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**AFGHANISTAN**

## AFGHANISTAN CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM (ACEP)



The Afghanistan Clean Energy Program (ACEP) is a USAID-funded initiative designed to foster Afghanistan's energy independence and economic development while improving security through increased reliable access to renewable energy resources and improved energy use.

ACEP will stimulate private investment, mobilize government as a policy-maker, and promote strong local participation, thereby increasing the labor pool of individuals equipped to support the Afghan energy sector's transition to self-sustainability. ACEP's goals are to:

- Successfully expand rural energy programs, staffed and sustained by Afghans, by creating the support infrastructure conducive to the sustainable development of indigenous service organizations
- Create broad awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency programs so as to encourage distribution companies to implement such programs and to inform consumers of their benefits
- Establish a fully-functional energy policy planning office in the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW)
- Build sustainable Afghan capacity in all project areas

To achieve these goals, ACEP will design, install, and rehabilitate micro-hydro, solar, wind and hybrid power systems in remote areas. The project will develop a variety of mechanisms for achieving energy efficiency; promote energy efficiency for the entire power system and provide policy support and capacity building.

### PROJECT COMPONENTS

#### Renewable Energy

Designed to benefit over a million people, ACEP's Renewable Energy activities will be implemented over the course of four years and will include the construction and rehabilitation of hydropower, solar, wind, and hybrid power systems in villages that are currently not connected to the power grid. To ensure that these projects are both sustainable and replicable once donor support has ended, ACEP will carry out two complementary activities: 1) enterprise development and 2) capacity building and training for the Afghan government officials, businesses, community members, and university/technical institute staff.

Related capacity building and public education activities will set the stage for the growth of additional systems based on private sector initiatives and support from the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the Ministry of Energy and Water.

## Energy Efficiency

ACEP's second major project initiative is the promotion of energy efficiency throughout the entire Afghan power distribution system. This will help to ensure the sustainability of the new systems, primarily through the efficient use of power, and will benefit households and businesses connected to the grid. An integrated communications plan will build in Afghan ownership at the rural level and in urban centers with messages focused on the direct benefits of energy efficiency.

At the onset, ACEP will conduct a detailed assessment of the efficiency of the power sector in order to produce a strategy for implementing energy efficiency measures. Once the plan is judged to be cost effective and feasible, ACEP will provide the technical assistance necessary to implement energy efficiency activities in the country. Substantial equipment outlay, energy audits, and other assets will be required, particularly for large demonstration projects, as well as for metering and monitoring equipment.

## Policy Support and Capacity Building

To build local capacity, ACEP will focus first on government employees, followed by university staff and consultants. ACEP will also provide analytical support to the Afghan Government in all matters dealing with energy. ACEP experts will serve as both advisors and on-the-job trainers. Advanced technical training requiring certification or intensive specialized training outside the country may be included as part of these capacity building efforts.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**ACEP is implemented by International Resources Group (an L-3 Company) and its subcontractors:**

**International Resources Group – Prime Contractor**

### **Renewable Energy Systems**

*Winrock International*

*NRECA International*

*Sustainable Energy Services Afghanistan*

*Renewable Energy Development*

*Organization*

*FLAG International*

### **Policy Support and Capacity Building**

*Academy for Education Development*

### **Resource Organizations**

*Afghanistan Technical Vocational Institute*

*Kabul University Faculty of Engineering*

*New Mexico State University*

