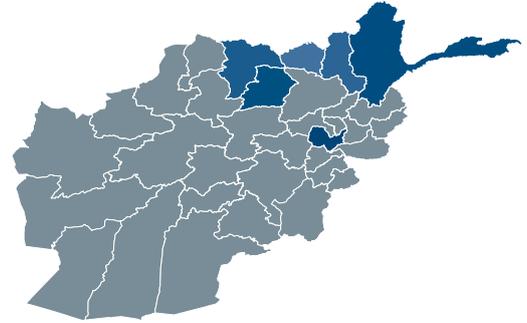


German Cooperation with Afghanistan

Energy – The Key to Development



Context

For over 75% of Afghanistan’s rural population, a regulated power supply is still inconceivable. Electricity production is insufficient, mains systems are either non-existent or obsolete, and distribution grids are either ailing or insufficiently developed. This situation leads to high electricity losses and power cuts lasting several days in some cases. It also hampers the reliable supply of electricity to enterprises and production facilities. Additionally, Afghanistan lacks the legal framework needed to facilitate nationwide investment in the energy sector and create investment incentives and guarantees.

Objective

The population, companies and public institutions have access to energy that is generated in an environmentally sound and climate-friendly manner. Afghan institutions and professionals have acquired the skills to create the general conditions for reliable power supply.

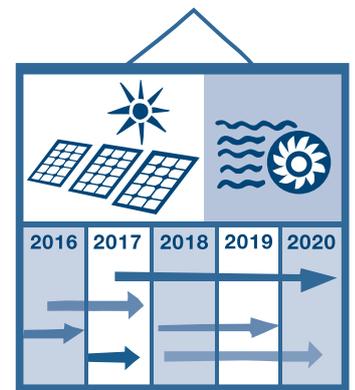
Measures & Results

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been working on behalf of the German government since 2002 to advise the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) and other public and private institutions and organisations on planning a sustainable energy supply system. The focus is on providing the Afghan people with access to energy generated wherever possible in a climate friendly manner in order to promote economic growth and education, and to help reduce poverty.

Overview	
Programme	Institutional Development for Energy in Afghanistan (IDEA)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partners	Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS - Afghanistan’s national power utility) Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) Afghan Renewable Energy Union (AREU)
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Provinces	Kabul, Balkh, Badakhshan, Kunduz, Samangan and Takhar
Programme objective	Develop the capacity of different interest groups in the fields of policy-making and business at national and provincial level

Political and legal framework

The programme is assisting the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) with revising, reformulating and implementing Afghanistan’s energy policy. The necessary general institutional conditions have already been identified and corresponding regulations produced. The legislature has already passed five laws and



Support for the implementation of the five-year plan for renewable energies

strategies, with two more pieces of legislation (National Energy Policy and Rural Renewable Energy Policy) currently at the approval stage.

Institutional cooperation mechanisms

The Renewable Energy Coordination Committee (RECC) was set up with support from the programme. The RECC is the coordination body for the various actors in the renewable energy sector and is now officially recognised by the Afghan government.

At provincial level, the programme supports Provincial Energy Committees (PECs), which work with the national ministries and authorities to implement strategies and sectoral plans. For example, the different provinces in which energy is generated must coordinate feed-in and distribution with the government in Kabul. For this reason, IDEA is assisting MEW with connecting the numerous actors in the energy sector together. An agreement between MEW, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS - Afghanistan's national power utility) and the Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) on close cooperation and coordination within the energy sector is a milestone in this regard. It serves to pool requirements from different areas, enabling MEW to work with the responsible institutions to develop, agree and implement corresponding plans.



84 meetings of **6** working groups for planning a sustainable energy supply

Professional energy supply planning

With its five-year plan, the Afghan government ushered in an energy transition in mid-2016 which gears energy supply more strongly to renewable energies, domestic production and market conditions. Ministries, provincial authorities and



Renewable energy systems were handed over to the Afghan energy supplier | © GIZ

the private sector are collaborating in energy working groups to draft proposals on ways to implement the electrification strategies as quickly as possible at provincial level. A sub-goal of this five-year plan is to generate some 500 megawatts of energy from renewable sources (wind, hydro, gas and solar power) by 2020, which would make it possible to supply up to one million households.

Well trained professional staff

For the operators of the new power plants to be able to service and maintain them, they need well-qualified staff. GIZ developed courses and trained 71 employees of municipal operators and the national power utility DABS.

The programme also supported the Afghan government with training up specialist staff for alternative energy plants. To this end, MEW's vocational education and training centre was supplied with teaching materials. An internship programme has also been launched to improve the employment prospects of graduates.

Engaging the private sector

IDEA worked with the Afghanistan Renewable Energy Union (AREU) to analyse companies in the energy sector. It was discovered in the process that the private sector now recognises AREU in its role as an interest group. An agreement with the German Solar Industry Association (BSW) is now also raising the profile of AREU outside of Afghanistan and makes it possible for invitations to tender for parts of the aforementioned expansion plans to also be issued to companies outside of the country.

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