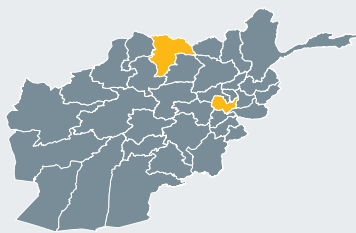


Training air traffic controllers in Afghanistan

Programme



Overview



Activities in the provinces Balkh (top left) and Kabul (bottom right)

Programme:	Promoting aviation safety in Mazar-e Sharif
Commissioned by:	German Federal Foreign Office (AA)
Partner:	Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation (MoTCA)
Implementing organisation:	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Provinces:	Balkh, Kabul
Programme objective:	<p>The Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation performs its supervisory duties in line with international standards.</p> <p>Establishment of training for civilian air traffic controllers to ensure safety in civil aviation.</p>

Situation

Afghanistan is almost twice the size of the Federal Republic of Germany and is completely landlocked. Its road network is sparse and the roads are often poorly maintained. At present there is only one, roughly 80-km-long railway line connecting Termez (in Uzbekistan) with Mazar-e Sharif (in Balkh Province). The already limited mobility of the Afghan people is restricted by the precarious security situation.

The Hindu Kush and Sefid Kuh mountain ranges render Afghanistan inaccessible by land from the north and east, which makes air travel all the more important. But the country has neither the human resources nor the infrastructure that are absolutely mandatory for civil aviation. The only civil aviation facility it has – the Kabul-based Civil Aviation Training Institute (CATI) – is currently unable to honour its training mandate. The few instructors it employs are not adequately trained, frequently have no practical experience and base their instruction on teaching materials that do not meet international standards.

Objective

Afghanistan presented its Civil Aviation Master Plan (CAMP) to set up the civil aviation in Afghanistan in 2009. CAMP provides for responsibility for aviation safety being transferred gradually over a period of several years from International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) to a civilian Afghan aviation safety authority, the Afghan Civil Aviation Authority, to be set up specifically for this purpose.

The provision of air traffic control theory training at Mazar-e Sharif International Airport has priority. Ten licensed Afghan air traffic controllers are to take charge of flight operations there once they have qualified. Parallel to this, the necessary technical facilities are to be put in place. They must comply with international standards if the airport is to operate internationally once the ISAF troops have pulled out.

Results

The German Federal Foreign Office (AA) commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to set up the training programme for air traffic controllers in August 2009. This is a major milestone on the way to re-building the national civil aviation system for Afghanistan.

- Of an initial 228 applicants, a recruitment procedure based on the specifications of the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) selected 47 suitable candidates in 2009. Each candidate had to undergo a medical examination to ascertain whether they also satisfied the physical requirements.
- Training initially focused on teaching and honing the English-language communication skills vital in international air traffic. This involved the use of specialist texts that contained basic aviation knowledge on such topics as meteorology and navigation. Following the next set of exams, the number of trainees fell again: this time from 47 to 25 students. Since mid-2010 the basics of civil aviation have been taught according to Annexes 1 to 18 of the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation.
- In July 2011, some 18 students successfully completed the final oral and written examination on 'Basic Civil Aviation'. Members of the German Armed Forces also sat on the examination board, since German army air traffic controllers will be carrying out the practical training at the workplace.
- September 2011 saw the start of theoretical training in line with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL). The 16 participants completed the course successfully in April 2012.
- All 16 went on to attend 'simulator' training in Allahabad, India, at the renowned Civil Aviation Training College (CATC), passing this section of their training in October 2012. Thus, the German Federal Foreign Office's commission to provide theory training has been successfully implemented.



To pass the exams, would-be air traffic controllers have to get through a lot of studying | Photo: GIZ



Trainee Afghan air traffic controllers with their instructors from Germany | Photo: GIZ



The first generation of air traffic controllers in training | Photo: GIZ

- In August 2012 the project's legal team presented the Afghan partner with the draft legal framework for aviation safety in Afghanistan. This document details how the requisite stages of training are to take place, how a license can be obtained and under which circumstances it may be withdrawn and possibly also renewed again. The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation (MoTCA) signed the framework document in September 2012, thus establishing mandatory regulations for the legal framework for aviation safety.

Status as at January 2013

Implemented by:
تطبيق کننده:

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

KfW

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