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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Afghanistan Engineering Support Program (AESP)

OVERVIEW

The Afghanistan Engineering Support Program (AESP) provides architecture and engineering (A&E) services to support USAID/Afghanistan's Office of Economic Growth and Infrastructure (OEGI). Activities under AESP complement the activities and expertise of USAID's staff. The AESP team provides resident A&E services and capacity building for local national employees, Afghan ministries, and USAID staff in several sectors: energy, transportation, water and sanitation, vertical structures, field/technical services, and communication.

ACTIVITIES

- **Energy & Transportation Engineering:** Provides planning, design, and quality assurance services in electric power transmission and generation projects throughout Afghanistan. AESP also provides third-party quality assurance oversight services for: road projects and airport construction; master planning; and, engineering support for provincial reconstruction teams.
- **Vertical Structures:** Supports architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing design reviews. Provides technical/design support for education, health, and judicial facilities.
- **Technical Services:** AESP technically reviews existing dam and hydro-electric power facilities. Dam assessments examine issues such as flood control, irrigation, and power generation.
- **Capacity Building:** Provides training and professional advancement opportunities for Afghan staff. Training topics include: project management skills, computer-aided-design (CAD) techniques, application of building standards and technical specifications, communication skills, technical writing, and leadership.
- **Empowerment of Female Engineering Students:** The AESP internship program provides third- and fourth-year female engineering students with on-the-job experience.
- **Media Assistance:** AESP assists with community outreach and communication.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Woman Engineering Internship Program:** Successfully provided real life engineering work experience to four female engineering students.
- **Capacity Building:** Enhanced management and leadership skills of Afghan staff, which resulted in promotion of a local national engineer to Deputy Chief of Party in 2012.
- **Gender Equality:** AESP's gender efforts resulted in the hiring of an Afghan female architect for permanent employment in the program.
- **Transportation engineering:** Completed eight road projects and three airport reconstruction quality assurance projects.
- **Energy engineering:** Completed 28 transmission and generation planning and design projects and assisted the vertical structures sector in electrical design reviews.
- **Vertical structures A&E:** Completed 22 vertical structure master planning, design, design review, and quality assurance projects.
- **Sustainability/Operations and Maintenance:** Created operations and maintenance (O&M) cost estimates for 21 USAID-funded construction or rehabilitation facilities, which will allow the Afghan Government to more effectively create annual O&M budgets.
- **Water resources:** Completed site visits to four hydro-electric dam sites. Prepared and reviewed cost estimates for two dams, and reviewed the river hydraulics related to a bridge failure.
- **Water and sanitation:** Completed design of on-site wastewater treatment plants and water systems for two high schools and performed reviews of the Kabul Water Study and Kabul Water System bid documents.