as they become available) from the USAID motor pool comes through, (if understand the request is in process) it should receive support. But the vehicles should be specially granted for assignment to P&S to eliminate the chance of them being diverted to other NAVA units and activities.

During the period of my TDY absence to Nepal, any further discussion on the Research Unit and its support should include Frydson Shairway of DP.

cc:

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