



To develop a quality modern national curriculum for primary and secondary schools built on moderate Islamic principals

[Ministry of Education Five Year Strategic Plan: 2006]

Curriculum Development

The Ministry of Education of Afghanistan is deeply committed to improve education opportunities for all students in the country as a basis for quality learning outcomes at all stages. Curriculum is emphasised as an important leverage of overall reform efforts for it constitutes the heart of any education system. As such, it encompasses the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that a nation wants their children to embrace.

As the 'hub' of the education system, curriculum has important connections with other education sub-systems such as assessment, teacher training and education management. Improving curriculum provisions ought to be linked to quality innovations in related areas in the context of comprehensive and coherent processes of education change. Countries that invest in education invest in their own future – the Ministry of Education has taken the challenge of preparing a better future based on introducing necessary reforms steadily and with a view of ensuring sustainability.

Achievements and Challenges

Afghanistan's curriculum in the past was politically, socially and economically unrepresentative of the needs of the Afghan nation. As a result at the beginning of 2002 the Ministry embarked on a review of the national curriculum framework and all primary school text books. While primary education has benefited to date from consistent international support (a curriculum framework, syllabuses and textbooks for grades 1 to 6 have been developed since 2002 and are now in different phases of implementation) secondary education has not yet been given the support it needs.

The Ministry plans to establish a National Curriculum Development Centre that will maintain a level of political independence. The Centre will house a team of subject specific curriculum development specialists, syllabi specialists, people with script writing expertise, artists and a team of graphic design staff. Specialist teams will be established providing learning materials for pre-primary students, general education students, students with special learning needs and Islamic education students. Materials will be continuously evaluated and upgraded to reflect the changing learning needs of Afghanistan's children.

Together with the Curriculum Development Centre, the Ministry will establish a national Standards Board. This semi-independent board will develop a national system of student assessment and evaluation.

In the next two years a special emphasis will be placed on completing a new curriculum and text books for secondary students. This is considered particularly important as a quality secondary education curriculum relevant to the reconstruction efforts of the country that is of an international standard will help Afghanistan effectively build its human capital and economic opportunities both within the region and globally.

Major Objectives: 2006 - 2010

- Establish a national Curriculum Development Centre
- Through a national process of consultation, finalise a new curriculum framework for primary and secondary education
- Complete and print all primary school text books
- Develop and complete all secondary school text books
- Develop special materials for children with special learning needs including challenged children, gifted children and nomadic children
- Establish a national Standards Board
- Conduct ongoing training and capacity building of Ministry staff to develop and finalise new curricula and manage the text book production process

Budgetary Requirements

Current Funded Amount:	\$37 mil
Funds Required:	\$65 mil
Total Shortfall:	\$28 mil

Key Partners

USAID, UNESCO, UNICEF, DANIDA.