

Afghanistan Research Newsletter

An AREU Publication

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Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Afghanistan Research Newsletter, produced by the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU). Our purpose is to alert Afghan and international policy makers, development practitioners, and Afghan government and civil society representatives to new research being undertaken on Afghanistan and to help disseminate the results of research. We hope that this newsletter will address one of the most critical issues confronting policy makers and development practitioners: the lack of reliable data and analysis to inform policy and programming decisions. It is AREU's goal to produce this newsletter regularly. We appreciate your input, and details on how to submit information are given on the back page.

Current Research Projects

This section lists current and proposed research projects. The information appears as submitted by the individuals or organisations involved and the status of these projects may have changed since publication of this newsletter.

National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2003

The 2003 National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) methodology was developed by several key stakeholders, including the Ministries of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (MAAH), and Health (MoH) as well as various UN agencies, the World Bank, AREU and NGOs involved in food security activities in Afghanistan. The primary objective of the study is to collect information at community and household level to better understand the livelihoods of rural settled populations and nomadic pastoralists (Kuchis) throughout the country and to determine the types of risks and vulnerabilities they face throughout the year. It is hoped that the analysis and interpretation of this data can then be used by the many stakeholders to develop strategies to address the short-, medium- and longer-term needs of these populations through appropriate and timely policy development and intervention strategies.

In late December preliminary findings based upon an income-based estimate of households were released to meet the immediate demand for a national planning dataset. The MRRD and World Bank presented a poverty line estimate based on consumption data to Cabinet on February 23, 2004 and this has been publicly released. All data sets have been cleaned, and are currently being prepared for imminent public release.

With the initial analysis of consumption and income-based estimates of poverty completed, more in-depth analysis along the following themes can proceed: nutrition and dietary diversity, shocks, coping/survival strategies, education and health, labour/migration and markets, agriculture/land tenure, Kuchis, gender, opium, respondents' perceptions and livelihoods zoning. The results of the analyses will appear as a series of NRVA working papers. They will be released when the analysis of each theme has been completed and written up. One such report, giving initial insights into rural poverty in Afghanistan, has emerged from the NRVA 2003 and was released in February 2004: *Rural poverty in Afghanistan: Initial insights from NRVA* / Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Afghanistan and The World Bank. 24 p. AREU has also published a background report on the NRVA methodology (see page 9).

Once released, the NRVA dataset will be available through files posted at <http://www.af/nrva>.

For more information contact:

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Four MADERA Studies on Agriculture and Social Management

MADERA, the Mission d'Aide au Développement des Economies Rurales en Afghanistan, is planning to conduct the following four studies in 2004.

- (1) Agricultural systems of production in Taywara and Passaband Districts, Ghor Province, April-October 2004;
- (2) Social diagnosis of communities in Taywara and Passaband Districts, Ghor Province, May-October 2004;

- (3) Social management of irrigation water in the eastern provinces, May-October 2004; and
- (4) Agricultural produce: study of marketing and processing in the eastern provinces, June-October 2004.

All studies will be completed by November 2004.

For more information contact:

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Current Research at AREU

Rural Livelihoods

The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) recently completed the first phase of its rural livelihoods monitoring programme, the aim of which is to both build understanding about livelihoods in Afghanistan among interested policy-makers and practitioners and to improve the design, monitoring and evaluation of livelihoods-related programmes conducted by partner NGOs. (See page 9 for publications from this first phase.) The second phase of the research will include in-depth focus on five major themes: seasonal labour migration, gender and productive assets, credit and debt, rural vulnerability, and opium and rural livelihoods. The goal of each study is to contribute to the understanding of existing risk management strategies at individual, household and group level in order to assist in developing appropriate policies and programmes that will contribute to supporting constructive strategies that reduce vulnerability. For more information contact Alexia Coke at alexia@areu.org.pk.

Understanding Urban Vulnerability

The words "vulnerable" and "vulnerability" have become common currency among agencies in Afghanistan, but issues associated with vulnerability and risk are still poorly understood. To gain a better understanding of these terms within the Afghan context, this study is using focus groups to examine the causes of vulnerability, who is seen as vulnerable, the coping strategies of vulnerable populations, and existing safety nets at the community, regional and national levels. An initial report from the study will be available in late April 2004. For details contact Stefan Schütte at stef.schuette@web.de.

Transnational Networks and Returnees

In light of the massive return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan and Iran, AREU, with support from UNHCR and Stichting Vluchteling, is attempting to understand the relationship between transnational and national social networks and sustainable reintegration both for returnees and those who have remained in their communities of origin. Field research is currently underway in rural and urban Herat to trace the social networks of individuals in different communities. The research specifically aims to examine the effects that remittances, labour migration, business

transactions, family networks, and gender have in initiating, sustaining and transforming transnational networks. For details contact Elca Stigter at elca_s@yahoo.com.

Gender and Local Level Decision-Making

This project aims to gain a better understanding of the gender-based norms, roles and responsibilities involved in household level decision-making, to understand the social resources men and women draw upon when making decisions in households and communities, and to identify and understand the links between household and community decision-making, and how key community institutions determine outcomes related to women's needs and interests. For more information contact Shawna Wakefield at shawna@areu.org.pk.

Political Economy and Markets

This research will explore the relationship between economic and political interactions and provide detailed empirical information on the operation of markets and distribution of their benefits. The first phase of this project is a study funded by the World Bank covering three activities important to the Afghan economy: raisins, carpets, and construction materials. The aim of these studies is to enhance understanding of the role of markets in affecting the prospects for growth, and the distribution of the benefits of growth, in Afghanistan. A second phase will involve commodity chain analyses of fuel, pharmaceuticals and opium. For details contact Sarah Lister at sarah@areu.org.pk.

Learning from NSP Elections

This study is examining the election processes in relation to Community Development Committees (CDCs) established under the National Solidarity Programme, with a particular focus on gender relations and women's participation, community perspectives on elections and voting, and the expectations of communities regarding the outcomes of elections. It is hoped that the research will provide useful lessons in planning for national elections and promoting local-level participation. For more details contact Inger Boesen at boesen.ac@mail.tele.dk.

SYHAT: Survey of Youth Health in Afghanistan

SYHAT is the first study to screen young Afghans for mental health problems in the wake of decades of conflict and unprecedented population displacement. In partnership with WAFA (Water Aid for Afghanistan) and facilitated by the Ministry of Education in Afghanistan, the 30-month project will use a participative approach with local communities and stakeholders, aiming for baseline data on 1800 youth and their families in six urban/rural areas in Afghanistan and Pakistan, with a follow-up study on a sub-sample. SYHAT will use interdisciplinary research methods to relate the nature of psychosocial problems and the strength of coping resources to physiological outcomes such as blood pressure and other

markers of stress. Researchers aim to develop suitable tools for screening mental health problems, to qualitatively appraise coping behaviors and to corroborate psychosocial and biological markers of stress, with a view to recommend suitable strategies for health service provision.

For more information contact:

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Three Surveys from ALTAI Consulting: Salt Iodisation, Fragrance Industry Crops and Safe Motherhood

ALTAI Consulting's current research includes the following:

Research for Universal Iodisation (USI) in Afghanistan

This nationwide research, conducted by ALTAI for UNICEF and Asiatic (Bangladesh), aims to define the most appropriate approach to promote the consumption of iodised salt in Afghanistan. Findings from the study will be available after March 2004.

Feasibility Study for the Cultivation and Processing of Fragrance Industry Crops

ALTAI is conducting this study for the United Nations Development Programme and HD Investment. The study focuses on the development of preliminary business plans, sourcing of stakeholders for high added-value flower plantations in Afghanistan.

Research for Safe Motherhood Initiative (SMI) in Afghanistan

This nationwide research, being conducted for UNICEF and Asiatic (Bangladesh), aims to understand the knowledge, attitudes and practices around women's health and maternity in Afghanistan. Findings should be available in May 2004.

For more information contact:

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Email alerts on new books on Afghanistan

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Subscribe at:

http://www.mideasti.org/programs/programs_library_bookalert.html

Meetings and Networks

This section highlights conferences, meetings and other communication and networking forums.

10th Architecture & Behaviour Colloquium (in English) Urban History and Development of Kabul: Reconstruction and Planning Issues Today

In collaboration with: The Aga Khan Trust for Culture, The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Cantone Ticino, The Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne Monte Verità, Ascona, Ticino, Switzerland, April 4 - 7, 2004.

The three-day Colloquium offers an opportunity to discuss the issues involved in Kabul's current reconstruction and planning by reference to the city's history as well as to case studies of initiatives taken to deal with pressing urban problems. Key authorities from Kabul involved with planning and reconstruction will participate, as well as representatives from NGOs and implementing agencies who have already been involved in decision-making and the formulation and execution of urban projects.

It is foreseen that the discussions and outcome of the Colloquium will be published in a double format: (1) a document to appear shortly after the conference and to be distributed among parties concerned with urban development and reconstruction issues in Kabul and (2) as a volume containing the proceedings of the conference and

circulated to subscribers and bookshops. A follow-up to the Colloquium is foreseen in Kabul: the involvement of local actors in collecting and coordinating data from different districts and ongoing projects, which will then become crucial information for a databank on urban planning.

About 30 residential participants (there is a possibility for auditors) will be invited to attend.

For more information contact:
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New Thematic Networks on Livelihoods, Gender, Political Economy/Governance and Education and Health

The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) is initiating four networks to provide separate forums for each of the following research themes: livelihoods, vulnerability and natural resource management; gender; political economy and governance; and education and health. The purpose of these forums is to: share learning on the particular theme (in particular regarding research and monitoring and evaluation); further build learning based on the experience and knowledge of those who attend (national and international staff); and determine how this learning can be relevant and useful to policy makers and practitioners. AREU plans to have a meeting of each network approximately every four months, focusing on a presentation (by any organization) and/or a particular topic. Because of space limitations and to ensure that the group is small

enough for useful discussion, attendance may need to be limited to one person per organisation if there is a lot of interest. AREU will ensure that there is translation in Dari and English to allow for a mixed language audience.

Livelihoods, vulnerability and natural resource management (NRM) network

The first meeting of this network occurred before this newsletter went to print. To obtain more information, contact Jo Grace at jograce@areu.org.pk

Gender network

Thursday, 15 April 2004, 9:00-12:00 AM
AREU, Charahi Ansari, Shahr-i Nau, Kabul
For more details contact Shawna Wakefield at shawna@areu.org.pk

Feature: Afghanistan's First National Human Development Report



United Nations Development Programme

February 22, 2004, Kabul, Afghanistan

by Abdullah Mojaddedi

After 23 years of war, Afghanistan has entered a stabilisation stage that will be conducive to the design and implementation of reconstruction projects as well as sustainable policies. The country needs first and foremost a development vision based on consensus on the long-term needs and aspirations of the Afghan people. Such a vision can be derived through a participatory approach, after information is made available, data gathered and analysed and options debated in public. It is with this aim that UNDP has launched a long-term commitment to support the growth of human development policies and indicators through the production of bi-annual National Human Development Reports (NHDRs). The NHDR process will lead to sustained information sharing and advocacy on human development, commissioning of studies on different challenges to development, and systematic support in the collection, verification and analysis of data to produce indicators for monitoring progress on human development in the country.

The preparation and production of Afghanistan's first ever National Human Development Report is under way in line with the principles of national ownership and control, objectivity and independence. The Afghanistan government and UNDP initiated the NHDR project in April 2003. Its intent is to establish the principles of human development within national policy. The human development concept is an ideal framework for the overall development vision of Afghanistan because it emphasises the diversity of human needs, such as income, access to knowledge, better nutrition and health, security, political and cultural freedom and participation in the community. The NHDR project will raise awareness concerning the concept of human development and build capacity for human development research, analysis and policy planning in Afghanistan.

The NHDR Advisory Panel, chaired by Minister Haneef Atmar, will oversee the NHDR process as the steering committee. The composition of the Advisory Panel reflects various professional fields relevant to the concept of human development. The national coordinator is assisting the Advisory Panel in the fulfilment of its mandate and coordinating the NHDR process in Afghanistan. The International Expert Committee (readers' group) will consult with the Advisory Panel on the preparation of the NHDR and provide feedback on papers produced throughout the process. The Human Development Resource Office will provide the necessary facilities for the NHDR team and the Advisory Panel.

The first NHDR Workshop was successfully held in December 2003 in Kabul. It was agreed that the theme of the report would be the relationship between security and development in Afghanistan as an over-arching principle, and the goal of national unity as its manifestation. The suggestions on the possible messages that can be contained in the NHDR are being compiled in a comprehensive concept paper. The NHDR team has now commissioned eight major sectoral background papers (on security, education, health, economy, poverty, gender, environment and governance) and 26 brief theoretical pieces. The report will draw much of its information from these papers, which were all due by the end of February 2004. In April and May, members of the Advisory Panel will hold lectures on human development in universities in Kabul and will take these lectures to seven other regions. They will also commission two papers on human development issues from each region. The target date for the launch of Afghanistan's first National Human Development Report is September 2004. For more information about the NHDR, contact Abdullah Mojaddedi, National Coordinator, National Human Development Report, +93 (0) 79 306 314, abdullah.mojaddedi@undp.org.

Featured Publications

This section highlights research publications recently received by AREU, or those forthcoming in early 2004.

Development

Conflictual peacebuilding: Afghanistan two years after Bonn / Astri Suhrke, Kristian Berg Harpviken and Arne Strand. Bergen, Norway : Chr. Michelsen Institute, 2004. 75 p.

This report is the result of a collaboration between Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) and the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO). The report charts the aid policies pursued in Afghanistan since late 2001 aimed at building peace in a country devastated by two decades of conflict. It presents the four pillars of the peacebuilding design and examines the national and international context for what is termed "conflictual peacebuilding." The statebuilding process, as well as the relief and reconstruction policies, are discussed in more detail, followed by an examination of the political transition process and how the rule of law has been established. The national security situation and the international and regional contexts also are reviewed, as is Norway's role in the peacebuilding process.

The report proposes policy guidelines for the policy agenda ahead:

- Refocus and limit the war against the militants so as to reduce the negative impact on the peacebuilding agenda.
- Emphasize institutional reforms and local capacity building as prerequisites for a large influx of new funds.
- Address issues that have been relatively neglected in the reconstruction process so far, including human rights, anti-poverty programs and regulatory policies that promote greater equality and equity in sharing the benefits of reconstruction.
- Anchor the peacebuilding process more firmly in the regional context, *inter alia* by creating an institutional forum for cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbors.
- Norway should consider consolidating its present aid portfolio and concentrating on an identifiable niche where the Norwegian contribution can make a difference.

Further information and copies of the report can be obtained from Arne Strand, CMI, +47 555 74000, arne.strand@cmi.no or Kristian Berg Harpviken, PRIO, +47 225 47700, kristian@prio.no or at <http://www.cmi.no/publications/2004/rep/r2004%-204.pdf>.

Health and Well-Being

The children of Kabul: discussions with Afghan families / Jo de Berry, Fariba Nasiry, Anahita Fazili, Sami Hashemi, Said Farhad, Mariam Hakimi. Kabul: Save the Children (USA), UNICEF. 2003. 77 p.

In a series of focus groups discussions with more than 600 children and their families, Save the Children attempted to understand: (1) well-being goals for Afghan children; (2) the threats children face in achieving well-being; and (3) the coping resources children already have for dealing with their difficulties. This report presents the findings of this research, which included:

- Afghan families want more for their children than physical survival; they consider emotional and social development important.
- Children require positive and supportive contexts to achieve well-being.
- Children need positive and supportive relationships to achieve well-being.

The report also provides recommendations for a holistic, child-focused psychosocial approach to designing, implementing, evaluating and continuing support programs for children in Kabul and Afghanistan. The full report is available at: www.savethechildren.org/publications/children_of_kabul.pdf.

A randomised controlled trial to test the efficacy of thermotherapy against Leishmania tropica: final report / HealthNet International. Unpublished. 11 p.

This report presents the results of trials in Khair Khana clinic (Kabul), testing the efficacy of thermotherapy to treat leishmaniasis. The study found that thermotherapy is an effective, well-

tolerated and rapid treatment for cutaneous leishmaniasis due to *Leishmania tropica*. The results are currently being written up for publication. HealthNet International will now include thermotherapy in its operational leishmaniasis treatment activities.

For further information on the study contact: Richard Reithinger, PhD, Technical Consultant, Malaria and Leishmaniasis Control Programme Afghanistan, HealthNet International, 11-A Circular Lance, P.O. Box 889, University Town, Peshawar, Pakistan. +92 91 844474, rreithinger@yahoo.co.uk

Livelihoods

Human security and livelihoods of rural Afghans, 2002-2003 / Feinstein International Famine Center, Tufts University.

This important report examines the relationship between human security and livelihoods throughout rural Afghanistan from 2002-2003. Detailed analysis is included on six provinces: Badghis, Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar and Nangarhar. The report emphasizes the important links among key aspects of security—physical security, human security and economic security—in the livelihoods of rural Afghans and the prospects for peace in the longer term. The report also examines and analyzes the formal, traditional and customary mechanisms that are in place to address injustice and mitigate security and livelihood threats for the rural Afghan population. Policy recommendations are made based on findings and analyses.

For further information contact Dr. Dyan Mazurana, Senior Research Fellow at d.mazurana@tufts.edu or Elizabeth Stites, Research Associate at Stites7479@aol.com.

Mapping

Watershed atlas of Afghanistan: working document for planners / Raphy Favre, Golam Monowar Kamal. Kabul: FAO/FAAHM-UNDP/ AIMS-SDC. 2004. 220 p.

Although still being finalised, this vital publication will be a major resource for development agencies requiring hydrological information on Afghanistan. Release is planned for the first quarter of 2004. This atlas has the objective to support natural resources management in Afghanistan with a planning tool in the form of geo-referenced

watershed maps that have been developed for the country. The watershed maps have been prepared using Arc-View software and are fully compatible for area-based statistical analysis and can be overlaid with any other geo-referenced maps on Afghanistan.

This volume is currently being prepared for publication in the next month or two. For updates on its availability consult the Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) website at: www.aims.org.

Women

Disconnected from discourse: women's radio listening in rural Samangan, Afghanistan / Sarah Kamal. Unpublished paper. Supported by Oxfam International, MIT Wilson Awards, Mellon-MIT Inter-University Program on Non-Governmental Organizations and Forced Migration. 2004. 17 p.

This report outlines radio reception issues for very vulnerable women in an effort to support radio organisations in Afghanistan in their service delivery. The study was conducted in a remote mountainous region of Samangan Province, and focuses on understanding women's media use in a poor Hazara village. It concludes that current operational assumptions of western radio organisations have created significant gaps between what rural Afghan women require and what their media system provides. While half of the households surveyed owned radios, women reported that broadcasts were too difficult for them to understand and hence only 12 percent listened to the radio. Linguistic barriers, the positioning of the radio set as part of the "man's world," and lack of relevance of radio programming were major factors in low listening patterns of women.

There is an opportunity to make significant improvements in the quality of life and health of rural women via radio. The women surveyed in this study identified women's rights, proper Islam, women's health, good childrearing and family counselling as topics of relevance to their lives. However, radio organisations will have to rethink the packaging and timing of their broadcasts in order to engage and serve rural women more effectively.

Copies of this report can be obtained from Sarah Kamal at skamal@mit.edu.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications from AREU

Recent Publications

A Guide to Government in Afghanistan, a joint AREU and World Bank publication, has three objectives: 1) it seeks to provide newcomers to the political and administrative scene in Afghanistan with a basic guide to the structures and processes of government; 2) it intends to provide reformers with some understanding of how to work "with the grain" of existing institutional arrangements; and 3) it seeks to pay tribute to the remarkable people who have kept government running and those who are reforming it. The guide draws the bulk of its material from six provincial case studies: Faryab and Herat, undertaken in November 2002; Badakhshan and Wardak in April 2003; Kandahar in June 2003; and finally Bamyan in July 2003. ***Subnational Administration in Afghanistan: Assessment and Recommendations for Action*** is the companion report to *A Guide to Government in Afghanistan*, and outlines specific recommendations resulting from the AREU-World Bank study.

Some notes on the livelihoods of the urban poor in Kabul, Afghanistan and ***Exploring the realities of the urban poor: anthropological field methods for the study of urban livelihoods in Afghanistan***. Pamela Hunte's case study summarises some basic features of Afghan urban poor livelihoods based on interviews with returned refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and long-term residents living in Karte Nau (District 8), Kabul. The companion field methods piece is being released in conjunction with the case study as a resource to benefit other researchers working on Afghanistan; it is not intended to be a final publication.

Land Relations in Bamyan Province: Findings from a 15 Village Case Study, by Liz Alden Wily, is the first of three rapid reconnaissance studies carried out in central, north-western and north-eastern Afghanistan that aim to provide quick, grounded snapshots of land relations in different parts of the country. Related studies from Badakhshan and Faryab Provinces are forthcoming.

National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2003: A Stakeholder-Generated Methodology, by Andrew Pinney, examines the methodology and objectives of the national level annual assessment conducted by the World Food Programme's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit to explore Afghanistan's likely food needs for the following year.

Gender Roles in Agriculture, Understanding Village Institutions: Case Studies on Water Management from Faryab and Saripul, and ***Wheat Seed and Agricultural Programming in Afghanistan*** are the first three publications to emerge from AREU's rural livelihoods monitoring programme. A synthesis report outlining the lessons learned from these case studies and the first 18 months of the project will be released in spring 2004.

Forthcoming Publications

Land Relations in Faryab Province and ***Land Relation in Badakhshan Province***, April/May 2004

Agricultural Policy and Afghan Livelihoods, April 2004

Urban Vulnerabilities Working Paper, April 2004

NSP Elections Working Paper, May 2004

All AREU publications are available online at <http://www.areu.org.af> or at AREU's office in Kabul,

Other Publications

In addition to the recent publications noted previously, several organisations and individuals submitted the following publications.

Agriculture

A review of the horticultural marketing and post-harvest conditions in Afghanistan / by Kazim Kemal-ur-Rahim. Kabul : FAO, 2003. 55 p. This study found that the principle constraints in the horticultural sector are: the varieties grown and agronomy; post-harvest handling; finance; access to markets and information; market infrastructure; and market share (vis-à-vis Pakistan and Iran). The report is available by contacting newsletter@areu.org.pk.

Development

Rush to reengagement in Afghanistan: the international financial institutions' post-conflict agenda: with a special focus on the National Solidarity Program / Anne Carlin. Washington, D.C.: Bank Information Center. 2003. 15 p. This report focuses on international financial institutions' influence on rapid rewriting of major sectoral policies in the absence of a representative government; and the World Bank-financed National Solidarity Programme. Supplementary information, summaries of international financial institutions' projects in Afghanistan and links to relevant documents are posted on BIC's Web site at: www.bicusa.org/Afghanistan. Copies of this report can be found at www.bicusa.org/Afghanistan/Afghanistan_Report_Trip1.pdf.

Speaking out : Afghan opinions on rights and responsibilities / the Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium. [Kabul] : Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium (HRRAC), 2003. 82 p. The aims of this publication are to promote Afghan voices as an important part of current policy discussions; to ensure that policy makers hear perspectives on rights and responsibilities from different ethnic, gender, age and geographic groups in Afghanistan; and to stimulate further collaborative advocacy by NGOs in Afghanistan. The report is available online at <http://www.reliefweb.inet/library/documents/2003/care-afg-19nov.pdf> and at http://www.oxfam.org/eng/pdfs/doc031122_afgh_speakingout.pdf.

Working for Afghanistan: the impact of non-governmental organisations / Jeanne Bryer. London: British Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG). 2004. 59 p. This report describes the contribution made by non-governmental organisations to the provision of services to the Afghan population, to the reconstruction process and to meeting humanitarian needs. For more information, contact: Jeanne Bryer, Humanitarian Officer, British Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG), Refugee Council, 3 Bondway, London SW8 1SJ, United Kingdom; Afghanlinks@aol.com. The report is available online at: www.baag.org.uk/publications/reports.htm.

Education

Girls' education in Afghanistan: formative research: executive summary / a survey by ALTAI Consulting (Afghanistan) for UNICEF and Thompson Social and Rural (India). January 2004. 4 p. This research was conducted to find the most appropriate approach to promote girls' education in Afghanistan and to develop a communication strategy for 2004. For further information contact Eric Davin, +93 (0)79 888 666; edavin@altaiconsulting.com

Report Card: Progress on Compulsory Education (Grades 1-9) / Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium. Kabul: HRRAC. March 2004. [11 p.] This report examines, in the format of a school report, the current situation of compulsory education in Afghanistan, offering "grades" on subjects such as quality, enrolment and management, as well as recommendations for policy makers. For further information contact Dawn Stallard, +93 (0)70 298 887, stallard@comsats.net.pk.

Health and Well-Being

Support to the Health Care System in Three Provinces, Salamati, a Distance-Learning Magazine for Afghan Health Workers and Rehabilitation and Prevention Program for

Disabled Afghans in the Eastern Region of Afghanistan: Final Participative Report / Valéry Ridde. Québec, Canada: Aide Medical Internationale. 2004. 58 p. For more information and to obtain article copies, contact M. Valéry Ridde, Département de médecine sociale et préventive, Pavillon de l'Est, Université Laval, QC G1K 7P4, Canada; Valery.Ridde.1@ulaval.ca.

Mapping

Technical note: administrative divisions in Mazar-i Sharif / prepared by Golam Monowar Kamal, AIMS. Kabul: Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS). September 2003. 3 p. This short publication of a map and list of administrative divisions standardises the use of names for parts of the city of Mazar-i Sharif. The publication is available on the AIMS web site located at: www.aims.org.af/customer_services/publications/administrative_divisions_in_mazari-sharif.pdf.

Kabul vulnerability mapping / E. Grinnell and H. Troc. Kabul : Action Contre la Faim, 2004. 41 p. The purpose of this paper is to provide a better understanding of the areas at-risk and the constraints faced by vulnerable groups throughout the city of Kabul. Findings include frustration and powerlessness with the non-functioning health system, insufficient access to quality water and critical sanitation, and high turnover in habitat. For copies of the report contact Action Contre la Faim at acfafgha@kbl.pactec.net.

Reconstruction

Ethnicizing Afghanistan?: inclusion and exclusion in post-Bonn institution-building / Sven Gunnar Simonsen. Upcoming article in *Third World Quarterly*. 2004. This article argues that ethnicity has become increasingly salient in Afghan politics and society during the years of war, and discusses how the country's new institutions can be designed in a way that will contribute towards a reversal of this trend. For more information, contact: Sven Gunnar Simonsen, International Peace Research Institute, Oslo, Fuglehauggata 11, 0260 Oslo, Norway; +47 (22) 54 7754; sven_g@prio.no.

L'expérience d'une démarche pluraliste dans un pays en guerre: l'Afghanistan / Valéry Ridde. The Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation. 18 (2003) 25-48. Having evaluated an implementation of financing mechanisms for health services, this article analyses how, in a context of international emergency aid, a pluralist approach was possible, and observes the appropriation of results. For more information and to obtain article copies, contact M. Valéry Ridde, Département de médecine sociale et préventive, Pavillon de l'Est, Université Laval, QC G1K 7P4, Canada; Valery.Ridde.1@ulaval.ca.

The provincial reconstruction team plan in Afghanistan: a new direction? / Barbara J. Stapleton. Kabul: Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR). For ZEF Bonn and LSE Symposium : State Reconstruction and International Engagement in Afghanistan, Bonn, 30 May-1 June 2003. 11 p.

Provincial reconstruction teams and the security situation in Afghanistan: policy brief / Barbara J. Stapleton. Kabul: Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR). 2003. 3 p.

A British Agencies Afghanistan Group Briefing paper on the development of Joint Regional Teams in Afghanistan / Barbara J. Stapleton. London: British Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG). 2003. 33 p. Copies of these three papers can be obtained from the author, Barbara Stapleton, Advocacy and Policy Coordinator, Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR), Kabul, Afghanistan; barbara@acbar.org.

Resources

Geothermal energy in Afghanistan : prospects and potential / by D. S. Saba, M. E. Najaf, A. M. Musuzai and S. A. Taraki. Kabul, Afghanistan: Center on International Cooperation and Research Institute for Economic Development and Social Policy, 2004. 38 p. : col. ill. ; 30 cm. The Center on International Cooperation, New York University in February 2004 announced the publication of the first report of the newly founded Afghanistan Center for Policy and Development Studies. This study presents new evidence about the potential uses of geothermal energy in Afghanistan. A Dari

version is to appear shortly. The report is available online at http://www.cic.nyu.edu/pdf/Geothermal_Energy_In_Afghanistan_Prospects_and_Potential.doc.

Women

'Bad', painful sedative: research report: first part, Kabul and surrounding area / Women and Children Legal Research Foundation (WCLRF). Kabul : Women and Children Legal Research Foundation (WCLRF) 2003. 19 p. This original research (written in Dari and translated into English) documents the practice of *bad*, the repaying of debts of various kinds by giving girls

or young women as recompense (also known as *caam*). The study is based on a hundred interviews. For more information contact wclrf@yahoo.com.

Women in Kabul: a needs assessment: final report / Caritas. Kabul : Caritas. 2004. 36 p.

Nearly 3700 women of different ethnic groups and different age brackets in Kabul were consulted regarding their family, living conditions, challenges and problems; 91 percent of all women interviewed were illiterate. The full report from this study can be accessed at: www.caritas-international.de/8586.html.

Information for the Next Newsletter

AREU would like your help in compiling the most up-to-date information about research projects and publications in Afghanistan for the next edition of the Afghanistan Research Newsletter. Please send us information on any recent, current or near-future research projects (studies, reports, databases, web sites and/or assessments, etc.). Specifically, we're looking for:

- o Title of research project;
- o Author(s);
- o Purpose, themes or abstract;
- o Timeframe and publication date;
- o A copy of the report, url, etc.;
- o Some comments on the methodology may also be relevant; and
- o Information on how others can request copies of the research from your organisation.

We would appreciate it if you could send these details to newsletter@areu.org.pk before **Sunday, 6 June 2004**. Other enquiries can be addressed to: Royce Wiles, Coordinator, Information Resources, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, Charahi Ansari (opposite Insaf Hotel and Popolano's), Shahr-i Nau, Kabul, Afghanistan, royce@areu.org.pk, +93 (070) 504 060



The Afghanistan Research Newsletter was produced by AREU staff members Brandy Bauer and Royce Wiles, with editorial input from Tom Muller and Andrew Wilder. The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit is an independent research organisation that conducts and facilitates action-oriented research and learning that informs and influences policy and practice. For more information on AREU's publications and services, visit: www.areu.org.af