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# RETURN

Information Update

1 – 15<sup>th</sup> September

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## Security

### Areas of Concern:

#### **Balkh (Sholgara district) and Sar-e-Pul (Balkhab Districts):**

Localized factional clashes in Sholgara, and a tense situation in Balkhab have been reported. Reports of security incidents and criminal activities in the North have been received, while security has improved along the Mazar-Sholgara route.

#### **Farah Province:**

Criminal activities in Farah City and its vicinity have reportedly increased and the presence of anti-government elements in the Hilmand-bordering villages of Gulistan district has been reported.

#### **Faryab Province (Almar district):**

UNHCR and MoRR have decided not to facilitate the return of IDPs to Almar district of Faryab province, and UNHCR strongly discourages repatriation to that district at present due to security problems.

**Ghazni (Ab Band District):** Nine armed persons stopped five staff members of DACAAR in Ab Band district. The armed persons opened fire on them killing four persons while one DACAAR member managed to escape. The surviving witness said that they had been accused by the attackers of working for NGOs.



### UNHCR Voluntary Repatriation –2003

Returnees have the free choice of either returning to their village (location of origin) or to any other place in Afghanistan – but not to the IDP camps.

**Iris Validation Centres:** All refugees returning from Pakistan to Afghanistan with UNHCR assistance must go through an iris machine, a computer-based technology that examines the eye and can detect if someone has been tested before. The machine does not take the picture of the eye, but registers a number that's similar to a fingerprint. Iris Recognition Centres are located at Hayatabad in Peshawar, Alizai in Kurram Agency, Balochistan (in Baleli), and in Khost in Afghanistan.

**Note: Chaman Iris Recognition Centre is closed as of August 31st, 2003.**

**Women returnees have the discretion to present their pictures without Burka, with Burka, or no picture at all. Their UNHCR assistance will not be affected in any case. But they must go through the Iris screening, otherwise they will not receive their entitlements.**

Returnees are advised to have their VRFs with them while travelling in the host country and Afghanistan. Anyone who is discovered to have received assistance before will not receive assistance.

Returnees are also advised to have themselves and their children vaccination and health records with them for medical uses in clinics on the way to return and in Afghanistan. Children under 5 years of age will be vaccinated.

**Note: The entire family will be checked against the VRFs at the encashment centre.**

Returnees should not approach just any Distribution Centre, but only the one marked on their VRFs, otherwise they will not receive assistance.

**Transport Assistance:** Returnees will receive cash assistance at the following encashment centres in Afghanistan located in Pul-I-Charkhi, Ghazni, Mohmand Dara, Zaranj, Daman, Mazar-I-Sharif, Pul-I-Khumri, Kunduz, Herat, Gardez and Khost. The DC's in Mazar and Kunduz are assisting only the returnees from the Central Asian republics – those returning to northern provinces (Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan, Samangan, Balkh, Jawzjan, etc) should receive their entitlements at the first EC or in Pul-I-Khumri.

**Note:** IOM has established a Transit Centre in Shibar district to provide overnight facilities for returnees and IDPs travelling from the south and central regions to the north. But the Centre has no food provision yet.



**Note:** The Returnees' personal belongings are exempt from all customs duties. But please note that returnees can take neither commercial amounts of any item nor can they export the governments proscribed items. Returnees should also advise their truck drivers not to carry business goods on returnee trucks in order to avoid delay at the border and undesired consequences at the customs.

**Shelter:**

To help returnees in their initial phase of reintegration, UNHCR is providing shelter for 60,000 families in 2003. The shelter project is NOT for every returnee family but only for the most vulnerable, who have been identified from returning IDPs and refugees, as well as the returnee receiving communities. The beneficiaries are selected with the help of local Shuras, local authorities and UNHCR partners. They have to build the shelter on their own land or property, in their places of origin. Shelter (a standard two-room, one corridor and one latrine unit) programme is self-help assistance, and while building material (timbers, lintels, doors, windows and tool kits) is provided by UNHCR, the beneficiaries are responsible for the construction work. The recipients are also entitled to a sum of money or food for work for standard and domed type shelters.

**Important Message:** Refugees prior to their voluntary return should note that:

- 1- Shelter programme is only for the most vulnerable.
- 2- UNHCR shelter programme is not for every returnee family
- 3- The conditions for benefiting from the shelter project are; for the returnees to be in their village of origin, be identified through the help of local shuras and UNHCR partners, and to build the shelter on their own land or property.

**Note on Land:** UNHCR has learned about the existence of fraudulent schemes which extracts money from refugees in return for a promise to get them government land for housing. As far as UNHCR is aware there is no government programme at present to distribute land. The general freeze on land distribution ordered by the President's decree is still enforced.

**German Project for Support of the Police in Afghanistan:**

With the support of Germany, the Ministry of Interior is trying to recruit and train a new police force. There are two sets of training programmes:

1. Officers: The officers receive five years of course and practical (on the job) training. They graduate with the rank of 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant (Drayam Satarman) with Afs. 3,000 monthly salary, which increases with promotion on rank.
2. Non-Commissioned Officers: Non-Commissioned Officers used to undergo a one-year training program that is now reduced to 3 months. Graduate attains the rank of Drayam Saterman with Afs. 2,500 salary. There are only four promotional ranks available in the non-commission officer position.



### **Conditions of Recruitment:**

- Minimum grade 12 education (only for officers)
- Grade 6 education for non-commission officers
- School certificate
- Applicants must be able to read and write
- General Written Exam
- Physical and medical fitness
- 18 Years of age
- Minimum 165 cm height

During training, the trainees are given food, accommodation and some pocket money (Afs. 75 in the first class, 150 in the second and 225 in the third).

Afghan women are encouraged to join the police force. The German Police Project has just issued graduation certificates to 28 women Satarmen. Twelve officers will be graduated in a month's time along with 12 non-commissioned officers. The Project needs a much higher number of women to enrol in the training program.

The Project recent recruitment deadline was 2 September; its next recruitment will take place at the end of December or beginning of January. While the Project has sufficient applicants for the officers training program, only a very small number (126 for 1,400 positions) has applied for the non-commissioned officer training program so far.

Interested applicants should apply to the Ministry of Interior, Police Training Project (Colonel Nekzad), or to the police academy where the German Police Training Project is based.

## **Media in Afghanistan**

### **Central Region**

- **Publications:**

The first newspaper in Afghanistan, "*Shamsulnabar*", published in 1868 during the reign of Amir Shir Ali Khan. Its successor, *Sarajul-Akhbar*, was founded by a renowned Afghan poet and literary figure, Mahmud Terzi, in Amir Habibullah's reign in 1893. During the 1960s print media, especially the independent one, enjoyed a decade of flourishing activities that are now being revisited in even higher scale by post-Afghanistan Interim Administration's (AIA) and its successor's print media

### **Government-owned Publications:**

**Islah** (established in 1921), **Daily Anees** (established 1927), and **Hewad Daily** (established 1949) are the oldest government-owned newspapers. Their circulation ranges from 400 (Islah) copies to 5,000 (Anees and Hewad). All three carry articles in Pashto and Dari.



**Kabul Times** was founded in 1962 by the Afghan government as the only English daily paper in the country. At present, it is published twice a week with a circulation of 2,000 copies.

**Arman-e-Milli** daily was founded by the Afghan government in 2002. It is circulated in 4,200 copies. It has 3,800 regular subscribers.

#### **Independent Publications:**

**Afghan Media Centre (Aina):** The Aina NGO began to work in Kabul in December 2001 with the aim to support freedom of expression, reinforce national unity, rebuild civil society and promote and defend women's and children's rights. As of May 2003, Aina has offices in Afghanistan's seven major urban centres in order to promote and develop media and cultural activities across the country. Currently, Aina supports 8 of the 12 leading independent publications in Kabul: Kabul Weekly, Malalai, Seerat, Zambel-e- Gham, Les Nouvelles de Kabul, Aina News Clipping, Sabawoon and Parwaz magazine for kids.

**Seerat Weekly** is the first magazine for women published after the establishment of Afghanistan Interim Government; it prints 1,000 copies.

**Malalai** is women's monthly magazine with 2,000 circulation.

**Kabul Weekly** is printed in 18 pages with Dari and Pashto and some English articles. It has a circulation of 8,000 copies. Its articles cover various political, social and cultural issues.

**Zanbil-e-Gham** is a biweekly publication on humour and amusement with 2,000 circulation.

**Parwaz** is a children magazine; it includes lessons in English and French as well as puzzles, children stories, and sports news and illustrations. Parwaz is published in 30,000 copies, 15,000 of which are distributed freely to children in the provinces.

**Sabawoon** is a monthly family magazine published in 3,000 copies and covers family issues.

**Aina News Magazine** is a weekly magazine, published in 500 copies and covers journalistic issues. It is distributed freely only to journalists.

**Kabul News** is published in 2,000 copies in Pashto, Dari and French. It provides high school and Kabul University French-studying students with French reading material.

**Aina Photo-journalism Department** provides training to a number of Afghan journalists in photo-journalism. At present, 15 journalists are attending this yearly training course.

**Aina Video Department** is currently training 20 female journalism students in the use of visual media.



**Aina Radio Department** airs the President's, Ministers', and other high-ranking government officials' speeches and statements about Afghanistan's reconstruction processes. The department sends cassettes to 29 provincial radio stations for broadcasting. It also provides Internet access to Afghan journalists to visit international news websites for a charge of Afs.50 per hour.

**Irfan Cultural Center**, founded by Afghan refugees in Peshawar in 1998, has moved to Kabul after the establishment of the Afghan Interim Administration. It produces three literary publications on social and cultural issues: **Sapeeda** (bi-monthly with 10,000 circulation), **Mursal** (women magazine with 18,000 circulation), and **Keleed** (weekly with 18,000 circulation).

In addition, there are approximately 150 registered and unregistered independent publications media (news dailies, weeklies, magazines) that are published in Kabul and distributed to all-over or parts of the country. Some of the well-known news dailies in Kabul are: Irada, Farda, Adalat, Mujahid, Aina-i Zan, Payam-i Milat, and Amanat.

- **Radio:**

**Radio Afghanistan:** Radio Kabul was established in 1926 with a 20 kilowatt transmitter and reached audience in the Kabul area. In 1951, with the installation of a 50kw transmitter, Radio Kabul extended its reach. In 1961, Radio Kabul was renamed Radio Afghanistan (RA), and with the installation of a 100-kw transmitter it not only covered the whole country but extended its reach to other countries. In addition to airing news, music, and special events, RA maintained a strong educational component. The RA station was badly damaged in the coalition bombing campaign against the Taliban.

After the establishment of the Afghan Interim Administration, RA was rehabilitated and can now reach 80 percent of the Afghan population. A US government-donated 400-kw transmitter is currently under installation—one that would enable RA to reach audience beyond Afghanistan's borders. As before, RA would then be able to air programs in English, French, Arabic, Urdu, Russian, and German languages for foreign audience.

Currently, RA is on the air for eight hours (from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 10:50 p.m.). Programs are aired in the two official languages (Pashto and Dari) of the country, but some space is also given to other minority languages (Uzbeki, Trukumani, Pashayee, Nooristani, and Balochi). In addition to news, RA also covers issues on peace and reconstruction, women, refugees and internally displaced people (IDP), drug, health, and education. Its information to refugees and IDPs program, "Coming Home", is funded by UNHCR. RA programs are sprinkled with music which is so far played only by male singers.

**Radio Kabul** started broadcasting programs in 2002 between 8:00am to 1:00pm on FM waves.

**Afghan Women's Radio**, with the support of UNESCO, the working team of the Malalai magazine run this radio station for women; it broadcasts between 4:00pm to 7:00pm.



**Other Radios** that people in the Central Region listen to are: the BBC, Radio Liberty, Voice of America (VOA), Good Morning Afghanistan and Good Evening Afghanistan, the ISAF radio (Sada-e-Azadi), Radio Arman FM, Keleed FM, and Sada wa seema-e-Iran. Some of these Radios can be listen to on the FM (e.g. BBC, VOA, and Radio Liberty) in Kabul, and in the case of BBC in Bamyan as well.

- **Television:**

**Afghanistan TV:** Afghanistan's single and government-owned TV station was established in Kabul in 1977 as a pilot project. Its reception was limited to Kabul. Later, in the 1980s a number of provincial stations were also established. Number of TV programs in the late 70s and 80s reached to 40 in political, social and educational areas. Foreign movies, especially Indian, were regularly played.

During Taliban rule, TV stations in Kabul and around the country were closed down, but reopened after the establishment of Afghanistan Interim Authority with programs of news, education, music, dramas, films, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Kabul TV received some assistance from USA, Germany, ISAF, and DW to increase its capacity. Recently, the Government of Japan has launched a six-month rehabilitation and assistance program for Kabul TV that would expand its present 100km radius reception capacity, improve the quality of its programs, and enhance its facilities and staff training. Kabul TV is on the air for six hours everyday.

The DW TV, meanwhile, provides Kabul TV with foreign news in Dari and Pashto from its DW Dari and Pashto Service and the means (fax, Internet, etc.) to receive the news.

### **Northern Region:**

- **Publications:**

**Government-owned Publications:**

Bidar, Yulduz (Uzbeki) and Balkh are three government-run publications.

**Bidar Newspaper:** Bidar is the oldest newspaper in the region, established by the government in 1921 and printed in 7,000 copies in the past. At present, Bidar is published weekly and sometimes monthly in 500 copies and distributed to most northern provinces as well as Kabul, Herat, Paktia, Kandahar, and Farah. The paper employs eight journalists including four women.

**Independent Publications:** There are more than 40 weekly and monthly newsletters (about 15 factional and the rest independent), three women's publications (Gawhar, Marvah and Sada-e-Zan), and few other publications run by cultural organizations like "The Independent Journalist Group" and "Hakim Naser Khosrow Balkhi Writers Association" in Balkh province. There are some government-run publications in other provinces of the region. The above publications have provided about 80 (including 8 female) journalists with job opportunities.



Major problems facing print media in the region are lack of new printing equipment and facilities, security for journalists, and the existence of censorship by the commanders. Examples of journalists who had been beaten for writing critical articles and reports can be found in the region.

- **Radio:**

There are local TV and Radio stations in Shiberghan, Kunduz, Takhar and Balkh provinces, but only a radio station in Faryab. In Mazar, there is also an independent women radio station. In addition, people mostly listen to the radio and TV channels of the neighbouring countries: Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Mashhad Radio is also popular. Cable TV channels are also watched in Balkh, Pul-I-Khumri, and Kunduz provinces.

**Balkh Radio** is covering Mazar City and some other parts of the region. It broadcasts a variety of programs daily between 6:00am to 9:00am and 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

**Rabea-e-Balkhi Radio** (founded 9 March 2003) was set up by the Community Services Unit of UNHCR in cooperation with Mazar Women's Consultative Board, and with the financial support of the Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS)—a Canadian NGO. This radio broadcasts daily for 2 hours, injecting women perspectives into the community on women and children issues, health, education, and peace and reconstruction. Five women and a number of volunteers, mostly students from the Balkh University, work with Rabea-e-Balkhi Radio.

- **Television:**

**Balkh TV** (established in 1986) used to broadcast programs produced by Kabul TV. It started producing programs independently in Dari, Pashto and Uzbeki languages on women issues, rehabilitation, education, and health. TV programs go on air daily from 7pm to 12 pm. About 30 staff members (including 10 women) are working at the Balkh TV station, but the station is often used by commanders according to their wishes.

**Bakhtar Information Agency (BIA)** is active in all provinces of the region; it transmits local news stories to its main office in Kabul and domestic and foreign news to local news media.

**International Media:** Correspondents from Radio BBC, VOA and Radio Liberty (a section of Radio Free Europe) are present in Balkh province covering the whole region. These radio stations have provided a number of male and female journalists with job opportunities in Dari, Pashto, Uzbeki, and Turkmeni.

### **Southern Region:**

There are 3 Radio stations, 2 TV stations, 5 satellite/cable outlets, and several government and independent newspapers and magazines in the region. Foreign media such as VOA (Dari and Pashto), Radio Liberty (Dari and Pashto), Aljazeera TV, Reuters and Associated Press are active



in the region, employing 9 Afghan reporters. BBC does not have any correspondent in Kandahar at present, and covers the Southern region from Kabul.

Head of the Kandahar Culture and Information Department said: “the government has provided the independent press with freedom considering international journalistic standards, but they are not allowed to write against our national interests, values, and integrity.”

- **Publications:**

**Government-owned Publications:**

**Kandahar** bimonthly magazine was founded in 1960 as a cultural, historical, religious, and social publication for all readers, including women and youth. At present, it is published in 300 copies and has subscribers in other parts of the Southern region.

**Islami Daywee** (Islamic Candles), a bimonthly magazine, published by the Islamic Scholars Council and focuses mainly on Islamic education.

**Kandahar Poohantoon** (Kandahar University), a bimonthly magazine published by Kandahar University and carries scientific and research articles.

**Tulu-e-Afghan** newspaper was established in 1964. It was closed down after the Mujahideen took power in 1992. The Taliban re-established the paper in 1997. At present, it is published thrice a week in 1,200 copies; its articles cover religious, agricultural, women, and drug control issues.

**Hilmand:** The provincial government publishes Hilmand newspaper.

**Independent Publications:**

Kandahar’s **Literary and Cultural Associations** have the following independent publications:

**Xkula** (beauty), a bimonthly magazine published by the Binawa Cultural Society. Xkula has a circulation of 1,000 copies, some of which are circulated within and outside Afghanistan. Its contents are mainly historical, cultural, and political. Xkula is financially supported by the people.

**Hoad** (pledge), a bimonthly magazine published by the Ahmad Shah Baba Education Centre, has just published its first edition of 500 copies.

**Puya**, an independent magazine, also disseminated in Hilmand, focuses on social issues.

**Youth and Hawa-e-Zaranj Associations** publish two independent newspapers in Nimroz province: **Hayat-e-Naw** and **Mihr-e- Nimroz** respectively.



Zabul and Uruzgan provinces have no radio or TV station, or any publication. Some people receive publications from other provinces through personal links.

- **Radio:**

The government-owned **Kandahar Radio**, established in 1980, broadcasts daily for 5 hours. Its programs are on humanitarian issues, folk and modern literature, agriculture, education, health, poetry, livelihood challenges of the people, women and children issues, religious education, replies to listeners, drug control, latest news in Pashto and Dari languages, and music played by male and female singers. Afghan Civil Society, an international NGO, plans to establish a new radio station (Afghan Azad Radio) by September 2003. The new radio will air programs on women, children, and agricultural issues for six hours daily.

**Radio Malamute**”, established by American forces, aired music and propaganda last year, but is not functioning this year.

**Hilmand Radio**, installed by Russian engineers in 1972, was replaced with a new transmitter in 2002. Hilmand Radio broadcasts news and programs on health, education, religious education, and agriculture for three hours daily. Bakhtar Information Agency Department in Kandahar provides it with national and international news.

**Nimroz Radio** (established in 1983) and TV each broadcasts daily for 3 hours. Its TV transmits good quality colour pictures.

In general, people in the South often listen to BBC Pashto Service. The BBC “New Home, New Life” educational drama series is very popular even in the rural areas. VOA, Radio Liberty, Radio Iran, and Radio Quetta are also listened to.

- **Television:**

**Kandahar TV**, established in 1984, broadcasts a variety of programs including cartoon shows for children, documentaries, wildlife, movies, news, and music (in Dari and Pashto by both male and female singers). Kandahar TV has 12km radius reception capacity, but its black and white picture quality is poor. Kandahar government plans to improve its TV broadcasting quality and extend its hours. It is currently constructing a new Radio and TV studios.

- **Satellite Cable:**

Kandahar City has three satellite cable service providers, offering their customers 30 channels including BBC, CNN, FOX News, DW (Pashto & Dari), BBC Radio, Radio Azadi (Liberty), and audio channels in Pashto and Dari. Three of the channels broadcast mainly Afghan, Pakistani, and Iranian music. The number of customers reaches up to 2,000.

Hilmand has no government TV, but three private satellite cable providers operate there (two in Lashkergah provincial city and one in Grishk district town). These cable networks offer 30 channels. The local government some time uses these networks to communicate with the people, or to show important ceremonies and events.



### South-eastern Region:

- **Publications:**

#### **Government-owned publications:**

**Khost** and **Sawdagar** are two magazines run by the Khost government, and **Wranga** in Paktia is the only newspaper in the region that was founded in 1942, which now covers news, community development, and politics.

#### **Independent Publications:**

**Sanayee** newspaper, founded in 1952 in Ghazni, has started to appear as a weekly six months ago after a gap of 12 years. Sanayee focuses on development, commercial, political, and social issues.

**Naiestan**, an independent magazine, began publishing in Ghazni in August 2002. Contents include news and coverage of development, commercial, and cultural issues.

**Mazal**, **Shamshad**, **Barai**, and **Zamana** are independent magazines in Khost.

**Nashter** bimonthly publication is focusing mainly on political, developmental and community related issues in Paktia. “**Afghan Watan**” and “**Paktia Ghag**” are two bi-weeklies with similar contents.

- **Radio:**

Ghazni, Khost, Paktika and Paktia Radio stations broadcast daily for 2 to 10 hours in Pashto and Dari languages. In addition to daily news bulletin, radio programs include coverage of political, commercial, developmental, and social issues as well as women and family related matters. Radio Paktika does not have the capacity to broadcast for more than two hours, as the station equipment is very old. Radio Afghanistan reception is very good in the region, and people also listen to the BBC, VOA, Radio Liberty, and Radio Iran.

- **Television:**

Ghazni provincial authorities established the Ghazni TV, which began broadcasting in March 2003 for two and a half hours daily in Pashto and Dari. News, coverage of social issues, and music (both by female and male singers) are the main features of Ghazni TV. The station needs to train its staff in computers.

**Khost TV** is inactive and needs to be rehabilitated.



### Eastern Region:

- **Publications:**

**Government-owned Publications:** “Nangrahar” (established in 1919) is the only government-run newspaper published thrice a week in 1,500 copies.

**Independent Publications:**

“**Meena**” (Love), a quarterly cultural and art magazine established in 2002.

“**Sapa**” (Wave) publication printed in 1,000 copies.

“**Ghookhtana**” (Demand), a magazine on education, literacy and social issues.

“**Spoogmai**” (Moon) monthly cultural and educational publication established in the beginning of 2003 and printed in 1,000 copies.

“**Mashriq**” (East) bimonthly cultural and scientific magazine printed in 100 copies.

“**Khwazikht**” (Movement), quarterly publication on literature and cultural issues, is printed by the Independent and Cultural Association of Youth in Kunar.

“**Shaeq**”, biweekly independent newspaper established in 2002, is published by Shaeq Complex in Jalalabad in 3,000 copies on Political, Social, Cultural, and Medical issues in Pashto, Dari, English and Pashayee Languages.

“**Nen**”, published in Jalalabad, and **Wahdat**, **Sahar**, and **Spin Ghar** dailies published in Peshawar are also available in the Eastern region.

In addition **Hewad** and **Anees** dailies, **Da Khabaroono Hindara** (News), **Sabawoon**, **Malalai**, **Keleed**, **Parwaz** (magazines), and **Tara** (in Pashayee and Pashto Languages) are also available in Jalalabad City.

- **Radio:**

Nangarhar Radio station was established in Jalalabad City in 1980. At present it broadcasts radio programs daily for 5 hours on Medium and FM waves. The programs focus on agriculture, education, health, literature, women, children, religion as well as news and Dari and Pashto songs by male and female singers. Nangarhar radio reaches up to 50 Km, covering some parts of Laghman and Kunar provinces. Two of the news-readers are women.

There is a radio with limited capacity in Kunar province (established in 1984) and another one in Laghman province (established in 2002) that broadcasts different programs daily for 2 hours.



Radio Afghanistan is receivable in many areas of the eastern region, but not the Kabul television.

**Radio Sharq (East):** Shaeq Complex is currently working on a radio station called “Radio Sharq (East)” that is already established in Jalalabad City with the support of USAID through Inter News. This radio is currently broadcasting various pilot programs daily for 3 – 4 hours.

**International Media:** People in the eastern region mostly listen to Radio Azadi (Liberty), BBC (especially New Home, New Life drama in the rural areas), VOA, Radio Pakistan (Peshawar and Quetta).

- **Television:**

Jalalabad Television Station has been established in 1984. It broadcasts programs on religion, children, education, cartoon shows, interviews, dramas, news (including foreign news provided by DW) and music in Pashto and Dari by male singers only, daily for 4 hours in the evening. The programs include documentary and feature films as well. Its reach is up to 20km.

After the Mujahedin took over Kunar province in 1988, the TV broadcast has been stopped.

- **Satellite/ Cable:**

There is a private satellite cable in Jalalabad city (the first in Afghanistan) established in 2002. It offers 20 different channels, including BBC, CNN, DW (Pashto & Dari), Discovery, Sky News, Aljazeera, Khabar (Iran), and PTV world. So far it has 1000 users.

### **Western Region:**

Prior to the establishment of the Afghan Interim Administration, Herat Radio was the only mass communication means kept alive. People in western provinces mostly listen to BBC, VOA, Radio Liberty, and Iran Radio. Radio Afghanistan reaches the region only when the weather is good. International media reporters from the BBC Persian and Pashto Services, VOA, Radio Liberty, and Iran Radio are often present in the region.

- **Publications:**

**Government-owned publications:** Government-owned publication in the Western region are: **Itefaq-e-Islam** is very popular and is widely distributed in the western region. Other government publications in Herat include: Bakhter News Agency, Payam-e-Mujahid magazine, Mashwaarat newsletter, Kodak leaflet, Awrang-e-Hashtum bulletin, and Tarwiji-i Ghalajat va Sabzijat information paper.



### **Independent Publications:**

**Mehr** magazine began publishing in July 2003 by WASSA (Women Activities & Social Services Association), a local NGO that works for women welfare. Contents include women, cultural, social, and developmental issues..

Nida-e-Islam leaflet, Shogofa ha magazine, Jamia-e-Nawin bulletin, Milat information paper, Mahnama-e-Dawat newsletter, Kanishkah magazine, Mah-Nama-e-Adabi exordium, Rawzana-e-Noor magazine, Takhasos daily newsletter and magazine, Ibtikar newspaper, Ghoncha Hai Noor newsletter, Moarifat information paper, and Awai Noor information paper are independent publications.

There are two newspapers, Roshan and Young Generation, in Farah. The first one is an independent newspaper, while the government runs the later—focusing on youth and social issues.

- **Radio:**

**Herat Radio** comes on the air for a few hours daily with a limited reception capacity. A small radio station recently installed in Herat's Ghoryan district re-plays programs produced by Herat Radio.

Another radio station with a limited reception capacity functions in Farah. Ghor Province, on the other hand, has no print or electronic media. People there listen to Radio Afghanistan. Loudspeakers installed in mosques and in different locations in the city inform people of public announcements and important news and events.

IMPACS, an International NGO, is currently exploring the possibility to install a radio station for women in Herat.

- **Television:**

**Herat TV** is daily on the air for six hours and has a reception radius of 40km. TV programs focus on women, children, youth, society, drama, poetry, health, education, literacy, national geography, advertisements, and news. Herat TV broadcasts daily for 10 minutes the foreign news produced by the DW Dari and Pashto Services.

**UNHCR/BBC Radio Programme:** There is a joint BBC/UNHCR radio programme specifically aimed at Afghan refugees, IDPs and returnees. The programme deals with the situation in Afghanistan, including security, development activities of the Afghan government, United Nations and other aid agencies, and the difficulties that the Afghans, especially returnees, are facing. The BBC radio programme is part of UNHCR's efforts to provide an accurate account of the situation in Afghanistan to those wishing to return home, and to offer a forum for a wider debate on all aspects of repatriation and reintegration.



The programme is broadcast from Saturday to Wednesday (5 Days a week):

- 1<sup>st</sup> edition: 0730 to 800 GMT = 1100 to 1130 Iran time, 1200 to 1230 Afghan time, and 1230 to 1300 Pakistan time.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition: 12.00 to 1230 GMT = 1530 to 1600 Iran time, 1630 to 1700 Afghan time and 1700 to 1730 Pakistan time.

The programmes are broadcast on Short wave frequencies of 15420 kHz (19-meter band, and 17870 kHz (16-meter band).

The programme has a section for the listeners' letters. If you have any comments or questions please write to the following addresses. The BBC will include them in the programme:

- Afghanistan: BBC, Post Box No. 1, Central Post Office, Kabul, Afghanistan.
- Pakistan: BBC, Post Box 255, University Town, Peshawar, Pakistan.
- Iran: UNHCR (BBC) – P.O.Box No. 91775 – 1876, Mashhad, Iran.

UNHCR/ARTV Radio Programme: UNHCR has also a joint radio programme with Afghanistan Radio and TV, "Coming Home", as part of its mass Information efforts. The programme is broadcast on Sundays and Fridays (2 days a week) at 9:00pm for 30 minutes in Dari and Pashto languages.

*For More Information and Questions Contact  
Abdul Qayyum Karimi on (0093) 070280 565, E-mail: [KARIMAQ@unhcr.org](mailto:KARIMAQ@unhcr.org)*