Police-E-Mardumi Conference in Kunduz: Building Trust between Police and Communities

Kunduz City, Kunduz, 25th May 2017 – Yesterday, a Police-e-Mardumi (PeM) community policing conference took place in the police headquarter in Kunduz. High-level government and police representatives as well as about 280 female and male citizens attended the event. The Afghan-German Cooperation’s programme for the promotion of the rule of law in Afghanistan (RoL) and the Kunduz police headquarter jointly organised the event.

Mr Abdul Qudous Khamosh, Head of PeM unit, explained at the beginning of the conference: “Today, the citizens of Kunduz can pose questions to officials of security, counter-narcotics and criminal departments, raise complaints and make suggestions.”

Topics open for discussion were: community policing and security concerns in Kunduz province. After a few speeches held by attending officials, the citizens, university lecturers, Islamic scholars, etc. had the opportunity to discuss police activities and question police representatives. The participants raised questions on drug trafficking, road closures and the general security situation. Regular dialogue meetings shall increase trust between police authorities and local communities as a response to perceived uncertainty.

Mr Abdul Hamid Hamidi, Head of Kunduz' police headquarter, emphasised: “Security has been given top priority by the police; it is of utmost importance for our people. We deserve to live in a safe environment and enjoy our lives. Unfortunately we are facing many challenges in this regard. You can be assured however that we will do our best to improve the security situation.”

Since 2011, community policing is an important component of the RoL programme, cooperating with the Police-e-Mardumi Offices in Afghanistan’s northern provinces. Besides provincial community policing conferences, the project organises consultation meetings, information campaigns at schools as well as police trainings. The Police-e-Mardumi conference directly responds to citizen’s increased security concerns in connection to the on-going conflicts in Kunduz province.

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Afghan-German Cooperation has been working together with the Afghan government to promote the rule of law in Afghanistan. Since 2003, the project Promotion of the Rule of Law (RoL) has been supporting the Afghan Ministry of Justice in its efforts to ensure access to justice for all citizens. This is achieved by supporting better access to justice as well as improving the professional capacity of justice sector staff. At the same time, legal awareness of citizens is strengthened. The project also works with the Ministry of Interior and its Police-e-Mardumi Directorate as well as the provincial units to strengthen the trust between police and citizens.