

Kabul Satellite City Construction

Project Summary

Subsector	Urban Development
Location	North East of Kabul
Project Cost	\$400.0 Million
Project Type	Housing and Urban Construction
Project Executing Firm/Agency	Ministry for Urban Development and Housing
Funding Agency	Not Identified



Project Outline

After 23 years of conflict, large parts of Kabul have been totally destroyed and lack proper sanitation, clean water supply, and electricity. Returning refugees are crowding into Kabul and without the availability of proper accommodation, are building makeshift dwellings and overburdening the municipal systems. To alleviate the overcrowding situation in Kabul, the Ministry of Urban Development plans to construct a new town for more than 700,000 inhabitants located northeast of Kabul.

The proposed satellite city will provide additional and affordable housing to many returning refugees and will be built to include all necessary municipal infrastructures. The proposed project will include the provision of a clean water supply system, electric power supply, paved roads, phone lines, recreation parks, schools, market center, shops, fire and police stations, a hospital, and an administrative building.

Technical Description

The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing will implement the project with the aid of multilateral funding agencies and private investors. The best possible area for the expansion of Kabul was found to be in the northeastern part of the city and will be within 30 kilometers from its center. Most of the land belongs to the government and is currently not in use.

The city will be divided into ten separate districts, with about 70,000 inhabitants in each. The living accommodations will consist of either bungalows or two to four-story apartment buildings.

Project Site

The city will be built in an area called Paymunar (near to the Kabul Airport) to the northeast of Kabul.

Project Status/Timeline

The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing has already allocated the land for the development project, started investigating the availability of drinking water, and identified various funding sources. The Ministry has also made land surveys, taken aerial photographs, and started planning the outlay of the city.

It is anticipated that one district will be completed this year and that the first batch of approximately 70,000 inhabitants will be able to move into the new development site. The new city will be ready to accommodate its full capacity by 2013.

Equipment and Services

This project covers several sectors for urban development including water supply, electricity and power supply, city-street construction, and housing.

Clean Water Supply:

- Water and sewer pipes
- Valves, fittings, service connection assemblies, air release valves, blow off assemblies, taps, and plumbing fittings
- Water production, treatment, and pumping equipment, including: spare parts, mechanical and electrical parts, controls and control systems, wells, and parts of well systems

- Bulk and retail water meters, water pressure gauges, water level measuring devices, and water treatment equipment

Electricity and Power Supply:

- Power generators
- Cables and wires
- Transformers
- Control rooms

City Street Construction:

- Engineering services in street design and city road infrastructure
- Construction management supervision
- Asphalt pavement plants, asphalt pavers, and asphalt distributors
- Trucks (dump, off road, concrete mixer, and asphalt transport)
- Compacting equipment (pneumatic, steel wheel, and vibratory)
- Cranes (rubber tire and crawler)
- Loaders (front end, pneumatic, and track)
- Bulldozers and earthwork hauling equipment

Housing Construction:

- Construction management supervision
- Planning and design services
- Cranes (rubber tire, crawler)
- Bulldozers and earthwork hauling equipment
- Cement plants

The Ministry is searching for investors to participate in the financing of various components of the overall development plan.

U.S. Competitiveness

The U.S. has extensive experience in all the infrastructure sectors described above. Competition will mainly be from regional countries but the Afghan Government is predisposed towards U.S. firms. Superior quality at competitive prices will prove to be the winning recipe, especially if the projects are co-financed by U.S. investors.

Project Financing

Though the Afghan Government has started the initial phase of this project using its own funds, main project financing will have to be provided by multilateral funding institutions as well as private investors.

Conclusion

Overcrowding of Kabul has already resulted in a significant demand for this satellite city. If peace were to reign, the continued influx of refugees over the coming years will only bolster this demand. Economic opportunities and traditional migration patterns from rural to urban locations will escalate the need for a satellite city near Kabul where people can move to relatively better infrastructure as compared to their very basic living conditions in the villages.

No clear decisions have been made yet on the sources of financing. However, taking into account the importance of providing living space for the many slum dwellers of Kabul and the need to accommodate further rural to urban migrations, some of the multilateral donor agencies will be interested in funding project components. Private investors are also encouraged to participate.

Key Decision Makers

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