

## Equipment supply to Mother and Child Centre at Balkh Regional Hospital

Currently, access to comprehensive health care for women giving birth and infants is still limited in Balkh province. Therefore, H.E. President Ashraf Ghani inaugurated the site of the new mother and child centre at Balkh Regional Hospital, which was constructed with funding by Afghan-German Cooperation, on 5th October 2018. By installing the new and additional medical and non-medical equipment, the hospital will be able to provide a comprehensive obstetric, gynaecological and paediatric health care for the citizen of Balkh and its neighbouring provinces. The new centre will start service provision in May 2019.

During the contract signing ceremony, Mr Ferozuddin Feroz, the Minister of Public Health, highlighted: "I would like to thank Germany for its continuous financial and technical cooperation with the health sector of Afghanistan. We hope that our joint efforts together with the international community will lead to a betterment in the health care situation, so that the Afghan people do not have to travel abroad for treatment so often." Dr Humayoon Alami, the Deputy Director of KfW Development Bank in Afghanistan, added: "The equipment will be purchased in Germany, Japan and other countries and then be installed between January and March 2019. It will be crucial to maintain this new equipment as well as the hospital building properly through the hospital management to ensure citizen can benefit for a long time."

Afghan-German Cooperation supported the construction of the mother and child centre in Mazar-e Sharif as well as the equipment for its service delivery on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany with a total amount of almost AFN 1.3 billion. The medical and non-medical equipment will sum up to the amount of AFN 120 million.

*The construction of the mother and child centre in Mazar-e Sharif is part of the Afghan-German Cooperation's effort to improve health care in Northern Afghanistan. Since 2006, Afghan-German Cooperation through KfW has implemented projects to expand and modernise the country's health care infrastructure. Apart from the renovation and modernisation of Balkh's Regional Hospital in Mazar-e Sharif, Badakhshan's Provincial Hospital in Feyzabad, Kunduz' Regional Hospital and Takhar's Provincial Hospital in Taloqan, several other district hospitals as well as basic and comprehensive health centres have been newly constructed or renovated.*

Teaser text:

Kabul, 23rd December 2018 – Yesterday, the Afghan Ministry of Public Health signed a contract for procurement of medical and non-medical equipment for the 360-bed mother and child centre within Balkh Regional Hospital in Mazar-e Sharif. The First Deputy of the Chief Executive of Afghanistan, the Afghan Minister of Public Health and two of his Deputy Ministers as well as the First Secretary of the Chief Executive attended the event amongst others. The Afghan-German Cooperation financed the construction of the centre as well as now the procurement of the equipment.

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