



AREU

Afghanistan
Research and
Evaluation Unit

The A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance

2013
Eleventh Edition



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Research and
Evaluation Unit**

Research for a Better Afghanistan

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.

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About the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit

The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) is an independent research institute based in Kabul. AREU's mission is to inform and influence policy and practice through conducting high-quality, policy-relevant research and actively disseminating the results, and to promote a culture of research and learning. To achieve its mission, AREU engages with policymakers, civil society, researchers, and students to promote their use of AREU's research and its library, to strengthen their research capacity, and to create opportunities for analysis, reflection, and debate.

AREU conducts research on a wide variety of topics and produces dozens of research publications each year, ranging from policy-focused briefing papers to comprehensive issues and synthesis reports. Many are translated into Dari and Pashto.

AREU was established in 2002 by the assistance community working in Afghanistan and has a board of directors with representation from donors, the United Nations and other multilateral agencies, and non-governmental organisations.

The AREU Library

Established in 2003, the AREU Library supports the research activities of AREU and provides public access to approximately 15,000 titles held about Afghanistan. The library is open to everyone. Contemporary materials produced inside Afghanistan and materials in Dari and Pashto are the focus of collecting, with an emphasis on long-term research value.

The library also aims to make available research produced overseas about the country and the region. Materials of all types (books, journal articles, maps, posters, CDs, DVDs, databases and more) are available for use inside the library. Photocopying facilities are available and the entire collection is listed online (see the "Library" page of AREU's website at www.areu.org.af). The library also has over 63 gigabytes of accumulated softcopy publications on Afghanistan, all of which are indexed and listed in the library database and made available for research use (where copyright laws permit).

About the *A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance*

Updated each year, the *A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance* 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, a series of country and city maps, 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.

AREU Publications 2012

These and all other AREU publications are available for download from www.areu.org.af, and most are available in hardcopy from the AREU office in Kabul. (# indicates that a publication or a summary is available in Dari, and * in Pashto)

- The Resilient Oligopoly: A Political-Economy of Northern Afghanistan, 2001 and Onwards, by Antonio Giustozzi
- Land Governance at the Crossroads: A Review of Afghanistan's Proposed New Land Management Law, by Liz Alden Wily#*
- Fixing Afghanistan's Electoral System: Arguments and Options for Reform, by Andrew Reynolds and John Carey#*
- The Impact of Microfinance Programmes on Women's Lives: A Case Study in Balkh Province, by Chona R. Echavez, with Sogol Zand and Jennefer Lyn L. Bagaporo#*
- Mind the Gap? Local Practices and Institutional Reforms for Water Allocation in Afghanistan's Panj-Amu River Basin, by Vincent Thomas, with Wamiqullah Mumtaz and Mujib Ahmad Azizi
- The 2012 A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance, by AREU#*
- Does Women's Participation in the National Solidarity Programme Make a Difference in their Lives? A Case Study in Kabul Province, by Chona R. Echavez
- Gender and Economic Choice: What's Old and What's New for Women in Afghanistan?, by Chona R. Echavez
- Equal Rights, Unequal Opportunities: Women's Participation in Afghanistan's Parliamentary and Provincial Council Elections, by Oliver Lough, with Farkhloqa Amini, Farid Ahmad Bayat, Zia Hussein, Reyhaneh Gulsun Hussein, Massouda Kohistani and Chona R. Echavez#*
- Does Women's Participation in the National Solidarity Programme Make a Difference in their Lives? A Case Study in Balkh Province, by Chona R. Echavez with Jennefer Lyn L. Bagaporo
- Thirty Years of Conflict: Drivers of Anti-Government Mobilisation in Afghanistan, by Antonio Giustozzi with Niamatullah Ibrahim

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Government Initiatives and Programmes

Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO)

www.agcho.gov.af

The Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO) is the government agency responsible for all official mapping and related activities in Afghanistan. Its focus of work is the production, publication and distribution of physical, topographical, political, thematic, cadastral, and natural resources maps; geodetic affairs; and, the national atlas. Reporting directly to the President, AGCHO has approximately 700 staff and regional offices in 16 provinces. The Office is divided into five departments: metadata and client service provision, cartography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), cadastre, photogrammetry and remote sensing, and geodesy. Prior to its establishment as an independent agency in 1958, all mapping was done by the military.

Until the Soviet Invasion in 1979, AGCHO had completed 26 percent of the geodetic triangulation of Afghanistan and 30 percent of the cadastral surveys necessary to cover the country. During this period, the then-state-of-the-art mapping and printing equipment was installed from Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands. This included a large Leica camera and two-colour off-set printing machines, and much of the equipment is still in use for map production. Since 2001 there have been renewed efforts to modernise the agency; AGCHO has produced a number of thematic maps for government departments and external organisations and now also provides GIS training. It also established departments of Geography and GIS at Kabul University and Kabul Polytechnic University. In 2011, AGCHO published several new maps, including a 1:18,000 digital imagery street map of Kabul, produced in association with GISWorking consultancy in Kabul. In co-operation with the German government, AGCHO is aiming to publish a national atlas containing over 50 maps in 2013.

AGCHO provides its services to government ministries and to international organisations, which in some cases require specific supporting documentation. By law, all maps that are printed in Afghanistan should be approved by AGCHO.

Afghan Local Police (ALP)

The Afghan Local Police (ALP) was established by the August 2010 Presidential decree. The programme is led by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and is deployed across the country to defend rural communities in areas where there is limited to no presence of the Afghan National Army (ANA, p. 4) and the Afghan National Police (ANP, p. 5). The ALP does not have the authority to enforce laws and is therefore more 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 to be vetted and approved by district-level shuras (councils) and Afghan domestic intelligence. The shuras responsible for vetting recruits are

those created by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance's Afghanistan Social Outreach Program (IDLG p. 17).

As of December 2012, the ALP numbers 16,300 troops. While the ALP programme is largely funded by the US Department of Defence, ISAF supports the ALP programme through the provision of funding, training, equipping, and providing technical assistance to the Mol.

Afghan National Army (ANA)

The Afghan National Army (ANA), the military branch of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), was created on 1 December 2002 under a decree issued by President Karzai. The roles of the ANA are to:

1. Secure the borders and deter external threats;
2. Defeat terrorist forces;
3. Disband, reintegrate, or imprison illegal armed groups; and
4. Manage internal security threats and emergencies in cooperation with the Afghan National Police.

The ANA is divided into six corps, ranging in size from 12,000 to 18,000 troops: the Kabul-headquartered Capital Division is responsible for the security of the capital and the seat of government. The remaining five corps are distributed as regional commands in Gardez, Herat, Kandahar, Lashkar Gah, and Mazar-i-Sharif. To ensure geographic and ethnic diversity, the ANA has recruitment centres in each of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. Around 6,000 new recruits join the ANA every month. Recruits complete 12-week training courses at the Kabul Military Training Centre. All trainers are Afghan, supported by military trainers from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and other countries. In 2009 the first class of ANA officers graduated from the National Military Academy of Afghanistan, which was established in 2004. ANA personnel sign three-year contracts, which can be voluntarily renewed. The maximum length of service is 25 years.

Since its establishment, ANA has moved from being an infantry-centric force into a full-fledged army. Today, the army comprises of both fighting elements and enabling capabilities that include military police, intelligence, route clearance, combat support, medical, aviation, and logistics.

As of December 2012, ANA is 178, 501 troops-strong. Currently, there are 380 women in the ANA. Established in 2007, as of December 2012, the Afghan Air Force has 96 aircrafts, and 27 of the 6,325 personnel are female.

The United States is ANA's key partner; they train and equip the Army, provide the majority of the required technical and financial support, and have committed to spend \$17 billion from 2008 to 2013. Thereafter, the United States will reduce funding to \$3 billion annually; other donor nations are expected to contribute a combined total of \$1 billion. The current aim of the Afghan government is to assume full security responsibility throughout Afghanistan by end-2014, as part of the Transition process (p. 23).

Afghan National Police (ANP)

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 roles span a wide spectrum of security activities, including law enforcement, maintenance of order, criminal investigation, border security, counter-narcotics, and counter-terrorism.

As of December 2012, the ANP had a combined strength of 148,536 officers, of which 1,467 are female, who together support the following forces: 1) National Police, or Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) responsible for most day-to-day policing. 2) Afghan National Civil Order Police, highly trained and special equipped quick-reaction force aimed at dealing with civil disorder, looting, hostage taking and riots. 3) Afghan Border Police, engaged in law enforcement at international borders. 4) 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.

Since 2005, the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) has led police reform efforts by the US, along with the training and development of the ANA. CSTC-A has several thousand personnel and contractors dedicated to its ANP mission. 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 (full text, p. 71). The chain of command is: 1) Minister of Interior, 2) Deputy Minister for Security Affairs, 3) Regional Commanders, 4) Provincial Chiefs of Police, and 5) District Chiefs of Police.

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

www.aihrc.org.af

In 2002, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) was established 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. 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. 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 five years who are appointed by the President. As of December 2012, the AIHRC is chaired by Dr Sima Samar, with Mr Ahmad Fahim Hakim as the Deputy Chair. 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.

AIHRC adopted its current Four-Year Strategic and Action Plans SY 1389-1392 (2010-2013) after an extensive consultation exercise with stakeholders across the country. The plans are implemented by the AIHRC’s Secretariat, led by Mr Mohammad Musa Mahmodi, the Executive Director. As part of these plans, the AIHRC’s five strategic objectives are leadership, education, empowerment, advocacy, and monitoring and investigation. To ensure nationwide coverage of services, the AIHRC has eight regional offices (Herat, Kandahar, Paktya, Bamyán, Nangarhar, Kabul, Kunduz, and Balkh) and six provincial offices (Ghor, Daykundi, Helmand, Uruzgan, Faryab, and Badakhshan), with more than 600 employees.

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

www.aisa.org.af

The Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) was established as a “one stop shop for investors” by the Afghan Government in 2003 and is responsible for the registration, licensing, and promotion of all new investments in Afghanistan. Headquartered in Kabul, AISA has regional offices in Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Khost, Helmand, and Jalalabad.

AISA’s services include: individual client investment support; visa facilitation; organising domestic and foreign conferences and exhibitions; and, providing opportunities for “matchmaking” between companies and investors. AISA publishes an Investor Directory both online and in hard copy; with a new edition due to be released in January 2013 that will provide a listing of foreign and local companies operating in Afghanistan. Additionally, www.directory.asia.org.af allows visitors to search and verify businesses by name and licence number.

AISA’s Research and Policy Department analyses private sector development issues, develops private sector strategies, completes sector-specific studies on business and investment opportunities, and engages in hands-on sector policy advocacy before the National Assembly and Afghan government agencies. Also within AISA’s remit is the Industrial Parks Development Department, which is currently responsible for managing USAID-funded industrial parks in Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Helmand.

Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS)

The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) is the central framework for Afghanistan's development, aiming to promote pro-poor growth, support the development of democratic processes and institutions, and reduce poverty and vulnerability. The ANDS articulates both a policy framework and a roadmap for implementation. The sector strategies cover the period SY1387-1391 (2008-2013) and aims together with the Afghanistan Compact (2008-2011) to provide a path to achieving Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (p. 48) by 2020. It also serves as Afghanistan's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, a key document used by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in assessing a country's eligibility for debt relief. Finalised in 2008, the ANDS is underpinned by the principles, pillars, and benchmarks of the Afghanistan Compact, organised in three pillars;

1. **Security:** Aimed to achieve nationwide stabilisation, strengthen law enforcement, and improve personal security.
2. **Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights:** Aimed to strengthen democratic practice and institutions, human rights, the rule of law, the delivery of public services and government accountability.
3. **Economic and Social Development:** Aimed to reduce poverty, ensure sustainable development through a private sector-led market economy, improve human development indicators, and make significant progress towards the MDGs.

The ANDS comprises strategies for 17 sectors, which fall under eight sub-pillars: 1) Security; 2) Good Governance; 3) Infrastructure and Natural Resources; 4) Education and Culture; 5) Health and Nutrition; 6) Agriculture and Rural Development; 7) Social Protection; and 8) Economic Governance and Private Sector Development.

These pillars are underpinned by five vital cross-cutting issues; counter-narcotics, anti-corruption, capacity development, gender equity, and regional cooperation.

The overriding objective of the ANDS is to substantially reduce poverty, improve the lives of the Afghan people, and create the foundation for a secure and stable country. This requires building a strong, rapidly expanding economy able to generate employment opportunities and increasing incomes essential for poverty reduction. The ANDS establishes the Afghan Government's strategy and defines the policies, programs and projects for the period of five years (2008-2013), and the means for effectively implementing, monitoring and evaluating these actions.

While line ministries have the primary responsibility for implementing the ANDS, the Ministries of Finance and Economy take the lead in management and monitoring. To facilitate the role, the ANDS Directorate responsible for Coordination of Implementation and Development was established in the Ministry of Finance, as well as the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in the Ministry of Economy. The total estimated cost of the ANDS over its five-year time span is approximately \$50.1 billion. Of this amount, the Afghan government will contribute \$6.8 billion and external assistance is expected to be \$43.2 billion.

Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP)

The Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP), signed by President Karzai in June 2010, aims to reintegrate into Afghan society all members of the armed opposition who are willing to renounce violence and accept Afghanistan's Constitution. It is the most comprehensive of any reintegration and reconciliation programme in Afghanistan thus far, and is budgeted at a total of \$782 million. The budget for 2012 was \$123,7 million, to which twelve nations have donated including Australia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, South Korea, Spain, United Kingdom, and the United States.

The APRP is led by the High Peace Council; a 70 member committee established by President Karzai in September 2010. The Council, chaired by Salahuddin Rabbani, aims to facilitate peace talks with the Taliban. APRP is implemented by the Joint Secretariat under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer, with provincial and district governors coordinating the support of line ministries for local-level processes. APRP implementation is supported by international partners, including the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF, p. 43), and United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (see the UN in Afghanistan, p. 50), and donor countries.

The Government strategy has three pillars:

1. The strengthening of security and civilian institutions of governance to promote peace and reintegration.
2. The facilitation of political conditions and support to the Afghan people to establish an enduring and just peace.
3. The enhancement of national, regional, and international support and consensus to foster peace and stability.

These efforts are split between two broad categories that will operate simultaneously:

- Strategic Reconciliation: The strategic and political level focuses on the leadership of the insurgency and includes addressing the problem of sanctuaries, constructing measures for removal of names from the UN sanction list, ensuring the severance of links with al-Qaeda, and securing political accommodation and potential exile to a third country.
- Peace and Reintegration at tactical and operational levels: This level focuses on the reintegration of foot soldiers, small groups, and local leaders who form the bulk of the insurgency. This includes: promoting confidence-building measures; seeking *afwan* (forgiveness) among the government, ex-combatants, and communities; providing support for demobilisation; removing names from target/black lists; granting political amnesty; arranging local security guarantees and longer-term processes of vocational training; providing Islamic and literacy education; creating job opportunities and resettlement options on a case-by-case basis; and, offering independent mediation and facilitation services when requested.

The peace and reintegration component of the APRP has been divided into three stages:

1. Activities for social outreach, grievance resolution, confidence building, negotiations involving

government and NGOs, and the mobilisation of local shuras to reach out to communities that demonstrate intent to join the peace process.

2. A 90-day demobilisation process whereby a disarming combatant is registered in the Reintegration Tracking and Monitoring Database managed by the Joint Secretariat, provided with an identification card guaranteeing freedom of movement, and given amnesty.
3. A delivery of a “menu of options” designed to “consolidate peace and support community recovery” through improvement of basic service access, civic education, literacy, technical and vocational training, and employment.

As of 2012, the APRP is present in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan

Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF)

www.worldbank.org/artf

The Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) was established in April 2002 as a means for coordinating donor funds in support of the Afghan Government’s recurrent expenditures. The ARTF is now one of the most important delivery mechanisms for channelling aid into the Government’s Core Budget (National Budget, p. 20)—not only for salaries and operating costs but also for priority development programmes aimed at achieving the country’s national development targets.

As of September 2012, thirty-three donors had contributed a total of \$5.75 billion, of which \$5.34 billion had been made available to the government, and \$4.32 billion disbursed for investment projects. ARTT is financing 21 active investment projects, in the agriculture, rural development, human development, and infrastructure and governance sectors. The ARTF Management Committee consists of the World Bank (the administrator), the Asian Development Bank, UNDP, and the Afghan Ministry of Finance.

The Afghan Government encourages donors to channel funding through the ARTF rather than through NGOs or other actors, because it sees the ARTF as a way of increasing Afghan ownership of the reconstruction process, facilitating the tracking and coordination of aid, and increasing transparency. When donating funds to the ARTF, donors are able to specify a preference for supporting a particular government project or programme; such preferences are limited to 50 percent of an agency’s annual contribution.

ARTF has financed several core national development programmes, including the National Solidarity Programme (NSP, p. 21), the National Emergency Employment Programme, the Educational Quality Improvement Project, the Strengthening Health Activities for Rural Poor, the Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA, p. 38), and rural and urban water supply and sanitation. Following the 2008 external evaluation, ARTF has been evolving into a more programmatic, sector-oriented funding mechanism to drive the implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 7) priorities. In December 2008, ARTF donors agreed with the Government of Afghanistan to establish the ARTF Incentive Program within the Recurrent Cost Window of the ARTF.

The objective of the Incentive Program is to support the Government's reform agenda and progress towards fiscal sustainability. Funds are made available to the government's budget on the basis of actual performance. More recently, ARTF has launched two new projects:

1. Justice Service Delivery Project with an initial funding of \$40 million. The Project objective is to increase access to and use of legal services. The project seeks to: implement the Government's National Priority Program; mitigate the impact of the Transition (p. 23); put the system on a sustainable path for long term results; and, improve service delivery.
2. Afghanistan Rural Access Project is a follow-up project of National Emergency Rural Access Project with an initial funding of \$107 million. The project development objective is to enable rural communities to benefit from all-season road access to basic services and facilities.

The largest contributors to the Fund are the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada Other donors include 15 European countries, the EC, Australia, India, Iran, Turkey, and the Gulf States.

Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP)

www.aredp-mrrd.gov.af

The Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP) is a national government-led multi-donor funded program that aims to jumpstart and facilitate private sector growth in rural Afghanistan. Estimated at \$88 million, AREDP is managed through the AREDP Program Management Office within the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. The program officially began in June 2010, and is currently operational in Parwan, Bamyán, Nangarhar, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar, and Helmand. AREDP seeks to increase employment, income of rural men and women, and the sustainability of targeted local enterprises. The project is comprised of three key components:

1. Community-based Enterprise Development: Aims to create Savings Group, Enterprise Groups, and Village Savings and Loans Associations which are assisted and trained to build their own financial capacities, increase value of trading, ensure production is oriented toward identified market opportunities, and create credit access.
2. Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development: Aims to support the emergence of a stronger SME sector with improved trading linkages with the rural economy and adequate access to financial services. The project identifies key value chains, "choke points" and skill gaps in each province, and enables SMEs to gain access to technical support necessary for market development.
3. Project Management Support: Aims to plan, manage, supervise, and monitor the implementation of all program activities, as well as provide research and technical support services.

Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS)

The Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) was launched in March 2003 by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in collaboration with major donors, primarily the World Bank, USAID, and the European Commission. It has two objectives: 1) to provide a standardised package of health services which forms the core of service delivery in all primary healthcare facilities; and 2) to promote a redistribution of health services by providing equitable access based on population density.

The BPHS entails basic services at low cost and addresses the main causes of morbidity and mortality, with emphasis on conditions that affect women and children. In line with Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (MDG, p. 48), the BPHS aims to provide health services to all Afghans, especially to remote, rural, and disadvantaged communities. In agreement with its major donors, MoPH has contracted the delivery of BPHS to NGOs in 31 out of 34 provinces, and to its own Provincial Health Offices in three provinces.

The defined package is offered by six levels of facility: 1) health posts, 2) health sub-centres, 3) mobile health teams, 4) basic health centres, 5) comprehensive health centres, and 6) district hospitals. The BPHS also provides standards for staffing and infrastructure reconstruction and rehabilitation for these facilities, and introduced primary eye care, private psychosocial counseling, and physiotherapy as a result of a 2010 revision of the BPHS.

Calendars in Afghanistan

Three calendar systems are used in Afghanistan:

- The Hijrah-i-Shamsi (solar Islamic) calendar is Afghanistan's official calendar, in use officially since 1922 and re-established in the current Constitution (month names differ from the Iranian or Persian forms). In 2013, the Afghan year begins on 1 Hamal 1392 (21 March 2013).
- The Hijrah-i-Qamari (lunar Islamic) calendar, used for religious events and holidays.
- The Gregorian calendar, or Miladi (solar Christian), used in international relations.

The website www.nongnu.org/afghancalendar provides downloadable versions of Afghanistan's official calendars. To convert dates between Qamari and Gregorian years (or to Persian dates using Iranian names) see:

- www.fourmilab.ch/documents/calendar
- www.iranchamber.com/calendar/converter/iranian_calendar_converter.php

See p. 110 for a Gregorian Calendar for 2013 with the Hijrah-i-Shamsi SY1391/1392, with public holidays marked in grey.

Central Statistics Organization (CSO)

www.cso.gov.af

The Central Statistics Organization (CSO) is the central government agency responsible for the collection and dissemination of official statistics. The CSO collects and analyses data from other government entities—on national accounts, price indexes, external trade, and population and demographics—to be used for monitoring economic, financial, and structural policies, as well as other activities.

Established in 1973, the CSO was declared an independent body by presidential decree in March 2006. Its 800 staff are based at CSO headquarters in Kabul and at sub-offices in every province. 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.

The work of the CSO is grouped into ten major departments: economic statistics, demographic and social statistics, national accounts, operations, publication and dissemination, strategic planning and donor relations, administration, internal evaluation and audit, staff training centre, and a secretariat.

Each year, the CSO produces the Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook, the Consumer Price Index Yearbook, the Afghanistan Trade Statistical Yearbook (a publication focused on foreign trade), and the Estimated Population of Afghanistan (with data on gender and rural-urban residence at the provincial and local levels). The CSO also publishes a quarterly volume on foreign trade statistics, the monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI), and daily updates on consumer price indexes in Kabul and Jalalabad. In 2011, the CSO expanded its CPI reporting from six to ten provinces, whilst increasing the number of items in the CPI “basket” from 202 to 290. CSO publications are generally printed in Dari, Pashto, and English, with information updates regularly reported on the CSO website.

The CSO plans to carry out the national population census mandated by the Bonn Agreement. The last census of this scope was initiated in 1979 but was never completed. The CSO has been involved in pre-census activities since 2003; in mid-2007, the CSO initiated a pilot census to identify obstacles and initial household listings for all 34 provinces and this was completed in 2009. The national population census will take approximately 21 days and require some 37,000 staff with a \$62 million budget. However, a full national census will not be possible until there is a significant improvement in the countrywide security situation.

The CSO and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), with support from the European Commission, released the findings from the 2007/8 National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) in October 2009. In 2011, the CSO began a Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey (SDES) of Bamyan, collecting similar data to the NRVA. In 2012, the SDES continued in other provinces. The CSO plans to continue these provincial SDESs on an annual, rolling basis, with the aim of surveying the entire country. Data results and reports from NRVA and SDES activities are available on the CSO website. All organisations planning to conduct statistical research in Afghanistan are required by law to coordinate their activities with the CSO.

Clusters and National Priority Programs (NPPs)

The Afghanistan government proposed a realignment of ministries into “clusters” at the 2010 London Conference to prioritise the implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 7). This was related to themes discussed at the conference regarding national stability, job creation and economic growth, and representative and accountable governance.

The government held ministerial-level meetings and consultations to develop the clusters and their associated National Priority Programs (NPPs) and presented a workplan for the various cluster groups at the 2010 Kabul Conference (p. 46). The rationale for clusters and NPPs includes enhanced monitoring and evaluation and an integrated approach to budget policy forming.

As of December 2012, following a number of revisions, 22 NPPs were organised into six clusters:

1. **Security:** Peace and Reintegration
2. **Governance:** Economic and Financial Reforms, National Transparency and Accountability Program, Efficient and Effective Government, Local Governance, Law and Justice for All, and Human Rights and Civic Responsibilities
3. **Human Resource Development:** Facilitation of Sustainable Decent Work through Skills Development, Education for All, Expanding Opportunities for Higher Education, Capacity Development to Accelerate National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) Implementation, and Human Resources for Health.
4. **Agriculture and Rural Development:** National Water and Natural Resource Development Program, National Comprehensive Agriculture Production and Market Development Program, National Rural Access Program, and Strengthening Local Institutions
5. **Infrastructure Development:** National Regional Resource Corridor Initiative, National Extractive Industry Excellence Program, National Energy Supply Program, and National Urban Delivery Program.
6. **Private Sector Development:** Integrated Trade and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Support Facility, and E-Afghanistan

Counter-Narcotics (CN)

www.mcn.gov.af

The political and economic destabilising effects of poppy cultivation in Afghanistan have been recognised both by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community. In recent years the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics (MCN) has intensified its counter-narcotics (CN) efforts, encouraging the international and national development ministries to strengthen and diversify licit rural livelihoods. MCN also supports a variety of ministries and initiatives, including the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the National Directorate of Security, the Counter-Narcotics Police of

Afghanistan (CNPA), and the Afghan National Police (ANP) in their efforts to arrest traffickers and eradicate opium crops where farmers have viable alternatives. Seventeen provinces maintained their “poppy-free” status in 2012, while 73 percent of cultivation was concentrated in the more insecure southern region. However, a nationwide 18 percent increase in cultivation between 2011 and 2012 reaffirmed Afghanistan's position as the primary producer of opium, contributing to roughly 90 percent of the world’s illicit opium production.

Recognising counter-narcotics as a cross-cutting issue, MCN oversees policy, strategy, implementation, and coordination of all CN activities. The Ministry works closely with several partners, including the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Finance, and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. As defined in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 7) and the 2006 National Drug Control Strategy, by 2013, the MCN is to establish effective processes and mechanisms to ensure a sustainable reduction in cultivation, production, and trafficking of, and addiction to, narcotics. MCN’s four priorities with its partners at the central and provincial level are therefore to:

1. Step up the effective disruption of the drugs trade by targeting traffickers and their backers;
2. Facilitate the strengthening and diversification of legal rural livelihoods, with a particular focus on the needs of communities that are giving up illicit cultivation;
3. Ensure the reduction of demand for illicit drugs, and the treatment of drug users; and
4. In support of the priorities above, to ensure the required strengthening of institutions both at the central level and in the provinces.

There are two institutions designed to enforce CN legislation, both of which fall under the Deputy Minister of Interior for Counter-Narcotics: Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, and Afghan Special Narcotics Force. The 2,500-troop strong CNPA is the primary agency responsible for coordinating CN law enforcement, and detecting and investigating significant drug-trafficking offences. Various central units of CNPA are mentored by international bodies, such as the National Interdiction Unit and the Sensitive Investigative Unit, advised by the US Drug Enforcement Agency. The Afghan Special Narcotics Force carries out interdiction operations throughout Afghanistan, working closely with the CNPA. CN training is also provided to the ANP (p. 5), including the Border Police.

Development Assistance Database (DAD)

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

With the support of UNDP, the Ministry of Finance established the Development Assistance Database (DAD) in June 2002. This web-based database aims to provide up-to-date information on all projects that fall within the national development budget (see National Budget, p. 20) as well as some extra-budgetary projects. The database stores detailed information about the location of development projects, who is financing them, and which organisations are involved in

their implementation. The DAD relies on the provision of data from development project funders and implementers, including government organisations, development partners and UN agencies. The database is available in English and Dari.

The DAD was originally designed to track the flow of aid and record the progress of development and humanitarian projects around the country. It still serves this purpose; however, as the government of Afghanistan works to develop a more robust budget, the DAD is also used as a budget formulation database. In June 2012, the DAD was upgraded to a sixth version and some of the modules, such as data entry forms, were simplified to ensure the system is more user-friendly and works faster on the web.

Government Media and Information Centre (GMIC)

www.gmic.gov.af

The Government Media and Information Centre (GMIC) was founded by Presidential decree in 2007 as an Afghan-led entity to respond to the information needs of the Afghan public, media, and other national and international stakeholders. The GMIC aims to build trust among the Afghan public and other stakeholders through: provision of timely and accurate information, continuous and consistent dissemination, facilitation of coordination and information sharing among acting agencies in the Afghan government and independent media and capacity building for the government's information and communication portals. The majority of GMIC's funding comes from the US Embassy.

GMIC's three programme departments serve the goals of the Centre. The Media Relations and Coordination Department ensures information coordination and dissemination to the public through establishing and maintaining relationships between the government and the independent media. The Capacity Building Department builds capacity in the Afghan government's communications offices by creating and conducting educational activities tied to their needs, also organising seminars and workshops for the professional capacity-building of journalists from the independent media. The Public Outreach Department, the awareness-raising unit within GMIC, aims to eliminate the gap between the government and the people through nationwide information collection and dissemination using modern and traditional means so that the Afghan public is properly informed about the progress and activities of the government.

High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOOAC)

www.anti-corruption.gov.af

The High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOOAC) was created by Presidential decree in July 2008, mandated with supervising and implementing the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. Anti-corruption is a cross-cutting issue of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 7). In 2006, President Karzai set up the Inter-Institutional Committee on Corruption, which was tasked with assessing remedies to corruption within Afghanistan. This produced the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, which recommended the creation of HOOAC.

As well as enhancing government mechanisms to reduce opportunities for corruption, HOOAC maintains a whistle-blowing function, allowing citizens to report instances of corruption which HOOAC will then follow up on, passing them to the Attorney General if sufficient evidence of wrongdoing is gathered. However, HOOAC is largely concerned with prevention of corruption, rather than prosecution.

HOOAC's 2011-2013 strategic plan highlights the dangers of increased corruption as governance is devolved to the sub-national level. As such, HOOAC is developing four regional offices in the Centre, North, Southwest, and South.

Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC)

www.iarcsc.gov.af

In May 2002, an independent Civil Service Commission was established as required by the Bonn Agreement to lead the government's process for Public Administration Reform. Its responsibilities were subsequently amended and extended by two Presidential decrees in June 2003, and the Commission was renamed the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC). The Commission currently has seven regional offices, 34 provincial offices, and 27 training centres.

The Commission's work is aimed at building a public administration in Afghanistan that is sound, functional, transparent, effective, accountable, responsible, apolitical, and impartial. The Commission is composed of: a Civil Service and Management Department, a Civil Service Secretariat, a Civil Service Institute, an Independent Appointments Board, an Independent Appeals Board, a Provincial Affairs Department, and a Programme Design and Co-ordination Directorate.

In 2012, IARCSC established Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committees in 22 ministries, implemented pay and grading systems in 11 ministries and agencies, trained over 2,000 civil servants, and held a national conference to promote the role of women in civil service institutions.

IARCSC aims to implement a variety of projects in 2013, including to: establish pay and grading programmes in five ministries; improve the organisation structure of 48 ministries and agencies; recruit 500 positions for grades 1-2; conduct the civil service entrance examination for grades positions 4-6; hold 26 training programs for 655 civil servants; and, conduct training need assessment for 500 civil servants.

Financial and technical support to the IARCSC and its initiatives have come from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF, p. 9), Egypt, the EU, Germany, India, UK, UNDP, USAID, and the World Bank.

Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG)

www.idlg.gov.af

The Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) was established by Presidential decree on 30 August 2007, by combining the Civil Administration Division of the Ministry of Interior and the Provincial Councils section of the Office of Administrative Affairs (p. 23). IDLG provides administrative support, resources, and capacity development for the four key entities of subnational governance: Provincial Governors' Offices; District Governors' Offices (PGO); Provincial Councils; and, the local Municipalities (the municipalities other than Kabul). It also coordinates the formulation and implementation of subnational governance policy and strategy at the national level. IDLG's main strategic documents are the 5-year strategic work plan, the National Priority Programme for Local Governance, and the Subnational Governance Policy (and its revised implementation framework). Its overall mission is "to consolidate peace and stability, achieve development and equitable economic growth and to achieve improvements in service delivery through just, democratic processes and institutions of good governance at sub-national level, thus improving the quality of life of Afghan citizens."

IDLG's leadership comprises the Director General, a Deputy Minister for Policy and Programmes, and a Deputy Minister for Finance & Administration. The Deputy Minister for Policy and Programmes manages a directorate for Policy, and the three directorates that support the subnational governance entities: a municipalities directorate; a local councils directorate; and, a directorate for Governors' offices. The Deputy Minister for Finance and Administration manages directorates for budget, finance, human resources, and ICT. There are also several units reporting directly to the Director General, including a newly-established Monitoring & Evaluation Directorate.

Historically, IDLG has had six donor-funded projects that it recognised as "the framework of 6 priority programmes." These include: the Performance-Based Governance Fund (PBGF), the District Delivery Programme (DDP), the Afghanistan Subnational Governance Programme (ASGP), the Afghanistan Local Governance Facilities Development Programme (ALGFDP), The Afghanistan Social Outreach Programme (ASOP), and the Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Population (RAMP-UP). However, IDLG is now moving away from seeing programmes as donor-funded streams of activity, instead seeing programmes as goals or sets of objectives defined by the Government, some of which are implemented through donor-funded projects. Its "programmes" are in fact the four sub-components of the National Priority Programme for Local Governance:

1. The National Basis for Local Governance; to establish national-level policies, laws, systems and mechanisms to provide an effective and efficient framework for subnational governance.
2. Provincial and District Administration; to develop the capacity of Provincial and District-level institutions to lead and coordinate local affairs, ensure service delivery and bring good governance.

3. Municipal Administration; to develop the capacity of municipal institutions to deliver services to municipal populations and bring good municipal governance.
4. Representation, Accountability and Transparency; to promote representation, participation, accountability and transparency, especially through local councils and other representative bodies.

In this framework, donor-funded projects help to implement the four IDLG programmes. RAMP-UP, for example, helps to implement the Municipal Administration Programme, and ASGP helps to implement all four programmes. The portfolio of IDLG projects has undergone significant change, with several projects ending or expected to end soon: the Performance-Based Governance Fund will expire in the middle of 2013; DDP and ASOP are no longer supported by the US Government and so these programmes are implemented in fewer areas of the country, mainly with support from the British Government. A major new USAID project, the Stability in Key Areas project, has also been launched, and IDLG is currently discussing with USAID how this project can support the Subnational Governance sector. One of the most important changes in the future will be bringing the projects onto the budget: many of the projects are channels for providing financial resources to the subnational governance entities, and so IDLG has proposed that these funds be distributed through the IDLG budget and the Ministry of Finance disbursement system, rather than through parallel, donor-implemented channels.

IDLG is also committed to reforming how the system of subnational governance works. It has implemented several reforms already, and expects to implement still more reforms in the future. Some of the main areas of work include:

- Subnational appointments; In line with the Subnational Governance Policy, IDLG has introduced a process of merit-based appointment for district governors and deputy provincial governors. At the end of 2012, 189 district governors and 32 deputy provincial governors had been appointed through the new process.
- Public Administration Reform for SNG entities; IDLG has been implementing the Pay & Grading process in governors' offices, and at the end of 2012 this process was 85 percent complete. In 2013, IDLG is planning to help governors to reorganise their offices to better align them with their responsibilities.
- Subnational finance; IDLG works closely with the Ministry of Finance to improve how funds are allocated to provinces, how budgets are planned, and how they are implemented. In 2012, IDLG worked with the Ministry of Finance to help it to implement a national Provincial Budgeting initiative. In parallel, it also transferred the responsibility for planning its own budget for the governors' offices to the staff of the PGOs.
- Local planning; IDLG works with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) to reform and improve local planning. IDLG has been helping provinces to develop Provincial Strategic Plans for the last two years, and in the coming year plans to work with its partners to make sure that the other local

planning processes (such as Provincial Development Plans) are aligned with the Provincial Strategic Planning process, and that the overall system is consistent.

- District-level representation; IDLG has been working with MRRD to develop a single agreed mechanism to provide district-level representation in advance of formal district council elections. IDLG and MRRD have developed a draft set of operating procedures for new “District Coordination Councils,” and plan to implement the procedures in full in 2013.

IDLG is also one of the key partners for NATO and the international community in the Transition process (p. 23). IDLG helps Governors’ Offices participate in the process at the local level. IDLG has also implemented a capacity and risk assessment for 34 PGOs, 34 provincial councils, and 33 provincial municipalities, identifying some of the key areas of support that these organisations will need to receive as the military withdrawal continues.

Mineral and Hydrocarbon Resources

A 2010 geological survey conducted by the Pentagon estimated the value of Afghanistan’s mineral reserves deposits at \$1 trillion, though other estimates have reached as high as \$3 trillion. Afghanistan has two presently known world class mineral deposits – the Aynak Copper Deposit and the Hajigak Iron Ore Deposit. Afghanistan also has potential for the likes of gold and gemstone. In the mining sector there are no large commercial scale mines, although some smaller state-owned coal mines do constitute the highest payer of taxes among all government enterprises nationwide. The Ministry of Mines (MoM) has estimated that by 2024 mineral extraction will be supplying between 42-45 percent of Afghanistan’s GDP.

In 2009, the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) signed the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a global voluntary standard designed to increase transparency in revenue flows between mining, oil, and gas companies and the government, by monitoring and publicising the revenues that the government receives from companies and the payments companies make to the government. Since the signing, GoA has made efforts to apply these standards to the Afghan mining sector and in October 2012 published details of over 200 mining and hydrocarbon contracts on the Ministry’s website. The government has also published two documents on the mineral resources industries: The Oil, Gas and Mining Sector Vision; and, the National Extractive Industries Excellence Program. These outline strategies for a dynamic, transparent mining sector that will help stabilise the Afghan economy, reduce reliance on international aid, and have wide-ranging positive downstream effects on the Afghan people.

Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India signed the TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) Gas Pipeline Agreement in 2010. It is estimated to be one of Afghanistan’s largest development projects and will transport 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan into Pakistan and then to India; 735 km of the 1753 km long pipeline will go through Afghanistan.

The World Bank is currently running the Second Sustainable Development of Natural Resources Project, a five-year project worth \$52 million due to run until June 2016. In 2012 the MoM

launched the Afghan Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) industry to provide Afghan consumers with a cheaper, cleaner, domestically produced alternative to petrol and diesel for vehicles and power generation.

Two tenders have been granted to foreign companies to begin extraction in Afghanistan. In 2008, mining rights for the Aynak Copper Deposit were negotiated to a consortium led by Metallurgical Corps of China (MCC). As part of their bid, MCC agreed to: build a copper smelting plant; produce 250,000 tons of copper per year; construct 900km of rail infrastructure; develop a 400 Megawatt coal-fired power plant; and, pay royalties to GoA. In 2011, tenders for the Hajigak Iron Ore Deposits were granted to Kilo Goldmines of Canada and to a consortium led by Steel Authority of India (SAI). SAI stated that they plan to invest \$11 billion in Afghanistan to develop extraction, build a steel plant and a power plant, and construct rail infrastructure. The Qarazaghan Gold Mine in Baghlan Province was contracted in January 2011 to a joint venture, Afghan Krystal Natural Resources (AKNR) and Central Asian Resources (CENTAR). The investment for the 10-year exploration and exploitation contract amounts to \$50 million.

In December 2011, the GoA continued its drive to expand the mineral exploitation sector, opening the tender process for four large copper and gold concessions in the provinces of Herat, Sar-i-Pul, Ghazni, and Badakhshan, and signing its first international oil production agreement in several decades. In agreement with China National Petroleum Corps and Watan Group, this deal allows the development of oil blocks in the Amu Darya Basin, in the provinces of Sar-i-Pul and Faryab. The second oil agreement for the West Afghan-Tajik Basin, was tendered in March 2012 and is now under negotiation with the consortium of four companies; Dragon Oil, Ghazanfar Bank, Kuwait Energy, and Turkish Petroleum Ltd.

Turkish Petroleum Ltd. is also in negotiation with the GoA regarding the \$10.1 million Gas Well Rehabilitation Project in the districts Gerqudaq and Yatimtaq funded by the Asian Development Bank. Another tender to be bid is the Sheberghan Gas Development Project in the Jawzjan province, which will create a road map for the development, construction, and operation of gas-fired power plants. The first CNG complex was built in May 2012. USAID has committed over \$300 million for the four-year project.

Deposits in areas such as the Tirpul, Katawaz, Helmand, and Kushka Basin have been discovered, but not tendered yet. The tendering procedures will follow in the near future.

National Budget

www.budgetmof.gov.af

The Afghan government produces a national budget each year which is an estimate of the cost of providing services for that year, and specifies how these services are to be paid for. The year SY1391 will, by regulation, only have nine months (see Calendar p. 11), and the budget is therefore estimated and prepared for nine months. The national budget for the SY1391 (2012-2013) fiscal year is Afs 244.744 billion, the equivalent of approximately \$4.895 billion, as the exchange rate for FY 1391 is fixed at AFs 50 for \$1. Unlike in previous years, this figure represents the core

budget only, excluding development funds to be spent outside of government channels.

Expenditure is classified according to its purpose. The operating budget is money spent on the day-to-day running costs of the government, such as the salaries of civil servants, teachers, national army and policemen; the running costs of offices and other operational premises; and, the purchase of equipment and machinery such as computers and vehicles. Most of this expenditure is funded from taxation and other domestic sources. The operating budget in SY1391 is \$2.674 billion.

Alongside the operating budget is the country's internal or "core" development budget. Managed by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) according to the government's own accounting procedures, this is money spent by the government on expanding and improving service provision. Most of this expenditure is in the form of development projects—building new schools and universities, constructing new roads, installing new water supply and sanitation schemes, supporting and developing agriculture, enhancing the capacity of human resources, etc. The core development budget for SY1391 is \$2.221 billion.

The "external" development budget, estimated at \$1.552 billion for FY1391, is money provided by donors that does not pass through the government and is distributed directly by donors to their contracting partners. The overall development budget is funded by international donors.

National Solidarity Programme (NSP)

www.nspafghanistan.org

The National Solidarity Programme (NSP), currently in its 10th year and third phase (NSP III), is recognised as the largest development initiative in Afghanistan and the second-largest community driven development programme in the world. NSP aims to build local governance and provide basic infrastructure in all rural communities in the country. Specifically, the NSP III's objective is to build, strengthen, and maintain Community Development Councils (CDCs) as effective institutions for local governance and socioeconomic development.

The NSP aims to achieve its objectives through four core elements:

- Establishing CDCs through democratic elections;
- Building the capacity of the elected CDCs to handle basic governance functions and address community development needs;
- Providing block grants to the CDCs for community-prioritised infrastructure subprojects that fall under the public goods and/or productive infrastructure categories; and
- Promoting linkages between the CDCs (as elected community representatives) and other governance and development actors at various levels.

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) executes the NSP through a project implementation unit comprising one headquarters, six regional coordination units and 34 provincial management units. The NSP considers the CDCs as its primary implementers.

However, CDC establishment, capacity building, and technical assistance have been outsourced to 30 national and international firms serving as NSP's Facilitating Partners (FPs).

The NSP has been implemented in three phases:

Phase I (2003-2007): contracted FPs to cover 17,300 communities with a first round of block grants;

Phase II (2007-2011): contracted FPs to cover another 5,900 communities with a first round of block grants; and

Phase III (2010-2015): which will contract FPs to cover another 15,100 communities with a first round of block grants, and another 12,600 existing communities with a second round of block grants.

As of end October 2012, the NSP has helped elect 29,947 CDCs and conducted re-elections for the repeater block grants in 2,453 communities. It has helped 29,631 communities develop their first community development plans (CDPs) and helped 1,260 of these to revise these CDPs for the repeater block grants. A total of 64,220 subprojects have been financed in 29,196 communities and a total of \$1.012 million has been disbursed as block grants for these communities. A total of 50,742 subprojects have been successfully completed. The financed subprojects in the NSP are mostly rural infrastructure, and may broadly be classified under the following sectors (in percent): transport (26), water and sanitation (24), irrigation (20), power (12), education (9), and miscellaneous (9).

On average, an NSP community covers 135 families with an average population of 810 persons, and provides an average block grant of \$33,500 per community. Through the CDCs, NSP seeks to; impact women's involvement in economic activities and participation in local governance; link rural communities with central government; and, create short and long term employment opportunities. NSP projects are estimated to have reached 24.25 million people.

By September 2015, the NSP aims to have covered a total of 38,300 communities with a first round of block grants, and a total of 12,600 communities with a second round of block grants. This will then include the establishment of 38,300 CDCs and financing of 76,600 subprojects for a total block grant of \$1,283 million. The NSP estimates that this will then cover around 94 percent of all rural communities in the country.

The NSP has a total budget of \$2.5 billion for the period from May 2003 to September 2015. It receives funding from four primary sources; the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF), whose funds are managed by the World Bank, and bilateral donors. The donors include Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, USA, and the European Union/Commission. Of the total \$1.727 million received, \$1.431 has been expended as of late December 2012.

Office of Administrative Affairs and Council of Ministers Secretariat (OAA-CoMS)

<http://oaacoms.gov.af/en>

The Office of Administrative Affairs and Council of Ministers Secretariat (OAA-CoMS) is an executive-level coordinating, facilitating, and advising body that supports the President of Afghanistan in his role as the Head of State, the Head of Government, and Chairman of the Council of Ministers. Originally set up in the 1950s under King Zahir Shah, the OAA's structure was modified in 2002; the Council of Ministers Secretariat and the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation were established as two separate directorates in 2003 to ensure systematic support to the Council of Ministers meetings.

The OAA, as a hub for government institutions, mainly acts as the policy coordinator between the three pillars (executive, legislative, and judiciary) of the Government of Afghanistan (see structure p. 67). The OAA monitors the implementation of the Presidential decrees and the decisions of the Council of Ministers. It also prepares the Government Achievement Report to be submitted to the National Assembly at the end of each fiscal year.

Although an executive body, the OAA is designed to be impartial. It does not create policy, but rather coordinates policy development. The Office and Secretariat review policies drafted by ministries and ensure that these comply with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 7), address cross-cutting initiatives, and contain a clear and accurate budget. Once the OAA approves the draft policy, it is forwarded to the President and Cabinet for final review and possible approval. If a policy is approved, the OAA then monitors and evaluates its implementation.

Transition

Transition is the process by which the lead responsibility for security in Afghanistan is gradually transferred from the NATO-led ISAF to ANSF. The goal is for Afghan forces to assume complete responsibility for security across the country by the end of 2014, when all combat operations for US and NATO-led allies are to end officially.

International Commitments

Transition, or *Inteqal* in Pashto and Dari, was first discussed at the January 2010 London Conference, where it was agreed that the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF, p. 4) would begin to take security leadership on a province-by-province basis. President Hamid Karzai has been persistent about the training and handing over of the security responsibility to Afghan local forces from NATO troops since his second presidency in 2009. More detailed plans were then prepared for the July 2010 Kabul Conference (p. 46), at which the Afghan government's *Inteqal* paper was endorsed by the international community. The paper called for significant improvement in the quality and increase in the quantity of ANSF.

Furthermore, in line with the 2010 Lisbon Summit, participants of the May 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago (p. 42) reaffirmed the scheduled conclusion of the International Security Assistance Force's (ISAF, p. 43) mission in Afghanistan by the end of 2014. It also reiterated the close partnership between NATO and Afghanistan to follow the transition period.

In the more recent July 2012 Tokyo Conference (p. 50), participants recognised the need for long-term commitment and cooperation during the Transformation Decade (2015-2024) and agreed to the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework that detailed the basis for renewed partnership with Afghanistan.

A post-2014 presence and involvement of the foreign military is under discussion at the moment. While it has been decided that a majority of Afghan security forces expenses will be borne by the international community – more than half by the US itself, a long-term involvement of the foreign military in the capacity of advising, training, and more, is currently being negotiated. While NATO is deciding on the training, advising, and assisting mission, the US is negotiating a bilateral military agreement that will allow it to have military bases and some combat presence.

Transition Criteria

An area's suitability for transition is determined by recommendations which assess security, governance, and development on the ground. Amongst others, the following four issues are critical, they consider whether:

- ANSF is capable of shouldering greater security tasks with less ISAF assistance;
- Security is maintained at a level which allows the population to participate in daily routine activities;
- Local governance is sufficiently developed so that security is not undermined as ISAF assistance is reduced; and
- ISAF is ready to reduce its presence as ANSF capabilities develop and threat levels diminish.

The process is not completed immediately and at times may require from a couple of weeks to more than a year for the full transition to take effect.

Status of Transition

Of the five-phase transition scheduled, three have been initiated and the fourth announced on 30 December 2012. According to ISAF, the fifth tranche will be announced in the summer of 2013.

Tranche 1: On 22 March 2011, President Karzai announced the first set of Afghan provinces and districts to start transition. These included three provinces and four cities. This first tranche accounts for ANSF assuming responsibility of security for 20 to 25 percent of the Afghan population.

Tranche 2: On 27 November 2011, President Karzai announced the second set to undergo transition: a total of six provinces wholly transferred, and on top of that, seven provincial capital cities, and 43 districts from nine provinces. The completion of the second tranche left ANSF with responsibility for the security for over 50 percent of the population.

Tranche 3: On 13 May 2012, President Karzai announced the third set of areas to enter the transition process; three provinces and 122 districts. This third tranche would include security transition of all provincial capitals, including of capitals where security is known to be a challenge. This third tranche covers over 75 percent of the Afghan population under ANSF.

Tranche 4: While the fourth phase was initially only anticipated to be announced in 2013, on 30 December 2012 Dr Ashraf Ghani, head of the Afghan Transition Commission, announced the 12 provinces and one district in Helmand to undergo transition. With this, Afghan security forces will be leading securing operation in 23 out of the 34 provinces, and as such responsible for the security of 87 percent of the Afghan population.

As of December 2012, ANSF participated in all and led nearly half of conventional operations. ANSF assumed leadership for both the planning and executing of operations, with a clearly reduced level of ISAF involvement. All ISAF Special Forces operations are also partnered and 80 percent of them are Afghan-led. However, only one Afghan brigade is reported to be equipped and able to operate completely independently. While 2012 saw the lowest number of NATO casualties in Afghanistan in the last four years, according to media reports, at least 62 foreign soldiers and foreign civilian military contractors were killed by members of Afghan security forces. Most of whom were US citizens. Afghan security forces also saw a steep rise in fratricide incidents, with over 80 policemen killed by their own colleagues.

Support for Transition

Since the beginning of the transition process, ISAF's support for ANSF has remained significant, especially with regards to the provision of key enabling capabilities. This support is expected to remain until ANSF becomes fully capable of acting independently.

The transfer of command operations is also accompanied by a rapid increase in the size of ANSF. ANSF achieved its total growth target of 352,000 forces in October 2012 (three months earlier than the targeted date in February 2013). However, the defence minister has stated that the Afghan government and international coalition who are financially supporting the war agreed in principle to reduce ANSF to 230,000 personnel after the NATO mission in Afghanistan ends. The size of US troops to remain in Afghanistan after 2014 is yet to be determined, but as of December 2012 was expected to be at some 10,000 personnel. The size of the US troops will depend on the bilateral security agreement between Afghanistan and the US which, as of December 2012, is under negotiation. Their role, number, and other issues will be decided only after the two countries come to an agreement. President Karzai has said he is open to the presence of foreign soldiers in Afghanistan if they respect the sovereignty of the country.

While the long-term financial sustainability of ANSF is the responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan, the international community is committed to providing support mechanisms meant to foster ANSF's capacities beyond 2014.

Created in 2007, the NATO-Afghan National Army Trust Fund (ANA, p. 4) complements other bilateral and multinational trust funds. While the UNDP-established Law and Order Trust Fund

for Afghanistan (LOTFA, p. 47) supports the Afghan Police, the NATO-ANA Trust Fund allows the broader international community to support the capacity and capability development of the national army. More specifically it supports the ANA financial and equipment sustainability, literacy, and English language trainings, as well as professional military education to ANSF.

Other programmes such as the 2006 NATO Equipment Donation Programme, the 2011 NATO-Russia Council Helicopter Maintenance Trust Fund and the US Afghan Security Forces Funding have been created as channels for donation of essential equipment, such as uniforms, medical equipment, ammunition and helicopters, mechanisms providing maintenance and repair capacity, and general funding mechanisms.

NATO's Training Mission in Afghanistan (NTM-A) was established on 21 November 2009, bringing together NATO and national training efforts under one umbrella. It works in close partnership with the Afghan Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior, as well as in collaboration with the European Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL, p. 43) and the European Gendarmerie Force. There are currently 38 nations contributing to NTM-A.

Training, advising and assisting of ANSF is carried out by the Military Advisory Teams and Police Advisory Teams. The Operation Co-ordination Centres Advisory Teams are key elements in the support of ANSF commanders in coordinating the employment of forces in their area, and are the means through which ISAF support may be requested.

ISAF is expected to support ANSF until the end of 2014 when its combat mission will be complete. Thereafter, cooperation between NATO and Afghanistan will continue under the Enduring Partnership agreement (signed at the Lisbon Summit in 2010) with a new mission which will involve training, advising, and assisting ANSF. According to ANA data, more than 1,000 Afghan soldiers were killed in 2012, which is an increase of at least 20 percent compared to last year. This is partly due to an increase in Afghan soldiers on the ground and more Afghan controlled areas. More than 75 percent of those killed were in either roadside bombs or landmines. The Afghan Defence Ministry has also categorically stated that they lack in four major areas: air force, artilleries, engineering and intelligence.

Development and Transition

In the past decade, up to a dozen vocational schools have opened. Trained leaders have increased by 500 percent and retention is higher than ever with 87 percent of the Basic Warrior Training recruits passing Grade 1 literacy testing. Back in 2009, 86 percent of all new ANA recruits were illiterate and there was no mandatory literacy training. In contrast, nearly 300,000 ANSF have now completed basic literacy training or higher.

The drawdown of most international military forces over the coming years is expected to be accompanied with a decline in civil aid. Such decline is also expected to have widespread ramifications for Afghanistan's political, economic, and social landscape beyond 2014.

Development progress since 2001 has been mixed. Some major achievements have been recorded,

such as rapid economic growth (with large fluctuations), relatively low inflation (after hyperinflation in the 1990s), better public financial management, and gains in basic health and education. Key social indicators, including life expectancy and maternal mortality, have improved markedly, and women are said to participate more in the economy. Yet in other respects, particularly governance and institution building, the country has fared less well, and many indicators have worsened in recent years. In 2012 Afghanistan topped Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index alongside North Korea and Somalia; the report said one in seven Afghans have paid bribes and the Kabul Bank scandal only increased perceptions of corruption. However, the Afghan Government has stated significant efforts to tackle corruption are to be implemented. Afghanistan also remains one of the world's least developed countries, with a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of only \$528 in 2010-11. More than a third of the population live below the poverty line, more than half are vulnerable, at serious risk of falling into poverty, and three-quarters are illiterate.

It is expected that the part played by international actors will evolve from direct service delivery to support and capacity-building for Afghan institutions. This process includes the phasing out of all Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs, p. 48) and the dissolution of any structures duplicating the functions and authorities of the Afghan government at the national and sub-national levels. For the Afghan government this was essential, as President Karzai had been calling PRTs a parallel structure.

Reflecting steep increases after 2005, civilian aid and spending on ANSF in 2010-11 came to an estimated \$15.7 billion—about the same as the GDP. While the bulk was security spending, civilian aid is estimated at more than \$6 billion a year, or nearly 40 percent of GDP.

Much of the growth performance of the past decade has been aid driven. Economic growth is therefore expected to wind down as aid declines, and it will do so quite dramatically, nearly halving the average annual growth achieved over the last decade. According to the World Bank, even the most optimistic annual growth scenario of 7 percent in 2011-18 points to slower gains in average per capita incomes than in the last decade, continued high rates of underemployment, and limited progress in reducing poverty, raising concerns about Afghanistan's economic and social development outlook at the time of transition and beyond.

Nevertheless, Afghanistan's economy is expected to grow due to emerging mining activities (p. 19) and the continued expansion of agricultural production. However, some doubt national copper and iron deposits will generate significant revenue in the near future, and question the oil and gas projects' ability to meet expectations. And while the large aid inflows might have helped reconstruction, they have also introduced distortions in aggregate demand, as well as in labour and asset markets. Thus a decline to a more "normal" level of aid will present not only risks but also opportunities for Afghanistan to develop into a more stable, self-reliant, and sustainable economy.

Serious threats to growth and economic stability during the transition are likely to come less from declining aid itself (as the local content of external budget aid (88 percent of aid) is estimated at only 10-25 percent, compared with around 70-95 percent for on-budget aid) and more from noneconomic factors. These include uncertainty over Afghanistan's political future (especially as

general elections are expected to be held in the coming years), falling business confidence, and the weak governance environment. All efforts of the government and its development partners to stabilise economic performance over the next few years are contingent upon a stable and improving security and governance environment.

Water Resources

The majority of Afghanistan's population relies on subsistence farming for survival, and as a result conservation of the country's water resources is vital. Rural communities rely on sufficient precipitation to irrigate their crops.

Currently, Afghanistan annually receives around 2,775 cubic meters of water per capita, comfortably above the 1,700 cubic meters per capita threshold considered necessary to satisfy a population's water needs. However, this significant quantity of water is not uniformly distributed across the country. For instance, the northern river basin contains only three percent of the country's water volume, giving an average of 676 cubic meters per capita for the region—close to the water scarcity threshold of 500 cubic meters per capita.

Furthermore, the lack of water storage capacity makes Afghanistan highly vulnerable to inter- and intra-annual variations in water availability. In general, the country's water infrastructure remains highly underdeveloped; the majority of the country's 12 reservoirs were constructed between 1920 and 1940, and Afghanistan currently has one of the lowest water storage capacities in the world. According to the most recent figures, Afghanistan also has the world's lowest average access to sanitary water; in 2007, this figure was 26.8 percent.

Population and economic growth, and improving living standards will drive up the requisite volume of water in the country—it is projected that by 2025 the volume of available water per capita will have declined by 36 percent relative to the quantity available in 2004. This has particularly worrying implications for expanding urban areas—it is estimated that by 2050 Kabul will require six times as much water as it does currently. Without accompanying economic modernisation, this trend could pose a significant long-term threat to food security throughout the country.

With the water sector seen as a key part of achieving Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, p. 48), a Water Sector Strategy was created under the infrastructure pillar of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 7). Water also features prominently in other sectoral strategies such as agriculture, energy, the environment, and rural and urban development. With regards to water governance, efforts have mainly focused on developing policies and strategies (i.e. Water Sector Strategy 2008; Water Law 2009). The Strategy's short-term goals, such as extending access to sanitary water to 90 percent of villages, were due to be completed in 2010; medium term goals, such as the reform and development of legal and governance structures in the water sector, should be completed by 2013; and, long term goals, such as the rehabilitation of existing water infrastructure and the construction of new infrastructure, should be completed by 2023 and beyond.

Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society

Afghan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo)

www.acsf.af

Afghan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo—formerly ACSF) is a network of Afghan civil society groups and actors. It provides a platform for dialogue and aims to develop and strengthen the role of civil society in political decision-making processes. ACSFo was established at the Afghan Civil Society Conference which was held in parallel with the 2001 Bonn Conference. ACSFo was initially supported by swisspeace Foundation and has been independent since January 2006. ACSFo has 181 members, including 123 organisations and 58 individuals; it also has 141 partners for capacity building, civic education, advocacy, research, and media. ACSFo's Board of Directors has 11 representatives, each elected for two-year terms at biannual general meetings.

From 2002-06, ACSFo supported the implementation of the Bonn Agreement; conducted educational, media, and advocacy activities on the constitution-making process; and, carried out civic education and registration campaigns for the 2004 presidential and 2005 parliamentary elections. Since 2006 ACSFo has modified its approach, moving away from public outreach toward the support of institution-building. The organisation's strategy focuses on: coordination and networking, capacity building, advocacy, research, and rule of law. ACSFo has a main library and a Resource Centre at its headquarters in Kabul and maintains Civil Education Resource Centres in its regional offices (Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Bamyan, Ghor, and Gardez). ACSFo also publishes the *Jamea-e-Madani* magazine (in Dari and Pashto) and a monthly newsletter (in English, Dari, and Pashto). ACSFo receives funding from a wide range of international NGOs, agencies, and donor governments.

Afghan Development Association (ADA)

www.ada.org.af

The Afghan Development Association (ADA) is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation whose mission is to eradicate poverty from Afghanistan. ADA was originally founded in Pakistan in 1990, where it worked mainly in Afghan refugee camps. With its current headquarters in Kabul, ADA's 620 staff operate in 13 provinces.

ADA implements multi-sectorial rehabilitation and development projects under Integrated Rural Development aiming to support and empower vulnerable and marginalised groups. Particular attention is given to the agricultural sector and rural activities that can contribute to more productive and sustainable livelihoods at the grassroot level. Community participation is an integral part of ADA's project planning and implementation. Based on a revised five-year strategic plan from 2011-2014, ADA is organised into two main departments: Programme, and Administration and Finance. It also has a third body, Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Internal Audit Unit. In addition, ADA focuses on five sectors; Child & Youth Protection and Development (formal and informal education);

Agriculture and Livestock; Economic Recovery and Capacity Building; Survey and Engineering; and, cross-cutting activities, including Gender, Environment, Good Governance and Advocacy, Peace Building, Conflict Resolution, Human Rights, Disaster Management, Humanitarian Assistance, and Emergency Activities.

Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB)

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 200 member organisations.

ANCB membership is restricted to Afghan NGOs. Applications are considered and approved by the 15-member Board of Directors that is elected for one year by the General Assembly. ANCB has headquarters in Kabul and satellite offices in Nangarhar and Maidan Wardak.

ANCB convenes monthly member meetings on topics such as health, education, agriculture, sanitation, reconstruction, and government policy. It also arranges seminars and training courses aimed at building the technical capacity of member NGOs in needs assessment, management, finance, administrative development, human rights, democracy, legal awareness, and report and proposal writing. ANCB provides internet facilities for its members in the ANCB office and produces a weekly newsletter, a quarterly magazine *Paiwastoon* (Coordination), and a directory of all its members. ANCB is a member of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, the World Civil Society Forum, and the Affinity Group of National Associations. Membership fees are the main source of funding.

Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

www.afghanwomennetwork.af

The Afghan Women's Network (AWN) is a network of NGOs in Afghanistan working to empower Afghan women and achieve their equal participation in society. AWN also regards the empowerment and protection of children as fundamental to its work. The network seeks to enhance the effectiveness of its members by fostering partnerships and collaboration between them, undertaking advocacy and lobbying, and building their individual capacities. AWN was founded in 1995 following the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and is now the largest national women's rights organisation in Afghanistan, representing 107 member organisations and over 5,000 individual members.

In 2012, AWN supported two women delegates to participate in side events at the NATO Chicago Summit (p. 42) and developed a response to the communiqué. AWN also introduced a female speaker at the Tokyo Conference in July 2012 (p. 50). AWN maintains a library and internet cafe for use by women's NGOs, and the AWN's website allows member organisations to submit activity reports and access training and other resources online. Based in Kabul, the Network supports the operations of its member organisations in 28 provinces.

Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN)

www.aan-afghanistan.com

The Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN) is an independent, non-profit research organisation. Established in 2009, AAN aims to conduct field-based research that: engages with the Afghan people; gives voice to their views and concerns; and, brings together the knowledge, experience and drive of engaged experts to better inform policy and to increase the understanding of Afghan realities.

AAN has a permanent office in Kabul staffed with national and international researchers, and a wider network of contributors with expertise in the fields of Afghan politics, governance, rule of law, security, and regional affairs. Since its establishment, AAN has operated on core funding from the governments of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and the Netherlands. AAN publishes regular in-depth thematic reports, policy briefings, discussion papers, and blogs (which in reality are detailed and in-depth research briefs). All publications and blogs can be found on the AAN website.

Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU)

www.acku.edu.af

The Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU) is a non-profit organisation that collects and makes available resources to contribute to an understanding of the social, economic, political, and cultural dynamics of Afghan society in the past, present, and future. With more than 22,000 catalogued items (and a total of 70,000 volumes), it provides the most comprehensive collection of materials related to Afghanistan in the region. Formerly the ACBAR Resource and Information Centre (ACBAR, p. 34), ACKU was established independently at Kabul University in September 2005.

The collections—in Dari, Pashto, English, and other languages—are largely generated by the Afghan government, UN agencies, NGOs, and international scholars and observers. They contain practical works on health and agricultural practices, political analyses, discussions on women's rights, recent laws, rare Mujahiddin and Taliban publications, cultural heritage issues, and many works on Afghan arts and literature. ACKU also obtains national statistics and holds bodies of research conducted before the conflict era, including agricultural surveys, folk music, oral folklore, and histories. Many of these documents are being digitised to ensure distribution beyond Kabul to provincial universities and public libraries, 705, 168 pages have been digitised as of October 2012.

The ACKU reading room provides students, faculty, and policymakers with computers connected to the internet and the ACKU database. The audiovisual section contains current news reports and various videotapes on NGO programmes, events in Afghanistan's recent history, and ethnographic and cultural films. The ACKU stacks and reading room are located in the central library of Kabul University, where a new government-funded \$2 million library facility has been built.

ACKU also operates the ACKU Box Library Extension (ABLE), designed to provide libraries for provincial communities, high schools, and councils. Managed by local community custodians (including teachers, NGO staff, shopkeepers, and mullahs), the box libraries (small, shelved

containers on wheels) hold a wide variety of titles on a range of topics including history, the environment, home management, good health practices, the use of computers, and dictionaries. ABLE, which supplies libraries in all 34 provinces, also publishes its own easy-to-read books for new literates, with topics including mother-child care, agriculture, animal welfare and Islam. To date, ABLE has published more than 248 titles in both Dari and Pashto and provided 238, 400 books to 213 schools, community centres, and provincial council libraries.

Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS)

www.aiss.af

Established in October 2012, Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS) is an independent, non-profit institute dedicated to providing qualitative, non-partisan, and policy-oriented research, as well as publications, translation of books, professional training programs, and policy advocacy on Afghan governance for the government, parliament, civil society, and private sector. AISS aims to provide an informed intellectual space for dialogue among and between all stakeholders including Afghans, and regional and international partners. Empowering and investing in the Afghan youth constitutes cross-cutting priorities.

AISS furthers its mission by: generating research; entering partnership agreements with respected and like-minded research institutes; publishing books and journals; translation books and articles from English into Dari and Pashto and vice versa; organising national and international seminars, conferences, workshops and briefings; offering executive leadership training programs; and, integrating conventional and modern social media tools and networks in all its activities. Among its events is the Herat Security Dialogue, initiated in 2012; the Dialogue is to be an annual event where domestic, regional, and international security experts and officials are given the platform to discuss issues pertaining to security. AISS also plans to launch Afghanistan's first scholarly journal, the Afghan Studies Journal in 2013.

Afghanistan NGO Safety Office (ANSO)

www.ngosafety.org

The Afghanistan NGO Safety Office (ANSO), established in 2002, provides a free security/safety information and advice catering exclusively to the needs of the NGO community in Afghanistan. It is financed by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ANSO is operated by the UK-based International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO). ANSO is headquartered in Kabul and has regional offices in Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat, Jalalabad and Kandahar.

Non-profit NGOs registered with ANSO have access to regularly scheduled services, which include:

- Daily threat warnings and security alerts, weekly incident listings, and biweekly and quarterly reports analysing and projecting security trends
- Weekly regional security meetings

- Monthly orientations for staff of NGOs
- Representation of NGOs in relations with national and international security agencies
- Training for guards and radio operators

Upon request, depending on available capacity, ANSO may also provide other services including:

- Countrywide safety information for NGO movement
- Organisation-specific security advice
- Reviews of member NGOs' security plans and site security
- Security-related statistical data and analysis
- Crisis response services

Below is a list of acronyms commonly found in ANSO communications:

- ACG: Armed Criminal Group
- AOG: Armed Opposition Group
- BBIED: Body Borne Improvised Explosive Device (suicide vest)
- DAC: District Administrative Centre
- IED: Improvised Explosive Device
- IMF: International Military Force
- PSC: Private Security Company
- RCIED: Remote Controlled Improvised Explosive Device
- SAF: Small Arms Fire
- SVBIED: Suicide Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device
- VBIED: Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device

Afghanistan Watch (AW)

www.watchafghanistan.org

The Afghanistan Watch (AW) is an independent, non-governmental, non-political, non-profit and a leading Afghan research organisation that focuses on activities that promote justice, respect for human rights, and a culture of accountability and transparency in the country. Based in Kabul, the organisation aims to conduct in-depth research, and publish reports and papers on issues relevant to its goals and values independently or in partnership with other national and international organisations. In addition to research publications, Afghanistan Watch publishes a monthly newsletter, Truth, in Dari and English. The newsletter is a compilation of articles from the Afghan print media.

AW regularly publishes studies on Afghanistan, including comparative cases from the region on issues such as political inclusion, human rights, conflict, and culture of accountability. In addition to conducting high-quality research, AW has experience with: facilitating dialogue, discussion and debate; producing video and audio documentaries; advocating for policy changes; and, capacity building in local (rural and urban) areas. Currently, AW has three main programs; Conflict and Political Settlement, Governance and Democracy, and Civic Rights and Responsibility.

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)

www.acbar.org

The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) is an umbrella organisation that promotes transparency, accountability, and facilitates coordination among NGOs in Afghanistan. ACBAR was established in 1988 by NGOs working with Afghan refugees in Pakistan and acts as a conduit for information among the UN, NGOs, donors, and the Afghan government. Among its funders are the European Commission, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Swedish Embassy, the French Embassy and its NGO members. ACBAR's 116 national and international NGO members must meet certain criteria and are required to sign the Afghanistan NGO Code of Conduct (full text p. 101).

ACBAR focuses on the strengthening of civil society in Afghanistan through the provision of various training models organised along four basic lines: the Information/Coordination team is responsible for disseminating information, organising meetings, keeping records of NGO activities across the country, maintaining an NGO Directory, and other communication initiatives; the Advocacy and Policy team facilitates the exchange of views and information among NGOs to help them “develop and sustain a joint, field-led voice on key issues as they develop”; the Code of Conduct team is responsible for promoting and monitoring good governance practices among NGOs and capacity building of NGOs and the line ministries/departments on laws relevant to NGOs, the Code of Conduct and Sphere standards; the Civil Society and State Institutions Interaction team is responsible for working jointly with other NGO/Civil Society networks to structure and strengthen civil society organisations’ relationships with the government and the parliament.

ACBAR also assists in the nomination of NGO representatives to government-led, inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and regularly advises NGOs on the NGOs Law, Income Tax Law, and the Labor Law. Additionally, ACBAR facilitates the Civil Society Consultation Board, which interacts with the Afghan government and UNAMA. The ACBAR website includes a well-known job announcement board.

The Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS)

www.caps.af

Based in Kabul, the Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS) was founded in 2006 as an independent research centre that conducts action-oriented research aimed at influencing policy-makers in key areas, including: governance, counter-narcotics, conflict resolution, and peace building. With a primary focus on Afghanistan and the region, CAPS works to build local capacity to assess threats.

CAPS is committed to offering and facilitating research, training, and knowledge exchanges on conflict, people and cultures, as well as violent groups in Afghanistan and the region. Dedicated to reducing the threat of political violence, CAPS seeks to assist in the development of a sustainable environment that can support peace and stability. To this end, CAPS engages in three activities; research and policy analysis, education and training, and capacity building and knowledge expansion. The core focus of CAPS is on research and analysis of security issues which is 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.

Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)

www.cshrn.af

The Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN) was founded in 2004 by 25 Afghan organisations, and aims to increase respect for human rights in Afghanistan through the establishment of a strong human rights movement.

CSHRN's 105 member organisations work individually and collectively for human rights, including women's rights, freedom of speech, press freedom, and the rule of law. Working to facilitate and maintain a dialogue with state institutions, CSHRN organises debates between member organisations, state institutions, and traditional leaders. CSHRN has an experienced pool of trainers who have developed a range of training manuals specifically tailored to the Afghan context, focusing on human rights, conflict transformation, transitional justice, women's rights, international human rights mechanisms, and strategic planning. CSHRN uses the media to educate and promote a human rights discourse with its own quarterly magazine, *Angaara* and a weekly radio program, *The Voice*. CSHRN also features in *Killid* magazine and local radios in Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat. Moreover, CSHRN carries out issue-based and policy-based advocacy projects. In 2012 CSHRN established a human rights advisory board consisting of key organisations working in the field of human rights and responsible for the launch of the annual Human Rights Report.

CSHRN is headquartered in Kabul, with provincial offices in Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Bamyan, Khost, and Herat. Member organisations constitute the CSHRN General Assembly, the overall policy and decision-making body of the network. A Steering Committee of eleven elected members ensures that CSHRN activities adhere to the agreed statutes and strategy.

Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) and Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP)

The 2010 Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) for Afghanistan marked the first time since 2002 that humanitarian actors convened to develop a coherent plan to address the chronic needs of the Afghan people. With input from 47 organisations, the HAP outlined the humanitarian community's plans and collective strategy. HAP priorities focused on a cross-section of humanitarian, recovery,

and development needs and vulnerabilities caused by a combination of extreme poverty, increasing insecurity, natural disasters, and weak governance.

In 2011, UNAMA's Afghanistan Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) determined that the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP), the global humanitarian strategic planning and fundraising mechanism, would replace the HAP. The CAP was to sharpen the focus on preparedness and emergency response with a portfolio of projects supporting conflict and natural disaster-affected internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugee returnees and host populations, as well as chronically vulnerable communities in need of life-saving assistance. Support is targeted on life-saving and livelihood saving needs, and further strengthened with emergency preparedness and contingency planning to ensure common strategies.

Projects are organised under nine clusters and sectors: Coordination; Education; Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items; Food Security and Agriculture; Health; Multi-Sector (for IDPs and refugee returnees); Nutrition; Protection; and, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. The 2012 CAP appealed for \$448 million for 170 projects. In consultation with the Afghan Government, international and national non-governmental organisations and UN agencies have requested \$471 million for the 2013 CAP.

Alongside the cross-cutting objectives of gender, environment, and resilience, the four strategic objectives of the 2013 CAP are: to

1. Reinforce the protection of civilians
2. Reduce mortality and morbidity
3. Assist the displaced, returnees, and host communities
4. Restore livelihoods for the most vulnerable

Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU)

www.cpau.org.af

Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU) is the first Afghan-led, non-government, non-profit organisation to work exclusively for peace in Afghanistan. Established in 1996, CPAU works for the promotion of knowledge and awareness of peace, social justice, and human rights as the foundation upon which the future development of Afghanistan will be built. CPAU aims to create a viable alternative to war and violence by educating, developing, and empowering civil society institutions. To date, CPAU has founded or reformed over 5000 Peace Councils and Shuras in Afghanistan, providing peace education and conflict resolution training to over 50,000 individuals.

CPAU also focuses heavily on producing groundbreaking research on Afghanistan and peacebuilding. In the past five years, CPAU's research department has published over 30 reports, analyses, and evaluations, each of which highlight an integral component of peacebuilding work in Afghanistan. Notable past research works include: an in-depth study conducted in 2007 with

DFID “Drivers of Radicalisation;” and a research series for the Center for Policy and Human Development/UNDP exploring water scarcity, livelihood, and conflict. CPAU’s research department has made CPAU one of the foremost authorities on peacebuilding policy, both in Afghanistan and in Europe. CPAU’s current and ongoing projects will continue to focus on peacebuilding and reducing violence, with a commitment to continue serving Afghanistan well into the future.

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

www.cha-net.org

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) is a non-profit humanitarian organisation founded in 1987. Its strategic aims are to reduce poverty and vulnerability, ensure fair distribution of resources, facilitate reliable social and economic development, and ensure the basic rights of the citizens of Afghanistan. Its sister organisations are the Organisation for Human Resources Development (OHRD), Saba Media Organisation (SMO), and Watch on Basic Rights Organization (WBRO).

CHA began its operations in two districts in Farah Province, but soon expanded into eight additional provinces: Kabul, Kandahar, Balkh, Herat, Ghor, Faryab, Parwan, and Kapisa. CHA currently employs approximately 2,000 staff, making it one of the largest national NGOs in Afghanistan. The organisation is currently active in six main strategic fields: 1. Health and nutrition; 2. Education and cultural affairs; 3. Agriculture and livestock; 4. Community development and social protection; 5. Disaster risk reduction and emergency response; and 6. Gender mainstreaming.

CHA has been able to increase its projects’ size, coverage areas and diversity of activities as a reliable partner of donors and government of Afghanistan. Donors include Oxfam-Novib, Norwegian Church Aid, USAID/Caii, EU, UNHCR, IOM, FAO, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, Asia Society, Ministry of Public Health, and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA)

www.iwaweb.org

Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) is an Afghan civil society organisation committed to increasing transparency, integrity, and accountability in Afghanistan through the provision of policy-oriented research, development of training tools, and facilitation of policy dialogue.

Integrity Watch was created in October 2005 and established itself as an independent civil society organisation in 2006. With approximately 65 staff members and 500 volunteers, IWA is headquartered in Kabul with provincial programmatic outreach in Badakhshan, Balkh, Bamyán, Herat, Kapisa, Logar, Nangarhar, and Parwan. IWA has four program pillars; Community Based Monitoring, Public Service Monitoring, Extractive Industries Monitoring, and Community Trial Monitoring.

Integrity Watch has two cross-cutting units, namely research and advocacy. These are established to impact policy-making at the macro level. The objectives are to develop new, ground-breaking

empirical research in order to set the agenda, influence decision-makers, and bring non-documented and unexplored issues to the public's attention. These units update and expand existing knowledge on corruption, accountability, transparency, and integrity through research on aid effectiveness, and corruption perceptions and experiences. IWA is a member of various related groups: Network for Integrity in Reconstruction; Global Movement for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation; and, Task Force on Financial Integrity and Economic Development.

Kabul Center for Strategic Studies (KCSS)

www.kabulcenter.org

Kabul Center for Strategic Studies (KCSS) was founded in 2007 as an independent, non-partisan, and non-profit research think-tank. The Center is based in Kabul, and aims to provide informed analysis of developments in Afghanistan and also serves as a platform for engagement between sociopolitical thinkers, policy makers, civil society, government, and international institutions.

Through its publications and sustained interactions with leading sociopolitical thinkers in Afghanistan and abroad, the Afghan government, and key international military and civilian stakeholders, KCSS has contributed to a strategic discourse in Afghanistan.

The Center is a member of the Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks (COSATT); South Asian Regional Research Forum (SARRF); and, the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) Forum. KCSS's research is focused on six programs; governance, security studies, conflict management, counter-terrorism studies, economic development, and parliamentary research. In addition to its research publication, KCSS also publishes the monthly magazine, Kabul Direct.

Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA)

www.misfa.org.af

The Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) was established jointly by the Government of Afghanistan and the donor community in 2003, and was registered as an independent, non-profit Afghan institution in 2006. MISFA is an apex development finance institution owned by the Government of Afghanistan. It offers technical assistance and funding to build and strengthen development finance institutions. MISFA's implementing partners provide financial services to micro, small, and medium enterprises in Afghanistan.

MISFA is working with six microfinance providers, including a bank, with a collective network of 228 branches in 22 provinces. They serve more than 200,000 active borrowers, 60 percent of whom are Afghan women. To date, MISFA's partners have disbursed a cumulative total of 1.9 million loans worth approximately \$1.2 billion. The current gross loan outstanding to borrowers is more than \$106 million, while the average loan size is \$532. MISFA's partners together employ some 2,608 Afghans, around 32 percent of whom are women.

Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA)

www.macca.org.af

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), the world's largest mine action programme, was established in 1989, and works to meet the goal of the Ottawa Convention, to: clear all anti-personnel (AP) mines in Afghanistan; provide mine/explosive remnants of war risk education (M/ERW RE) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education; and, to assist mine survivors.

While the Ottawa Convention does not oblige countries to remove anti-tank (AT) mines or ERWs, the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) deems these additional hazards worth addressing in light of discussions on the Ottawa Convention. The Afghan state has submitted a request to the States Parties, seeking a ten-year extension of its current deadline of 2013 to complete the clearance of all known AP sites. This request was discussed in the twelfth meeting of the State Parties in Geneva in December 2012.

MACCA is a United Nations Mine Action Service project contracted through the United Nations Office for Project Services. Oversight and coordination of MAPA is gradually shifting toward national ownership. MACCA is working together with the Department of Mine Clearance (DMC) under the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority to develop a strategy, and implement and monitor MAPA activities and targets. Together, MACCA and the DMC coordinate nationwide MAPA activities through seven MACCA regional offices located in Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Gardez, and Jalalabad.

MAPA Implementing Partners (IPs) are national and international NGOs that carry out activities such as mine clearance and survey, M/ERW RE, victim assistance, capacity building, advocacy, monitoring, and training. MACCA and DMC also work closely with the relevant ministries to ensure proper coordination of MAPA activities with the relevant government agencies.

At the end of August 2012, more than 5,400 identified hazards remained in Afghanistan, affecting 599 square kilometres and impacting 1,812 communities throughout the country. In 2012, MAPA conducted mine clearance in 233 communities, clearing or cancelling 1,339 minefields and 135 battle areas, and destroying more than 23,698 AP mines, 2,508 AT mines, and 647,522 ERWs. Currently, an average of 40 Afghans are killed or injured by landmines and other ERW every month.

Peace Training and Research Organization (PTRO)

www.ptro.org.af

Peace Training and Research Organization (PTRO) is an Afghan NGO based in Kabul, which focuses on peace, conflict, and justice issues, and provides training in peacebuilding and good governance. PTRO also conducts research for national and international governmental organisations, NGOs, and national bodies, to inform policy and provide a deeper understanding of relevant issues.

In the past year, PTRO has carried out projects in 20 provinces across Afghanistan. The projects were a combination of research and training on peacebuilding, governance, informal and formal justice, local conflict and drivers of insecurity, and the evaluation of development interventions. Research projects carried out in more than 60 districts of 18 provinces have included quantitative and qualitative perception surveys on government-led programmes as well as the current trajectory of conflict. Training programmes have been specific to conflict and grievance resolution, “training of trainers,” mediation skills, good governance, basic advocacy skills, and conflict sensitivity and justice linkages.

PTRO has also carried out advocacy work with key stakeholders on issues such as reconciliation, reintegration, the Afghan Local Police (p. 3), and the impact of development interventions. PTRO’s main office is in Kabul, and it is supported by field offices in Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Herat, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktya, Takhar, Uruzgan, and Zabul.

Southern and Western Afghanistan and Balochistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC)

The Southern and Western Afghanistan and Balochistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC) is a coordination body for Afghan and international NGOs working in southern Afghanistan. SWABAC’s head office is located in Kandahar and was founded in September 1988 by twelve NGOs engaged in relief and rehabilitation work with Afghan refugee villages in Balochistan and other communities in southern Afghanistan. Membership is open to government-registered NGOs working in southern Afghanistan who show a dedication to coordination, have proof of donor funding, have an organisational profile, and are certified by five other NGOs. As of October 2012, SWABAC has 45 members.

SWABAC’s activities fall within three major categories: coordination, advocacy, and capacity building. SWABAC provides a forum for members to discuss their concerns about policy guidelines for delivering assistance, resource management, and other operational issues, with the ultimate goal of improving coordination among the assistance community in southern Afghanistan.

SWABAC was involved in drafting the NGO Code of Conduct (full text p. 101), and on behalf of its member NGOs and as a representative of the southern region, SWABAC played a role in developing both the Agriculture and the Rural Development sections in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 7). SWABAC was a member of the Civil Society Consultation on Afghanistan at the International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn in December 2011 (p. 42) and played a pivotal role in introducing regional representatives there. SWABAC was also a member of the Civil Society Consultation Committee at the Tokyo Conference.

The Liaison Office (TLO)

www.tloafghanistan.org

The Liaison Office (TLO) is an Afghan non-governmental organisation that emerged at the end of 2003 as a swisspeace pilot project (supported by the Heinrich Böll Foundation) on good governance following the request of community elders. The community elders sought assistance in participating in the peace and reconstruction process in their respective communities across the Southeast. TLO's four main areas of activity are: Research, Peacebuilding, Access to Justice, and Livelihood Improvement.

In the nine years since its establishment, TLO has expanded its field from the Southeast to the South (in 2005) and East (in 2008), mainly through research and analysis, and the facilitation of a series of peace and stability jirgas. In 2009, TLO began working in the Northern and Central provinces and, in 2011 started research and analysis work in Western Afghanistan. Its current projects focus on access to justice and research on human security and protection issues, primarily in Afghanistan's East, Southeast, and South. In 2013 it will work on dialogue facilitation around elections, continue its conflict resolution and access to justice work, conduct topical research, and develop a more professional capacity on do-no-harm and conflict sensitivity.

Afghan-International Initiatives and Programmes

Bonn Conference (2011)

Held a decade after the first Bonn Conference of 2001, this conference aimed to chart a new, ten-year blueprint for engagement between Afghanistan and the international community during the “Transformation Decade” (2015-2024) that will follow the conclusion of the Transition process (Transition, p. 23). The conference was hosted by Germany, chaired by Afghanistan, and attended by 85 countries and 15 international organisations. The Conference concentrated on three key areas of engagement:

- The civil aspects of the process of transferring responsibility to the Government of Afghanistan by 2014;
- The long-term engagement of the international community in Afghanistan after 2014; and
- The political process that is intended to lead to the long-term stabilisation of the country.

The conference concluded with the international community pledging its long-term commitment to Afghanistan, particularly with regards to security, agreeing to produce a clear plan for the future funding of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF, p. 4) at NATO’s May 2012 Chicago Summit, and reiterating its support for an inclusive peace process. It was agreed that the international community’s role in Afghan governance would move from service delivery to building capacity and providing support. The Conference also called for a regional solution to terrorism in Afghanistan and for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, stating that a political solution would be an essential element of stability. The international community endorsed the development of Afghanistan’s mineral resources but called for a strong regulatory framework to ensure benefits accrued to the Afghan people. In turn, the Afghan government promised to reinvigorate key development priorities such as anti-corruption and rule of law, honour its obligations to international human and gender rights mechanisms, and to continue the fight against drug cultivation (see counter-narcotics p. 13).

Chicago Summit - NATO (2012)

Held on 21 May 2012, the NATO Summit in Chicago renewed the firm commitment of both ISAF-contributing nations and the Government of Afghanistan to “a sovereign, secure, and democratic Afghanistan.” In line with the 2010 Lisbon Summit, leaders from NATO’s 28 nations and the 22 partners of the ISAF coalition reaffirmed the commitment to conclude ISAF’s mission in Afghanistan by 31 December 2014, and to continue close partnership beyond the end of the transition period.

With reference to the NATO-Afghanistan “Enduring Partnership,” signed at the 2010 Lisbon Summit, participants agreed that NATO-led ISAF forces (p. 43) would hand over the command of all combat missions to Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF, p. 4) by mid-2013 and

would complete full withdrawal from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. The Summit reaffirmed commitments made at the 2010 Kabul Conference (p.46), the Istanbul Process on regional security and cooperation initiated in 2011 (p. 44), and the 2011 Bonn Conference (p. 42).

With the signing of the Chicago Summit Declaration on Afghanistan, NATO allies and ISAF partners also reaffirmed their strong commitment to support the training, equipping, financing, and capability development of the ANSF beyond 2014, as decided at the 2011 Bonn Conference.

European Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL)

www.eupol-afg.eu

The European Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) was established to assist the Afghan government in building a police force that respects human rights as well as in reforming the Ministries of Interior and Justice. Its mission is to “contribute to the establishment of sustainable and effective civil policing arrangements that will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system under Afghan ownership.”

EUPOL advises, monitors, mentors, and trains Afghan authorities at the ministerial, regional, provincial, and district levels in six main areas: intelligence-led policing; police chain of command, control and communication; criminal investigation; anti-corruption strategy; police-prosecutor linkages; and human rights and gender mainstreaming within the Afghan National Police (ANP, p. 5). Originally a German pilot project, the mission was launched in June 2007 by the Council of the European Union through the Common Security and Defence Policy, which enables individual European nations to collectively act in the field of civilian and military crisis management. In May 2010, the EUPOL mandate was extended until 31 May 2013.

The current mission strength is at approximately 350 international staff and 200 national staff. As of October 2012, the budget was €60 million (approximately \$80 million), contributed by 23 EU states (with Germany being the largest contributor), Canada, Croatia, Norway, and New Zealand.

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)

www.isaf.nato.int

The mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is to assist the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoA) in establishing and maintaining a safe and secure environment in Afghanistan, with the full involvement of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF, p. 4). Since July 2011, US General John Allen has served as Commander (COMISAF). Allen is expected to leave this post in early 2013 and General Joseph F. Dunford Jr. is identified as his successor.

ISAF was created in December 2001 in accordance with the Bonn Conference and UN Security Council Resolution 1386, and upon the invitation of the Afghan Interim Authority. It is a UN-authorized multinational force, not a UN peacekeeping force, and the costs of maintaining ISAF are borne by its contributing nations rather than by the UN.

On 11 August 2003, at the UN and GoA's request, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) took responsibility for ISAF, initially limited to Kabul, while the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom was in command of security in the rest of Afghanistan. In October 2003, the UN Security Council authorised the expansion of the NATO mission beyond Kabul and the process of unifying both military forces under one central command began.

In November 2009, after NATO allies agreed to review the ISAF Upper Command structure, a new intermediate headquarters was established to better streamline ISAF efforts by separating the strategic political-military and day-to-day functional operations. This new structure consists of a higher strategic headquarters, ISAF HQ. It is commanded by a 4-star General (General Allen), and two subordinate 3-star headquarters (or Intermediate Headquarters), called the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) and the ISAF Joint Command (IJC) HQ. Both headquarters are located in Kabul. The North Atlantic Council, NATO's decision-making body, provides political guidance to ISAF in consultation with non-NATO nations that contribute troops to ISAF.

Under this new command structure, COMISAF (4 star) focuses on the more strategic political-military aspects of the ISAF mission, synchronising ISAF's operations with the work of Afghan and other international organisations in the country. COMISAF is dual-hatted as the Commander of ISAF and the US Forces in Afghanistan (COM USFOR-A) thus coordinating and de-conflicting ISAF operations and the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom. COMISAF has command responsibility over the IJC Commander, the Commander of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A), and the NATO Special Operations Forces (SOF). The NTM-A carries out its training through Military Advisory Teams and Police Advisory Teams, which embed mentors in the Afghan National Security Force.

As part of the Transition process (p. 23), ISAF forces are gradually handing over security responsibility to the ANSF. Whilst ISAF states that Transition is events-driven rather than calendar-based, the projected date for the completion of Transition is the end of 2014. Reductions in troop numbers from the mid-2011 peak of around 140,000 have already begun.

As of December 2012, ISAF's total strength was 104, 905 troops. Troop-contributing countries include: Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The Istanbul Process

On 14 June 2012, the Government of Afghanistan hosted "The Heart of Asia Regional Meeting" in Kabul, as the first follow-up ministerial meeting of the Istanbul Process. The Ministerial Conference was attended by 14 ministerial and high-level delegations from the "Heart of Asia"

countries (Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, UAE and Uzbekistan), and supporting countries and regional and international organisations (including Canada, EU, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Spain, Sweden, UK, UN, and the US)

The ministerial meeting recalled the pledge of the Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan to cooperate in a sincere and result-oriented manner for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan and a secure and prosperous region. Furthermore, it agreed upon measures to build confidence and trust among participant countries to promote regional security and cooperation. The Istanbul Regional Conference for Security and Cooperation in the “Heart of Asia” was held on 2 November 2011, and aimed to achieve greater regional cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours, particularly in the fields of economics and security. The Conference ended with the publication of a declaration adopted by all participants and observers. This declaration, the “Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan,” expressed support for the reconciliation process in Afghanistan and pledged mutual non-interference in the affairs of neighbouring countries. The Conference and the Ministerial Meeting reaffirmed the commitments enshrined in the 2002 Kabul Declaration of Good Neighbourly Relation.

At a separate meeting on 3 November 2011, Pakistan and Afghanistan pledged to use biometric techniques to prevent unregistered movement across their shared border. The next Ministerial Meeting of the Istanbul Conference is due to be hosted by Kazakhstan in 2013.

Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB)

The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) is a high-level governing body established in 2006 to provide overall strategic coordination of the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact. After the expiration of the Afghanistan Compact in 2011, the JCMB expanded its focus to include: providing strategic and policy guidance on the implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 7); monitoring of the Kabul Process (p. 46); and, acting as the highest formal decision-making body linking the Afghan government and the international community. JCMB is also supporting the monitoring of the implementation of the Tokyo Framework (p. 50).

The JCMB is co-chaired by the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan and the Chair of the Afghan government’s cabinet-level Coordinating Committee (currently the Minister of Finance). The Coordinating Committee is responsible for JCMB oversight and the implementation of the ANDS. The JCMB is made up of 28 representatives, seven of which are representatives of the government. The remaining 21 are representatives from the international community who are selected based on amount of contribution of development aid and military troops as well as on regional representation. The work of the JCMB is now facilitated by three standing committees covering security; governance, human rights and rule of law; and, economic and social development. These thematic groupings correspond to the pillars of the ANDS.

Kabul Conference and Kabul Process

The Kabul International Conference on Afghanistan took place on 20 July 2010. Initiated at the London Conference in January 2010, the “Kabul Process” was formalised at the Kabul Conference, and serves as a framework for partnership and mutual accountability between the international community and the Afghan Government (GoA) through the decade of Transformation (2015-2024) with the common goal of a secure and stable Afghanistan with Afghan ownership, responsibility, and sovereignty.

Co-chaired by President Karzai and the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, the Kabul Conference was the first of the many international conferences on Afghanistan to actually be held in the country. It was attended by international leaders and foreign ministers. Emphasising Afghan leadership and ownership, its Communiqué states that the Kabul Process is a reaffirmation of the Afghan Government’s commitment to “improve security, governance, and economic opportunity for its citizens.” It also reiterates the international community’s commitment to “support the transition to Afghan leadership and its intention to provide security and economic assistance.”

The London Conference in January 2010 and the National Consultative Peace Jirga in June 2010 were key staging posts for establishing the terms, frameworks, and plans agreed at the Kabul Conference. These include:

- The transfer of security responsibilities from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF, p. 43) and Coalition Forces to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF, p. 4) by 2014 (see Transition, p. 23);
- The development of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP, p. 8); and
- A reprioritised and restructured Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 7).

International participants endorsed the *Inteqal* (transition) paper, the GoA’s commitment to a phased exercise of security responsibility in all provinces by the end of 2014. To support this transition, the GoA pledged to progressively enhance the quality and quantity of the ANSF, while international participants reiterated their commitments to support the training, equipping, and financing of ANSF. Participants also endorsed the APRP and reiterated their commitment to support the programme through the Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund. Within the framework of a prioritised ANDS, the GoA pledged to focus on reform of service delivery institutions, policy decisions, and the implementation of the National Priority Programs (NPPs, p. 13). Participants welcomed the GoA’s cluster approach (p. 13), an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism intended to help prioritise and implement the ANDS. The GoA committed to further prioritise and strengthen the NPPs, including their implementation matrices for intended results and budgets.

In a bid to ensure effective management and accountability, the plans articulate measurable 6- and 12-month, as well as three- and five-year targets. In line with the London Conference Communiqué, participants restated their support for channelling at least 50 percent of development aid through the Afghan Government’s core budget within two years (2010-2012). Additionally, international participants expressed their readiness to progressively align their development assistance behind

the NPPs with the goal of achieving 80 percent alignment within the next two years. To oversee the implementation of the prioritised ANDS, the GoA and the international community stated their intent to meet at ministerial level on an annual basis to review mutual progress on commitments and to consider new Afghan priorities as part of the Kabul Process. Participants agreed that the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB, p. 45) would meet every four months (and be supported by Standing Committees and their sub-committees) to monitor and assess progress. Additionally, the Kabul Process was set to include annual meetings between the GoA, the international community, and civil society (including service-providing organisations).

Since 2010, participants at conferences in Bonn (p. 42), Chicago (p. 42) and Tokyo (p. 50) have reaffirmed their commitments to the framework set out at the Kabul Conference.

Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA)

www.lotfa.org.af

The Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) was established in 2002 as a funding mechanism for the international donors to channel their contributions to Security Sector Reform, particularly the Afghan National Police (ANP, p. 5), the salaries for which are the Fund's largest outlay. The Fund is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) as the government partner responsible for its implementation. A Management Support Unit (MSU) supports the Ministry in executing project activities that cannot be handled by existing government mechanisms. LOTFA's donors are Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Since the Fund's inception, five phases have been completed. Phase six began in January 2011 and is slated to run until March 2013 with an estimated budget of \$1.4 billion. Its activities are clustered around three pillars: Police and prisons staff remuneration, and investment in police infrastructure; capacity development and institutional reform of the MoI at the policy, organisational, and individual levels, as well as gender mainstreaming; and, the introduction of community policing through the *polis-i-mardumi* (local police) initiative (unconnected to the Afghan Local Police, p. 3).

LOTFA's key achievements include:

- Ensuring regularity and transparency in police remuneration through the development of modern payroll technologies, with 99 percent of police employees covered under the Electronic Payroll System and 82 percent under the Electronic Fund Transfer System.
- Sustained capacity and institutional reform of the MoI through identified capacity development programmes.
- Female police recruitment and training police trainers in gender and human rights concepts.

Through the *polis-i-mardumi* project, LOTFA is promoting sustainable police-community relations and training all ranks of police in community policing. LOTFA is currently working on its Phase seven, due to commence in April 2013.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

In 2004, the Government of Afghanistan endorsed the 2000 United Nations General Assembly's Millennium Declaration as well as the Millennium Development Goals, aiming to target the MDGs by 2020 rather than 2015. The Afghan Government thus adopted Afghanised MDGs, "Vision 2020," which contain additional targets to take account of Afghanistan's specific constraints in areas such as gender equality, maternal health, and the adding of a ninth goal to recognise the importance of security as a precondition for the achievement of sustainable development in Afghanistan. Each of the below MDGs are reflected and incorporated into the three pillars of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 7).

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development
9. Enhancing Security

The most recent MDG report for Afghanistan was released in 2010 detailing the Afghan government's progress in meeting the nine MDGs. The report noted that while progress varied in the different goal areas, the country made improvements in reducing infant and under-five mortality rates, in bringing school-age children back to school, and in reducing the gender gap in certain spheres of life. However, for many of the areas under review, the report cited a lack of data as a serious impediment for monitoring progress or even understanding the potential extent of the challenge.

Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT)

Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) are small teams of military and civilian staff located in provinces across the country. The objective of PRTs, as set forth by the PRT Executive Steering Committee, is to: "...assist the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to extend its authority, in order to facilitate the development of a stable and secure environment in the identified areas of operations, and enable SSR [Security Sector Reform] and reconstruction efforts."

This broad mission statement is not backed by a detailed mandate, and there is no single PRT model. While PRTs are led by individual ISAF contributing nations, the military components of PRTs fall under the authority of ISAF commanders. The structure and operation of PRTs are influenced by the context of each province as well as by the philosophies, caveats, and instructions of troop-contributing countries.

Each PRT comprises an average of 80 civilian experts and specialists in areas such as engineering or agriculture. PRT activities are monitored and guided by a PRT Executive Steering Committee

chaired by the Minister of Interior and co-chaired by ISAF and Coalition Force commanders. As of December 2012, there are 27 PRTs operating in Afghanistan.

In light of the current Transition process (p. 23), PRT's activities are evolving from direct service delivery to technical assistance and capacity-building, to ultimately transfer responsibility to the Afghan Government. In July 2012, Presidential Decree 45 tasked the Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG, p. 17) to create a framework to trace the role and responsibilities of PRTs. PRTs in their current form will no longer exist after 2014 as the Afghan Government will resume full responsibility for security of the country.

Regional Cooperation

www.mfa.gov.af

Afghanistan is a member of several regional associations and mechanisms, with a variety of remits and aims:

Association (Year Afghanistan joined)	Member States	Objective
Economic Cooperation Organisation ECO (1992)	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.	Stated aim: to establish a single market for goods and services
Central and South Asian Transport and Trade Forum CSATTF (2003)	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan	Aims to promote better integration of Central and South Asian trade routes and reduce barriers to trade in the region
Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation CAREC (2005)	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan	Promotes regional projects in energy, transport and trade facilitation
UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia SPECA (2005)	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan	Aims to strengthen sub-regional cooperation in Central Asia and further the region's integration into the world economy
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation SAARC (2007)	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.	Areas of cooperation: agriculture, economy and trade, poverty alleviation, and security

Afghanistan also serves in the Contact Group of the Shanghai Cooperation Association, and the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs states its desire to have an increasingly active role in the organisation.

Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan (2012)

Co-chaired by the Japanese and the Afghan Government, the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan was held in the Japanese capital in July 2012. A long-term commitment and cooperation with Afghanistan during its Transformation Decade (2015-2024) was assured by 55 countries and 25 international organisations that participated in the conference.

The Conference built on agreements from previous international conferences, including the 2010 London Conference, the 2010 Kabul Conference (p. 46), the 2011 Bonn Conference (p. 42), and the May 2012 NATO Chicago Summit (p. 42), and reiterated Afghanistan's full operational responsibility for national security by 2015.

The international community agreed to the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, a framework which lays down the basis for renewed partnership with Afghanistan through mutual commitments and accountability. The participants put forward a strategic document, Towards Self-Reliance, for the Transformation Decade, in which development of the private sector, diversification of the economy, and, improved access to education, health, and governance were emphasised. It was agreed that achievements on these issues would ultimately serve as "a platform for self-reliance, prosperity, stability, and peace" in Afghanistan. Donors at the Conference pledged to provide approximately \$16 billion in development aid over four years.

The United Nations in Afghanistan

www.unama.unmissions.org

The United Nations (UN) has been present in Afghanistan since the 1950s. The UN currently comprises the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and 21 UN agencies, funds and programmes who, together with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and affiliated members such as the Asian Development Bank and the International Organization for Migration, are gathered under the umbrella of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT).

The UN is present in all 34 provinces through sub-offices and project representatives, and several agencies implement programmes at the local level through governmental and non-governmental organisations. In addition to the main UN offices in Kabul, the UN has regional and field offices; UNAMA has eight regional offices (Bamyan, Gardez, Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, and Mazar-i-Sharif), and six provincial offices. UN agencies, funds, and programmes have regional and field offices in areas of high priority. The combined effort of UN staff supports: capacity-building of local government; peace-building, reconciliation and human rights promotion; empowerment of civil society; provision of basic social services; and, support to humanitarian response and disaster mitigation.

Within the overall context of the UN's commitment to supporting the government's National Priority Programmes (NPPs, p. 13), achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs p. 48), and provision of humanitarian relief to the most vulnerable communities, the UN development and humanitarian agencies provide technical and policy support in their specialised areas of operation as per each agency's mandate.

UN programmes are governed by frameworks such as the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), a programme-planning framework for all UN development agencies, and the Common Humanitarian Action Plan, which guides the humanitarian aspect of the UN's work in collaboration with the broader humanitarian community. The UNDAF 2010-2014, signed by the Afghan government and developed to frame UN's support to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS, p. 7), comprises three mutually reinforcing priorities: 1) governance, peace and stability, 2) sustainable livelihoods: agriculture, food security and income opportunities, and 3) basic social services: health, education, water and sanitation. Environment, gender, women's empowerment, and counter-narcotics are considered cross-cutting areas which are to be mainstreamed into all programme areas.

Supported by the UNDAF is the Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF), which defines the overarching strategic direction of the UN in Afghanistan and ensures the cohesion of all facets of the UN's political and development work. The Common Humanitarian Action Plan which covers humanitarian action of the UN and other humanitarian partners is developed and released annually.

Members of the UN Country Team in Afghanistan are:

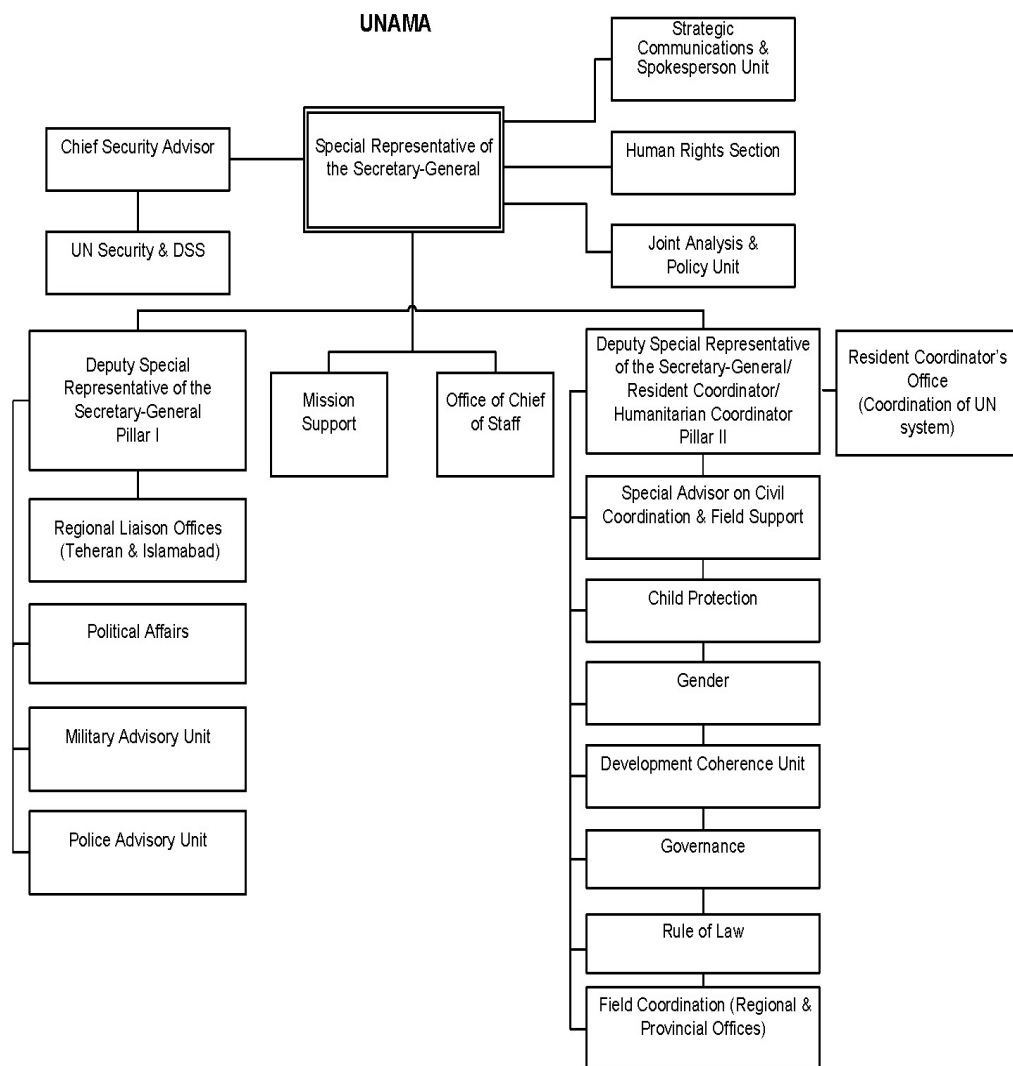
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- UN Department for Security and Safety (UNDSS)
- UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
- UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
- UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
- World Bank (WB)

- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)

UNAMA is a special political mission administered by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and under the direction of Mr Ján Kubiš, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. UNAMA's mandate is renewed and updated every March by the UN Security Council. The current mandate reaffirmed UNAMA's continued role in proactively promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan by leading the efforts of the international community, promoting regional cooperation, and supporting the work of all UN agencies, funds, and programmes. Guided by the principle of reinforcing Afghan sovereignty, leadership, and ownership, UNAMA will continue to lead and coordinate the international civilian efforts with a particular focus on National Priority Programmes, cooperation with NATO/ISAF regarding transition (p. 23), reconciliation, elections, regional cooperation, human rights and humanitarian assistance. New elements of the 2012/2013 mandate include: the role of the UN as an active partner in the 2014 elections; the importance of active and equal participation of women in the electoral process; the importance of a comprehensive and inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process to support reconciliation; and, emphasis on the protection of civilians and monitoring of abuses of international humanitarian and human rights law in Afghanistan. Overall, UNAMA's operations are divided into two pillars of activities: political affairs; and, institutional development and governance.

Political affairs is the core role of UNAMA's Pillar I, led by Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr Nicholas Haysom. It is also directly linked to the mandate of the overall Mission and its core principle of reinforcing Afghan sovereignty, leadership, and ownership. The priority political portfolios of UNAMA are, at the request of the Afghan government, to: provide electoral support to relevant Afghan authorities and institutions to strengthen the sustainability, integrity, and inclusiveness of the electoral process; promote and support a comprehensive and inclusive Afghan-led peace and reconciliation process; engage regional actors in a dialogue process aimed at strengthening cooperation in matters of mutual interest; and, support Afghanistan's ongoing transition towards full Afghan leadership and ownership of its security.

The institutional development, governance, and rule of law aspects of UNAMA and the work of the UNCT are led by Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, and UNDP Resident Representative Mr Mark Bowden. The key mandated priorities for UNAMA include supporting the development and sequencing of the National Priority Programmes, facilitating donor coherence in follow up actions to the Tokyo Conference (p. 50), and acting as co-chair of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB, p 45). The work of UNAMA and the UNCT are critical contributions to strengthening the capacity of the Afghan Government, at central and sub-national levels, to develop and implement strategic policy and support delivery of basic services.



Source: UNAMA

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The Government of Afghanistan

Background

Following the collapse of the Taliban regime at the end of 2001, Afghan leaders 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-and-a-half-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, 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 (full text, p. 71) was debated and endorsed by a Constitutional Loya Jirga, which ran from 14 December 2003 to 4 January 2004. The Constitution provides 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 provides for elected Provincial, District, Village, and Municipal Councils, as well as Governors and Mayors appointed by the President.

In the election held on 9 October 2004, Hamid Karzai became the first popularly elected President of Afghanistan, with 55 percent of the vote. He was sworn in on 7 December 2004, at which time the transitional state officially became the new Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Legislative, Provincial, and District Council elections were supposed to be held concurrently with the Presidential election, but were postponed due to security and technical problems. Elections for the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Councils were eventually held on 18 September 2005. A second set of Presidential and Provincial Council elections took place in 2009; it was a controversial process that ended with President Karzai assuming office for a second term. These were followed by a similarly problematic second set of elections for the Wolesi Jirga in September 2010. As of December 2012, District, Village, and Municipal Council elections have not yet occurred.

The Executive

The executive branch of Afghanistan's central government is comprised of the Office of the President, two vice presidents, the Attorney General, the Cabinet comprised of 26 ministers, as well as several independent bodies and other central government agencies (see structure p. 67).

The President is directly elected for a five-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 Security Council, the Press Office, and the Office of Administrative Affairs (OAA, p. 23), which provides administrative, logistical, and financial support to the President, Vice Presidents, and advisors to the President.

The President nominates ministers, the Attorney General, the Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank (the central bank), the members of the Supreme Court, the Head of the National Directorate of Security, and the President of the Red Crescent Society. Nominees are then subject to parliamentary vote, and if rejected by the National Assembly, 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.

The Legislative

National Assembly

As provided by the 2004 Constitution (full text p. 71), 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. Candidates must be at least 25 years of age at the date of candidacy for the Wolesi Jirga, and at least 35 at 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 at the same time. Members of the Wolesi Jirga are directly elected for five 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 size (see distribution in the provincial profiles p. 117). The Constitution states that an average of two seats from each province, 68 in total, are reserved for women. Ten seats are reserved for the Kuchi (traditionally nomadic) population, three of which must go to women. The provision for Kuchis has been hotly contested among parliamentarians since the 2005 elections.

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 are elected and appointed as follows:

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

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

While the Constitution has provisions for District Council elections, these have not been held to date. A temporary solution was devised for the interim District Council: instead of one, each Provincial Council elects two of its members to the Meshrano Jirga (one for four years and a second for three years or until district elections are held), thereby maintaining the 2:1 ratio of elected to appointed seats.

The National Assembly convenes two ordinary sessions per year, and its term is nine months in the year. Sessions are open to the public unless secrecy is requested by the Chairman of the National Assembly or at least ten members, and it is granted by the Assembly.

According to Article 90 of the Constitution, the National Assembly has 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 the membership of Afghanistan to them; and
- Other authorities specified in the Constitution

Policies and legislation 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. Article 94 of the Constitution states that:

- Law is what both Houses of the National Assembly approve and the President endorses unless this Constitution states otherwise; and
- With the passage of this period or in the case the Wolesi Jirga approves a particular case again with a two-third majority vote, the bill is considered endorsed and enforced.

Certain legislative documents (rules, directives, and guidelines) can be decreed by individual ministers. A proposed bill or signed decree should be passed by the National Assembly within one month of its submission. There are 18 commissions in the Wolesi Jirga and 14 in the Meshrano Jirga.

The new Constitution entered into force in 2004 and many decrees and laws have been enacted according to its provisions. The department of the Ministry of Justice responsible for drafting legislation, the *Taqnin*, has drafted many laws that have replaced old legislation. Contradictory legislation enacted by various former regimes remains and harmonisation efforts continue.

Provincial Councils

The 34 Provincial Councils have between nine and twenty-nine members depending on the size of the province's population, and are elected in a single provincial constituency. Candidates must reside in the province in which they stand for election, and cannot stand simultaneously for both Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections. The Electoral Law states that one-quarter of the seats in a Provincial Council be 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). To date, two rounds of Provincial Council elections have taken place, in 2005 and 2009, following the constitutional requirement that they occur every four years. Accordingly, the next election for these provincial bodies is scheduled to take place in 2013.

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 them decision-making authority. Provincial Councils report directly to the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG, p. 17). 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 dependent on the relationship between the Council and the Provincial Governor.

District Councils

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

To date, however, elections for District Councils have not been held. There are a number of reasons for this. First, district boundaries in some areas have not been confirmed, and thus it is not possible to calculate district populations or judge how many District Council seats should be allocated to these districts. This problem is compounded by the lack of an up-to-date census for the country as a whole. Second, given the ambiguity of district boundaries, voter registration

processes have not registered voters by district but by province. Thus, in order to conduct District Council elections, another registration process would be required.

Article 110 of the Constitution states that should a Loya Jirga (a grand council, convened to discuss matters of supreme national interest, or to change the Constitution) need to be held, it must be comprised of the National Assembly plus the chairpersons of Provincial and District Councils. Despite the lack of district elections, several Loya Jirgas have been called since the ratification of the constitution in 2004.

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 has created hundreds of District Community Councils (DCCs) modelled on traditional shuras (councils), while the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) under the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) has formed District Development Assemblies (DDAs).

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 three years. The terms of Municipal Councils and Mayors are not yet specified, and the mandates of Village and Municipal Councils are not elaborated in the Constitution or the Electoral Law. Elections for these bodies are unlikely to be held in the next several years. Once again, the failure to constitute these bodies has resulted in extra-constitutional attempts to fill this gap. In particular, the Community Development Councils (CDC) of the National Solidarity Programme (NSP, p. 21) effectively function as formal village governance bodies in many areas.

The Judiciary

The major permanent justice institutions in Afghanistan are the Supreme Court, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Ministry of Justice. The 2004 Constitution states: “The judicial branch is an independent organ of the state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court (Stera Mahkama), 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 and courts was passed by the Cabinet, which divides the courts into three tiers: the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and the Primary Courts. It allows for travelling or mobile courts in the event that they are needed; these must be approved by the President. Article 157 of the Constitution calls for the establishment of an Independent Commission for the Supervision of the Implementation of the Constitution (ICSIC) to act as an overarching arbitrator.

The Supreme Court has wide-ranging powers of interpretation: its duties include the review of laws, decrees, international treaties, and international covenants to ensure they comply with the Constitution.

The Office of the Attorney General is an independent body, part of the Executive branch, responsible for investigation and prosecution.

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 is therefore 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 dramatically on criminal matters and the role and nature of punishment.

The Supreme Court

In accordance with the Constitution, the Supreme Court has nine members, appointed for ten-year terms by the President, with the approval of the Wolesi Jirga. The President selects one of the nine members to serve as Chief Justice. The Supreme Court manages the personnel, budgets, and policy decisions of the entire national, provincial, and district courts.

The Supreme Court convenes regular sessions, at least once every 15 days, and additional sessions can be convened by request. The presence of at least six members is needed for a Supreme Court 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.

The current Supreme Court members were sworn in on 5 August 2006. This Court is characterised as moderate, technocratic, and highly-educated in comparison to its ultra-conservative predecessor.

Courts of Appeal

Courts of Appeal are operational in all provinces (although some provinces do not 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 Appeal in Kabul has a Juvenile Court specially created to hear cases involving adolescents; however, in many provinces there are judges experienced or trained to deal with such cases. The Courts of Appeal 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 capital have three dewans—General Criminal, Public Security, and Civil and Public Rights. Many districts do not currently have functional primary courts, primarily due to security concerns. Judges often hold primary court sessions in the provincial capital.

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. Thereafter, a series of judicial sessions may be held until a decision is reached by the Primary Court. Almost as a matter of customary practice, most cases decided by the Primary Courts are appealed to the Courts of Appeal. When appeals reach the Supreme Court, judges often send the case back to the Primary Court for a new hearing.

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 powerholders, 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 (OAA, p. 23) and with oversight by the head of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC, p. 16). The Independent Appointments Board of the IARCSC is required to ratify appointments at Grades one and two (see Civil Service Grading, p. 64) and oversee recruitment of grades three and below. As part of its mandate to improve governance and achieve stability on the subnational level, IDLG (p. 17) 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, Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT, p. 48), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA, p. 52), 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. Whilst 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) 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

Every public employee has a grade—in Kabul, in the provinces, and at the district level. Two scales apply throughout Afghanistan, one for permanent staff (karmand) and one for contract staff (agir). Karmand are regular, permanent public employees, whereas agir are (officially) hired on fixed term contracts. In practice, most agir employees remain in government for many years and follow a career path very similar to that of karmand staff. The two pay scales are almost identical.

The key differences between karmand and agir employees are:

- Agir employees are meant to occupy lower-skilled and manual labour posts (such as drivers, cooks, painters, etc.);

-
- Advancement through the grade (and pay) structure for many agir positions is capped at a particular level (for instance, drivers cannot be promoted beyond Grade 1); however, higher skilled agir employees can advance to the top of the scale (“over” grade); and
 - Agir employees are not entitled to receive a professional bonus in addition to their salary.

Pay policy is set centrally for all public employees in Afghanistan. The pay system emphasises rank-in-person arrangements (employees are promoted even if they remain in the same position) rather than the more common rank-in-post arrangements (where promotion generally comes with a new job). Thus, through years of service and regular promotions (once every three years), staff in lower positions of authority can occupy a higher grade and earn a higher salary than their managers. Different occupational groups have ceilings above which they cannot be promoted.

The underlying pay scale, established by the 1970 Law on the Status and Condition of Government Employees, and amended by the 1977 Decree No. 143, offers a reasonably well-structured scale for base pay. The real salary scale for public employees is low—meal allowances (given equally to all public employees) can account for over 90 percent of the monthly pay. Since 2004, the IARCSC (p. 16) has been working to update the government’s pay and grading structure, crucial to the government’s efforts to attract and retain qualified staff and to reduce incentives for corruption within the civil service. A new Civil Service Law was passed in 2005, and in 2007 an eight-grade structure was designed, with new pay scales attached to these grades (with a minimum salary of \$100 and maximum of \$650). Implementation is sequenced, re-grading senior positions (Grades 1 and 2) first, followed by junior grades on a ministry-by-ministry basis.

Pay and grading reform is a key element of the IARCSC-led Public Administration Reform, framework, which seeks to restructure the civil service and institute merit-based, nonpartisan recruitment. The effectiveness of pay and grading reforms may be complicated by the so-called “second civil service” consisting of officials, advisors and staff of aid contractors and international agencies, most of whom receive much higher salaries.

Elections

The electoral system in Afghanistan is the Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV), where each eligible voter casts one vote for one individual in his or her multi-member constituency (province). Suffrage is universal for all citizens 18 years of age and older. The Constitution (full text p. 71) 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 (although the run-off was cancelled in 2009 when a candidate withdrew). The next Presidential election is to be held on 5 April 2014.

Key bodies in Afghan elections

Independent Election Commission (IEC - www.iec.org.af)

IEC is the supreme authority responsible for the preparation, organisation, conduct, and oversight of elections and referenda in Afghanistan. The membership, organisation, responsibilities, and functioning of the IEC are determined by the Constitution and the Electoral Law. While the IEC is independent from other branches of the government and administrative institutions, its five members, or commissioners are appointed by the President.

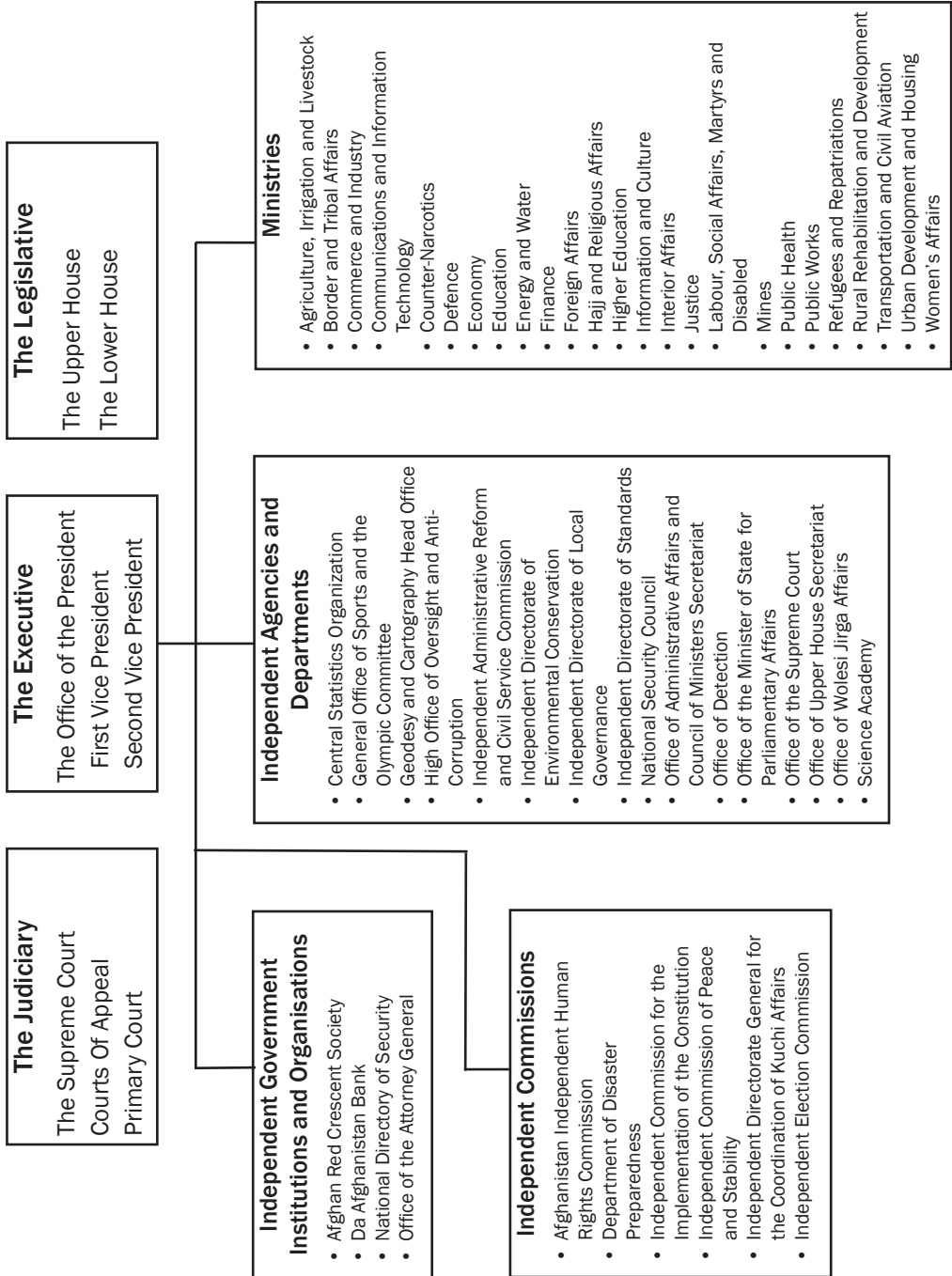
Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC - www.ecc.org.af)

ECC 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. ECC was established by Article 52 of the 2005 Electoral Law. The ECC is separate from, and independent of, the IEC. As of today, all ECC members are appointed directly by the President.

Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA - www.fefa.org.af)

FEFA is an independent umbrella organisation established by civil society groups in March 2004 to; monitor elections to ensure that they are free and fair; promote democracy in the country; promote public participation in electoral affairs; and, help consolidate public trust and faith in democracy and elections. The Foundation is Afghanistan's only continual domestic elections monitoring body.

Structure of the Afghan Government



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Laws in Afghanistan

Formal sources of law in Afghanistan are: 1) Islamic law; 2) the 2004 Constitution; 3) codes, decrees and legislation; 4) international treaties and covenants; and 5) various types of regulations and orders. No law can be contrary to the beliefs and provisions of Islam (pursuant to Article 3 of the Constitution), and many of the country's codes and statutes reflect Islamic legal principles.

There have been a number of constitutions in Afghanistan. The constitutions of 1923, 1931, 1964, 1977, 1987 (amended in 1990), and 2004 were all ratified by either Parliaments or Loya Jirgas, while interim constitutions were drafted in 1979, 1980, and 1992, but never ratified. As elsewhere, Afghan legislation must not be in conflict with the Constitution. New legislation and amendments to existing laws must be adopted by the National Assembly and signed by the President, after which they are published (in both Dari and Pashto) in the Official Gazette (or *Rasmi Jaridah*) by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). While many regulations must be published in the Official Gazette, those that affect only the internal operations of a particular ministry need not be sent to the National Assembly for adoption or to the MoJ for publication. Since November 1963, the Official Gazette has been published in a continuously numbered sequence. Before then individual laws were published in individual pamphlet form and keeping track of them was difficult. Official Gazette no. 787 (SY1378/1999) specifies the manner and requirements of publication and adoption of legislative documents.

There is currently no unified official index of laws, nor any properly functioning system of reporting court cases or decisions (even of the Supreme Court). USAID's Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (AROLP) scanned a full set of the Official Gazette issues and these PDFs are currently available for download from the MoJ website (in Dari and Pashto only—www.moj.gov.af). There is also a full-text searchable database of the Official Gazette laws (Dari and Pashto only) on the MoJ website. Regulations, rules, charters and decrees cover many important legal areas but are not codified or fully assembled anywhere (although many are published in the Official Gazette).

Many international organisations require translations of older or newer laws. Currently, translations are available for some laws at afghantranslation.chechiconsulting.com; other (unofficial) translations are also listed in the AREU library catalogue online (www.areu.org.af). Some ministries make PDFs of relevant legislation available on their website (e.g., tax laws on the Ministry of Finance website—www.mof.gov.af; or laws and regulations relevant to elections on the website of the Independent Election Commission— www.iec.org.af/eng/).

There is no established citation style for Afghan laws. To fully identify a post-1963 law it is best to cite the Official Gazette number as well as the date (preferably in both local and international date systems), e.g., Law of Procurement (Official Gazette no. 865) 3 Aqrab SY1384 (25 October 2005). For pre-1963 laws the full title and full dates of publication are needed, e.g. Usul Asasi "Constitution" (8 Aqrab SY 1310) 31 October 1931.

The Constitution of Afghanistan (2004)

This is an unofficial translation of the 2004 Constitution of Afghanistan; refer to the official Dari and Pashto versions for accuracy (source: International Development Law Organization; Office of the President website: www.president.gov.af).

Year 1382

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

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In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Preamble

We the people of Afghanistan:

1. With firm faith in God Almighty and relying on His lawful mercy, and believing in the sacred religion of Islam,
2. Realising the injustice and shortcoming of the past, and the numerous troubles imposed on our country,
3. While acknowledging the sacrifices and the historic struggles, rightful Jihad and just resistance of all people of Afghanistan and respecting the high position of the martyrs for freedom of the country,
4. With the understanding that Afghanistan is a single and united country and belongs to all ethnicities residing in this country,

5. Observing the United Nations Charter and respecting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
6. For strengthening national unity, safeguarding independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country,
7. For establishing a government based on people's will and democracy,
8. For creation of a civil society free of oppression, atrocity, discrimination, and violence and based on the rule of law, social justice, protection of human rights and dignity and ensuring the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people,
9. For strengthening the political, social, economic, and defensive institutions of the country,
10. For ensuring a prosperous life and sound environment for all those residing in this land,
11. Finally, for regaining Afghanistan's deserved place in the international community, have adopted this Constitution in accordance with historical, cultural, and social requirements of the era, through our elected representatives in the *Loya Jirga* dated 14 Jaddi 1382 in the city of Kabul.

Chapter One: The State

- Article 1 • Afghanistan is an Islamic Republic, and an independent, unitary and indivisible state.
- Article 2 • The religion of the state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is the sacred religion of Islam.
- Followers of other religions are free to exercise their faith and perform their religious rites within the limits of the provisions of law.
- Article 3 • In Afghanistan no law can be contrary to the beliefs and provisions of the sacred religion of Islam.
- Article 4 • National sovereignty in Afghanistan belongs to the nation that exercises it directly or through its representatives.
- The nation of Afghanistan consists of all individuals who are the citizens of Afghanistan.
 - The nation of Afghanistan is comprised of Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Turkman, Baluch, Pashai, Nuristani, Aymaq, Arab, Qirghiz, Qizilbash, Gujur, Brahwui and other ethnic groups.
 - The word Afghan applies to every citizen of Afghanistan.
 - No member of the nation can be deprived of his/her citizenship of Afghanistan.
 - Affairs related to citizenship and asylum are regulated by law.

- Article 5 • Implementation of the provisions of this constitution and other laws, defending independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and ensuring the security and defence capability of the country, are the basic duties of the state.
- Article 6 • The state is obliged to create a prosperous and progressive society based on social justice, protection of human dignity, protection of human rights, realisation of democracy, and to ensure national unity and equality among all ethnic groups and tribes and to provide for balanced development in all areas of the country.
- Article 7 • The state shall observe the Charter of the United Nations, international treaties, international conventions that Afghanistan is a party to, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The state prevents all types of terrorist activities, cultivation and smuggling of narcotic drugs, and production and consumption of intoxicants.
- Article 8 • The state regulates the foreign policy of the country on the basis of preserving independence, national interests, territorial integrity, non-interference, good neighbourliness, mutual respect, and equal rights.
- Article 9 • Mines and other underground resources and cultural heritages are the properties of the state.
- Protection, management and mode of proper utilisation of public properties shall be regulated by law.
- Article 10 • The state encourages and protects private investments and enterprises based on the market economy and guarantees their protection in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 11 • Affairs related to domestic and external trade shall be regulated by law in accordance with the needs of the national economy and the public interest.
- Article 12 • Da Afghanistan Bank is the central and independent bank of the state.
- Issuance of currency and formulation and implementation of monetary policy of the country are the mandates of the central bank in accordance with the law.
 - The central bank shall consult the economic commission of the Wolesi Jirga in matters related to printing of currency.
 - Structure and operation of this bank shall be regulated by law.
- Article 13 • The state shall formulate and implement effective programmes for the development of industries, growth of production, increase of public living standards, and support of craftsmanship.

- Article 14 • The state shall design and implement within its financial resources effective programmes for the development of agriculture and animal husbandry, improving the economic, social and living conditions of farmers, herders, and settlements and living conditions of the nomads.
- The state adopts necessary measures for housing and distribution of public estates to deserving citizens in accordance within its financial resources and the law.
- Article 15 • The state is obliged to adopt necessary measures for safeguarding and improving forests and the environment.
- Article 16 • From among the languages of Pashto, Dari, Uzbeki, Turkmani, Baluchi, Pashai, Nuristani, Pamiri and other languages spoken in the country, Pashto and Dari are the official languages of the state.
- In areas where the majority of people speak one of the Uzbeki, Turkmani, Baluchi, Pashai, Nuristani and Pamiri languages, that language shall be recognised as third official language in addition to Pashto and Dari, the modality of its implementation shall be regulated by law.
 - The state adopts and implements effective plans for strengthening and developing all languages of Afghanistan.
 - Publications and mass media are allowed in all languages spoken in the country.
 - The existing national academic and administrative terminology of the country shall be preserved.
- Article 17 • The state shall adopt necessary measures for promotion of education in all levels, development of religious education, and organising and improving the conditions of mosques, madrasas and religious centres.
- Article 18 • The calendar of the country shall be based on the migration of the Prophet (Peace be upon Him).
- The basis of work for state offices shall be the solar calendar.
 - Fridays and the 28th of Asad and the 8th of Sawr are public holidays.
 - Other holidays shall be regulated by law.
- Article 19 • The Afghan flag is made up of three equal parts, with black, red and green colours juxtaposed from left to right perpendicularly.
- The width of every coloured piece is equal to half of its length. The national insignia is located in the centre of the flag. The national insignia of the state of Afghanistan is composed of a *Mehrab* and pulpit in white colour. Two flags are located on its two sides. In the upper-middle part of the insignia the sacred phrase of “There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his prophet, and Allah is Great” is placed, along with a rising sun. The word “Afghanistan” and year

1298 (solar calendar) is located in the lower part of the insignia. The insignia is encircled with two branches of wheat.

- The law shall regulate the use of national flag and emblem.

Article 20 • The National Anthem of Afghanistan shall be in Pashto and mention “Allahu Akbar” and the names of the ethnic groups of Afghanistan.

Article 21 • The capital of Afghanistan is the city of Kabul.

Chapter Two: The Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

Article 22 • Any kind of discrimination and privilege between the citizens of Afghanistan is prohibited.

- The citizens of Afghanistan—whether woman or man—have equal rights and duties before the law.

Article 23 • Life is a gift of God and a natural right of human beings. No one shall be deprived of this right except by the provision of law.

Article 24 • Liberty is the natural right of human beings. This right has no limits unless affecting the rights of others and public interest, which are regulated by law.

- The liberty and dignity of human beings are inviolable.
- The state has the duty to respect and protect the liberty and dignity of human beings.

Article 25 • Innocence is the original state.

- An accused is considered innocent until convicted by a final decision of an authorised court.

Article 26 • Crime is a personal action.

- The prosecution, arrest, and detention of an accused and the execution of penalty cannot affect another person.

Article 27 • No act is considered a crime, unless determined by a law adopted prior to the date the offence is committed.

- No person can be pursued, arrested or detained but in accordance with the provisions of law.
- No person can be punished but in accordance with the decision of an authorised court and in conformity with the law adopted before the date of the offence.

Article 28 • No citizen of Afghanistan accused of a crime can be extradited to a foreign state unless according to mutual agreement and international conventions that Afghanistan has joined.

- No Afghan can be sentenced to deprivation of citizenship or to exile inside the country or abroad.
- Article 29 • Torture of human beings is prohibited.
- No person, even with the intention of discovering the truth, can resort to torture or order the torture of another person who may be under prosecution, arrest, detention or convicted to be punished.
 - Punishment contrary to human integrity is prohibited.
- Article 30 • Any statement, confession or testimony obtained from an accused or of another person by means of compulsion, is invalid.
- Confession to a crime is a voluntary admission before an authorised court by an accused in a sound state of mind.
- Article 31 • Every person upon arrest can seek an advocate to defend his/her rights or to defend his/her case for which he/she is accused under the law.
- The accused upon arrest has the right to be informed of the attributed accusation and to be summoned to the court within the limits determined by law.
 - In criminal cases, the state shall appoint an advocate for a destitute.
 - The confidentiality of oral, written or telephonic communications between an advocate and his/her accused client are immune from invasion.
 - The duties and authorities of advocates shall be regulated by law.
- Article 32 • Being in debt does not limit a person's freedom or deprive him/her of liberty.
- The mode and means of recovering a debt shall be regulated by law.
- Article 33 • The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to elect and be elected.
- Law regulates the conditions and means to exercise this right.
- Article 34 • Freedom of expression is inviolable.
- Every Afghan has the right to express thoughts through speech, writing, or illustration or other means by observing the provisions of this Constitution.
 - Every Afghan has the right to print or publish topics without prior submission to the state authorities in accordance with the law.
 - Directives related to printing houses, radio, television, the press, and other mass media, shall be regulated by law.
- Article 35 • The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to form social organisations for the purpose of securing material or spiritual aims in accordance with the provisions of law.
- The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to form political parties in accordance with the provisions of law, provided that:

1. The programme and charter of the party are not contrary to the principles of sacred religion of Islam, and the provisions and values of this Constitution.
 2. The organisational structure and financial sources of the party are made public.
 3. The party does not have military or paramilitary aims and structures.
 4. The party should have no affiliation to a foreign political party or sources.
- Formation and functioning of a party based on ethnicity, language, religious sect and region is not permissible.
 - A party set up in accordance with provisions of the law shall not be dissolved without lawful reasons and the decision of an authorised court.
- Article 36 • The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to unarmed demonstrations for legitimate peaceful purposes in accordance with the law.
- Article 37 • Confidentiality and freedom of correspondence and communication, whether in the form of letters or through telephone, telegraph and other means, are immune from invasion.
- The state does not have the right to inspect personal correspondence and communication unless authorised by the provisions of law.
- Article 38 • A person's residence is immune from invasion.
- Other than the situations and methods indicated in the law, no one, including the state, is allowed to enter or inspect a private residence without prior permission of the resident or holding a court order.
 - In case of an evident crime, an official in charge of the situation can enter or conduct a house search prior to the permission of the court.
 - The official involved in the situation is required to obtain a subsequent court order for the house search within the period indicated by law.
- Article 39 • Every Afghan has the right to travel or settle in any part of the country except in the regions forbidden by law.
- Every Afghan has the right to travel abroad and return home in accordance with the provisions of law.
 - The state shall protect the rights of the citizens of Afghanistan abroad.
- Article 40 • Property is immune from invasion.
- No person shall be forbidden from acquiring and making use of property except within the limits of law.
 - No person's property shall be confiscated without the provisions of law and the order of an authorised court.

- Acquisition of a person's property, in return for a prior and just compensation within the bounds of law, is permitted only for securing public interests in accordance with the provisions of law.
 - Inspection and disclosure of private property are carried out only in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 41 • Foreign individuals do not have the right to own immovable property in Afghanistan.
- Lease of immovable property for the purpose of investment is permissible in accordance with the law.
 - The sale of estates to diplomatic missions of foreign countries and to those international agencies of which Afghanistan is a member is permissible in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 42 • Every Afghan is obligated to pay taxes and duties to the government in accordance with the provisions of law.
- No taxes and duties are enforced without provisions of the law.
 - The rate of taxes and duties and the method of payments are determined by law on the basis of observing social justice.
 - This provision is also applied to foreign individuals and agencies.
 - Every kind of tax, duty and income collected shall be delivered to the state account.
- Article 43 • Education is the right of all citizens of Afghanistan, which shall be provided up to the level of the Bachelors free of charge by the state.
- The state is obliged to devise and implement effective programs for a balanced expansion of education all over Afghanistan, and to provide compulsory intermediate level education. The state is also required to provide the opportunity to teach native languages in the areas where they are spoken.
- Article 44 • The state shall devise and implement effective programs for balancing and promoting education for women, improving of education of the nomads and elimination of illiteracy in the country.
- Article 45 • The state shall devise and implement a unified educational curriculum based on the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, national culture, and in accordance with academic principles, and develop the curriculum of religious subjects on the basis of the Islamic sects existing in Afghanistan.
- Article 46 • Establishing and operating higher, general and vocational education are duties of the state.
- The citizens of Afghanistan also can establish higher, general, and vocational private educational institutions and literacy courses with the permission of the state.

- The state can also permit foreign persons to set up higher, general and vocational educational private institutes in accordance with the law.
 - The conditions for admission to state higher education institutions and other related matters are regulated by law.
- Article 47 • The state shall devise effective programs for the promotion of science, culture, literature and the arts.
- The state guarantees the rights of authors, inventors, and discoverers, encourages and supports scientific researches in all areas, and publicises the effective use of their results in accordance with the law.
- Article 48 • Work is the right of every Afghan.
- Working hours, paid holidays, rights of employer and employee and other related affairs are regulated by law.
 - Choice of occupation and craft is free within the limits of law.
- Article 49 • Forced labour is forbidden.
- Active participation in times of war, calamity, and other situations threatening lives and public welfare is a national duty of every Afghan.
 - Children shall not be subjected to forced labour.
- Article 50 • The state is obliged to adopt necessary measures for creation of a strong and sound administration and realisation of reforms in the administration system of the country.
- Government offices are bound to carry out their work with full neutrality and in compliance with the provisions of law.
 - The citizens of Afghanistan have the right of access to information from government offices in accordance with the provisions of law. This right has no limits, unless in violation of the rights of the others.
 - The citizens of Afghanistan are employed for state services on the basis of qualification without any kind of discrimination and in accordance with the law.
- Article 51 • Any person suffering undue harm by government action is entitled to compensation, which he can claim by appealing to court.
- With the exception of situations stated in the law, the state cannot claim its right without the order of an authorised court.
- Article 52 • The state is obliged to provide free means of preventive health care and medical treatment, and proper health facilities to all citizens of Afghanistan in accordance with the law.
- The state encourages and protects the establishment and expansion of private medical services and health centres in accordance with law.

- The state adopts necessary measures to promote physical education and improve national and local sports.
- Article 53 • The state takes necessary measures for regulating medical services and financial support to descendants of martyred and lost, re-integration of disabled and handicapped individuals and their active participation in society in accordance with the law.
- The state guarantees the rights of pensioners and renders necessary assistance to needy elders, women without caretakers, disabled and handicapped individuals and needy orphans in accordance with the law.
- Article 54 • Family is a fundamental unit of society and is supported by the state.
- The state adopts necessary measures to ensure the physical and psychological well-being of the family, especially of child and mother, upbringing of children and the elimination of traditions contrary to the principles of the sacred religion of Islam.
- Article 55 • The defence of the country is the responsibility of all citizens of Afghanistan.
- The conditions for military service are regulated by law.
- Article 56 •
- Observing the provisions of the Constitution, obeying the laws, and adhering to public law and order are the duties of all people of Afghanistan.
 - Ignorance about the provisions of law is not considered an excuse.
- Article 57 • The state guarantees the rights and liberties of foreign citizens residing in Afghanistan in accordance with the law. These people are obliged to observe the laws of the state of Afghanistan in accordance with International Law.
- Article 58 • 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.
- Any person in case of a violation of his/her rights can report their complaint to this Commission.
 - The Commission can refer cases of violations of the human rights of persons to legal authorities, and assist them in defending their rights.
 - The structure and mode of function of this Commission will be regulated by law.
- Article 59 • No one can misuse the rights and freedoms under this Constitution against independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty and national unity.

Chapter Three: The President

- Article 60 • The President is the head of state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and conducts authority in executive, legislative, and judicial branches in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- The President shall have first and second Vice Presidents.
 - The candidate to the Presidency on his or her candidacy shall also declare the names of the Vice Presidents to the nation.
 - The First Vice President in the absence, resignation, or death of the President, acts in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
 - In the absence of the First Vice President, the Second Vice President shall act in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- Article 61 • The President is elected by receiving more than 50 percent of the votes cast through free, general, secret, and direct voting.
- The presidential term expires on the first of Jawza of the fifth year after the elections.
 - Elections for the new President are held thirty to sixty days before the end of the presidential term.
 - If none of the candidates succeeds in receiving more than 50 percent of the votes in the first round, a run-off election shall be held within two weeks.
 - In this round, only the two candidates with the highest number of votes will participate.
 - In the run-off, the candidate who gets the majority of the votes shall be elected as the President.
 - In case of death of one of the candidates during the first or second round, after the elections or prior to the announcement of the results of elections, new elections shall be held in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 62 • Presidential candidates should possess the following qualifications:
1. Should be citizens of Afghanistan, Muslim and born of Afghan parents, and should not have citizenship of another country.
 2. On the day of becoming a candidate, his/her age should not be less than 40 years.
 3. Should not have been convicted of crimes against humanity, a criminal act, or deprived of their civil rights by a court.
- No one can be elected as president for more than two terms.
 - The provision of this article applies to the Vice Presidents as well.
- Article 63 • The President-elect, prior to assumption of his/her duties, performs the following oath in accordance with the rules of procedures prescribed by law:

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate; In the name of God Almighty, in the presence of you representatives of the nation of Afghanistan, I swear to obey and safeguard the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, to observe the Constitution and other laws of Afghanistan and supervise their implementation; to safeguard the independence, national sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of Afghanistan and the fundamental rights and interests of the people of Afghanistan, and with the assistance of God and the support of the nation, to make great and sincere efforts for the happiness and progress of the people of Afghanistan.

- Article 64 • The power and duties of the President are as follows:
1. Supervising the implementation of the Constitution
 2. Determining the fundamental policies of the state with the approval of the National Assembly
 3. Being the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of Afghanistan
 4. Declaration of war and ceasefire with the confirmation of the National Assembly
 5. Taking the required decisions to defend territorial integrity and protect independence
 6. Sending contingents of the armed forces to foreign countries with the confirmation of the National Assembly
 7. Convening the Loya Jirga except in the situation stated in Article 68 of this Constitution
 8. Declaring the state of emergency and ending it with the confirmation of the National Assembly
 9. Inaugurating the National Assembly and the Loya Jirga
 10. Accepting resignation of the Vice Presidents
 11. Appointing Ministers, the Attorney General, the Governor of the Central Bank, Head of the National Security Directorate and the President of the Afghan Red Crescent Society with the confirmation of the Wolesi Jirga, dismissing them and accepting their resignations
 12. Appointing the head and members of the Supreme Court with the confirmation of the Wolesi Jirga
 13. Appointing, retiring and accepting the resignation of and dismissing judges, officers of the armed forces, police, national security, and high-ranking officials in accordance with the law
 14. Appointing heads of the diplomatic missions of Afghanistan in foreign countries and international organisations
 15. Accepting the credentials of diplomatic missions in Afghanistan

16. Signing laws and legislative decrees
17. Issuing credential letters for the conclusion of bilateral and international treaties in accordance with the provisions of law
18. Reducing and pardoning penalties in accordance with the law
19. Issuing medals and honorary titles in accordance with the provisions of law
20. Establishing commissions for the improvement of the administrative condition of the country, in accordance with the law
21. Exercising other authorities in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution

Article 65 • The President can call for a referendum on important national political, social or economic issues.

- Calling for a referendum shall not be contrary to the provisions of this Constitution or for amending it.

Article 66 • The President takes into consideration the supreme interests of the people of Afghanistan while enforcing the powers stated in this Constitution.

- The President cannot sell or bestow state properties without the provisions of law.
- The President cannot act based on linguistic, ethnic, religious, political, and regional considerations during his/her term in office.

Article 67 • In case of resignation, impeachment, or death of the President, or of a serious illness that could hinder the performance of duties, the First Vice President undertakes his/her duties and authorities.

- The President submits his/her resignation personally to the National Assembly.
- Serious illness shall be proved by an authorised medical committee appointed by the Supreme Court.
- In this case, an election for a new President shall be held within the period of three months in accordance with Article 61 of this Constitution.
- During the time when the First Vice President acts as the interim President, he/she cannot perform the following:
 1. Amendment of the Constitution
 2. Dismissal of Ministers
 3. Call for a referendum
- During this period the Vice Presidents can nominate themselves as candidates for the post of President in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.
- In the absence of the President, the duties of the First Vice President shall be determined by the President.

- Article 68 • In case of resignation or death of one of the Vice Presidents, another person shall replace him/her by the proposal of the President and approval of the Wolesi Jirga.
- In case of the simultaneous death of the President and the First Vice President, in turn the Second Vice President, the Chair of the Meshrano Jirga and in the absence of the chair of the Meshrano Jirga, the Chair of the Wolesi Jirga, and in the absence of the Chair of the Wolesi Jirga, the Foreign Minister shall perform the duties of the President in accordance with Article 67 of this Constitution.
- Article 69 • The President is responsible to the nation and the Wolesi Jirga according to this Article.
- Accusations of crimes against humanity, national treason or crime can be levelled against the President by one-third of the members of the Wolesi Jirga.
 - If two thirds of the Wolesi Jirga votes for charges to be brought forth, the Wolesi Jirga shall convene a Loya Jirga within one month. If the Loya Jirga approves the accusation by a two-thirds majority of votes the President is then dismissed, and the case is referred to a special court. The special court shall be composed of three members of the Wolesi Jirga, and three members of the Supreme Court appointed by the Loya Jirga and the Chair of the Meshrano Jirga.
 - The lawsuit is conducted by a person appointed by the Loya Jirga.
 - In this situation, the provisions of Article 67 of this Constitution are applied.
- Article 70 • The salary and expenditures of the President are regulated by law.
- After the expiration of their term, the President is entitled to the financial benefits of the presidency for the rest of his/her life in accordance with the law except in the case of dismissal.

Chapter Four: The Government

- Article 71 • The government consists of the Ministers who work under the Chairmanship of the President.
- The number of Ministers and their duties shall be regulated by law.
- Article 72 • A person who is appointed as a Minister should have the following qualifications:
1. Must have only the citizenship of Afghanistan. Should a nominee for a ministerial post also hold the citizenship of another country, the Wolesi Jirga shall have the right to confirm or reject his or her nomination.
 2. Should have higher education, work experience and good reputation.
 3. His/her age should not be less than 35.
 4. Should not have been convicted of crimes against humanity, a criminal act, or deprived of civil rights by a court.

- Article 73 • The Ministers can be appointed from within and without the National Assembly.
- If a member of the National Assembly is appointed as a minister, he/she loses his/her membership in the National Assembly, and is replaced by another person in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 74 • Prior to taking office, the Minister shall perform the following oath in the presence of the President:
- In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate: I swear in the name of God Almighty to support the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, follow the Constitution and other laws of Afghanistan, protect the rights of citizens, and safeguard the independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and consider God Almighty present in performing all my responsibilities, and honestly perform the duties assigned to me.*
- Article 75 • The government shall have the following duties:
1. Execute the provisions of this Constitution, other laws, and final orders of the courts
 2. Protect the independence, defend the territorial integrity, and safeguard the interests and dignity of Afghanistan in the international community
 3. Maintenance of public law and order and elimination of administrative corruption
 4. Prepare the budget, regulate financial affairs and protect public wealth
 5. Devise and implement programmes for social, cultural, economic, and technological progress
 6. Report to the National Assembly at the end of the fiscal year about the tasks accomplished and about the main plans for the new fiscal year
 7. Perform other duties as recognised by this Constitution and other laws to be duties of the government
- Article 76 • In order to implement the main policies of the country and regulation of its duties, the government shall devise and approve regulations. These regulations should not be contradictory to the text and spirit of any law.
- Article 77 • As heads of administrative units and members of the government, the Ministers perform their duties within the limits determined by this Constitution and other laws.
- The Ministers are responsible to the President and the Wolesi Jirga for their particular duties.
- Article 78 • If a Minister is accused of crime against humanity, national treason or a criminal act, the case shall be referred to a special court in accordance with Article 134 of this Constitution.

- Article 79 • In cases of recess of the Wolesi Jirga, the government can adopt legislation in an emergency situation on matters other than those related to budget and financial affairs.
 - The legislative decrees become laws after they are signed by the President. The legislative decrees should be submitted to the National Assembly in the course of thirty days beginning from the first session of the National Assembly.
 - In case of rejection by the National Assembly, the legislations become void.
- Article 80 • Ministers during the course of their work cannot use their posts for linguistic, regional, ethnic, religious and partisan purposes.

Chapter Five: The National Assembly

- Article 81 • The National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as the highest legislative organ, is the manifestation of the will of its people and represents the whole nation.
 - Every member of the National Assembly takes into judgment the general welfare and supreme interests of all people of Afghanistan at the time of casting their vote.
- Article 82 • The National Assembly consists of two houses: Wolesi Jirga (the House of People) and Meshrano Jirga (House of Elders).
 - No one can become a member of both houses simultaneously.
- Article 83 • Members of the Wolesi Jirga are elected by the people through free, general, secret and direct elections.
 - Their mandate ends on the 1st of Saratan of the fifth year after the elections and the new assembly starts its work.
 - The election of the members of the Wolesi Jirga shall be held 30 to 60 days before the expiry of the term of the Wolesi Jirga.
 - The number of members of the Wolesi Jirga, proportionate to the population of each region, shall be not more than two hundred and fifty.
 - Electoral constituency and other related issues shall be determined by election laws.
 - In the Election Law, measures should be adopted so the election system shall provide general and just representation for all the people of the country and based on the population, from each province on average at least two female delegates shall have membership to the Wolesi Jirga.
- Article 84 • Members of the Meshrano Jirga are elected and appointed as follows:
 1. From among the members of each Provincial Council, the respective council elects one person for a period of four years.

2. From among the District Councils of each province, the respective councils elect one person for a period of three years.
 3. The President appoints the remaining one-third of the members for a period of five years from among experts and experienced personalities, including two representatives of the disabled and impaired and two representatives from the Nomads.
- The president appoints 50 percent of these people from among women.
 - A person who is appointed as a member of the *Meshrano Jirga* shall relinquish their membership in the respective council, and another person replaces him/her in accordance with the law.
- Article 85 • A person who is nominated or appointed as a member of the National Assembly should have the following qualifications in addition to those considered by voters:
1. Should be a citizen of Afghanistan, or has obtained citizenship of the state of Afghanistan at least ten years before becoming a candidate or being appointed.
 2. Should not have been convicted by a court for committing a crime against humanity, a crime, or sentenced to deprivation of his/her civil rights.
 3. Members of the Wolesi Jirga should be at least 25 years old at the date of candidacy and members of the Meshrano Jirga should be at least 35 years old at the date of candidacy or appointment.
- Article 86 • Credentials of members of the National Assembly are reviewed by the Independent Election Commission in accordance with the law.
- Article 87 • In the beginning of the legislative period, each one of the two houses elects one of its members as the Chairperson for one legislative period, and two people as the first and second Vice Chairperson, and two people as the Secretary and Assistant Secretary for a period of one year.
- These individuals constitute the Bureau in their respective houses.
 - The duties of the Bureau are determined in the regulations pertaining to the internal duties of each house.
- Article 88 • Each house of the National Assembly sets up commissions to study the topics under discussion in accordance with its internal regulations.
- Article 89 • The Wolesi Jirga has the authority to set up a special commission if one-third of its members put forward a proposal to inquire about and study government actions.
- The composition and procedure of this commission is specified in the internal regulations of Wolesi Jirga.

- Article 90 • The National Assembly has the following authorities:
1. Ratification, modification, or abrogation of laws and or legislative decrees
 2. Approval of plans for economic, social, cultural, and technological development
 3. Approval of state budget, permission for obtaining and granting loans
 4. Creation, modification, and or abrogation of administrative units
 5. Ratification of international treaties and agreements, or abrogation of the membership of Afghanistan to them
 6. Other authorities specified in this Constitution
- Article 91 • The Wolesi Jirga has the following special authorities:
- Deciding on interrogation of Ministers in accordance with the provisions of Article 92 of this Constitution.
 - Taking decisions about the State's development programmes and the State budget.
 - Approval or rejection of the appointments according to the provisions of this Constitution.
- Article 92 • The Wolesi Jirga, based on a proposal by 20 percent of its members, can interrogate a Minister.
- If the responses given are not satisfactory, Wolesi Jirga shall consider a vote of no confidence.
 - The vote of no confidence in a Minister shall be explicit, direct, and on the basis of well-founded reasons. This vote should be approved by a majority of all members of the Wolesi Jirga.
- Article 93 • Any commission of both Houses of the National Assembly can question each of the Ministers about specific topics.
- The person questioned can provide verbal or written response.
- Article 94 • Law is what both Houses of the National Assembly approve and the President endorses unless this Constitution states otherwise.
- In case the President does not agree to what the National Assembly approves, he can send the document back with justifiable reasons to the Wolesi Jirga within 15 days of its submission. With the passage of this period or in case the Wolesi Jirga approves a particular case again with a majority of two-thirds votes, the bill is considered endorsed and enforced.
- Article 95 • Proposal for the promulgation of a law can be initiated by the government, or members of the National Assembly, and in the domain of regulating judicial affairs through the Supreme Court by the government. Proposals for drafting the budget and financial affairs laws shall be made only by the government.

- Article 96 • If a proposal for the promulgation of law includes imposition of new taxes or reduction in State incomes, it is included in the working agenda on condition that an alternative source is also envisioned.
- Article 97 • Proposals for promulgation of law initiated by the government are submitted first to the Wolesi Jirga.
- The Wolesi Jirga approves or rejects as a whole the proposal for promulgation of law including budget and financial affairs and the proposal of taking or giving a loan after discussion.
 - The Wolesi Jirga cannot delay the proposal more than one month.
 - The proposed draft of law is submitted to the Meshrano Jirga, after its approval by the Wolesi Jirga.
 - The Meshrano Jirga decides on the draft within a period of 15 days.
 - The National Assembly shall give priority to the promulgation of laws, treaties, and development plans of the government that require urgent consideration and decision as per the request of the government.
 - If a proposal for promulgation of law is initiated by ten members of one of the two Houses and then approved by one-fifth members of the respective houses, it can be admitted to the agenda of the respective houses.
- Article 98 • The state budget and development plan of the government is submitted through the Meshrano Jirga along with advisory comments to the Wolesi Jirga.
- The decision of the Wolesi Jirga, irrespective of the consent of the Meshrano Jirga, is enforceable after it is signed by the President.
 - If for some reason the budget is not approved before the beginning of the new fiscal year, the budget of the year before is applied until the approval of the new budget.
 - The government is obligated to give to the Wolesi Jirga the budget of the new fiscal year and a brief account of the current year's budget within the fourth quarter of the fiscal year.
 - The definite account of the previous fiscal year shall be submitted by the government to the Wolesi Jirga within six months of the new year, in accordance with the provisions of law.
 - The Wolesi Jirga cannot delay the approval of the budget for more than one month or permission to give or take a loan for more than 15 days.
 - If during this period the Wolesi Jirga does not take any decision with regards to taking or giving a loan, the proposal will be considered as approved.
- Article 99 • If, during a session of the National Assembly, the annual budget or a developmental plan or an issue related to public security, territorial integrity, and the country's independence is under discussion, the session of the Assembly cannot end before the approval of the matter.

- Article 100 • In case the decision of one house is rejected by another house, a combined committee composed of equal members of each house is formed to resolve the disagreement.
- The decision of the committee is enforced after its approval by the President.
 - In case the combined committee cannot solve the disagreement, the defeated resolution is considered void.
 - In this case the Wolesi Jirga can approve it at the next session of the Wolesi Jirga by a two-thirds majority vote of its all members.
 - This approval is assumed as enforceable, after it is signed by the President, without submission to the Meshrano Jirga.
- Article 101 • No member of the National Assembly is legally prosecutable for expressing his / her views while performing their duty.
- Article 102 • When a member of the National Assembly is accused of a crime, the law enforcement authority informs the house of which the accused is member about the case, and the accused member can be prosecuted.
- In case of an evident crime, the law enforcement authority can legally pursue and arrest the accused without the permission of the house of which the accused is a member.
 - In both cases, when legal prosecution requires detention of the accused, law enforcement authorities are obligated to inform the respective house about the case immediately.
 - If the accusation takes place when the National Assembly is in recess, the permission of arrest is obtained from the administrative board of the respective house and the decision of this board is presented to the first session of the aforementioned house for a decision.
- Article 103 • The Ministers can participate in the sessions of each one of the two houses of the National Assembly.
- Each house of the National Assembly can demand that Ministers take part in its session.
- Article 104 • Both houses of the National Assembly hold their sessions separately at the same time.
- Under the following circumstances, both houses can hold joint sessions:
 1. When the legislative session or the annual session is inaugurated by the President
 2. When it is deemed necessary by the President
 - In this case, the head of the Wolesi Jirga chairs the joint session of the National Assembly.

- Article 105 • The sessions of the National Assembly are open unless the Chairman of the assembly, or at least ten members of the National Assembly, request secrecy and the assembly accepts this request.
- No one shall enter the building of the National Assembly by force.
- Article 106 • The quorum of the sessions of each house of the National Assembly for voting is complete with the presence of the majority of the members, and its decisions are taken with the majority of the members present, unless this Constitution states otherwise.
- Article 107 • The National Assembly convenes two ordinary sessions each year.
- The term of the National Assembly in each year is nine months. When necessary, the Assembly can extend this period.
 - Extraordinary sessions of the Assembly during recess can take place by the order of the President.
- Article 108 • In cases of death, resignation and dismissal of a member of the National Assembly, and/or disability or handicap, which prevents performance of duties permanently, an election in the related constituency is held for a new representative for the rest of the legislative period, in accordance with the law.
- Matters involving the presence or absence of members of the National Assembly are regulated according to internal rules.
- Article 109 • Proposals for amendments of the Electoral Law cannot be included in the working agenda of the Assembly during the last year of the legislative period.

Chapter Six: Loya Jirga

- Article 110 • A Loya Jirga is the highest manifestation of the people of Afghanistan.
- A Loya Jirga consists of the following:
 1. Members of the National Assembly
 2. Chairpersons of the Provincial and District Councils
 - The Ministers, Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General can participate in the sessions of the Loya Jirga without the right to vote.
- Article 111 • A Loya Jirga shall be convened in the following situations:
1. To take decisions on issues related to independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the supreme interests of the country
 2. To amend the provisions of this Constitution
 3. To prosecute the President in accordance with the provisions of Article 69 of this Constitution

- Article 112 • The Loya Jirga in its first session elects from among its members a Chairperson, a Deputy Chair, a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary.
- Article 113 • The quorum of the Loya Jirga for voting is completed by the majority of members.
 - The decisions of the Loya Jirga are taken by a majority of the present members except in cases explicitly stated in this Constitution.
- Article 114 • Discussions of the Loya Jirga are open except when one-fourth of its members demand their secrecy, and the Loya Jirga accepts this demand.
- Article 115 • During the session of a Loya Jirga, the provision of Articles 101 and 102 of this Constitution are applied on its members.

Chapter Seven: The Judiciary

- Article 116 • 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. The Supreme Court shall be the highest judicial organ, heading the judicial power of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- Article 117 • The Supreme Court is composed of nine members who are appointed by the President for a period of ten years with the confirmation of the Wolesi Jirga with observance of the provisions of the final clause of Article 50 and Article 118 of this Constitution. In the beginning the appointment will be as such:
 - Three members are appointed for a period of four years, three members for seven years and three members for ten years.
 - Later appointments will be for a period of ten years.
 - The appointment of members for a second term is not permissible.
 - The President appoints one of its members as the Head of the Supreme Court.
 - Members in no way can be dismissed from their service until the end of their term, except circumstances stated in Article 127 of this Constitution.
- Article 118 • A member of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:
 1. The age of the Head of the Supreme Court and its members should not be lower than 40 at the time of appointment
 2. Should be a citizen of Afghanistan
 3. Should have higher education in law or in Islamic jurisprudence, and enough expertise and experience in the judicial system of Afghanistan

4. Should enjoy high ethics and good reputation
5. Should not have been convicted of crimes against humanity, crimes, or sentenced to deprivation of civil rights by a court
6. Should not be a member of any political party during the term of official duty

Article 119 • Members of the Supreme Court take the following oath in the presence of the President before occupying the post:

In the name Allah, the Merciful and the Compassionate: I swear in the name of God Almighty to support justice and righteousness in accordance with the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam and the provisions of this Constitution and other laws of Afghanistan, and to execute the duty of being a judge with utmost honesty, righteousness and nonpartisanship.

Article 120 • The authority of the judicial organ is to attend to all lawsuits in which real individuals or incorporated bodies including the state stand before it as plaintiff or defendant in accordance with provisions of the law.

Article 121 • The Supreme Court on the request of the government or the courts shall review laws, legislative decrees, international treaties and international covenants for their compliance with the Constitution and provide their interpretation in accordance with the law.

Article 122 • No law, under any circumstance, can transfer a case from the jurisdiction of the judicial branch to another organ as has been determined in this Constitution.

- This provision does not apply to establishing special courts stated in Articles 69, 78 and 127 of this Constitution and military courts in matters relating to them.
- The structure and authority of these courts are regulated by law.

Article 123 • With observance of the provisions of this Constitution, the rules related to the structure, authority, and performance of the courts and the duties of judges are regulated by law.

Article 124 • Other officials and administrative personnel of the judicial branch are subject to the provisions of the laws related to the officials and other administrative personnel of the state, but their appointment, dismissal, promotion, pension, rewards and punishments are regulated by the Supreme Court in accordance with the law.

Article 125 • The budget of the judicial branch is prepared by the Supreme Court in consultation with the government and presented by the government to the National Assembly as part of the state budget.

- Implementation of the budget of the judicial branch is the authority of the Supreme Court.

- Article 126 • Members of the Supreme Court enjoy official financial benefits for the rest of their lives provided they do not occupy state or political positions.
- Article 127 • When more than one-third of the members of the Wolesi Jirga demand the trial of the Chief Justice, or a member of the Supreme Court due to a crime committed during the performance of duty, and the Wolesi Jirga approves of this demand by a majority of two-thirds, the accused is dismissed from their post and the case is referred to a special court.
 - The setting up of the court and the procedures of trial are regulated by law.
- Article 128 • In the courts of Afghanistan, trials are open and everyone is entitled to attend in accordance with the law.
 - The court, in situations which are stated in the law or in situations in which the secrecy of the trial is deemed necessary, can conduct the trial behind closed doors, but the announcement of the court decision should be open in all instances.
- Article 129 • The court is obliged to state the reasons for the decisions it issues.
 - All final decisions of the courts are enforceable, except for capital punishment, which is conditional upon approval of the President.
- Article 130 • While processing cases, the courts apply the provisions of this Constitution and other laws.
 - When there is no provision in the Constitution or other laws regarding ruling on an issue, the courts' decisions shall be within the limits of this Constitution in accord with the Hanafi jurisprudence and in a way to serve justice in the best possible manner.
- Article 131 • The Courts shall apply the Shia school of law in cases dealing with personal matters involving the followers of the Shia Sect in accordance with the provisions of law.
 - In other cases, if no clarification by this Constitution or other laws exists, courts will resolve the matter according to laws of this Sect.
- Article 132 • Judges are appointed with the recommendation of the Supreme Court and approval of the President.
 - The appointment, transfer, promotion, punishment, and proposal to retire judges are within the authority of the Supreme Court in accordance with the law.
 - The Supreme Court shall establish the General Administration Office of Judicial Power for the purpose of better arrangement of the administration and judicial affairs and ensuring the required improvements.
- Article 133 • When a judge is accused of having committed a crime, the Supreme Court shall inquire about the case involving the judge in accordance with the law.

- After listening to the defence, when the Supreme Court regards the accusation to be valid, it shall present a proposal about the judge's dismissal to the President.
- After Presidential approval, the accused judge shall be dismissed from duty, and punished in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 134 • Discovery of crimes is the duty of the police and investigation and prosecution are conducted by the Office of the Attorney General in accordance with the provisions of the law.

- The Office of the Attorney General is part of the Executive branch, and is independent in its performance.
- The structure, authority and activities of the Office of the Attorney General are regulated by law.
- Discovery and investigation of crimes related to the armed forces, police, and national security officials are regulated by a special law.

Article 135 • If parties involved in a case do not know the language in which the trial is conducted, they have the right to understand the material and documents related to the case through an interpreter and the right to speak in their native language in the court.

Chapter Eight: The Administration

Article 136 • The Administration of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan shall be based on central and local administrative units in accordance with the law.

- The central administration is divided into a number of administrative units, each of which shall be headed by a Minister.
- The local administrative unit is a province.
- The number, area, parts, and structures of the provinces and the related administrations are regulated by law on the basis of population, social and economic conditions, and geographic location.

Article 137 • The government, while preserving the principle of centralism, 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 138 • In every province a Provincial Council is to be formed.

- Members of the Provincial Council are elected in proportion to the population by free, direct, secret and general elections by the residents of the province for a period of four years in accordance with the law.
- The Provincial Council elects one of its members as Chairman.

- Article 139 • The Provincial Council takes part in securing the developmental targets of the state and improving its affairs in a way stated in the law, and gives advice on important issues falling within the domain of the province.
- Provincial Councils perform their duties in cooperation with the provincial administration.
- Article 140 • In order to organise activities involving the people and provide them with the opportunity to actively participate in the local administration, Councils are established in districts and villages in accordance with the provisions of the law.
- Members of these Councils are elected by the local people through, free, general, secret and direct elections for a period of three years.
 - The participation of nomads in these councils is regulated by law.
- Article 141 • Municipalities shall be set up in order to administer city affairs.
- The Mayor and members of the Municipal Councils are elected by free, general, secret, and direct elections.
 - The affairs related to municipalities are regulated by law.
- Article 142 • For the purpose of the implementation of the provisions, and ensuring the values of this Constitution, the State shall establish the required departments.

Chapter Nine: The State of Emergency

- Article 143 • If due to war, threat of war, serious rebellion, natural disasters, or situations similar to these, protecting the nation's independence or survival becomes impossible by following the provision of this Constitution, the President in confirmation with the National Assembly shall declare a state of emergency in some or all parts of the country.
- If the state of emergency continues for more than two months, the agreement of the National Assembly is required for its extension.
- Article 144 • During the state of emergency, the President, with the consultations of heads of the National Assembly and the Supreme Court, can transfer some authorities of the National Assembly to the government.
- Article 145 • During the state of emergency, the President, with the consent of the heads of the National Assembly and the Supreme Court, can suspend the validity of the following Articles or can place restrictions on them:
1. Clause two of Article 27
 2. Article 36
 3. Clause two of Article 37
 4. Clause two of Article 38

- Article 146 • During the state of emergency, the Constitution cannot be amended.
- Article 147 • If the presidential term of office and or the legislative period expire during a state of emergency, the new elections shall be postponed, and the presidency and the legislative period shall be extended for up to four months.
- If the state of emergency continues for more than four months, a Loya Jirga shall be called by the President for further decisions.
 - Following the termination of state of emergency, elections should be held within two months.
- Article 148 • After the end of the state of emergency, the measures adopted on the basis of Articles 144 and 145 of this Constitution shall be considered invalid immediately.

Chapter Ten: Amendments

- Article 149 • The provisions of adherence to the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam and the regime of an Islamic Republic cannot be amended.
- The amendment of the fundamental rights of the people are permitted only in order to make them more effective.
 - Considering new experiences and requirements of the time, other contents of this Constitution can be amended by the proposal of the President or by the majority of members of the National Assembly in accordance with the provisions of Articles 67 and 146 of this Constitution.
- Article 150 • In order to implement proposals regarding amending the Constitution, a commission composed of members of the government, National Assembly, and the Supreme Court must be established by a presidential decree, and the commission shall prepare a draft of the amendments.
- For approval of the amendments, a Loya Jirga shall be convened by the decree of the President in accordance with the provisions of the Chapter on the Loya Jirga.
 - When the Loya Jirga approves an amendment by a majority of two-thirds of its members, it shall be enforced after endorsement by the President.

Chapter Eleven: The Miscellaneous Provisions

- Article 151 • The President, Vice Presidents, Ministers, Head and members of the Supreme Court, Attorney General, Head of the Central Bank, National Security Directorate, Governors and Mayors cannot engage in any profitable business contracts with the government during their term of office.
- Article 152 • The President, Vice Presidents, Ministers, Heads and members of the National

Assembly, Head and members of the Supreme Court, Attorney General and judges, cannot undertake other jobs during their terms of office.

- Article 153 • Judges, Attorneys, and officers of the armed forces and police, and national security officials, cannot be members of political parties during their terms of office.
- Article 154 • The wealth of the President, Vice Presidents, Ministers, members of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General before and after their term of office should be registered and monitored by an organ to be set by law.
- Article 155 • Appropriate salaries shall be paid to the Vice Presidents, Ministers, Chairs and members of the National Assembly, the Supreme Court, Attorney General and judges in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 156 • The Independent Electoral Commission shall be set up for the organisation and supervision of any election and for holding a referendum within the country based on the provisions of the law.
- Article 157 • The Independent Commission for the Supervision of the Implementation of the Constitution will be established by the provisions of the law.
 - Members of this Commission shall be appointed by the President with the confirmation of the Wolesi Jirga.

Chapter Twelve: The Transitional Provisions

- Article 158 • The title of the Father of the Nation and the privileges granted by the Emergency Loya Jirga of 1381 (2002) to His Majesty Mohammad Zahir Shah Former King of Afghanistan are preserved for him during his lifetime, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- Article 159 • The period following the adoption of this Constitution until the date of inauguration of the National Assembly is deemed as a transitional period.
 - During the transitional period, the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan shall carry out the following tasks:
 1. Issue legislative decrees related to the elections of the President, National Assembly and local councils within six months
 2. Issue decrees regarding the structure and authorities of the courts and basic administration structures within a period of less than one year
 3. Establish an Independent Election Commission
 4. Take necessary measures for reform of executive and judicial affairs

5. Adopt necessary measures for preparing the ground for enforcement of the provisions of this Constitution

Article 160 • The first elected President shall take up his/her duties after 30 days of the announcement of the elections in accordance with this Constitution.

- Every effort shall be made to hold the first presidential elections and the parliamentary elections at the same time.
- Until the establishment of the National Assembly, the powers of this assembly outlined in this Constitution will be held by the government, and the interim Supreme Court shall be established by Presidential Decree.

Article 161 • The National Assembly will exercise its powers immediately after its establishment in accordance with this Constitution.

- The government and the Supreme Court shall be established within 30 days of the first session of the Wolesi Jirga taking place.
- The President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan shall continue his duties until the elected President has taken office.
- The executive and judicial organs of the state in accordance with provisions of Clause 4 of Article 159 of this constitution shall continue their duties, until the formation of the government and the Supreme Court.
- The decrees enforced from the beginning of the interim period shall be submitted to the first session of the National Assembly.
- These decrees are enforceable until they are annulled by the National Assembly.

Article 162 • This Constitution is enforced upon its approval by the Loya Jirga, and will be signed and announced by the President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan.

- Upon the enforcement of this Constitution, laws and decrees contrary to the provisions of it are invalid.

NGO Legislation and Code of Conduct

www.ngo-dept.gov.af/

Since 2002 there have been two major initiatives to clarify what is, and what is not, a non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO), and to strengthen the accountability and transparency of NGO activities in Afghanistan. The first initiative was legislation to: determine what an NGO is and what are permissible NGO activities, to set criteria for the establishment and internal governance of NGOs, clarify reporting requirements for NGOs, enable profit-making bodies currently registered as NGOs to establish themselves as businesses, and enhance the transparency and accountability of NGOs. The second initiative was an NGO Code of Conduct, designed by the NGO community working in Afghanistan as a self-governing mechanism to ensure commitment to transparency, accountability, and professional standards from all signatories.

In consultation with NGOs and with technical assistance from the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), an initial draft for the NGO legislation was presented to the Ministry of Justice in 2003. NGOs called for the timely finalisation of the legislation at the Afghanistan Development Fora in both April 2004 and April 2005, and the NGO legislation was eventually passed in June 2005. This legislation provided a means by which nonprofit NGOs can be differentiated from the many contractors registered as NGOs (between 2001 and 2004 around 2,400 entities had registered with the government as NGOs, despite the lack of any official criteria for such a registration).

Shortly after the first NGO legislation draft was prepared for the government in July 2003, 120 NGOs participated in a workshop to discuss the content of the NGO Code of Conduct. The text of the Code was jointly drafted by the four major NGO coordination bodies in Afghanistan: the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR, p. 34), the Afghan NGOs Coordinating Bureau (ANCB, p. 30), the Southern and Western Afghanistan and Balochistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC, p. 40), and the Afghan Women's Network (AWN, p. 30). A Code of Conduct Secretariat was established under the auspices of ACBAR to coordinate and finalise the draft, which was completed in May 2004. The NGO community publicly launched the Afghanistan NGO Code of Conduct on 30 May 2005. In order to be a signatory to the Code of Conduct, NGOs are required to submit several documents to prove their NGO status, including legal registration documentation, coordination body membership, financial records, and proof of reporting to the relevant ministry. The NGO Code of Conduct has approximately 100 Afghan and international signatories.

By law, NGOs are obliged to register with the Ministry of Economy and submit details of their assets and expenditures, biannual reports, and annual financial audit reports of their implemented projects to the government. The NGO Department at the Ministry of Economy and their website (listed above) can provide more information on NGO registration and reporting requirements.

Code of Conduct for NGOs engaged in Humanitarian Action, Reconstruction, and Development in Afghanistan (2005)

Preamble

Because Afghanistan is at a unique point in its history and has the opportunity to move towards long-term stability, economic prosperity and respect for human rights;

Because NGOs are civil society actors and a strong civil society is essential to the development and functioning of a stable Afghan nation and state;

Because NGOs are committed to the development of Afghanistan and Afghan capacity;

Because the development of a new Constitution and a legislative structure for Afghanistan provide a context in which accountable and responsible behaviour can flourish and be recognised;

Because NGOs, as civil society organisations and emergency and development programme implementers, continue to make important contributions with and for the Afghan people;

Because the nature and roles of NGOs are not well understood, leading to accusations that NGOs misuse funds and are wasteful and self-serving;

Because various “for-profit” and political actors misuse the NGO umbrella to promote their commercial or political interests;

Because NGOs continue to face demands that pull them in many different directions and may threaten their capacity and their independence as civil society actors; and

Because Codes of Conduct are a mechanism by which NGOs can ensure higher standards – including greater transparency and accountability,

We, the accredited representatives of NGOs in Afghanistan, hereby voluntarily affix our signatures to this Code of Conduct and commit our organisations to upholding the Principles of Conduct in this Code.

Definitions

The Code of Conduct is a set of shared norms, principles and values that aims to enhance the conduct and reputation of NGOs.

Non-governmental organisations are voluntary, not-for-profit, non-partisan and independent organisations or associations engaged in serving the public good. NGOs may be national as well as international; secular as well as “faith-based”; and of membership and non-membership categories.

Voluntary denotes free will on the part of the NGO as well as community partners.

Not-for-profit means that an NGO cannot distribute its assets, earnings or profits as such to any person. However, there may be paid employees or activities generating revenue which will be used solely for the stated purposes of the organisation.

Non-partisan and independent indicates that the NGO is controlled and directed by its governing body, in keeping with its mandate and not by any other power or group.

Signatories are NGOs whose duly accredited representative has signed and accepted this Code of Conduct.

We refers to all signatories to the Code of Conduct.

Civil society includes all formal and informal groups and associations that are not of the public and business sectors. NGOs are a part of civil society.

Gender equality means that the different behaviour, aspirations, needs and rights of women and men are considered, valued and favoured equally. It does not mean that women and men have to become the same, but that their rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female.

Gender equity means fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs. This may include equal treatment or treatment that is different but which is considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities.

Capacity building is the process by which individuals, groups, organisations, institutions and societies increase their abilities to:

- 1 perform core functions, solve problems, define and achieve objectives; and
- 2 understand and deal with their development needs in a broad context and in a sustainable manner.

Humanitarian action includes those activities taken to prevent and alleviate human suffering arising out of conflict, crisis and calamity, including any situation involving:

- 1 damage to or loss of lives of non-combatants in a conflict situation; or
- 2 patterns of (gross) human rights or humanitarian law violations against civilians in conflict and/or ongoing political crisis.

NGO Mission Statement

Our general mission as NGOs operating in Afghanistan is to address humanitarian, reconstruction and sustainable development needs in Afghanistan, with a special focus on the rights of those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable. We work in partnership with each other, the government, donors and communities.

Purpose of the Code

The Code of Conduct will promote:

- improved understanding of NGOs, their purposes and their accomplishments among the general public, government, donors and the media;
- transparency, accountability and good management practices in the operation of NGOs by voluntary self-regulation; and
- improved quality of services provided by NGOs by raising standards of conduct.

Principles of Conduct

1 Our organisations are people-centered

- 1.1 Focus on the people we serve: Our primary loyalty, accountability and responsibility is to the people we serve. Our programmes are designed and developed in response to the needs of the people.
- 1.2 Self-reliance and ownership: We seek to help people and communities to solve their own problems. We encourage and enable the development of self-reliance and advance the right of people to fully participate in decisions that affect their lives.
- 1.3 Human rights: We endeavour to respect, protect and promote the fulfilment of the human rights and obligations of all Afghans in accordance with international law.
- 1.4 Trust: We work to build the trust of the communities with which we work.
- 1.5 Participation and non-discrimination: We involve men, women, youth and children of our target communities to the greatest possible extent, engaging them in the conception, implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes. We strive to ensure the participation of marginalised groups in communities where we work.
- 1.6 Respect for local values: We respect the dignity and identity of the individual, and acknowledge indigenous knowledge, culture, religious faith and values. This does not mean that we support practices that undermine the human rights of any individual or group.

2 Our organisations are committed to sustainable positive impact

- 2.1 Effectiveness: We are committed to effectiveness and to maximising the positive impact of our programmes. We avoid duplication of services.
- 2.2 Sustainability: Whenever possible, our programmes seek durable solutions that are cost effective, that build Afghan ownership and capacity, and that are driven by the long-term development goals of communities.
- 2.3 Environmental impact: We exercise a responsible and responsive approach to the care of the physical, natural environment and to the proper management of Afghanistan's ecosystems in all our activities.
- 2.4 Monitoring and evaluation: We monitor and evaluate the impact of our programmes and share findings with relevant stakeholders, including the communities we serve, donors, government and the general public.

3 Our organisations are committed to transparency and accountability

- 3.1 We are transparent and accountable in our dealings with the government and community partners, the public, donors and other interested parties.
- 3.2 Accountability: We develop and maintain sound financial policies, audits, and systems in order to manage our accounts. We conform to the constitution, laws, rules and regulations of the government of Afghanistan and where necessary, lobby for policy change. We are truthful and honest in all matters related to raising, using and accounting for funds. We maintain sound financial, accounting, procurement, transport and administrative systems that ensure the use of resources in accordance with intended purposes.
- 3.3 Transparency: We disseminate information on our goals and activities to interested stakeholders. We maintain and make available financial and activity reports upon request by relevant and interested parties. We use all available opportunities to inform the public about our work and about the origin and the use of our resources.

4 Our organisations are committed to good internal governance

- 4.1 Governing documentation: We have written constitutions or memorandums of association that clearly define our missions, our objectives and our organisational structures.
- 4.2 Equal opportunity: We develop and apply written policies, rules and procedures that affirm our commitment to equal opportunities in our employment practices and in the promotion of staff.
- 4.3 Employment practices: We apply hiring and termination practices that respect the freedom of choice of individuals and the human resource needs of other stakeholders. We offer positions based on merit, pay appropriate salaries, allocate job responsibilities

according to individual capacities, and demand adequate notice from employees and provide adequate notice for terminations without cause.

- 4.4 No conflicts of interest: All our organisational transactions are free of conflicts of personal and professional interest. The services of board members shall be given freely and voluntarily, other than reimbursements for essential costs incurred during service.

5 Our organisations are committed to honesty, integrity and cost effectiveness

- 5.1 Honesty: We are truthful in all our professional activities.
- 5.2 Integrity: We refrain from internal and external practices that undermine the ethical integrity of our organisations. We do not engage in theft, corrupt practices, nepotism, bribery or trade in illicit substances. We accept funds and donations only from sources whose aims are consistent with our mission, objectives and capacity, and which do not undermine our independence and identity.
- 5.3 Cost effectiveness: We utilise the resources available to our organisations in order to pursue our missions and strategic objectives in cost-effective ways. We strive to minimise waste and unnecessary expense, and to direct all possible resources to the people we serve.

6 Our organisations are committed to diversity, fairness, non-discrimination against marginalised groups and to affirmative action

- 6.1 Diversity: We seek to have a workforce that appropriately reflects the gender, ethnic, geographic and religious diversity of Afghanistan and of the areas where we work.
- 6.2 Equity: We seek to advance greater balance and to promote equity in all internal relations as well as equitable access to opportunities within our organisations. We seek to include the underserved, the vulnerable, the disabled and other marginalised groups in all our initiatives.
- 6.3 Gender equity: We consider and value equally the different behaviour, aspirations, needs and rights of women and men. This may include equal treatment or treatment that is different but which is considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities. Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities do not depend on whether they are born male or female.
- 6.4 Non-discrimination against marginalised groups: Our human resource policies and practices promote non-discriminatory recruitment, hiring, training and working practices, and relationships.
- 6.5 Affirmative action: We strive to increase the representation of under-represented groups in senior decision-making positions at headquarters, in the field, in boards and in advisory

groups. We seek to include the underserved, the vulnerable, the marginalised and the disabled in all our initiatives. We endeavour to strengthen the position of Afghan women both within and outside our organisations.

7 Our organisations are committed to building Afghan capacity

- 7.1 Capacity building: We take every appropriate opportunity to help build Afghan capacity to understand needs, establish priorities and take effective action so that ultimately humanitarian, development and reconstruction needs are met by Afghans.
- 7.2 Consultation: We design and implement projects in consultation with local communities and the government because we are committed to the long-term sustainable development of Afghanistan.
- 7.3 Sustainability: We design and facilitate projects so that services may be taken over by target communities or by government bodies to enhance sustainability.
- 7.4 Human resources: In line with our policy of commitment to capacity building, we give priority to Afghan nationals in our recruitment, hiring and training practices.
- 7.5 Physical and technical resources: We maximise the utilisation of locally available physical and technical resources, where appropriate.
- 7.6 Appropriate technologies: We promote the use of appropriate technologies that can be owned and maintained by communities.

8 Our organisations are committed to independence

- 8.1 Independence: We formulate our own policies, programs, and implementation strategies. We do not allow ourselves to be used to implement programs or gather information of a political, military or economically sensitive nature for governments or other bodies that may serve purposes other than those directly consistent with our humanitarian or development missions.
- 8.2 Autonomy: We strive to maintain our autonomy according to Afghan and international law, and to resist the imposition of conditionalities that may compromise our missions and principles.

9 In humanitarian emergency contexts, we adhere to the following additional principles:

- 9.1 Impartiality: We provide aid on the basis of need alone. We provide support regardless of the race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or nationality and political affiliation of the recipients. We do not tie the promise, delivery or distribution of humanitarian assistance to the embracing or acceptance of a particular political or religious creed.

- 9.2 Neutrality: We do not promote partisan national or international political agendas. We do not choose sides between parties to a conflict.
- 9.3 Application of SPHERE: We are knowledgeable about the SPHERE Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, and seek to apply these standards and the SPHERE indicators in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of our humanitarian projects and programs.

Code Observance

The Code Observance Committee

- The Code Observance Committee (hereafter called “the Committee”) shall be the body ultimately responsible for promoting observance of the code.

Composition of the Committee

- The Committee shall have seven members.
- The Agency Coordination Body For Afghan Relief (“ACBAR”), the Afghan NGOs’ Coordinating Bureau (ANCB), and the South-West Afghanistan and Balochistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC) will each nominate two representatives to the Committee.
- The Afghan Women’s Network (AWN) will nominate one member to the committee.
- The term of office of members of the Committee shall be one year.
- A member can only serve for three consecutive terms.
- The Committee shall select a Chair and a Secretary from among its members.

Functions of the Committee

- The Committee shall act as guardian of the Code of Conduct.
- The Committee shall ensure understanding, trust and co-operation between the Public, the Government, the donors, the NGO sector itself and community partners.
- The Committee shall meet twice a year to consider:
 - Petitions by NGOs to become Code signatories. The Committee will permit NGOs to sign the Code only upon such NGOs furnishing the appropriate documentation as listed in Clause 14 below.
 - Petitions or complaints related to the nonobservance of the Code by an NGO. The petition may be received from government, a donor, a community partner, the public or another NGO.

- The Committee shall nominate a Secretary who will manage the administrative responsibilities of the Committee. Among other things, the Committee Secretary shall:
- Receive all requests from NGOs to become Code signatories.
- Maintain files of public documents of signatories, and make those files available to key stakeholders upon request.
- Request a signatory to provide a written report when implicated in alleged breach of Principles of Conduct.
- Ensure that a signatory receives a copy of the complaint registered against it by the person or group of persons who lodged the complaint.
- The Committee shall be engaged in awareness raising about the Code of Conduct enshrined herein involving Signatories.

Becoming a Signatory to the Code of Conduct

To become a signatory to the Code of Conduct an NGO must submit to the Secretary in writing:

- **Legal registration:** A copy of the NGO's legal registration with the Government of Afghanistan;
- **Operational experience:** A signed statement on official stationery affirming that the NGO has been operational for at least one year;
- **Coordination Body Membership:** A letter affirming the NGO's current membership in one or more of the following coordination bodies: ACBAR, ANCB, or SWABAC;
- **Governance Documentation:** A copy of the NGO's written constitution or memorandum of association that clearly define the NGO's mission, objectives and organisational structure.
- **Financial Documentation:** A copy of an audited financial report for its most recent fiscal year; and
- **Operational Documentation:** A copy of its annual report for its most recent year of operations. For international NGOs, a copy of the global annual report will suffice.
- **Completed Survey of Accomplishments:** A completed survey of accomplishments allowing the Secretariat to monitor and communicate the combined accomplishments of NGOs.
- **Mandatory Government Reports:** Copies of semi-annual reports required by the Ministry of Planning.

Complaints

Any one person or group of persons may file a complaint or petition (supported by evidence) with the Secretary of the Committee. A written complaint shall include the following:

- The name and address of the complainant;
- The name and address of the NGO or official against whom the petition is lodged;
- The circumstances in which the breach or violation of the Code is alleged to have been committed; and
- Where possible, a reference to the Standard of Conduct that was allegedly breached.

The Secretary shall open a file after receiving a fully documented complaint and shall immediately share a copy of the complaint with all members of the Observance Committee.

Jurisdiction of the Committee

The Committee shall hear and decide on all instances involving the violation or breach of the Code of Conduct by any signatory or any other acting for and/or on behalf of a signatory.

When a complaint is made under Clause 16 hereof, the Committee may either dismiss the case where no breach of the Code is established or notify the signatory or official against whom the complaint is made.

In an instance of a significant breach or violation of the Standards of Conduct, the Committee shall:

- Call a meeting of the accused signatory and/or official of the agency and the person or group of persons who lodged the complaint in order to discuss the case. This can take place either at the regularly scheduled semi-annual meeting of the Committee, or in the case of a grievous violation of the code, an extraordinary meeting can be held.
- Request any signatory and/or official to provide evidence on the case under consideration.

When the Committee finds that the signatory or its employee has violated the Code, it shall take one or more of the following measures:

- Provide the necessary education for compliance;
- Call on another signatory to assist in the education process;

- Advise the signatory in violation to take corrective measures against the NGO official or employee who is directly responsible for the breach of the Code;
- Admonish the signatory;
- Suspend or cancel the signature of the NGO to the code.

The Unseating of a Committee Member

A Committee member shall not take part in any deliberation or decision making process where he or she has an interest in the case presented to the Committee.

Scope of Application

The Principles of Conduct shall apply to all NGO signatories to this Code of Conduct working in Afghanistan.

The Principles of Conduct shall apply to all officials and employees who act for and/or on behalf of NGOs which have agreed to abide by this Code.

Compliance to the Code

All signatories and all individuals or groups who act for and/or on behalf of the signatories shall observe, respect and uphold the standards of this Code.

To that end, every signatory shall ensure that all its officials and employees are adequately acquainted with the standards of the Code and work by them.

Revision of Code

Revision of the Code will require the approval of two-thirds of the representatives of the signatory organisations.

The Committee may from time to time review and recommend changes to the Code to the Coordination bodies.

Annex: Historical Context

Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, national and international NGOs have played a crucial role in providing assistance to people in rural and urban communities throughout the country and to people in refugee camps in Pakistan.

1979-88: Immediately following the Soviet invasion, NGOs began programs to address the food, shelter and health care needs of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. In the early 1980s NGOs initiated cross-border programs into Afghanistan to address the basic health and livelihood needs of those Afghans in areas not under Soviet control. Cross-border programs working inside Afghanistan included education by 1984 and agricultural and infrastructure projects commenced in 1986. Throughout this period, “cash-for-food” projects sought to give Afghans in resistance-held areas the resources they needed to remain inside Afghanistan. During the 1980s many NGOs were also engaged in advocacy efforts to raise awareness in Western capitals about the plight of Afghans as both victims of military aggression and refugees.

1988-95: By the late 1980s, NGOs had begun to implement development activities—using development principles in a context of “chronic emergency” and political and security instability—in addition to providing emergency assistance. The changed political context and increase in resources for Afghanistan in the late 1980s led to a number of developments in the NGO sector. The number of Afghan NGOs grew rapidly, support for Afghan capacity building increased, and several NGO coordination bodies were formed, which focused on strengthening the accountability, standards, and professionalism of the NGO community and on coordinating to increase impact and reduce duplication of activities. During this period, many Afghan NGOs, and thousands of Afghans, built their professional skills in NGO-led training institutions with support from international NGOs.

1996-2001: In the Taliban period, from 1996 to 2001, despite political restrictions, improved security in many parts of the country enabled agencies to work directly with local communities in remote rural areas. NGOs continued to coordinate closely with UN and donor agencies in establishing programming priorities and setting out agreed principles for the promotion of coherent and well-focused assistance to Afghans. The efforts of around twenty, mostly NGO organisations, to develop an improved set of learning standards for Afghan children, typified the cooperative approach during this period.

The severe drought from 1997-2001 exacerbated humanitarian need for many rural communities and forced new waves of displacement into urban areas, internal camps and refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran. While NGOs expanded their emergency activities to help these populations, they also continued their development programs.

Late 2001-present: Following the events of September 11 2001, the working environment for NGOs in Afghanistan changed dramatically. In 2002, the return to Afghanistan of large numbers of refugees from neighboring countries required new emergency shelter and feeding programs. Following the fall of the Taliban, NGOs have, in coordination with the transitional Afghan authorities, increasingly sought to balance their emergency response work with longer-term reconstruction and development initiatives. The advent of an internationally recognised Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan has provided NGOs the opportunity to rearticulate the role of humanitarian actors, not as service contractors, but rather as mission-driven civil society organisations.

January 2013 - Jadi/Dawlo 1391

Sunday Yakshambe	Monday Dushambe	Tuesday Seshambe	Wednesday Charshambe	Thursday Panjshambe	Friday Jumma	Saturday Shambe
		1 12	2 13	3 14	4 15	5 16
6 17	7 18	8 19	9 20	10 21	11 22	12 23
13 24	14 25	15 26	16 27	17 28	18 29	19 30
20 1	21 2	22 3	23 4	24 5	25 6	26 7
27 8	28 9	29 10	30 11	31 12		

February 2013 - Dawlo/Hut 1391

Sunday Yakshambe	Monday Dushambe	Tuesday Seshambe	Wednesday Charshambe	Thursday Panjshambe	Friday Jumma	Saturday Shambe
					1 13	2 14
3 15	4 16	5 17	6 18	7 19	8 20	9 21
10 22	11 23	12 24	13 25	14 26	15 27	16 28
17 29	18 30	19 1	20 2	21 3	22 4	23 5
24 6	25 7	26 8	27 9	28 10		

March 2013 - Hut 1391/Hamal 1392

Sunday Yakshambe	Monday Dushambe	Tuesday Seshambe	Wednesday Charshambe	Thursday Panjshambe	Friday Jumma	Saturday Shambe
31 11					1 11	2 12
3 13	4 14	5 15	6 16	7 17	8 18	9 19
10 20	11 21	12 22	13 23	14 24	15 25	16 26
17 27	18 28	19 29	20 30	21 1	22 2	23 3
24 4	25 5	26 6	27 7	28 8	29 9	30 10

April 2013 - Hamal/Saur 1392

Sunday Yakshambe	Monday Dushambe	Tuesday Seshambe	Wednesday Charshambe	Thursday Panjshambe	Friday Jumma	Saturday Shambe
	1 12	2 13	3 14	4 15	5 16	6 17
7 18	8 19	9 20	10 21	11 22	12 23	13 24
14 25	15 26	16 27	17 28	18 29	19 30	20 31
21 1	22 2	23 3	24 4	25 5	26 6	27 7
28 8	29 9	30 10				

24.01.2013: Prophet Muhammad's Birthday. 14.02.2013: Expulsion of Former Soviet Union from Afghanistan.

21.03.2013: New Solar Year and Farmers Day. 28.04.2013: Celebration of the Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan.

May 2013 - Saur/Jawza 1392

Sunday Yakshambe	Monday Dushambe	Tuesday Seshambe	Wednesday Charshambe	Thursday Panjshambe	Friday Jumma	Saturday Shambe
			1 11	2 12	3 13	4 14
5 15	6 16	7 17	8 18	9 19	10 20	11 21
12 22	13 23	14 24	15 25	16 26	17 27	18 28
19 29	20 30	21 31	22 1	23 2	24 3	25 4
26 5	27 6	28 7	29 8	30 9	31 10	

June 2013 - Jawza/Saratan 1392

Sunday Yakshambe	Monday Dushambe	Tuesday Seshambe	Wednesday Charshambe	Thursday Panjshambe	Friday Jumma	Saturday Shambe
30 9						1 11
2 12	3 13	4 14	5 15	6 16	7 17	8 18
9 19	10 20	11 21	12 22	13 23	14 24	15 25
16 26	17 27	18 28	19 29	20 30	21 31	22 1
23 2	24 3	25 4	26 5	27 6	28 7	29 8

July 2013 - Saratan/Asad 1392

Sunday Yakshambe	Monday Dushambe	Tuesday Seshambe	Wednesday Charshambe	Thursday Panjshambe	Friday Jumma	Saturday Shambe
	1 10	2 11	3 12	4 13	5 14	6 15
7 16	8 17	9 18	10 19	11 20	12 21	13 22
14 23	15 24	16 25	17 26	18 27	19 28	20 29
21 30	22 31	23 1	24 2	25 3	26 4	27 5
28 6	29 7	30 8	31 9			

August 2013 - Asad/Sonbola 1392

Sunday Yakshambe	Monday Dushambe	Tuesday Seshambe	Wednesday Charshambe	Thursday Panjshambe	Friday Jumma	Saturday Shambe
				1 10	2 11	3 12
4 13	5 14	6 15	7 16	8 17	9 18	10 19
11 20	12 21	13 22	14 23	15 24	16 25	17 26
18 27	19 28	20 29	21 30	22 31	23 1	24 2
25 3	26 4	27 5	28 6	29 7	30 8	31 9

09.07.2013: 1st Day of Ramadan. 08-10.08.2013: Eid-ul-Fitr.

September 2013 - Sonbola/Mizan 1392

Sunday Yakshambe		Monday Dushambe		Tuesday Seshambe		Wednesday Charshambe		Thursday Panjshambe		Friday Jumma		Saturday Shambe	
1	10	2	11	3	12	4	13	5	14	6	15	7	16
8	17	9	18	10	19	11	20	12	21	13	22	14	23
15	24	16	25	17	26	18	27	19	28	20	29	21	30
22	31	23	1	24	2	25	3	26	4	27	5	28	6
29	7	30	8										

October 2013 - Mizan/Aqrab 1392

Sunday Yakshambe		Monday Dushambe		Tuesday Seshambe		Wednesday Charshambe		Thursday Panjshambe		Friday Jumma		Saturday Shambe	
				1	9	2	10	3	11	4	12	5	13
6	14	7	15	8	16	9	17	10	18	11	19	12	20
13	21	14	22	15	23	16	24	17	25	18	26	19	27
20	28	21	29	22	30	23	1	24	2	25	3	26	4
27	5	28	6	29	7	30	8	31	9				

November 2013 - Aqrab/Qaws 1392

Sunday Yakshambe		Monday Dushambe		Tuesday Seshambe		Wednesday Charshambe		Thursday Panjshambe		Friday Jumma		Saturday Shambe	
										1	10	2	11
3	12	4	13	5	14	6	15	7	16	8	17	9	18
10	19	11	20	12	21	13	22	14	23	15	24	16	25
17	26	18	27	19	28	20	29	21	30	22	1	23	2
24	3	25	4	26	5	27	6	28	7	29	8	30	9

December 2013 - Qaws/Jadi 1392

Sunday Yakshambe		Monday Dushambe		Tuesday Seshambe		Wednesday Charshambe		Thursday Panjshambe		Friday Jumma		Saturday Shambe	
1	10	2	11	3	12	4	13	5	14	6	15	7	16
8	17	9	18	10	19	11	20	12	21	13	22	14	23
15	24	16	25	17	26	18	27	19	28	20	29	21	30
22	1	23	2	24	3	25	4	26	5	27	6	28	7
29	8	30	9	31	10								

09.09.2013: Ahmad Shah Massoud Day. 14.10.2013: Arafat. 15-17.10.2013: Eid-ul-Adha.
14.11.2013: Tenth of Moharam, Ashora.

Maps

The maps for the *A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance* are provided by the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO, p. 3). These maps are only available in the hardcopy version of the Guide. They remain the property of AGCHO, which holds all copyright to these images.

Map 1: Afghanistan's Administrative Divisions

Map 2: Afghanistan Physical Map

Map 3: Kabul City

Map 4: Herat City

Map 5: Jalalabad

Map 6: Kandahar City

Map 7: Mazar-i-Sharif

Provincial Profiles: Contents

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About this section

This section aims to provide a brief overview of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, by presenting a range of information: geographical location, population, rural population, areal size, number of districts, and seat allocation in both the Wolesi Jirga and the Provincial Council. Details on the Meshrano Jirga, the Upper House, is omitted as one-third of the 34 candidates 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 SY1381-1384 (2003-2005) Household Listing (HL) and the 1979 census with an annual population growth rate of 1.92 percent. The Constitution reserves an average of two seats per province for female candidates, and a total of ten Wolesi Jirga seats for Kuchis, of which three are reserved for female candidates.

The comparative table provides that a snapshot of the development performance of each province and benchmarks it to that of other provinces, as well as the nation as a whole. The provincial profiles are arranged according to unofficial "regions" of the country, presented alphabetically by province name. The figures given in brackets are the seats reserved for female candidates. Two figures for number of districts indicate temporary divisions or disputes.

Glossary of Provincial Development Indicators:

- Poverty rate (%): Percentage of population living below the official poverty line.
- Unemployment rate (%): Economically active population (labour force) that is without work and seeking employment.
- Underemployment rate (%): Employed individual who work for less than 35 hours per week.
- Literacy rate (%): Percentage of population (age 16 years and older).
- Female literacy rate (%): Percentage of female population (age 16 and older).

National Profile:

Area: 647, 500

Population: 25, 500 100

Rural Population: 76%

No. Districts: 364 (A total of 398 administrative units including 34 provincial centres)

Wolesi Jirga seats: 249 (68) Reserved for Kuchi 10 (3)

Provincial Council seats: 420 (124)

Acknowledgements:

Statistics are provided by the Central Statistics Organization based on their annual Afghanistan Population Estimation for SY1391 (2012/2013). This estimation is done on the basis of the data obtained from the SY1381-1384 (2003-2005) Household Listing (HL). The population estimate covers the settled population of the country. Afghanistan's total population in SY1391 is estimated to be about 27 million, of which the settled population (excluding nomads) is estimated at 25.5 million. 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 2007/2008.

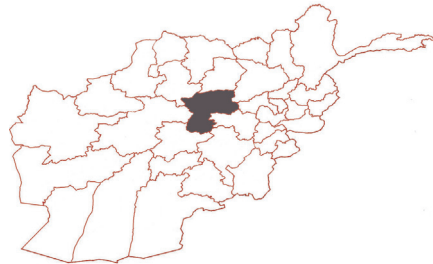
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Province	Population (million) (2012)	Rural population (%) (2012)	Poverty rate (%) (2007/08)	Unemploy- ment rate (%) (2007/08)	Underem- ployment rate (%) (2007/08)	Literacy rate (%) (2007/08)	Female literacy rate (%) 2007/08
Afghanistan	25.5	76	35.8	7.9	48.2	25	11.4
Badakshan	0.9	96	61	12	56.2	26.5	11.9
Badghis	0.5	97	41.7	1.1	71.4	8.2	2.4
Baghlan	0.9	80	18	5.9	48	24.2	9.9
Balkh	1.2	64	60.3	8.2	29.1	26.8	16.8
Bamyan	0.4	97	55.7	7.8	48.1	20.2	6.1
Daykundi	0.4	99	43.4	9.1	50.3	17.6	8.4
Farah	0.5	93	12.2	3.5	63.2	15.3	5.1
Faryab	0.9	88	29.1	10.6	51	18.2	8.8
Ghazni	1.2	95	19	6.2	82.7	30.8	8.8
Ghor	0.7	99	44.2	0.5	14.8	25.2	6
Helmand	0.9	94	8.9	3.8	82.4	12	1.4
Herat	1.8	72	38.7	9.9	51.6	25.1	16.4
Jawzjan	0.5	79	14.5	17	11.4	15.9	8.5
Kabul	3.9	21	23.1	10.7	18.9	46.8	30.2
Kandahar	1.2	65	22.8	4.4	22.4	7.3	1.3
Kapisa	0.4	99	21.5	13.4	53	30.8	11.1
Khost	0.5	98	47.9	8.6	47.7	15.3	1.1
Kunar	0.4	97	62	4.9	49.4	19.8	2.7
Kunduz	1.0	75	29.7	8.3	63.3	19.7	9.2
Laghman	0.4	99	66.8	2.2	78.7	25.6	7.3
Logar	0.4	98	75	8.5	64.3	30.3	3.1
Nagarhar	1.4	85	33	1.6	54.9	22.8	6.9
Nimroz	0.2	84	24.5	10.5	54.4	16.7	9.6
Nooristan	0.1	100	49.8	5.1	55.3	14.1	2.8
Paktika	0.4	99	76.1	4	60.7	27	4.3
Paktya	0.5	96	60.6	8	49.6	11.5	1.2
Panjsher	0.1	100	22.6	14.3	50.4	27.5	8.5
Parwan	0.6	91	18.9	7.1	37.3	27	10.1
Samangan	0.4	92	55.1	18.5	60.8	23	8.8
Sari-i-Pul	0.5	92	24.7	18.1	11.6	8.9	2.9
Takhar	0.9	87	36.6	13.4	63.5	16.7	6.8
Uruzgan	0.3	97	40.8	0.7	23.9	9	1.2
Wardak	0.6	99	59.9	8.5	70.9	31.5	1.2
Zabul	0.3	96	37.4	3	58.5	18.6	1.2

Central Afghanistan

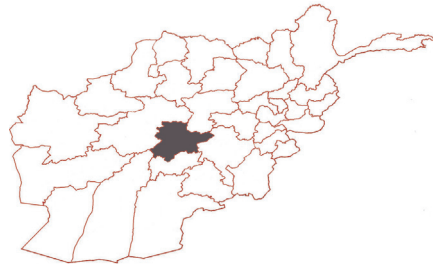
Bamyan – Bamyan

Governor: Habiba Sarabi
Area: 18, 000 sq km
Population: 425, 500
Rural population: 97%
No. Districts: 7
Wolesi Jirga seats: 4 (1)
Provincial Council seats: 9 (3)



Daykundi – Nili

Governor: Qurban Ali Oruzgani
Area: 17, 000 sq km
Population: 438, 500
Rural population: 99%
No. Districts: 9
Wolesi Jirga seats: 4 (1)
Provincial Council seats: 9 (3)



Kabul – Kabul

Governor: Abdul Jubar Taqwar
Area: 4, 000 sq km
Population: 3, 950, 300
Rural population: 21%
No. Districts: 15
Wolesi Jirga seats: 33 (9)
Provincial Council seat: 29 (8)



Kapisa – Mahmood Raqi

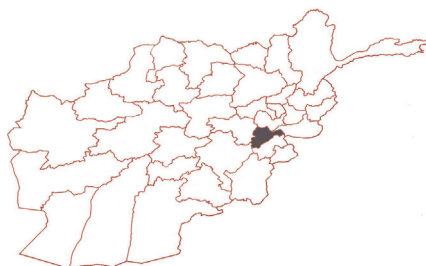
Governor: Mehrabuddin Safi
Area: 2, 000 sq km
Population: 419, 800
Rural population: 99%
No. Districts: 7
Wolesi Jirga seats: 4 (1)
Provincial Council seats: 9 (3)



Central Afghanistan

Logar – Pul-i-Alam

Governor: Mohammad Iqbal Azizi
 Area: 5, 000 sq km
 Population: 373, 100
 Rural population: 98%
 No. Districts: 7
 Wolesi Jirga seats: 4 (1)
 Provincial Council seats: 9 (3)



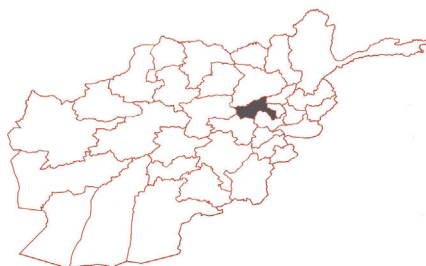
Panjsher – Bazarak

Governor: Keramuddin Keram
 Area: 4, 000 sq km
 Population: 146, 100
 Rural population: 100%
 No. Districts: 7/8
 Wolesi Jirga seats: 2 (1)
 Provincial Council seats: 9 (3)



Parwan – Charikar

Governor: Abdul Basir Salangi
 Area: 6, 000 sq km
 Population: 631, 600
 Rural population: 91%
 No. Districts: 10
 Wolesi Jirga seats: 6 (2)
 Provincial Council seat: 15 (4)



Wardak – Maidan Shahr

Governor: Wakil Majeed Khan
 Area: 10, 000 sq km
 Population: 567, 600
 Rural population: 99%
 No. Districts: 9
 Wolesi Jirga seats: 5 (2)
 Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



Northeast Afghanistan

Badakhshan – Faiz Abad

Governor: Shah Waliullah Adeb
Area: 44, 000 sq km
Population: 904, 700
Rural population: 96%
No. Districts: 28
Wolesi Jirga seats: 9 (2)
Provincial Council seat: 15 (4)



Baghlan – Pul-i-Khumri

Governor: Sultan Mohammad Ebadi
Area: 18, 000 sq km
Population: 863, 700
Rural population: 80%
No. Districts: 15
Wolesi Jirga seats: 8 (2)
Provincial Council seat: 15 (4)



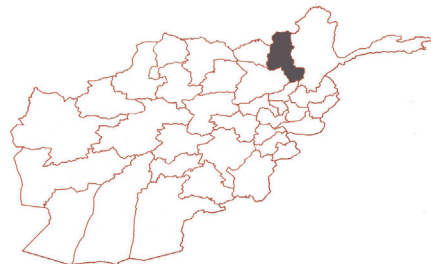
Kunduz – Kunduz

Governor: Mohammad Anwar Jegdalek
Area: 8, 000 sq km
Population: 953, 800
Rural population: 75%
No. Districts: 7
Wolesi Jirga seats: 9 (2)
Provincial Council seat: 15 (4)



Takhar – Taluqan

Governor: Ahmed Faisal Bigzad
Area: 12, 000 sq km
Population: 933, 700
Rural population: 87%
No. Districts: 17
Wolesi Jirga seats: 9 (2)
Provincial Council seat: 15 (4)



East Afghanistan

Kunar – Asad Abad

Governor: Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi
 Area: 5, 000 sq km
 Population: 428, 800
 Rural population: 97%
 No. Districts: 15
 Wolesi Jirga seats: 4 (1)
 Provincial Council seats: 9 (3)



Laghman – Mehterlam

Governor: Mujadidi
 Area: 4, 000 sq km
 Population: 424, 100
 Rural population: 99%
 No. Districts: 5/6
 Wolesi Jirga seats: 4 (1)
 Provincial Council seats: 9 (3)



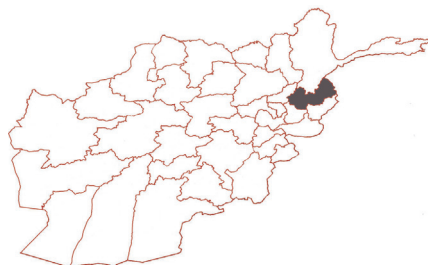
Nangarhar – Jalalabad

Governor: Gul Agha Sherzai
 Area: 8, 000 sq km
 Population: 1, 436, 000
 Rural population: 85%
 No. Districts: 22
 Wolesi Jirga seats: 14 (4)
 Provincial Council seat: 19 (5)



Nooristan – Paroon

Governor: Naim Nooristani
 Area: 9, 000 sq km
 Population: 140, 900
 Rural population: 100%
 No. Districts: 8
 Wolesi Jirga seats: 2 (1)
 Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



North Afghanistan

Balkh – Mazar-i-Sharif

Governor: Atta Mohammad Nur

Area: 16, 000 sq km

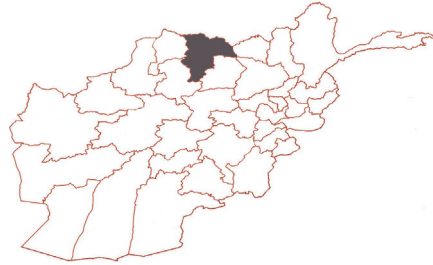
Population: 1, 245, 100

Rural population: 64%

No. Districts: 15

Wolesi Jirga seats: 11 (3)

Provincial Council seat: 19 (5)



Faryab – Maymana

Governor: Mohammadullah Batash

Area: 21, 000 sq km

Population: 948, 000

Rural population: 88%

No. Districts: 14

Wolesi Jirga seats: 9 (3)

Provincial Council seat: 15 (4)



Jawzjan – Sheberghan

Governor: Mohammad Alem Sahi

Area: 11, 000 sq km

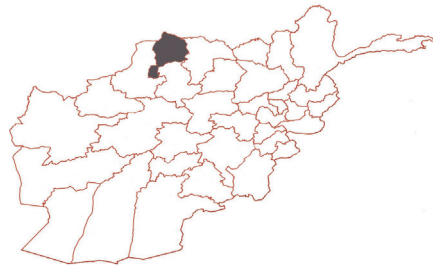
Population: 512, 100

Rural population: 79%

No. Districts: 11

Wolesi Jirga seats: 5 (1)

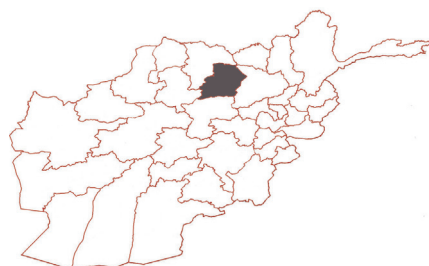
Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



North Afghanistan

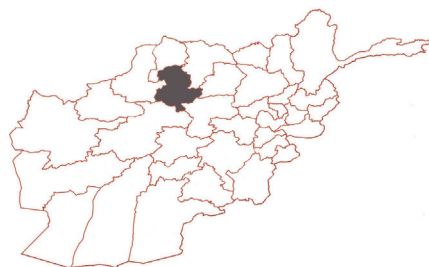
Samangan – Aybak

Governor: Khairullah Anosh
Area: 13, 000 sq km
Population: 368, 800
Rural population: 92%
No. Districts: 7
Wolesi Jirga seats: 4 (1)
Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



Sar-i-Pul – Sar-i-Pul

Governor: Abdul Jabar Haqbeen
Area: 16, 000 sq km
Population: 532, 000
Rural population: 92%
No. Districts: 7
Wolesi Jirga seats: 5 (1)
Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



South Afghanistan

Helmand – Lashkar Gah

Governor: Naeem Khan Baloch

Area: 57, 000 sq km

Population: 879, 500

Rural population: 94%

No. Districts: 13/14

Wolesi Jirga seats: 8 (2)

Provincial Council seat: 15 (4)



Kandahar – Kandahar

Governor: Tooryalai Wesa

Area: 54, 000 sq km

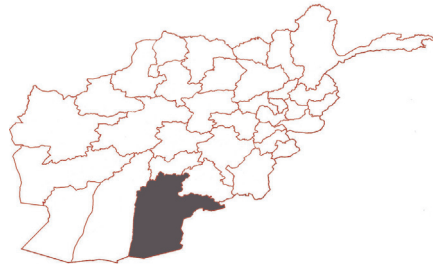
Population: 1, 151, 100

Rural population: 65%

No. Districts: 16/18

Wolesi Jirga seats: 11 (3)

Provincial Council seat: 15 (4)



Nimroz – Zaranj

Governor: Mohammad Sarwar Subat

Area: 42, 000 sq km

Population: 156, 600

Rural population: 84%

No. Districts: 5/6

Wolesi Jirga seats: 2 (1)

Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



South Afghanistan

Uruzgan – Tirinkot

Governor: Amir Mohammad Akhundzada

Area: 11, 000 sq km

Population: 333, 500

Rural population: 97%

No. Districts: 5/6

Wolesi Jirga seats: 3 (1)

Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



Zabul – Qalat

Governor: Mohammad Ashraf Naseri

Area: 17, 000 sq km

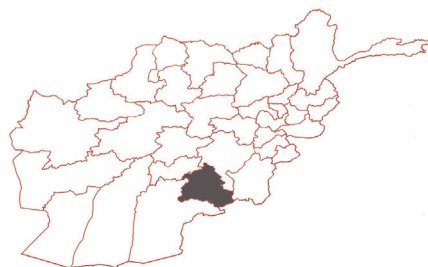
Population: 289, 300

Rural population: 96%

No. Districts: 11

Wolesi Jirga seats: 3 (1)

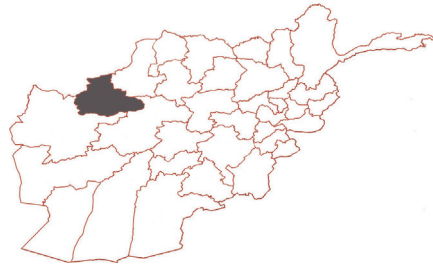
Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



Southwest Afghanistan

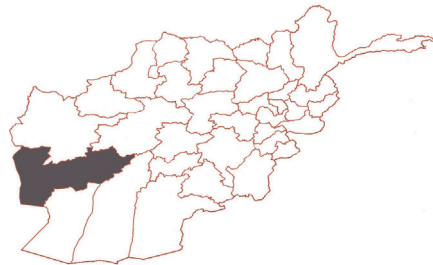
Badghis – Qala-i-Naw

Governor: Dilbar Jan Arman Shinwari
Area: 20, 000 sq km
Population: 471, 900
Rural population: 97%
No. Districts: 7
Wolesi Jirga seats: 4 (1)
Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



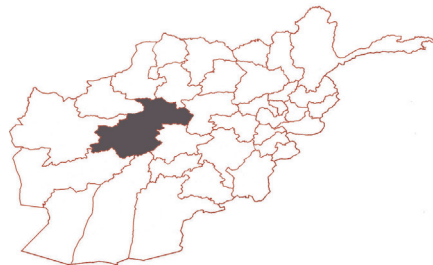
Farah – Farah

Governor: Mohammad Ikram Khpuwalk
Area: 45, 000 sq km
Population: 482, 400
Rural population: 93%
No. Districts: 11
Wolesi Jirga seats: 5 (1)
Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



Ghor – Chaghcharan

Governor: Sayed Anwar Rahmati
Area: 36, 000 sq km
Population: 657, 200
Rural population: 99%
No. Districts: 10
Wolesi Jirga seats: 6 (2)
Provincial Council seat: 15 (4)



Herat – Herat

Governor: Mohammad Daud Shah Saba
Area: 55, 000 sq km
Population: 1, 780, 000
Rural population: 72%
No. Districts: 16
Wolesi Jirga seats: 17 (5)
Provincial Council seat: 19 (5)



Southeast Afghanistan

Ghazni – Ghazni

Governor: Musa Khan Akbarzada

Area: 22, 000 sq km

Population: 1, 168, 800

Rural population: 95%

No. Districts: 19

Wolesi Jirga seats: 11 (3)

Provincial Council seat: 19 (5)



Khost – Khost

Governor: Abdul Jabbar Naeemi

Area: 4, 000 sq km

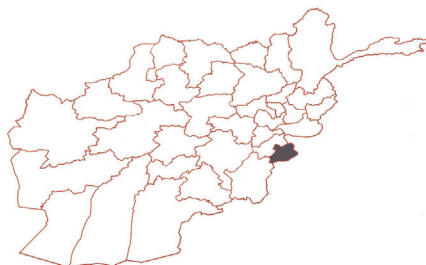
Population: 546, 800

Rural population: 98%

No. Districts: 13

Wolesi Jirga seats: 5 (1)

Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



Paktika – Sharan

Governor: Mohibullah Samim

Area: 19, 000 sq km

Population: 413, 800

Rural population: 99%

No. Districts: 19

Wolesi Jirga seats: 4 (1)

Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



Paktya – Gardez

Governor: Juma Khan Hamdard

Area: 6, 000 sq km

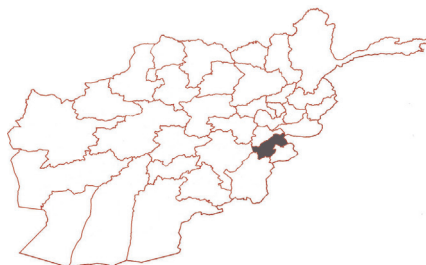
Population: 525, 000

Rural population: 96%

No. Districts: 11/13

Wolesi Jirga seats: 5 (1)

Provincial Council seat: 9 (3)



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About this section

This section includes contact information for the assistance community, government agencies, and foreign missions in Afghanistan. It does not generally include private companies.

The information in this directory was updated between September and December 2012, with occasional updates and additions made throughout the year. However, addresses, phone numbers and email contacts constantly change as organisations relocate and staff turn over. The accuracy of this list relies on the voluntary contributions of the organisations listed, which are encouraged to send any additions or changes to publications@areu.org.af. Organisations can also request that their addresses be omitted.

All organisations' contact details are listed by province. Kabul Province is listed first, with the remaining provinces following in alphabetical order. Within each section, contacts are listed alphabetically by the full title of the organisation.

No distinction is made between mobile, satellite and digital phone lines. Afghan numbers beginning with 070 or 079 indicate mobile lines, 0088 indicate satellite lines, and all others indicate digital or ground lines. When calling Afghanistan from other countries, the country code is +93 and the beginning zero should be dropped.

Kabul

Academy of Sciences Of Afghanistan

Masjid Sha Babo Jan, next to Ministry
of Interior, opp. Pump Station,
Shahr-i-Naw

Phone: 0202201195
0700979856
0772274916

Accessibility Organization for Afghan Disabled (AOAD)

Hs. 223, Namayeshgah Street,
opp. Kabul Nandari, District 8

Phone: 0773302222
0700157417
Email: zazai.abdulkhaliq@gmail.com
naqib.hamdard11@gmail.com
Web: www.aoad-af.org
Executive Director: Abdul Khaliq Zazai

Action Contre La Faim (ACF)

Herati Mosque Street (near to the
Etisalat building), Shahr-i-Naw

Phone: 0799566128
008821623127491
Email: hom@af.missions-acf.org
kabul@af.missions-acf.org
Web: www.actioncontrelafaim.org
Country Director: Arnaud Pont

ActionAid Afghanistan (ActionAid)

Hs. 1117, St. 5 Qala-i-Fatullah

Phone: 0202210799
0797075979
Fax: 00930202210799
Email: info.afghanistan@actionaid.org
radioroom.kabul@actionaid.org
Web: www.actionaidafg.org
Country Director: P. V. Krishnan

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

Hs. 225, St. 10, Paikob-i-Naswar,
Qala-i-Fatullah

Phone: 0777328402
0777328403
0777328404

Email: admin@adra-af.org
v.nelson@adra-af.org
Web: www.adra-af.org

Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)

St. 3 Taimani Project

Phone: 0700273558
0700611917
0700284986
008821650265570
Email: kabul@aabrar.org.af
abdulbaseer@aabrar.org.af
Web: www.aabrar.org.af
Executive Director: Abdul Baseer Toryalai

Afghan Bureau for Reconstruction (ABR)

St. 8, First House on the right, Taimani

Phone: 0700291104
0752019642
Email: abr.kabul@gmail.com
abr_kabul1@yahoo.com
Director: Ahmad Ibrahim Haidari

Afghan Center for Socio-economic & Opinion Research (ACSOR Surveys)

Hs. 217, St. 2, District 10 Qala-i-Fatullah

Phone: 0799328714
0799620639
0752023432
Email: matthew.warshaw@acsr-surveys.com
lhsan.atai@acsr-surveys.com
Web: www.acsr-surveys.com
Managing Director: Matthew Warshaw

Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSFO)

Hs. 48, Shahr-Ara-Watt (opp. Malalai
Maternity Hospital), Shahr-i-Naw

Phone: 0793559424
0776271070
0700277284

Email: pr@acsf.af
info@acsf.af
Web: www.acsf.af/www.acsf-rc.com
Executive Director: Aziz Rafiee

Afghan Community Development Organization (ACDO)

Opp. Panjshir Watt,
Next to Khair
Khana Oil Station,
Kabul Children's
Academy School, Projayee Jaded,
District 11, Khair Khana
Phone: 0700281991
0778821063
0787873188
Email: acdo_ngo@yahoo.com
Executive Director: Gul Waiz

Afghan Education Production Organization (AEPO)

Hs. 271, St. 1,
Qala-i-Najarha,
Khair Khana
Phone: 0700285240
0202400495
0775737409
Email: asef_omar@yahoo.com
Web: www.tajalla.af/www.aepo.af
Director: Mohammad Asif Omar

Afghan Educational Children Circus (AECC)

Darulaman Road, St. 2 on the right
after Habibia High School
(behind Khoja Mulla mosque)
Karte Se
Phone: 0700229975
0799010986
0700291120
Email: AECC@afghanmmcc.org
Web: www.afghanmmcc.org
Director: David Mason

Afghan Friend & Cooperation Organisation (AFCO)

First Street Taimani Watt

Phone: 0799003387
0700661923
Email: liala_masm@yahoo.com
afco1388@gmail.com
Director: Laila Masjidi

Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO)

Pashtunistan Watt
Phone: 0700264955
Email: karimi_agcho@yahoo.com
faizm_2006@yahoo.com
eng-faiz@hotmail.com
Web: www.agcho.org
Head of Meta Data: Mohammad Karim Karimi

Afghan Health and Development Services (AHDS)

Hs. 4, 2nd street
South of Qasimi Group,
District 4, PO Box 53
Phone: 0700284275
0700300417
Email: fareed@ahds.org
info@ahds.org
Web: www.ahds.org
Deputy Director: Mohammad Fareed

Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL)

Hs. 63, St. 2 (behind Cinema
Baharestan, next to Mir Ahmad
Mosque) Karte Parwan
Phone: 0700284326
0752000894
Email: ail.kabul09@gmail.com
Web: www.afghaninstituteoflearning.org
President Executive Director: Sakena Yacoobi

Afghan Institute of Management, Training and Enhancement of Indigenous Capacities (AIMTEIC)

Hs. 704, St. 4, Silo Rd Kot-i-Sangi
Phone: 0799190015
0700155410
Fax: 0752023986

Email: aimteic@yahoo.com
azimq@hotmail.com
Deputy Director: Mohammad Azim

Afghan Institute of Training and Management (AITM)

Darul Aman Road, opp. Shori Mili,
Kocha Afghana Ayoub Khan Mina
Phone: 0799334370
0700078937
0700252117
Email: aitm786@yahoo.com
Managing Director: Sardar Mohammad Samoon

Afghan Journalists Safety Committee (AJSC)

St. 1, Charahi Shaheed
Shahr-i-Naw
Phone: 0773407870
0702502087
0202211165
Email: alami.ilias92@gmail.com
info@ajsc.af
Web: www.ajsc.af
Country Coordinator: Najib Sharifi

Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization (ALSO)

St. 12 (near Wazir Abad Lane)
Qala-i-Fataullah
Phone: 0799316253
0776119164
0787379837
Email: info@afghanlandminesurvivors.org
friba.alsohr@gmail.com
Web: www.afghanlandminesurvivors.org
Executive Director: Suli Aman Aminy

Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB)

Hs. 254, St. 4, District 6 Karte Se
Phone: 0700200266
0799333621
Email: ancb@ancb.org
admin@ancb.org
Web: www.ancb.org
NGOs Coordinator: Sadaqat Ali

Afghan Organization of Human Rights & Environmental Protection (AOHREP)

Building opp. to city centre,
3rd floor, Charahi Ansarai,
Shahr-i-Naw
Phone: 0799234025
0700260236
Email: aohrep@yahoo.com
ar.hotaki@hotmail.com
Director: Abdul Rahman Hotaki

Afghan Relief Committee (ARC)

In front of Jaji BaBa Mosque,
Shah Shaheed,
District 8
Phone: 0700223320
0786980120
Email: arckabul@live.com
Director: Mohammad Omar Stanikzai

Afghan Society Against Cancer (ASAC)

Aliabad Teaching Hospital
Phone: 0786500609
0772020686
Email: asac@cancer.com.af
Web: www.cancer.com.af
Founder: Mohammad Shafiq Faqeerzai

Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC)

Hs. 8, Lane 3 on the left,
St. 13 Wazir Akbar Khan
Phone: 0700278261
0788228111
0776665550
Email: atc_kabul@yahoo.com
ekefayatullah@yahoo.com
Web: www.atcafghanistan.org
Director: Kefayatullah Eblagh

Afghan Women Handicraft Commercial Association (AWHCA)

Airport Road
Qala-i-Wakil Clinic Street,
District 10

Phone: 0772102597
0776631425
Email: gulsoom.awse@yahoo.com
awhca_g06@yahoo.com
Executive Director: Suraya Wahab

Afghan Women Organization (AWO)

Gozarga Street Pul-e-Chamcham,
opp. Poland Old Embassy
Phone: 0700292461
Email: alinarassi@yahoo.com
Coordinator: Alina Rassi

Afghan Women Services and Education Organization (AWSE)

Airport Road, Qala-i-Wakil, Clinic Street
AWSE Post in ACBAR Office
Phone: 0799326132
0772102597
Email: gulsoom.awse@yahoo.com
awse.org@gmail.com
Web: www.future4afghanwomen.net
www.awse.info
Executive Director: Gulsoom Satarzai

Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)

Phone: 0799829606
0700267439
0700263794
Email: safi@awec.info
hasina.safi@gmail.com
Web: www.awec.info
Executive Director: Hassina Safi

Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

Hs. 22, near Marshal Fahim House
second port, Karte Parwan
Phone: 0773933580
0700286598
Email: afifaazim@hotmail.com
awn.kabul@gmail.com
Web: www.afghanwomensnetwork.af
General Director: Afifa Azim

Afghan Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)

Dainow Dibori, St. 3, Silo (in front
of Ariana Kabul Hotel) near Raiyasat
Awdat Mahajrin, PO Box 362
Phone: 0700280179
0799203056
0752012958
Email: info@theawrc.net
awrc Kabul@gmail.com
Web: www.theawrc.net
Deputy Director: Maryam Rahmani

Afghanaid (Afghanaid)

Hs. 94, Hesa-i-Do, Main Road
Karte Parwan
Phone: 0799310498
0799309373
0794684005
00882168440140
Email: aahmed@afghanaid.org.uk
abtariq@afghanaid.org.uk
Web: www.afghanaid.org.uk
Acting Managing Director: Adil Ahmed

Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN)

Phone: 0798394167
Email: info@afghanistan-analysts.org
info@afghanistan-analysts.net
Web: www.aan-afghanistan.org

Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU)

Kabul University Central Library
Jamal Mina, PO Box 335
Phone: 0700276440
0700286144
Email: waheed@acku.edu.af
waheed.tokhi@acku.edu.af
Web: www.acku.edu.af
Executive Director: Abdul Waheed Wafa

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Chamane Hozori (next to Kabul
Nandary), PO Box 233

Phone: 0772000070
0774559666
0799810184
Email: info@acci.org.af
ceo@acci.org.af
Web: www.acci.org.af
Chief Executive Officer: Mohammad Qurban Haqjo

**Afghanistan Civil Service Institute/
Independent Administrative Reform and Civil
Service Commission (ACSI)**

Qarga Road, next to Afghan Red
Crescent Society, District 5 Afshar
Phone: 0202561956
Email: moe_farhad@yahoo.com
moneir.mobbashar@gmail.com
Director: Farhad Osmani

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

Hs. 264 & 265, Zabul Watt Street,
Kabul River Bank Road,
Pule-i-Surkh, District 6 Karte Char
PO Box 199
Phone: 0700309291
0777309291
0799329664
Fax: 0776100170
Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af
munir.mashal@ada.org.af
Web: www.ada.org.af
Managing/Country Director: Rahatullah Naeem

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Caritas Germany (Caritas Germany)

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 Email: rahmatullah_caritas@yahoo.com
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Central Afghanistan Welfare Committee (CAWC)

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Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA)

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 Phone: 0776011980
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Department of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL)

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Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

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Ghazni Rural Support Program (GRSP)

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Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA)

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National Solidarity Programme (Provincial Management Unit) (NSP/PMU)

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Organization for Research & Community Development (ORCD)

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Oxfam Great Britain (Oxfam GB)

Near Masjid Jami Hawlia,
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Programme Coordinator: Mohammad Juma

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

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Farah Province

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

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Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

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International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

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National Solidarity Programme (Provincial Management Unit) (NSP/PMU)

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Afghan Women Services and Education Organization (AWSE)

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International Assistance Mission (IAM)

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Hamayun

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

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INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization

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Humanitarian Assistance & Facilitating Organization (HAFO)

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International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

District 4

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National Solidarity Programme (Provincial Management Unit) (NSP/PMU)

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Noor Educational Capacity Development Organisation (NECDO)

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Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC)

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Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC)

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Sanayee Development Organization (SDO)

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Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)

Wahdat St. in front of Hazrati Ali Mosque

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Ghor Province

Action Contre La Faim (ACF)

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0704440276
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Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSFO)

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Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)

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Afghanaid (Afghanaid)

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0798405610
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Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

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Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

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Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

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United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

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Helmand Province

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Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

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Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

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Mercy Corps (MC)

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Herat Province

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Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

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ASCHIANA: Afghanistan's Children, A New Approach (ASCHIANA)

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