



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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New School Buildings in Kunduz City to benefit more than 25,000 Girls and Boys

Kabul, 9th September 2019 – Last Saturday, Kunduz's Provincial Education Department (PED) together with the Deputy Minister for General Education, Mohammad Ibrahim Shinwari, and representatives from the Afghan-German Cooperation signed the contract to start the construction of four new high schools in Kunduz city centre. More than 25,000 girls and boys will benefit from the project once completed. The Afghan-German Cooperation's Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) has been supporting the PED in the project's preparation since 2014 and is funding the implementation at a total cost of AFN 423 million.

Deputy Minister Shinwari emphasised, 'The German government has helped the Afghan education system through the construction of schools and capacity building for trainees. On behalf of the Ministry of Education, I would like to thank the German government for its support.'

The construction of the Fatima Zahra and Khadija Kubra Girls' High Schools, and the Hazrat Ali and Sher Khan Boys' High Schools will be an important addition to the city's development. Each school will comprise of three new two-storey buildings. In addition, three existing school buildings will be completely refurbished. Each school complex is designed with two new restroom facilities. In total, 12 new buildings with 156 fully furnished classrooms and 36 administration rooms, as well as 32 renovated classrooms will be provided. The schools will be connected to the city power supply and will offer modern teaching methods and standards.

These measures aim at encouraging parents to send their children to (re-)attend school and thereby enhancing the students' future prospects. The total population coverage is estimated to be over 250,000 citizens. Learning conditions for the students will be significantly improved, which will also contribute to Kunduz City's economic development. Currently, many of the city's schoolchildren take classes under tents or in the open.

In addition to building these four schools, the Afghan-German Cooperation will offer on-the-job training, coaching and mentoring sessions for engineers and managers of PED Kunduz. These activities aim at strengthening the department's ability to identify, implement, manage and maintain similar projects independently in the future.

The Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) is 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. Since 2011, the programme has funded, constructed and rehabilitated more than 160 kilometres of roads, 50 kilometres of irrigation canals and 11 protection dams against flooding or erosion in the provinces Balkh, Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar, and Badakhshan. In Samangan, RIDF is currently implementing two school rehabilitation projects. At the same time, the programme has organised about 900 on-the-job training sessions, coaching and seminars for more than 3,000 engineers and governmental employees, facilitating the independent realisation of future infrastructure projects.