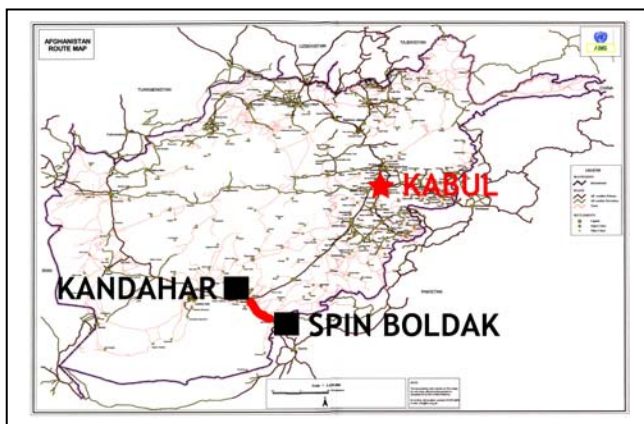


Kandahar-Spin Boldak Road Rehabilitation

Project Summary

Subsector	Transportation
Location	Kandahar Province, Southeastern Afghanistan
Project Cost	\$15.0 Million
Project Type	Road and Bridge Reconstruction
Project Executing Firm/Agency	Ministry of Public Works
Funding Agency	Asian Development Bank



Project Outline

This Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded initiative will require both consulting services and equipment purchases for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of a major portion of the 101 km road from Kandahar to Spin Boldak on the Afghan-Pakistan Border. In addition, the project scope will include new construction or rehabilitation and materials for supply schools and health facilities in the Kandahar Province.

Technical Description

Every day, some 1,000 returnees arrive in Spin Boldak from Pakistan. Over 200,000 refugees who have returned along the southern route are currently settled in the north and west of Kandahar. Adding to the volume is an influx of displaced persons from the drought-affected southwest and conflict-affected north. It is important to settle the refugees temporarily near Kandahar and find them jobs before they can return to their places of origin in rural areas. If the refugees proceed to Kabul, where most of the refugees through eastern routes are settling, the overcrowded situation will be exacerbated. Over 1.7 million refugees have returned since early 2002 and this figure is projected to rise to 2.0 million refugees by mid-2003.

The project will include training for road construction, income generating projects, micro-credit services, and nutrition and child care. Of the estimated 12,000 to 13,000 people to receive training, 10,000 will be involved in construction related activities, 1,500-2,000 in income generation activities and micro-credit eligibility, and 1,500-2,000 in nutrition and childcare.

The project will also support international trade and capacity building for local contractors to construct, rehabilitate, and maintain major roads and bridges.

Project Site

The road to be rehabilitated starts at the city of Kandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city, which is located in the southeastern part of the country. The road continues to the southeast, through the Hada Hills, and terminates at the Afghan-Pakistan border town of Spin-Boldak, a distance of 101 km.

Project Status/Timeline

The road improvement is expected to be completed by 2004 with the implementation of the project stretching 30 months. The AACA under the Ministry of Finance will coordinate the project. The Ministry of Public Works will be the main executing agency.

ADB has finalized the design consultancy agreement with a Pakistani firm and work is expected to begin shortly. The design consultancy will prepare the necessary tender documents and specifications for the actual construction of the road.

Equipment and Services

This project is expected to have the following procurement:

Equipment

- Graders, compacting equipment, pneumatic, steel wheel, vibratory, etc.
- Trucks (dump, off road, concrete mixer, asphalt transport, etc.)
- Bulldozers
- Earthwork hauling equipment
- Cranes (rubber tire and crawler)
- Loaders (front end, pneumatic, and track)
- Asphalt pavement plant
- Asphalt paver
- Asphalt distributor
- International signs

Services

- Engineering construction supervision and advisory services
- Civil works construction services

U.S. Competitiveness

An important objective of all donor-funded projects in Afghanistan is to rebuild the capacity of Afghan private contractors to undertake international quality construction projects. Thus, it will be very important for U.S. firms to find strong local Afghan partners to win these tenders. U.S. firms are expected to be highly competitive in construction supervision and in the medium competitive range for signing and marking. They are not expected to be very competitive in civil works construction.

Project Financing

The project value of \$15.0 million will be entirely funded by the Asian Development Bank.

Conclusion

"ADB is committed to rehabilitating the Kabul–Kandahar–Spin Boldak road and other priority roads and to mobilizing as much grant financing as possible to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum," says Yoshihiro Iwasaki, Director General of ADB's South Asia Department.

ADB has commenced the mobilization of consultants in Kabul to design road sector projects. Besides roads, ADB's assistance to Afghanistan includes support for other key areas including the agriculture, education, energy, and financial sectors, all of which are critical for Afghanistan's reconstruction and development.

Key Decision Makers

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