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BRD involved in national Anti-Corruption Strategy Improvements

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BRD Participated in the Civil Society Consultative meeting on National Anti-Corruption Strategy Organized by the Secretariat of Policy and Oversight and Evaluation at the President of Afghanistan Office

In order to better integrate and improve anti-corruption activities in the country, the Afghan government in coordination with ministries and governmental departments has put together 66 new indicators forming the **7 pillars of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy**.

The pillars were presented to civil society with the aim of receiving their feedback during the consultative meetings.

BRD was one of the organizations and as of now, **inputs and suggestions from civil society have been incorporated in the new pillars and indicators.**

The National Anti-Corruption Strategy is currently based on five pillars:

1. political leadership and support for reformers network,
2. security sector reform,
3. institutionalization of merit-based civil service systems and the superiority of rules on relations in employment,
4. prosecution of corruption offenders and
5. sound financial and budgetary management, and tracing money in a transparent and verifiable manner. Altogether it has 66 goals and 38 benchmarks.

The two additional pillars are:

6. service delivery improvements
7. economic institutions improvements

The National Anti-Corruption Strategy, adopted on 6 May 1969, based on the President's order No. 2771 from 2017, applies to all government ministries and departments and requires them to develop and submit their plans of action that are necessary to implement the strategy. This strategy has made it possible to consolidate and improve the efforts of the fight against corruption in the ministries and departments in the country.



The Start of Irrigation Infrastructure Development through Civil Works Projects

With the aim of developing the capacity of the Irrigation Associations (IAs) to improve the irrigation infrastructure through civil works, BRD has started the civil work projects.

After the completion of ground works such as the establishment of structures and mechanisms for identification and selection of the irrigation infrastructure, BRD also developed an evaluation-criteria for the fulfillment of the civil works budget such as ensuring participatory diagnosis, and delivery of the governance modules.

The opening ceremony, organized by BRD, was attended by officials from Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and livestock (MAIL), BRD senior management and members of the Irrigation Associations, Water user Associations, and Community Development Councils. In their statements both MAIL Officials and Members of IAs and CDCs expressed their satisfaction regarding BRD's work and thanked BRD for their efforts on the successful implementation of the project's activities.



Under the civil work component, BRD supported the Irrigation Associations of NVDA and Balkh in periodization, selection and designing of the irrigation infrastructure project, including the process for approval by MAIL. To date, the design and approval of total 54 irrigation infrastructure projects with the total estimated cost of 1.082 m USD have been completed and are to be implemented by the relevant CDCs and IAs. The Civil Works component of the project will be overseen in each IA area by a sub-committee from the relevant IA, along with technical input from the BRD Engineering Team.





Community approach to culture heritage preservation

Under the community based program to preserve and safeguard culture heritage in Afghanistan, BRD organized **one day sessions for members of the community-based organizations** in Ningahar provinces. The aim of the session was to **raise awareness** and sensitize the importance's of the culture heritage from a historic perspective, including social development, peacebuilding prospective, the role of different stakeholder, including both national and local government institutions.

The result of the session has improved the level of awareness in regard to culture heritage and it's importance for the society. At the end of the session, the members of the community-based organizations have expressed interests and commitment for their engagement and further spreading these messages within their communities. They also plan to mobilize and effectively engage community members to preserve and protect culture heritage in their communities. The participants also appreciated BRD efforts for the session and expressed interest in additional training programs for their communities.



Urgent action to protect children in Afghanistan needed

Children are vulnerable to human and drug trafficking, many of them are becoming child soldiers in Afghanistan.

Children in Afghanistan are severely affected by the current security issues and difficult economic conditions caused by the current conflict in the country. This emergency requires urgent action from national and international organizations to protect children in Afghanistan.

According to the latest statistics published by the ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Afghanistan, currently there are **1.9 million children working**, of which 1.3 million are working in tough working conditions and have to lift heavy materials, only 28.000 children are covered by the social protection program.

Child labor is forbidden by law and represents a violation of the international convection of the right of the child, ratified by the government of Afghanistan.

As a rights-based organization, **BRD is supporting street children** through the social protection program, as well and children who are working as child-laborers. BRD aims to give children the opportunity to return to school and supports families by enabling them to send their children to school.



Capacity building and training for the participatory Irrigation management

Capacity Building of the Irrigation Association and Community Development Council under the capacity building programs for participatory Irrigation management.

Capacity building of the Irrigation associations, water user association and community development council to provide effective services to their communities is the key to developing sustainability and self-sufficiency of the community-based organizations. This is the prime component of the participatory Irrigation Management project. Keeping this goal in mind, BRD conducted a capacity building and training for existing and newly established community based organizations, taking into account all aspects of their work conditions. Based this assessment, the **capacity development and training plan** has been developed, which will consist of three main components: **1) formal training 2) mentorship and 3) experience-sharing visits.**

To date BRD has delivered training workshops on the following topics:

- **Organization and Management**
- **Operation and Maintenance**
- **Representation and Participation**
- **On Farm Water Management**
- **Conflict Resolution**
- **Gender sensitive and responsive planning and development**

BRD has also conducted several experience sharing events and to date, a total of 1742 participants have taken part, all members of the Irrigation Associations, Water User Associations, and Community Development councils, farmers and community elders both from Balkh and NVDA also attended the training events.

