



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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14,000 Takhar Citizens Enjoy Reliable Electricity Supply

Hazar Sumuch, Takhar, 11th November 2020 – Yesterday, the operation of an extended power line and a newly constructed energy network in Hazar Sumuch District was initiated. The Takhar Provincial Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) director Mr Habibullah Poya, Takhar government officials, and representatives from the Afghan-German Cooperation took part in the inauguration. About 14,000 people directly benefit from the reliable electricity supply in the villages Hazar Sumuch and Kunjak. The construction works lasted 15 months. DABS implemented the project with close support of the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). The Afghan-German Cooperation financed the project with a total amount of AFN 124 million.

Mr Abdullah Qarluq, Takhar's provincial governor said, 'Today I am very pleased to be part of this important event. I ask that the residents and local authorities now focus their attention on the operation and maintenance of the newly built and first transmission and distribution network project in Hazar Sumuch.'

In the past, the people of Hazar Sumuch and Kunjak villages had no access to electricity. Those villagers who could afford the financial burden used small diesel generators for lighting and other purposes. This was a major cause of environmental pollution in the area. In addition, such generators are costly to operate and maintain. Due to the urgent need and demand for reliable electricity, the Takhar Provincial Development Committee (PDC) initiated this project.

Mr Habibullah Poya said, 'With the execution of this project, traditional lamps are no longer needed as households now have light. This will improve the living conditions of the residents in the area.'

Now, citizens enjoy access to reliable energy in households, schools, markets and businesses. The new power supply also stimulates economic development as electrical tools and machinery are usable now. During the construction period, about 50 locals received jobs each day.

For supplying the villages with affordable electricity, seven transformer substations with a combined capacity of 1,100 kilo-volt-ampere were installed. The distribution system includes 14 kilometres of 20 KV transmission line and about 18.5 kilometres of distribution network. The new network currently provides connections to about 1,700 households in Hazar Sumuch and Kunjak and has the capacity to connect additional households in the future.

During the project implementation, RIDF offered on-the-job training, coaching and workshops for engineers and managers working at Takhar's DABS. These activities aimed to strengthen the capacity of the department for identifying, managing and implementing similar projects independently in the future. The local DABS department is responsible for operating and maintaining the newly built electrical networks.

The KfW Development Bank implements the programme Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). RIDF aims to improve the living conditions in northern Afghanistan by providing basic infrastructure and empowering administration and citizen groups to plan, implement and operate infrastructure projects. Infrastructure measures include the construction of roads, irrigation canals, flood protection walls, and schools as well as the development of the power grid. Since 2010 the programme has funded, constructed and rehabilitated more than 270 km of roads, 98 km of irrigation canals and 15 flood protection dams. Furthermore, the programme has constructed 29 school buildings and connected 5,750 households to the power grid. So far, 5,500 government employees have taken part in RIDF training courses that aim to train provincial government personnel. This will enable Afghan institutions to implement projects like these independently in the future.