USAID/Afghanistan Support on Water Resource Management

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Mission Priorities

• Support Government of Afghanistan priorities
  – Water data and climate change particular interests

• Water as a cross-cutting issue
  – Strengthen regional cooperation on shared water resources
  – Strengthen water management in agriculture
Contribute to this regional USAID priority

- Water one of three regional foci, along with energy and trade

- Goal: Increase regional integration, particularly stronger economic and trade ties and enhanced people-to-people linkages
Regional Water Cooperation

USAID/Afghanistan Regional Water Management Forum (RWMF)

Promotes dialogue outside of inter-governmental channels, particularly among academia and community structures

RWMF supports two activities:
1. PEER
2. Smart Waters
Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)

- Implemented by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences

- Funds joint research between U.S.-based and local researchers in USAID priority countries

- Through PEER, USAID/Afghanistan is funding 18 grants in five countries on regional shared water resources change in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
PEER Transboundary Research in Kabul River Basin

- Nine Afghan-Pak research grants
  - 3 Pakistan
  - 5 Afghanistan

- Mix of university and civil society groups

- Common emphasis on climate change
Smart Waters

- Implemented by Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC)
- Building a cadre of collaborative water managers in Central Asia and Afghanistan
- Enhancing cross-border collaboration and building a shared understanding of sustainable water resource management practices.
Water Management in Agriculture

Have supported numerous water resource management improvements and on-farm water management activities over the past 10 years

Currently three main activities:

1. **Strengthening Watershed and Irrigation Management (SWIM)**
   Increase the sustainable and productive use of water for agriculture in targeted areas

2. **On Farm Water Management**: Improve agricultural productivity in project areas by enhancing the efficiency of water used

3. **SEVIR**: Being implemented by ICIMOD to improve the use of technology in water resource and irrigation management and decision-making and building capacity for analysis of collected data for identifying supply and demand requirements of each watershed/river basin
Relevance to USAID: Additional Resources

- USAID/Afghanistan

- Regional Water Management Forum (RWMF)

- Realizing Self-Reliance: Commitments to reforms and renewed partnership

- NAS/PEER Website
  - [http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/peer/index.htm](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/peer/index.htm)