Country profiles are compiled from a variety of national and international sources and have been informed and validated by UNEVOC Centres in the country or other TVET national authorities.

The designations employed and the presentations of material throughout this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNESCO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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Abbreviations

ANQF  Afghan National Qualifications Framework  
ARTF  Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund  
ASDP  Afghanistan Skills Development Project  
CESP  National Qualifications Authority  
MOE  Ministry of Education  
MOHE  Ministry of Higher Education  
MOLSAMD  Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled  
NESP  National Strategic Plan  
NOSS  National Occupation Skills Standards  
NQA  National Qualification Authority  
NSPD  National Skills Development Plan  
PMUs  Programme Management Units  
TTCs  Teacher Training Colleges  
TVET  Technical Vocational Education and Training  
VTCs  Vocational Training Centres

TVETipedia Glossary

Below are listed TVET terms mentioned in this report. Click on a term to read its definitions on the UNESCO-UNEVOC TVETipedia glossary.

Assessment  
Basic skills  
Capacity Building  
Community-based education  
Competence  
Competency-based assessment  
Curriculum  
Diploma  
Diploma Standard  
Evaluation  
Higher Education  
Informal sector  
Knowledge  
Labour market  
Learning Outcomes  
National Qualifications Framework  
Qualification  
Quality  
Quality Assurance  
Quality control  
Skills  
Standard  
Teacher In VET  
Tertiary Education  
TVET
1. TVET mission, strategy and legislation

TVET mission

Article 20 of the Law on Education sets out the objectives of TVET in Afghanistan, which are to:

- Train human resources in technical-professional, vocational and artistic fields needed by the society and international market, taking into consideration national and international standards with special concern to the needs of women;
- Develop and expand knowledge and skills through theoretical and practical training in the fields important for national development;
- Provide special education for blind and disabled people in relevant fields;
- Prepare students to be admitted to tertiary level institutions and universities.

TVET strategy

The Afghan Ministry of Education aims to address the serious challenges facing the education system including TVET and amongst others has set the following targets:

- To increase access to TVET through the establishment of new institutions such as regional institutes from sixteen to thirty-two, provincial schools from thirty-eight to 102 and district school to 364 during the years 2009-2014;
- To increase the enrolment and training of TVET students from 19,500 in 2009 to 150,000 in March 2014, increase female participation in TVET to 30 per cent and to increase disabled participation in TVET to 1000 students;
- To develop teachers’ capacities for delivering better services by: (1) making sure that 40 per cent of the TVET teachers pass competency based exams up to 2014; and (2) making sure that 80 per cent of the TVET teachers are using active participation methodology;
- To provide quality and market-aligned curriculum and training materials to the students; and
- To equip schools with quality and market-aligned equipment.

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1 Population aged 14–25
2 All statistics compiled from the United Nation's Population Division's World Population Prospects, the 2015 Revision (http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD/)
TVET legislation

- The Law on Education adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2008 outlines the general principles of education in Afghanistan. Article 5 of the Law stipulates that public technical and professional, vocational and artistic education is free of charge.

- The National Skills Development Plan (NSPD) is a national priority programme signed by the president of Afghanistan in Berlin in 2004. The goal of NSPD is to contribute to the socio-economic recovery of the country through the development of a national TVET system that is responsive to the needs of the labour market and that provides the population of the country with skills and knowledge for decent employment.

  NSPD consists of two components: (1) funding of short-term vocational training for building the TVET system; (2) Development of National Occupation Skills Standards (NOSS); (3) assisting in the development of a National Qualifications Framework (ANQF); and (4) building the capacity of trainers and training providers.

Sources:

2. TVET formal, non-formal and informal systems


**Formal TVET system**

According to a report on TVET issued by the Committee on Education and Skills Policy - CESP (2010) the provision of TVET is assured by the following establishments:

- NGOs (comprising 30,000 students and assuring the provision of basic vocational skills);
- Private sector (comprising 150,000 students and assuring the provision of vocational skills mainly in computer literacy, English, management and accounting); and
- Public sector: the provision of TVET is assured by the following ministries:
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- The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MOLSAMD) oversees twenty training centres providing short-term courses for public sector employees;
- The Ministry of Education (MOE) coordinates and administers 140 public TVET High Schools and seventy public TVET Institutes while forty private TVET Institutes are licensed and 120 others are in the process of being licensed. All of these institutions provide two-year, three-year and five-year programmes.

TVET education comprises:

- Agriculture, Livestock and Veterinary;
- Technical and Vocational;
- Business Education;
- Construction and Engineering;
- Fine and Arts;
- Special and Inclusive Education Sectors.

The Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) enrols 6,500 students in different academic institutions providing programmes in the fields of medicine, agriculture and economics.

Post-secondary education, grades thirteen and fourteen, is provided by vocational education colleges, teacher training colleges and Islamic colleges (Dar-ul-Ulums). TVET offered in schools under the authority of the Ministry of Education is mainly for graduates of grade nine. Depending on the field of specialization and trainee's entry level, programmes last from two to five-years. Upon successful completion (end of grade fourteen) a diploma or an associate degree is awarded.

Those students who perform better in TVET can be transferred to universities and the credits for the courses already completed are recognized. A reverse transfer is also possible, when students who have completed a university degree in the humanities and social sciences can pursue skills training of different durations at a TVET college.

Non-formal and informal TVET systems

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled provides short-term vocational skills training courses with the emphasis on practical work that usually last for less than one-year.

TVET programmes in Afghanistan are offered in a range of disciplines such as carpentry, plumbing, motor mechanics, television repair, electricians, photography, computer studies, music, languages, etc.

Sources:
3. Governance and financing

Governance

The Ministry of Education (MOE) is the authority directly implementing most of the educational programmes, including but not limited to: policy formulation; formal schools; curriculum development; teacher education colleges; TVET schools; literacy courses; community-based education; training and capacity building of staff; and monitoring and evaluation.

The MOE functions through thirty-four provincial departments and the central administration located in Kabul. The MOE is comprised of deputy ministries:

- Deputy Ministry of Academic Affairs;
- Deputy Ministry of TVET;
- Deputy Ministry of Islamic Education;
- Deputy Ministry of Literacy; and
- Deputy Ministry of Curriculum and Teacher Training Affairs.

The key departments of the Ministry of Education under various deputy ministries of MOE are Directorate General of General Education, Directorate General Planning and Evaluation, Directorate General of Admin and Finance, Directorate General of TVET School Affairs, the Academic Council, the Office of the Minister, and the Department for Internal Audit, and Inspection and the TVET Policy and Programs Development Department. With the adoption of the National Strategic Plan (NESP) 2010-2014, Programme Management Units (PMUs) were established. Their aim is to coordinate the implementation of the strategies stated out in the National Education Strategic Plan (NESP).

In 2008 an Education Development Board that included representatives from the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Higher Education was established. The Board was later renamed to the Human Resource Development Board since it plays a direct role in human resource development. It ensures efficient coordination between the MOE and donor organizations and provides advice to the Ministry.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a great role in the education system of Afghanistan. They are directly contracted by the donor organizations.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled provides vocational skills training through its seventeen training centres, designs and implements programme curricula, prepares academic guidelines for training, assessment and evaluations, and issues certificates. The Ministry is also responsible for determining the capacity building, coordination and registration of NGOs working in the non-formal sector, and serves as liaison with main ministries with the aim of identifying capacity-building needs.

In order to improve the quality of curricula developed for educational courses, an autonomous National Institute for Curriculum Development was established in 2011. The Institute is responsible for the broad curriculum policies of all types of educational programmes including those for technical and vocational education.
Financing

Currently, a major portion of TVET funding comes from foreign governments through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), the World Bank and other bilateral donor agencies. The funding is mainly short-term since most donors are not prepared to invest on a long-term basis. Government has not established a functioning system for public TVET funding.

Sources:

4. TVET teachers and trainers

A Bachelors’ degree with 75 per cent grade is required in order to become a TVET teacher. However, more than half of the total number of TVET teachers has a lower level of education. Although an education of grade fourteen would be acceptable for teachers in the provinces (in the short-term perspective), it is a challenge to find teachers with even that level of education.

Sources:

5. Qualifications and Qualifications Frameworks

Secondary vocational education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 10-14</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Associate Level Diploma and Professional or Technical Baccalaureate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 10-12</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Professional or Technical Baccalaureate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 13-14</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Associate Level Diploma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

The Afghan National Qualification Authority (ANQA) is a body responsible for the governance and management of the ANQF. It is an independent authority that is however accountable to the government. The main objectives of ANQA are to:

- Establish and maintain ANQF for the development, recognition and award of qualifications, based on knowledge, skills and competence acquired by learners; and
Establish and promote the maintenance and improvement of the standards of further education and training awards in Higher education, TVET, general education, Islamic education and Basic education; and

Promote and facilitate access, transfer and progression within the national education system.

The development of legal and operational frameworks of Afghan NQF is a part of the project funded by the World Bank called Afghanistan Skills Development Project (ASDP). A Dutch company, CINOP has also participated in the development of ANQF. By the end of 2011 the structure and operational procedure of the TVET board that monitors the part of the NQF dedicated to TVET had to be completed.

8 qualification levels based on learning outcomes have been developed:

- Level 1: Basic level
- Level 2: Literacy and Basic Vocational Training Certificate
- Level 3: Intermediate Education certificate/Grade nine
- Level 4: Advanced Certificate, High School/Grade twelve
- Level 5: Tertiary Education Grade fourteen Diploma
- Level 6: Higher Education Bachelor Degree
- Level 7: Higher Education Master Degree
- Level 8: Higher Education Ph.D. Degree

Quality assurance

To assure quality and control issues the deputy ministry of TVET education has established independent Monitoring and Evaluation and Quality Control and Assurance Units under the direct supervision of the deputy minister of TVET responsible for quality assurance.

Appropriate structures exist within the Ministry of Education, higher education and labour affairs to assure the quality issues.

The first ever Educational Joint Sector Review (EJSR) involving all agencies, partners and funders to review the achievements and quality issues took place on 26–27 June 2012.

Sources:

6. Current reforms, major projects and challenges

Current reforms and major projects

A five-year project called Afghan Skills Development Project (ASDP) has been undertaken by the government of Afghanistan, essentially by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled. ASDP is financed by ARTF and the World Bank. The aim of the project is to increase the number of immediately employable graduates by building a high quality TVET system that is equitable, responsive to market needs and cost effective. It consists of the following components:
Component one: The development of a regulatory and quality assurance framework;
Component two: The improvement of the relevance, quality and efficiency of TVET;
Component three: The development of skills programmes linked to the labour market with a focus on rural areas; and
Component four: Research, monitoring and evaluation.

The Ministry of Education has developed a strategic plan consisting of different programmes. Component three is dedicated to Technical and Vocational Education and Training. Its overall goal is to provide relevant and quality TVET for both males and females in order to enable them to meet the requirements of the national labour market and to contribute to the equitable and balanced development of the country. The objectives of the plan are to:

- Increase enrolment of girls in TVET programs to 30 per cent of total enrolment;
- Increase enrolment of children with disabilities in TVET schools to 1,000 students;
- Develop basic skills of teachers, male and female, to improve the quality of teaching in order to improve learning achievements of students;
- Develop modern quality curriculum and learning materials to improve teaching and increase student learning achievements;
- Equip the existing schools and TVET centres according to modern TVET standards; and
- Enhance the capacity of TVET teaching and administrative staff.

In order to improve TVET teacher education a Teacher Training Department was established as a part of the TVET department in the Ministry of Education, which is a significant step towards enhancing the capacity of teachers.

**Challenges**

Despite the fact that Afghanistan is investing a lot of effort to improve the TVET system, a number of challenges still remain. There is a lack of well-equipped learning spaces and facilities. Access to TVET programmes is rather low, especially for girls that face social constraints and the training offered is mostly irrelevant to them. The curriculum of TVET courses does not fully match the needs of the labour market but steps are being taken to align training and labour market needs. Other drawbacks of national TVET are the low qualifications of teachers, low salary levels and high pupil/teacher ratios. Shortage of qualified teachers is a big problem in the Afghan TVET system. Due to low salaries it is hard to recruit trainers with the necessary qualifications and professional experience.

Existing universities are not able to accept all graduates from secondary education and therefore creating accessible TVET paths is necessary in order to prevent graduates from remaining unemployed and becoming vulnerable to recruitment by extremists, criminal gangs and drug dealers.

Coordination of Ministries involved in Afghan TVET needs to be improved. Difficulties in communication within the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled lead to obstacles in the task of developing a coherent strategy for TVET system.
Sources:

7. Links to UNEVOC centres and TVET institutions

UNEVOC Centres

- DMTVET - MoE Deputy Ministry of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Ministry of Education

TVET Institutions

- Ministry of Education

8. References and further reading

References


