



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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River bank flood protection handed over to River Basin Department in Taloqan

Afghan-German Cooperation finances construction that will benefit up to 77,000 people. Flood barrier offers protection to lives and property on both banks of Taloqan River as well as irrigation for approximately 600 hectares of land through Mullah Gafoor Intake.

Taloqan, 8th March 2014 – Following completion of the Taloqan River Bank Flood Protection Project on 28th February 2014, today saw the official handover of the construction and its facilities to the Taloqan River Basin Department. The flood barrier offers protection on both sides of the Taloqan River, with protection facilities for 3.25 km of the right bank and 1.75 km of river bank passing through Taloqan city. Appointed as a priority project by the Takhar Provincial Development Committee, the barrier will benefit up to 77,000 people on both sides of the river. Mr. Abdul Latif Ibrahimy, governor of Takhar, H.E. Shudjauddin Ziayee, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Energy and Water attended the opening ceremony together with provincial and district officials, elders and media representatives.

The flood protection measures were financed by the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the KfW Entwicklungsbank. Led by the provincial governor, the Provincial Development Committee of Takhar selected this project as one of the priority development projects for Takhar.

The Flood Protection Project protects lives and properties, infrastructure, the Taloqan-Kunduz Bridge, markets, residential houses and drinking water supply pump stations. To complete the project, 40 hectares of land were reclaimed on both banks. The barrier can now supply a steady irrigation channel to approximately 600 hectares of farmland through the newly built Mullah Gafoor Intake, which also provides water to water mills and three small micro-hydro power plants. Immediately after completion of construction, land use patterns started changing in the area.

The RIDF is implemented by the German Government to promote public infrastructure, develop capacities in line department and strengthen sub-national government structures. Its objectives also include establishing decentralized decision making competence and enhancing the transparency and legitimacy of government structures at the provincial and district levels in the provinces of Balkh, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar. The programme is financed by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through KfW Entwicklungsbank.