The German Development Tracker for Afghanistan
Since 2001, the German Government has been supporting Afghanistan’s civilian reconstruction with considerable financial resources. Total investments since 2009 amount to more than EUR 3.8 billion. Years of financial support sparked a political and public debate about the successes and results of the German Cooperation with Afghanistan. Consequently, the need for reliable and quickly accessible data aroused. Following, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) initiated the Tracking System for Afghanistan upon decision of the German Government in 2010. The tracking system was further developed and transferred to the continuously funded German Development Tracker for Afghanistan (DevTracker) in October 2014.
The DevTracker

The DevTracker is a web-based database which continuously compiles all activities and outputs of the German Cooperation with Afghanistan since 2009. In addition, the system records all available data back to 2003. Data quality and the user-friendliness of the data entry process are constantly being improved.

All five German ministries which support Afghanistan financially utilise the database:
- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- German Federal Foreign Office (AA)
- German Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg)
- German Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI)
- German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

Access to the database is restricted to authorised ministerial staff and to employees of various implementing organisations responsible for entering and updating data.

Those include the following:
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- KfW Development Bank
- More than 105 other organisations, e.g. Caritas, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), Geethe-Institute, UNAMA, UNDP, Welthungerhilfe

Note: If there is justified interest, individuals from universities or think tanks receive temporary access to the DevTracker for research purposes.

Use of the DevTracker

The DevTracker provides a detailed overview of all activities financed by the German Government in Afghanistan and is used for various purposes:

- Numerous public relations products on the German Cooperation with Afghanistan contain data from the DevTracker (e.g. data sheets, website, brochures, infographics, press releases and provincial maps)
- Ad hoc inquiries by German ministries or the press on the number and type of activities in Afghanistan can be handled in short time
- Cash outflows of all projects financed by the German government are recorded by the DevTracker and transmitted to the Afghan Ministry of Finance’s Development Aid Database
- Recording outputs serves as an important prerequisite for subsequent impact assessments and evaluations of individual projects as well as the entire Afghanistan portfolio
- The DevTracker provides sectoral information to relevant Afghan ministries such as the Ministry of Interior Affairs or the Ministry of Public Health
- Implementing organisations such as GIZ and KfW use DevTracker information for internal monitoring and to present their work to members of parliament and Afghan politicians
- The data collected can be used to contribute to monitoring agreements of the international donor community

In order to ensure data accuracy and validity, data entry rounds are conducted biannually. All projects which are financed by the German Government and have a contract value of at least EUR 500,000 are obliged to enter their data. Data entry rounds take place each year in June and December after a request by BMZ and AA.
Content / Information

The available data is collected at project and output level and complies with the internationally recognised standard of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI standard). As of January 2019, the DevTracker records more than 700 projects and over 22,000 outputs.

At project level, general data on the respective project is presented to provide an overview of the scope and framework conditions.

Information at project level includes:
- Project name and reference number
- Financial statements (total budget, budget by year and province)
- Donor(s), co-financing
- Partner organisation and ministry
- Duration
- Sector affiliation
- Target indicators

In order to provide a general overview of the outputs achieved by the German Cooperation with Afghanistan, data is collected and classified at output level.

Information at output level includes:
- Output name and output ID
- Description
- Category (over 50 categories, see page 8)
- Status (planned, on-going, completed)
- Year of implementation
- Number of direct beneficiaries (as far as identifiable)
- Contribution to respective SDGs
- Cross cutting theme recording (e.g. IDPs, returnees, gender)
- Afghan partner institution
- Location (province, district and GPS coordinates)
Outputs are divided into two main categories: material and immaterial. The categories provide a comprehensive breakdown of all types of outputs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material outputs</th>
<th>Immaterial outputs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td><strong>Capacity building</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction: hospitals, schools, governmental buildings, etc.</td>
<td>Training: job-specific, language courses, police training, teacher training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure networks: streets, bridges, canals, power and water lines and connections, etc.</td>
<td>Events: conferences, workshops, exhibitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial deliverables</strong></td>
<td><strong>Scholarships for Afghan schools or students</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits for public or commercial institutions</td>
<td>Seconded staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microcredits for individuals (start-ups)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash for Work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equipment / in-kind transfers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Logistics provided for the partner</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment (for usage by an Afghan partner): vehicles, IT systems</td>
<td>Maintenance services, installation of technical equipment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Aggregated overview of data in the DevTracker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building: 3,991 buildings</td>
<td>Portfolio overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash for work: 124,305 recipients</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment / in-kind transfer: 94,491,060 EUR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure networks: 5,102.8 km</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Training: 2,853,628 people trained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition to the already described functions and contents, the DevTracker offers the possibility to analyse and graphically display data. One option to illustrate various information is the Afghanistan map. Since all outputs include GPS data, it is possible to show the individual outputs graphically on the map. In addition, outputs can be displayed in combination with general indicators such as population density.

The map shown here illustrates the number of achieved outputs per province, as well as further detail of Badakhshan Province.
Imprint

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Contact:
E devtracker-afg@giz.de

Text:
Monitoring, Evaluierung & Kommunikation (MEK) | GIZ

Design:
Barbara Reuter | Oberursel

As of:
January 2019

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)