Community Information Services by Police Mardumi (PeM)

Mazar-e Sharif, Balkh, 11th May 2017 – Two days ago, the German programme for promoting the rule of law (RoL) distributed stationery as well as 1,200 notebooks and 400 pens to 400 students equally divided between Ustad Wejdan Male High School and Yulmarab Female High School in Mazar-e Sharif. About 100 schools in Balkh will benefit from similar activities.

In 2016, RoL and the Ministry of Interior Affairs’ Police Mardumi (PeM) Department jointly printed and distributed similar notebooks to thousands of school students in Balkh province. The notebooks offer information about the police’s responsibilities, competences and how to properly cooperate. In addition, they contain important facts, such as the phone number for emergency calls (119). These activities contribute to deepening knowledge about police activities amongst the population.

“I want to thank the Afghan-German Cooperation and Balkh PeM that they provided stationery for the students – and that they are present. Fortunately, students are well informed about the police emergency call centre and services that can be provided by it”, the Manager of Yulmarab Female High School, Ms Seema Safa Sadat, said.

“Police forces come from society and serve our society. But most people do not know the exact duties, responsibilities and authorities of our police. We are happy that police introduce themselves to students to ensure security and to build trust between the public and the police”, the Manager of Ustad Wejdan Male High School, Mr Abdul Hadi, added.

Therefore, RoL and PeM will provide similar material to schools in the Afghanistan provinces Samangan, Baghlan, and Jawzjan.

Community policing is an important component of the RoL programme, cooperating with the northern Afghanistan provinces’ Police Mardumi Offices. So far, it has established ten Community Consultation Committees; five in Mazar-e Sharif and five in other districts of Balkh province (Balkh, Dehdadi, Nahre-e-Shahi, Khulm and DawlatAbad). Each committee has six female and twelve male members. They consist of mullahs, community elders, school teachers and other socially influential persons. At their monthly meetings, they discuss local security concerns and share these with the police face to face to find solutions.

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Afghan-German Cooperation has been working together with the Afghan government to promote the rule of law in Afghanistan. Since 2003, the project Promotion of the Rule of Law (RoL) has been supporting the Afghan Ministry of Justice in its efforts to ensure access to justice for all citizens. This is achieved by supporting better access to justice as well as improving the professional capacity of justice sector staff. At the same time, legal awareness of citizens is strengthened.