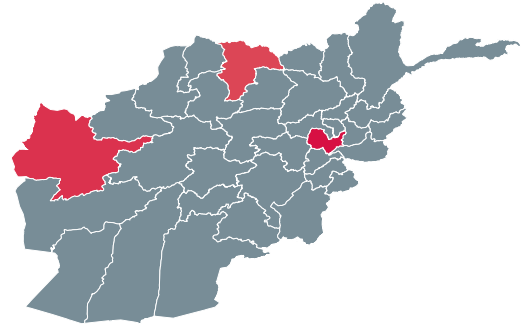


German Cooperation with Afghanistan

Think-and-do Tank for Good Governance in Afghanistan



Context

15 years after the fall of the Taliban regime, Afghanistan is a long way from achieving minimum standards in the area of good governance. The most pressing challenges facing the country include inefficient administrative institutions, insufficient rule

of law, corruption, human rights abuses, a lack of opportunities for civil society to engage in political decision-making processes, and restricted access to public services. The international community made a commitment at the 2011 International Conference on Afghanistan in Bonn to continue supporting the country during the transformation decade, which runs from 2015 to 2024. In this decade of societal and political change, the main focus is on assisting state structures such as authorities, institutions and ministries to carry out their duties more effectively. One of the priority areas of cooperation between the German government and Afghan partners is good governance, in particular the topics of the rule of law, political participation and public administration.

Overview	
Programme	Governance Forum Afghanistan (Govern4Afg)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partners	Afghan Ministry of Finance (MoF) Afghan Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP) Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) Afghan Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG)
Participating programmes	Open Policy Advisory Fund (OPAF) Programme for Regional Capacity Development (RCD) Promotion of the Rule of Law Programme (RoL) Promoting Good Governance in the Afghan Extractive Industry Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF)
Implementing organisations	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and KfW, with support from the Afghan-German consortium GOPA-AREU-JS Consultancy
Provinces	Kabul, Balkh, Herat
Programme objective	Govern4Afg provides resources and expertise for promoting policy dialogue based on research findings. The goal of this is to improve decision-making processes with regard to good governance.

Objective

As a result of the intensive dialogue initiated by Govern4Afg between reform-focused actors and government representatives, all actors gain a better understanding of good governance issues in the Afghan context.

Measures & Results

Afghan and German partners have launched the Governance Forum Afghanistan (Govern4Afg), a two-year initiative designed to promote dialogue on good governance topics and challenges in the Afghan context. Conceived as a discussion platform and a think-and-do tank, the initiative brings together representatives from the spheres of academia, research and government. Govern4Afg introduces fresh perspectives into the discourse, providing impetus for more in-depth examination of good governance issues. This enables political actors in Afghanistan to make key decisions on a more informed and targeted basis.

Thematic papers after one year of Govern4Afg

In the first year of the initiative, Afghan and German partners defined six key topics for policy dialogue. The focus was on

- a public budget management process which promotes gender equality,
- governance in the provinces and districts,
- the future role of the extractive sector,
- the relevance of Afghan civil society to good governance,
- planning and budget setting in the provinces, and
- the reform of the civil service in Afghanistan.



6 thematic papers

Six teams of experts shared their research expertise in dialogue forums to encourage exchange among decision-makers. 21 large dialogue forums, workshops and presentations were held in Kabul, Mazar-e Sharif, Herat and even Berlin. The experts turned the resulting findings into thematic papers containing specific recommendations for action designed to enrich dialogue between policy-makers and researchers.

Outlook 2017

Another six papers are being put together in 2017 on the following topics, with corresponding dialogue forums:

- Good governance in the extractive sector: accounting, reporting and tax collection;
- Governance in the districts: creation of a district development model;
- Refugees and internally displaced persons in Afghanistan: the role of the Afghan Ministry of Refugees as a migration policy coordination body;
- Urban governance: administrative structure (instead of subdivision) of municipalities to improve comprehensive service provision;
- Governance challenges in the agricultural sector: water rights in Afghanistan;
- Review of roles and responsibilities of Afghan government authorities.

The expert team is expected to publish its findings on these topics in mid-2017.



Discussion event organised by the think tank Govern4Afg | © GIZ



Presenting and discussing a strategy paper | © GIZ

Govern4Afg encourages actors to address the aforementioned issues through a series of events in Kabul and selected Northern provinces. In order to inform relevant policymakers on the outcome of these discussion processes, the key findings and recommendations will be presented in thematic factsheets and policy briefs that can be accessed at www.govern4afg.org.



21 conferences, workshops and presentations

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