



## German Cooperation with Afghanistan

### +++ Press Release +++

#### Reliable Electricity for 14,000 Takhar Citizens

**Hazar Sumuch, Takhar, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019** – Yesterday, the ground-breaking ceremony for electrifying the villages of Hazar Sumuch and Kunjak took place. Government officials and representatives of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) and the Afghan-German Cooperation attended the event. Both villages are located in Hazar Sumuch District, Takhar Province. About 14,000 locals will soon benefit from a reliable energy supply. DABS will implement the project, supported by the German Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). The Afghan-German Cooperation funds the construction works at a total cost about AFN 124 million.

Takhar's newly appointed governor, Mr Abdul Haq Shafaq, emphasised, 'I am very pleased to be part of this important ceremony on the very first day of my assignment to the province. We are so thankful to the German government and its people for their longstanding assistance and cooperation in the development of our country.'

Many villages in Afghanistan still lack access to an affordable and reliable electricity supply. Citizens therefore often use small diesel generators to generate energy. These are not only expensive to operate but they are also a major source of environmental pollution. In Hazar Sumuch and Kunjak, these problems will be gone once construction works are finished. Five transformer substations and a distribution system will then provide reliable energy to more than 1,600 households and other customers.

The governor of Hazar Sumuch district, Mr Abdul Basir Beik, commented, 'This project is vital for our people, because it will bring lighting and a bright future for the people of our district.'

Not only households will benefit from the network. Public buildings, including schools, mosques and governmental institutions will also be connected to the mains supply. The energy supply shall stimulate economic production in the area, too, as electrical tools and machinery will be usable. Construction works are estimated to last for 14 months and will provide job opportunities for locals. Takhar's Provincial Development Committee (PDC) confirmed the project is based on development priorities it set for the province.

Throughout the project's implementation, RIDF will offer on-the-job training, coaching and mentoring sessions for engineers and managers working at Takhar's DABS. These activities aim to strengthen DABS' capacities for identifying, managing and implementing similar projects independently in the future.

*The Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) is being implemented by KfW Development Bank on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The programme aims at improving economic and social infrastructure in Northern Afghanistan while enabling provincial administrations to plan and implement development programmes independently. In the past 7 years the programme has funded and constructed/rehabilitated more than 160 kilometres of roads, 50 kilometres of irrigation canals and 11 protection dams against flooding or erosion in the provinces Balkh, Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan and is now implementing two school rehabilitation projects also in Samangan. At the same time, the programme has organised about 900 job-specific on-the-job trainings, coaching and seminars for more than 3,000 engineers and governmental employees facilitating the independent realisation of future infrastructure projects.*