

## Contract Signed: Flood Protection Wall and Rehabilitated Irrigation Channel to Benefit 20,000 Takhar Citizens

At the contract-signing ceremony, Takhar's Governor, Dr Fazlullah Mujadeddi, stated: "This project has many positive social impacts and will improve residents' living conditions. I would like to encourage all provincial sector departments to keep up the good efforts."

Currently, the densely populated villages Haji Rashid and Zargari in Takhar are prone to floods. These can cause severe damages to residents' homes. In addition, villagers face major difficulties when accessing government offices, schools, markets and health clinics in heavy rain. At the same time, the local Norullah Irrigation Channel does not provide enough water to irrigate available agricultural land in the area sufficiently, resulting in poor harvests.

The General Director of Panji Amo River Basin Department, Mr Mohammad Salem Akbar, emphasised: "I am proud that today we are witnessing the contract-signing for another infrastructure project in Takhar province. This project is of great importance to the economic and social development of this region."

Many problems villagers face today will soon be history. The planned flood protection wall shall protect both villages as well as important infrastructure such as pavements and drinking water wells close to Taloqan River bank. Once rehabilitated, the Norullah Irrigation Channel will provide reliable water supply for up to 400ha (more than 800 jeribs) of agricultural land, increasing agricultural production. Thus, the new infrastructure will promote socio-economic development in the area and improve locals' living conditions.

Construction works will last about 14 months and provide job opportunities for locals. Throughout this period, RIDF will offer on-the-job training, coaching and mentoring sessions for engineers and managers employed by the Taloqan River Basin Agency (TRBA). These activities aim at improving the TRBA's capacities for identifying, managing, implementing and maintaining similar projects independently in the future.

*The Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) is being implemented by KfW Development Bank on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The programme aims at improving economic and social infrastructure in Northern Afghanistan while enabling provincial administrations to plan and implement development programmes independently. In the past 7 years the programme has funded and constructed/rehabilitated more than 160 kilometres of roads, 50 kilometres of irrigation channels and 11 protection dams against flooding or erosion in the provinces Balkh, Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan and is now implementing two school rehabilitation projects also in Samangan. At the same time, the programme has organised about 900 job-specific on-the-job trainings, coaching and seminars for more than 3,000 engineers and governmental employees facilitating the independent realisation of future infrastructure projects.*

Teaser text:

Taloqan, Takhar, 4th December 2018 – Yesterday, the Afghan-German Cooperation and the Taloqan River Basin Agency (TRBA) signed a contract over constructing a 1.5 kilometres long flood protection wall and rehabilitating an irrigation channel in Takhar. More than 20,000 residents of the villages Haji Rashid and Zargari will benefit. About 30 provincial officials attended the contract signing in Takhar's provincial capital Taloqan. The Afghan-German Cooperation's Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) finances the project at a total cost of about AFN 122 million.

Priority area:

Urban Development

Province:

Takhar

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