

German Cooperation with Afghanistan

In a Class of Their Own



Context

Afghanistan now has more children and young people in school than at any time in its history. However, the quality of teaching is often inadequate and many school buildings are in a poor state of repair. The teaching of general and vocational subjects and modern languages needs to be improved and school governance strengthened. Many teachers are under-qualified, and classroom time is too short. There is also a shortage of modern teaching materials and facilities. In order to achieve continuous improvements in the quality of education for young Afghans, the German government is sponsoring three schools in Kabul – the Amani High School for boys, the Aysha-e Durani High School for girls and the Lycée Jamhuriat, a secondary business school for girls.

Objective

The project aims to improve the quality of education at the three schools sponsored by Germany. The experience gained at the three model schools can then be shared with other schools across the country.

| Overview | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Programme | Strengthening German-supported Afghan Schools (SGS) |
| Commissioned by | German Federal Foreign Office (AA) |
| Partner | Afghan Ministry of Education Deputy Ministry of Technical Vocational Education and Training (DM-TVET) |
| Implementing organisation | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH |
| Province | Kabul |
| Programme objective | To establish the bases for the three Afghan schools sponsored by Germany to become model schools |

Measures and Results

The National Education Strategic Plan for Afghanistan (NESP) calls for the establishment of model schools to provide education for highly-performing students and a frame of reference for schools development in other provinces across the country. The aim is to improve the public education system as a whole.

On behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office (AA), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has therefore been supporting the development of three model schools in Kabul – the Amani High School for boys, the Aysha-e Durani High School for girls and the Lycée Jamhuriat (a secondary business school for girls) – since 2014, focusing on four areas:



3 schools (Amani, Aysha-e-Durani and Lycée Jamhuriat) serve as models for schools across Afghanistan.

Strengthening school governance and management

Afghan Education for Excellence (AEFEO) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) which was established in 2016 and is chaired by Dr Rangin Spanta, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Security Advisor to the President. AEFEO is assisting the three schools to restructure and improve the quality of their governance and financial management and develop innovative strategies in these areas. It also administers additional financial resources and deals with the payment of bonuses for qualified teachers, scholarship awards and facility management.

In order to support the schools' successful implementation of the NGO's strategic plan, principals generally undergo advanced training in school governance and development. The training is delivered by international experts.

Improving the quality of teaching

All three schools are keen to excel in the STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – in future. To that end, they are being supplied with new laboratory facilities and equipment, textbooks and computers with software and an internet connection.



The existing shift system is being replaced with full-day schooling in order to increase the amount of classroom time. This means that children will spend the entire day under the school's care and supervision. New heating systems maintain a comfortable classroom temperature even in winter, enabling the schools to remain open all year round. Extracurricular activities such as art and music have also been introduced. This helps to develop the students' creativity and also boosts their academic performance.

In future, all three schools will admit high-performing post-primary students. A selection process, based on international technical standards, has been developed and will be applied for the first time in 2017.

Supporting professional teacher development

One of the most important factors for the success of any school is highly motivated and well-qualified teaching staff. To date, international trainers have provided advanced training for 240 teachers, focusing on teaching methods and non-violent education. A total of 22 teachers have already improved their knowledge of mathematics, and 50 teachers have attended training in natural sciences (chemistry and biology). Other training courses, e.g. in modern foreign languages, will follow. English will in future be the first modern foreign language to form part of the three schools' curriculum.



Teachers at the three model schools in Kabul learn new teaching methods | © GIZ

As part of its management remit, the AEFEO will develop teacher assessment criteria. Teachers who meet the new standards may qualify to receive bonuses on top of their salaries. These incentives encourage teachers to 'own' the school reforms while increasing the likelihood of schools retaining their best teaching staff.

Upgrading school buildings

Sports halls were built for the two girls' schools – Aysha-e Durani and Lycée Jamhuriat – in 2016 to ensure that the girls have access to high-quality physical education.

In order to support the full-day teaching programme, dining halls are opening at the Amani and Aysha-e Durani schools. The Lycée Jamhuriat already operates a full-day timetable. In addition, the project is funding the maintenance of existing facilities and any repairs that may be required. The NGO plans to appoint maintenance and cleaning staff in future.

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