



Afghanistan  
Research and  
Evaluation Unit

# The A to Z Guide to Assistance in Afghanistan

**2020**  
Fourteenth Edition







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## **2020**

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

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## **A Message from AREU Director Dr Orzala Nemat**

It is our pleasure to present AREU's flagship A-Z Guide to Assistance in Afghanistan 2020 edition.

The A-Z guide was first published in 2002, and with this 2020 edition, it continues to provide a window into the array of moving parts within the country. This edition is both an acknowledgement of the Guide's continuity and the efforts of the domestic actors and the international community that have sustained their contributions to the development of Afghanistan and their commitment to its people. It is an important reference point for policymakers, program implementers and academics that have an interest in Afghanistan.

The Guide in many ways captures what has changed and persisted in terms of actors, priorities, and the political landscape, which together have profoundly changed Afghanistan over the past 19 years. AREU has been part of this journey and has contributed a rich evidence-base to inform researchers, policymakers, civil society, practitioners, and many others.

As this edition goes to print, Afghanistan sits on the precipice of yet another defining moment in its history. Our hope is that the hard-won development gains, freedoms, and rights endure as these have been intrinsic in giving Afghan men, women and children the ability to seek a better future.

We hope that Afghanistan's partners in Development Assistance will continue to play a constructive role for Afghanistan and its people and find this Guide to be a useful resource.

Thank you for your enduring support.

With best wishes,

Dr Orzala Nemat.

## **About the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit**

The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) is a Kabul-based independent research think tank, established in 2002 with the assistance of the international community in Afghanistan. AREU's mission is to inform policy and practice by conducting high-quality, evidence-based research and actively disseminating the results and to promote a culture of research and learning.

AREU achieves its mission through proactively engaging with policy makers, civil society actors, researchers and the development assistance community in Afghanistan to promote their use of AREU's research publications and its library, strengthening research capacity and creating spaces for analysis, reflection and debate.

AREU is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of donor organisations, embassies, the United Nations and other multilateral agencies, Afghan civil society and independent experts.

AREU's core donor is the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Specific projects in 2019 are being funded by the European Union (EU), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Overseas Development Institute (ODI-UK), School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and Research Council (RC-UK), UN-Women, Save the Children, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and University of Essex.

AREU holds memberships in multiple international development consortiums including the RESOLVE Network, Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), Secure Research Consortium (SLRC) and A Conflict Sensitive Unpacking of The EU Comprehensive Approach to Conflict and Crisis Mechanism (EUNPACK).

AREU has been ranked as the top think tank in Afghanistan by the University of Pennsylvania's Global Go To Think Tank Index Report since 2017. The report also ranked AREU as third in Central Asia, and 55th on Social policy. In 2018, UK-based Prospect Magazine recognised AREU as the top International Social Think Tank.

## **About the A to Z Guide to Assistance in Afghanistan**

Updated regularly, the A to Z Guide to Assistance in Afghanistan aims to enhance general understanding of the array of actors, structures and government processes related to aid and reconstruction efforts in the country. The Guide provides: a wide-ranging glossary of assistance terms and actors, an overview of Afghanistan's system of government, political provincial briefs, key primary documents and an extensive contacts directory that includes government agencies, NGOs, donors and international actors. Where not otherwise specified, all dollar amounts are US\$. The Guide is also published in Dari and Pashto.

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



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- The Role of the Afghan State in Managing Nomadism and Nomad-Settler Conflict (Issues paper) #\*
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- The Afghan Parliament: Constitutional Mandate versus the practice in the post-2001 context (policy note) #\*
- On Borrowed Time: The Limits of Informal credit for Livelihood Security in Herat, Afghanistan (Working Paper) #\*
- The Assessment of EUNPACK on Afghan Police Reforms (Briefing Paper) #\*
- The Sun Cannot be Hidden by Two Fingers: Illicit Drugs and the Discussions on a Political Settlement in Afghanistan (Briefing Paper) #\*
- Nomad Sedentarisation Processes and their impact on conflict (Briefing Paper) #\*
- Nomad-settler conflict in Afghanistan today (Synthesis Paper) #\*
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- Still Water Runs Deep: Illicit Poppy and the Transformation of the Deserts of Southwest Afghanistan (Issues Paper) #\*
- No More Standard Programming: Economic Development in Fragile Settings (Policy Note)
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- A Mapping Study: Institutional Mechanisms to Tackle Trafficking in Persons in Afghanistan (Policy Note)
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- Saffron: The social relations of production (Working Paper)
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- Paradigms driving the water sector reform: a mismatch between Afghanistan and the West (Briefing Paper)
- Women in Agriculture in Afghanistan (Issues paper)
- Mining Governance: An Effective Extractive Industries Revenue Collection System for Afghanistan (policy Note)#\*
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- Mapping nomad-farmer conflict in Afghanistan (Briefing Paper)
- Urban Governance in Afghanistan - assessing the new urban development programme and its implementation (Issues paper)
- Review of Functions in Government Agencies in Afghanistan (Policy Note)
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- The Impacts of Water Sector Reforms on Agricultural Productivity in Afghanistan (Issues Paper)
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- Evolution of the Executive Branch in Afghanistan: A Look Back and Recommendations on the Way Forward (Issues paper) #\*
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- Judicial Review in Afghanistan A Flawed Practice (Issues Paper) #\*
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- The Afghan National Army After ISAF (Briefing Paper)
- A State Built on Sand: How Opium Undermined Afghanistan (Issues paper)
- Briefing Note on Fieldwork in Kandahar Province, December 2015 – January 2016: Opium Poppy and Rural Livelihoods (Briefing Paper) #\*
- A Closer Look at Men and “Masculinities”: Their Proactive Contribution to Gender Equality (Issues Paper) #\*
- Developing transboundary water resources: What perspectives for cooperation between Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan? (Issues Paper)
- LAND GOVERNANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (LGAF) (Issues Paper)
- A balancing act for extractive sector governance (Issues Paper)#\*
- Moving with the Times: How Opium Poppy Cultivation has Adapted to the Changing Environment in Afghanistan (Briefing Paper)
- When Will Transitional Justice in Afghanistan Become a Part of the Transitional Decade? (Briefing Paper)
- The Role of Civil Society in Promoting Good Governance in Afghanistan (Issues Paper) #\*
- Bringing State closer to the people :Deconcentrating planning and Budgeting in Afghanistan (Briefing Paper)#\*
- Subnational Governance in Afghanistan (Issues paper)#\*
- Civil Service Reform in Afghanistan :Roles and Functions of the Civil Service Sector (Policy Brief)#\*
- Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Afghanistan: A Work in Progress (Issues paper) #\*
- The rules of the game: Towards a theory of networks of access (Briefing Paper)
- Seeing like the networked state: Subnational governance in Afghanistan (Issues paper)
- Using village context analysis in Afghanistan: methods and wider implications (Working Paper)

- Transitional Justice: Views from the Ground on How Afghanistan Fares (Issues paper)
- Time to Move on-Developing an Informed Development Response to Opium Poppy Cultivation in Afghanistan (Issues paper)
- Perceptions of Peace and Justice from the Field-Eleven Years after (A Call for Justice) (Policy Note)







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## ***Government Initiatives and Programmes***

### **Afghanistan Central Business Registry and Intellectual Property (ACBR-IP):**

Website: [www.acbr.gov.af](http://www.acbr.gov.af)

The Afghanistan Central Business Registry and Intellectual Property (ACBR-IP) is a part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. All corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies and sole proprietorships doing trade in Afghanistan are required to register at ACBR-IP. The office facilitates the registration process, including assistance with the completed application form, paying fees, publishing key business information in the Official Gazette and reporting to the Revenue Department at the Ministry of Finance. The services at ACBR-IP now also include intellectual property. Individuals and businesses can register their patents and acquire copyright protection.

### **Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)**

Website: [www.aihrc.org.af](http://www.aihrc.org.af)

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) was established pursuant to the Bonn Agreement (5 December 2001) and on the basis of the decree of the Chairman of the Interim Administration (6 June 2002), resolution 134/48 of the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, the Paris Principles and under Article 58 of the Afghan Constitution, which reads:

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

The Law on the Structure, Duties and Mandate of the AIHRC was adopted by the Cabinet and endorsed by the President in May 2005 (published in Official Gazette no. 855). Under the Law (Article 4), the AIHRC is mandated to protect and promote rights and freedoms enshrined in the Afghan Constitution and international human rights instruments to which Afghanistan is a party. Article 6 of the Law requires the Afghan government, civil society organisations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and all Afghan citizens to “cooperate with the Commission in achieving the objectives set up by this Law.”

The AIHRC is led by nine Commissioners with service terms of 5 years who are appointed by the President. The President is required to appoint Commissioners who reflect the gender, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity of Afghanistan and who represent academic institutions and CSOs. In 2019, the president have introduced new commissioners who will serve for the next five years. Ms Shaharзад Akbar is the chairperson of the AIHRC.

## **Afghan Local Police (ALP)**

Website: [www.moi.gov.af](http://www.moi.gov.af)

The Afghan Local Police (ALP), founded by presidential decree in August 2010 and led by the Ministry of Interior (Moi), is deployed in select districts to foster security and defend rural communities in areas where there is a shortfall in security provision by the Afghan National Army (ANA) and/or the Afghan National Police (ANP). The ALP is not authorised to enforce laws and is therefore intended as a defensive force.

Districts selected to take part in the programme nominate around 300 men to receive uniforms, AK-47s and training from US Special Forces. Recruits are vetted and approved by district-level shuras (councils) and the National Directorate of Security (NDS). The shuras responsible for vetting recruits are those created by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance's Afghanistan Social Outreach Programme.

There are around 30,000 personnel serving in the ALP. The US Department of Defense (DoD) largely funds the ALP. NATO supports the programme through the provision of funding, training, equipment and technical assistance to the Moi.

## **Afghan National Army (ANA)**

The Afghan National Army (ANA) was established as a branch of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in accordance with a decree issued by President Karzai on 1 December 2002. The duties of the ANA are: to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity; to defend independence and national honour; to defend borders and combat internal threats; to eliminate terrorist forces and scatter and imprison illegal armed groups; and to manage security threats.

The ANA has nine corps, three independent divisions, four independent regiments, National Military Academy, ANA Officer Academy, Air Force University, Officers Candidate School (OCS) training centres and professional schools.

1. 201st Corps Silab in Gambari, Laghman province
2. 203rd Corps Tondar in Gardez, Paktia province
3. 205th Corps Atal in Kandahar province
4. 207th Corps Zafar in Herat province
5. 209th Corps Shahin in Balkh province
6. 215th Corps Maiwand in Helmand province
7. Air Force Corps in Kabul province
8. 217th Corps Pamir in Kunduz province
9. Special Corps

The regiments of infantry corps are operational in all 34 provinces.



The Air Force Corps Badr, which was established in 2007, consists of three regiments in Shindand, Kandahar and Kabul, Air Force University and Air Force School. The corps currently has one infantry division, one Special Operations division, one military police division, one quick-reaction regiment, one engineering regiment and one support division.

The National Military Academy was established within the ANA in 2004. The first class of professional officers graduated in 2009 and graduations continue to take place on an annual basis. In the ANA, each officer can serve up to 25 years.

Army recruitment centres are operational in all 34 provinces. Around 6,000 people are recruited on a monthly basis. They are then employed in training centres and divided to serve in various ANA units following the completion of professional training. Soldiers are contracted for three years and lieutenants for five years. They can renew their contracts optionally and voluntarily.

The Border Force, also under MoD, is responsible along with the Afghan Border Police of securing Afghanistan's borders.

According to figures from January 2019, there are about 187,000 personnel serving in the ANA, while the total Tashkeel (authorised force level) is nearly 240,000.

## **Afghan National Police (ANP)**

Website: [www.moi.gov.af](http://www.moi.gov.af)

The Afghan National Police (ANP) is the Afghan Government's overarching police institution and operates under the authority of the Ministry of Interior (MoI). The ANP's role spans a wide spectrum of security activities, including law enforcement, maintenance of order, criminal investigations, border security, counter-narcotics and counterterrorism. The ANP consists of:

- National Police or Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP), responsible for most day-to-day policing
- Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP), a highly trained and specially equipped quick-reaction force aimed at dealing with civil disorder, looting, hostage-taking and riots
- Afghan Border Police, engaged in law enforcement at points of entry including airports;
- Other units, including personnel assigned to the MoI, the Criminal Investigation Division and the Counter-Narcotics Police, with some providing training, intelligence and support to the Fire Department.

In addition to the main ANP training facility in Kabul, regional training facilities have been established in Gardez, Herat, Kandahar, Khost, Mazar-i-Sharif and Wardak.

The main laws governing the ANP are the 2005 Police Law and the 2004 Interim Criminal Procedure Code. These laws are based on Articles 56, 75(3) and 134 of the Constitution.

Data collected in January 2019 show that there are currently over 151,000 personnel serving in the ANP. The total Tashkeel (authorised force level) is around 162,000.

## **Afghan National Security Council**

Website: <https://president.gov.af/en/about-national-security-council/?q=council>

The Afghan National Security Council (NSC) was established in accordance with Article 64 of the Constitution. The Council, led by the President, is the authority entrusted with making decisions regarding national security, national interests, territorial integrity and national sovereignty. It meets once a week to evaluate national security and approve policies, strategies, procedures and security-related programmes. High-ranking government officials, civilian, military and security officials are members of the Council.

The objectives of the NSC are to evaluate and identify domestic and international threats endangering national security interests and to make decisions to address those threats; to determine and approve national security and defence policies and supervise their implementation; and to identify and address the strategic needs of Afghanistan's security and defence sectors.

The National Security Council members are:

- President
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Chief Executive
- Special Envoy of the President for Reform and Good Governance
- First Deputy to the Chief Executive
- Second Deputy to the Chief Executive
- National Security Advisor
- Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Minister of Defence
- Minister of Interior
- Minister of Finance
- Head of National Security
- Chief of Army Staff, Ministry of Defence
- Head of the Administrative Office of the President
- Head of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance

## Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF)

Website: [www.artf.af](http://www.artf.af)

The Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) is a World Bank-managed multi-donor trust fund, supported by 34 donors, established in 2002. As of July 22, 2019, the cash balance stood at US\$1,378.80 million. The ARTF is the largest single source of non-security on-budget financing for Afghanistan.

ARTF allocations are made through three “windows”: The Recurrent Cost Window, the Investment Window and the Research and Analysis Program Window. The Recurrent Cost Window reimburses the Afghan Government for a certain portion of eligible and non-security-related operating expenditure every year. The Investment Window provides grant financing for national development programmes. The Research and Analysis Program Window, a World Bank-executed facility, was started in 2015 to enable and promote evidence-based policy research and knowledge consolidation through project-based and selected sector-wide/thematic research and impact evaluation.

In particular, the ARTF provides:

- A mechanism for predictable on-budget financing of Government development priorities within a robust fiduciary and monitoring framework;
- A platform for policy dialogue on key reforms with the Government; and
- A means to coordinate donor support in line with an agreed financing strategy.

The ARTF has a three-tier governance framework (Steering Committee, Management Committee and Administrator), as well as three working groups. This framework has enabled the ARTF to consistently adapt to changing circumstances and development priorities.

The ARTF Investment Window is based on investments that support core national priorities programs (NPPs) in line with the Afghan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) 2017–2021. ANPDF is the Government’s plan for achieving self-reliance and increasing the welfare of the Afghan people. The ARTF is one of the important mechanisms through which the international community can support these NPPs.

Over time, the ratio of allocations between the Recurrent Cost Window and the Investment Window has changed, with an increased focus on funding the Government’s core development priorities through the Investment Window.

The first ARTF Financing Strategy was introduced at the London 2010 Conference to strengthen the Fund’s predictability, transparency and ownership. It set out a three-year rolling allocation plan based on the solar calendar. Since then, the implementation of the Financing Strategy has been reviewed in regular meetings of the ARTF Strategy Group and endorsed annually by the Steering Committee.

The ARTF Financing Strategy sets the overarching strategic allocation of the fund among recurrent expenditures (including the Incentive Programme), investment financing and monitoring and results reporting. The framework covers five priority sectors that correspond to the Government's development clusters: Agriculture, Rural Development, Infrastructure, Human Development and Governance/Public Sector Capacity. Implementation of the Financing Strategy depends on donor contributions, as well as capacity of the line ministries to implement approved projects developed with the World Bank.

The Financing Strategy is a flexible rolling mechanism, which will evolve over time in response to emerging needs, government capacity and actual paid-in contributions. The Strategy Group reviews the Financing Strategy with the World Bank and Ministry of Finance (MoF), after which it is presented to the ARTF Steering Committee annually for endorsements.

## **Women Empowerment Rural Development Programme (WERDP) previously Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP)**

Website: [www.aredp-mrrd.gov.af](http://www.aredp-mrrd.gov.af)

### **Women Empowerment Rural Development Programme (WERDP)**

In June 2018, the WERDP replaced the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP). The WERDP got extended from 5 provinces to all 34 provinces, and is now focusing on women's economic empowerment.

The WERDP was established by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development as a community-led micro-enterprise development project focusing on women. In particular, it was designed to support women to create village-based micro-enterprises and to facilitate their access to finance, as well as to technical and marketing service. WERDP is based in Kabul.

WERDP supports individuals with disabilities from rural environments to establish micro-enterprises, such as beauty parlours, embroidery, poultry, shop-keeping and tailoring. After the establishment of the micro-enterprise, the entrepreneurs receive technical and soft-skills training on marketing, costing and pricing, selling, feasibility and business plan development, business promotion, simple bookkeeping, etc. WERDP also engages in community-based enterprise development, including:

- **Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** A SG is comprised of eight to 10 women community members who conduct regular meetings. WERDP has established more than 5,000 SGs.
- **Village saving and loan associations (VSLA):** The purpose of the VSLA is to provide larger loans for commercial and entrepreneurial activities. More than 520 VSLAs have been established.
- **Enterprise groups (EGs):** An EG consists of three to five rural entrepreneurs who run small-scale businesses at the community level and WERDP has created around 1,300 of them.

As of December 2017, the SGs reached the milestone of \$4.5 million in assets (55 percent held by women).

90 percent of which has been used to start small-scale enterprises in both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. In the meantime, marginalised groups, including people with disabilities and Kuchis (nomads), have been included in the programme activities through the provision of tailor-made business services, which helped them start small enterprises and generate income for their families.

## **Calendars in Afghanistan**

Three calendar systems are used in Afghanistan:

- The Hijrah-i-Shamsi (solar Islamic) calendar is Afghanistan's official calendar, which has been in use since 1922 and was re-established by the current Constitution. Month names differ from their Iranian or Persian forms. In 2020, the Afghan year begins on 1 Hamal 1399 (21 March);
- The Hijrah-i-Qamari (lunar Islamic) calendar is used for religious events and holidays; 2020 is considered as 1441 of the lunar Islamic year.
- The Gregorian calendar or Miladi (solar Christian) is used in international relations.

## **Central Statistics Organisation (CSO)**

Website: [www.cso.gov.af](http://www.cso.gov.af)

Established in 1973, the Central Statistics Organisation (CSO) was declared an independent body by presidential decree in March 2006. The CSO collects and analyses data from other government entities on population and demographics, national accounts, price indices and external trade. These are used to monitor economic, financial and structural policies, as well as for other purposes. The CSO is headquartered in Kabul with offices in all 34 provinces.

The CSO's work is divided into the following departments: Chief of Staff, Internal Audit, Plan and Policy, Human Resources, Gender, Admin/Finance, Information and Public Relations, Field Operations, National Accounts, Economic Statistics and Research and Statistical Training. According to Article 8 of the Statistics Law (2006 Official Gazette no. 874), the CSO has the following duties and responsibilities:

- To collect, compile, analyse and publish statistical information relating to the commercial, industrial, financial, social, economic, environmental and general activities and condition of the people;
- To collaborate with ministries and agencies of the state in the collection, compilation and publication of statistical information, including statistics derived from their activities;
- To prevent duplication of the information collected by ministries and governmental administrations or by other non-state agencies;
- To promote and develop integrated social and economic statistics throughout the country and to coordinate unified plans for their integration;

- To develop and prescribe appropriate classifications and standards for use by line ministries and other government agencies;
- To progressively develop and maintain appropriate databases of statistical information and facilitate access to these databases for all users, except for confidential information as defined by law; and
- To decide on the manner in which data for statistical purposes are collected, how they are compiled and when and how reports and official statistics are published.

The CSO produces:

- The Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook
- The Consumer Price Index Yearbook
- The Afghanistan Trade Statistical Yearbook (a publication focused on foreign trade)
- The Estimated Population of Afghanistan (with data on gender and rural-urban residence at the provincial and district levels)
- A quarterly volume on foreign trade statistics
- The monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) and daily updates to consumer price indexes in Kabul
- Quarterly statistical indicators
- Women and Men in Afghanistan (annual)
- Afghanistan at a Glance (annual)
- Reports of the surveys conducted

The CSO reports directly to the President and is advised by the National Statistics Committee and the National Census Committee (established temporarily to conduct the national census). Both committees include representatives from various ministries and from the private sector. CSO publications are generally printed in Dari, Pashto and English, with information updates regularly reported on the CSO website. All organisations planning to conduct statistical research in Afghanistan are required by law to coordinate their activities with the CSO.

## **Development Assistance Database (DAD) Afghanistan**

Website: <http://dadafghanistan.gov.af/dad/>

The Development Assistance Database Afghanistan (DAD Afghanistan) is an automated information management system designed to improve the efficiency and transparency of national development planning and coordination of donor activities. It is also a powerful tool for tracking and analysing aid flows. The system serves as the main database and data collection and reporting system for the Government of Afghanistan and for the donor and NGO communities, as it ensures effective access to development data. The main objectives of DAD Afghanistan are to serve as a reliable and credible source of information on overall donor contributions to Afghanistan's reconstruction, economic recovery and socioeconomic development, as well as to support the Government in effectively managing development assistance and promoting the accountable and transparent use of resources. DAD Afghanistan allows the user to view project data organised into lists, reports, charts, tables and maps. Users can also save these displays, print them and export them into PDFs, MS Word and MS Excel.

To ensure more flexibility and a more user-friendly environment, DAD Afghanistan has been implemented as a bilingual system allowing users to view the data presented in the system in two languages, English and Dari.

## **Presidential Elections 2019**

Originally scheduled for 20 April, the presidential elections took place on 28 September 2019, relatively peacefully. There were 18 presidential candidates, including incumbent president Ashraf Ghani. The last presidential elections had taken place on 5 April 2014.

According to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), 22,538 polling stations were opened on the day of the vote.

9.7 million Afghans were registered voters, but the turnout was less than two million voters. The number of votes eventually taken into account by the IEC was still unclear at the time of printing, including concerning votes non-verified by the Biometric Voter Verifications devices.

Initially planned for 14 November 2019, the announcement of the results have been postponed, because of technical issues linked to the recounting of votes in certain provinces, according to the IEC.

## **Parliamentary Elections 2018**

On 20 October 2018, Afghanistan held its third parliamentary elections since the adoption of the 2004 Constitution. While the elections were originally scheduled for 2014, they were delayed several times, with security issues, unresolved disagreements over election reforms and alleged fraud cited as the main reasons.

There were 8,919,107 registered voters for the 2018 parliamentary elections, 63.71% were male and 34.4% were female. There were 84 registered political parties in the election, but a majority of the candidates ran independently. There were 2,565 registered candidates running in the elections (83.7% male and 16.3% female), but 10 were killed in different attacks. The candidates were running for the 250 seats in the Wolesi Jirga, distributed among 34 provinces according to proportional representation. One seat is reserved for the Sikh and Hindu communities and 10 for the representatives of the Kuchis. There are 68 seats reserved for women.

The major parties in the elections were: Jamiat-e-Islami, led by Salahuddin Rabbani (previously held 23 seats in the Wolesi Jirga); People's Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan, led by Mohammad Mohaqiq (previously held 11 seats); Hezb-e Wahdat Islami, led by Karim Khalili (previously held 7 seats); Hezb-e Jamhoori Afghanistan, led by Sebghatullah Sanjar (previously held 9 seats) and Junbish-i-Milli Islami Afghanistan, led by Abdul Rashid Dostum (previously held 10 seats).

Elections in Kandahar were delayed by a week due to the assassination of provincial police chief, General Abdul Raziq. Ghazni was excluded from the elections due to the volatile security situation at the time and the dispute over the division of electoral constitutions.

The Independent Election Commission announced the primary results for Daikundi, Farah, Uruzgan, Jawzjan and Bamiyan on 22 November. There were delays in releasing the results of other provinces. In early December, the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) declared that all votes cast in Kabul province were invalid, citing 25 reasons, which included electoral fraud and mismanagement by the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan (IEC). On 14 January, the preliminary results for Kabul province were released. The final results have been released for 18 provinces at present. The rest are still considered preliminary results and will go through a final stage of validation.

## **Government Media and Information Centre (GMIC)**

Website: [www.gmic.gov.af](http://www.gmic.gov.af)

The Government Media and Information Centre (GMIC) was established by presidential decree in 2007 to respond to the information needs of the Afghan public, the news media and other national and international stakeholders.

GMIC aims to build trust among Afghan citizens and other stakeholders through the provision of timely and accurate information; to facilitate coordination and information-sharing among agencies of the Afghan Government and independent media; and to provide capacity-building for the Government's information and communication portals.

GMIC consists of two pillars: Programmes and Administration. In Programmes, the departments of Capacity-Building, Media Relations, Media Monitoring and Public Outreach each play essential roles that serve the goals of GMIC. The Capacity-Building department aims to build capacity in the Afghan Government's communications offices and develops and conducts educational activities tied to the Government's needs. The Media Relations department works to develop and implement a comprehensive communication and coordination mechanism in which information-producing and -distributing entities take an active part, enhancing the flow of information to and from the Afghan



public and other stakeholders. The Media Monitoring department analyses print and electronic media and provides news and analysis of important national and international events affecting Afghanistan to senior Government officials. The Public Outreach department is the awareness-raising unit within GMIC's structure. It aims to develop a nationwide information collection and dissemination network through which the Afghan public and other audiences are continuously informed about Government activities.

Programmes are supported by the Administration pillar, which includes Finance, Procurement, Human Resources and Security units. The Administration helps to administer and logistically support GMIC programmes.

## **High Peace Council (HPC)**

Website: [www.hpc.org.af](http://www.hpc.org.af)

The High Peace Council (HPC) was established by former Afghan President Hamid Karzai on 5 September 2010. It is responsible for negotiations with and reintegration of armed opposition groups. Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan political party, was the chairman of the HPC until he was assassinated in Kabul in 2011. Later, Pir Sayed Ahmad Gailani took on the role of chairman until his death in 2017. The Council was then led by Mohammad Karim Khalili and Mrs Habiba Sarabi worked as his deputy while Mr Omar Dawoodzai joined the HPC as its head of secretariat during late 2018. The HPC included prominent figures from Afghan political parties and from the former Taliban.

In June 2019, the HPC is declared to be shifted to the State Ministry for Peace led by one of the most prominent allies of the president Mr Abdul Salam Rahimi. Following this announcement, the secretariat of HPC was dissolved and all its structures moved to the state ministry for peace. According to the presidential decree minister Rahimi will remain a member of the cabinet, the NSC and all high commissions.

## **Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC)**

Website: [www.iarcsc.gov.af](http://www.iarcsc.gov.af)

The Independent Civil Administration Commission (IARCSC) was established in May 2002 as stipulated by the Bonn Agreement as an independent budgetary unit. Its main goals were leading the establishment of a robust administration, recruiting civil servants based on skills and merit, establishing the core civil services and organising issues related to civil servants. In June 2003, its role was expanded and it was renamed the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC).

The Commission is responsible for developing, managing, leading and implementing nationwide reforms. It is also responsible for identifying, selecting and proposing the appointment of high-level civil servants.

The IARCSC derives its mandate from the 2004 Afghan Constitution and three core legal instruments comprising: (a) the Civil Service Law (CSL), 2005; (b) the Civil Servants Law, 2008; and (c) the Code of Conduct of Civil Servants, 2009.

The Commission has the following mandate: (a) leading, organising, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of administrative reforms; (b) capacity building, training and performance appraisal of senior civil servants; (c) overseeing the assessment of lower-grade civil servants in order to improve their performance as well as of government organisations for effective, efficient, transparent and accountable service delivery by Afghan civil service organisations through the design of policies, laws, regulations and procedures and human resources management; and (d) competitive recruiting of individuals for higher-grade government positions, overseeing the recruitment process for lower-grade positions and ensuring administrative justice by addressing civil servants' complaints.

The Commission's vision, as articulated in its Strategic Plan (2012–2017), is: "Having a legitimate, non-political, stable, service-oriented and accountable civil service in the framework of good governance, having the ability to use public resources more effectively and efficiently for basic services delivery, enhancement of revenues and supporting the development of the private sector for national economic and social development".

The Commission's current mission statement is: "to provide leadership, strategic direction and expertise in the management of the civil service and to support the development of a strong, effective and efficient system of public administration". As articulated in its Strategic Plan (2012–2017), IARCSC is committed to effectively utilising programme resources to provide maximum support to the reform of CSM in Afghanistan and to deliver quality policies, regulations and support services to line ministries. This is intended to contribute to the adoption and enforcement of an orderly, fair and uniform system for the administration of the state, enabling it to raise revenues and deliver better public services to the Afghan people. Through research processes, the IARCSC will ensure the promotion of excellence in the leadership and management of the civil service and in the delivery of affordable and sustainable quality services through a modern system of public administration.

## **Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution (ICOIC)**

Website: [www.icoic.gov.af](http://www.icoic.gov.af)

The Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution (ICOIC) was established in 2010 in line with Article 157 of the Afghan Constitution. The goal is to institutionalise a constitutional order.

Its objective is “to intensify and institutionalise a constitutional-state-based regime. To achieve this goal, ICOIC oversees compliance of the President’s activities, the three branches of government and all state and non-state institutions with the provisions of the Constitution.”

According to Article 8 of the ICOIC Law, the Commission has the following duties and powers aimed at improving oversight of implementation of the Constitution:

1. Interpretation of the Constitution, at the request of the President, the National Assembly and the Supreme Court;
2. Overseeing the compliance of the actions of the President, Government, National Assembly, judiciary, state agencies and non-governmental institutions with the provisions of the Constitution;
3. Providing legal advice to the President and National Assembly in case of issues arising from the Constitution;
4. Examining laws to identify inconsistencies with the Constitution and presenting its findings to the President and National Assembly to take steps for their correction;
5. Presenting specific proposals to the President and National Assembly on developing implementing legislation on subjects dictated by the Constitution;
6. Presenting reports to the President in the event of violation of the provisions of the Constitution; and
7. Approval of by-laws and relevant guidelines.

## **Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG)**

Website: [www.idlg.gov.af](http://www.idlg.gov.af)

The Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) was established on 30 August 2007 through a presidential decree. IDLG was created with the mandate of transferring civilian responsibilities of the Ministry of Interior to an independent entity to strengthen local governance, consolidate peace and stability and facilitate a balanced development and economic growth in the country.

In this context, IDLG initiated four pillars of interventions for sub-national governance: 1) policy development; 2) institution building; 3) broader local governance programmes; and 4) support regular functions. Furthermore, following the presidential decree, the responsibility for supporting

the Provincial Councils and municipalities (with exception of Kabul Municipality) was also delegated to IDLG, making it the only entity responsible for local governance. All governors and mayors report through the IDLG to the President. To better manage these subnational entities, IDLG recommends provincial governors to the President, recruits mayors and district governors and obtains approval for appointments from the President.

The first Subnational Governance Policy (SNGP) was drafted in 2010 and was approved by the President with a predetermined date of 2013 for its revision. Between 2013 and 2017 several policy drafts were prepared, but due to the different technical reasons, none of them were approved by the government. The National Unity Government (NUG) substantially increased its commitment and engagement in addressing the issues related to subnational governance. In 2017, based on the instructions of President Ghani, a Subnational Governance Taskforce was put in place to draft a new Subnational Governance Policy. The Taskforce is made up of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. After extensive consultations with government entities at the national and subnational level, as well as with other national and international organisations, a new Citizen-Centred Governance Policy/Roadmap for Subnational Reform was drafted. The President approved the Policy/Roadmap for Subnational Reform in the National High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption and by the Cabinet in May 2018.

In line with the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF), this Policy/Roadmap provides an overview of each of Afghanistan's layers of subnational administration. It identifies current challenges to the development of these subnational entities, including both governance and infrastructure constraints and discusses the role of different government stakeholders and the legal requirements for implementing this subnational governance vision. The Citizen-Centred Governance Policy/Roadmap for Subnational Reform presents the government's strategy for using subnational governance to improve service delivery, accountability and balanced economic development: A governance system that is responsive and accountable to citizens, perceived as inclusive and impartial and effective in delivering quality services will strengthen the link between the citizens and the state, as well as contribute to peace and development.

To oversee and advance the implementation process of the Citizen-Centred Governance Policy/Roadmap for Subnational Reform, a Subnational Governance Committee was formed on 26 December 2018. The committee is comprised of the Minister of Finance, Minister of Economy, Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Minister of Urban Development and Housing, Director General of IDLG and one of the Deputies of the Administration Office of the President (AoP). IDLG and AoP will assist as the Secretariat of this committee. This committee will serve as a sub-committee under the National High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption chaired by the Second Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

## **Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan (IEC)**

Website: <http://www.iec.org.af/>

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) was established in 2005 in accordance with Article 156 of the Afghan Constitution. The IEC is the only institution responsible for administering and supervising elections and referenda and acts independently. It is authorised to supervise any elections in the country and is responsible for administering the following:

1. Presidential elections
2. Wolesi Jirga elections
3. Provincial Council elections
4. District Council elections
5. Village Council elections
6. Municipal Council elections
7. Mayoral elections
8. Referenda

### **The IEC's strategic goals are:**

1. Strengthening an atmosphere of trust and building support of stakeholders for the electoral process;
2. Reducing electoral expenses through capacity-building, infrastructural development and better management of resources;
3. Displaying the IEC as one of the best institutions in the country; and
4. Conducting elections in accordance with the law.

The IEC maintains offices in every province of Afghanistan. Regional and provincial offices are responsible for implementing elections activities in their areas of operation. The President appoints all IEC members.

## **Independent Electoral Complaints Commission**

Website: [www.ecc.org.af](http://www.ecc.org.af)

IECC is an independent body responsible for hearing and adjudicating complaints related to the electoral process, including challenges to the list of candidates and complaints about the conduct of campaigns and polling. The IECC was established pursuant Article 52 of the 2005 Electoral Law. The IECC is separate from and independent of, the IEC. As of today, all IECC members are appointed directly by the President.

## **Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC)**

Website: <http://www.mec.af/>

The Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) was established in 2011 following the London and Kabul Conferences in 2010 to monitor and evaluate the efforts and progress made in fighting corruption by the Afghan government and the international community.

The Committee has six senior anti-corruption experts, who have been selected through a nomination process overseen by the government and the international community. The Chairperson of the Committee alternates between an Afghan and an international appointee every 6 months.

MEC is supported by a technical secretariat of national and international staff. The Secretariat is led by an Executive Director and is divided into two major departments: 1) Research, Reporting and Communications; 2) Monitoring and Evaluation and Vulnerabilities to Corruption Assessments.

The MEC's mandate is as follow: (a) to assist in defining effective developmental benchmarks for institutions; (b) to monitor and evaluate activities to fight corruption at national level and in respect of foreign aid from governments and international organisations; and (c) to report to the President, the National Assembly, public and society and the international community, every 6 months.

## **National Budget**

Website: [www.budgetmof.gov.af](http://www.budgetmof.gov.af)

Each year the Government of Afghanistan produces a national budget, which estimates the cost of providing services for that year and specifies how the services are to be paid for. The Afghan fiscal year (FY) starts on 1 Jaddi and ends on 30 Qaws of each solar year (22 December–21 December of the Gregorian year).

The national budget for FY 1398 (2019) is Afs399 billion. The national budget is funded from four sources: domestic revenue, donor assistance, treasury cash reserves and loans. About 69% of the national budget is allocated to operating costs, while 31% of it is the development budget. Domestic resources finance 50% of the total national budget. About 71% of the operating budget is allocated to wages and salaries, with the rest dedicated to goods and services (19%), interests on loans (1%), pensions (6%) and acquisition of assets (2%). A sectoral breakdown of the 1398 budget shows that it is allocated to: Security (41%), Education (13%), Infrastructure (14%), Agriculture (8%), Health (4%), Economic (2%), Social Protection (4%), Governance (9%) and Contingencies (5%).

## **National Priority Programmes (NPPs):**

National Priority Programmes (NPPs) are outcome-focused thematic programmes that guide Afghan ministries towards collective problem solving. Most NPPs involved more than one ministry and thus inter-ministerial working groups synchronise timetables, budgets and shared resources. The following are the Afghan Government's NPPs in key reform areas:

### **1. Comprehensive Agriculture Development (CAD-NPP)**

The vision for the agriculture sector is to address structural capacity, which could enable farmers to generate increased income, provide greater food and nutritional security and contribute to economic growth and capital regeneration.

The CAD-NPP has seven strategic priorities and 10 drivers and enablers that highlight how to reach its goals:

- Irrigation
- Wheat and other cereals
- Horticulture value chains
- Livestock
- Climate sensitive natural resource management
- Food and nutrition security
- Institutional reform and capacity building

While the CAD-NPP was endorsed in Brussels in 2016, it does not have an implementation plan. According to a Ministry of Finance progress update from 2018, MoF and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAIL) are designing a plan based on national programmes through a whole-of-government approach, which would include other Ministries.

### **2. Citizen's Charter (CC-NPP)**

The Citizen's Charter is an inter-ministerial effort of the Government to make delivery of core infrastructure and social services more effective and citizen-centric through Community Development Councils (CDCs). Under the Citizen's Charter, all people of Afghanistan are entitled to a basic package of services, which includes universal access to clean drinking water; quality education in government schools; delivery of Basic Package of Health Services and small-scale rural and urban infrastructure.

The Citizen's Charter has seven priority areas:

- Institutional strengthening and capacity
- Rural development
- Urban development
- Agriculture

- Education
- Health

At the community-level, the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and IDLG are the lead implementing agencies; while MAIL, MoE and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) are working through the Charter's institutions at the sub-district level and are a part of the management and coordination at the district, provincial and national levels.

The programme began in May 2017 with the goal of achieving national coverage in 10 years. As of July 2018, it has reached more than six million people in 8,124 communities. About 8,000 CDCs have been elected, 49% of which are female members. Financing has supported 2,212 sub-projects and US\$52 million has been disbursed to communities in the form of grants.

### **3. Private Sector Development (PSD-NPP)**

Private sector development (PSD-NPP) is focused on transforming Afghanistan into a market economy in which the private sector leads the economic growth process, creates job opportunities, contributes to poverty reduction and gradually reduces reliance on foreign aid. It has two parts: a strategic framework outlining a strategy for private sector development and building on existing initiatives and an implementation plan, which links priority actions to key performance indicators. The PSD-NPP has four key pillars:

- Restoring confidence and creating an enabling environment for businesses through 1) identifying opportunities for cooperation on security matters in local business communities 2) implementing doing business reforms across all relevant dimensions 3) addressing constraints in priority value chains
- Increasing access to key inputs for business through plans to improve access to financial services and serviced industrial land
- Sharing risks and crowding in investment by improving investment promotion and the performance of State-Owned Enterprises, finding opportunities for public-private partnerships (PPPs) and ensuring a level playing field
- Facilitating and securing trade and transit through a focus on competitiveness and connectivity. This pillar complements the National Infrastructure Program and the National Export Strategy.

An outline of the PSD-NPP Strategic Framework was developed by an inter-ministerial committee, and presented and approved in the PriSEC meeting in January 2018. The first draft of the NPP was shared with key stakeholders in March and the inter-ministerial committee is working on the development of the action plan.

### **4. National Infrastructure Plan (NIP)**

The National Infrastructure Plan (NIP), along with the investment pipeline for 2017–2021, was presented at the 2016 Brussels Conference and outlines the NUG's national and sector priorities for new infrastructure to achieve the ANDPF vision for economic growth, social development and employment.



In conjunction with the PSD-NPP, the NIP will focus on improving Afghanistan’s productivity, competitiveness and connectivity by targeted infrastructure investment, human capital development and enhanced regional connectivity.

A revised project approval process was established in 2017 for the 2018 budget for all new projects, which was further enhanced for the 2019 budget. A portfolio performance review took place in mid-2018 to ensure improved delivery and development impact. Investments in key priority areas—energy, transport, regional connectivity, ICT, water resources/irrigation and urban sectors—have been approved or are in the process of approval and are moving to the implementation stage.

### **5. Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE-NPP)**

The Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE-NPP) is dedicated to the realisation of gender equality through women’s economic and social participation with a focus on women’s access to economic resources, their increased ability to operate successfully in commercial markets and alignment of government policies with these development goals. While it mostly builds on existing programmes and projects, the framework is focused on scaling up the programmes. Each Ministry is responsible for its own programme implementation and budget execution. The ministry leading the WEE-NPP is Ministry of Finance since mid-2019.

The WEE-NPP has six key components:

1. Increasing the availability and analysis of gender statistics
2. Removing legal barriers to women’s participation in economic activities
3. Training in literacy, business management and labour skills
4. Ensuring inclusive access to finance
5. Improving access to agricultural inputs, extension services and markets
6. Promoting access to creative economy markets

MoE is dedicated to hiring more female teachers; 2,500 were hired in 2017 and around 3,000 recruitments were planned for 2018. Over 100 midwives and nurses are receiving in the most underserved areas of the country through an MOPH program. Kitchen gardens were provided for more than 50,000 women in all 34 provinces. An inter-ministerial steering committee for the WEE-NPP, co-chaired by MoLSAMD and MOWA, meets regularly to improve coordination of activities. Five provincial dormitories were planned for construction in 2018 in Kunar, Bamiyan, Helmand, Takhar and Badghis.

However, there are still many issues that need to be addressed. The lack of clarification on roles and mandates among ministries creates issues in coordination and effective implementation. WEE projects are currently designed to delivery activities, but there is no mechanism to see what their impact and outcomes are. There is also a funding gap of \$100 million for WEE activities.

## 6. **Urban NPP (U-NPP)**

The Urban NPP was designed in alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The programme is led by MUDH, which is the secretariat of the Urban Development Council. The government is dedicated to ensuring that the design, development, consultations and outreach are consistent and that all interest groups are equally represented.

The Urban NPP is organised around three pillars:

1. Urban Governance and institutions: strengthening the legal and regular framework, institutional accountability, urban planning and monitoring, knowledge and data
2. Ensure suitable housing and access to basic urban services for all
3. Harnessing the urban economy and infrastructure to reduce urban poverty, strengthen the resilience of urban households and strengthen market linkages

The Urban Development NPP has been approved by the Infrastructure High Council and High Economic Council; it is fully operational and under implementation by line ministries. The National Housing Policy, the Urban Upgrading Policy and Housing Policy are in the draft stage. Plans for over 20,000 affordable housing units in the five major cities have been finalised. Construction of 96 apartments in the Mamozai Refugee Township have been completed and 300 houses for returnees in Kabul are near completion. The cleaning of 7.7 km of the Kabul River has been completed. The development of two industrial parks, Bariab and Mohammad Agha, are underway. The development of a five-year strategic plan for municipalities, as well as the registration and digitalisation of enterprises in Kabul city, has been completed.

## 7. **National Justice and Judicial Reform Plan (NJJR-NPP)**

The National Justice and Judicial Reform Plan was developed to achieve six goals:

- Provide effective justice and judicial service in accordance with Afghan law
- Enhance citizens' access to justice and protection of basic rights and legal liberties
- Ensure rule of law and combat criminal activity, in particular tackling corruption
- Ensure competency, enhance professional capacity of justice and judicial sector staff and enhance professional capacity of justice and judicial sector staff, as well as their access to facilities and modern electrical equipment
- Strengthen the capacity and mechanism of legal amendments
- Increase awareness of citizens about their rights and responsibilities

The plan is closely linked with the Anti-Corruption Strategy, which has been prioritised by 11 ministries, as well as independent agencies. The Plan was approved by the Cabinet in January 2017. The corresponding action plans of implementing agencies were developed and approved by the High Council on Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption. Some progress highlights include the assignment

of prosecutors from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to every district of Afghanistan and the establishment of new directorates within the AGO for gender equality and human rights, addressing violence against children and investigating international crimes. Because of efforts to bring gender balance to the justice sector, according to a 2018 progress update, there are now 476 female prosecutors in Afghanistan and the number of female employees increased from 3% to 17%. Women are also leading nine of the AGO's directorates.

## **8. Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Reform Strategy (MMP – NPP)**

The Mining Sector Roadmap, which was released by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MOMP) in December 2017, expresses the Afghan government's commitment to achieving the vision of an open and accountable mining sector. It has five key priority areas intended to improve the performance of Afghanistan's mineral and hydrocarbons sector:

- Mineral and Areas Of Interest interventions
- Institutional reform at MOMP
- Reforming the tendering process
- Ensuring service delivery for communities
- Ensuring that mining revenues contribute to macro-fiscal sustainability

The Roadmap was approved by the High Economic Council in January 2017. The MOMP has also developed a Reform Strategy, a seven-year plan, to guide the implementation of the recommendations in the Roadmap. The strategy has five pillars:

- Institutional reform and development: focus on reform and restructure of MOMP, State-Owned Enterprises, HR Development, gender mainstreaming, e-Governance and communications
- Geological data acquisition and management: including management systems for geo-data, data collation, recording analysis and dissemination
- Contract management and compliance: reviewing and prioritising contracts, streamlining and digitalising the cadastre system—the land recording of a country's real estate or real property's metes-and-bounds—improving reporting, inspections and dispute resolution systems
- Transparent and accountable governance: improving policies and laws, transparency, social, heritage and environmental frameworks and formalising illegal mining
- Growth and enabling environment: includes conducting value chain studies, tracking project implementation, exploring regional cooperation, Corporate Social Responsibility and promoting private sector engagement

The Reform Strategy was developed following consultation with private sector, civil society, government institutions and international partners. It was finalised at MOMP after ensuring it aligned with stakeholder priorities. External validation of the strategy is still required.

## 9. **Effective Governance Program (EG – NPP)**

The Effective Governance NPP is designed to ensure the Afghan government is responsive to the demands of the citizens, priority programmes are financed and institutions are functioning transparently. The programme has six pillars, which are made operational through two main components: Public Financial Management Reform and the Sub-National Governance NPP. The six pillars are:

- Clarifying ministry mandates
- Public sector reforms to equip the government with technically and managerially qualified personnel
- Reforming the national budget process to increase transparency, efficiency and the flexibility to align budget allocations with national policy priorities
- Increasing citizens' representation and promoting public accountability
- Fighting corruption
- Improving quality, access and use of data

While the programme is not a traditional project, the pillars do have time-bound and budgeted activities that can be monitored. FY 1397 (2018) was the first time the Afghan government presented a consolidated national budget, where the operation and development budgets were presented together and also broken down by economic classification, administrative function, fund, programme and geographic location.

The most recent updates from this programme involve various civil service reforms. In particular, the new e-recruitment system developed by IARCSC has already begun transparent recruitments of 20,000 civil service positions. The Commission also launched TAGHIR, which replaced the CBR program. The High Council of Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption has approved the Governance Policy. In October 2017, the government released its National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

## 10. **Human Capital (HC-NPP)**

This NPP's objectives is to develop equitable, relevant and competency-based education, health and social protection programmes that contribute to building and sustaining productive human capital in Afghanistan. According to a Ministry of Finance policy department update, the development of human capital will: drive economic growth and alleviate poverty; strengthen government capacity for sound management and quality assurance of education; health and social protections programs; expand the scope, quality and coverage of health and education services provided to the population; invest in youth to equip them with skills and competencies and reduce youth unemployment; prepare for future labour market needs; and bridge the gap between gender and regional disparities in the country.

The HC-NPP will be implemented through four key components:

- Universal and quality health care services
- Outcome-based and standardised education programmes
- Market-driven higher education programmes
- Efficient and effective social protection programmes

The most recent update on the NPP is that MOE, MOHE, MOPH and MoLSAMD are involved in implementation. While the HC-NPP has not been finalised yet, some progress has been made on this NPP. Most importantly, MOPH has begun roll-out of the World Bank-funded Sehatmandi programme, which will involve sector-wide reforms, improved service delivery of health services and capacity building at the Ministry. MOE has begun implementation of the National Education Strategic Plan III, which shifts focus from enrolment to attendance, in particular focusing on the most underserved areas of the country.

## **Oversight Commission on Access to Information (OCAI)**

Website: [www.ocai.af](http://www.ocai.af)

The OCAI was established in July 1970 to provide citizens with access to information on the work of state and non-governmental organisations. This commission has been established on the basis of the provisions of Article 16 of the Law on Access to Information and consists of 13 members from 11 official, non-governmental, civil, legal and media organisations.

The Law on Access to Information has four objectives, as stated in Article 2:

1. To address the right of citizens to have access to information from state organs;
2. To implement Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 3 of the Constitution of Afghanistan;
3. To ensure transparency and accountability of state agencies regarding their performance;
4. To arrange the process of requesting and presenting information.

Duties and Authorities:

- To monitor the process of requesting information from and presenting information to state agencies on behalf of requesting citizens;
- To address claims made by requesting citizens;
- To request documents and evidence from the offices of state organs responsible for presenting information, if necessary;
- To provide necessary advice to persons requesting information and to agencies presenting it;
- To assess the reports of the offices responsible for presenting information within agencies;

- To present an annual report on the OCAI's activities to the President and the National Assembly and to publish it;
- To enrich the culture of presenting information by conducting educational programmes across the country;
- To publish the OCAI's decisions for public awareness;
- To monitor the manner of implementation of the provisions of the Law on Access to Information;
- To adopt relevant procedures and terms of reference;
- To accomplish other duties incorporated in the Law on Access to Information.

The OCAI has also developed terms of reference, procedures, guidelines and regulations with a view to bringing reform, speed and ease to the process of accessing information and conducts various joint activities with other organisations and agencies to enrich and further develop the culture of access to information.

The OCAI seeks to ensure that all state and non-governmental organisations are committed to the implementation of the Law on Access to Information and present information in a timely manner in accordance with the Law so that all Afghan citizens are able to enjoy their fundamental rights (including the right to access to information) and to be able to participate in the struggle against corruption within state organs with a view to strengthening transparency and accountability.

## **Counter-Narcotics**

While the UK was initially the lead country for counter-narcotics, the US took the lead role by the end of 2003. From FY 2002 through FY 2017, the US government spent around US\$8.62 billion on counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan.

In 2005, the US Embassy in Kabul issued the first counter-narcotics strategy for Afghanistan, which stressed poppy crop eradication. The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) pushed for aerial spraying of chemical herbicides on opium poppy. However, this approach led to strained relations between the US, the Afghan government and other coalition partners. Multiple US agencies were involved in counter-narcotics between 2004 to 2008.

By 2006, the US DoD prioritised counter-narcotics efforts because of the observed link between the drug trade and the insurgency. USAID allocated an average of 75 percent of its total budget for the Afghan agricultural programme to alternative development between 2005–2008. Meanwhile, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents were mentoring Afghan units and raiding drug production sites. In 2008, the United States set up the Afghan Threat Finance Cell to target financial flows related to the insurgency, drug trafficking and corruption. During these years, eradication was still the primary focus of counter-narcotics efforts.

During the “surge” of US troops in 2009, there was a temporary increase in interdiction operations because of the influx of boots on the ground. At this time, the US counter-narcotics strategy shifted from eradication to providing licit economic opportunities for rural communities engaged in opium

farming. Alternative development programmes tried to replace poppy farming with wheat. However, this led to the displacement of rural communities and their poppy crops to desert areas, where they continued their operations.

Due to the drawdown of US troops and the end of 2014, CN efforts were put on the backburner as those engaged in the matter were reassigned to security missions. USAID ended its alternative development programme and DEA had difficulty carrying out interdiction operations because their staff was limited to Kabul. The interest of donor countries in counter-narcotics efforts dwindled and the Afghan Government's work could not be sustained as they had to focus on combating insurgent groups. This series of events culminated in an increase in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan.

By 2017, poppy cultivation in Afghanistan reached a record of 328,000 hectares. In order to combat this, US and Afghan forces initiated airstrikes against drug labs in Helmand Province in November of that year, under new authorities outlined in the South Asia strategy. The US DoD explained this move as the start of a sustained air interdiction campaign to disrupt Taliban financial networks.

The US counter-narcotics efforts focused on four strands of activities:

1. **Interdiction and counter-narcotics law enforcement:** This method proved to be unsuccessful in the long run. According to a SIGAR report, the sum of all opium seizures from 2009 through March 2018 amounted to 5 percent of the opium produced in 2017 alone.
2. **Eradication:** This effort never destroyed enough poppy to see a significant reduction in distribution, sale and consumption. Even during a record-high opium eradication in 2007, it was claimed that only 19,000 hectares were destroyed.
3. **Alternative Development:** While USAID allocated a large budget to the development of large-scale and short-term interventions to replace poppy with a licit crop, these activities did not have the desired outcome. In some instances, certain projects even contributed to an increase in poppy cultivation, for example, through improvements in irrigation systems.
4. **Mobilisation of Afghan Political Support and Institution Building:** This strand of activity has focused on building capacity within Afghan ministries, with the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics as lead to coordinate the Afghan government's counter-narcotics efforts.

## Health

Afghanistan's health system is among the poorest in the world, with an infant mortality rate of 66 per 1,000 births, and a maternity mortality rate of 396 deaths per 100,000 births. The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) oversees all matters concerning the health system.

The Sehatmandi Project for Afghanistan was developed by the World Bank with the objective of increasing the utilisation and quality of health, nutrition and family planning services. There are three components to the project: 1) improving service delivery to finance performance-based contracts for the delivery of the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Health Services in 31 provinces; 2) strengthening the health system to support a performance management culture in the MOPH, among other stakeholders; and 3) strengthening demand and community accountability for key health services to finance a range of activities from communication campaigns aimed at raising overall awareness on health rights as well as specific health behaviours to support the MOPH and service providers to be more responsive to community health needs.

The project cost is valued at \$600 million. The first component of improving service delivery is valued at \$570 million. Component two, strengthening the health system and its performance, is expected to cost \$20 million. The third component, strengthening demand and community accountability for key health services, is estimated to cost \$10 million. It will be completely financed by the World Bank. The committed amount from the International Development Association, at the World Bank is \$140 million, which will be disbursed from March 2018 to June 2021. USAID, the European Union and Canada will contribute \$425 million in funding through ARTF for the project. The Global Financing Facility is contributing the remaining \$35 million for the project.

The implementing agencies for the project are the Ministry of Finance and MOPH. This project will also have an impact on the Citizen's Charter (CC) National Priority Programme (NPP) as the MOPH is involved in the healthcare service delivery component of the CC NPP. In accordance with the goals of the CC NPP, the aim is to provide 100% coverage by 2027. This project will help the Government achieve that goal.

The project will support sector wide M&E through a third party to ensure the quality of the data and tangible progress. A household health survey will be carried out by third-party monitoring in coordination with the Demographic Health Survey. The survey will provide national and provincial estimates of key project indicators, coverage of key services, out-of-pocket expenditures, key behaviours related to maternal and child health and end-line data for the project. The baseline data for the project will come from the Afghan Health Survey for 2018 and the Balanced Scorecard (BSC).

The third-party monitoring will carry out the annual health facility assessments, which examine quality of care including availability of key inputs, clients and staff satisfaction, management system and fairness in the utilisation of health services. The results will be presented in the BSC format and will summarise the performance of the implementation of BPHS and EPHS in each province. The BSC allows for policy makers and health managers to see the progress made in each province, to assess strengths and find weaknesses.



The Health Management Information System (HMIS) at MOPH will provide data on the deployment of BPHS and EPHS in real time. The data from HMIS will be visited on quarterly basis to assess progress and identify critical issues. Due to the service provider payments being linked to key outputs reported through HMIS, third-party verification of the data will be carried out.

Third-party verification of HMIS is expected to take place every 6 months through a random selection process. The two stages of verification will be: 1) assessment of consistency between health facility registers and Quarterly Reports sent to the MOPH; and 2) visits to households selected through random sample from those listed in the health facility registers and verification of services received by the clients. The third party will also verify the status of the health facility in terms of its capacity to provide BPHS/EPHS, as per MOPH guidelines.

In January 2019, a project progress report was released. According to Project Development Objective indicators by objectives and outcomes, there was no improvement from baseline figures taken in June 2015 to current figures from December 2018 in the areas of minimum dietary diversity and contraceptive prevalence rates. The lack of improvement in contraceptive prevalence rates is deeply concerning because it has clear implications for family planning, or lack thereof more specifically. Meanwhile, penta3 vaccination, for DPT, Hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type B, has decreased markedly in 3.5 years. The only area of improvement was in healthy facility visits per year to BPHS and EPHS facilities.

For more information on the assessment of this project, please visit the World Bank Afghanistan Sehatmandi Project page:

[http://projects.worldbank.org/  
P160615/?lang=en&tab=documents&subTab=projectDocuments](http://projects.worldbank.org/P160615/?lang=en&tab=documents&subTab=projectDocuments)

## Media

Mass media in Afghanistan is undergoing significant growth in terms of content, reach and distribution across a variety of delivery channels. The diversity of radio stations, TV channels and print publications has been buoyed by international involvement and legal changes that are more supportive of media independence. Freedom House changed Afghanistan's press freedom status from "Not Free" to "Partly Free" in 2016, which it retained in 2017 and 2018, due to government decrees to improve protections for journalists and access to information, as well as the establishment of a mechanism to address complaints about the media without resorting to prosecution. These legal changes reflect a more favourable stance of the current administration of President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Dr Abdullah Abdullah on media independence.

Despite legal changes to support media independence in Afghanistan, journalists continue to face violence, threats and intimidation by the Taliban and other powerful individuals, both within and outside of the government. The 2018 annual report of the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee (AJSC) noted 121 cases of violence against journalists, including 17 who were killed doing their jobs. AJSC also registered 15 cases of injury, 21 cases of physical assault, 38 cases of threats and intimidation, 23 cases of insults and mistreatment, five cases of temporary detention, one case of abduction and one case of unfair dismissal of a journalist by a media manager. Overall statistics of violence against journalists showed a 28% decline in 2018 compared to 2017 where the AJSC recorded 169 cases of violence. Although this decrease is a positive development, significant acts of violence targeting journalists have occurred over the past few years. Some of these attacks include: a Taliban suicide bombing that killed seven employees of Tolo TV in Kabul in January 2016, an ISIS suicide bombing that killed four employees of Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA) in Nangarhar province in May 2017 and nine journalists from several news agencies who were killed in a targeted attack in Kabul in April 2018 that was claimed by ISIS.

More Afghans today have choices on where to source news and information due to a crowded media market that is increasingly commercially profitable. The proliferation of television, radio and other media is a departure from the period when Afghanistan was under Taliban rule, wherein the regime prohibited all media except for sharia radio promoting its version of Islam and state propaganda. Currently there are over 33 registered television stations that operate in Kabul, with 35 registered stations that broadcast across the provinces. In addition, there are more than 170 radio broadcasters and more than 300 press publications. However, the nature of Afghan use of media channels has remained much the same: after being exposed to decades of propaganda, Afghans are well aware that all media represent vested interests disseminating content for a reason. Moreover, Afghan media institutions match Afghan society by being just as highly fragmented along ethnic, religious, linguistic, political and other lines.

There is no impartial and widely trusted national media in Afghanistan. Most media are perceived as serving rival political, religious, or other interests and there is concern that the small base of advertising revenue makes privately owned media unsustainable. There is additional concern that if donor support decreases, the shortage of funds could make media houses susceptible to factional forces.

Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA) is the only truly national broadcaster but it is seen as the voice

of the Government rather than a true national broadcaster and attracts a small audience. The private media are dominated by five media groups that control radio and/or TV channels:

1. Moby Group's first media initiative, Arman Radio was launched in 2002. Today, its flagship channel Tolo TV broadcasts in Dari and its sister station, Lemar, broadcasts in Pashto. Other outlets include Tolo News and Arakozia radio stations.
2. Ariana Television Network (ATN) was established in 2005. Ariana broadcasts in Dari, Pashto, Uzbek and English. Other outlets include Ariana International and Ariana News television stations, as well as Ariana FM and Ariana News radio stations.
3. Shamshad TV was launched in early 2006 and broadcasts to reach Pashto populations in southern and eastern Afghanistan.
4. 1TV, launched in early 2010, targets Afghan youth and middle-income earners in Kabul and the country's main regions.
5. The Killid Group was established in 2002 as a not-for-profit media initiative that is part of the wider Development and Humanitarian Services for Afghanistan (DHSA) group. Killid Group runs eight local radio stations across the country.
6. Pajhwok Afghan News was established in 2003. It has its headquarters in Kabul and eight regional bureaus. Pajhwok delivers an average daily output of three dozen stories in Pashto, Dari and English.

Radio continues to be the major media source for most Afghans, particularly those outside cities. According to a survey conducted by The Asia Foundation (TAF) in 2018, almost two-thirds (62.9%) of Afghans report using radio as their main source of information after television (68.7%). However, though radio leads television in rural areas as the most-used source of news and information, there is an overall downward trend in the number of people listening to the radio for news and information since 2013. According to TAF, access to TV and viewership of TV channels has steadily increased as more than two-thirds of Afghans (68.7%) say they source their news and information from television. This trend mirrors the rate of household television ownership over time, which is 68.6% in 2018, an increase from 58.3% in 2014. With low literacy among adults, print media are of limited importance, although they do capture the interest of the urban intelligentsia and more politically aware citizens.

Tensions continue to arise between the norms prevalent in much of rural Afghanistan and those developing in urban centres, where much of the media production or broadcasting originates. The broadcasting of content sourced from outside Afghanistan also continues to raise issues of its acceptability to Afghan society. In addition, the Mass Media Law of 2015 restricts the publication of any material against Islamic values or damaging to national security interests, though neither of these concepts is precisely defined.

According to the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, 15% of the population has internet access. Although internet penetration is significantly smaller than radio or television, this is changing annually as mobile network coverage expands, data becomes cheaper and as more households own mobile phones. TAF's 2018 survey noted that 16.8% of Afghans reported using the

internet as a source of information, an increase from 11.6% in 2017 and 3.3% in 2013. Differences in internet use among urban and rural users show that 33.2% of Afghans living in urban areas use the internet for news and information, which is significantly higher than 11.4% of Afghans in rural areas. Internet use is highest among younger Afghans, particularly those living in urban areas.

## Mineral and Hydrocarbon Resources

The Government of Afghanistan enacted the new Minerals Law in October 2018, accessible in Official Gazette No. 1315. This new Law will send to the parliament for approval soon by the government. Once it entered into force, the previous law from 2014 was nullified with the exception of the provisions applicable to transitional licenses as defined in the new law.

The new Minerals Law regulates the functions of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, the Mining Technical Committee, the National Procurement Authority and Commission, the High Economic Council and the Cabinet with regard to all issues related to mining in Afghanistan.

The law establishes a proper framework for the allocation of mineral rights, registration and transparency. Additionally, it regulates mining licenses, both small and large scale and the rights and conditions of each. It also elaborates on all details related to mining concessions and the bidding process, mining revenue, financial assurance, compliance and enforcement. The Minerals Law also addresses environmental concerns, community development, health and safety plans and the acquisition of land and compensation to landowners.

The law on Oil and Gas (Hydrocarbons) was entered into force in December 2017, pursuant to Article 9 of the 2004 Constitution. This law aims to regulate affairs related to determining State ownership and control over hydrocarbon resources, the preservation, utilisation and granting of concession rights, the execution of contracts, exploration activities and the development and production of oil and gas.

A MoMP report published in December 2017 on the Mining Sector provides a breakdown of Afghanistan's mineral and hydrocarbon resources. They are as follows:

- **Gold:** Gold deposits are estimated at around 2,700 kg and are located across Badakhshan, Baghlan, Ghazni, Logar, Panjsher, Takhar, and West Zabul.
- **Iron:** Iron is the most abundant mineral resource in Afghanistan and it is estimated that the country holds billions metric tonnes (MTs). Sedimentary iron ore, known as Haji Gak iron ore in Afghanistan and containing 63%–69% iron, makes up 2 billion MTs. Meanwhile, total igneous iron ore reserves, which are 47%–68% iron, are estimated at 178 million MTs. There are more than 100 mines of Iron in the country.
- **Copper:** The total reserves of sediment-hosted copper are estimated at around 30 million MTs (12.3 million MTs are known deposits and 16.9 million MTs are probable reserves). These deposits are also estimated to contain significant amounts of related metals, namely 7,670 MTs of silver and 601,500 MTs of cobalt. Based on models from 12 areas across the country, it is estimated that at least eight undiscovered porphyry copper deposits contain an additional 28.5 million MTs of copper.

- **Aluminium:** Around 4.5 million MTs of bauxite ore deposits (50.5% alumina, 12% silica) were discovered in Zabul and Baghlan. However, bauxite mining is unlikely at present because of the large electricity requirements, its high silica content and overall small size relative to deposits in other countries.
- **Gemstones:** Afghanistan was once the world's premier source for lapis lazuli, emeralds and rubies. Prior to the beginning of the war in 1979, the semiprecious gemstones industry in Afghanistan was booming. Currently, most of the gemstones come from northeastern Afghanistan—namely Badakhshan, Kunar and Nuristan. They include emerald, ruby, sapphire, spinel and lapis lazuli.
- **Rare-Earth Minerals:** Afghanistan contains an estimated 1.4 million MTs of rare-earth minerals (REMs) and 3.5 million MTs of other REMs. Decisions related to the mining of REMs will be based on economic and national security considerations. The NSC has been tasked to develop an REM policy, which will guide the technical and economic evaluations of REM tenders.
- **Chromite:** There is an estimated 980,000 MTs of chromium oxide; verified sources have already found 200,000 MTs in the Logar Valley.
- **Sulphur:** While the two known deposits of sulphur—in Bakhud and Badakhshan—come to about 450,000 MTs, estimates attest to around 6 million MTs of undiscovered sulphur in the Afghan–Tajik basin.
- **Talc:** Around 1.25 million MTs of metamorphic talc has been discovered in the Achin district of Jalalabad, Nangahar.

The Amu Darya and the Afghan–Tajik hydrocarbon basins are the two largest in the country. Together, they encompass approximately 515,000 square kilometres in the portions that lie in Afghanistan. Since discovery of the first oil field in 1959, more than 150 million barrels of oil reserves and over 4,500 billion cubic feet of gas reserves have been identified in the Afghan territory of these basins. A very small portion of this resource has been exploited. There is currently a feasibility study of the Amu Darya underway, which is funded by the Asian Development Bank. There are also reports of smaller undiscovered hydrocarbon assets in the three main basins in western and southern Afghanistan:

- **The Tirpul Basin:** extending from near Herat in the east to the Iranian border in the west
- **The Helmand Basin:** southwest of Kandahar
- **The Katawaz Basin:** in southern Afghanistan

Despite the abundance of minerals and hydrocarbon resources, there are many constraints that impede their proper exploitation. These barriers include:

- **Transportation:** A proper transport infrastructure is needed to move many minerals and bulk metals to end markets
- **Power:** The mining and processing of minerals often needs an extensive power structure, which currently does not exist in Afghanistan

- Land: The land acquisition process can hinder investment in the mining sector
- Water: The processing of minerals requires extensive water resources
- Rule of Law
- Procurement
- Community Engagement
- Environmental Issues
- Human Capital

## Renewable Energy

Currently, Afghanistan's existing power supply system has many deficiencies, from geographic coverage to cost of domestic supply. According to the Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey 2013–2014, which was published by CSO in 2016, 89 percent of households reported having some kind of access to electricity, but only 29.7 percent received it from a power grid. The country's grid supply is largely from electricity imported from neighbouring countries, but is also supplemented with electricity from domestic hydropower plants (HPPs). However, most of these HPPs have reservoirs with a storage capacity of a few hours. Furthermore, while peak customer demand for energy is during the winter months, peak flow from HPPs comes during summer months. Domestic thermal plants make a very minor contribution to the energy supply, but their high operating costs and dependence on imported diesel makes them very unsustainable.

The country's transmission system is fragmented, consisting of isolated grids supplied by different power systems including different generating stations and import sources. This issue gets aggravated by the dilemma that the power systems of the countries Afghanistan imports energy from are not synchronised with one another for the most part. This forces Afghanistan to operate sections of its networks at differing speeds and frequencies in order to interconnect with the neighbouring countries.

The Afghanistan Power Sector Master Plan (APSMP) from 2013 is the most recent and comprehensive forecast of electricity demand in Afghanistan. It shows a projected increase in net demand, at an annual growth rate of 9.8 percent, from approximately 2,800 GWh in 2012 to 15,909 GWh in 2032. The forecast for increase in peak demand was from 600 MW in 2012 to 3,502 MW in 2032, which is about 8.6 percent growth per year.

One of the initiatives identified by the Afghan government to stimulate economic activity—through its own initiatives and in partnership with international development organisations—is to capitalise on and utilise the country's Renewable Energy (RE) resources. If executed properly, this would not only increase the delivery of electricity services to the Afghan population, but also develop domestic business opportunities directly linked to RE technology and to improving access to reasonably priced electricity. The Afghan Government has set a target to supply 10 percent of forecasted electricity demand (350–500 MW) through RE by 2032.

Afghanistan has a wealth of RE resources, which could be used to lessen future supply gaps at economically viable and financially attractive cost levels. The country's total recoverable hydroelectric capacity is estimated at 23,000 MW, 87 percent (20,000 MW) of which is in the northeastern Amu Darya, Panj and Kokcha rivers. Around 8 percent (1,900 MW) is located to the east of Kabul, over half of which is on the Kunar River near the border with Pakistan. The feasibility studies for the exploitation of the resources, however, are incomplete or currently out of date.

Given that Afghanistan has 300 days of sunshine each year, the average solar potential (Global Horizontal Irradiance, or GHI) is estimated at 6.5 kWh per m<sup>2</sup> per day. The southern provinces—Kandahar, Helmand, Farah and Herat—have the most potential. However, even in northern provinces where the GHI is around 4.5 kWh per m<sup>2</sup> per day, electricity generation is feasible. According to a 2018 World Bank report, the total estimated national capacity based on solar radiation and feasible area is 22,000 MW.

While the country's wind resources are substantial, they are highly localised with the areas of maximum potential being in the southwest near the Iranian border. The country's total capacity is estimated at approximately 150,000 MW, with the exploitable capacity being at roughly 66,700 MW, according to the World Bank. While studies need to be conducted in these areas, geothermal and biomass have also been named as having substantial potential.

## **Tackling Afghanistan Government's HRM and Institutional Reform (TAGHIR)**

The Tackling Afghanistan Government's HRM and Institutional Reform (TAGHIR) Project is part of the Afghan Government's strategic vision, entitled "Realizing Self-Reliance: Commitments to Reforms and Renewed Partnership". This vision has been translated into the 2017–2021 Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF), which provides a credible framework for improving security, political stability and economic and fiscal stabilisation. The ANPDF includes plans to advance good governance, including electoral reform and strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights, particularly in relation to women and girls, fighting corruption and the illicit economy including narcotics. These reforms are intended to pave the way for enhanced private sector investments and sustainable social, environmental and economic development.

The overall objective of TAGHIR is to strengthen the capacity of selected line ministries and agencies through merit-based recruitment of key positions, improved personnel management and better HR planning.

A key component of TAGHIR's scope involves the financing of salary payments of up to 1,500 civil servant positions identified in the strategic staffing plans of selected line ministries and agencies to support delivery of key policy priorities.

TAGHIR has replaced the ARTF-funded Capacity for Results (CBR) programme.

## Water Resources

In April 2018, the Afghan Government declared Afghanistan as drought-affected. It has been described as the worst drought Afghanistan has faced in more than a decade, affecting more than two-thirds of the country.<sup>1</sup> It has had a devastating impact on the agricultural sector but more importantly, it has left millions across the worst-affected provinces in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance. In 2018, 3.46 million people were affected by the drought; this number is projected to rise to 4 million in 2019.<sup>2</sup> In addition, of the 551,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) tracked from January to October 2018 by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 263,000 were displaced due to the drought.<sup>3</sup> The provinces with a marked decrease in rainfall, late precipitation, or drought were Badghis, Nuristan, Kandahar, Badakhshan, Daykundi, Helmand, Ghor and Uruzgan.<sup>4</sup>

Badghis received 45 percent less rainfall in 2018 compared to the 10-year average, with a 43 percent decrease compared to 2017. In Nuristan, there was a slight decrease in precipitation in 2017, but rainfall arrived too late for the winter wheat growing season. This led to insufficient fodder for 196,000 livestock and left 1,100 hectares of rain-fed land and 6,433 hectares of irrigated land uncultivated. The drought in Kandahar endangered the food security and livelihoods of 64 percent of the rural population. In Badakhshan, there was a 45 percent decrease in precipitation compared to the 10-year average and a 13 percent decrease compared to 2017. In Daykundi, the wet season was only 64 percent of the 10-year average and 17 percent less than 2017, which led to drought-like conditions that impacted 88 percent of the population. The compounded effects of both drought and violent armed conflict threatened the food security and livelihoods of 94 percent of the rural Helmand population. In Ghor province, displacement increased significantly due to drought, with 70 percent of households reported to have experienced shocks. Uruzgan had a 96.3 percent reduction in precipitation compared to 2017.<sup>5</sup>

On 14 February 2019, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at the U.S. Department of Commerce announced the arrival of the anticipated El Niño event for 2019. El Niño, the warming of surface ocean waters in the eastern tropical Pacific, typically happens every 3 to 7 years and can last from 6 months to 2 years. What is important about this event is that it can have major effects on weather patterns around the world. The NOAA advisory states that the El Niño is likely to be weak, has a 55 percent chance of causing the event's associated conditions through the spring and that widespread or global impacts are not anticipated.<sup>6</sup> However, even a weak El Niño event

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1 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "Humanitarian Response Plan: January 2018–December 2021," 2019 Update, December 2018 available at [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/afg\\_2019\\_humanitarian\\_response\\_plan.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/afg_2019_humanitarian_response_plan.pdf)

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 [http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_Aghanistan\\_AcuteFI\\_Nov2018\\_Final.pdf](http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Aghanistan_AcuteFI_Nov2018_Final.pdf)

5 For all the paragraph: Ibid.

6 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, "El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Diagnostic Discussion," National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, 14 February 2019, available at [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/enso\\_advisory/ensodisc.shtml](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.shtml)



is expected to have a significant effect on weather patterns in Afghanistan, including above-normal snowfall and rainfall and warmer temperatures.<sup>7</sup>

A positive aspect of the event is that it can contribute to replenishing depleted water supplies and support drought recovery. The effects of El Niño are already being felt in Afghanistan, with the winter wet season starting earlier than normal in 2018, which has increased the potential for snow water storage, providing a source of water for irrigated crops and pasture recovery in spring and summer 2019.<sup>8</sup> However, a negative effect associated with the event in Afghanistan is that rainfall patterns can generate new risks, including flooding of drought-degraded land, landslides and humidity-related pest infestation of crops.<sup>9</sup> As of 4 March 2019, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Flash Floods Update stated that eight provinces have been affected by heavy rains and flooding and another seven provinces affected by snowfall and avalanches.<sup>10</sup>

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7 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "Afghanistan: El Niño Outlook for 2019," 20 January 2019, available at [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/afg\\_el\\_nino\\_snapshot\\_20190115.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/afg_el_nino_snapshot_20190115.pdf)

8 *ibid*

9 *Ibid.*

10 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "Afghanistan: Flash Floods Update No. 3," 4 March 2019, available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-flash-floods-update-no-3-04-march-2019>







# ***Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society***

## **Afghan Civil Society Forum-organisation (ACSFo)**

Website: [www.acsf.af](http://www.acsf.af)

The Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organisation (ACSFo) was founded at the first Afghan Civil Society Conference, held on the sidelines of the Bonn Conference, Bad Honnef, Germany in 2001. Formerly known as ACSF, it was supported by Swisspeace until 2006 when it became an independent entity. ACSFo is a network of Afghan civil society actors and groups. It provides a platform for dialogue and aims to develop and strengthen the role of civil society in political decision-making processes. ACSFo has a head office in Kabul and has field offices in Nangarhar, Paktia, Bamiyan, Ghor, Samangan, Balkh and Kunduz.

ACSFo's vision is a democratic, dynamic and vibrant society based on citizenry value and its mission is to facilitate the process of citizen-building and state-building through advocacy, capacity-building and coordination. ACSFo's goal is to foster the development of a diverse, inclusive and united civil society. Their objectives are: to coordinate, expand and foster civil society networks in Afghanistan; to identify, raise and incorporate the needs, concerns and views of Afghan citizens into social, economic and political processes; to build institutional capacities of public and civil society entities; to promote citizenry values and volunteerism; and to promote youth as change agents and gender as a core theme.

## **Afghan Development Association (ADA)**

Website: [www.ada.org.af](http://www.ada.org.af)

The Afghan Development Association (ADA) is a non-government, non-profit and non-political organisation. It was founded in 1990 with the mission of providing emergency aid and humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. ADA now solely operates in Afghanistan as a development NGO, though it continues to respond to natural and conflict-related emergencies in the country. The organisation aims to impact the lives of the most deprived and marginalised groups in Afghanistan through their work, including, women, returnees, IDPs, unemployed and illiterate populations and farmers. ADA's head office is in Kabul but it is currently implementing projects in Kabul, Takhar, Kunduz, Jawzjan, Faryab, Daikundi, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Laghman and Herat provinces.

ADA's vision is for a prosperous and peaceful Afghanistan, where citizens enjoy equal opportunities and receive just benefits of development. The organisation's mission is to enable disadvantaged rural communities to determine their own development and enhance their livelihoods by delivering projects that strengthen participation, self-reliance and resilience. ADA's ultimate goal is the eradication of poverty in Afghanistan. To achieve this goal, as well as its vision and mission, ADA focuses on sustainable livelihoods, particularly within the agricultural sector, increasing access to education and community-based peacebuilding. ADA is still continuing its humanitarian assistance programmes, such as WASH in Emergency and Community Based Disaster Risk Management.

## **Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS)**

Website: [www.aiss.af](http://www.aiss.af)

The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS) was established in 2012 as an independent, non-profit research institute based in Afghanistan. The institute conducts research on a broad range of political, economics and societal issues. Their current research areas are: democratic-state building processes; national security; sustainable economic development; regional cooperation/integration; US/West–Afghanistan strategic partnerships; Islamic Renaissance; and the “Khorasan” of ideas (national/regional cultural integration/renewal). Their head office is in Kabul, but they also have provincial offices in Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif.

The institute’s mission is to create an intellectual space for addressing strategic issues pertaining to Afghanistan in the wider regional and international context. AISS seeks to foster timely discussions on Afghanistan by publishing high-quality research reports and promoting dialogue among a wide spectrum of stakeholders. AISS is dedicated to providing qualitative, non-partisan and policy-oriented research, publications, translation of books/reports, professional training and policy advocacy with a focus on Afghanistan. AISS prioritises youth empowerment through its specific programmatic initiatives as well.

## **Afghan Midwives Association (AMA)**

Website: [www.afghanmidwives.org](http://www.afghanmidwives.org)

The Afghan Midwives Association (AMA) was formed in May 2005 with the support of USAID. The AMA is the technical body for midwifery education, professional development and policies that enable every midwife in Afghanistan to deliver the highest level of care for mothers and newborn babies. The AMA began with only 15 members and formally joined the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) in November 2005. Since then, the AMA has grown to represent more than 3,000 professional midwives and student members in 34 provincial chapters. The AMA is the biggest professional association advocating for safe motherhood and is spearheading the formulation of a national regulatory body for midwifery and nursing to protect the public by regulating the profession, setting educational standards and promoting the professional development of midwives.

The Association’s mission is for midwifery to be recognised as an autonomous and distinct profession in Afghanistan, to strengthen the capacity of midwives and to advocate for a conducive policy environment so that midwives can provide high-quality services to women, newborns and families in Afghanistan according to the International Confederation of Midwives’ code of ethics and core competencies. Increasing donor support has steadily expanded the number of AMA-implemented activities to raise awareness for safe motherhood and improve the quality of midwifery education and health service provision.

## **Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB)**

Website: [www.ancb.org](http://www.ancb.org)

The Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB) was founded in 1991 and aims to coordinate the activities of Afghan NGOs with the Afghan Government, the UN, international organisations and donor agencies. ANCB facilitates workshops, seminars and partnerships to enhance the capacity of its 210 member organisations. ANCB membership is restricted to Afghan NGOs. Applications are considered and approved by the Board of Directors, whose 15 members are elected for one-year terms by the General Assembly.

## **Afghan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industries (AWCCI)**

Website: [www.awcci.af](http://www.awcci.af)

The Afghan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industries (AWCCI), formerly known as Leading Entrepreneurs for Afghanistan Development (LEAD), was founded by a group of 10 Afghan businesswomen in 2013 as an umbrella organisation focused on women's economic participating in the private sector. LEAD's name change to AWCCI was made official in March 2017 after receiving approval from the High Economic Council, chaired by President Ghani. The Chamber has an Executive Body, which includes co-founder and President Manizha Wafeq. It also has a Board of Directors and an Advisory Board, which changes on a yearly basis. AWCCI is headquartered in Kabul with provincial offices in Nangarhar, Balkh, Herat and Kandahar.

AWCCI's mission is to advance and secure women's economic interests through effective representation and engaging in advocacy. Its vision is to be a platform for Afghan female entrepreneurs to have national and international recognition for their contribution to sustainable economic development in Afghanistan. AWCCI's aim is to secure women's economic interests through effective representation and engaging in advocacy. AWCCI services include business development, access to a database of women-owned businesses, Afghan private sector research and a paid membership.

## **Afghan Women's Educational Centre (AWEC)**

Website: [www.awec.info](http://www.awec.info)

The Afghan Women's Educational Centre (AWEC) is a non-profit, women-led national organisation established in 1991 and built on a vision for an inclusive and just society with sensitised and responsive public and private sectors, where all women and children have access to opportunities to improve their quality of life in order to realise their full potential. AWEC is currently active in the provinces of Kabul, Paktia, Faryab, Herat, Nangarhar and Balkh, mainly in the capitals. AWEC's target groups include street and/or working children, chronically poor women and vulnerable female-headed households, female prisoners and aspiring young women leaders and managers.

AWEC's mission is to demonstrate its commitment to inclusion, protection and empowerment of Afghan women and children, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, striving towards attaining their human rights and gender equality. In order for AWEC to realise its mission, the organisation focuses on increasing women's role and influence in decision-making process within the government, CSO and the private sector, at both the local and national level; increasing women and girls' awareness of their rights and improving their access to education and other key social services; and identifying socially excluded groups of women and children, providing them with essential services and helping them organise to influence stakeholders by facilitating, engaging and mobilising community groups and CSOs. AWEC has three main strands of activities toward realising the organisation's vision and mission: direct service delivery, capacity building and lobbying and advocacy.

## **Afghan Women's Network (AWN)**

Website: [www.awn-af.net](http://www.awn-af.net)

The Afghan Women's Network (AWN) is a non-partisan, non-profit network supporting women's rights and empowerment in Afghanistan to ensure the active participation of women in all areas of life. Founded in 1995, AWN is an umbrella organisation with over 3,500 individual members and around 125 organisations that are committed to supporting Afghan women. AWN is a cornerstone of Afghan women's movement for equality, serving as a well-established network for the growing number of women's organisations in the country. AWN has had a strong presence at the central, regional and provincial levels through regional offices and local partner and member organisations in all 34 provinces. Currently, AWN has an active and considerable presence in Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar, Bamiyan, Paktia, Nangarhar and Kunduz.

AWN seeks to enhance the effectiveness of its members by fostering partnerships and collaboration among members, undertaking advocacy and lobbying and building members' individual capacities. The Network envisions an Afghanistan in which all members—women, children and men—participate equally. Furthermore, the members aspire to create an Afghan community that values, respects and encourages the tremendous capacities of women and their contributions to Afghan culture and society.

AWN functions as a network of organisations, as well as undertaking its own projects to address issues such as gender-based violence, women's empowerment, youth empowerment and girls' education. AWN's strategic priorities are: women's inclusion in peace and security; women's political participation and leadership; and women's social and legal protection.



## **Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN)**

Website: [www.aan-afghanistan.com](http://www.aan-afghanistan.com)

The Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN) is an independent non-profit policy research organisation, which was founded in 2009. Its aim is to bring together the knowledge and experience of a large number of experts to better inform policy and increase understanding of Afghan realities. AAN is committed to producing analysis on Afghanistan and the region which is independent, of a high quality and evidence-based. AAN has a permanent office in Kabul staffed with national and international researchers, as well as a wider network of contributors with expertise in the fields of Afghan politics, governance, rule of law, security and regional affairs.

Since its founding, AAN publications have informed and influenced the work of policymakers, journalists, academics and development workers. AAN's analysts are regularly asked to address conferences and provide briefings around the world and frequently appear as commentators in the media. AAN regularly publishes in-depth thematic reports, policy briefings, discussion papers and dispatches. All publications are available on the AAN website.

## **Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)**

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

The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) has a history that dates back to 1931, when it was established as the Commercial Arbitration Association by Afghan traders to integrate their business activities and protect their rights. The Chamber Law of 2009 ensures that ACCI is an independent organisation free of state control. This allows for the organisation to act as a bridge between the public and private sectors and enables a self-regulated private sector. ACCI headquarters is in Kabul and it operates 27 branches in 25 provinces. According to their website, their current membership exceeds 65,000 companies and 255 business unions, associations and cooperatives.

The ACCI's High Council has the highest decision-making authority within the Chamber's structure. Members of the High Council come from the Board of Directors of provincial chambers. They are elected for a three-year term through a process under the supervision of the IEC. The Board of Directors are also elected at the same time. The Board is responsible for setting up and monitoring the implementation of ACCI policy frameworks and for providing the Afghan Government, Parliament and relative entities with advice on economic policies.

ACCI services include: legal services, advocacy and interest representation; connecting businesses to foreign markets; industry and export promotion; and business development. ACCI has 25 sector committees in the areas of: exports; imports; industries; mines; businesswomen; agriculture, animal husbandry and dairy products; transport and transit; construction; medicine and medical equipment; oil and gas; media; marble and granite; tourism and hajj; health; education; carpet product; international affairs; business development services; craftsmen; banking services; currency exchange; airlines and cargo; higher education; protection of consumer rights; and norms and standards.

## **Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organisation (APPRO)**

Website: [www.appro.org.af](http://www.appro.org.af)

Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organisation (APPRO) is a national, non-profit, independent social research organisation dedicated to promoting social and policy learning to benefit development efforts in Afghanistan and other less-developed countries. APPRO carries out its mandate by conducting social scientific research, monitoring and evaluation and training and mentoring. It is headquartered in Kabul, with regional offices in Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat, Kandahar, Jalalabad and Bamiyan.

APPRO is also the founder of APPRO-Europe, a non-profit association registered in Belgium, whose mandate is to conduct applied research, training, policy advocacy and programme and project evaluations in conflict zones. APPRO's six core research themes are: political economy, governance, human security, aid effectiveness, natural resource and environmental management and migration. APPRO also acts as the secretariat for the National Advocacy Committee for Public Policy (NAC-PP), whose mandate is to facilitate evidence-based constructive advocacy by civil society to engage governmental authorities on the fundamental needs and rights of the Afghan people.

## **Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)**

Website: [www.acbar.org](http://www.acbar.org)

The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) is a national, independent NGO that provides a platform for information-sharing and networking for national and international NGOs in Afghanistan. It was created in Peshawar, Pakistan in 1988 in response to the demand from NGOs working with Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Afghanistan to coordinate assistance and service delivery more efficiently. It acts as an umbrella organisation with over 130 national and international NGOs as members. ACBAR's main office has been based in Kabul since 2002. ACBAR also has four provincial managers based in member's offices in Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat and Kunduz.

ACBAR's General Assembly, which acts as the highest decision-making body, represents all member organisations and meets twice a year. Its Steering Committee, which consists of 15 member NGOs and is led by a chairperson, meets on a monthly basis. The chair of the committee is always Afghan, while other members are representatives of both Afghan and international NGOs. The Director of ACBAR is the head of the main office, also known as the secretariat, and is responsible for the management of day-to-day activities, while being answerable to the steering committees that appoint him or her.

ACBAR has a membership of both humanitarian and development NGOs, covering a large spectrum of sectors and working throughout the country. All applicants are vetted and are required to sign the Afghanistan NGO Code of Conduct.

## **The Asia Foundation Afghanistan (TAF)**

Website: <https://asiafoundation.org/where-we-work/afghanistan/>

The Asia Foundation (TAF) is a non-profit international development organisation, headquartered in San Francisco with a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC, and New York City. In 2018, TAF provided \$82.9 million in direct programme support and distributed textbooks and other educational materials valued at \$10.4 million.

TAF has had a presence in Afghanistan from 1954 to 1979 and from 2002 to the present. The Afghanistan office supports the Afghan people through local programmes and partnerships focused on improving the rule of law, access to and quality of education, women's rights and empowerment, regional cooperation and security. It is primarily known for its Survey of the Afghan People, an annual nationwide opinion poll that has been carried out for over a decade.

## **The Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS)**

Website: [www.caps.af](http://www.caps.af)

The Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS) was founded in 2006 as an independent research centre to conduct action-oriented research aimed at influencing policymakers in key areas including governance, counter-narcotics, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, with a primary focus on Afghanistan and the region. CAPS is committed to offer and facilitate research, training and knowledge exchange on conflict, people and cultures, as well as on violent groups in Afghanistan and the region. The Centre is based in Kabul city.

CAPS aims to reduce the threat of political violence and seeks to assist in the development of a sustainable environment supportive of peace and stability. To this end, CAPS engages in research and policy analysis, education and training and capacity building and knowledge expansion. The core focus of CAPS is on the research and analysis of security issues, which is subsequently disseminated to government officials, members of the international community and other stakeholders through regular briefings and reporting. The Centre also organises regular conferences, workshops, seminars and briefings, as well as training courses on Afghan and regional history, culture, warfare and insurgency.

## **Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)**

Website: <https://cha-net.org>

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) was established in 1987 by a team of Afghan volunteers as a non-profit organisation. CHA was started with the aim of providing emergency aid to Afghan war victims. However, the thematic focus of the organisation has expanded over the years to include promotion of health, nutrition and environmental health; development of education, cultural affairs and vocational trainings; development of agriculture, livestock, water and natural resources; community development and social protection; disaster reduction and responding to emergencies; and gender mainstreaming.

CHA envisions working as an effective, reliable, innovative and pioneering organisation in the field of community development and reduction of vulnerability, with its mission being to empower individuals and communities in joint efforts with social and civic institutions and the private sector. CHA's main target groups are lower-class rural communities across 73 districts in Afghanistan with a focus on vulnerable populations, in particular women, children and persons with disabilities.

## **Development and Humanitarian Services for Afghanistan (DHSA)**

Website: [www.dhsa.af](http://www.dhsa.af)

Development and Humanitarian Services for Afghanistan (DHSA) is a non-profit, non-governmental and non-political organisation that was initially established by demobilised Afghan freedom fighters in 1992 who laid down their weapons and turned their attention to meet the needs of the civilians caught in the crossfire. DHSA has a main office in Kabul with its provincial offices in Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Kandahar and Khost. DHSA also has a nationwide geographical coverage through its Radio Killid, along with 32 affiliated provincial radio stations (The Killid Group) that broadcast programmes all over Afghanistan.

DHSA's mission is to redefine development in Afghanistan by promoting a dynamic and capable civil society as a means to foster local ownership of development, dignity and a peaceful and sustainable future for all Afghans. To achieve its mission, DHSA is working in five sectors: education, public media, environmental protection, humanitarian services and cultural heritage. DHSA is home to some of Afghanistan's most innovative and diverse development projects such as public media, the first Kabul International Music Festival, Kabul Rock Radio, an accelerated learning & Building Support System for Teachers programme, the Transitional Justice Project, rehabilitation of historic sites, such as the 19th-century pavilion at Bagh-e-Babur Gardens in Kabul and various public communication campaigns to protect the environment, the most recent of which has led to an end to the illegal drugging of Kabul River.

## **Enabled Children Initiative (ECI)**

Website: [www.enabledchildren.org](http://www.enabledchildren.org)

Founded in 2012, Enabled Children Initiative (ECI) is an independent non-profit registered in the US as a 501(c)3 organisation and as a charity in the UK. ECI supports Afghan children who are orphaned and abandoned, disabled or at risk of being abandoned. ECI has a one private care home in Kabul for disabled orphans called Window of Hope and works with the UK charity Children in Crisis to provide support to disabled orphans residing in two state-run orphanages in Kabul, Allahuddin and Tahia Maskan.

ECI also works to prevent institutionalisation of children and reintegrate children with their families through a pilot programme in Kabul province that enables families with disabled children to care for their child within the home.

ECI staff are all volunteers, which means 100% of funds raised go directly to the benefit of the children we support, their caretakers and educators.

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)**

Website: [www.fes-afghanistan.org](http://www.fes-afghanistan.org)

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) was founded in 1925 as a German non-profit organisation committed to the ideals of social democracy. It is the political legacy of Germany's first democratically elected president, Friedrich Ebert. To this day, FES follows his mission to promote freedom, solidarity and social justice through the political process in Germany and abroad. FES has been working in Afghanistan in cooperation with local organisations and civil society since 2002. FES Afghanistan is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

FES encourages the promotion of democracy and support for building an active civil society, as well as the promotion of international cooperation, dialogue and partnership. It facilitates the exchange of experts and knowledge (national, regional, international) and contributes to capacity-building in the realm of youth networks and organisational development. FES' programmes aim at strengthening democratic institutions from local to national levels, increasing the political participation of youth, enhancing women's empowerment and gender equality and promoting free and professional media, social justice in the formal and informal economy and regional cooperation for peace and development.

## **Help for Afghan Heroes (H4AH)**

Website: <http://h4ah.com/>

Help for Afghan Heroes (H4AH) is an Afghan civil society organisation whose mission is to support wounded members of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and families of deceased servicemen and women. H4AH is registered with the Ministry of Economy's NGOs Department and came into being in December 2013. H4AH's office is located in Kabul.

H4AH provides a range of services to assist wounded ANSF personnel and the families of deceased personnel. These include advocacy and legal information regarding service members' rights to education and their pensions, basic medical support, physical rehabilitation, mental health counselling services and disability services including prosthetics. H4AH partners with private entities to enable service personnel and their families to rebuild their lives and assists them with finding employment or starting small businesses. H4AH also works with service personnel and their family members to find and secure free or discounted education at universities and schools.

## **Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA)**

Website: [www.iwaweb.org](http://www.iwaweb.org)

Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) was founded in October 2005 and established itself as an independent civil society organisation in 2006. It is committed to increasing transparency, accountability and integrity in Afghanistan. The head office is in Kabul with provincial programmatic outreach in Balkh, Bamiyan, Herat, Kapisa, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktia and Parwan.

IWA's work focuses on three major components: Community monitoring, research and advocacy. The organisation mobilises and trains communities to monitor infrastructure projects, public services, courts and extractive industries. Additionally, IWA develops community-monitoring tools, provides policy-oriented research, facilitates policy dialogue and advocates for integrity, transparency and accountability in Afghanistan.

## **International Crisis Group (ICG)**

Website: [www.crisisgroup.org](http://www.crisisgroup.org)

The International Crisis Group (ICG) is an independent organisation working to prevent wars and shape policies that will build a more peaceful world. Since 1995, they have worked to prevent and resolve global conflict and establish the conditions required for lasting peace and security through: (a) field-based, long-term expert engagement in conflict-prone and conflict-affected countries worldwide; (b) developing a broad understanding of deadly conflict and its drivers; (c) ensuring that they bring full independence to all aspects of their work; and (d) engaging in a dynamic process of advocacy in local, regional and international policy centres, utilising their convening power to facilitate dialogue to produce principled, practical solutions to crisis and conflict. Over the past 20 years, ICG's work in the field of conflict prevention and resolution has shaped the debate among key policymakers.

ICG describes itself as one of the few analytical organisations with a presence in Afghanistan. They work with national and international stakeholders to help them comprehend the context and drivers of conflict, militant extremism, political-economic fragility and its implications for the world and the region. ICG works with Afghan authorities and the international community to formulate effective policies to improve governance and security in the country and work towards stopping violent extremism.

## **International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO)**

Website: [www.ngosafety.org](http://www.ngosafety.org)

The International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO) is a non-profit, non-governmental humanitarian organisation, which was founded in UK in 2011. INSO Afghanistan, formerly known as the Afghanistan NGO Safety Organisation with presence in the country since 2002, provides free security and safety information and advice exclusively to registered NGOs, tailored to the needs of the NGO community in Afghanistan. Funding for INSO comes from the European Commission, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. INSO Afghanistan is headquartered in Kabul and has regional offices in Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat, Jalalabad, Kunduz, Khost and Kandahar.

Non-profit NGOs registered with INSO have access to regularly scheduled services, which include: daily alerts and reports, weekly incident listings and fortnightly and quarterly reports analysing and projecting safety and security trends; biweekly regional meetings; monthly orientations for NGO staff; and training for NGO staff in security management and practice. Upon request, depending on available capacity, INSO may also provide other services including countrywide safety information for movement by NGO staff, organisation-specific advice, reviews of member NGOs' security plans and compounds; statistical data and analysis; and crisis response services, including liaison and referral assistance.

## **International Psychosocial Organisation (IpsO)**

Website: <http://ipscontext.org>

International Psychosocial Organisation (IpsO) is a humanitarian organisation founded by analytical psychologist Inge Missmahl in 2008. After four years of working in Afghanistan as a consultant developing and implementing psychosocial projects in Kabul and other countries as well, Inge saw the need for an organisation specialising in psychosocial care and mental health and thus founded IpsO. The organisation is registered in Germany as a non-profit and is currently running projects in Afghanistan, Lebanon and Germany. Currently, IpsO is running a mental health and psychosocial counselling clinic in Kabul, that is, the MH & Counselling Clinic Kabul. IpsO is also running cultural dialogue and social protection projects in Afghanistan.

The organisation provides direct services, which are: psychosocial care through online counselling services and project field work; encouraging cultural dialogue; and facilitating social-cultural activities, as well as symbolic expression through local culture and art. Their indirect services include capacity-building of NGOs and governmental agencies to provide psychosocial care and mental health services and developing concepts for organisations that wish to improve sustainability of their programmes by introducing a psychosocial component to their projects as a crosscutting issue.

## **The Liaison Office (TLO)**

Website: [www.tloafghanistan.org](http://www.tloafghanistan.org)

The Liaison Office (TLO) is an Afghan non-governmental organisation that was founded in 2003 as a Swisspeace pilot project—supported by the Heinrich-Böll Foundation (hbs)—on good governance, following the request of community elders from Paktia Province. The elders had sought assistance in participating in the peace and reconstruction process in their communities in Southeastern Afghanistan. TLO's five main areas of activity are: Action Research, Advocacy and Empowerment, Peacebuilding (Access to Justice, Do-No-Harm/Context Sensitivity), Protection Issues and Livelihood Improvement. At present, both Swisspeace and hbs carry out their projects from TLO.

When it was founded, TLO's mission was to facilitate the formal integration of communities and their traditional governance structures within Afghanistan's peace, governance and reconstruction framework. TLO's goal is to improve local governance, stability and security through systematic and institutionalised engagement with customary structures, local communities and civil society groups.

## **Nai, Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan (Nai SOMA)**

Website: [www.nai.org.af](http://www.nai.org.af) and [www.nmi.edu.af](http://www.nmi.edu.af)

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan (Nai SOMA) is a local NGO focused on media development and advocacy. Nai SOMA was established in June 2005 by Afghan independent media activists with financial support from Internews, an international media empowerment NGO, as well as USAID. Nai SOMA is headquartered in Kabul with provincial offices in Kandahar, Balkh, Nangarhar and Herat. It has its affiliated media outlets and journalist groups across the country.

Nai SOMA aims to foster independent media in Afghanistan and is mainly focused on capacity-building, advocacy, research and production. Its core activities are providing the sector with well-trained journalists and training ordinary citizens as volunteers to serve in different media outlets. Nai SOMA is also committed to helping rural communities to own and run their own local media outlets.

## **National Centre for Dialogue and Progress (NCDP)**

Website: <https://www.ncdp.org.af/>

The National Centre for Dialogue and Progress (NCDP) is a non-partisan research and policy advocacy organisation that focuses on social, political and economic development issues of Afghanistan. NCDP was established in October 2018 and it carries out independent research and analysis and promotes open dialogue to suggest practical ideas for the policy community. It works across four areas of research: peace, security, progress and dialogue. Its mission statement states that NCDP respects and cherishes Islamic and cultural traditions of Afghans and also promotes a fair, inclusive, just, prosperous, modern and progressive state and society. NCDP's vision statement denotes that its aim is to be the leading institution for in-depth research, analysis and



dialogue addressing Afghanistan's national needs and seeking solutions for its pressing socio-economic and governance issues. NCDP is based in Kabul and is headed by a CEO who works with the Centre's Board Members and Board of Advisors to pursue its objectives.

NCDP publishes its research through two channels. The first is a bi-annual peer-reviewed journal, *Afghanistan Affairs Journal*, which focuses on social sciences and international relations centred on Afghanistan and the region. The journal's inaugural issue is slated to be published in mid-2019. NCDP encourages Afghan scholars and researchers to publish in the journal to promote indigenous research and the next generation of Afghan researchers. When the English-language journal is published, it will be available online and in print. NCDP also plans to publish the journal in one or more of Afghanistan's national languages to expand its reach and audience. The second channel is policy papers or briefs and reports. Publications from the second category are expected to cover topical issues and the centre's four areas of focus.

## **Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies (DROPS)**

Website: [www.dropsafghanistan.org](http://www.dropsafghanistan.org)

Established in 2012, the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies (DROPS) is a research institute based in Kabul. As an interdisciplinary and independent non-governmental organisation, DROPS is committed to strengthening democratic ideas and values by conducting research that provides policymakers with sound alternative solutions to national issues. DROPS' goals are to facilitate and encourage Afghanistan's transition to democratic governance by: (a) producing policy-relevant research that provides information and makes available resources to decision-makers at the national and subnational levels; (b) building local capacities in policy development; and (c) increasing women's involvement in policy dialogue and research on a diversity of issues that are at play in building democratic governance.

In order meet these goals, DROPS activities include conducting policy-oriented research under the following thematic areas: peace-building, human security, terrorism, countering violent extremism and regional/national economic development. DROPS produces an Annual Peer Reviewed Women and Public Policy Journal; carries out a 7-Month Policy Development Workshop for youth; and has established a network of women researchers and analysts called the Afghanistan Network of Women Thinkers and Researchers, which advocates its key research findings and policy recommendations to national and international policymakers. The organisation's mission is: "What we find changes who we become; innovation through research; understanding today for a better tomorrow."

## **Peace Training and Research Organisation (PTRO)**

Website: [www.ptro.org.af](http://www.ptro.org.af)

Peace Training and Research Organisation (PTRO) is an independent, non-profit development-focused research organisation based in Afghanistan. Their aim is to generate historicised and context-specific knowledge and improve policy- and decision-making through research and analysis. Their research addresses issues that shape the everyday lives of Afghans, including the war and insurgency, peace and reconciliation, human rights and access to justice, good governance and sustainable development. PTRO carries out commissioned research on behalf of national and international donors, NGOs, universities and research institutes.

PTRO's vision is an Afghanistan that is at peace and stable at both national and sub-national levels, where people have access to good governance and rule of law. PTRO's mission is: building capacity of local and sub-national leaders and actors; raise awareness among people and influence policy makers; focus on social mobilisation of local civil society and youth groups.

## **The United States Institute of Peace (Kabul Office)**

Website: <https://www.usip.org/in-the-field/usip-mission-in-afghanistan-1>

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) is an independent national institute, founded by the US Congress and dedicated to the proposition that a world without violent conflict is possible, practical and essential for US and global security.

USIP works to advance US national security in Afghanistan by supporting grassroots movements to oppose corruption, counter extremist messaging and promote peaceful elections. USIP helps universities develop courses in conflict resolution, including in areas where the Taliban and ISIS are active. USIP assists the government in improving legal mechanisms to resolve land disputes.

## **Youth Health and Development Organization (YHDO)**

Website: <https://yhdo.org>

Youth Health and Development Organization (YHDO) is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation founded in Afghanistan in 2009. YHDO's primary focus is to offer a range of services to Afghan youth and other marginalised groups in the country. The organisation's strategic priorities: human rights and justice, health services, community development and knowledge and research. The organisation has presence in 21 provinces and nine provincial offices.

YHDO's mission is "to strive for the democratization of development processes and institutions in order to ensure that the voices of the youth are heard and acted upon."

In 2018, YHDO had nine major projects and received over \$5.2 million in funding from the World Health Organization, the US Government, USAID, UNOCHA, UNDP and Counterpart International.

## Zardozi

Website: <https://zardozi.org>

Zardozi is an Afghan non-governmental non-profit organisation aiming to provide economic and social services to Afghan women in Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kapisa through its main office in Kabul. Zardozi was founded in 2006, when the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees transferred its Peshawar-based incoming-generating project to the organisation. Zardozi is receiving donor funding from the Canadian Government through Global Affairs Canada from March 2017 to March 2021 to run its programmes.

Zardozi's work focuses on: capacity building of poor and mostly illiterate Afghan women; business support services through a grassroots, membership-based organisation called Nisfe Jahan; community business centres for Nisfe Jahan members dedicated to providing support for women business owners; a loan fund managed by Zardozi and Nisfe Jahan; women empowerment programmes; and tackling urban poverty.

# ***Afghan–International Initiatives and Programmes***

## **Geneva Conference on Afghanistan (GCA)**

Website: <https://unama.unmissions.org/geneva-conference-afghanistan>

The Geneva Conference on Afghanistan (GCA) was co-hosted by the Afghan Government and the United Nations on 27 and 28 November 2018. It was attended by delegations from 61 countries and 35 international organisations and representatives of civil society, the private sector and the media. President Ashraf Ghani and Rosemary A. DiCarlo, Undersecretary-General of the United Nations, delivered keynote addresses at the conference.

The NUG and the international community gathered to renew their partnership and cooperation for Afghanistan's peace, prosperity and self-reliance. This conference was held at the midpoint of Afghanistan's Transformation Decade (2015–2024); therefore, participants took stock of the progress made as well as recognised the serious challenges that persist in areas of security, poverty and corruption.

GCA participants reaffirmed their commitment to mutual accountability and delivery of mutually agreed commitments by both the Afghan government and the international community for a political, social and economic environment enabling Afghanistan to strengthen peace, security and sustainable development. Participants also underlined the need to deepen regional cooperation in the political, security, economic and social spheres.

The conference reviewed the progress made in the key reform areas underlined in the Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF), which was first presented at the London Conference on Afghanistan (LCA) in 2014 and its deliverables for 2017–2018. Participants agreed that progress had been made in many reform areas, but much work had to be done in the areas of: enhancing inclusive economic growth; reducing poverty; creating employment; fighting corruption; empowering women and improving governance, rule of law and human rights. Building on SMAF, participants adopted the Geneva Mutual Accountability Framework (GMAF) with measurable reform objectives and commitments for the government and the international community for 2019–2020. The GMAF aligns deliverables with the ANPDF and its NPPs.

In the run up to GCA, the Afghan government agreed to meet six benchmarks: 1) holding transparent, fair and credible parliamentary elections; 2) advancing anti-corruption, i.e., carrying out outstanding arrest warrants; 3) reforming the security sector, in particular by completing the biometric registration of police personnel; 4) meeting IMF benchmarks; 5) furthering private sector development by enacting key legislation such as the mining law and the land allocation law; and 6) finalising implementation plans for the NPPs.

GCA participants agreed that progress had been made on these benchmarks, but expressed concern regarding the technical conduct on those for anti-corruption and on holding elections and that they had not been met fully. They called for more of an emphasis on these areas, as well as for effective preparations of presidential and other foreseen elections in 2019 to ensure maximum transparency, credibility, participation and security.

## Lapis Lazuli Corridor

Website: [http://recca.af/?page\\_id=2080](http://recca.af/?page_id=2080)

The Lapis Lazuli Corridor connects Afghanistan westwards to Turkey through Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The Lapis Lazuli Transit, Trade and Transport Route agreement among the five countries was signed on the sidelines of RECCA-VII in November 2017 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. This corridor aims to enhance regional economic cooperation and connectivity among the contracting parties and is in line with Afghanistan's foreign policy agenda of regional cooperation. The name for the corridor is derived from the historic route that Afghanistan's lapis lazuli and other semiprecious stones were exported along more than 2,000 years ago to the Balkans, Caucasus, Europe, Russia and North Africa. The semiprecious stone is more commonly known as "lapis" for short and is a deep rich blue rock.

Trade along the Lapis Lazuli Corridor commenced in late 2018. The route's starting point is in Afghanistan's northern Aqina port in Faryab province and Torghandi in western Herat province. The first set of Afghan cargo trucks left for Turkey on 13 December 2018 and crossed Torghandi port into Turkmenistan carrying cotton strings, raisins, watermelon seeds and sesame. To encourage exporters, the Afghan government covered 50 percent of the shipping costs.

## National Air Corridor Programme

In June 2017, the Afghan government launched the "Afghanistan-India Air Corridor" as a pilot project for trade facilitation via air freight between Kabul and New Delhi. By November 2018, Afghanistan had exported 3,318 MTs of goods through 155 flights to New Delhi. According to a SIGAR report, there was a 28 percent increase in Afghan exports from 2016 to 2017, largely credited to the air corridor programme with India.

After the success of the pilot project, the Afghan government expanded the programme, calling it the National Air Corridor Programme. Thus far, it has facilitated export of over 6,000 MTs of good worth \$120 million through more than 450 flights to international markets, including India, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, European Union, Kazakhstan and United Arab Emirates. The exported perishable and non-perishable goods include fresh and dry fruits, medical herbs, handicrafts and carpets. A SIGAR report reported a 70 percent increase in Afghanistan's air exports from \$230 million in 2015 to \$391 million in 2017. Afghanistan also inaugurated an air corridor with China in November 2018 with an export of 20 tonnes of pine nuts worth \$500,000.

## Brussels Conference on Afghanistan

Website: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/10/05/bca-main-results/>

On 5 October 2016, the European Union and the Government of Afghanistan co-hosted the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan (BCA). This conference was attended by 75 countries and 26 international organisations and agencies.

Conference participants endorsed the Afghan Government's reform agenda and the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) 2017–2021 and undertook an initiative to ensure continued international political and financial support for Afghanistan over the next 4 years. The total sum committed by the international community for the 4 years is \$15.2 billion. The EU and its member states committed \$5.6 billion. Regional stakeholders and the international community also reaffirmed their commitment to a political process aimed at lasting peace and reconciliation.

President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah represented Afghanistan; President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, represented the EU. The conference presented an opportunity for Afghanistan to showcase its track record on reforms and to set out its vision for the future by presenting the ANPDF.

For the international community, the conference presented an opportunity to send a strong political and financial message in support of peace, state-building and development in Afghanistan and to reaffirm its commitment to Afghanistan's future peace, stability and prosperity by maintaining support at current levels.

## Warsaw Summit on Afghanistan

Website: [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\\_texts\\_133171.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_133171.htm)

On 8 July 2016, NATO held a two-day summit for member countries in Warsaw at which Afghanistan was the first item on the agenda. The conference noted the advances and successes Afghanistan has accomplished, as well as serious challenges that remain. NATO heads of state and the Government of Afghanistan issued a statement emphasising the following points:

- The international community remains committed to ensuring that Afghanistan does not once again become a safe haven for terrorism and that it can sustain its own security, governance and economic and social development, while respecting the human rights of all its citizens, notably women and children.
- Further efforts are needed to safeguard past achievements. This includes tackling challenges in such areas as electoral reform, empowerment of women, narcotics trafficking, transparency in government and economic opportunity.

## **NATO members committed to:**

Sustain the Resolute Support mission beyond 2016 through a flexible, regional model, by continuing to deliver training, advice and assistance to Afghan security institutions including the police, the air force and Special Operations forces;

Continue financial contributions to the Afghan national defence and security forces through the end of 2020; and

Strengthen and enhance the enduring partnership between NATO and Afghanistan established at the 2010 Lisbon Summit to further develop a long-term partnership, including through political dialogue and practical cooperation.

Afghanistan committed to:

- Further strengthen Afghan security institutions and forces by enhancing leadership skills that focus on providing security for all Afghan citizens, while operating under effective civilian control, respecting human rights and acting in accordance with the Afghan Constitution and the rule of law;
- Continue to pursue reforms to root out corruption, promote transparency and foster economic development;
- Build on recent achievements in empowering women to participate in all aspects of Afghan society; and
- Take additional steps to protect children and vulnerable populations from the damaging effects of armed conflict and human rights violations.

## **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

In September 2015, world leaders from 193 nations, including Afghanistan, came together at the UN General Assembly to endorse an agenda for global change called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs represent a 15-year agenda (2015–2030) to guide the international community's efforts to achieve three objectives: end extreme poverty; end inequality and injustice; and protect the planet.

The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, are built on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while adding new areas, including climate change, innovation, economic inequality, peace and justice and sustainable consumption.

There are 17 goals, which Afghanistan and all other countries that have endorsed the agenda will work towards achieving by 2030, with support from UNDP. Ministry of Economy and Dr Abdullah's SDG Executive Committee is taking the lead from the Afghan Government's side to implement these goals.

It is important to note that Goal 14 (conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) is not relevant to Afghanistan since it is a landlocked country.

The goals are as follows:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all;
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and forest innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries;
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
14. Conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institution at all levels; and
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



## **USAID PROMOTE**

Website: <https://www.usaid.gov/afghanistan/promote/>

USAID's Promote Women's Empowerment is a 5-year (2015–2020) programme targeting the education, promotion and training of a new generation of Afghan women. It works to strengthen women's participation in the economy, increase the number of women in decision-making positions within the Afghan government and help women gain business and management skills.

Promote is USAID's largest women's empowerment programme in the Agency's entire history. The aim is to empower 75,000 women across Afghanistan; so far, more than 50,000 women has been already assisted.

Promote is comprised of: Women in Government; Women's Leadership Development; Women in the Economy; and Women's Rights Group and Coalitions (Musharikat).

## **Resolute Support (RS)**

Website: <https://rs.nato.int/>

Resolute Support Mission commenced on 1 January 2015 and succeeded the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission, which ended on 31 December 2014. Resolute Support is a NATO-led, non-combat mission that trains, advises and assists (TAAC) the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). The purpose of the TAAC mission is to “help Afghan security forces and institutions develop the capacity to defend Afghanistan and protect its citizens in a sustainable manner.” In 2018, Resolute Support Mission had around 16,000 personnel from 41 NATO Allies and partner countries operating in a hub-and-four-spokes model out of Kabul/Bagram (the hub) and the following spokes: Mazar-i-Sharif in the north, Herat in the west, Kandahar in the south and Laghman in the east. NATO's support to Afghanistan is centred on three main areas:

- Train, advise and assist ANDSF and institutions
- Funding of the security forces as part of a broader international effort
- NATO-Afghanistan Enduring Partnership, jointly being developed with the Government of Afghanistan

At the NATO Summit in Brussels in July 2012, the Heads of State and Government and Allied and partners' troop-contributing nations to NATO-Resolute Support mission reaffirmed their commitment to Afghanistan's lasting security. In a joint statement, NATO allies and partners announced their commitment to sustain Resolute Support's TAAC non-combat mission until conditions allow, extend financial support for the ANDSF through 2024 and advance progress on developing a political and security partnership with Afghanistan, including through the Enduring Partnership. Like its international partners, Afghanistan committed to continue its reform programmes, strengthening its security forces and institutions, combating corruption and organising and holding free, fair and inclusive parliamentary elections in 2018 and presidential elections in 2019.

US General Austin Scott Miller assumed command of Resolute Support Mission in September 2018. The Senior Civilian Representative to Afghanistan is Ambassador Nicholas Kay from the UK, who commenced his position in March 2019.

Source: <https://rs.nato.int/about-us/history.aspx>

## **CASA-1000**

Website: <http://www.casa-1000.org/>

CASA-1000 is an electricity transmission project started in 2014 involving the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan, where electricity is transported from energy-rich Central Asia to energy-poor South Asia. The project allows for the Central Asian countries to transfer and sell their electricity surplus, sourced from clean hydropower, in the summer to South Asia.

Though the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan both generate a surplus of electricity from hydropower during the summer months, they suffer from electricity shortages in the winter months because the summer surplus electricity cannot be stored. Exporting surplus electricity would generate revenue for both countries, which could be invested to prevent winter electricity shortages.

Given the growing population and developing economies in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the demand for electricity is increasingly growing. The CASA-1000 project not only helps improve the aspects of the economy that depend on electricity in Afghanistan—such as transportation, telecommunications, industry and social services—it also generates a revenue source for the country when the surplus electricity is sold to Pakistan.

The CASA system is evaluated at \$1.2 billion. In September 2018, contracts totalling \$330 million were awarded to ABB of Sweden and Cobra Instalaciones y Servicios of Spain to build two high-voltage direct current (HVDC) converter stations in Tajikistan and Pakistan. The stations will enable the efficient transmission of renewable hydropower from generation sites in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan to consumption centres in Pakistan via Afghanistan.

The CASA-1000 Project will have an initial capacity to transmit 1,300 MW of electricity through its 800 km-long HVDC transmission line in Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan and 500 km of interconnecting High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) transmission lines in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. The overhead lines have been designed with the capacity to nearly double the power transmitted.

## **The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process**

Website: <http://www.hoa.gov.af/>

The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) is platform for regional cooperation founded on 2 November 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. In recognition of the importance of a secure and stable Afghanistan to the prosperity of the Heart of Asia region, HoA-IP promotes regional cooperation between participating countries by putting Afghanistan at the centre.

HoA-IP is comprised of 14 participating countries, 17 supporting countries and 12 supporting regional and international organisations. The 14 participating countries are: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and United Arab Emirates.

HoA-IP has three main pillars that are intended to work together to build regional consensus on how the participating countries can achieve their shared goals. They are as follows:

1. **Political Consultations:** Created in recognition of the need for strengthening trust and cooperation in the region, political consultations are intended to engage the participating and the supporting countries, as well as the supporting regional and international organisations, in dialogue regarding all issues of common interest for Afghanistan and the region. There are four tiers:
  - a. Ministerial Conference: They are supposed to be held once a year in one of the participating countries and should be attended by the Foreign/External Ministers of participating countries
  - b. Senior Officials Meetings: They are supposed to be held three times a year in one of the participating countries and should be attended by government officials at the Deputy Minister level
  - c. Ambassadorial Meetings: They are held at the discretion of the permanent chair of the HoA-IP (Afghanistan) and should be attended by the Ambassadors of the participating countries to Afghanistan
  - d. Regional Technical Group Meetings: They are supposed to be held twice a year for each of the Confidence-Building Measures
2. **Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs):** Through extensive consultations, the HoA-IP countries agreed upon the six most relevant areas to focus their synergies on:
  - a. Disaster Management
  - b. Education
  - c. Counter-Narcotics
  - d. Counter-Terrorism
  - e. Trade, Commerce and Investment Opportunities
  - f. Regional Infrastructure
3. **Cooperation with Regional Organisations:** HoA-IP wants to use this pillar to cooperate with regional organisations that Afghanistan is a member of to support their work.

## South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Website: <http://www.saarc-sec.org/>

SAARC was established with the signing of a charter by member states in 1987. Before Afghanistan became a permanent member in 2007, the association consisted of seven members: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, the Maldives and Nepal.

As outlined in the charter, the objectives of the Association are: to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life; to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realise their full potentials; to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among South Asian countries; to contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems; to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields; to strengthen cooperation with other developing countries; to strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests; and to cooperate with international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes.

SAARC member states cooperate in the following areas:

- Human Resources Development and Tourism
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Environment, Natural Disasters and Biotechnology
- Economic, Trade and Finance
- Social Affairs
- Information and Poverty Alleviation
- Energy, Transport, Science and Technology
- Education, Security and Culture

SAARC Structure:

- **The Council of Ministers (CoM):** The Council comprises the ministers of foreign/external affairs of the member states. CoM is responsible for formulating the Association's policies, reviewing the progress made in the areas of cooperation, deciding on new areas of cooperation, establishing of any new mechanisms and deciding on matters of general interest to SAARC.
- **Programming Committee:** The Committee is made up of the Heads of the SAARC Divisions of Member States and is designed to assist the Standing Committee. Their meetings focus on the calendar of activities, the administrative and financial concerns of the Secretariat and regional centres, technical committees, working groups and specialised bodies.
- **Standing Committee:** The foreign secretaries of SAARC member states make up the Standing Committee. They are responsible for decisions regarding: monitoring and coordination of programmes in the areas of cooperation, approval of projects and programmes, mobilisation of regional and external resources and identifying new areas of cooperation.

- **Technical Committees:** Made up of representatives of Member States, the technical committees are responsible for the implementation, coordination and monitoring of programmes in the areas of cooperation.
- **Working Groups (WGs):** The WGs are responsible for formulating and overseeing programmes—namely monitoring, coordination and evaluation—and activities within the SAARC framework.
- **Action Committees:** The Standing Committee sets up Action Committees that make up more than two, but not all, member states to work on the implementation of projects involving those member states.

## **Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA)**

Website: <http://recca.af/>

The Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) is an Afghanistan-centred regional cooperation framework for the promotion of cross-border economic cooperation. RECCA was established in 2005 in Kabul and works alongside other regional cooperation initiatives, such as the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process, which is similarly a key pillar of Afghanistan’s foreign policy. The priority for RECCA is to promote Afghanistan’s development agenda via advancing multiparty investment projects that can contribute to income generation, job creation and confidence building among countries in Central, South and Southwest Asia.

RECCA has gradually witnessed an increasing number of participating countries and organisations. The RECCA-VII Conference in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in November 2017 brought together 67 countries and international organisations in support of the theme “Deepening Connectivity and Expanding Trade through Investment in Infrastructure and Improving Synergy.” The trend in accelerating the engagement of the private sector gained traction with RECCA-V in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in 2012 and RECCA-VI in Kabul in 2015. These conferences have engaged private firms and investors from Afghanistan and regional countries to promote business-to-business (B2B) contacts which have led to the signing of business deals and MoUs. Through RECCA, Afghanistan has also promoted public-private partnership (PPP) opportunities as a means to advance regional economic cooperation.

Afghanistan aims to make RECCA the destination for foreign direct investment, trade and infrastructure in the region. To support this objective, new initiatives linked to RECCA have rolled out including the RECCA Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI), a RECCA Center for Research and Evaluation (RCRE) and a Women’s Economic Empowerment Initiative (WEEI), as well as investment roadshows for commercially viable projects.

RECCA has a range of priority projects across several sectors as the tables below show.

Energy	Transport Networks	Trade & Transit Facilitation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Natural Gas Pipeline</li> <li>• Central Asia-South Asia Regional Energy Market (CASA-1000)</li> <li>• Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Energy Market 500-KV Line (TAP 500)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belt and Road Initiative and Afghanistan</li> <li>• Lapis-Lazuli Trade and Transit Route</li> <li>• Chabahar Corridor</li> <li>• Five Nation Railway Corridor</li> <li>• Afghanistan Rail Network</li> <li>• Trans-Hindukush Road Connectivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-Border Transport Agreement &amp; TIR Convention</li> <li>• Special Economic Zones, Multimodal Transport &amp; Logistics Facilities</li> <li>• Regional Customs &amp; Border Management Cooperation</li> </ul>

B2B Labour Support	Research	Communications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing Regional B2B Partnership through a RECCA Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industries</li> <li>• Women’s Economic Empowerment through Regional Economic Cooperation</li> <li>• Labour Exchange and Remittances</li> <li>• Regional Agro Food Industry Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RECCA Center for Research &amp; Evaluation (launched in February 2019)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Silk Road</li> </ul>

In terms of its organisational structure, RECCA has the following meetings and forums:

- Ministerial Meeting
- Academic Forum
- Youth Forum
- Business Forum
- Inter-ministerial Meeting
- Ambassadorial Coordination Meeting

- RECCA National Focal Points Meeting
- Special Events

Over the years, RECCA has had seven get together in the following places and years:

- 2005: RECCA I – Kabul
- 2006: RECCA II – New Delhi
- 2009: RECCA III – Islamabad
- 2010: RECCA IV – Istanbul
- 2012: RECCA V – Dushanbe
- 2015: RECCA VI – Kabul
- 2017: RECCA VII – Ashgabat

The 2020 RECCA VIII conference is due to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

## **Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Project**

The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Project dates back to the 1990s, when it was first envisaged as an opportunity to monetise Turkmenistan's gas reserve through gas exports via Afghanistan to Pakistan and India. In 2002, the governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan asked the Asian Development Bank to become the Secretariat of their proposed natural gas pipeline project, which would involve the three countries. In March 2003, India was invited to join forces.

In 2010, an inter-governmental agreement was signed between the heads of the four member states. In 2013, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Turkmenistan respectively nominated Afghan Gas Enterprise (AGE), GAIL (India), Interstate Gas Service (ISGS) and Tukumengaz to promote and invest in the TAPI project. The Asian Development Bank was appointed as the transaction advisor to market the project and to find clients to participate.

According to an ADB technical study, the total cost of the project was estimated at \$10 billion with a transmission capacity of 32.8 billion cubic gas per year, which will be delivered from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. The length of the TAPI natural gas pipeline is 1,814 km. Afghanistan will receive annually approximately \$400 million as a transit fee from the TAPI project. Project duration has been set for 30 years but is extendable.

## **United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)**

Website: <https://unama.unmissions.org>

UNAMA is the UN's political mission in Afghanistan, established at the request of the Afghan government to assist in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and developments. It was founded in March 2002 by UN SCR 1401. Its original mandate was to support the Bonn Agreement. The mandate has changed over time and is reviewed annually.

UNAMA's vision describes a, "stable and prosperous Afghanistan that lives at peace with itself and its neighbours, where the Afghan peoples' human rights are upheld and basic services are available to all."

UNAMA's mission is to, "support the people and government of Afghanistan in achieving peace and stability, in line with the rights and obligations enshrined in the Afghan constitution."

UNAMA describes three main approaches to achieving its mission:

1. Building a culture of peace, including: backing conflict prevention and resolution, as well as peace processes; promoting inclusion and social cohesion; strengthening regional cooperation in support of peace and stability; supporting gender-sensitive peacebuilding and recovery; and the adoption of transitional justice;
2. Strengthening the Afghan state by promoting national ownership and accountable institutions that are built on rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights and that deliver basic services to the population throughout the country; and
3. Achieving greater coherence between Afghan government priorities and international community civilian efforts in the areas of peace, governance and development.

UNAMA's senior leadership team includes:

1. Tadamichi Yamamoto: Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General
2. Ingrid Hayden: Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (Political)
3. Toby Lanzer: Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator)



## **Law and Order Trust Fund Afghanistan (LOTFA)**

Website: <http://www.af.undp.org/content/afghanistan/en/home/projects/LOTFA.html>

The Law and Order Trust Fund Afghanistan (LOTFA) is a UNDP-funded project that has been working with the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOIA) since 2001 to fund police salaries, improve police capacity and develop systems within the MOIA.

In 2015, UNDP, the international donor community and the Afghan Government agreed on a new mechanism for LOTFA, which includes building capacity to manage payroll functions, improving institutions within the Ministry, reforming laws and procedures, professionalising the police and enhancing police-community partnerships.

LOTFA now has two projects:

1. Support to Payroll Management (SPM): SPM handles the police payroll and builds capacity at finance and human resources departments
2. MOIA and Police Development (MPD): MPD enhances the capacity of MOIA to review and reform its policies, civilianise certain administrative roles, develop institutions, modernise administration systems to increase responsiveness and accountability, provide professional training, enhance police-community partnership and improve police service delivery.

Funding for LOTFA comes from the United States of America, European Union, United Kingdom, Japan, Republic of Korea, Germany, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, The Netherlands, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Italy, New Zealand, Romania, Switzerland, Croatia, Finland and Estonia.

## **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**

Website: <http://eng.sectsc.org/>

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was formed in Shanghai in June 2001 by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Its main goals are: strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among member states; promoting cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture, as well as on education, energy, transport, tourism and environmental protection; making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region; and moving towards the establishment of “democratic, fair, and rational” new international political and economic order.

Currently, the SCO is made up of eight member states: India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The SCO has four observer states, namely Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.

The SCO has two permanent bodies: the SCO Secretariat in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure based in Tashkent.

The SCO structure has three councils:

1. Heads of States Council (HSC): The HSC is the highest decision-making body of the SCO, which meets once a year to adopt decisions and guidelines on all important issues related to the organisation.
2. Heads of Government Council (HGC): The HGC meets once a year to discuss the organisation's multilateral cooperation strategy and priority areas as well as to resolve any pressing issues areas of economic cooperation and to approve the annual budget.
3. Council of National Coordinators (CNC): The CNC acts as the SCO coordination mechanism.

## **Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB)**

Website: <http://policymof.gov.af/home/joint-coordination-and-monitoring-board/>

During the 2006 London Conference on Afghanistan, the Afghan Government and international donor community came together to set up the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) to oversee the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact and any subsequent development frameworks. They are designed to ensure coherence and coordination between the Afghan government and the international donor community on all development efforts. The JCMB meets annually—and on special occasions—to review the progress made on the reform areas decided upon in the frameworks. The meetings are co-chaired by the Afghan Minister of Finance and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Afghanistan. Under the National Unity Government, the implementation of the Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF) has been the focus of the JCMB. The latest JCMB took place on 18 July 2018 at the presidential palace in Kabul in preparation for the 2018 Geneva Conference.

## **Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC)**

Website: <https://www.carecprogram.org/>

The Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC) was established by the Asian Development Bank in 1997 to promote economic development through cooperation among Central Asian countries. It is a partnership between 11 countries—namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan—and is supported by six multilateral institutions.

CAREC's long-term vision is “Good Neighbors, Good Partners, and Good Prospects” which focuses on four priority areas: Transport, Trade Facilitation, Energy and Trade Policy.

## **Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)**

Website: <http://www.eco.int/>

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was founded by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. It was first established as the Regional Cooperation for Development in 1964, but was renamed ECO in 1985.

In 1992, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan joined the organisation, whose overall objective is the sustainable development of its member states and the region as a whole. In March 2017, ECO heads of states/government met at the 13th summit in Islamabad to endorse “ECO Vision 2025”, which sets the organisation’s agenda and the direction it is headed in.

The ECO structure is comprised three councils:

1. **Council of Ministers (COM):** Comprised of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member states, the Council of Ministers is the highest policy and decision-making body of the ECO with the authority to make decision on: policies, strategies, work programmes; appointment of senior management, establishment of subsidiary or ad hoc committees; approval of annual budgets and audit reports, setting the assessment budgetary contributions of member states; approval of fiscal and administrative rules and regulations and organisational charts.
2. **Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR):** The CPR is a standing ECO intergovernmental body, which pushes forward the policies agreed upon by CoM, on behalf of the Council.
3. **Regional Planning Council (RPC):** As the main technical planning body of the ECO, the RPC is comprised of the heads of the planning organisations of the member states and officials and experts of the national sectoral ministries and agencies and meets annually prior to regular meetings of COM. RPC, which meets at ECO Secretariat in Tehran, is responsible for preparing action programmes for realising ECO’s vision.

## **UN Country Team**

The UN Country Team in Afghanistan consists of the following organisations:

1. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
2. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
3. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)\*
4. International Labour Organization (ILO)
5. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
6. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
7. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
8. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
9. United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN HABITAT)
10. UNAIDS\*
11. United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
12. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)\*
13. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
14. United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)
15. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
16. United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
17. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
18. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
19. United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
20. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
21. United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
22. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
23. United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
24. UN Women (UNW)
25. World Bank (WB)
26. World Food Programme (WFP)
27. World Health Organization (WHO)

\* Non-Resident

## ***Libraries***

### **Afghanistan Center at Kabul University (ACKU)**

Website: <http://acku.edu.af/>

The Afghanistan Center at Kabul University (ACKU) is the premier research institution and archive on Afghanistan in the region, with the most extensive collection of primary resources available in print and digital formats. The centre was founded by Nancy Hatch Dupree. The mission of ACKU is to promote literacy, facilitate scholarly work and provide academic research training through its archive, digital library and outreach and research programmes.

The Afghanistan Center at Kabul University was initially known as ACBAR Resource and Information Center (ARIC). The concept was envisioned by Louis Dupree and Nancy Hatch Dupree, two of the foremost experts on Afghanistan history and culture. After the death of Louis in 1989, Nancy continued to work for the protection of cultural heritage through ARIC and later ACKU with a motto of “nation building through information sharing.” ACKU’s current establishment inside Kabul University’s campus was made possible by an initial funding from the Afghan government in 2006 and was inaugurated by Dr Ashraf Ghani on 27 March 2013.

The Centre promotes research and information sharing through the dissemination of knowledge and enhancement of the capacity of Kabul University and other private institutions in Afghanistan. ACKU’s major focus is facilitating research using its collection of over 160,000 documents in Dari, Pashto, English and other European languages. ACKU is open to students of all universities in Afghanistan, policymakers and development planners, as well as researchers from abroad. ACKU holds an extensive collection of unpublished or limited copies of primary resources on contemporary Afghanistan, including:

- Data on the political history of the past three decades covering the period of Soviet occupation (1979–1989), the civil war of the early 1990s and the Taliban era (1996–2001).
- Data on the accompanying Afghan refugee crisis of the past three decades—the world’s largest refugee crisis in modern history.
- Collections of Jihad and Taliban-era publications (in some instances unique), endangered because of the poor quality material often used and their possession being dangerous in Afghanistan due to the geopolitical situation.
- Rare photo slides from the Louis Dupree collection. This collection: Jalalabad Walk from 8–13 January 1963, when Louis Dupree walked the route taken by the retreating British army from Kabul to Jalalabad on 6–13 January 1842.
- Rare electronic resources such as CD/DVD, audio and video cassettes.
- Rare audio material on the disappearing folk culture of Afghanistan collected during the 1970s by specialists such as Louis Dupree, Margaret Mills and Lorraine Sakata.

- Two copies of the digitised material donated to ACKU by the Library of Congress and World Digital Library. The data contain more than 163,000 pages, which are 2,935 items along with bibliographical records. ACKU has successfully made them available online through its user-friendly database.

Currently over 2,376,881 pages are digitised, while over 76,370 PDFs of books, serials, photos, law (Official Gazette) and newspapers are accessible via the ACKU website. ACKU successfully established an online Digital Library/Repository of Afghanistan's Contemporary Laws. 5,590 Official Gazette laws have been catalogued, digitised and categorised. The digitised laws are accessible and full-text searchable through <http://law.acku.edu.af>.

ACKU, through its ABLE programme, reaches out to Afghans outside Kabul through the ACKU Libraries, which provide reading material through these small lending libraries. ABLE libraries are placed in schools and communities for newly literate people across Afghanistan. Currently ACKU has established 267 libraries (208 in high schools and 59 in communities) in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. ABLE publishes easy-to-read books in Farsi and Pashto for the newly literate on various subjects such as agriculture, mother-child care, history, environment, health, home management, democracy and educational and entertaining books for children. To date, ABLE has published 395 books.

ACKU carries out and hosts activities including workshops, scholarly lectures, academic seminars, debates, film screenings, exhibitions and public talks. The primary goals of these activities are to develop research skills and to highlight ACKU's resources and the work of Afghan and international artists and scholars specialising on Afghanistan. ACKU publicises these events and workshops on its website and through social media. In August 2018, the Research Unit of ACKU convened the first scholarly conference on Afghanistan studies, in which established and new scholars from leading research universities and institutions inside and outside Afghanistan presented on the politics, anthropology and history of Afghanistan.

## **Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) Library**

Website: [www.areu.org.af](http://www.areu.org.af)

Since 2002, the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) has maintained a library of Afghanistan-specific materials to support its research. The library received its first major donation from the Society of South Asian Studies, formerly known as the British Institute of Afghan Studies (BIAS).

BIAS, established in Kabul in 1972, had undertaken a number of archaeological projects and supported British scholars conducting anthropological and ethnological fieldwork in Afghanistan. When the Institute was shut down in 1981, their collection was put into storage in the British Embassy. In 2003, the Institute agreed to donate an estimated 3,000 books and off-prints about Afghanistan and the region to the AREU Library. A condition of the donation was that the collection should remain in Afghanistan and be available for all researchers to use. Thanks to the combined efforts of Bob Knox, Carla Grissmann, Nicholas Sims-Williams and Jonathan Lee in arranging the donation of the collection to AREU, this collection is available to researchers in Afghanistan. AREU Founder and Director from 2002 to 2005, Dr Andrew Wilder, with financial support from UNAMA, agreed that AREU would re-house the collection, provide staff to catalogue it and provide funds to expand the holdings.

Today, AREU's growing collection of over 20,000 books and periodicals includes Afghan government publications to date, publications about Afghanistan produced by NGOs and relevant publications from UN and donor agencies. The library also has collections of rare materials, including the Official Gazette (Rasmi Jaridah, Statistical Handbook of Afghanistan, Afghanistan's annals and Afghan laws dating back to the 1920s).

AREU publications in English, Dari and Pashto are provided for free to libraries around the country.

AREU acknowledges the role of Royce Wills for his dedication and hard work of more than 10 years in putting into place a professional system into the AREU Library.

The AREU Library is fully searchable online and can be accessed from our website. A visit to the AREU Library will provide access to internet connectivity, JSTOR, photocopies of materials and pdf files.

Opening Hours: 9:30-12:30 and 13:00-15:30 (During Ramadan 08:00-13:00)

Sundays through Thursdays

The AREU library is closed on public holidays. No materials can be borrowed. To contact the library staff, email [library@areu.org.af](mailto:library@areu.org.af)



## **Bernice Nachman Marlowe Library and the Laura Bush Library, American University of Afghanistan**

Website: [www.library.auaf.edu.af](http://www.library.auaf.edu.af)

The Bernice Nachman Marlowe Library was established in 2008 with a gift from the Marlowe and Gibbs families in honour of Bernice Nachman Marlowe. Since then it has grown to become a fully functioning university library supporting the academic needs of faculty and students at the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF). In 2018, the Laura Bush Library opened and both libraries serve the entire AUAF community.

The AUAF libraries have over 14,000 items, including four major databases which allow access to journals and books in electronic formats. A wide range of topics is included but special attention is given to those academic subjects offered at AUAF: business, English, information technology (IT), law and political science.

The libraries offer a study space for students, including quiet study rooms and over 40 computers. Access to electronic journals and books is available through the databases.

The Marlowe Library is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday through Thursday. The Laura Bush Library is open Sunday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday. Both libraries are closed on Fridays.

The AUAF libraries will continue to expand their collections of print and electronic books and journals.

## **Darakht-e-Danesh**

Website: [www.darakhtdanesh.org](http://www.darakhtdanesh.org)

The Darakht-e-Danesh Library is a digital repository of open educational resources for teachers, students and anyone that wants to learn more on a particular subject. These learning materials include lesson plans, pedagogical tools, exercises, experiments, reading texts, workbooks, curricula and other resources for use in Afghan classrooms, as well as general information on a range of subjects, which is growing all the time. To our knowledge, this is the first and only initiative in Afghanistan exclusively focused on increasing teachers' access to classroom material. It responds to a pressing need to address the extreme lack of educational materials available to teachers in Afghanistan in their own language, who face unprecedented enrolment rates, poor infrastructure, large class sizes and isolation.

The Darakht-e-Danesh Library aims to increase access to quality resources for Afghan educators, encourage teachers to consult a wide variety of resources in their practice, use these tools to adapt their own and share their own resources with other educators through this open-source collection. The Library's management believes that digitisation can make more out of less and can nurture teachers' independent learning and professional development. The Library uses a custom-designed interactive, multilingual web platform and currently houses more than 2,000



resources in 30 subject categories in three languages: Dari, Pashto and English. There are also materials for early childhood education, teacher professional development and higher education.

## **Hakim Naser Khusraw Balkhi Cultural Centre and Library**

Alhaj Sayyed Mansur Naderi established the Hakim Naser Khusraw Balkhi Cultural Centre in Kabul in 1989 from his personal savings because of his interest in and enthusiasm for cultural growth and development. The Centre designs and implements action plans to fulfil the following objectives:

- To encourage and support scientific and literary researchers and creators
- To provide service in the field of cultural legislation, literature, art and social issues free of divisive leanings and tendencies
- To strengthen the cultural sector and to remove obstacles facing literary and cultural development
- To support and strengthen the implementation of cultural programmes in accordance with the fundamentals of Afghan society

The purposes of the Centre are as follows:

- To produce cultural and scientific information for the cultural sector and to publish scientific and cultural reports
- To support intellectuals and involve all segments of society in the reconstruction of culture and art
- To print and distribute all works produced by Hakim Naser Khusraw and to publish works produced by researchers and writers on Hakim Naser Khusraw's ideas and thoughts which are considered publishable by the Centre's board
- To design and construct the Naser Khusraw Research Centre
- To launch literary competitions at the end of each year and to award prizes in the fields of poetry, fiction, research and other literary and artistic genres to the creators of such works
- To establish cultural centres in other provinces and establish public libraries in the capital and provinces

The Centre began with the launch of a literary competition in 1988–1989. During the four years following the Centre's establishment, researchers, writers, poets, artists and other creators of culture were annually invited to compete in the areas of literary research, philosophical research, poetry, criticism, fiction, painting, miniatures and calligraphy.

In November 1991, the library of the Cultural Centre was established in Kabul, but its operation was delayed because of the threats of the civil war. In the same year, the Centre's complex was founded in Sarsabzi Square in the Taimani area of Kabul.

The Centre was moved to the city of Pul-i-Khumri in May 1992 due to the escalation of the civil war. After the move, the first measure taken was to revive the library. Already some 25,000 books in various fields had been purchased from the Islamic Republic of Iran, along with special desks for study and research and modern furniture and equipment.

In December 1993, some 20,000 books in various fields were purchased, which increased the total number of books in the library to around 50,000. During the years 1995–1998 the Centre entered a better period of cultural activity. During this time, over 11 books, including compilations and translations, were printed and widely circulated by the Centre's publishing department.

The Cultural Centre was affected by the war once again in the spring of 1998 when the library, containing 50,000 books in the fields of literature, history, religion, philosophy, art and other areas, was looted along with all of the Centre's other equipment and belongings. Additionally, during this period one of the Centre's long-time employees was killed and other staff and members were forced to leave the country.

The Cultural Centre re-opened in 2002 and the first step was the re-establishment of the central library that once had housed 50,000 books. In order to lay a foundation for the library again, 3,000 books on various subjects were purchased from Iran. In addition, some 2,500 books that had been lost but had the Centre's stamp were returned to the library, due to efforts made by members and interested people. Today, there are some 5,500 books in the newly established library.

In 2004, a delegation from the Centre visited Iran and signed contracts with 48 Iranian publishing houses to import books from Iran to be placed in showrooms for sale. Now, the activity of selling books has continued and the volume of imports and sales is likely to increase, depending on the availability of funding. There is also a plan to create mobile showrooms to sell books in the city of Kabul and in other provinces by opening representative offices.

Address: Hakim Nasser Khesruw Bulding, Sarsabzi Squire, Taimani, Kabul Afghanistan

Website: <http://www.hujat.net/>

Phone: 0093 7760 60 946

## **Kabul Public Library (KPL)**

King Amanullah Khan founded the Kabul Public Library (KPL) in 1928. In 1967, it evolved into a modern library by integrating the Press Directorate Library and the Library of the Ministry of Education in order to facilitate access of new class of educated people to the large collections of books available at the time.

Public libraries in Afghanistan, under the slogan "Books for Everyone", have invested in social enlightenment and provided books and journals to many different categories of people who wish to do research and acquire information, without any discriminatory restrictions.

Books in KPL are classify based on the Dewey Decimal system, which is the most widely used method for classifying library books. Using three kinds of reference cards (Title, Author and Subject) visitors are easily guided to the books of their choice.

Kabul Public Library has seven sections:

1. Reference Section
2. Reading Hall
3. Afghanistan Section
4. Youth Section
5. Kids Section
6. Distribution Section
7. Newspaper and Magazine Section

Previously, in addition to the KPL, more than 70 branches of public libraries operated in many districts of Kabul province.

Director: Hamidullah Shahrani

Email: khashjan@yahoo.com

Email: dpl.afghanistan@gmail.com

Contacts: 0093 789411515 # 0093202103289

Address: Malak Asghar Squire, Kabul, Afghanistan

## **National Archives of Afghanistan (NAA)**

Many of the collections at the National Archives of Afghanistan (NAA) were once a part of the National Museum of Afghanistan, along with the Library of Manuscripts there. In 1939, an Independent Press Library of Afghanistan was established near the Arg, or Royal Palace and many of the historical documents and manuscripts housed in the museum were transferred to this new library.

Upon the establishment of a new KPL in 1966, the contents of the Press Library, along with the Library of Education, were brought together under one roof with the motto “Books for All”. However, since all segments of the population used KPL, exposure and overuse of these documents led to damage and a new storage location was needed.

In 1973, the collection and preservation of historical documents and manuscripts became a priority of the Government, which established the KPL of Manuscripts registered as the Afghanistan National Archives within the Department of Public Libraries of the Ministry of Information and Culture. Its main holdings at the time included a limited number of manuscripts, documents and historical decrees. Volumes of the Holy Qur’an and tafsir (interpretations) written in calligraphy and a number of miniatures and golden frames that had previously been kept in the National Museum were included.

The building chosen to house the newly established National Archives was a century-old building belonging to the MoD. Following the immense efforts made by the Head of Public Libraries and others, the building was obtained and transformed into Afghanistan's first National Archives. Renovation work on the building was completed in August 1978, when all manuscripts and historical documents were transferred from the Public Library.

The National Archives was recognised as a separate organ within the framework of the Cultural Department of the Ministry of Information and Culture and gained a global reputation when it was registered with UNESCO.

Following the coup d'état of 1978, all manuscripts, photos and documents confiscated from the Royal Palace Library, the Presidential offices of Mohammad Daoud Khan and the royal family were transferred to the National Archives. Between 1978 and the collapse of Dr Najibullah's government in 1992, the National Archives with its staff of 43 worked under the auspices of the Government Committee for Culture.

At the start of the Taliban regime, the National Archives was closed and later reopened with a considerably reduced staff, especially in the inventory and indexing departments.

President Hamid Karzai officially reopened the National Archives on 14 April 2002. It is now recognised internationally alongside the national archives of other countries. In addition to the collection held at the National Archives in Kabul, there is a provincial archive in Herat as well which operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Information and Culture. The Herat archives holds manuscripts, historical documents and photographs of famous local personalities, learned men, artists, calligraphers and painters.

The NAA preserves around 7,500 manuscripts, calligraphic works and more than 100,000 historical documents. In addition to the historical collection, a specialised print library includes rare printed books, newspaper collections, printed catalogues for manuscripts and documents and other resources. Researchers from inside and outside Afghanistan use the Archives' historical collection and staff and researchers use the print library.

The NAA is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday. In the future, the staff plans to extend the collection, digitise current and new collections, prepare more research facilities and connect with archives in other countries.

Director: M Afsar Rahbeen

Email: rahbeenkhorshid@gmail.com

Mobile: 0093 700280032

Office: 0093 202202975

Address: Salang Road, Kabul, Afghanistan

## Rahila Library

Website: <http://www.rercafg.org/>

Named in the memory of Shaheed Rahila, Rahila Educational & Resource Center (RERC) is a non-profit and non-political organisation based in Kabul, Afghanistan focusing on four key areas: library resources, capacity-building trainings, educational consultancy and scholarships for Afghan youths.

Email: [info@rercafg.org](mailto:info@rercafg.org)

Contact Numbers: +93 78 759 5513 / +93 78 786 8114

Address: Masjid-e Rasul Akram, Behind Nasir Khesraw Hospital, Golai-e Mahtab Qala, Barchi and Kabul, Afghanistan

## Najiba Library

Najiba Library, as part of Najiba Foundation initiatives, is a memorial for Najiba Bahar whose life and dreams were curtailed by a suicide attack in Kabul on 24 July 2017. Najiba Memorial Library aims to provide students, teachers and Government officials with space and resources to study, debate and conduct research. The Library aims to promote the culture of studying books, debate and teamwork among the students and adults – and most especially among women. The Library plans to implement numerous kinds of educational initiatives for young children, school-age and university students and other cultural figures.

The Library Programs:

1. Space and Resource Center (Library, meeting space and computer lab)
2. Educational programs
3. Memory initiative which documents the personal cost of war
4. Scholarships

Currently the Najiba library has around 7,000 books and 4,000 magazines, manuals and research reports. The Library is located in Nili city, the center of Daikundi Province in central Afghanistan. Daikundi is one of the most deprived and least developed Provinces of Afghanistan. The local people face severe limitations in accessing educational and cultural opportunities. The Najiba Library will help eradicate these limitations by expanding the scope of cultural and educational activities for the Province, while also memorializing the name and inspiration of Najiba.

Website: [www.necafg.org](http://www.necafg.org)

Email: [contact@necafg.org](mailto:contact@necafg.org) / [Husain.rezai@gmail.com](mailto:Husain.rezai@gmail.com)

Phone: 0774600595

Twitter: @Najiba\_f

## **Charmaghz Library**

Charmaghz is a Kabul-based registered Afghan non-profit organization dedicated to promoting critical thinking among Afghan children. One of the first projects of Charmaghz was a mobile library on a public bus that has been running in Kabul since February 2018. The library was visited 40 thousand times in the first year of its work. In the second year, the project expanded to one more mobile library and a mobile cinema each having more than 200 visitors per day. Its director is Fereshta Karim.

Email: [freshta.karim@charmaghz.com](mailto:freshta.karim@charmaghz.com)

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# The Government of Afghanistan

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# ***The Government of Afghanistan***

## **Background**

Following the collapse of the Taliban regime at the end of 2001, prominent leaders of the Afghan community signed the Bonn Agreement at a conference organised by the UN in Bonn, Germany. The Agreement appointed the Afghanistan Interim Administration (AIA) and designed a two-year timetable for the re-establishment of permanent government institutions with, “a broad-based, gender sensitive, multiethnic and fully representative government” in Afghanistan. The Emergency Loya Jirga of June 2002 replaced the AIA with the Afghanistan Transitional Authority (ATA) and elected Hamid Karzai as the Head of State—and temporary Head of Government in the absence of a legislature—of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan.

In line with the Bonn timetable, a new Constitution was debated and endorsed by a Constitutional Loya Jirga, held from 14 December 2003 to 4 January 2004. The 2004 Constitution provided for an elected President, along with two nominated Vice Presidents and a National Assembly comprising two houses: the lower Wolesi Jirga (House of the People) and the upper Meshrano Jirga (House of Elders). At the subnational level, it provided for elected Provincial, District, Village and Municipal Councils, as well as Governors and Mayors appointed by the President. In October 2004, the first Presidential elections were held and Hamid Karzai became the first elected President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, winning 55 percent of the popular vote. He was sworn in on 7 December 2004, at which time the ATA officially became the new Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Legislative, Provincial and District Council elections were supposed to be held concurrently, but were postponed due to security issues and other challenges. Elections for the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Councils were eventually held in September 2005.

In 2009, after President Karzai’s 5-year term was over, presidential elections were held once again along with Provincial Council elections. President Karzai won the elections and assumed office for a second term. Parliamentary elections were also held in September 2010.

In April 2014, the third round of Presidential and Provincial Council elections were held, with President Karzai having served his two terms. The 2014 Presidential elections, however, were rife with political tensions because the second round of the run-off voting system resulted in alleged electoral fraud. After months of political tension and contesting of the election results, the US helped broker a deal with the two candidates, Dr Ashraf Ghani and Dr Abdullah Abdullah, which led to the creation of coalition government, also known as the National Unity Government (NUG).

Dr Ghani was declared President of Afghanistan and Dr Abdullah assumed the newly created role of Chief Executive by the presidential decree. This became known as the first-ever peaceful democratic transfer of power in Afghanistan’s history. A day after the creation of the NUG on 29 September 2014, the newly appointed National Security Advisor, Mohammad Hanif Atmar, signed the Bilateral Security Agreement—in the presence of President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah—with the US as a sign of their commitment to long-term strategic cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Shortly after in December 2014, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) combat mission in Afghanistan ended. The NATO-led Resolute Support (RS) mission was launched in January 2015 as a non-combat mission to train, advise and assist the ANDSF, who assumed the full responsibility for Afghan security. This led to a drawdown in international combat troops, as well as a reduction in international aid. Thus, the Afghan government had to simultaneously manage a political, security and economic transition.

The parliamentary elections, however, were delayed for 3 years due to a range of reasons. They were finally held in October 2018, except in Ghazni, where elections have been delayed until the 2019 Presidential elections due to security issues.

## **The Executive**

The Executive Branch of Afghanistan's current government, the National Unity Government (NUG), consists of the Office of the President, the Office of the Chief Executive, the First and Second Vice Presidents, the First and Second Deputy Chief Executives, the Attorney General, the Cabinet of 26 ministers, as well as several independent bodies and other central government agencies.

The President is directly elected for a 5-year period and can serve a maximum of two terms. Candidates for the presidency name their two vice presidential candidates at the time of nomination. The President is the Head of State, the Chair of the Cabinet and the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.

The Office of the President consists of the Office of the President itself, the National Security Council, the Press Office and the Office of Administrative Affairs (OAA), which provides administrative, logistical and financial support to the President, Vice Presidents and advisors to the President. In September 2014, President Ashraf Ghani signed a decree merging the structure of the OAA and the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers with the Office of the Chief Staff (OCS) to the President. In 2017, the President signed a decree to create the Administrative Office of the President (AoP) to deal with all administrative affairs that were previously the responsibility of the OCS.

When the US brokered an agreement between Dr Ghani and Dr Abdullah following political tensions and lack of consensus on the results of 2014 Presidential elections, the position of Chief Executive was created for the latter as a part of a power-sharing deal. The Chief Executive's official authorities are to advise the President, serve on the Cabinet, act as chair of the Council of Ministers, appoint high-level officials and implement the President's and Cabinet's decisions. At the time of the agreement, the position was meant to last two years, after which a Loya Jirga would commence to decide if the Constitution should be amended to create the position of an Executive Prime Minister for Dr Abdullah.

The President is constitutionally empowered to nominate ministers, the Attorney General, the Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank (the Central Bank of Afghanistan), members of the Supreme Court, the Head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and the President of the Red Crescent Society. Nominees are then subject to a Parliamentary vote after a 3-month probationary period. If rejected by the National Assembly, they may not assume office. According to the Constitution, all other executive

posts, including that of the Vice Presidents, the Mayor of Kabul and the heads of various commissions are appointed by the President and do not require the approval of the National Assembly.

## **Attorney General's Office (AGO)**

The Saranwal or Attorney General's Office (AGO) houses the country's criminal prosecutors. The AGO is an independent executive agency led by the Attorney General who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Wolesi Jirga. According to Article 134 of the Constitution, the AGO is responsible for the investigation and filing of cases against the accused in court. There are three units of the AGO:

1. Civil: responsible for investigating and prosecuting penal code cases in the criminal courts
2. National Security: responsible for investigating and prosecuting terrorism cases in the national security courts
3. Military: responsible for investigating and prosecuting criminal cases against police and other law enforcement officers.

These units are further broken down into six departments, each headed by a Deputy Attorney General, though the Director of National Security heads the Division of National Security.

## **The Judiciary**

The three major permanent justice institutions in Afghanistan are the Supreme Court, the Office of the Attorney General (AGO) and the Ministry of Justice. AGO is an independent body, part of the Executive branch, responsible for investigation and prosecution. Article 116 of the 2004 Constitution elucidates the judiciary: "The judicial branch is an independent organ of the state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court, High Courts, Appeal Courts and Primary Courts, the structure and authorities of which are determined by law."

In June 2005, a new law regulating the judiciary system was passed by the Cabinet, which divided the courts into three tiers: The Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal and the Primary Courts. Furthermore, when needed, it allows for travelling or mobile courts, but only if they are approved by the President. Article 157 of the Constitution calls for the establishment of an Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution (ICOIC) to act as an overarching arbitrator.

The reach of the formal justice system varies significantly across the country. A large proportion of disputes in Afghanistan are settled outside the formal court system—particularly, but not exclusively, in rural areas. Community-based justice mechanisms—shuras, jirgas and jalasas (meetings)—often settle civil and sometimes criminal disputes using Islamic and customary tribal laws. The justice system in Afghanistan, therefore, is composed of both formal and informal mechanisms that include civil, Islamic and customary tribal law. In instances where formal and informal mechanisms and actors engage with one another, common elements are most often found with respect to issues regarding land and property, but can diverge on criminal matters and the role and nature of punishment.

## The Supreme Court

In accordance with the Constitution, the Supreme Court has nine members, each appointed by the President for a 10-year period with the approval of the Wolesi Jirga. Out of the nine members, the President appoints one as Chief Justice. The Supreme Court manages the personnel, budgets and policy decisions of the entire national, provincial and district court system.

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

## Courts of Appeal

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

## Primary Courts

At the district level, the City Primary Court, which is the primary court in the provincial capital, consists of five dewans—General Criminal, Civil, Public Rights, Public Security and Traffic. Primary Courts in all districts outside the provincial capitals have three dewans—General Criminal, Public Security and Civil and Public Rights. Many districts do not currently have functional primary courts, largely due to security concerns. Judges often hold primary court sessions in the provincial capitals.

Criminal cases are initiated by the Prosecutor's Office filing them with the Primary Court; civil rights cases are filed with an office in the Ministry of Justice. After that, a series of judicial sessions may be held until a decision is reached by the Primary Court. Almost as a matter of customary practice, a majority of the cases determined by the Primary Courts are appealed to the Courts of Appeals. If appeals reach the Supreme Court, judges often send the cases back to the Primary Court for a new hearing.

## Commercial Court

The primary forum for contract and commercial disputes in Afghanistan is the Commercial Court. Article 45 of the Law of the Organization and Authority of the Courts provides that a Commercial Court should be created in every province. Administratively, the Supreme Court of Afghanistan has divided the provincial Commercial Courts into eight zones. The procedure of Commercial Courts is different from that of other civil courts and is embodied in a separate law. Cases that deal with commercial leases of property are likely to be heard in the Commercial Court. However, cases dealing with other property issues or transactions, such as title, transfers and mortgages, are generally handled by courts of general jurisdiction.

## The Legislature

### National Assembly

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

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

Members of the Wolesi Jirga are directly elected for 5 years by provincial constituencies. There are currently 249 seats in the Wolesi Jirga; the Constitution stipulates that the maximum number of seats is 250. Seats are distributed among the provinces according to population. The Constitution requires that 20 percent of the seats should be allocated to women. 10 seats are reserved for the Kuchi (traditionally nomadic) population, three of which must go to women.

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

- From among the members of each Provincial Council, the respective council elects one person for a period of 4 years.
- From among the District Councils of each province, the respective councils elect one person for a period of 3 years.

The President appoints the remaining one-third of the members, including two representatives of the disabled and two representatives of Kuchi communities, for a period of 5 years. Of these presidential appointees, 50 percent must be women.

While the Constitution has provisions for District Council elections, they have not been held to date. A temporary solution was devised for the interim District Council. Instead of electing one member, each Provincial Council currently elects two of its members to the Meshrano Jirga—one for 4 years and a second for 3 years or until district elections are held—thereby maintaining the 2:1 ratio of elected to appointed seats.

The National Assembly convenes for two regular sessions for a total of 9 months per year. Sessions are open to the public unless secrecy is requested by the Chairman of the National Assembly or at least ten members and is granted by the Assembly.

Article 90 of the 2004 Constitution gives the National Assembly the following authorities:

- Ratification, modification, or abrogation of laws and legislative decrees
- Approval of plans for economic, social, cultural and technological development
- Approval of the state budget and permission for obtaining and granting loans
- Creation, modification and abrogation of administrative units
- Ratification of international treaties and agreements, or abrogation of Afghanistan's membership to them
- Other authorities enshrined in the Constitution, which can be initiated by the Office of the President, individual ministries, or the National Assembly and become law after passing through both houses of the National Assembly and being endorsed by the President.

According to Article 94, a law can only be approved after it passes through both Houses of the National Assembly and is endorsed by the President, unless the Constitution states otherwise. After both Houses pass a bill, the President has 15 days to reject it and send it back to the National Assembly, explicitly stating the reasons for rejection. At this stage, the Wolesi Jirga can still pass the law if a two-thirds majority re-approves it, after which the law can be enacted.

Certain legislative documents—rules, directives and guidelines—can be decreed by individual ministers. A proposed bill or signed decree should be passed or rejected by the National Assembly within one month of its submission. There are 17 commissions in the Wolesi Jirga and 11 in the Meshrano Jirga.

## **2004 Constitution**

The current Constitution went into force in 2004 following a Loya Jirga that was held to draft it. Decrees and laws have been enacted according to its provisions. The Taqin Department at the Ministry of Justice is responsible for drafting all new legislation and ensuring that legislations enacted in the previous regimes do not contradict with news.

## Provincial Councils

There are 34 Provincial Councils—one for each province—and they have between 9 and 29 members depending on the size of the province's population. The members are elected by a single provincial constituency. Candidates must reside in the province where they are seeking to be elected from. They also cannot simultaneously run for both the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections. The Electoral Law states that 20 percent of the seats in a Provincial Council are reserved for women. Two members from each Provincial Council serve in the Meshrano Jirga. This will decrease to one member per Provincial Council when District Councils are elected and formed. Though the Constitution requires that Provincial Council elections be held every five years, they have only been held twice to date, in 2005 and in 2009.

The 2007 Provincial Council Law is vague on the Councils' responsibilities and significant confusion remains about their exact role. While a mandate exists, it is ambiguous and does not allocate to them decision-making authority. Instead, Provincial Councils report directly to IDLG. Thus far, Provincial Council activities have included: electing provincial representatives from their own membership to the Meshrano Jirga, participating in the development of the provinces and improvement of administrative affairs and advising provincial administrations on issues such as development planning. Their role in a given province is often depend on the relationship between the Council and the Provincial Governor.

## District Councils

According to the Constitution, District Councils must have between five and 15 members, depending on the size of the district's population and be elected every 3 years. Candidates must reside in the district in which they stand for election. When formed, they will elect one-third of the members of the Meshrano Jirga.

However, elections for the District Councils have not been held and it is unclear when they will take place. There are a number of reasons for this. First, district boundaries in some areas have not been confirmed; therefore, it is impossible to calculate district populations, which are necessary to determine the seat allocation for each district. This problem is compounded by the lack of an up-to-date census for the country as a whole. Second, because of the lack of certainty about district boundaries, voters have been registered by province rather than by district, which means that in order to conduct District Council elections, another registration process would be required.

Article 110 of the Constitution states that if a Loya Jirga needs to be held, it must be comprised of the National Assembly and chairpersons of Provincial and District Councils. Regardless of the lack of district elections, several Loya Jirgas have been summoned since the ratification of the 2004 Constitution.

In the absence of formally elected District Councils, a number of extra-constitutional institutions have been created to provide some level of representation and improve governance at the district level. Managed by the IDLG, the Afghanistan Social Outreach Program (ASOP) has created hundreds of District Community Councils (DCCs) modelled on traditional shuras (councils). Meanwhile, the



National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) under the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) has formed District Development Assemblies (DDAs) which functioned with slower pace during 2017-2018 and has been back on track since until 2015. The annual budget according to UNDP for this program has been: in 2019, \$354,881; in 2018, \$37,973; in 2017, \$878,039; in 2016, \$4,723,168; in 2015, \$19,336,560; in 2014, \$46,174,000; in 2013, \$45,518,588; and in 2012, \$44,918,384.

## **Village Councils and Municipal Councils**

The Constitution also calls for the election of Village Councils, Municipal Councils and Mayors through free, general, secret and direct elections. Village Councils are to be elected for 3 years. The terms of Municipal Councils and Mayoral elections are not yet specified and the mandates of Village and Municipal Councils are not elaborated in either the Constitution or the Electoral Law.

Elections for these bodies are unlikely to be held in the next few years. Once again, the failure to constitute these bodies has resulted in extra-constitutional attempts to fill the gap. In particular, the Community Development Councils (CDC) established through the previous National Solidarity Programme (NSP) changed now with re-election of CDCs through the Citizen Charter Program for Afghanistan (CCAP) effectively function as semi-formal village governance bodies for many areas.

## **The Public Sector**

### **Structure**

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

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

The Constitution explicitly allows a measure of decentralisation by stating that “the government, while preserving the principle of centralism—in accordance with the law—shall delegate certain authorities to local administration units for the purpose of expediting and promoting economic, social and cultural affairs, and increasing the participation of people in the development of the nation” (Article 137).

The country's 34 provinces are the basic units of local administration. The executive at the provincial level is the Governor (Wali), who is appointed by the President. The provinces are not distinct political entities and formally have a very modest role in decisions concerning their own structure, recruitment of senior staff and size and composition of work force. In effect, the administration of each province is a collection of branches of central government ministries. The majority of decisions on provincial staffing are made in Kabul by the parent ministry, in negotiation with the Office of Administrative Affairs and with oversight by the head of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC). The Independent Appointments Board of the IARCSC is required to ratify appointments at grades one and two and oversee recruitment of grades three and below. As part of its mandate to improve governance and achieve stability on the subnational level, IDLG is responsible for supervising Provincial and District Governors, Provincial Councils and municipalities (except Kabul Municipality).

Provinces are divided into districts and municipalities. Administrative arrangements between the province and its districts are similar to those in the relationship between the centre and the province. The central ministry in Kabul determines district senior staffing and budget allocations, leaving provincial officials with relatively little discretion in this regard, at least officially.

Municipalities are overseen by the IDLG, in some provinces with significant influence by the Governor. The IDLG approves staffing numbers and budgets in each municipality, even though municipalities are entitled to collect and retain their own taxes. In some provinces, such as Herat and Kandahar, rural municipalities also have a reporting relationship with the provincial municipality, although this is contrary to the established government structure.

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

Development is ostensibly managed at the provincial level through two institutions: the Provincial Development Committee (PDC) and the Provincial Administrative Assembly (PAA). PDCs are made up of key development actors such as line ministries, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, NGOs and occasionally Provincial Council members, meeting under the chairmanship of the Provincial Governor. They are to create coordinated, prioritised and budgeted plans for provincial development, which should then be passed to the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Finance (MoF) in Kabul for approval and incorporation into the budgets and plans of the relevant central line ministries.

In reality, these plans rarely influence the central ministries, which will draft budgets based on information from their respective provincial line directorates and their budgetary allocations from the MoF. This centralised process presents considerable difficulties for the coordination of development projects between ministries at the provincial level.

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

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

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

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

## **Pay and Grading**

The main purpose of the pay and grading reform was to put a system in place to ensure that employees are paid according to their grade and level of work and not in accordance with seniority.

The pay and grading framework eliminates payment scales based on seniority by dividing and classifying jobs and associating a salary with each position.

The Civil Service Law creates a legal basis for pay and grading and sets out the following targets for the civil service ministries and agencies:

- An eight-grade organisational structure for all civil service ministries and agencies
- Five steps within each grade

- Pay ranges for each grade and step
- Appointment criteria for each grade
- A system of performance management and evaluation

## **Elections**

The electoral system in Afghanistan is the Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV), where eligible voters cast one vote for one individual in their multi-member constituency (province). Suffrage is universal for all citizens 18 years of age and older. The Constitution provides for the election of:

- A President: every 5 years
- A National Assembly (Parliament) consisting of the Wolesi Jirga (House of the People) and the Meshrano Jirga (House of Elders): every 5 years
- Provincial Councils: every 4 years
- District Councils: every 3 years
- Village Councils: every 3 years
- Municipal Councils and Mayors

Thus far, elections have only been held for the first three categories. The President is elected by absolute majority; if no candidate receives over 50 percent of the votes, a run-off election is held between the top two candidates.

## ***Higher Education***

### **Public and Private Universities in Afghanistan**

According to data from the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), the total number of registered public and private universities in 2018 stood at 180. The total number of private universities is 142 and outnumbers the 38 public universities. An additional 10 universities (nine public and one private) are not registered with the MoHE as their institutional relationships are with other ministries. This brings the aggregate figure of universities to 190 in Afghanistan, of which 180 are registered with MoHE. Student degree completion data on the 10 universities that are not registered with the MoHE are unavailable and are not included in this guide.

A closer look at the MoHE data shows that Kabul province has 73 universities (69 private and 4 public) or 41 percent of the total number of universities in the country that are registered with the MoHE. The additional lot of 10 universities not registered with the MoHE are all located in Kabul province. This brings the aggregate figure of universities in Kabul province to 83, of which 73 are regulated by the MoHE. The aggregate figure of 83 universities in Kabul translates to the province being home to 44 percent of all universities in the country. The number of public universities, including those not registered with the MoHE in Kabul province, is 13, which, from an aggregate pool of 47 public universities, accounts for 28 percent, or more than a quarter of all public universities in a single province.

MoHE-registered universities in the provinces other than Kabul account for 107 universities in total, or 59 percent of the country's share of higher learning institutions, 34 public and 73 private. Only Nuristan province has no public or private university.

The table below lists all of the 73 private universities across the provinces, except for those in Kabul province.

Province	No	Name
Badakhshan	1	Barna Institute of Higher Education
Badghis	1	Hanzala Badghisi Institute of Higher Education
	2	Hekmat Institute of Higher Education
Baghlan	1	Royan Institute of Higher Education
	2	Quds Institute of Higher Education
	3	Hakim Sanayee Institute of Higher Education
Balkh	1	Mowlana Jalaludin Balkhi Institute of Higher Education
	2	Saadat Institute of Higher Education
	3	Arya Institute of Higher Education
	4	Aryana University
	4	Taj Institute of Higher Education
	5	Rahe Sadat Institute of Higher Education
	6	Ebn-e-Sina University Balkh Branch
	7	Kawoun Institute of Higher Education
	8	Rahnaward Institute of Higher Education
	9	Turkistan Institute of Higher Education
	10	Alburz Institute of Higher Education
11	Nukhbagan Institute of Higher Education	
Bamiyan	1	Bamika Institute of Higher Education
Daikundi	1	Naser Khesrow Balkhi
Farah	1	Gharjistan Institute of Higher Education
	2	Abu Nasr Institute of Higher Education
Faryab	1	Reshad Institute of Higher Education

Ghazni	1	Khatamunabieen University Ghazni Branch
	2	Sultan Mahmood Ghaznawi Institute of Higher Education
	3	Muslim Institute of Higher Education
	4	Khatamunabieen University Jaghuri Branch
Helmand	1	Boost University
	2	Arakozia Institute of Higher Education
	3	Wadi Helmand Institute of Higher Education
Herat	1	Eshraq Institute of Higher Education
	2	Ghalib Institute of Higher Education
	3	Jami Institute of Higher Education
	4	Asia Institute of Higher Education
	5	Khawja Abdullah Ansari Institute of Higher Education
	6	Algheyas Institute of Higher Education
	7	Kahkashan Sharq Institute of Higher Education
	8	Hariwa Institute of Higher Education
	9	Atefi Institute of Higher Education
Jawzjan	1	Amir Shir Ali Institute of Higher Education
	2	Matanat Institute of Higher Education
	3	Barlas Institute of Higher Education
Kandahar	1	Mirwais Nika Institute of Higher Education
	2	Malalai Institute of Higher Education
	3	Benawa Institute of Higher Education
	4	Saba Institute of Higher Education
Khost	1	Pamir Institute of Higher Education
	2	Ahmad Shah Abdali Institute of Higher Education
	3	Tolo Aftab Institute of Higher Education
	4	Dawat University

Kunar	1	Tanwir Institute of Higher Education
Kunduz	1	Salam University Nimroz Branch
	2	Shamal Institute of Higher Education
	3	Namr Institute of Higher Education
	4	Kuhandazh Institute of Higher Education
	5	Shahid Sayedjan Institute of Higher Education
	6	Imam Shaibani Institute of Higher Education
	7	Sherzai Afghan Institute of Higher Education
Nangarhar	1	Khurasan Institute of Higher Education
	2	Spinghar Institute of Higher Education
	3	Aryana Institute of Higher Education
	4	Alfalah Institute of Higher Education
	5	Roshan Institute of Higher Education
	6	Altaqwa Institute of Higher Education
Nimroz	1	Barek Institute of Higher Education
Paktika	1	Zamzam Institute of Higher Education
Parwan	1	Danish Institute of Higher Education
Samangan	1	Mowlana Jalaludin Balkhi Institute of Higher Education 2nd Branch
Takhar	1	Paiman Institute of Higher Education
	2	Rahe Sadat Institute of Higher Education 2nd Branch
	3	Fajrestan Institute of Higher Education
	4	Khana-e-Danish Institute of Higher Education
Maidan Wardak	1	Tabesh Institute of Higher Education



The table below lists all of the 34 public universities, except for those in Kabul province.

1	Alberoni University of Kapisa	Kapisa
2	Badakhshan University	Badakhshan
3	Badghis Institute of Higher Education	Badghis
4	Baghlan University	Baghlan
5	Balkh University	Balkh
6	Bamiyan University	Bamiyan
7	Daikundi Institute of Higher Education	Daikundi
8	Farah Institute of Higher Education	Farah
9	Faryab University	Faryab
10	Ghazni University	Ghazni
11	Ghor Institute of Higher Education	Ghor
12	Helmand Institute of Higher Education	Helmand
13	Herat University	Herat
14	Jawzjan University	Jawzjan
15	Kandahar University	Kandahar
16	Kunduz University	Kunduz
17	Laghman University	Laghman
18	Logar Institute of Higher Education	Logar
19	Maidan Wardak Institute of Higher Education	Maidan
20	Nangarhar University	Nangarhar
21	National and Agriculture Technology University	Kandahar
22	Nimroz Institute of Higher Education	Nimroz
23	Paktika Institute of Higher Education	Paktika
24	Paktiya University	Paktiya
25	Panjshir Institute of Higher Education	Panjshir
26	Parwan University	Parwan

27	Samangan Institute of Higher Education	Samangan
28	Sar-e-Pul Institute of Higher Education	Sar-e-Pul
29	Sayed Jamaludin Afghani University	Kunar
30	Shaikh Zayed University of Khost	Khost
31	Takhar University	Takhar
32	Technical Engineering University of Ghazni	Ghazni
33	Urozgan Institute of Higher Education	Urozgan
34	Zabul Institute of Higher Education	Zabul

MoHE Public universities	34
MoHE Private universities	73
Total MoHE universities	107

The table below lists the four public universities registered with the MoHE in Kabul province.

1	Kabul Education University of Ustad Rabbani
2	Kabul University
3	Kabul Medical University
4	Polytechnic University

The table below lists each of the 69 private universities registered with the MoHE in Kabul province.

1	Afghan Institute of Higher Education
2	Aburayhan Institute of Higher Education
3	Afghan Pamir Institute of Higher Education
4	Afghan Swiss University
5	Afghanistan Institute of Higher Education
6	Ahlulbait Institute of Higher Education
7	Alama Institute of Higher Education
8	Al-Mustafa International University (MIU)
9	Aruj Institute of Higher Education

10	Aryana University
11	Asas Institute of Higher Education
12	Ashna Institute of Higher Education
13	Azhar Institute of Higher Education
14	Bakhtar University
15	Bayan Institute of Higher Education
16	Bayazid Roshan Institute of Higher Education
17	Cheragh Medical Institute of Higher Education
18	Dawat University
19	Dunya University
20	Ebn-e-Sina University
21	Ebn-Khaldoon Institute of Higher Education
22	Edrak Institute of Higher Education
23	Esteqamat Higher Education Institute
24	Esteqlal Institute of Higher Education
25	Fanoos Institute of Higher Education
26	Ghalib Institute of Higher Education
27	Gharjistan University
28	Ghazi Amanullah Khan Institute of Higher Education
29	Gawharshad University
30	Hewad Institute of Higher Education
31	Islamic Azad University Afghanistan Branch
32	Jahan Institute of Higher Education
33	Jahan-e-Noor Institute of Higher Education
34	Kaboora Institute of Higher Education
35	Kardan University
36	Karwan University

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37	Kateb University
38	Khana-E-Noor University
39	Khatam Al-Nabin University
40	Khurshid Institute of Higher Education
41	Maihan Institute of Higher Education (MIHE)
42	Maiwand Institute of Higher Education
43	Maryam University
44	Mashal University
45	Mili Institute of Higher Education
46	Moraa Educational Complex
47	Mustaqbel Institute of Higher Education
48	Naiestan Institute of Higher Education
49	Noman Sadat Institute of Higher Education
50	Noorin Institute of Higher Education
51	Payam Institute of Higher Education
52	Payam-e-Noor University
53	Peshgam Institute of Higher Education
54	Qalam Institute of Higher Education
55	Rabia Balkhi University
56	Rah-e-Abreshem Institute of Higher Education
57	Rana University
58	Razi Institute of Higher Education
59	Saber Institute of Higher Education
60	Salam University
61	Sayed Jamaludin Afghan Institute of Higher Education
62	Sharq Institute of Higher Education
63	Shefa Institute of Higher Education

64	Spinghar university
65	Tabesh University
66	The American University of Afghanistan
67	Tolo-e- Aftab Institute of Higher Education
68	Zawul Institute of Higher Education
69	Mohmand Institute of Health Sciences (not in the list of MoHE)

The table below lists the private and public universities that are not registered with the MoHE in Kabul province.

No	University	Registration
1	Afghan National Security University	Ministry of Defence
2	Afghanistan National Institute of Music	Ministry of Economy
3	Afghanistan Technical Vocational Institute (ATVI)	Ministry of Economy
4	Information and Communication Technology Institute	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
5	Kabul Electro Mechanic Institute of Higher Education	Ministry of Economy
6	Kabul Health Sciences Institute	Ministry of Public Health
7	National Military Academy of Afghanistan	Ministry of Defence
8	National Military University	Ministry of Defence
9	Prestige Institute of Accountancy	NA
10	Mohmand Institute of Health Sciences	Ministry of Public Health

The table below lists all of the public and private universities in Kabul province that are registered with the MoHE and with other ministries.

MoHE Public Universities	4
MoHE Private Universities	69
Non-MoHE Private Universities	1
Non-MoHE Public Universities	9
Total	83









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## ***Provincial profiles***

### **About this section:**

The provincial profile section in the A-Z guide aims to provide a brief overview of Afghanistan's 34 provinces by presenting a range of information including geographical location, area size, number of districts, population (urban/rural, male/female), poverty rates, and seat allocation in both the Wolesi Jirga and the provincial council. Details on the Mishrano Jirga, the Upper House, is omitted as one-third of the 102 candidates equaling 34 are appointed by the president and the remaining two-thirds from each of the 34 provincial councils are indirectly elected (until the district council elections are held, when 34 from the district councils will comprise the remaining third).

**Allocation of seats:** The constitution states that the Wolesi Jirga seats are to be distributed among the provinces according to population based on the 2003-2005 (SY1381-1384) Household Listing (HL) and the 1979 census with an annual population growth rate of 2.03 percent. The constitution reserves an average of two seats per province for female candidates and a total of ten Wolesi Jirga seats for Kuchis (nomads), of which three are reserved for female candidates.

The provincial profiles are arranged according to unofficial "regions" of the country, presented alphabetically by province name. Some provinces had temporary district divisions which are clearly marked as temporary.

**Disclaimer:** All population figures in Afghanistan including in this guide's provincial profiles section are based on estimates. As the 1979 census was never completed due to insecurity and the Soviet invasion in December 1979, population figures in Afghanistan vary between 26 and 33 million depending on who is asked. There has never been a follow-up census conducted. As a result, all data on both the total population and the ethnic composition of the country are estimates.

**Acknowledgements:** Statistics are provided by the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) based on their annual Afghanistan population estimation 2018 (SY1397). This estimation is done on the basis of the data obtained from the 2003-2005 (SY1381-1384). The population estimate covers the settled population of the country which is taken from the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) report, Afghanistan Population Estimates for the year of 2018-19 (SY1397). Afghanistan's total population (including nomads) is estimated at 31,575,018, the maps and development figures are from the government of Afghanistan, Ministry of Economy and the World Bank's joint effort in producing the NRVA 2015/2016.

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## **Afghanistan National Profile**

Area: 652,864km<sup>2</sup>

Number of Regions: 7 (Central Afghanistan, Northeast Afghanistan, Eastern Afghanistan, Northern Afghanistan, Southern Afghanistan, Southwest Afghanistan, Southeast Afghanistan)

Number of Provinces: 34

Number of Districts: 421 (364 original Districts, 23 Temporary districts and 34 provincial center)

Total Population: 31,575,018

Male Population: 16,081,572

Female Population: 15,493,446

Urban Population: 7,507,953

Rural Population: 22,567,065

Nomadic Population: 1,500,000

Provincial Council Seats: 461 (361 Male, 101 Female)

Number of Universities under MoHE: 180 (Public 38, Private 142)

Number of Universities under other ministries: (Public 9, Private 1)

Poverty Rate (%): 54.5

## Central Afghanistan

### Kabul (Kabul)

Area: 4523.9 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 14

Total population: 4,860,880

Rural population: 719,715

Urban population: 4,141,165

Male population: 2,472,604

Female population: 2,388,276

Provincial Council Seats: 7 Female, 26 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 34.3



### Kapisa (Mahmood Raqi)

Area: 1,908.0 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 6

Total population: 471,574

Rural population: 469,888

Urban population: 1,686

Male population: 238,092

Female population: 233,482

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 9 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 45.2



## Central Afghanistan

### Bamiyan (Bamiyan)

Area: 18029.2 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 7 (yakawlang No2 District is temporary)

Total population: 478,424

Rural population: 464,370

Urban population: 14,054

Male population: 242,484

Female population: 235,940

Provincial Council Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 61.3



### Daikundi (Nili)

Area: 17501.4 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 8 (Pato District is temporary.)

Total population: 498,840

Rural population: 498,840

Urban population: 0

Male population: 256,026

Female population: 242,814

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 90.2



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## Central Afghanistan

### Logar (Pul-i-Alam)

Area: 4568.0 km<sup>2</sup>  
Number of districts: 6  
Total population: 419,377  
Rural population: 408,554  
Urban population: 10,823  
Male population: 213,365  
Female population: 206,012  
Provincial Council Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male  
Poverty Rate (%): 39.0



### Panjshir (Bazarak)

Area: 3771.6 km<sup>2</sup>  
Number of districts: 7  
Total population: 164,115  
Rural population: 164,115  
Urban population: 0  
Male population: 83,964  
Female population: 80,151  
Provincial Council Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male  
Poverty Rate (%): 25.1



## Central Afghanistan

### Parwan (Charikar)

Area: 5715.1 km<sup>2</sup>  
Number of districts: 9  
Total population: 711,621  
Rural population: 646,833  
Urban population: 64,788  
Male population: 359,529  
Female population: 352,092  
Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 11 Male  
Poverty Rate (%): 56.3



### Maidan Wardak (Maidan Shahr)

Area: 10348.3 km<sup>2</sup>  
Number of districts: 8  
Total population: 637,634  
Rural population: 634,259  
Urban population: 3,375  
Male population: 325,570  
Female population: 312,064  
Provincial Council Seats: 2 Female; 13 Male  
Poverty Rate (%): 60.4





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## Northeast Afghanistan

### Badakhshan (Faizabad)

Area: 44835.9 km<sup>2</sup>  
Number of districts: 27  
Total population: 1,017,499  
Rural population: 976,602  
Urban population: 40,897  
Male population: 518,306  
Female population: 499,193  
Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 12 Male  
Poverty Rate (%): 81.5



### Baghlan (Pul-i-Khumri)

Area: 18255.2 km<sup>2</sup>  
Number of districts: 14  
Total population: 977,297  
Rural population: 776,046  
Urban population: 201,251  
Male population: 499,219  
Female population: 478,078  
Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 12 Male  
Poverty Rate (%): 31.2



## Northeast Afghanistan

### Kunduz (Kunduz)

Area: 8080.9 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 9 (Calbad, Gultipa and Aqtash Districts are temporary.)

Total population: 1,091,116

Rural population: 804,917

Urban population: 286,199

Male population: 552,933

Female population: 538,183

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 12 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 66.4



### Takhar (Taloqan)

Area: 11,473.7 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 16

Total population: 1,053,852

Rural population: 912,188

Urban population: 141,664

Male population: 536,425

Female population: 517,427

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 12 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 70.2



## East Afghanistan

### Kunar (Asadabad)

Area: 4925.9 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 15 (Sheltan Districts is temporary.)

Total population: 482,115

Rural population: 466,937

Urban population: 15,178

Male population: 246,779

Female population: 235,336

Provincial Council Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 61.8



### Laghman (Mehtarlam)

Area: 3977.9 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 5 (Badpash District is temporary.)

Total population: 476,537

Rural population: 470,915

Urban population: 5,622

Male population: 244,261

Female population: 232,276

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 76.5



## East Afghanistan

### Nangarhar (Jalalabad)

Area: 7641.1 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 22 (Spin ghar District is temporary.)

Total population: 1,635,872

Rural population: 1,375,660

Urban population: 260,212

Male population: 835,319

Female population: 800,553

Provincial Council Seats: 5 Female; 13 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 50.7



### Nooristan (Paroon)

Area: 9266.7 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 7

Total population: 158,211

Rural population: 158,211

Urban population: 0

Male population: 80,754

Female population: 77,457

Provincial Council Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 60.9



## North Afghanistan

### Balkh (Mazar-i-Sharif)

Area: 16186.3 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Number of districts: 14  
 Total population: 1,442,847  
 Rural population: 892,684  
 Urban population: 550,163  
 Male population: 733,209  
 Female population: 709,638  
 Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 15 Male  
 Poverty Rate (%): 48.8



### Faryab (Maimana)

Area: 20797.6 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Number of districts: 13  
 Total population: 1,069,540  
 Rural population: 936,311  
 Urban population: 133,229  
 Male population: 544,865  
 Female population: 524,675  
 Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 12 Male  
 Poverty Rate (%): 55.8



## North Afghanistan

### Jawzjan (Sheberghan)

Area: 11291.5 km<sup>2</sup>  
Number of districts: 10  
Total population: 579,833  
Rural population: 453,207  
Urban population: 126,626  
Male population: 294,030  
Female population: 285,803  
Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 11 Male  
Poverty Rate (%): 65.3



### Samangan (Aybak)

Area: 13437.8 km<sup>2</sup>  
Number of districts: 6  
Total population: 415,343  
Rural population: 383,018  
Urban population: 32,325  
Male population: 212,424  
Female population: 202,919  
Provincial Council Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male  
Poverty Rate (%): 88.2



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## North Afghanistan

### Sar-i-Pul (Sar-i-Pul)

Area: 16385.6 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 6

Total population: 599,137

Rural population: 551,495

Urban population: 47,642

Male population: 306,463

Female population: 292,674

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 12 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 56.6



## South Afghanistan

### Helmand (Lashkar Gah)

Area: 58305.1 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 14 (Nawamish and Marja Districts are temporary.)

Total population: 1,395,514

Rural population: 1,299,837

Urban population: 95,677

Male population: 708,421

Female population: 687,093

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 12 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 88.5



### Kandahar (Kandahar)

Area: 54844.5 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 17 (Dand and Takhta Pul districts are temporary)

Total population: 1,337,183

Rural population: 846,363

Urban population: 490,820

Male population: 681,605

Female population: 655,578

Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 15 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 80.7





## South Afghanistan

### Nimroz (Zaranj)

Area: 42409.5 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 5 (Dularam District is temporary)

Total population: 176,898

Rural population: 147,947

Urban population: 28,951

Male population: 90,235

Female population: 86,663

Provincial Council Seats: 1 Female; 8 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 58.7



### Uruzgan (Trinkote)

Area: 11473.7 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 6 (Chinarto District is temporary.)

Total population: 420,964

Rural population: 405,646

Urban population: 15,318

Male population: 215,410

Female population: 205,554

Provincial Council Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 69.6



## South Afghanistan

### Zabul (Qalat)

Area: 17471.8 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 10

Total population: 371,043

Rural population: 358,640

Urban population: 12,403

Male population: 188,981

Female population: 182,062

Provincial Council Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 81.4



## Southwest Afghanistan

### Badghis (Qala-i-Naw)

Area: 20794.0 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 6

Total population: 530,574

Rural population: 514,413

Urban population: 16,161

Male population: 271,200

Female population: 259,374

Provincial Council Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 56.8



### Farah (Farah)

Area: 49339.1 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 10

Total population: 543,237

Rural population: 502,480

Urban population: 40,757

Male population: 278,365

Female population: 264,872

Provincial Council Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 42.6



## Southwest Afghanistan

### Ghor (Chaghcharan)

Area: 36657.4 km<sup>2</sup>  
Number of districts: 9  
Total population: 738,224  
Rural population: 730,494  
Urban population: 7,730  
Male population: 377,206  
Female population: 361,018  
Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 12 Male  
Poverty Rate (%): 60.5



### Herat (Herat)

Area: 55868.5 km<sup>2</sup>  
Number of districts: 19 (Zerko, Pushtko, Koh-e-Zore and Zawol Districts are temporary.)  
Total population: 2,050,514  
Rural population: 1,437,637  
Urban population: 612,877  
Male population: 1,033,532  
Female population: 1,016,982  
Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 15 Male  
Poverty Rate (%): 47.9



## Southeast Afghanistan

### Ghazni (Ghazni)

Area: 22460.5 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 18

Total population: 1,315,041

Rural population: 1,249,269

Urban population: 65,772

Male population: 671,689

Female population: 643,352

Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 15 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 42.6



### Khost (Khost)

Area: 4235.3 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of districts: 12

Total population: 288,795

Rural population: 601,795

Urban population: 12,789

Male population: 314,736

Female population: 299,848

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 12 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 29.7



## Southeast Afghanistan

### Paktika (Sharana)

Area: 19515.9 km<sup>2</sup>  
Number of districts: 18  
Total population: 748,910  
Rural population: 744,094  
Urban population: 4,816  
Male population: 382,549  
Female population: 366,361  
Provincial Council Seats: 1 Female; 8 Male  
Poverty Rate (%): 12.8



### Paktia (Gardez)

Area: 5583.2 km<sup>2</sup>  
Number of districts: 14 (Laja mangal , Mirzaka, Garda siray and Rohany Baba, Districts are temporary.)  
Total population: 590,668  
Rural population: 563,685  
Urban population: 26,983  
Male population: 301,873  
Female population: 288,795  
Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male  
Poverty Rate (%): 73.7



## **Kuchi population**

Total population: 1,500,000

Male population: 769,149

Female population: 730,851

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 64.1









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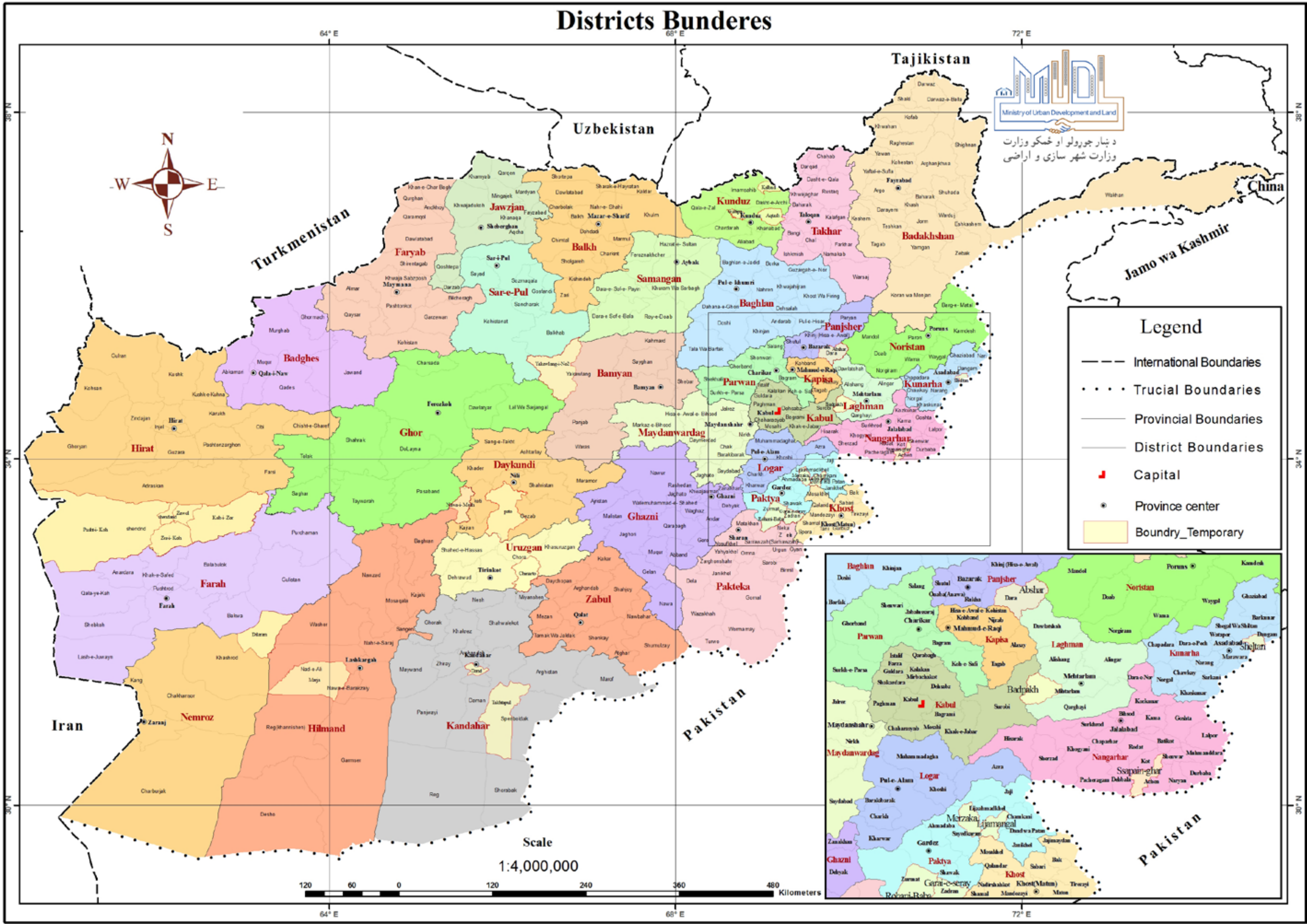




# Districts Bunderes



د ښار جوړولو او ځمکو وزارت  
وزارت شهر سازی و اراضی



### Legend

- International Boundaries
- ..... Crucial Boundaries
- Provincial Boundaries
- District Boundaries
- 📍 Capital
- ⊙ Province center
- Boundry\_Temporary

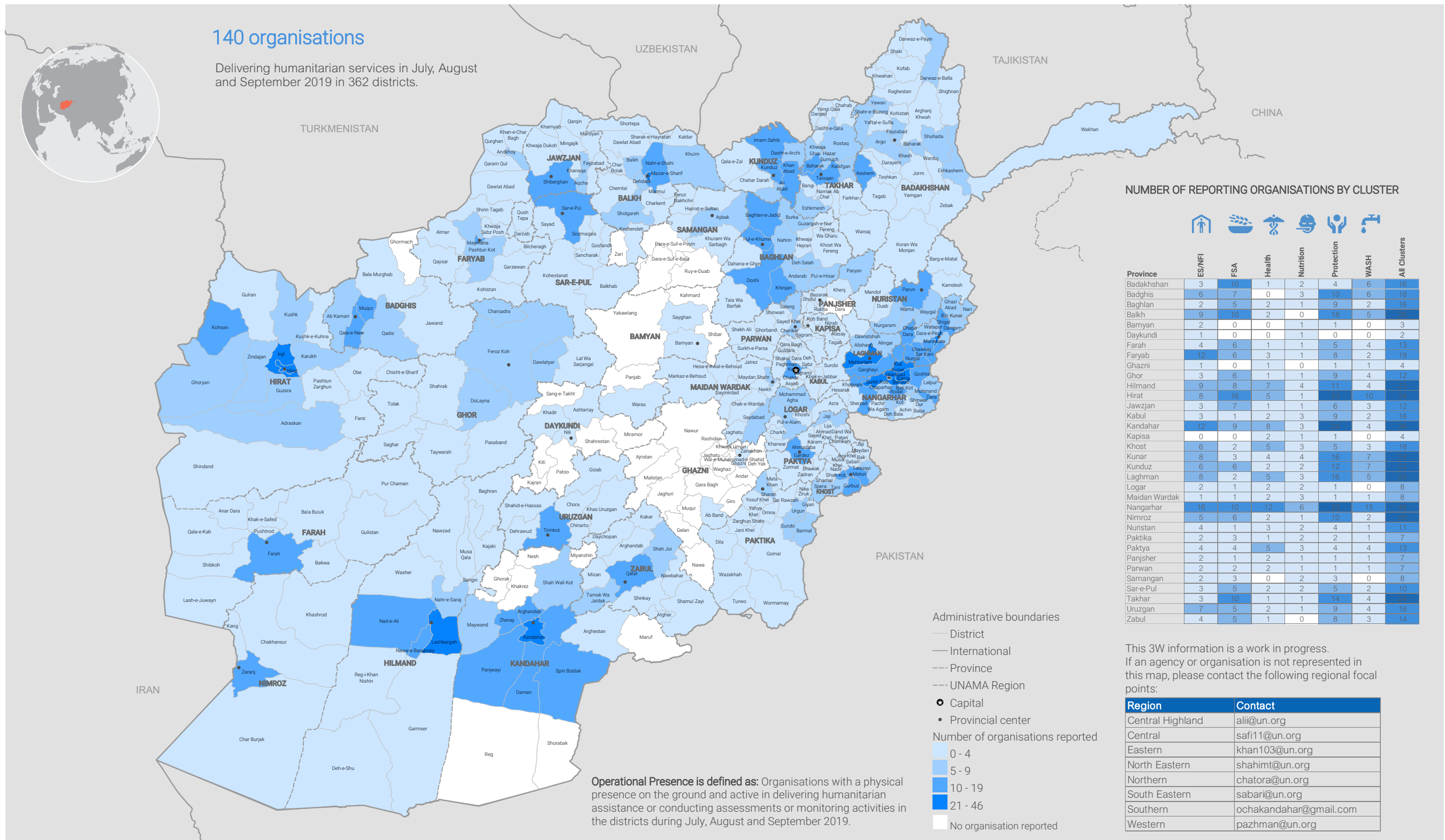


Scale  
1:4,000,000



# AFGHANISTAN

## Humanitarian Operational Presence (3W) (July - September 2019)





As of 30 June, humanitarian partners have reached 5.2 million people affected by drought. Of those reached, 452,500 people are in places of displacement, while the remainder are in drought-affected rural areas. In some drought-affected provinces, insecurity and other access challenges have prevented humanitarian partners from delivering relief items and basic services to those in need.

### TARGET VS ACHIEVEMENT

**4.6 million**

people prioritised for assistance

4.2 million in drought-affected rural areas

0.4 million in districts of displacement

**5.2 million<sup>1</sup>**

people reached

(113%)

IDPs Non-displaced

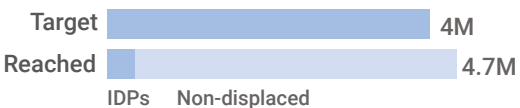
4.8 million in drought-affected rural areas

0.5 million in districts of displacement<sup>2</sup>

### SECTOR PROGRESS



#### People reached vs target



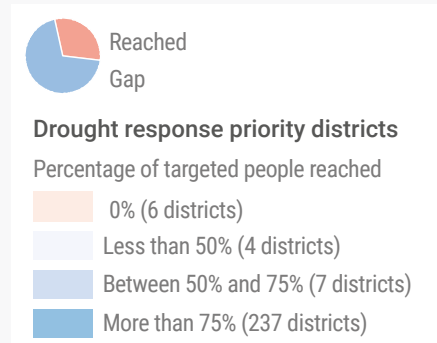
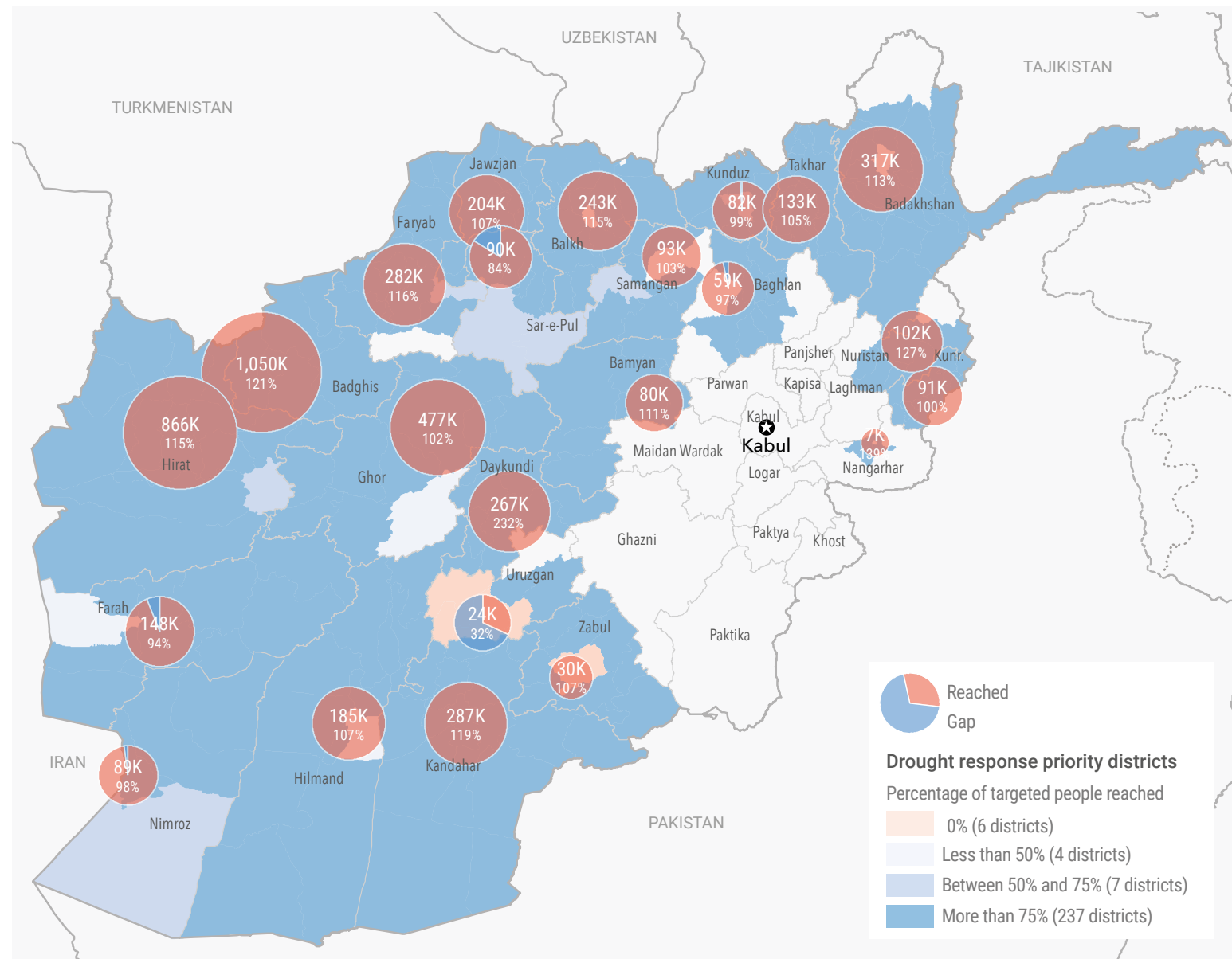
Activities: 1: In-kind assistance, 2: Cash 3: Wheat seeds 4: Animal feed and fodder 5: Livestock medicine



#### People reached vs target



Activities: 1: Water tankering, 2: Sanitation, 3: Hygiene Promotion, 4: Hygiene kit distribution, 5: Water kit distribution



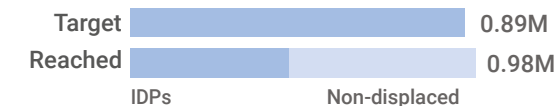
### FUNDING

**US\$216 million total received**

Sectors	Confirmed (US\$)	Received (US\$)	Utilised <sup>4</sup> (US\$)
FSAC	\$162m	\$154 m	\$139m
ESNFI	\$26m	\$26m	\$24m
WASH	\$25m	\$25m	\$22m
NUTRITION	\$7.3m	\$7.3m	\$0m
HEALTH	\$6.5m	\$6.5m	
PROTECTION	\$3.6m	\$2.9m	\$0.14m
EDUCATION	\$0.15m	\$0.27m	\$0.1m



#### People reached vs target



Activities: 1: Antenatal services, 2: Under 5 vaccination, 3: Treatment of AWD, 4: MHPSS, 5: Other emergency health services



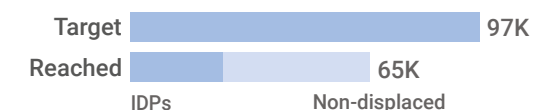
#### People reached vs target



Activities: 1: Temp Learning Spaces, 2: Teacher training, 3: Provision of teaching and learning material, 4: Social mobilisation training of community members



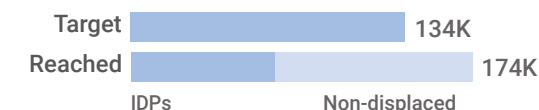
#### People reached vs target



Activities: 1: GBV survivors provided with legal, safety, health and psychosocial response, 2: Cases referred for case management, 3: Women and girls reached with GBV and PSS services through women friendly health spaces, 4: Women, girls, men and boys reached with GBV awareness through community dialogues



#### People reached vs target



Activities: 1: Treatment of SAM, 2: Treatment of MAM, 3: IYCF counselling, 4: Blanket supplementary feeding programme, 5: Micronutrient supplementation



#### People reached vs target

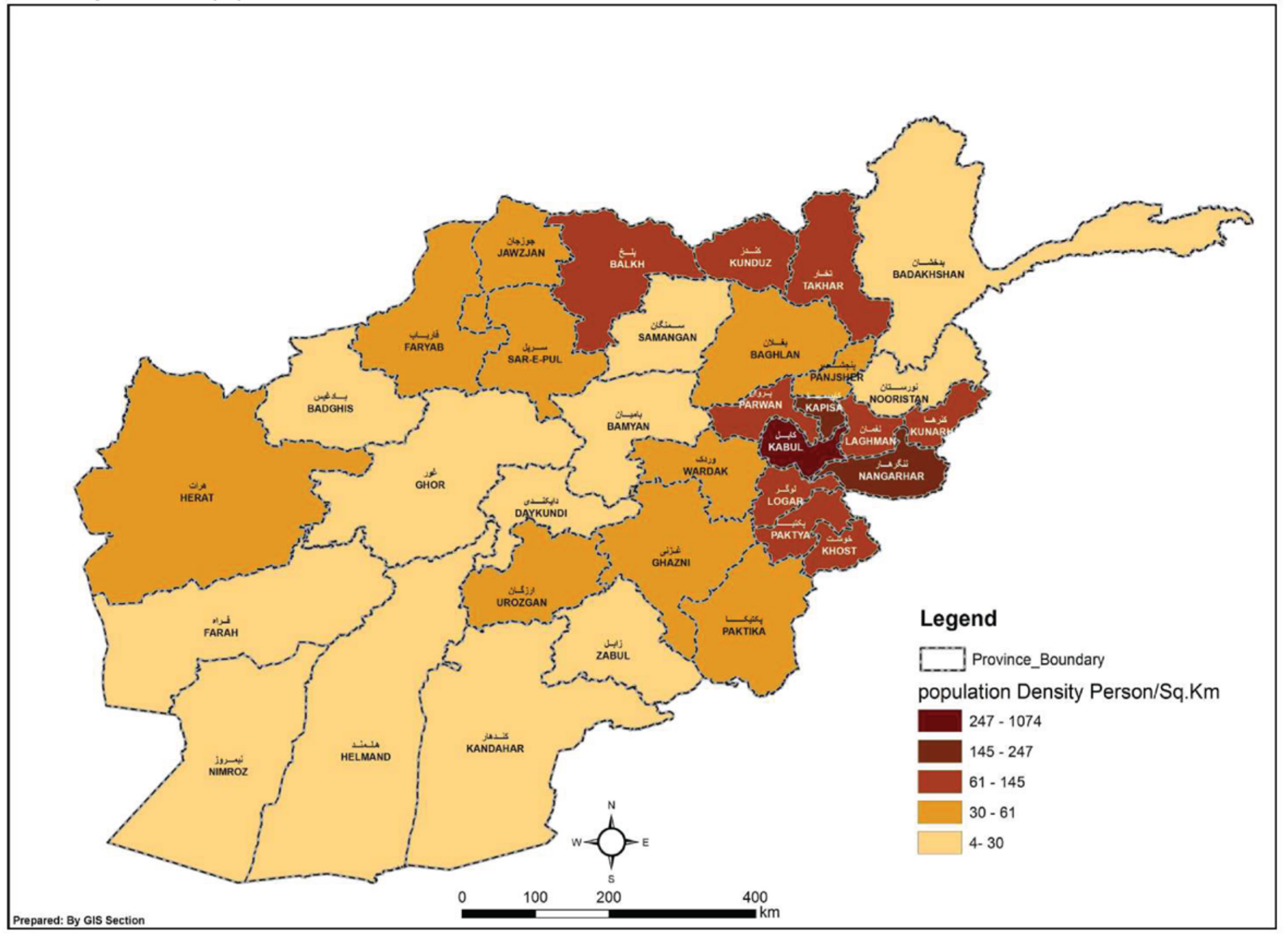


Activities: 1: Emergency shelter, 2: NFI, 3: Winterisation

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

1. While steps have been taken to reduce double counting of people assisted, some duplication may still exist. The number of people reached is cumulative from the beginning of the response. 2. Includes some assistance to host communities in places of displacement. 3. ES-NFI: Data received as of 31 March 2019. 4. Utilized funding information is not complete because of different reporting cycles and low reporting. **Creation date:** 15 July 2019 **Sources:** Clusters/Sectors **Feedback:** ocha-afg@un.org www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int

Setteled Population Density by Province - 2018 - 19



Prepared: By GIS Section





All AREU publications can be downloaded from our website ([www.areu.org.af](http://www.areu.org.af)). Many are also available for free in hardcopy from the AREU office in Kabul.

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