Kunduz department of community policing gets new office and library facilities from Germany and the Netherlands

In Kunduz city, Kunduz, the Afghan, German and Dutch Governments inaugurated new library, conference room and office facilities for the Department of Police-e-Mardumi (community policing). At a cost of AFN 2.31 million for equipment and furniture, the new space will be used by the department for training community police officers, meetings and for administrative purposes.

Kunduz city, Kunduz, 11th September 2014 – Today, Afghan and German government representatives officially inaugurated newly equipped facilities in the Police Headquarters (PHQ) Kunduz and the Community Policing, or Police-e-Mardumi Department in Kunduz City. The facilities and equipment are a large conference room for use in the PHQ and a smaller library/meeting room and office space. The equipment for the facilities cost AFN 2.31 million and was fully funded by the Dutch Government.

The large conference room is ready for use, now including adequate furniture and air-conditioning. The new Police-e-Mardumi library comes equipped with furniture and is stocked with more than 2,000 books for police officers and new recruits. They can now use the literature for their own learning purposes. The library also doubles up as space for courses and meetings. The community police officers of the PHQ Kunduz will be able to work and train in the new work facilities.

Community policing is a concept that was introduced to rebuild trust between the public and the police. The National Police Plan 1389 laid out a government strategy committed to establishing better relationships between the police and communities, by reshaping the police image and the way they operate. The aim is to show police as easily approachable protectors with a human face, able to fulfill their role of establishing relations with the public, protecting citizens against crime and violence, and working as a component of the criminal justice system.

By actively involving community stakeholders in the policing concept through public awareness programmes and regular exchanges, the Police-e-Mardumi model also requires additional training measures. Thus, a vital component of the process is to educate police, and run outreach programmes for the public, the media, policy makers, and civil society.

With the newly-equipped facilities in Kunduz for the PHQ and Department of Police-e-Mardumi, police in Kunduz now have a better base for educating long-standing police officers and new recruits and to fulfill their tasks.

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been working together with the Afghan Government to promote rule of law in Afghanistan. Since 2003, the project has been supporting the Ministry of Justice of Afghanistan in its efforts to ensure access to justice for all citizens. This is done through 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.

In 2008, the project started activities in Kunduz province. And in 2011, the Dutch Government started co-funding projects together with German Government in Kunduz.