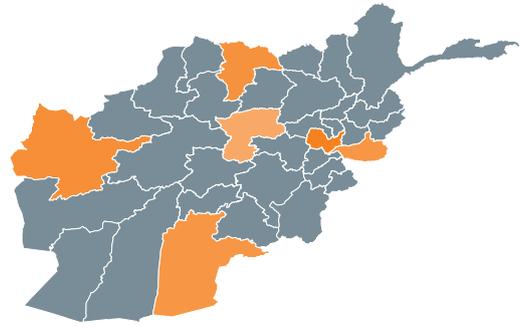


German Cooperation with Afghanistan

Technical Experts for the Mining Sector



Context

Afghanistan has abundant mineral deposits, but the potential to generate government revenue from these resources is not being utilised to the full. This is partly due to the shortage of well-trained technical staff and managers in the extractive sector. Afghan universities with mining and geology departments still lack the capacity to deliver high-quality education to train the experts Afghanistan so urgently needs. Academic programmes have little practical relevance and are not sufficiently labour market-oriented. Decades of armed conflict have destroyed the universities' specialist laboratories and severed their international contacts. The libraries have not been updated since the 1970s, which means that many lecturers and students have very limited access to up-to-date knowledge and information. In addition, teaching methods are often outdated and there is a shortage of international experience and skills in university management.

Objective

The purpose of the programme is to modernise academic mining education in Afghanistan so that well-qualified technical staff and managers are available for employment in the private sector and administration.

Measures and Results

The support provided by the German government focuses on modernising the five mining-related study programmes at Kabul Polytechnic University (KPU) and improving courses in public administration, economics and law at Kabul University and the

Overview	
Programme	Academic Mining Education in Afghanistan (AMEA)
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office (AA)
Partner	Afghanistan's Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE)
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Provinces	Kabul, Balkh, Bamiyan, Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar
Programme objective	To build capacities in the Afghan mining sector and increase government revenue over the long term, thus contributing to stability.



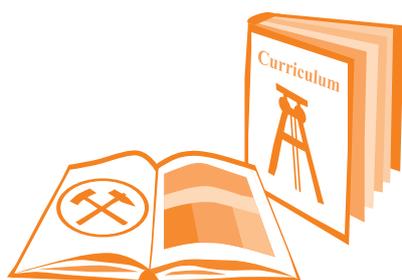
138 students have completed work placements in Iran and Afghanistan

provincial universities in Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar and Bamiyan. A new departmental laboratory for the KPU, technical libraries, work placements and cooperation with universities in other countries increase the academic programmes' practical

relevance and give students access to up-to-date technical knowledge. The project team also provides advice to mining sector managers and technical staff and to the Ministry of Higher Education and subordinate authorities.

Modernising academic education

AMEA advises the Ministry of Higher Education on the introduction of quality standards for mining-related study programmes. Together with key figures at leading Afghan universities, they are working to modernise academic education and update the four-year Bachelor's degree programmes to meet international accreditation criteria. In addition to the technical and educational reforms, the aim is to introduce more practical relevance



Curriculum modernisation for mining-related study programmes

and provide workplace experience in the private sector and administration. Teaching staff therefore attend technical, practical and methodological training in Afghanistan and other countries. In addition, a modern departmental laboratory is being set up at the KPU.

New, specialised subsidiary courses are being developed and integrated into existing study programmes in public administration, economics and law at selected universities, expanding the range of training options in the mining sector.

This fresh, hands-on approach to academic education improves graduates' employment prospects. As Afghanistan develops its own pool of mining professionals, it is becoming less dependent on external expertise, enabling it to establish its extractive industry on a more sustainable footing in future.

Intensive partnerships

Intensive cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Freiberg University of Mining and Technology (TU Freiberg), Ruhr University Bochum and universities in Iran and China gives teaching staff and students access to up-to-date technical knowledge and innovative teaching methods. A total



Afghan mines inspectors and university professors practically apply their newly acquired knowledge on geological mapping | © GIZ

of 13 lecturers from Afghan universities have been given the opportunity to study for a Master's degree in mining at TU Freiberg in conjunction with Montanuniversität Leoben in order to raise the quality of training to minimum standards. Grants are offered to outstanding seventh-semester students on the Bachelor's programmes, enabling them to take up work placements in Afghanistan or Iran.

In addition to winter schools, conferences, colloquia and symposia on current issues, field visits and practical training are available. Guest lectures by representatives of national and international companies at the universities will enhance the training offer in future.



296 lecturers have attended practical training and networking events

A comprehensive expert dialogue is now under way at national and international level. Intensive cooperation with foreign universities, government-owned and private mining companies and public authorities facilitates networking by the previously isolated mining departments at Afghanistan's universities.

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