



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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New Electricity Infrastructure Benefits 10,000 People in Baghlan

Pol-e Khomri, Baghlan, 20th March 2018 – Today, an extended power line and a newly constructed energy network were put into operation in the city of Pol-e Khomri, Baghlan. About 10,000 citizens in the residential area of Karkar now profit from a reliable electricity supply. The construction works took two years to complete. The German Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) implemented the project. The Afghan-German Cooperation financed the infrastructure at a total cost of about AFN 115.5 million.

A reliable electricity supply is a precondition for sustainable economic development and for improving citizens' living and working conditions. The new infrastructure provides energy to Pol-e Khomri's residential area of Karkar. In the past, the area's 10,000 inhabitants had to rely on small and expensive diesel generators for electricity. Now, they have access to cheaper and cleaner energy. DABS has already started the registration process for new customers.

Today, the network provides connections for more than 1200 households with the potential for 800 additional connections in the future. The project also included the construction of an administrative building close to the electrical substation in Karkar. The new facility offers office and storage space, allowing DABS to operate and maintain the network effectively.

During the construction works, the Afghan-German Cooperation offered on-the-job training, coaching and mentoring for engineers and managers at DABS. The activities aimed at developing DABS' capacities for designing, constructing and maintaining energy supply networks.

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.