

# Afghanistan Research Newsletter



An AREU Publication

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***This purpose of this newsletter is to alert readers to new research being undertaken on Afghanistan and to help disseminate the results of research. It is AREU's goal to produce this newsletter quarterly. Copies of most published research cited here is available on the Internet; in other instances copies are available by contacting [newsletter@areu.org.af](mailto:newsletter@areu.org.af).***

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# Current Research & Resources

This section lists current and proposed research projects and related resources. 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.

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## **AREU Applied Thematic Research into Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy**

The Water, Opium and Livestock (WOL) project constitutes the principal component of AREU's research into natural resources. The objective of the project is to undertake in-depth research into how natural resources (specifically land, water and livestock) are being managed and utilised within contemporary farming systems, and how systems of management and access to resources influence agricultural strategies (including poppy cultivation) and the sustainability of rural livelihoods. The WOL project builds upon earlier AREU studies into agricultural policy, land tenure issues, alternative livelihoods and parallels ongoing research into rural livelihoods.

The project is supported by the EC and will be undertaken in close collaboration with four partner Ministries (Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Energy and Water, Rural Rehabilitation and Development and Counter Narcotics). In addition to undertaking primary research, the project will also support the development of greater research and monitoring capacity within partner institutions.

The WOL research project is being implemented in collaboration with two NGOs, German Agro Action (GAA) and DACAAR. National in scope, research activities are focusing on 20 primary research sites distributed through four different provinces (Ghazni, Nangarhar, Kunduz and Herat) to help reflect the agro-ecological and socio-economic diversity of Afghanistan. Additional studies will be undertaken in other provinces as required. The project combines a range of methods and will collect complementary data sets over a three-year period. Household monitoring will be undertaken quarterly to explore farm level use of resources, agricultural inputs and outputs, together with socio-economic indicators throughout the seasonal cycle. Market prices for agricultural products and other important commodities will also be collected to provide further context for farmer decision-making. The project team will explore a range of additional parameters including irrigation unit flows at the farm level, livestock productivity and growth performance, and

rangeland health under different localised conditions of management. Through the collation of high quality data, both thematically and longitudinally, it is expected that the WOL project will provide greater insights into the inter-linkages and complexities within farming and natural resource management systems.

Baseline surveys (implemented for the selection of households for long-term monitoring) were initiated in September 2005 and completed by the end of December. Following the analysis of this data, 50 households will be selected in each province for monitoring, together with an additional 20 nomadic pastoralist households, allowing comparisons between different geographic areas, production systems and natural resource conditions. This seasonal monitoring of households will begin in January.

During November and December, the project team was engaged in supporting the research of four of the seven senior consultants who undertook specific thematic studies into land tenure, livestock management, social water management and irrigation systems. The preliminary phase of these thematic studies focused upon the primary research sites where monitoring will shortly commence, adding extra depth to our understanding of these sites. It is anticipated that the findings of these first four thematic studies should be written up as research papers by the end of January.

In December, the WOL project team held the first project workshop with representatives of partner ministries, in order to identify and prioritise opportunities to support the building of research capacity in these institutions. There was general agreement that a series of workshops, demonstrating research methods and techniques as employed in the project, could help transfer some additional research and monitoring capacity to partners. The project year closed with the first meeting of the project Advisory Committee, drawing together representa-

tives of partner ministries at the deputy ministerial level with directors of AREU, GAA and DACAAR.

For further information on this project, contact Alan Roe (alan@areu.org.af) or Brendan Whitty (brendan@areu.org.af) at AREU.

## Lessons Learnt in Rural and Urban Development

The Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) programme is a two-year project funded by the EC aiming to draw lessons from current experience to inform policy and programmes, for both NGOs and governmental institutions in Afghanistan. Its core activities are based on a "learning cycle": field learning through research and evaluation; capitalising on lessons learnt; the development of tools and methods; and the dissemination of these lessons learnt and tools through training, publications and conferences.

The project has three main objectives:

- Learning and sharing lessons in this period of political and technical transition, through iterative multi-sector valuations.
- Increasing and sharing knowledge and experience by carrying out applied research in rural and urban settings in specific fields (including food and economic security, health, housing and habitat), with a focus on key issues as identified during the lesson learning process.
- Contributing to the capacity building efforts of the relevant ministries, Afghan NGOs and universities through training.

On 13 December 2005 Groupe URD organised a conference in Kabul on lessons learnt in both rural and urban development (research carried out under the second objective above). As well as a short document introducing LRRD—*Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development* 4 p.—four papers were released presented findings from five-month surveys in various locations:

Baharak (Badakhshan Province):

- *Understanding needs diversity to design sustainable programs, the case of wheat seed distribution programs/* Jean-Christophe Duchier and Peggy Pascal. (5 p.).
- *Why and how to improve programs for women: enhance income generation ac-*

*tivities and improve food quality/* Cecile Duchet and Peggy Pascal (6 p.).

Yakwalang (Bamiyan Province):

- *Lessons learnt from the evolution of the needs and the relations between all stakeholders in a transitional state from relief to development: based on a 5 month survey...in Yakawlang district, Bamyán Province/* David Letty and Peggy Pascal. (5 p.)

Bamiyan (Bamiyan Province) and Kabul:

- *Is the building of a city an adequate answer to Bamiyan's low development?/* by Claire Mariani. (p. 5-9).
- *From the spreading of Pakistani architecture to the growing urban encroachment of hills surrounding Kabul, what will Kabul look like in the near future?/* Claire Mariani (p. 10-12).

For further information or to obtain soft copies of these report, contact:  
Amélie Banzet,  
Groupe URD-LRRD programme coordinator  
abanzet@urd.org

## Census of Afghans in Pakistan

The Census of Afghans in Pakistan, featured in the previous edition of the *Afghanistan Research Newsletter*, is now available from ReliefWeb.

Access it online at:  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/HMYT-6GNL2K?OpenDocument>

# Featured Publications

This section highlights research publications recently received by AREU, or those forthcoming in early 2006.

## Elections

*Formative research for civic education programs on elections: focus group discussions in the north, west, southeast, and south of Afghanistan/* Altai Consulting, USAID, the Asia Foundation. [Kabul?]: the Asia Foundation, 2005. 50 p.; 30 cm. Summary also in Dari and Pashto.

This report provides a general assessment of the knowledge and opinions of Afghans concerning the [October 2005] elections. Beyond the basic, but vital, function of testing knowledge of election dates and procedures, the project sought to probe Afghans' thoughts on the political process of the last few years and to explore the fears, anxieties, and hopes that Afghans have for future political developments. In addition to seeking to understand what the general Afghan public knows and feels regarding the new political process, the project also field-tested civic education materials in the developmental phase. The goal of both phases of the project was to help inform civic education organisations on how to educate the Afghan populace regarding the upcoming elections.

The findings of this report are based on 117 focus groups conducted in 12 different provinces of Afghanistan, from April to June 2005. Sixty-five "general" focus groups addressed the political process and the upcoming elections specifically, while 52 "content testing" focus groups gathered reactions and thoughts on various civic education materials to be used in the outreach effort for the September elections.

This report is available from: <http://www.asiafoundation.org/pdf/AltaiTAFfinalreport.pdf>

*Wolesi [Jirga] candidate catalogue: soft copy: 33 provinces/* The Asia Foundation, Foundation for Culture and Civil Society. [Kabul]: Asia Foundation, Foundation for Culture and Civil Society, [2005]. 1 computer optical disk: ill. (some col.); 12 cm.

In mid-July 2005, The Asia Foundation's (TAF) election unit determined that one of the most significant gaps in the electorate's knowledge of the National Assembly elections process was information on the candidates themselves. Understanding that time was extremely limited for any project that aimed to inform the electorate about the candidates, the election unit decided to focus only on the Wolesi Jirga (lower house) candidates, of which there were 2,713. TAF asked a number of organisations who had demonstrated in the past the ability to do large scale projects in short periods of time for proposals detailing the production of catalogues for each of the 34 provinces. This catalogue would list the candidates, their symbols and pictures as well as up to three main policy statements.

The Foundation for Culture and Civil Society (FCCS) presented a proposal that convinced TAF that they could implement this daunting project and in a matter of two weeks, FCCS had trained and sent close to 90 surveyors to the field to begin interviewing the candidates. A week and a half later, 20 more surveyors were sent out to help cover areas where the process was going more slowly. The surveyors had to first *find* the candidates—the most difficult task of all given that the Joint Electoral Management Body was unable to give out the candidates' contact information—and then interview them with a set questionnaire. After receiving the candidates' signatures the documents were sent back to the regional centres, where the information was entered into a database. By August 20 all interviews that could be done in time were collected and printed into separate catalogues for each province and distributed back to the electorate.

In all, 180,000 copies of the catalogues were printed. Only one province, Dai Kundi, could not be printed due to the low number of candidates reached. Ninety-one percent of the 2,713 nationwide candidates were reached and interviewed. In 23 provinces, over 90% of the candidates were reached; in five of these provinces, 100% of the candidates were reached. Soft copies as well as full sets of the hard copies have been deliv-

ered to stakeholders, resource centres, universities and so on. TAF hopes to print a small number of copies of the compiled interviews of the candidates who won seats in the Wolesi Jirga. These copies will also be given to resource centres so as to allow the Afghans to review the statements of the elected members, encouraging accountability.

Soft copies are also available on CD [43 MB] or from the library at AREU (library@areu.org.af).

## **Gender**

*Lessons from gender-focused international aid in post-conflict Afghanistan—learned? / Lina Abirafeh. Bonn: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 2005. 27 p.; 30 cm. (Gender in international cooperation; 7). ISBN 3898924130. ISSN 1435-5246.*

Summary of lessons to be learned:

- There are no quick fixes to development concerns, gender issues, and over 20 years of conflict in Afghanistan. This is a long-term effort. Programs—and funding—must demonstrate their commitment to Afghanistan. This also entails building trust with Afghan communities before intervening.
- Post-conflict contexts bring opportunities for new roles for women and men. Gender roles could change while gender relations might remain the same. Projects that promote strategic interests could contribute to changes, while those meeting practical needs might not necessarily impact the status quo.
- A gender focus entails men as well as women. Projects for women should co-exist with gender initiatives, but there should be clarity between the two and care that neither group feels marginalised. A rights-based approach could work to address both women and men.
- Gender mainstreaming should be combined with a focus on women so that “mainstreaming” retains a gender perspective and that women may still benefit from increased opportunities with a view to equity.
- Development concepts (such as gender, civil society, democracy) might exist in Afghanistan even though the terms are

new. These terms will be better rooted in existing local contexts and processes.

- The aid community should work to better coordinate efforts – especially with gender programs. This will facilitate coordination for local gender and women’s groups and mitigate trends for competition and corruption.
- Local organisations need further capacity building, and international groups could benefit from genuine transitions to Afghan leadership.
- Afghan women and men have agency and are able to articulate their needs and interests – when given the opportunity.
- Aid interventions need a more thorough understanding of the historical, social, and cultural contexts, and gender identities within those contexts. This will prevent the proliferation of facile analyses and the use of images and stereotypes.
- If we fail to learn the lessons above, there may be negative externalities of development interventions, including backlashes and increased violence against women.

This report can be downloaded at:

[http://www.womnet.de/content/upload/Lessons\\_Learned\\_1.pdf](http://www.womnet.de/content/upload/Lessons_Learned_1.pdf)

## **Health**

*Health policy in Afghanistan: two years of rapid change: a review of the process from 2001 to 2003/ Lesley Strong, Abdul Wali, Egbert Sondorp. London: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), 2005. viii, 48 p.: col. ill., col. map; 30 cm. Bibliography, p. 46.*

This report is the first of a series that will be produced at regular intervals throughout a qualitative research project conducted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine that will follow health policy developments and the implementation of the BPHS [Basic Package of Health Services] in Afghanistan between January 2004 and December 2005. This initial paper outlines policy developments in the reconstruction of Afghanistan’s health system between 2001 and 2003 which will establish the contextual basis for the remainder of the research. In addition to this description of events between 2001 and

2003, a brief overview of the current health system and successes to date is presented together with an update on more recent developments.

The paper is based on a review of published and unpublished documentation from Afghanistan's health sector and uses a policy analysis approach. The paper describes health policy developments in a fast moving, post-conflict environment, characterised by a large number of international stakeholders, all of which have different agendas, mandates and ideas of the best way to reconstruct a health system. Despite this multitude of actors and views, the process of developing health policy and implementation strategies has been quick and by mid-2004, only a year and a half after the articulation of the BPHS, the Ministry of Health (MoH) together with its partners had expanded coverage of BPHS proposals to reach approximately 59% of the population. Despite this progress signs of donor fatigue hint at problems of further expansion and sustainability, and insecurity is hampering NGO efforts to get down to the business of implementation. Furthermore, although the MoH is now clearly in the driver's seat, side effects of donor driven policy in the early stages of the post-conflict environment may become more apparent with time.

The paper concludes by identifying a number of issues for further research, some of which will be the subject of further study under this project. Such research is required to provide the basis for more empirically-based policy making in the areas of contracting and the use of a basic package of health services in post-conflict and low-income settings.

This report is available at: [http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/hpu/conflict/files/publications/file\\_33.pdf](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/hpu/conflict/files/publications/file_33.pdf)

## **Humanitarian Assistance**

*Humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan 2001-05: from Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom: a joint evaluation: main report/* Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Danida; Chr. Michelsen Institute (lead agency), Copenhagen Development Consulting and German Association of Development Consultants. Copenhagen: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danida, 2005. 214 p.: maps; 30 cm + 1 CD-ROM in pocket inside front cover.

From 2001, the donors involved in this study contributed financial assistance, which made up approximately 25% of the entire civilian aid to Afghanistan in 2001–04, a total of €791 million. This report is the result of a joint evaluation of the aid. The evaluation found that the aid, combined with internal Afghan stabilisation and economic recovery, has contributed successfully to meeting the humanitarian challenge, to the rehabilitation of vital parts of Afghan society and polity, and, to a certain extent, to the inception of sustainable development processes.

The following accomplishments are particularly noteworthy:

- A political process, which has installed a visible and self-conscious government, adopted the new constitution, and elected a President in ways that promoted stabilisation and regime legitimacy in the eyes of the majority of the population.
- Progress toward stability, to which the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration programme, the Provincial Reconstruction Teams and De-mining have contributed.
- The establishment of some of the basic prerequisites of a working state, namely, a Ministry of Finance able to manage budgetary and fiscal functions in cooperation with the Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund and the exercise of effective state authority over most of the territory.
- Some progress in meeting the basic needs of the population, most notably within primary education and improved access to water and sanitation, was recorded. Progress within health and sustainable livelihoods appears less solid.

Staff within the donor agencies placed great emphasis on the achievements listed above. There was a general conviction that "Afghanistan is on the right track, although there may still be a long way to go". While the evaluation would not question these commendable accomplishments and the efforts they required, its findings regarding progress in rehabilitation and development were more mixed, thus indicating reason to be prepared for different future scenarios. Nevertheless, it subscribes to the overall positive assessment of the humanitarian response.

Additional documents prepared for the evaluation and included on the CD-ROM:

- *Preliminary study of assistance to internally displaced persons in Afghanistan!* Peter Marsden, David Turton (2004, 123 p.)
- *Aid flows to Afghanistan: a study of aid flows from Denmark, the UK, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Ireland to Afghanistan from January 2001 to June 2004 inclusive!* John Cosgrave and Rie Andersen (2004, 90 p.)
- *Education!* Holger Munsch (26 p.)
- *Environment!* Daud Saba (13 p.)
- *Gender!* Sadiqa Basiri (8 p.)
- *Health sector!* Merete Taksdal (18 p.)
- *Livelihoods!* Sarah Grey (19 p.)
- *Water and sanitation!* Richard Ellert (26 p.)

This publication is available from: <http://www.cmi.no/publications/publication.cfm?pubid=2047> (4 MB)

### **Justice/Rule of Law**

*Rebuilding justice and the rule of law in post-conflict Afghanistan: a call for legal innovation!* Katarina Ammitzboell. 51 p.; 30 cm. Thesis (LLM.) – Warwick University, 2005. Bibliography, p. 48-50. (Soft copy available from [newsletter@areu.org.af](mailto:newsletter@areu.org.af))

The objective of the research project is to provide substantiated arguments for why it is important to recognise legal pluralism and include the aspects of Islamic law and customary law in the process of rebuilding the justice sector in Afghanistan.

The research project assesses the state-building processes after September 11, 2001, and the Bonn Accord with particular focus on the development of a new constitution and the international assistance to the judiciary. In spite of the recognised need for reform and reconstruction of the justice sector, very limited signs of progress are found. Afghanistan's justice system continues to face several political, structural, and resource problems. It is characterised by its limited administrative capacity, rampant corruption, and interference from the executive branch, poor salaries and lack of physical security. Most of these problems are common to countries transitioning from protracted violent conflict, but

what is significant for Afghanistan is the challenge of Islamic law, customary practices but also transitional justice needs, which the international community seems to fail to adequately recognise. Based on the findings of the analysis it is argued that it is critical to apply a new normative framework that recognises the nature of the legal pluralism in Afghanistan as well as the post-conflict concerns.

### **Military**

*Afghanistan Provincial Reconstruction Team: Oral History Interviews*

The experiences of Americans who served in Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Afghanistan provide important lessons for current and future peace and stability operations. Provincial Reconstruction Teams are small, joint, civil–military organisations whose mission is to promote good governance, improved security and reconstruction. In November 2005, there were 22 PRTs in Afghanistan: nine were directed by the U.S. and countries belonging to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force directed 13.

American PRTs are commanded by a U.S. Army Lt. Colonel and are composed of representatives of the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Department of Agriculture. They also include an U.S. Army infantry platoon, an Army Civil Affairs Team, a Military Police Team, and military medical, demining, and intelligence units. Their primary objective is to extend the authority of the Afghan government by supporting provincial officials, providing development assistance, and establishing a security presence.

The Afghanistan Experience Project collected lessons learned by Provincial Reconstruction Teams by interviewing 52 government officials, military officers, and representatives of international and non-governmental organisations who had served in Afghanistan. Interviews were conducted by the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training under a contract with the Institute of Peace. Robert Perito is the project coordinator.

The project can be accessed at: <http://www.usip.org/library/oh/>

## Nutrition/Food Security

*Enhancing food security in Afghanistan: private markets and public policy options/* Agriculture and Rural Development Sector and Human Development Sector, South Asia Region, The World Bank. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2005. viii, 73 p.; 28 cm. (Report / World Bank; no. 10). Discussion paper series (World Bank). "August 2005." Bibliography, p. 71-73.

This report analyses some key aspects of food security, namely production, trade, markets and food aid at the national level, and consumption at the household level. In doing so it aspires to make a contribution to the ongoing work in Afghanistan regarding the attainment of the poverty and hunger Millennium Development Goal (MDG #1). The major findings of the report can be summarised as follows:

- Food security (at the national level) does not necessarily require national self-sufficiency in wheat or other food staples, as long as the country has access to international markets. Rather, diversification into legal high-value crops and livestock products may be the most effective means of increasing food security, by generating foreign exchange and raising the incomes and purchasing power of the rural poor.
- Further developing the infrastructure and institutions to support wheat markets and facilitating private sector trade is called for and will enhance food security.
- Increasing cash incomes is the more efficient means of enhancing food security of the poor.
- Development of both private and public capacity for data collection and analysis is a high priority for effective formulation, assessment and implementation of food policies.

*Nutrition information in crisis situations /* United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition. Geneva: UN Standing Committee on Nutrition, 2005. ISSN 1564-376X. Report no. 7 (August 2005).

This report presents some results of the UNICEF micronutrient survey of Afghanistan (mentioned in newsletter no. 2, July 2004). The first ever na-

tional nutrition survey was conducted in Afghanistan in June–July 2004 (MOH/UNICEF/joint; 05/05). The prevalence of acute malnutrition was average: 6.7%. 20.8% of the women (non-pregnant women aged 15-49.9 years) had chronic energy deficiency (BMI < 18.5) and 15% were overweight. Anaemia was of medium public health significance among children and was of moderate public health significance among non-pregnant women.

Urinary iodine level was low among children and was even lower among women. Analysis of iodine in salt at the household level showed that only 28% of the salt was iodised. It seemed that iodised salt was more present in urban households (especially in Kabul) than in rural households. Of 286 labelled salt packages, 62% were labelled as iodised. Only 88% of these, however, tested positive for iodine.

Although 85% of the oil and 96% of the ghee were labelled as vitamin A fortified at the household level, testing for the presence of vitamin A in samples of oil and ghee labelled vitamin A fortified available in Afghan markets showed that only 10% were actually fortified.

This report is available from: <http://www.reliefweb.int/library/documents/2005/who-gen-30aug.pdf>

## Opium

*Conflict processing and the opium poppy economy in Afghanistan /* Project for Alternative Livelihoods in Eastern Afghanistan (PAL). Jalalabad: Project for Alternative Livelihoods in Eastern Afghanistan (PAL), 2005. 99 p.: map; 30 cm. (PAL internal document; no. 5). Cover title. "June 2005"—cover. Bibliography, p. 96-99.

This report investigates the nexus between the opium poppy economy (OPE) and conflict dynamics in Afghanistan from three main perspectives: (1) the impact of the OPE on conflict processing at the community level; (2) counter-narcotics measures; and (3) state formation and anti-state dynamics.

To the best of our knowledge, the question of how (and, indeed, if) conflict and the drug economy are interdependent has not yet been targeted in an empirically grounded and systematic way, even though it is an enduring matter of concern for state-building and development ef-



forts in Afghanistan. A number of plausible and well founded assumptions on the possible links between the opium poppy economy and conflict have, however, been put forward by leading analysts in the field and are crucial in informing the policy debate and policy making with regard to counter narcotics measures in Afghanistan. We will, therefore, borrow heavily from existing analysis on the issue to contextualise the results of expert interviews which were conducted at national and provincial levels and to compare the results of the fieldwork with assumptions on OPE related risks.

Copies of the report may be obtained by writing: leo.brandenberg@gtz.de

### Security

*Afghanistan security: efforts to establish army and police have made progress, but future plans need to be better defined/ United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). Washington, D.C.: United States Government Accountability*

Office (GAO), 2005. 48 p.: ill., map; 30 cm. "June 2005."—cover.

After more than two decades of war, Afghanistan had no army or functioning police and, before September 11, 2001, was a haven for international terrorists. In April 2002, the United States and several other nations agreed to reform the five pillars of Afghanistan's security sector—creating an Afghan army, reconstituting the police force, establishing a working judiciary, combating illicit narcotics, and demobilising the Afghan militias. As the leader for the army pillar, the United States has provided about \$3.3 billion. For the German-led effort to reconstitute the Afghan police, the United States has provided over \$800 million. The GAO has examined the progress made, and limitations faced, in developing the army and police forces. The GAO also identified challenges that must be addressed to complete and sustain these forces.

This report is available from: [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov)

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## Recent & Forthcoming Publications from AREU

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### Recent Publications

***Understanding Markets in Afghanistan.*** Three case studies from AREU's political economy research programme examine the import markets for petroleum fuel, second-hand cars, and pharmaceuticals. Each study examines the experience of Afghan businessmen in private markets for these commodities, where the greatest margins are made, what connections there are between market players and what, if any, barriers are faced by new entrants.

***Alternative Livelihoods: Substance or Slogan?*** This briefing paper examines what is needed to effectively pursue alternative livelihoods as a goal of counter narcotics, and argues for conventional development interventions to be viewed through a counter narcotics lens to establish how they impact on opium poppy cultivation.

***Fine-Tuning the NSP: Discussions of Problems and Solutions with Facilitating***

***Partners.*** This paper looks at three major areas of concern raised by implementers of the National Solidarity Programme, namely: fitting the NSP within multiple layers of existing power structures, assuring gender equity in the NSP, and finding ways to sustain the programme at the end of the funding cycle.

***A House Divided? Analysing the 2005 Afghan Elections.*** Afghanistan's new National Assembly faces many challenges to ensure it doesn't repeat the parliamentary problems of the past. This paper examines how the campaign was fought and won across the provinces, as well as highlights potential divisions that may impede the effective functioning of the legislature.

***Household Decision-Making and School Enrolment in Afghanistan.*** Four case studies from Belcheragh District, Faryab; Kandahar City; Kabul City; and Chahar Asyab District, Kabul discuss the reasons why families choose to send or not send children to school.

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## Forthcoming Publications

Upcoming releases from AREU include:

- Opium Trading Systems in Helmand and Ghor;
- A briefing paper on provincial structures of government;
- Case studies from AREU's ongoing urban vulnerability and livelihoods research;
- Studies on debt and informal systems of credit; and
- Initial findings from AREU's long-term research into water management, the opium economy and livestock.

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# Feature: The Afghanistan Digital Library of New York University

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## Background

Afghanistan has a rich legacy of publishing that began in 1871 under the Amir Shayr 'Ali Khan. But that legacy is in danger of disappearing and with it an important part of Afghanistan's cultural heritage. The earliest publications, those issued between 1871 and 1930, are extremely rare and, judging by their absence from major research library collections around the world, are to be found now, if at all, almost exclusively in private collections where public access is limited or impossible. Decades of war in Afghanistan have further dispersed and destroyed holdings of books within the country itself.

## Objectives

The long-term objective of the Afghanistan Digital Library (ADL) project is to retrieve and restore this important part of Afghanistan's cultural heritage. The ADL will first locate as many of Afghanistan's publications for the period 1871–1930 as it is possible to find and seek permission from their owners for access to these materials. They will then be catalogued, digitized, and the digital images of complete texts will be made available over the Internet and on CD-ROM/DVD. At this point the ADL has identified some 550 published documents, pamphlets, and manuals. That number will undoubtedly increase as the project progresses. (The current status of the ADL may be seen at <http://afghanistandl.nyu.edu>) Because of the extreme rarity of these publications, their cataloguing (according to international standards) and the dissemination of that cataloguing information over such networks as Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN) and the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) will be a critical aspect of the project. Further, making the material available to anyone with access to a computer will accomplish the primary objective of the project—the restoration of an important part of Afghanistan's cultural heritage. In addition, where computers are unavailable, the ADL will provide archival photocopies.

## The Scope of the Project

According to research done to date, at least 550 individual works were published in Afghanistan between 1871 and 1930. We expect that number to increase as more bibliographic work is done. In particular, because Pashto literature has not been as carefully catalogued as the Dari, we believe there may be much more Pashto material than is listed here. For example, many of the publications of the pre-1900 period were issued in both Dari and Pashto versions.

The project takes advantage of New York University Library's expertise in, and facilities for, the creation of digital libraries. Besides cataloguing the works, the process includes stabilising the materials for digitization in the conservation department of the library and then digitizing them using both flatbed and overhead scanners (where a work cannot be laid flat).

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### *Preservation services*

The ADL project offers to lenders of books and other material the services of the NYU Library in preserving that heritage in exchange for the loan of the works for cataloguing and scanning. Every work will be kept in a secure facility while in the library's possession.

For lenders, the library will return the material in custom-made archival folders or boxes, depending on size, and rebound as received if requested. All shipping and insurance costs will be paid by the project.

### *Digitizing and cataloguing*

Each work is catalogued by the project's librarian into the RLIN database, an internationally available bibliographic information system, in order to allow scholars to locate these rare and valuable materials. Once catalogued, the works are reviewed by the Libraries' preservation staff and, where necessary, disbound for scanning. The works then pass to the Digital Library Team for scanning. Scans are made at an extremely high resolution (600 dpi) and colour depth (24-bit), then are batch-processed into versions with smaller file sizes for computer-based publishing and viewing. While the works are being scanned, ADL project staff are simultaneously recording the structure of the work and linking the scanned images with that structure using the Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard [METS], a standardised format for digital library materials developed by the Digital Library Federation. This provides the Library with the information it needs now and in the future to periodically refresh and migrate the data to new formats and standards, ensuring the durability of these valuable resources. As soon as each work is completed, the catalogue entry data and the full-size image scans become available via the Internet to all interested parties with no access restrictions.

### *Current status of the project*

As of the beginning of September 2005, the project had digitized and uploaded to the ADL website some 7,000 pages, including several works from the time of Amir 'Abd al-Rahman Khan and many *nizamnamahs* (regulations) from the era of Aman Allah Khan as well as other things.

### *What you can do to help*

The ADL project is grateful for any assistance, particularly information about works from the period 1871–1930 that have not yet been identified. The staff has created a bibliography of books, documents, and periodicals from the period and will send it to any interested parties. Address requests to [afghanistandl@nyu.edu](mailto:afghanistandl@nyu.edu) or [rdm1@nyu.edu](mailto:rdm1@nyu.edu). The project is especially interested in works in Pashto and works published outside Kabul—in Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-i Sharif, or elsewhere, for example.

### **Collaboration with the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism**

In January 2005, Minister Sayed Makhdoom Raheen and Dr. Carol Mandel, Dean of the New York University Libraries, signed an agreement of cooperation for which funding is currently under review. If approved, the funding would allow the ADL to train conservation and digitization specialist for the Ministry and to establish a conservation and digitization lab in Kabul. A decision on this project will be made in April 2006.

## **MoJ on the Web**

The Ministry of Justice has launched a new web site at:  
[www.moj.gov.af](http://www.moj.gov.af)

# Other Publications

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

## Agrometeorology

*Agrometeorological monthly bulletin/* Agromet Project of USGS. [Kabul]: Agromet Project of USGS. v.: col. ill., col. maps; 30 cm. (AREU holds July, October and November 2005 issues). This email bulletin provides monthly information on crop phenological stages, crop conditions, adverse conditions for crops, rainfall situation, normalised difference vegetation index and snow depth.

*Agrometeorological seasonal bulletin/* Agromet Project of USGS. [Kabul]: Agromet Project of USGS. v.: col. ill., col. maps; 30 cm. (AREU holds: 2004-2005 season (plus annex)). This bulletin provides a summary of crop performance and rainfall conditions for the growing year 2004-2005 (9 pages). An annex (72 p.) provides an update on the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food (MAAHF) and United States Geological Service Agromet Project (weather stations, crop/pasture monitoring, Codan radio network). Much of the material is presented as graphs.

To obtain either of these publications contact fahimzaheer@yahoo.com, +93 (0)70 156 738.

## Alternative Livelihoods

The following are all from the internal document series of the Project for Alternative Livelihoods in Eastern Afghanistan (PAL):

- *Conflict processing and the opium poppy economy in Afghanistan /* Project for Alternative Livelihoods in Eastern Afghanistan (PAL). Jalalabad: Project for Alternative Livelihoods in Eastern Afghanistan (PAL), 2005. 99 p.: map; 30 cm. (PAL internal document; no. 5). "June 2005"–cover.
- *Diversity and dilemma: understanding rural livelihoods and addressing the causes of opium poppy cultivation in Nangarhar and Laghman, Eastern Afghanistan: a report for the Project for Alternative Livelihoods (PAL) in*

*Eastern Afghanistan /* David Mansfield. [Jalalabad]: Project for Alternative Livelihoods (PAL) in Eastern Afghanistan, 2004. 69, 15 p.; 30 cm. "December 2004".

- *Institutional assessment of the government set-up in Nangarhar and Laghman provinces /* Peter Seibert; edited by I. Brandenburg, Heimo Posamentier. Jalalabad, Afghanistan: Project on Alternative Livelihoods (PAL), 2004. vii, 29 p.: col. ill. ; 30 cm. "December 2004"–cover.
- *Integrated development planning at the sub-national level /* Walter Salzer. Jalalabad: Project for Alternative Livelihoods (PAL), 2005.] Not yet released.
- *The PAL implementation plan, September 2004-February 2007: first version.* Jalalabad: Project for Alternative Livelihoods in Eastern Afghanistan (PAL), 2004. 16, [32] p.: ill.; 30 cm.
- *PAL publication guidelines: reports /* Peter Jarvis; edited by PAL GTZ IS Team. Jalalabad: PAL Management Unit, 2005. 16, 7 p.: ill., col. map; 30 cm. (PAL internal document; no. 12).
- *Pariah or poverty?: the opium ban in the province of Nangarhar in the 2004/5 growing season and its impact on rural livelihood strategies /* by David Mansfield; edited by PAL GTZ IS Team. Jalalabad: PAL Management Unit, 2005. iv, 36 p.: map ; 30 cm. "June 2005."
- *Project planning matrix, plan of operation, budget March 2005-February 2007.* Jalalabad: Project for Alternative Livelihoods (PAL), 2005. ca. 15 p.; 30 cm. (PAL internal document; no. 4). "May 2005."

- *Progress report # 1*. Jalalabad: Project for Alternative Livelihoods (PAL), 2005. 4, 1 p.; 30 cm. (PAL internal document; no. 6, 7). "July 7 2005."
- *Roses for Nangarhar: project document / German Agro Action*. Jalalabad: Project for Alternative Livelihoods (PAL), 2005.] Not yet released.
- *Roses for Nangarhar: progress report no. 1 / German Agro Action*. Jalalabad: Project for Alternative Livelihoods (PAL), 2005. Not yet released.

### Baseline Surveys

*Provincial survey of Kunduz/ Katarina Larsson*. [Stockholm?]: Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, 2004. 44 p.: col. maps; 32 cm.

*Provincial survey of Wardak/ Katarina Larsson*. [Stockholm?]: Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, 2004. 49 p.: col. maps ; 32 cm. "October 2004"–cover.

### Education

*Education and politics in Afghanistan: the importance of an education system in peacebuilding and reconstruction / Jeaniene Spink*. Published in *Journal of peace education* (v. 2, no. 2 (Sept 2005), p 195-207).

### Elections

*Democracy-building in Afghanistan: an integrated dimension for the way forward/ European Union Election Observation Mission*. [Kabul]: European Union Election Observation Mission, 2005. 64 p.; 30 cm. + *Executive summary of report* (12 p.) This report was produced by the EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) for the parliamentary and provincial council elections on 18 September 2005 and presents the EU EOM's findings on the challenges of democracy-building in Afghanistan.

*Election observation report: Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections, Afghanistan, 18 September 2005/ Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit*. [Kabul]: Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), 2005. [16] p.; 30 cm. Available at: [www.areu.org.af](http://www.areu.org.af)

*Parliamentary manual: legal and institutional principles/ United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)*. Kabul: UNIFEM, 2005. 79 p.; 21 cm. Cover title. "31 May 2005"–cover. Also published in Dari and Pashto. Available at: <http://www.reliefweb.int/library/documents/2005/unifem-afg-31may.pdf>

*Preparing for the Afghan National Assembly: the political dimension/ Marvin Weinbaum*. Unpublished paper, 9 leaves.

*Progress report / Post-Election Strategy Group (PESG)*. [Kabul]: [Joint Election Monitoring Body], 2005. 75 p.; 30 cm. Outline of setting up of the Independent Election Commission (IEC).

*Recommendations on 2005 parliamentary elections / Election Support Team to Afghanistan*. [Kabul?]: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 2005. 26 p.; 30 cm. "6 October 2005." Available at: <http://www.osce.org/secretariat/documents.html>

*Results of the Afghan parliamentary election: laying the groundwork for democracy in Afghanistan/ by Laura Demetris and John Ratcliffe*. Washington, D.C.: Post-Conflict Reconstruction Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2005. 4 p.; 30 cm. Available at: [http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/afghan\\_election\\_policy\\_brief.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/afghan_election_policy_brief.pdf)

### Gender

*Gender analysis of civil service training: supporting equal opportunities for women in the civil service/ prepared for GTZ Women's Employment Promotion Project; prepared by Rosemary Stasek, Sarah Ahmadyar*. Kabul: GTZ Women's Employment Promotion Project, 2005. 44 p.; 30 cm. PDF from [rosemary@stasek.com](mailto:rosemary@stasek.com) or [ahmadyars@hotmail.com](mailto:ahmadyars@hotmail.com)

### Governance

*Spaces of power and participatory development in Afghanistan: a case study of the National Solidarity Program and (un)changing political power mechanisms / Jennifer McCarthy*. Dissertation research for Master of Arts in Environment and Development at King's College, London. Available by writing: [jennifer.mccarthy@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:jennifer.mccarthy@kcl.ac.uk) or [Jennifer.mccarthy@acted.org](mailto:Jennifer.mccarthy@acted.org)

*Towards understanding Pukhtoon jirgal* Hassan M. Yousufzai & Ali Gohar. Peshawar: Just Peace International, 2005. 112 p.; 30 cm. ISBN 9698931007. "For free distribution only." Available at: <http://www.brain.net.pk/~kaashee/thebook.htm>

## Health

*Respiration and reproduction on the roof of the world: cultural and physiological adaptations to chronic hypoxia in a high-altitude Kyrgyz nomadic population/* Ted Callahan. [S.l.: s.n.], [2005]. 25 p.; 30 cm.

## Human Rights

*The death penalty in Afghanistan: draft/* by Antonella Deledda with the contribution of Ashraf Hegazy and Omid Saffee. [Kabul]: Embassy of Italy in Kabul, Development Cooperation Unit, Italian Justice Project Office, 2005. 35 p.; 30 cm. "October 2005"—cover.

*Report of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and on the achievements of the technical assistance in the field of human rights /* United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. New York: United Nations, 2005. 21 p.; 30 cm. "9 September 2005." Available at: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/KHII-6HC3K3?OpenDocument>

## Humanitarian Assistance

*Bleeding boundaries: civil-military relations and the cartography of neutrality/* Jake Phelan and Graham Wood. Woking, Surrey: Ockenden International, 2005. 40 p.; 30 cm. ISBN 0954978714. Includes Afghanistan examples. Available at: [www.ockenden.org.uk](http://www.ockenden.org.uk)

*DACAAR: more than 20 years in Pakistan and Afghanistan.* Kabul: DACAAR, 2005. 101 p.: ill., maps; 25 cm. + CD-ROM. ISBN 8799074907. Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR). CD-ROM

*Rebuilding the Afghan state: the European Union's role.* Kabul: International Crisis Group, 2005. 26 p.; 30 cm. (ICG Asia report ; no. 107). "30 November 2005"—T.p. Available at: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/>

*USAID/OTI Afghanistan program: final evaluation/* prepared for the Office of Transition Initia-

tives, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, United States Agency for International Development; submitted by Social Impact. [Washington, D.C.]: USAID, 2005. 91 p.; 30 cm. "August 15, 2005"—cover. Available at: [http://www.dec.org/search/dexs/index.cfm?fuseaction=dexs.citation&rec\\_no=136651](http://www.dec.org/search/dexs/index.cfm?fuseaction=dexs.citation&rec_no=136651)

## Land

*Strategic issues: getting pastoral rights on the agenda and into delivery/* Liz Alden Wily. [Kabul]: [RAMP/USAID?], 2005. 32 p.; 30 cm.

## Laws

*Civil service law* [Kabul]: [s.n.], [2005]. 9, 14 p. Unpublished translation. "Unofficial translation, final version of the CS Law 06/09/005, Zarif Waez".

*List of all legal terms and expressions that has so far been developed at the translation meetings.* [Kabul]: [Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (AROLP)], 2005. 4, 4 p.; 30 cm. Unpublished listing, work-in-progress.

## Media

*The role of media in education and training in Afghanistan: a strategy review/* Colin Alfred and Nadene Ghouri. Kabul: Media Support Solutions, 2005. 20 p.; 30 cm. Also published in Dari and Pashto. This report focuses on both short and long-term solutions for seizing the potential of Afghanistan's newly developed media for the benefit of educating its population—both young and old. It reviews the strategic options for using mass media to address the educational needs of Afghanistan. Available at: [www.mediasupport.org](http://www.mediasupport.org)

## Opium

*Afghanistan: drug use survey 2005: executive summary.* Kabul: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2005. 18 p.: col. maps; 30 cm. "November 2005"—cover. Available at: [http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop\\_monitoring.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html)

*Feasibility study on opium licensing in Afghanistan for the production of morphine and other essential medicines: initial findings /* study commissioned by The Senlis Council; study edited and coordinated by David Spivack; editorial team Juan Arjone ... [et al.]. London: MF Publishing, 2005. 652, 165 p.; col. ill., map; 29 cm. ISBN 0955079829. Available online at: [http://www.senliscouncil.net/feasibility\\_study](http://www.senliscouncil.net/feasibility_study)

*Conclusions and recommendations: launch of phase two of the feasibility study / The Senlis Council.* [Paris?]: Senlis Council, 2005. 25 p.; 30 cm. Available at: [http://www.senliscouncil.net/feasibility\\_study](http://www.senliscouncil.net/feasibility_study)

## **Politics**

*The role of constitution-building processes in democratization: case study, Afghanistan/ Carolyn McCool.* Stockholm: International IDEA, Democracy-building and Conflict Management (DCM). 26 p.; 30 cm. Available at: [www.idea.int/conflict/cbp](http://www.idea.int/conflict/cbp)

*Afghanistan: the culmination of the Bonn process/ Tim Youngs.* [London]: House of Commons Library, 2005. 33 p.; 30 cm. (Research paper/ House of Commons Library 05/72). Available at: [www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2005/rp05-072.pdf](http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2005/rp05-072.pdf)

## **Reconstruction**

*Afghanistan reconstruction: despite some progress, deteriorating security and other obstacles continue to threaten achievement of US goals/ United States Government Accountability Office (GAO).* Washington, D.C.: United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), 2005. 89 p.; 30 cm. Available at: [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov)

*Canada in Afghanistan: assessing the 3-D approach/ this conference report has been prepared by Julian Wright.* Québec, Canada: Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP), [2005]. 16 p.; 30 cm. Available at: [www.acuns.org/\\_PDF/Afghan\\_conference\\_report.pdf](http://www.acuns.org/_PDF/Afghan_conference_report.pdf)

*The challenge of rebuilding Afghanistan/ edited by Moonis Ahmar.* Karachi: Program on Peace Studies and Conflict Resolutions, Department of International Relations, University of Karachi and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (Islamabad), 2005. xvi, 240 p.; 26 cm. Includes bibliographical references and index. Available in bookshops in Islamabad and other cities in Pakistan.

*Nation-Building: Beyond Afghanistan and Iraq/ edited by Francis Fukuyama.* Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, January 2006. 272 p. ISBN:0-8018-8334-2.

*[Papers from ISAF conference on Provincial Reconstruction Teams].* Kabul: ISAF, 2005. 1 v. (various pagings); 30 cm. "PRT conference 5/6 November 2005"—title page of paper by C. Batori.

Contents: Point paper: PRT/UNAMA support to the work Provincial Councils and Provincial Development Committees (ISAF PRT COM Conference, Kabul 5-6 November 2005: draft 01 ([4] p.) – COMISAF's vision for future PRT manning/requirement (3 p.) – Draft regarding the cooperation of governors with provincial councils (1 p.) – Plan for establishing the Provincial Development Committee / Ministry of Economy (10 p.) – Governance / C. Batori (8 p.). – Law of Provincial Councils (8 p.). Available at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CivMilAfghanistanElist/>

## **Refugees/IDPs**

*Afghanistan: commitment to development key to return of remaining displaced people.* Geneva: Internal Displacement Monitoring Unit, 2005. 10 p.; 30 cm. "5 December 2005"—caption. Available at: [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org)

## **Security/Terrorism**

*FAST updates: Afghanistan: semi-annual risk assessment (formerly quarterly).* June to November 2005 (12 p.). This report analyses the security events of the past six months and makes assessments for the coming period. Amongst a number of other assessments it notes changes in the tactics of the "Neo-Taliban" and suggests that the usual lull in insurgent activities during the Afghan winter may not occur during the 2005-2006 winter. Available at: [http://www.swisspeace.org/fast/asia\\_afghanistan.htm](http://www.swisspeace.org/fast/asia_afghanistan.htm)

*Terrorist attacks in Afghanistan / Afghanistan Watch.* New York: Century Foundation. 2004-2005 (May); 30 cm. Earlier title: *Terrorist incidents in Afghanistan*. Bound with: *Terrorism incidents in Kabul 2004* (2 p.). AREU holds 2004 and 2005 (Jan-May). Available at: <http://www.tcf.org/afghanistanwatch/main.htm>

## **Trade**

*Trade exchanges survey in Yakawalang district: Yakawalang district, Bamyan Province, Afghanistan: April-May 2005 / Damien Chiron.* [Kabul]: Solidarités, 2005. 69 p.: maps; 30 cm. This study aimed to "identify the stakeholders of commercial trade exchanges, determine the input and output exchanges, analyse the operation of the chain, identify the main constraints" (p. 6). PDF available from [newsletter@areu.org.af](mailto:newsletter@areu.org.af)

## Update on Newly Published Laws and Decrees

In issue No. 6 of this newsletter (July 2005) we published a listing of new Afghan laws and decrees released in the *Official gazette* from issue 809-847, 850 (2003-2005). We have received new issues and provide the following guide to the contents of issues 848-862 (2005).

848	2005/1384	Educational Institutions Hostels' Regulation and Notification on the Registration of Official Documents and Trade Marks
849	2005/1384	Sample Statute of Government Incumbencies Decree of [the] President of [the] Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Registration of Official Documents and Trade Marks
850	2005/1384	Decree No. 12 of the PTIS about the Legislation of the Electoral Law
851	2005/1384	Law on the Structure and Competencies of Courts of [the] Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
852	2005/1384	Law of Prisons and Detention Centers
853-854	2005/1384	The Decrees of the President of [the] Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Notification on the Registration of Official Documents and Trade Marks
855	2005/1384	Law on the Structure, Duties and Authorities of [the] Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission Law on Fire Arms, Equipment and Explosive Materials
856	2005/1384	Public Finance and Expenditure Management Law
857	2005/1384	Law of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)
858	2005/1384	The Act of Foreigners' Employment in Afghanistan Administration Decree of the President of [the] Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Notification on the Registration of Official Documents and Trade Marks
859	2005/1384	Afghanistan Mining Materials Law
860	2005/1384	Act of the Airports and Civil Aviation Structures' Rent Law of Provincial Councils
861	2005/1384	The Afghanistan Civil Service Law
862	2005/1384	The Police Law

Another way to keep up-to-date on legal publications is to visit the Ministry of Justice website: [www.moj.gov.af](http://www.moj.gov.af) where listings of the new laws are also posted in Dari, Pashto and English, with some laws available for download.

In addition the website contains a chronological list of laws enacted in Afghanistan with dates amendment and repeal (if relevant).

**Translation of the new law on telecommunications:** The Telecommunications Services Establishment Act (translation dated 2005, however, the law has not yet been published in the *Official gazette*). Available at: <http://www.moc.gov.af/events.asp#>

### Tell Us About It...

Do you have a piece of research or publication about Afghanistan that you'd like to share with the community? We at the Afghanistan Research Newsletter are interested in hearing from you and including it in the next edition. Please email us at [newsletter@areu.org.af](mailto:newsletter@areu.org.af) and tell us.



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