



# Afghanistan: Infrastructure Project Implementation Support

Project Name	Infrastructure Project Implementation Support	
Project Number	53113-001	
Country	Afghanistan	
Project Status	Proposed	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA: Infrastructure Implementation Project Support	
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 1.50 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions	
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Agricultural policy, institutional and capacity development Energy - Energy sector development and institutional reform Public sector management - Public administration Transport - Transport policies and institutional development	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements	
Description	<p>The proposed knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) is the third of a series of TA projects from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to help the Government of Afghanistan better deliver sustainable infrastructure development. This TA will build on ADB's TA for Support for Infrastructure Investments and Policy (closed in September 2018) and ADB's current ongoing TA for Second Support for Infrastructure Investments and Policy, which helped the government improve budget and project selection processes. To sustain these improvements, the TA will (i) improve the monitoring of ADB-financed projects in Afghanistan by engaging third party monitoring consulting firms, (ii) enhance the government's infrastructure project performance monitoring system (PPMS), (iii) support project management, and (iv) strengthen institutional and human capacities.</p> <p>The TA is included in ADB's country operations business plan for Afghanistan, 2019 2021, which is aligned with the priorities of ADB's Strategy 2030 and country partnership strategy for Afghanistan, 2017 2021. The TA will focus on improving portfolio performance in the sectors that ADB has invested in, including agriculture, natural resources, and rural development; energy; and transport. In line with the TA objectives, the TA will also continue to support the National Infrastructure Plan, 2017 2021.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Insufficient financing for infrastructure. Afghanistan faces a severe infrastructure deficit. The National Infrastructure Plan estimates that the country requires an average of \$1 billion annually for infrastructure. Financing needed for the plan significantly exceeds available resources from development partners. In the long run, Afghanistan expects public private partnerships to fill in the funding gaps.</p> <p>Weak performance of projects. Afghanistan's current infrastructure portfolio has large project commitments, including ADB's. However, many projects experience significant delays and perform poorly mainly because of (i) low project readiness; (ii) poor quality at entry (inadequate project planning, appraisal, and design); (iii) restrictive and ineffective monitoring of projects because of security concerns; (iv) delays in procurement, contracting, disbursement, and various other stages of implementation; (v) ineffective project management offices with low technical and managerial capacity causing poor contract management; (vi) low capacity of contractors; and (vii) ineffective monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E). To address these critical issues, ADB, with the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and line ministries, developed the enhanced project delivery approach (EPDA) in 2016 to improve project and portfolio performance. The EPDA uses a fragile and conflict-affected situation (FCAS) framework to improve project preparation and management.</p> <p>In addition to providing financial support, ADB also provides cross-sector support to develop the government's capacity to plan and budget infrastructure. ADB's two other TA projects in this series helped the government develop the National Infrastructure Plan to better plan infrastructure projects and utilize resources at the national and sector level. The TA will help the government monitor the projects and improve their performance.</p> <p>Inadequate strategic focus. The government requires efficient infrastructure planning and resource allocation, in addition to support for project implementation and budget execution. With the support of ADB's TA projects and the government's proper planning, the government increased its budget execution rate by about 36%, achieving 96.8% in 2018 compared to 61% in 2017. The TA will provide strategic support, including training to improve M&amp;E capacity and to assess infrastructure development impacts.</p> <p>The government's capacity to identify, prioritize, and plan infrastructure development projects has improved significantly through ADB's TA support. The TA projects helped the government improve project prioritization, quality at entry, revised project approval processes, alignment and performance of the existing infrastructure portfolio, and implementation of policy and regulatory reforms.</p>	
Impact		
Outcome		
Outputs		
Geographical Location	Nation-wide	
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects		
Environmental Aspects		
Involuntary Resettlement		
Indigenous Peoples		
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation		
During Project Design		

Business Opportunities	
Consulting Services	ADB will engage national third party monitoring consulting firms under three separate packages (energy; transport; and agriculture, natural resources, and rural development) for 12 months for all three packages, and 10 individual consultants including 7 international consultants (39 person-months) and 3 national consultants (36 person-months), to deliver the TA outputs. ADB will engage the consultants following the ADB Procurement Policy and its associated staff instructions and project administration instructions. Consultants will be responsible for producing the TA outputs and deliverables in a timely and effective manner, and for carrying out all TA activities. Consultants will report to ADB's Afghanistan Resident Mission.
Responsible ADB Officer	Renadi Budiman
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Afghanistan Resident Mission
Executing Agencies	Ministry of Finance Pashtunistan Watt, Kabul, <u>Islamic Republic of Afghanistan</u>

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	01 Jan 2021
Fact Finding	11 Jun 2019 to 16 Jun 2019
MRM	-
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	09 Aug 2019

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/53113-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/53113-001/main</a>
Request for Information	<a href="http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=53113-001">http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=53113-001</a>
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