

## German Cooperation with Afghanistan

# Emulating a Model of Success



### Context

Never before in Afghanistan's history have so many children and young people attended school. However, the quality of the schools and lessons often remains inadequate. There is a particular need for development in general education and vocational subjects, as well as in foreign languages and school management. The teaching staff is often insufficiently trained, and teaching times are too short. Moreover, school buildings and modern teaching materials are lacking.

In order to continuously improve the education of Afghan children and young people, the German government is supporting three schools in Kabul to become model schools for the entire country: Amani High School for boys, Aisha-e-Durani School for girls and the Lycée Jamhuriat, a secondary business school for girls.

### Objective

The three schools supported by Germany offer high-quality lessons and serve as a model for other schools in Afghanistan. The schools are integrated into an institutional framework. This ensures that the improvements last and that they are continued under Afghan ownership. The strengthened Afghan educational institutions offer pupils qualified schooling. This gives children and young people good prospects for the future. This is the basis for peace and stability. Improvements that are felt quickly, if possible, are pursued.



**5,500** schoolchildren are benefiting from the improvements at their schools

Overview	
Programme	Strengthening German-Supported Schools in Kabul
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office
Partners	Afghan Ministry of Education
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Provinces	Kabul
Programme objective	To support three schools in Kabul to become model schools for the entire country. To ensure lasting improvements are made in schools, lessons and school management, and that these improvements are continued under Afghan ownership

### Measures and Results

The Afghan government's National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) provides the basis to establish model schools where particularly high-performing schoolchildren can be taught. These schools will also serve as orientation for the development of Afghan schools in other provinces of the country. The aim is to improve public education in Afghanistan as a whole.

Since 2014, on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been supporting measures to turn Amani High School, Aisha-e-Durani School and the Lycée Jamhuriat in Kabul into model schools. In all, some 5,500 boys and girls are benefiting from the programme at the three schools.

The approach combines institutional advice and organisational development, support in improving school infrastructure and curricula, and training for teaching staff. The measures focus on four areas:

### Improving school management

An important part of the support for the schools involves training administrative staff at the schools. In addition, the head teachers receive training in areas of school management and development, and on the digitalisation of work processes. Three head teachers and around 40 administrative staff have received training so far.

### Higher quality teaching

The three schools want to be role models, particularly in the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). To this end, they are acquiring new laboratories and laboratory materials, textbooks and computers with software and internet connections.

To ensure that other children can benefit from high-quality education too, the model schools are to serve as role models for the rest of Afghanistan. It is hoped that cooperation with UNESCO Afghanistan can be established for this purpose.

School teaching is being changed to provide classes year-round. Canteens have been set up, while new heating systems ensure the classrooms are warm enough even in winter so that the schools can stay open for the whole year. In addition, extra-curricular activities such as art and music have been introduced. These lessons encourage the children to be creative and enhance their school achievements.

All three schools accept children who have completed their primary education and have performed particularly well. The selection procedure is based on international standards.

### Training for teaching staff

One of the most important factors for a successful school are motivated, well-qualified teachers who are able to deliver interesting lessons. This motivates schoolchildren to participate actively in lessons. The project reaches around 140 teachers, who are taking further training courses in mathematics, natural sciences and IT. Teachers of German and English as foreign languages are also receiving support. At the beginning of the programme, 240 teaching staff received training in didactics, education and non-violent education. German has been established as the first foreign language in the curriculum of the three model schools, and English is offered as a second foreign language.



**140** teaching staff have received training in mathematics, natural sciences, IT, German and English

### Modernising infrastructure

In 2016, sports halls were built at the two girls' schools, Aisha-e-Durani and Lycée Jamhuriat, so that the schoolgirls could also benefit from good sports lessons. In addition, the programme is providing funding the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and carrying out repairs.

July 2019

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#### Published by:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

www.giz.de

www.gc-afg.de

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