

Afghanistan

Research Newsletter

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AFGHANISTAN RESEARCH AND EVALUATION UNIT

Improving Afghan Lives Through Research

Georg Morgenstierne: Early Norwegian Research in Afghanistan

by Michael Fergus



Linguistic field work in Nijrau, north of Kabul (October 1962). From left: David Neil MacKenzie, Georg Morgenstierne, Françoise Redard and three informants

*Photo: Georges Redard /
The National Library of Norway, Picture Collection*

In February and March 1977, I spent six weeks in eastern Afghanistan, conducting a socio-economic survey in Kunarha and Nuristan Provinces. The survey, connected with a feasibility study for a Norwegian consulting company, focused on a hydropower project on the Kunar River (that was ultimately never built). At that time, I visited Kamdesh, Barikot, Assadabad, Dar-i-Nur, the Pech Valley and many other villages in the region.

I came from Norway, and it was not long before local people in Kunarha started asking if I knew Georg Morgenstierne, the great professor from Norway who had travelled widely in the area and who knew and spoke most of the local languages and dialects. In fact, Professor Morgenstierne was still well remembered in Kamdesh village when I visited it 13 years after he had last been there. To my shame, I had to admit that I had never heard of Morgenstierne. I corrected that, however, as soon as I travelled back to Norway. There I sought out Professor Georg Morgenstierne, who was Professor Emeritus of Indo-Iranian Languages at the University of Oslo. By this time, however, he was 85 years old and living in a retirement home in a suburb of Oslo. Nonetheless, I tracked him down and had afternoon tea with him. I found that he was a charming,

highly articulate and entertaining conversationalist. He was particularly interested in my experiences of Kamdesh village (situated at 2,020m in the Hindu Kush), which he knew well; he quizzed me on the fragments of the Pashai language I had picked up during my interviews with local people. Professor Morgenstierne (who was born in 1892) died the year after our meeting, in 1978.

Now, 30 years later, Nils Johan Ringdal has written a comprehensive biography in Norwegian about Professor Morgenstierne. The title of the biography, in English, is *The Strange Life and Travels of Georg Valentin von Munthe af Morgenstierne*; it is uncertain whether or not the book will be translated into English. The book – nearly 800 pages long – tells of a young man with an aristocratic background who was born into one of Norway’s best families. (His grand-uncle was a prime minister, his father was a rector of Oslo University and his brother was an ambassador to the US). At an early age, Professor Morgenstierne resolved to devote his life to philology, particularly the study of Indian and Iranian languages. Later in his life, he became known in Norway as “the man who knows 100 languages”; Morgenstierne’s biography lists over 300 languages that he had – in some respect - been in contact with. (This list included more than 50 variants of Pashto and Dari.) Professor Morgenstierne did field research on many of the so-called “Kafir” languages of the more remote parts of the Hindu Kush, which related to eastern Afghanistan’s pre-Islamic culture. Morgenstierne’s work is still the only research in existence regarding many of these languages, which makes his publications invaluable. Morgenstierne showed that the “Kafir” languages of Nuristan were quite distinct from the Indo-Iranian family of languages.¹

From an early age, Morgenstierne showed a great proficiency for languages, and it seemed natural that he should attend the University of Oslo. He received his Ph.D. in comparative linguistics at the University of Berlin at age 26 and began his travels to South Asia and Afghanistan in 1924. He also did himself no harm in marrying the daughter of Sten Konow (a senior scholar of Indo-Iranian linguistics and friend of playwright Henrik Ibsen).

Morgenstierne and his wife (who had grown up in India) studied in India and Ceylon for three months in 1923. He then visited Afghanistan for the first time in April 1924, after spending a month studying Pashto in Peshawar.

Morgenstierne studied Pashto by recruiting members of different tribes in the bazaar so that he could learn their local accents; he had a great facility with language, which he retained all his life. Together with a driver, his servant named Yasin, Morgenstierne travelled from Peshawar to Kabul (in what may have been one of the first four-wheel drive vehicles to enter Afghanistan).

When Morgenstierne arrived in Kabul, he found a sizeable colony of foreigners, including British, Russians, Germans, Italians, Germans, French, Turks and Persians. It is worth noting that this was only five years after the conclusion of the Third Afghan War, in which King Amanullah had soundly defeated the British. After six weeks in Afghanistan, Morgenstierne was granted an audience with King Amanullah, to whom he presented a letter from King Haakon of Norway. It was probably to Morgenstierne's advantage that he came from one of Europe's smallest kingdoms, which had no history of being involved in the "Great Game."

During his first visit to Afghanistan, Morgenstierne spent most of his time in Kabul, where he could meet informants who spoke most of Afghanistan's languages. Morgenstierne's main purpose, however, had been to visit "Kafiristan" – the eastern provinces in the Hindu Kush, north of Jalalabad. There, Morgenstierne could study the archaic "Kafir" languages firsthand. He theorised that these were a distinct branch of the Indo-European family of languages, thereby sharing a foundation with Morgenstierne's native Norwegian.

The Government was strongly opposed to letting foreigners enter "Kafiristan" (now known as Nuristan), and Morgenstierne had to abandon his plans on this visit, despite his acquaintance with the King. Morgenstierne assumed that this opposition was based on fear that he might witness (and perhaps report on) the remains of a pre-Islamic, "heathen" society that Afghanistan's rulers might not be proud of. He returned to India and Norway in November 1924.

In 1929, Morgenstierne made his second visit to the area; this time he travelled to Chitral, close to the Afghan border.² He spent six months there researching

the languages and customs of the so-called "Black Kafirs" and "Red Kafirs." These groups originally lived in Afghanistan's Hindu Kush but had fled into India (across what would become the Durand Line) during the forced Islamisation of 1896. Chitral was, therefore, the best place to encounter languages and traditions from Afghan "Kafiristan." In addition to being a linguist, Morgenstierne could also be considered a cultural anthropologist because he conscientiously recorded customs and rituals. He made 40 sound recordings, 160 film sequences and took over 300 photographs of dances, blood sacrifices and fertility rites amongst the Kalash and Kati peoples. These represent a unique record of pre-Islamic civilisations from Afghanistan.

For the next 30 years, Professor Morgenstierne continued his research on Indo-Iranian languages and served as a professor at the University of Oslo and the University of Gothenburg (Sweden). He visited Iran and India during that period, and in 1949 he was able to return to Afghanistan. During this trip, he made his first visit to Nuristan.

The visit was short, but Morgenstierne managed to reach the Waigal valley. While there, he acquired beautifully crafted wooden Kafir chairs that he donated to the Kabul Museum. Although his time in Waigal and Kunarha was brief, he was able to construct an orthography of the Waigali language.

Morgenstierne visited Afghanistan four more times; in 1964, at the age of 72, he joined an expedition to Bashgal, Kamdesh and Barg-i-Metal in Nuristan. In these places, Morgenstierne was able to speak in Pashai, the Afghan language he with which he had the greatest expertise.

Nils Johan Ringdal's new book is not the only major source of information regarding Professor Morgenstierne's life and works. We have Morgenstierne's own descriptions of his travels and his weighty technical treatises such as *An Etymological Vocabulary of Pashto*.³ From 1995 to 2000, the National Library of Norway and the University of Oslo developed a multimedia database of Morgenstierne's photographs, films and audio recordings, including commentaries on Morgenstierne's writings by Wlodek Witek, the creator of the database. Much of this has been transferred to the internet and can be seen on the National Library of Norway's website.⁴

This multimedia database contains fascinating and unique material, much of which was taken from Morgenstierne's filming and recording in Chitral, almost 80 years ago. The topics covered range from songs, dances, sacrifices, polo matches and story-telling. The original documents are in the National Library collections in Oslo, and the sound and film material is in the National Library collections in Mo-i-Rana in northern Norway.

Georg Morgenstierne, a linguist from a remote and little known land in the northwest corner of Europe, provided a great service to Afghanistan and its people. One might even say he helped to restore the Afghan identity after the clashes with the British Empire. He encouraged people to acknowledge the significance of the Pashto language to the country and to nation-building. He further showed that the languages of Afghanistan evidenced critical stages in the

development of the languages spoken today in Europe. Morgenstierne made a great personal impact in the remote villages of Nuristan by being able to converse with local people in their own languages. It is quite possible that there are still some Nuristani elders who recall meeting and talking to the great professor from the Far North.

It is also now recognised that Morgenstierne was both extremely fortunate and extremely perceptive to have been able to capture on film and sound the last vestiges of Afghanistan's rich pre-Islamic culture, just before they vanished almost 80 years ago.

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¹ "Kafir" was a derogatory term used to denote the pre-Islamic inhabitants of Nuristan prior to their conversion to Islam in 1895-1896.

² At the time, Chitral was part of British India; it is now in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan.

³ Georg Morgenstierne, *An Etymological Vocabulary of Pashto* (Oslo, Norway: J. Dybwad, 1927).

⁴ "Georg Morgenstierne, the languages and culture of South Asia."

Doing Research in Afghanistan

Without the help of our experienced Afghan staff, AREU's research could not happen. Two of our research staff have written short pieces about their experiences of research in Afghanistan. Support for the statements below comes from an earlier article by Matthew Warshaw http://www.publicopinionpros.com/from_field/2005/may/warshaw.asp

Part 1: Challenges to Research in Rural Areas of Afghanistan

by Asif Karimi, Research Advisor, AREU

Within the reconstruction process in Afghanistan there is a great need for information to be collected through broad-based research. Through research, we can try to identify some of the problems and challenges that communities are facing, and after analysing such information, to make recommendations for policies and programmes.

There has not been a long history of this kind of research in Afghanistan. We know that during the past thirty years, what happened in this country was mostly destruction and ruin. In this time not only the physical infrastructure, but also community values were heavily damaged; these values include respect

for elders, hospitality, and trust. Along with this, the capacity of the current government to conduct research, particularly in rural areas, is weak. There may have been some studies or research conducted within particular government programmes, but more detailed research has been rare. There has been a lack of detailed qualitative field research within Afghanistan. This is a gap that is partially filled by the work of AREU. Its research is typically carried out by teams of researchers who go to the field and conduct interviews with individuals, hold household or group discussions, write their observations, analyse the collected information from the field, and finally provide recommendations. The findings and

recommendations of AREU's work can inform the work of relevant government offices.

Challenges faced by researchers in rural areas

It is necessary to discuss some challenges that researchers face when conducting research in rural areas. Although there might be some challenges in urban areas too, this article will focus specifically on the challenges in rural areas.

(1) When the research team goes to the field to conduct research, they are typically welcomed by the communities. However, when they begin discussing the subject of research, community members will usually ask them questions like "How will this research benefit us?" Specifically, they want to know whether there will be benefits especially for the people who participate in the research studies, and also what broader community benefit will result from this kind of research. When a research team interviews a household or an individual in the rural areas of Afghanistan, one of the main challenges is explaining *why* research is important.

(2) In addition, people in the rural areas of Afghanistan, for different reasons, are afraid to provide complete and exact information to the researcher. One common reason is that they worry about the possible reactions of other individuals, within or outside their community. Another reason is explained through a proverb in Dari which says that if someone asks you, "*Aya shutor ra deedi?*" (Have you seen my camel?), it is better to reply "no", because if you say "yes", there will be many more questions to follow like "When did you see it? And where did it go?" People do not want to answer so many questions, and they prefer not to give more information about the research topic. Therefore they prefer to choose one "no" to a hundred "yes-es".

(3) Another challenge is that the members of the community often think that they don't have enough information about the topic of the research. The information they have doesn't seem reliable to them, and therefore they prefer not to give their opinions about the subject of research. In a group discussion, it is customary for the members of the community to refer most of the questions to the *maliks*, *khans*, or

other community leaders. In such a case, one person may answer most of the research questions. This may not be suitable for the research because only one person's perspective is given, and this person may lack the information to answer all the questions.

(4) Another concern which affects the research process is that the community may worry about how researchers may use the information which they supply, and thus may withhold relevant information. Another issue can lead to respondents withholding information is, more basically, that in the rural areas people are not used to a very long process of discussions, questions and answers. When engaged in long interviews, providing the answers to some questions might seem difficult for them, and they may take little interest in giving the information.

(5) Finally, sometimes the interviewee expects payment or other kinds of rewards from the interviewer in return for their story. For instance in 2005, when AREU conducted a study about the pharmaceutical market and a researcher talked with street vendors; during the interview one passer-by understood the subject of the interview and stopped. He told the researcher that he would give his story about improper treatment and the wrong use of pharmaceuticals, provided that they could do something for him. He said, "If you can't do anything for me I am not ready to tell my story." As the researcher could not provide a reward for the respondent, according to AREU's research policy, he was not able to hear the story.

These challenges raise the question - what should be done to avoid or at least lessen such problems? A few suggestions could be as follows:

- The media should emphasise the reasons for doing research in Afghanistan.
- In rural areas there should be a general awareness programme about the need for and importance of research.
- Members of communities should actively participate in public affairs, this would increase their understanding of and familiarity with

participation in other areas, including social research.

- Research teams need to allow time for the communities they work in to develop trust and

confidence in their work and also to develop good relations with the community.

Part 2: Research with Elites in Kabul: The Challenges

by M. Hassan Wafaey, Senior Research Assistant, AREU

In 2001, when the Taliban regime was overthrown and greater security and freedom came to Afghanistan, it became possible to conduct academic and policy-oriented research. As there has never been a widespread culture of research in the country, Afghan people are not familiar with the meaning or objectives of academic or policy research. In fact the word “research” in Dari and Pashtu has a negative connotation in the community; people in both urban and rural areas are afraid of research and the researcher because they associate it with police investigations. Even some cultural and political elites – the educated, influential people or those who hold high positions – are suspicious when they hear the word “research”. In this article I will explain some of the challenges that my colleagues and I face while trying to arrange and undertake interviews with members of elites.

First, one of the main challenges for doing interviews with members of elites is making contact with the person you want to interview. Elites include, for example, members of the Government, senior officials from government ministries, parliamentarians, senior members of nongovernmental organisations, university professors and academics. We normally contact people by telephone or email and tell them about the research topic and objectives. However, it is often difficult to make an interview appointment and to get enough time for the interview because these people are busy. Also because elites have tight schedules, appointments are often postponed, forgotten or cut short because of changes in their schedules. It can also be hard to convince people of

the importance of the research because there is no direct benefit for them.

The second challenge in interviewing elites is finding a suitable place for the interview and ensuring that the person has confidence in the interviewer. Usually the interview is conducted in their office where they may not be able to talk freely. Perhaps someone else is in the office and can overhear the conversation, or perhaps the interviewer is worried that some of the information is controversial and could cause problems if it becomes public. Therefore they are reluctant to give such information in the presence of others or in the workplace where colleagues may be aware that an interview is taking place. As a result, an interviewee may give incomplete or otherwise inaccurate information. If the interview is instead conducted in the person’s house or somewhere else away from the workplace, the quality of the information is often much better.

It is also important to gain the trust of the interviewee. They have to be sure that the researcher will use the information from the interview responsibly and guarantee anonymity for the interviewee. For example during an interview with a member of parliament, I noticed that she was reluctant to divulge information. However, after I reassured her about confidentiality and that I would use the information she gave me responsibly, I gained her trust and she became willing to talk to me. Therefore, holding the interview in a place that is comfortable for the interviewee and building trust in the integrity of the researcher are two strategies for improving the quality of the interview data.

A third challenge is that members of elites seem to be less interested in participating in the research when there are only Afghan researchers in the team. When there is an international researcher, the team is welcomed and there is much more interest in the research topic. One of the reasons for this is that elites may think that the Afghan researcher is not capable of writing a proper report without the help of an international expert in the team and, consequently, that no one will read it. The interviewers may also think that if an international person is involved in the research it must be important so they take the interview much more seriously.

Another challenge when interviewing elites is that they give politically correct answers or adopt an official line. Therefore it is difficult to find out what the real thoughts and opinions of the interviewee are. Influential people often do not want to discuss sensitive issues in depth, because they think that discussion on such issues could be harmful to their position. For example, Afghan officials often complain about donors and the way they operate in the country, but they will not single out one donor for specific criticism. Sometimes there are particular projects which have not been implemented well, such as the building of new schools. The quality is poor but officials are reluctant to acknowledge this. If officials do comment on the quality, they will not identify who is to blame. Unwillingness to disclose

details on sensitive issues may also result from a lack of trust in the interviewer and what the interviewer might do with the data.

In conclusion, as there has never been a widespread culture of research in Afghanistan and the word "research" has negative connotations. Many people, including social elites, do not like being asked too many different questions. People still think that if they give information there may be repercussions. Perhaps the authorities or friends and neighbours will be suspicious and suspect interviewees of being spies. This is another reason why people avoid answering questions in detail. The challenges discussed in this article are the main ones we faced while doing elite interviews. However, compared with interviewing members of the general public, there are advantages of doing research with members of elites. They are more familiar with the goals and objectives of the research, because they are familiar with many of the issues being researched. I enjoy the challenge of interviewing elites, working out how to pose questions effectively, how to develop trust and how to create a relaxed environment in which information can be shared. It is exciting to gather people's views on controversial issues and then to work with colleagues to analyse these views and convey them through reports and presentations to policymakers and academics.

Research Organisations in Kabul



Profile: National Center for Policy Research (www.ncpr.af)

The National Center for Policy Research (NCPR) was established by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of Germany and the Ministry of Higher Education on the campus of Kabul University in May 2003. Its purpose is to serve as a research and training facility for the faculties of Law and Political Science, Economics and Social Sciences within Kabul University. Bringing together Afghan expertise and international experience, the NCPR provides a forum for discussion of and research into policy-related areas.

Training provided

In 2007, NCPR provided a training programme on research methodologies, project management and report writing skills for 20 students from the universities of Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat. Another programme provided post-graduate training in human development and social research methods for the six social sciences faculties of Kabul University, Kabul Education University, Albiruni University (Kapisa) and

others. In addition, more than 500 students from Kabul University attended a four-week programme on writing monographs and giving seminar presentations and a two-week workshop on "How to write a good textbook" was given to 28 lecturers from 14 faculties of Kabul University and 20 lecturers from provincial universities.

Research Agenda for 2008

Each year the NCPR publishes a catalogue of research topics. The summary of the research areas for 2008 provided here is taken from the "Catalogue of Studies 2008".

The Department of Law and Political Science project for 2008 is titled "The Rule of Law in Afghanistan and How to Improve It". It focuses on the causes of political instability in Afghanistan and possible options for its improvement.

The Department of Economics is working on such topics as the status of foreign and private investment in Afghanistan and ways to promote such investment, import substitution and export diversification in Afghanistan and their impact on the GDP, and assessing the current taxation system. The major topic for 2008 is the reconstruction of the agriculture sector in Afghanistan and its impact on the Afghan economy.

The Department of Social Sciences is looking at media and society in Afghanistan, the difficulties of vulnerable groups (female-headed households, war widows, the disabled, street children and the aged), the social impacts of corruption, and the relationship between women and employment. The main research project for 2008 is titled "Social Criteria for Durable Peace and Security in Afghanistan".

Publications from the NCPR released in 2008 (all documents are in Dari only) are listed below. Unfortunately, none are downloadable from the website.

- "Reasons for Political Instability in Afghanistan (97 p.)
- Translation into Dari of: Haase, Rolf. *Social lexicon of market economy: political economy from A-Z* (a translation of *Lexikon Soziale Marktwirtschaft* by Rolf H. Hasse, Hermann Schneider, Klaus Weigelt) (514 p.)
- "Research on Obstacles to Democracy in Afghanistan" (40 p.)
- "Assessment of the Causes for Crimes in Kabul City During the Second Half of 1385" (36 p.)
- "Role of the Media in Fashion in Kabul City" (25 p.)
- "Why Girls Run Away from Home in Kabul City" (12 p.)
- "The Education of Women and Its Effect on Their Households" (34 p.)
- "Summary of the Economic, Social and Cultural Development Program of Afghanistan" (35 p.) (includes English version)

See also the "Catalogue of Studies 2008", Kabul: National Center for Policy Research, Kabul University, 2008. (5, 12 p.) (Dari and English).

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Research News

New National Law Library for Afghanistan Opened

The Independent National Legal Training Center (INTLC) Law Library was officially opened on 27 August 2008. The library is dedicated to providing its members with the most comprehensive collection of Afghan, foreign and international law available in Af-

ghanistan. The library is part of the INTLC, an institution established according to a memorandum of understanding between the Afghan, Italian and US governments. The INTLC is located on the campus of Kabul University (near the main gateway).

The library houses a full collection of Afghanistan's laws as published in the *Official Gazette (Jaridah Rasmi or Rasmi Jaridah)* in Dari and Pashto. The collection also includes Sharia materials (religious legal texts); laws of several foreign countries (Pakistan, India, France, the US); periodicals from the Supreme court, Ministry of Justice and Parliament; selected international laws and commentary; and reference materials, including encyclopedias; dictionaries and legal guides.

Address: Independent National Legal Training Center, Kabul University, District 3, Karte-Sakhi, Kabul.

New Research on Private Sector Issues

The documents listed below are the culmination of one year's work at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) Private Sector Development Directorate's Provincial Economic Development Project (PEDP):

- *Policy issues raised in the Provincial Economic Development Project: Final draft.* Kabul: Ministry of Commerce and Industries, 2008. 11 p. (Policy discussion paper). April 2008. Also published in Dari and Pashto. PDF (207 KB).
- *Provincial Economic Development Project: issues papers.* Kabul: Ministry of Commerce and Industries. 2007-2008.
 - o *No. 1: Herat Province.* December 2007. 12 p.
 - o *No. 2: Balkh Province.* March 2008. 6 p.
 - o *No. 3: Nangarhar Province.* April 2008. 3 p.

The PEDP completed the first phase of the project (March 2007-April 2008) during which Directorate staff, under the guidance of a technical assistance team, undertook outreach visits to three major provincial economies within the country: Herat city (July 2007), Mazar-e-Sharif (Dec 2007), and Jalalabad (Feb 2008).

The key objectives were:

- Establish links between the Ministry and key Private Sector Development (PSD) stakeholders in the public and private sector;
- Identify and understand key issues, such as business licensing and lack of information about government regulations, facing the private sector in these provincial economies (especially those within the MoCI mandate); and,
- Share their policy work with the stakeholders and get sub-national/provincial feedback to include in the policy process.

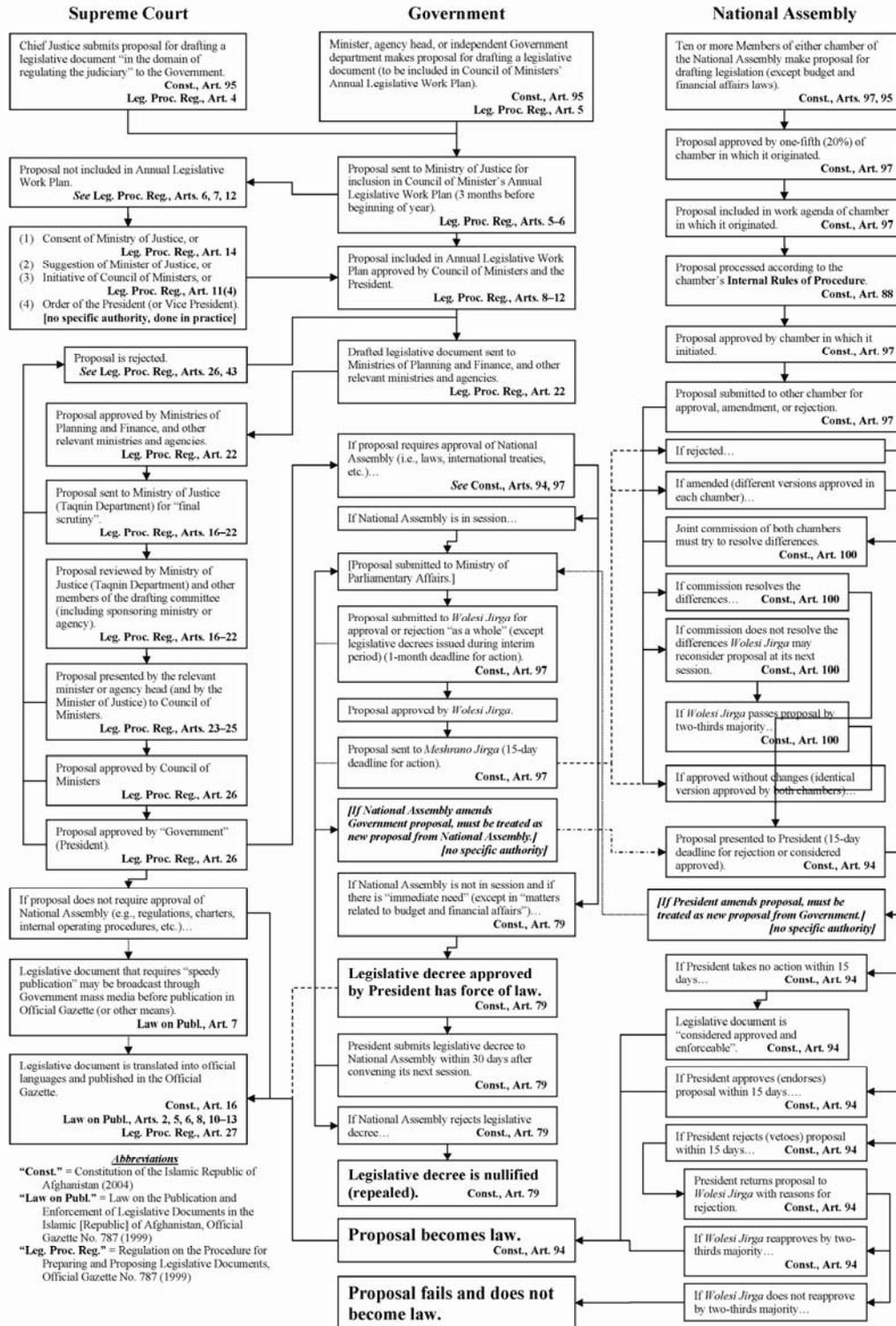
The team met about 20-25 agencies in each of the three provinces, including representatives from the Governor's office, the Provincial Development Committee (PDC), the Mustufi, the Customs Office,, chambers of commerce, the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency, major business associations, PSD-related donor projects (such as USAID and GTZ) and the Provincial Reconstruction Teams.

This activity was a crucial capacity-building and information-generating exercise that successive MoCI provincial initiatives will build on. It has also resulted in an issues paper for each province visited (listed above) and a Provincial Policy Discussion Paper that makes recommendations to the MoCI. These recommendations address key issues facing the private sector in Afghanistan today, including:

- Lack of information regarding business rules and regulations;
- Multiple charges and lack of standardised procedures at Customs;
- Norms and standards for Afghan and foreign products;
- Business enabling environment services (licencing offices, labs at Customs etc.); and
- Procurement hurdles.

The Ministry intends to build on the work completed in the past year during the second phase of the PEDP (June-August 2008 and beyond) and is discussing how best to support provincial growth strategies. Contact the Ministry's Private Sector Development Directorate (PSDD) for feedback or further queries: walirahimi_KBL@yahoo.com

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN AFGHANISTAN



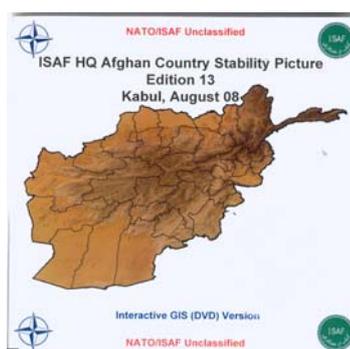
Prepared by Mark Hamilton
 Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (ARoLP) / USAID
 2007/07/02



New Publications and Resources

All the resources listed in this section are available for consultation in hard copy in the Resource Centre at the AREU office on Flower Street in Kabul. Many documents are also available as soft copies from the URLs provided in this newsletter. Where copyright permission is available, some documents are also available for download through AREU's online library catalogue; to access these, visit www.areu.org.af, and follow the link marked "Library." For more information or to request PDF copies of these documents (when available), please contact library@areu.org.af.

Cross-Cutting and General



Afghanistan Country Stability Picture (ACSP).

This compilation of data (2.33 GB) attempts to provide nation-wide information on reconstruction and development activities to help with operational and tactical-level decisions: Maps are

generated from the data base of accumulated development information from a broad range of sources. The map that shows spending by district is particularly interesting. Using over 140 data sources, the project has compiled a database of 84,636 projects in Afghanistan. Edition 13 (released in August 2008) includes interactive maps, ACSP data sheets and the ACSP database as well as information on rehabilitation and development activities undertaken by ISAF regional commands. Finally there are ACSP outputs: charts, comparison tables, lists of information sources, PRT information and a set of miscellaneous government policy documents. This material is "ISAF Unclassified, not for public release" but bona fide NGOs will be able to obtain access. Feedback on the usefulness of the compilation is welcomed. Contacts at HQ ISAF CJ9 for ACSP +93 (0) 799 51 2283, marco.fornasaris@hq.isaf.nato.int, necmi.koksal@hq.isaf.nato.int

Provincial Profiles and District Development Plans. Kabul: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), [2007?]. <http://www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp/Provincial%20Development%20Plan.htm> Although termed "Provincial development plans" on the website, these are in fact summaries of provincial information for 30 of the 34 provinces. Some of the information has been extracted from unpublished government sources, and each paper includes a list of

sources. Topics include general information (including area in square kilometres), and information classified into demographic, institutional, donor activity, infrastructure and natural resources, private sector activity, education, health, social protection, governance and security sections. Some district level information is also available here. A limited number of District Development Plans have been made available in Dari with summaries in English at: http://www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp/DDP_1.htm (for 14 provinces as of mid-September 2008).

Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) 9th Meeting. On 10th September 2008, the 9th meeting of the JCMB was held in Kabul. None of the papers had been uploaded to the website (<http://www.and.s.gov.af/ands/jcmb/site/index.asp?page=home>) by the time this newsletter was being finalised (mid-September), but useful documents should be available there by the time this newsletter appears. One paper in circulation is "Government Structures for ANDS Implementation" (9 Sept. 2008, 7 p.).

Agriculture

Afghanistan Food Security Monitoring Bulletin (AFSMB), jointly prepared by the Vulnerability Analysis Unit of MRRD, the Central Statistics Office, the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit of WFP Afghanistan. <http://vam.wfp.org/country/docs?country=004> These irregular reports are based on interviews and field visits, with the latest issue (May 2008) involving 3,264 households in 34 provinces. Significantly, the primary source here was the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) 2007/2008, not yet otherwise publicly released. According to this study, 35% of Afghan households do not meet their minimum daily kilocalorie intake, this is a 5% increase since the NRVA 2005 survey. Prices of food, most remarkably wheat flour and wheat, have increased by

New documents on the USAID project: Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program (ASAP)

“Program-wide Environmental Scoping Statement.” Kabul: USAID, 2008. 34 p. ; 30 cm. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACL782.pdf (199 KB). This project aims “to accelerate broad-based, market-led agriculture development capable of responding and adapting to market forces in ways that provide new economic opportunities for rural Afghans.” The environmental scoping study (required under US Code of Federal Regulations) covers ASAP activities identified to June 2008 (with the exception of the Mazar Foods Initiative).

“Mazar Foods Environmental Scoping Statement.” Kabul, Afghanistan: USAID, 2008. 41 p. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACL781.pdf (499 KB). A large-scale commercial farming operation, the Mazar Food Project is a major initiative to enlist the private sector in accelerating agricultural growth, productive employment and incomes in Afghanistan. The objective is to create a commercially viable farming operation based on production and processing of fruits, vegetables and nuts to be sold domestically for import substitution as well as for export, re-establishing Afghanistan as a major exporter of horticultural products. The project is expected to employ 8,000 people.

“Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP).” Kabul: USAID, 2008. 100 p. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADM436.pdf (417 KB). This report recognises 23 crops or crop groupings likely to be support by ASAP such as grapes, almonds, and apricots, and the common production constraints and pests

160% in the main cities of Afghanistan over the past year. Since January 2008, the wheat price has risen by a countrywide average of 60%. Earlier issues on the website are: 2006 (September), 2007 (February, August).

“Afghanistan Food Security Outlook: July-December 2008.” [Kabul?]: FEWSNET, 2008. (4 p.) http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADL985.pdf (306 KB). This regular update states that high staple food prices, particularly for wheat (123% higher than a year ago, 233% higher than the five-year average), have become the largest food security concern for the Afghan population. The price increases have made wheat unaffordable for much of the population. Planned imports of wheat will help reduce prices in Kabul and Kandahar but food insecurity will still exist in at least 14 provinces.

Beurs, K.M. de and G.M. Henebry, G. M. *War, Drought and Phenology: Changes in the Land Surface Phenology of Afghanistan since 1982*. [2006?]. 20 p. <http://www.bu.edu/aias/reports/debeurs.pdf> (1.71 MB). Dr de Buers completed a three-month study to “distinguish between the differences between the influences of drought and institutional change on the land surface phenology of Afghanistan.” Her central hypothesis is that land surface phenology is influenced not only by climate, but also by the changes in politi-

cal regimes of the last 25 years. To investigate this, Dr de Beurs gathered and analysed numerous satellite images from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

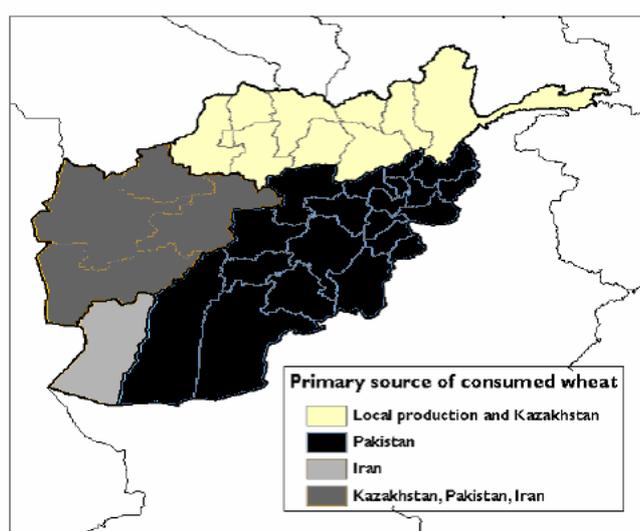
Johnston, George M. and Jeffrey J. Povolny. “Economic Analysis of Net Returns to Opium Poppy, Wheat and Vegetables, Badakhshan, 2007 Alternative Development Program for Northeast Afghanistan (ADP/N).” [Kabul?]: ADP/N, 2008. 31 p. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADL784.pdf (593 KB). Most opium and wheat comparisons have used gross returns citing a ten-to-one ratio in favor of opium. Estimates of net returns in 2007 for Badakhshan reveal a much smaller advantage for opium poppy over wheat with a ratio of three (or even two) to one. The calculation of net income, without considering estimates of opportunity costs and economic benefits, is far from ideal. However, it provides greater nuance to the analysis than the oft-cited comparison of gross income. It is estimated that nine types of vegetables supported by this programme (tomato, eggplant, onion, cucumber, carrot, turnip, cabbage, cauliflower and okra) provided a greater net return per hectare in 2007 in Badakhshan than did opium poppy production. These results were based upon moderate yield estimates. Further increases in productivity should result in even greater net returns. Improving farmers’ access to markets through, for example road improvement, is a cru-

cial factor in converting this productivity gain into an increase in profitability.

The Contribution of Regional Markets to Afghan Wheat Supplies. [Kabul?]: FEWSNET, 2007. 6 p. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADL967.pdf (276 KB). "May 2007." Wheat is a staple food in Afghanistan, with about 160 kg consumed per capita (one of the highest rates in the world). In 1978, Afghanistan was self-sufficient in food production. Significant amounts of wheat are currently imported from Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Turkmenistan. This paper examined regional wheat flows in each region of Afghanistan (as shown on the map below).

Development

Figure 1. Primary sources of wheat consumed in Afghanistan, by market region



Source: FEWS NET

"Afghanistan Moving Forward: Achievements 2002-2008" (Kabul: Government of Afghanistan, 2008). 1 folder (17 leaves). http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files_156/afghanistan_498/international-conference-in-support-of-afghanistan-paris-12th-june-2008_6366/afghanistan-moving-forward_6379/index.html Information pack prepared by the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations with the French Government for the Paris Conference (May-June 2008). Some files from this pack are available (HTML) on the website.

Afghanistan: Forum International de la Société Civile et du Secteur Privé, Paris, 24 mai 2008 = International Civil Society and Private Sector Forum, Paris, 24th May 2008. Paris: [Government of France?] 2008. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/conference-afghanistan> Papers distributed at the forum in Paris (text in French and English): Programme (1 p.)—Overview [4] p.—Presentation des grandes lignes ([5] p.)—The Enabling Environment Conference: effective private sector contribution to development in Afghanistan: conference statement and road map, Kabul, Afghanistan, 5 June 2007 (10 p.)—Afghanistan National Development Strategy: executive summary 1387-1391 (2008-2013) 23 p.

"Afghanistan Reconstruction: Progress Made in Constructing Roads, but Assessments for Determining Impact and a Sustainable Maintenance Program are Needed" (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), 2008). 57 p. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08689.pdf> (12.5 MB). July 2008. The Afghan government, the United States and other donors consider road reconstruction a top development priority for Afghanistan. Almost 20 percent of the US Agency for International Development's (USAID) \$5.9 billion in assistance to Afghanistan has been for roads. The US Department of Defense has committed about \$560 million for roads, of which Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) funds account for over half. The GAO examined (1) the status of road reconstruction and challenges affecting project implementation, (2) US agencies' efforts to evaluate the impact of road projects, and (3) efforts to develop a sustainable road maintenance programme. GAO reviewed US and Afghan governments' planning, evaluation, and funding documents and interviewed relevant stakeholders in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). "Annual Report to Donors." [Kabul]: ARTF Management Committee. <http://go.worldbank.org/8KVNEB2CNO> (PDF, 1 MB). This apparently supplements the regular "ARTF Quarterly Reports to Donors", it summarises all ARTF activities for the year 1386 (20 March, 2007- 19 March, 2008).

Banerjee, Nipa. "Ineffective Aid Hobbles Afghan Transition," *Policy Options*, June 2008: 24-27. <http://www.irpp.org/po/archive/jun08/banerjee.pdf> (PDF, 190 KB). According to this article, lack of aid

coordination, poor prioritisation and incorrect financing have resulted in international domination of Afghanistan's development process and taken leadership away from the Afghan government. The situation continues to imperil the country's transition from fragility to stability.

Bulbul and Civil Society [videorecording] = بلیبل و جامعه ای مدنی / Counterpart International, Initiative to Promote Afghan Civil Society (I-PACS). Kabul: Counterpart International, Afghanistan, 2008. 1 digital video disc. Dialogue in Dari, with subtitles in English. This one hour film shows discussions and fictional interviews to make clear the role of civil society organisations in Afghanistan under current laws (includes information on PRTs, gender roles, etc.).

"Canada in Afghanistan: Report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development Kevin Sorenson Chair." Ottawa: House of Commons, Canada, 2008. 149 p. http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/2/parlbus/commbus/senate/com-e/defe-e/rep-e/rep09jun08-e.htm#PDF_FORMAT (888 KB). This study looked at the whole role of Canada in Afghanistan, including many non-military aspects. Using many expert witnesses and supplementary advice, the committee had more than 30 meetings and the report attempts to be forward looking and focused on long-term goals.

Donini, Antonio. *Humanitarian agenda 2015: Final Report* / Antonio Donini ... [et al.]. Medford, Ma.: Feinstein International Center, 2008. 37 p. (Briefing paper / Feinstein International Center). <http://fic.tufts.edu/downloads/HA2015FinalReport.pdf> (1.65 MB). The report builds on 12 case studies of local perceptions of the work of humanitarian agencies, conducted in as many countries (Afghanistan, Burundi, Iraq, etc.). The country studies and final report are based on interviews with more than 2,000 recipients of humanitarian aid, as well as aid agency, donor and government staff. This final report describes the challenges faced by humanitarian actors striving to maintain fidelity to their ideals in a globalised world. The report highlights persisting tensions in the relationship between "outsiders" and local communities, encroachments of political agendas - particularly as a result of the war on terror - and the deteriorating security climate for humanitarian workers on the ground. Humanitarian action, the authors argue, needs to be more aligned with the aspirations of the people it aims to help and more open to non-western humanitarian coping strategies and traditions. Talking "principally to

the like-minded, shunning different or dissenting voices" ultimately undermines humanitarian principles and causes "misunderstanding, false expectations, and delusions of grandeur."

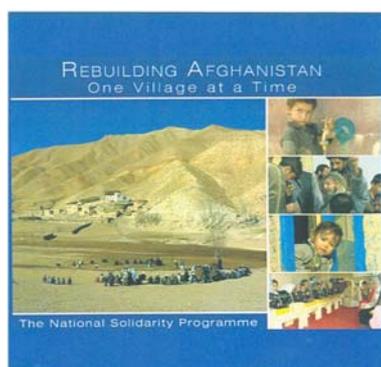
Haidari, M. Ashraf. "Beyond the Paris Conference: Rescuing Afghanistan out of its Dangerous Traps': Keynote Address." Arlington, Virginia: Rand [?], 2008. 7 p. http://www.aopnews.com/lotw/rescue_afghanistan.shtml (PDF, 33 KB). Discussion of challenges to the stabilisation of Afghanistan.

"How Are We Doing in Afghanistan?: Canadians Need to Know: Report of the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence." Ottawa: Canadian Parliament, 2008. 107 p. <http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/2/parlbus/commbus/senate/com-e/defe-e/rep-e/rep09jun08-e.pdf> (888 KB). This parliamentary paper clarifies the role of Canada in Afghanistan for the Canadian people, it talks about why Canada is in Afghanistan, the challenges facing Afghanistan, prospects for progress and what benchmarks can be used to evaluate Canadian involvement.

National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP). "Annual Project Report" ([Kabul]: UNDP Afghanistan). http://www.undp.org.af/WhoWeAre/UNDPinAfghanistan/Projects/psl/prj_nabdp.htm These are available for 2007 and 2008, quarterly reports are also available on the website.

"Provincial and Ministerial Consultations on Provincial Development Plans (PDPs): March 1st-9th 2008." Kabul: [Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG)?], 2008. 13 p. (PDFs, 1.09 MB). These documents have been released in the *Afghanistan Country Stability Picture (ACSP), Edition 13*. The Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) office facilitated a third round of consultations between line ministries and provincial authorities to finalise projects in the Provincial Development Plans (PDPs). At the end of the consultations more than 1580 PDP projects were listed, most scheduled for 1387 (2008) and 1388 (2009). PDPs for 4 sectors are listed in Excel sheets: (1) Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) (10 p.); (2) Education sector projects (10 p.); (3) Health sector projects (10 p.); (4) Road sector projects (7 p.).

Rebuilding Afghanistan [videorecording]: *One Village at a Time: the National Solidarity Programme*. 1 digital videodisc (about 22 min.). Voice over in English, interviews in Dari, Pashto (with English subtitles). "November 2007." Short film documenting the November 2007 meeting of 600 CDC representatives to discuss the local governance and development.



Elections

Koch-Laugwitz, Ursula. "Afghanistan 'rüstet' sich für die kommenden Wahlen: Präsidentenwahl 2009, Parlamentswahl 2010?." Bonn: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 2008. 6 p. <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/05496.pdf> (191 KB). A brief survey on issues relevant to the proposed elections (Presidential in October 2009, Parliamentary in mid-2010), including the question of whether they will be able to take place or not.

Employment

"Employment Service Centres Newsletter." Kabul: ILO. This periodical relates to the Employment Services Project of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, implemented by the International Labour Organization to place and counsel jobseekers in Afghanistan, to meet the labour needs of businesses and, as a result of these activities, collect labour market information. The first issue was released on 15 May, 2008 (16 p.), the second issue on 28 August 2008. Contact: haroon.ilokabul@undp.org

Environment

"Determining Chemical Waste Streams in Afghanistan: Consolidated Report." Kabul: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), 2007. 70 p.

(PDF, 396 KB). This report identifies hazardous chemicals and various industries in Afghanistan (Kabul and Herat only) that may give rise to serious pollution. It provides details of a chemical survey, identifies possible sources of pollution and gives a synthesis of this information. Challenges to the research include unwillingness by chemical importers to discuss the types and quantities of chemicals they brought into the country. It was also impossible to find the exact names of pesticides being imported into Afghanistan. Much more work will need to be done to ensure the safety of Afghanistan's population from serious chemical exposure.

Finance

"Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations and Subnational Expenditures in Afghanistan." [Kabul?]: World Bank, 2008. 67 p. "August 2008." Bound with: Summary Report in English (14 p.) and Dari (15 p.): روابط مالی میان ارگانهای دواتی و مصارف ولایات در افغانستان. PDFs, 1 MB, 517 KB, 374 KB). "[T]his note provides a summary of a World Bank study examining intergovernmental fiscal relations and sub-national expenditures in Afghanistan. The study and [the] accompanying summary report seek to identify the key policy challenges facing the Government of Afghanistan in this area. Two dimensions of intergovernmental finance are analysed: first, the distribution of financial resources between different levels of government or administration, or the vertical allocation; second, the horizontal allocation, or the distribution of financial resources between different jurisdictions at the same level (i.e. the provinces)" (Summary report, p. 1).

Scanteam. "Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund External Evaluation: Final Report. Oslo [Norway]: Scanteam, 2008. 165 p. (PDF, 1.5 MB). The Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) is a multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank and funded by 27 donors, mobilising over US\$ 2.4 billion as of the end of SY 1386 (March 2008). During the six years since it was established in 2002, the ARTF has been the main source of pooled financing for the Government of Afghanistan's recurrent budget, but has increasingly also supported priority investments in the Government's reconstruction programme. As of SY 1386, projects covering infrastructure, rural development, technical assistance, capacity development, and education have a total commitment of over US\$ 750 million. Scanteam

was contracted to carry out an external evaluation of the ARTF. The objective of the evaluation was to provide recommendations on: (1) how ARTF should adapt to the changing demands of political actors, economic circumstances and rising insecurity, yet also prepare the ARTF for its future role of channelling resources towards Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) priorities; (2) provide a more strategic vision of sector prioritisation for funding; and (3) how the ARTF can contribute to reducing government reliance on donors to fund recurrent expenditures and the transition in ARTF priorities towards investment and sectoral/programmatic expenditure.

Health

Loevinsohn, Benjamin and Ghulam Dastagir Sayed. *Lessons From the Health Sector in Afghanistan: How Progress can be Made in Challenging Circumstances*. Published in "JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)" v. 300 (no. 6) (August 13, 2008), p. 724-726. <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/short/300/6/724> (PDF, 211 KB). Establishing a basic package of health services has served a useful role in Afghanistan by ensuring a continued focus on the delivery of effective health interventions, guaranteeing that adequate resources and effort were dedicated to improving coverage of services to the large rural population, and avoiding excessive diversion of scarce public funds to services only available to better-off city-dwellers. Contracting with NGOs has worked well in Afghanistan and has provided a rapid way for the government to gain and maintain policy leadership.

Stanekzai, M. Raza, Catherine S. Todd, M. Zafar Rasuli, Shairshah Bayan, Saifur Rehman Wardak, Stefanie Strathdee. "Baseline Assessment of Community Knowledge and Attitudes towards Drug Use and Harm Reduction in Kabul, Afghanistan: Baseline Assessment, 2007." [Kabul]: [Ministry of Public Health?], 2007. 3 p. (PowerPoint file, 172 KB). *Bound with "Study Results of Baseline Assessment of Community Knowledge and Attitudes Towards Drug Use and Harm Reduction in Kabul, Afghanistan": 4 August 2008 - Minutes (2 p.)*. The first presentation outlines the findings of the first study of 250 participants in Kabul city for awareness and perceptions of drug use and treatment, the second paper is the result of a question and answer session at the Ministry of Public Health

"USAID Country Health Statistical Report: Afghanistan." Washington, D.C.: USAID. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADM358.pdf (143 KB). Latest release May 2008. This brief regular compilation is part of a series prepared for USAID. It provides both a short statistical overview (with socio-economic indicators) and trends in health indicators for Afghanistan. Data is not available for many indicators. The population figure accepted for Afghanistan here is 32,738,376 for 2008 (the source is the United States Census Bureau, International Programs Center, International Database (February 2008 version)). There is also a table of current and projected population by age and sex (for the years 2000 and 2020).

Human Rights

Alston, Philip. "Promotion and Protection of all Human Rights, Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Including the Right to Development: Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions: Addendum: Preliminary Note on the Mission to Afghanistan." New York: United Nations, Human Rights Council, 2008. 7 p. <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/139/41/PDF/G0813941.pdf?OpenElement> (PDF, 44 KB). "Afghanistan is enveloped in an armed conflict. That does not mean, however, that large numbers of avoidable killings of civilians must be tolerated. The level of complacency in response to these killings is staggeringly high. In a nutshell: police killings must cease; widespread impunity within the legal system for killing must be rejected; the killing of women and girls must end; the international military forces must ensure real accountability for their actions; and the United Nations should give greater prominence to the role of human rights in its activities" (p. 2).

Language

Roanaq, Mohammad Ali. *Manual of Spoken Dari in Afghanistan*, translator Wahid Omar. Kabul: Wahid Omar, 2008. 95 p. This is a translation of *Manuel de persan parlé en Afghanistan* (Paris: L'Asiathèque, 1989). Copies are available from the translator wahidomar@comcast.net (0798981526).

Media

"Afghanistan Media Survey: Report Prepared for BBC Trust" ([Kabul?]: ACSOR-Surveys, D3 Systems, [2008]). 30 p. http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/assets/files/pdf/review_report_research/ar2007_08/afghanistan_research.pdf (accessed 22 July 2008) (PDF 178 KB). Although focused on radio and television services, this survey of media use in Afghanistan reveals other information about life in present-day Afghanistan. For example, 42 % of respondents had some kind of access to electricity in the home, there is much greater access to television in urban areas (78% of the population (Central Statistics Office figures) compared to rural areas (22% of the population (CSO)).

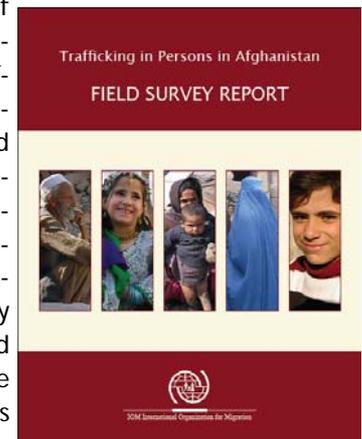
"Taliban Propaganda: Winning the War of Words?" Brussels: International Crisis Group (ICG), 2008. (Asia report ; no. 158). 41 p. "24 July 2008." <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=5589> (PDF, 1.6 MB). The Taliban has created a sophisticated communications apparatus that projects an increasingly confident movement. Using the full range of media, it is successfully tapping into strains of Afghan nationalism and exploiting policy failures by the Kabul government and its international backers. The result is weakening public support for nation-building, even though few actively support the Taliban. The Karzai government and its allies must make greater efforts, through word and deed, to address sources of alienation exploited in Taliban propaganda, particularly by ending arbitrary detentions and curtailing civilian casualties from aerial bombing.

Migration and Refugees

Schöch, Rüdiger. "Afghan Refugees in Pakistan During the 1980s: Cold War Politics and Registration Practice." Geneva: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2008. (New issues in refugee research: research paper ; no. 157). 15 p. <http://www.unhcr.org/research/RESEARCH/4868daad2.pdf> (229 KB). June 2008. This paper is based on the author's thesis, "UNHCR and the Global Cold War: National Interest vs. Humanitarian Mandate: Assistance to Afghan Refugees in Pakistan During the Soviet Occupation of Afghanistan" (August 2007, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva). The thesis includes a more comprehensive presentation of the po-

litical background, as well as a more extensive interpretation of the archival material.

"Trafficking in Persons in Afghanistan: Field Survey Report." Kabul: International Organization for Migration, 2008. 80 p. ISBN 9789290684473. http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/docs/afghanistan/iom_report_trafficking_afghanistan.pdf (516 KB). Trafficking in persons gravely affects today's Afghanistan as a source, transit and destination country. Traffickers exploit men, women and children by violating their basic human rights as this modern-day form of slavery continues to thrive. This research aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the trafficking phenomenon in, from and to Afghanistan, based on first-hand data, with a view towards developing effective counter-trafficking strategies. Research data was collected mainly from expert interviews and a field survey conducted in Kabul and nine border provinces: Khost, Nangarhar, Herat, Balkh, Faryab, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Kandahar and Farah, from July to September 2007. A total of 220 community informants, 20 victims of trafficking, 43 victims of kidnapping and 19 smuggled migrants were interviewed. The non-personal data of 115 victims of trafficking referred to and assisted by IOM between 2006 and 2007 was also used in the analysis, based on IOM's case records.



Natural Resource Management

Batson, Douglas E. *Registering the Human Terrain*. [Washington, D.C.]: National Defense Intelligence College, 2008. 162 p. <http://ndic.edu/press/10279.htm> (PDF, 6.12 MB). This book makes a case for prioritising land registration schemes in post-conflict environments for their direct contribution to security and nation-building, with particular examples from Afghanistan.

Beek, Eelco van, Babak Bozorgy, Zoltan, Vekergy, Karen Meijer. "Limits to Agricultural Growth in the

Sistan Closed Inland Delta, Iran," *Irrigation and Drainage Systems* (March 31, 2008): [1-13]. DOI 10.1007/s10795-008-9045-7. <http://www.springerlink.com/content/np17113m4613676p/> (PDF, 3.57 MB). Includes an attempt to estimate water flow from Afghanistan into Iran.

Opium

"Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan: Border Management Cooperation in Drug Control: Outline Action Plan." [Kabul?]: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2008. 18 p. http://www.unodc.org/documents/regional/central-asia/green_paper_no%20maps_v%20April%202008.pdf (PDF, 1.69 MB). "April 2008 - work in progress." This document summarises UNODC initiatives to promote cooperation among controlling agencies along the Afghan-Iran-Pakistan border zone, it includes maps of cultivation areas and indicates areas of work on the borders.

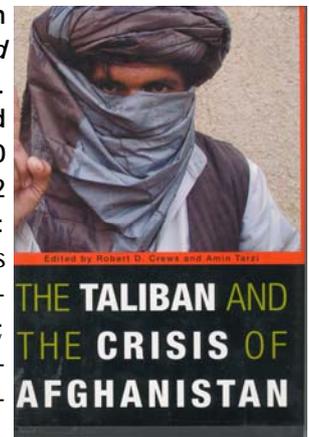
Afghanistan Opium Survey 2008: Executive Summary. Vienna: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2008. x, 32 p. August 2008. http://www.unodc.org/documents/publications/Afghanistan_Opium_Survey_2008.pdf (2.09 MB). "Since last year, the number of opium-free provinces has increased by almost 50%: from 13 to 18. This means that no opium is grown in more than half of the country's 34 provinces. Indeed, 98% of all of Afghanistan's opium is grown in just seven provinces in the south-west (Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Farah, Nimroz, and to a lesser extent Daykundi and Zabul) where there are permanent Taliban settlements, and where organised crime groups profit from the instability. This geographical overlap between regions of opium and zones of insurgency shows the inextricable link between drugs and conflict. Since drugs and insurgency are caused by, and effect, each other, they need to be dealt with at the same time - and urgently." p. vii.

Schweich, Thomas. "Is Afghanistan a Narco-state?" *The New York Times magazine*, 27 July, 2008. 7 p. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/27/magazine/27AFGHAN-t.html?ref=magazine> (PDF, 61 KB). Personal opinions of a former US-Embassy staff member in Kabul about the relationship between

opium, governance and individual politicians in Afghanistan.

Politics and Government

Crews, Robert D., and Amin Tarzi, eds. *The Taliban and the Crisis of Afghanistan*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2008. 430 p. ISBN 9780674026902 (alk. paper). Contents: "Explaining the Taliban's ability to mobilise the Pash-tuns" by Abdulkader Sinno; "The rise and fall of the Taliban" by Neamatollah Nojumi; "The Taliban, women, and the Hegelian private sphere" by Juan R.I. Cole; "Taliban and Talibanism in historical perspective" by M. Nazif Shahrani; "Remembering the Taliban" by Lutz Rzehak; "Fraternity, power, and time in Central Asia" by Robert L. Canfield; "Moderate Taliban?" by Robert D. Crews; "The Neo-Taliban" by Amin Tarzi; "Epilogue: Afghanistan and the Pax Americana" by Atiq Sarwari and Robert D. Crews.



"Draft Sub-national Governance Policy (10 September 2008)." Kabul: [Independent Directorate for Local Governance], 2008. 383 p. (PDFs, 3 MB). Also available in Dari and Pashto. Released with *Policy on Subnational Governance: Draft (10 September 2008)* (PowerPoint presentation, 65 slides, 1 MB) and *Draft Sub-national Governance Policy: Executive summary* 38 p. (PDF, 378 KB). This potentially important draft policy is a first part of major sub-national governance reform in Afghanistan. It will be implemented through making new laws, regulations and procedures; amending existing laws, regulations and procedures; making institutional arrangements and through ongoing and new programmatic interventions. The laws, regulations, procedures and institutional arrangements will be put in place during 2009. The policy will be fully implemented during the period 2010-2013. As well as specifying the responsibilities of provincial, district and village administrations, this document details election procedures, codes of conduct, jurisdictions, municipality functions, and

civil society participation. Importantly, it specifies the passing of a Right to Information Act (p. 26).

Emadi, Hafizullah. "Establishment of Afghanistan's Parliament and the Role of Women Parliamentarians: Retrospect and Prospects," *Internationales Asienforum* 39 (2008) no. 1/2: 5-19. http://www.arnold-bergstraesser.de/08summaries_heft_1_2.htm#Hafizullah (PDF, 225 KB). This paper traces the history of parliamentary activity in Afghanistan, contrasting it with traditional *jirgas*, highlighting the involvement of women, and also considering the current situation.

Gulzar, Corinne Troxler. "Afghanistan, Update: Aktuelle Entwicklungen." Bern: Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe, 2008. 17 p. http://www.osar.ch/2008/08/21/afghanistan_update_situation (PDF, 364 KB). This brief summary of Afghanistan's current internal situation covers politics, security, the justice system, human rights and socioeconomic indicators.

Hamilton, Mark. "Legislative Process in Afghanistan." [Kabul]: USAID, 2007. 2 p. <http://legislativeconsulting.com/Resources.htm> (PDF, 275 KB). 2 July 2007. A very useful schematic diagram showing the relationships between the Supreme Court, Government, National Assembly and the President in the processes of proposing, considering, rejecting and passing laws in Afghanistan (see p.10 of this newsletter).

Katzman, Kenneth. "Afghanistan: Government Formation and Performance." Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service, 2008. 6 p. <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RS21922.pdf> (76 KB). "Post-Taliban Afghanistan has adopted a constitution and elected a president and a parliament; that body is emerging as a significant force and sometimes challenger to President Hamid Karzai. The central government's limited writ, which many Afghans believe should remain limited, and its perceived corruption, are helping sustain a Taliban insurgency."

"Legislative Newsletter." Kabul: Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Project (APAP), 2008. <http://www.sunyaf.org/apap-leglativenewsletter.htm> Weekly listing of legislation to be considered in the National Assembly as well as relevant news summa-

ries. The website has issues from Vol. 1 (2008) to 12 (8 June).

"Special Report of the Secretary-General Pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1806 (2008) on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan" New York: United Nations Security Council, 2008. 7 p. <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/2008/434> (accessed 9 July 2008) (PDF, 45 KB). This report provides a summary of the outcome of the June 2008 Paris Conference in Support of Afghanistan including comments on the mandate of UNAMA.

Security

"Afghanistan, the Limits of Counter-insurgency and the Prospects for Negotiations: Seminar in Madrid, 26 March 2008." Madrid: Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE), 2008. 16 p. http://www.fride.org/download/CRO5_Afganistan_limites_contraingencia_ENG_aug08.pdf (224 KB). This seminar looked at many aspects of the current insurgency and how to include the Taliban in negotiations to bring peace to Afghanistan. The paper states that negotiations should be part of a national process in which the pragmatic Afghan Taliban are invited to join in a "peaceful jihad" for an Islamic Afghanistan, not least because they cannot be defeated by military means and so a political solution is necessary.

"ISAF Regional Commands & PRT Locations [map]: Current as of 10 June 2008." Kabul: International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), 2008. http://www.nato.int/ISAF/docu/pub/pdf/isaf_placemat.pdf (PDF, 184 KB). Summary map of ISAF regional commands and PRT locations, with approximate troop numbers.

Johnson, Thomas H. and M. Chris Mason. "No Sign Until the Burst of Fire: Understanding the Pakistan-Afghanistan Frontier," *International Security*, 32, no. 4 (Spring 2008): 41-77. http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/IS3204_pp041-077_Johnson_Mason.pdf?CSBYPASS=6AEFEAECD28EC268CA489C013AEFD3C&N=Uci93z&M=application/pdf&D (PDF, 1.44 MB). Contents include: Geography of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region; Ethnography of the border area; Insurgency and Pashtun tribal

structures in history; Invasion of Afghanistan and a safe haven in the FATA; Pashtunwali: the Pashtun social code; Insurgency in the border area and beyond; Unintended consequences of border politics; Conclusion.

Johnson, Thomas H. and Richard English. "Rethinking Afghanistan: Echoes of Ulster and the IRA?" *Policy Options*, June 2008, p. 14-22. <http://www.irpp.org/po/archive/jun08/johnson.pdf> (PDF, 260 KB). This paper suggests that lessons drawn from the British experience in Northern Ireland might be constructively applied to Afghanistan, offering a way for NATO to edge back from the "brink of failure and regional catastrophe".

McCaffrey, Barry R. "After Action Report: Visit to NATO SHAPE Headquarters and Afghanistan." 2008. 7 p. <http://smallwarsjournal.com/blog/2008/08/general-mccaffrey-afghanistan-1/> (PDF, 212 KB). This internal memorandum summarises the security situation in Afghanistan and asserts that "Afghan political elites are focused more on the struggle for power than governance."

"Swords and Ploughshares: Can NATO Survive Afghanistan?" *Bulletin of the Program in Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security* v. 26, no. 2 (2008). <http://www.acdis.uiuc.edu/Research/S&Ps/S&P-su2008.pdf> (356 KB). These papers are the result of a symposium held in late April, 2008. Contents include: "Introduction" by Matthew A. Rosenstein; "Why Should We Think NATO Can Survive Afghanistan?" by Stanley R. Sloan; "NATO's Missions Beyond Afghanistan" by Ryan C. Hendrickson; "Problems with NATO Peace Operations in Afghanistan" by Paul F. Diehl; and "After Afghanistan: Whither the Coalition of Democratic States?" by Edward A. Kolodziej.

Tadjbakhsh, Shahrbanou. "International Peacemaking in Tajikistan and Afghanistan Compared: Lessons Learned and Unlearned." Paris: CERI, 2008. 44 p. <http://www.ceri-sciencespo.com/cherlist/tadjbakhsh.htm> (PDF, 224 KB). Changes in the architecture of international engagements in peacemaking over the last decade can be traced through a comparison of the Peace Accords of 1997 which ended five years of civil war in Tajikistan with

the ongoing intervention in Afghanistan which began in the context of the global war against terrorism. The comparison points to the challenges that complex interventions face today: the collapse of stabilisation, transition and consolidation phases of peacemaking; the lack of clarity about motivations for engagement; the ambiguous methods of state-building and uncertain ownership of peace processes. The success of the externally-led Tajikistan peace process can be attributed to the common search for collaboration between international organisations and regional powers and the gradual sequencing of the different stages: negotiation for power sharing, followed by consolidation, and finally state-building. In contrast, the changing motivations for intervention, the isolation of the Western alliance from regional actors, and the external actors' own role as parties to war, which provokes escalating reactions, are the potential elements of failure in Afghanistan. Ultimately, it is the national ownership of peace processes that creates the necessary legitimacy for peacemaking to be durable.

Their, J. Alexander and Azita Ranjbar. "Killing Friends, Making Enemies: The Impact and Avoidance of Civilian Casualties in Afghanistan." Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace, 2008. 4 p. http://www.usip.org/pubs/usipeace_briefings/2008/0722_afghanistan_casualties.html. (PDF 180 KB). This USI Peace Briefing from June 2008 discusses: the enormous problem of civilian casualties in Afghanistan; the "troops-in-contact" dilemma regarding air power; challenges in intelligence gathering; losses in the information war against Taliban forces; and policy recommendations to mitigate this trend.

"Troops in Contact: Airstrikes and Civilian Deaths in Afghanistan." New York: Human Rights Watch, 2008. 40 p. <http://hrw.org/reports/2008/afghanistan0908/> (PDF, 654 KB). The combination of light ground forces and overwhelming airpower has become the dominant doctrine of war for the US in Afghanistan. The result has been large numbers of civilian casualties, controversy over the continued use of airpower in Afghanistan, and intense criticism of US and NATO forces by Afghan political leaders and the general public. As a result of Operation En-

during Freedom and ISAF airstrikes in 2006, 116 Afghan civilians were killed in 13 bombings. In 2007, Afghan civilian deaths were nearly three times higher: 321 Afghan civilians were killed in 22 bombings, while hundreds more were injured. In 2007, more Afghan civilians were killed by airstrikes than by US and NATO ground fire. In the first seven months of 2008, the latest period for which data is available, at least 119 Afghan civilians were killed in 12 airstrikes. This paper examines these events and makes recommendations for all sides.

Women

Feld, Karl, Veronica Gardner and Sweeta Hashimi. "Living Female in Afghanistan." Vienna, Virginia: D3 Systems, 2008. 5 p. http://www.d3systems.com/webworks/apps/document_download/get_download.asp?ID=5 (PDF, 77 KB). 1,175 women were surveyed on a stratified, random basis by Afghan women in March 2007, the very brief report covers topics including voting participation, news sources in the home, and decision-making.

"Islam and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in Afghanistan: Meeting Report." Ottawa, Ontario: Peacebuild Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group, Conflict Prevention Working Group, 2008. 41 p. <http://www.peacebuild.ca/documents/UNSCR%201325%20and%20Islam%20in%20Afghanistan%20Final%20May%205%202008.pdf> (PDF, 2 MB). This document includes four papers presented at a roundtable presentation in March 2008: "UNSCR 1325 and Afghanistan: talking points for discussion" by Margaret A. Mills; "Cultural dissent: Supporting women's agency through information: An approach to rights affirming and culture-sensitive peacebuilding in Afghanistan" by Lauryn Oates; "UNSCR 1325, Islam and traditions in Afghanistan" by Najia Haneefi; and "UNSCR 1325 as a strategy for enabling women in Afghanistan" by Wazhma Frogh. A record of discussion and recommendations is included at the end.

Jennifer Hatfield, Wilfredia E. Thurston, Sadiqa Basiri. "Women's Participation in Domestic Violence Health Policy Development: Afghanistan

Component: Research Report" Calgary [Canada]: Women's Domestic Violence Health Project (WDVHP), 2008. 27 p. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wdvhp/html/project.htm#reports> (PDF, 214 KB). June 2008. This report is the Afghanistan component of an international project examining women's participation in family and domestic violence health policy and policy development. Carried out across five different countries - Canada, Australia, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Afghanistan - the goal of the project was to describe the characteristics of the domestic violence health policy community in each country. There is a separate report for each country involved in the project, as well as a report on the comparative analysis of the five studies. The report begins with a rationale for the project and an introduction to the unique situation facing women in Afghanistan. It then provides a brief history of the recent conflict and current political situation follows, describing the Afghan health sector and summarising government and nongovernmental organisations' attempts to address violence against women and domestic violence. The research methods of the study are described. Following a report of the results, there is a discussion of the analysis and concluding statements.

"Women's Access to Justice [in Afghanistan]: Problems and Challenges." Kabul: Women and Children Legal Research Foundation (WCLRF), 2008. 58 p. This paper is based on a survey of 450 male and 900 female respondents as well as a focus group discussion. All respondents were involved with the justice system (as prosecutors, police, lawyers, legal advisors, women from shelters, litigants, defendants, etc.). Statistics are provided on accused women and female plaintiffs. The report also provides an account of the issues and challenges facing women seeking justice policy recommendations.

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New Laws Released in 1387

Official
Gazette
Number

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| 931 | 17 November 2007 | Agreements on Delivering, Transportation and Exchange of Prisoners between [the] Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and [the] Russian Federation, Islamic Republic of Iran and [the] Republic [of] Tajikistan. |
| 932 | 20 November 2007 | Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks |
| 936 | 15 January 2008 | Convention Against Corruption |
| 939 | 10 March 2008 | Regulations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights and Privileges of the Higher Educational Institutes of the Ministry of Higher Education • Private Higher Educational Institutes • Evaluating Environmental Impact |
| 940 | 18 March 2008 | Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks |
| 943 | 19 April 2008 | Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks |
| 944 | 29 April 2008 | Uniform Code of Military Justice [sic] |
| 945 | 4 May 2008 | Extraordinary issue: Electricity Company Charter |
| 946 | 20 May 2008 | Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks |
| 948 | 19 June 2008 | Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks |

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