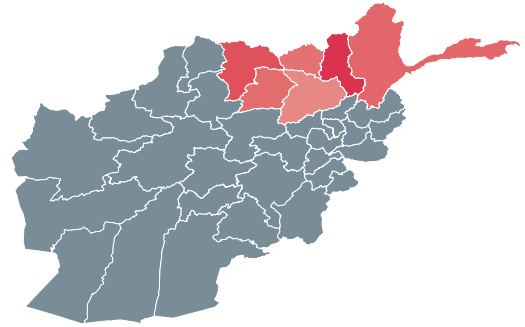


Regional Capacity Development



Context

Around 32 million people live in Afghanistan, two thirds of them in rural areas. They require access to infrastructure and basic services in order to contribute to their country’s development; otherwise, this regional potential remains untapped. In order to stabilise Afghanistan, well-functioning government and administrative structures with the capacity to provide essential public services are needed. This applies particularly to remote provinces and districts where the central government is largely absent.

Objective

Provincial and district administrations in the six northern provinces are able to plan and implement their own development projects autonomously, transparently and in line with the citizens’ needs. This increases public confidence in the legitimacy and efficiency of the government.

Measures and Results

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has been funding Regional Capacity Development (RCD) – a follow-up project to the Regional Capacity Development Fund (RCDF), established in 2010 – since July 2014. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is assisting the Afghan government in four fields of action in order to:

1. improve conditions for sub-national governance;
2. build capacities of the provincial and district administrations;
3. strengthen the relations between state and society at sub-national level;
4. support disaster risk management in Badakhshan.

Overview	
Programme	Regional Capacity Development (RCD)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partners	Ministry of Finance (MoF) Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC) Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA)
Implementing organisations	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH KfW
Provinces	Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Kunduz, Samangan, Takhar
Programme objective	To enhance the legitimacy and efficiency of governance and improve public service delivery



700 training events for more than **32,500** government officials, administrative staff and provincial council members (since 2011)

As a counterpart to the RCD, KfW has been running the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) since 2010. In accordance with its infrastructure development remit, the RIDF finances the construction and rehabilitation of roads, irrigation systems and schools, etc. The two funds share the same decision-making bodies and are closely linked; for example, they provide joint in-service technical training sessions for engineers employed by the provincial authorities.

Policy advice at national level

With advice and assistance from the RCD at the national level, a new policy framework for sub-national governance was developed. The RCD also supports the implementation of the new Provincial Budgeting Policy. The Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) is receiving support in developing and facilitating the provincial councils' supervisory functions.

Cooperation with provincial and district administrations

The project assists the relevant Afghan authorities and their local administrations to produce provincial and district development plans and provide capacity building for senior government officials. This takes the form of in-service training which enables the officials to develop new skills. Here, coordination with the national government plays a key role in ensuring project continuity.

Since July 2010, more than 32,500 government officials, administrative staff and members of the provincial councils, including 8,700 women, have taken part in around 700 capacity development training events, covering topics such as project planning and the submission of applications, report writing, accountability, monitoring and evaluation, human resources and office management, anti-corruption, gender equality, civil rights and civic duties, maintenance of infrastructure, and engineering. In addition to this in-service training, premises have been provided for the provincial and district authorities. A basic infrastructure for public service provision has also been established and is being maintained. In all, 81 construction and renovation schemes have been implemented to date under the RCD and the previous programme.

Improving state-society relations

With the RCD's support, provincial and district administrations as well as provincial councils are producing information materials to raise public awareness of the Afghan Government's activities. Various authorities, such as registry offices, are receiving assistance to enable them to improve their public service delivery. The district administrations are encouraged to hold public information events and consultations, facilitating government accountability and stakeholder dialogue on proposed development schemes. The public is actively involved in these events, which strengthen state-society relations.



195 PR measures have informed approx. **27,300** people about the Government's activities at district and provincial level (since 2011)

As a further step, feedback mechanisms will be set up in selected provinces in future in order to institutionalise the dialogue between the public and the authorities. These consultations and information campaigns have reached approximately 27,300 people since 2011.

Disaster risk management in Badakhshan

After natural disasters devastated Badakhshan in 2014, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to assist the provincial authorities to minimise the impacts of these events. In addition to efficient delivery of emergency relief, the main focus is on disaster prevention.

This involves the production of risk maps, showing which specific communities are most at risk from floods, avalanches and landslides. International and local experts then provide training for staff from the relevant authorities, equipping them with the skills they need to use the maps in their work. The previous programme – Badakhshan Natural Disaster Prevention (BNDP) – ran a total of 90 in-service training sessions on this and other topics.

Furthermore, in the four focus districts – Kofab, Khwahan, Shahr-e Buzurg and Shukai – partners have received intensive advice on implementing seven infrastructural and six tree-planting schemes. Together with the 13 construction schemes completed to date, which include flood defence walls and irrigation channels, this has done much to improve the crisis prevention infrastructure. These at-risk districts will continue to be prioritised in future. The experience gained here will then be shared more widely with relevant institutions in Kabul and other provinces.

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Contact:

Dr Rexane Rasmussen

Programme Manager "Regional Capacity Development (RCD) in Afghanistan"

E rexane.rasmussen@giz.de

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تطبيق کننده:

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

KfW