



*To ensure equal access to education for all school age children regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion*

*[Ministry of Education Five Year Strategic Plan: 2006]*

## General Education

Access to a quality primary and secondary education is the foundation for peace and economic prosperity of Afghanistan. Investing in the children and young people of Afghanistan is investing in our country's future. Through education we can build the nation's human capital and provide hope for the future of our country. The Ministry is committed to ensuring equal access to education for all students throughout the country, regardless of gender and geographic, socio-economic, religious or ethnic affiliation.

## Achievements and Challenges

The Ministry of Education can be proud of its achievements for the past four years. Enrollment of students has increased beyond all expectations. There are almost 6 million students, 138,000 teachers and 8,400 formal education schools throughout Afghanistan. Since 2001, Afghanistan has witnessed a large jump in student enrollment, reaching by far the highest level in the history of the nation.

Despite this, significant gender gaps and wide urban/rural and geographic disparities exist in all aspects of the sector. More than a third of school-age children are still out of school, and more than half of them, or 1.2 million, are girls. Of the children enrolled in schools, 88% are in primary school and only 34% of them are girls. Provision of a suitable physical learning space to children in all parts of Afghanistan has been one of the major challenges of Ministry of Education in the past years. Less than half of the schools have a building and only 26% of them are usable. In some parts of the country more than 90% of students have no school building. Equally there are considerable shortfalls in adequate sanitation and portable water for children. Only 33% and 20% respectively of schools have any access. Similar disparities occur in the teacher population – only 27% of primary school teachers are female.

In order to address some of these challenges the Ministry will develop and implement an integrated national strategy for education. The provision of well trained teachers and quality learning materials will be a priority. Special attention will be given to girls, nomadic populations, returning refugee children and minority groups. A national communication strategy for girl's education will be developed and implemented to enhance girls' enrollment and retention. By establishing smaller size schools the Ministry intends to bring the schools closer to children particularly girls. Accelerated learning classes will be organized to over-age children to catch up on primary grades and integrate into the formal system. School buildings will be reconstructed, using local, low cost standards. Community participation will be promoted, as a key factor in enhancing enrollment, the quality of education and school protection, through strengthening Parent Teacher Associations and school students committees. Access to education will become a national concern, not just a concern of the Ministry of Education.

### Major Objectives: 2006 - 2010

- Increase the net enrollment rate in primary school for girls and boys by at least 60% and 75% respectively and improve access to secondary education facilities for girls and boys
- Increase female teachers in primary and secondary schools by 50%
- Improve the quality of learning environments through establishing 4,940 new schools, constructing 13,250 schools buildings and providing clean water and sanitation facilities
- Provide quality school-supplies and teaching learning material to primary and secondary schools, 128 million text books, 10,670 small school libraries, 6670 laboratories
- Enhance participation of community leaders, parents and students in school affairs by establishing 13,380 local parent teacher associations
- Provide education opportunities for over-age children through the provision of accelerated learning classes
- Support provision of special education opportunities for all children with special needs
- Strengthen supportive supervision, monitoring and assessment of education delivery
- Develop and implement a national communication strategy for girls' education.

### Budgetary Requirements

Current Funded Amount:	\$162 mil
Funds Required*:	\$347 mil
Total Shortfall:	\$185 mil

### Key Partners

World Bank, UNICEF, USAID, DANIDA, Indian Government, GTZ, CIDA, Norwegian Government, International & National NGOs.

\* This figure does not include MoE recurrent costs for teacher salaries