



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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Mullahs and Madrasa Lecturers Support Fight against Extremism

Mazar-e Sharif, Balkh, 10th August 2017 – Today, a three-day training for 18 mullahs and madrasa lecturers from Balkh province ended in Mazar-e Sharif. The workshop focused on enhancing the participants' knowledge on how to fight extremism and provided a platform for discussing radical activities from an Islamic perspective. The event was supported by the Afghan-German Cooperation's project to promote the rule of law (RoL).

A mullah at a mosque in Marmul district explained: "In the training, we learned that providing a platform for discussion can contribute to de-radicalisation. Moreover, I am more aware now of the effect of my preaching – that it can influence extremist thinking. Hence, I will try to take a more moderate approach in future."

As Mullahs and madrasa lecturers provide guidance and their speeches influence citizens' demeanour, they play an important role in Afghan society. Both, mullahs and lecturers, will spread their knowledge via prayers and school lessons. In doing so, citizens and madrasa students will be sensitised when it comes to radicalisation. Awareness is a precondition to take appropriate steps against extremism.

A lecturer at the Payam Islam Madrasa in Balkh district, said: "Before this training, I already had some basic knowledge on radicalism. However, I didn't want to talk about it in my lectures. The training has raised my awareness on how important it is to discuss this issue."

Radicalisation of young people has grown dramatically over the last decades. Political and religious groups take advantage of young people to promote their ideologies. This has become an increasing cause of concern. Over the past years, various CSOs have taken countermeasures. The Social Development and Better Future for Afghanistan Organisation (SDBFAO), for example, is financially supported by the Afghan-German Cooperation's RoL project.

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Afghan-German Cooperation has been working together with the Afghan government to promote the rule of law in Afghanistan. The civil society component of the programme especially focuses on strengthening the linkage between civil society actors and the Afghan Government as well as on capacity building for civil society actors. Relevant legal topics are addressed through the supported civil society organisations.