



TASK FORCE FOR BUSINESS AND STABILITY OPERATIONS

Enabling Security through Economic Opportunity

MISSION

The Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO) was formed by the U.S. Department of Defense in 2006 to leverage American and international economic power as a strategic tool for promoting economic stabilization. Since then, the Task Force's mission has been to reduce violence, enhance stability, and restore economic normalcy in areas where unrest and insurgency have created a synchronous downward spiral of economic hardship and violence. The Task Force does this by developing economic opportunities through a range of efforts, including the encouragement of investment by U.S. and Western businesses, assisting industrial development, agricultural revitalization, and the economically and environmentally responsible development of a country's natural resources. The Task Force initiates every project with the assumption that the absence of a viable economic base is one of the primary factors that has historically led to state failure.

TFBSO Accomplishments and Initiatives in Afghanistan

MINING SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

NATURAL RESOURCES

TFBSO works with both United States Geological Survey (USGS) and private-sector geologists to help Afghanistan realize economic sovereignty through the development of its mining industry in a socially, environmentally and fiscally responsible way.

- Provided extensive advice and counsel to the Afghan government on how to create a mineral tender process that meets or exceeds international best practice standards. The Ministry of Mines announced the tendering of four mineral projects with deposits containing gold and copper December 2011.
- As of 13 January 2012, the first VSO Pilot project in Kunar Valley was successfully completed with a starting total of 23 Afghans employed processing Chromite for an international buyer. The Afghan-run operation properly crushes, sifts, and concentrates the Chromite to international standards.
- Airborne Geophysical Training Program launched November 2011. In partnership with the USGS, this effort aims to train Afghan geoscientists in collecting, processing, and interpreting high-resolution geophysical data themselves. Utilizing airborne technology is essential to obtaining reliable, detailed information on mineral and rare earth element deposits.
- In December 2010, TFBSO facilitated the first Western investment with JP Morgan, which funded \$50 million to jumpstart gold mine drilling and production in northern Afghanistan's Baghlan Province.

PRIVATE INVESTMENT

ENERGY

TFBSO works in partnership with the Afghan government, the Afghan private sector, and the U.S. government interagency to provide the Afghan population access to affordable electricity and fuel and accelerate the development of the hydrocarbon sector in Afghanistan to increase domestic oil and gas production.

- The Amu Darya basin oil tender contract was signed December 2011. This northwest region holds between 70-80 million barrels in reserves, and this venture represents a significant long-term revenue stream for the Afghan government totaling \$7.1M USD over 25 years.
- Providing direct support to the Ministry of Mines' continued monetization of hydrocarbon resources by assisting with their next major international oil and gas tender of the western portion of the Afghan-Tajik basin. This area is expected to hold between 700-900 million barrels in reserves.
- Conducting seismic data collection and analysis of the western portions of the Afghan-Tajik basin to provide accurate figures on oil and natural reserves to the Ministry of Mines in preparation of the tender.
- Constructing a CNG station and conversion complex in Sheberghan city, Jowzjan province to supply vehicles with cheaper, cleaner, domestically-produced fuel. The development of CNG also provides opportunities for development of the larger domestic natural gas market for power generation and industry and minimizes barriers to entry (startup costs, access to pipelines, etc.).

HERAT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INCUBATOR PROGRAM

In the western province of Herat, TFBSO has worked with government officials and local private sector business leaders to formulate a provincial economic development strategy, drawing on Herat's strategic economic advantages and emerging markets within the region. The Task Force focused on applying this strategy by initiating projects in the information technology sector, which is an institutional strength of Herat's local universities and Herat's economy.

- IBM is working with Afghan small businesses and investors in the US as part of an effort to raise capital for a Herat-based private equity fund meant to provide growth capital to sustainable Afghan businesses.
- Worked jointly with Google and the Herat Incubator companies to develop and bring online detailed Google Maps for Herat, now the most detailed maps Herat has had in its history.
- Herat Incubator companies jointly launched a website and a blog for the Incubator. These websites showcase recent and upcoming events, as well as provide background information on the program, bios for each participating company, and an online application. This effort is part of a broader outreach campaign to forge partnerships with other corporations and non-profits.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

INDIGENOUS INDUSTRIES

TFBSO aims to help revitalize traditional Afghan industries — such as carpet weaving, dried fruit processing and cashmere production — in order to reintroduce historically Afghan products and services to the international market.

- Conducted several important introductions to international retail outfits on behalf of Turquoise Mountain Arts (TM), most importantly on a large jewelry order produced by TM's artisans in Kabul for kate spade new york. This project focuses on developing and defining product lines, and increasing international market standards in quality, design and production infrastructure.

- Working with global fashion brand kate spade since August 2010 in order to facilitate the company's project to train and employ Afghan women to create exclusive products made with Afghan cashmere. Additionally, TFBSO is facilitating value awareness, harvesting techniques, and market linkages through the Afghanistan Social Cashmere Development Association.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC INITIATIVES

TFBSO has recognized that when women participate fully in economic affairs, they become a force for prosperity and thus the long-term stabilization of Afghanistan. Both the below projects serve as a catalyst for industrial development in Afghanistan by first creating and developing platforms for women's economic development and then by using that platform as a method to provide linkages between the international business community and Afghan women entrepreneurs.

- *The Noori Vocational Training Center for Women*: The Center focuses on developing an inclusive and transferrable training program to address: instruction in traditional Afghan artisanal skills, job-skills training, business and money management basics, literacy courses, eBusiness, supply chain and logistics tutoring. Both local and international subject matter experts (SMEs) have been contracted to complete the tasks and goals set forth for the successful transference of this project by March 2012, when all financial and programmatic responsibility of the Center and its programs will be entirely assumed by the Center.
- *International Center for Afghan Women's Economic Development*: This facility will be the first of its kind to lead and coordinate both international and Afghan public and private sector efforts to advance the role of women in the economic stabilization of Afghanistan. It will bring together and hold the services provided by the US-Afghan Women's Council, nongovernmental organizations committed to women's issues in Afghanistan, the Goldman Sachs "10,000 Women" initiative, and the University's professional development programs devoted to women's business and economic advancement. The Center will be housed in a state-of-the-art, 5,500 square meters, two story building constructed on American University of Afghanistan's (AUAF) new campus. Construction will begin in spring 2012.