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USAID/Afghanistan Support on Water Resource Management

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Mission Priorities

- Support Government of Afghanistan priorities
 - Water is focus of the Ghani Government (“Realizing Self-Reliance,” London Conference on Afghanistan, 2014)
 - 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**



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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



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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**



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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.



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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



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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.



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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



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Relevance to USAID: Additional Resources

- USAID/Afghanistan
 - <http://www.usaid.gov/afghanistan>
- Regional Water Management Forum (RWMF)
 - <http://www.usaid.gov/news-information/fact-sheets/regional-water-management-forum-rwmf>
- Realizing Self-Reliance: Commitments to reforms and renewed partnership
 - <http://www.afghanistan-un.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/REALIZING-FINAL-SELF-RELIANCE-25-November-2014.pdf>
- NAS/PEER Website
 - <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/peer/index.htm>