



To develop a modern broad based Islamic education system for all Afghans

[Ministry of Education Five Year Strategic Plan: 2006]

Islamic Education

Improvement and development of Islamic Education is a part of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's program for human capital development. This is an effort to build a nation state grounded in modern and tolerant Islamic principles. The programme will draw upon the expertise of Islamic scholars within Afghanistan and the region to promulgate the true teachings of Islam. It will ensure that Islamic and general education will be integrated so that all children of Afghanistan receive an education that is able to fully prepare them for their economic futures within a modern, tolerant Islamic Republic. This initiative is a key element in improving the security, stability and long term development of Afghanistan.

The Ministry proposes to develop the Islamic Education sector through six key steps. (See Box.) The Ministry of Education has taken the first step towards a process of public consultation and discussion to build national consensus on the Ministry's initiatives. It will review the Islamic Education curriculum to bring it up to an internationally recognised standard of excellence; provide support to teachers to more effectively teach Islamic Education; and construct eight centres of Islamic education excellence throughout the country.

Islam makes it a duty for everyone to seek knowledge and discover facts

The Ministry has launched a process of public consultation on Islamic Education. On September 2nd, 2006, the Ministry took the first step in bringing together key Afghan political and academic figures in the religious community in an effort to build consensus and political support for this process. The first round of discussions received a very positive response and has laid the foundations for further collaborative consultation and discussion.

Currently there are 59,000 students, 2,079 teachers and 275 Islamic schools throughout Afghanistan. In addition there are a number of unregistered Islamic schools throughout Afghanistan in which it is still unclear what the children are learning. These schools need to be integrated and regulated. Of concern to Afghanistan are the private schools outside of the country which are training Afghan youth with mixed results. Afghan communities demand an alternative Islamic Education system with a broad-based curriculum inside Afghanistan.

Developing a broad based religious education system encompassing the true teachings of the great religion that is Islam will become the cornerstone for peace and security in Afghanistan.

Major Objectives: 2006 - 2010

- Build a process of national consultation and discussion on Islamic Education development
- Develop a new curriculum for Islamic Education built on modern principles of inclusion and tolerance
- Establish a national cadre of qualified Islamic Education teachers
- Establish eight centres of excellence of Islamic learning across the country
- Establish district level Islamic schools with a combined Islamic and technical/vocational education curriculum
- Provide modern, tolerant Islamic education for at least 12,000 new Islamic graduates and provide in-service training for up to 35,000 community based *Mullahs*.

Budgetary Requirements

Current Funded Amount:	\$ 2 mil
Funds Required:	\$98 mil
Total Shortfall:	\$96 mil

Key Partners

UNESCO, IESECO, Gulf Countries