

## Improving Basic Education: More than 40 Experts Discuss Future Activities

The Ministry of Education's head of planning and strategy, Mr Abdul Waseh, emphasised, 'The Ministry of Education's priority is to build the teachers' capacities and to increase the number of qualified teachers for primary grades. We appreciate the Afghan-German Cooperation's support to tackle these issues.'

Well-trained teachers are a condition for ensuring high-quality education. Education, in turn, increases economic growth and reduces poverty in the long term. Therefore, the attending experts shared and discussed their ideas for effective teacher training in Afghanistan. They finalised a two-year agenda that determines upcoming activities for improving education quality.

In the coming years, more than 200 lecturers and 9,000 students at Teacher Training Colleges will benefit from training on teaching methodology, gender and human rights. Furthermore, a new curriculum for teachers of early grades will improve teaching quality at all Afghan schools. Both, the Teacher Education Directorate and BEPA will implement planned activities. The TED's Director of Academic Affairs, Mr Rahmati, commented, 'We are very happy about the German ambition to roll out some activities nationwide.'

BEPA has already achieved significant results. For example, practice teaching and peace education are now part of teacher training nationwide. BEPA has further facilitated women's access to teacher colleges and promoted girls' enrolment at high schools.

*The Basic and Secondary Education Programme (BEPA) is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). BEPA aims at improving the quality of basic education in Afghanistan by assisting the Afghan Ministry of Education (MoE) with teacher training and curriculum development. Since 2008, BEPA provided training for more than 25,000 teachers and lecturers. Further, 22 teacher-training centres have introduced mandatory internships for ongoing teachers. As a result, about 15,800 university students and 88,300 school students in Northern Afghanistan are currently benefiting from improved education. They now have access to specialised, age-appropriate and student-centred schooling.*

Teaser text:

Today, more than 40 experts from Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs), Provincial Education Directorates (PEDs) and the Teacher Education Directorate (TED) met to discuss necessary activities to further improve teacher training in Afghanistan. The Afghan-German Cooperation's programme for improving basic education in Afghanistan (BEPA) facilitated the event to promote quality education for all Afghans.

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