



AFGHANISTAN SUPPORT PROGRAM

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The Institute for State Effectiveness (ISE) supports Afghanistan's vision of inclusive development and self-reliance via its Afghanistan Support Program (ASP). The program provides high-level strategic advice as well as technical inputs, when needed, to help Afghanistan implement its development strategy. As a learning organization, ISE derives and shares insight from its work in Afghanistan to help innovate global development practice. **ASP works within four major areas: public financial management and economic growth, strategic infrastructure management, development strategy and national program design, and analytical support and global lessons learned.**

PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & ECONOMIC GROWTH

ASP's fiscal policy team provides advisory assistance to the Ministry of Finance on reforming the budget process and helping to implement a fiscal performance improvement plan. **Reforms to the public financial management sector in Afghanistan are key for the government to overcome the fragmentation of projects and donor funding and support effective and sustainable long-term fiscal management.** Closely linked to the public financial management reforms is ASP's strategic and technical advice on the Afghan Government's long-term strategy for economic growth and the effective communication of the strategy to citizens and other stakeholders.

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

Supporting the Afghan Government's overall long-term self-reliance agenda, ASP provides strategic advice on building institutional capacity to better manage the country's infrastructure. **Improvements in strategic infrastructure management promotes regional economic integration, including through investments in cross-border energy, transport, and digital infrastructure.** ASP is working to (i) improve the economic and financial analysis of infrastructure projects; (ii) standardize infrastructure technical designs so that infrastructure in one sector can be built and maintained using the same equipment and people; and (iii) help the government reduce implementation delays caused by inadequate project preparation.

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY & NATIONAL PROGRAM DESIGN

ASP supports the design, implementation, and maintenance of development strategy and national priority programs. ASP experts provide short-term, catalytic development strategy and national program design in areas such as **community-driven development, women's empowerment, subnational governance, justice sector reform, anti-corruption, and peace** – as well as in planning processes such as design of national strategies and plans, rapid response when implementation challenges arise, and strategic communications. This area of work aims to improve Afghanistan's institutional capacity to deliver targeted and effective national development programs to meet urgent needs of communities.

ANALYTICAL SUPPORT & GLOBAL LESSONS LEARNED

ASP's work provides input to ISE's continued refinement of best practices in citizen-centered development and its engagement with policymakers and governments around the world. ISE compiles lessons learned, revises its sourcebooks on core state functions and development methodologies, and produces new analysis to help improve development practice. The program also engages thought leaders, the academic and think tank community, the private sector, and civil society groups on the program's work and the broader reform dynamics in the country.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ **Supported the government's production of the first credible and transparent budget in the country's history, meeting international standards via a team-based performance management system.**
- ✓ **Facilitated the design and implementation of the nationwide Citizens' Charter community-driven development program that has provided clean drinking water and basic infrastructure services to almost one-third of the country's population.**
- ✓ **Improved the government's accountability to citizens by supporting the development of anti-corruption plans in 57 ministries, completing 73% of planned activities and meeting 40 out of 44 benchmarks in 2018.**
- ✓ **Pushed through long-stalled infrastructure negotiations, including the connection of 9 provinces to the electrical grid which reduced the cost of electricity by five-fold.**

