

The A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance

2012
Tenth Edition



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AREU

**Afghanistan
Research and
Evaluation Unit**

Research for a Better Afghanistan

IMPORTANT NOTE: The information presented in this guide relies on the voluntary contributions of ministries and agencies of the Afghan government, embassies, development agencies and other organisations representing donor countries, national and international NGOs, and other institutions. While AREU undertakes with each edition of this guide to provide the most accurate and current information possible, details evolve and change continuously. Users of this guide are encouraged to submit updates, additions, corrections and suggestions to publications@areu.org.af.

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Cover photograph: *An engineer checks the gas pipes at Gerquduq filtering house, close to the Shiberghan gas fields (Jawad Jalali/Afghan Eyes Photo Agency).*

Tab photographs: *(A to Z) Installation of Radio Killid broadcasting antenna in Karte See, Kabul City/ Najibullah Musesafer (Killid Group); (Government) 2010 parliamentary election campaign poster, Kabul City/Jawad Jalali (Afghan Eyes Photo Agency); (Documents) School students march in front of the President and Cabinet in celebration of Education Day, Kabul City/Najibullah Musesafer (Killid Group); (Maps) Samangan-Mazar Highway/Jawad Jalali (Afghan Eyes Photo Agency); (Provincial Profiles) Villager purchasing a solar panel from Shinwary District Bazar, Parwan Province/ Najibullah Musesafer (Killid Group); (Contacts) Journalists interview a man for TOLO TV, Kabul City/ Jawad Jalali (Afghan Eyes Photo Agency); (Index) Public bathing at Band-i-Amir, Bamiyan Province/ Oliver Lough (AREU).*

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About the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit

The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) is an independent research institute based in Kabul. AREU's mission is to inform and influence policy and practice through conducting high-quality, policy-relevant research and actively disseminating the results, and to promote a culture of research and learning. To achieve its mission AREU engages with policymakers, civil society, researchers and students to promote their use of AREU's research and its library, to strengthen their research capacity, and to create opportunities for analysis, reflection and debate.

AREU conducts research on a wide variety of topics and produces dozens of research publications each year, ranging from policy-focused briefing papers to comprehensive issues and synthesis reports. Many are translated into Dari and Pashto. AREU also publishes the annual *A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance* and maintains a website (www.areu.org.af). AREU also regularly organises workshops and conferences to facilitate research use and enable and encourage debate among policymakers and other stakeholders.

AREU was established in 2002 by the assistance community working in Afghanistan and has a board of directors with representation from donors, the United Nations and other multilateral agencies, and non-governmental organisations. AREU currently receives core funds from the governments of Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

About the *A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance*

Updated each year, the *A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance* aims to enhance general understanding of the array of actors, structures and government processes related to aid and reconstruction efforts in the country. The guide provides: a wide-ranging glossary of assistance terms, an overview of Afghanistan's system of government, a series of country and city maps, key primary documents, a breakdown of key development indicators on a provincial scale and an extensive contacts directory that includes government agencies, NGOs, donors, and international actors. Where not otherwise specified, all dollar amounts are USD. The guide is also published in Dari and Pashto.

When the first edition of the *A to Z Guide* was published in 2002, the goal then—as it is now—was “to provide a guide to the terms, structures, mechanisms and coordinating bodies critical to the Afghanistan relief and reconstruction effort to help ensure a shared vocabulary and common understanding.” Over the years the guide increased in scope and size, but has always followed the same successful model.

The information presented in the guide relies on the voluntary contributions of agencies and organisations, and the situation in Afghanistan can change rapidly. Users of the guide are encouraged to contact publications@areu.org.af with suggestions for additions, updates, corrections or improvements.

The AREU Library

Established in 2003, the AREU Library supports the research activities of AREU and provides public access to approximately 14,500 titles held about Afghanistan. The library is open to everyone. Contemporary materials produced inside Afghanistan and materials in Afghan languages are the focus of collecting, with an emphasis on long-term research value.

The library also aims to make available in Afghanistan research produced overseas about the country and the region. Materials of all types (books, journal articles, maps, posters, CDs, DVDs, databases and more) are available for use inside the library (no public borrowing is allowed). Photocopying facilities are available and the entire collection is listed online (see the “Library” page of AREU’s website at www.areu.org.af). The library also has over 50 gigabytes of accumulated softcopy publications on Afghanistan, all of which are indexed and listed in the library database and made available for research use (where copyright laws permit).

Researchers are welcome to visit in person or email inquiries to library@areu.org.af. Library staff work in collaboration with several other libraries in Kabul and can also suggest sources for materials not available at AREU.

The library is located at the main AREU office in Kabul and follows these opening hours:

Sunday to Thursday (closed Friday, Saturday and public holidays)

9:00-12:30 and 13:00-16:00 (8:00-14:00 during Ramazan)

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AREU Publications 2011

These and all other AREU publications are available for download from www.areu.org.af and most are available in hardcopy from the AREU office in Kabul (* indicates that a publication or a summary is available in Dari, and # in Pashto).

- Afghanistan Looking Ahead: Challenges for Governance and Community Welfare
- Painful Steps: Justice, Forgiveness and Compromise in Afghanistan's Peace Process, by Jay Lamey, with Emily Winterbotham*#
- Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Counter-narcotics Efforts and their Effects in Nangarhar and Helmand in the 2010-11 Growing Season, by David Mansfield
- Rethinking Rural Poverty in Afghanistan, by Paula Kantor and Adam Pain
- Legacies of Conflict: Healing Complexes and Moving Forwards in Ghazni Province, by Emily Winterbotham
- Legacies of Conflict: Healing Complexes and Moving Forwards in Bamiyan Province, by Emily Winterbotham with Fauzia Rahimi
- Legacies of Conflict: Healing Complexes and Moving Forwards in Kabul Province, by Emily Winterbotham
- Wartime Suffering: Patterns of Violation in Afghanistan, by Emily Winterbotham, with Akbar Ludin, Amin Sheikhzadeh, Farkhloqa Amini, Fauzia Rahimi, Jamila Wafa, Shukria Azadmanesh and Zaman Sultani
- Managing Concurrent and Repeated Risks: Explaining the Reductions in Opium Production in Central Helmand Between 2008 and 2011, by David Mansfield
- Governance and Representation in the Afghan Urban Transition, by Tommaso Giovacchini
- The Impact of Microfinance Programmes on Women's Lives: A Case Study in Kabul Province, by Sogol Zand
- Afghanistan Research Newsletter No. 30*#
- District Councils: The Missing Middle of Local Governance
- Local Governance for Local Needs: Key Findings and Policy Options for Afghanistan, by Douglas Saltmarshe and Abhilash Medhi
- Opium Poppy Strikes Back: The 2011 Return of Opium in Balkh and Badakhshsan Provinces, by Adam Pain
- Local Government is Failing to Meet Local Needs (podcast)
- Local Governance in Afghanistan: A View from the Ground, by Douglas Saltmarshe and Abhilash Medhi*#

- Proceedings of an AREU Roundtable Discussion on Planning New Afghan Cities, by Tommaso Giovacchini
- Practicing Democracy in Afghanistan: Key Findings on Perceptions, Parliament and Elections, by Oliver Lough
- Political Economy of the Wolesi Jirga: Sources of Finance and their Impact on Representation in Afghanistan's Parliament, by Noah Coburn
- Deconstructing "Democracy" in Afghanistan, by Anna Larson**
- AREU Publication Catalogue 2001-2010
- Afghanistan Research Newsletter 29**
- Community-Based Dispute Resolution Processes in Kabul City, by Rebecca Gang
- Beyond the Market? Can the AREDP transform Afghanistan's rural nonfarm economy, by Adam Pain and Paula Kantor
- Proceedings from a Roundtable Discussion on Community-Based Dispute Resolution
- Undermining Representative Governance: Afghanistan's 2010 Parliamentary Election and its Alienating Impact, by Noah Coburn and Anna Larson
- A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance - Ninth Edition**
- Afghanistan Research Newsletter 28**
- Running out of Options: Tracing Rural Afghan Livelihoods, by Paula Kantor and Adam Pain**

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Afghan Development Association (ADA)

www.ada.org.af

The Afghan Development Association (ADA) is a nongovernmental and non-profit organisation whose mission is to eradicate poverty from Afghanistan. ADA was originally founded in Pakistan in 1990, where it worked mainly in Afghan refugee camps. With its current headquarters in Kabul, ADA's 564 staff operate in Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul, Farah, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Panjshir, Faryab, Jawzjan, Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar.

ADA implements multi-sectoral rehabilitation and development projects aiming to support and empower vulnerable and marginalised groups. Particular attention is given to the agricultural sector and rural activities that can contribute to more productive and sustainable livelihoods at the grassroots level. Community participation is an integral part of ADA's project planning and implementation.

As per its current five-year strategic plan, ADA is organised into five departments: Planning, Capacity Building, Education, Integrated Rural Development (IRD), and Finance. Each department is headed by a director and is supported by line staff, resources and facilities. ADA also operates a Disaster Risk Reduction Unit, which has expanded into each of the ADA project areas.

ADA will update its five-year plan in 2012, putting an increased emphasis on capacity building and institutional development of project beneficiaries.

Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO)

www.agcho.org

The Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO) is the government agency responsible for all official mapping and related activities in Afghanistan. Its focus of work is the production, publication and distribution of physical, topographical, political, thematic, cadastral and natural resources maps; geodetic affairs; and the national atlas. Reporting directly to the President, AGCHO has approximately 700 staff and regional offices in 16 provinces. The office is divided into five departments: metadata and client service provision, cartography and GIS, cadastre, photogrammetry and remote sensing, and geodesy. Prior to its establishment as an independent agency in 1958, all mapping was done by the military.

Until the Soviet Invasion in 1979, AGCHO had completed 26 percent of the geodetic triangulation of Afghanistan and 30 percent of the cadastral surveys necessary to cover the country. Since 2001 there have been renewed efforts to modernise the agency; AGCHO has produced a number of thematic maps for government departments and external organisations and now also provides GIS training. It also established departments of Geography and GIS at Kabul University and Kabul Polytechnic University. In 2011, AGCHO published several new maps, including a 1:18,000 digital imagery street map of Kabul, produced in association with GISWorking Kabul. In cooperation with the German government, AGCHO is aiming to publish a national atlas containing over 50 maps in June 2012.

AGCHO provides its services to government ministries and to international organisations, which in some cases require specific supporting documentation. By law, all maps that are printed in Afghanistan should be approved by AGCHO.

Afghan Local Police (ALP)

The Afghan Local Police (ALP) is the latest iteration of several previous programmes designed to find a local solution to security. Prior to the establishment of the ALP by presidential decree in August 2010, the Afghan government and its international backers had experimented with various local and non-official security programmes.

In 2006 the Afghan National Auxiliary Police (ANAP) was launched by the US military and the Ministry of Interior, only to be halted in 2009 over concerns about arming groups with only tenuous loyalty to the government. However, 2009 also saw a rapid increase in the use of local forces to provide security. In July 2009, the government created Community Defence Forces (CDF) to provide security during the elections in areas with limited Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF, p. 9) presence (although the locations chosen to receive CDF funding led to accusations that political agendas were determining their use). In the same year, the Afghan Public Protection Programme (AP3) was launched in Wardak Province, nominally under the control of the Ministry of Interior but largely directed by US Special Forces. Meanwhile in July 2009 US Combined Forces Special Operations Command Afghanistan (CFSOCC-A) created the Community Defence Initiative (CDI), which was soon renamed the Local Defence Initiative (LDI). These programmes sought to provide local communities with the means to defend themselves from anti-government groups. By 2010, CDI/LDI had fallen under the umbrella of Village Stability Operations (VSO), overseen by the US Department of Defense. Following August 2010, CDI/LDI groups were subsumed into the ALP.

The ALP programme had been due to run until 2015, although that date now looks likely to be extended. Districts selected to take part in the programme nominate around 300 men to receive uniforms, AK47s and training from US Special Forces. In theory, recruits must all be vetted and approved by district-level *shuras* (councils) and Afghan domestic intelligence. The *shuras* responsible for vetting recruits are those created by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance's Afghanistan Social Outreach Program (IDLG, p. 43, ASOP, p. 24). There is also a strict limit on ALP members' powers—they cannot make arrests, patrol outside their districts or possess heavy weaponry, and they are in theory under the control of the local police chief.

There are widespread concerns that community-based self-defence initiatives are vulnerable to usurpation by local powerholders with little loyalty to the government, possibly leading to inter-ethnic or factional tensions. It has also been suggested that these groups could undermine state authority and the progress made in disarmament. The September 2011 Human Rights Watch report entitled "Just Don't Call it a Militia: Impunity, Militias, and the Afghan Local Police" detailed many of these accusations.

Despite these concerns, community-based defence remains a key part of the Transition process of handing security responsibility to Afghans (Transition, p. 73). Currently numbering around 10,000,

ALP strength is projected to grow to around 30,000. The ALP programme is largely funded by the US Department of Defense.

Afghan National Army (ANA)

The Afghan National Army (ANA) was created on 1 December 2002 under a decree issued by President Hamid Karzai. Serving under Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence, the ANA makes up one part of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), the other part of which is the Afghan National Police (ANP, p. 7). Conceived as an all-volunteer force inclusive of Afghans of all social and ethnic origins, the ANA was originally to be capped at an end-strength of 70,000 service members. When established in 2003, the ANA was adopted by the Bonn Agreement (p. 27) as one of the five pillars of the Afghan government's Security Sector Reform strategy (SSR, p. 71). The roles of the ANA are: 1) to secure the borders and deter external threats; 2) to defeat terrorist forces; 3) to disband, reintegrate or imprison illegal armed groups; and 4) to manage internal security threats and emergencies in cooperation with the ANP.

In January 2010, the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB, p. 47) approved the lifting of the troop ceiling from 134,000 (consisting of 122,000 operational troops and 12,000 soldiers-in-training) to a new level of 171,000 by October 2011. In June 2011 the JCMB raised the approved figure to 195,000; plans for a further increase to 240,000 now seem likely to be dropped. As of December 2011, the ANA's reported personnel strength stood at approximately 180,000 troops; of these, approximately two-thirds were combat forces and three percent were air corps. The ANA is divided into six corps, ranging in size from 12,000 to 18,000 troops; the Kabul-headquartered Capital Division responsible for the security of the capital and the seat of government, numbering around 9,000 troops; a Special Operations Force Division of 8,800 troops; and an air corps providing essential airlift support to ANA brigades. More brigades may be added under the revised plan. Continuing to build the ANA is central to US strategy and the implementation of Transition in Afghanistan (p. 73), in which the ANA will take over responsibility for internal security from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF, p. 45) in several stages.

The ANA is a conventionally structured and light infantry-based force. It is designed primarily to combat insurgents but lacks overall capability in terms of defending Afghanistan's national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Its six ground-manoeuvre corps are distributed as regional commands in Kabul, Gardez, Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif and Lashkar Gah. The personnel charts of ANA battalions, or *kandaks*, consist of 650 soldiers, sergeants and officers. Mostly equipped with refurbished Soviet Union-era aircraft, the Afghan National Air Corps is being trained to perform a range of missions including presidential airlift, medical and casualty evacuation, reconnaissance and airborne command and control, and light air attack. As of January 2012, the Afghan National Air Corps had 76 aircraft, including 50 helicopters.

To ensure geographic and ethnic diversity, the ANA has recruitment centres in each of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. Around 6,000 new recruits join the ANA every month. Recruits complete 12-week training courses at the Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTC). All trainers are

Afghan, supported by military trainers from the United States, the United Kingdom, France and other countries. On graduation from the KMTC, ANA soldiers undergo an additional six weeks of training and equipping (joining their fellow unit officers and non-commissioned officers) before being deployed to their respective corps. Additionally, in 2009 the first-ever class of ANA officers graduated from the National Military Academy of Afghanistan, which was established in 2004. ANA personnel sign three-year contracts, which can be voluntarily renewed. The maximum length of service is 25 years. In spite of these formal contractual mechanisms, desertion continues to be a serious problem in the ANA. Over the last two years, the attrition rate has averaged 2.65 percent a month.

US training teams are embedded in most ANA units, ranging from *kandaks* to corps. Through its Operational Mentor and Liaison Team Programme, ISAF similarly embeds mentors in selected ANA units.

The United States is the key partner in training and equipping the ANA, providing the majority of the required technical and financial support. It has committed to spending \$17 billion on training and equipping the army from 2008 to 2013. Following that date the United States will reduce funding to \$3 billion annually. Other donor nations are expected to contribute a combined total of \$1 billion. This has led to concerns over the fiscal sustainability of maintaining the ANA at its present size

The current aim of the Afghan government is to assume full security responsibility throughout Afghanistan by end-2014, as part of the Transition process.

Afghan National Police (ANP)

www.moi.gov.af

The Afghan National Police (ANP) is the Afghan government's overarching police institution; it operates under the authority of the Ministry of Interior (Moi). The ANP's roles span a wide spectrum of security activities including law enforcement, maintenance of order, criminal investigation, border security, counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism. As of 31 December 2011, the ANP reportedly had a total strength of 138,121, made up of the following forces:

- National Police, or Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP)—responsible for most day-to-day police activities and assigned to police districts as well as Provincial and Regional Commands; each of the six regions ultimately reports to the Deputy Minister of Security; strength of 80,275.
- Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP)—a highly trained and specially equipped quick-reaction force aimed at dealing with “advanced police situations,” such as civil disorder, looting, hostage-taking and riots; strength of 13,678.
- Afghan Border Police (ABP)—engaged in law enforcement at international borders and the country's other points of entry; strength of 23,086, structured into six zones (West, South-west, South, East, North, North-east).

- Other units—including personnel assigned to the Mol, the Criminal Investigation Division, the Counter Narcotics Police (with a strength of approximately 2,500), and training, intelligence and fire department units; combined strength of 21,082.
- In addition, 7,840 recruits were undergoing training.

The Afghan government has experimented with several local defence programmes, seeking to augment the ANP by finding non-official, community based security solutions. The most recent iteration of these is the Afghan Local Police (ALP, p. 5).

The 2006 Afghanistan Compact (p. 12) established as a benchmark for 2010 a fully constituted, professional, functional, and ethnically balanced ANP force of up to 62,000 members. In April 2007, in response to increased insurgency in southern Afghanistan, the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB, p. 47) raised this number to 82,000. The authorised size of the ANP was again increased to 96,800 in the run-up to the 2009 elections. In January 2010, the JCMB approved a further increase to 109,000 by October 2010 and to 134,000 by October 2011. In June 2011 this was again revised upwards to 157,000. Some donors have raised concerns about the fiscal sustainability of increasing the size of the ANP; others are concerned that the focus of police reform is shifting from the establishment of a civilian police force to that of a paramilitary or counterinsurgency force.

Reform of the police sector, one of the five pillars of the Afghan government's Security Sector Reform strategy (SSR, p. 71), has focused primarily on training and mentoring, provision of equipment and infrastructure, and institutional restructuring such as pay and rank reform. The Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA, p. 51) has primary responsibility for coordinating donor support for ANP salaries. The police sector in Afghanistan has been supported by approximately 25 donor countries, with Germany taking the coordinating role of "key partner" until 2007. In June 2007, the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL, p. 39) subsumed Germany's primary role in police reform with the aim of consolidating different approaches among EU members; the mission was originally mandated until June 2010. In May 2010, the Council of the European Union extended the mandate of the mission until 31 May 2013.

The United States has been by far the largest overall contributor of human and financial resources to support the police sector. Since 2005, the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A, see Coalition Forces, p. 32) has led police reform efforts by the US, along with the training and development of the ANA. CSTC-A has several thousand personnel and contractors dedicated to its ANP mission.

Approaches to police reform varied widely among donors and efforts to consolidate and integrate these approaches were slow to emerge. In early 2007, donors and the Afghan government established the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB) aimed at consolidating and integrating international police reform efforts and enhancing Afghan ownership of the reforms. By late 2007, the IPCB Secretariat was operational, its members meeting regularly and engaging with CSTC-A, EUPOL and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF, p. 45). In June 2009, the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) was established to train the ANP. NTM-A cooperates with CSTC-A in a single headquarters.

The main laws governing the ANP are the 2005 Police Law and the 2004 Interim Criminal Procedure Code. These laws are based on Articles 56, 75 (3) and 134 of the Constitution. The chain of command is: 1) Minister of Interior, 2) Deputy Minister for Security Affairs, 3) Regional Commanders, 4) Provincial Chiefs of Police, and 5) District Chiefs of Police. There are currently six ANP regions (Kabul Province, North, East, South, West and Central).

In principle, a commissioned ANP officer (*saran*) requires a 12th-grade education and three years of training at the Kabul Police Academy (KPA). A non-commissioned officer or sergeant (*satanman*) is required to complete 9th grade and a nine-month course at KPA. Patrolmen (*satunkai*) complete training courses at either the Central Training Centre in Kabul or one of the Regional Training Centres in Bamiyan, Gardez, Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Kunduz and Mazar-i-Sharif.

Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF)

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) consist of the Afghan National Army (ANA, p. 6) and the Afghan National Police (ANP, p. 7).

Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB)

www.ancb.org

The Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB) was founded in 1991 and aims to coordinate the activities of Afghan NGOs with the Afghan government, the UN, international organisations, and donor agencies.

ANCB membership is restricted to Afghan NGOs, with 190 current members. Applications for ANCB membership are considered by the Board of Directors and subsequently voted on at the General Assembly (the quarterly meeting of member organisations). ANCB's 11-member Board of Directors is elected for a period of one year by the General Assembly.

ANCB's headquarters is located in Kabul and it has satellite offices in Nangarhar and Wardak provinces. It convenes monthly member meetings on topics such as health, education, agriculture, sanitation, reconstruction and government policy. It also arranges seminars and training courses aimed at building the technical capacity of member NGOs in needs assessment, management, finance, administrative development, human rights, democracy, legal awareness and report and proposal writing. ANCB provides internet facilities for its members in the ANCB office and produces a weekly newsletter, the quarterly magazine *Paiwastoon* (Coordination), and a directory of all its members.

ANCB is a member of the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR, p. 25), the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, the World Civil Society Forum, and the Affinity Group of National Associations. It is also actively involved in the Afghan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo, p. 12). The bulk of ANCB funding comes from membership fees.

Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA)

The Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) was a governing body established by the Emergency Loya Jirga (ELJ, p. 38) in June 2002. It was preceded by the Afghan Interim Authority (AIA), a temporary governing body created at the 2001 Bonn Conference (p. 27). The head of the ATA was President Hamid Karzai, previously the Chairman of the AIA, who was elected in a secret ballot by members of the ELJ.

Under the ATA the Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ, p. 35) decided on a constitution for the new Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in January 2004. As per the 2004 Constitution, the ATA was due to stay in power until a fully representative government could be elected through free and fair elections. In October 2004, Hamid Karzai was elected as President; at his inauguration in December 2004, the ATA was transformed into the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, despite the postponement of National Assembly elections until September 2005.

Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

www.afghanwomensnetwork.org

The Afghan Women's Network (AWN) is a network of NGOs in Afghanistan working to empower Afghan women and achieve their equal participation in society. AWN also regards the empowerment and protection of children as fundamental to its work. The network seeks to enhance the effectiveness of its members by fostering partnerships and collaboration between them, undertaking advocacy and lobbying, and building their individual capacities.

AWN was founded in 1995 following the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and is now the largest national women's rights organisation in Afghanistan, representing 88 member organisations and over 5,000 individual members.

In 2011, AWN worked with UN Women and the Canada Fund to support ten women delegates to participate in side events at the Bonn Conference (p. 27) and develop a response to the Conference communiqué. AWN also organised roundtable discussions to facilitate a process of information sharing that will enable Afghan civil society and women's groups in particular to formulate educated positions and advocacy issues on the ongoing peace and Transition processes (p. 73). These discussions were an opportunity for men and women from civil society to have the chance to discuss the substance of the policies that were shaping the agenda of the Bonn 2011 conference and the future of the Afghan state beyond 2014.

AWN continues to publish the monthly *Ertiqā* magazine. It maintains a library and internet cafe for use by women's NGOs, and AWN's website allows member organisations to submit activity reports and access training and other resources online.

The Network's General Assembly, comprised of AWN members, meets each year in order to elect an Executive Committee to serve as their principal decision-making body. An Advisory Committee assists with strategic planning, coordinates with international NGOs, supports fundraising efforts, and advises the Executive Committee. Based in Kabul, the Secretariat (or Head Office) is answerable to the Board of Directors and is responsible for the implementation of the programmes

and campaigns endorsed by the Board of Directors. AWN's regional offices operate in Jalalabad and Herat and manage projects in neighbouring provinces. In addition to the Jalalabad and Herat offices, a liaison office operates in Peshawar, Pakistan, providing logistic and general support to Afghan refugees.

Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU)

www.acku.edu.af

The Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU) is a nonprofit organisation that collects and makes available resources to contribute to an understanding of the social, economic, political and cultural dynamics of Afghan society in the past, present and future. With more than 22,000 catalogued items (and a total of 60,000 volumes), it provides the most comprehensive collection of materials related to Afghanistan in the region. Formerly the ACBAR Resource and Information Centre (see ACBAR, p. 25), ACKU was established independently at Kabul University in September 2005.

The collections—in Dari, Pashto, English and other languages—are largely generated by the Afghan government, UN agencies, NGOs, and international scholars and observers. They contain practical works on health and agriculture, political analyses, women's rights and recent laws, rare mujahiddin and Taliban publications, issues of cultural heritage, and many works of Afghan art and literature. ACKU also obtains national statistics and holds bodies of research conducted before the conflict era including agricultural surveys, folk music, oral folklore and histories. Many of these documents are being digitised to ensure distribution beyond Kabul to provincial universities and public libraries (to date 640,000 pages have been digitised).

The ACKU reading room provides students, faculty and visitors with computers connected to the internet and the ACKU database. The audiovisual section contains current news reports and various films on NGO programmes, events in Afghanistan's recent history, and ethnographic and cultural films. The ACKU stacks and reading room are located in the central library of Kabul University. A new, \$2 million facility is under construction on the university campus, funded by the Afghan government. Completion is projected for 2012.

ACKU also operates the ACKU Box Library Extension (ABLE), designed to provide libraries for provincial communities, high schools and councils. Managed by local community custodians (including teachers, NGO staff, shopkeepers and mullahs), the box libraries (small, shelved containers on wheels) hold a wide variety of titles on a range of topics including history, the environment, home management, good health practices, the use of computers, and dictionaries. ABLE, which supplies libraries in 31 of the 34 provinces, also publishes its own easy-to-read books for new literates, on subjects including mother-child care, agriculture, animal welfare and Islam. To date, ABLE has published more than 235 titles in both Dari and Pashto and provided 200,000 books to 196 schools, community centres and Provincial Council libraries.

Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo)

www.acsf.af

The Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organisation (ACSFo—formerly ACSF) is a network of Afghan civil society groups and actors. It provides a platform for dialogue and aims to develop the role of civil society in political decision-making. ACSFo was established in partnership between Afghan civil society actors and “Swisspeace” (a Swiss private foundation for the promotion of peace) at the request of 76 participants at the first Afghan Civil Society Conference in Bad Honnef, Germany in 2001. ACSFo was initially supported by Swisspeace Foundation and has been completely independent since January 2006. ACSFo has 130 members, including 80 organisations and 50 individuals. It also has 320 partners for capacity building, civic education, advocacy, research and media. ACSFo’s Board of Directors has nine representatives, each elected for two-year terms at the annual general meeting of ACSFo members.

From 2002-06, ACSFo supported the implementation of the Bonn Agreement; conducted educational, media and advocacy activities on the constitution-making process; and carried out civic education and registration campaigns for the 2004 presidential and 2005 parliamentary elections. Post-2005, ACSFo modified its approach, moving away from public outreach toward the support of institution-building. The organisation’s strategy focuses on: coordination and networking, capacity building, advocacy, civic education, and research. In 2010, good governance, rule of law, transparency and accountability, participation, and development became additional areas of focus.

ACSFo maintains a Civil Society Resource Centre and in 2012 plans to establish similar centres in its regional offices (Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Bamiyan and Gardez). ACSFo also publishes the *Jamea-i-Madani* magazine (in Dari and Pashto) and a monthly newsletter (in English, Dari and Pashto). ACSFo receives funding from a wide range of international NGOs, agencies and donor governments.

Afghanistan Compact

The Afghanistan Compact was launched together with the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS, see p. 15) at the January 2006 London Conference (p. 53). It was a five-year framework for cooperation among the Afghan government, the UN and donors, and was developed through consultation among these actors. The Compact officially expired in February 2011.

The Compact—endorsed by UN Security Council Resolutions 1659, 1662 and 1746—reaffirmed the commitment of the Afghan government and the international community to work toward a stable and prosperous Afghanistan, with good governance and human rights protection for all under the rule of law. It stated:

The Afghan Government hereby commits itself to realising this shared vision of the future; the international community, in turn, commits itself to provide resources and support to realise that vision.

The Compact established a mechanism for coordinating Afghan and international development and reconstruction efforts and followed the Bonn Agreement (p. 27), which formally ended with the holding of legislative and Provincial Council elections in September 2005. Consistent with the I-ANDS and the goals articulated by the Afghan government in its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, p. 55) Country Report 2005 (“Vision 2020”), the Compact identified three critical and interdependent areas of activity, or “pillars”: 1) Security; 2) Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights; and 3) Economic and Social Development. A further vital and cross-cutting area of work highlighted in the Compact was eliminating the narcotics industry.

Annex I of the Compact set out detailed outcomes, benchmarks and timelines for delivery, consistent with the high-level goals set by the I-ANDS. Annex II set forth the commitment of the Afghan government and the international community to improve the effectiveness and accountability of international assistance. These actors also established the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB, p. 47) to oversee and provide regular public reports on the execution of the Compact and the ANDS.

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

www.aihrc.org.af

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) was established under Article 58 of the Afghan Constitution, which reads:

The State, for the purpose of monitoring the observation of human rights in Afghanistan, and their promotion and protection, shall establish the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan. Everyone in case of violation of his/her human rights can report or complain to this Commission. The Commission can refer the cases of violation of the human rights of the persons to the legal authorities, and assist them in defending their rights. Structure and mode of function of this Commission will be regulated by law.

The Law on the Structure, Duties and Mandate of the AIHRC was adopted by the Cabinet and endorsed by the President in May 2005. Under the Law (Article 4), the AIHRC is mandated to protect and promote rights and freedoms enshrined in the Afghan Constitution and international human rights instruments to which Afghanistan is a party. Article 6 of the Law requires the Afghan government, civil society organisations (CSOs), nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and all Afghan citizens to “cooperate with the Commission in achieving the objectives set up by this Law.”

The AIHRC is led by nine Commissioners who are appointed by the President with service terms of five years. As of December 2011, the AIHRC is chaired by Dr Sima Samar, with Mr Ahmad Fahim Hakim the deputy chair. The President is required to appoint Commissioners who reflect the gender, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity of Afghanistan, and who represent academic institutions and CSOs. In December 2011, President Karzai removed three commissioners whose

terms had expired. Some argued that this was in line with normal process and a way to bring fresh faces into the commission; however, the decision to remove individuals who had been particularly vocal government critics was seen by others as a politicised attempt to make AIHRC more docile.

AIHRC adopted its current Four-Year Strategic and Action Plans 1389-1392 (2010-2013) after an extensive consultation exercise with stakeholders across the country. The plans are implemented by the AIHRC's Secretariat, led by Mr Mohammad Musa Mahmodi, the Executive Director. As part of these plans, the AIHRC's five strategic objectives are leadership, education, empowerment, advocacy, and monitoring and investigation. To ensure nationwide coverage of services, the AIHRC has eight regional offices (Herat, Kandahar, Paktia, Bamiyan, Nangarhar, Kabul, Kunduz, and Balkh) and six provincial offices (Ghor, Day Kundi, Helmand, Uruzgan, Faryab, and Badakhshan), with more than 600 employees.

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

<http://www.aisa.org.af/>

The Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) was established as a “one stop shop for investors” by the Afghan government in 2003 and is responsible for the registration, licensing and promotion of all new investments in Afghanistan. Headquartered in Kabul, AISA has regional offices in Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Khost and Jalalabad.

AISA describes itself as a proactive institution that promotes and attracts investment to Afghanistan, and has a number of departments dedicated to investor support. Services include individual client investment support, organising domestic and foreign conferences and exhibitions, and providing opportunities for “matchmaking” between companies and investors.

AISA publishes an Investor Directory; the latest edition was published in 2010 and provides a listing of approximately 7,500 foreign and local companies active in Afghanistan. AISA plans to publish the next edition in the first quarter of 2012. AISA has also created a new online Investor Directory (accessed from the web address above), allowing potential investors to search for businesses by name or license number in both Dari and English. Access to this information helps registered companies to market their businesses and eases communication between companies, customers and other interested parties.

AISA also has a Research and Policy Department which analyses private sector development issues, develops private sector strategies, completes sector-specific studies on business and investment opportunities, and engages in hands-on sector policy advocacy before the National Assembly and Afghan government agencies. Also within AISA's remit is the Industrial Parks Development Department, which is currently responsible for managing USAID-funded industrial parks in Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif and Kandahar. A further three business parks are under construction in Kabul, Nangarhar and Helmand.

Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS)

The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) is the central framework for Afghanistan's development, aiming to promote pro-poor growth, support the development of democratic processes and institutions, and reduce poverty and vulnerability. It also serves as the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP, p. 66), a key document used by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in assessing a country's eligibility for debt relief. The development of the ANDS was first proposed at the 2005 Afghanistan Development Forum. The final ANDS was approved by President Hamid Karzai on 21 April 2008 and subsequently presented at the Paris Conference in June 2008 (p. 65) to gain support from the international community for its implementation.

The ANDS articulates both a policy framework and a road map for implementation. Together with the Afghanistan Compact (p. 12), the ANDS is meant to provide a path to achieving Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, p. 55) by 2020.

The precursor to the final ANDS was the Interim ANDS (I-ANDS), which was approved by the Afghan government in December 2005 and presented with the Afghanistan Compact (p. 12) at the January 2006 London Conference (p. 53). In 2006, the Government and its international partners began to implement the I-ANDS and to develop it into a full strategy to meet the requirements of a PRSP. The I-ANDS covered the period 2006-10 and was linked intrinsically to the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact; every Compact benchmark was reflected as a five-year strategic objective in the interim strategy.

The preparation of the full ANDS was coordinated by the ANDS Secretariat and supervised by the ANDS Oversight Committee (OSC), comprising seven cabinet ministers. The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB, p. 47), the high-level governing body overseeing the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact, also provided guidance for preparation of the ANDS.

The sector strategies, completed by the end of 2007, were drafted by Sector Strategy Development Groups (SSDGs) comprising representatives from sector ministries, the ANDS Secretariat, the Ministry of Finance, and the cross-cutting themes.

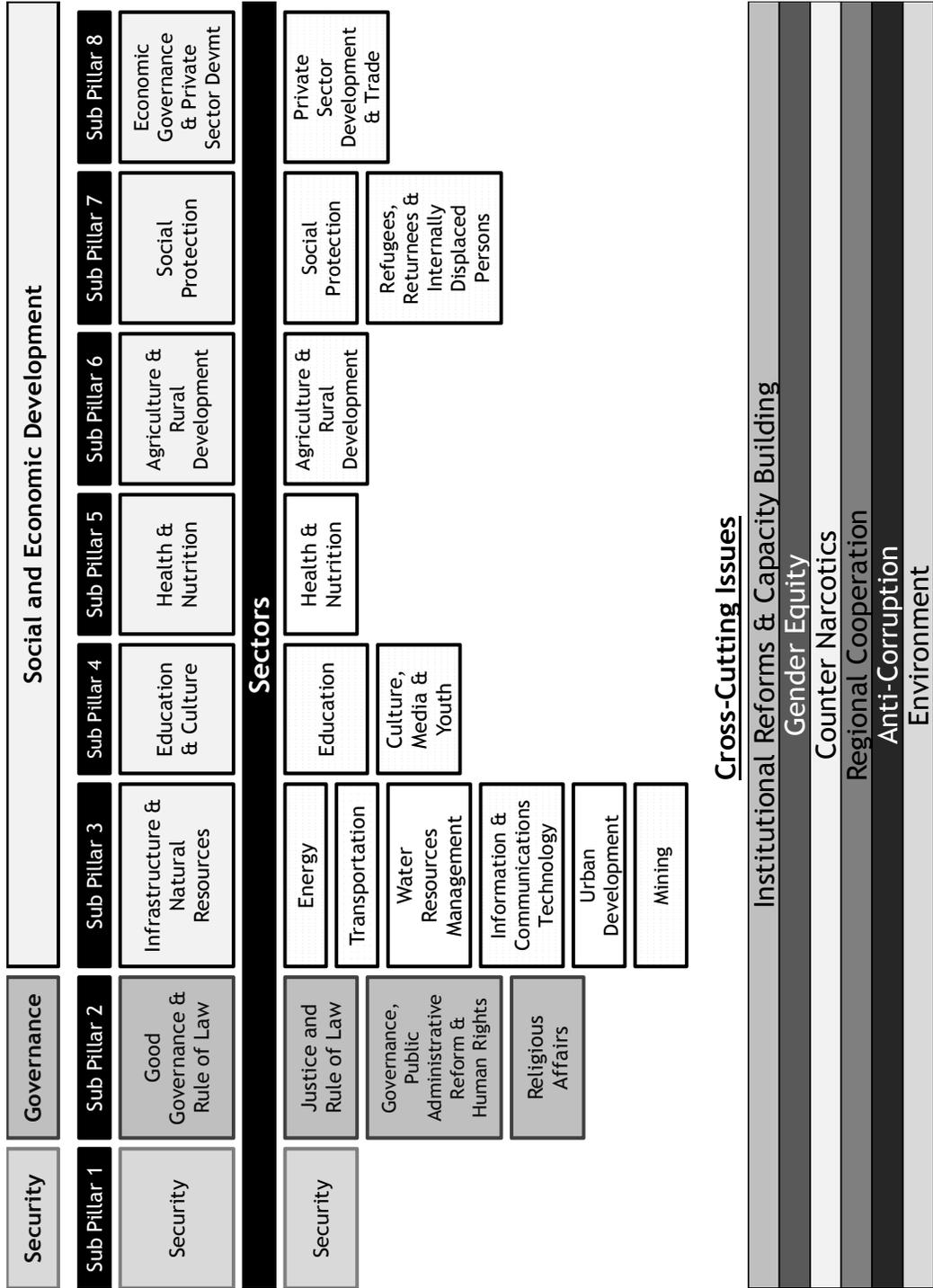
In accordance with the Afghanistan Compact, the priorities and challenges of the final ANDS are organised under three pillars: 1) Security; 2) Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights; and 3) Economic and Social Development. The final ANDS comprises strategies for 17 sectors, which fall under eight sub-pillars:

I) Security; II) Good Governance; III) Infrastructure and Natural Resources; IV) Education and Culture; V) Health and Nutrition; VI) Agriculture and Rural Development; VII) Social Protection; and VIII) Economic Governance and Private Sector Development.

It also includes strategies for six cross-cutting issues: Institutional Reform and Capacity Building, Gender Equity, Counter Narcotics, Regional Cooperation, Anti-Corruption and Environment.

The sector strategies cover the period SY1387-1391 (2007-08 to 2012-13).

Structure of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (Source: Government of Afghanistan)



The first step in the ANDS development process was the preparation of 43 individual strategies by all government ministries and agencies, following a template provided by the ANDS Secretariat. After their completion in mid-2007, these were then vetted and strengthened and their strategic priorities and funding allocations aligned by means of extensive consultation. Through Consultative Groups (CGs), donor dialogue meetings, and poverty analysis based on National Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (Central Statistics Organization, p. 28), these ministry and agency strategies were reviewed and improved before being merged into draft sector strategies. A subnational consultation process was organised in all 34 provinces in 2007; aimed at ensuring the final ANDS reflected a broad consensus on development priorities within Afghan society, it resulted in individual Provincial Development Plans (PDP, p. 67).

After the sector strategies were finalised, the ANDS Oversight Committee prioritised them using approved criteria, including implementation resources available for the five years that followed (as identified by the ANDS Macroeconomic Framework). In cooperation with the line ministries, the ANDS Secretariat then combined the sector strategies into the draft ANDS. The final ANDS was reviewed by the CGs and sent for approval to the ANDS OSC, ensuring that the strategy as a whole was in line with government priorities and the benchmarks of the Afghanistan Compact.

With the finalisation of the ANDS document in 2008, the Afghan government focused on implementing and monitoring the sector strategies. The ANDS OSC was restructured into the Government Coordinating Committee (GCC), responsible for the high-level coordination of the ANDS process. While line ministries have the primary responsibility for implementation of the ANDS, the Ministries of Finance and Economy take the lead role in management and monitoring. To do so, the ANDS Directorate, responsible for coordination of implementation and development, was established in the Ministry of Finance, as well as the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in the Ministry of Economy.

The first ANDS annual report was developed in 2009 and endorsed by the Government Coordination Committee. The ANDS First Progress Report was submitted to the boards of the World Bank and IMF as part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) approval process. Both the IMF and the World Bank announced over \$1billion debt relief in January 2009. Soon after, a new political and governance initiative began, aimed at turning focus more toward the implementation of the ANDS. For more on this, see Kabul Conference and Kabul Process (p. 50) and Clusters and National Priority Programmes (p. 30).

Afghanistan New Beginnings Programme (ANBP)

www.anbp.af.undp.org

The Afghanistan New Beginnings Programme (ANBP) was a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-sponsored project established in April 2003 to implement the Afghan government's goal of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR). Over time, ANBP evolved to encompass the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) and Anti-Personnel Mine and Ammunition Stockpile Destruction (APMASD) initiatives. The project ended in 2011, and the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP, p. 20) now forms the main focus of disarmament and reintegration efforts.

The government first announced its intention to pursue a national voluntary DDR process at the Tokyo Meeting (p. 73) in February 2003, as part of its Security Sector Reform (SSR, p. 71) strategy. Through DDR, the Afghan Military Forces (AMF)—comprising the Northern Alliance, warlord militias, and other Taliban-era armed groups—were supposed to surrender their weapons and be reintegrated into civilian life. Soldiers who handed in their weapons through the DDR process received a medal and a certificate, and were offered a range of reintegration packages, such as vocational training, agricultural training and small business opportunities.

ANBP completed the disarmament and demobilisation segments of the DDR process by June 2005, and reintegration activities continued until June 2006. The ANBP's original mandate was to demobilise and reintegrate 100,000 soldiers over three years, though this number was later revised downward. When the DDR process formally came to an end in June 2006, around 60,000 former AMF officers and soldiers had been disarmed, the vast majority opting for one of the reintegration options.

With the completion of DDR in 2005, ANBP shifted its focus to support the government's APMASD and DIAG initiatives. Implemented by the Ministry of Defence (MoD), APMASD assisted the government in meeting its obligations as a State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (more commonly known as the Ottawa Convention). By the time the project was completed in January 2009, it had destroyed approximately 20,000 metric tons of ammunition and over 500,000 anti-personnel mines.

DIAG, which ended in March 2011, was designed to disband the estimated 100,000 armed militia fighters operating outside the former AMF. While DDR was a voluntary process, DIAG was mandatory and supported by both presidential decree and national legislation. DIAG focused on securing a safe environment and projects that would benefit communities, including livelihood assistance as well as skills training in areas such as livestock and poultry production.

By the time of its conclusion, DIAG had collected a reported 54,873 weapons; Of the 140 districts targeted by the project, 103 were declared "DIAG compliant." The 37 "non-compliant" districts had a higher proportion of Anti Government Elements (AGEs), hindering the ability of DIAG to implement its mandate. UNDP states that the APRP will now take up the challenge of disarmament and reconciliation in these districts. Following March 2011, a number of former ANBP staff began working with the APRP, ensuring institutional memory of former reconciliation programmes.

Afghanistan NGO Safety Office (ANSO)

www.afgnso.org

The Afghanistan NGO Safety Office (ANSO), established in 2002, provides a free security advice service catering exclusively to the needs of the NGO community in Afghanistan. It is financed by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ANSO is operated by the UK-based International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO).

ANSO is headquartered in Kabul and has regional offices in Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat, Jalalabad and Kandahar. NGOs registered with ANSO have access to regularly scheduled services, which include:

- Daily threat warnings and security alerts, weekly incident listings, and biweekly and quarterly reports analysing and projecting security trends;
- Weekly regional security meetings;
- Monthly orientations for staff of NGOs;
- Representation of NGOs in relations with national and international security agencies; and
- Training for guards and radio operators.

ANSO may also provide other services upon request, depending on its available capacity. These include:

- Countrywide safety information for NGO movement;
- Organisation-specific security advice;
- Reviews of member NGOs' security plans and site security;
- Security-related statistical data and analysis; and
- Crisis response services.

Below is a list of acronyms commonly found in ANSO communications:

ACG Armed Criminal Group

AOG Armed Opposition Group

BBIED Body Borne Improvised Explosive Device (suicide vest)

DAC District Administrative Centre

IED Improvised Explosive Device

PSC Private Security Company

RCIED Remote Controlled Improvised Explosive Device

SAF Small Arms Fire

SVBIED Suicide Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device

VBIED Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device

Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP)

http://www.undp.org.af/WhoWeAre/UNDPinAfghanistan/Projects/psl/prj_aprp.html

The Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP), approved by President Karzai in June 2010, aims to reintegrate into Afghan society all members of the armed opposition who are willing to renounce violence and accept Afghanistan's Constitution. It is budgeted at a total of \$782 million. As of December 2011, \$148.5 million had been received from foreign donor governments.

The APRP is led by the High Peace Council, whose members were appointed by President Karzai in September 2010. In September 2011 the chairman of the High Peace Council, former President Burhanuddin Rabbani, was assassinated. Despite this, the government has expressed its continued commitment to the programme.

The programme is being implemented by the Joint Secretariat under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), with Provincial and District Governors coordinating the support of line ministries for local-level processes. APRP implementation is supported by international partners, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF, p. 45), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA, see the UN in Afghanistan, p. 75) and donor countries. Security for villages/districts participating in the APRP is provided mainly by Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) with the support of ISAF/Coalition Forces (CF, p. 32).

The government strategy has three pillars. The first is the strengthening of security and civilian institutions of governance to promote peace and reintegration. The second is the facilitation of the political conditions and support to the Afghan people to establish an enduring and just peace. The third is enhancement of national, regional and international support and consensus to foster peace and stability. These efforts are split between two broad categories that will operate simultaneously:

Strategic reconciliation

The strategic and political level focuses on the leadership of the insurgency and includes addressing the problem of sanctuaries, constructing measures for removal of names from the UN sanction list, ensuring the severance of links with al-Qaeda and securing political accommodation and potential exile to a third country.

Peace and reintegration at tactical and operational levels

This level focuses on the reintegration of foot soldiers, small groups, and local leaders who form the bulk of the insurgency. This includes: promoting confidence-building measures; seeking *afwan* (forgiveness) among the government, ex-combatants and communities; providing support

for demobilisation; removing names from target/black lists; granting political amnesty; arranging local security guarantees and longer-term processes of vocational training; providing Islamic and literacy education; creating job opportunities and resettlement options on a case-by-case basis; and offering independent mediation and facilitation services when requested. The peace and reintegration component of the APRP has been divided into three stages:

1. Activities for social outreach, confidence-building, negotiations involving government and NGOs, and the mobilisation of local *shuras* (councils) to reach out to communities that demonstrate intent to join the peace process. In addition, the programme commits to funding technical and operational assistance for developing peace-building capacity at the national, provincial and district levels, assessments and surveys in priority areas, strategic communications, oversight, monitoring and evaluation, grievance resolution, human rights monitoring, an early warning mechanism to mitigate impending conflict, and free and responsible debate. This stage involves civil society groups and existing traditional mechanisms (including Afghan conflict resolution NGOs), religious and community leaders, members of the Ulema Council, and the Ministry of Border and Tribal Affairs, for the process of grievance resolution.
2. A 90-day demobilisation process whereby a disarming combatant is registered in the Reintegration Tracking and Monitoring Database managed by the Joint Secretariat, provided with an identification card guaranteeing freedom of movement, and given amnesty. While it is expected that many combatants will return home, the APRP commits to addressing relocation and resettlement requests. Communities will vouch for individuals who will reintegrate, using a system modelled on Community Development Councils (CDCs, see NSP p. 61) elections.
3. Designed to “consolidate peace and support community recovery,” this stage comprises of offering a “menu of options” to the former armed opposition, based on the capacity, security and diversity of needs of their communities. This includes such measures as: improving access to basic services, civic education, literacy, technical and vocational education/training, and employment. Other avenues include: an agricultural conservation corps, public works corps, and integration into the ANSF. The ministries participating in this community recovery are the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), and the Ministry of Public Works (MoPW).

The APRP documents state that the immediate priority provinces for introduction of the programme are Helmand, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Khost, Baghlan, Badghis, Kunduz, and Herat. However, it is also stated that “the programme is flexible and will respond to emerging opportunities in any province depending on the availability of resources and capacity.”

The APRP is complicated by a number of risk factors. Given the centralised nature of the programme there is a risk that capacity deficits at the local level will derail progress on the ground. In the worst-case scenario, this could lead participants to become disenchanted with the programme and return to the insurgency. It has been reported that government failure to deliver job opportunities to reintegrees has led to many being admitted to the Afghan Local Police (ALP, p. 5), despite the formal separation of the two programmes. This has worrying implications for long-term community stability. The APRP is also particularly vulnerable to disruption due to security

issues. The programme is being implemented in highly insecure provinces and districts, and those working on APRP can become targets for armed opposition groups. Despite the presence of a built-in vetting process, the APRP also faces an inherent difficulty in successfully distinguishing between committed insurgents and “guns for hire.”

The APRP is the most comprehensive of any reintegration and reconciliation programme yet implemented in Afghanistan. Previous efforts include the Afghanistan New Beginnings Programme’s Disarmament (ANBP, see p. 17), Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR); Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG); and the Afghan-led Strengthening the Peace Programme (PTS).

Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF)

www.worldbank.org/artf

The Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) was established in April 2002 as a means for coordinating donor funds in support of the Afghan government’s recurrent expenditures. The ARTF is now one of the most important delivery mechanisms for channeling aid into the government’s Core Budget (National Budget, p. 59)—not only for salaries and operating costs but also for priority development programmes aimed at achieving the country’s national development targets.

As of November 2011, \$5.21 billion has been pledged to the ARTF by 32 international donors. The ARTF Management Committee consists of: the World Bank (the administrator), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), UNDP and the Afghan Ministry of Finance. During SY1389 (2010-11), ARTF handled \$610.44 million in donor contributions. For SY1390 (2011-12), pledges have reached \$972.91 million. Since the ARTF’s inception (until November 2011), \$2.29 billion has been disbursed to the government to finance recurrent costs, and \$1.44 billion has been disbursed for investment projects.

The Afghan government encourages donors to channel funding through the ARTF rather than through NGOs or other actors, because it sees the ARTF as a way of increasing Afghan ownership of the reconstruction process, facilitating the tracking and coordination of aid, and increasing transparency. When donating funds to the ARTF, donors are able to specify a preference for supporting a particular government project or programme; such preferences are limited to 50 percent of an agency’s annual contribution.

ARTF has financed several core national development programmes, including the National Solidarity Programme (NSP, p. 61), the National Emergency Employment Programme (NEEP), the Educational Quality Improvement Project (EQUIP), Strengthening Health Activities for Rural Poor, the Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA, p. 54), and the Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Irrigation Programme (RU-WatSIP). More recently, ARTF has launched a new Capacity Building for Results Facility, which aims to assist the government in improving the capacity and performance of select line ministries in carrying out their mandates, delivering essential services to the Afghan people and implementing National Priority Programs (NPPs, p. 30). Following its second external evaluation, completed in August 2008, the ARTF is evolving

toward a more programmatic, sector-oriented funding mechanism to drive the implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy priorities (ANDS, p. 15).

In December 2008, ARTF donors agreed with the Government of Afghanistan to establish the ARTF Incentive Program within the Recurrent Cost Window of the ARTF. The objective of the Incentive Program is to support the Government's reform agenda and progress towards fiscal sustainability. Funds are made available to the government's budget on the basis of actual performance.

The largest contributors to the Fund are the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. Other donors include 15 European countries, the EC, Australia, India, Iran, Turkey and the Gulf States.

Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP)

www.mrrd.gov.af/aredp

The Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP) is a national level five-year project which aims to jumpstart private sector growth in rural Afghanistan. Estimated at \$104 million, AREDP is managed by the Government of Afghanistan through the AREDP Program Management Office (PMO) within the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), and is supported by the World Bank, the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF, p. 22) and other bilateral donors. The programme officially began in June 2010, and is currently operational in Parwan, Bamiyan, Nangarhar, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar and Helmand.

AREDP seeks to cluster smaller existing micro-enterprises as well as community groups and associations, transforming them into larger, more efficient enterprise associations to tap the benefits of aggregation and economy of scale. The project is comprised of three key components:

- **Community-Led Enterprise Development:** This component aims to create Savings Groups (SGs), Enterprise Groups (EGs), and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). These institutions will be assisted and trained to build their own capacities, increase the value of trading, ensure production is oriented toward identified market opportunities, and create access to credit.
- **Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development:** This component aims to support the emergence of a stronger SME sector with improved trading linkages with the rural economy and adequate access to financial services. The project will identify key value chains, choke points, and skill gaps in each province, and enable SMEs to gain access to technical support necessary for market development.
- **Project Implementation Support:** This component will support MRRD project management, monitoring and evaluation; governance and accountability action plan design; gender action plan design and implementation; and third-party audits.

Afghanistan Social Outreach Program (ASOP)

The Afghanistan Social Outreach Program (ASOP) is a USAID-funded programme which supports the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG, p. 43) in developing district-level *shuras* (councils) in insecure districts. These are created in the absence of elected district councils as mandated in Article 140 of the Constitution. The programme is implemented by AECOM International Development. Started in June 2009 it was due to run until January 2012. As of January 2012, discussions between IDLG and USAID regarding a second phase of the programme were underway.

ASOP's approach involves electing a 30-50 person District Community Council (DCC) as a way to involve traditional tribal *shuras* and religious leaders in government structures. Until district elections are held, the councils created under the programme are intended to be the key governing bodies at the district level, with a remit to:

- Foster community solidarity to prevent support for anti-government elements and activities in the district;
- Monitor services and development projects entering the district, and communicate concerns to line ministries and donors;
- Serve as a vetting mechanism for Afghan Local Police (ALP, p. 5) recruits and encourage reconciliation with insurgent groups;
- Ensure liaison and communication with government officials and security services to improve security and enforce the rule of law;
- Provide a district-level forum for the resolution of conflicts that cannot be solved locally;
- Provide a conduit for public grievances by informing the government of shortcomings, malpractices and problems in the provision of public services, and working jointly with government officials to identify and implement appropriate solutions;
- Provide quality assurance for sustainable development by ensuring the security of development projects, monitoring project outputs and reporting on these to government; and
- Facilitate communications, coordination and cooperation between the government and communities to increase the level of trust and confidence between the government and the people, and establish a stronger base for democratic governance.

ASOP provides orientation and service monitoring training for council members on themes such as management, good governance, conflict resolution, peace-building and disaster risk reduction. As of December 2011, more than 139 councils had been set up in insecure districts and 8,052 community council members—3.5 percent of which were women—had been trained. In 2011, ASOP's budget was approximately \$35 million.

IDLG is currently discussing clarification of the institutional structures created by ASOP with MRRD, whose own District Development Assemblies (DDAs, see NABDP, p. 58) operate under similar mandates with similar responsibilities. For more on this, see p. 91-93.

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)

www.acbar.org

The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) is an umbrella organisation that promotes transparency, accountability and facilitates coordination among NGOs in Afghanistan. ACBAR was established in 1988 by NGOs working with Afghan refugees in Pakistan and acts as a conduit for information among the UN, NGOs, donors, and the Afghan government. Among its funders are the European Commission, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Swedish Embassy, the French Embassy, and its NGO members.

ACBAR has a membership of 112 national and international NGOs. All applicants must meet certain criteria and are required to sign the Afghanistan NGO Code of Conduct (p. 141). The General Assembly of the ACBAR membership meets twice a year, and the 16 members (12 full and four alternate) of the steering committee meet monthly in Kabul. The chairperson of the committee is always Afghan, while other members are representatives of both Afghan and international NGOs.

ACBAR organises its work along four basic lines: the Information/Coordination team is responsible for disseminating information, organising meetings, keeping records of NGO activities across the country, maintaining an NGO Directory, and other communication initiatives; the Advocacy and Policy team facilitates the exchange of views and information among NGOs to help them “develop and sustain a joint, field-led voice on key issues as they develop”; the Code of Conduct team is responsible for promoting and monitoring good governance practices among NGOs and capacity-building among NGOs and line ministries/departments on laws relevant to NGOs, the Code of Conduct and Sphere standards; the Civil Society and State Institutions Interaction team is responsible for working jointly with other NGO/Civil Society networks to structure and strengthen civil society organisations’ relationships with the government and the parliament.

ACBAR also assists in nomination of NGO representatives to government-led, inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and regularly advises NGOs on the NGOs Law, Income Tax Law and the Labor Law. ACBAR represented the NGO community at the Afghanistan Development Forum in 2004, 2005 and 2007; represented NGOs and civil society at the 2008 Paris Conference (p. 65) and the 2009 Hague Conference (p. 40); and represented NGOs and Civil Society at the 2010 London Conference (p. 53), National Consultative Peace Jirga (p. 60) and Kabul Conference (p. 50). ACBAR facilitates the Civil Society Consultation Board, which interacts with the Afghan government and UNAMA.

In addition to its main office in Kabul, ACBAR has sub-offices in Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif. The ACBAR website includes a well-known job announcement board.

Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS)

The Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) was launched in March 2003 by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in collaboration with major donors. It has two objectives: 1) to provide a standardised package of health services which forms the core of service delivery in all primary

healthcare facilities, and 2) to promote a redistribution of health services by providing equitable access based on population density.

The BPHS entails basic services at low cost and addresses the main causes of morbidity and mortality. It has a strong focus on conditions that affect women and children. In line with Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, p. 55), the BPHS aims to provide health services to all Afghans, especially those who are poor and live in remote and rural areas.

In agreement with its major donors—primarily the World Bank, USAID, and the European Commission—the MoPH has contracted NGOs to deliver the BPHS in 31 out of 34 provinces and has contracted its own Provincial Health Offices to deliver the BPHS in three provinces.

The defined package is offered by six levels of facility: 1) health posts, 2) health sub-centres, 3) mobile health teams, 4) basic health centres, 5) comprehensive health centres, and 6) district hospitals. The BPHS also provides standards for staffing and infrastructure reconstruction and rehabilitation for these facilities. The BPHS was revised in 2010; major changes included the introduction of primary eye care, private psychosocial counseling and physiotherapy at BPHS health facilities.

According to the 2007/8 National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, approximately 57 percent of the Afghan population lives within one-hour walking distance of the nearest public health facility.

Berlin Meeting and Declarations

On 31 March–1 April 2004, Afghanistan's major donors and development partners attended a meeting in Berlin at which the Afghan government presented a major fundraising document, entitled *Securing Afghanistan's Future (SAF)*. The document concluded that the funds required to rebuild Afghanistan to a stage where it is a self-sufficient and stable state were approximately \$27.4 billion over the following seven years—substantially more than the \$15 billion over ten years requested at the January 2002 Tokyo Ministerial Meeting (p. 73). At the Berlin meeting, donors pledged \$8.2 billion for the following three years and met the government's immediate need of \$4.2 billion for the 2004-05 fiscal year.

In addition to discussing the SAF document, the Berlin Meeting gave the Afghan government an opportunity to give a progress report on the implementation of the Bonn Agreement (p. 27) and to present its current plan. "The Way Ahead: The Work Plan of the Afghan Government" set out an ambitious agenda for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (see ANBP, p. 17); election-related activities; and initiatives for public administration, fiscal management, economic and social development, gender, counter-narcotics, rule of law, and human rights.

The participants at the meeting signed the Berlin Declaration, in which the international community committed to continue supporting the Afghan government in its mission to implement the Bonn Agreement, improve the security situation, and move forward with its development agenda. A further agreement, the Berlin Declaration on Counter Narcotics, was signed by Afghanistan, China, Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. In this declaration, Afghanistan

and its neighbours agreed to improve coordination in their efforts to eliminate the cultivation, production and trafficking of illegal drugs.

Bonn Agreement

The Bonn Agreement set out a timetable for the re-establishment of permanent government institutions in Afghanistan, and served as a roadmap for the creation of provisional arrangements until permanent ones could be put in place. It was signed on 5 December 2001 by representatives of various Afghan factions (excluding the Taliban) at the conclusion of the UN-sponsored Bonn Conference on Afghanistan.

The Bonn Agreement laid out several processes, including the Emergency Loya Jirga (ELJ, p. 38) and the Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ, p. 35), through which power would be exercised and then transferred over time to a fully representative government selected through free and fair elections. It provided for the sovereignty of Afghanistan to reside first in the Afghan Interim Authority (AIA), then in the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA, p. 10), and ultimately in an elected government.

The Bonn Agreement was largely adhered to, although security conditions affected timelines. The Afghan government and the UN successfully established most of the provisional arrangements called for, except for the withdrawal of “military units from Kabul and other urban centres or other areas in which the UN mandated force is deployed.” The last milestones of the Agreement were the presidential and parliamentary elections that took place in October 2004 and September 2005, respectively. In January 2006, the Bonn Agreement was replaced by the Afghanistan Compact (p. 12).

Bonn Conference 2011

Held a decade after the first Bonn Conference, this conference aimed to chart a new, ten-year blueprint for engagement between Afghanistan and the international community during the “Transformation Decade” (2014-2024) that will follow the conclusion of the Transition process (Transition, p. 73). The conference was hosted by Germany, chaired by Afghanistan and attended by 85 countries and 15 international organisations. The Conference concentrated on three key areas of engagement:

- The civil aspects of the process of transferring responsibility to the Government of Afghanistan by 2014;
- The long-term engagement of the international community in Afghanistan after 2014; and
- The political process that is intended to lead to the long-term stabilisation of the country.

The conference closed with the international community pledging its long-term commitment to Afghanistan, particularly with regard to security, agreeing to produce a clear plan for the future funding of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF, p. 9) at NATO’s May 2012 Chicago summit and reiterating its support for an inclusive peace process. It was agreed that the international community’s role in Afghan governance would move from service delivery to capacity-building and

support. The Conference also called for a regional solution to terrorism in Afghanistan and for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, saying that a political solution would be an essential element of stability. The international community endorsed the development of Afghanistan's mineral resources but called for a strong regulatory framework to ensure benefits accrued to the Afghan people (see Mineral Resources, p. 57).

In turn, the Afghan government promised to re-invigorate key development priorities such as anti-corruption and rule of law, honour its obligations to international human and gender rights mechanisms, and to continue the fight against drug cultivation.

Calendars in Afghanistan

Three calendar systems are used in Afghanistan:

- The Hijrah-i Shamsi (solar Islamic) calendar is Afghanistan's official calendar, in use officially since 1922 and re-established in the current Constitution (month names differ from the Iranian or Persian forms). In 2012, the Afghan year begins on 1 Hamal 1391 (20 March 2012).
- The Hijrah-i Qamari (lunar Islamic) calendar, used for religious events and holidays.
- The Gregorian calendar, or Miladi (solar Christian), used in international relations.

The website www.nongnu.org/afghancalendar provides downloadable versions of Afghanistan's official calendars. To convert dates between Qamari and Gregorian years (or to Persian dates using Iranian names) see:

- www.fourmilab.ch/documents/calendar
- www.iranchamber.com/calendar/iranian_calendar_converter.php

Central Statistics Organization (CSO)

www.cso.gov.af

The Central Statistics Organization (CSO) is the central government agency responsible for the collection and dissemination of official statistics. The CSO collects and analyses data from other government entities—on national accounts, price indexes, external trade, and population and demographics—to be used for monitoring economic, financial and structural policies as well as other activities.

Established in 1973, the CSO was declared an independent body by presidential decree in March 2006. It has 800 staff, located at CSO headquarters in Kabul and at sub-offices in every province. The CSO reports directly to the President and is advised by the National Statistics Committee and the National Census Committee (temporarily set up to carry out the national census). Both committees include representatives from ministries and from the private sector.

The work of the CSO is grouped into ten major departments: economic statistics, demographic and social statistics, national accounts, operations, publication and dissemination, strategic planning and donor relations, administration, internal evaluation and audit, staff training centre, and a secretariat.

Each year, the CSO produces the Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook, the Consumer Price Index Yearbook, the Afghanistan Trade Statistical Yearbook (a publication focused on foreign trade), and the Estimated Population of Afghanistan (with data on gender and rural-urban residence at the provincial and local levels). The CSO also publishes a quarterly volume on foreign trade statistics, the monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) and daily updates on consumer price indexes in Kabul and Jalalabad. In 2011, the CSO expanded its CPI reporting from six to ten provinces, while increasing the number of items in the CPI “basket” from 202 to 290. CSO publications are generally printed in Dari, Pashto and English, with information updates regularly reported on the CSO website.

In 2004, the CSO created a Statistical Master Plan (SMP) with the assistance of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID). Approved in 2005, the SMP outlined a programme designed to build capacity within the CSO to collect the national data required by the government for its programming. In 2008, the CSO conducted a survey of facilities for disabled individuals in Kabul; and in the year 2009 implemented a survey for economic organisations, and female participation in national-level decision making.

The CSO plans to carry out the national population census mandated by the Bonn Agreement (p. 27). The last census of this scope was begun in 1979 but was never completed. The CSO has been involved in pre-census activities since 2003; in mid-2007, the CSO initiated a pilot census to identify obstacles and initial household listings for all 34 provinces and this was completed in 2009. The census proper will take approximately 21 days and require approximately 37,000 staff with a \$62 million budget. However, a full national census will not be possible until there is a significant improvement in the countrywide security situation.

The CSO and the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), with cooperation from the European Commission, released the findings from the 2007/08 National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) in October 2009. This latest NRVA marked a shift away from short-term data collection to a year-round strategy. Fieldwork was conducted from August 2007 to August 2008, which aimed to capture the seasonality of consumption to improve the quality of collected data, and to field a smaller group of carefully selected interviewers. The assessment collected information on: population structure and change, labour force characteristics, agriculture, poverty and equality, education, health, housing, the position of women, and household shocks and community preferences. NRVA 2007/8 indicated that the national poverty rate for Afghanistan is 36 percent, meaning that approximately nine million Afghans are not able to meet their basic consumption and other needs. In addition, there are many more people near that poverty level and a single negative shock can move many more into poverty.

In 2011, the CSO began a Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey (SDES) of Bamiyan, collecting similar data to the NRVA. In 2012, the SDES will take place in Ghor and Day Kundi. The CSO plans to continue these provincial SDESs on an annual, rolling basis, with the aim of surveying the entire country. Data results and reports from NRVA and SDES activities are available on the CSO website.

All organisations planning to conduct statistical research in Afghanistan are required by law to coordinate their activities with the CSO.

Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)

www.cshrn.af

The Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN) aims to increase respect for human rights in Afghanistan through the establishment of a strong human rights movement. Founded by 25 Afghan organisations in August 2004, today CSHRN consists of 91 member organisations. The organisation is registered by the Ministry of Economy under the name of Civil Society and Human Rights Organization (CSHRO).

CSHRN member organisations work individually and collectively for human rights, including women's and children's rights, freedom of speech, press freedom and the rule of law. Working to facilitate and maintain a dialogue with state institutions, CSHRN organises debates between member organisations, state institutions and traditional leaders.

CSHRN has an experienced pool of trainers who have developed a range of training manuals specifically tailored to the Afghan context, focusing on human rights, conflict transformation, transitional justice and women's rights. CSHRN uses the media to educate and promote a human rights discourse. Working with the radio channel Good Morning Afghanistan, CSHRN produces the weekly human rights program, "The Voice." CSHRN also uses local radio in Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat. In addition to the CSHRN quarterly magazine *Angaara*, the CSHRN runs a human rights page in the weekly family magazine *Killid*. CSHRN also carries out issue-based and policy-based advocacy projects. In 2011, CSHRN undertook a campaign to reduce domestic violence in Herat, and developed a draft law on freedom of information.

CSHRN is headquartered in Kabul, with provincial offices in Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Bamiyan and Herat. Member organisations constitute the CSHRN General Assembly, the overall policy and decision-making body of the network. A Steering Committee of eleven elected members ensures that CSHRN activities adhere to the agreed statutes and strategy.

Clusters and National Priority Programs (NPPs)

The Afghan government proposed a realignment of ministries into "clusters" at the London Conference 2010 (p. 53) to prioritise the implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15). This was related to themes discussed at the conference surrounding national stability, job creation and economic growth, and representative and accountable governance.

The government held ministerial-level meetings and consultations to develop the clusters and their associated National Priority Programs (NPPs) and presented a workplan for the various cluster groups at the Kabul Conference in July 2010 (p. 50). The rationale for clusters and the NPPs also includes enhanced monitoring and evaluation and an integrated approach to budget policy formation.

As of December 2011, following a number of revisions, the clusters and their relative NPPs were organised as follows:

Governance Cluster:

The Supreme Court, Ministry of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission, Independent Directorate of Local Governance, High Office of Oversight for Implementation of Anti-Corruption Strategy, Office of Administrative Affairs, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, and Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Ministry of Interior and Controller and Audit Office are also represented in working groups.

Governance National Priority Programs:

1. National Priority Program for Financial and Economic Reforms
2. Program for National Transparency and Accountability
3. Afghanistan Program for Efficient and Effective Government
4. National Program on Local Governance
5. National Program of Law and Justice for All
6. National Program for Human Rights and Civic Responsibilities

Infrastructure Development Cluster:

The Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Energy and Water, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Ministry of Urban Development, and Kabul Municipality.

Infrastructure National Priority Programs:

1. National Regional Resources Corridor Initiative
2. National Extractive Industries Excellence Program
3. National Energy Supply
4. Urban Planning Technical Assistance Facility

Private Sector Development Cluster:

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

Private Sector National Priority Programs

1. Integrated Trade Support Facility
2. E-Afghanistan: Fostering an open information society

Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster (ARD):

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Ministry of Energy and Water, and Ministry of Counter-Narcotics.

ARD National Priority Programs:

1. National Water and Natural Resources Development
2. National Comprehensive Agriculture Production and Market Development
3. National Rural Access Program
4. National Strengthening of Local Institutions

Human Resource Development (HRD) Cluster:

The Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, and Ministry of Public Health.

HRD National Priority Programs:

1. Facilitation of Sustainable Decent Work through Skills-Development and Market-Friendly Labor
2. Education for All
3. Expanding Opportunities for Higher Education
4. Capacity Development to Accelerate National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan Implementation
5. Human Resources for Health

Security Cluster

The National Security Council, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, National Directorate of Security, Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Department of Mine Clearance

Security National Priority Program:

1. Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP, p. 20)

Coalition Forces (CF)

www.cjtf101.com

Coalition Forces (CF) is the general term used to describe the US-led military organisation that has been in Afghanistan since late-2001. They are distinct from the UN Security Council-mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF, p. 45) that is also operating in Afghanistan.

CF supported the Northern Alliance in overthrowing the Taliban regime in November 2001. Under the mission of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), these troops continue to operate

in Afghanistan and reshape the posture of the Afghan defence forces, who will ultimately be responsible for providing long-term stability in Afghanistan (see Transition, p. 73). CF are a key partner in implementing the Afghan government's Security Sector Reform (SSR, p. 71).

Though non-ISAF US troops in Afghanistan continue to be called Coalition Forces outside of the military, they were reorganised in February 2004 and renamed Combined Forces Command–Afghanistan (CFC-A). In 2004-05, CFC-A began transferring regional command to ISAF, beginning with the West and North; in July 2006, command of the southern provinces was transferred. Command of the final quarter of the country, the East, was handed over in October 2006, leaving ISAF in charge of maintaining security in all of Afghanistan (since October 2008, however, United States Forces Afghanistan—see below—has assumed OEF responsibility, in coordination with ISAF, for the eastern regional command). After the 2006 handover to ISAF, CFC-A was inactivated as a coalition headquarters; the remaining non-ISAF US troops were ultimately overseen by US Central Command (CENTCOM).

Coalition Forces were most recently reorganised in October 2008 as US Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A). USFOR-A is overseen by CENTCOM while ISAF is a NATO-led force. Since 6 October 2008, however, both USFOR-A and ISAF have fallen under a single commander. On that day, General David D. McKiernan, the most senior US military officer in Afghanistan, was named commander of USFOR-A, after assuming command of ISAF in June 2008. General Stanley A. McChrystal held the post from April 2009 until his removal in June 2010, when General David Petraeus took command. In July 2011 General John Allen replaced General Petraeus.

USFOR-A was established to enhance the coordination and effectiveness of US support to the ISAF mission. It is intended to improve the unity of ISAF and US-led efforts by aligning and streamlining command and control of all US forces serving in Afghanistan. As of January 2012, approximately 18,000 troops were assigned to USFOR-A.

USFOR-A has two primary subordinate commands:

- Combined Joint Task Force 101 based at Bagram Air Field, which is responsible for counter-terrorism and reconstruction operations.
- Combined Security Transition Command–Afghanistan (CSTC-A), headquartered at Camp Eggers in Kabul, oversees CF involvement in the Afghan security sector, including training of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). It is under the control of United States Central Command (CENTCOM).

Under CSTC-A's operational control is Task Force Phoenix, responsible for training, mentoring and advising the Afghan National Army (p. 6) and the Afghan National Police (p. 7). CSTC-A is a joint service, coalition organisation with military personnel from the United States and other troop-contributing nations, as well as contracted civilian advisors, mentors and trainers.

Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) and Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP)

The 2010 Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) for Afghanistan marked the first time since 2002 that humanitarian actors convened to develop a coherent plan to address the chronic needs of the Afghan people. With input from 47 organisations, the HAP outlined the humanitarian community's plans and collective strategy. HAP priorities focused on a cross-section of humanitarian, recovery and development needs and vulnerabilities caused by a combination of extreme poverty, increasing insecurity, natural disasters and weak governance.

In 2011, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan's Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) determined that the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP), the global humanitarian strategic planning and fundraising mechanism, would replace the HAP. The CAP sharpens the focus on preparedness and emergency response with a portfolio of projects supporting conflict and natural disaster-affected internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugee returnees and host populations as well as chronically vulnerable communities in need of life-saving assistance. Support is targeted toward life-saving and livelihood saving needs, strengthened with emergency preparedness and contingency planning to ensure common strategies. Projects are organised under 11 clusters and sectors: Coordination; Education; Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items; Emergency Telecommunications; Food Security and Agriculture; Health; Logistics; Multi-Sector (for IDPs and refugee returnees); Nutrition; Protection; and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. In 2011 the CAP appealed for \$678 million for 134 projects, submitted by 51 humanitarian organisations (23 international NGOs, 16 national NGOs and 12 UN Agencies), in consultation with the Afghan government. The total was then revised down to \$453.6 million, of which 70 percent (\$315.5 million) was received.

The 2012 CAP appealed for \$437 million for 147 projects, and was submitted by 80 international NGOs, 38 national NGOs and 29 UN Agencies in consultation with the Afghan government. This year's CAP has three strategic objectives:

- Plan for and respond to the humanitarian assistance and protection needs arising from armed conflict, focusing particularly on: the displaced; those without access to basic and humanitarian assistance (including that delivered by the Afghan government); and populations where there is no humanitarian access (with other assistance or support, including from the government).
- Advocate for and provide protection and support to populations in informal urban settlements, and to provide protection and initial return assistance to IDP returnees.
- Prepare for and respond to the protection and humanitarian needs arising from annual and seasonal natural "disasters," as well as advocate for progress on implementation of Hyogo Framework Priorities 1-4 (the world's first international framework for disaster risk reduction).

Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ)

The convening of the Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ) was the culmination of the process of agreeing on a new Afghan constitution. The CLJ opened on 14 December 2003 and continued for 22 days. Of the 500 delegates, 450 were selected through regional elections, and 50 were appointed by President Karzai. More than one-fifth of the seats were allocated for special-category representatives, including women, refugees in Pakistan and Iran, internally displaced persons (IDPs), Kuchis, Hindus, and Sikhs.

The draft Constitution debated by the CLJ was produced by the Constitutional Drafting Commission (CDC) and the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC). In mid-2003, after a month of civic education activities, a draft of the Constitution was subject to a public consultation process around Afghanistan and among refugee communities in Iran and Pakistan. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA, p. 75) estimates that 178,000 people were reached through these consultations, 19 percent of whom were women. The CRC published its final draft of the Constitution on 3 November 2003.

At the CLJ, delegates were divided into working committees to debate the text of the draft Constitution. A Reconciliation Committee edited the draft text to incorporate the working committees' suggestions. Passionate debates, boycotts and heated arguments featured in the discussions that took place. A vote was supposed to be taken on all contentious articles, which mostly regarded form of government, the role of Islam, national languages, the national anthem and the dual nationality of ministers. Although no vote took place, on 4 January 2004 a closing ceremony was held where the delegates signalled their approval of the final text by standing up.

The Constitution was officially signed on 26 January 2004 by President Karzai. It provides for an elected President along with two nominated Vice Presidents, a Cabinet of Ministers, and a National Assembly with two houses—the lower *Wolesi Jirga* (House of the People) and the upper *Meshrano Jirga* (House of Elders). It grants equal citizenship to Afghan men and women, and commits Afghanistan to uphold its international human rights obligations. It states that Afghanistan is an Islamic Republic and that no law can be contrary to Islam.

An English translation of the Constitution is available on p. 112.

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

www.cha-net.org

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) is a nonprofit humanitarian organisation founded in 1987. Its strategic aims are to reduce poverty and vulnerability, ensure fair distribution of resources, facilitate reliable social and economic development and ensure the basic rights of the citizens of Afghanistan. Its sister organisations are the Organisation for Human Resources Development (OHRD), Saba Media Organization (SMO) and Watch on Basic Rights Organization (WBRO).

CHA began its operations in two districts in Farah Province, but soon expanded into eight additional provinces: Kabul, Kandahar, Balkh, Herat, Ghor, Faryab, Parwan and Kapisa. CHA currently

employs approximately 2,000 staff, making it one of the largest national NGOs in Afghanistan. The organisation is currently active in six main strategic fields: 1) health and nutrition, 2) education and cultural affairs, 3) agriculture and livestock, 4) community development and social protection, 5) disaster risk reduction and emergency response, and 6) gender mainstreaming.

CHA has been able to increase its project's size, coverage areas and diversity of activities as a reliable partner of donors and the Afghan government. Donors include Oxfam-Novib, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), USAID, EU, UNHCR, IOM, FAO, DKH, Asia Society, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD).

Counter-Narcotics (CN)

www.mcn.gov.af

At the first National Counter Narcotics Conference in December 2004, newly-elected President Hamid Karzai declared counter-narcotics (CN) a priority of his government. The cultivation, production, abuse and trafficking of narcotic drugs is banned in Afghanistan.

CN is one of five pillars in the government's Security Sector Reform (SSR, p. 71) policy and a cross-cutting theme in the Afghanistan Compact (p. 12), the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15) and the Kabul Process (p. 50). The Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN) oversees policy, strategy and coordination of all CN activities, working closely with many ministries, including the Ministry of Interior (MoI), the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Currently, CN initiatives are guided by the 2006 version of the National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS) which is in the process of being updated by MCN. As the strategic framework for the government's CN efforts, the NDCS currently identifies four key priorities:

1. Disrupting the drugs trade by targeting traffickers and their backers and eliminating the basis for the trade;
2. Strengthening and diversifying licit rural livelihoods;
3. Reducing the demand for illicit drugs and providing treatment for problem drug users; and
4. Strengthening state institutions both at the centre and in the provinces.

In addition to these priorities, the NDCS outlines eight "pillars of activities": public awareness, international and regional cooperation, alternative livelihoods, demand reduction, law enforcement, criminal justice, eradication, and institution building.

The NDCS is backed by the Counter Narcotics Drug Law, enacted by presidential decree in December 2005, and Article 7 of the 2004 Constitution, which stipulates that "the state prevents all types of terrorist activities, cultivation and smuggling of narcotic drugs and production and consumption of intoxicants." As detailed in the Drug Law, the Ministry of Justice has developed an effective CN legal framework, and in February 2005 created a CN Criminal Justice Task Force to deal with CN cases and train judges, prosecutors and investigators in CN procedures.

There are two institutions designed to enforce CN legislation, both of which fall under the Deputy Minister of Interior for Counter Narcotics. The Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA, see p. 7), with a strength of around 2,500, is the primary agency responsible for coordinating CN law enforcement, detecting and investigating significant drug-trafficking offences. Various central units of CNPA are mentored by international bodies, such as the National Interdiction Unit (NIU) and Sensitive Investigative Unit (SIU), which are mentored by the US Drug Enforcement Agency. The Afghan Special Narcotics Force carries out interdiction operations throughout Afghanistan, working closely with the CNPA. CN training is also provided to the Afghan National Police (ANP, p. 7), including the Border Police.

Of the aforementioned NCDS pillars, much weight has been given to Alternative Livelihoods (AL). AL aims to provide opium farmers and labourers with alternative crop options, credit mechanisms, business support, market access, and labour opportunities. In the short term, AL programmes seek to support those who have lost their livelihoods through self-restraint from planting or forced eradication of their crops. This includes cash-for-work projects that build and rehabilitate rural infrastructure, create greater income generation, and allow skill-building activities for vulnerable households. In the long term, AL programmes are meant to be comprehensive rural development initiatives.

The Comprehensive Agricultural and Rural Development Facility (CARD-F) programme, launched in October 2009, was designed to mainstream CN and AL objectives. Two of its stated objectives are to: “increase legal rural employment and income opportunities through more efficient markets,” and “reduce risk of a resurgence in poppy cultivation in and around key economic hubs in Afghanistan, by creating commercially viable and sustainable alternatives for farmers to earn licit income.”

According to the Kabul Process documents, “The targeted outcome for CARD-F’s initial phase is a tested and proven mechanism for delivery of district-based integrated agriculture and rural development in selected provinces and districts.” CARD-F is still in its pilot phase, due to run until March 2013, for which approximately \$47.5 million has been committed by the UK’s Department For International Development. This money has been used to fund institutional development, to design 17 district-level Economic Development Packages (EDP) and to implement five of these EDPs. The selection of districts that will receive EDPs is managed by CARD-F’s Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), chaired by the MCN and also including representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the Ministry of Finance (MoF). IMC also approve CARD-F’s strategic direction and annual plans.

Eradication has been a component of the CN effort since the 2001-02 growing season. The eradication that has taken place had been planned by the Central Eradication Planning and Monitoring Cell within the MCN and carried out by the Central Poppy Eradication Force (PEF) with assistance from the international community. Some eradication was also conducted by provincial governors through the Governor-Led Eradication programme (GLE), supplemented by the ANP and Afghan National Army (ANA, p. 6). In 2009, the PEF was disbanded and the focus has since been placed on the GLE. A weekly Eradication Working Group meeting is held by MCN, and includes representatives of the government, the United Kingdom, the United States, ISAF (p. 45) and the United Nations.

A cabinet sub-committee on CN includes relevant ministers, and embassy and donor representatives. There are also several issue-specific NDCS working groups under the auspices of the MCN, and CN is also on the agenda of the high-level Policy Action Group (PAG). A CN Consultative Group (CG) was incorporated into the ANDS process.

Funding for CN initiatives has come from a number of sources. Between 2005 and 2008, the Counter Narcotics Trust Fund (CNTF), a multi-donor funding source, contributed to fulfilling the objectives of the NDCS, though is no longer functioning. Currently, the majority of funding comes from the Good Performance Initiative (GPI), a fund administered by the MCN that is given to provinces that have either remained poppy free or made significant steps to reduce poppy cultivation.

Development Assistance Database (DAD)

dadafghanistan.gov.af

With the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Afghan government's Ministry of Finance (MoF) established the Development Assistance Database (DAD) in June 2002. This web-based database aims to provide up-to-date information on all projects that fall within the national development budget (see National Budget, p. 59) as well as some extra-budgetary projects. The database stores detailed information about the location of development projects, who is financing them, and which organisations are involved in their implementation. The DAD relies on the provision of data from development project funders and implementers, including government organisations, development partners and UN agencies. The database is available in English and Dari.

The DAD was originally designed to track the flow of aid and record the progress of development and humanitarian projects around the country. It still serves this purpose; however, as the government of Afghanistan works to develop a more robust budget, the DAD is also used as a budget formulation database. As of January 2012, MoF is beginning an upgrade of the DAD to a sixth version, which will simplify some of the modules, and make the system more user-friendly and work faster on the web.

Emergency Loya Jirga (ELJ)

As required by the Bonn Agreement (p. 27), an Emergency Loya Jirga (ELJ) was held on 11-19 June 2002 to "decide on the transitional authority, including a broad-based transitional administration to lead Afghanistan until such time as a fully representative government can be elected through free and fair elections to be held no later than two years from the date of the convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga." The ELJ largely succeeded in its task by electing and swearing in Hamid Karzai (formerly chairman of the Afghan Interim Authority) as President and by approving his cabinet, thereby forming the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA, p. 10).

A special independent commission (the Loya Jirga Commission) determined the rules and procedures for the ELJ, which was to have seats for 1,501 delegates, including 160 women. In the end 1,650 delegates participated, including more than 200 women. Concerns about the

proceedings and results of the ELJ included: the criteria for the selection of delegates, the failure to hold a proper vote to choose the structure of government and the cabinet members, intimidation of delegates, and a perceived lack of transparency throughout the process. The conduct of participants at the Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ, p. 35), held in late 2003, was generally thought to have been an improvement on that at the ELJ, with fewer reports of intimidation and harassment.

European Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL)

www.eupol-afg.eu

The European Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) was established to assist the Afghan government in building a police force that respects human rights as well as in reforming the Ministries of Interior and Justice. Its mission is to “contribute to the establishment of sustainable and effective civil policing arrangements that will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system under Afghan ownership.”

EUPOL advises and trains Afghan authorities at the ministerial, regional, provincial and district levels in six main areas: intelligence-led policing; police chain of command, control and communication; criminal investigation; anti-corruption strategy; police-prosecutor linkages; and human rights and gender mainstreaming within the Afghan National Police (ANP, p. 7). Outside of Kabul, EUPOL personnel are also assigned to various Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs, p. 67).

Originally a German pilot project, the mission was launched in June 2007 by the Council of the European Union through the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), which enables individual European nations to collectively act in the field of civilian and military crisis management. The EUPOL Mission was originally mandated for three years until June 2010. In May 2010, the Council of the European Union extended the mandate of the mission until 31 May 2013.

The current mission strength is approximately 325 international staff and 200 local staff. As of December 2011, the budget was €60.5 million (approximately \$80 million), contributed by 23 EU states (with Germany being the largest contributor), Canada, Croatia, Norway and New Zealand. In July 2010, Brigadier General Jukka Savolainen (Finland) became Head of the Mission, succeeding Police Commissioner Kai Vittrup of Denmark.

Along with its regular tasks, in 2012 the mission will focus on leadership training for the ANP in a Police Staff College, a new Criminal Investigation Division faculty and a training centre in Bamiyan that will also train female police officers. All three institutions will be built in 2012 as part of an EU project worth €15 million. The leadership training for police District Commanders and other leading police personnel currently takes place in temporary structures.

Government Media and Information Centre (GMIC)

www.gmic.gov.af

The Government Media and Information Centre (GMIC) was founded by presidential decree in 2007 as an Afghan-led entity to respond to the information needs of the Afghan public, media, and other national and international stakeholders. The GMIC aims to build trust among the Afghan public and other stakeholders through: provision of timely and accurate information, continuous and consistent dissemination, facilitation of coordination and information sharing among acting agencies in the Afghan government and independent media, and capacity building for the government's information and communication portals. The majority of GMIC's funding comes from the US Embassy.

GMIC's three programme departments serve the goals of the Centre. The Media Relations and Coordination Department ensures information coordination and dissemination to the public through establishing and maintaining relationships between the government and the independent media. The Capacity Building Department builds capacity in the Afghan government's communications offices by creating and conducting educational activities tied to their needs, also organising seminars and workshops for the professional capacity-building of journalists from the independent media. The Public Outreach Department, the awareness-raising unit within GMIC, aims to eliminate the gap between the government and the people through nationwide information collection and dissemination using modern and traditional means so that the Afghan public are properly informed about the progress and activities of the government.

Hague Conference on Afghanistan

On 31 March 2009, the Netherlands hosted the International Conference on Afghanistan: A Comprehensive Strategy in a Regional Context at the World Forum in The Hague. The conference brought together high-ranking officials from 72 countries, reaffirming their commitment to Afghanistan. In their final statement, the participants stressed the need for greater cooperation, good governance, economic development, and strengthened security in Afghanistan.

High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOOAC)

www.anti-corruption.gov.af

The High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOOAC) was created by presidential decree in July 2008, mandated with supervising and implementing the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. Anti-corruption is a cross-cutting issue of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15). In 2006, President Karzai set up the Inter-Institutional Committee on Corruption (IICC), which was tasked with assessing remedies to corruption within Afghanistan. This produced the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, which recommended the creation of HOOAC.

As well as enhancing government mechanisms to reduce opportunities for corruption, HOOAC maintains a whistle-blowing function, allowing citizens to report instances of corruption which HOOAC will then follow up, passing them to the Attorney General if sufficient evidence of

wrongdoing is gathered. However, HOOAC is largely concerned with prevention of corruption, rather than prosecution.

HOOAC's 2011-2013 strategic plan highlights the dangers of increased corruption as governance is devolved to the subnational level. In response to this, HOOAC is developing seven regional offices and a Provincial Task Force which will deploy from its Kabul central office. As of December 2011, five of the regional offices had been opened. In the long term, HOOAC plans to expand into all 34 provinces.

Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC)

www.iarcsc.gov.af

In May 2002, an Independent Civil Service Commission was established, as required by the Bonn Agreement (p. 27), to lead the government's process for Public Administration Reform (PAR, p. 69). Its responsibilities were subsequently amended and extended by two presidential decrees in June 2003, and the Commission was renamed the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC).

The Commission's work is aimed at building a public administration in Afghanistan that is sound, functional, transparent, effective, accountable, responsible, apolitical and impartial. IARCSC's strategic goals are to:

- Create the necessary legal framework and capacity to develop human resources management;
- Improve the Commission's own capacity;
- Comprehensively reform civil service administration;
- Encourage merit- and competency-based recruitment through free competition throughout the civil service;
- Implement pay and grading reforms and performance evaluation throughout the civil service;
- Communicate these reforms to the Afghan public;
- Establish an effective procedure for addressing civil service employee complaints;
- Promote the role of women in the civil service; and
- Evaluate the progress of implementing previous and existing reform processes and initiate the next phase of change and development.

The Commission is composed of: a Civil Services and Management Department (CSMD), a Civil Service Secretariat (CSS), a Civil Service Institute (CSI), an Independent Appointments Board, an Independent Appeals Board, a Provincial Affairs Department and a Programme Design and Coordination Directorate.

The CSMD is responsible for drafting and overseeing the implementation of policies related to human resources, and training and development. The CSS provides executive, communications and operations assistance to the Commission and is responsible for evaluating the implementation of programmes. The CSI was founded in 2007 as a training source for civil servants throughout Afghanistan. Courses are offered in management, information technology and the English language at both national and provincial levels.

The Appointments Board is responsible for appointing senior-level civil service officials and supervising the appointment of junior-level officials. The Appeals Board is the forum through which civil servants can lodge complaints, including those regarding decisions about appointments. Both boards, though under the auspices of the IARCSC, are independent and function autonomously.

The Provincial Affairs Department is responsible for ensuring the coherent delivery of IARCSC's services across all provinces, and works closely with the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG, p. 43). The Programme Design and Co-ordination Directorate aids government ministries in the design of development programmes while ensuring their coordination with government-wide development objectives. Both bodies were created in 2011, as part of an expansion that saw IARCSC's staff grow to around 900 members.

In 2011, IARCSC provided basic training to over 16,000 civil servants as part of its capacity-building mission. Major projects scheduled for 2012 include a management internship project designed to train the next generation of civil servants, administrative training for senior- and executive-level civil servants, and the development of a Masters degree in Public Administration in collaboration with Kabul and Balkh universities.

The Commission currently has seven regional offices, 34 provincial offices and 27 training centres.

Financial and technical support to the IARCSC and its initiatives have come from the United Nations Development Programme, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the EU, USAID, the UK, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Norway, Switzerland, Germany and the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF, p. 22).

Independent Commission for the Supervision of the Implementation of the Constitution (ICSIC)

The 2004 Constitution of Afghanistan contains provisions for both legislative (Article 90) and judicial (Article 121) constitutional oversight. However, this has previously led to difficulties; both the Wolesi Jirga and the Supreme Court have on occasion refused to accept the authority of the other on constitutional matters. To avoid this situation, Article 157 of the Constitution calls for the establishment of an Independent Commission for the Supervision of the Implementation of the Constitution (ICSIC) to act as an overarching arbitrator. However, the ICSIC was only established in June 2010 following several weeks of protest by the Wolesi Jirga on, among other things, the controversies of the February 2010 amendments to the Electoral Law.

ICSIC's legally mandated activities include:

- Supervising the observance and application of the Constitution by the President, government, National Assembly and other state and non-state organisations;
- Providing legal advice on Constitutional matters to the President and National Assembly;
- Making suggestions to the President and National Assembly on laws that are constitutionally required; and
- Reporting any violations of the Constitution to the President.

The Constitution states that the President shall appoint members of the Commission, and that the Wolesi Jirga shall confirm their appointment.

ICSIC became briefly embroiled in the controversy following the 2010 elections (see Government section, p. 109), allegedly declaring that the Special Court set up by President Karzai to adjudicate on the elections was unconstitutional, but failing to make the decision public.

Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG)

www.idlg.gov.af

The Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) was established by presidential decree on 30 August 2007 with a mandate to improve governance and achieve stability at the subnational level. The IDLG is responsible for supervising the four entities of subnational government: provincial and district governors, Provincial Councils, and municipalities (except Kabul). After a second decree in May 2008, IDLG was tasked with leading the process of creating a subnational governance policy for Afghanistan, which involves 23 ministries and government agencies.

The IDLG's mission is "to consolidate peace and stability, achieve development and equitable economic growth and to achieve improvements in service delivery through just, democratic processes and institutions of good governance at subnational level thus improving the quality of life of Afghan citizens." The Directorate is responsible for a large range of functions and activities. Its priorities, strategy and functions are outlined in its Strategic Framework, its Five Year Strategic Workplan (covering 2008-2013), and the Subnational Governance Policy (SNGP) that was approved by the Council of Ministers on 22 March 2010.

The IDLG is made up of seven directorates: the Policy Directorate, the General Directorate of Municipal Affairs, the General Directorate of Local Councils, the Strategic Co-ordination Unit (SCU), the Boundary Directorate, the Gender Unit and a Human Resources Directorate. The IDLG is currently planning to create a new Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in 2012.

The IDLG is responsible for the six programmes which make up the Local Governance National Priority Program (NPP) under the Governance Cluster, as detailed in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (Clusters and National Priority Programs, p. 30, ANDS, p. 15). The SCU was

responsible for creating these programmes, which will guide the development of local governance over the next three years.

- The Performance Based Governance Fund (PBGF) began in 2010. The PBGF provides a monthly sum of \$25,000 for Provincial Governors to use as operational funding in areas such as social outreach. The provision of the money is contingent on the performance of governors' offices, as judged by a quarterly evaluation. In 2012 the IDLG plans to create a PBGF for Provincial Councils.
- The District Delivery Program (DDP) aims to establish or visibly improve government presence at the local level in recently secured districts by implementing tailored "District Packages" (DPs) of services. As of December 2011 DPs for 44 districts were being created, 38 had already been created with 32 of those approved by the Ministry of Finance. DPs were being implemented in 19 districts. So far, one DP (in Nad Ali, Helmand) has been completed. The IDLG aims to have implementation underway in all target districts by 2013.
- The Afghanistan Subnational Governance Program II provides technical support and a variety of capacity-building measures for Provincial Governors' offices in all 34 provinces.
- The Afghanistan Local Government Facility Development Program is an infrastructure development programme, building office space and providing adequate facilities for the institutions of local governance.
- The Afghanistan Social Outreach Program (ASOP) creates local community *shuras* (councils) to be integrated in to local government structures. See ASOP (p. 24) for further details.
- The Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Population (RAMP-UP) works with all 34 provincial municipalities to build capacity and train staff, raising the quality of service delivery.

The IDLG is also making a significant contribution to the Transition process (Transition, p. 73). The SCU is currently carrying out an institutional assessment of local government to provide IDLG with the information necessary to address key local issues of subnational governance during the Transition process. A pilot has been conducted successfully in two provinces, and the project will now roll out across the entire country, with completion projected for March 2012.

The IDLG is involved in Public Administration Reform (PAR, p. 69), working closely with the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC, p. 41). PAR initiatives such as the Performance and Grading pay system have been introduced in around 65 percent of local government institutions. Similarly, 66 district governors have reportedly been recruited through open, merit-based competition instead of by political appointment.

Key partners to the IDLG include the United Nations Development Programme, currently working on the Afghanistan Subnational Governance Program II, The Asia Foundation, and the USAID Capacity Development Program (DGP).

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)

www.isaf.nato.int

The mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is to assist the Afghan government in establishing and maintaining a safe and secure environment in Afghanistan, with the full involvement of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANA, p. 6, ANP, p. 7).

ISAF was first established by UN Security Council Resolution 1386 on 20 December 2001 as envisaged in Annex I of the Bonn Agreement and upon the invitation of the Afghan Interim Authority. It is a UN-authorized multinational force, not a UN peacekeeping force, and the costs of maintaining ISAF are borne by its contributing nations rather than by the UN.

On 11 August 2003, at the UN's and Afghan government's request, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) took responsibility for ISAF, the mission of which was then limited to Kabul. In October 2003, the UN Security Council authorised the expansion of the NATO mission beyond Kabul. Until February 2007, leadership of ISAF rotated among participating nations; the first ISAF missions were led by the United Kingdom, Turkey, Germany and the Netherlands. Each subsequent rotation is referred to by a new roman numeral. With the implementation of ISAF X in February 2007, ISAF was made a "composite headquarters" rather than being tasked to a single country. This means that individual nations volunteer to fill their allotted positions in the way they see fit. In July 2011, US General John Allen became Commander of ISAF, replacing US General David Petraeus.

ISAF and its operations are distinct from the US-led Coalition Forces (CF, p. 32), who helped the Northern Alliance overthrow the Taliban and continue to operate in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. ISAF was initially responsible for security only in Kabul, while CF was in command of security in the rest of the country. From October 2003, however, the process of expanding ISAF and unifying both military forces under one central command began. Regional command of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs, p. 67) was thus transferred to ISAF during the period of 2003-06. Completing the geographical expansion of the ISAF mission, command of the final, eastern quarter of the country was handed over on 5 October 2006, leaving ISAF in charge of all PRTs and effectively responsible for security in all of Afghanistan. ISAF also implements the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team programme, which embeds mentors in selected *kandaks* (battalions) of the ANA.

ISAF's overall structure consists of: two Kabul-based headquarters (ISAF Command and ISAF Joint Command); the Air Task Force responsible for air operations; Regional Commands for each of the six regions (Capital, North, West, South West, South, East); Forward Support Bases; and PRTs. The North Atlantic Council, NATO's decision-making body, provides political guidance to ISAF in consultation with non-NATO nations contributing troops to the force.

In August 2009, NATO allies agreed to adjust the ISAF Upper Command structure to align with the increase in ISAF's scope and scale of responsibilities. In November 2009, a new intermediate headquarters was established to better streamline ISAF efforts by separating the strategic

political-military and day-to-day functional operations. The new ISAF Upper Command Structure consists of a higher strategic headquarters, ISAF HQ, commanded by a 4-star General (General Allen), and two subordinate 3-star headquarters (or Intermediate Headquarters), called the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) and the ISAF Joint Command (IJC) HQ. Both Headquarters are located in Kabul.

Under this new command structure, COMISAF (4 star) focuses on the more strategic political-military aspects of the ISAF mission, synchronising ISAF's operations with the work of Afghan and other international organisations in the country. COMISAF is dual-hatted as the Commander of ISAF and US Forces in Afghanistan (COM USFOR-A) thus coordinating and de-conflicting ISAF operations and the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom. COMISAF has command responsibility over the IJC Commander, the Commander of NTM-A and the NATO Special Operations Forces (SOF).

The ISAF Joint Command, COMIJC, headed by 3-star Lieutenant General Curtis M. Scaparotti, is responsible for executing the full spectrum of tactical operations throughout Afghanistan on a day-to-day basis. He takes under command the Regional Commands, the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) and the theatre enablers. In addition, he ensures the coordination of ISAF and Afghan National Security Forces operations, and is dual-hatted as US and ISAF Commander, as is COM NTM-A who is NATO/ISAF Commander and Commander of the US-led Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A).

As part of the Transition process (see p. 73), ISAF forces are gradually handing over security responsibility in Afghanistan to the ANSF. Whilst ISAF states that Transition is an events-driven rather than calendar-based, the projected date for the completion of Transition is the end of 2014. This process is likely to be accompanied by significant withdrawals of troops. Reductions in troop numbers from the mid-2011 peak of around 140,000 have already begun, and as of January 2012 it was projected that 40,000 ISAF troops would leave by the end of the year.

As of January 2012, ISAF's total strength was 130,638 troops. The 50 troop-contributing countries are: Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, the Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Istanbul Regional Conference

The Istanbul Regional Conference for Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia. a one-day event held on 2 November 2011, aimed to achieve greater regional cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours, particularly in the fields of economics and security. Participants included Afghanistan, Turkey, Pakistan, India, Iran, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Conference observers included France, Canada, the EU, Germany, Italy, Japan, Sweden, Spain, Norway, the UK, the US and the UN. The Conference ended with the publishing of a declaration, adopted by all participants and observers. This expressed support for the reconciliation process in Afghanistan and pledged mutual non-interference in neighbouring countries' affairs. All participants signed up to the "Istanbul Process," which aims to enhance regional cooperation in terms of security, economics, counter narcotics and development. It was agreed at the time to present specific plans to achieve the goals set by the Istanbul Conference at a meeting in Kabul some time in 2012.

At a separate meeting on 3 November, Pakistan and Afghanistan pledged to use biometric techniques to prevent unregistered movement across their shared border.

Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB)

The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) is a high-level governing body established in 2006 to provide overall strategic coordination of the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact (p. 12). The JCMB was formed by the Afghan government and the international community following the endorsement of the Afghanistan Compact and the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS, see p. 15) at the January 2006 London Conference (p. 53). It aims to ensure greater coherence of efforts by the Afghan government and the international community to realise the goals set forth first in the Afghanistan Compact and the Declaration of the Paris Conference (p. 65), and later in the Kabul Conference communiqué (p. 50).

Following the adoption of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15) at the Paris Conference of June 2008, the JCMB expanded its focus from monitoring the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact to include the provision of strategic and policy guidance on the implementation of the ANDS. With the Afghanistan Compact's expiration in February 2011, the JCMB's role has focused on monitoring the Kabul Process (see p. 50) and acting as the highest formal decision-making body linking the Afghan government and the international community, ruling on initiatives such as the expansion of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF, p. 9).

The JCMB is co-chaired by the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan (see p. 75) and the Chair of the Afghan government's cabinet-level Coordinating Committee (currently the Minister of Finance), which is responsible for JCMB oversight and the implementation of the ANDS. The JCMB is made up of 28 representatives, seven of which are representatives of the government. The remaining 21 are representatives of the international community who are selected based on criteria such as the largest contribution of development aid and military troops as well as regional representation. These include the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA, see the UN in Afghanistan, p. 75), NATO (see International Security Assistance Force, p. 45), the Combined Security Transition Command—Afghanistan (see Coalition Forces, p. 32), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Union, donor governments, and governments of neighbouring countries. The total number of participants is not fixed and is liable to rise; the Republic of Korea represents the board's most recent addition. The JCMB typically meets around twice per year.

The work of the JCMB is now facilitated by three standing committees covering security; governance, human rights and rule of law; and economic and social development. These thematic groupings correspond to the pillars of the ANDS. In carrying out its assessments, the JCMB considers inputs from the standing committees, which consist of representatives of the Afghan government and relevant international partners, as well as ad-hoc, expert task forces that are established by the standing committees to address specific technical issues. Under its original mandate, the JCMB produced two semi-annual reports a year; this was later revised to one annual report at the start of 2008. The JCMB also produces additional reports available to the public.

Justice Sector Reform (JSR)

Justice Sector Reform (JSR), one of the five pillars of the Afghan government's Security Sector Reform (SSR, p. 71) strategy, involves a wide range of projects undertaken by a wide range of actors. Within the Afghan government, the main permanent institutions engaged with and subject to JSR initiatives are the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Justice, and the Attorney General's Office. Main donors in the justice sector include Italy, the US, Canada, Norway, Germany and the UK. A number of UN agencies also contribute to JSR, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UN Women (p. 75). JSR includes both top-down institutional development and bottom-up public access initiatives, including:

- Construction and reconstruction of infrastructure for justice institutions, and capacity-building and training of justice sector employees;
- Renewing the educational methodologies of justice-related training and courses at some universities;
- Drafting of legislation;
- Expansion of the provision of legal aid and public legal awareness campaigns;
- Improvement of traditional justice mechanisms (primarily local councils such as *jirgas* and *shuras*) to ensure that they conform to the norms of the national legal order and international human rights standards; and
- Coordination with other government priorities, such as counter-narcotics (CN, p. 36), anti-corruption and land reform.

Since 2001, achievements in JSR have included: the passage of several key laws; the training of judges, judicial police, prosecutors, and defence lawyers; renewal of justice-related educational methodologies; and the construction of a number of courthouses, prosecutors' offices, prisons, and other justice-sector institutions. Beginning in 2004, the Italian-led Provincial Justice Initiative trained Afghan trainers and deployed them around the country to build legal capacity at the subnational level. The Independent National Legal Training Centre opened in 2007 and is situated at Kabul University. The Centre provides legal training for postgraduate students, legal professionals, and staff from Afghan justice institutions; in 2008, it opened Afghanistan's first full-service law library.

Commitment to JSR was refocused with the establishment of the International Coordination Group on Justice Reform in October 2006, the December 2006 Rule of Law Conference in Dubai, and the July 2007 Rome Conference on Justice and Rule of Law in Afghanistan.

Participants at the Rome Conference—representatives of the Afghan government, donors, and the international community—agreed to a series of joint goals, underlying principles, and key actions. Implementation of key actions began following the conference; this included the establishment of a National Justice Programme, a National Justice Sector Strategy, and a mechanism for pooled donor funding of the programme, providing both immediate support for short-term projects and long-term, coordinated funding. Rome Conference participants also agreed to the establishment of an Afghan-led monitoring and evaluation system for the justice sector under the Afghanistan National Development Strategy Secretariat (ANDS, p. 15) and the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB, p. 47).

As part of the ANDS process, each Afghan justice institution—the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Justice, and the Attorney General’s Office—prepared a five-year strategy for reform. With guidance and technical assistance provided by UNAMA’s Rule of Law office, these strategies were combined by November 2007 into a justice sector strategy widely viewed as the best-developed of the ANDS sector strategies. Both the National Justice Programme and Sector Strategy were finalised in March 2008. Based on that document, the Project Oversight Committee (POC, composed of high-level Afghan government officials and advised by an international Board of Donors) and a Programme Support Unit (PSU) were established in July 2008.

The Afghanistan Justice Sector Reform Project (AJSRP) is currently being implemented under the guidance of the World Bank and financed by the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF, p. 22); it is the first justice sector project implemented under the Fund. It focuses on enhancing: management of human resources and physical infrastructure, information, and communication technology; legal aid and legal awareness; and support to the POC and PSU. Preparation of AJSRP II, the second iteration of this project, was due to be completed by January 2012, with implementation to follow. This phase will continue many of the initiatives begun in phase one as well as; improving the “human capital” of the Justice Sector, introducing new human resources mechanisms, the fostering of a sense of “legal fraternity” among the judiciary, the increased provision of legal libraries for legal professionals, the construction of adequate physical infrastructure, and the increased delivery of legal aid to defendants.

The National Priority Program Law and Justice for All was introduced at the Kabul Conference in July 2010 (p. 50). While the programme is intended to further prioritise the justice sector reform activities contained in the National Justice Program (NJP), it is also designed to focus on the parts of the legal system that “are most relevant to the way citizens experience the legal system and the rule of law.” In 2012, Law and Justice for All aims to build on ongoing activities in the area, such as Pay and Grading Reform and Priority Reform and Restructuring (see Public Administration Reform, p. 69), in addition to new measures such as the setting up of a National Ministers Court and the expansion of Anti Corruption Tribunals.

Kabul Conference and Kabul Process

The Kabul International Conference on Afghanistan took place on 20 July 2010. Around the time of the Kabul Conference, the term “Kabul Process” was introduced and applied retroactively to signify the governance reform and peace agenda that was foreshadowed in President Hamid Karzai’s second inaugural speech in November 2009.

Co-chaired by President Karzai and the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, the Kabul Conference was the first of the many international conferences on Afghanistan to actually be held in the country and was attended by international leaders and foreign ministers. Emphasising Afghan leadership and ownership, its Communiqué states that the Kabul Process is a reaffirmation of the Afghan government (GoA)’s commitment to “improve security, governance and economic opportunity for its citizens.” It also reiterates the international community’s commitment to “support the transition to Afghan leadership and its intention to provide security and economic assistance.”

The London Conference in January 2010 (p. 53) and the National Consultative Peace Jirga in June 2010 (NCPJ, p. 60) were key staging posts for establishing the terms, frameworks and plans agreed at the Kabul Conference. These include:

- The transfer of security responsibilities from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF, p. 45) and Coalition Forces (CF, p. 32) to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF, p. 9) by 2014 (see Transition, p. 73);
- The development of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP, p. 20); and
- A reprioritised and restructured Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15).

International participants endorsed the *Inteqal* (transition) paper, the GoA’s commitment to a phased exercise of security responsibility in all provinces by the end of 2014. To support this transition, the GoA pledged to progressively enhance the quality and quantity of the ANSF, while international participants reiterated their commitments to support the training, equipping and financing of the ANSF. Participants also endorsed in principle the APRP and reiterated their commitment to support the programme through the Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund.

Within the framework of a prioritised ANDS, the GoA pledged to focus on reform of service delivery institutions, policy decisions and the implementation of the National Priority Programs (NPPs, p. 30). Participants welcomed the GoA’s cluster approach (p. 30), an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism intended to help prioritise and implement the ANDS. The GoA committed to further prioritise and strengthen the NPPs, including their implementation matrices for intended results and budgets. In a bid to ensure effective management and accountability, the plans articulate measurable six- and 12-month, as well as three- and five-year targets.

In line with the London Conference Communiqué, participants restated their support for channelling at least 50 percent of development aid through the Afghan Government’s core budget within two years. However, it was emphasised that this commitment was dependent on the GoA

implementing reforms to strengthen its public financial management systems, reduce corruption, improve budget execution, and increase revenue collection (in January 2012, the Ministry of Finance reported that this target was unlikely to be met). Additionally, international participants expressed their readiness to progressively align their development assistance behind the NPPs with the goal of achieving 80 percent alignment within the next two years.

To oversee the implementation of the prioritised ANDS, the GoA and the international community stated their intent to meet at ministerial level on an annual basis to review mutual progress on commitments and to consider new Afghan priorities as part of the Kabul Process. Participants agreed that the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB, p. 47) would meet every four months (supported by Standing Committees and their sub-committees) to monitor and assess progress. Additionally, the Kabul Process was set to include annual meetings between the GoA, the international community, and civil society (including service-providing organisations). As of January 2012, none had been held, though international conferences such as Bonn 2011 (p. 27) have provided opportunities for civil society to engage with both the GoA and the international community.

Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA)

www.undp.org.af/WhoWeAre/UNDPinAfghanistan/Projects/sbgs/prj_lotfa.html

The Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) was established in 2002 as a funding mechanism used by international donors to channel their contributions to Security Sector Reform (SSR, p. 71) in Afghanistan, particularly the Afghan National Police (ANP, p. 7), the salaries for which are the Fund's largest outlay. The Fund is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) as government partner responsible for its implementation; a Management Support Unit (MSU) supports the Ministry in executing project activities that cannot be handled by existing government mechanisms.

Since the Fund's inception, five phases have been completed. LOTFA Phase V ran from September 2008 until December 2010 with a total budget of approximately \$553 million. Phase V placed renewed focus on the institutional development of the MoI by enhancing engagement with MoI planning and decision-making processes. It also made efforts to strengthen public confidence in the ANP to restore stability and maintain law and order.

LOTFA Phase VI began in January 2011 and is slated to run until March 2013 with a total estimated budget of approximately \$1.4 billion. Under Phase VI, LOTFA's activities are clustered around three pillars:

1. Police and prisons staff remuneration, and investment in police infrastructure;
2. Capacity development and institutional reform of the MoI at the policy, organisational and individual level, as well as gender mainstreaming; and
3. The introduction of community policing through the *polis-i-mardumi* initiative (this is unconnected to the Afghan Local Police, p. 5).

LOTFA's key achievements include: ensuring regularity and transparency in police remuneration through the development of modern payroll technologies, with 99 percent of police employees covered under the Electronic Payroll System and 82 percent under the Electronic Fund Transfer System; sustained capacity and institutional reform of the MoI through identified capacity development programmes; training 300 police trainers in gender and human rights concepts; helping to recruit over 1,000 female police officers over the past three years and creating a Gender Mainstreaming Unit in the MoI; and building effective police-community partnerships for more accountable local police service delivery. As of January 2012, the number of female police officers in the ANP stood at 1,300, around 1 percent.

LOFTA's largest donors are the United States, Japan and the European Union. LOTFA is led by a Steering Committee co-chaired by the MoI and the United Nations Development Programme, and includes representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Justice, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (p. 75), and donor partners. UNDP regularly conducts institutional monitoring and evaluation to oversee the quality, quantity and timeliness of progress toward results delivery as identified in the Fund's Results and Resource Framework and Annual Work Plan.

Laws in Afghanistan

Formal sources of law in Afghanistan are: 1) Islamic law; 2) the 2004 Constitution; 3) codes, decrees and legislation; 4) international treaties and covenants; and 5) various types of regulations and orders. No law can be contrary to the beliefs and provisions of Islam (pursuant to Article 3 of the Constitution), and many of the country's codes and statutes reflect Islamic legal principles.

There have been a number of constitutions in Afghanistan. The constitutions of 1923, 1931, 1964, 1977, 1987 (amended in 1990), and 2004 were all ratified by either Parliaments or Loya Jirgas, while interim constitutions were drafted in 1979, 1980, and 1992, but never ratified. As elsewhere, Afghan legislation must not be in conflict with the Constitution. New legislation and amendments to existing laws must be adopted by the National Assembly and signed by the President, after which they are published (in both Dari and Pashto) in the Official Gazette (OG, or *Rasmi Jaridah*) by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). While many regulations must be published in the OG, those that affect only the internal operations of a particular ministry need not be sent to the National Assembly for adoption or to the MoJ for publication. Since November 1963, the OG has been published in a continuously numbered sequence. Before then individual laws were published in individual pamphlet form and keeping track of them was difficult. OG no. 787 from 1999 specifies the manner and requirements of publication and adoption of legislative documents.

There is currently no unified official index of laws, nor any properly functioning system of reporting court cases or decisions (even of the Supreme Court). USAID's Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (AROLP) scanned a full set of the OG issues and these PDFs are currently available for download from the MoJ website (in Dari and Pashto only—www.moj.gov.af). There is also a full-text searchable database of the OG laws (Dari and Pashto only) on the MoJ website. Regulations, rules, charters and decrees cover many important legal areas but are not codified or fully assembled anywhere (although many are published in the OG).

Many international organisations require translations of older or newer laws. Currently, translations are available for some laws at afghantranslation.chechiconsulting.com; other (unofficial) translations are also listed in the AREU library catalogue online (www.areu.org.af). Some ministries make PDFs of relevant legislation available on their website (e.g., tax laws on the Ministry of Finance website—www.mof.gov.af; or laws and regulations relevant to elections on the website of the Independent Election Commission— www.iec.org.af/eng/).

There is no established citation style for Afghan laws. To fully identify a post-1963 law it is best to cite the OG number as well as the date (preferably in both local and international date systems), e.g., Law of Procurement (Official Gazette no. 865, 3 Aqrab SY1384 = 25 October 2005). For pre-1963 laws the full title and full dates of publication are needed, e.g. Usul Asasi “Constitution” (8 Aqrab SY 1310 = 31 October 1931).

London Conference 2006

On 31 January–1 February 2006, the government of the United Kingdom hosted the first London Conference on Afghanistan, a major international summit co-chaired by the UN and the Afghan government. Attended by over 200 delegates from 70 countries and international organisations, the Conference served as a forum to discuss the next phase of Afghanistan’s development. It had three aims: to formally launch the Afghanistan Compact (p. 12), to allow the Afghan government to present the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (see ANDS, p. 15) to the international community, and to ensure that the government of Afghanistan had adequate resources to meet its domestic ambitions and international commitments.

The Conference marked the completion of the Bonn process (p. 27) and the end of the first stage of Afghanistan’s post-Taliban development, which saw the reestablishment of key political institutions and a democratically-elected National Assembly. The Conference also allowed members of the international community to reaffirm their political and financial commitment to Afghanistan’s reconstruction.

London Conference 2010

A second London Conference on Afghanistan took place on 28 January 2010. Over 60 countries were represented at the event, which was co-hosted by President Hamid Karzai, UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, to “fully align military and civilian resources behind an Afghan-led political strategy.” The conference aimed to move the international effort forward in three key areas: security, governance and development, and regional support. Of these, the most significant commitments were made in the areas of security, and governance and development.

Conference participants committed to providing support to the phased growth of the Afghan National Army (ANA, p. 6) and Afghan National Police (ANP, p. 7) to reach 171,600 and 134,000 personnel by October 2011, respectively. This boost to Afghan security forces was closely aligned with plans for a phased transition to Afghan security leadership on a province-by-province basis, which were then developed preceding the Kabul Conference in July.

Central to these efforts was the Afghan government's commitment to reinvigorate Afghan-led reintegration efforts by developing and implementing an effective, inclusive, transparent and sustainable national peace and reintegration programme (APRP, p. 20). This included plans to convene a Peace Jirga (p. 60) before the 2010 Kabul Conference (p. 50) and the international community's commitment to establish a Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund to finance the programme.

The Afghan government presented a vision for "more coherent and better coordinated development." This involved aligning key ministries into development and governance clusters (p. 30), refining the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15) priorities, and preparing details for presentation at the Kabul Conference. Participants endorsed the Afghan government's ambition for 50 percent of development aid to be delivered through the National Budget (p. 59) within next two years. However, it was also noted that this support was conditional on the government's progress in strengthening public financial management systems and reducing corruption. In January 2012 the Ministry of Finance stated that this target was unlikely to be achieved in the near future.

Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA)

www.misfa.org.af

The Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) was established jointly by the Afghan government and the donor community in 2003. It provides funds to microfinance institutions (MFIs) that offer small loans and other financial services to poor and vulnerable Afghans, who need support to open or expand small but viable businesses. MISFA continues to work closely with its MFI partners in strengthening their internal systems and supporting their individual efforts toward achieving their growth potentials and portfolio quality objectives.

Since March 2006, MISFA has been registered as an independent, not-for-profit Afghan institution with an independent Board of Directors comprised of representatives from the government and the private sector, as well as international microfinance experts. It is the first microfinance apex facility in Afghanistan, pooling diverse donor funding mechanisms into streamlined, flexible support to microfinance providers.

MISFA is working with seven microfinance providers, including a bank, with a collective network of 244 branches in 22 provinces. They serve more than 230,000 active borrowers, 75 percent of whom are women. To date, MISFA's partners have disbursed a cumulative total of 1.9 million loans worth approximately \$1.1 billion. The current gross loan outstanding to borrowers is around \$115 million, while the average loan size is \$499. MISFA's partners together employ more than 3,000 Afghans, around 37 percent of whom are women. According to an Initial Baseline/Impact Study of Microfinance conducted in 2007 by the UK-based Institute of Development Studies, each microfinance loan supports or creates 1.5 employment opportunities in Afghanistan.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

www.un.org/millenniumgoals

In 2004, Afghanistan's transitional government declared its intention to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established at the 2000 UN Millennium Summit. MDGs are intended to act as a framework to guide the development of national policies and reconstruction priorities around the world, with benchmarks set for 2015 and 2020. The MDGs are incorporated into the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15) and the Afghanistan Compact (p. 12). The Afghan government has also added a ninth goal for its own development initiatives: enhancing security. The nine Afghanistan MDGs are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Achieve universal primary education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women;
4. Reduce child mortality;
5. Improve maternal health;
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
7. Ensure environmental sustainability;
8. Develop a global partnership for development; and
9. Enhance security.

In June 2005, the Afghan government held a conference in Kabul to discuss how to meet the MDG benchmarks and determine MDG progress. The meeting resulted in the "Afghanistan's 2020 Vision" report, in which most of the 2015 targets were revised to be met by 2020, recognising capacity constraints and security impediments on the country's development.

In 2010, the Afghan government published a report detailing its progress in meeting Afghanistan's nine MDGs. The report noted that while progress was variable in the different goal areas, the country had made improvements in reducing infant and under-five mortality rates, in bringing school-age children back to school, and in reducing the gender gap in certain spheres of life. However, for many of the areas under review, the report cited a lack of data as a serious impediment for monitoring progress or even understanding the potential extent of the challenge; for example, the report states that "no reliable estimate of the spread of HIV/AIDS can be made."

Most critically, the report noted that "there is little evidence that most targets of Global Partnership for Development are achievable." Citing a need for "better aid," the report claimed that a lack of predictability in donor financing, the gap between donor commitments and actual expenditure, and donor investments not being aligned to MDG priorities were problems in meeting the MDGs. As nearly all of Afghanistan's development budget is aid-financed, the report claims that "aid to Afghanistan has been far too prescriptive and driven by donor preferences rather than responsive to Afghan needs."

Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA)

www.macca.org.af

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), the world's largest mine action programme, was established in 1989 to make Afghanistan safe from the threat of mines and other explosive remnants of war.

Oversight and coordination of MAPA is gradually shifting toward national ownership. The Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA), which works as a coordination body for MAPA, is working together with the Afghan government's Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) to develop strategy and implement and monitor MAPA activities and targets. MACCA is a United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) project contracted through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

Together, MACCA and the DMC coordinate nationwide MAPA activities through seven Area Mine Action Centres in Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Gardez and Jalalabad. These regional offices, staffed entirely by Afghans, are responsible for regional coordination and oversight of mine action activities.

MAPA Implementing Partners (IPs) are national and international NGOs that carry out activities such as mine clearance and survey, mine risk education, victim assistance, capacity-building, advocacy, monitoring and training. In addition, MAPA works closely with the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled and the Ministry of Public Health to advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors.

At the end of September 2011, 6,216 identified hazards remained in Afghanistan, affecting 602 square kilometres and impacting 1,980 communities throughout the country. During 2011, MAPA conducted mine clearance in 70 communities, clearing or cancelling 324 minefields and 76 battle areas, and destroying more than 7,793 anti-personnel (AP) mines, 265 anti-tank (AT) mines, and 182,663 explosive remnants of war (ERW).

MAPA works to meet the goal of the Ottawa Convention to clear all AP mines in Afghanistan by 2013, to provide mine risk education (MRE) and to assist mine survivors. However, the Ottawa Convention obliges countries to remove AP mines, and not AT mines or ERWs. Despite this, MACCA considers it highly important that other hazards are not forgotten while the focus is on meeting Ottawa Convention obligations. The Afghan state may seek an extension of its deadline of 2013 to complete the clearance of all known AP sites.

Led by the Ministry of Education, MRE programmes continue around the country and approximately 200,000 Afghans receive MRE trainings every quarter.

Currently, an average of 22 Afghans are killed or injured by landmines and other ERW every month.

Mineral Resources

Beneath Afghanistan lie significant mineral reserves. A June 2010 geological survey conducted by the Pentagon estimated the value of these deposits at \$1 trillion, though other estimates have reached as high as \$3 trillion. The Afghan government and the international community hope this industry has the potential to drive both economic growth and infrastructure development. The Ministry of Mines has estimated that by 2024 mineral extraction will be supplying between 42-45 percent of Afghanistan's GDP.

The government has published two documents on the mineral resources industries: The Oil, Gas and Mining Sector Vision and the National Extractive Industries Excellence Program. These set out its strategy for a dynamic, transparent mining sector that will help stabilise the Afghan economy, reduce reliance on international aid and have wide-ranging positive downstream effects on the Afghan people. The World Bank is assisting the GoA with this process, currently running the Second Sustainable Development of Natural Resources Project, a five-year project worth \$52 million due to run until June 2016.

However, development of Afghanistan's mineral wealth faces considerable difficulties. Growth of the extractive industries will inevitably involve making environmental compromises. Secondly, the profitable extraction of mineral resources will require considerable internal development of Afghanistan's infrastructure. The World Bank estimates that "a major mine developed in the country will have some of the longest lead-times, capital requirements, and high operating costs of any global investment." Previous large scale infrastructure projects, such as the trans-Afghanistan gas pipeline, have faced insurmountable difficulties, resulting in indefinite delay.

Thirdly, the exploitation of mineral reserves and the process of tendering for the right to do this are both vulnerable to fraud and corruption. With Afghanistan ranked 176 out of 178 countries on the 2010 Global Corruption Perceptions Index, the fear remains that Afghanistan's mineral wealth could be co-opted, and the Afghan people denied its benefits. To prevent this, the Afghan government endorsed the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in March 2009, although allegations of corruption surfaced the same year related to the largest mineral resource tender concluded so far, that of the Aynak copper deposit.

As of December 2011, two tenders have been granted to foreign companies to begin extraction in Afghanistan. In October 2007 a tender for the Aynak copper deposit was successfully negotiated. The successful bidder, Metallurgical Corps of China (MCC), has already paid the GoA \$80.8 million, the first tranche of a total payment of \$808 million to develop the concession. The GoA will also be paid royalties on a sliding scale based on the world copper price. As part of their bid MCC have agreed to build a copper smelting plant, producing 250,000 tons of copper per year. The construction of 900km of rail infrastructure and a 400 Megawatt coal-fired power plant are also included in the bid. However, difficulties in development of this additional infrastructure mean that extraction is unlikely to start prior to 2014.

In November 2011, tenders for the Hagijak iron ore deposits were granted to a consortium led by Steel Authority of India (SAI). SAI have stated that they plan to invest \$11 billion in Afghanistan, both

to develop extraction and to build a steel plant capable of producing 6 million tons of steel per year. Exploitation of the concession will also involve the construction of rail infrastructure and a power plant.

In December 2011, the GoA continued its drive to grow the mineral exploitation sector, opening the tender process for four large copper and gold concessions in the provinces of Herat, Sar-i-Pul, Ghazni and Badakhshan, and signing its first international oil production agreement in several decades. Agreed with China National Petroleum Corps (CNPC), this deal allows the development of oil blocks in the Amu Darya basin, in the provinces of Sar-i-Pul and Faryab.

National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP)

www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp

The National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) is a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-supported programme implemented by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). It was launched in 2002 as one of the Afghan government's National Priority Programs (NPPs, p. 30), defined in the National Development Framework (NDF, p. 60).

The first NABDP aimed to promote urgent recovery and longer-term development in identified priority areas of rural development while building government capacity to lead and coordinate participatory approaches to development across the country. NABDP Phase II was launched in February 2006 and was intended to serve as a key coordination mechanism for government and UN-supported rural development programmes. It focused more on institutional development, capacity-building, and intersectoral coordination at the regional and provincial levels, as well as the promotion of regional and local economic regeneration activities.

The third and current phase, which began in July 2009, is based on the third pillar of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15): social and economic development. It is currently budgeted for \$294 million until June 2014.

NABDP Phase III has three main components:

- **Local Governance and District Development Assembly (DDA) Institutionalisation:** following in the footsteps of Community Development Councils (see NSP, p. 61), the NABDP will continue the institutionalisation of DDAs to achieve full national coverage.
- **Sustainable Livelihoods through Rural Infrastructure Services:** This component aims to fill gaps in physical infrastructure to promote agricultural productivity and rural economic development. This includes farm-to-market roads, irrigation works, food storage facilities and local markets.
- **Stabilisation through Enhanced Economic Livelihoods:** NABDP will contribute toward “a more holistic resolution” in conflict and post-conflict environments through “innovative operating platforms [which] encompass a number of economic generation models and schemes all of which should have a stabilizing influence on local communities.” This component also promotes alternative livelihood opportunities for farmers dependent on poppy cultivation.

National Budget

www.budgetmof.gov.af

The Afghan government produces a national budget each year. This budget is an estimate of the cost of providing services for that year, and specifies how these services are to be paid for. The national budget for the SY1390 (2011-2012) fiscal year is the equivalent of approximately \$4.782 billion. Unlike in previous years, this figure represents the core budget only, excluding development funds to be spent outside of government channels.

Expenditure is classified according to its purpose. The operating budget is money spent on the day-to-day running costs of the government, such as the salaries of civil servants, teachers and policemen; the running costs of offices and other operational premises; and the purchase of equipment and machinery such as computers and vehicles. Most of this expenditure is funded from taxation and other domestic sources. The operating budget in SY1390 is \$3.207 billion.

Alongside the operating budget is the country's internal or "core" development budget. Managed by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) according to the government's own accounting procedures, this is money spent by the government on expanding and improving service provision. Most of this expenditure is in the form of development projects—building new schools, constructing new roads, installing new water supply and sanitation schemes, enhancing the capacity of human resources, etc. The core development budget for SY1390 is \$1.575 billion.

The "external" development budget is money provided by donors that does not pass through the government and is distributed directly by donors to their contracting partners. Due to a recent upgrade of the Development Assistance Database (DAD, p. 38) the MoF was unable to provide a figure for the SY1390 "external" budget. In SY1389 the figure was \$4.112 billion. For SY1390 the MoF expects it to be lower, in line with the country-wide reduction of aid. The final total of the SY1390 "external" budget will be calculated at the Development Cooperation Dialogue Meeting planned for March 2012.

The overall development budget is funded by international donors. At the 2010 London Conference, they pledged to channel at least 50 percent of development aid through the Afghan government by January 2012. This pledge was reiterated at the Kabul Conference, but was dependent on government capacity to adequately manage the money. In January 2012, the MoF stated their belief that this target would not be achieved by the agreed deadline.

Producing the annual budget is a lengthy and complex process. Under the Afghan Constitution (p. 112), responsibility for managing this process is vested in the MoF. The annual budget preparation cycle takes about one year and MoF sets and monitors the timetable that governs it.

Budgeting activity always starts from the national plan—the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15). This is a five-year programme setting out what the government, with the assistance of the donor community, wishes to achieve over that period, and specifying the main priority areas. The cost of delivering the plan, and the amounts and sources of income required

to fund it, is projected in the medium-term financial and budget framework (MTBF), which in turn informs the annual budget-setting process.

The MoF sets the rules for the preparation of the annual budget by issuing a series of budget circulars to line (service-providing) ministries. These specify the budget rules and provide expenditure ceilings for both operating and development budgets. The line ministries draw up their own budget proposals that they submit to the MoF. The budget estimates from all the ministries are then consolidated into the National Budget Document (NBD), which, once approved by the Cabinet, is presented to the National Assembly (NA). The NA discusses the budget for up to 45 days, and then “appropriates” (approves) the necessary funds.

In 2009, the MoF introduced a number of initiatives to improve national budgeting, and support the principles of good governance. Among these was the introduction of policy-based budgeting linking ministry spending directly to ANDS requirements in the form of programme budgets. The MoF has also taken a number of steps to assist line ministries by providing technical support, simplifying budget procedures, and allowing extra time for budget preparation. The ultimate objective is to enable line ministries to improve the quality and coverage of the services they provide to the people of Afghanistan.

National Consultative Peace Jirga (NCPJ)

The National Consultative Peace Jirga (NCPJ) took place in Kabul from 2-4 June 2010 and brought together approximately 1,600 delegates from all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Held in the same symbolic tent in which Afghanistan’s post-Taliban Constitution was agreed, the NCPJ was intended to be a platform for the government to consult the population on proposals for dialogue and reconciliation with insurgent actors.

The NCPJ was “consultative” and thus carried no legal weight. It culminated in the endorsement of the government’s peace and reintegration initiative (see APRP, p. 20) and also fulfilled an Afghan government commitment made at the London Conference 2010 (p. 53).

The agenda was directed by President Karzai and attendees included governors, parliamentarians, district leaders, members of the higher Ulema Council, civil society, business, Kuchis, the disabled, refugees and women. After concerns were raised, the number of women participants was increased to around 400, constituting approximately 20 percent of participants. The Taliban and other insurgent groups were not represented, nor were some opposition politicians.

National Development Framework (NDF)

The National Development Framework (NDF) was drawn up by the Afghan Interim Authority (see Bonn Agreement, p. 27) in 2002 as a roadmap for the development and reconstruction process in Afghanistan. It identified 16 National Development Programmes (NDPs) and six cross-cutting issues under three broad pillars: 1) human capital and social protection, 2) physical infrastructure, and 3) an enabling environment for development. The NDF also identified 12 National Priority Programmes (NPPs) that were meant to be major policy priorities for the government.

The NDF, under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance, remained the primary basis for government and donor planning until January 2006, when it was replaced by the Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy (see ANDS, p. 15).

National Human Development Report (NHDR)

www.cphd.af/nhdr.html

National Human Development Reports (NHDRs) are based on the human development concept, which emphasises the diversity of human needs, such as income, access to knowledge, nutrition and health, security, political and cultural freedom, and participation in the community. Since 1992, more than 500 NHDRs have been produced, primarily by developing countries with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) support.

Afghanistan's first NHDR was released in February 2005, entitled "Security with a Human Face," which focused on the relationship between security and development. Produced by Kabul University and UNDP on behalf of the Afghan government, the report was based on a number of sectoral and thematic background papers commissioned from national researchers.

The second NHDR, released in late 2007, "Bridging Modernity and Tradition," was produced by the UNDP-sponsored Centre for Policy and Human Development (CPHD) at Kabul University. It focused on the linkages between rule of law and human development, highlighting key challenges to the expansion of the rule of law in Afghanistan and proposing approaches to bridge modernity and tradition in the search for social justice.

The third NHDR, published in late 2010, is entitled "The Neglected Front of Development: Water Security and the Crisis in Sanitation." The paper explores how low access to safe water, poor sanitation, inequitable sharing of water resources, and extreme vulnerability to water-related climate shocks go largely ignored in the face of internal power struggles and the global security agenda. The report makes the case that water security is integral to human development in Afghanistan and to prospects for peace.

National Solidarity Programme (NSP)

www.nspafghanistan.org

The National Solidarity Programme (NSP) is the flagship development programme of the Afghan government. Known in Dari as *Hambastag-i-Milli* and in Pashtu as *Milli Paiwastoon*, the NSP helps build trust and connect rural communities to the central government with the bottom-up delivery of services and the promotion of grassroots democracy through:

- Developing local governance at the village level through the creation of democratically elected councils; and
- Improving access to basic infrastructure and socio-economic development opportunities in rural communities across Afghanistan.

The NSP seeks to attain these objectives through three core programme elements:

1. Facilitating the creation of Community Development Councils (CDCs), democratically elected representative decision-making bodies involving both male and female community members that help guide development planning and prioritisation at the village level;
2. Providing direct block grant transfers to CDCs to implement community-prioritised socio-economic development projects (the average block grant is \$33,500, with a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$60,000), along with providing capacity-building for CDCs to manage resources and facilitate development and basic governance functions; and
3. Establishing linkages between CDCs and other development and governance institutions.

The programme is implemented by communities themselves with the help of NSP Facilitating Partners (FPs), which include 29 international and national NGOs (including UN Habitat—see The UN in Afghanistan, p. 75).

By developing the ability of Afghan communities to identify, plan, manage and monitor their own development projects, the NSP hopes to create sustainable, grass-roots forms of local governance, rural reconstruction and poverty alleviation. Communities are empowered to make decisions and manage resources during all stages of the project cycle and it is hoped that these communities will collectively contribute to increased human security.

The NSP was conceived in 2002-03 by the World Bank in consultation with the then Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA, p. 10), including the Minister of Finance and Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. As of late December 2011, the NSP has covered over 75 percent of the rural population, establishing more than 28,243 CDCs in 357 of Afghanistan's almost 400 districts and provincial centres. Since its inception, the programme has disbursed more than \$914 million in grants to rural communities, which have financed approximately 60,386 community-prioritised subprojects. More than 47,524 of these subprojects have been completed, focusing on transportation (25 percent of projects), water supply and sanitation (24 percent), irrigation (18 percent), power supply (13 percent), education (12 percent), livelihoods (five percent), and other sectors (three percent). In many remote parts of the country, the NSP is the only functioning government development programme.

The first phase of the NSP was completed in March 2007 and covered 17,300 communities. A second phase, NSP II (April 2007-September 2011) covered an additional 6,000 communities, thus bringing total NSP coverage to 23,200 communities. The Afghan government has designed a third phase of the program, NSP III (2010-2015), in consultation with the World Bank, NSP donors, FPs, community members and other stakeholders. While NSP III introduces new components, it remains a community-driven development programme with the overall objective of building, strengthening and maintaining CDCs as effective institutions for local governance and socio-economic development.

NSP III consists of three components: First, NSP III will support the completion of the nation wide rollout of initial block grants to the approximately 16,000 communities not yet covered, bringing

the total number of communities to around 39,200. Second, a second round of “repeater” grants will be provided to 12,000 communities that have successfully used their initial grant and are maintaining completed subprojects. (To receive repeater grants, these communities must also hold new elections and update their Community Development Plan). Third, NSP III will focus on capacity-building and improving the institutional quality, sustainability and governance of CDCs and enhance their ability to engage with other institutions as gateways for local development activities. NSP III programme costs for five years are estimated to be \$1.5 billion, taking into account a minimum contribution of ten percent of the block grant provided as cash or in kind by communities themselves. Block grants represent approximately 70 percent of the total programme cost.

The responsibility for oversight and supervision of the NSP lies with Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). The project is administered by the World Bank, whose task team also provides implementation support to the project.

To date, NSP implementation (NSP I and II) has received \$1.1 billion funding support, including \$395 million from international development assistance grants, \$619 million from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF, p. 22), \$41 million from the Japan Social Development Fund, and an additional \$113 million through bilateral donors.

Contributors include Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

NGO Legislation and Code of Conduct

www.ngo-dept.gov.af/

For the full text of the NGO Code of Conduct, see p. 141.

Since 2002 there have been two major initiatives to clarify what is, and what is not, a nonprofit, nongovernmental organisation (NGO), and to strengthen the accountability and transparency of NGO activities in Afghanistan. The first initiative was legislation to determine what an NGO is and what are permissible NGO activities, set criteria for the establishment and internal governance of NGOs, clarify reporting requirements for NGOs, enable profit-making bodies currently registered as NGOs to establish themselves as businesses, and enhance the transparency and accountability of NGOs. The second initiative was an NGO Code of Conduct, designed by the NGO community working in Afghanistan as a self-governing mechanism to ensure commitment to transparency, accountability, and professional standards from all signatories.

In consultation with NGOs and with technical assistance from the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), an initial draft for the NGO legislation was presented to the Ministry of Justice in 2003. NGOs called for the timely finalisation of the legislation at the Afghanistan Development Fora in both April 2004 and April 2005, and the NGO legislation was eventually passed in June 2005. This legislation provided a means by which nonprofit NGOs can be differentiated from

the many contractors registered as NGOs (between 2001 and 2004 around 2,400 entities had registered with the government as NGOs, despite the lack of any official criteria for such a registration).

Shortly after the first NGO legislation draft was prepared for the government in July 2003, 120 NGOs participated in a workshop to discuss the content of the NGO Code of Conduct. The text of the Code was jointly drafted by the four major NGO coordination bodies in Afghanistan: the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR, p. 25), the Afghan NGOs Coordinating Bureau (ANCB, p. 9), the Southern and Western Afghanistan and Balochistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC, p. 72), and the Afghan Women's Network (AWN, p. 10). A Code of Conduct Secretariat was established under the auspices of ACBAR to coordinate and finalise the draft, which was completed in May 2004. The NGO community publicly launched the Afghanistan NGO Code of Conduct on 30 May 2005. In order to be a signatory to the Code of Conduct, NGOs are required to submit several documents to prove their NGO status, including legal registration documentation, coordination body membership, financial records, and proof of reporting to the relevant ministry. The NGO Code of Conduct has approximately 100 Afghan and international signatories.

By law, NGOs are obliged to register with the Ministry of Economy and submit details of their assets and expenditures, biannual reports, and annual financial audit reports of their implemented projects to the government. The NGO Department at the Ministry of Economy and their website (listed above) can provide more information on NGO registration and reporting requirements.

Office of Administrative Affairs and Council of Ministers Secretariat (OAA/CMS)

www.president.gov.af/troot_eng.aspx?id=171

The Office of Administrative Affairs and Council of Ministers Secretariat (OAA/CMS) is an executive-level coordinating, facilitating and advisory body that supports the President of Afghanistan in his role as the Head of State and the Head of Government/Chairman of the Council of Ministers. Originally set up in the 1950s under King Zahir Shah, the OAA's structure was modified in 2002; the Council of Ministers Secretariat and the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation were established as two separate directorates in 2003 to ensure systematic support to the Council of Ministers (COM) meetings. The OAA, as a hub for government institutions, mainly acts as the policy coordinator between the three pillars (executive, legislative and judiciary) of the Afghan government. Its other functions include monitoring the implementation of the presidential decrees and the decisions of the COM. It also provides administrative, logistical and financial support to the offices of the President, Vice Presidents, and Advisors to the President. The OAA also prepares the Government Achievement Report, presented to the National Assembly at the end of each fiscal year as required by Article 75, Clause 6 of the Constitution. Other functions of the OAA include reviewing and analysing all

proposals aiming to be submitted to the COM, preparing agendas and minutes of Cabinet meetings, and facilitating the Council with required tasks. The OAA facilitates convention of all the regular and emergency meetings of the Cabinet as well as those of the economic, sociocultural and legal sub-committees.

Although an executive body, the OAA is designed to be impartial. It does not create policy, but rather coordinates policy development. The Office and Secretariat review policies drafted by ministries and ensure that these comply with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15), address cross-cutting initiatives, and contain a clear, accurate budget. Once the OAA approves the draft policy, it is passed on to the President and Cabinet for final review and possible approval. If a policy is approved, the OAA monitors and evaluates its implementation.

Paris Conference

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr and search “Paris Conference”

The International Conference in Support of Afghanistan, more widely known as the Paris Conference, was held on 12 June 2008 and was co-chaired by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. This major international meeting formally launched the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15). The conference was intended to be a show of “partnership” from the Afghan government and the international community “to work more closely together under Afghan leadership” to support the ANDS, as stated in the resulting declaration. Approximately \$20 billion was pledged to finance the implementation of the ANDS, including support for the preparation of elections in 2009 and 2010.

The declaration from the conference reaffirmed that the Afghanistan Compact (p. 12) would remain the basis for the development of Afghanistan, and specified the priority areas of strengthening institutions and economic growth, particularly in agriculture and energy. The conference also resulted in statements on a renewed commitment to strengthening the effectiveness and quality of aid as a shared responsibility. The international community agreed to provide increased resources in a more consistent, coordinated way, while the Afghan government promised to accelerate economic and political reform.

Policy Analysis and Development Directorate (PADD)

The Policy Analysis and Development Directorate (PADD), in the Policy Department in the Ministry of Finance (MoF), aims to provide the Afghan government with high-quality research and policy analysis to support an evidence-based approach to governance. Established in June 2009, under the direct supervision of the Chief Economic Adviser and Minister of Finance, the PADD identifies and analyses gaps and barriers to the implementation of government policies, including the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15). It is hoped that the establishment of this in-house capacity will enhance policymaking, programme development, implementation and monitoring.

To achieve these objectives, the PADD is expected to:

- Conduct specific policy studies related to national socio-economic development and governance reform, public financial management and budget reform, procurement, customs and public revenue;
- Review the service delivery of MoF institutions at the central and provincial level;
- Contribute policy proposals for the stabilisation of the financial system;
- Draft major reports and reviews on a wide range of development issues in all sectors including good governance in the MoF;
- Provide research and analysis of current and potential future policies related to the implementation of the ANDS;
- Analyse and report on progress of ANDS implementation, related to the 22 National Priority Programs and Provincial Development Plans;
- Review potential reforms to enable effective on-budget aid, as promised at the Kabul Conference (p. 50);
- Exchange knowledge and facilitate public policy dialogue with key partners from the academic/policy research community, private sector and civil society;
- Conduct studies to enhance and facilitate private sector investment; and
- Draft a guideline for the institutionalisation of policies.

The main beneficiaries of PADD's work include: the MoF itself, the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Economic Issues, the Government Coordination Committee, the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB, p. 47), the Minister of Finance, and the Cluster Coordinating Ministers (see p. 30).

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) are designed to provide a framework of operation for donors and governments of poor countries. To qualify for debt relief and other concessions, low-income countries must produce a PRSP for certain donors, including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The PRSP format is flexible, but it is based on a number of set principles. A PRSP should:

- Be country-driven and owned, with the input of civil society and the private sector;
- Have results oriented to benefit the poor;
- Be comprehensive in recognising the multidimensional nature of poverty;
- Be partnership-oriented (developed in cooperation with bilateral, multilateral and nongovernmental actors); and
- Be based on a long-term perspective for poverty reduction.

Interim PRSPs (I-PRSPs) are developed by countries that are not yet ready to develop a full PRSP. At the Berlin Meeting (p. 26) in 2001, Afghanistan agreed to prepare a PRSP, with an I-PRSP due in June 2005. At the April 2005 Afghanistan Development Forum, it was decided that the development of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15) would meet the benchmarks of a PRSP process. The Interim ANDS, which was launched in January 2006 after a nine-month preparation period moved the country toward the achievement of a full PRSP. The full ANDS was finalised in April 2008 and submitted to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund as Afghanistan's PRSP.

Provincial Development Plan (PDP) and Provincial Strategic Planning

Aimed at ensuring broad consensus on development priorities in Afghanistan, the creation of a Provincial Development Plan (PDP) for each of the country's 34 provinces was initiated by the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15). The plans were the result of subnational consultations with local communities organised in every province to identify priorities and proposals for projects. Subsequent consultations were held with representatives from provincial administrations, civil society, and donor organisations to ensure the plans were aligned with the strategies of relevant government ministries. Updated annually, the plans cover key sectors: infrastructure and natural resources, economic governance and private sector development, agriculture and rural development, education, health, social protection, governance, security, and rule of law/human rights. According to the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG, p. 43), the PDP process is among the efforts made to have provincial planning and budgeting performed by the provinces, rather than for the provinces (by central ministries in Kabul).

The IDLG has also begun a process of Provincial Strategic Planning (PSP) based on an assessment of the long-term strategic development issues in each province. These plans are created in a participatory manner, consulting all relevant line ministries and other stakeholders. This is a lengthy process, taking six to eight months per province. Pilot plans have been completed in Balkh, Bamiyan, Herat, Nangarhar and Laghman. The IDLG plans to begin rolling out the PSP process across all remaining provinces during 2012.

Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT)

www.nato.int/isaf/topics/prt

Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) are small teams of both military and civilian staff located in bases; PRTs support the implementation of development priorities throughout the country. They are intended to facilitate reconstruction and provide security for assistance efforts at the provincial level. The concept was first proposed by Coalition Forces (CF, p. 32) and the United States embassy in mid-2002 during discussions about shifting from Operation Enduring Freedom's Phase III (combat phase) to Phase IV (reconstruction phase). The establishment of PRTs was officially announced and endorsed by President Karzai in November 2002.

PRTs were originally established by CF. However, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF, p. 45) began taking over and establishing new PRTs in the North and West of Afghanistan in 2003 after an October 2003 UN Security Council resolution expanded ISAF's mandate beyond Kabul. Command of PRTs in the South and East was transferred to ISAF in 2006, leaving ISAF in charge of all PRTs in Afghanistan.

The objective of PRTs, as set forth by the PRT Executive Steering Committee, is to:

...assist the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to extend its authority, in order to facilitate the development of a stable and secure environment in the identified areas of operations, and enable SSR [Security Sector Reform] and reconstruction efforts.

This broad mission statement is not backed by a detailed mandate, and there is no single PRT model. While PRTs are led by individual lead nations, the military components of PRTs fall under the authority of ISAF commanders. The structure and operation of PRTs are influenced by the situation in particular provinces as well as by the philosophies, caveats and instructions of troop-contributing countries.

Each PRT comprises an average of 80 people. Roughly 60 are civilian experts in areas such as engineering or agriculture, and about 20 are civilian specialists working with donor agencies and their Afghan partners. Some PRTs also have agricultural and veterinary advisors, civilian police trainers, governance advisors, development advisors and counter-narcotic specialists. The military personnel provide protection for the civilian component, while the coordination of reconstruction and development activities is the responsibility of civilian PRT staff.

PRT activities are monitored and guided by a PRT Executive Steering Committee chaired by the Minister of Interior and co-chaired by ISAF and CF commanders. The Committee includes representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, CF, ISAF, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA, see p. 75), and troop-contributing countries. A PRT working group supports the work of the Steering Committee.

Some NGO actors are concerned that PRT involvement in humanitarian assistance blurs the distinction between the military and aid sectors. It has also been suggested that the use of PRTs to deliver services leads local people to turn to them rather than the Afghan state for assistance, and they are therefore not a sustainable development solution. Proponents counter that PRTs can enable assistance projects to be carried out in high-risk areas generally inaccessible to aid agencies.

PRTs' roles are changing as Transition (p. 73) takes place. Tasked with identifying gaps in local governance and development which could threaten the viability of an area's post-Transition security, PRTs then address these gaps. PRTs' activities are therefore evolving from direct service delivery to technical assistance and capacity-building. As PRT functions in a province are transferred to the Afghan government along with its security, PRTs in their current form will no longer exist after 2014.

As of January 2012, there are 27 PRTs operating in Afghanistan. Thirteen are provided by the United States (including one joint Australia/US-run PRT in Uruzgan Province), two each by Germany and Turkey, and one each by New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Spain, Lithuania, Norway, Hungary, Sweden, and the Czech Republic.

Public Administration Reform (PAR)

The Afghan government's Public Administration Reform (PAR) framework seeks to create an efficient, effective and transparent civil service in Afghanistan. Overseen by the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC, p. 41) and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG, p. 43), PAR is one of the priorities laid out in the Afghanistan Compact (p. 12), the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15) and the Kabul Process (p. 50).

PAR aims to address a variety of problems, including: the fragmentation of government structures, with many overlapping functions and a lack of coordination among agencies; the often tenuous connection between the centre (Kabul) and the provinces; unclear lines of accountability with weak reinforcement mechanisms; the lack of experienced professional staff with the necessary skills; the lack of robust procedures for recruitment and appointment on merit, which has led to a high level of patronage-based appointments; the need for a pay and grading structure which attracts, retains and motivates civil servants; poor physical infrastructure; and slow and outdated administrative systems.

A central element of PAR has been the Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) initiative, aimed at creating administrative capacity in ministries and giving targeted salary increases. PRR was also designed to ensure consistency across ministries that are reforming with the help of different donors.

In 2005, the PAR programme was redesigned and the current framework was developed, shifting the focus away from piecemeal initiatives toward more comprehensive reform involving whole ministries and other independent agencies that are allocated funds directly from the Ministry of Finance (also known as primary budget units); it was also intended to move the reforms from the centre to provinces and districts. This version of the PAR programme is organised into five parts, along functional and programmatic themes: 1) administrative reform; 2) salaries and incentives; 3) civil service management; 4) ensuring and expanding merit-based appointments; and 5) capacity enhancement.

As of December 2011, PAR had been implemented across around 65 percent of both provincial and central government, introducing initiatives such as the Performance and Grading pay system. Similarly, 66 district governors had been recruited through open, merit-based competition.

The next generation of the PAR programme is being developed by the Strategy and Policy Unit of the IARCSC's Civil Service Management Department, and is currently in the consultative phase. In line with the commitments made at the 2010 Kabul Conference, this initiative will be linked to the scaling up of the Civil Service Reform Project. It is expected that the new PAR will focus on

the ongoing efforts to de-politicise civil service recruitment, reform pay and grading, introduce individual and institutional performance appraisal linked to the budgetary cycle, and use this performance appraisal to determine the needs of further capacity-building. The new PAR will also include a gender perspective.

For more information on Afghanistan's public sector, see p. 91.

Regional Cooperation

www.mfa.gov.af

Afghanistan is a member of several regional associations and mechanisms, with a variety of remits and aims:

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC): Member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, the Maldives and Nepal. SAARC has 16 stated areas of cooperation, including agriculture, economy and trade, poverty alleviation and security aspects.

Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO): Member states are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Turkey. The stated aim of the ECO is to establish a single market for goods and services.

Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC): Member states are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. An Asian Development Bank (ADB) initiative, CAREC promotes regional projects in energy, transport and trade facilitation.

Central and South Asian Transport and Trade Forum (CSATTF): Also an ADB initiative, CSATTF aims to promote better integration of Central and South Asian trade routes and reduce barriers to trade in the region.

UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA): Member states are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. This programme aims to strengthen sub-regional cooperation in Central Asia and further the region's integration into the world economy.

Afghanistan also serves in the Contact Group of the Shanghai Cooperation Association, and the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) states its desire to have an increasingly active role in the organisation.

In November 2011, Afghanistan and 13 regional states signed up to the "Istanbul Process," which aims to enhance regional cooperation in terms of security, economics, counter narcotics and development (see Istanbul Regional Conference, p. 46). At the time it was stated that specific plans to achieve the goals set by the Istanbul Conference would be presented at a meeting in Kabul some time in 2012.

The MoFA states that through regional cooperation, the government seeks to:

- Improve trade opportunities;
- Integrate with regional road and rail networks;
- Become an important partner in regional energy markets;
- Eliminate the narcotics trade; and
- Achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, page 55).

Security Sector Reform (SSR)

Announced at the February 2003 Tokyo Meeting on the Consolidation of Peace in Afghanistan (p. 73), the government's framework for Security Sector Reform (SSR) had five pillars:

1. The establishment of the Afghan National Army (ANA, p. 6).
2. The establishment of the Afghan National Police (ANP, p. 7).
3. Justice Sector Reform (JSR, p. 48).
4. Counter Narcotics (CN, p. 36).
5. Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR, see Afghanistan New Beginnings Programme, p. 17, and Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, p. 20).

Upon completion of the DDR process in June 2005, the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG, see ANBP p. 17) commenced, designed to disarm and disband illegal armed groups operating outside central government control. In March 2011 DIAG came to an end and the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP) began.

With the exception of DDR, these pillars corresponded explicitly to the reform and creation of government ministries—respectively the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Counter Narcotics. At the Bonn 2001 (p. 27) and Tokyo meetings (p. 73), five donor countries agreed to each take the lead on a specific SSR pillar: the United States on the ANA, Germany on the ANP (a role later taken over by the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan, p. 39), Italy on JSR, Japan on DDR, and the United Kingdom on CN. Originally referred to as “lead donors,” these “key partners” were responsible for overseeing their particular sectors, although they were not necessarily contributing the most funds; the “lead donor” or “key partner” terminology is no longer used. Additional donors are involved to various degrees in each area, and the United States is involved to some extent in all of them.

Since 2004, the National Security Council (NSC) and the Office of the NSC have been responsible for overall coordination of SSR activities and established two coordinating committees, both of which included international representation: the Security Sector Reform Coordination Committee and the Security Coordination Forum. A new SSR strategy was referred to in the final Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15), which was approved by President Hamid Karzai in

April 2008. However, unlike ANDS, the national security policy and SSR strategy are not publicly available.

In 2009, a non-state security force was created as a short-term solution until effective state security forces are realised. This Afghan Public Protection Program (APPP or AP3) trained local people to serve as community guard forces in unsecured regions. It has since evolved into the Afghan Local Police programme, a major initiative which began in July 2010 (ALP, see p. 5). However, concerns have been raised that community-based self-defence initiatives could undermine state authority and progress made in disarmament.

Southern and Western Afghanistan and Balochistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC)

The Southern and Western Afghanistan and Balochistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC) is a coordination body for Afghan and international NGOs working in southern Afghanistan. Its head office is in Kandahar and it is currently seeking funding to open a sub-office in Kabul.

SWABAC was founded in September 1988 by 12 NGOs engaged in relief and rehabilitation work with Afghan refugee villages in Balochistan and communities inside Afghanistan. Membership is open to government-registered NGOs working in southern Afghanistan who show a dedication to coordination and have proof of donor funding, an organisational profile, and are certified by five other NGOs. As of December 2011, SWABAC had 41 members. It holds regular membership meetings, monthly general assembly meetings, and biweekly panel meetings for the advisory committee, as well as meetings on an ad-hoc basis.

SWABAC's activities fall within three major categories: coordination, advocacy, and capacity -building. SWABAC provides a forum for members to discuss their concerns about policy guidelines for delivering assistance, resource management, and other operational issues, with the ultimate goal of improving coordination among the assistance community in southern Afghanistan. SWABAC was involved in drafting the NGO Code of Conduct (p. 141) in cooperation with the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR, p. 25), the Afghan NGO Coordination Bureau (ANCB, p. 9), and the Afghan Women's Network (AWN, p. 10). On behalf of its member NGOs and as a representative of the southern region, SWABAC played a role in developing both the Agriculture and the Rural Development sectors in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15).

In 2010, SWABAC participated in the London Conference (p. 53) and contributed to the civil society statements for the National Consultative Peace Jirga (p. 60) and Kabul Conference (p. 50). SWABAC also participated in an NGO network meeting in Berlin arranged by VENRO (an umbrella group of German development NGOs) on 27 June 2011. SWABAC was a member of the Civil Society Consultation on Afghanistan at the International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn in December 2011 (p. 27) and played a major role in introducing regional representatives there, and in the preparing of a joint civil society statement to be presented at the conference. SWABAC is currently the lead agency for the Local Cooperation and Coordination Sector of Kandahar's Provincial Development Committee.

Tokyo Meetings

www.mofa.go.jp/region/middle_e/afghanistan/min0201

The Tokyo Ministerial Meeting—formally known as the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan—was a meeting of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Steering Group (ARSG) that mobilised the first substantial post-Taliban donor commitments for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. It took place on 21-22 January 2002, and was co-chaired by Japan, the United States, the European Union, and Saudi Arabia. Ministers and representatives from 61 countries and 21 international organisations attended. NGOs held a separate parallel meeting, the results of which were reported to the plenary session of the Ministerial Meeting.

Discussions focused on a comprehensive framework for reconstruction over the longer term and costed the recovery needs of Afghanistan over the following ten years at \$15 billion. This figure was increased to \$27.4 billion in the *Securing Afghanistan's Future* report that resulted from the Berlin Meeting (p. 26) held in March 2004.

In February 2003 another meeting was held in Tokyo: the Tokyo Conference on the Consolidation of Peace in Afghanistan. It was held to discuss security reform in Afghanistan and resulted in the five-pillar Security Sector Reform (SSR, p. 71) strategy.

Transition

Transition, or *Inteqal* in Dari and Pashto, is best known as the process by which responsibility for Afghanistan's security will be transferred from NATO and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF, p. 9). NATO has declared that Transition will be an events-based, rather than calendar-driven process, but both the Afghan government and NATO allies aim to complete the security handover by the end of 2014. Several NATO ally governments have also set this date as the deadline for a significant drawdown in troop commitments to Afghanistan (for more details on troop numbers, see ISAF, p. 45).

Transition was first discussed at the London Conference of January 2010 (p. 53), where it was agreed that the ANSF would begin to take security leadership on a province-by-province basis. More detailed plans were then prepared for the July 2010 Kabul Conference (p. 50), at which the Afghan government's *Inteqal* paper was endorsed by the international community. This paper called for significant increases in both the quality and quantity of the ANSF, the achievement of which has become a key part of the Transition process.

The handover of security responsibility is being undertaken in four stages. The first tranche of territory to be handed to Afghan forces was announced in March 2011. This tranche comprised Bamyán Province (all districts), Panjshir Province (all districts), Kabul Province (all districts except Surobi), as well as the municipalities of Mazar-i-Sharif (Balkh Province), Herat (Herat Province), Lashkar Gah (Helmand Province) and Mehtarlam (Laghman Province). These first areas account for between 20 and 25 percent of the population of Afghanistan. The second tranche was announced in November 2011. It includes all of Balkh, Day Kundi, Nimroz, Takhar and Samangan provinces,

as well as selected districts in a further 13 provinces. Completion of the second tranche will leave the ANSF with security responsibility for over 50 percent of the population. As of January 2012, it seemed likely that the third tranche of areas to be transferred would be announced shortly before the international conference planned for May 2012 in Chicago.

Given that the handover of responsibility for an area's security must be an irreversible process, conditions for Transition are assessed by ISAF's Joint Afghan-NATO Inteqal Board (JANIB). JANIB then submits its assessment to the Afghan Cabinet for approval, after which implementation can begin. Assessment of an area's suitability is based on four main criteria:

- ANSF are capable of shouldering greater security tasks with less ISAF assistance;
- Security is at a level which allows the population to undertake daily routine activities;
- Local governance is sufficiently developed so that security will not be undermined as ISAF assistance is reduced; and
- ISAF is ready to reduce its presence as ANSF capabilities develop and threat levels diminish.

The third of these factors reflects the increased emphasis that both the government and the international community has put on local governance, leading to a number of decentralising initiatives under the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG, p. 43). The necessity of improving local security has also led to the creation and expansion of the Afghan Local Police programme (ALP, p. 5).

The handover of security responsibility in an area does not mean that ISAF forces leave or cease to function. Rather, they continue to play an active though decreasing security role under an Afghan lead. The process of ANSF taking complete responsibility for an area's security is lengthy; as of January 2012, the US Department of Defense expected the first tranche of districts to finish this process in the next 10-22 months.

As of January 2012 it is unclear how many (if any) foreign troops will remain in Afghanistan following the complete handover of security to the ANSF. ISAF has stated that Transition does not signal ISAF's withdrawal from the country, merely a shift to a supporting role as the ANSF develop their capabilities. However, domestic political commitments by NATO allies make it likely that troop numbers will be sharply reduced by the end of 2014.

Transition will also affect the role of the international community in Afghanistan. The part played by international actors will evolve from direct service delivery to support and capacity-building for Afghan institutions. This process includes the phasing out of all Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs, p. 67) and the dissolution of any structures duplicating the functions and authorities of the Afghan government at the national and subnational levels.

Despite the final declaration of the 2011 Bonn Conference (p. 27) reiterating the international community's long term commitment to Afghanistan, there is concern that the withdrawal of foreign troops will mean a sharp reduction in aid made available for Afghan development. The World Bank has projected that even if Afghanistan achieves robust economic growth, a finance

gap of up to 25 percent of GDP could emerge by 2021, and only sustained international funding is likely to be able to meet these needs. There is therefore a worry that international aid will be concentrated on the ANSF rather than social and economic development.

United Nations in Afghanistan

The United Nations (UN) system is represented in Afghanistan by the integrated UN Mission comprising the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and 26 UN agencies, funds and programmes. The UN's development and humanitarian functions, in addition to the international financial institutions the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and voluntary members such as the Asian Development Bank and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), are brought together under the umbrella of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT).

Although the UN system has been present in Afghanistan since the 1960s with the presence of several UN specialised agencies, the integrated mission in its current form was established in 2002 following the Bonn Agreement (p. 27) and the subsequent passing of Security Council Resolution 1401 on 28 March 2002. UNAMA's mandate has been continuously extended since 2002, and is renewed by the Security Council each March.

It provides UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Afghanistan with a mandate to support the government in its efforts to improve critical areas, including security, governance and economic development, and regional cooperation, as well as to support the full implementation of mutual commitments made on these issues at the London Conference in January 2010 (p. 53), the Kabul Conference in July 2010 (p. 50) and most recently at the Istanbul Regional Conference in November 2011 (p. 46) and the Bonn Conference in December 2011 (p. 27). The mission is further instructed to continue to: provide political and strategic advice for the peace process, provide good offices, promote human rights, provide technical assistance, and ensure the coordination of humanitarian relief and UN development activities in coordination with the Afghan government. The Secretary-General reports on progress made in the implementation of the mandate, presenting to the Security Council on a quarterly basis.

UNAMA focuses its efforts on supporting elections, peace and reconciliation, regional cooperation, promoting good governance and rule of law, human rights and development coherence. Overall, UNAMA's operations are divided into Pillar 1 (political affairs) and Pillar 2 (development and humanitarian affairs). In recent years some of the UNAMA's key activities have included:

- Supporting donor and government coordination through the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB, p. 47);
- Promoting the implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15) and the National Priority Programs (NPPs, p. 32);
- Promoting peace and reconciliation through supporting the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme and the High Peace Council (APRP, p. 20);

- Developing the capacity of government and conflict resolution at provincial levels;
- Promoting human rights through monitoring and publishing reports on the protection of civilians and civilian casualties, as well as the implementation of the Elimination of Violence against Women Law; and
- Ensuring that human development remains central to policy dialogue surrounding security Transition (p. 73).

Within the overall context of the UN's commitment to supporting the government's aim of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, p. 55) and providing humanitarian relief to the most vulnerable, the UN development and humanitarian agencies provide support in their specialised areas of operation as per each agency's mandate.

The integrated mission is headed by the SRSG, Ján Kubiš, who took up the post in January 2012. The Office of the SRSG is responsible for overall policy guidance and high-level decision-making for the political component of the mission, in addition to liaising with the Afghan Government, Coalition Forces (p. 32), and the International Security Assistance Force (p. 45). The SRSG is supported by two deputies as well as a number of Special Advisers on human rights, gender, drugs, rule of law, police, military, and legal issues, as well as communication. The two deputies (DSRSGs) head the two pillars of UNAMA's operations. The UNAMA Chief of Staff is responsible for integrating the two pillars of the mission.

The UNCT in Afghanistan brings together all UN agencies, funds and programmes engaged with Afghanistan as well as many UN secretariat departments, including UNAMA. This includes a number of non-resident UN agencies that engage with Afghanistan through programmes or other activities but do not have an established office in country. Such actors include, among others, UNAIDS, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The UN agencies, funds and programmes represent Pillar 2, the development and humanitarian branch of the UN in Afghanistan. The DSRSG for Pillar 2 fulfils multiple roles, as this position also comprises being the Resident Coordinator (RC), Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and the Resident Representative (RR) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The RC/HC functions link the development and humanitarian arms of the UN to UNAMA. Supported by the RC's Office, the RC is responsible for heading the UNCT and coordinating the UN's development agencies; supported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the HC is responsible for the coordination of the humanitarian community in Afghanistan.

The UN system is present in all 34 provinces of the country through sub-offices or programmes. The combined efforts of UN staff in the provinces support capacity-building of local government and promote peace-building and reconciliation, as well as human rights and the empowerment of civil society, and provide basic social services down to the district level. UNAMA and a number of UN agencies, such as the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), have sub-offices and project

representatives in various provinces, while other agencies implement programmes at the local level exclusively through the government, nongovernmental organisations and communities. In addition to the main offices in Kabul, there are eight UNAMA regional offices, in Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalabad, Kunduz, Bamiyan and Gardez, and 15 provincial offices, in Day Kundi, Jawzjan, Faryab, Sar-i-Pul, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Takhar, Khost, Uruzgan, Zabul, Nimroz, Farah, Badghis, Ghor and Kunar. Liaison offices in Tehran, Asghabad and Islamabad support the mission's work in regional coordination.

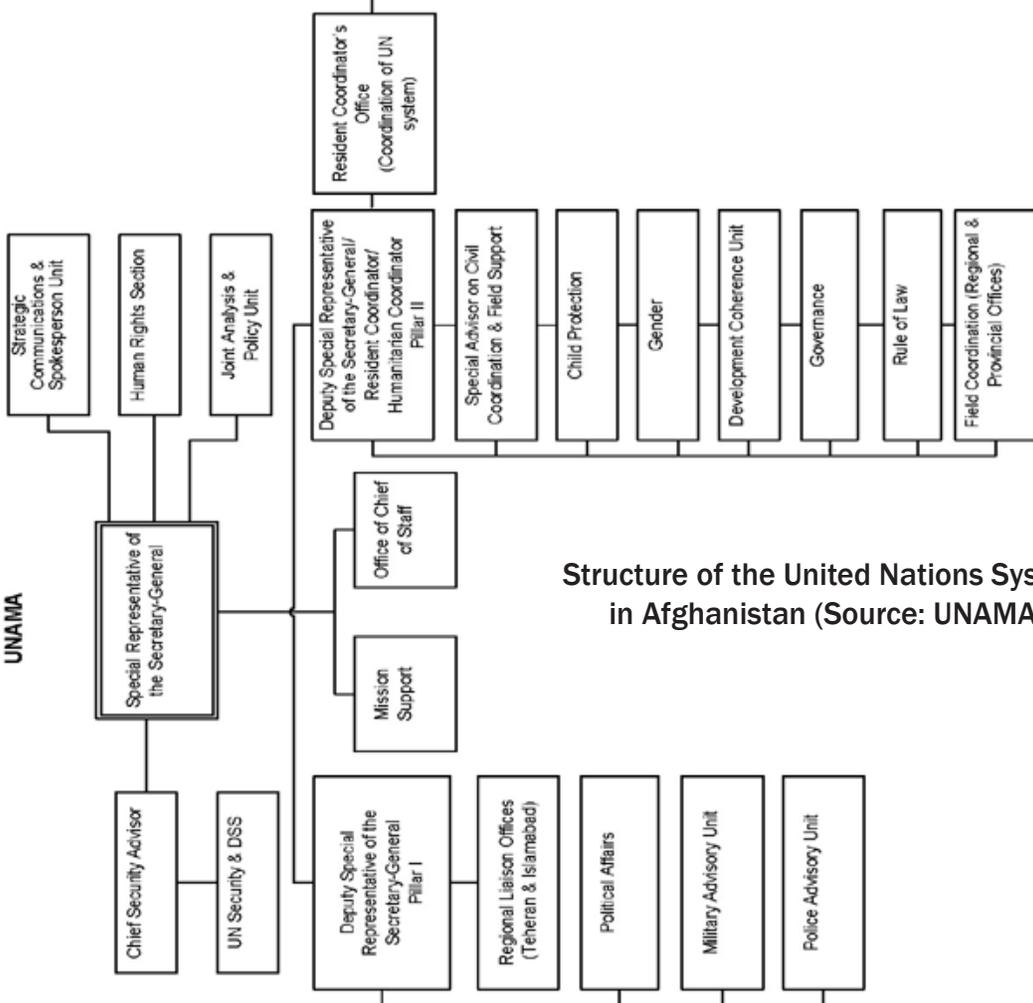
A number of strategic and programmatic UN standard frameworks govern the programmes and interventions of the UN system. In an effort to provide a comprehensive and coherent response to the development, humanitarian and political challenges in Afghanistan and to support the government, the UN system aims to deliver in a coherent manner within the Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF) and the UN Development Assistance Framework 2010-13 (UNDAF).

The ISF defines the overarching strategic direction that the UN system as a whole is taking in Afghanistan, and ensures the cohesion of all facets of the UN's political, developmental and humanitarian work. The ISF is supported by the UNDAF, which is a programme-planning framework for all UN agencies operating in Afghanistan. It is important to note that although the UNDAF describes the common response of the UN system at the country level, it does not replace each agency's individual country programme, and as such does not always encapsulate all aspects of an agency's work. The humanitarian aspects of UN programming are governed by the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP, p. 34), which is development and released annually.

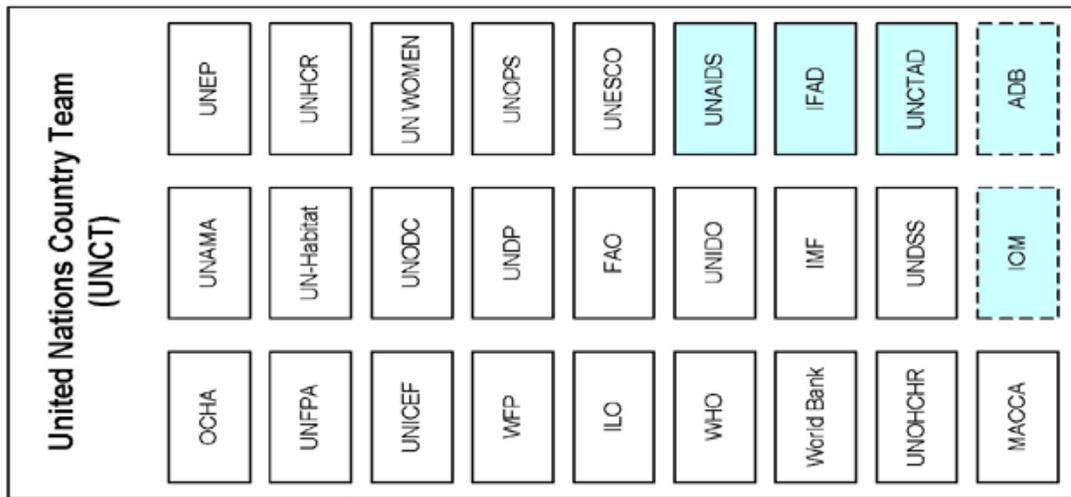
The 2010-13 UNDAF in Afghanistan is the country's second, and was launched in October 2009. The UNDAF is jointly developed by the members of the UNCT and is the result of extensive consultations with government, civil society, and international partners. It is signed by the Afghan government and was developed to frame the UN's support to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (p. 15). The UNDAF comprises three mutually reinforcing priorities: 1) governance, peace and stability, 2) sustainable livelihoods, including: agriculture, food security and income opportunities, and 3) basic social services, including: health, education, water and sanitation. Preparations for the next UNDAF spanning 2014-2018 will be launched in 2012. Environment, gender and women's empowerment as well as counter-narcotics are considered cross-cutting areas which should be mainstreamed into all programme areas.

UNAMA and UNDP jointly take the lead of the first priority area, which also involves MACCA (see Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan, p. 56), IOM, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNOPS, UNCTAD, UNODC, UNFPA, ILO, UN Women and UNICEF (see abbreviations below). FAO takes the lead in the second area, with ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, UN-Habitat, UNEP, UNFPA, UNHCR and UN Women also active in its focus on livelihoods. This priority area will complement the government's efforts to support literacy and vocational training, primary and secondary schooling, and higher education. The third area is jointly lead by UNFPA, UNICEF and UNESCO in accordance with their global mandate, with strong additional engagement by WHO, WFP, FAO, UN Women and IOM. The UNCT also supports the improvement of health systems and services, and the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation.

UNAMA



Structure of the United Nations System in Afghanistan (Source: UNAMA)



Key:

Non-resident UN Agency

Non-UN Agency

UN Resident Agency

Members of the UNCT in Afghanistan are:

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)
- United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Department for Security and Safety (UNDSS)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
- United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- World Bank (WB)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)

Water Resources

The majority of Afghanistan's population relies on subsistence farming for survival, and as a result conservation of the country's water resources is vital. Rural communities rely on sufficient precipitation to irrigate their crops. Limited rain and snowfall in late 2010 and early 2011 led to drought in northern and western Afghanistan, affecting between one and three million people. The drought significantly damaged the year's wheat harvest, ultimately reducing food security throughout the country.

Currently, Afghanistan annually receives around 2,775 cubic meters of water per capita, comfortably above the 1,700 cubic meters per capita threshold considered necessary to satisfy a population's water needs. However this significant quantity of water is not uniformly distributed across the country. For instance, the northern river basin contains only three percent of the country's water volume, giving an average of 676 cubic meters per capita for the region—dangerously close to the water scarcity threshold of 500 cubic meters per capita.

Furthermore, the lack of water storage capacity makes Afghanistan highly vulnerable to inter- and intra-annual variations in water availability. In general, the country's water infrastructure remains highly underdeveloped; the majority of the country's 12 reservoirs were constructed between 1920 and 1940, and Afghanistan currently has one of the lowest water storage capacities in the world. Currently, Afghanistan also has the world's lowest average access to sanitary water; in 2007 this figure was 26.8 percent of the population.

Traditional water distribution methods have been seriously affected by conflict and are open to abuse by corrupt officials, with water now the second greatest cause of disputes within communities. There is a need to improve management by building on the *mirab* (water master) system—where communities appoint representatives to manage communal water resources—in order to tackle issues such as equity in water sharing and conflict resolution.

Population and economic growth, along with improving living standards will drive up the requisite volume of water in the country; it is projected that by 2025 the volume of available water per capita will have declined by 36 percent relative to the quantity available in 2004. This has particularly worrying implications for expanding urban areas—it is estimated that by 2050 Kabul will require six times as much water as it does currently. Without accompanying economic modernisation, this trend could pose a significant long-term threat to food security throughout the country.

With the water sector seen as a key part of achieving Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, p. 55), a Water Sector Strategy was created under the infrastructure pillar of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, page 15). Water also features prominently in other sectoral strategies such as agriculture, energy, the environment, rural development and urban development. The Strategy's short-term goals, such as extending access to sanitary water to 90 percent of villages, were due to be completed in 2010; medium-term goals, such as the reform and development of legal and governance structures in the water sector, should be completed by 2013; and long-term goals, such as the rehabilitation of existing water infrastructure

and the construction of new infrastructure, should be completed by 2023 and beyond. However, the country's most recent National Human Development Report (NHDR, p. 61) claims that these targets are overly ambitious, and unlikely to be achieved in the next few decades.

In 2009 a Water Law was enacted. Based on Article 9 of the Constitution it establishes a framework for regulation and institutional reorganisation of the water sector, adopting the "good water governance" principles of international mechanisms such as Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), which devolves water management to basin and sub-basin levels.

Between 2003 and 2009, \$1.2 billion was committed in funding to water projects, with the US, the World Bank, Germany, Canada, the European Commission and Japan the largest funders. However, only \$578 million (48 percent) of that figure has been disbursed. Current government projects in the water development sector include the Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Irrigation Program, run by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and funded by USAID, the UK's Department For International Development (DFID), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the European Commission-funded Panj-Amu River Basin Programme and Western Basin Project. These programmes represent attempts to pilot the IWRM approach in Afghanistan, with the ultimate aim of introducing it across the country.

For more information on the current situation of Afghanistan's water resources, see: NHDR 2011, "The Forgotten Front: Water Security and the Crisis in Sanitation" (<http://www.cphd.af/ahdr2011.html>); and various publications from AREU's "Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy" research project (<http://areu.org.af/ResearchProjectDetails.aspx?contentid=2&ParentId=2&ResearchProjectId=647855732>).

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Background

Following the collapse of the Taliban regime at the end of 2001, Afghan factional leaders came together at a UN-sponsored conference in Bonn, Germany, where the Bonn Agreement (p. 27) was signed. The Agreement appointed the Afghanistan Interim Administration (AIA) and set out a timetable for re-establishing permanent government institutions and “a broad-based, gender sensitive, multi-ethnic and fully representative government” in Afghanistan over the course of two and a half years. The Emergency Loya Jirga (ELJ, p. 38) of June 2002 replaced the AIA with the Afghanistan Transitional Authority (ATA, p. 10), and elected Hamid Karzai as the Head of State—and temporary Head of Government in the absence of a legislature—of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan.

In line with the Bonn timetable, a new Constitution (full text, p. 112) was debated and endorsed by a Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ, p. 35), which ran from 14 December 2003 to 4 January 2004. The Constitution provides for an elected President, along with two nominated Vice Presidents, and a National Assembly comprising two houses, the lower Wolesi Jirga (House of the People) and the upper Meshrano Jirga (House of Elders). On the subnational level, it provides for elected Provincial, District, Village and Municipal Councils, as well as Governors and Mayors appointed by the President.

In an election held on 9 October 2004, Hamid Karzai became the first popularly elected President of Afghanistan, with 55 percent of the vote. He was sworn in on 7 December 2004, at which time the transitional state officially became the new Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Legislative and Provincial and District Council elections were supposed to be held concurrently with the Presidential election, but were postponed due to security and technical problems. Elections for the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Councils were eventually held on 18 September 2005. A second set of Presidential and Provincial Council elections took place in 2009, a controversial process that ended with President Karzai assuming office for his second term. These were followed by a similarly problematic second set of elections for the Wolesi Jirga in September 2010. District, Village and Municipal Council elections have not yet occurred.

Government in Afghanistan

The Executive

The executive branch of Afghanistan’s central government is comprised of the Office of the President, two Vice Presidents, the Attorney General, the Cabinet comprised of 26 ministers, as well as several independent bodies and other central government agencies (see organogram, p. 95). The President is directly elected for a five-year period and can serve a maximum of two terms. Candidates for the presidency name their two vice presidential candidates at the time of nomination. The President is the Head of State, the Chair of the Cabinet, and the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.

The overall Office of the President consists of the Office of the President itself, the Security Council, the Press Office, and the Office of Administrative Affairs (OAA, p. 64), which provides administrative, logistical and financial support to the President, Vice Presidents, and advisors to the President.

The President nominates ministers, the Attorney General, the Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank (the central bank), the members of the Supreme Court, the Head of the National Directorate of Security, and the President of the Red Crescent Society. Nominees are then subject to parliamentary vote, and if rejected by the National Assembly, may not assume office. Of 24 ministerial nominees initially put forward by the President in December 2009, only 7 were accepted by the Wolesi Jirga. Several more were confirmed after new submissions in January and June 2010, but 10 ministries remained with Acting Ministers until March 2012, when, following several changes to ministerial nominees, all were accepted by the National Assembly. According to the Constitution, all other executive posts, including that of the Vice Presidents, the Mayor of Kabul, and the heads of various commissions, are appointed by the President and do not require the approval of the National Assembly.

The Legislature

National Assembly

As provided by the 2004 Constitution, the National Assembly—commonly referred to as the Parliament—consists of two houses, the lower Wolesi Jirga (House of the People) and the upper Meshrano Jirga (House of Elders). The new National Assembly convened for the first time in December 2005, following the September 2005 parliamentary elections.

Members of the Wolesi Jirga are directly elected for five years by provincial constituencies. There are currently 249 seats in the Wolesi Jirga; the Constitution stipulates that the maximum number of seats is 250. Seats are distributed among the provinces according to population size (see table on p. 99). The Constitution states that an average of two seats from each province, 68 in total, are reserved for women. Ten seats are reserved for the Kuchi (traditionally nomadic) population, three of which must go to women. The provision for Kuchis has, however, been hotly contested among parliamentarians since the 2005 elections.

The Meshrano Jirga has 102 members, selected by a mixture of presidential appointments (one-third) and indirect elections following popular elections for the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial and District Councils (two-thirds). The Constitution stipulates that members of the Meshrano Jirga are elected and appointed as follows:

- From among the members of each Provincial Council, the respective council elects one person for a period of four years
- From among the District Councils of each province, the respective councils elect one person for a period of three years

The President appoints the remaining one-third of the members, including two representatives of the disabled and two representatives of Kuchis, for a period of five years. Of these presidential appointees, 50 percent must be women.

While the Constitution has provisions for District Council elections, these have not been held to date. A temporary solution was devised for the interim: instead of one, each Provincial Council elects two of its members to the Meshrano Jirga (one for four years and a second for three years

or until district elections are held), thereby maintaining the 2:1 ratio of elected to appointed seats. This temporary means of forming the Meshrano Jirga has now been in place for seven years, and there remain no clear plans to hold District Council elections in the near future.

Members of the National Assembly must be Afghan citizens. Candidates must be at least 25 years of age at the date of candidacy for the Wolesi Jirga, and at least 35 at the date of election or appointment to the Meshrano Jirga. It is not possible to be a member of both the Meshrano Jirga and Wolesi Jirga at the same time.

The National Assembly convenes two ordinary sessions per year, and its term is nine months in the year. Sessions are open to the public unless secrecy is requested by the Chairman of the National Assembly or at least ten members, and it is granted by the Assembly.

According to Article 90 of the Constitution, the National Assembly has the following authorities:

- Ratification, modification or abrogation of laws and legislative decrees
- Approval of plans for economic, social, cultural and technological development
- Approval of the state budget, and permission for obtaining and granting loans
- Creation, modification and abrogation of administrative units
- Ratification of international treaties and agreements, or abrogation of the membership of Afghanistan to them
- Other authorities specified in the Constitution

Policies and legislation can be initiated by the Office of the President, individual ministries, or the National Assembly, and become law after passing through both houses of the National Assembly and being endorsed by the President. Article 94 of the Constitution states that:

- Law is what both Houses of the National Assembly approve and the President endorses unless this Constitution states otherwise
- In case the President does not agree to what the National Assembly approves, he can send the document back with justifiable reasons to the Wolesi Jirga within 15 days of its submission
- With the passage of this period or in case the Wolesi Jirga approves a particular case again with a two-third majority vote, the bill is considered endorsed and enforced

Certain legislative documents (rules, directives and guidelines) can be decreed by individual ministers. A proposed bill or signed decree should be passed by the National Assembly within one month of its submission. There are 18 commissions in the Wolesi Jirga and 14 in the Meshrano Jirga.

The 2001 Bonn Agreement stated that the Constitution of 1964 and other existing laws (providing they were not inconsistent with the Bonn Agreement or Afghanistan's international legal obligations) would constitute an interim legal framework until a new Constitution was passed. The new Constitution entered into force in 2004 and many decrees and laws have been enacted according

to its provisions. The department of the Ministry of Justice responsible for drafting legislation, the *Taqnin*, has drafted many laws that have replaced old legislation. Contradictory legislation enacted by various former regimes remains, however, and harmonisation efforts continue. For more information about laws in Afghanistan, see p. 52.

Support to the National Assembly

A number of international actors have provided technical support to the National Assembly, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Support to the Establishment of the Afghan Legislature (SEAL) project, which began in February 2005 and was extended in March 2008 for a further four years. This project has provided assistance including legal support, information and communication technologies, parliamentary outreach and public awareness programmes, project management, and specialised training. More recently, SEAL has been involved with encouraging political party/issues-based group development inside parliament.

Another major initiative is the USAID-funded Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Project (APAP, www.sunyaf.org), which is implemented by the Centre for International Development of the State University of New York (SUNY/CID). It was launched in 2004 to assist in establishing a parliament that "is able to operate as a strong, independent and effective deliberative body." The project is due to expire in June 2012, but as of January 2012 USAID is working on a follow-on programme that will run to May 2015. Through the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute, APAP works to develop the institutional capacity of the National Assembly secretariat to more effectively support Members of Parliament (MPs) in their legislative roles. APAP also works to strengthen the capacity of the MPs themselves in carrying out their legislative, representative and oversight responsibilities. This includes helping the National Assembly to increase its engagement with constituents and build its linkages with the executive branch of government, civil society, NGOs, and the media. APAP makes available several resources to the international community, including a regularly published legislative newsletter containing updates on parliamentary activities.

Other organisations previously or currently providing support to the National Assembly include Equality for Peace and Democracy, the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Global Rights, Rights and Democracy, the Open Society Institute and UN Women.

Provincial Councils

The 34 Provincial Councils have between nine and 29 members depending on the size of the province's population, and are elected in a single provincial constituency. Candidates must reside in the province in which they stand for election, and cannot stand simultaneously for both Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections. The Electoral Law states that one-quarter of the seats on a Provincial Council should be reserved for women. Two members from each Provincial Council serve in the Meshrano Jirga (this will decrease to one member per Provincial Council if District Councils are elected and formed). To date, two rounds of Provincial Council elections have taken place, in 2005 and 2009, following the constitutional requirement that they occur every four years. Accordingly, the next elections for these provincial bodies will take place in 2013.

The 2007 Provincial Council Law is vague on the Councils' responsibilities, and significant confusion remains about their exact role—while a mandate exists, it is ambiguous and does not allocate them decision-making authority; currently, Provincial Councils report directly to the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG, p. 43). Thus far, Provincial Council activities have included: electing provincial representatives from their own membership to the Meshrano Jirga; participating in the development of the provinces and improvement of administrative affairs; and advising provincial administrations on issues such as development planning. Their role in a given province is often dependent on the relationship between the Council and the Provincial Governor. In July 2010 a new draft law on Provincial Councils was written, which carries more specific details on their projected role, yet this remains to be ratified.

District Councils

According to the Constitution, District Councils will have between five and 15 members depending on the size of the district's population, and be elected every three years. Candidates must reside in the district in which they stand for election. If formed, they will elect one-third of their members of the Meshrano Jirga.

To date, however, elections for District Councils have not been held. There are a number of reasons for this. First, district boundaries in some areas have not been confirmed, and thus it is not possible to calculate district populations or judge how many District Council seats should be allocated to these districts. This problem is compounded by the lack of an up-to-date census for the country as a whole. Second, voter registration processes have not registered voters by district, given the ambiguity of boundaries, and instead have only been by province. Thus, in order to conduct District Council elections, another registration process would be required.

A Constitutional provision (Article 110) states that should a Loya Jirga (a grand council, convened to discuss matters of supreme national interest, or to change the Constitution) need to be held, it must be comprised of the National Assembly plus the chairpersons of Provincial and District Councils. Despite the lack of district elections, several Loya Jirgas have been called since the ratification of the constitution in 2004.

In the absence of formally-elected District Councils, a number of extra-constitutional institutions have been created to provide some level of representation and improve governance at the district level. Run by the IDLG, the Afghanistan Social Outreach Program (ASOP, p. 24) has created hundreds of District Community Councils (DCCs) modelled on traditional *shuras* (councils), while the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP, p. 58) under the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) has formed District Development Assemblies (DDAs). Both of these bodies hold similar mandates and responsibilities yet answer to differing authorities, receive separate funding and have few means of coordination. As a result, in some areas tension has formed between these institutions, impeding service delivery.

Village Councils and Municipal Councils

The Constitution also calls for the election of Village Councils, Municipal Councils, and Mayors through free, general, secret and direct elections. Village Councils are to be elected for three years. The terms of Municipal Councils and Mayors are not yet specified, and the mandates of Village and Municipal Councils are not elaborated in the Constitution or the Electoral Law. Elections for these bodies are unlikely to be held in the next several years. Once again, the failure to constitute these bodies has resulted in extra-constitutional attempts to fill this gap. In particular, the Community Development Councils (CDC) of the National Solidarity Programme (NSP, p. 61) effectively function as formal village governance bodies in many areas.

The Judiciary

The major permanent justice institutions in Afghanistan are the Supreme Court, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Ministry of Justice. The 2004 Constitution states: “The judicial branch is an independent organ of the state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court (*Stera Mahkama*), High Courts, Appeal Courts, and Primary Courts, the structure and authorities of which are determined by law.” In June 2005, a new law regulating the judiciary and courts was passed by the Cabinet. Until this point, the system had been governed by the 1990 Law of the Jurisdiction and Organisation of the Courts of Afghanistan (Official Gazette no. 63, SY1369). The new law divides the courts into three tiers: the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and the Primary Courts. It allows for travelling or mobile courts in the event that they are needed; these must be approved by the President.

The Supreme Court has wide-ranging powers of interpretation: its duties include the review of laws, decrees, international treaties, and international covenants to ensure they comply with the Constitution. The Office of the Attorney General is an independent body, part of the Executive branch, responsible for investigation and prosecution.

The reach of the formal justice system varies significantly across the country. A large proportion of disputes in Afghanistan are settled outside the formal court system—particularly, but not exclusively, in rural areas. Community-based justice mechanisms—*shuras*, *jiargas* and *jalasas*—often settle civil and sometimes criminal disputes using Islamic and customary/tribal laws. The justice system is therefore composed of both formal and informal mechanisms that include civil law, Islamic, and customary/tribal law. Many instances are found in which formal and informal mechanisms and actors engage with one another. There are common elements among these systems with respect to issues such as land and property, but they can diverge dramatically on criminal matters and the role and nature of punishment.

As specified in the Bonn Agreement, the Judicial Reform Commission (JRC) was established in November 2002 to review and reform the fragmented justice sector. The JRC was tasked with guiding the physical and structural restoration of the justice system—balancing modern and Islamic law, addressing the plurality of legal organs, and clarifying the roles and reporting structures of the various parts of the judicial branch. The JRC was a temporary institution, and by early 2005 its responsibilities had devolved to the permanent justice institutions. As part of the Afghanistan

National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15) process, national-level coordination of justice sector initiatives came under the responsibility of the Justice Sector Consultative Group. According to the ANDS, the National Justice Programme's Project Oversight Committee and Program Support Unit (see Justice Sector Reform, p. 48) are intended to take over these coordinating functions.

The Constitution allows for judges to be trained in either civil or Islamic law. Sitting judges are not allowed to hold political party membership.

The Supreme Court

In accordance with the Constitution, the Supreme Court has nine members, appointed for ten-year terms by the President, with the approval of the Wolesi Jirga. The President selects one of the nine members to serve as Chief Justice. The Supreme Court manages the personnel, budgets, and policy decisions of the entire national, provincial and district court system.

The Supreme Court convenes regular sessions, at least once every 15 days, and additional sessions can be convened by request. The presence of at least six members is needed for a Supreme Court quorum, and decisions are made by majority vote. The Supreme Court is divided into four sub-courts or departments (*dewans*)—General Criminal, Public/National Security, Civil and Public Rights, and Commercial—each headed by a Supreme Court Justice.

The current Supreme Court members were sworn in on 5 August 2006. This Court is characterised as moderate, technocratic and highly educated in comparison to its ultra-conservative predecessor.

Courts of Appeal

Courts of Appeal are operational in all provinces (although a few in some provinces do not have the requisite number of judges to hear appeal cases). They comprise the Chief of the Court, other judicial members, and heads of *dewans*. Courts of Appeal in more populous provinces have five *dewans*—General Criminal (which also deals with traffic violations), Public Security, Civil and Family, Public Rights, and Commercial. Those in less populous provinces have four *dewans*—City Primary Court, General Criminal, Civil, and Public Security. Only the Court of Appeal in Kabul has a Juvenile Court specially created to hear cases involving juveniles; however, in many provinces there are judges experienced or trained to deal with juvenile cases. The Courts of Appeal oversee the rulings and decisions of the Primary Courts in their respective province, and have the authority to correct, overturn, amend, confirm or repeal these rulings and decisions. They are also responsible for deciding on conflicts of judicial jurisdiction.

Primary Courts

At the district level, the City Primary Court (which is the primary court in the provincial capital) consists of five *dewans*—General Criminal, Civil, Public Rights, Public Security, and Traffic. Primary Courts in all districts outside the provincial capital have three *dewans*—General Criminal, Public Security, and Civil and Public Rights. Many districts do not currently have functional primary courts, mainly due to security concerns. In many cases, judges hold primary court sessions in the provincial capital.

Criminal cases are initiated by the Prosecutor’s Office filing them with the Primary Court; civil rights cases are filed with an office in the Ministry of Justice. Thereafter, a series of judicial sessions may be held until a decision is reached by the Primary Court. Almost as a matter of customary practice, most cases decided by the Primary Courts are appealed to the Courts of Appeal. When appeals reach the Supreme Court, judges often send the case back to the Primary Court for a new hearing.

The public sector

Structure

Afghanistan’s public sector consists of the central government, provinces, municipalities (urban sub-units of provinces), and districts (rural sub-units of provinces), as well as state enterprises (wholly and majority owned). State agencies, including central government ministries and institutions, are considered to be primary budgetary units with their own discrete budgets.

In theory, Afghanistan is a unitary state: all political authority is vested in the government in Kabul. The powers and responsibilities of the provincial and district administrations are determined (and therefore may be withdrawn) by the central government. Though provinces and districts are legally recognised units of subnational administration, they are not intended to be autonomous in their policy decisions. However, given the political and military strength of some regional powerholders, the practical reality is that certain provinces have considerable decision-making authority.

The Constitution explicitly allows a measure of decentralisation by stating that “the government, while preserving the principle of centralism—in accordance with the law—shall delegate certain authorities to local administration units for the purpose of expediting and promoting economic, social and cultural affairs, and increasing the participation of people in the development of the nation” (Article 137). It specifies that a Provincial Council with elected members is to be formed in every province, and that District and Village Councils are to be elected.

The country’s 34 provinces are the basic units of local administration. The executive at the provincial level is the Governor (*Wali*), who is appointed by the President. The provinces are not distinct political entities and formally have a very modest role in decisions concerning their own structure, recruitment of senior staff, and size and composition of work force. In effect, the administration of each province is a collection of branches of central government ministries. The majority of decisions on provincial staffing are made in Kabul by the parent ministry, in negotiation with the Office of Administrative Affairs (OAA, p. 64) and with oversight by the head of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC, p. 41). The Independent Appointments Board of the IARCSC is required to ratify appointments at Grades 1 and 2 (see civil service grading, p. 93) and

Legally recognised local government units

- 34 provinces (each a *wolayat*)
- Approximately 384 districts (a *woliswali*)—the number of districts in each province varies between 4 and 27
- Provincial municipalities (a *sharwali wolayat*)—in principle each province contains one municipality
- Rural municipalities (a *sharwali woliswali*)—each district contains at most one rural municipality, but some do not have any

oversee recruitment of grades three and below. As part of its mandate to improve governance and achieve stability on the subnational level IDLG is responsible for supervising Provincial and District Governors, Provincial Councils, and municipalities (except Kabul Municipality).

Provinces are divided into districts and municipalities. Administrative arrangements between the province and its districts are similar to those in the relationship between the centre and the province. The central ministry in Kabul determines district senior staffing and budget allocations, however, leaving provincial officials with relatively little discretion in this regard, at least officially. Municipalities are overseen by the IDLG, in some provinces with significant influence by the Governor. The IDLG approves staffing numbers and budgets in each municipality, even though municipalities are entitled to collect and retain their own taxes. In some provinces, such as Herat and Kandahar, rural municipalities also have a reporting relationship with the provincial municipality, although this is contrary to the established government structure.

Central government ministries and institutions are primary budget units with specific budgets determined by law; provincial departments of the central government ministries and some independent units are secondary budget units—that is, they receive their allotments at the discretion of their ministries and relevant independent agencies. There are no specific provincial department budgets. Districts are tertiary budget units; their budget allocations depend on the decisions made at the request of the relevant provincial-level departments of Kabul ministries and other independent units. All revenues collected by provinces and districts are national revenues; provinces are merely the tax collectors. In effect, both provincial and district staffing levels and budgets are determined based more on precedent than on rational planning. This system gives Kabul considerable political authority over provincial expenditure policy, although Provincial and District Governors have a certain amount of de-facto authority.

Development is ostensibly managed at the provincial level through two institutions; the Provincial Development Committee (PDC) and the Provincial Administrative Assembly (PAA). PDCs are made up of key development actors such as line ministries, Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT, p. 67), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA, see p. 75), NGOs and occasionally Provincial Council members, meeting under the chairmanship of the Provincial Governor. They are charged with creating coordinated, prioritised and budgeted plans for provincial development, which should then be passed to the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Finance (MoF) in Kabul for approval and incorporation into the budgets and plans of the relevant central line ministries. In reality, these plans rarely influence the central ministries, which will draft budgets based on information from their respective provincial line directorates and their budgetary allocations from the MoF. This centralised process presents considerable difficulties for the coordination of development projects between ministries at the provincial level.

The PAA is chaired by the Provincial Governor, and includes the heads of provincial line ministries and agencies, the provincial Attorney General and the head of provincial security. PAAs are charged with administering and monitoring the implementation of the Provincial Development Plan (PDP, p. 67). Whilst meetings should theoretically be held weekly, in reality they are more irregular, with the majority of decision-making and discussion taking place in the PDCs.

State enterprises report to the ministry or department in their respective sector. For example, the head of a coal mine would report to the provincial Department of Mines as well as the Ministry of Mines in Kabul. There are no provincially-owned enterprises.

Although they do not hold formal power, informal community *shuras* or *jirgas* (i.e. those not convened under the development programmes discussed above) can also be influential local actors. *Shuras* are a longstanding feature of Afghan political society. They are usually convened on an ad-hoc basis and are rarely permanent bodies with identifiable members. *Shuras of ulema* (Islamic scholars) and *shuras of elders* are usually found at the provincial level, though there are often competing local and district *shuras*, some of which are run by unelected strongmen. As District Councils have not yet been elected, many district administrators make use of *shuras* in their activities. Many districts are also effectively divided into villages (*qaryas*), which correspond to areas of shared resources.

In addition to the provincial and district administrative structures, historically there has been a definition of regions or zones (*hawzas*) in Afghanistan, primarily for military purposes. These *hawzas* have no legal standing as administrative units and, unlike provinces, districts and municipalities, are not mentioned in the 1964 Constitution or the current 2004 Constitution. At times, however, they have been used for administrative convenience. Formally, this zonal structure no longer exists, but some inter-provincial coordination and sectoral activities based on zones continue.

The President is Commander-in-Chief of the Afghan National Army (ANA, p. 5). The ANA serves under the Ministry of Defence while the Afghan National Police (ANP, p. 6) operates under the authority of the Ministry of Interior.

Pay and grading

Every public employee has a grade—in Kabul, in the provinces, and at the district level. Two scales apply throughout Afghanistan, one for permanent staff (*karmand*) and one for contract staff (*agir*). *Karmand* are regular, permanent public employees, whereas *agir* are (officially) hired on fixed-term contracts. In practice, most *agir* employees remain in government for many years and follow a career path very similar to that of *karmand* staff. The two pay scales are almost identical.

The key differences between *karmand* and *agir* employees are:

- *Agir* employees are meant to occupy lower-skilled and manual labour posts (such as drivers, cooks, painters, etc.);
- Advancement through the grade (and pay) structure for many *agir* positions is capped at a particular level (for instance, drivers cannot be promoted beyond Grade 1); however, higher-skilled *agir* employees can advance to the top of the scale (“over” grade); and
- *Agir* employees are not entitled to receive a professional bonus in addition to their salary.

Pay policy is set centrally for all public employees in Afghanistan. The pay system emphasises rank-in-person arrangements (employees are promoted even if they remain in the same

position) rather than the more common rank-in-post arrangements (where promotion generally comes with a new job). Thus, through years of service and regular promotions (once every three years), staff in lower positions of authority can occupy a higher grade and earn a higher salary than their managers. Different occupational groups have ceilings above which they cannot be promoted.

The underlying pay scale, established by the 1970 Law on the Status and Condition of Government Employees, and amended by the 1977 Decree No. 143, offers a reasonably well-structured scale for base pay. The real salary scale for public employees is low—meal allowances (given equally to all public employees) can account for over 90 percent of the monthly pay. Since 2004, the IARCSC has been working to update the government’s pay and grading structure, crucial to the government’s efforts to attract and retain qualified staff and to reduce incentives for corruption within the civil service. A new Civil Service Law was passed in 2005, and in 2007 an eight-grade structure was designed, with new pay scales attached to these grades (with a minimum salary of \$100 and maximum of \$650). Implementation is sequenced, re-grading senior positions (Grades 1 and 2) first, followed by junior grades on a ministry-by-ministry basis.

Pay and grading reform is a key element of the IARCSC-led Public Administration Reform (PAR, p. 69) framework, which seeks to restructure the civil service and institute merit-based, non-partisan recruitment. As of December 2011, pay and grading reform had taken place in around 65 percent of local and central government institutions. Practical reforms have taken place in several government departments and agencies through a revised Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) process that streamlines the work and structure of key departments, reduces costs, and improves effectiveness.

The effectiveness of pay and grading reforms may be complicated by the so-called “second civil service” consisting of officials, advisors and staff of aid contractors and international agencies, most of whom receive much higher salaries.

Organogram: Central government of Afghanistan



Ministries and ministers of the Afghan government, March 2012

Ministry	Minister	Status
Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock	Mohammad Asif Rahimi	Confirmed
Borders and Tribal Affairs	Assadullah Khalid	Confirmed
Commerce and Industry	Anwarulhaq Ahadi	Confirmed
Communications and Information Technology	Amir Zai Sangin	Confirmed
Counter Narcotics	Zarar Ahmad Muqbal	Confirmed
Defense	Abdul Rahim Wardak	Confirmed
Economy	Abdulhadi Arghandiwal	Confirmed
Education	Ghulam Farooq Wardak	Confirmed
Energy and Water	Mohammad Ismail Khan	Confirmed
Finance	Omer Zakhilwal	Confirmed
Foreign Affairs	Zalmai Rasoul	Confirmed
Hajj and Religious Affairs	Asif Niazi	Confirmed
Higher Education	Obaidullah Obaid	Confirmed
Information and Culture	Sayed Makhdum Raheen	Confirmed
Interior Affairs	Besmillah Mohammadi	Confirmed
Justice	Habibullah Ghalib	Confirmed
Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled	Amina Afzali	Confirmed
Mines	Wahidullah Shahrani	Confirmed
Public Health	Surayia Dalil	Confirmed
Public Works	Najibullah Awzhan	Confirmed
Refugees and Repatriations	Jamaher Anwari	Confirmed
Rural Rehabilitation and Development	Wais Barmak	Confirmed
Transport and Civil Aviation	Daoud Ali Najafi	Confirmed
Urban Development and Housing	Mirza Hassan Abdulahi	Confirmed
Women's Affairs	Husn Banu Ghazanfar	Confirmed

Elections in Afghanistan

Electoral system

In Afghanistan, suffrage is universal for all citizens 18 years of age and older. The Constitution (p. 112) provides for the election of:

- A President (along with two Vice Presidents)
- A National Assembly (Parliament) consisting of the Wolesi Jirga (House of the People) and the Meshrano Jirga (House of Elders)
- Provincial Councils
- District Councils
- Village Councils
- Municipal Councils and Mayors

Thus far, elections have only been held for the first three categories.

The President is elected by absolute majority; if no candidate receives over 50 percent of the votes, a run-off election is held between the top two candidates (although the run-off was cancelled in 2009 when a candidate withdrew). The next Presidential election is due to be held in 2014.

A revised version of the 2004 Electoral Law was approved by presidential decree on 29 April 2005, ending a long debate over the system for electing representatives to the Wolesi Jirga. The system chosen was the unusual Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV). Under SNTV, each eligible Afghan voter casts one vote for one individual in his or her multi-member constituency (province). The principal benefits of the SNTV system are that it is easy to explain to voters and simple to count. It also ensures representation of independent candidates, which can be important in a country suspicious of political parties.

On the other hand, SNTV encourages personality-driven politics and undermines the role of political parties and constituency platforms. Because all votes go to individuals, a party's candidates may win the majority of votes in a province, but still receive only a minority of the seats. SNTV can also have a negative impact on the development of effective parliamentary politics by encouraging candidates to push local, ethnic or tribal issues rather than promoting a national agenda and encouraging coalition building and cooperation between ethnic or regional groupings.

Election experts have debated whether other electoral models might be more appropriate for Afghanistan. Some critics of SNTV have argued that Open List Proportional Representation would be a better system, due to its transparent translation of votes into seats and its encouragement of national-based, multi-ethnic parties. Another suggestion put forward by some Afghan Members of Parliament in 2008 is that of a combined SNTV and party list system, whereby the role of political parties is acknowledged formally. This suggestion was rejected by the plenary in the first instance, although it may be refloated.

According to the Constitution, the Electoral Law cannot be changed within a year of the election in which it would be implemented. In 2008 and 2009, the SNTV electoral system was debated in the Wolesi Jirga, and other options considered. It was decided, however, that SNTV would be used again in the 2009-10 elections.

Schedule of elections

The Constitution prescribes the following elections schedule:

Election	Frequency
Presidential	every 5 years
Meshrano Jirga (Presidential appointees)	every 5 years
Meshrano Jirga (Provincial Council representatives)	every 4 years
Meshrano Jirga (District Council representatives)	every 3 years
Wolesi Jirga	every 5 years
Provincial Councils	every 4 years
District Councils	every 3 years
Village Councils	every 3 years
Municipal Councils	Unspecified
Mayoral	Unspecified

This schedule thus determined that presidential and Provincial Council elections would take place in 2009 and Wolesi Jirga elections in 2010. However, the 2009 presidential election was delayed from May to August, and the 2010 Wolesi Jirga election was postponed from May to September 2010. In the future, further revisions to the electoral calendar are possible, given the capacity constraints of the Independent Election Commission, the high cost and difficulty of holding elections in Afghanistan, the lack of security in some areas, the unclear mandates of some elected bodies, and the political ramifications of the chaotic 2009-10 elections.

The Presidential Election of 2014 will occur just as Afghanistan assumes full responsibility for its own security (see Transition, p. 73). The election, which is expected to present serious challenges to the country's electoral institutions, will likely serve as a significant indicator of the success of Afghanistan's transition from substantial to minimal international assistance.

Allocation of seats

The Constitution states that Wolesi Jirga seats are to be distributed among the provinces according to population (and reserves an average of two seats per province for female candidates). This provision has proved difficult because some district and provincial boundaries remain disputed and no authoritative population data is available. The last census in Afghanistan was conducted in 1979 and was never completed. After several delays, planning continues for a new national census (see Central Statistics Organization, p. 28). In preparation for it, a household listing survey was conducted in 2004-05. Seat allocations for the Wolesi Jirga elections are based on an average of this recent household listing and the 1979 census figures adjusted for population growth using an annual population growth rate of 1.92 percent.

Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Seat Allocations by Province in 2005 and 2010

Province	Population*	Wolesi Jirga seats		Provincial Council seats	
		Total	Women	Total	Women
TOTAL	24,485,600	249	68	420	124
Badakhshan	874,800	9	2	15	4
Badghis	456,400	4	1	9	3
Baghlan	833,300	8	2	15	4
Balkh	1,194,000	11	3	19	5
Bamiyan	411,700	4	1	9	3
Day Kundi	424,100	4	1	9	3
Farah	466,300	5	1	9	3
Faryab	915,800	9	3	15	4
Ghazni	1,130,100	11	3	19	5
Ghor	635,700	6	2	15	4
Helmand	850,200	8	2	15	4
Herat	1,710,100	17	5	19	5
Jawzjan	494,200	5	1	9	3
Kabul	3,691,400	33	9	29	8
Kandahar	1,103,400	11	3	15	4
Kapisa	406,200	4	1	9	3
Khost	528,900	5	1	9	3
Kunar	414,700	4	1	9	3
Kunduz	917,900	9	2	15	4
Laghman	410,300	4	1	9	3
Logar	360,900	4	1	9	3
Nangarhar	1,383,900	14	4	19	5
Nimroz	151,100	2	1	9	3
Nuristan	136,300	2	1	9	3
Paktia	507,800	5	1	9	3
Paktika	400,500	4	1	9	3
Panjshir	141,400	2	1	9	3
Parwan	610,300	6	2	15	4
Samangan	356,300	4	1	9	3
Sar-i-Pul	514,100	5	1	9	3
Takhar	901,900	9	2	15	4
Uruzgan	322,600	3	1	9	3
Wardak	549,200	5	2	9	3
Zabul	279,800	3	1	9	3
Reserved for Kuchi		10	3	n/a	n/a

* Population figures from Central Statistics Organization, *Afghanistan CSO Population Data 1389, 2010*.

Key actors in Afghan elections

Independent Election Commission (IEC - www.iec.org.af)

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) is the supreme authority responsible for the preparation, organisation, conduct and oversight of elections and referenda in Afghanistan. The membership, organisation, responsibilities and functioning of the IEC are determined by the Constitution and the Electoral Law. The IEC is independent from other branches of government and administrative institutions.

The IEC has a governing body with a chairman, deputy chairman and five members (commissioners); these positions are appointed by the President. The IEC Secretariat is its implementing arm and is headed by a Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and two deputies. The CEO is the accounting officer and is responsible for ensuring efficient management of the day-to-day activities of the Commission.

After his election in October 2004, President Hamid Karzai appointed the IEC members for a three-year period. For its first year the IEC coexisted and collaborated with its predecessor, the Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB), which completed its mandate with the holding of legislative elections in September 2005. The JEMB had been established in July 2003 and had both Afghan and international members. It had overall responsibility for the preparation, organisation, conduct and oversight of the 2004 presidential and 2005 parliamentary elections. After these elections, it was dissolved and all its responsibilities transferred to the IEC.

The August 2009 presidential and Provincial Council elections were the first organised primarily by the IEC, with technical assistance provided by the international community. Prior to the election, a voter registration update was conducted from November 2008 to June 2009. During these processes, the IEC expanded its financial and administrative capacities: offices were extended into most provinces; a public resource centre was established; and the IEC gained more capacity to formulate policies and procedures, design and deliver training, and interpret legal complaints. During the election period, the IEC also designed and implemented a comprehensive national public outreach campaign, set up a national tally centre, managed an operations centre, and appointed and hosted the Electoral Media Commission. These systems were again used for the 2010 parliamentary election, although thousands of staff were replaced along with the IEC commissioners in the interim following the corruption controversies of 2009.

In 2011 the IEC drafted a Strategic Plan, 2011-2015, with the help of UNDP's Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT, p. 101) programme. The main goals stated by this plan are:

- Build trust among stakeholders and gain support for the IEC and the electoral process;
- Reduce electoral expenses through the development of professional capacity, building of infrastructure and better management of resources;
- Establish the IEC as a Centre of Excellence; and
- Conduct elections, according to the law.

In May 2009, a Gender Unit (GU) was set up within the IEC with financial support from IFES and UNDP. The GU was mandated to “increase women’s political participation through long-term change at the IEC.” Much of its work has focused on gender mainstreaming within the organisation, building the capacity of the IEC’s female staff and ensuring that its programming is gender-sensitive. However, it has also played an important role in coordinating meetings of international gender stakeholders in the run-up to the 2009 and 2010 elections, as well as in policy advocacy and outreach. To date it has not formally integrated into the IEC’s organisational structure and therefore remains directly reliant on donor funding, with staff contracted directly with IFES or UNDP.

Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC - www.ecc.org.af)

The Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) is an independent body responsible for hearing and adjudicating complaints related to the electoral process, including challenges to the list of candidates and complaints about the conduct of campaigns and polling. The Commission was established by Article 52 of the 2005 Electoral Law. The ECC is separate from, and independent of, the IEC.

For the 2009 presidential election, the ECC was composed of two national Commissioners and three international Commissioners. One Afghan Commissioner was appointed by the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC, p. 13) and the other by the Supreme Court, and the three internationals were appointed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. However, the Electoral Law was controversially changed by presidential decree in early 2010, and all ECC members are now appointed directly by the President.

A person or organisation who claims that there has been a violation of the Electoral Law has the right to file a complaint with the ECC and its provincial offices. This includes all eligible voters and candidate agents. As an independent body, the ECC does not disseminate information on plaintiffs to the public or to other organisations.

In May 2005, the ECC adjudicated almost 7,000 cases through the challenge and complaints processes with regard to the 2004 Presidential elections. In 2009 and 2010, the ECC played a major role in investigating fraud allegations after the elections and disqualified approximately one quarter of votes each time.

Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT - www.afghanelections.org)

The Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT) project was established in 2006 based on recommendations from the 2004 and 2005 elections. ELECT’s current structure is the result of UN Security Council Resolution 1806 (20 February 2008), which provides for international electoral assistance to Afghanistan coordinated by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA, see p. 75) and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General.

While UNAMA has an overarching oversight role, ELECT is managed by UNDP. ELECT’s activities since it was established in 2006 have primarily concentrated on building the capacity of the

IEC. In 2007, it achieved a principle aim by completing a civil and voter registry pilot project that combined nationwide voter registration with a national civil registration programme conducted in Kabul, Bamiyan and Nangarhar. Subsequently, the ELECT project provided technical assistance and support to the IEC in conducting a voter registration update, which began in October 2008 and concluded its main activities in June 2009.

In 2009 and 2010, ELECT was largely focused on supporting the presidential, Provincial Council and parliamentary elections. This was approached through further strengthening the capacity of the IEC, providing technical assistance and expertise to the main electoral institutions (including the ECC), and by supporting the activities of a wider group of electoral stakeholders, including civil society, media, domestic election observers and security actors.

A key part of ELECT's mandate lies in providing a coordination focal point for main donors and organisations supporting elections. ELECT's mandate expired on 31 December 2012; however, as of January 2012, UNDP were in the process of drafting the ELECT II Project Document, which will be aligned with the IEC's 2011-2015 Strategic Plan. ELECT II is expected to run from 2012-2013, and will continue to focus on voter registry and capacity development of the IEC in a manner that will be sustainable for the post-2014 Afghanistan.

Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA - www.fefa.org.af)

The Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) is an independent umbrella organisation established by civil society groups in March 2004 to:

- Monitor elections to ensure that they are free and fair;
- Promote democracy in the country;
- Promote public participation in electoral affairs; and
- Help consolidate public trust and faith in democracy and elections.

The Foundation is Afghanistan's only continual domestic elections monitoring body. Its first observation experience was that of the presidential election on 9 October 2004, during which it observed voting in 100 districts in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Its second experience was observing the 2005 National Assembly and Provincial Council elections, during which FEFA monitored 217 districts, covering 65 percent of all polling centres.

Prior to the 2009 presidential and Provincial Council elections, FEFA was also able to conduct comprehensive monitoring of the voter registration process and reported numerous problems with it. On the election day itself, FEFA conducted countrywide observations. FEFA was active again in 2010 for the parliamentary election, and reported on various issues, such as election-related violence and corruption, on its website.

FEFA was one of the few elections-oriented organisations active in the interim period between the two rounds of elections and has produced numerous publications on subjects such as candidate vetting and the transparency of political wealth.

Vetting and complaints

Afghanistan's Constitution states that members of the National Assembly "should not have been convicted by a court for committing a crime against humanity, a crime, or sentenced to deprivation of his/her civil rights." However, as no one has been (or is likely to be in the near future) prosecuted for crimes against humanity, this constitutional safeguard is currently unused.

The Electoral Law also specifies that candidates for the Wolesi Jirga, Provincial Councils, and District Councils shall not:

- Pursue objectives that are opposed to the principles of the holy religion of Islam and the word and spirit of the Constitution;
- Use force, or threaten with, or propagate the use of force;
- Incite ethnic, linguistic, regional or religious tension and discrimination;
- Create a real danger to the rights or freedoms of individuals or intentionally disrupt public order and security;
- Have non-official military forces;
- Receive funds from foreign sources; or
- Receive funds from internal illegal sources.

When filling in nomination papers, candidates sign a Code of Conduct. In doing so, candidates swear an oath that they have not been involved in any crimes or other activities that would disqualify them from standing. If they are subsequently found guilty of a crime, they will have broken the Code of Conduct and will be required to give up their seat.

The Electoral Complaints Commission is tasked with adjudicating on complaints about electoral offences and challenges to candidates' eligibility. If there is evidence of criminal activity, the ECC can impose warnings, fines, or referral to the public prosecution office. If they determine that an electoral offence has been committed, they can order recounts or a repeat of voting.

Political parties

It is widely believed that in a democratic system, political parties are necessary for effective representation of citizens' interests and to advance and support policy creation and governance. Many Afghans, however, have a negative view of political parties, which they associate with the communist parties and the Soviet invasion, as well as with *mujahiddin* factions whose in-fighting caused much of the instability and bloodshed of the 1990s. Thus, Afghans generally do not trust political parties but rather see them as pursuing policies that are in the interest of their particular leader, ethnic group, clan or tribe. One rationale for Afghanistan's unusual choice of electoral system was its emphasis on individual candidates rather than parties.

Afghans also often associate political parties with militias, which previously acted with impunity in Afghanistan. While most of the major parties in Afghanistan once had close ties to military groups (and some still do), other fledgling parties have civilian roots and democratic intentions. The Constitution and the Political Party Law clearly prohibit political parties from having military wings, and a political party registration department was established in 2003 by the Ministry of Justice to approve those parties that meet the criteria set out in the Constitution.

For the 2005 elections, candidates were technically not allowed to indicate their political party affiliation on the ballot (although some did so regardless). While this made ballots simpler, it may have prevented voters from knowing the alliances of candidates. Before the presidential elections in 2009, the IEC announced a regulation stipulating that officially registered candidates were now allowed to include their party affiliation on the ballots. This regulation stayed in place for the 2010 parliamentary election. However, a revised Political Party Law was enacted in late 2009 that required all parties to re-register with the Ministry of Justice—a slow and complex process. Only five parties were successfully able to re-register in time for the parliamentary elections, meaning that the vast majority remained excluded from the ballot. As of January 2012, around 41 parties had been registered. A list of these is available in Dari at: <http://moj.gov.af/fa/page/1700>.

Elections 2009

Introduction

Presidential and Provincial Council elections were held on 20 August 2009, with turnout officially recorded as 31.4 percent (after fraudulent ballots were excluded), down from an estimated 70 percent in 2004. Fraud and insecurity combined to mire the elections in controversy, with the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC, p. 101) disqualifying enough ballots to reduce Hamid Karzai's total to below 50 percent and thus force a run-off with the second-placed candidate, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah. However, the run-off vote was cancelled when Abdullah withdrew, and the Independent Election Commission (IEC, p. 100) declared Karzai the winner. He was inaugurated for his second term on 19 November 2009.

Results for Provincial Council elections were initially announced on 27 September, but were in many cases disputed and for some provinces not finalised until 9 December (although dissatisfaction remained in some areas after this time). Despite being much lower-profile internationally than the presidential election, the Provincial Council elections were hotly contested and followed closely by the public in many areas, largely due to their addressing of local issues.

Candidate nomination

The candidate nomination process for presidential and Provincial Council candidates ran from 25 April to 8 May 2009. After the IEC's consideration of presidential nominations, three candidates were disqualified, leaving a total of 41 candidates, including two women. This was a significant increase in candidates compared with 2004, when 18 candidates (including one woman) contested the final race. In total, 3,196 individuals, including 328 women, nominated themselves

for a total of 420 seats in the Provincial Councils—a slight increase from 2005 numbers both in total and number of women candidates.

The IEC and ECC had four weeks (9 May–12 June) to review the 3,368 initial presidential and Provincial Council candidates and respond to complaints. Candidates with links to armed groups, government officials who failed to resign their previous posts, and nominees who had forged signatures on their nomination forms were vetted. On 26 May, the IEC made available a provisional list of candidates including challenges, corrections and appeals. Between 26 May and 8 June, the ECC held hearings and came to decisions concerning nomination challenges. A final list of confirmed candidates was made public on 12 June.

In provinces with a large number of candidates for the Provincial Council, as in 2005, the ballot papers resembled tabloid newspapers, with several pages of candidates. For many, this made the process of finding chosen candidates difficult. To make identification easier the IEC again included photos of the candidates and allocated “neutral” symbols. Nevertheless, in Kabul Province, with 524 candidates on the final ballot, locating individuals remained an arduous process.

Civic education

Explaining Afghanistan’s new democratic institutions, the election process, and voting rights is a complex and challenging exercise, particularly in a country with limited infrastructure and many remote villages, as well as low levels of literacy and formal education.

While efforts were made in 2004 and 2005 in the run up to the elections to promote civic education by various agencies, including the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo p. 12), very little activity took place in this regard in the interim period between elections. Although agencies including UNAMA (see p. 75) and UNDP ELECT (p. 101) supported civic education programmes run by the IEC in the run-up to the 2009 polls, very little international funding was available for this kind of activity prior to October 2008. This is partly a result of the late planning and organising of the elections themselves, and the late stage by which donor funding for the elections themselves was confirmed.

Voter registration

An enormous voter registration exercise was carried in the run-up to the 2005 Presidential elections. Throughout the country, a total of 10,567,834 registration cards were issued between 1 December 2003 and 20 August 2004.

Another round of voter registration was undertaken in preparation for the 2009 elections, as many Afghans would have turned 18 years old since the last round of registration, some would have returned from Iran, Pakistan or other countries in the ongoing repatriation efforts, and others who had already registered could have moved provinces or lost their original cards. This process began in October 2008 and was carried out in four consecutive phases. The phases were determined by weather and security concerns in different provinces. The process was completed

in February 2009, but was far from straightforward. According to a report produced by FEFA, multiple instances of proxy registration, fraud and underage registration took place. Initial IEC figures for voter registration were also questionable, with extremely high numbers of registered women in notably conservative areas of the country.

In total, the IEC reported that 4,365,292 people had been registered to vote in 2008-09, in addition to those who had registered prior to the 2004-05 elections.

Polling centres and staffing

Before the 2009 elections there was a concern that decreasing security would prevent the establishment of polling centres in a number of areas, particularly in the South and East of the country, thus disenfranchising a significant number of people. In total, however, the IEC reported having set up 28,000 polling stations in approximately 6,800 centres across the country (compared with 30,000 in 5,000 centres in 2004), staffed by around 160,000 election workers. Thirty-six million ballot papers were printed in total for both presidential and Provincial Council elections. A number of polling centres were nevertheless closed in certain insecure areas. Furthermore, over 440 centres were reportedly ordered not to open on polling day by Afghan election officials due to fears of pre-planned fraud.

Other logistical problems reported by voters on polling day included intimidation (and in some cases, attacks) by insurgent groups, shortage of ballot papers, dysfunctional hole-punches (used to mark used voting cards), and indelible ink proving washable in practice.

In 2009, for the first time, ballots were counted at polling stations (instead of at provincial centres), and initial results posted outside them.

Election monitoring and observation

Due to decreasing security conditions, the number of international election observation missions in 2009 was significantly lower from that of 2004. The biggest delegation of observation staff was sent by the European Union (EU), whose mission comprised 67 expert analysts and 50 short-term observers at polling stations across the country. Whereas in 2004 the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) sent 42 observers to the field, in 2009 it provided an Election Support Team (EST) of 20 experts, which was based in Kabul with a mandate to support the government and international effort in producing a post-elections report of recommendations. The Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL), supported by the Asia Foundation, had a mission of 20 long-term and 30 short-term observers, with a core team of five experts. In addition, a small number of observation staff from diplomatic missions and other international agencies based in Afghanistan were deployed to polling centres.

Along with the problem of limited numbers of international observation staff was the issue of their limited mobility. Most were largely unable to travel beyond provincial centres, and few even outside Kabul. By contrast, Afghanistan's own elections monitoring organisation, FEFA, was able to conduct a comprehensive mission on election day itself and during the voter registration process

in previous months. As one of the few elections-oriented organisations active in the interim period between the 2005 and 2009 elections, it had representatives in all provinces observing the polls.

Security

Insecurity undermined the elections in 2009, despite the considerable measures taken to mitigate its effects. An extra 26,000 troops were brought in to support the electoral effort, but an October 2009 report from the International Crisis Group said that the weeks “before the August election saw the worst levels of violence since the US-led intervention in 2001,” and that at least four Provincial Council candidates were also killed. In total, around 300 incidents were reported and 31 people killed pre-election and on election day itself. Partly as a result, voter turnout dropped to 31 percent from over 70 percent in 2004.

Another effect of the deteriorating security environment since the first round of elections was a potentially high degree of exclusion of voters living in insecure areas of Afghanistan, which usually correspond with the presence of insurgent groups. This also affected the 2010 poll. The inability of polling stations to open or genuinely function in insecure areas also facilitated much election-day fraud.

Fraud

The 2009 polls became infamous for widespread fraud. In October 2009, after receiving over 2,800 complaints, of which 726 were considered serious enough to affect the outcome of elections, the ECC ordered a recount of ten percent of randomly selected ballots. Overall, 18.8 percent of the total number of ballots cast were invalidated by the ECC, reducing valid voter turnout from the IEC’s initial figure of 5,662,758 (38.7 percent) to 4,597,727 (31.4 percent). These percentages are, however, based on the most recent voter registration figures, which, according to FEFA, were also inaccurate and contained significant levels of fraud. Ultimately, the ECC invalidated enough votes that a presidential run-off election was called. Fraud was also identified in Provincial Council elections, but this received less attention from the ECC.

It should be noted that there were also significant instances of fraud reported in the 2004 elections, but these did not receive nearly as much attention from the international community or media.

Election 2010

In January 2010, the IEC rescheduled the Wolesi Jirga election from 22 May to 18 September 2010. On this date, a vote took place for the 249-seat lower house. The final results were announced by the IEC on 24 November, with the exception of Ghazni Province, which was confirmed approximately one week later. Of the 249 winners, 88 were incumbents from the previous parliament.

Although the groupings of Afghanistan’s parliament are often ambiguous and it does not have a clear pro-government/opposition split, it is generally considered that the election has increased the number of MPs who could be broadly categorised as or potentially in “opposition” to President Karzai.

Candidate nomination and vetting

Candidates had until 5 May 2010 to register, which could be done in person at an IEC office. The IEC released an initial list of candidates on 15 May, after which a period of complaints, checking and vetting began. During this time, 48 candidates voluntarily withdrew, 21 were disqualified by the ECC, and 31 by the IEC. Corrections were also made to approximately 200 of the original candidacy applications. On June 22, a final list was released of 2,577 candidates (which included 406 women) who would compete in the election.

Voter registration

A major voter registration initiative had been conducted prior to the 2009 presidential election. In the lead-up to the Wolesi Jirga election, a two-month “top-up” registration process was undertaken, which closed on August 12.

Election monitoring and observation

FEFA had 400 long-term observers deployed throughout Afghanistan during the campaign period and an additional 6,600 monitoring voting and tallying on Election Day.

As with the 2009 presidential election, insecurity meant that international election observation missions were far fewer and more limited in their scope compared to the previous parliamentary election in 2005, although some did occur. The largest was conducted by Democracy International.

Security and Fraud

Insurgent groups issued threats against people involved in the electoral process and warned Afghans against voting. According to a tally kept by FEFA, more than 20 people were killed in election-related violence, including several candidates and at least a dozen campaign workers. There were many other incidents of non-lethal violence and intimidation, both preceding and on polling day.

Widespread fraud occurred on polling day and is strongly suspected of occurring at other phases of the electoral process. Approximately 4,200 potentially serious complaints were logged by the ECC for investigation. Eventually, it excluded the results of 587 polling stations and disqualified nearly 25 percent of the total number of votes. This left approximately 4.3 million votes considered legitimate.

The IEC initially planned to have 6,835 polling stations on polling day. However, prior to the election they announced that 1,019 would remain closed in insecure areas of the country. Despite this, many others opened in areas where people were either unable or unwilling to vote. This potentially resulted in a skewing of the results and led to concerns about the representativeness of the final parliament.

Preliminary results were announced by the IEC on 20 October, but 24 winners were disqualified by the ECC and did not appear on the final list made public on 24 November.

The Special Court

The November announcement of the election results was denounced as premature by the Attorney General's Office (AGO), which was still examining 413 cases of serious fraud submitted to it by the IEC. The AGO ultimately submitted 232 of these cases to the Supreme Court, which in turn recommended that President Karzai establish an ad-hoc body to investigate the issue further. This resulted in a five-member Special Court established by presidential decree on 27 December.

The move sparked challenges from both newly-elected parliamentarians and the country's electoral institutions. The IEC argued that the court was without constitutional basis and asserted the status of itself and the ECC as the sole legitimate adjudicators of the country's elections. It is also alleged that the Independent Commission for the Supervision of Implementation of the Constitution (ICSIC, p. 42) informed President Karzai that the Special Court was unconstitutional, but did not make this judgement public. However, on January 21 2011—with new MPs already gathered at Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel for an orientation course—Karzai announced that the inauguration of the new parliament would be delayed by a month to allow the court more time to complete its work. Following several days of negotiations, Karzai eventually agreed to open parliament on 26 January, after extracting a concession from MPs to respect the court's eventual findings.

On 14 February, the Court ordered a raid on the offices of the IEC and shortly afterward initiated recounts in Badakhshan, Kunduz and Kunar provinces. After several months of relative calm, the Court finally announced on 22 June that 62 MPs should be replaced on charges of electoral fraud. The IEC refused to implement the ruling and responded in July with its own plan for ending the dispute. In an attempt to broker a compromise, President Karzai issued a highly opaque presidential ruling on 10 August that appeared to restore responsibility for dealing with electoral issues to the IEC, ordering it to bring the issue to a resolution as quickly as possible. Two weeks later, the IEC announced that only nine MPs would be removed. The inclusion of their replacements when parliament reconvened on 3 September after its Eid recess marked the final winding-down of the crisis—almost a full year after the elections were held.

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The Constitution of Afghanistan (2004)

This is an unofficial translation of the 2004 Constitution of Afghanistan; refer to the official Dari and Pashto versions for accuracy (source: International Development Law Organization; Office of the President website: www.president.gov.af).

Year 1382

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

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In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Preamble

We the people of Afghanistan:

1. With firm faith in God Almighty and relying on His lawful mercy, and believing in the sacred religion of Islam,
2. Realising the injustice and shortcoming of the past, and the numerous troubles imposed on our country,
3. While acknowledging the sacrifices and the historic struggles, rightful Jihad and just resistance of all people of Afghanistan and respecting the high position of the martyrs for freedom of the country,
4. With the understanding that Afghanistan is a single and united country and belongs to all ethnicities residing in this country,

5. Observing the United Nations Charter and respecting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
6. For strengthening national unity, safeguarding independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country,
7. For establishing a government based on people's will and democracy,
8. For creation of a civil society free of oppression, atrocity, discrimination, and violence and based on the rule of law, social justice, protection of human rights and dignity and ensuring the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people,
9. For strengthening the political, social, economic, and defensive institutions of the country,
10. For ensuring a prosperous life and sound environment for all those residing in this land,
11. Finally, for regaining Afghanistan's deserved place in the international community, have adopted this Constitution in accordance with historical, cultural, and social requirements of the era, through our elected representatives in the *Loya Jirga* dated 14 Jaddi 1382 in the city of Kabul.

Chapter One: The State

- Article 1 • Afghanistan is an Islamic Republic, and an independent, unitary and indivisible state.
- Article 2 • The religion of the state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is the sacred religion of Islam.
- Followers of other religions are free to exercise their faith and perform their religious rites within the limits of the provisions of law.
- Article 3 • In Afghanistan no law can be contrary to the beliefs and provisions of the sacred religion of Islam.
- Article 4 • National sovereignty in Afghanistan belongs to the nation that exercises it directly or through its representatives.
- The nation of Afghanistan consists of all individuals who are the citizens of Afghanistan.
 - The nation of Afghanistan is comprised of Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Turkman, Baluch, Pashai, Nuristani, Aymaq, Arab, Qirghiz, Qizilbash, Gujur, Brahwui and other ethnic groups.
 - The word Afghan applies to every citizen of Afghanistan.
 - No member of the nation can be deprived of his/her citizenship of Afghanistan.
 - Affairs related to citizenship and asylum are regulated by law.

- Article 5 • Implementation of the provisions of this constitution and other laws, defending independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and ensuring the security and defence capability of the country, are the basic duties of the state.
- Article 6 • The state is obliged to create a prosperous and progressive society based on social justice, protection of human dignity, protection of human rights, realisation of democracy, and to ensure national unity and equality among all ethnic groups and tribes and to provide for balanced development in all areas of the country.
- Article 7 • The state shall observe the Charter of the United Nations, international treaties, international conventions that Afghanistan is a party to, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The state prevents all types of terrorist activities, cultivation and smuggling of narcotic drugs, and production and consumption of intoxicants.
- Article 8 • The state regulates the foreign policy of the country on the basis of preserving independence, national interests, territorial integrity, non-interference, good neighbourliness, mutual respect, and equal rights.
- Article 9 • Mines and other underground resources and cultural heritages are the properties of the state.
- Protection, management and mode of proper utilisation of public properties shall be regulated by law.
- Article 10 • The state encourages and protects private investments and enterprises based on the market economy and guarantees their protection in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 11 • Affairs related to domestic and external trade shall be regulated by law in accordance with the needs of the national economy and the public interest.
- Article 12 • Da Afghanistan Bank is the central and independent bank of the state.
- Issuance of currency and formulation and implementation of monetary policy of the country are the mandates of the central bank in accordance with the law.
 - The central bank shall consult the economic commission of the Wolesi Jirga in matters related to printing of currency.
 - Structure and operation of this bank shall be regulated by law.
- Article 13 • The state shall formulate and implement effective programmes for the development of industries, growth of production, increase of public living standards, and support of craftsmanship.

- Article 14 • The state shall design and implement within its financial resources effective programmes for the development of agriculture and animal husbandry, improving the economic, social and living conditions of farmers, herders, and settlements and living conditions of the nomads.
- The state adopts necessary measures for housing and distribution of public estates to deserving citizens in accordance within its financial resources and the law.
- Article 15 • The state is obliged to adopt necessary measures for safeguarding and improving forests and the environment.
- Article 16 • From among the languages of Pashto, Dari, Uzbeki, Turkmani, Baluchi, Pashai, Nuristani, Pamiri and other languages spoken in the country, Pashto and Dari are the official languages of the state.
- In areas where the majority of people speak one of the Uzbeki, Turkmani, Baluchi, Pashai, Nuristani and Pamiri languages, that language shall be recognised as third official language in addition to Pashto and Dari, the modality of its implementation shall be regulated by law.
 - The state adopts and implements effective plans for strengthening and developing all languages of Afghanistan.
 - Publications and mass media are allowed in all languages spoken in the country.
 - The existing national academic and administrative terminology of the country shall be preserved.
- Article 17 • The state shall adopt necessary measures for promotion of education in all levels, development of religious education, and organising and improving the conditions of mosques, madrasas and religious centres.
- Article 18 • The calendar of the country shall be based on the migration of the Prophet (Peace be upon Him).
- The basis of work for state offices shall be the solar calendar.
 - Fridays and the 28th of Asad and the 8th of Sawr are public holidays.
 - Other holidays shall be regulated by law.
- Article 19 • The Afghan flag is made up of three equal parts, with black, red and green colours juxtaposed from left to right perpendicularly.
- The width of every coloured piece is equal to half of its length. The national insignia is located in the centre of the flag. The national insignia of the state of Afghanistan is composed of a *Mehrab* and pulpit in white colour. Two flags are located on its two sides. In the upper-middle part of the insignia the sacred phrase of “There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his prophet, and Allah is Great” is placed, along with a rising sun. The word “Afghanistan” and year

1298 (solar calendar) is located in the lower part of the insignia. The insignia is encircled with two branches of wheat.

- The law shall regulate the use of national flag and emblem.
- Article 20 • The National Anthem of Afghanistan shall be in Pashto and mention “Allahu Akbar” and the names of the ethnic groups of Afghanistan.
- Article 21 • The capital of Afghanistan is the city of Kabul.

Chapter Two: The Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

- Article 22 • Any kind of discrimination and privilege between the citizens of Afghanistan is prohibited.
- The citizens of Afghanistan—whether woman or man—have equal rights and duties before the law.
- Article 23 • Life is a gift of God and a natural right of human beings. No one shall be deprived of this right except by the provision of law.
- Article 24 • Liberty is the natural right of human beings. This right has no limits unless affecting the rights of others and public interest, which are regulated by law.
- The liberty and dignity of human beings are inviolable.
 - The state has the duty to respect and protect the liberty and dignity of human beings.
- Article 25 • Innocence is the original state.
- An accused is considered innocent until convicted by a final decision of an authorised court.
- Article 26 • Crime is a personal action.
- The prosecution, arrest, and detention of an accused and the execution of penalty cannot affect another person.
- Article 27 • No act is considered a crime, unless determined by a law adopted prior to the date the offence is committed.
- No person can be pursued, arrested or detained but in accordance with the provisions of law.
 - No person can be punished but in accordance with the decision of an authorised court and in conformity with the law adopted before the date of the offence.
- Article 28 • No citizen of Afghanistan accused of a crime can be extradited to a foreign state unless according to mutual agreement and international conventions that Afghanistan has joined.

- No Afghan can be sentenced to deprivation of citizenship or to exile inside the country or abroad.
- Article 29 • Torture of human beings is prohibited.
- No person, even with the intention of discovering the truth, can resort to torture or order the torture of another person who may be under prosecution, arrest, detention or convicted to be punished.
 - Punishment contrary to human integrity is prohibited.
- Article 30 • Any statement, confession or testimony obtained from an accused or of another person by means of compulsion, is invalid.
- Confession to a crime is a voluntary admission before an authorised court by an accused in a sound state of mind.
- Article 31 • Every person upon arrest can seek an advocate to defend his/her rights or to defend his/her case for which he/she is accused under the law.
- The accused upon arrest has the right to be informed of the attributed accusation and to be summoned to the court within the limits determined by law.
 - In criminal cases, the state shall appoint an advocate for a destitute.
 - The confidentiality of oral, written or telephonic communications between an advocate and his/her accused client are immune from invasion.
 - The duties and authorities of advocates shall be regulated by law.
- Article 32 • Being in debt does not limit a person's freedom or deprive him/her of liberty.
- The mode and means of recovering a debt shall be regulated by law.
- Article 33 • The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to elect and be elected.
- Law regulates the conditions and means to exercise this right.
- Article 34 • Freedom of expression is inviolable.
- Every Afghan has the right to express thoughts through speech, writing, or illustration or other means by observing the provisions of this Constitution.
 - Every Afghan has the right to print or publish topics without prior submission to the state authorities in accordance with the law.
 - Directives related to printing houses, radio, television, the press, and other mass media, shall be regulated by law.
- Article 35 • The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to form social organisations for the purpose of securing material or spiritual aims in accordance with the provisions of law.
- The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to form political parties in accordance with the provisions of law, provided that:

1. The programme and charter of the party are not contrary to the principles of sacred religion of Islam, and the provisions and values of this Constitution.
 2. The organisational structure and financial sources of the party are made public.
 3. The party does not have military or paramilitary aims and structures.
 4. The party should have no affiliation to a foreign political party or sources.
- Formation and functioning of a party based on ethnicity, language, religious sect and region is not permissible.
 - A party set up in accordance with provisions of the law shall not be dissolved without lawful reasons and the decision of an authorised court.
- Article 36 • The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to unarmed demonstrations for legitimate peaceful purposes in accordance with the law.
- Article 37 • Confidentiality and freedom of correspondence and communication, whether in the form of letters or through telephone, telegraph and other means, are immune from invasion.
- The state does not have the right to inspect personal correspondence and communication unless authorised by the provisions of law.
- Article 38 • A person's residence is immune from invasion.
- Other than the situations and methods indicated in the law, no one, including the state, is allowed to enter or inspect a private residence without prior permission of the resident or holding a court order.
 - In case of an evident crime, an official in charge of the situation can enter or conduct a house search prior to the permission of the court.
 - The official involved in the situation is required to obtain a subsequent court order for the house search within the period indicated by law.
- Article 39 • Every Afghan has the right to travel or settle in any part of the country except in the regions forbidden by law.
- Every Afghan has the right to travel abroad and return home in accordance with the provisions of law.
 - The state shall protect the rights of the citizens of Afghanistan abroad.
- Article 40 • Property is immune from invasion.
- No person shall be forbidden from acquiring and making use of property except within the limits of law.
 - No person's property shall be confiscated without the provisions of law and the order of an authorised court.

- Acquisition of a person's property, in return for a prior and just compensation within the bounds of law, is permitted only for securing public interests in accordance with the provisions of law.
 - Inspection and disclosure of private property are carried out only in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 41 • Foreign individuals do not have the right to own immovable property in Afghanistan.
- Lease of immovable property for the purpose of investment is permissible in accordance with the law.
 - The sale of estates to diplomatic missions of foreign countries and to those international agencies of which Afghanistan is a member is permissible in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 42 • Every Afghan is obligated to pay taxes and duties to the government in accordance with the provisions of law.
- No taxes and duties are enforced without provisions of the law.
 - The rate of taxes and duties and the method of payments are determined by law on the basis of observing social justice.
 - This provision is also applied to foreign individuals and agencies.
 - Every kind of tax, duty and income collected shall be delivered to the state account.
- Article 43 • Education is the right of all citizens of Afghanistan, which shall be provided up to the level of the Bachelors free of charge by the state.
- The state is obliged to devise and implement effective programs for a balanced expansion of education all over Afghanistan, and to provide compulsory intermediate level education. The state is also required to provide the opportunity to teach native languages in the areas where they are spoken.
- Article 44 • The state shall devise and implement effective programs for balancing and promoting education for women, improving of education of the nomads and elimination of illiteracy in the country.
- Article 45 • The state shall devise and implement a unified educational curriculum based on the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, national culture, and in accordance with academic principles, and develop the curriculum of religious subjects on the basis of the Islamic sects existing in Afghanistan.
- Article 46 • Establishing and operating higher, general and vocational education are duties of the state.
- The citizens of Afghanistan also can establish higher, general, and vocational private educational institutions and literacy courses with the permission of the state.

- The state can also permit foreign persons to set up higher, general and vocational educational private institutes in accordance with the law.
 - The conditions for admission to state higher education institutions and other related matters are regulated by law.
- Article 47 • The state shall devise effective programs for the promotion of science, culture, literature and the arts.
- The state guarantees the rights of authors, inventors, and discoverers, encourages and supports scientific researches in all areas, and publicises the effective use of their results in accordance with the law.
- Article 48 • Work is the right of every Afghan.
- Working hours, paid holidays, rights of employer and employee and other related affairs are regulated by law.
 - Choice of occupation and craft is free within the limits of law.
- Article 49 • Forced labour is forbidden.
- Active participation in times of war, calamity, and other situations threatening lives and public welfare is a national duty of every Afghan.
 - Children shall not be subjected to forced labour.
- Article 50 • The state is obliged to adopt necessary measures for creation of a strong and sound administration and realisation of reforms in the administration system of the country.
- Government offices are bound to carry out their work with full neutrality and in compliance with the provisions of law.
 - The citizens of Afghanistan have the right of access to information from government offices in accordance with the provisions of law. This right has no limits, unless in violation of the rights of the others.
 - The citizens of Afghanistan are employed for state services on the basis of qualification without any kind of discrimination and in accordance with the law.
- Article 51 • Any person suffering undue harm by government action is entitled to compensation, which he can claim by appealing to court.
- With the exception of situations stated in the law, the state cannot claim its right without the order of an authorised court.
- Article 52 • The state is obliged to provide free means of preventive health care and medical treatment, and proper health facilities to all citizens of Afghanistan in accordance with the law.
- The state encourages and protects the establishment and expansion of private medical services and health centres in accordance with law.

- The state adopts necessary measures to promote physical education and improve national and local sports.
- Article 53 • The state takes necessary measures for regulating medical services and financial support to descendants of martyred and lost, re-integration of disabled and handicapped individuals and their active participation in society in accordance with the law.
- The state guarantees the rights of pensioners and renders necessary assistance to needy elders, women without caretakers, disabled and handicapped individuals and needy orphans in accordance with the law.
- Article 54 • Family is a fundamental unit of society and is supported by the state.
- The state adopts necessary measures to ensure the physical and psychological well-being of the family, especially of child and mother, upbringing of children and the elimination of traditions contrary to the principles of the sacred religion of Islam.
- Article 55 • The defence of the country is the responsibility of all citizens of Afghanistan.
- The conditions for military service are regulated by law.
- Article 56 • Observing the provisions of the Constitution, obeying the laws, and adhering to public law and order are the duties of all people of Afghanistan.
- Ignorance about the provisions of law is not considered an excuse.
- Article 57 • The state guarantees the rights and liberties of foreign citizens residing in Afghanistan in accordance with the law. These people are obliged to observe the laws of the state of Afghanistan in accordance with International Law.
- Article 58 • The State, for the purpose of monitoring the observation of human rights in Afghanistan, and their promotion and protection, shall establish the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan.
- Any person in case of a violation of his/her rights can report their complaint to this Commission.
 - The Commission can refer cases of violations of the human rights of persons to legal authorities, and assist them in defending their rights.
 - The structure and mode of function of this Commission will be regulated by law.
- Article 59 • No one can misuse the rights and freedoms under this Constitution against independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty and national unity.

Chapter Three: The President

- Article 60 • The President is the head of state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and conducts authority in executive, legislative, and judicial branches in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- The President shall have first and second Vice Presidents.
 - The candidate to the Presidency on his or her candidacy shall also declare the names of the Vice Presidents to the nation.
 - The First Vice President in the absence, resignation, or death of the President, acts in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
 - In the absence of the First Vice President, the Second Vice President shall act in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- Article 61 • The President is elected by receiving more than 50 percent of the votes cast through free, general, secret, and direct voting.
- The presidential term expires on the first of Jawza of the fifth year after the elections.
 - Elections for the new President are held thirty to sixty days before the end of the presidential term.
 - If none of the candidates succeeds in receiving more than 50 percent of the votes in the first round, a run-off election shall be held within two weeks.
 - In this round, only the two candidates with the highest number of votes will participate.
 - In the run-off, the candidate who gets the majority of the votes shall be elected as the President.
 - In case of death of one of the candidates during the first or second round, after the elections or prior to the announcement of the results of elections, new elections shall be held in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 62 • Presidential candidates should possess the following qualifications:
1. Should be citizens of Afghanistan, Muslim and born of Afghan parents, and should not have citizenship of another country.
 2. On the day of becoming a candidate, his/her age should not be less than 40 years.
 3. Should not have been convicted of crimes against humanity, a criminal act, or deprived of their civil rights by a court.
- No one can be elected as president for more than two terms.
 - The provision of this article applies to the Vice Presidents as well.
- Article 63 • The President-elect, prior to assumption of his/her duties, performs the following oath in accordance with the rules of procedures prescribed by law:

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate; In the name of God Almighty, in the presence of you representatives of the nation of Afghanistan, I swear to obey and safeguard the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, to observe the Constitution and other laws of Afghanistan and supervise their implementation; to safeguard the independence, national sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of Afghanistan and the fundamental rights and interests of the people of Afghanistan, and with the assistance of God and the support of the nation, to make great and sincere efforts for the happiness and progress of the people of Afghanistan.

- Article 64 • The power and duties of the President are as follows:
1. Supervising the implementation of the Constitution
 2. Determining the fundamental policies of the state with the approval of the National Assembly
 3. Being the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of Afghanistan
 4. Declaration of war and ceasefire with the confirmation of the National Assembly
 5. Taking the required decisions to defend territorial integrity and protect independence
 6. Sending contingents of the armed forces to foreign countries with the confirmation of the National Assembly
 7. Convening the Loya Jirga except in the situation stated in Article 68 of this Constitution
 8. Declaring the state of emergency and ending it with the confirmation of the National Assembly
 9. Inaugurating the National Assembly and the Loya Jirga
 10. Accepting resignation of the Vice Presidents
 11. Appointing Ministers, the Attorney General, the Governor of the Central Bank, Head of the National Security Directorate and the President of the Afghan Red Crescent Society with the confirmation of the Wolesi Jirga, dismissing them and accepting their resignations
 12. Appointing the head and members of the Supreme Court with the confirmation of the Wolesi Jirga
 13. Appointing, retiring and accepting the resignation of and dismissing judges, officers of the armed forces, police, national security, and high-ranking officials in accordance with the law
 14. Appointing heads of the diplomatic missions of Afghanistan in foreign countries and international organisations
 15. Accepting the credentials of diplomatic missions in Afghanistan

16. Signing laws and legislative decrees
 17. Issuing credential letters for the conclusion of bilateral and international treaties in accordance with the provisions of law
 18. Reducing and pardoning penalties in accordance with the law
 19. Issuing medals and honorary titles in accordance with the provisions of law
 20. Establishing commissions for the improvement of the administrative condition of the country, in accordance with the law
 21. Exercising other authorities in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution
- Article 65 • The President can call for a referendum on important national political, social or economic issues.
- Calling for a referendum shall not be contrary to the provisions of this Constitution or for amending it.
- Article 66 • The President takes into consideration the supreme interests of the people of Afghanistan while enforcing the powers stated in this Constitution.
- The President cannot sell or bestow state properties without the provisions of law.
 - The President cannot act based on linguistic, ethnic, religious, political, and regional considerations during his/her term in office.
- Article 67 • In case of resignation, impeachment, or death of the President, or of a serious illness that could hinder the performance of duties, the First Vice President undertakes his/her duties and authorities.
- The President submits his/her resignation personally to the National Assembly.
 - Serious illness shall be proved by an authorised medical committee appointed by the Supreme Court.
 - In this case, an election for a new President shall be held within the period of three months in accordance with Article 61 of this Constitution.
 - During the time when the First Vice President acts as the interim President, he/she cannot perform the following:
 1. Amendment of the Constitution
 2. Dismissal of Ministers
 3. Call for a referendum
 - During this period the Vice Presidents can nominate themselves as candidates for the post of President in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.
 - In the absence of the President, the duties of the First Vice President shall be determined by the President.

- Article 68 • In case of resignation or death of one of the Vice Presidents, another person shall replace him/her by the proposal of the President and approval of the Wolesi Jirga.
- In case of the simultaneous death of the President and the First Vice President, in turn the Second Vice President, the Chair of the Meshrano Jirga and in the absence of the chair of the Meshrano Jirga, the Chair of the Wolesi Jirga, and in the absence of the Chair of the Wolesi Jirga, the Foreign Minister shall perform the duties of the President in accordance with Article 67 of this Constitution.
- Article 69 • The President is responsible to the nation and the Wolesi Jirga according to this Article.
- Accusations of crimes against humanity, national treason or crime can be levelled against the President by one-third of the members of the Wolesi Jirga.
 - If two thirds of the Wolesi Jirga votes for charges to be brought forth, the Wolesi Jirga shall convene a Loya Jirga within one month. If the Loya Jirga approves the accusation by a two-thirds majority of votes the President is then dismissed, and the case is referred to a special court. The special court shall be composed of three members of the Wolesi Jirga, and three members of the Supreme Court appointed by the Loya Jirga and the Chair of the Meshrano Jirga.
 - The lawsuit is conducted by a person appointed by the Loya Jirga.
 - In this situation, the provisions of Article 67 of this Constitution are applied.
- Article 70 • The salary and expenditures of the President are regulated by law.
- After the expiration of their term, the President is entitled to the financial benefits of the presidency for the rest of his/her life in accordance with the law except in the case of dismissal.

Chapter Four: The Government

- Article 71 • The government consists of the Ministers who work under the Chairmanship of the President.
- The number of Ministers and their duties shall be regulated by law.
- Article 72 • A person who is appointed as a Minister should have the following qualifications:
1. Must have only the citizenship of Afghanistan. Should a nominee for a ministerial post also hold the citizenship of another country, the Wolesi Jirga shall have the right to confirm or reject his or her nomination.
 2. Should have higher education, work experience and good reputation.
 3. His/her age should not be less than 35.
 4. Should not have been convicted of crimes against humanity, a criminal act, or deprived of civil rights by a court.

- Article 73 • The Ministers can be appointed from within and without the National Assembly.
- If a member of the National Assembly is appointed as a minister, he/she loses his/her membership in the National Assembly, and is replaced by another person in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 74 • Prior to taking office, the Minister shall perform the following oath in the presence of the President:
- In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate: I swear in the name of God Almighty to support the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, follow the Constitution and other laws of Afghanistan, protect the rights of citizens, and safeguard the independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and consider God Almighty present in performing all my responsibilities, and honestly perform the duties assigned to me.*
- Article 75 • The government shall have the following duties:
1. Execute the provisions of this Constitution, other laws, and final orders of the courts
 2. Protect the independence, defend the territorial integrity, and safeguard the interests and dignity of Afghanistan in the international community
 3. Maintenance of public law and order and elimination of administrative corruption
 4. Prepare the budget, regulate financial affairs and protect public wealth
 5. Devise and implement programmes for social, cultural, economic, and technological progress
 6. Report to the National Assembly at the end of the fiscal year about the tasks accomplished and about the main plans for the new fiscal year
 7. Perform other duties as recognised by this Constitution and other laws to be duties of the government
- Article 76 • In order to implement the main policies of the country and regulation of its duties, the government shall devise and approve regulations. These regulations should not be contradictory to the text and spirit of any law.
- Article 77 • As heads of administrative units and members of the government, the Ministers perform their duties within the limits determined by this Constitution and other laws.
- The Ministers are responsible to the President and the Wolesi Jirga for their particular duties.
- Article 78 • If a Minister is accused of crime against humanity, national treason or a criminal act, the case shall be referred to a special court in accordance with Article 134 of this Constitution.

- Article 79 • In cases of recess of the Wolesi Jirga, the government can adopt legislation in an emergency situation on matters other than those related to budget and financial affairs.
- The legislative decrees become laws after they are signed by the President. The legislative decrees should be submitted to the National Assembly in the course of thirty days beginning from the first session of the National Assembly.
 - In case of rejection by the National Assembly, the legislations become void.
- Article 80 • Ministers during the course of their work cannot use their posts for linguistic, regional, ethnic, religious and partisan purposes.

Chapter Five: The National Assembly

- Article 81 • The National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as the highest legislative organ, is the manifestation of the will of its people and represents the whole nation.
- Every member of the National Assembly takes into judgment the general welfare and supreme interests of all people of Afghanistan at the time of casting their vote.
- Article 82 • The National Assembly consists of two houses: Wolesi Jirga (the House of People) and Meshrano Jirga (House of Elders).
- No one can become a member of both houses simultaneously.
- Article 83 • Members of the Wolesi Jirga are elected by the people through free, general, secret and direct elections.
- Their mandate ends on the 1st of Saratan of the fifth year after the elections and the new assembly starts its work.
 - The election of the members of the Wolesi Jirga shall be held 30 to 60 days before the expiry of the term of the Wolesi Jirga.
 - The number of members of the Wolesi Jirga, proportionate to the population of each region, shall be not more than two hundred and fifty.
 - Electoral constituency and other related issues shall be determined by election laws.
 - In the Election Law, measures should be adopted so the election system shall provide general and just representation for all the people of the country and based on the population, from each province on average at least two female delegates shall have membership to the Wolesi Jirga.
- Article 84 • Members of the Meshrano Jirga are elected and appointed as follows:
1. From among the members of each Provincial Council, the respective council elects one person for a period of four years.

2. From among the District Councils of each province, the respective councils elect one person for a period of three years.
 3. The President appoints the remaining one-third of the members for a period of five years from among experts and experienced personalities, including two representatives of the disabled and impaired and two representatives from the Nomads.
- The president appoints 50 percent of these people from among women.
 - A person who is appointed as a member of the *Meshrano Jirga* shall relinquish their membership in the respective council, and another person replaces him/her in accordance with the law.
- Article 85 • A person who is nominated or appointed as a member of the National Assembly should have the following qualifications in addition to those considered by voters:
1. Should be a citizen of Afghanistan, or has obtained citizenship of the state of Afghanistan at least ten years before becoming a candidate or being appointed.
 2. Should not have been convicted by a court for committing a crime against humanity, a crime, or sentenced to deprivation of his/her civil rights.
 3. Members of the Wolesi Jirga should be at least 25 years old at the date of candidacy and members of the Meshrano Jirga should be at least 35 years old at the date of candidacy or appointment.
- Article 86 • Credentials of members of the National Assembly are reviewed by the Independent Election Commission in accordance with the law.
- Article 87 • In the beginning of the legislative period, each one of the two houses elects one of its members as the Chairperson for one legislative period, and two people as the first and second Vice Chairperson, and two people as the Secretary and Assistant Secretary for a period of one year.
- These individuals constitute the Bureau in their respective houses.
 - The duties of the Bureau are determined in the regulations pertaining to the internal duties of each house.
- Article 88 • Each house of the National Assembly sets up commissions to study the topics under discussion in accordance with its internal regulations.
- Article 89 • The Wolesi Jirga has the authority to set up a special commission if one-third of its members put forward a proposal to inquire about and study government actions.
- The composition and procedure of this commission is specified in the internal regulations of Wolesi Jirga.

- Article 90 • The National Assembly has the following authorities:
1. Ratification, modification, or abrogation of laws and or legislative decrees
 2. Approval of plans for economic, social, cultural, and technological development
 3. Approval of state budget, permission for obtaining and granting loans
 4. Creation, modification, and or abrogation of administrative units
 5. Ratification of international treaties and agreements, or abrogation of the membership of Afghanistan to them
 6. Other authorities specified in this Constitution
- Article 91 • The Wolesi Jirga has the following special authorities:
- Deciding on interrogation of Ministers in accordance with the provisions of Article 92 of this Constitution.
 - Taking decisions about the State's development programmes and the State budget.
 - Approval or rejection of the appointments according to the provisions of this Constitution.
- Article 92 • The Wolesi Jirga, based on a proposal by 20 percent of its members, can interrogate a Minister.
- If the responses given are not satisfactory, Wolesi Jirga shall consider a vote of no confidence.
 - The vote of no confidence in a Minister shall be explicit, direct, and on the basis of well-founded reasons. This vote should be approved by a majority of all members of the Wolesi Jirga.
- Article 93 • Any commission of both Houses of the National Assembly can question each of the Ministers about specific topics.
- The person questioned can provide verbal or written response.
- Article 94 • Law is what both Houses of the National Assembly approve and the President endorses unless this Constitution states otherwise.
- In case the President does not agree to what the National Assembly approves, he can send the document back with justifiable reasons to the Wolesi Jirga within 15 days of its submission. With the passage of this period or in case the Wolesi Jirga approves a particular case again with a majority of two-thirds votes, the bill is considered endorsed and enforced.
- Article 95 • Proposal for the promulgation of a law can be initiated by the government, or members of the National Assembly, and in the domain of regulating judicial affairs through the Supreme Court by the government. Proposals for drafting

the budget and financial affairs laws shall be made only by the government.

- Article 96 • If a proposal for the promulgation of law includes imposition of new taxes or reduction in State incomes, it is included in the working agenda on condition that an alternative source is also envisioned.

- Article 97 • Proposals for promulgation of law initiated by the government are submitted first to the Wolesi Jirga.
 - The Wolesi Jirga approves or rejects as a whole the proposal for promulgation of law including budget and financial affairs and the proposal of taking or giving a loan after discussion.
 - The Wolesi Jirga cannot delay the proposal more than one month.
 - The proposed draft of law is submitted to the Meshrano Jirga, after its approval by the Wolesi Jirga.
 - The Meshrano Jirga decides on the draft within a period of 15 days.
 - The National Assembly shall give priority to the promulgation of laws, treaties, and development plans of the government that require urgent consideration and decision as per the request of the government.
 - If a proposal for promulgation of law is initiated by ten members of one of the two Houses and then approved by one-fifth members of the respective houses, it can be admitted to the agenda of the respective houses.

- Article 98 • The state budget and development plan of the government is submitted through the Meshrano Jirga along with advisory comments to the Wolesi Jirga.
 - The decision of the Wolesi Jirga, irrespective of the consent of the Meshrano Jirga, is enforceable after it is signed by the President.
 - If for some reason the budget is not approved before the beginning of the new fiscal year, the budget of the year before is applied until the approval of the new budget.
 - The government is obligated to give to the Wolesi Jirga the budget of the new fiscal year and a brief account of the current year's budget within the fourth quarter of the fiscal year.
 - The definite account of the previous fiscal year shall be submitted by the government to the Wolesi Jirga within six months of the new year, in accordance with the provisions of law.
 - The Wolesi Jirga cannot delay the approval of the budget for more than one month or permission to give or take a loan for more than 15 days.
 - If during this period the Wolesi Jirga does not take any decision with regards to taking or giving a loan, the proposal will be considered as approved.

- Article 99 • If, during a session of the National Assembly, the annual budget or a developmental plan or an issue related to public security, territorial integrity, and

the country's independence is under discussion, the session of the Assembly cannot end before the approval of the matter.

- Article 100 • In case the decision of one house is rejected by another house, a combined committee composed of equal members of each house is formed to resolve the disagreement.
- The decision of the committee is enforced after its approval by the President.
 - In case the combined committee cannot solve the disagreement, the defeated resolution is considered void.
 - In this case the Wolesi Jirga can approve it at the next session of the Wolesi Jirga by a two-thirds majority vote of its all members.
 - This approval is assumed as enforceable, after it is signed by the President, without submission to the Meshrano Jirga.
- Article 101 • No member of the National Assembly is legally prosecutable for expressing his /her views while performing their duty.
- Article 102 • When a member of the National Assembly is accused of a crime, the law enforcement authority informs the house of which the accused is member about the case, and the accused member can be prosecuted.
- In case of an evident crime, the law enforcement authority can legally pursue and arrest the accused without the permission of the house of which the accused is a member.
 - In both cases, when legal prosecution requires detention of the accused, law enforcement authorities are obligated to inform the respective house about the case immediately.
 - If the accusation takes place when the National Assembly is in recess, the permission of arrest is obtained from the administrative board of the respective house and the decision of this board is presented to the first session of the aforementioned house for a decision.
- Article 103 • The Ministers can participate in the sessions of each one of the two houses of the National Assembly.
- Each house of the National Assembly can demand that Ministers take part in its session.
- Article 104 • Both houses of the National Assembly hold their sessions separately at the same time.
- Under the following circumstances, both houses can hold joint sessions:
 1. When the legislative session or the annual session is inaugurated by the President
 2. When it is deemed necessary by the President

- In this case, the head of the Wolesi Jirga chairs the joint session of the National Assembly.
- Article 105 • The sessions of the National Assembly are open unless the Chairman of the assembly, or at least ten members of the National Assembly, request secrecy and the assembly accepts this request.
- No one shall enter the building of the National Assembly by force.
- Article 106 • The quorum of the sessions of each house of the National Assembly for voting is complete with the presence of the majority of the members, and its decisions are taken with the majority of the members present, unless this Constitution states otherwise.
- Article 107 • The National Assembly convenes two ordinary sessions each year.
- The term of the National Assembly in each year is nine months. When necessary, the Assembly can extend this period.
 - Extraordinary sessions of the Assembly during recess can take place by the order of the President.
- Article 108 • In cases of death, resignation and dismissal of a member of the National Assembly, and/or disability or handicap, which prevents performance of duties permanently, an election in the related constituency is held for a new representative for the rest of the legislative period, in accordance with the law.
- Matters involving the presence or absence of members of the National Assembly are regulated according to internal rules.
- Article 109 • Proposals for amendments of the Electoral Law cannot be included in the working agenda of the Assembly during the last year of the legislative period.

Chapter Six: Loya Jirga

- Article 110 • A Loya Jirga is the highest manifestation of the people of Afghanistan.
- A Loya Jirga consists of the following:
 1. Members of the National Assembly
 2. Chairpersons of the Provincial and District Councils
 - The Ministers, Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General can participate in the sessions of the Loya Jirga without the right to vote.
- Article 111 • A Loya Jirga shall be convened in the following situations:
1. To take decisions on issues related to independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the supreme interests of the country

2. To amend the provisions of this Constitution
3. To prosecute the President in accordance with the provisions of Article 69 of this Constitution

Article 112 • The Loya Jirga in its first session elects from among its members a Chairperson, a Deputy Chair, a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary.

Article 113 • The quorum of the Loya Jirga for voting is completed by the majority of members.

- The decisions of the Loya Jirga are taken by a majority of the present members except in cases explicitly stated in this Constitution.

Article 114 • Discussions of the Loya Jirga are open except when one-fourth of its members demand their secrecy, and the Loya Jirga accepts this demand.

Article 115 • During the session of a Loya Jirga, the provision of Articles 101 and 102 of this Constitution are applied on its members.

Chapter Seven: The Judiciary

Article 116 • The judicial branch is an independent organ of the state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

- The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court, High Courts, Appeal Courts, and Primary Courts, the structure and authorities of which are determined by law. The Supreme Court shall be the highest judicial organ, heading the judicial power of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 117 • The Supreme Court is composed of nine members who are appointed by the President for a period of ten years with the confirmation of the Wolesi Jirga with observance of the provisions of the final clause of Article 50 and Article 118 of this Constitution. In the beginning the appointment will be as such:

- Three members are appointed for a period of four years, three members for seven years and three members for ten years.
- Later appointments will be for a period of ten years.
- The appointment of members for a second term is not permissible.
- The President appoints one of its members as the Head of the Supreme Court.
- Members in no way can be dismissed from their service until the end of their term, except circumstances stated in Article 127 of this Constitution.

Article 118 • A member of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:

1. The age of the Head of the Supreme Court and its members should not be lower than 40 at the time of appointment

2. Should be a citizen of Afghanistan
3. Should have higher education in law or in Islamic jurisprudence, and enough expertise and experience in the judicial system of Afghanistan
4. Should enjoy high ethics and good reputation
5. Should not have been convicted of crimes against humanity, crimes, or sentenced to deprivation of civil rights by a court
6. Should not be a member of any political party during the term of official duty

Article 119 • Members of the Supreme Court take the following oath in the presence of the President before occupying the post:

In the name Allah, the Merciful and the Compassionate: I swear in the name of God Almighty to support justice and righteousness in accordance with the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam and the provisions of this Constitution and other laws of Afghanistan, and to execute the duty of being a judge with utmost honesty, righteousness and nonpartisanship.

Article 120 • The authority of the judicial organ is to attend to all lawsuits in which real individuals or incorporated bodies including the state stand before it as plaintiff or defendant in accordance with provisions of the law.

Article 121 • The Supreme Court on the request of the government or the courts shall review laws, legislative decrees, international treaties and international covenants for their compliance with the Constitution and provide their interpretation in accordance with the law.

Article 122 • No law, under any circumstance, can transfer a case from the jurisdiction of the judicial branch to another organ as has been determined in this Constitution.

- This provision does not apply to establishing special courts stated in Articles 69, 78 and 127 of this Constitution and military courts in matters relating to them.
- The structure and authority of these courts are regulated by law.

Article 123 • With observance of the provisions of this Constitution, the rules related to the structure, authority, and performance of the courts and the duties of judges are regulated by law.

Article 124 • Other officials and administrative personnel of the judicial branch are subject to the provisions of the laws related to the officials and other administrative personnel of the state, but their appointment, dismissal, promotion, pension, rewards and punishments are regulated by the Supreme Court in accordance with the law.

- Article 125 • The budget of the judicial branch is prepared by the Supreme Court in consultation with the government and presented by the government to the National Assembly as part of the state budget.
- Implementation of the budget of the judicial branch is the authority of the Supreme Court.
- Article 126 • Members of the Supreme Court enjoy official financial benefits for the rest of their lives provided they do not occupy state or political positions.
- Article 127 • When more than one-third of the members of the Wolesi Jirga demand the trial of the Chief Justice, or a member of the Supreme Court due to a crime committed during the performance of duty, and the Wolesi Jirga approves of this demand by a majority of two-thirds, the accused is dismissed from their post and the case is referred to a special court.
- The setting up of the court and the procedures of trial are regulated by law.
- Article 128 • In the courts of Afghanistan, trials are open and everyone is entitled to attend in accordance with the law.
- The court, in situations which are stated in the law or in situations in which the secrecy of the trial is deemed necessary, can conduct the trial behind closed doors, but the announcement of the court decision should be open in all instances.
- Article 129 • The court is obliged to state the reasons for the decisions it issues.
- All final decisions of the courts are enforceable, except for capital punishment, which is conditional upon approval of the President.
- Article 130 • While processing cases, the courts apply the provisions of this Constitution and other laws.
- When there is no provision in the Constitution or other laws regarding ruling on an issue, the courts' decisions shall be within the limits of this Constitution in accord with the Hanafi jurisprudence and in a way to serve justice in the best possible manner.
- Article 131 • The Courts shall apply the Shia school of law in cases dealing with personal matters involving the followers of the Shia Sect in accordance with the provisions of law.
- In other cases, if no clarification by this Constitution or other laws exists, courts will resolve the matter according to laws of this Sect.
- Article 132 • Judges are appointed with the recommendation of the Supreme Court and approval of the President.
- The appointment, transfer, promotion, punishment, and proposal to retire judges are within the authority of the Supreme Court in accordance with the law.

- The Supreme Court shall establish the General Administration Office of Judicial Power for the purpose of better arrangement of the administration and judicial affairs and ensuring the required improvements.
- Article 133• When a judge is accused of having committed a crime, the Supreme Court shall inquire about the case involving the judge in accordance with the law.
- After listening to the defence, when the Supreme Court regards the accusation to be valid, it shall present a proposal about the judge's dismissal to the President.
 - After Presidential approval, the accused judge shall be dismissed from duty, and punished in accordance with the provisions of the law.
- Article 134• Discovery of crimes is the duty of the police and investigation and prosecution are conducted by the Office of the Attorney General in accordance with the provisions of the law.
- The Office of the Attorney General is part of the Executive branch, and is independent in its performance.
 - The structure, authority and activities of the Office of the Attorney General are regulated by law.
 - Discovery and investigation of crimes related to the armed forces, police, and national security officials are regulated by a special law.
- Article 135• If parties involved in a case do not know the language in which the trial is conducted, they have the right to understand the material and documents related to the case through an interpreter and the right to speak in their native language in the court.

Chapter Eight: The Administration

- Article 136• The Administration of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan shall be based on central and local administrative units in accordance with the law.
- The central administration is divided into a number of administrative units, each of which shall be headed by a Minister.
 - The local administrative unit is a province.
 - The number, area, parts, and structures of the provinces and the related administrations are regulated by law on the basis of population, social and economic conditions, and geographic location.
- Article 137• The government, while preserving the principle of centralism, shall delegate certain authorities to local administration units for the purpose of expediting and promoting economic, social, and cultural affairs, and increasing the participation of people in the development of the nation.

- Article 138 • In every province a Provincial Council is to be formed.
- Members of the Provincial Council are elected in proportion to the population by free, direct, secret and general elections by the residents of the province for a period of four years in accordance with the law.
 - The Provincial Council elects one of its members as Chairman.
- Article 139 • The Provincial Council takes part in securing the developmental targets of the state and improving its affairs in a way stated in the law, and gives advice on important issues falling within the domain of the province.
- Provincial Councils perform their duties in cooperation with the provincial administration.
- Article 140 • In order to organise activities involving the people and provide them with the opportunity to actively participate in the local administration, Councils are established in districts and villages in accordance with the provisions of the law.
- Members of these Councils are elected by the local people through, free, general, secret and direct elections for a period of three years.
 - The participation of nomads in these councils is regulated by law.
- Article 141 • Municipalities shall be set up in order to administer city affairs.
- The Mayor and members of the Municipal Councils are elected by free, general, secret, and direct elections.
 - The affairs related to municipalities are regulated by law.
- Article 142 • For the purpose of the implementation of the provisions, and ensuring the values of this Constitution, the State shall establish the required departments.

Chapter Nine: The State of Emergency

- Article 143 • If due to war, threat of war, serious rebellion, natural disasters, or situations similar to these, protecting the nation's independence or survival becomes impossible by following the provision of this Constitution, the President in confirmation with the National Assembly shall declare a state of emergency in some or all parts of the country.
- If the state of emergency continues for more than two months, the agreement of the National Assembly is required for its extension.
- Article 144 • During the state of emergency, the President, with the consultations of heads of the National Assembly and the Supreme Court, can transfer some authorities of the National Assembly to the government.
- Article 145 • During the state of emergency, the President, with the consent of the heads of the National Assembly and the Supreme Court, can suspend the validity of the

following Articles or can place restrictions on them:

1. Clause two of Article 27
2. Article 36
3. Clause two of Article 37
4. Clause two of Article 38

Article 146• During the state of emergency, the Constitution cannot be amended.

Article 147• If the presidential term of office and or the legislative period expire during a state of emergency, the new elections shall be postponed, and the presidency and the legislative period shall be extended for up to four months.

- If the state of emergency continues for more than four months, a Loya Jirga shall be called by the President for further decisions.
- Following the termination of state of emergency, elections should be held within two months.

Article 148• After the end of the state of emergency, the measures adopted on the basis of Articles 144 and 145 of this Constitution shall be considered invalid immediately.

Chapter Ten: Amendments

Article 149• The provisions of adherence to the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam and the regime of an Islamic Republic cannot be amended.

- The amendment of the fundamental rights of the people are permitted only in order to make them more effective.
- Considering new experiences and requirements of the time, other contents of this Constitution can be amended by the proposal of the President or by the majority of members of the National Assembly in accordance with the provisions of Articles 67 and 146 of this Constitution.

Article 150• In order to implement proposals regarding amending the Constitution, a commission composed of members of the government, National Assembly, and the Supreme Court must be established by a presidential decree, and the commission shall prepare a draft of the amendments.

- For approval of the amendments, a Loya Jirga shall be convened by the decree of the President in accordance with the provisions of the Chapter on the Loya Jirga.
- When the Loya Jirga approves an amendment by a majority of two-thirds of its members, it shall be enforced after endorsement by the President.

Chapter Eleven: The Miscellaneous Provisions

- Article 151 • The President, Vice Presidents, Ministers, Head and members of the Supreme Court, Attorney General, Head of the Central Bank, National Security Directorate, Governors and Mayors cannot engage in any profitable business contracts with the government during their term of office.
- Article 152 • The President, Vice Presidents, Ministers, Heads and members of the National Assembly, Head and members of the Supreme Court, Attorney General and judges, cannot undertake other jobs during their terms of office.
- Article 153 • Judges, Attorneys, and officers of the armed forces and police, and national security officials, cannot be members of political parties during their terms of office.
- Article 154 • The wealth of the President, Vice Presidents, Ministers, members of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General before and after their term of office should be registered and monitored by an organ to be set by law.
- Article 155 • Appropriate salaries shall be paid to the Vice Presidents, Ministers, Chairs and members of the National Assembly, the Supreme Court, Attorney General and judges in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 156 • The Independent Electoral Commission shall be set up for the organisation and supervision of any election and for holding a referendum within the country based on the provisions of the law.
- Article 157 • The Independent Commission for the Supervision of the Implementation of the Constitution will be established by the provisions of the law.
 - Members of this Commission shall be appointed by the President with the confirmation of the Wolesi Jirga.

Chapter Twelve: The Transitional Provisions

- Article 158 • The title of the Father of the Nation and the privileges granted by the Emergency Loya Jirga of 1381 (2002) to His Majesty Mohammad Zahir Shah Former King of Afghanistan are preserved for him during his lifetime, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- Article 159 • The period following the adoption of this Constitution until the date of inauguration of the National Assembly is deemed as a transitional period.
 - During the transitional period, the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan shall carry out the following tasks:

1. Issue legislative decrees related to the elections of the President, National Assembly and local councils within six months
2. Issue decrees regarding the structure and authorities of the courts and basic administration structures within a period of less than one year
3. Establish an Independent Election Commission
4. Take necessary measures for reform of executive and judicial affairs
5. Adopt necessary measures for preparing the ground for enforcement of the provisions of this Constitution

- Article 160 • The first elected President shall take up his/her duties after 30 days of the announcement of the elections in accordance with this Constitution.
- Every effort shall be made to hold the first presidential elections and the parliamentary elections at the same time.
 - Until the establishment of the National Assembly, the powers of this assembly outlined in this Constitution will be held by the government, and the interim Supreme Court shall be established by Presidential Decree.

- Article 161 • The National Assembly will exercise its powers immediately after its establishment in accordance with this Constitution.
- The government and the Supreme Court shall be established within 30 days of the first session of the Wolesi Jirga taking place.
 - The President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan shall continue his duties until the elected President has taken office.
 - The executive and judicial organs of the state in accordance with provisions of Clause 4 of Article 159 of this constitution shall continue their duties, until the formation of the government and the Supreme Court.
 - The decrees enforced from the beginning of the interim period shall be submitted to the first session of the National Assembly.
 - These decrees are enforceable until they are annulled by the National Assembly.

- Article 162 • This Constitution is enforced upon its approval by the Loya Jirga, and will be signed and announced by the President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan.
- Upon the enforcement of this Constitution, laws and decrees contrary to the provisions of it are invalid.

Code of Conduct for NGOs engaged in Humanitarian Action, Reconstruction, and Development in Afghanistan (2005)

For more information on the NGO Code of Conduct, see page 55.

Preamble

Because Afghanistan is at a unique point in its history and has the opportunity to move towards long-term stability, economic prosperity and respect for human rights;

Because NGOs are civil society actors and a strong civil society is essential to the development and functioning of a stable Afghan nation and state;

Because NGOs are committed to the development of Afghanistan and Afghan capacity;

Because the development of a new Constitution and a legislative structure for Afghanistan provide a context in which accountable and responsible behaviour can flourish and be recognised;

Because NGOs, as civil society organisations and emergency and development programme implementers, continue to make important contributions with and for the Afghan people;

Because the nature and roles of NGOs are not well understood, leading to accusations that NGOs misuse funds and are wasteful and self-serving;

Because various “for-profit” and political actors misuse the NGO umbrella to promote their commercial or political interests;

Because NGOs continue to face demands that pull them in many different directions and may threaten their capacity and their independence as civil society actors; and

Because Codes of Conduct are a mechanism by which NGOs can ensure higher standards – including greater transparency and accountability,

We, the accredited representatives of NGOs in Afghanistan, hereby voluntarily affix our signatures to this Code of Conduct and commit our organisations to upholding the Principles of Conduct in this Code.

Definitions

The Code of Conduct is a set of shared norms, principles and values that aims to enhance the conduct and reputation of NGOs.

Non-governmental organisations are voluntary, not-for-profit, non-partisan and independent organisations or associations engaged in serving the public good. NGOs may be national as well as international; secular as well as “faith-based”; and of membership and non-membership categories.

Voluntary denotes free will on the part of the NGO as well as community partners.

Not-for-profit means that an NGO cannot distribute its assets, earnings or profits as such to any person. However, there may be paid employees or activities generating revenue which will be used solely for the stated purposes of the organisation.

Non-partisan and independent indicates that the NGO is controlled and directed by its governing body, in keeping with its mandate and not by any other power or group.

Signatories are NGOs whose duly accredited representative has signed and accepted this Code of Conduct.

We refers to all signatories to the Code of Conduct.

Civil society includes all formal and informal groups and associations that are not of the public and business sectors. NGOs are a part of civil society.

Gender equality means that the different behaviour, aspirations, needs and rights of women and men are considered, valued and favoured equally. It does not mean that women and men have to become the same, but that their rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female.

Gender equity means fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs. This may include equal treatment or treatment that is different but which is considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities.

Capacity building is the process by which individuals, groups, organisations, institutions and societies increase their abilities to:

- 1 perform core functions, solve problems, define and achieve objectives; and
- 2 understand and deal with their development needs in a broad context and in a sustainable manner.

Humanitarian action includes those activities taken to prevent and alleviate human suffering arising out of conflict, crisis and calamity, including any situation involving:

- 1 damage to or loss of lives of non-combatants in a conflict situation; or
- 2 patterns of (gross) human rights or humanitarian law violations against civilians in conflict and/or ongoing political crisis.

NGO Mission Statement

Our general mission as NGOs operating in Afghanistan is to address humanitarian, reconstruction and sustainable development needs in Afghanistan, with a special focus on the rights of those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable. We work in partnership with each other, the government, donors and communities.

Purpose of the Code

The Code of Conduct will promote:

- improved understanding of NGOs, their purposes and their accomplishments among the general public, government, donors and the media;
- transparency, accountability and good management practices in the operation of NGOs by voluntary self-regulation; and
- improved quality of services provided by NGOs by raising standards of conduct.

Principles of Conduct

1 Our organisations are people-centered

- 1.1 Focus on the people we serve: Our primary loyalty, accountability and responsibility is to the people we serve. Our programmes are designed and developed in response to the needs of the people.
- 1.2 Self-reliance and ownership: We seek to help people and communities to solve their own problems. We encourage and enable the development of self-reliance and advance the right of people to fully participate in decisions that affect their lives.
- 1.3 Human rights: We endeavour to respect, protect and promote the fulfilment of the human rights and obligations of all Afghans in accordance with international law.
- 1.4 Trust: We work to build the trust of the communities with which we work.
- 1.5 Participation and non-discrimination: We involve men, women, youth and children of our target communities to the greatest possible extent, engaging them in the conception, implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes. We strive to ensure the participation of marginalised groups in communities where we work.
- 1.6 Respect for local values: We respect the dignity and identity of the individual, and acknowledge indigenous knowledge, culture, religious faith and values. This does not mean that we support practices that undermine the human rights of any individual or group.

2 Our organisations are committed to sustainable positive impact

- 2.1 Effectiveness: We are committed to effectiveness and to maximising the positive impact of our programmes. We avoid duplication of services.
- 2.2 Sustainability: Whenever possible, our programmes seek durable solutions that are cost effective, that build Afghan ownership and capacity, and that are driven by the long-term development goals of communities.
- 2.3 Environmental impact: We exercise a responsible and responsive approach to the care of the physical, natural environment and to the proper management of Afghanistan's ecosystems in all our activities.
- 2.4 Monitoring and evaluation: We monitor and evaluate the impact of our programmes and share findings with relevant stakeholders, including the communities we serve, donors, government and the general public.

3 Our organisations are committed to transparency and accountability

- 3.1 We are transparent and accountable in our dealings with the government and community partners, the public, donors and other interested parties.
- 3.2 Accountability: We develop and maintain sound financial policies, audits, and systems in order to manage our accounts. We conform to the constitution, laws, rules and regulations of the government of Afghanistan and where necessary, lobby for policy change. We are truthful and honest in all matters related to raising, using and accounting for funds. We maintain sound financial, accounting, procurement, transport and administrative systems that ensure the use of resources in accordance with intended purposes.
- 3.3 Transparency: We disseminate information on our goals and activities to interested stakeholders. We maintain and make available financial and activity reports upon request by relevant and interested parties. We use all available opportunities to inform the public about our work and about the origin and the use of our resources.

4 Our organisations are committed to good internal governance

- 4.1 Governing documentation: We have written constitutions or memorandums of association that clearly define our missions, our objectives and our organisational structures.
- 4.2 Equal opportunity: We develop and apply written policies, rules and procedures that affirm our commitment to equal opportunities in our employment practices and in the promotion of staff.
- 4.3 Employment practices: We apply hiring and termination practices that respect the freedom of choice of individuals and the human resource needs of other stakeholders. We offer positions based on merit, pay appropriate salaries, allocate job responsibilities

according to individual capacities, and demand adequate notice from employees and provide adequate notice for terminations without cause.

- 4.4 No conflicts of interest: All our organisational transactions are free of conflicts of personal and professional interest. The services of board members shall be given freely and voluntarily, other than reimbursements for essential costs incurred during service.

5 Our organisations are committed to honesty, integrity and cost effectiveness

- 5.1 Honesty: We are truthful in all our professional activities.
- 5.2 Integrity: We refrain from internal and external practices that undermine the ethical integrity of our organisations. We do not engage in theft, corrupt practices, nepotism, bribery or trade in illicit substances. We accept funds and donations only from sources whose aims are consistent with our mission, objectives and capacity, and which do not undermine our independence and identity.
- 5.3 Cost effectiveness: We utilise the resources available to our organisations in order to pursue our missions and strategic objectives in cost-effective ways. We strive to minimise waste and unnecessary expense, and to direct all possible resources to the people we serve.

6 Our organisations are committed to diversity, fairness, non-discrimination against marginalised groups and to affirmative action

- 6.1 Diversity: We seek to have a workforce that appropriately reflects the gender, ethnic, geographic and religious diversity of Afghanistan and of the areas where we work.
- 6.2 Equity: We seek to advance greater balance and to promote equity in all internal relations as well as equitable access to opportunities within our organisations. We seek to include the underserved, the vulnerable, the disabled and other marginalised groups in all our initiatives.
- 6.3 Gender equity: We consider and value equally the different behaviour, aspirations, needs and rights of women and men. This may include equal treatment or treatment that is different but which is considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities. Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities do not depend on whether they are born male or female.
- 6.4 Non-discrimination against marginalised groups: Our human resource policies and practices promote non-discriminatory recruitment, hiring, training and working practices, and relationships.
- 6.5 Affirmative action: We strive to increase the representation of under-represented groups in senior decision-making positions at headquarters, in the field, in boards and in advisory

groups. We seek to include the underserved, the vulnerable, the marginalised and the disabled in all our initiatives. We endeavour to strengthen the position of Afghan women both within and outside our organisations.

7 Our organisations are committed to building Afghan capacity

- 7.1 Capacity building: We take every appropriate opportunity to help build Afghan capacity to understand needs, establish priorities and take effective action so that ultimately humanitarian, development and reconstruction needs are met by Afghans.
- 7.2 Consultation: We design and implement projects in consultation with local communities and the government because we are committed to the long-term sustainable development of Afghanistan.
- 7.3 Sustainability: We design and facilitate projects so that services may be taken over by target communities or by government bodies to enhance sustainability.
- 7.4 Human resources: In line with our policy of commitment to capacity building, we give priority to Afghan nationals in our recruitment, hiring and training practices.
- 7.5 Physical and technical resources: We maximise the utilisation of locally available physical and technical resources, where appropriate.
- 7.6 Appropriate technologies: We promote the use of appropriate technologies that can be owned and maintained by communities.

8 Our organisations are committed to independence

- 8.1 Independence: We formulate our own policies, programs, and implementation strategies. We do not allow ourselves to be used to implement programs or gather information of a political, military or economically sensitive nature for governments or other bodies that may serve purposes other than those directly consistent with our humanitarian or development missions.
- 8.2 Autonomy: We strive to maintain our autonomy according to Afghan and international law, and to resist the imposition of conditionalities that may compromise our missions and principles.

9 In humanitarian emergency contexts, we adhere to the following additional principles:

- 9.1 Impartiality: We provide aid on the basis of need alone. We provide support regardless of the race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or nationality and political affiliation of the recipients. We do not tie the promise, delivery or distribution of humanitarian assistance to the embracing or acceptance of a particular political or religious creed.

- 9.2 **Neutrality:** We do not promote partisan national or international political agendas. We do not choose sides between parties to a conflict.
- 9.3 **Application of SPHERE:** We are knowledgeable about the SPHERE Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, and seek to apply these standards and the SPHERE indicators in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of our humanitarian projects and programs.

Code Observance

The Code Observance Committee

- The Code Observance Committee (hereafter called “the Committee”) shall be the body ultimately responsible for promoting observance of the code.

Composition of the Committee

- The Committee shall have seven members.
- The Agency Coordination Body For Afghan Relief (“ACBAR”), the Afghan NGOs’ Coordinating Bureau (ANCB), and the South-West Afghanistan and Balochistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC) will each nominate two representatives to the Committee.
- The Afghan Women’s Network (AWN) will nominate one member to the committee.
- The term of office of members of the Committee shall be one year.
- A member can only serve for three consecutive terms.
- The Committee shall select a Chair and a Secretary from among its members.

Functions of the Committee

- The Committee shall act as guardian of the Code of Conduct.
- The Committee shall ensure understanding, trust and co-operation between the Public, the Government, the donors, the NGO sector itself and community partners.
- The Committee shall meet twice a year to consider:
 - Petitions by NGOs to become Code signatories. The Committee will permit NGOs to sign the Code only upon such NGOs furnishing the appropriate documentation as listed in Clause 14 below.
 - Petitions or complaints related to the nonobservance of the Code by an NGO. The petition may be received from government, a donor, a community partner, the public or another NGO.

- The Committee shall nominate a Secretary who will manage the administrative responsibilities of the Committee. Among other things, the Committee Secretary shall:
- Receive all requests from NGOs to become Code signatories.
- Maintain files of public documents of signatories, and make those files available to key stakeholders upon request.
- Request a signatory to provide a written report when implicated in alleged breach of Principles of Conduct.
- Ensure that a signatory receives a copy of the complaint registered against it by the person or group of persons who lodged the complaint.
- The Committee shall be engaged in awareness raising about the Code of Conduct enshrined herein involving Signatories.

Becoming a Signatory to the Code of Conduct

To become a signatory to the Code of Conduct an NGO must submit to the Secretary in writing:

- **Legal registration:** A copy of the NGO's legal registration with the Government of Afghanistan;
- **Operational experience:** A signed statement on official stationary affirming that the NGO has been operational for at least one year;
- **Coordination Body Membership:** A letter affirming the NGO's current membership in one or more of the following coordination bodies: ACBAR, ANCB, or SWABAC;
- **Governance Documentation:** A copy of the NGO's written constitution or memorandum of association that clearly define the NGO's mission, objectives and organisational structure.
- **Financial Documentation:** A copy of an audited financial report for its most recent fiscal year; and
- **Operational Documentation:** A copy of its annual report for its most recent year of operations. For international NGOs, a copy of the global annual report will suffice.
- **Completed Survey of Accomplishments:** A completed survey of accomplishments allowing the Secretariat to monitor and communicate the combined accomplishments of NGOs.
- **Mandatory Government Reports:** Copies of semi-annual reports required by the Ministry of Planning.

Complaints

Any one person or group of persons may file a complaint or petition (supported by evidence) with the Secretary of the Committee. A written complaint shall include the following:

- The name and address of the complainant;
- The name and address of the NGO or official against whom the petition is lodged;
- The circumstances in which the breach or violation of the Code is alleged to have been committed; and
- Where possible, a reference to the Standard of Conduct that was allegedly breached.

The Secretary shall open a file after receiving a fully documented complaint and shall immediately share a copy of the complaint with all members of the Observance Committee.

Jurisdiction of the Committee

The Committee shall hear and decide on all instances involving the violation or breach of the Code of Conduct by any signatory or any other acting for and/or on behalf of a signatory.

When a complaint is made under Clause 16 hereof, the Committee may either dismiss the case where no breach of the Code is established or notify the signatory or official against whom the complaint is made.

In an instance of a significant breach or violation of the Standards of Conduct, the Committee shall:

- Call a meeting of the accused signatory and/or official of the agency and the person or group of persons who lodged the complaint in order to discuss the case. This can take place either at the regularly scheduled semi-annual meeting of the Committee, or in the case of a grievous violation of the code, an extraordinary meeting can be held.
- Request any signatory and/or official to provide evidence on the case under consideration.

When the Committee finds that the signatory or its employee has violated the Code, it shall take one or more of the following measures:

- Provide the necessary education for compliance;
- Call on another signatory to assist in the education process;
- Advise the signatory in violation to take corrective measures against the NGO official

or employee who is directly responsible for the breach of the Code;

- Admonish the signatory;
- Suspend or cancel the signature of the NGO to the code.

The Unseating of a Committee Member

A Committee member shall not take part in any deliberation or decision making process where he or she has an interest in the case presented to the Committee.

Scope of Application

The Principles of Conduct shall apply to all NGO signatories to this Code of Conduct working in Afghanistan.

The Principles of Conduct shall apply to all officials and employees who act for and/or on behalf of NGOs which have agreed to abide by this Code.

Compliance to the Code

All signatories and all individuals or groups who act for and/or on behalf of the signatories shall observe, respect and uphold the standards of this Code.

To that end, every signatory shall ensure that all its officials and employees are adequately acquainted with the standards of the Code and work by them.

Revision of Code

Revision of the Code will require the approval of two-thirds of the representatives of the signatory organisations.

The Committee may from time to time review and recommend changes to the Code to the Coordination bodies.

Annex: Historical Context

Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, national and international NGOs have played a crucial role in providing assistance to people in rural and urban communities throughout the country and to people in refugee camps in Pakistan.

1979-88: Immediately following the Soviet invasion, NGOs began programs to address the food, shelter and health care needs of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. In the early 1980s NGOs initiated

cross-border programs into Afghanistan to address the basic health and livelihood needs of those Afghans in areas not under Soviet control. Cross-border programs working inside Afghanistan included education by 1984 and agricultural and infrastructure projects commenced in 1986. Throughout this period, “cash-for-food” projects sought to give Afghans in resistance-held areas the resources they needed to remain inside Afghanistan. During the 1980s many NGOs were also engaged in advocacy efforts to raise awareness in Western capitals about the plight of Afghans as both victims of military aggression and refugees.

1988-95: By the late 1980s, NGOs had begun to implement development activities—using development principles in a context of “chronic emergency” and political and security instability—in addition to providing emergency assistance. The changed political context and increase in resources for Afghanistan in the late 1980s led to a number of developments in the NGO sector. The number of Afghan NGOs grew rapidly, support for Afghan capacity building increased, and several NGO coordination bodies were formed, which focused on strengthening the accountability, standards, and professionalism of the NGO community and on coordinating to increase impact and reduce duplication of activities. During this period, many Afghan NGOs, and thousands of Afghans, built their professional skills in NGO-led training institutions with support from international NGOs.

1996-2001: In the Taliban period, from 1996 to 2001, despite political restrictions, improved security in many parts of the country enabled agencies to work directly with local communities in remote rural areas. NGOs continued to coordinate closely with UN and donor agencies in establishing programming priorities and setting out agreed principles for the promotion of coherent and well-focused assistance to Afghans. The efforts of around twenty, mostly NGO organisations, to develop an improved set of learning standards for Afghan children, typified the cooperative approach during this period.

The severe drought from 1997-2001 exacerbated humanitarian need for many rural communities and forced new waves of displacement into urban areas, internal camps and refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran. While NGOs expanded their emergency activities to help these populations, they also continued their development programs.

Late 2001-present: Following the events of September 11 2001, the working environment for NGOs in Afghanistan changed dramatically. In 2002, the return to Afghanistan of large numbers of refugees from neighboring countries required new emergency shelter and feeding programs. Following the fall of the Taliban, NGOs have, in coordination with the transitional Afghan authorities, increasingly sought to balance their emergency response work with longer-term reconstruction and development initiatives. The advent of an internationally recognised Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan has provided NGOs the opportunity to rearticulate the role of humanitarian actors, not as service contractors, but rather as mission-driven civil society organisations.

Maps

The maps for the *A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance* are provided by the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO, p. 3). These maps are only available in the hardcopy version of the guide. They remain the property of AGCHO, which holds all copyright to these images.

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About this section

Statistics on development indicators are key to monitoring the impact of development interventions and progress toward implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 15). The following provincial profiles provide a summary of selected social and economic measures of individual and household well-being for each province of Afghanistan, and are based on the latest nationally representative household data from the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA), 2007/08.

These profiles are a joint effort of the Ministry of Economy and the World Bank and build on the earlier collaboration in producing “Poverty Status in Afghanistan: A Profile based on National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA 2007/8).” The selection of the indicators has been based on: the analytical work from the Poverty Status report, the monitoring needs of the Ministry of Economy, and on continuing analysis to better understand the sources of subnational differences in wellbeing. This data has been used as it represents the most recent country-wide survey of development indicators. The World Bank expects these indicators to provide provincial baselines to be updated by future rounds of the NRVA.

The profiles provide statistics on 30 socio-economic indicators encompassing various dimensions of well-being, including poverty, food security, labor market outcomes, sectoral distribution of employment, gender, education, health, and access to services and infrastructure. By presenting these in a page by page format, AREU hopes to provide a simple but effective reference tool for those in need of information at the provincial level. They provide a snapshot of the development performance of each province and benchmark it to that of other provinces and the nation as a whole. This comparative perspective provides evidence to better prioritise and target interventions.

The statistics presented highlight that development scenarios in Afghanistan vary significantly from province to province. This is most starkly illustrated by the range in the prevalence of poverty, which varies from nine percent in Helmand to 76 percent in Paktika. Large provincial disparities are also found in other socio-economic domains presented, including health, gender, food security and employment.

Another key theme which emerges from the provincial statistics is that the performance on different indicators varies significantly within each province. Provinces that perform well in one dimension are not necessarily equally successful in others. For instance, Helmand features favorably on the indicators of poverty yet is among the worst in terms of the percentage of children enrolled in school. Logar, which is the second poorest province in the country, has one of the highest child immunisation rates.

The provincial profiles are presented alphabetically by province name.

AREU has presented only 30 of the 39 statistics compiled in the original World Bank Report, due to limitations of space. Those excluded are:

Poverty and Inequality: Average consumption of the poor as percentage of the poverty line (%); Gini coefficient of per capita total consumption.

Food security: Depth of calorie deficiency; inadequate dietary diversity (%).

Labour Market: Employment-population ratio.

Gender: Female share of active population (%); ratio of fully immunised girls to boys, aged 12–23 months.

Health: Access to skilled antenatal care during pregnancy (%); children aged 12-23 months with no vaccinations (%).

For the full Provincial Briefs as prepared by the Ministry of Economy and the World Bank please visit: <http://www.worldbank.org.af/>

Acknowledgements: These provincial briefs are the results of a joint effort by the Afghan government, Ministry of Economy and the World Bank. AREU is very grateful for the copyright permission that allows them to be presented here. The introductory text has been adapted from the original.

Glossary of Provincial Development Indicators

Poverty

Poverty rate (%)

Percentage of population living below the official poverty line.

Depth of poverty (%)

Also known as poverty gap, this is the average shortfall of per capita consumption from the poverty line, shown as a percentage of the poverty line. In calculating the depth of poverty, the shortfall of nonpoor is treated as zero.

Per capita monthly total consumption (Afs)

The value of food and non-food items consumed by a household in a month (including the use value of durable goods and housing) divided by the household size.

Food Security

Calorie deficiency (%)

Percentage of population whose daily calorie intake is less than 2100 calories.

Protein Deficiency (%)

Percentage of population whose consumption of protein is less than 50 grams per day.

Labour Market

Age dependency ratio

The ratio of dependents (population younger than 15 and older than 64) to the population aged 15-64.

Unemployment rate (%)

The share of the economically active population (labour force) that is without work but available for and seeking employment.

Underemployment rate (%)

The share of employed who work for less than 35 hours per week.

Literate labor force (%)

Percentage of economically active population (labor force) that is literate.

Child labor (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)

Percentage of children aged 6-15 that are engaged in some form of economic activity; working either for pay, assisting in family business, making handicrafts, assisting with agriculture or livestock, or collecting in the street.

Households containing persons with mild disability (%)

Percentage of households that have at least one mildly disabled person (i.e. a person who is experiencing some difficulty in at least one of the five abilities; vision, hearing, mobility, self care, and memory).

Access to Health Services and Infrastructure

Access to safe drinking water (% of households)

Percentage of households whose main source of drinking water is one of the following: hand pump (in-compound or public); bored well (hand pump or motorised); protected spring; pipe scheme (gravity or motorised); and piped water provided by the municipality.

Access to sanitary toilet (% of households)

Percentage of households that use an improved sanitation facility; a flush latrine or any other improved latrine.

Access to electricity (% of households)

Percentage of households that have access to electricity from any of the providers (government, community or private) and sources (e.g. electric grid, government generator, personal generator, community generator, solar, wind, or battery).

Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)

The average distance in kilometres from a typical household to the nearest dirt or paved road that is suited for vehicular transport.

Full immunisation rate among children aged 12-23 months (%)

Percentage of children (aged 12-23 months) that have received complete vaccines for BCG, DPT3, OPV3, and Measles.

Births attended by skilled attendants (%)

Percentage of child deliveries that are attended by any skilled birth attendant such as a doctor, a midwife or a nurse.

Education**Literacy rate—aged 16 and older (%)**

Percentage of population (aged 16 years and older) that is literate.

Enrollment rate—aged 6-12 (%)

Percentage of children (aged 6-12) that are enrolled in schools.

Average years of schooling—aged 18 and above

Average years of education among the population belonging to age group 18 years and above.

Female literacy rate—aged 16 and older (%)

Percentage of female population (aged 16 and older) that is literate.

Girls to boys enrollment ratio—aged 6-12

Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in schools. The reference age group is 6-12 years.

Sectors of Employment**Agriculture (%)**

Percentage of employed labour force that is engaged in agriculture and livestock-related activities.

Manufacturing, construction, mining and quarrying (%)

Percentage of employed labour force that is engaged in construction (including road construction), manufacturing, and mining and quarrying.

Services (%)

Percentage of employed labour force that is engaged in transport and communication, retail and wholesale trade, health, education, and other services.

Public administration/government (%)

Percentage of employed labour force that is engaged in jobs falling under the category of public administration/government.



Badakhshan

Area (sq km, '000)	44
Population (million)	0.9
Rural Population (%)	96
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	61

	Badakhshan	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	24.1	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1069	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	66.9	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	57.1	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	133	133
Participation rate (%)	64.5	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	12	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	56.2	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	26.7	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	9.2	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	38.6	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	21	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	36.7	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	19.2	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	39.3	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	2.4	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	26.5	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	67.7	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.95	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	11.9	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.94	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	68.2	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	4.7	12.5
Services (%)	23.3	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	3.8	3.9



Badghis

Area (sq km, '000)	20
Population (million)	0.5
Rural Population (%)	97
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	41.7

	Badghis	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	8	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1157	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	42.2	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	16.8	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	96	133
Participation rate (%)	72.9	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	1.1	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	71.4	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	9.2	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	38.1	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	31.1	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	17.1	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	3.2	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	3.5	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	2.5	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	3.7	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	1.3	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	8.2	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	30.4	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	0.43	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	2.4	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.71	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	76.6	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	14.8	12.5
Services (%)	6.9	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	1.7	3.9



Baghlan

Area (sq km, '000)	18
Population (million)	0.8
Rural Population (%)	80
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	18

	Baghlan	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	3.4	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1827	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	10.7	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	6.9	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	133	133
Participation rate (%)	70.7	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	5.9	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	48	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	23.6	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	19.2	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	30	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	25	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0.7	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	34.6	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	2	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	38.5	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	30	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	24.2	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	62.3	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.93	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	9.9	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.8	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	69.4	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	9.1	12.5
Services (%)	15.7	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	5.8	3.9



Balkh

Area (sq km, '000)	16
Population (million)	1.2
Rural Population (%)	64
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	60.3

	Balkh	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	17.4	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1298	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	53.8	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	44.5	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	129	133
Participation rate (%)	68	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	8.2	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	29.1	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	26.6	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	20.8	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	29.9	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	28	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	7.2	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	55.3	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	2.8	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	25.9	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	28.2	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	26.8	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	53.5	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	2	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	16.8	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.86	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	38.5	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	16.2	12.5
Services (%)	43.2	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	2.1	3.9



Bamiyan

Area (sq km, '000)	18
Population (million)	0.4
Rural Population (%)	97
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	55.7

	Bamiyan	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	14	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1189	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	29.2	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	13.8	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	135	133
Participation rate (%)	76.8	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	7.8	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	48.1	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	19.8	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	11.3	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	40.3	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	14	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0.4	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	38.1	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	6	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	23.9	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	9.8	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	20.2	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	57.9	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.08	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	6.1	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.85	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	79.4	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	1.3	12.5
Services (%)	18.1	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	1.2	3.9



Day Kundi

Area (sq km, '000)	17
Population (million)	0.4
Rural Population (%)	99
Poverty Rate (%) (nat.avg. 35.8%)	43.4

	Day Kundi	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	10.5	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1243	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	19.1	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	9.2	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	139	133
Participation rate (%)	89.5	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	9.1	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	50.3	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	17.5	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	42.5	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	50.5	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	13.8	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0.0	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	41.9	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	5.9	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	14.6	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	6.2	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	17.6	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	67.9	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	0.85	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	8.4	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.82	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	61.2	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	4	12.5
Services (%)	34.4	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	0.4	3.9



Farah

Area (sq km, '000)	45
Population (million)	0.5
Rural Population (%)	93
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	12.2

	Farah	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	2	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1866	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	25.2	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	4.6	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	151	133
Participation rate (%)	89.4	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	3.5	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	63.2	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	15.4	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	35.1	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	13.5	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	15.8	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0.9	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	15.5	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	6.7	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	46.3	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	20.9	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	15.3	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	34	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	0.99	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	5.1	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.44	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	74.5	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	8.6	12.5
Services (%)	14.7	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	2.2	3.9



Faryab

Area (sq km, '000)	21
Population (million)	0.9
Rural Population (%)	88
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	29.1

	Faryab	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	5.6	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1695	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	24	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	16.6	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	132	133
Participation rate (%)	53.4	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	10.6	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	51	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	21.1	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	14.4	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	17.2	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	23.9	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0.2	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	32.4	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	5.6	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	23.9	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	15.8	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	18.2	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	54.9	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.15	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	8.8	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.82	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	36.9	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	35.4	12.5
Services (%)	25.6	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	2.2	3.9



Ghazni

Area (sq km, '000)	22
Population (million)	1.1
Rural Population (%)	95
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	19

	Ghazni	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	2.7	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1656	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	52.8	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	34.8	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	122	133
Participation rate (%)	69.6	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	6.2	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	82.7	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	32.6	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	20.1	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	62	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	17.8	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0.2	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	72.4	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	3.2	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	28.8	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	10.6	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	30.8	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	54.5	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.91	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	8.8	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.53	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	77.8	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	3.4	12.5
Services (%)	17.9	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	0.9	3.9



Ghor

Area (sq km, '000)	36
Population (million)	0.6
Rural Population (%)	99
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	44.2

	Ghor	National
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Poverty

Depth of poverty (%)	7.9	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1228	1672

Food Security

Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	19.9	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	13.3	17.4

Labour Market

Age dependency ratio	140	133
Participation rate (%)	94	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	0.5	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	14.8	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	26	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	37.4	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	30.2	28.4

Access to Health Services and Infrastructure

Safe drinking water (% of households)	8.8	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	30.7	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	2.4	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	8.2	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	3.3	25.0

Education

Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	25.2	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	46.8	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	0.5	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	6	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.75	0.69

Sectors of Employment

Agriculture (%)	87	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	7.1	12.5
Services (%)	5.6	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	0.4	3.9



Helmand

Area (sq km, '000)	57
Population (million)	0.9
Rural Population (%)	94
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	8.9

	Helmand	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	0.9	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1989	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	19.5	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	3.1	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	148	133
Participation rate (%)	75.9	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	3.8	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	82.4	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	13.5	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	14.2	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	28.7	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	3.3	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	7.4	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	11.8	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	0.7	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	0.6	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	3.5	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	12	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	4	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	0.49	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	1.4	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.58	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	92.5	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	0.5	12.5
Services (%)	6.5	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	0.5	3.9



Herat

Area (sq km, '000)	55
Population (million)	1.7
Rural Population (%)	72
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	38.7

	Herat	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	8.2	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1547	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	24.7	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	23.6	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	137	133
Participation rate (%)	61.6	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	9.9	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	51.6	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	26.8	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	21.2	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	33.9	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	28.2	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	9.5	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	42	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	1.1	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	42.1	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	25.1	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	25.1	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	52.1	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.65	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	16.4	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.92	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	50.2	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	21.9	12.5
Services (%)	26.7	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	1.2	3.9



Jawzjan

Area (sq km, '000)	11
Population (million)	0.5
Rural Population (%)	79
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	14.5

	Jawzjan	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	1.9	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1746	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	5.2	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	3.8	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	122	133
Participation rate (%)	65.7	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	17	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	11.4	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	14.2	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	9.4	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	20.6	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	43.9	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	1.5	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	43	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	24.9	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	59.5	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	20.5	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	15.9	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	45.5	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.15	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	8.5	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.69	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	36	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	37.1	12.5
Services (%)	23.3	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	3.6	3.9



Kabul

Area (sq km, '000)	4
Population (million)	3.7
Rural Population (%)	17
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	23.1

	Kabul	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	4.2	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	2743	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	17.9	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	12.6	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	112	133
Participation rate (%)	46.6	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	10.7	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	18.9	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	55.4	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	7.2	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	32.4	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	55.9	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	17.2	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	85.7	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	0.1	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	70.3	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	73.4	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	46.8	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	65.2	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	4.98	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	30.2	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.79	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	16.5	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	16.9	12.5
Services (%)	50.1	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	16.4	3.9



Kandahar

Area (sq km, '000)	54
Population (million)	1.1
Rural Population (%)	66
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	22.8

	Kandahar	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	3.6	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	2066	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	29.5	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	6.8	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	149	133
Participation rate (%)	54.1	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	4.4	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	22.4	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	10.3	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	0.7	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	4.7	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	32.3	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	9.4	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	25.4	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	2.9	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	3.8	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	14	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	7.3	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	10.8	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	0.22	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	1.3	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.41	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	45.3	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	10.6	12.5
Services (%)	42.5	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	1.6	3.9



Kapinggaon

Area (sq km, '000)	2
Population (million)	0.4
Rural Population (%)	100
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	21.5

	Kapinggaon	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	3.1	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1662	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	32.9	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	13.1	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	137	133
Participation rate (%)	86.3	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	13.4	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	53	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	32.5	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	36.4	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	15.5	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	15	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	38.4	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	1.4	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	2.2	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	7.3	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	30.8	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	54.7	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	2.49	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	11.1	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.57	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	77.7	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	6.1	12.5
Services (%)	8.5	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	7.7	3.9



Khost

Area (sq km, '000)	4
Population (million)	0.5
Rural Population (%)	98
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	47.9

	Khost	National
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Poverty

Depth of poverty (%)	9.4	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1255	1672

Food Security

Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	54.6	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	31.9	17.4

Labour Market

Age dependency ratio	160	133
Participation rate (%)	85.3	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	8.6	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	47.7	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	13.8	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	5.6	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	11	28.4

Access to Health Services and Infrastructure

Safe drinking water (% of households)	34.6	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	1	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	26.1	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	0.3	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	61.4	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	31.9	25.0

Education

Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	15.3	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	36.7	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.24	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	1.1	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.24	0.69

Sectors of Employment

Agriculture (%)	65	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	7.9	12.5
Services (%)	25.9	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	1.3	3.9



Kunar

Area (sq km, '000)	5
Population (million)	0.4
Rural Population (%)	97
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	62

	Kunar	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	16.4	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1085	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	39.7	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	20.7	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	152	133
Participation rate (%)	61.3	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	4.9	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	49.4	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	20.5	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	4	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	30.2	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	55.5	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	4.1	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	40.5	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	2	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	52	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	12.9	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	19.8	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	44.3	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.71	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	2.7	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.65	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	64.9	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	18.3	12.5
Services (%)	11.8	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	5	3.9



Kunduz

Area (sq km, '000)	8
Population (million)	0.9
Rural Population (%)	76
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	29.7

	Kunduz	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	5.3	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1511	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	21.4	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	10.6	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	136	133
Participation rate (%)	73.7	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	8.3	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	63.3	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	19.7	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	21.6	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	43.1	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	16.1	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0.1	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	32	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	1.2	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	33.1	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	22.1	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	19.7	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	49.7	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.49	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	9.2	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.77	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	58.2	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	21.9	12.5
Services (%)	18.1	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	1.8	3.9



Laghman

Area (sq km, '000)	4
Population (million)	0.4
Rural Population (%)	99
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	66.8

	Laghman	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	18.5	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	987	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	68.2	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	46.2	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	144	133
Participation rate (%)	69.5	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	2.2	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	78.7	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	28.3	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	32.2	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	22.3	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	34.2	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0.4	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	41.3	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	0.9	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	10.9	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	36.4	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	25.6	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	52.4	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	2.25	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	7.3	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.66	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	64.7	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	20.3	12.5
Services (%)	14	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	1	3.9



Logar

Area (sq km, '000)	5
Population (million)	0.4
Rural Population (%)	98
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	75

	Logar	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	14.7	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1082	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	51.9	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	16.1	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	135	133
Participation rate (%)	66.7	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	8.5	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	64.3	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	36.3	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	9.2	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	7.7	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	14	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	32.3	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	0.4	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	82.5	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	73	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	30.3	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	45.3	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	2.65	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	3.1	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.27	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	65.1	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	8.1	12.5
Services (%)	20.8	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	6.1	3.9



Nangarhar

Area (sq km, '000)	8
Population (million)	1.4
Rural Population (%)	86
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	33

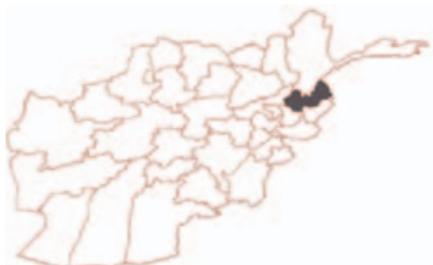
	Nangarhar	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	7	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1550	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	13.5	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	5.8	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	144	133
Participation rate (%)	59.8	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	1.6	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	54.9	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	25.8	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	19.6	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	27.2	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	23.5	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	6.2	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	33.3	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	0.6	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	57.2	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	28.5	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	22.8	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	49	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	2.04	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	6.9	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.67	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	53.7	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	19.6	12.5
Services (%)	23.3	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	3.4	3.9



Nimroz

Area (sq km, '000)	42
Population (million)	0.2
Rural Population (%)	84
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	24.5

	Nimroz	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	4.1	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1929	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	33.8	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	3.5	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	159	133
Participation rate (%)	88.4	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	10.5	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	54.4	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	16.5	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	28.3	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	6.6	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	12.2	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	8.1	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	28	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	8.9	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	32.6	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	22.1	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	16.7	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	45	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.27	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	9.6	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.62	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	55.9	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	11	12.5
Services (%)	31	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	2.2	3.9



Nuristan

Area (sq km, '000)	9
Population (million)	0.1
Rural Population (%)	100
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	49.8

	Nuristan	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	11.7	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1201	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	26.7	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	13.8	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	98	133
Participation rate (%)	79	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	5.1	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	55.3	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	15.7	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	27.9	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	14.9	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	9.3	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0.3	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	53.2	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	10.9	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	1.3	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	1.9	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	14.1	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	31.6	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	0.84	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	2.8	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.9	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	92.2	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	2.9	12.5
Services (%)	2.6	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	2.2	3.9



Paktia

Area (sq km, '000)	6
Population (million)	0.5
Rural Population (%)	96
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	60.6

	Paktia	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	13.2	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1142	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	57.4	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	32.9	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	140	133
Participation rate (%)	85.3	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	8	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	49.6	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	10.5	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	2.1	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	9.9	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	17	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	1	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	14	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	0.4	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	50.8	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	22.5	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	11.5	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	29.7	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	0.77	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	1.2	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.22	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	59.9	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	6.8	12.5
Services (%)	32.1	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	1.3	3.9



Paktika

Area (sq km, '000)	19
Population (million)	0.4
Rural Population (%)	99
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	76.1

	Paktika	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	21.5	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	950	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	29.2	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	11.2	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	137	133
Participation rate (%)	80.8	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	4	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	60.7	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	30.6	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	27.4	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	22	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	35.9	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	1.3	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	5.1	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	0.9	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	15.8	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	3	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	27	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	23.5	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	0.85	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	4.3	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.29	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	70.6	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	11.9	12.5
Services (%)	16.9	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	0.6	3.9



Panjshir

Area (sq km, '000)	4
Population (million)	0.1
Rural Population (%)	100
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	22.6

	Panjshir	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	3.5	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1751	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	28.5	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	13	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	141	133
Participation rate (%)	83.7	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	14.3	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	50.4	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	29	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	37.8	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	18	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	11.2	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0.6	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	48.1	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	2.8	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	3.9	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	7.4	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	27.5	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	54.1	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	2.24	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	8.5	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.56	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	76.1	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	6.5	12.5
Services (%)	9.5	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	7.9	3.9



Parwan

Area (sq km, '000)	6
Population (million)	0.6
Rural Population (%)	91
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	18.9

	Parwan	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	2.6	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1779	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	14.5	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	9.5	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	134	133
Participation rate (%)	59.6	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	7.1	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	37.3	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	33.3	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	15.4	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	30.5	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	18.4	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	1.3	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	38.1	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	0.9	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	50.1	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	19.8	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	27	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	46.5	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.92	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	10.1	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.38	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	68.3	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	7.8	12.5
Services (%)	19.6	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	4.3	3.9



Samangan

Area (sq km, '000)	13
Population (million)	0.4
Rural Population (%)	93
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	55.1

	Samangan	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	13	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1188	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	29.7	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	16.2	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	131	133
Participation rate (%)	57.2	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	18.5	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	60.8	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	27.9	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	10.1	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	45.3	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	15.1	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0.5	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	28.3	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	4.6	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	37.3	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	20.2	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	23	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	45.7	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.35	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	8.8	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.7	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	50.2	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	8.8	12.5
Services (%)	38.7	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	2.3	3.9



Sar-i-Pul

Area (sq km, '000)	16
Population (million)	0.5
Rural Population (%)	92
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	24.7

	Sar-i-Pul	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	3.3	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1532	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	5.7	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	3.9	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	135	133
Participation rate (%)	60	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	18.1	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	11.6	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	10	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	3.9	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	19.4	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	10.4	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	55.7	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	2.5	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	70.8	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	6.7	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	8.9	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	33.4	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	0.44	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	2.9	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.66	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	59.1	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	17	12.5
Services (%)	21.3	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	2.6	3.9



Takhar

Area (sq km, '000)	12
Population (million)	0.9
Rural Population (%)	87
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	36.6

	Takhar	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	7.8	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1533	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	25.5	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	15.1	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	145	133
Participation rate (%)	75.6	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	13.4	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	63.5	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	15.9	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	11.1	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	25.3	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	27.4	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	1.9	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	17.4	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	3.5	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	16.4	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	13.6	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	16.7	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	48.7	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	1.22	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	6.8	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.8	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	73	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	7	12.5
Services (%)	18.3	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	1.6	3.9



Uruzgan

Area (sq km, '000)	11
Population (million)	0.3
Rural Population (%)	97
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	40.8

	Uruzgan	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	5.8	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1464	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	20.8	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	7.8	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	137	133
Participation rate (%)	97.5	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	0.7	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	23.9	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	9	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	96	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	77.4	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	17.4	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	0.3	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	4.3	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	0	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	0	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	9	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	2	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	0.06	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	1.2	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.41	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	52.7	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	0.8	12.5
Services (%)	46.4	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	0.1	3.9



Wardak

Area (sq km, '000)	10
Population (million)	0.5
Rural Population (%)	99
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	59.9

	Wardak	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	11.4	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1185	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	42.6	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	12.9	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	143	133
Participation rate (%)	74.3	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	8.5	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	70.9	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	35.2	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	11.3	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	6.4	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	8.4	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	49.4	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	0.6	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	76	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	60.3	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	31.5	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	51.4	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	2.47	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	1.2	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.38	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	75.7	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	5.3	12.5
Services (%)	12.7	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	6.3	3.9



Zabul

Area (sq km, '000)	17
Population (million)	0.3
Rural Population (%)	96
Poverty Rate (%) (nat. avg. 35.8%)	37.4

	Zabul	National
Poverty		
Depth of poverty (%)	6.5	7.9
Per capita monthly consumption (Afs)	1745	1672
Food Security		
Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day)	16.9	29.2
Protein deficiency (% consuming less than 50g of protein per day)	7.4	17.4
Labour Market		
Age dependency ratio	122	133
Participation rate (%)	86.4	66.5
Unemployment rate (%)	3	7.9
Underemployment rate (%)	58.5	48.2
Literate labour force (%)	19.2	25.8
Child labour rate (% of children aged 6-15 engaged in work)	51.2	17.9
Households containing a person with a mild disability (%)	25.9	28.4
Access to Health Services and Infrastructure		
Safe drinking water (% of households)	31.9	26.8
Sanitary toilet (% of households)	0	4.9
Electricity (% of households)	4.4	41.1
Average distance to nearest drivable road (km)	1.7	3.1
Full immunisation rate among children, aged 12-23 months (%)	0	36.7
Births attended by skilled attendants (%)	4.9	25.0
Education		
Literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	18.6	25.0
Enrollment rate (% aged 6-12)	5.2	46.3
Average years of schooling, aged 18 and over	0.43	1.95
Female literacy rate (% aged 16 and over)	1.2	11.4
Girls to boys enrollment ratio, aged 6-12	0.09	0.69
Sectors of Employment		
Agriculture (%)	94.3	59.1
Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, construction (%)	0.5	12.5
Services (%)	4.3	24.6
Public administration/government (%)	0.9	3.9

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About this section

This section includes contact information for the assistance community, government agencies, and foreign missions in Afghanistan. It does not generally include private companies.

The information in this directory was updated between November 2011 and January 2012, with occasional updates and additions made throughout the year. However, addresses, phone numbers and email contacts constantly change as organisations relocate and staff turn over. The accuracy of this list relies on the voluntary contributions of the organisations listed, which are encouraged to send any additions or changes to areu@areu.org.af. Organisations can also request that their addresses be omitted.

All organisations' contact details are listed by province. Kabul Province is listed first, with the remaining provinces following in alphabetical order. Afghanistan-related contacts in Pakistan are listed at the end. Within each section, contacts are listed alphabetically by the full title of the organisation.

No distinction is made between mobile, satellite and digital phone lines. Afghan numbers beginning with 070 or 079 indicate mobile lines, 0088 indicate satellite lines, and all others indicate digital or ground lines. Numbers in Pakistan (beginning with 0092) are listed as dialled from Afghanistan. When calling Afghanistan from other countries, the country code is +93 and the beginning zero should be dropped.

Kabul Province

Abdul Haq Foundation (AHF)

Charahi Torabaz Khan (corner of Flower St., 3rd floor)

Phone: 0700202170
0799301408
0700602182

Email: abdulhaqfoundation@hotmail.com

Web: www.abdulhaq.org

Executive Director: Nasrullah Baryalai Arsalai

Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan (ASA)

Masjid Shah Babo Jan, next to Ministry of Interior, opp. Pump Station, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul

Phone: 0202201195
0700979856

Deputy for Human Science Section: Nasrullah Mangal

Accessibility Organization for Afghan Disabled (AOAD)

Hs. 223, Namayeshgah St., opp. Kabul Nandari, District 8, Kabul

Phone: 0773302222
0700157417

Email: zazai.abdulkhaliq@gmail.com

Web: www.aoad-af.org

Executive Director: Abdul Khaliq Zazai

Action Centre La Faim (ACF)

Herati Mosque St. (near the Etisalat building), Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul

Phone: 0799566128
008821623127491

Email: hom@af.missions-acf.org
kabul@af.missions-acf.org

Web: www.actioncontrelafaim.org

Country Director: Richard Thwaites

ActionAid Afghanistan

Hs. 99/419, Wahaj Hospital St., Nadiria High School Cross Rd., first

part of Karte Parwan, Kabul
Phone: 0799043656
0797897018

0798202700

Fax: 0202203756

Email: krishnan.PV@actionaid.org

Web: www.actionaidafg.org

Country Director: P. V. Krishnan

Adventurist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

Hs. 225, Street 10, Paikob-i-Naswar, Qala-i-Fatullah, Kabul

Phone: 0777328402

0777328403

0777328404

Email: admin@adra-af.org

v.nelson@adra-af.org

Web: www.adra-af.org

Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)

St. 3, Taimani Project, Kabul

Phone: 0700273558

0775558885

0700284986

008821650265570

Email: kabul@aabrar.org.af

abdulbaseer@aabrar.org.af

Web: www.aabrar.org

Executive Director: Abdul Baseer Toryalai

Afghan Bureau for Reconstruction (ABR)

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0752019642

Email: abr.kabul@gmail.com

abr_kabul1@yahoo.com

Director: Ahmad Ibrahim Haidari

Afghan Center (AC)

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0708713520

0752001799

Email: ackabul@yahoo.com

shafi_w62@yahoo.com
 Web: www.ariseproject.org/
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 Program Manager: Atta Mohammad

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 Fatullah, Kabul
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 0799620639
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 com
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 Web: www.acsor-surveys.com
 Managing Director: Matt Warshaw

**Afghan Civil Society Forum-organization
 (ACSF)**
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 Malalai Maternity Hospital),
 Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
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 Email: pr@acsf.af
 info@acsf.af
 Web: www.acsf.af/www.acsf-rc.com
 Executive Director: Aziz Rafiee

**Afghan Community Development Organization
 (ACDO)**
 Opp. Panshir Watt, next to Khair
 Khana Oil Station, Kabul
 Children's Academy School,
 Projayee Jaded, District 11, Khair
 Khana, Kabul
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 0778821063
 0787873188
 Email: acdo1232003@yahoo.com
 acdo_ngo@yahoo.com
 Executive Director: Gul Waiz Kaka

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 after Habibia High School (behind
 Khoja Mulla mosque), Karte See,

Kabul
 Phone: 0700229975
 0700280140
 0700291120
 Email: aecc@afghanmmcc.org
 Web: www.afghanmmcc.org
 Director: David Mason

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 (AFCO)**
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 Station, Kabul
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 0700661923
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 afco1388@gmail.com
 Director: Laila Masjidi

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 Panjsad Family, Part 3, Khair
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 0799800270
 0700208534
 Email: aghco_kbl@yahoo.com
 aghco_kbl@hotmail.com
 Director: Mohammad Mahboob

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 faizm_2006@yahoo.com
 eng-faiz@hotmail.com
 Web: www.agcho.org
 Head of Meta Data: Mohammad Karim Karimi

**Afghan Health and Development Services
 (AHDS)**
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 PO Box 53

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0700300417
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naim@ahds.org
Web: www.ahds.org
Deputy Director: Mohammad Fareed

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Email: ail.kabul09@gmail.com
Web: www.afghaninstituteoflearning.org
President Executive Director: Sakena Yacoobi

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0700155410
077200001
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azimq@hotmail.com
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0700252117
Email: aitm786@yahoo.com
Managing Director: Sardar Mohammad Samoon

Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization (ALSO)

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0776119164
0700040922

Email: info@afghanlandminesurvivors.org
friba.alsohr@gmail.com
Web: www.afghanlandminesurvivors.org
Executive Director: Suliaman Aminy

Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB)

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0799333621
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Web: www.ancb.org
NGOs Coordinator: Sadaqat Ali

Afghan Organization of Human Rights & Environmental Protection (AOHREP)

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0700260236
Email: aohrep@yahoo.com
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Director: Abdul Rahman Hotaki

Afghan Relief Committee (ARC)

In front of Jaji Baba Mosque, Shah Shaheed, District 8, Kabul
Phone: 0700223320
0786980120
Email: arckabul@live.com
Director: Mohammad Omar Stanikzai

Afghan Society Against Cancer (ASAC)

Aliabad Teaching Hospital, Kabul
Phone: 0786500609
Email: asac@cancer.com.af
Web: www.cancer.com.af
Founder: Mohammad Shafiq Faqeerzai

Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC)

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0776665550
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Director: Kefayatullah Eblagh

Afghan Women Handicraft Commercial Association (AWHCA)
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District 10, Kabul
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0776631425
0773670607
Email: gulsoom.awse@yahoo.com
awhca_g06@yahoo.com
Executive Director: Suraya Wahab

Afghan Women Organization (AWO)
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Afghan Women Services and Education Organization (AWSE)
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Kabul
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Web: www.future4afghanwomen.net
www.awse.info
Executive Director: Gulsoom Satarzai

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Web: www.afghanwomensnetwork.org
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hasina.safi@gmail.com
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Executive Director: Hassina Safi

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0799203056
0752012958
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Country Representative: Maryam Rahmani

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0793231576
0799309373
00882168440140
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Managing Director: Farhana Faruqi-Stocker

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0700898434

0700281415
0700276440
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Executive Director: Abdul Waheed Wafa

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Chief Executive Officer: Mohammad Qurban Haqjo

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0799566902
0700319291
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Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af
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Managing/Country Director: Rahatullah Naeem

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0783636707
Email: info@ahrdo.org
Director: Hadi Marefat

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Web: www.ahro.af
Chairman: Lal Gul Lal

Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA)
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0799721469
0700203250
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Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)
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0794631816
Fax: 0093202500677
Email: mahmodi@aihrc.org.af
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0786011556

0700248827
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 abdul.majeed@aims.org.af
 Web: www.aims.org.af
 Acting Executive Director: Abdul Walid Rahimi

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 Watt, Kabul
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 0783181400
 0700184173
 Email: baryalai_barekzai@yahoo.com
 baryalai.barkzai@mof.gov.af
 Web: www.mof.gov.af
 Adminstrator: Baryalai Barekzai

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)
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 Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul
 Phone: 0700288304
 0202103404
 0202103402
 Email: naseema@aisa.org.af
 invest@aisa.org.af
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 Vice President: Naseem Akbar

Afghanistan Libre (AL)
 Borja Sharara, beside Ali Abad
 Hospital, Sharhra, Kabul
 Phone: 0798296760
 0797202616
 0799309698
 Email: afghanistan.libre@gmail.com
 hom.afghanistan.libre@gmail.com
 Web: www.afghanistan-libre.org
 Head of Mission: Sophie Tran

Afghanistan Navid Sehat Organization (ANSO)
 Hs. 756, St. 14, Karte Sakhi,
 Kabul
 Phone: 0798174915
 0799074048
 0799418313
 Email: payeshco@gmail.com

wood2samt@yahoo.com
 Web: www.anso.af
 Administrator: Ali Jafari

Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Project (APAP)
 Hs. 537 B, St. 8, Shura St., (next to
 Parliament) Darulaman Rd.,
 District 6, Karte See, Kabul
 Phone: 0799105665
 0797076027
 0796700660
 Email: dbowen@sunyaf.org
 info@sunyaf.org
 Web: www.sunyaf.org
 Chief of Party: Diana L. Bowen

Afghanistan Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency Falah (ARRAF)
 Hs. 840, St. 7, Qala-i-Fatullah,
 Kabul
 PO Box 289
 Phone: 0774110011
 0774578531
 Email: arrafafg@yahoo.com
 freshta_sayed@hotmail.com
 Managing Dirctor: Freshta Hazeq

Afghanistan Rights and Social Justice Foundation (ARSJF)
 Inside Civil Society and Human
 Rights Network Building,
 Darulaman Rd., Kabul
 PO Box 560
 Phone: 0707446724
 Email: arsjf.foundation@gmail.com
 Director: Abdul Basir Faizi

Afghanistan Rural Development and Peace Organization (ARDPO)
 Matba St., Macroyan, in front of
 Istanbul restaurant, Kabul
 PO Box 445
 Phone: 0700193540
 Email: ardp.org@gmail.com
 Director: Ajmal Solamal

Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP)

Niela Bagh St., Darulaman Rd.,
Kabul

Phone: 0752022310
0797284458

Email: info.aredp@mrrd.gov.af
ghizaal.haress@mrrd.gov.af

Executive Director: Ghizaal Haress

Afghanistan Women Council (AWC)

Hs. 61, Burji-i-Barq Stop, Kolola
Pushta, Kabul
PO Box 1913

Phone: 0799888118
0700049980
0778477 093

Email: awcafg@yaho.com
Web: www.afghanistanwomencouncil.org

Chairperson: Fatana Ishaq Gailani

Afghanistan's Children, A New Approach (ASCHIANA)

Next to Ministry of Labour and
Social Affairs, Kabul
PO Box 1827

Phone: 0700277280

Email: aschiana@ymail.com
yousefaschiana@yahoo.com

Web: www.aschaina.com

Director: Mohammad Yousuf

Afghans4Tomorrow

Gozarga Rd. Opp. Previous
Gozarga Girl School, Kabul

Phone: 0772495080
0752092863

Email: elyas@afghans4tomorrow.org
afghansfortomorrow@gmail.com
afghansfortomorrow@gmail.com

Web: www.afghans4tomorrow.com
Country Director: Mohammad Elyas Barikzay

Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)

Hs. 297, St. 17, Wazir Akbar Khan,
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Email: info.info@akdn.org

Web: www.akdn.org

Resident Representative: Aly Mawji

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Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA)

Ab-i-Shiroom, Maktab Technick, Behsood 2, Maidan Shahr
Phone: 0700294693

Web: www.cca.org.af
 Manager: Molem Amin

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL)

Maidan Shahr
 Phone: 0799867285
 0789784974
 0752800051

Email: waseems17@yahoo.com
 Director: Fazal Omar

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Maidan Shahr
 Phone: 0799760308
 Email: janhekmatjoo@yahoo.com
 Director: Jan Mohammad Hikmat Joo

National Solidarity Programme (Provincial Management Unit) (NSP/PMU)
 Maidan Shahr Centre, Muhammad Jan Khan Watt, next to the DAB, RRD
 Directorate Building, Maidan Shahr

Phone: 0775570945
 Email: wardag@nspafghanistan.org
 Web: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Mohammad Nasir Farid

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)

Behind the Afghanistan Bank,
 Maidan Shahr
 Phone: 0799153339
 0799399516
 0778399098
 008821684445315
 Email: ghlamnabi.wbphs@sca.org.af
 waheedullah.waheed@sca.org.af
 Web: www.swedishcommittee.org
 Office Administrator: Ghulam Nabi

Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Beside Directorate of Information and Culture, Maidan Shahr
 Phone: 0794362933

0799889928
 Email: nayatniazi2000@yahoo.com
 info@wadan.org

Web: www.wadan.org
 Coordinator: Najebullah

Zabul Province

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

Opp. Red Cross office, Main Rd.,
 Qalat
 Phone: 0796581808
 Email: ada.zabul@ada.org.af
 ada.zabul@gmail.com
 Web: www.ada.org.af
 Provincial Manager: Mohammad Samin

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0707947306
 0700671236
 Director: Besmillah

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Next to the PRT base
 Phone: 0706048720
 Email: zabul_rrd@yahoo.com
 Contact Person: Rahim Dad

IbnSina Public Health Programme for Afghanistan (IbnSina-PHPA)

Near the Governmental Hospital
 Phone: 0707401223
 Email: ibnsin_zabul@yahoo.com
 Project Manager: Qayom Ziarmal

National Solidarity Programme (Provincial Management Unit) (NSP/PMU)

Hamam St., PMU office, Qalat
 Phone: 0700358045
 Email: zabul@nspafghanistan.org
 Web: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Sayed Abdullah Nickbeen

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
Hazari village near Eid Gah
Mosque, Kabul-Kandahar Main Rd., Qalat
PO Box 3205
Phone: 0700031410
0700476430
Email: rasheedi@un.org
zahirrasheedi@yahoo.com
Web: www.unama.unmissions.org
Deputy Head of Office: Zahir Shah Rasheedi

Phone: 00915705133
0092333986664e+011
Fax: 0092-915701008
Email: hajigulkhan@cha-net.org
Web: www.cha-net.org
Manager: Haji Gul Khan

Humanitarian Assistance & Facilitating Organization (HAFO)
53-B Park Avenue, University Town, Peshawar
Phone: 00923320337011
0092915704677
Email: peshawar@hafo.org
sarabi@yahoo.com
Web: www.hafo.org
Administrator: Abdul Razaq Jawad

Pakistan

Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)
Islamabad
Phone: 0092512281143
Email: swks.awec@gmail.com
Web: www.awec.info
Principal: Abeda Azadmanish

IbnSina Public Health Programme for Afghanistan (IbnSina-PHPA)
60-C, Nazimuddin Rd., F-8/4, Islamabad
Phone: 003319048713
Email: pm@ihspakistan.com
Liaison Officer: Capitan Fazel

Afghan Women's Network AWN
Hs. 68, St. D/2, Aabdara Rd., Peshawar
Phone: 00915704928
Email: awn@brain.net.pk
Web: www.afghanwomensnetwork.org
Contact Person: Nazima Ehsan

Committee for Rehabilitation Aid to Afghanistan (CRAA)
Hs. 133, St. 6, N4, Phase-IV Hayatabad, Peshawar
Phone: 00915892422
05892423
Email: sancraa@brain.net.pk
sanashefa@yahoo.com
Web: www.craausa.org
Executive Director: Sana-ul-Haq

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)
2nd floor, Azam Towers, University Rd., Peshawar

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About this section

This section includes contact information for a variety of media organisations in all 34 of Afghanistan's provinces. The information in this directory was provided by Nai Media (see below); AREU would like to thank Nai for allowing their Media Guide to be published in the *A-Z Guide*. The information was collected between January and September 2011.

All organisations' contact details are listed by province. Kabul Province is listed first, with the remaining provinces following in alphabetical order.

Nai: Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan

<http://www.nai.org.af/en>

Nai is an Afghan nongovernmental organisation established in 2005 with the support of Internews Network. The original mission of Nai remains to build and promote a strong independent media sector in Afghanistan through training, advocacy and production. Nai works locally to empower independent media and promote freedom of expression.

Nai is a full member of Internews International, a network of 40 Internews organisations across the world, and is currently run by USAID funds through Internews Network, while receiving small grants for projects from other donors.

Nai's head office and training centre is in Kabul, with additional training centres at Nai branches in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat. Nai offers practical training to journalists and those seeking to get a start in the media industry in Afghanistan. Nai also undertakes advocacy, lobbying the government to reform laws affecting the rights of journalists; builds networks with provincial journalists and media workers; and holds media sector forums and campaigns to raise public awareness of the role of the media in Afghanistan.

Nai's Media Watch unit has been tracking and publishing threats against media workers across the country for the past ten years and recently launched an interactive online data map representing its comprehensive research. This year Nai published *Journalists in Afghanistan*, a book compiling ten years of reports on violations of the rights of media workers.

For more information, please contact:

Abdul Mujeeb Khalvatgar

Executive Director

Email: mujeeb@nai.org.af

Blog: afganfakahi.blogspot.com

Phone: 0774409923 - 0702509041



Kabul Province

News Agencies

Afghan Eyes Photo Agency
Location: In front of British Cemetery,
Charahi Shaheed, Shar-i-Naw,
Kabul

Contact no.: 0798888082/0777343435
Email: info@afghaneyes.com

Hundokush News Agency
Location: Butcher St., Near 10th
District, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Proprietor: Progressive and Prosperity
Association

Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Najibullah Hashimi
Contact no.: 0794474821

Pajhwok News Agency
Location: Moy Mubarak Estgah, St. 8
Taimani, Kabul

Proprietor: Danish Karokhail
Editor-in-Chief: Khalil Ahmad Fetri
Contact no.: 0708198396 – 0700225375
Email: danish@pajhwok.com

Sada-i-Afghan News Agency
Location: Golaye Dawakhana, Shaheed
Square, Dehbori, Kabul

Proprietor: Sayed Esa Hussaini Mazari
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Ahmad Musavi Mubaligh
Contact no.: 0700275828 – 0785234314
Email: hosseinimazari@yahoo.com

Suboot News Agency
Location: House 126, Behind Almo
Farhang House, Dehmazang
Square, Kabul

Proprietor: Jawida Ahmadi
Editor-in-Chief: Sulaiman Dedar
Contact no.: 0700277559
Email: jawida.ahmadi@suboot.org.af

Wakht News Agency
Location: In front of Kabul Dubai Hotel,

Darulaman Rd., Kabul
Proprietor: Farida Nekzad
Editor-in-Chief: Farida Nekzad
Contact no.: 0700293756
Email: wakhtnews@gmail.com

Publications

Sam Daily
Location: House 393, St. 5, Karte See, Kabul
Proprietor: Sanjar Sohail
Editor-in-Chief: Qasem Akhgar
Contact no.: 0700298707/0700200589
Email: sanjarsohail@yahoo.com

Abadi Weekly
Location: Block B 4, Panjsad Family,
Khair Khana, Kabul
Proprietor: Emran Cultural Services Ass.
Editor-in-Chief: Khan Mohammad Danishjo
Contact no.: 0700168964/0786257157
Email: danish2003@yahoo.com

Afghan Democrat Weekly
Location: Blue Sky Net Cafe, Qala-i-Najara,
Khair Khana, Kabul
Proprietor: Abdul Fahim Arian
Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Zubair Ziaien
Contact no.: 0772152120/0706171766
Email: abdufahim_aryan@yahoo.com

Afghan Melat Weekly
Location: St. 4 Silo, Mirwais Maidan, Kabul
Proprietor: Afghan Melat Party
Editor-in-Chief: Hamidullah Alimi
Contact no.: 0796500660
Email: hamid.hewad@yahoo.com

Afghanistan Kabul Publication
Location: Apartment 34, Floor 5, Block 21,
Gateway 4, Macroyan 3, Kabul
Proprietor: Alhaj Abdul Wahid Qarzi
Editor-in-Chief: Alhaj Abdul Wahid Qarzi
Contact no.: 0776624100

Afghanistan Times Daily
Location: Behind Kardan University,

Proprietor: Parwan two, Kabul
Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Takal
Contact no.: Abdul Saboor Sareer
0708954626
Email: saboorsareer01@yahoo.com

Andisha-i-Hamgeray Weekly
Location: Nearby Mahmia Madrasa, Sangi St., Karte Sakhi, Kabul
Proprietor: Hazarat-i-Nargis Madrasa
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Husain Arifi
Contact no.: 0799365367

Anis Daily
Location: 3rd Floor Azadi Printing Press Building, Macroyan 2, Kabul
Editor-in-Chief: Ali Mohammad Sadiqyar
Contact no.: 0202301342/0772810206
Email: anisdailypaper@gmail.com

Ansar Weekly
Location: 2nd floor, Mirwaiz Plaza, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Proprietor: Jawad Sarwary
Editor-in-Chief: Jawad Sarwary
Contact no.: 0706060109
Email: jawadsarwary2006@yahoo.com

Armaghan Mili Bi-Weekly
Proprietor: Mohammad Dawood Siawash
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Dawood Siawash
Contact no.: 0787430615
Email: d_seiawash@yahoo.com

Arman-i-Mili Daily
Location: Nearby the Big Mosque, Sherpoor, Kabul
Proprietor: Mir Haidar Mutahir
Editor-in-Chief: Mir Haidar Mutahir
Contact no.: 0700282673
Email: armanemillie@yahoo.com

Arozo Hay Nawen Biweekly
Location: Next to Wahaj Hospital, Karte Parwan, Kabul
Proprietor: Moh Yasir Arman Meyakhail

Editor-in-Chief: Zuhul Azim
Contact no.: 0700156290/0787423010
Email: my.khohandajh@live.com

Awainaween Weekly
Location: Store A22, 1st floor, Gulbahar Centre, Kabul
Proprietor: Abdul Hasib Rahmat
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Tahab Nawabi
Contact no.: 0770495431
Email: awainaween@hotmail.com

Bali Magazine
Location: Office of Deputy Minister on Youth Affairs, Pul-i-Bagh-i-Omumi, Kabul
Proprietor: Office of Deputy Minister on Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Information and Culture
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Musa Radmanish
Contact no.: 0700289616
Email: karimi_q@yahoo.com

Barkhalek Weekly
Location: Uruj Plaza, Karte Char, Kabul Amin Foundation
Editor-in-Chief: Fazil Rabi Wardak
Contact no.: 0799024572/0799384665
Email: fwardak@gmail.com

Bekhan Weekly
Location: By Pardis High School, Shaheed Mazari St., Telegraph, Kabul
Proprietor: Sheja Hussain Muhsini
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Zakaria Rahil
Contact no.: 0700194852/0700978000
Email: bekhanweekly@yahoo.com

Chahar Taraf Weekly
Location: Apartment 72, Block 15, Macroyan 3, Kabul
Proprietor: Masooda Zia
Editor-in-Chief: Masooda Zia
Contact no.: 0779524059
Email: masooda_zia@yahoo.com

Cheragh Daily
Location: House 112, Butcher St.,

Proprietor: Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Prosperity and Development
Association
Editor-in-Chief: Katrin Wada
Contact no.: 0788275504
Email: cheragh_daily@yahoo.com

Dunya-i-Zan Weekly

Location: Apartment 34, Gateway 4, Block
21, Macroyan 3, Kabul
Proprietor: Gulalai Habib
Editor-in-Chief: Gulalai Habib
Contact no.: 0700233705

Ebtasharat Weekly

Location: Riza, Karte See, Kabul
Dehbori Hamid
Editor-in-Chief: Munira Qari Zada
Contact no.: 0777866080/0752056374
Email: hamed352003@yahoo.com

Ensaf Weekly

Location: Dawakhana Golaye, Shaheed
Square, Dehbori, Kabul
Proprietor: Sayed Esa Husaini Mazari
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Esa Husaini Mazari
Contact no.: 0700275828
Email: hosseinimazari@yahoo.com

Eqtidar-i-Mili Weekly

Location: House 2, Mohammad Lane,
Karte Char, Kabul
Proprietor: Wakil Afghanistan National
Sovereignty Party
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Mohammad Ali Rezvani
Contact no.: 0799348791
Email: alirezvani2006@yahoo.com

Erada Daily

Location: Behind Barikot Cinema,
Dehmazang, Kabul
Proprietor: Haji Sayed Dawood
Editor-in-Chief: Khadim Ahmad
Contact no.: 0700596205
Email: erada.daily@yahoo.com

Location: **Eva In 7 Days Weekly**
Traffic Square, Kolola Pushta,
Kabul

Proprietor: Eng. Sharif Shah Shoor
Editor-in-Chief: Nematullah Tahiri
Contact no.: 0799557009/0700557009
Email: evain7days.weekly@gmail.com

Faanoos Magazine

Location: Taimani Project, St. 1, Kabul
Proprietor: Wahid Ahmad Jalalzada
Editor-in-Chief: Wahid Ahmad Jalalzada
Contact no.: 0700184997
Email: info@faanoos.af

Fanos Weekly

Location: Khushhal Khan Mina
Kindergarten, Silo St., Kabul
Proprietor: Hadaf Cultural Foundation
Editor-in-Chief: Adawolah Asim
Contact no.: 0700486300
Email: fanoshadaf@yahoo.com

Farar-i-Andisha Weekly

Location: National Assembly St., Pul-i-
Surkh, Kabul
Proprietor: Afghanistan Justice Seeking
Coalition
Editor-in-Chief: Liaqat Ali Amini
Contact no.: 0799314938
Email: l_a_amini@yahoo.com

Felah-i-Mili Biweekly

Location: St. 4 & 5 Taimani Project, Kabul
Proprietor: Mohammad Yasin Habib
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Yasin Habib
Contact no.: 0700482173/0799312458
Email: phlahemeli.publ@yahoo.com

Howsa Weekly

Location: Afghan Hospital, Golaye part one
of Khair Khana, Kabul
Proprietor: Dr. Aziziullah Amir
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Manan Amin
Contact no.: 0700303030/0707418603
Email: azizamirb@gmail.com

Jagar Weekly

Location: St 3 Rahman Mina, Kart-i-Naw, Kabul
Proprietor: Tufan Omari
Editor-in-Chief: Tufan Omari
Contact no.: 0700148248
Email: jagarr2008@yahoo.com

Jawanan-i-Fahal Weekly

Location: Store 4, Computer Plaza, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Proprietor: Haji Abdul Hadi Ghazniwal
Editor-in-Chief: Hamid Abdi
Contact no.: 0798070707/0788005006
Email: activeyouthweekly@gmail.com

Kabul Weekly

Location: Haji Yacoub Square, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Proprietor: Mohammad Fahim Dashti
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Fahim Dashti
Contact no.: 0700774526
Email: fdashty@gmail.com

Killid Weekly

Location: Uzbek Mosque Lane, Karte See, Kabul
Proprietor: Shahir Ahmad Zahin
Editor-in-Chief: Lal Aqa Shirin
Contact no.: 0772128116
Email: l.shirin@killid.com

Mahaz Weekly

Location: Near Indonesian Embassy, Ministry of Interior Lane, Kabul
Proprietor: Mahazi Meli Islami Afghanistan
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Hussain Haqyar
Contact no.: 0700276597/0799569166
Email: haqyar@gmail.com

Malalay Magazine

Location: In front of National Cinema, Salang Watt, Kabul
Proprietor: Jamila Mujahid
Editor-in-Chief: Munir Saadat
Contact no.: 0700275089/0786007777
Email: jmujaheed@yahoo.com

Mano Tu Warzish Weekly

Location: Charahi Ansari, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Proprietor: Ahmad Jawed Alakozay
Editor-in-Chief: Mastora Arizo
Contact no.: 0705261620

Mandigar Daily

Location: Behind Cinema Baharistan, District 2, Kabul
Proprietor: Ahmad Wali Masoud
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Hakim Nazari
Contact no.: 0700277781
Email: salaambashuma@yahoo.com

Marifat-i-Deni Monthly

Location: Khatamul Nabieen, Darulaman Rd., Kabul
Proprietor: Shiite Scholars Council
Editor-in-Chief: Razwani Bamiyani
Contact no.: 0772194028/0785404398
Email: rezwanybamiani@yahoo.com

Mujahid Weekly

Location: Near Kabul Shahan, Dehmazang, Kabul
Proprietor: Jamiat-i-Islami Party
Editor-in-Chief: Waqif Hakimi
Contact no.: 0788408635
Email: mujahid1357@yahoo.com

Mursal Weekly

Location: Uzbek Mosque Lane, Karte See, Kabul
Proprietor: Shahir Ahmad Zahin
Editor-in-Chief: Amina Mayar
Contact no.: 0771068888
Email: a.mayar@killid.com

Musharikat-i-Mili Weekly

Location: Professional Arts School St., Kabul
Proprietor: Afghanistan National Islamic Unity Party
Editor-in-Chief: Hafizullah Zaki
Contact no.: 0799157371
Email: hafizullah_zaki@yahoo.com

Nukhst Weekly
 Location: Saray Ghazni, Kabul
 Proprietor: Tamim Nasir
 Editor-in-Chief: Hashmatullah Radfar
 Contact no.: 0786005003/0788887970
 Email: h_a_radfar@yahoo.com

Omide Jawan Monthly
 Location: Office of Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, Pul-i-Bagh-i-Omumi, Kabul
 Proprietor: Office of Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Musa Radmanish
 Contact no.: 0752001949/0797290398
 Email: lkahrawy_yicc@yahoo.com

Paktia Ghag Weekly
 Location: St. 3, Rahman Mena, Karte Naw, Kabul
 Proprietor: Mohammad Zia Arman
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Zia Arman
 Contact no.: 0700298964
 Email: paktia_ghag.afghanistan@yahoo.com

Payam-i-Jawanan Monthly
 Location: Alawadin Three Way Square, Darulaman Rd., Kabul
 Proprietor: Civil and Cultural Society of Afghan Youths
 Editor-in-Chief: Masooda Mumin
 Contact no.: 0799339640/0778826191
 Email: payamnews.info@gmail.com

Payam-i-Mujahid Weekly
 Location: House 562, St. 5 Qala-i-Fatullah, Kabul
 Proprietor: Mohammad Salim Ahmadi
 Editor-in-Chief: Hushmand Faraward
 Contact no.: 0700278078/0700701034
 Email: payamemojahed@yahoo.com

Paytakht Weekly
 Location: Sultani Qalb Ha Hotel, Kolola Pushta, Kabul
 Proprietor: Mubin Cultural & Development

Foundation
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Atif Muqadisi
 Contact no.: 0700282320
 Email: paytakhte_newspaper@yahoo.com

Rah-i-Ainda Monthly
 Location: Near Cinema Baharistan, Karte Parwan, Kabul
 Proprietor: Dastgir Hozhbr
 Editor-in-Chief: Dastgir Hozhbr
 Contact no.: 0799332983
 Email: dastgeer.hozhabr@gmail.com

Rahe Nejat Weekly
 Location: Lane 2, Behind Ghazi High School, Karte Sakhi, Kabul
 Proprietor: Sayed Husain Alimi Balkhi
 Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Hasan
 Contact no.: 0700277502/0706747184
 Email: info@rahenejatdaily.com

Resalat Hawza Weekly
 Location: Qala-i-Wazir St., Karte See, Kabul
 Proprietor: Cultural and Scientific Foundation of Resalat Center
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Jawad Salihi
 Contact no.: 0799556557/0799628889
 Email: mjsalehi@yahoo.com

Sabz Weekly
 Location: Pul-i-Khushk Bus Stop, Dasht-i-Barchi, Kabul
 Proprietor: Green Afghanistan Organization
 Editor-in-Chief: Zahir Mahbub
 Contact no.: 0799174419
 Email: greenweekly@yahoo.com

Sahefa Weekly
 Location: Dehbori, Kabul
 Proprietor: Ustad Mohammad Akbar
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Hashim Fasili
 Contact no.: 0799396391/0700343532
 Email: fasehy@gmail.com

Shakhis Weekly
Location: Next to the Human Rights
Commision, Karte See, Kabul
Proprietor: Rezwan Social and Cultural
Foundation
Editor-in-Chief: Ali Zaki
Contact no.: 0799401765
Email: balk2004@yahoo.com

Sokhanejadid Weekly
Location: Khatamul Nabien Bookstore,
Darulaman Rd., Kabul
Proprietor: Dr. Abdul Hadi Muhsini
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Riza Naeemi
Contact no.: 0789010076
Email: sokhanejadid@yahoo.com

Suboot Weekly
Location: Hs. 126, behind Almo Farhang,
Dehmazang Square, Kabul
Proprietor: Jawida Ahmadi
Editor-in-Chief: Hakim Mukhtar
Contact no.: 0700277559
Email: jawida.ahmadi@suboot.org.af

Suroush Melat Daily
Location: Next to Zone Three Police Station,
Karte Char, Kabul
Proprietor: Dr. Jafar Mahdawi
Editor-in-Chief: Eshaq Mowahdi
Contact no.: 0777153445/0796199241
Email: muahidi2007@yahoo.com

Waisa Daily
Location: Hs. 11, Part 2 of Parwan Mina,
Kabul
Proprietor: Muheb Bezar
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Zubair Shafiqi
Contact no.: 0799878224/0752003788
Email: shafiqi@gmail.com

Warzishkaran Weekly
Location: Shutul Pharmacy, Khair Khana
New Project, Kabul
Proprietor: Parwiz Asghari
Editor-in-Chief: Parwiz Asghari

Contact no.: 0700276709
Email: warzeshkaran2011@yahoo.com

Wayar Weekly
Location: Near Aina TV Muhibullah,
Sherpoor, Kabul
Proprietor: Wayar Stanikzai
Editor-in-Chief: Wayar Stanikzai
Contact no.: 0788222238
Email: weyar_weekly@live.com

Radio & Television

Aaina Radio TV
Location: Shaheed Square, Sherpoor, Kabul
Proprietor: Yar Moh Dostum
Editor-in-Chief: Sayeed Anwar Sadat
Contact no.: 0798980077/0700661818
Email: anwarsadat@mynet.com

Afghan News TV
Location: in front of Naderia High School,
Karte Parwan, Kabul
Proprietor: Ahmad Shah Afghanzai
Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Shah Afghanzai
Contact no.: 0799257750
Email: info@afghantv.af

Alim Radio
Location: Teacher's Training St., in front
of Ministry of Higher Education,
Karte Char, Kabul
Proprietor: Emal Marjan
Editor-in-Chief: Enayatullah Adil
Contact no.: 0799008585

Alix 90 FM Radio
Location: House #83, Lane 2, Darulaman
Rd., Kabul
Proprietor: Mirwais Soshiyal
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Bashir
Contact no.: 0700281577/0700275429

Amuzgar Radio 101.3 FM
Location: Panjshir Business Center, Dahan
Bagh-i-Zanana, Kabul
Proprietor: Rahmatullah Begana

Editor-in-Chief: Rahmatullah Begana
 Contact no.: 0772929111
 Email: info@amuzgarfm.com

Arakozia Radio

Location: St. 12, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
 Editor-in-Chief: Ajmal Toorman
 Contact no.: 0798151415
 Email: ajmal.toorman@arakozia.com

Ariana TV

Location: Eng. St., Darulaman, Kabul
 Proprietor: Ehsanullah Bayat
 Editor-in-Chief: Azizullah awral
 Contact no.: 0700150004
 Email: a.azizullah@tsiglobe.com

Arman 98.1 FM

Location: St. 12, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
 Proprietor: Masud Sanjar
 Contact no.: 0796009120

Bakhtar Radio TV

Location: Sar Karez Estgah, Shahed Square, Kabul
 Proprietor: Khalilullah Firozi
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Dawood Naeemi
 Contact no.: 0700280870/0785554558
 Email: btn.tv.news@gmail.com

BBC Radio 89

Location: Western St., Shahr-i-Naw Park, Kabul
 Proprietor: Dawood Azimi
 Editor-in-Chief: Dawood Azimi
 Contact no.: 0202202300/0202203200
 Email: abdulhai.arif@bbc.co.uk

Belton Radio 104.9FM

Location: 2nd Lane, Darulaman Rd., Kabul
 Proprietor: Khabardar Company
 Editor-in-Chief: Abasin Aram
 Contact no.: 0700281577/0797333005
 Email: zahid_najib@yahoo.com

Channel SEVEN (7TV)

Location: Hs. 252, St. 5, Kolola Pushta Rd., opp. Dutch Embassy, Kabul
 Proprietor: Ramin Ahmadyar
 Contact no.: 0700277113/0700275751
 Email: info@awanama.com

Dawat Radio TV

Location: Spen Kuli Square, Kushhal Khan Mina, Kabul
 Proprietor: Ustad Abdul Rab Rasoul Sayaf
 Editor-in-Chief: Najibullah Nasir
 Contact no.: 0706414849
 Email: najibullahnaseer@yahoo.com

Emrooz TV

Location: Lab-i-Jar Intersection, Kabul
 Proprietor: Haji Najibullah Kabuli
 Editor-in-Chief: Habibullah Nasiri
 Contact no.: 0798833333/0799570231
 Email: emroozradiotv@yahoo.com

Gorbit Radio

Location: Behind Ghazi High School, Karte Char, Kabul
 Proprietor: Dr. Naeem Salimi
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Nabi Sahil
 Contact no.: 0799329275/0700221340
 Email: naeem_salimee@yahoo.com

Jawanan Radio

Location: Hs. 132, Charahi Ansari, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
 Proprietor: Ahmad Jawed Alakozay
 Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Jawed Alakozay
 Contact no.: 0788024440
 Email: javid.alekozai@youthmediagroup.af

Kawsar TV

Location: Former Bus Stop, Saray Ghazni, Kabul
 Proprietor: Dr. Mahdawi Pul
 Editor-in-Chief: Ayatullah Noor Ahmad Taqadoosi
 Contact no.: Mohammad Esa Karimi
 Email: 0799332869

Killid 88 FM Radio
Location: Near Uzbek Mosque, Karte See, Kabul
Proprietor: Shahir Ahmad Zahin
Editor-in-Chief: Habibullah Suhrab
Contact no.: 0771038888
Email: h.surab@tkg.af

Lemar TV
Location: St. 12, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Proprietor: Lal Aga Shirzad
Contact no.: 0796009096
Email: lalaqa.shirzad@lemar.tv

Maiwand 92.7 Radio
Location: Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Proprietor: Haji Ali Akbar Zhawand
Editor-in-Chief: Firoz Mandozi
Contact no.: 0777293691/0799007272
Email: maiwandfm@gmail.com

Mawlana Radio
Location: 2nd Lane, Darulaman Rd., Karte See, Kabul
Proprietor: Khabardar Coompany LTD
Editor-in-Chief: Alhaj Mohammad Sharif Tahiri
Email: mirvaiss@yahoo.com

Nai 94.1FM Radio
Location: Darulaman Rd., Kabul
Proprietor: Nai Organization
Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Farid Nadimyan
Contact no.: 0774409923/0799211782
Email: farid_ahmad76@yahoo.com

Nawa Radio 103.1 FM
Location: Hs. 269, St. 2, Karte See, Kabul
Proprietor: Saba Media Organization
Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Haroon Dehzad
Contact no.: 0785558909/0708103103
Email: saba@sabacent.org

Neda 90.9FM Radio
Location: Omid-i-Sabz, Darulaman, Kabul
Proprietor: Mohammad Alim Khalili & Abdul Reza Khalili

Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Husain Ataie
Contact no.: 0795888777/0793101616
Email: president@negaah.tv

Negah TV
Location: Omid-i-Sabz, Darulaman, Kabul
Proprietor: Mohammad Alim Khalili & Abdul Reza Khalili
Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Husain Ataie
Contact no.: 0795888777/0793101616
Email: president@negaah.tv

Noor TV
Location: Eastern Gate of Naderia High School, Karte Parwan, Kabul
Proprietor: Salahadin Rabani
Editor-in-Chief: Noor Rahman Akhlaqi
Contact no.: 0788888881/0788888884
Email: n_akhlaqi@yahoo.com

Noorin Radio TV
Location: St. 4, Silo, Kabul
Proprietor: Alhaj Mohammad Arif Noori
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Riza Husaini Adeb
Contact no.: 0787962696/0798080808

Qarabagh 94.8 Radio
Location: Qara Bagh, Kabul
Proprietor: Merajidin Manzur
Editor-in-Chief: Merajidin Manzur
Contact no.: 0700234637
Email: qarabagh.fm@ghail.com

Radio Ariana 93.5 FM
Location: Near the Ministry of Commerce, Darulaman Rd., Kabul
Proprietor: Ehsanullah Bayat
Editor-in-Chief: Khoshhal Asifi
Contact no.: 0700150083
Email: khushal.asefi@arianafm.com

Radio Rah-i-Farda 92FM
Location: Near Police District 3, Karte See, Kabul
Proprietor: Ustad Haji Mohammad Muhaqiq
Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Abdul Latif Nazari

Contact no.: 0786427327/0794969696
Email: info@fard.af

Radio Sada-i-Puhantoon

Location: Kabul University, Journalism College, Kabul
Proprietor: Journalism College
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Waheed Gharwal
Contact no.: 0702500237/0700221737
Email: waheed.gharwal@yahoo.com

Radio Satar 100.2 FM

Location: Behind Melat Hospital, Taimani Square, Kabul
Editor-in-Chief: Faraidoon Elham Mohammadi
Proprietor: Samim Haidari
Contact no.: 0794445555/0798555444
Email: feridunilham@gmail.com

Rah-i-Farda TV

Location: Between zone 3 police station and Pul-i-Surkh Square, Karte 4, Kabul
Proprietor: Haji Mohammad Muhaqiq
Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Abdul Latif Nazari
Contact no.: 0786427327/0794969696
Email: info@farda.af

Saba TV

Location: St. 2, Pul-i-Surkh, Karte See, Kabul
Proprietor: Saba Media Organization
Editor-in-Chief: Zainab Nadiri
Contact no.: 0785558909/0785558077
Email: saba@sabacent.org

Sada-i-Eslah 104.3 FM Radio

Location: St. 4, Taimani Watt, Kabul
Proprietor: Afghanistan Social Development and Reform Society
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Zahir Hamidi
Contact no.: 0777848587
Email: abz.hamidi@gmail.com

Sada-i-Zan Afghan 96.3 Radio

Location: In front of National Cinema, Salang Watt, Kabul
Proprietor: Jamila Mujahid

Editor-in-Chief: Mina Saadat
Contact no.: 0700275089/0786007777
Email: jmujaheed@yahoo.com

Salam Watandar Radio

Location: Hs. 134, Lane 1, Kolola Pushta St., Shahri-Naw, Kabul
Proprietor: Internews Organization
Editor-in-Chief: Masoud Farivar
Contact no.: 0797253846/0700252112
Email: mfarivar@internews.org

Satara TV

Location: Behind Melat Hospital, Taimani Square, Kabul
Proprietor: Faraidoon Elham Mahmoodi
Editor-in-Chief: Samim Mahmudi
Contact no.: 0794445555/0798555444

Sepehr TV

Location: In front of District 3, St. 3, Dehbori, Kabul
Proprietor: Mohammad Homayoun Sepehr
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Basir Mujahid
Contact no.: 0703131313/0788442000
Email: sepehr@sepehrTV.com

Shahr Radio TV

Location: Near Uzbekistan Embassy, Karte See, Kabul
Proprietor: Nasir Totakhail
Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Shakib Salemi
Contact no.: 0777955900/0795360050
Email: presedent@citymedia.af

Shamshad TV

Location: Behind Chaman-i-Huzuri, Kabul
Proprietor: Alhaj Fazil Karim Fazl
Editor-in-Chief: Alhaj Mohammad Nasim Fazl
Contact no.: 0786777771/0786999993
Email: fazel02@yahoo.com

Subh Bakhair Afghanistan Radio 105.2 FM

Location: Kolola Pushta, Kabul
Proprietor: Bari Salam

Editor-in-Chief: Lutfullah Rashid
Contact no.: 0700277113/0700162945
Email: info@awanama.com

Taleemi wa Tarbeyati Radio TV
Location: Dehbori, Kabul
Proprietor: Ministry of Education
Editor-in-Chief: Eng. Safiullah Hayer
Contact no.: 0700058278/0202501672
Email: zeer_4321@yahoo.com

Tamadoon TV
Location: Karte Char, Sarak-i-awal, Kabul
Proprietor: Mohammad Jawad Muhsini
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Rahmati
Contact no.: 0799281213/0793666606
Email: jmafgh_z@yahoo.com

TOLO NEWS TV
Location: St. 12, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Proprietor: Tolo Media
Editor-in-Chief: Mujahid Kakar
Contact no.: 0796009161
Email: mujahid.kakar@tolonews.com

TOLO TV
Location: St. 12, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Proprietor: Tolo Media
Editor-in-Chief: Mir Mohammad Sadiq
Contact no.: 0796009010
Email: sadiq.ahmadzad@tolo.tv

TV 7
Location: Kolola Pushta, Kabul
Proprietor: Bari Salam
Editor-in-Chief: Lutfullah Rashid
Contact no.: 0700277113/0700162945
Email: info@awanama.com

Watan Radio TV
Location: St. 12, Karte See, Kabul
Proprietor: Alhaj Abdul Majed Maqri
Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Najibullah
Contact no.: 0778889440/0700020479
Email: amm@watanrtv.af

Watandar 87.5 FM Radio
Location: 2nd Lane, Karte See, Darulaman Rd., Kabul
Proprietor: Mirvais Sosiyal
Editor-in-Chief: Mirvais Sosiyal
Contact no.: 0797333001
Email: mirvaiss@yahoo.com

Watandar TV
Location: Hs. 83, 2nd Lane, Darulaman Rd., Kabul
Proprietor: Mirvais Sosiyal
Editor-in-Chief: Najibullah Zahid
Contact no.: 0799333001/0797333005
Email: mirvaiss@yahoo.com

Zafar 96.5FM Radio
Location: Behind Naderia High School, Karti Parwan, Kabul
Proprietor: Najibullah Naseer
Editor-in-Chief: Najibullah Naseer
Contact no.: 0789160084
Email: najibullahnaseer@yahoo.com

Badakhshan Province

Publications

Rooshangari Monthly
Location: Commercial Markets, Shahr-i-Naw, Faizabad
Proprietor: Sayeed Akram Sadiqi Laalzaad
Editor-in-Chief: Lutfullah Mashal Ertazaad
Contact no.: 0799139754/0799430380
Email: shaheen.pamir@yahoo.com

Sada-i-Badakhshan Weekly
Location: Faizabad, Badakhshan
Proprietor: Department of Information and Culture
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Wasil Latifi
Contact no.: 0776297486/0799863931

Sema-i-Shahrwand Monthly
Location: In front of AWCC, Shahr-i-Naw

Proprietor: Faizabad
 Najibullah Dehzad
 Editor-in-Chief: Faizan Haqirparast
 Contact no.: 0799272767/0707771577
 Email: shahrwand.monthly@yahoo.com

Radio

Radio Amoo 86.7 FM

Location: District Two, Faizabad City
 Proprietor: Rozbeh Behroz
 Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Saboor Haqjo
 Contact no.: 0799337690
 Email: haqjo.radioamoo@gmail.com

Radio Sada-i-Beharistan 89.7 FM

Location: Baharistan District, Badakhshan
 Editor-in-Chief: Rezwanullah Nezami
 Contact no.: 0794907747
 Email: b.radio786@gmail.com

Radio Sada-i-Ghaziyan

Location: Shahr-i-Naw, Faizabad
 Proprietor: Abdul Hadi Hedayat
 Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Ekram Sadiqi Laalzad
 Contact no.: 0783405874/0799139754
 Email: slalzad2010@yahoo.com

Radio Sada-i-Keshm 90.3 FM

Location: Keshm District, Badakhshan
 Proprietor: Keshm Cultural Foundation
 Editor-in-Chief: Noor Agha Noori
 Contact no.: 0779265420
 Email: nooragha.n@gmail.com

Radio Sada-i-Kokcha

Location: Next to provincial police headquarters, Jurm District, Badakhshan,
 Proprietor: Jurm District Cultural Association
 Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Malik Khurasani
 Contact no.: 0795023886/0796061530
 Email: radio.kokcha.jurm@gmail.com

Badghis Province

Publications

Khorshid-i-Banawan Periodical
 Location: Office of Cultural Association, Municipality Garden, Qala-i-Naw

Proprietor: Kawsar Cultural Association
 Editor-in-Chief: Sharifa Raheemyar
 Contact no.: 0799662659/0798003820
 Email: sadiq_alfif@yahoo.com

Sada-i-Badghis, Monthly Magazine

Location: Qala-i-Naw City
 Editor-in-Chief: Department of Information and Culture
 Proprietor: Abdul Khalil Frootan
 Contact no.: 0799002448/0799591017

Radio

Radio Hanzala

Location: Qala-i-Naw City
 Proprietor: Abdul Rahim Rahmani
 Contact no.: 0700419424/0795505357
 Email: sayed-rahmani@yahoo.com

Baghlan Province

Publications

Ethad Weekly

Location: Pul-i-Khumri City
 Proprietor: Department of Information and Culture of Baghlan Province
 Editor-in-Chief: Fahimullah Sadiqi
 Contact no.: 0700703966
 Email: fahim_1919@yahoo.com

Seelsila Weekly

Location: Pul-i-Khumri City
 Proprietor: Shir Mohammad Jahesh
 Editor-in-Chief: Obaidullah Jaheesh
 Contact no.: 0799045881
 Email: haheshbos@yahoo.com

Radio

Radio Adeeb

Location: Pul-i-Khumri City
Proprietor: Abibullah Shirzai
Editor-in-Chief: Hamid Shirzai
Contact no.: 0797138343
Email: habibrahmanshirzi@yahoo.com

Radio Ferhaat

Location: Dooshi District
Proprietor: Afghan Women Bartar Social Association
Editor-in-Chief: Omid Mubara
Contact no.: 07996002341/0708968674
Email: shokria1@gmail.com

Radio Payman

Location: Central Baghlan
Proprietor: Shir Mohammad Jaheesh
Editor-in-Chief: Tania Jaheesh
Contact no.: 0708198199
Email: jaheshbas@yahoo.com

Radio Sina

Location: Pul-i-Khumri Chook, Pul-i-Khumri City
Proprietor: Obaidullah Jaheesh
Editor-in-Chief: Nooria Hamidi
Contact no.: 0700707119/0706702224
Email: ojahesh@yahoo.com

Radio Tarajmeer

Location: Next to Silo, Pul-i-Khumri City
Proprietor: Internews Organization
Editor-in-Chief: Mahfuzullah Sayeedi
Contact no.: 0777283612
Email: mafozullah.sayd@yahoo.com

Radio-i-Aroozoha

Location: Pul-i-Khumri City
Proprietor: Shir Mohammad Jaheesh
Editor-in-Chief: Shir Mohammad Jaheesh
Contact no.: 0700615875
Email: jaheshbas@yahoo.com

Balkh Province

Publications

Asr-i-Naw Weekly

Location: Behind Sultan Razia High School, Mazar-i-Sharif
Proprietor: Sayeed Hasaan Safaie
Editor-in-Chief: Sayeed Eshaaq Shejaee
Contact no.: 0799349736/0787710282
Email: hasan.safaye@yahoo.com

Balheka Magazine

Location: Balkh Market, Darwaza-i-Balkh, Mazar-i-Sharif
Proprietor: Mukhtar Sharaaf
Editor-in-Chief: Mukhtar Sharaaf
Contact no.: 0798949291
Email: mukhtar.sharif@gmail.com

Bedaar Weekly

Location: Balkh Public Press, Mazar-i-Sharif
Proprietor: Department of Information and Culture of Balkh Province
Editor-in-Chief: Maria Sezawar
Contact no.: 0700511062/0502002474

Fajr Weekly

Location: In front of the entrance of Sultan Razia High School, Mazar-i-Sharif
Proprietor: Abdul Qadir Tawana Cultural Union
Editor-in-Chief: Abdullah Hamid Tataar
Contact no.: 0774417051/0789467060
Email: fajr.weekly_87@yahoo.com

Jawanan-i-Balkh Monthly

Location: Balkh Youth Department, Sina Stadium, Mazar-i-Sharif
Proprietor: Department of Youth Affairs, Balkh Province
Editor-in-Chief: Akhter Sohail
Contact no.: 0794690258
Email: akhter.sohail26@yahoo.com

Keshwardari and Shahrwand Monthly

Location: Provincial Governor's Office, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Proprietor: Provincial Governor's Office, Balkh
 Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Zia Ferooz Pur
 Contact no.: 0799408367
 Email: balkh.communication@gmail.com

Khat-i-Naw Weekly

Location: Siyagerd St., Mazar-i-Sharif
 Proprietor: Afghan Youth Civil Movement
 Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Zabihullah Fetrat
 Contact no.: 07990772621
 Email: khatenaw@yahoo.com

Nawa-i-Jawan Monthly

Location: District 8, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Proprietor: Sayeed Murtaza Hashimi
 Editor-in-Chief: Haseela Husaini
 Contact no.: 0700700822/0798522006
 Email: hashimi.murtaza@live.com

Parkha Bimonthly

Location: Babur Hotel, East of Rowza, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Proprietor: Traditional Reformative Jirga of the Northern People
 Editor-in-Chief: Mujibulrahman Lehaaz
 Contact no.: 0799835845/0700548794
 Email: zahsass.2@gmail.com

Partaw Monthly

Location: Partaw Cultural House, Public Press Office
 Proprietor: Partaw Cultural House
 Editor-in-Chief: Farkhunda Rajabi
 Contact no.: 0708529020
 Email: partaw_balkh@yahoo.com

Pasarlai Bimonthly

Location: Babur Hotel, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Proprietor: Zabiullah Ahsass
 Editor-in-Chief: Zabiullah Ahsass
 Contact no.: 0799833338
 Email: zahsass.2@gmail.com

Sawa Monthly

Location: Siyagerd St, Mukhaberat Square, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Proprietor: Waisadin Nazari
 Editor-in-Chief: Sayeed Ershad Hunaryar
 Contact no.: 0700540470/0786918133
 Email: info@sawahmagazine.com

Sawad Cheragh-e-Zindagi

Location: Department of Literacy and Education, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Proprietor: General Department of Literacy and Education, Balkh Province
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Sabir Basharyar
 Contact no.: 0777511243/0700511243
 Email: sabir_basharyar@yahoo.com

Sada-e-Bano Monthly

Location: Department of Information and Culture, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Proprietor: Abdul Qudoos Bakhtari
 Editor-in-Chief: Freeba Ahmadi
 Contact no.: 0774402998/0786681222
 Email: thebanovoice@yahoo.com

Radio & TV**Aroozoo Radio & Television**

Location: Kamgar Square, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Proprietor: Kamaladin Nabizada
 Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Najib Paikan
 Contact no.: 0799234270/0700501521
 Email: najibpaikan@arzu.tv

Band Radio

Location: Hashim Baraat Market, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Proprietor: Ahmad Farhad Balkhi
 Editor-in-Chief: Sadaaf Ghiyasi
 Contact no.: 0799269009/0786528787
 Email: irtiqanawen@gmail.com

Bedaar Weekly

Location: Balkh Public Press, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Proprietor: Department of Information and Culture of Balkh Province

Editor-in-Chief: Maria Sezawar
Contact no.: 0700511062/0502002474

Lahza Radio & Television
Location: Shahzada Market, Ghazanfar St.,
Mazar-i-Sharif

Proprietor: Alhaj Moh Ebrahim Ghazanfar
Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Fahim Haqbeen
Contact no.: 0799505505/0798341040
Email: fahim_lahza@yahoo.com

Nehad Radio
Location: East of Rozaie Mubarak in front of
the Cinema, Altai Market

Proprietor: Dr. Najibullah Paikan
Editor-in-Chief: Saina Safi
Contact no.: 0778819248/0700501521
Email: saina_safi123@yahoo.com

Nowbahar Balkh Radio
Location: Balkh District
Proprietor: Dr. Fahim
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Nabi Hamdard
Contact no.: 075055370/0700526504
Email: nawbaharbalkh@yahoo.com

Ma Radio
Location: Sultania Madrassa sub-Rd.,
Mazar-i-Sharif
Proprietor: Shafiqullah Shafiq
Editor-in-Chief: Shakib Nekoofar
Contact no.: 0793410107/0771214150
Email: shafiqullah.shafiq@gmail.com

Mehr Radio & Television
Location: In front of Former Prison, Mazar-
i-Sharif
Proprietor: Ghulam Abaas Ebrahim Zada
Editor-in-Chief: Razia Nazari
Contact no.: 0795600600/0799574008
Email: r.r.nazari@yahoo.com

Rabia Balkhi Radio
Location: Third Floor, Hashim Beraat
Market, Ahmad Shah Massoud
St., Mazar-i-Sharif

Proprietor: Najia Hanifi
Editor-in-Chief: Mubina Saaie Khairandish
Contact no.: 0700656464/0700513576
Email: mb_khairandesh@yahoo.com

Radio Killid
Location: Guzar-i-Bagh Mirza Qasim,
District 3, Mazar-i-Sharif
Proprietor: Killid Group
Editor-in-Chief: Nasir Ahmad Amin
Contact no.: 0774419700
Email: n.amin@killid.com

Sabz Radio
Location: Jawzjan Market, Mazar-i-Sharif
Proprietor: Mubina Khairandish
Editor-in-Chief: Rasul Ahmad Sabawoon
Contact no.: 0700513576/0787882072
Email: rasoul.sabawoon@yahoo.com

Satara-i-Sahar Radio & Television
Location: District One, Mazar-i-Sharif
Proprietor: Shafiqullah Azizi
Editor-in-Chief: Delawar Shah Haidari
Contact no.: 0797909014/0799719723
Email: morninestar_radio@yahoo.com

Bamiyan Province

News Agencies

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)
Editor-in-Chief: Hadi Ghafari
Contact No.: 0799369943/0708198206
Email: ghafari_herat@yahoo.com

Publications

AFC Periodical
Location: Bamiyan City, Directorate of
Football Federation
Proprietor: Directorate of Bamiyan Province
Football Federation
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Satar Liaqat
Contact no.: 0799409651
Email: satar.liaqat@yahoo.com

Aina-i-Bamiyan Monthly	Qaria Monthly
Location: Press Office of Bamiyan Province, Bamiyan City	Location: Yakawlang Town
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Rahman Ahmadi	Proprietor: General Directorate of Villages
Contact no.: 0799409695	Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Hadi Hadi
Email: ahmadi07@yahoo.com	Contact no.: 0772353580
	Email: destricyakwalang@yahoo.com
Guftuman Danishjoo Monthly	Sada-i-Jawan Monthly
Location: Near Mustafa Plaza, Bamiyan City	Location: Shahr-i-Naw, Bamiyan City
Proprietor: Mohammad Fazil Akbari	Proprietor: Zeeman Ahmadi
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Jawad Sadiq	Sadullah Rahmati
Contact no.: 0774812725	Editor-in-Chief: 0771123451/0799080642
Email: batoor.sadeyb@yahoo.com	Email: zamanahmady@gmail.com
Jawanan-i-Bamiyan Monthly	Seema-i-Bamiyan Monthly
Location: Bamiyan City	Location: Near Selsal Statue, Bamiyan City
Proprietor: Directorate of the Youths of Bamiyan Province	Proprietor: Department of Information and Culture of Bamiyan Province
Editor-in-Chief: Ebrahim Tawallah	Editor-in-Chief: Sayeed Ahmad Hussain Ahmad Por
Contact no.: 0772845576/0799824266	Contact no.: 0774801154
Email: tawallahmajouri@gmail.com	Email: ahmadhosainahmadpor@gmail.com
Nawa Periodical	Shahr-i-Paak Monthly
Location: Bazaar-i-Awal, Bamiyan City	Location: Mayor's Office, Bamiyan City
Proprietor: Students of Bamiyan University	Editor-in-Chief: Khadim Hussain Fetrat
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Khalil Khamosh	Contact no.: 0799398465/0797101827
Contact no.: 0778635526	Email: shekaya.shahri@gmail.com
Email: khamosh@gmail.com	
Payam-i-Bamiyan Monthly	Shura-i-Ejtamae Periodical
Location: Provincial Governor's Office, Bamiyan City	Location: Yakawlang Town
Proprietor: Provincial Governor's Office	Proprietor: Social Council of Yakawlang
Editor-in-Chief: Ali Payam	Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Jawad Safut
Contact no.: 0773812921	Contact no.: 0774061955
Email: bamyantprovince@yahoo.com	Email: sma-arman@yahoo.com
Porseshgar Weekly	Tawaazun Periodical
Location: End of Bazaar-i-Naw, Bamiyan City	Location: Beginning of the Bazaar, Bamiyan City
Proprietor: Husainy Madani	Proprietor: Tawaazun Social Foundation
Editor-in-Chief: Husainy Madani	Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Sadiq Ali Yarzada
Contact no.: 0775986906	Contact no.: 0771414987/0798032825
Email: porseshgar14@yahoo.com	Email: hojjati2oo7@gmail.com

Radio

Radio Bamiyan

Location: Shahr-i-Jaded, Bamiyan City
Proprietor: Ali Erfaan
Editor-in-Chief: Ali Erfaan
Contact no.: 0799393030
Email: a.erfan10@gmail.com

Proprietor: Mohammad Hussain Alizada
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Reja
Contact no.: 0706463432/0708302025
Email: m.husai@yanoo.com

Day Kundi Province

Publications

Jawanan-e-Daikondi Monthly

Location: Dasht Village, Nili City
Proprietor: Directorate of Youths of Day Kundi Province
Editor-in-Chief: Jawad Jafaari
Contact no.: 0708302001/0706070950
Email: daikudipravnice@gmail.com

Nada-e-Sadiq Periodical

Location: Nili City
Proprietor: Shayeed Sadiqi Nili Foundation
Editor-in-Chief: Nasrullah Musadiq
Contact no.: 0700293585/0707675089
Email: nasrullah.musadiq@yahoo.com

Payam-e-Day Kundi Monthly

Location: Nili City
Proprietor: Day Kundi Journalist's Association
Editor-in-Chief: Eid Mohammad Aleemizada
Contact no.: 0775935810/0773287805
Email: alimizadah@gmail.com

Safa-e-Naw Monthly

Location: Bazar-i-Nili, Nili City
Proprietor: Day Kundi Journalists' Association
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Reja
Contact no.: 0706463432/0708302025
Email: m.raja20@yahoo.com

Radio

Radio Sada-e-Nili

Location: Nili City

Farah Province

Publications

Fard Ata Magazine

Location: Farah City
Proprietor: Provincial Governor's Office
Editor-in-Chief: Ghulam Mukhtr Raheeb
Contact no.: 0799415284
Email: farah_governorship@yahoo.com

Hamgan Magazine

Location: Department of Information and Culture Road, Farah City
Proprietor: Hamgan Cultural and Scientific Independent Association
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Homayoun Zaheen
Contact no.: 0794355973/0703406400
Email: humayoonzahin@yahoo.com

Sesitan Newspaper

Location: Farah City
Proprietor: Department of Information and Culture of Farah Province
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Juma Paikar
Contact no.: 0797181788

Ushka Publication

Location: Farah City
Proprietor: Farah Poets' Association
Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Shah Fetrat
Contact no.: 0799625166

Uswa Publication

Proprietor: Tawheed Training and Cultural Center
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ebrahim Khalil
Contact no.: 0795941875
Email: oswa.farah@yahoo.com

Faryab Province

Contact no.: 0798048494
Email: yiccfaryab@yahoo.com

Publications

Andkhoy Seasonal
Location: Andkhoy District
Proprietor: Ayoub Khan Qarizada
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Aleem Fanoos
Contact no.: 0788739238

Arman-i-Qaisar Periodical
Location: In front of Juma Mosque,
Maimana
Proprietor: Abdul Haq Qaisar
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Haq Qaisar
Contact no.: 0788825987
Email: abdull_haq2011@yahoo.com

Ayden-i-Faryab Weekly
Location: Maimana
Proprietor: Ayden Afghanistan Cultural
Association
Editor-in-Chief: Jamshid Khorshid
Contact no.: 0786919601
Website: www.aydenafghanistan.org

Eshanj Monthly
Location: Maimana
Proprietor: Firoy Karimi
Editor-in-Chief: Sayeed Mohammad Naeem
Contact no.: 0799251724
Email: karimifiroz@yahoo.com

Faryab Weekly
Location: Maimana
Proprietor: Department of Information and
Culture of Faryab Province
Editor-in-Chief: Ghulam Mohammad Karimi
Contact no.: 0799293534

Faryab-i-Jawan Monthly
Location: District 3, Maimana
Proprietor: Directorate of Youth Affairs of
Faryab Province
Editor-in-Chief: Emam Nazar Jaweed

Maimana Periodical
Location: Maimana
Proprietor: Mohammad Kazim Amini
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Kazim Amini
Contact no.: 0799124492
Email: kazemamini@yahoo.com

Rastagaran Periodical
Location: Maimana
Proprietor: Shah Reza Munshizada
Editor-in-Chief: Shah Reza Munshizada
Contact no.: 0799293534

Saboor Monthly
Proprietor: Bashir Ahmad Doorani
Editor-in-Chief: Najibullah Shakib
Contact no.: 0799173781/0796140750

Sada-i-Melat Biweekly
Location: District 1, Maimana
Proprietor: Qutbidin Kuhistani
Editor-in-Chief: Qutbidin Kuhistani
Contact no.: 0799455006
Email: sadayemellat1@gmail.com

Sada-e-Qalam Monthly
Location: Maimana
Proprietor: Mohammad Aslam Guzar
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Aslam Guzar
Contact no.: 0799455733

Radio

Qooyash Radio
Location: Telecommunication St., Maimana
Proprietor: Raana Shirzai
Editor-in-Chief: Raana Shirzai
Contact no.: 0799250612
Email: zubairjoya@hotmail.com

Tamana Radio
Location: District 1, Maimana
Proprietor: Abdul Ghafar Rayhan
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Satar Khajazada

Contact no.: 0799572944/0796610828
Email: tamana_radio@yahoo.com

Ghazni Province

News Agencies

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)

Proprietor: Pajhwok News
Editor-in-Chief: Shir Ahmad Haidar
Contact No.: 0700167946
Email: sa.haidar@gmail.com

Publications

2013 Ghazna Magazine

Location: Department of Information and Culture, Alberooni St., Ghazni City
Proprietor: Department of Information and Culture of Ghazni Province
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Ali Fakoori
Contact no.: 0786057027/0799408799
Email: hamidullah_sarwary@yahoo.com

Awa-i-Ghazna Periodical

Location: Ghazni
Proprietor: University Students of Ghazni
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Mahdi Sabiri
Contact no.: 0786911203
Email: marooffgiri@yahoo.com

Kandoo Monthly

Location: Alberooni St., Ghazni City,
Proprietor: Mohammad Arif Rawan Rasouli
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Arif Rawan Rasouli
Contact no.: 0799253417
Email: arif_rawan@yahoo.com

Payam-i-Sana-i-Monthly

Location: Sadaqat Market, Ghazni Ada Qara Bagh
Proprietor: Ghazni Cultural Foundation
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Waheed Faizi
Contact no.: 0799040522/0799314150
Email: abdulwahabfaizy@yahoo.com

Sana-i-Weekly

Location: Department of Information and Culture, Alberooni Street, Ghazni City
Proprietor: Department of Information and Culture of Ghazni Province
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Ali Fakoori
Contact no.: 0786057027/0799408799
Email: a_fakori@yahoo.com

Radio & TV

Dehkada Radio

Location: Near to Almadina Market, Qarabakh Ada, Ghazni City
Proprietor: Farid Ahmad Rostaie
Editor-in-Chief: Farid Ahmad Rostaie
Contact no.: 0786144333/0777481748

Ghaznawyan TV

Location: Cinema Rd., Ghazni City
Proprietor: Eng. Abdul Qayoom Omary
Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Farid Omary
Contact no.: 0799191980/0783142912
Email: ghaznawyan_omary@yahoo.com

Jaghori Radio

Location: Jaghori District
Proprietor: Ahmad Hussain Jaghori
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Asif Samim
Contact no.: 0799054849
Email: ahmadjaghori@yahoo.com

Radio Killid

Location: Guzar-i-Bagh, Mirza Qasim, District 3
Proprietor: Killid Group
Editor-in-Chief: Nasir Ahmad Amin
Contact No.: 0774419700
Email: n.amin@killid.com

Radio Omid-i-Jawan

Location: Belan-i-Awal, Ghazni City
Proprietor: Abdul Saboor Hamidy
Editor-in-Chief: Elhaj Abdul Ghafoor Hamidy
Contact no.: 0799117575
Email: ab_saboorhamidy@yahoo.com

Saadat Radio
 Location: Near Khatamul Mursilen Mosque,
 Ghazni City
 Proprietor: The People
 Editor-in-Chief: Ustad Feda Mohammad Faqirzada
 Contact no.: 0772422330/0786282823
 Email: www.saadat_radio@yahoo.com

Sada-i-Ghaznawyan Radio
 Location: Cinema Road, Ghazni City
 Proprietor: Eng. Abdul Qayoom Omary
 Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Majeed Omary
 Contact no.: 0799191980/0783142912
 Email: ghaznawyan_omary@yahoo.com

Payam-i-Bahar Weekly
 Location: Centre of Ghor, Ghor-i-Bastan
 Library
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Gul Yazdan Panah
 Contact no.: 0799047534/0798404828
 Email: yazdanpana@yahoo.com

Payam-i-Jahad Weekly
 Location: Ghor-i-Bastan Library,
 Chaghcharan
 Proprietor: Mulaawi Den Mohammad Azimi
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Gul Yazdan Panah
 Contact no.: 0799047534/0798404828
 Email: yazdanpana@yahoo.com

Sam Monthly
 Location: Chaghcharan
 Proprietor: Sam Cultural and Arts Foundation
 Editor-in-Chief: Ustad Ahmad Nadeem Ghori
 Contact No.: 0797126146
 Email: ahmad.nadem@yahoo.com

Ghor Province

Publications

Etahaad Monthly
 Location: Chaghcharan
 Proprietor: Abdul Ali Rasouli
 Editor-in-Chief: Parwiz Yaqubi
 Contact no.: 0797634460/0797068473
 Email: parwizyaqubi@gmail.com

Firoz Koh Monthly
 Location: In front of Ghor Teacher Training
 Institute, Chaghcharan
 Editor-in-Chief: Ustad Ghulam Rabani
 Hadafmand
 Contact no.: 0799204625/0703445105
 Email: hadafmand@gmail.com

Jaam Monthly
 Proprietor: People of Ghor
 Editor-in-Chief: Hamidullah Daadfar
 Contact no.: 0797031516/0706341146
 Email: ghorandma@gmail.com

Musaweer Weekly
 Location: Press Office of the Governor's
 Office, Chaghcharan
 Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Haay Khatebi
 Contact no.: 0798293841
 Email: khatebi_ghor@yahoo.com

Radio

Sada-i-Adalat Radio
 Location: Shahraiki Muhajeerin
 Proprietor: Ali Zafaar Tahiri & Arz Hussain
 Madawi
 Editor-in-Chief: Ali Zafaar Tahiri
 Contact no.: 0799389736/0796269761
 Email: adalat.radio@gmail.com

Helmand Province

Publications

Bagari Magazine
 Location: Lashkar Gah
 Proprietor: Alhaj Mohammad Esmail
 Shareef Yar
 Editor-in-Chief: Alhaj Mohammad Esmail
 Shareef Yar
 Contact no.: 0708198483

Hela Magazine
 Location: Lashkar Gah

Proprietor: Sefatullah Zahid
Editor-in-Chief: Hamid Yusufi
Contact no.: 0708373448/0797360016
Email: azihedy@gmail.com

Helmand Weekly
Location: Department of Information and Culture, Emarat Press, Lashkar Gah
Proprietor: Department of Information and Culture
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Akram
Contact no.: 0799436729

Lashkar Gah Magazine
Location: Baheer Cultural Centre, Lashkar Gah
Proprietor: Helmandi Cultural People
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Hadi Omari
Contact no.: 0706832663
Email: hadi.omari@gmail.com

Pooya Magazine
Location: Near the Red Crescent Department, Lashkar Gah
Proprietor: Qasim Ali Jafary
Editor-in-Chief: Qasim Ali Jafary
Contact no.: 0707305300/0799177725
Email: jafary_2009@yahoo.com

Radio

Muska Radio
Location: Lashkar Gah
Proprietor: Mirwais Pasun
Editor-in-Chief: Zalmi Helmand
Contact no.: 0799177949/0799891319
Email: zalmi@gmail.com

Radio Bensat
Location: Lashkar Gah
Proprietor: Abdul Salam Zahed
Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Shah Pasun
Contact no.: 0700787315/0707810310
Email: a.patsoon@midia.com

Sabawoon Radio
Location: Lashkar Gah
Proprietor: Mirwais Pasun
Editor-in-Chief: Baryalai Hahand
Contact no.: 0799177949/0793700070
Email: helmand101@gmail.com

Samoon Radio
Location: Lashkar Gah
Proprietor: Mohammad Azim
Editor-in-Chief: Sahil Zahidi
Contact no.: 0702165883/0706670613
Email: aqadee12@gmail.com

Herat Province

News Agencies

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)
Location: Herat City
Proprietor: Pajhwok News
Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Quraishi
Contact no.: 0799241128
Email: quraishi1979@yahoo.com

Pamir News Agency
Location: Amiryat Intersection, Herat City
Proprietor: Dr. Haidar Qasimi
Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Haidar Qasimi
Contact No.: 0794912345/0798020940
Email: ishaq_quraishi@yahoo.com

Publications

Andisha-i-Mili Monthly
Location: Herat City
Proprietor: Afghan Youth National Association
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Raqib Pupal Qazizada
Contact no.: 0700440700/0788100800

Doorbin Magazine
Location: Near Gulha St., Telecom St., Herat
Proprietor: Noor Ahmad Karimi
Editor-in-Chief: Noor Ahmad Karimi

Contact no.: 0700414949
Email: doorbbinmagazine@gmail.com

Etifaqi Islam Daily Newspaper

Location: Azadi State Press Building, Herat City
Proprietor: Department of Information and Culture of Herat Province
Editor-in-Chief: Jawed Norzad
Email: walishahbahrah@yahoo.com

Gunish Monthly

Location: Menara St., Herat City
Proprietor: Afghan Turkmen Cultural Association
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Sadiq Amini
Contact no.: 0799051167
Email: r.turan09@gmail.com

Radio & TV

Asia TV

Location: Bagh-i-Azadi St., Jade Kaj, Herat
Proprietor: Amanullah Ataie, Maqsd Ehrari
Editor-in-Chief: Maqsd Ehrari
Contact no.: 0700435385/0770490540
Email: aman_ataie@yahoo.com

Baran Radio

Location: Bagh-i-Azadi St, Herat City
Proprietor: Firoz Ahmad Haidary Azadani
Editor-in-Chief: Hayatullah Hamid
Contact no.: 0793445565/0796070260
Email: baraan.radio@yahoo.com

Heray TV

Location: St. 64, Herat City
Proprietor: Haji Azim Qanadyazian
Editor-in-Chief: Eng. Sayed Najibullah Yusufi Bashardost
Email: yousofy@web.de

Maihan TV

Location: St. 64, Herat City
Proprietor: Haji Azim Qanadyazian
Editor-in-Chief: Eng. Sayed Bashir Ali

Contact No.: 0700940700/0799140452
Email: info@maihantv.com

Muzhda Radio

Location: Bagh-i-Azadi St., Herat City
Proprietor: Ali Ahmad Arian
Editor-in-Chief: Aria Fahim
Contact no.: 0700438586/0700732525
Email: aria_fahim@yahoo.com

Radio Killid

Location: District 3, Badmurghan, Baghch-i-Gulha, opp. Reza Mosque
Proprietor: Killid Group
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Muhammad Reza Hashimi
Contact no.: 0772038175
Email: m.reza@tkg.af

Sada-i-Jawan (Herat University Radio)

Location: Herat University, Herat City
Proprietor: Journalism College
Editor-in-Chief: Sayeed Yahya Hazen
Contact no.: 040230800/0700419420
Email: hazing_2005@yahoo.com

Sahar Radio

Location: Badmurghan, Herat City
Proprietor: Humara Hasib
Editor-in-Chief: Humara Hasib
Contact no.: 0793231000
Email: radiosahar@gmail.com

Sema-i-Ghorian TV

Location: Ghorian Distirct
Proprietor: Jamshid Azizi
Editor-in-Chief: Hafizullah Haqdoost
Contact no.: 0700413151/0799433030
Email: sgh_tvsn@yahoo.com

Taban TV

Location: Takht-i-Safar Park, Herat City
Proprietor: Eng. Abdul Karim Sadeqi
Editor-in-Chief: Mena Sadeqi
Contact no.: 0793445566/0796440550
Email: sadeqi56@gmail.com

Tanin Radio
Location: Near District Governor's Office, Shendand District
Proprietor: Mohammad Gul Khair Khah
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Edris
Contact no.: 0799566540/0700417909
Email: mg_khairkhah@yahoo.com

Zendagy Radio
Location: Farzad Business Center, Gulha Intersection, Herat City
Proprietor: Mohammad Homayoun Ghafori
Editor-in-Chief: Faiz Ahmad Mohammadi
Contact no.: 0799546418/0798262728
Email: zendagyfm@yahoo.com

Zuhal Radio
Location: Khaja Murad Bakhsh St, Herat City
Proprietor: Mohammad Nasir Mujadidi
Editor-in-Chief: Marof Hasib
Contact no.: 0799666800/0788880837

Jawzjan Province

Publications

Gawarish Monthly
Location: Shiberghan
Proprietor: Tribal and Border Department
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Agha
Contact no.: 0786370101

Hukumat wa Shahrwand Seasonal Publication
Location: Provincial Governor's Office, Shiberghan
Proprietor: Provincial Governor's Press Office
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Yusuf Yusufi
Contact no.: 0700727248
Email: yuosuf2011@yahoo.com

Jawzjan Weekly
Location: Shiberghan
Proprietor: Department of Information and

Culture of Jawzjan Province
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Zahir Haris
Contact no.: 0755710058/0797207929

Payam-i-Olfat Monthly
Location: Zone 3, Shiberghan
Proprietor: Mir Hasan Ziaee
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Rahim Muradi
Contact no.: 0789029985/0799652018
Email: payameolfat1387@yahoo.com

Radio

Armaghan Radio
Location: Shiberghan
Proprietor: Eng. Shah Mahmud Aseem
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Sabir Hamidi
Contact no.: 0700223511/0706750958
Email: armaghanfm_86@yahoo.com

Darman Radio
Location: Aqcha District
Proprietor: Turkistan Social and Cultural Foundation
Editor-in-Chief: Noor Agha Sharifi
Contact no.: 0772743051/0799269580
Email: nooragha_sharifi@yahoo.com

Radio Bostan
Location: District 2, Shiberghan
Proprietor: Eng. Zarghona Yusufzai
Editor-in-Chief: Rafiullah Azizi
Contact no.: 0786715470/0700551213
Email: bostanradio.gm89@gmail.com

Kandahar Province

News Agencies

Pajhwok News Agency
Proprietor: Pajhwok News
Editor-in-Chief: Bashir Ahmad Naadim
Contact no.: 0799806508
Email: bashir.naadim@googlemail.com

Publications

Bahar Ke Weekly

Location: Kandahar City
 Proprietor: Ahmad Fawzan
 Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Ghafar Kakar
 Contact no.: 0797909019/0700960940
 Email: salan.kakar@gmail.com

Shkulla Magazine

Location: Kandahar City
 Proprietor: Benawa Cultural Association
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Yar Yar
 Contact no.: 0700311279
 Email: kandahar.yar@gmail.com

Talim ul Islam Magazine

Location: District 4, Kandahar City
 Proprietor: Mawlawi Mohammad Omar Khetabi
 Editor-in-Chief: Mawlawi Mohammad Omar Khetabi
 Contact no.: 0700300570
 Email: khitabi@gmail.com

Tolo-i-Afghan Daily

Location: Kandahar City
 Proprietor: Ministry of Information and Culture
 Editor-in-Chief: Rahmatullah Momen
 Contact no.: 0700312202
 Email: janan.momin@gmail.com

Radio & TV

Hewad TV

Location: Kandahar City
 Proprietor: Hewad Media Group
 Editor-in-Chief: Judge Mohammad Omar
 Contact no.: 0700251209
 Email: nor_maiwand@yahoo.com

Radio Afghan Azad

Location: Kandahar City
 Proprietor: Hewad Media Group
 Editor-in-Chief: Sedqullah Khaleeq

Contact no.: 0700311361
 Email: nor_maiwand@yahoo.com

Radio Killid

Location: Near Zaid Bin Haris Masjid, Ghazi Mohd Jan Khan Watt, Behind UN Guest House
 Proprietor: Killid Group
 Editor-in-Chief: Nisar Ahmad Aazad
 Contact no.: 0700317320
 Email: n.azaad@killid.com

Radio Talim ul Islam

Location: District Four, Kandahar City
 Proprietor: Mawlawi Mohammad Omar Khetabi
 Editor-in-Chief: Mawlawi Mohammad Omar Khetabi
 Contact no.: 0700300570
 Email: khitabi@gmail.com

Radio Wranga

Location: District 4, Kandahar City
 Proprietor: Hakim Pacha
 Editor-in-Chief: Agha Sher Monar
 Contact no.: 0700988086
 Email: aghashirmonar@gmail.com

Kapisa Province

Publications

Asr-i-Tamadon Weekly

Location: Hesa-i-Awal Kohestan
 Editor-in-Chief: Agha Bacha Shaida
 Contact no.: 0773648471/0796558445
 Email: aghabachashaida@gmail.com

Wefaq Biweekly

Location: Bazar-i-Sherkat, Gulbahar
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Akram Khamosh
 Contact no.: 0799696669

Khost Province

Publications

Ehsass National Daily Newspaper

Location: First Lane to the West of Masjid Jameh, Khost City
Proprietor: Spojhmai Media and Cultural Center
Editor-in-Chief: Najibullah Alokhel
Contact no.: 0707021919/0706680545
Email: melee.ehsas.daily@gmail.com

Mujahed Ghajh Magazine

Location: Khost City
Proprietor: Mujaheddin Council
Editor-in-Chief: Mawlawi Mohammad Sardar Zadran
Contact no.: 0799148746
Email: mujahidghag@yahoo.com

Paiwastoon Magazine

Location: Khost Plaza, Khost City
Proprietor: Paiwastoon Cultural Association
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Rasool Adel
Contact no.: 0700150029
Email: adil.khost@gmail.com

Woles Heela Weekly

Location: Khost City, Mutoon Hill
Proprietor: Khost Cultural Independent Association
Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Nematullah
Contact no.: 0799445300/0777445300
Email: besmellahhaqmal@yahoo.com

Radio & TV

Gharghasht TV

Location: Porojeh Bagh
Proprietor: Sakhi Sarwar Miakhel
Contact no.: 0799136637/0798176064
Email: sahai_miakhal@yahoo.com

Radio Heelo Karwan

Location: Khwaja Mutoon Hill, Khost City

Proprietor: Seven person board
Editor-in-Chief: Afsar Sadeq
Contact no.: 0799134599/0700795092
Email: afsir.sadeq@yahoo.com

Radio Killid

Location: St. 1, in front of Shamaly Darwaza, Near Khost Yaqoobi Aday Jomat, Khost City
Editor-in-Chief: Killid Group
Proprietor: Naqibullah Matoonwal
Contact no.: 0799110214
Email: n.matoonwal@tkg.af

Radio Nan FM

Location: Khoshal Tower, Khost City
Proprietor: Karimullah Nazari
Contact no.: 0799136069/0796891891
Email: nanfm@ymail.com

Radio Sada-i-Jawan

Location: Shaikh Zahid University Campus
Proprietor: Shaikh Zahid University
Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Wahedi
Contact no.: 0700074026/0799144840

Radio Soli Paigham

Location: North of UNAMA Office, Porojha
Proprietor: Zahed Shah Angar
Editor-in-Chief: Zahed Shah Angar
Contact no.: 0708198409/0799406167
Email: z_angar@yahoo.com

Radio Woles Ghajh

Location: Khwaja Mutoon hill, Khost City
Proprietor: Khost Independent Cultural Association
Editor-in-Chief: Amanullah Haqmal
Contact no.: 0777445300/0705777478
Email: besmellahhaqmal@yahoo.com

Kunar Province

Publications

Lopata Magazine

Location: Asadabad
 Proprietor: Brishna Sherzai
 Editor-in-Chief: Fazila Morowat
 Contact no.: 0707762353
 Email: lpatakunar@gmail.com

Sama Magazine

Location: Asadabad
 Proprietor: Sayed Abdullah Nezami
 Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Abdullah Nezami
 Contact no.: 0707030083/0777139020
 Email: nizami.alazeera@yahoo.com

Zala Biweekly

Location: Amanullah Sehat Plaza,
 Asadabad
 Proprietor: Shekib Sanin
 Editor-in-Chief: Asef Mal
 Contact no.: 0700617825/0777617825
 Email: shakib.sanin@gmail.com

Radio & TV

Radio Badloon

Location: Nawai Plaza, Asadabad
 Proprietor: Ahmadullah Archiwal
 Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Agha Miyakhel
 Contact no.: 0793663090/0707023823
 Email: archiwal@gmail.com

Radio Shkulla

Location: Asadabad
 Proprietor: Obaidullah Qaney
 Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Hameedullah Hashimi
 Contact no.: 0707068357/0793339591
 Email: obaid.qani@yahoo.com

Radio Zala

Location: Asadabad Road
 Proprietor: Shekib Sanin
 Editor-in-Chief: Shekib Sanin

Contact no.: 0700617825/0777617825
 Email: shakib.sanin@gmail.com

Zala TV

Location: Amanullah Sehat Plaza, Asadabad
 Proprietor: Shekib Sanin
 Editor-in-Chief: Shekib Sanin
 Contact no.: 0700617825/0777617825
 Email: shakib.sanin@gmail.com

Kunduz Province

News Agencies

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)

Proprietor: Pajhwok News
 Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Mateen Sarfaraz
 Contact No.: 0799395005/0708198220
 Email: sarfraz.afghan@gmail.com

Publications

Al-Mehdi Weekly

Location: Imam Sahib District
 Proprietor: Al-Mehdi Foundation
 Editor-in-Chief: Hajji Sakhi Dad Khel
 Contact no.: 0799330096
 Email: almedi.weekly@gmail.com

Baseerat Monthly

Location: Wolayat Rd., Kunduz City
 Proprietor: Payenda Mohammad Rahyab
 Editor-in-Chief: Belqis Oranus
 Contact no.: 0799389743/0794754531
 Email: rahyab2010@yahoo.com

Bostan Daily

Location: Khwaja Mashad, Nawabad
 Proprietor: Abdul Basir
 Editor-in-Chief: Neman Khan
 Contact no.: 0700700658/0799893226
 Email: bostan_roznama@hmail.com

Kunduz Weekly

Location: Information and Culture
 Department, Kunduz City

Proprietor: Information and Culture
Department of Kunduz Province
Editor-in-Chief: Zarghoon Mulzam
Contact no.: 0794940102

Roz Daily
Location: District One, Kunduz City
Proprietor: Zabihullah Majid
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Wodood Wahedi
Contact no.: 0799200735/0700767373
Email: zabi.fast@gmail.com

Radio & TV

Khawar TV
Location: Raees Abad, Second District,
Kunduz City
Proprietor: Jalal Mahmoodi
Editor-in-Chief: Shahbaz Saberi
Contact no.: 0700262728/0707422664
Email: khawar_tv@yahoo.com

Radio Cheragh
Location: Kunduz Province, Bandarkhan
Abad Roundabout
Proprietor: Malalai Yusofi
Editor-in-Chief: Malalai Yusofi
Contact no.: 0799206422
Email: radio.cheragh@gmail.com

Radio Jaihoon
Location: Imam Sahib District
Proprietor: Abdul Shukoor Dost
Editor-in-Chief: Ghulam Rasool Sahel
Contact no.: 0799435282/0799063085
Email: radio_jaihon@yahoo.com

Radio Kaihan
Location: Second District, Kunduz City
Proprietor: Zarghoona Hassan and Sayed
Ismael Ansari
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Ismael Ansari
Contact no.: 0708188977/0798856606
Email: zarjan_saydismail@gmail.com

Radio Roshani
Location: Sherkat Roundabout, Kunduz
City

Proprietor: Seddiqa Sherzai
Editor-in-Chief: Seddiqa Sherzai
Contact no.: 0799409622
Email: sediq_a_sherzad@yahoo.com

Radio Zohra
Location: Kabul Bandar Main Road
Proprietor: Najia Khudayar
Editor-in-Chief: Lina Sultani
Contact no.: 0796453107
Email: radio_zohra@yahoo.com

Laghman Province

Radio

Radio Kawoon Ghajh
Location: Kawoon Town, Ali Khel
Proprietor: Laghman Academic and Cultural
Association
Editor-in-Chief: Najibullah Enqilabi
Contact no.: 0799619092/0786163479
Email: zarkamar_laghman@yahoo.com

Logar Province

Publications

Anjoman Jawanan Monthly
Location: Youth Association Office, Pul-i-
Alam
Proprietor: Logar Youth Association
Editor-in-Chief: Hashmatullah Ahmadi
Contact no.: 0797121107/0700619498
Email: uysfmo.logar@gmail.com

Olympics Monthly
Location: Pul-i-Alam
Proprietor: Logar Olympics Directorate
Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Abdulwalid Stanekzai
Contact no.: 0700379128
Email: logarolampec@yahoo.com

Payam-i-Warzeskar Magazine

Location: Pul-i-Alam
 Proprietor: Sayed Najibullah Hashimi
 Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Najibullah Hashimi
 Contact no.: 0799529310
 Email: syednajeeb_hashemi@yahoo.com

Sada-i-Jawan Weekly

Location: Behind Pharmacy Market, Pul-i-Alam
 Proprietor: Mohammad Shafiq Popal
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Obaid Ormar
 Contact no.: 0700161982/0700147482
 Email: shafiq_popal1@yahoo.com

Storai Monthly

Location: Hussain Khel, Pul-i-Alam
 Proprietor: Matiullah Sarwar
 Editor-in-Chief: Matiullah Sarwar
 Contact no.: 0799251035/0700657587
 Email: matiullah_sarwar@yahoo.com

Radio**Radio Estiqlal**

Location: Pul-i-Alam
 Proprietor: Nasrullah Stanekzai
 Editor-in-Chief: Laal Mohammad Turabi
 Contact no.: 0799302097/07995474271

Radio Ettifaq

Location: Padkhvab-i-Shana, Pul-i-Alam District
 Proprietor: Logar Based NATO forces
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Khan
 Contact no.: 0793780593

Radio Paigham-i-Milli

Location: Logar
 Proprietor: Osman Tariq
 Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Naseer Modaser
 Contact no.: 0799412994/0798223229
 Email: radio_paygham@yahoo.com

Radio Srak

Location: Pul-i-Alam District
 Proprietor: Zia Arman
 Editor-in-Chief: Barialai Nayeb
 Contact no.: 0779215956

Radio Zeenat

Location: Logar
 Proprietor: Noorullah Stanekzai
 Editor-in-Chief: Noorullah Stanekzai
 Contact no.: 0788838838/0799347304
 Email: noorullah202000@gmail.com

Nangarhar Province

News Agencies**Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)**

Proprietor: Pajhwok News
 Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Muheed Hashimi
 Contact No.: 0700585807/0799541118
 Email: hashami_pajhawk@yahoo.com

Publications**Ghooshtana Publication**

Location: Rangrezan Lane, Jalalabad
 Proprietor: Abdul Latif Mal Shinwari
 Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Latif Mal Shinwari
 Contact no.: 0799276559
 Email: latif_shinwary@yahoo.com

Gulab Mazazine

Location: Chawk Mukhabirat, Jalalabad
 Proprietor: Abdullah Habibzai
 Editor-in-Chief: Abdullah Habibzai
 Contact no.: 0777628922/0786959694
 Email: abdullahhabibzai@yahoo.com

Oshka Magazine

Location: Room Number 219, Nangarhar Plaza, Jalalabad
 Proprietor: Rahatgul Ziarmal
 Editor-in-Chief: Ekramullah Ekram
 Contact no.: 0779959771/0771104243
 Email: salam.qalam@gmail.com

Radio & TV

Radio Abaseen
Location: Sherin Dil Plaza, Jalalabad
Proprietor: Sayed Ajmal Sadaat
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Maroof Sadaat
Contact no.: 0777459980/0799216490
Email: abaseen.radio@yahoo.com

Radio Enhekas
Location: Rangrezan Lane, Jalalabad
Proprietor: Eng. Zalmal Khan
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Latif Mal Shinwari
Contact no.: 0700655553/0799276559
Email: latif_shinwary@yahoo.com

Radio Hamesha Bahar
Location: Rd. 3, Marastoon Roundabout,
Alikhel, Hisarak District
Proprietor: Eng. Tariq Safi
Editor-in-Chief: Omid Zaheermal
Contact no.: 0775051750/0785642167
Email: hbr_tariq@yahoo.com

Radio Killid
Location: Hs. 565, St. 6, in front of Police
Department, Kabul-Jalalabad Rd.
Proprietor: Killid Group
Editor-in-Chief: Yahya Yaqoobi
Contact no.: 0700097893/0756013020
Email: y.yaqubi@killid.com

Radio Meena
Location: District 4, Jalalabad
Proprietor: Arash Nangial
Editor-in-Chief: Zabiullah Noorzai
Contact no.: 0799143995/0700064034
Email: arashnangial@yahoo.com

Radio Munbar Islami
Location: Shaiq Media Centre, Jalalabad
Proprietor: Eng. Shafiqullah Shaiq
Editor-in-Chief: Faza Noori
Contact no.: 0797499999
Email: shaiq_afghan@yahoo.com

Radio Nargis
Location: Shaiq Network, Jalalabad
Proprietor: Eng. Shafiqullah Shaiq
Editor-in-Chief: Shahla Shaiq
Contact no.: 0797499999
Email: shaiq_afghan@yahoo.com

Radio Safa
Location: 40 Metre Rd., District 4,
Jalalabad
Proprietor: Qarar Azizi and Ferdaws Hazrati
Editor-in-Chief: Qarar Azizi
Contact no.: 0700954047/0786383497
Email: qarar.azizi@hotmail.com

Radio Sharq
Location: Sarak Joi Haft, Jalalabad
Proprietor: Eng. Shafiqullah Shaiq
Editor-in-Chief: Marshal Haleemi
Contact no.: 07997499999/0799113836
Email: shaiq_afghan@yahoo.com

Sharq TV
Location: District 3, Jalalabad
Proprietor: Eng. Shafiqullah Shaiq
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Yusof Jabarkhel
Contact No.: 0797499999/0700600530
Email: shaiq_afghan@yahoo.com

Nimroz Province

Publications

Al-Shifa Monthly
Location: Zaranj
Proprietor: Mawlawi Bashir Ahmad Khatibi
Editor-in-Chief: Mawlawi Bashir Ahmad Khatibi
Contact no.: 0799574375

Jawanan Monthly
Location: Nimroz Information and Culture
Department, Zaranj
Proprietor: Youth Information and
Communication Center
Editor-in-Chief: Amanullah Barak

Contact no.: 0797874764
Email: amanullah_barakzai@yahoo.com

Sada-i-Nimroz Monthly
Location: Ahmadi Market, Zaranj
Proprietor: Zabiullah Fayeq
Editor-in-Chief: Fazel Rasool Mahmoodi
Contact no.: 0703779100/0799599911

Radio

Radio Sada-i-Dost
Location: Opposite State Accountant's Office, Zaranj
Proprietor: Sayed Abdullah Rahmani
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Abdullah Rahmani
Contact no.: 0700567725
Email: rhm.rahmani@gmail.com

Nuristan Province

Radio

Radio Elina
Location: Kalagosh, Noorgram District
Proprietor: Head of the Cultural Council
Editor-in-Chief: Sahib Dad Hamdard
Contact no.: 0708311095/0708370421
Email: emal.hamdard@yahoo.com

Radio Kalagosh
Location: Noorgram District
Proprietor: Mohebullah Wakil Zada
Editor-in-Chief: Farooq Kaihan
Contact no.: 0700594225/0708855347

Paktia Province

News Agencies

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)
Proprietor: Pajhwok News
Editor-in-Chief: Lemar Niazi
Contact no.: 0795101707/0797383930
Email: lemar.niazi@gmail.com

Publications

Khwazakht Magazine
Location: Wazir Hussain Market, Gardez
Proprietor: Khwazakht Cultural Association
Editor-in-Chief: Samiullah Paiwand
Contact no.: 0700686467
Email: peiwand.paktya@gmail.com

Mirzaki Magazine
Location: Sehat Plaza, Gardez
Proprietor: Hakim Sarter
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Manan Abid
Contact no.: 0797334843/0799149189
Email: hakim.mangal@gmail.com

Sulaiman Ghajh Bimonthly
Location: Information and Culture Department, Gardez
Proprietor: Abdullah Ekhlasyar
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Hanif Hairan
Contact no.: 0300932038
Email: sulimanghar@gmail.com

Radio

Radio Aryoob
Location: Aryob Zazi
Proprietor: Paktia Provincial Reconstruction Team
Contact no.: 0799134553

Radio Chamkanai Ghajh
Location: Shahr-i-Naw Market
Proprietor: Sayaf
Editor-in-Chief: Ahangari
Contact no.: 0700858359

Radio Shwak
Location: Shwak District
Proprietor: Nasimullah Danish
Contact no.: 0799134553

Paktika Province

Radio

Radio Nawi Paktika
Location: Sharan
Editor-in-Chief: Loqman Mashal
Contact no.: 0799304637/0708815997
Email: paktika.211@yahoo.com

Radio Paktin Ghajh
Location: Shekin District
Proprietor: Government of Afghanistan
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Naeem
Contact no.: 0702317365
Email: paktinvoice_radio@yahoo.com

Radio Pashtoon Ghajh
Location: Sharan
Proprietor: Mohammad Nabi Hamdard
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Yasin Yasin
Contact no.: 0798239360/0798258979
Email: navihamdard@gmail.com

Panjshir Province

Publications

Aftab Magazine
Location: Onaba District
Proprietor: Aftab Social and Cultural Association
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Haroon Onabi
Contact no.: 0772043204/0706468179
Email: haroon.anabi@gmail.com

Panjshir Biweekly
Location: Panjshir Information and Culture Department
Editor-in-Chief: Habiburrahman Rafhat
Contact no.: 0700239979/0772014954

Radio

Radio Khorasan
Location: Opp. Police Headquarters
Proprietor: Roothullah Yusofi
Contact no.: 0777158115/0700158115
Email: radiokhorasanfm@gmail.com

Parwan Province

Publications

Parwan Biweekly
Proprietor: Parwan Information and Culture Department
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Sharif Seddiqi
Contact no.: 0799741739

Payam-i-Shahr Monthly
Location: Charikar Municipality Building, Charikar
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Ghafar Rawoofi
Contact no.: 0700598357/0708292020
Email: ghafar_raafi@gmail.com

Radio

Radio Dunia
Location: Charikar
Proprietor: Abdul Alim Saqeb
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Alim Saqeb
Contact no.: 0700295863
Email: ahmad_hanaxish@yahoo.com

Radio Sada-i-Solh
Location: Jabul Saraj District
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Ahad Ranjbar
Contact no.: 0700277843
Email: radio_peacezool@hotmail.com

Samangan Province

Publications

Nezafat Monthly
 Location: Aybak Municipality, Aybak
 Proprietor: Aybak Municipality
 Editor-in-Chief: Bashirullah Faizi
 Contact no.: 0799164672/0777006284

Takht Rustam Weekly
 Location: Aybak
 Proprietor: Najibullah Khoram
 Editor-in-Chief: Najibullah Khoram
 Contact no.: 0794917681
 Email: khoram2011@gmail.com

Samangan Publication
 Location: Aybak
 Proprietor: Ministry of Information and Culture
 Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Ghafoor Momand
 Contact no.: 0755800158/0799292923

Radio

Radio Haqiqat
 Location: Aybak
 Proprietor: Aminullah Qayoomi
 Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Ehsanullah Qoraishi
 Contact no.: 0700549827/0700555593
 Email: haqiqat_radio@yahoo.com

Radio Rustam
 Location: Aybak
 Proprietor: Amirullah Qayoomi
 Editor-in-Chief: Shafiqullah Manteqi
 Contact no.: 0799201079
 Email: amir_qayomi@yahoo.com

Radio Shahrwand
 Location: Aybak
 Proprietor: Ahmad Jawid Afghan
 Editor-in-Chief: Wajiha Ahmadi
 Contact no.: 079533992/0787794330
 Email: afg1383@yahoo.com

Sar-i-Pul Province

Publications

Payam-i-Shura Monthly
 Location: District 2, Sar-i-Pul City
 Proprietor: Sar-i-Pul Provincial Council
 Editor-in-Chief: Masooma Ramadani
 Contact no.: 0794115561
 Email: payame.shora@yahoo.com

Seema-i-Zan Monthly
 Location: Sar-i-Pul Women's Affairs Department, District 2, Sar-i-Pul City
 Proprietor: Women's Affairs Department, Sar-e-Pul
 Editor-in-Chief: Roya Sahar
 Contact no.: 0799043507/0778120243

Radio

Radio Banu
 Location: Munar Road, Sar-i-Pul
 Proprietor: Shafiqullah Azizi
 Editor-in-Chief: Shafiqullah Haidari
 Contact no.: 0797909014/0796981517
 Email: morningstar_radio@yahoo.com

Takhar Province

Publications

Ramz Daily
 Location: Taloqan
 Proprietor: Hekmatullah Karimi
 Editor-in-Chief: Taj Mohammad Walid
 Contact no.: 0700277077/0706503052
 Email: zumar_2015@yahoo.com

Takharistan Weekly
 Location: District 2, Taloqan
 Proprietor: Takhar Information and Culture Department
 Editor-in-Chief: Atiqullah Sahel

Contact no.: 0799111955
Email: atiq.sahel@gmail.com

Tasweer Weekly

Location: District 2, Taloqan
Proprietor: Abdul Aziz Aziz
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Munir Hadaf
Contact no.: 0700704878/0700730011
Email: hadaf_2009@yahoo.com

Radio

Radio Hamsada

Location: District 2, Taloqan
Proprietor: Simeen Hussaini
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Haroon Mustamand
Contact no.: 0799702362/0700088311
Email: hamsadaradio@yahoo.com

Radio Takharistan

Location: District 1, Taloqan
Proprietor: Mohebullah Noori
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Nader Azizi
Contact no.: 0700757767
Email: radio_takharestan@yahoo.com

Seema-e-Mehr Radio and TV Station

Location: District 1, Taloqan
Proprietor: Atiqullah Nazari
Editor-in-Chief: Nooria Nekzad
Contact no.: 0700707220
Email: seimah_mehir_rtv@yahoo.com

Uruzgan Province

Radio

Radio Paiwastoon Ghajh

Location: Tirin Kot
Proprietor: Matiullah
Editor-in-Chief: Farid Ayel
Contact no.: 0703003007/0707116668
Email: ayil.co2010@yahoo.com

Urozgan Ghajh

Location: Tirin Kot
Proprietor: International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)
Editor-in-Chief: Sadeq Afghan
Contact no.: 0798008788
Email: voiceofuruzgan@hotmail.com

Wardak Province

Publications

Mashwara Weekly

Location: Maidan Shahr
Proprietor: Wardak Provincial Council
Editor-in-Chief: Roohullah Wafa
Contact no.: 079611111/0786612602
Email: rafi_mayar@yahoo.com

Radio

Radio Yaowali Ghajh

Location: Sayed Abad District
Proprietor: Hazratuddin Nasrat
Editor-in-Chief: Hazratuddin Nasrat
Contact no.: 0799438575/0777438575
Email: hd.nasrat@gmail.com

Zabul Province

Publications

Zubaida Periodical

Location: Qalat
Proprietor: Musawir Ghajh Cultural Association
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ibrahim Wesal
Contact no.: 0700366737/0704213800
Email: ibrahim_masih@yahoo.com

Zabul Hukoomat Weekly

Location: Information and Culture Department of Zabul Province
Proprietor: Information and Culture

Department of Zabul Province
Editor-in-Chief: Bismillah Ludin
Contact no.: 0700337346

Radio

Radio Qalat Ghajh
Location: Zabul Police Headquarters
Proprietor: International Security Assistance
Force
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Sadeq Mirwaisi
Contact no.: 0707365264
Email: fanythacker@hotmail.com

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