



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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Better Water Infrastructure: Rehabilitated Gurg Canal to Benefit 7,500 Citizens

Bangi District, Takhar, 4th March 2018 – Currently, Gurg Canal in Bangi district, Takhar, is in poor condition. It provides only insufficient agricultural irrigation and fails to deliver a stable water flow to micro-hydro power stations and water mills. To tackle these problems, the Taloqan River Basin Agency started rehabilitation works on the eight-kilometre long canal today. The Afghan-German Cooperation finances the construction works at a total cost of AFN 92.86 million.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Mr. Dr. Fazlullah Mujaddidi, Takhar's, emphasised " We appreciate the entire assistance and cooperation of German Government, this canal will irrigate more farmlands and requested from the residents to maintain the security in the area for the implementation of any development projects which creates job for them and boost their living conditions"

Government officials, Engineer Mohammad Salim Akbar, Director of Taloqan River basin Agency attended the event.

Floods damaged Gurg Canal in the past, resulting in water losses and unstable water flow. To prevent similar problems in the future, three so-called wash passes for diverting floods away from the canal as well as a protection wall will be installed. A gated intake will regulate water flow, protecting agricultural land from flooding and ensuring proper irrigation.

"We are really grateful for German Government for funding such great development projects. With the implementation of this vital project, many agricultural and livelihood problems of farmers will be solved and it will bring a remarkable change in the agricultural products"

The rehabilitated canal will benefit more than 7,500 locals. The canal's agricultural irrigation capacities will increase from 500 hectares to about 750 hectares. A stable water flow will enable two micro-hydro power stations and five water mills in the region to supply electricity to citizens. Consequently, agricultural production, incomes and job opportunities in the region are expected to increase. Many locals will participate in the rehabilitation works.

During the process, the German Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) offers on-the-job training, coaching and mentoring for engineers and managers at Taloqan River Basin Agency. The activities aim at building Taloqan River Basin Agency's capacities for identifying, managing and implementing 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 project aims at improving economic and social infrastructure in Northern Afghanistan while enabling provincial administrations to plan and implement development programmes independently in the future. For example, the project has funded about 160 kilometres of roads, 50 kilometres of irrigation canals and 11 protection dams against flooding or erosion since 2011. At the same time, the project has organised about 490 job-specific seminars for more than 2,300 people, facilitating the independent realisation of future infrastructure projects.