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## SNAPSHOT

### Kabul Municipality Inaugurates State-of-the Art GIS Facility



*Director General for Urban Planning Engineer Niazi opens up the new state of the art GIS Cell at the Urban Planning Department. This GIS Cell is one of the first steps KCI and Kabul Municipality are taking to develop an office at the Urban Planning Department to support the future statistical and spatial analysis to be conducted by the KM in support of the Kabul City Master Plan.*

On December 4, 2012 Kabul Municipality inaugurated its recently established, state-of-the-art GIS unit in the Urban Planning Department. Geospatial Information Science (GIS) technology is revolutionizing the way that the City does business. Municipalities around the world use GIS software and skills to implement redevelopment schemes, urban planning programs and mapping of City utilities and projects. Now the Kabul Municipality has the skills and facility to design, analyze, and produce thematic and topographic maps for the Kabul City Master Plan and for the implementation of development projects.

The USAID-funded Kabul City Initiative (KCI) works to build the capacity of the municipal staff to more effectively deliver city services. KCI has assisted the municipality by providing equipment and by developing technical training courses for the nine core GIS staff on Computer Aided Design (AutoCAD), GIS, Global Positioning System (GPS), Total Station (digital land survey tool) and other tools.

GIS technology increases the efficiency of the city planning process and contributes to improved decision making, communication, and recordkeeping.

The GIS unit has already assisted international donors such as Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UN Habitat, and United States Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A) who also provide assistance to the Kabul Municipality on development projects. Using GIS, donor programs are now coordinated to avoid duplication of programs and to coordinate projects among donors. The GIS unit has provided donors with thematic maps which are maps to that depict a particular theme. For example, the GIS Cell has created a land use map of some of the districts within Kabul, which can be used as planning tool for future development within Kabul.

Director General for Urban Planning Engineer Niazi stated that, “No longer will the Urban Planning Department be hand sketching maps for surveying and other topographical maps. Now that the GIS Cell is functional we will expedite this process due to the fact that this technology allows the user to complete their job in the fraction of the time versus in the past when they used hand sketch all of these maps.”

#### Telling Our Story

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