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MINING INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FOR AFGHANISTAN SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

MARCH 2013 – MARCH 2017

\$43 MILLION

OVERVIEW

The Mining Investment and Development for Afghanistan Sustainability (MIDAS) project assists the Afghan Government to responsibly develop the nation's mining industry by improving its ability to plan, design and implement mining concessions through transparent tender processes. MIDAS goal is to make Afghanistan's mining industry a key source of government revenues and expand the skilled labor force to include women playing a role in the mineral development. MIDAS guides the Afghan Government to implement legal and regulatory reforms for the industry, providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP).

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Assist the Afghan Government to develop transparent bidding processes, contracting procedures to adopt and implement mining laws and regulations according to international best practices.
- Help the MoMP develop expertise in data analysis and mineral deposit management, including the execution of mineral tenders and contract management in keeping with international standards of transparency and revenue generation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Supported MoMP on Mining Law Amendment. Waiting for the Ministry of Justice for approval.
- Supported MoMP in strengthening the legal framework by completing six regulations and drafted multiple procedures and policy papers.
- Enhanced MoMP expertise with on-the-job training in mineral exploration, drilling, mapping and investment promotion.
- Developed an open process for licensing mineral areas and an industry-standard contract guide, resulting in greatly reduced processing time.
- Carried out the first mineral drilling exploration program for granite in Shirbatu, Bamyan Province.
- Deployed seven mineral exploration expedition teams of up to 35 geologists and engineers from the Afghanistan Geological Survey (AGS) to search for mineral deposits.
- Led study tours to the United States and Kyrgyzstan for government officials, business and civil society, providing comparative perspectives on mining legal and financial systems.
- Trained more than 450 public and private sector as well as civil society representatives on mine development, land rights and environment protection, and business start-up procedures in the mining sector.
- Facilitated two key trainings about major mineral contracts drafting and negotiation in New York and Istanbul.
- Drafted policy papers including confidentiality agreement about sharing of information.
- Approved two tender packages (Herat Cement and Samangan Cement) by the Afghan Government. The two tenders are seen as quick-win in support of economic growth for the Afghan Government.
- Provided technical trainings for Afghan Geologists in standardizing maps and seismic methods.
- Prepared information packages for six minerals: Barite, Gypsum, Talc, Sulfur, Fluorspar and Granite.
- Conducted seven technical trainings for 76 (70 male and 6 female) MoMP & AGS staff during the period of April to June 2016.

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