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Feature

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Leveraging agriculture for nutrition in South Asia and Afghanistan

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I was somewhat surprised to be in Afghanistan in June 2014, a country new to me before we launched the DFID-funded research consortium “Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia” (LANSA: <http://www.lansasouthasia.org>). It is the high rate of malnutrition in a predominantly rural economy that makes Afghanistan an important country to the LANSA programme. Whereas the national average for child stunting has apparently dropped from about 60 percent to 40 percent from the mid-2000s, according to the latest National Nutrition Survey conducted in 2012-13, there are still provinces with under-5 child stunting of 70 percent.¹ Moreover, LANSA has a number of cross-cutting themes: a) fragility -both environmental and political; b) gender; and c) innovation. These are all relevant to Afghanistan. In addition, an apparent dietary transition in urban areas and a high level of dependence on cross-border trade make the food economy an interesting and challenging subject for value chain studies.

First impressions

In my first ten days of visiting public sector bodies and NGOs it seems that I saw more of Kabul than my principal DFID contact had seen in 18 months. Nevertheless, my good intentions to get beyond the

concrete blocks, security checks, guns and tension of Kabul and into the rural areas where agriculturalists should work were frustrated by logistical problems. I had a lot to learn about this new environment, country and peoples.

When I returned in October, there was an air of optimism of which I took advantage to visit Balkh and Samangan provinces in the north. It was refreshing to discover how well trees, crops and flowers can grow at the edges of the streams and rivers that flow from the mountains and through precipitous gorges. Where there is no irrigation it is indeed very dry! With the threat of average temperature rises of up to six degrees Celsius in the north, whereas in much of the rest of the world we are worried about two degrees Celsius, climate change and environmental fragility are going to be really important elements in finding sustainable enhancements to agriculture and nutrition.

People were less optimistic in April when I went to implement training with the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) for the initial landscaping study of agriculture and nutrition stakeholders and policies. Since then, the ongoing insurgency in certain provinces and a number of individual attacks in Kabul and elsewhere have raised the level of tension. Nevertheless, during May I was able to visit Jalalabad in Nangarhar Province, and Kandahar city, to follow up the interviews which had been conducted there.

It seems that the diverse geography and ethnic demographics make Afghanistan particularly complex



A shepherd tending his flock in Kandahar. Photo by Nigel Poole.

¹ “National Nutrition Survey: Afghanistan 2013” (Kabul: Ministry of Public Health/UNICEF, 2013), [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Report%20NNS%20Afghanistan%202013%20\(July%202013-14\).pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Report%20NNS%20Afghanistan%202013%20(July%202013-14).pdf).

for governance. I haven't yet met anyone who knows exactly how tribalism, the drugs economy, corruption and security threats interact with the central administration in Kabul, provincial and district governments, the humanitarian and development programmes of the international community and the pervasive and often contradictory influences of neighbouring and distant states.

It has been quite an experience to be able to compare different peoples' narratives, observe the agroecological contrasts between provinces, and also identify the significant diversity in context between districts within provinces. The questionnaire results and interview transcripts from the stakeholder and policy mapping process have been translated from Dari and Pashto into English and are almost ready for analysis. We have only held debriefing sessions after the interviews so far, but are finding that policy making and implementation are fragmented, with significant intervention and communication gaps between and among policy makers at different levels from different institutional backgrounds, and between authorities and intended beneficiaries. Maybe that is not a surprise to people who know more than I, but DFID are very keen for the consortium to have a positive impact on the policy environment, so understanding communication channels and blockages will be useful.

Addressing malnutrition: Can agriculture help?

The problems of malnutrition among vulnerable groups in Afghanistan are well documented,² but how can agriculture help? Dietary diversity can do much to redress the nutrition problems. The strength of the link

² "National Nutrition Survey"

The *Afghanistan Research Newsletter* is a quarterly publication of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU). The purpose of the Newsletter is to alert readers to new research being undertaken on Afghanistan and to help disseminate research findings and analysis. Some of the resources cited are available on the internet; most books and other publications are available at the AREU library, located in the AREU office and open to researchers Sunday to Thursday, 9am-12.30pm and 1pm-4pm. The Newsletter is compiled by Kelsey Jensen. If you have ideas for books or other publications or resources that should be included in the Newsletter, please send an email to areu@areu.org.af.

The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit is an independent research institute based in Kabul. AREU's mission is to inform and influence policy and practice through conducting high-quality, policy-relevant research and actively disseminating the results, and to promote a culture of research and learning. AREU was established in 2002 by the assistance community working in Afghanistan and has a board of directors with representation from donors, the United Nations and other multilateral agencies, and non-governmental organisations. AREU currently receives core funds from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

between agricultural diversity and dietary diversity is uncertain, but increased output of more nutritious foods for home consumption and for the market, and increases in incomes and employment from a more vibrant rural economy are likely to be important factors. Nevertheless, the prospects for agriculture, food security, and nutrition and health status are highly compromised by environmental fragility. We need to explore the relationships between the resilience of Afghan agricultural systems, dietary diversity and nutrition under conditions of climate change.

Afghanistan has long been known for its rich crop genetic biodiversity. While land race varieties of cereals, pulses and oilseed crops are not typically considered 'superfoods,' they form the diet of poorer communities and may surpass the more 'advanced' germ plasm in terms of micronutrient quality. On cultivated legumes and pulses, for example, Fitzherbert comments that:

"the traditional farming/pastoral systems in Afghanistan include a rich variety of legumes and pulses, many of them dating back to the very earliest development of settled farming before recorded history. They are of enormous importance as primary sources of feeding both the human population and their domestic livestock. They also fit well into traditional small farmer cropping systems and crop rotations enriching the soil as well as providing a wonderful source of honey for bee keepers. These are cropping systems that are wonderfully adapted to the difficult environmental situations in which they have developed and form an integral part of the

coping mechanisms of a rural population living in harsh conditions. They need to be understood and where possible strengthened.”³

Nevertheless, dependence on existing production systems to bring about the necessary changes in agricultural production, food security and nutrition is challenging at best, because of the weaknesses in the agricultural economy of limited skills, investment and technification. In many places natural resources have been degraded and are subject to increasing ecological pressures:

“Afghanistan has been identified as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change. At present, the country is experiencing an increase in the number and intensity of droughts, as well as more frequent flooding events. With a legacy of instability and conflict, poorly developed infrastructure, and a population that largely depends on subsistence agriculture, the need to support community resilience and adaptation to climate change is paramount.”⁴

“The climate models suggest that Afghanistan will be confronted by a range of new and increased climatic hazards. The most likely adverse impacts of climate change in Afghanistan are drought related, including associated dynamics of desertification and land degradation. Most surface water is derived from winter and spring rains and snow-melt in the uplands. The productive potential of agriculture is limited more by the period of summer drought than mean annual precipitation.”⁵



A canal in Kandahar city, Kandahar. Photo by Nigel Poole.

Adding climate-induced stresses to the existing constraints suggests that the resilience of agricultural systems must weigh heavily on agricultural development plans. Pro-nutrition agricultural interventions must take into account the ecological fragility and the traditional resources and resilience of Afghan farming systems: “traditional systems may appear to be primitive. On closer investigation they are

often sophisticated, resilient, well adapted to the local conditions, as well as adaptable and open to adopting appropriate innovations and opportunities when these are perceived to be advantageous.”⁶ This concept of resilience is also said to characterise the capacities of the people, as constituent parts of livelihood systems, to respond to frequently unfavourable circumstances.⁷

In the National Priority Program 2: Comprehensive Agriculture Production and Market Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) acknowledges the fragility of agriculture and the need to increase the resilience of production systems and livelihoods:

“Primary threats to food and nutrition security in Afghanistan include... climate change, particularly the expected increase in the frequency and intensity of weather-related hazards; environmental conditions such as land degradation, deforestation, desertification and water scarcity...

The multiple threats to food security and nutrition and the clear link between shocks and hunger reveal the fragility of current food production systems and their vulnerability to disruptions. In order to break this cycle, it is necessary to protect livelihoods from shocks, and to make food production systems more resilient and more capable of absorbing the

³ Anthony Fitzherbert, “An Introductory Guide to Sources of Traditional Fodder and Forage and Usage. Environmental Resilience in Pastoral Systems in Afghanistan” (Kabul: United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP], 2014), 45.

⁴ “Disasters and Conflicts. Climate Change Adaptation – Afghanistan” (Kabul: UNEP), <http://www.unep.org/disastersandconflicts/CountryOperations/Afghanistan/ClimateChangeAdaptation/tabid/133225/Default.aspx> (accessed 23 April 2015).

⁵ Ghulam Mohammad Malikyar, “The Impacts of Climate Change in Afghanistan” (Kabul: National Environmental Protection Agency [NEPA]).

⁶ Fitzherbert, “An Introductory Guide,” 12.

⁷ *Reconstructing Agriculture in Afghanistan*, ed. Adam Pain and Jacky Sutton, (Rugby, Warwickshire, UK: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Practical Action, 2007).

impact of, and recovering from, disruptive events thus securing sustainable development gains...”⁸

According to Savage *et al*, “Ministries need to improve the ‘climate awareness and resilience’ of their development strategies.”⁹ Such forward-looking sustainable development strategies need new knowledge and innovative thinking and systems, which is another cross-cutting theme of the programme. Innovation essentially means doing new things, and doing old things in new ways. As far as agricultural innovation is concerned, doing old things better may also be an important strategy in Afghanistan:

“Taking into account the difficulties of the environment, the existing systems of livestock management and the farming systems that support livestock often demonstrate considerable skill and sophistication. Rather than ‘writing off’ local management practices as backward and outdated, care must be taken to understand the reasons that have given rise to existing practices and credit given to their resilience in the face of a harsh environment.”¹⁰

⁸ Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA), “National Priority Program 2: Comprehensive Agriculture Production and Market Development” (Kabul: GoIRA, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster, 2012), 59.

⁹ Matthew Savage, Bill Dougherty, Mohammed Hamza, Ruth Butterfield, and SukainaBharwani, “Socio-Economic Impacts of Climate Change in Afghanistan. A Report to the Department of InternationalDevelopment” (Stockholm: Stockholm Environment Institute, 2009), x.

¹⁰ Anthony Fitzherbert, “Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy. Livestock Husbandry Case Study Series” (Kabul: Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, 2006), 62.

Understanding the relationships between Afghan agricultural systems, dietary diversity and nutrition under conditions of climate change is an exciting research agenda, but, more importantly, something that can contribute to a better understanding of sustainable improvements in agriculture and nutrition. Watch this space as the work begins to unfold.

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United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). “National Nutrition Survey: Afghanistan 2013.” Kabul: UNICEF, MoPH 2014.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). “Disasters and Conflicts. Climate Change Adaptation - Afghanistan.” Kabul: UNEP. <http://www.unep.org/disastersandconflicts/CountryOperations/Afghanistan/ClimateChangeAdaptation/tabid/133225/Default.aspx> (accessed 23 April 2015).

New Research Publications on Afghanistan

Agriculture



“Islamic Republic of Afghanistan: Agricultural sector report revitalizing agriculture for economic growth, job creation and food security.”

Washington, DC: The World Bank, 107 p. (June 2014) <http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/04>

/26/090224b082e0bb80/1_0/Rendered/PDF/Afghanistan000n00and0food0security.pdf (8.66 MB).

“Economic growth, job creation, and development are central to the decade of transformation (2015-25) and long-term security for the people of Afghanistan. The Bank and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) recognize that agriculture and rural development are a key to inclusive growth, and hence need renewed vigor and strategic long-term investments. Further, the Bank and the GoIRA acknowledge that increases in agricultural productivity and market access for smallholders are critical for rural development, job creation, and food security in Afghanistan. Sections two and three of this report describe the agricultural sector and its current and potential roles in the Afghan economy, and present the rationale for choosing certain areas and subsectors for a selective ‘first mover’ strategy to achieve early gains. Section four outlines the constraints and potential in each of the three value chains proposed for the selective strategy, irrigated wheat, intensive livestock

production, and horticulture. Section five describes cross-cutting constraints and how best to address them, and Section six proposes measures to help the rural poor who will not benefit much from the first-mover strategy. Section seven summarizes the recommendations of the review and their expected results for jobs and incomes.” – (Website)

Civil society

Alexander, Lindsay. “Fulfilling Afghan futures: Civil society priorities post-2014.” London: British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group, Ayenda Conference, 2014, 48 p. (March 2015). http://www.baag.org.uk/sites/www.baag.org.uk/files/resources/attachments/BAAG_Ayenda%20Fulfilling%20Afghan%20Futures%20Mar15.pdf (826 KB). “On December 3rd 2014, over 250 attendees including 53 Afghan civil society delegates came together for the largest ever, international conference with Afghan civil society of its kind. Hosted by the British & Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG), the purpose of the ‘Ayenda’ Conference (meaning future in Dari) was to give Afghan civil society a platform to take up their ‘rightful place’ in discussions about their country’s transformation. The aim of the conference was to ensure that Afghan civil society is facilitated and supported from an international platform to better engage with the new Afghan government and its international partners on key development priorities and deliverables. Attended



by delegates from across civil society, academia and governments from Afghanistan, the UK, Europe, Japan and the US ... the Ayenda Conference fed into the ministerial-level London Conference on December 4th 2014 and informed the outcome of the London Conference Communiqué.” – (Executive Summary)

“Counting the uncounted: Afghanistan’s civil society in transition.” Kabul: Peace and Training Research Organisation (PTRO), 30 p. (August 2014) http://www.ptro.org.af/site_files/14122254891.pdf (1.4 MB). “This research attempts to assess the impact of transition on CSOs and their concerns throughout the process. The report also makes a number of recommendations aimed at civil society, the Afghan government, and the international community to render improved support to the country’s civil society. Overall, the transition process presents a number of critical challenges for Afghanistan’s civil society. The extent to which civil society groups are able to navigate trends such as declining international funding, potentially chaotic political changes after the 2014 election, and an increasingly fragile security environment will determine the capabilities and position of civil society for a number of years to come. Despite these challenges, however, transition also presents

Afghan civil society with a valuable opportunity for reflection on the past ten years of work, giving space for a more collaborative working model, new funding modalities, and new ways of working with local communities, international donors, and the Government of Afghanistan.” – (Executive Summary, p. 1)



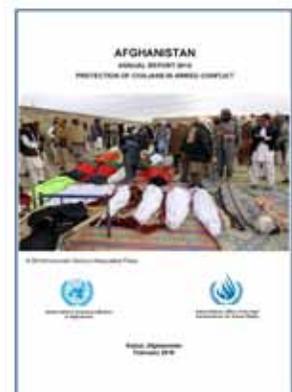
Civilian casualties

Lyall, Jason. “Bombing to lose? Airpower, civilian casualties, and the dynamics of violence in counterinsurgency wars.” 42 p. (March 2015) (draft). <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2422170> (1.6 MB). “Are airstrikes an effective tool against insurgent organizations? Despite the question’s historical and contemporary relevance, we have few dedicated studies, and even less consensus, about airpower’s effectiveness in counterinsurgency wars. To answer this question, I draw on declassified United States

Air Force records of nearly 23,000 airstrikes and non-lethal shows of force in Afghanistan (2006-11), satellite imagery, and a new SQL-enabled form of dynamic matching to estimate the causal effects of airstrikes on insurgent attacks over variable temporal and spatial windows. Evidence consistently indicates that airstrikes markedly increase insurgent attacks relative to non-bombed locations for at least 90 days after a strike. Civilian casualties play little role in explaining post-strike insurgent responses, however. Instead, these attacks appear driven by reputational concerns, as insurgent organizations step up their violence after air operations to maintain their reputations for resolve in the eyes of local populations.” – (p. 1)

“Protection of civilians in armed conflict: Afghanistan annual report 2014.” Kabul, Afghanistan: United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 109 p. (February 2015). <http://unama.unmissions.org/Portals/UNAMA/human%20rights/2015/2014-Annual-Report-on-Protection-of-Civilians-Final.pdf> (1.96 MB).

This disturbing report has been released annually since 2007. “The intensification of conflict-related violence in Afghanistan took an extreme toll on civilians in 2014, with civilian loss of life and injury reaching unprecedented levels. UNAMA documented 10,548 civilian casualties (3,699 deaths and 6,849 injured), marking a 25 per cent increase in civilian deaths, a 21 per cent increase in injuries for an overall increase of 22 per cent in civilian casualties compared to 2013.² In 2014, UNAMA documented the highest number of civilian deaths and injuries in a single year since it began systematically recording civilian casualties in 2009. Between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2014, UNAMA has documented 47,745 civilian casualties (17,774 killed and 29,971 injured).” – (p. 1)



Climate change

Sharma, Rajiv, Kai Sonder and G. Sika. “Potential impact of climate change trends on wheat production and mitigation strategies in Afghanistan.” *Journal of Agriculture* 7, no. 4, (March 2015) 8 p. <http://www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/jas/article/>

view/43724 (668.63 KB). “Climate change is here and continues unabated. It is expected to affect different biological processes differently. Afghanistan has a varied climate profile and depends heavily on wheat, the staple food of its 30 million people. The irrigated wheat occupying about 1.35 million hectare and contributes major chunk of wheat to national granaries compared to rainfed wheat which is more opportunistic with an unpredictable and uncertain share in national harvest. Previous decades have already seen a reduction of up to 100 mm wheat season rainfall and more reductions are estimated by 2050. Also, wheat which is a cool season crop and is also estimated to face higher temperatures by up to 5 degree Celsius across several provinces in the country. The study predicts variable impact of the estimated changes on the productivity of irrigated and rainfed wheat in Afghanistan.” – (Abstract)

Conservation

Margottini, Claudio, Francesco Fidolini, Carla Iadanza, Alessandro Trigila and Yves Ubelmann. “The conservation of the Shahr-e-Zohak archaeological site (central Afghanistan): Geomorphological processes and ecosystem-based mitigation.” *Geomorphology* 239, (March 2015) 18 p. (12 MB) “The archaeological remains of Shahr-e Zohak are part of the Bamiyan valley, which has been recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage and is famous for hosting the main heritage of the Buddhist culture in Afghanistan. The site comprises the remains of the Zohak fortress, which is placed on a steep hill at the confluence of the Bamiyan and Kalu rivers. The fortress is protected by ramparts, built along the steep cliffs bounding the site, which are equipped with several watchtowers. The citadel is protected by three more orders of walls and is located on the topmost part of the hill. All the structures are made of mudbricks placed on top of stony foundations. Due to the prolonged exposure to weathering, the lack of conservation measures and the misuse during war periods, many constructions collapsed or are prone to collapse. A new topography (1 m contour lines) of the site was produced using drone-derived 3D photogrammetry combined with GPS data. Then a detailed geomorphological survey of the whole site was carried out in order to identify the main geomorphic processes acting on the land surface and structures. GIS analysis allowed defining the internal drainage system of the studied area. The site is affected by incised erosional phenomena on the eastern side, while the hilltop is mainly hit by

diffuse erosion and soil mobilization during snowmelt. Monument deterioration is coupled with the lack of an adequate drainage system to collect runoff. Ramparts located on the steep hillslopes are severely affected by gully erosion and siphoning, which cause depressions infilled by eroded and weathered building material. The access path is locally eroded or buried by debris cones. The western margin of the plateau has been rapidly retreating due to collapses, while the citadel is in danger due to diffuse or gully erosional processes developed on all its sides. A mitigation strategy with low environmental impact (ecosystem-based approach) is proposed in order to adopt sustainable, systemic and cost-effective tools for soil conservation, in order to improve the environmental resilience of the site.” – (Abstract)

Data sources

Livingston, Ian S. and Michael O’Hanlon. *Afghanistan Index*. Washington, DC: Brookings, 34 p. Latest issue 20 May 2015. <http://www.brookings.edu/-/media/Programs/foreign-policy/afghanistan-index/index20150520.pdf?la=en> (1.72 MB). First published in 2004-2005 and restarted in 2008, this regular cumulation of data and graphs draws mostly on US government documentation: data is presented in the following broad categories (1) security indicators (2) governance and rule of law indicators, (3) economic and quality of life indicators, (4) polling and public opinion, (5) selected indicators for Pakistan are also now included. Released every fortnight, monthly files are cumulated on the website and older issues are all available for download. The sources for the statistics presented (including journalistic sources) are given (with URLs) at the end of the data cumulation and provide some very useful links to important documents. “The *Afghanistan Index* is a statistical compilation of economic, public opinion and security data. This

resource provides updated and historical information on various data, including crime, infrastructure, casualties, unemployment, Afghan security forces and coalition troop strength. It will be updated periodically. The index is designed to assemble the best possible quantitative indicators of the international community’s



counterinsurgency and nation-building efforts in Afghanistan, to track them over time, and to offer an objective set of criteria for benchmarking performance. It serves as an in-depth, non-partisan assessment of American and international efforts in Afghanistan, and is based primarily on U.S. government, Afghan government and NATO data. Although measurements of progress in any nation-building effort can never be reduced to purely quantitative data, a comprehensive compilation of such information can provide a clearer picture and contribute to a healthier and better informed debate.” – (Website).

Economy

“**Afghanistan economic update, April 2015.**” Washington, DC: World Bank, (April 2015), <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2015/04/24424315/afghanistan-economic-update> (1.9 MB). This update of the fiscal state of Afghanistan has been published once or twice a year since September 2009. It provides a summary of data trends and an overview of economic indicators as reported by the Afghan government. “The political and security transition continues to take a heavy toll

on Afghanistan’s economy. Economic growth is estimated to have fallen further to 2 percent in 2014 from 3.7 percent in 2013 and an average of 9 percent during 2003-12. Political uncertainty combined with weak reform progress dealt a further blow in 2014 to investor and consumer confidence, already in a slump from uncertainty

building since 2013. As a result, growth in the non-agricultural sectors (manufacturing, construction, and services) is estimated to have fallen further in 2014. The agricultural harvest in 2014 was strong for the third year in a row, but was up only marginally from the bumper year of 2012. Agriculture benefited from robust cereals production thanks both to well distributed, timely rainfall and an increase in irrigated area for wheat cultivation. The growth outlook for 2015 remains weak. Afghanistan faces the dual challenge of restoring confidence in its economic prospects and addressing formidable medium term development challenges. The new government

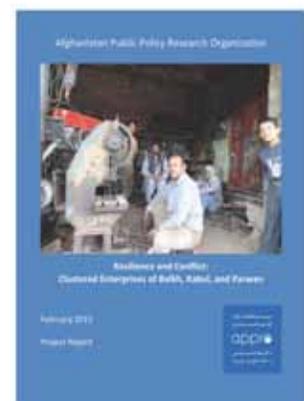


articulated its development vision and a bold reform program through its paper ‘realizing self-reliance: commitments to reforms and renewed partnership’ presented at the London Conference on Afghanistan in December 2014. The paper presents the government’s plans for tackling corruption and building better governance, restoring fiscal sustainability, bolstering private sector confidence, promoting growth, and improving security and political stability. Successful implementation of this bold reform program under difficult circumstances is the major challenge facing Afghanistan.” – (Website)

“**Annual performance review report FY 1393 on strategic plan.**” Kabul: Ministry of Finance, 28 p. (2015) [http://mof.gov.af/Content/files/MOF%20ANNUAL%20PERFORMANCE%20REPORT%20FINAL%20-FY%201393%20RIMU\(2\).pdf](http://mof.gov.af/Content/files/MOF%20ANNUAL%20PERFORMANCE%20REPORT%20FINAL%20-FY%201393%20RIMU(2).pdf) (720 KB). The annual performance review released by Afghanistan’s Ministry of Finance for FY 2014.

Parto, Saeed and Ehsan Saadat. “Resilience and conflict: Clustered enterprises of Balkh, Kabul and Parwan.” Kabul: Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organisation (APPRO), 67 p. (February 2015) <http://appro.org.af/resilience-and-conflict-clustered-enterprises-of-balkh-kabul-and-parwan/> (32 MB). “There remain significant gaps in the knowledge base that informs reconstruction policymaking and programming on strengthening the pre-existing (and resilient) bases of economic activity and growth in Afghanistan. Afghanistan’s economy, particularly in urban areas, is to a significant extent made up of constellations of enterprises of the same correlated trades clustered around a number of identifiable locations. These clusters have at least two defining features of relevance for efforts to increase the productive capacity of Afghanistan’s workforce. First, in almost all clusters there are apprenticeship arrangements to train the future generation of tradespersons.

Second, there are clearly defined structures through which the sustenance of these cluster is maintained. Each cluster is represented by a *senf* (traditional guild) and/or *anjoman* (formal trade association) which, in turn, has membership of the *etehadia* (the national



apex organization or association). For a variety of reasons the micro and small-sized Enterprises (MSSEs), senfs, anjomans, and the etehadia have persisted, some for hundreds of years and despite the recurring periods of turmoil and instability and continued to add net value to the Afghan economy. Ongoing research by Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization (APPRO) has documented and analyzed the activities, economic contributions, and needs of bazaar-based (clustered) enterprises in major cities of Afghanistan since 2010. This programme commenced with a study of traditional clusters in Herat, concluded in September 2011, followed by another study in Kabul, Parwan, and Balkh starting in 2011 and concluding in mid-2013.”

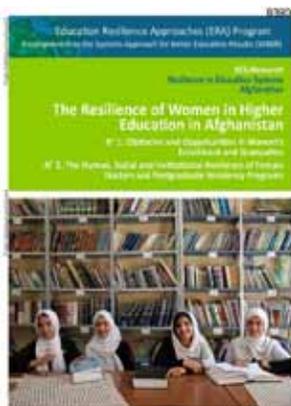
Education

Kosha, Afifa, Spozhmay Oriya, Tahira Nabi, Sabera Halim, Sohaila Hofyani, Abida Liwal, Najibullah Safi, Mohamad Nadir Sahak, Bashir Noormal. “The resilience of women in higher education in Afghanistan.” Washington, DC: World Bank, 28 p. (January 2015)

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/01/27/000333037_20150127220657/Rendered/PDF/939060WPOBox380BLIC00RROAfghanistan.pdf (6.5 MB). “Female access to higher education in Afghanistan is has been and continues to

be limited. At the basic education level, the country has made great advances since 2000; it increased access from 900,000 students in 2000, almost all boys, to 6.7 million students in 2009, and girls’ enrollment increased from 5,000 under the Taliban to 2.4 million in the same time period (Afghanistan,

Ministry of Education 2009-2010). Seventy-one percent are currently enrolled in primary and middle school (Grades 1-9) and 29 percent are enrolled in secondary education (Grades 10-12; Samady 2013). The post-secondary gains for girls have already increased, as 120,000 girls have graduated from secondary school, and 15,000 have enrolled in universities (George W. Bush Institute 2013). Every year, more than 100,000 secondary school graduates



write the Kankor, the nationwide higher education entrance exam, but due to insufficient spaces and limited capacity, only about half of those students find a spot at the government universities and colleges (UN Women 2013). Of the total number of university students, in 2009 only 24.8 percent were female (CEDAW 2011). The issue is not only access, but also retention and graduation. Even when female students enter universities, they require relevant support for gender-specific risks to help them complete their higher education careers. The authors need to learn more about the barriers to entering higher education, as well as to graduating successfully. Equally important is the need to understand what are the strengths, opportunities and resources that can help young girls and women consider, access, and acquire a quality higher education degree to contribute to the on-going development of their families, society and the country.” – (Website)

Lumley, Tom, Juliette Mendelovitz, Rachel Stanyon, Ross Turner, Maurice Walker. “Class 6 proficiency in Afghanistan 2013: Outcomes of a learning assessment of mathematical, reading and writing literacy.” Melbourne: Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), 69 p. (March 2015) <http://research.acer.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=mteg> (5 MB). “In 2012, the Ministry of Education, Afghanistan, engaged the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) as a partner to support the development of a national learning assessment program in Afghanistan. To achieve this goal, the Learning Assessment unit of the Ministry of Education and ACER have collaborated to design and implement the Monitoring Trends in Educational Growth (MTEG) program in Afghanistan. MTEG is designed as a long-term monitoring program with one focus on trends in achievement outcomes in single class levels over time, and another focus on the growth of achievement in cohorts throughout the school cycle, from Class 3 through to Class 9. This paper presents the results of an assessment of mathematical, reading and writing literacy of Class 6 students in 13 provinces in Afghanistan, based on data collected in late 2013.” – (Abstract)

Health

Aluisio, Adam, Zabihullah Maroof, Daniel Chandramohan, Jane Bruce, Mohammad I. Masher, Semira Manaseki-Holland, Jeroen H. J. Ensink.

“Risk factors associated with recurrent diarrheal illnesses among children in Kabul, Afghanistan: A prospective cohort study.” *PLoS ONE* 10, no. 2, 15 p. (February 2015) (349 KB). “Childhood diarrheal illnesses are a major public health problem. In low-income settings data on disease burden and factors associated with diarrheal illnesses are poorly defined, precluding effective prevention programs. This study explores factors associated with recurrent diarrheal illnesses among children in Kabul, Afghanistan.” – (Introduction)

Hirose, Atsumi, Matthias Borchert, Jonathan Cox, Ahmad Shah Alkozai and Veronique Filippi. “Determinants of delays in travelling to an emergency obstetric care facility in Herat, Afghanistan: An analysis of cross-sectional survey data and spatial modelling.” *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* 15, no. 14, 13 p. (February 2015) <http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/s12884-015-0435-1.pdf> (1.8 MB). “Women’s delays in reaching emergency obstetric care (EmOC) facilities contribute to high maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity in low-income countries, yet few studies have quantified travel times to EmOC and examined delays systematically. We defined a delay as the difference between a woman’s travel time to EmOC and the optimal travel time under the best case scenario. The objectives were to model travel times to EmOC and identify factors explaining delays. i.e., the difference between empirical and modelled travel times. A cost-distance approach in a raster-based geographic information system (GIS) was used for modeling travel times. Empirical data were obtained during a cross-sectional survey among women admitted in a life-threatening condition to the maternity ward of Herat Regional Hospital in Afghanistan from 2007 to 2008. Multivariable linear regression was used to identify the determinants of the log of delay. Amongst 402 women, 82 (20%) had no delay ... Delays were mostly explained by the number of health facilities visited. A husband’s large social network contributed to a delay. A complication with dramatic symptoms (e.g. PPH) shortened a delay while complications with less-alarming symptoms (e.g. severe infection) prolonged it. In-depth investigations are needed to clarify whether time is spent appropriately at lower-level facilities. Community members need to be sensitised to the signs and symptoms of obstetric complications and the urgency associated with them. Health-enhancing behaviours such as birth plans should be promoted in communities.” – (Abstract)

“Long-term health consequences of exposure to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan.” *Military Medicine* 180, 4 p., (June 2015) (467 KB). “It is well understood how hazardous combat operations can be as a result of the kinetic forces associated with modern weaponry. What is less appreciated is how other environmental factors come into play that further complicate and increase operational hazards. Those environmental factors may include very hot humid or frigid climates, high elevations, or locations far under the sea. Or the environment may contain disease vectors that can ravage the military forces “visiting” their domains. In addition, there are many sources of toxic chemical, biological, or radiological agents— both manmade and natural—that may be lurking in the background. This latter type of threat is examined by an IOM committee in response to a request from the Department of Veterans Affairs to examine the health consequences to military forces deployed in proximity to potentially hazardous burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan.” – (Foreword)

History

Arjomand, Noah. “The folly of double government.” Kabul: Afghanistan Analysts Network, 14 p. (June 2015) https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/20150527_AAN_Discussion_Paper_NArjomand-The_Folly_of_Double_Government.pdf (572 KB). This paper “revisits Britain’s attempt at state-building in Afghanistan from 1839-1841. The disastrous British retreat from Kabul in January 1842 and the subsequent British pillage of the Afghan capital are well-known events that have made it not only into Afghanistan’s national mythos, but are also remembered in Britain as one of its worst military defeats. But what in the previous three years of British occupation had brought political tensions within the country to the point of open warfare? After all, British had installed their chosen monarch, Shah Shuja al-Mulk Sadozai, in Kabul with relative ease and, indeed, with the support of many in the local elite who would later fight against them. This paper argues that the failure of governing that led to the revolt against British occupation was rooted in the very structure of the hybrid state they created.” – (Website)

Gammell, Charlie. “The place of Herat in modern Afghanistan: Lessons from the March 1979 uprising.” *Asian Affairs* 46, no. 1, 16 p. (February 2015) (125 KB). “It has been long been considered in the UK, and in the West in general, that Afghanistan’s western city of

Herat, a relative stone's throw from the border with Iran, is defined solely by its relations with that country. Many think that a slow-burning irredentism hangs over the city, and that Herat is something of a backwater in Afghanistan's national politics. We have assumed that Herat is simply a conduit for Iranian influence, and that its regional strongman, Ismail Khan, is a puppet of Tehran. Herat seemingly lacks the 'frontline' cachet of the headline-grabbing provinces of Kandahar and Helmand. However, whilst grains of truth may appear in these assumptions, they are largely wide of the mark." – (p. 51)

Humanitarian Assistance

"Afghan National Army: Millions of dollars at risk due to minimal oversight of personnel and payroll data." Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 44 p. (April 2015) <https://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/SIGAR-15-54-AR.pdf> (1.4 MB). "This report discusses the results of SIGAR's audit of the processes for collecting and verifying the accuracy of Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel and payroll data, which are relied upon by the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Resolute Support mission Essential Function 4, and the Afghan government. The report includes four recommendations." – (p. 4)

"Afghanistan's mineral, oil, and gas industries: Unless U.S. agencies act soon to sustain investments made, \$488 million in funding is at risk." Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 44 p. (April 2015) <https://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/SIGAR-15-55-AR.pdf> (1.5 MB). "This report discusses the results of SIGAR's audit of U.S. efforts to develop Afghanistan's extractive industries, revenues from which could provide billions of dollars for the Afghan government and reduce reliance on foreign aid. This report focuses on the efforts of the Department of Defense (DOD) Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)." – (p. 5)

"Civil aviation: U.S. efforts improved Afghan capabilities, but the Afghan government did not assume airspace management as planned." Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 21 p. (May 2015) <https://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/SIGAR-15-58-AR.pdf>

(470 KB). Audit of US government programme to support reconstruction of Afghanistan's civil aviation system.

"Department of Defense Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP): Priorities and spending in Afghanistan for fiscal years 2004 - 2014." Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 31 p. (April 2015) <https://www.sigar.mil/pdf/special%20projects/SIGAR-15-49-SP.pdf> (1.9 MB). An analysis of funding for the Commander's Emergency Response Programme (CERP) between 2004 and 2014. A total of \$3.7 billion was appropriated but only \$2.3 billion, or 62 percent, of that has been disbursed.

Keane, Conor and Glenn Diesen. **"Divided we stand: The US foreign policy bureaucracy and nation-building in Afghanistan."** *International Peacekeeping*, 22, no. 3, 25 p. (May 2015) (227 KB). "Afghanistan was the first major test for US nation-building efforts in the twenty-first century. Previous analyses have identified many of the barriers that prevented the USA from engaging in effective infrastructure development, governance, security, counterinsurgency and counter-narcotics. Drawing upon interviews with senior US officials, this article offers an alternative account of the nation-building experience that highlights problems within the US government. Building on the assertions of Graham Allison, it focuses on the behaviour of the agencies and individuals within the US bureaucracy. It is argued that a lack of effective leadership permitted bureaucratic disorder between and within the military establishment, the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The conflict that was precipitated by this dissonance prevented the emergence of a cohesive nation-building strategy." – (Abstract)

"Quarterly Report to the United States Congress, 30 April 2015." Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 259 p. (April 2015) <https://www.sigar.mil/pdf/quarterlyreports/2015-04-30qr.pdf> (7168 KB). "This report provides a summary of SIGAR's oversight work and an update on developments in the three major sectors of Afghanistan's reconstruction effort from January 1 to March 31, 2015. It also includes a commentary on the need to improve the reliability of numbers reporting on Afghan security forces. During this reporting period, SIGAR published 26 audits, inspections, letters, and other reports assessing the



U.S. efforts to build the Afghan security forces, improve governance, and facilitate economic and social development. These reports identified a number of problems, including a lack of accountability, failures of planning, and construction deficiencies.

The monetary results from SIGAR's ongoing investigations totaled over

\$1.1 million from criminal fines, restitutions, and forfeitures. SIGAR investigations also resulted in three arrests, seven convictions, five criminal informations, four sentencing, and the exclusion of two individuals from U.S. military installations. SIGAR's suspension and debarment program experienced a major breakthrough this quarter, as the majority of the 43 individuals and entities that SIGAR referred to the Army have been publicly listed in the General Services Administration's System for Award Management, providing a readily accessible notice to contracting officers and prime contractors that the listed individuals and entities should be restricted from receiving contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements. Additionally, SIGAR referred 22 individuals and 22 companies for suspension or debarment based on allegations that they engaged in fraud and non-performance in contracts." – (Executive Summary, p. iv)

“USAID’s Increased Electoral Participation in Afghanistan Program: Audit of costs incurred by the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 67 p. (June 2015) https://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/Financial_Audits/SIGAR-15-61-FA.pdf (692 KB). Audit of a USAID programme to increase electoral participation through the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS). Total project costs were \$91.5 million from September 2008-September 2013.

Media

“USAID’s Afghanistan Media Development and Empowerment Project: Audit of costs incurred by Internews Network.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 37 p. (June 2015) <https://www.sigar.mil/>

[pdf/audits/Financial_Audits/SIGAR-15-64-FA.pdf](https://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/Financial_Audits/SIGAR-15-64-FA.pdf) (1.3 MB). Audit of a USAID programme contracted out through Internews to strengthen the Afghan media sector through the Afghanistan Media Development and Empowerment Project (AMDEP). Total project costs were more than \$31 million between November 2010 through December 2013.

Mineral resources

Renaud, Karine M., Bruce R. Wardlaw, and Bernard E. Hubbard. **“Assessment of bauxite, clay, and laterite deposits in Afghanistan.”** Reston, VA: US Geological Survey, 49 p. (April 2015) <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2014/1210/pdf/ofr2014-1210.pdf> (5 MB).

“Bauxite-bearing rocks are present in several regions of Afghanistan; specifically, the southeast segment of the North Afghanistan Platform, the eastern parts of South Afghanistan, and within the Afghanistan-North and -South Pamir Fold Regions. Bauxite-bearing rocks occur at various stratigraphic levels, in lithologically different sequences of sedimentary rocks. The bauxites are paleosols and represent previous, rather than recent, weathering events. Bauxites and bauxite-type horizons are most common at the base of carbonate rock units, where they form the basal horizons of sedimentary rock sequences separated by erosion and stratigraphic unconformity surfaces. Less common are zones in redeposited weathering developed on igneous rocks. At present there are five known stratigraphic intervals with significant bauxite and bauxite-type deposits and occurrences: the lower Permian, the upper Permian, the Upper Triassic, the Lower Jurassic, and the base of the Upper Jurassic. This report summarizes a compilation and review of geological data for regions in Afghanistan that contain bauxite deposits and occurrences based on work conducted during 2009 to 2011 by the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Department of Defense Task Force for Business and Stability Operations, and the Afghanistan Geological Survey.” – (Abstract)

Natural disasters

Zhang, Jianqiang, Deo Raj Gurung, Rongkun Liu, Manchiraju Sri Ramachandra Murthy, Fenghuan Su. **“Abe Berek landslide and landslide susceptibility assessment in Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan.”** *Landslides* 12, 13 p. (2015) (8.6 MB). “Landslide is one of the most widely distributed mass movements in mountainous areas. With its wide spreading, abrupt, and seasonal characteristics, landslide always causes

huge risks towards transportation, human settlements, industrial and mining plants, water resources facilities, and hydropower stations. Abe Berek landslide, which happened in the morning of May 2, 2014, in Ago District, Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan, buried 86 houses and took the lives of almost 2700 people. Many factors triggered the occurrence of this disaster. Firstly, the landslide impacted area has a complex geologic structure that bears concentrated faults with mountain slopes covered by thick loess. Secondly, at the time of landslide, a continuous rainfall had deepened the level of moisture in the loess layer, which made the loess mass heavier and changed the soil body's mechanical properties. Thirdly, a similar landslide once happened on the same slope, which destroyed the land cover and transformed the topology of the slope. In addition, farming and irrigating activities may have also affected the stability of loess mass in this area. Upon an initial examination of landslide distribution in Badakhshan Province by using high-resolution remote sensing images from Google Earth, a total number of 609 landslide sites were identified in this area, and a landslide susceptibility assessment was completed by utilizing weight-of-evidence method. Several suggestions on landslide risk reduction in this remote mountainous area are proposed at the end of this paper." – (Abstract)

Opium and cannabis

Parenti, Christian. "Flower of war: An environmental history of opium poppy in Afghanistan." *SAIS Review of International Affairs* 35, no. 1, 19 p. (Winter-Spring 2015) (486 KB). "Why this paradox of increasing poppy cultivation even as there has been a robust eradication effort? The answer involves interactions between social structures and environmental dynamics; and most crucially, water availability. Several facts are central: Afghanistan is an arid and semiarid country, yet two-thirds of Afghans work in agriculture. Afghan agriculture is highly dependent on irrigation, but the irrigation system is badly dilapidated. Afghanistan has suffered a decade-long drought, coinciding with most of the US-led military occupation, and opium poppy is very drought resistant, requiring only one-fifth or one-sixth the water needed by traditional crops like wheat. Furthermore, the drought fits the pattern predicted by various climate models that study anthropogenic climate change." – (pg. 183)

Politics and government/governance

Callen, Michael and James D. Long. "Institutional corruption and election fraud: Evidence from a field experiment in Afghanistan." *American Economic Review* 105, no. 1, 60 p. (June 2014) (2.5 MB). http://epod.cid.harvard.edu/files/epod/files/american_economic_review_vol_105_no_1_callen_2015.pdf (2.5 MB). "Many governments are not responsive to their citizens. Fair elections provide an important means of improving responsiveness by making elected officials accountable to voters. However, election fraud undermines this critical function in many young democracies, often at the hands of tightly networked groups of political elites. This paper examines whether candidates exploit connections to elections officials to add fraudulent votes during the aggregation process. We study this problem in Afghanistan, a country where democratic institutions are struggling to develop after the last three decades of continuous conflict." – (Introduction, p. 2)

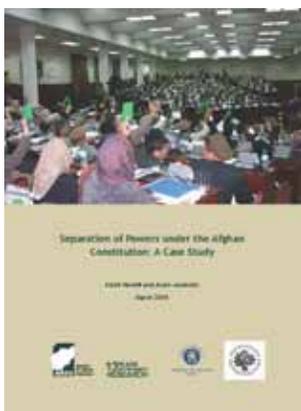
Cordesman, Anthony H. "Transition in Afghanistan: Losing the forgotten war?" Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), draft copy, 202 p. (January 2015) http://csis.org/files/publication/150126_Losing_Forgotten_War.pdf (4.9 MB). "The most anyone can realistically hope for is a relatively stable and secure country will emerge over the next five to ten years. What many of the more realistic military and aid personnel serving in Afghanistan have come to call "Afghan good enough." In fact, limited engagement or actual disengagement may be the best US strategy given the limitations of US resources, the probability of sustained success at a credible level of effort, and competing strategic priorities in other regions. The analysis in this report does indicate, however, that the marginal additional cost of helping Afghanistan make a successful Transition may be relatively limited compared to the current effort, which may well end in failure." – (p. viii)

Englehart, Neil and Patrick Grant. "Governors, governance, and insurgency in Karzai's Afghanistan." *Asian Survey* 55, no. 2, 26 p. (March/April 2015) <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/as.2015.55.2.299> (282 KB). "Critics claim that lack of professionalism among Afghan provincial leaders undermines the government's legitimacy, creating opportunities for the insurgency. Data on provincial governors show that those most effective at deterring insurgent attacks

tend to have qualities associated with “warlords” rather than professionalism. Decentralization could harness these characteristics to improve governance.” – (Abstract)

Giustozzi, Antonio and Silab Mangal. “Violence, the Taliban, and Afghanistan’s 2014 elections.” Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace (USIP), 36 p. (January 2015) <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PW103-Violence-the-Taliban-and-Afghanistan-s-2014-Elections.pdf> (1.8 MB). “This report sheds light on the controversial 2014 presidential election in Afghanistan through the murky lens of the Taliban. How did they view it? Was the violence as high as in previous elections? What were their strategies in the lead-up? How did it affect their image, if at all? What strategies are they adopting in its wake? Are they moving closer to Afghan mainstream politics, which for the most part is still made of strongmen, manipulation, and corrupt patronage networks rather than based on liberal and democratic principles? Or is the mainstream moving closer to the Taliban, as far as the use of violence in the elections is concerned?” – (Website)

Hamidi, Farid and Aruni Jayakody. “Separation of powers under the Afghan Constitution: A case study.” Kabul: Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), 55 p. (March 2015) <http://www.areu.org.af/Uploads/EditionPdfs/1507E%20Saperation%20of%20Powers%20Under%20the%20Afghan%20Constitution%20A%20Case%20Study.pdf> (815 KB). “The separation of power under the Afghan Constitution suffers from flaws, both on paper and in practice. Power is firmly tilted in favor of the executive, at the expense of the judiciary and the legislature. The no-confidence vote against the then Foreign Minister, Dr Rangin Spanta, brought to the fore ambiguities in the Constitution as well as

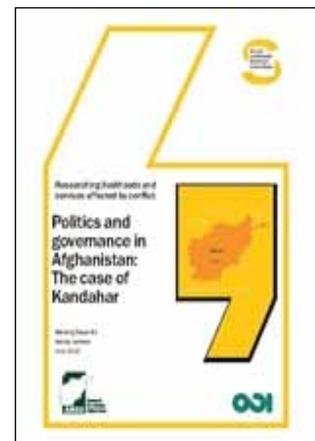


inherent weaknesses in the way each branch of government operates. The ensuing political crisis severely tested the existing constitutional architecture, and demonstrated that in high-stakes moments none of the branches of government are willing to accept the constitutional powers and duties of the

others. This Case Study examines the way power has been separated under the Afghan Constitution, and using the events relating to Dr Spanta’s no-confidence vote, analyses how they have functioned in practice.”

Jackson, Ashley. “Politics and governance in Afghanistan: The case of Kandahar.” Kabul: Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), 35 p. (July 2015)

<http://www.areu.org.af/Uploads/EditionPdfs/1513E%20Politics%20and%20governance%20in%20Afghanistan%20The%20case%20of%20Kandahar.pdf> (648 KB). “The second in a series of case studies undertaken by the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) as part of the Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC)’s work, this research aims to look at subnational governance and access to public goods. It seeks to understand the power relations at play, attempting to separate how government functions in reality from narratives created by the international community



about how government should function. Kandahar was chosen for research based on its economic, political and social importance, being only second to Kabul as a political seat of power. There is an old adage that whoever controls Kandahar controls Afghanistan, but the reverse could equally be true: whoever controls Afghanistan must control Kandahar.”

Jayakody, Aruni. “Evolution of fundamental rights in Afghanistan: 1924-2004.” Kabul: Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), 4 p. (April 2015)

<http://www.areu.org.af/Uploads/EditionPdfs/1508E%20Evolution%20of%20Fundamental%20Rights%20in%20Afghanistan%201924-2004.pdf> (281 KB). “Among Afghanistan’s six constitutions, the 1931, 1964 and 2004 constitutions are important landmarks for the evolution of fundamental rights in the country. The discourse surrounding the drafting processes of the 1931 and 1964 constitutions did not reflect an awareness of the philosophical origins of fundamental rights or an existence of a civic culture of fundamental rights. Rather, in the case of the 1931 and 1964 constitutions the inclusion of fundamental

rights was the direct result of rulers who had western orientations and in particular favoured technological innovation. In this regard certain continuities can be seen with the 2004 constitution, where the inclusion of strong fundamental rights provisions was the result of both the involvement of the international community and the presence of western-educated Afghan elites in the constitution drafting process.

Jayakody, Aruni. “Separation of powers in Afghanistan: Theory and practice.” Kabul: Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), 4 p. (April 2015) <http://www.areu.org.af/Uploads/EditionPdfs/1509E%20Separation%20of%20Powers%20in%20Afghanistan%20Theory%20and%20Practice.pdf> (325 KB). “For both historical and practical reasons the drafters of the 2004 constitution provided for a strong Executive Branch. Not only was power centralised at the centre but the executive was also granted extensive powers to keep the whole of government functioning. The executive has significant powers to legislate and make appointments to all levels of the judiciary. This has significantly undermined both the separation and balance of powers among the three branches of government. As a result, executive overreach has been one of the biggest challenges to constitutionalism in Afghanistan over the last decade. There have been a number of troubling instances; for example, the use of legislative decrees under Article 79 as well as the failure to follow constitutionally mandated procedures when making appointments to senior levels of the judiciary.”

Pain, Adam and Georgina Sturge. “Mapping village variability in Afghanistan: The use of cluster analysis to construct village typologies.” Kabul: Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), 59 p. (May 2015) <http://www.areu.org.af/Uploads/EditionPdfs/1512EMapping%20village%20variability%20in%20Afghanistan%20The%20use%20of%20cluster%20>

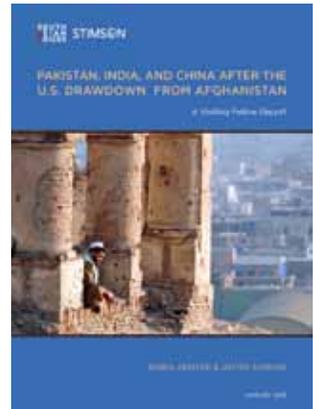
[analysis%20to%20construct%20village%20typologies.pdf](http://www.areu.org.af/Uploads/EditionPdfs/1512EMapping%20village%20variability%20in%20Afghanistan%20The%20use%20of%20cluster%20) (1.1 MB). “The evidence and analysis reported in this paper point to important differences between villages in the ways village elite behaves and the consequences this might have for the generation of public goods, both old and new, within the village. Further, the



evidence from the villages sampled in Nangarhar and Badakhshan and the cluster analyses reveals there are distinct types of villages and suggests what some of the underlying causal factors of this variation might be.”

Regional stability

Akhtar, Rabia and Jayita Sarkar. “Pakistan, India and China in Afghanistan after US drawdown.” Washington, DC: Stimson Center, 13 p. (January 2015) http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1019&context=rabiaakhtar&sei-redir=1&referer=http%3A%2F%2Fscholar.google.com%2Fscholar%3Fq%3Dafghanistan%2Bdevelopment%2Bassistance%26btnG%3D%26hl%3Den%26as_sdt%3D0%252C5%26as_ylo%3D2015#search=%22afghanistan%20development%20assistance%22 (401 KB). “As American involvement in South Asia enters a new phase after Washington’s impending military withdrawal from Afghanistan, much uncertainty prevails with respect to the most appropriate strategy for maintaining stability in the region. Domestic political instability in Pakistan—an important American ally—continues, cross border tensions rage between India and Pakistan, and terrorism continues to threaten civilian life in Pakistan, India, and in the Xinjiang province of China. All this further enhances concerns about the nature and character of the regional strategic



environment in the coming years. This paper examines the strategic future of South Asia in the wake of the U.S. drawdown from Afghanistan through three key research questions: first, how does the U.S. drawdown from Afghanistan affect the regional security and economic interests of India, Pakistan, and China? Secondly, what kinds of responses to terror attacks by India, Pakistan and China could further destabilize the region? Thirdly, what key steps can the United States take to prevent further instability in this context?” – (Introduction)

Cheng, Joseph. “The Afghanistan situation and China’s new approach to the SCO.” *Asian Survey* 55, no. 2, 25 p. (March/April 2015) (287 KB). “This article examines China’s concern to prevent terrorism and maintain stability in Central Asia through the SCO. The

situation in Afghanistan has raised concerns among SCO member countries and strengthened common interests to maintain the regional organization, regime stability, and economic co-operation within it.” – (Abstract)

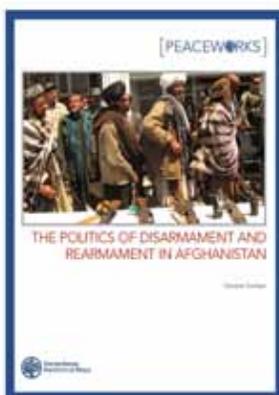
Scobell, Andrew. “China ponders post-2014 Afghanistan: Neither ‘all-in’ nor bystander.” *Asian Survey* 55, no 1, 21 p. (March/April 2015) (256 KB). “Since 2001, China has warily watched the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan and associated footprint in Central Asia. In 2014, Beijing grew alarmed that a U.S. exit would prompt a resurgence of violence and Islamic radicalism in Afghanistan that could spill over into neighboring states, including China.” – (Abstract)

Stoner, Katherine. “Russia’s 21st century interests in Afghanistan: Resetting the bear trap.” *Asian Survey* 55, no. 2, 22 p. (March/April 2015) (290 KB). “The Russian government under Vladimir Putin has long-term geostrategic interests in Afghanistan: stability, economic development, and curbing narcotics flowing into Central Asia and thence to Russia. Moscow is in the difficult position of not wanting American forces to stay in Afghanistan but also not wanting the drawdown of forces to leave behind chaos.” – (Abstract)

Security

Derksen, Deedee. “The politics of disarmament and rearmament in Afghanistan.” Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace (USIP), 60 p. <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PW110-The-Politics-of-Disarmament-and-Rearmament-in-Afghanistan.pdf> (8.3 MB). “Four international programs designed to disarm, demobilize, and reintegrate militias in Afghanistan since 2001 have largely failed. They have instead largely reinforced existing power relations. Perhaps their gravest impact has been to deepen patterns of political exclusion that underlie much of the

violence that have driven support for the insurgency. Demilitarization, this report makes clear, is only part of a wider political process, both with Taliban leaders and between pro-government factions. Until prospects for such a process exist, no demilitarization effort is likely to contribute to peace in Afghanistan.” – (Website)



Joshi, Shashank. “Assessing Britain’s role in Afghanistan.” *Asian Survey* 55, no. 2, 26 p. (March/April 2015) (327 KB). “This article assesses Britain’s contemporary relationship with Afghanistan, its goals and interests there, and its possible post-2014 role. It is argued that Britain might continue to play a limited but non-negligible military, intelligence, fiscal, and diplomatic role, even as British policymakers are increasingly bound by fiscal and domestic political constraints.” – (Abstract)

Jost, Tyler. “Defend, defect, or desert?: The future of the Afghan security forces.” Washington, DC: Center for a New American Security (CNAS), 10 p. (January 2015) http://www.cnas.org/sites/default/files/publications-pdf/CNAS_Afghan_ANF_policybrief_Jost.pdf (1.3 MB). “In ‘Defend, Defect, or Desert?: The Future of the Afghan Security Forces,’ Tyler Jost, a former U.S. Army Company Commander who served two tours in Afghanistan, lays out how the United States can most effectively support the Afghan National Security Forces. Mr. Jost argues that in the coming months, Afghanistan will depend on increasingly independent Afghan security forces to fight a tough insurgency—one that is perhaps even as strong as it was four years ago during the height of U.S. and coalition operations.” – (Website)



Karlborg, Lisa. “Enforced hospitality: Local perceptions of the legitimacy of international forces in Afghanistan.” *Civil Wars* 16, no. 4, 24 p. (March 2015) (219 KB). “While local mission legitimacy has prompted intense political and academic attention in the context of peace operations, our grasp of how host citizens understand the legitimacy of international troops remains limited. This article explores how Afghan citizens perceive the legitimacy of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops. A qualitative analysis of in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with citizens in Kabul deepens our understanding of how ideational and security-related concerns interact and shape local perceptions of legitimacy through two oppositional discursive frames: a liberation frame and an occupation frame. The findings suggest that local mission legitimacy builds on

the perceived will and capacity of ISAF troops to help and protect Afghans in ways that are in accordance with Afghan, most notably Islamic, ways of life. The article concludes that ISAF troops are widely perceived to have failed on both ideational and security-based grounds.” – (Abstract)

Smith, Graeme. “Afghanistan’s political transition.” Kabul: International Crisis Group (ICG), 51 p. (October 2014) <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/260-afghanistan-s-political-transition.pdf> (871.7 KB). “Ashraf Ghani was inaugurated as president of Afghanistan on 29 September, under difficult circumstances. He inherited a government that is running out of money and losing ground to a rising insurgency. His ability to confront those problems and other challenges as foreign troops withdraw will be shaped by the aftermath of the political contest that brought him to power. Forming a national unity government with his election rival Abdullah Abdullah presents opportunities to stabilise the transition, preventing further erosion of state cohesiveness. Yet, it also poses risks, particularly of factionalism within Kabul, which could undermine urgently needed reforms. Given the international role in developing the agreements that have created this new partnership, and the absence of mechanisms to resolve internal differences, the international community should serve as a guarantor of Kabul’s new political order and, if necessary, mediate any serious disputes that arise.” – (Website)

Smith, Graeme. “The future of the Afghan Local Police.” Kabul: International Crisis Group (ICG), 38 p. (June 2015) <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-asia/pakistan/268-the-future-of-the-afghan-local-police.pdf> (2.5 MB). “The Afghan Local Police (ALP) began as a small U.S. experiment but grew into a significant part of Afghanistan’s security apparatus. In hundreds of rural communities, members serve on the front lines of a war that is reaching heights of violence not witnessed since 2001, as insurgents start to credibly threaten major cities. The ALP also stand in the middle of a policy debate about whether the Kabul government can best defend itself with loosely regulated units outside the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) structure. The mixed record suggests that the ALP contribute to security where local factors allow recruitment of members from the villages they patrol and where they respect their own communities. But such conditions do not exist in many districts. The ALP and pro-government militias

are cheap but dangerous, and Kabul should resist calls for their expansion. Reforms are needed to strengthen oversight, dismiss ALP in the many locations where they worsen security and incorporate the remaining units into the ANSF.” – (Website)

“Thematic Dossier VIII: Kunduz’ Security Situation.” Kabul: Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN) 2011-15. <https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/publication/aan-thematic-dossier/thematic-dossier-viii-kunduz-security-situation/>. Following the Taliban’s large-scale assault on Kunduz province, AAN brought together all their previous reports on Kunduz into one dossier, including articles on the current situation.

Details of the 16 papers (so far): (1) Local Afghan Power Structures and the International Military Intervention. A Review of Developments in Badakhshan and Kunduz Provinces, Philipp Münch (12 Nov 2013) (73 p.). (2) The Networks of Kunduz. A History of Conflict and Their Actors, from 1992 to 2001, Nils Wörmer (2 Aug 2012) (48 p.). (3) The Insurgents of the Afghan North. The Rise of the Taleban, the Self-Abandonment of the Afghan Government, and the Effects of ISAF’s ‘Capture-and-Kill’ Campaign, Antonio Giustozzi and Christopher Reuter (5 May 2011) (61 p.). (4) The Failed Pilot Test: Kunduz’ local governance crisis, Bethany Matta (5 June 2015) (8 p.). (5) The 2015 Insurgency in the North: Case studies from Kunduz and Sar-e Pul provinces, Obaid Ali (4 June 2015) (7 p.). (6) ANSF Wrong-Footed: The Taleban offensive in Kunduz, Thomas Ruttig (3 May 2015) (12 p.). (7) Security in Kunduz Worsening Further: The case of Khanabad, Christian Bleuer and Obaid Ali (28 Oct 2014) (8 p.). (8) Taleban Closing in on the City: The next round of the tug-of-war over Kunduz, Lola Cecchinell (2 Sept 2014) (12 p.). (9) Elections 2014 (1): Impressions from Kunduz at the eve of the elections, AAN Team (4 April 2014) (4 p.). (10) The End of a Police Chief: Factional rivalries and pre-election power struggles in Kunduz, Lola Cecchinell (31 January 2014) (6 p.). (11) The Incident at Coordinate 42S VF 8934 5219: German court rejects claim from Kunduz air strike victims, Thomas Ruttig (15 December 2013) (10 p.). (12) Back to Bad: Chahrdara between Taleban and ALP - a district case study, Lola Cecchinell (6 Sept 2013) (3 p.). (13) Legal, illegal: Militia recruitment and (failed) disarmament in

Kunduz, Gran Hewad (10 Nov 2012) (5 p.). (14) For a Handful of Bolani: Kunduz's New Problem with Illegal Militias, Gran Hewad (8 Oct 2012) (5 pg). (15) For a Handful of Dollars: Taleban allowed to join ALP, Kate Clark (8 Jan 2011) (9 p.). (16) Militia Sightings, Thomas Ruttig (29 Nov 2009) (4 p.).

Watts, Stephen and Sean Mann. "Determining U.S. commitments in Afghanistan." *The Washington Quarterly*, 38, no. 1, 20 p. (May 2015) (748 KB). "Can U.S. decision makers sustain a limited, but not inexpensive, gamble through considerable tumult over the next decade or more without giving in to the twin temptations of early withdrawal or doubling down and escalating when the odds of success cannot justify such costs? The answer to this question is critical, because it is the question posed not only by Afghanistan, but potentially by other contingencies in the future... In Afghanistan, both the odds of success and the stakes appear to justify such a gamble. In addition to fighting terrorism and indirectly bolstering Pakistan's stability, the United States has an interest in securing a positive outcome so as to strengthen its and NATO's reputations for resolve. And the evolution of Afghan security forces over the past decade, combined with Afghan patterns of pragmatic accommodation across ethnic and patronage-network divides, suggest reasonable chances of success. But U.S. decision makers should be reluctant to make such bets very often." – (pp. 119-120)

Service delivery

"Critical administrative constraints to service delivery: Improving public services in Afghanistan's transformation decade." Kabul: World Bank, 135 p. (May 2014) http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSCContentServer/WDSP/IB/2014/11/04/000470435_20141104101335/Rendered/PDF/882740REVIS000raints0Report0final0.pdf (5 MB). "Since 2001, the Afghan population's access to basic services has greatly improved in nearly all sectors. School enrolment has increased sharply, with over eight million children currently enrolled in school, of which 39 percent are girls. Current strategies for improving sub-national service delivery focus on delegating greater authority to provincial and district administrations. This report aims to identify administrative constraints in three key sectors of public service delivery, education, health and agricultural extension services. The analysis follows the service delivery chain, from

central to provincial, through district to community level, and is particularly concerned to examine service delivery in these three sectors through the window of sub-national governance and its relations to the service delivery mandates of line ministries. The study provides the Government of Afghanistan with recommendations on how to alleviate critical constraints to service delivery at sub-national levels on a sustainable basis, in the context of an expected restrained fiscal future. The report's main findings are based on qualitative research. The key findings are based on existing literature and reports as well as field visits to 5 provinces and 10 districts and qualitative analyses of over 171 key-informant interviews on different levels of service delivery administration, 68 in-depth interviews with community leaders, and a community household survey in 20 communities spread over 5 provinces and 55 service facilities (for example, schools and clinics) were assessed. The report is split into six sections: section one gives executive summary; section two provides a brief introduction to the study objectives and clarifies some key definitions; section three outlines the methods used to perform the analysis; sections four, five, and six provide in-depth discussions of education, health, and agriculture extension respectively; and section seven provides recommendations and concludes. The overarching governance structures and further methodological details are given in appendix one. All references and research tools are presented in annexes." – (Website)



Social Protection

Loschmann, Craig, Christopher R. Parsons and Melissa Siegel. "Does shelter assistance reduce poverty in Afghanistan?" *World Development* 74, 18 p. (May 2015) (1.7 MB). – "In this paper we assess the UNHCR post-return shelter assistance program in Afghanistan during 2009-11, motivated by the fact that the resolution of lost housing and property is commonly understood as a key ingredient in sustainable return and reintegration. We implement a variety of matching techniques in order to insulate our results from selection bias. Adopting a multidimensional approach, our results show that shelter assistance reduces

the multidimensional poverty index of benefiting households by three percentage points. Looking at individual indicators of deprivation we find that assistance has the biggest effect on dietary diversity, food security, and heating.” – (Summary)

“Social protection system: An Afghan case study analysing the potential of a child-focused social protection cash transfer programme in Balkh.” Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting, 2015, 83 p. (2015) http://samuelhall.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/UNICEF-Social-Protection_Final.pdf (1.9 MB). “UNICEF



is considering the development of a social protection programme with a specific focus on children, within the already existing framework developed by the World Bank and MoLSAMD. With the end goal of articulating children-sensitive programming with the World Bank’s own safety net programme in mind, the first step in this direction is

for the organisation to launch a pilot programme in Balkh to test the best modalities of programming to cover children’s needs for social protection in the country. In the longer run, both organisations aim at increasing the scale of interventions, with the government eventually taking ownership of the system.” – (Website)

Urban studies and land issues

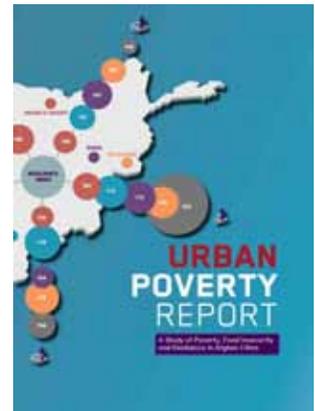
Gaston, Erica and Lillian Dang. “Addressing land conflict in Afghanistan.” Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace (USIP), 16 p. (May 2015) <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR372-Addressing-Land-Conflict-in-Afghanistan.pdf> (200 KB). “Disputes over land in Afghanistan have become one of the key drivers of conflict and criminal violence. Both formal and informal mechanisms for land dispute resolution are weak. The legal framework fails to recognize the reality of informal or customary ownership arrangements. The current land law, revised in 2008, is a fraught one—to establish ownership a person must already have formal documents proving ownership, and if ownership by an individual cannot be proved, title defaults to the state. However, formal documentation is scarce: no more than 20 percent of land is titled. This report discusses a new approach to addressing the problem and offers

recommendations for reform.” – (Website)

Leslie, Jolyon. “Political and economic dynamics of Herat.” Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace (USIP), 48 p. (April 2015) <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PW107-Political-and-Economic-Dynamics-of-Herat.pdf> (12.5 MB). “The city of Herat sits in Afghanistan’s most western province, on the border with Iran, and is significant on several counts. A major trading hub and the largest city in the region, it is in some respects an exemplar for the entire country. On the one hand it is a prevailing spirit of enterprise, on the other persistent insecurity and ad hoc urban development. How the new national unity government in Kabul unfolds will have significant implications for how Herat is able to meet the challenges for its social development and economic growth.” – (Website)

“Urban poverty report: A study of poverty, food insecurity and resilience in Afghan cities.” Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting, 65 p. (2014) <http://samuelhall.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/DRC-PIN-Urban-Poverty-Report.pdf> (9 MB). “Precise data on levels of poverty, vulnerability or food security in the cities

are lacking, as is a precise identification of vulnerable sub-groups, across gender, age or migration history. On the other hand, a precise knowledge of the nature of resilience in the Afghan urban population is also lacking: what mechanisms prevent households and communities from starvation? What factors make some households more resilient to shocks and instability than others? What strategies, if any, do individuals, households and communities build up to survive and develop in difficult environments? The present research was commissioned by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and People in Need (PIN) to fill this knowledge gap and uncover the nature, level and complexity of poverty, food security and resilience amongst Afghan urban households and communities.” – (Introduction)



Women

“The home front: The role of women in Afghanistan’s peace and reintegration programme.” Kabul: Peace Training and Research Organisation (PTRO), 40 p. (March 2014) http://www.ptro.org.af/site_files/13990989651.pdf (1.64 MB). “This research, conducted over the course of one year by the Peace Training and Research Organisation, looks at the role of Afghanistan’s women in the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Process (APRP). The primary goal of the research was to establish the role currently played by women in the APRP, reintegration activities, and community decision making in general. The research also looked more broadly at the effectiveness of the APRP, opinions of those involved

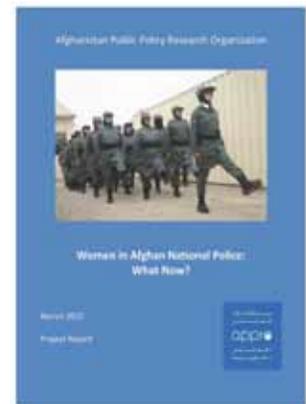
in it (including reintegrees) and what Afghans at the local level - both male and female - feel can be done to make the process more effective in the future... The paper highlights the complex linkages at the community level between reintegration, security, and local economies, and the ways these interact with female participation in the APRP and community

life more generally. Despite an increasingly public role in recent years, the role of women in Afghan communities remains largely confined to the domestic sphere. Within families, the support of women in encouraging and assisting insurgents in reintegration is essential to the success of the programme. The often ignored role of informal women’s networks in providing support and advice to the families of reintegrees is also recognised. In addition to supporting women, the paper also highlights a number of steps that must be taken to ensure the success of the programme and assist it in meeting its goals, and in supporting wider goals of sustainable peace in communities throughout Afghanistan. These include stricter oversight of reintegrees, countering perceptions of corruption and nepotism, and expansion of Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) and NGO services into newly accessible areas.” – (Executive Summary)

Saeed Parto and Lucile Martin. “Women in Afghan National Police: What now?” Kabul: Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organisation (APPRO), 29 p. (March 2015) <http://appro.org.af/women-in-afghan->

[national-police-what-now/ \(552 KB\)](http://www.ptro.org.af/site_files/13990989651.pdf). “A key component of gender mainstreaming efforts at the formal level has been a slow but steady increase in the number of policewomen the Afghan National Police (ANP) since 2005. The presence of women in ANP, while meeting the objective of creating spaces for women in the workforce and

contributing to the performance of policing functions, has brought to fore, and created, new challenges for the policy makers behind this move, ANP, and ANP’s female officers and staff. At the same time, despite the low number of women in ANP at less than one percent of the total force, the entrance of women into ANP has created a fertile ground for action to institutionalize the presence of women in the workforce through future programming to professionalize ANP. The focus of the analysis in this paper is to identify some of the major barriers for policewomen, the impact and sustainability of initiatives to support policewomen, and entry points for future interventions to strengthen the presence and increase the number of women in ANP. Based on ongoing observation in a period of 15 months, from September 2012 to January 2014, interviews with key informants, and monitoring reports by partner organizations of PWMP, this paper highlights the key issues that have arisen since women entered ANP and the initiatives taken by a range of actors, including the policewomen, to overcome them.” – (p. 8)



Youth

Giustozzi, Antonio and Ali Mohammad Ali. “The politicisation of Afghanistan’s high schools.” Kabul: Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), 24 p. (July 2015)

<http://www.areu.org.af/Uploads/EditionPdfs/1514E%20The%20Politicisation%20of%20High%20Schools%20in%20Afghanistan.pdf> (701 KB). “Political activism in Afghanistan’s high schools is not new. Already during the 1960s and 1970s, the country’s new political parties identified schools and universities as ideal recruitment grounds. The New Leftist and Islamist parties had significant numbers of teachers among their ranks, a fact that gave them direct access to students and the moral authority to influence them. Moreover, there were few alternatives for

political proselytising in a country without a working class or large trade unions, and in the presence of a government that tried to present the emergence of political parties. For these various reasons, it would make sense to look at how political organisations approach high schools in today's Afghanistan.”

Listing of Afghan laws released since the last issue of this newsletter

Since newsletter number six (July 2005), we have published a regular list of newly published laws. All these documents are available for download (in the original Dari and Pashto versions) from the Ministry of Justice website: http://moj.gov.af/content/files/Pages/OfficialGazetteIndex_D-header.htm

New Laws Received

Official gazette number	Hijri Shamsi date	International date	Title of law, regulation, etc.
1136	1393/03/14	2014/06/4	Decree of the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Annex (4) The Civil Service Law - modify and supplement some provision of private health centers - modify paragraph (1) of Regulation XI fees installations civil aviation airports
1137	1393/03/19	2014/06/09	Regulation control of high tonnage cargo vehicles - the abolition of Paragraph 6 of Article XVIII and number (75) Table attached Regulation mobility - Thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth amendment of Regulation Permit ground vehicles
1138	1393/03/35	2014/06/15	Provision of rent regulation, per diems and pocket money - Regulation on the establishment and registration of population
1139	1393/03/31	2014/06/7	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1140	1392/04/30	2014/07/21	Commercial Agency Law - Adjustment Appendix (2) Civil Service Law - decrees of the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
1141	1393/04/31	2014/07/22	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1142	1393/05/01	2014/07/23	The prevention of money laundering and proceeds of crime
1143	1393/05/25	2014/08/16	Mining law
1144	1393/05/29	2014/08/21	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1145	1393/06/05	2014/08/27	Basel Convention on the Control, cross-border transfers of hazardous waste and their disposal

1146	1393/06/17	2014/09/08	Funding Terrorism Prevention law - a law prohibiting the employment of children in military parts - adjustment of the twenty-sixth Criminal Procedure Code - modify and delete some form of law and the jurisdiction of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
1147	1393/06/25	2014/09/26	Agreement on Regional Cooperation in South Asia (SAARC) on trade and services - International Convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism - Agreement on mutual cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Federal Republic of Germany
1148	1393/06/26	2014/09/17	Regulation of human rights protection in public administration - Regulation examination centers
1149	1393/06/30	2014/09/21	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1150	1393/07/28	2014/10/20	Commercial contract law and property sales
1151	1393/06/31	2014/10/02	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1152	1393/08/05	2014//10/27	Company Statute annexed agricultural valley Nangarhar-- adjustment (1) of the Civil Service Law
1153	1393/08/28	2014/10/27	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1154	1393/09/29	2014/10/28	Population Registration Law
1155	1393/09/30	2014/10/27	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1156	1393/10/02	2014/11/28	Access to Information law
1157	1393/10/15	2014/01/05	Afghanistan's accession to the Convention on the one-drug protocol amendment to the 1340 Hijri 1961 - Statute of the International Agency for Renewable Energy (Irina) - Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland IRR and providing relationship
1158	1393/10/28	2015/01/18	The Kyoto Protocol to the Convention on Climate Change 1998-1376 Hijri - a multilateral agreement to establish an International Research Foundation for landlocked developing countries
1159	1393/10/30	2015/01/20	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks

1160	1393/11/08	2015/01/28	Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on the presence of NATO forces and personnel to carry out the agreed activities, under the leadership of NATO - defense and security cooperation agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United States of America
1161	1393/11/15	2015/02/04	Regulation procedures to prevent the financing of terrorism
1162	1393/11/28	2015/02/17	Tobacco control law - a law prohibiting the employment of children in military parts - decree on the appointment of the President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (8) of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the head of the National Security Cabinet ministers - adjustment component (37) Article SEVEN regulation overtime scientific research and publishing activities, scientific research institutions - the adjustment and supplement of some of the Statute of security
1163	1393/12/28	2015/03/20	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1164	1393/12/29	2015/03/01	Protocol on Environmental Protection (Kartajyna) Nairobi 2000 (corresponding to 1379) - Agreement between the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan government of the Republic of Indonesia on friendship and cooperation - multilateral cooperation agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the royal government in Saudi Arabia
1165	1393/12/12	2015/03/03	Strategic cooperation agreement between the Islamic Republic and the kingdom of Denmark - Agreement on cooperation between the Republic of Finland Islamic Republic - an agreement on strategic cooperation between Norway - the Additional Protocol of the UN Convention about deterrence against transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, especially women and children, suppression and chastising the United Nations 2000
1166			[Blank on MoJ online list]
1167			[Blank on MoJ online list]

1168	1393/12/25	2015/03/16	Law and administrative supervision of government ministries - and delivered some materials Mining Act Amendment - the amendment, supplement of some of the articles registered trademarks - adjusted to eliminate certain material procurement law - List of legislative documents Official Gazette 1393
1169	1393/12/27	2015/03/19	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1170	1394/0/25	2015/04/14	Adjustment and supplement of some articles on the prevention of terrorism financing - adjusting and removing some of the advantages and income from money laundering-related crimes - Control Regulation and report money transfers, currency tradable documents the names of customs border - adjusted some of Regulation Fees for civil aviation air installations
1171	1394/01/31	2015/4/20	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1172	1394/02/15	2015/05/05	Law on weddings and significant events - Regulation on rating health workers at risk
1173	1394/02/27	2015/05/17	Charter educational institution or the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) - Convention of the International Commission cocoon production - Agreement between the Republic of Tajikistan, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the People's Republic of China border connection point between the three countries - moderate in the last paragraph of the introduction to agree to cooperate between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the federal Republic of Germany 16 May 2012