



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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Zebak thanks Germany for its support in construction of new facilities for key line departments

To improve social services for population of 13,000 Zebak district, Badakhshan, construction of new administrative building begins. Funded by the Afghan-German Cooperation programme at a cost of AFN 27 million, the new facilities will house 56 civil servants from key government departments, including education, finance, agriculture and law.

Faizabad, Badakhshan, 22nd May 2014 – Today, the district of Zebak in Badakhshan province in northern Afghanistan celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony for a new administrative building in the capital, Zebak. Taking part in the opening ceremony, Mr. Abdul Rashid Ibrahim, District Specialist of Badakhshan Provincial Governance Office; Mr. Mir Ahmad Shah Zeghum, Zebak District Governor, and Mr. Ashor Mohammad, Head of District Development Assembly (DDA) in Zebak, expressed thanks for Germany's financial and technical support to help start and complete the construction project. The district dignitaries were joined by representatives and civil servants of Zebak District Government and Afghan-German Cooperation programme representatives.

The new two-storey administrative building will house the District Governor's Office and key governmental departments, including education department, the Department of Finance, agriculture line department, the district legal court, the rural development department, the municipal office, public registration department, the Department Law, prosecution offices and the Department of Communication. 56 civil servants of Zebak district will be able to work in the facilities, which include a conference hall, 15 offices, a kitchen and sanitary rooms with other necessary annexes. The real beneficiaries are the population of Zebak, as the district civil servants will be in a better position to address the basic needs of the people, leading to improvements in relations between the people and local government. Through supporting good governance and improving service delivery on the district level, completion of the project will contribute to strengthening the legitimacy of Zebak district government.

The decision for the construction of the building was made by the Badakhshan Development Committee (PDC). The Badakhshan Provincial Governance Office is responsible for implementation of the building project with support of the Regional Capacity Development Fund (RCDF), which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Located 100 km from Faizabad, the capital of Badakhshan, Zebak is one of 27 districts in the south-eastern part of Badakhshan Province and has a population of more than 13,000 (49% female and 51% male) living in 34 villages.

As part of the Afghan-German Cooperation programme, the RCDF is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The RCDF provides supports for its Afghan partners' development priorities both on a provincial and a district level in six of Afghanistan's Northern provinces. At the same time, the RCDF provides training and coaching programmes for civil servants. With its broad range of activities, the RCDF aims to increase Afghan ownership of the development process, strengthen Afghan state institutions on the sub-national level and promote transparency and inclusiveness.