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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Afghan Energy Capacity Building Program

OVERVIEW

In July 2008, in collaboration with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, USAID launched the Afghan Energy Capacity Building Program. This project provides technical, managerial, and administrative capacity building in the Afghan energy sector, primarily the electrical sector. The Ministry of Energy and Water's (MEW), Vocational Training Center (VTC), the national utility - Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), and engineering students of Kabul Polytechnic and Kabul University are the primary beneficiaries of the project. The overall approach of the project is to develop meaningful capacity-building activities customized to meet the needs of beneficiaries, and address the immediate and long-term needs of the energy sector.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Provide DABS technical staff in the greater Kabul area with mentoring and on-the-job training (OJT), as well as computer and English proficiency at Hydro Power Plants and major substations
- Improve the quality of education at the VTC by providing courses in English, computers for students, equipment upgrades for practical laboratories, instructor study tours, and leadership/team building programs
- Boost administrative skills at MEW to provide better energy sector leadership in the future

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided technical advisor support to DABS and MEW to enable the North East Power System (NEPS) to be energized two years ahead of schedule, providing dependable, imported electrical service to more than four million citizens
- Provided advisory support to MEW in drafting an electricity law for Afghanistan
- Assisted DABS by supporting operations and maintenance on the job training at NEPS' substations, increasing management skills and technical training (in Kabul, Baghlan and Balkh Provinces)
- Assisted DABS with technical planning and construction of a 68 km, 20 kV distribution line completed two years ahead of schedule, that provides electricity to 240,000 residents of Parwan Province, with the potential to supply an additional 400,000 Afghans as the "tie-ins" to the 20 kV line expands
- Provided more than one million instructional hours of training for more than 4,000 electricity sector employee/students (465 were women) that included MEW and DABS personnel
- Upgraded the dormitory facilities and expanded practical laboratory facilities for VTC students and created a year-round diesel generator and electric motor laboratories
- Helped MEW to develop an energy sector capacity building strategy to ensure energy sector donor programs' coordination
- Improved Kabul Polytechnic University and Kabul University Electrical Engineering students' employability by providing field training to all phases of an electrical utility—including post-graduate training in India at the National Power Training Institute (groups of 21 and 30 graduates)