Women in Development
Counselling, Training and Education in the Period from 2009 to 2017

- More than 27,000 women received vocational education and training
- Nearly 9,000 women have been alphabetised in the course of their training
- 68,000 female teaching staff members have been trained
- Around 7,000 women participated in legal trainings
- Since 2010, Afghan ministries and public institutions received support by 31 integrated and returning female experts
- More than 26,000 women received training in the agricultural field, including:
  - Poultry: 3,800
  - Dairy: 5,200
  - Vegetables: 5,000
  - Nuts: 2,700
Foreword by Programme Officer of the Afghan-German Cooperation’s Project for the Promotion of the Rule of Law in Afghanistan, Mrs Guljan Mozaffari

The Afghan law grants significant rights to female citizens. In this regard, considerable progress has been made during the past 16 years. However, old traditions are still prevalent in many parts of the country and often have detrimental effects on women’s rights.

As programme officer at the Afghan-German Cooperation’s project to promote the rule of law, I have the opportunity to contribute improving the situation for women in Afghanistan. The project promotes women’s access to justice via various activities such as legal awareness campaigns, dialogue and coordination meetings as well as support of centres for legal advice and family counselling. We also work with the Ministry of Justice and encourage it to consider gender-relevant aspects throughout all stages of the legislative process. Cooperating with the Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs to fight non-Islamic traditions negatively affecting women is another crucial pillar of our work.

Very early, I learned that women in Afghanistan face many difficulties in practicing their rights. I studied law in order to empower women and to help making my country a better place for all Afghans. For this reason, I am very proud that my work has a real impact on women’s rights and gender equality in Afghanistan.
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University Degrees Empowering Women

The Advancement of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mines’ Female Employees

"Thanks to the bachelor degree, I will qualify to perform tasks at senior level. I hope that my work will enable other Afghan women to make use of their full potentials."

Ms Wazhma Ghani – Employee at the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP) and student at Mashal University in Kabul
Facts & Figures

- The Afghan-German Cooperation’s programme to promote good governance in the extractive industry coordinates and funds short and long-term educational programmes for women.
- Currently, 14 women from the Afghan Ministry of Petroleum and Mines (MoMP) are enrolled in a four-year university programme.
- The bachelor programme seeks to support the MoMP in training female employees, empowering them to take on leading positions.
- The programme to promote good governance in the extractive industry in Afghanistan has been active since May 2013.

We dealt with cases of gender abuse and gender harassment at work from an administrative point of view. Thanks to my studies, I better understand legal implications of these actions which I now take into consideration as well.

Thanks to the bachelor degree, I will qualify to perform tasks at senior level. I hope that my work will enable other Afghan women to make use of their full potentials.
Students at the Centre of Lessons
Teacher Training

Since I attended the training course, I know how important it is to use the right tools during my maths lessons. The ruler helps my students a lot to understand metrics – their learning curve is much steeper now."

Moroch - Female maths teacher at the Lycée Jamhuriat in Kabul

Facts & Figures

- Maths teachers have received two trainings already, which lasted for more than three weeks. A third and final training course will be held later this year.
- The 20 participants are teachers at three schools in Kabul: Jamhuriat, Amani and Aisha-e-Durani.
- Other trainings are currently being held or planned for chemistry, biology, physics, IT as well as German and English teachers.
- The training courses are funded by the Afghan-German Cooperation via the programme to Strengthen German-supported Schools in Kabul (SGS).
- SGS has been active in Afghanistan since November 2014.
During the training, we learned a new method for additions. My colleagues in the lower classes told me that the children grasp the concept of additions more easily now.

Moroch - Female maths teacher at the Lycée Jamhuriat in Kabul

In this training, I learned new and modern ways of teaching which make it easier for the students to learn. This included the organisation of lessons, student-centred learning methods and blackboard management.

Moroch - Female maths teacher at the Lycée Jamhuriat in Kabul
An Experience Beyond Sales

Women Weekend Bazar in Kabul

“Usually, I work in this factory to produce footballs and volleyballs. However, I represented Muska at the women’s weekend bazaar in Kabul and sold our balls there. It was a great experience.

Ms Lameha Rezai – Employee at Muska Company

Facts & Figures

- In November 2016, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) organised a women weekend bazaar in Kabul, the first of its kind.
- The Afghan-German Cooperation’s programme for Sustainable Economic Development and Employment Promotion (SEDEP) provided technical and financial support.
- More than 36 women-led enterprises sold their products such as clothes, jewellery, agricultural products and handicrafts.
- SEDEP has been active in Afghanistan since January 2014.
“Our goal was to promote locally produced goods and to show people what women can achieve outside their homes. We succeeded.”

Ms Lameha Rezai – Employee at Muska Company

“I founded this company because I saw the great potential of women. It’s important for them to have a task apart from their household chores. Not only does it help to generate more income for the family. Having a job is also very fulfilling.”

Ms Aziza Mohmand – Owner of the Muska Company

“At the bazar, female entrepreneurs came together, exchanged ideas and shared their experiences. I observed a woman who sold potato crisps and offered free tastings. In doing so, she drew a lot of attention to her product. I think this is a good marketing strategy that we can somehow adapt for the Muska Company as well.”

Ms Lameha Rezai – Employee at Muska Company
Learning How to Manage Sewage Efficiently

Wastewater Not For Waste

In the training, I learned how to devise a plan for a wastewater treatment system. This allowed me and my colleagues to supervise the construction of such systems for this housing complex.

Eng. Hafiza Buniady – Expert at the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH)
The Afghan-German Cooperation’s Water Sector Improvement Programme (WSIP) has conducted two trainings on decentralised wastewater treatment systems.

In June 2014, six civil servants from the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH) attended training in Kabul. In September 2016, two engineers from MUDH and one from the Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation (AUWSSC) participated in a one-week training course.

In the trainings, participants learned about effective management of wastewater, various technologies for its treatment, project planning and how to design as well as implement decentralised sewerage systems.

WSIP has been active in Afghanistan since January 2014.

I participated in a training on decentralised wastewater treatment systems that was supported by the Afghan-German Cooperation. Based on what I learned in the training, I conducted a survey to make better use of the wastewater at the Khowaja Rawash housing complex in Kabul.

Eng. Hafiza Buniady – Expert at the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH)

At Khowaja Rawash, the trees are important because they protect residents from floods and landslides. Now, they are very dry and might die soon. Thanks to our newly devised plan which is currently being implemented, we will soon be able to water the trees throughout the entire year.

Eng. Hafiza Buniady – Expert at the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH)
A Profession Aspired by Both Women and Men

Renewable Energy Engineer

Facts & Figures

- The Vocational Training Centre (VTC) has three departments: electricity, renewable energies and water resources departments.
- 71 students have already graduated in renewable energies.
- Currently, 67 students are enrolled in the renewable energy programme, 13 of them are women.
- The Afghan-German Cooperation supports the VTC both financially and technically via the programme Institutional Development for Energy in Afghanistan (IDEA).
- IDEA has been active in Afghanistan since January 2015.
In the beginning, my family was sceptical about me pursuing a ‘male’ profession. When I told them about the structure of the course and the institute, they both agreed. Now, I want to show to our society that women are capable of working in so called ‘male’ professions.

My dream is to go back to my village as an engineer to build a turbine so that people get access to electricity. ut it also brought happiness to our neighbours.

Sakina - Female student at the Vocational Training Centre

Afghanistan doesn’t have enough female engineers. I chose to become an engineer in the field of renewable energies because we have great potential in this sector. In doing so, I can bring electricity to the people and support my country.”

The training centre provides a setting that makes Farzana feel at ease attending classes with male fellow students: “Teachers as well as male fellow students accept us and are very polite. We are like brothers and sisters.

Farzana - Female student at the Vocational Training Centre
Facts & Figures

- In Badakhshan, Shahr-e Bozorg district is one of the most affected by natural disasters.
- Shahr-e Bozorg is one of four pilot districts (Kofab, Khwahan and Shukai), where the German government funds activities to prevent natural disasters.
- In Shahr-e Bozorg district, 102 people received training on disaster management, including flood protection.
- The cost for the protection walls and check dams in the village Sang-Dara amounted to AFN 1.6 million (EUR 20,000).
- The protection wall, dams and the training were funded by the Afghan-German Cooperation via the programme to promote good governance in Afghanistan (RCD).
- RCD has been active in Afghanistan since July 2014.

Improving People’s Lives in Badakhshan

Flood Protection

My house was flushed away as well. We didn’t dare to rebuild it, due to recurring floods. Thanks to the flood protection we can build it up again.

Nioz Bibi – Female villager of Sang-Dar
In the flood protection training, we learned that we need to plant trees as they can protect us from the floods. This is why we planted trees in our village.

Thoza – Female villager of Sang-Dar

My daughter moved to Sirikutal village after her wedding. I went there and explained to the women that trees are useful tools for flood protection. They immediately started planting trees.

Fatima – Female villager of Sang-Dara

Our lives have changed a lot since the construction of the protection walls and check dams. Every spring, the village got flooded for about 3 months. We used to be afraid, especially during the nights, when the flooding started. The water flushed away my home and my friend lost her child due to the floods. Now, we’re not afraid anymore.

Nazigul – Female villager of Sang-Dar
Decades of armed conflict in Afghanistan have largely destroyed its people’s livelihoods. One of the world’s poorest nations, Afghanistan is a priority country for German development cooperation. The international community supports civil reconstruction in Afghanistan since the Taliban regime fell in 2001. German activities mainly focus on the provinces Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Kunduz, Samangan and Takhar and the capital Kabul.

The German Cooperation supports the Afghan state in respecting, protecting and guaranteeing human rights, providing security, and being recognised by its citizens as their legitimate representative and service provider, meeting their basic needs. The future Afghan state will afford its citizen’s legal security and give them prospects for the future, and provide opportunities for them to engage in political life and to play a part in shaping the country’s economic life and politics. Germany supports Afghanistan to fight poverty and to improve governance as well as the economic situation, to build a basis for sustainable stability and safety.

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Cooperation with Afghanistan is committed to five core topics. These are good governance (rule of law, political participation and public administration), sustainable economic development, energy, drinking water supply and sewage disposal, as well as education and vocational training. Furthermore, the German Federal Foreign Office (AA) supervises projects focussing on humanitarian aid and stability in Afghanistan.

Around a total of 1,540 employees, including almost 110 German and international experts, are working for Afghanistan (as of July 2017) for the implementing organisations KfW Development Bank as well as the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, commissioned by the German Federal Government.

Information about the various projects, financial expenditure and results is available on the website for the German Cooperation with Afghanistan: [www.germancooperation-afghanistan.de](http://www.germancooperation-afghanistan.de).
German Cooperation with Afghanistan and Gender

Gender equality is an essential condition for human-rights-based, economically and environmentally sustainable and socially just development. It is an objective in itself and a mandatory guiding principle of international and national (development) policy and cooperation. To achieve positive and sustainable results, it is particularly important to actively promote the achievement of gender equality and women’s rights.

Therefore, the Afghan-German Cooperation promotes gender equality in all six priorities: good governance, sustainable economic development, energy, water, education and humanitarian aid.

When it comes to capacity development support of individuals or political institutions on a provincial or national level, the Afghan-German Cooperation works closely with many Afghan partners, for instance, the Department of Women Affairs, the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission, the Department of Education and the Ministry of Justice. This results in multiple gender-specific activities such as constructing Women Training Centers and girls’ schools, training female teachers, coaching of female civil servants and workshops on gender-related topics. Or supporting Women Shuras, internship programmes for young women easing a career start, the organisation of public hearing events for women, justice awareness and consultancy activities for women, and much more.

About boosting economic development, the Afghan-German Cooperation supports women owned associations, companies and products entering the Afghan market. That includes female dialogue groups to increase their say in economic topics and rulings.

These are just some examples. Why is that so important? The investment in Afghan women will not only improve capacities of the Afghan state to deliver services to the people, but also the well-being of families and society. Supporting a country’s development includes the entire population – both men and women. Progress and development cannot be achieved targeting only half of a country’s population.

The Afghan-German Cooperation prioritises its activities in the Afghan provinces Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Kunduz, Samangan, Takhar and the country’s capital Kabul.
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