



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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Germany Builds New Facilities for District Development Assemblies in Northern Afghanistan

Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar, 2nd February 2018 – During the last months, the Afghan-German Cooperation built 13 new administrative buildings and three conference rooms for District Development Assemblies (DDAs) in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar. About 480 DDA members now benefit from an improved work environment. The German Stabilisation Programme Northern Afghanistan SPNA financed the new facilities' construction at a total cost of about AFN 18.6 million.

The head of the DDA of Kalafghan district in Takhar, Mr Atiqullah Fayez, explained, 'We had no specific place to arrange our meetings in the past. Sometimes, we even had to hold our meetings at our homes.' The deputy head of Warsaj district's DDA, also located in Takhar, added, 'Now we finally have an office where we can conduct our meetings regularly and host assemblies in a pleasant manner.'

Each office building offers space for about 30 DDA members. The improved work environment ensures that the DDAs are able to provide services adequately in their respective communities. Most facilities consist of one or two administrative rooms, a meeting room, a corridor, a bathroom, and a terrace.

DDAs represent their district's interests and cooperate with district administration centres and line departments. They take part in decision-making processes on development priorities and activities, contributing to each districts annual strategy, so called "District Development Plans".

The German Stabilisation Programme Northern Afghanistan has been supporting district development in Northern Afghanistan since 2010. So far, it offered job-specific training for about 18,000 Development Council members.

The KfW Development Bank implements the Stabilisation Programme Northern Afghanistan (SPNA) on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office (AA). The programme aims at strengthening local governance structures in Northern Afghanistan and improving the rural population's living conditions. Thus, the programme supports various infrastructure activities and capacity development. So far, SPNA has already completed 377 projects in over 50 districts of Badakhshan, Kunduz, Takhar, and Baghlan including the construction, rehabilitation or extension of 260 primary & secondary schools, 37 roads and bridges and 16 irrigation canals. At the same time, the project offered job-specific training for more than 18,000 development council members. The programme's total budget amounts to more than AFN 7 billion for the period from 2010 to 2018.