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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Building Education Support Systems for Teachers (BESST) - Training Educators

OVERVIEW

As the Afghan government rebuilds its educational system, programs to improve classroom instruction are critical to enhancing the quality of education in Afghanistan. After the fall of the Taliban, the Ministry of Education (MoE) estimated that 80 percent of public school teachers lacked the minimum education and skills required to teach in the public school system. USAID's Building Education Support Systems for Teachers (BESST) project works in close partnership with the MoE to develop in-service teacher (INSET) and school manager training (SMT) programs to upgrade instructional skills and knowledge of teachers and the management skills of principals in 11 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces: Balkh, Daykundi, Ghazni, Hirat, Kandahar, Khost, Jawzjan, Nangarhar, Panjsher, Sari Pul, and Wardak. The in-service training program offers workshops conveniently close to the educators' home and workplaces, making the training accessible.

ACTIVITIES

- **Teacher training:** Provide two rounds of training, 12 full days each, for all teachers in 11 provinces to strengthen instructional skills in student-centered, subject-specific teaching methods
- **Supplemental radio and TV programming:** Produce and broadcast educational radio and video programs to supplement and reinforce face-to-face teacher training
- **Teacher observations:** Offer follow-up support to teachers through classroom observations and formal feedback
- **Accelerated learning program for teachers:** Assist MoE to develop and implement a remedial program for 14,000 teachers to continue their education through 12th grade
- **School manager training:** Offer two rounds of a leadership training and practicum program to school principals and head teachers
- **School improvement councils:** Mobilize school improvement councils (school *shuras*) to cultivate greater community involvement in education, leading to stronger local support for secure and stable learning environments for children
- **Teacher learning circles and school manager learning circles:** Establish and supporting peer groups for educators to mentor each other in continuous professional development

RESULTS

- Provided at least one round of INSET training for a majority of public school teachers in the 11 provinces (about 53,000 teachers)
 - Fifty-seven percent of teachers who completed INSET 1 and INSET 2 trainings met or surpassed minimum performance levels, with 77 percent demonstrating proficiency in questioning techniques and 80 percent demonstrating proficiency in active learning techniques
 - Seventy percent of teachers who completed face-to-face training and listened regularly to educational radio programs met minimum performance levels, compared to 55 percent of their peers who did not listen to the radio programs
 - Nearly 70 percent of principals who attended SMT met or surpassed the minimum performance levels
 - More than 2.3 million students are receiving instruction from teachers and support from school principals who have participated in the INSET and SMT programs