

German Cooperation with Afghanistan

Promoting Cross-border Development and Cooperation



Context

Life in the border regions of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan is challenging. The landscape of North-eastern Afghanistan, where the country borders Tajikistan and Pakistan, is characterised by mountains, glaciers and gorges. People living further South, along the border with Pakistan, have to contend with the harsh conditions of steppes and deserts. Temperatures are extreme, with bitterly cold winters in the mountains and searing heat in summer in the steppes and desert zones. People's lives are extremely hard. There are very few roads, and infrastructure in the border region is poorly developed. Frequent flooding and landslides further compound the situation. The population in

the border regions is isolated and unprotected, and agricultural productivity is limited. There are almost no opportunities to find employment, and thus to earn a living, outside the agricultural sector. Access to markets and social services is very limited within Afghanistan and even more restricted across the border, with the result that the development of these border regions is severely hampered.

Objective

Through a wide range of cross-border infrastructure measures, inhabitants of the remote border regions of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan have improved access to socio-economic infrastructure, promoting integration and cooperation among the local population. Social and economic development proceeds apace and long-term stability is assured in the regions.

Measures and Results

The PATRIP Foundation was established in 2011 by KfW, on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office, with the objective of promoting integration and enhancing cross-border cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries Pakistan and Tajikistan. Operating as an independent institution, the PATRIP Foundation aims to demonstrate ways in which the development of the border regions between the three countries can be made as effective and efficient as possible. Cooperating

Overview	
Programme	Pakistan – Afghanistan – Tajikistan Regional Integration Programme (PATRIP Foundation)
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office (AA) Other funding providers: foreign affairs ministries of Norway and Luxembourg
Partners	Aga Khan Foundation, Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), Mission East, Organization for Relief Development (ORD), Norwegian Red Cross (NRC), International Red Cross (IRC), World Vision and other non-governmental organisations
Implementing organisation	KfW
Provinces	Afghanistan: Badakhshan, Herat, Khost, Nangarhar, Paktia Tajikistan: Gorno Badakhshan Pakistan: Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)
Programme objective	Construction of socio-economic infrastructure in the Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan border regions to promote stability, integration and cooperation



43 infrastructure projects

with international and national non-governmental organisations as well as local and national government bodies, the foundation makes a key contribution to developing cross-border partnerships and agreements.

In order to ensure the long-term effectiveness of regional construction measures, the foundation involves the local population in planning and implementation processes. Since late 2016, the PATRIP Foundation has also been funding projects for Afghan returnees. These are carried out in Herat, a province bordering Iran.

Infrastructure projects for cross-border cooperation and economic development

The PATRIP Foundation currently supports over 70 projects in the border regions of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. 43 infrastructure projects have already been completed, focusing on a variety of different areas. These not only improve quality of life for people in the region, but also promote cross-border cooperation and economic development.

Developing local markets

One project is facilitating the construction of an outdoor area at the cross-border Vanj Market on the Afghan-Tajik border (Badakhshan province in Afghanistan, Gorno Badakhshan province in Tajikistan). This market is already very popular



Women selling their products at markets promoted by PATRIP | © KfW

among the local population and traders. In order to provide more traders with the opportunity to sell their products, additional selling space is now being created in the outdoor area. The market will also be supplied with energy from a solar power system in future, allowing traders to operate in the early hours of the morning and after dusk. The electricity generated by this system will also enable them to use refrigerators. This will both extend the shelf life of their products and allow them to add new, more perishable goods to their range.



Improving health care provision

Five health centres are being set up along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, providing the communities on both sides with access to appropriate health care. The centres are currently being fitted out with telemedicine equipment and linked up with one another. Thanks to this modern technology, medical staff will be able to access training even if they live a long distance from the centre. Doctors will also benefit from the option of contacting colleagues from other health centres to discuss difficult cases or unusual disease patterns and to receive advice.

Expansion of farmland

The foundation also supports the construction of irrigation systems on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, for example in the Afghan province of Paktia. Five open channels are currently being built, providing irrigation for almost 630 hectares of agricultural land. This will enable around 14,000 people to work the



630 hectares of land reclaimed for agricultural use thanks to irrigation systems

land and generate income. Additionally, local farmers are being trained in modern irrigation and agricultural methods to enable them to boost their yields and to ensure they use the water from the new system sparingly but effectively.

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