

Capacity-building to Develop Afghan Mining



In Kabul, Afghanistan, a training centre and a demonstration mine have been developed to support the training of mine inspectors from the Ministry of Mines in Afghanistan. The inspectors' training is part of the capacity-building and know-how transfer project ongoing since 2008, in which GAF (Germany) is supporting the set-up and implementation of two departments in the Ministry of Mines: the mines inspectorate and the mining cadastre.

A dedicated team, consisting of senior mining, environmental and mechanical engineers as well as GIS and IT experts, is on site to transfer know-how and to consult.

The newly constructed mock-underground mine sets a realistic stage for training and exercising international best practice. A one-year curriculum for mining inspectors has been developed covering theoretical and practical training for a full suite of topics including underground and open pit mining, ventilation, drilling, explosives, energy techniques, transportation, mining health & safety and environmental protection. Two groups of trainees from the Ministry currently receive training.

Afghanistan has a huge potential of mineral and energy resources which is still to a large extent unexploited. The development of the extractive industries sector has been identified as the single most important lever to develop the economy, create employment and raise government revenues. As major national and international investments and operations are about to start the capacity of the government to promote and regulate the natural resources sector becomes paramount. By improving governance the mines inspectorate and cadastre will play a crucial role for Afghanistan on its way to development, towards attracting investors and fighting poverty.

The GAF-run capacity-building project with regards to cadastre, inspectorate, audit and licensing functions within the Ministry of Mines, Afghanistan, is funded by the World Bank - International Development Association under the 'Sustainable Development of Natural Resources (SDNRP) Programme'.