Project Summary

Project Background
Some 89 percent of the rural population of Afghanistan have no access to modern sources of energy and are heavily dependent on inefficient use of fossil fuels. Electrification of the major cities has improved while rural electrification continues to be hampered due to lacking awareness of decision makers and planners, poor quality in implementation and insufficient capacities on management, operation and maintenance. The programme has three components:
1. Energy for rural development,
2. Energy planning at the provincial level, and
3. Energy policy advisory services at national level.
INTEGRATION has implemented component 1 and contributed to component 2 and component 3 through advisory services and expertise.

Project Objectives
The objective of the project was the successful implementation of quality rural electrification through mini hydro power and to induce rural development by the promotion of productive uses. Furthermore to establish sustainable management, operation and maintenance model development. The experiences gained shall be utilized in planning on provincial level and for policy advice on national level.

Project Activities
Four mini hydropower schemes ranging from 112 to 450 kW have been implemented utilizing mainly local workforce and supply electric power for 45,000 Afghans, 110 public or social intuitions and 450 businesses in rural centers. A lease contracted based management, operation and maintenance model has been developed and introduced, five lease contracts for hydro power stations have been made and 30 staff members of operation crews have been technically trained. A gender balanced approach for the promotion efficient and safe electricity use has been developed and 1,500 household heads been trained. Through the promotion of productive uses 150 businesses connected to the grid received technical support and advice as well as business trainings and further consultancy.

Implementation Features
A new planning approach for rural electrification, the Provincial Electrification Concepts as well as a conflict sensitive planning and implementation approach has been developed. A representative socio-economic monitoring considering gender and conflict aspects and integrating technical and financial monitoring data as well has been conducted over four years. By 2012 the project won the prestigious ‘Ashden Award for Sustainable Energy’ for its innovative implementation approaches and the promotion of ‘Productive Use of Renewable Energies’ (PURE).

Services Provided
• Construction supervision of four hydropower plants and electrification of 45,000 domestic beneficiaries, 450 business and 110 public users
• Development and introduction of a lease contract based management, operation & maintenance model
• Training for 30 technical staff of the operating crews
• Consultancy and technical support for 150 productive user
• Socio-economic monitoring including technical and financial aspects
• Project management and administration