representatives in the districts plan development projects and implement them independently. They also cooperate more closely with each other and work more effectively with state institutions.

Measures and Results

Infrastructure expansion

The Stabilisation Programme for Northern Afghanistan (SPNA) supports communities in 52 districts in developing local infrastructure. Infrastructure projects are selected in consultation with the local population and municipal institutions. The districts receive grants for the implementation of small to medium-sized projects. The district development councils play a central role in the selection process, identifying the most important developmental requirements in their district. Decisions on selection are based on the existing district development plans.

332 projects have so far been completed as part of the project, including 250 schools and 34 roads and bridges that have been either newly constructed or renovated and equipped to
Survey on the effectiveness of activities

In November 2013, KfW commissioned a survey on the effectiveness of the activities carried out as part of the Stabilisation Programme. 95% of respondents said they had better access to social and/or economic infrastructure as a result of the NSP measures. Some respondents reported that the programme had brought about a stronger state presence and greater visibility on the part of state institutions. The fact that district development councils were involved in both project selection and project implementation was singled out as an especially positive development. This has brought the provision of basic infrastructure more in line with demand and ensured high levels of transparency.

The local population is actively involved in construction activities, enabling them to generate income.

The involvement of various governmental actors at district level provides them with an opportunity to get to know each other. This is an important first step towards better networking and the successful coordination of future projects.

Each individual infrastructure project is monitored and evaluated by numerous engineers from partner organisations, construction companies, district development councils and monitoring consultants. This ensures that project activities are carried out to a high standard and that knowledge is shared among all actors.

Training for district councils

Members of the district development councils (DDCs) have received high-quality instruction in the areas of project selection and monitoring as part of training measures delivered to a total of 52 district administrations. This has enabled them to better identify the needs of local residents and to develop more efficient and effective processes for the implementation of infrastructure measures. As a result, their overall competence has improved. DDC members also receive training in areas such as conflict management, improving opportunities for women and managing community resources.

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Contact:

Dr Andreas Schneider
Director, KfW Office, Kabul
E: andreas_2.schneider@kfw.de