

German Cooperation with Afghanistan

Supporting Vocational Training



Context

Demand for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) opportunities in Afghanistan is enormous; some 800,000 young people flood onto the labour market each year. The more vocational colleges, training options and jobs created in the country in the coming decades, the better young people of working age can be integrated into Afghanistan's social and economic life. However, only 4% or so of young people currently have a formal vocational qualification, whereas up to 60% receive traditional training in Afghan small enterprises. Consequently, in addition to school-based vocational instruction, it is appropriate to focus on expanding company-based vocational training which can build on the traditional structures. At the same time, the enormous administrative and management deficits in the TVET system must be remedied by means of consistent reforms.

Objective

Afghan-German Cooperation projects support the systemic development of formal vocational education in Afghanistan

Overview	
Programme	Supporting technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in Afghanistan
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partners	Afghan Deputy Ministry of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DM TVET) Afghan Ministry of Education (MoE) Afghan Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD)
Implementing organisations	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH; KfW
Provinces	Country-wide
Programme objective	Establish a viable TVET system

by providing advice on necessary reforms, building vocational training colleges and training teachers. Access to vocational training institutions and qualitative improvements in vocational education increase the employability of young people.

Measures & Results

Working on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and KfW have been supporting the Afghan government in the vocational education and training sector since 2010 and 2011 respectively. They are assisting the Afghan Deputy Ministry of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DM TVET) with setting up a viable formal TVET system and modernising traditional apprenticeship training.

Building and equipping vocational training colleges

Afghanistan lacks vocational training college buildings in which young people can learn a profession. To date, two vocational training colleges specialising in agriculture have been set up in the Northern provinces of Kunduz and Balkh. There are currently almost 900 young people attending the vocational training college in Takh-ta Pol near Balkh's provincial capital Mazar-e Sharif, and just under 800 attending the college in Kunduz province. Additionally, around 360 men and women are currently being prepared for careers as vocational teachers at a recently built vocational teacher training college. The campus is also home to a college for engineers, which is due to open in 2017.

The buildings are functional, low-maintenance and built to a high standard, as well as being energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly. For example, the vocational college campus near Mazar-e Sharif has solar power systems to generate electricity and plant-based systems to purify water. Local companies primarily employing workers from the surrounding area were commissioned to construct the building.



The newly constructed vocational school for agricultural professions in Kunduz | © KfW

A new TVET college is currently being set up in Takhar province. The first vocational students are expected to begin classes at the start of the 2017 academic year. The institution will have capacity for training about 620 students in car mechanics, electronics, mechanical engineering, installation, administration, accounting, commerce and IT.

In addition to college buildings, suitable equipment is also essential for good teaching. A total of 50 vocational colleges have so far received classroom furniture and basic workshop equipment.

Initial and advanced teacher training

Teachers are the mainstay of any education system, and good teacher training is an essential part of a high-quality TVET system. However, for many years, there was no initial or advanced training for vocational teachers in Afghanistan. Consequently, two teacher training institutions have been built and fitted out in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif. Over 570 students are currently enrolled in Kabul, one third of them in the five-semester vocational teacher training course. In total, there are almost 950 young people presently training as vocational teachers at the Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif centres.



950 individuals are completing vocational teacher training in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif

Additionally, over 5,500 teachers, 22% of them women, have taken part in vocational or subject-based teacher training. These professionals can now apply their acquired knowledge in the classroom and pass it on to colleagues.

Dual traditional apprenticeship training

Between 35 and 60% of young people in Afghanistan work for several years as informal apprentices at the 500,000 or so craft and commercial enterprises in the bazars. These apprenticeships, some of them dating back centuries, have so far received little state or societal recognition. At the end of 2014, 306 representatives from the guilds, the Federation of Afghanistan Craftsmen and Traders and the Ministry of Education agreed to allow apprentices from the bazars to attend a college for up to two days a week alongside their work. At college, they acquire the latest production and service knowledge they need for carrying out and managing modern business operations.



1,000 apprentices are attending evening

The first 916 apprentices have been attending the vocational colleges in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif since March 2015. The modernisation of traditional apprenticeships is another step towards improving training for skilled workers. Additionally, it saves the public sector up to EUR 6.5 billion in investment costs for vocational college buildings and equipment.

New occupational profiles

So far, seven new occupations that require formal training have been developed for formal vocational training and another six for apprenticeship training. There are already 50 vocational colleges at which young people can complete this training.

Practical experience

Vocational students should become acquainted with real business operations while still at college. Some 6,000 young men and more than 2,000 young women have completed a four-week work-based placement. Over 750 Afghan businesses have opened their doors for such placements.

January 2017

Contact:

Dr Gustav Reier

Programme Manager "Supporting Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)"
E gustav.reier@giz.de

Dr Andreas Schneider

Director, KfW Office, Kabul
E andreas_2.Schneider@kfw.de

Implemented by:
تطبيق کننده:

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

KfW