



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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1 Million Residents in Balkh Benefit from Improved Registration Services

Mazar-e Sharif, Balkh, 22nd November 2017 - Today, Balkh's Population Registration Department (PRD) celebrated the inauguration of its renovated administrative building and the conclusion of its capacity development and digitisation project. 75 PRD employees will now enjoy working in a better registration office and applying their new skills making registration services in Balkh more effective. This will benefit one million residents in Balkh. The Afghan-German Cooperation's programme for Regional Capacity Development (RCD) supported this project at a total cost of about AFN 3.8 million.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Head of Balkh's PRD, Mr Mohibullah Quraishy, emphasised: "The realisation of this capacity development project enables us to deliver better services for people living in Balkh. I want to thank Germany for the support". Dr Robert Klinke, the German Consul General to Afghanistan, said: "This is an excellent success story of the Afghan-German partnership for addressing substantial needs and implementing projects."

The PRD in Balkh delivers basic services to citizens, such as issuances, validation and renewal of identity cards (Taskira), birth and death certificates and registration of foreign nationals. It processes more than 700 service requests every day. In the past, the PRD faced problems in performing these tasks and delivering services dedicated to the local population. Facilities were inadequate, and equipment was unsuitable or missing, resulting in inefficient registration services.

Thus, the Afghan-German Cooperation provided equipment and set up a digital database. To ensure correct use of these, the Afghan-German Cooperation supported workshops and coaching for the PRD's employees. Registration law, general guidelines on how to issue identity documents, the use of the digital database as an archive, and the Afghan administration's code of conduct were only some topics that were discussed in the seminars.

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Customers now can also learn in advance the paperwork they need to prepare and bring to the PRD as well as the procedure that will be applied to their case: Now, all necessary information is published on public boards.

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit implements the Regional Capacity Development (RCD) programme since 2010. RCD aims at enabling Afghan provincial and district administrations to carry out administrative tasks independently and to provide public services adequately. Thus, so far, RCD has organised more than 730 professional or job-specific training courses for almost 39,000 public servants, government employees and provincial council members. To increase the population's trust in local administration bodies, the project has also organised 345 public awareness events on local government activities that benefitted an approximate 50,000 citizens.