

German Cooperation with Afghanistan

Economic Infrastructure in the North



Context

Decades of violent conflict in Afghanistan have largely destroyed the livelihoods of the Afghan population. Schools and bridges have been damaged and many transport routes are impassable. However, this infrastructure is a key prerequisite for economic development in Northern Afghanistan.

Objective

Economic infrastructure is improved in different locations in the Northern provinces of Balkh, Kunduz, Samangan, Takhar and Badakhshan.

Measures & Results

KfW has been working on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) since 2007 to assist the Afghan Ministry of Public Works (MoPW) with the construction of roads and bridges. A social and economic infrastructure with schools and health centres is being built and expanded in towns and villages.

Most of the construction work is being carried out by local firms. Wherever possible, residents from surrounding communities are involved in the work, providing them with temporary employment and an income for their families. By way of technical support, international experts prepare the construction projects and monitor implementation. Accompanying construction activities, such as the installation of storage rooms in market squares, wells, schools, health centres and access roads to remote villages, directly benefit the population. Improved road connections are facilitating social and economic development in rural areas of the respective provinces.

Expansion of the Mazar-e Sharif to Chahar Kent road

The Mazar-e Sharif to Chahar Kent road connects Balkh's provincial capital with the agricultural district of Chahar Kent 42 km to the South. The first 10 kilometres of the road have now



Construction works are mostly implemented by local companies supported by international experts | © KfW

been asphalted. Homes, businesses and factories have sprung up along this section. The second, 33 km-long section of road, which runs through sparsely populated mountains towards Chahar Kent, has been rehabilitated and upgraded. A combination of flood defence measures and concrete slabs is being used

Overview	
Programme	Reconstruction of Economic Infrastructure in Northern Afghanistan
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partner	Afghan Ministry of Public Works (MoPW)
Implementing organisation	KfW
Provinces	Badakhshan, Balkh, Kunduz, Samangan, Takhar
Programme objective	Contribute to economic development by expanding infrastructure

to avert the risk of the road being eroded by spring flooding. The road was completed in 2013, reducing the 3.5 hour travel time from Chahar Kent to Mazar-e Sharif to 1.5 hours.



Small infrastructure projects along the road improve the local population's living conditions | © KfW

Upgrading of the Fakhar – Warsaj and Taloqan – Chal roads

25 km of new road was built between Fakhar and Warsaj and a further 26 km rehabilitated, cutting journey times by around 2.5 hours. A 4 km or so section of road between Taloqan and Chal has been asphalted and the Begum bridge restored, securing access to the town of Rustaq, 43 km away.

Upgrading of the Kunduz–Khulm Highway

At 112 km long, the upgrading of the Kunduz–Khulm Highway is the most comprehensive road construction project currently being undertaken by the Afghan-German Cooperation. There is currently no asphalted road connection between the towns of Kholm (Balkh province) and Kunduz (Kunduz province). Travelers have to take a long detour via the city of Pol-e Khomri to the South. The Kunduz–Kholm Highway is intended to considerably facilitate trade and transportation between the economic centres of Mazar-e Sharif (Balkh province) and Kunduz, as well as



The **112** km national highway between Kunduz (Kunduz) and Khulm (Balkh) is being upgraded

between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, and improve access for the population to markets and (medical) services. So far, 31.6 km and 27 km of the national highway have been completed in two phases. The next step involves completing another 10 km. There

are still security matters to be clarified for construction of the final 28 km. The end sections near the towns of Kunduz and Kholm, measuring 15 km in total, have already been completed, as has a bridge in the Char-Darrah district of Kunduz province.

Urban roads

Kunduz, Feyzabad and Taloqan now benefit from a total of 26 km of newly asphalted urban roads, improving living conditions for their residents. In Taloqan, for example, one of these roads connects the university with the city centre.

The roads are having a positive impact on economic development in the cities. Numerous businesses and new buildings have already sprung up along them. To continue encouraging this progress, a building was erected in Feyzabad for the city's chamber of commerce.

Supporting measures

In order to further improve the living conditions of the population, the programme is undertaking smaller projects along the roads as required. For example, the population of Char Darrah now has faster access to medical care in the mobile health unit and at the health centre in Kholm. School students at Char-Darrah high school have also received schoolbooks for the first time. And residents can now draw clean drinking water from rehabilitated wells in Hayat and Kholm. Additionally, seven villages close to the roads now have access to clean drinking water from newly constructed wells.



Improved road connections facilitate the rural area's social and economic development in the respective provinces | © KfW

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