



Cost Effective Schools Construction

Policy Guidelines & Technical Specifications for School Construction

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan states that basic education is compulsory (and free) for all children from Grade 1 to 9, and it is now the Government's duty to provide access to such education. The unprecedented success of the 'Back to School' campaign has meant that nearly 5.2 million children are enrolled in primary and secondary education. However, a number of challenges remain to ensure that quality education reaches all children - a shortage of adequate and conducive learning space is a serious stumbling block for the promotion of Education for All.

1.2 Although massive efforts have been made in providing safe learning spaces to children by a substantial number of development partners, the number of schools rehabilitated/constructed so far lags behind the actual demand. Approximately 3,000 schools have been rehabilitated and/or constructed since 2002; however, costs, designs and quality vary over a wide range. It is projected that at least 2,000 schools need to be built each year over the next three year period to ensure that all children enrolled in schools have access to an environment that is conducive to learning.

1.3 In order to expand the network of schools with the limited funds available for investment in infrastructure and do this in an equitable manner, the Ministry of Education has developed a set of Cost Effective school designs. These designs are the product of a collaborative effort over a one month period with inputs from architects and engineers from Ministries of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Urban Development, Education, AKDN and UNICEF. All designs take into consideration costs, locally available materials, safety and the environment.

2. POLICY GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION

2.1 A school complex shall comprise the following:

- a) Classrooms
- b) Head Master's Office
- c) Staff Room
- d) Storerooms
- e) Compound wall for privacy and security, particularly for girl's schools
- f) Latrines including at least two with access for disabled children
- g) Water points
- h) Ramps to enable disabled children enter school building
- i) Furniture (tables, chairs, student desks & chairs, blackboard etc)