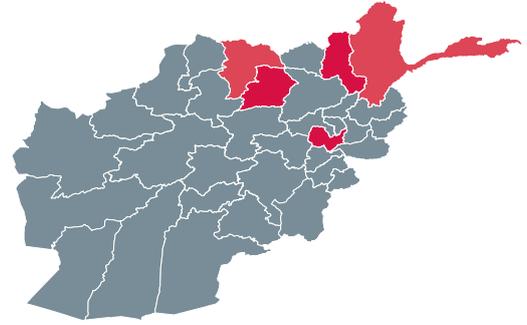


German Cooperation with Afghanistan

Youth for Peace



Context

Young Afghans are growing up in a tense political, economic and social environment. Young people are often the victims of violence and manipulation and are frequently incited to violence themselves. For most young people, neither their home upbringing nor their school education provides them the knowledge and tools required to deal constructively with conflict. This establishes a culture across Afghan society which favours the use of violence as a means of dealing with conflict. If Afghanistan is to develop a culture of peace, however, it is essential that young people in particular learn to break the cycle of violence.

Objective

The programme aims to promote peaceful social development in Afghanistan and thus to improve the prospects of young people in particular. As fully fledged members of society, they are empowered to actively contribute to its development.

Measures and Results

Since 2004, the Civil Peace Service (CPS) has been working in Afghanistan on behalf of the German government. It supports peace-building and reconciliation initiatives being carried out by civil society and state organisations and educates their staff on methods and principles of civil conflict resolution.

The CPS has been running the Afghan Youth for Peace initiative since 2014. Through the initiative, international and national peace experts have been working with young men and women to build their capacity for self-reflection, develop creative ways of dealing with fear and anger, build confidence, promote non-violent communication and enhance conflict mediation skills. Young people are encouraged to engage in dialogue with people in their age group from other regions and other social, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Particularly competent individuals are trained as peace activists or social workers, giving them the capacity to help young people with behavioural problems or a propensity for violence to integrate into society. In recent years, the work of the Civil Peace Service has helped to bring about a number of changes:

Overview	
Programme	Civil Peace Service (CPS)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partner	See box
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Provinces	Kabul, Badakhshan, Balkh, Samangan, Takhar
Programme objective	Consolidate peace at local, regional and national level



Over **500** young men and women have been trained as peace activists



Children at an International Children's Day event organised by ZFD | © GIZ

- Culturally appropriate conflict transformation methods have been developed together with Afghan partners. Democratic processes have been initiated, transcending ethnic, linguistic and gender boundaries.
- Traditional community councils (*shuras*) have learned methods of non-violent conflict resolution. For example, ethnically mixed schools and football teams have been set up in areas formerly in the grip of civil war and in refugee camps.
- Women and girls who have been victims of sexual violence are now receiving advice and assistance from the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the women's shelter in Mazar-e Sharif.



Over **2,000** representatives of the Afghan media have benefited from training

- Young activists have organised 'peace caravans' and dialogue forums in which they have learned to better understand the painful experiences and perspectives of others.
- The universities of Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif are incorporating peace-building into their research and teaching programmes and addressing other sensitive subjects. Teaching staff at 20 private and public universities across the country are working together with the CPS to tackle the problem of violence on campus.
- A peace education curriculum developed in conjunction with the CPS now forms part of the training programmes of more than 20,000 teachers.

Partner des ZFD in Afghanistan

- Officials responsible for youth affairs in four northern provinces (Ministry of Information and Culture)
- Teacher training centres in Mazar-e Sharif and Feyzabad (Ministry of Education)
- Universities of Kabul and Balkh
- Young offenders institutions in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif
- Afghanistan's Children – A New Approach (ASCHIANA) in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif
- Afghan Civil Society Forum (ACSF) in Mazar-e Sharif and Aibak
- Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif
- Cooperation Centre for Afghanistan (CCA) in Mazar-e Sharif
- Sanayee Development Organization (SDO) in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif
- The Liaison Office (TLO) in Kabul
- Badakhshan Civil Society Network in Feyzabad
- Hamdeli (= empathy) network
- Mediothek Afghanistan in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif

- Over 10,000 children have seen the puppet musical 'JOJAHAA', which deals with the topic of peace and reconciliation.
- Over 2,000 representatives of the Afghan media have attended training events, where they had the opportunity to learn about the basic principles of independent and ethically responsible journalism and were encouraged to advance the cause of peace and human rights
- Over 50,000 Afghans have attended various concerts organised under the banner of 'peace and reconciliation'. Millions watched the events live on television.



Children do creative art work at the Picture of Hope exhibition in Kabul | © GIZ

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