

# Clean Water in Northern Afghanistan

In order to upgrade the water supply system and improve the quality of drinking water in Afghanistan's northern towns, the German Government is supporting the development of essential infrastructure.



## Situation

In Afghanistan's provincial towns, around 20% of residents have access to a mains water supply. Water is scarce and, in numerous areas, dirty and overexploited. Many of the country's traditional shallow wells are drying up, yield brackish water or are contaminated with bacteria. This has adverse impacts on health, causing severe diarrhoea and other diseases, such as cholera, especially regarding children. When water is scarce, residents are reliant on public wells or have no option but to buy supplies at high prices from privately-operated tankers.

## Objective

By developing and upgrading the urban water supply in Northern Afghanistan, the project aims to improve local livelihoods and reduce the incidence of water-borne diseases.

## Measures & Results

The direct results of the construction works are impressive: in the city of Balkh (in Balkh Province), about 750 household connections and eight public standpipes have been set up, benefiting around 9,900 people. With

## AT A GLANCE



Activities in the provinces of Balkh, Badakshan, Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan.

**Programme:** Water supply in small and mid-sized northern towns (NC I + II)

**Commissioned by:** Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

**Partner:** Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH), Afghan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Cooperation (AUWSSC)

**Implementing organisations:** KfW Development Bank

**Provinces:** Badakshan

**Provinces:** Baghlan

**Provinces:** Balkh

**Provinces:** Kunduz

**Provinces:** Takhar

**Programme objective:** Improve public health and livelihoods in small and mid-sized provincial towns.

**Overall term:** 2008 – 2019

the construction of wells and expansion of water storage capacities and distribution systems, the bases have been established for needs-based provision for up to 34,000 people who now have access to a daily water supply.

In the town of Imām Qāhib in Kunduz Province, funding has been provided for a further 527 household connections and three public standpipes, giving more than 6,100 people access to clean drinking water. This means that some 39,000 people now have a daily supply of around 40 litres.

In Feyzabad (Badakhshan Province), construction of wells and reservoirs and mains installation is ongoing. About 3,800 household connections have been established, supplying water to approximately 38,000 people. On this basis, a clean water supply will be available to some 75,000 people in future.

A mains water supply and public standpipes in the three cities will improve local residents' quality of life. Clean drinking water will make a substantial contribution to preventing and reducing the incidence of water-borne diseases. A reliable water supply is also expected to boost regional economic development.

With their focus on densely populated urban regions, the projects aim to reach as many people as possible. New water connections have been provided for an additional 22,000 people in Pul-e Khumri (Baghlan Province), 17,000 people in Tāloqān (Takhar Province), and 10,400 people in Mazar-e Sharif (Balkh Province). Two wells in Khanabad (Kunduz Province) provide the source of water for around 45,000 citizens.

In total, around 100,000 people in all the towns targeted by the project will benefit directly from the new infrastructure. Depending on future utilisation by local project partners, the infrastructure has the potential to provide an additional 100,000 people with drinking water, bringing the total figure up to 200,000 people. All the measures include development of new well fields and the construction of reservoirs, pumping stations and infrastructure to improve the water supply system.

## READ MORE

- Datenblatt: Stärkung der städtischen Wasserversorgung ([http://ez-afghanistan.de/sites/default/files/2017-Water%20KfW-GER\\_0.pdf](http://ez-afghanistan.de/sites/default/files/2017-Water%20KfW-GER_0.pdf))
- Fact sheet: Strengthening urban water supply (<http://ez-afghanistan.de/sites/default/files/2017-Water%20KfW-EN.pdf>)

## CONTACT

Dr. Andreas Schneider KfW  
Director KfW Office Kabul  
[Andreas.2.Schneider@kfw.de](mailto:Andreas.2.Schneider@kfw.de)