



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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Reviewing a New Assessment Programme for Improving TVET Schools

Herat, 1st September 2019 – On Wednesday and Thursday, 60 participants, men and women, from 15 provinces attended a conference in Herat to review the results of the pilot phase of a School Functionality Assessment Programme. The assessment programme, which started in April this year and runs until December 2019, aims at improving teaching quality and school performance in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) schools. Conference attendees, including headmasters from participating TVET schools, Provincial Education Directors (PEDs) and officials from the TVET Authority (TVETA), came together to discuss the achievements and challenges of the programme. The Afghan-German Cooperation supports the assessment programme financially.

Mr Hafizullah Nahzatyar, from the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of TVETA explained, 'With this programme, assessments can be carried out by professional trainers and feedback directly shared with headmasters, teachers and the provincial education departments. The teachers can then improve their performance using the assessment team's advice.'

The Afghan-German Cooperation together with TVETA have already started the School Functionality Assessment Programme in 13 TVET schools, with seven more due to start in September. The assessment is carried out through questionnaires administered by Master Trainers, who consist mainly of TVETA staff and vocational trainers. Target groups include teachers, administrative staff and headmasters. The assessment focuses on four main areas of TVET schools: teaching quality, human resource development, office skills management, and internship management.

The delivered results from the assessment will help TVETA improve in the four main areas and will help identify any need for further training. The assessment programme encourages TVET schools and institutes to take more action to ensure effective targeted teaching quality and school performance.

The conference kicked off with a brief introduction of the assessment process and continued with the sharing of primary results from the assessed schools. Achievements, including improvements to the curriculum and lesson plans, were highlighted, and challenges such as security issues, inadequate infrastructure and resources, were addressed. As part of the feedback discussions, participants suggested improvements to the quality of services in TVET schools and institutes.

During the second day of the conference, the sustainability and institutionalisation of the quality assessment were discussed. It was emphasised that PEDs of all provinces should implement the same assessment in all TVET schools and institutes. This will ultimately serve to improve the quality of teaching in TVET schools.

The programme Supporting Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Afghanistan (TVET) is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and KfW Development Bank on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). TVET aims at expanding and improving the formal vocational education and training system in Afghanistan to increase young Afghans' employability. In addition, the programme is modernising the traditional apprenticeship system Ostad-Shagerdi in cooperation with the Afghan Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority. After attending a formal TVET school besides Ostad-Shagerdi for three years, apprentices can apply for 12th-grade degrees, allowing many young people to attend advanced schooling.