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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Road Operation and Maintenance and Capacity Building Project

OVERVIEW

Routine maintenance is essential to ensuring the continued safety and utility of recently reconstructed Afghan roads. The Road Operation and Maintenance (O&M) and Capacity Building Project supports implementation of this critical infrastructure work, as well as long-term capacity development for both the public and private-sector. One objective is to support O&M operations for regional and national highways with Afghan companies through performance-based contracting. The project also provides technical assistance to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to enable them to pursue reform and adopt policies for the transport sector that are based on international best practices. This includes the second, longer-term objective, which is to support the creation of an Afghan Road Authority and Road Fund to finance and implement road maintenance. This project helps provide an efficient transportation system that is sustainable and responds to the needs of the people of Afghanistan. Accomplishing this goal will promote economic growth, reduce poverty, and facilitate sustained development in Afghanistan.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- **Road operation and maintenance:** Perform routine and emergency maintenance on 1,626 kilometers of regional and national highways rehabilitated by USAID since 2002; an additional 250 kilometers of roads are maintained in a provincial O&M pilot program in Paktiya and Parwan provinces
- **Salang Tunnel emergency repairs:** Conduct emergency rehabilitation repairs on the Salang Tunnel to help upgrade the tunnel to trafficable standards including: rehabilitation of the road surface, improvement of drainage, lighting and ventilation, and the addition of galleries for avalanche protection
- **Bridge reconstruction:** Provide design and management oversight for reconstruction of nine damaged bridges along the Kabul to Kandahar Road
- **Capacity building:** Provide training in the form of seminars, technical and management group discussions, and fieldwork for Ministry of Public Works (MoPW) staff, counterparts, and private sector contractors
- **Transport Inter-Ministerial Commission (T-IMC):** Facilitate the coordination of eight transport-related ministries, through support for the T-IMC Secretariat, to implement sound transport policies at the national level

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed a Road Authority framework in collaboration with 23 Afghan officials
- Generated employment for more than 70 Afghans through the establishment of a Road Management Unit performing periodic and preventive maintenance, rehabilitation, and improvements for specific roads
- Maintained 1,875 kilometers of national, regional, and provincial roads
- Increased technical capacity of MoPW provincial staff