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Kabul City Initiative (KCI)

This three-year project provides technical and material support to Kabul Municipality and works closely the Afghan capital's mayor and his staff to enhance the city administration's ability to generate revenue and provide effective and responsive services to residents. The project will enhance the Municipality's long-term sustainability and financial viability.

OBJECTIVES

It aims to improve the technical and financial capacity of Kabul Municipality's officials, especially those in the treasury, so that they can run a modern, self-sufficient and reliable city government capable of providing the services that citizens need.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Installing FMIS accounting and budget systems; renovating and reopening ten city parks; improve sanitation collection and overall cleanliness of city; recycling wood to produce in-house mulch for parks, playgrounds and plantings; constructing roads and drainage; improve citizen access to government through a central citizen's information/action center to file and solve complaints.

RESULTS TO DATE

- Kabul City annual revenue collections increased from \$30 million in 2010 to \$67 million in 2012.
- Completion of financial management and revenue training for over 200 city employees; financial management information systems (FMIS) are now producing regular reports for the first time; production of regular monthly financial statements;
- Completion of certified computer training for 260 employees.
- Adoption of a pay-for-merit classification plan;
- Creation of the city's first-ever administrative policy manual;
- Completion of certified project management training for 65 engineers, planners and construction managers;
- With the urging of KCI, the first-ever woman DG was promoted to head the municipality's Greenery Department in November, 2011; a 2nd woman DG for Cultural Affairs has now been appointed; a female HR recruitment manager has been appointed; a female Chief Engineer of the Bldg. & Construction unit of Urban Planning has been appointed; as well as, a woman Chair of the Women Employee Rights Council.
- Creation of the first city employee "Woman's Leadership Council" to serve as an advocate group for women's rights in the work place;
- Creation of a "Woman's Professional Engineers Group" to provide mentorship, training, support and networking opportunities for women engineers in Kabul;
- sponsorship of a "Women's Business Fair" which included over 70 women small business entrepreneurs to showcase their businesses, products and talents. These women's business fairs are being conducted in each district of the city on a recurring basis.
- Celebration of "International Women's Day" in March 2011 at Babur Gardens Park. An even larger celebration event was held in April 2012 that included over 15,000 attendees.
- renovation and reopening of ten city parks with two of them set aside as safe places for women;
- completion of a green house tree farm presently growing over two million trees ready for a second spring planting season to re-green the city;
- completion of a new solid waste composting facility that has supplied over 2,000 tons of free mulch for use in city parks and for tree plantings;
- Implementation of a trash collection system in District 2 of the city that has provided regular trash pickup and has eliminated illegal, and hazardous dump sites in the area.
- renovation, electrical re-wiring and cabling for IT and phone installation at 16 of 22 city district service centers;
- on the job training for five pavement maintenance crews;
- completion of a preliminary master plan for renovation of the Kabul City Zoo;
- partial completion of three major canal drainage projects that will eliminate flooding in low income areas of the city.
- installation of four school sidewalk safety projects;
- completion of the first phase of the reconstruction and widening of Balashesar Road, a regional connection road linking Kabul to other provinces to the north; and grading, leveling and graveling and ditch work on 22 Km of dirt roads.
- creation of a Mayor's Face Book page to communicate with city residents;
- creation of a city public information (PIO) office and web site for production of informational and educational programming for city residents on current city issues, projects and services; commencement of the creation of a comprehensive strategic master plan to replace the outdated 1968 city master plan. Draft completion of a 5-year capital improvement budget to plan and implement future needed capital expenditures for the city.