



To develop an effective system of planning and policy development at the central, provincial, district and school level to improve the delivery of education for all Afghans.

[Ministry of Education Five Year Strategic Plan: 2006]

Planning and Policy Development

Over the last four years, communities in Afghanistan have demonstrated their desire to educate their children. More children than ever before are now enrolled in schools. One goal for the education sector as a whole, therefore, is to build on and maintain this positive commitment on the part of both parents and students. As part of this commitment the Ministry of Education has embarked on a process of strategic planning in order to develop one guiding framework for educational activities throughout the country over the next five years.

The Afghanistan National Education Strategic Plan for 1385-1389 (2006-2010) will be developed through a consultative process that includes representatives from all departments of the Ministry of Education, provincial and district-level educational representatives, members of civil society and members of the international community. The national strategy and associated policy papers will be translated into provincial and district based plans to provide the necessary direction and programme accountability of Ministry activities.

Achievements and Challenges

In the Constitution of 1382 (2004), the Government of Afghanistan commits itself to the standard of education as the right of all citizens, and to the development of a unified, national system based on Islamic principles, democratically accountable to the people of Afghanistan, and where access is fair and equitable for all. Education services must reach every citizen in ways which are effective and efficient and suited to the needs of the individual whilst taking into account the needs of the community, country and region. The Ministry undertakes to plan for the management of change in ways which are transparent and inclusive. This will facilitate communication throughout the Ministry and its services directly from the commissioners and consumers at the community and school level, informing ongoing strategic decision making and planning processes.

To support this exercise a fully-fledged education management information system (EMIS) is being established. A national education census is currently underway and the results for this will be made available by the end of 2006. The EMIS will allow for better monitoring of the Ministry's programmes and will enable the Government of Afghanistan to more effectively plan its budgeting and education finance investments. The Ministry is also one of three Ministries working with the Ministry of Finance to introduce basic program budget techniques as part of its commitment to improved performance evaluation and reporting.

To date, the Ministry has led a process of planning which will inform decision making on the critical priorities and policies identified for the national education programme and assist the identification of resource allocation by the Ministry and its valued partners.

Major Objectives: 2006 - 2010

- Complete the identification of key priorities for the Ministry
- Consult widely on the priorities, targets and the planned actions
- Develop a national Education Management Information System (EMIS) with the first national school census to be completed by end of 2006
- Identify the resources for the agreed priorities, targets and actions
- Establish transparent accountability and monitoring mechanisms at all levels within the service
- Implement, monitor and evaluate the planned actions
- Consult widely on the impact of policies and actions
- In the light of evaluation and consultation, adjust the priorities, targets and actions

Budgetary Requirements

Current Funded Amount:	\$ 2.5 mil
Funds Required:	\$ 15 mil
Total Shortfall:	\$12.5 mil

Key Partners

USAID, UNICEF, UNESCO, DANIDA, World Bank