



## German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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### **Badakhshan's Local Government and Mullahs Discuss the Promotion of Good Governance**

**Feyzabad, Badakhshan, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017** – Today, representatives of the Department of Haj and Islamic Affairs discussed with mullahs how to promote good governance in Badakhshan province. Mullahs often guide local communities. Hence, they can help local governments to spread their messages. How to establish such cooperation between Badakhshan's Department of Haj and Islamic Affairs, and mullahs was the main focus of today's discussions.

Mullahs have direct access to the people. This opens the opportunity for local governments to convey messages through them. So far, there has been a lack of communication between them – to change this, the Governor Office organised today's meeting, with the support of the German government's programme to promote good governance in Afghanistan (RCD).

Mr Abdul Wali Arshad, the Director of Badakhshan's Department for Haj and Islamic Affairs said: "The government needs the community's support to perform well. However, in order to increase people's trust in the state, the government must be transparent in its work." He further emphasised: "We acknowledge the mullahs' important role in interacting with the people. Therefore, we are very happy that we agreed to work together better in the future. We hope that this will contribute to greater transparency and as a result to communities' stronger support for their local governments."

Mr Mawlawi Tajuddin Noori, the Head of Ulamas National Council for Peace, pointed out: "It is very important that all mullahs and religious leaders provide support to the government. We have to work together so that the life of people in our province improves."

At the end of today's meeting, the Department of Haj and Islamic Affairs as well as the representing mullahs signed a declaration which underlines both sides' commitment for better cooperation. In the document, mullahs declared that they would deliver messages on behalf of the government and encourage people to support their local governments. On the other hand, Badakhshan's government representatives pledged to better coordinate with mullahs in the future.

*As part of Germany's cooperation with Afghanistan, the Regional Capacity Development (RCD) is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. In six provinces in northern Afghanistan, RCD supports its partners' development priorities in the provinces and districts, while at the same time providing training and coaching programmes for civil servants. With its broad range of activities, the RCD aims at increasing Afghan ownership of the development process, strengthening state institutions and promoting transparency and inclusiveness.*