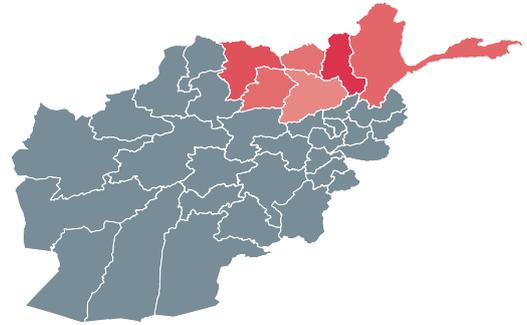


German Cooperation with Afghanistan

Planning and Implementing Development Measures Transparently



Context

There is enormous demand in Afghanistan for roads, bridges, irrigation systems, clean drinking water, flood protection, energy supplies and education, with most Afghans in the country's north having only limited access to basic infrastructure and state services. Reform of the public sector therefore plays a central role in the Afghan Government's National Priority Programme (NPP).

Transparent and participatory decision-making processes are an especially important factor, while staff at the provincial administrations require greater expertise in the planning and implementation of basic infrastructure projects. Appropriate organisational structures must also be in place if these projects are to be successful.

Objective

The provincial administrations responsible for infrastructure in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Kunduz, Samangan and Takhar are in a position to plan and implement development projects

Overview	
Programme	Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partner	Afghan Ministry of Finance (MoF)
Implementing organisation	KfW
Provinces	Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Kunduz, Samangan, Takhar
Programme objective	Improve economic and social infrastructure and support local administrative and state bodies in planning and implementing projects

and maintain infrastructure independently. They act under their own responsibility and in accordance with the local population's needs.

Measures and Results

Since 2010, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has been financing the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), which is managed by KfW. Infrastructure measures are exclusively carried out under the leadership of the responsible Afghan provincial authorities. The funds are therefore not only improving the quality of life of the local population but also building confidence in state institutions. Efficient, legitimate and citizen-oriented state structures are becoming established at sub-national level in the provinces and districts.

Improving infrastructure

Roads:

Around 40 kilometres of asphalt roads have been constructed in the provinces of Balkh, Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan and 120 kilometres of gravel roads have been constructed or rehabilitated in the provinces of Balkh, Takhar and Badakhshan. As a result, citizens living in the districts of Balkh, Charkent, Darayim,



Dawlatabad, Kesendeh, Marmul, Haszar Sumech and Taloqan and in the cities of Kunduz and Feyzabad now have year-round access to transport routes. The construction of 85 kilometres of additional roads is planned, along with further measures to rehabilitate existing roads.



RIDF finances various construction projects in Afghanistan | © GIZ

Flood protection barrier

In Taloqan, the capital of Takhar province, five kilometres of flood barriers have been built on both sides of the river to protect the city from annual floods. A barrier measuring 1.25 kilometres in length is now in place in Baghlan Province to prevent the flooding of over 300 hectares of farmland. A new flood defence system for the city of Feyzabad in the province of Badakhshan is currently under construction.



Irrigation channels

Local farmers in the provinces of Badakhshan, Takhar and Baghlan have been able to increase their yields thanks to over 48 kilometres of newly built or reconstructed irrigation channels. These channels have allowed an area of 11,300 hectares to be farmed which previously lay fallow. A further six-kilometre channel has been completed in the district of Yawan in Badakhshan province, providing irrigation for 500 hectares of farmland.

Electricity supply network

Three projects to extend the electricity supply network are under way in Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar provinces. These projects, which are currently being implemented, will provide around 60,000 people with improved access to power. The positive impacts of this development on economic growth are significant.

Schools

ten schools for girls and boys are under construction in the districts of Tagab, Kishem, Teshkan, Darayim, Argo, Feyzabad, Yaftal and Shahr-e Buzurg in Badakhshan province. The construction of 16 further schools in the provinces of Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan and Balkh is planned.



A new school in the north-eastern province Badakhshan, financed by RIDF | © KfW

Capacity development

In addition to infrastructure measures, the programme focuses on developing the capacities of government officials in the northern provinces. To date, more than 500 engineers from various departments of the Ministry of Energy and Water, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the building authorities have participated in over 300 training events, including coaching and training in the workplace, looking at specific technical, sectoral, organisational and management issues. One such specialist course provided engineers with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of surveying. The training puts staff members in a better position to judge the feasibility of government infrastructure projects.

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