



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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New Accounting Institute and Micro Hydro Power Plant Benefit More Than 5,500 People in Badakhshan

Baharak District, Badakhshan, 24rd November 2017 – Yesterday, the Afghan-German Cooperation handed over a new building for the accounting institute and a micro hydropower plant to the local government in Badakhshan. Government officials, Provincial Council members, local elders and many others attended the event. The German Stabilisation Programme for Northern Afghanistan (SPNA) financed the buildings at a total cost of more than AFN 53.5 million. The new facilities benefit more than 5,500 local citizens.

At the inauguration ceremony, Badakhshan's education director, Mr Rohullah Mohaqiq, emphasised, "The new accounting institute is a big achievement, not only for the people in Badakhshan but for all Afghans. Students from all over the country can get admission. The support by the Afghan-German Cooperation and other organisations helped us to solve some of the most serious challenges we faced in the education sector. We will not achieve prosperity without proper education."

The new two-story building for the accounting institute is located in the district Baharak. The facility offers twelve rooms for classes and administration, a conference hall, a kitchen, and eight toilets with adequate sanitation systems. It is the only institute in Badakhshan offering accounting training to school graduates. 75 students, including 19 girls and 56 boys, can now attend classes in the new building and receive professional training by qualified teachers. After graduating, the students are well prepared to work as accountants for various employees.

The micro hydropower plant was built in the district Shuhada. Afghan and Nepali engineers constructed the facility that provides reliable electricity to almost 1,100 households in the district, benefitting about 5,500 inhabitants. Not only local citizens can now use electricity for lighting and other electrical appliances at home. Reliable energy will make the area more attractive to private companies and help to create jobs. Thus, the new power supply will significantly facilitate the district's economic development and improve the people's livelihoods.

An elder from the district Shuhada, Mr Shaikh Hameduddin, highlighted, "Prior to the micro hydro power plant's construction we did not have electricity. Our children could not do their homework at night. Further, we used to go to Feyzabad for using electrical saws or for milling flour. Now we can bring these machines to our districts. This will help our local economy considerably."

The District Development Assemblies and the Provincial Department of Education jointly initiated these projects. Their completion was a top priority in the District Development Plans in the mentioned districts.

The KfW implements the Stabilisation Programme Northern Afghanistan (SPNA) on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office (AA). The programme aims at strengthening local governance structures in Northern Afghanistan and improving the rural population's living conditions. Thus, the programme supports various infrastructure activities and capacity development. So far, SPNA has already completed 377 projects in over 50 districts of Badakhshan, Kunduz, Takhar, and Baghlan including the construction, rehabilitation or extension of 260 primary & secondary schools, 37 roads and bridges and 16 irrigation canals. At the same time, the project has trained roughly 18,000 development council members in project selection and monitoring. The programme's total budget amounts to more than AFN 7 billion for the period from 2010 to 2018.