



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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New Health Clinic Building in Kunduz To Benefit 120,000 People

Qala-e Zal District, Kunduz, 27th July 2020 – On Thursday, the Afghan-German Cooperation handed over a new building as part of the Aqtapa Health Clinic to Kunduz Province's Department of Public Health. The new Central Health Clinic and Emergency Obstetric Care Clinic located in the area of Aqtapa will provide health services to around 120,000 people in all 64 villages of Qala-e Zal District. The Department of Public Health provided the land for the construction of the building and will be responsible for its maintenance in future. In this way, it hopes to build the level of trust in government institutions. The Afghan-German Cooperation's Stabilisation Programme Northern Afghanistan (SPNA) financed the construction work at a total cost of about AFN 26.2 million.

Mr Hashmatullah Rahimi Arzbigi, Kunduz Deputy and current Acting Governor said, 'Through the SPNA programme, many valuable projects have been implemented that will contribute to strengthening the education system and providing health services in Kunduz province. This clinic was in the Kunduz development plan and was considered a priority for Qala-e Zal.'

In the past, accessing adequate health services in the area was a challenge. Patients in Aqtapa, Qala-e Zal District faced security risks in travelling the longer distance to Kunduz City to access quality health care. This took time and was costly in terms of arranging unreliable transportation and overnight stays. The old clinic building, built in 1980, was demolished in conflict and was no longer in use. The Qala-e Zal District Development Assembly (DDA) and the Department of Public Health proposed this project in 2016 and construction started in 2017.

Mr Ali Khan Ahmadzai from the Kunduz Department of Economy said, 'Construction of this clinic really has much importance in providing health services to the people of Qala-e Zal District. It also has economic benefits. Patients will no longer have to travel to Kunduz City for health care and more staff will be taken on due to the clinic's expansion. The Department of Economy feels very happy about the implementation of this project and believes the SPNA programme played a positive role in the construction and rehabilitation of local communities.'

The Aqtapa Central Health Clinic and Emergency Obstetric Care Clinic was SPNA's last project. The new building has 21 rooms, including emergency obstetric rooms, diagnostic rooms, delivery rooms, and a female staff bedroom. The clinic has all the necessary equipment such as hospital beds, delivery beds, staff beds, stretchers and operation lights. It meets all the modern hygiene and health clinic standards needed to provide appropriate health service. The higher quality equipment ensures staff can work in a safe environment, improves staff satisfaction, and ultimately benefits the level of health care quality for the community.

The KfW Development Bank financed the Stabilisation Programme Northern Afghanistan (SPNA) on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office (AA). The programme aimed at strengthening local governance structures in Northern Afghanistan and improving the rural population's living conditions. Thus, the programme supported various infrastructure activities and capacity development. SPNA financed almost 430 projects in over 50 districts of Badakhshan, Kunduz, Takhar, and Baghlan including the construction, rehabilitation or extension of over 280 schools and other educational facilities, 39 roads and bridges and 16 irrigation canals. At the same time, the project trained roughly 18,000 development council members in project selection and monitoring. The programme's total budget was more than AFN 7 billion. SPNA was implemented between 2010 and 2019 and is now concluded.