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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Advisor to the Secretariat of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Energy (ICE)

OVERVIEW

Afghanistan's public electricity sector lacks adequate levels of human resources and technical capacity. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) and the international community have invested hundreds of millions of dollars to develop and build a wide variety of projects to improve the supply of electricity. To bring together the various ministries that impact the electric power sector, the government created the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Energy (ICE) and appointed a secretariat to support it.

The objective of this USAID-funded project is to provide long-term technical assistance and support through advisors to the ICE secretariat. USAID's project contributes to a multi-disciplined approach that was designed within the Afghan government and the donor community to produce positive and sustainable results. The Asian Development Bank, USAID, the World Bank, GTZ, and other donors provide technical advisors. Together, these advisors provide inputs according to their areas of responsibilities and expertise to the ICE Secretariat so that it can develop solutions for energy-sector development objectives.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Provide a wide variety of technical and advisory services spanning the full range of the electrical power sector, as required by the secretariat with a primary focus on the North East Power System (NEPS), but technical assistance also addresses the South East Power System (SEPS) and the existing and planned power supply within Kabul
- Advise the ICE and donor organizations on existing and future electrical power-sector issues, analyze data, and provide policy options related to electrical power-sector development and implementation including renewable energy
- Coordinate with NEPS and SEPS stakeholders to track progress, provide reports, identify problems and funding gaps, and help ensure successful system completion
- Assist with the drafting of papers for GIROA on issues pertaining to energy regulation, policies, and energy-related issues, as required by the secretariat
- Advise the ICE Secretariat on meeting future electric power needs after the completion of NEPS
- Provide support to the ICE to help fulfill its mandate to develop inter-ministerial coordination on private-investment projects and help create a private investment program for the power sector

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Supported the ICE secretariat to successfully establish ICE subcommittees on Renewable Energy and Rural Electrification, Capacity Building, and NEPS and SEPS Interconnection.
- Facilitated continued construction by the Government of India of Chimtala, the largest substation in Afghanistan (the Chimtala substation is a key part of the NEPS and is necessary for delivering 100 megawatts or more of electricity from Uzbekistan and other Central Asian Republics to Kabul City)