

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology

Brochure 1386(2008)



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Summary of Achievement

1386

Communication services have not only its importance in the economic and social development, but also in security and stability of the country. MCIT plans, rapidly transform telecommunications into a leading engine in Afghanistan's renewal by creating a market environment according the constitution of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to encourage private investment.

Kabul Afghanistan

Comparison of Telecommunication Services in the Region

There was an unprecedented growth in the telecommunication services. It can be stated development in the communication sector in our country has been fast enough in comparison with neighboring countries.

Investments in private sector

There has been one billion and 31 million dollar investment in telecommunication private sector so far, which shows 5% increase over last year.

Revenues from Telecommunication Sector

The revenue from telecommunication and information technology represents a large part of government's revenue and is rising every year.

80 million dollars income has been given to the government treasury of the communication sector in 1386. It is expected Annual revenues will be more than 100 million dollar of the telecommunication sector at the end of 1388.

MCIT has adopted the necessary measures to provide telecommunication service to the provinces, districts, large and small cities and villages.

In order to fulfill the criteria set by the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, 256 cities, districts and villages, which includes 70% population has been covered so far.

Telecommunication Towers (Stations)

In order to expand the coverage areas, totally 2091 towers have been installed, which shows 100% increase than previous years.

Fixed and Mobile Phone Subscribers

The number of users to the end of 1385 was 2, 5 million. With expansion telecommunication services and creating competition the number increased to 5, 4 million shows more than 100% increase from last year.

Creation job opportunities

It is worth saying that 60000 people are provided occupation, 10000 of which are employees in quintuple telecommunication companies, 18 internet companies and the rest are indirect worker such as (shopkeepers, retailers and dealers).

Implementation of Development Budget

70, 85 million dollar have been allocated for development budget in 1386, subsequently 16,95 dollar have been transmitted from the transitional budget of 1385 in second half of 1386, which increased development budget of MCIT up 86 million USD. It is noteworthy that 68 million dollar of the budget (78 %) has been spent.

Reduction in telecommunication prices

Creation and encourages of the competition in market has caused discount in prices to buy SIM Cards and telephone costs.

National conversation Price per Unit

National or local call prices per minute would cost 18 Afghanis in the previous years. Now it is reduced to 1 Afghani per minute that sows sound competition in the market.

International conversation price per Unit

Due to competition International conversational Price per unit reduced from 100 to 9 Afghanis and more reductions are expected.

Price of SIM private companies

A SIM has sold 300 USD in 1381. And now it is free.

Wired Digital Phone Network

Contract of 200000 wired phones has been signed in 1385. Implementation of The project will begin in 1386 and at the end of 1386 and will be completed in 1387.

CDMA Mobile Network

The Contract of CDMA Network for 34 provinces with capacity of 171000 lines has been signed and equipment reached to the Kabul. The project will be completed in six next months.

District Communication Network

Totally 250 districts in deferent provinces have been connected by internet, fax and telephone service and monthly, 10 districts are added to this figure

Development Project for 1386

MCIT had schematized 11 development projects to provide telecommunication services for Kabul, provinces, districts, large and small cities and villages. Its main projects are as follows.

National Optical Fiber Network

Optical Fiber Network passes along highways as a telecommunication ring connecting neighboring countries and other world optical cables such as (ME, SE, TAE and US) and will be transit point between middle and sought Asian countries.

The contract or this important telecommunication project, which has 65 million dollar investment, has signed in 1385. About 24 million dollar was allocated to the project in 1386. The project started its practical work last year and is in progress all around the country. Until now its 1184km work has been completed. According the contract it should be completed in 1387.

Modernization Postal services

The aim of Development and modernization is to provide better postal services. The project had 0, 99 million dollar budget in 1386. To implement the project, following steps have been taken.

- For rapid postal services two licenses have been issued to Express Career and AES companies.
- Initial plans to introduce a postal code system were completed.
- Postal services Act has begun and agreement draft will be soon prepared.
- Technology equipment has been provided.

Rural Connection Network

The agreement of development telecommunication service project for 1000 villages, providing shelter and equipment for districts and development district communication central network (HUB), which cost 3 million dollar has been signed. The equipment has been installed in 20 villages and Supplying 17 villages are in hand.

Buildings

Construction of administrative and technical building for offices and installation of technical equipment is the aim of the project. According to the decision of the council of the Ministries the bidding process should take place in the provinces. The bidding document of 24 projects has been sent to the involved provinces, among them 10 project agreement has been approved and the rest are in progress.

Internal Important Performance

In addition to welfare project MCIT for preparation of compatible environment for its employees has taken the following steps.

- In order to give work to those who deserves, better provision of services MCIT has fulfilled 100% process of PRR.
- For better performance of tasks MCIT has contributed lap top computers to directors, managers and assistances of rank 2 and 3.
- All the units belonging to MCIT are supplied with mobile phones and furniture.
- For further training 211 employees of MCIT have been sent to foreign countries, among 195 participated training courses and the rest were in short workshops and seminars in 1386.
- A total of 687 people have taken part in training courses within the service such as management, leadership, English Language and computer training programs.

Creation of National Information Center

The documents of project for creation National Information Center and centralization electronic information of government have prepared and bidding process has taken place. And the evaluation report has been finalized and will be verified soon.

This project will be completed till the end of the third quarter of 1387. At the same time to implement e- governance and coordinate other information and communication activities a communication and information technological council chaired by first vice president has been established and MCIT is responsible for its secretariat.

Promotion of Training Center to Institute

MCIT has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Kabul University to promote the training center into Institute. It's worthy to say that the MCIT is the first institution in the country, which has created such an institute. For the first time 50 students in purpose to pursue bachelor degree through university entrance exam have entered into the university. The reconstruction of building, laboratory equipment and curriculum of the Institute worth 6 million dollar by assistance of Islamic Republic of Iran founded through ITU. The project will complete soon.

Brief Description of Major Development Projects

For better communication MCIT has schematized 7 development and 2 new projects. As;

no	Project
1	Completion of digital fixed and mobile phone national network Complete extension 200000 lines of copper cable network in 6 major cities in 1387. Extension of the cable to other 7 cities is planned. Current limited CDMA system to complete SMS and Roaming system. Project cost is estimated at 15 million dollar.
2	Completion of fiber – optic project in Afghanistan. This project will extend from Kabul to Mazaar – Maimana ,hirat and from Hirat to Kandahar and back to the Kabul as a ring. The project worth 29, 5 million dollar will be complete in the end of current year.
3	Implementation Of Rural Network. To extend and cover communication network to the villages MCIT has a comprehensive program. It will provide voice, fax and internet facilities. This project will connect 2000 villages.
4	Implementation of national information center. The project is considered to develop

	information technology, establish national information center, which impact the other sectors.
5	Modernization Postal Sector. This project is planned to improve quality of postal service and create competition in the sector. Provision of new equipment, good transportation, activation of new post offices in entrances of the cities and establishment of training center are planned.

Action Plan for 1387

1. Development budget.

Development budget including transitional budget of 1386 is summarized in the table below.

The projects started 1387		
no	Project	Budget (million dollar)
1	Expansion national digital network of capital and provinces. (Kabul, Jalal Ababd, Mazar-e- Sharif, Kandahar, Takhar, Farah, Khost, Ghazni, Baghlan including Polikhomry and Kundoz).	15,0
2	Afghanistan Optical cable network ring (national fiber optic network)	29,5
3	Creation a new organizational structure: establishment of Afghan Telecom company	2,0
4	Modernization of Post(creation Afghan Post)	1,0
5	Central buildings	3,7
6	Creation National Information Center	2,5
7	Expansion government communication network to provinces, districts, villages(including ECDP)	7,2
TOTAL		60,9

Telecommunication is an integral part of daily life

Can you imagine life without telecommunication?

Brief description of major development projects

no	project
1	Administrative, technical and urban post buildings in capital and provinces
2	11 construction projects for installation communication devices and equipment have been completed. 14 administrative and 17 postal buildings will be constructed in Samangan, Jawzjan, Badakhshan, Neemroz, Kabul, Parwan , Ghazni, Laghman, Sare Pul, Faryab,Kundoz, Bamyan, Nangar Har, Midan, Takhar, Kandahar, Panjsher, Hilmand, Kunar, Ghor and Hirat.
3	Privatization of Afghan Telecom. MCIT has intended to betake 80% of Afghan Telecom share to private investors through free competition
4	The Telecommunication development Fund. To provide better services in rural areas, According telecommunication law, ATRA has been established. Annually 2, 5% gross income is collected from telephone operators and 15 million has been collected so far. MCIT intends to spend collected revenue for provision services to areas, which are not covered already.

Policy in Practice

Our policy in the field of communication and information technology is based on the principle of economic and social efficiencies, Removal of basic needs, deep analysis and implementation of the best practices of modern technology.

Communication is harmful to no one. Telecommunication services and infrastructures are for you and your welfare. Protection of the common investment and support of its development is national duty of every Afghan.

