

## GTZ in Afghanistan

From emergency aid to sustainable development

### Background

GTZ has been supporting the reconstruction of Afghanistan since 2002, primarily on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and other German federal ministries such as the German Federal Foreign Office (AA) and the German Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg), as well as on behalf of international donors such as the World Bank and the Government of the Netherlands. The focus is on improving the livelihoods of the people of Afghanistan in the long term, particularly in the rural areas. Shaping sustainable processes in an intercultural context is one of the core tasks of GTZ.

145 seconded experts and 1,200 local staff are employed by GTZ in some 60 programmes in Afghanistan – more than in any other country. In addition, 18 Integrated Experts from Germany, placed by the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), are working in key positions in Afghan ministries and state institutions.

GTZ cooperates closely in Afghanistan with German and international development organisations such as KfW Entwicklungsbank, German Development Service (DED), Inwent – Capacity Building International, Germany, the United Nations, the World Bank, the Agha Khan Foundation, the state development organisations of Canada and Japan, and various local non-governmental organisations.

### A selection of projects supported by GTZ

On behalf of BMZ:

#### Development-oriented emergency and transitional aid

GTZ provides support to the needy populations of northern and north-eastern Afghanistan through a programme of development-oriented emergency and transitional aid. The aim is to improve the social and



*Bridges make it possible to transport goods | Photo: Sara Schneider*

economic infrastructure and to create income opportunities in the rural areas. This cross-sectoral assistance forms a bridge between short-term, temporary humanitarian aid and long-term development cooperation. It creates the conditions for sustainable development processes.

#### Sustainable economic development

The Afghan Government is assisted in its efforts to reform the economy, for example in putting in place legal and institutional frameworks and support structures at national level and in the northern provinces. GTZ is advising the Ministry of Commerce and Industries on, for example, issues relating to accession to the World Trade Organization. The Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan and the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries have been established. Start-ups are being promoted and product quality is being improved throughout the value chain.

#### Education (basic and vocational education)

Improving the quality of teaching has high priority for the Afghan Government. GTZ is supporting the construction, rehabilitation and equipping of teacher training centres and schools, as well as in-service training for teachers in Kabul and in the northern and south-eastern provinces. The management capacity of the teacher training department at the Ministry of Education is being upgraded, curricula established, new subjects developed, and modern teaching methods introduced. Vocational training is geared to the practical requirements of the labour market and the corporate sector.

## Energy supply

GTZ is working to build the capacity of state frameworks for the decentralised supply of energy from renewable sources. In close cooperation with the provinces, municipalities and councils of elders, GTZ is developing rural electrification strategies, constructing small hydropower plants and testing private operator models for small power plants.



*Electricity from hydropower /  
Badakhshan Province*

*Photo: Oliver J. Haas*

## Water supply

GTZ is advising the Afghan Government on creating appropriate frameworks for the local water and sanitation services. Staff at the state administrations and water utilities have been trained in the sustainable use of water resources. GTZ is also promoting the construction, rehabilitation and expansion of urban wastewater treatment plants, for example in Kunduz and Herat.

## Good governance:

### Gender mainstreaming

GTZ is supporting the Afghan Government in implementing equal rights for women, as established in the constitution, in all policy sectors. Ministry staff have received in-service training in, among other areas, gender-responsive budgeting, mainstreaming gender issues in laws and regulations, and organising the work of ministries.

### Rule of law

GTZ is helping to build a functioning constitution on the basis of an official state system of justice. The focus is on promoting legal certainty for the citizens of Afghanistan, assisting with the development of a national strategy for the justice sector, drawing up manuals, providing basic and advanced training for police officers and public prosecutors at the provincial and district level, establishing mediation and legal advice centres, especially for disadvantaged women in conflict situations such as domestic violence.



*Training women lawyers*

*Photo: GTZ*

## Funds for flexible action – on several levels

Short-term requirements are covered by two funds provided by BMZ: the Open Policy Advisory Fund (OPAF) is helping the Kabul Government to improve its governance; and the Regional Capacity Development Fund (RCDF) is intended to improve the quality and transparency of administrative services at the provincial and district level in northern Afghanistan. In this way, the citizens of Afghanistan are gaining confidence in their national institutions and recognising them as legitimate and competent partners.

On behalf of the AA:

### Supporting police reform

GTZ is assisting the German Police Project Team and the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan to build capacity in the Afghan police. Measures include building and equipping police headquarters, police academies and training centres for the Afghan national police.



*Literacy courses for police officers  
in the north | Photo: Dennis Thalmann*

Cooperation among the police, the judiciary and civil society is being promoted in order to improve the rule of law. Literacy courses are being organised.

### Strengthening public sector services

GTZ is implementing an infrastructure programme in northern Afghanistan. It involves the construction of state institutions such as administrations, schools, technical facilities and courthouses. In the south of the country, vocational schools are being rehabilitated and equipped in Khost and Kandahar.

### Basic medical care

Developing a functioning health system at provincial level. GTZ is advising on the introduction of a modern hospital management system and staff training. The Balkh hospital (serving 350,000 inhabitants) and referral centre for district hospitals serving up to six million citizens is considered to be a pilot for hospital reform.

### In addition

GTZ is also promoting the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries and, in Kandahar, creating alternative income opportunities for the rural population.

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