

Afghanistan Research Newsletter

Number 31, January - March 2015



Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit



13 YEARS
OF HIGH-QUALITY
RESEARCH

Director's Message

AREU began publishing a quarterly newsletter in March 2004 to address the critical lack of reliable data and analysis that was desperately needed to inform policy and programmatic decisions by the development community and newly-formed Afghan government. The inaugural issue highlighted research projects currently being conducted as well as emphasizing meetings, networks, and other forms of communication among the development community in Afghanistan.

As the years passed, the newsletter evolved and changed, until eventually it was refined to a few basic, vital characteristics. The newsletter in its final incarnation aimed to alert readers to new research being undertaken on Afghanistan while also disseminating research findings and analysis. By this time it had begun providing a categorical listing of all research with a focus on Afghanistan published during that quarter, along with all of AREU's publications from that quarter and a list of laws passed by the Afghan government. Unfortunately, due to a shortage of staff and internal resources, the quarterly newsletters came to an end with the 30th and final edition, published in July/August 2011.

Recently we decided that there was still a need for this compendium of Afghanistan-related research and so the AREU quarterly research newsletter was revived. I hope that this edition, Newsletter 31, will be the first of many more to come and will provide a much-needed resource for researchers and policy makers on Afghanistan. This first edition will span the missing time period by listing all Afghanistan-related research and laws published since the last version came out in the summer of 2011, while all following editions will only cover the previous quarter. If an older publication containing relevant content comes to our attention, it will be included in the current edition. Similarly, sometimes laws are not made available by the Afghan government right away; in those cases, they will be included in the most recent edition as soon as they are obtained by AREU.

Best,

Nader Nadery

Director of AREU

Feature

Afghanistan research newsletter

Jan-March 2015

From 2005-2011 AREU's library produced thirty issues of the *Afghanistan research newsletter* (the last issue was released in July/August 2011). For a number of reasons publication ceased; however, now with renewed interest AREU is again planning to bring out the newsletter on a regular basis. The aim, as in the past, is to provide information on recent papers and resources relevant for research on Afghanistan, be it for improving policy, improving programming or providing context and background for individuals and institutions working in and for Afghanistan. AREU's main goal is to produce research that improves Afghan lives. Considerable expense goes into the preparation of reports by all agencies; it is important that those reports are disseminated, accessed, used and, above all, preserved for everyone to make use of in the future.

Access to research on Afghanistan: the state of play

Royce Wiles

Introduction

The appearance of this January 2015 issue of the *Afghanistan research newsletter*, after a break since 2011, provides an occasion to ask (and hopefully go some way toward answering) two important questions: what research is available now and is research and research documentation relevant for Afghanistan?

As a preliminary I need to point out a (perhaps under-vocalised) major feature of recent Afghan experience: the abrupt and unprecedented intrusion into Afghan society since late-2001 of many of the elements of the "modern" world, paralleling the military interventions. Intrusion with modern weapons being the first to be felt, in a country where the cultural and political institutions, economy, infrastructure, agriculture, in

fact almost every aspect of life until recently focused on earlier, less technology-led systems the arrival of the more intangible elements of the outside world is as yet not fully perceived. Two examples relevant here are: firstly, the arrival of contemporary research methods with their research agendas, methodologies, weaknesses and strengths; the second is information management as practiced in most of the world today. Afghanistan's decades of turmoil coincided with the decades of pervasive advances in information technology in the wider world and paradigmatic shifts in research and information sharing. The Afghan state and Afghan citizens in some ways have had to play catch-up in this area. Nowadays mobile phones are ubiquitous in the country and social media are increasingly important as younger Afghans mobilise, while the internet provides almost unlimited avenues of information gathering and information transmission (although with a notable bias towards English sources and users tend to need to know the Roman alphabet to use the internet). Most state producers of information within Afghanistan, however, still lag far behind standards elsewhere.

In outlining elements of the last decade or so of published research on Afghanistan below, I want to raise two thematic points which I will have to attempt to elaborate on elsewhere:

(1) Just as a monopoly of force is recognised as a defining characteristic of a nation-state (more or less), so too I suggest a "monopoly of knowledge" or "monopoly of knowledge management" can be recognised as a potentially limiting (or alternatively catalysing) characteristic of a nascent nation-state. Development actors in Afghanistan (with some exceptions) have not generally led the way in advancing information management; it may not even be an element present in their development "agendas" (be they written or unwritten);

(2) Clarity is needed about the perceived (and actual) role (if any) in this churning mix of development inputs, funding, and influences into research products, from research led by various military sources and NGOs as well as governmental, legal, UN and funding agency sources.

This short piece then has a single aim, to agree with and extend the main point made by Nancy Dupree in her important early essay in this newsletter (“Information for Nation Building” [2006]), namely that planning and decision-making require sound information as a basis, however information cumulation and sharing does not happen without an institution or agency tasked, trained and funded to do that. In addition, research is specialised and labour-intensive, therefore expensive. Published reports, studies and analyses need to be shared, kept available and passed on to interested individuals who need them to inform decision-making; beyond that, researchers of all types need to know about, utilise and extend existing scholarship. In partial answer to this need Nancy has set up the Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU) while AREU runs its own library as a clearing house for information - these are still the only such information repositories focused on Afghanistan based in Kabul with online databases and neither is funded by the Afghan state.

As an aside on costs, the important, well-written and publically available study of mapping research capacity in Afghanistan mentioned below (Fishstein et al. 2012) came out of a DFID project costing £85,555. Each published report listed in this newsletter issue (or the 30 preceding issues) has a price tag, and given the situation in Afghanistan, usually a high one. It is unusual, though, to be able to find out the cost. It is vital that this kind of survey material is indexed, circulated and kept available for use (by both Afghan researchers and policy makers and others) in the analysis and planning of solutions to Afghanistan’s challenges.

After a general point or two I will move to present the examples of a number of more easily separated domains of research publishing, choosing these more

or less discrete types of information as “heuristic windows” to highlight the nature of changes in information/knowledge about Afghanistan over the preceding years: the examples will be the areas of Afghanistan statistical data, maps of Afghanistan, laws, and finally MA and PhD research dealing with Afghanistan. Following that presentation I will attempt to draw out the implications for development actors (both national and international).

For most countries, there is rarely any reason to attempt to survey or overview the research landscape *in toto*, let alone publish a newsletter about that. In most cases it is more appropriate to choose a particular area (be it climate change, immigration, housing, water resources, etc.) and then survey that to produce either a description of a research landscape or simply provide an update on publications of use to specialists or users in the particular field chosen. Afghanistan, however, in this as in almost every other, is an exceptional case: there is no central point to find the information brought together here except in the databases of ACKU and AREU (imperfect as they both are).

The idiosyncrasies of Afghan history, (geo-)politics society, culture etc., also require that (at least initially) we use a different approach if only because of the place Afghanistan finds itself starting from, i.e. the baseline. In terms of information management in and on Afghanistan, the place from where we all have to begin to examine, evaluate and compare data or analysis is so different. To be blunt, recently (and perhaps also in the past) Afghanistan has not been able to fulfill the usual functions of a state in terms of its own information management, information provision and dissemination; nor are there any functioning university networks in Afghanistan to make up for this. Afghanistan has no national library, national bibliog-

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

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

raphy or even, as a second best option, any university department anywhere in the world that has taken on this role: Afghanistan remains very much terra incognita in terms of its information history and current production.

This is not the place to rehash the distinctive elements of Afghan history *per se* that have contributed to this (in English, authors such as Thomas Barfield [2010] have already completed elements of this exceptionally well). I want to raise a larger, mostly as yet unasked question about the history of knowledge about Afghanistan. Of the very broad academic area that would entail I have only two sub-questions to attempt to address very briefly below: What was the nature of research on and in Afghanistan prior to 2001 (perhaps prior to 1979 would be better)? What is it like today?

There has never been a large corpus of published research on Afghanistan: as representative cumulations of the pre-1979 state of knowledge about Afghanistan we have two extraordinarily useful works: McLachlan and Whittaker's 1983 *A bibliography of Afghanistan* (671 p.) and the 1968-1969 *Bibliographie der Afghanistan-Literatur 1945-1967* (two volumes) from the German Arbeitsgemeinschaft Afghanistan and Deutschen Orient-Institut. Together these two bibliographies contain the largest sampling of the more important scholarly resources on Afghanistan prior to 1979; reviewing the contents it becomes clear that there was not a large amount of material on any single topic. Historically Afghanistan was not a well-researched or well-documented area: safe access has long been a limiting factor - even when the country opened up somewhat in the 1970s, research was only beginning to expand when the events of 1979 shut it down and in-country research shifted into "conflict" mode, i.e. was conducted from outside the country.

The major contributing reasons for the dearth of information are seemingly the long-standing difficulties of access to the country (turmoil tends to discourage lengthy academic excursions and expeditions) and the lack of any specific (and on-going) academic or research centre(s) focusing on Afghanistan research to cumulate and disseminate this research in a meaningful way. Afghanistan was never the recipient of as much interest as, say, Sri Lanka or Myanmar. There was colonial interest but never—after Elphinstone's egregiously monumental work of 1815—in the sense of colonial attempts to "gazette" and catalogue all known resources on the country. Not all that much was known about Afghanistan even before 1979: with such a small

research base it cannot be surprising that there continue to be major gaps in information about the country. Nor was there (prior to 1979) within Afghanistan a strong research capacity (Fishstein, Paterson & Roe 2012, p. 7), so it would be unreasonable to expect one to emerge quickly after 2001; the nature of the research landscape within Afghanistan today has been ably and accurately presented already (Fishstein, Paterson & Roe 2012).

One of the (many) quirks of Afghan history is that *Afghanistan has never had a fully functioning national library or equivalent*, at least not as such institutions are understood in other polities. There is a valuable National Archives in Kabul and it is reported that the Central Library of Kabul University was regarded by some as a *de facto* national library; however, that was looted and the collection destroyed (Dupree 1999, p. 22). The focus of government "archives" is on keeping government documentation, so the implications of the lack of a national "library" (or its proxies) are profound and far-reaching (a library's ambit is much larger and it cumulates all manner of material and systematically arranges them for easier access).

There has not been a successful, focused attempt within any forms of the Afghan state to cumulate and preserve within Afghanistan knowledge about the country as a whole, its culture, history, etc. (this is, after all, the major function of national libraries around the world). The simplest explanation about why no national library ever existed is probably that Afghanistan's political upheavals have been considerable (e.g. there have been six constitutions since 1923 and something like 19 different national flags in the same period) and other institutions have been a priority (notably the army, the civil service, education etc.). Other contributing factors will have to be the historically low national literacy rate and the autocratic models of government, which even up to 1973 discouraged strong academic engagement. Whatever the reasons, *Afghanistan still does not have a national institution resourced to cumulate and provide access to information on Afghanistan*, nor are there any external university departments or agencies that have taken this function upon themselves. This means there is not currently (and there has never been) a single central repository for academics, researchers, etc., to go to for Afghanistan-specific information. Instead, everyone who needs Afghanistan information has to start out on their own, hence the acknowledged usefulness of even this quarterly cumulation of research publica-

tions: the items appearing in this newsletter (as with all previous issues) are available for use in Kabul in the AREU library (library@areu.org.af).

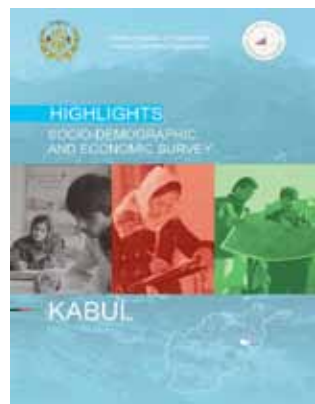
Examples from four fields of publication relevant for research

Statistics

Statistics are frequently the bedrock of the scientific or academic approach to matters of development or planning - they are the raw material for scholarly interpretations, analysis and commentary. Any statistics cited for Afghanistan, however, have to be used with considerable circumspection: issues surrounding the use of statistics from Afghanistan have been an ongoing matter of discussion (see an overview by Cordesman & Mann, 2012, pp. 1-7; also Fishstein et al 2012, p. 10). That said, an array of statistical compilations does exist, for example those of Afghanistan's Central Statistics Organization (CSO, <http://cso.gov.af/en/>), have been published since 1356 (1978), however, where is it possible to access them? Almost complete sets exist only in the CSO library, AREU's library and ACKU, while scanned versions are not yet available online.

Another very useful statistical data set is the 2003 "Afghanistan socio-economic and demographic national and provincial profiles" produced by the CSO and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). It is, however, not online and was never circulated widely as it was used by

WFP as a basis for planning throughout the decade. That 2003 data is gradually being expanded and updated by a new national enumeration project which has completed survey re-runs and has now released highlights only for Bamiyan (2012), Ghor (2014), Daykundi (2014) and most recently Kabul (January 2015).¹ These documents



are not available from the CSO website, only from the UNFPA website. Retrospective projects are still needed to upload historical statistical cumulations to websites for international researchers to use.

¹ http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/filemanager/files/afghanistan/2015/reports/13_jan_2015_kabul_highlights.pdf (accessed 27 January 2015).

Other statistical data sets also exist; for example, the exceptionally hard-to-locate Afghanistan *Hydrological yearbook* (published by the Water and Soil Survey Department, General Directorate of Hydrology) seems to have survived only in part within the Ministry. This yearbook cumulated river flow data from across Afghanistan for the period 1961-1978. The same data is now available online in publications from the US Geological Survey (USGS) (e.g. Olson, SA & Williams-Sether, T 2010); a difference being that the hydrological yearbook gave daily data while the USGS work groups the data by month. The USGS version does, however, provide analysis of the data, which is useful. Data which did not survive well inside the country has been re-stored and made available from an institution outside the country; yet once again it is not Afghan agencies leading the way in providing online access to Afghanistan government information. Reliable and supported access to technology is only part of the challenge: much more important is the entrenched mindset that does not want to share such information openly. This pervasive culture of not sharing information damages the expansion of information provision throughout Afghan governmental agencies with flow-on effects in terms of inadequate information for decision making, planning and review of institutional performance (see Wiles 2012 for an exploration of some of these issues).

Maps

Afghanistan does not currently have a national map library nor a national map collection in any other governmental institution for public consultation or access to maps. Instead, for Afghanistan government institutions and state agencies, maps or even access to maps continue to be seen as a potential risk of some kind and access is usually not possible for civilians. As with statistics, most international researchers take for granted access to maps for any given country or area of a country. Briefly recounting Afghanistan's cartographic history reveals the gaps in data collection, management and sharing that underline issues put forward elsewhere about some of the difficulties of information transfer in Afghanistan (Wiles 2012).

Map making in Afghanistan has been dominated by external interests and externally produced technologies. The earliest national map series for Afghanistan were prepared by the governments of Britain and the United States (1936-1954), with a subsequent aerial photography project (1957-1960) shared between the two Cold War opponents (Wiles 2007, p. 1-5). From 1968 to 1986 the US government produced better maps based on those photo-

graphs, as did the occupying Soviet military (1984-1986).

In terms of internal capacity within Afghanistan to generate national mapping, the revolution in 1979 disrupted the sound work of the government agency given sole responsibility for map making, the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO). Even today, by law AGCHO is the sole agency in Afghanistan legally able to prepare and publish maps; fortunately UN agencies are exempt from this and have been able to publish maps without waiting for Afghan government approval. AGCHO, from “1958-79 ... [had] completed 26% of the instrument-based measurements and 30% of the land registration survey necessary to map the country in detail” (Wiles 2007, p. 5). The turmoil of the ensuing period, though, meant that when, in 1999, the FAO in Rome requested national mapping information on land use from Kabul it came, but as “a series of hand-drawn, crayon-coloured maps, drawn up by AGCHO, apparently in 1972, based on visual interpretation of aerial photographs acquired in the late 1960s and early 1970s” (Wiles 2007, 4). Even after the regime change of 2001, purchasing maps in Kabul from AGCHO was a protracted bureaucratic process involving permissions, signatures, counter-signatures and, at times, required the giving of one’s fingerprints (with all coordinates on the maps so released being crossed out anyway for security purposes). Even today there are no maps downloadable from AGCHO’s pages (<http://agcho.gov.af/en/page/8027>).

Until the arrival of the FAO’s Programme Management Information Systems (ProMIS) in Islamabad (1997-2001), there were no on-going projects mapping Afghanistan accessible to development agencies. ProMIS was transformed into Afghanistan Information Management Systems (AIMS), which was based in Kabul (2001-present day)² and revolutionised map availabil-



ity in Afghanistan. While there were quibbles about the correctness of some data, they were a starting point; AIMS also supplied copies of the earlier US and Soviet map series and most agencies were using all of these maps extensively for planning and decision-making purposes. Later, in post-2001 Afghanistan, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) began to release a range of maps to the public, especially political maps, which were made available publically in 2008 and 2009 and are still on-line today (<http://nato.int/isaf/docu/epub/maps/index.html>).

The situation in 2015 continues to be that the three main sources for maps are the same as in 2007 when I first surveyed them (i.e. no Afghan agency has even yet taken up public provision of maps on-line):

1. AIMS: <http://www.aims.org.af/>;
2. The Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection at the University of Texas at Austin: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/afghanistan.html> (very strong on historical maps);
3. ReliefWeb: www.reliefweb.int, under Afghanistan the link to “Maps” reveals 1,544 maps (as at Jan 2015).

Important new and complementary resources supplementing those three are also now available:

4. iMMAP, funded largely by the governments of the US, UK and by UN projects, has produced over 583 national and provincial maps of Afghanistan, all freely available on-line (all post-2009): http://immap.org/?page_id=1371&cat=10;
5. The US Geological Survey (USGS), focusing on resources and topographical maps but with important hydrological sets also, has online over 70 downloadable maps of Afghanistan: <http://www.usgs.gov/>.

Legal system/laws

An overview of projects from the past decade working with Afghan legal materials was published by the Afghanistan Analysts’ Network (AAN) three years ago (Wiles 2012). In 2015 the Afghanistan Ministry of Justice continues to upload PDFs of new laws to a website (http://moj.gov.af/content/files/Pages/OfficialGazetteIndex_D-header.htm) and does maintain the historical list set up by USAID legal documentation projects; however, importantly, there is as yet

no comprehensive search aid or list of laws useful for international scholars. This function of the ministry is an important one, making the enacted laws of Afghanistan available to Afghan citizens and researchers worldwide, though there is as yet no online searchable list.³

A unique and essential resource is now online at the “Afghanistan law bibliography project” of the Afghanistan Analyst (<http://afghanistan-analyst.org/afghan-law/>), which was last updated by Timothy Mathews in January 2013 (32 pages).

From mid-2006 onwards this newsletter published updates of new legislation released (issues 6-29); the list for inclusion here covers *Official gazette* numbers 1047-1134 (see the separate section on pages 58-64 below).

PhDs and academic publications

Attempting to explore current research on Afghanistan, I ran a search of the largest international database of dissertations and theses (“ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global,” which sits behind a paywall and which may be more representative of North American research in English). The results tabulated below revealed a jump in the number of theses relating to Afghanistan since the 2001 intervention. The rough sampling provided below concerns new theses only (MA and PhD); there has been an unprecedented (but perhaps understandable) growth in the amount of academic research about and publications on Afghanistan. According to the ProQuest database, in the past two years alone 4,246 theses have been accepted which in some way use the word Afghanistan in their title, abstract or associated indexing fields. Admittedly, there has probably been an overall increase in the number of theses accepted as tertiary education continues to expand – further analysis of the theses submitted would throw more light on exactly where the research agenda was focused.

The results of the simple database search (searching for “Afghanistan” limited by date) are tabulated below: in summary, before 1979 around 1,600 theses in total existed that related in some way to Afghanistan, however, between 2001 and the start of 2015 on average 1,800 theses *per year* ($10,135 + 13,648 = 23,810$ theses/13 years) have appeared related in some way to Afghanistan. Setting aside the question of the utility

³ What is not available anywhere (yet?) is a list of the numbered and dated Presidential decrees or even an index to them.

of all of these works, surely a number of them would be of interest. Only a handful of these theses are available in hard copy within Afghanistan (either in AREU or at ACKU); many are available online (behind a ProQuest paywall) but online access in Afghanistan is limited to at best two or three institutions within the country, none of them public universities.

Date range	Cumulative total	Increase
<1979	1,599	-
<1989	3,181	1,582
<1999	6,582	3,401
<2001	7,714	1,132
<2009	17,849	10,135
<2015	31,533	13,648

Table 1: Number of theses in the ProQuest database indexed as using the word “Afghanistan,” by date of submission

Still, with considerable academic work on Afghanistan prepared and published outside Afghanistan, the natural question is how much of that can be accessed by Afghans or by researchers working in country? Some of these theses will eventually be published; however, analysing the number of monographs produced on Afghanistan is a bit more complex than I have space for here. A search on Amazon will show the plethora of titles linked to Afghanistan but by no means are they all academic. Setting aside for now the question of the quality of the material (which will have to be decided by individual scholars in their disparate disciplines), almost none of this output can be accessed by Afghan researchers inside Afghanistan or is even cited by development agencies and other policy makers working for Afghanistan.

Conclusion

Is research documentation relevant to Afghanistan? Most certainly, a factual basis is needed for decision making and policy formulation by the Afghan government, affiliated agencies and international actors working with Afghanistan. How available is this information to Afghans and researchers inside Afghanistan? Information management is a function of a developed society that is taken for granted by many of the very individuals making decisions about programmes to run in Afghanistan; however, few projects in Afghanistan have funded information management components even at a minimal level. Instead, most are content to allow the current status quo to remain unchallenged (an exception is the recent Agricultural Data Collection

and Utilization System [ADCUS] project reported in the Agriculture section below).

Development agencies at all levels need to integrate knowledge management and the cumulation of information as a preliminary step in their policy and related functions in Afghanistan as it is not clear, judging by the state of the information repositories in Kabul up to now, that the Afghan government has been able in any way to prioritise information management for its own functioning even after so many years. It would be natural to look to the Afghan tertiary education sector to see if it has in any way attempted to fill the gap. Unfortunately, as an excellent recent overview of the state of university libraries has shown (Roehrs 2014), that sector still faces significant issues.

Researchers based in Afghanistan and those outside both need access to the older research documents and to new materials. Having each researcher or organisation struggle to locate and cumulate data sets wastes time, as information managers and even librarians have very successful and established methods to cumulate, list and keep available data. Coordinated solutions drawing on those skill sets, such as the AREU library and ACKU, are much more efficient and able to build knowledge management institutions within Afghanistan, at least until such time as an Afghan state institution is able to take on this role.

Much is still undocumented and unknown about Afghanistan: research publications, strategies, studies, government documents, images, maps, music recordings, textbooks, handbooks, dictionaries and newspapers - all need to be systematically acquired, organised, listed in online library catalogues, kept safe and made freely available to advance knowledge about Afghanistan, not just for immediate and pragmatic decision making (wind power locations or HIV infection rates for example) but for larger socio-economic—and just as importantly—cultural reasons. The AREU library (open to the public) and the *Afghanistan research newsletter* (disseminated online) are attempts to promote access to and use of new research relevant to Afghanistan, both within the country and by researchers spread around the globe.

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Update on AREU research publications since 2012

Enabling More Effective and Equitable Natural Resource Management to Improve Rural Livelihood Security: A Programme of Research

AREU's four-year-project focusing on shared water resources and on linkages between the opium economy and rural poverty in its widest sense was finalised by the end of 2014. It consisted of two sub-themes: Managing the Commons - Water Governance; and Opium Poppy Dynamics.

The project was a great success in meeting its main research objectives. In terms of Water Governance, the first sub-theme, the project enhanced the understanding of the institutional arrangements at work regarding water allocation at basin and sub-basin watershed level and informed policy-makers of the challenges and bottlenecks faced in the implementation of the 2009 Water Law and 'Good Water Governance' principles. Additionally, it contributed to the improvement of policies and programmes addressing conflict resolution and cooperation over water access by providing an understanding of the institutional arrangements and individual strategies governing conflict and cooperation over water access at different scales. Finally, it explored the opportunities for, and barriers to, reaching trans-boundary water sharing agreements with Afghanistan's riparian neighbours.

The completion of the trans-boundary study and the subsequent discussions between the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) and AREU generated a serious debate among highest level of Afghan government on the subject. The number of meetings and issues raised from the government side after the wide range of briefings

on the paper informed the policy makers of the need for the Afghan government to develop its capacity in the area of negotiation on water management of trans-boundary issues. The high number of follow up meetings held by senior Afghan government officials to discuss the consequences of the report's publication indicates to AREU that its research have informed and influenced the highest level of Afghan government policy makers on the subject. In addition, AREU's work on NRM assisted international development agencies. We expanded our cooperation with organisations invested in water governance matters, such as the Asian Development Bank, GIZ, and UN staff. AREU has been regularly responding to requests for advice and comments with ongoing projects (ADB) or policy design (GIZ). Although these exchanges remained informal, they provide valuable venues for the research findings to shape policy and practice through experts who work on the ground and also at the policy-level.

In terms of the second sub-theme, Opium Poppy Dynamics, the project was equally successful in meeting its objectives. It provided an assessment of how to effectively support the wider political and economic environment and facilitate expanded livelihood options for rural Afghans, examined the return of opium cultivation in parts of Badakhshan and poppy-free Balkh Province, studied the socio-economic and political conditions behind both the apparent success of counternarcotics (CN) efforts in Helmand, and their current weakening in Nangarhar and provided an assessment of how changes to the wider enabling environment influence decisions about whether or not to cultivate opium poppy. All of these findings were summarised in a briefing paper, policy note and synthesis paper, all published as e-copies in the AREU website



as well as printed copies distributed to improve efforts to create supportive environments for reducing opium poppy production.

The fieldwork and subsequent briefings and publications for sub-theme two have helped to keep the counter narcotics agenda visible at a time when policy makers seem to have prioritised their attention on other issues in preparation for the transition year of 2014. The results of the fieldwork have also fed into wider conversations about the political economy of these four provinces post-transition, as well as discussion about future rural development



planning with USAID, MCN, DFID and UNAMA post-2014.

AREU's work also contributed to formulation of Open Society Foundation's counter narcotics programmes. The OSF recently engaged in serious discussion with members of the global commission on drug and counter narcotics as well as known experts in the field to shape

its program of engagement in Afghanistan in this sector. The policy debate of the foundation was primarily informed by AREU's recent publications and its final programme design is being influenced by AREU's publications in this quarter.

New Publications from AREU

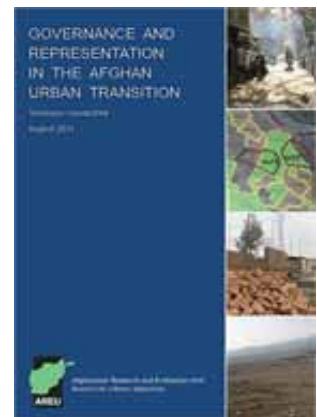
July 2011, "District Councils: The Missing Middle of Local Governance," by AREU. This roundtable emerged from AREU's wider study of local governance and focuses specifically on issues encountered at the district level. Participants highlighted the weakness of district structures compared to those at the provincial and village level; the confusion and complexity of different, overlapping bodies under different ministries and donor schemes; and the need to work toward a single, representative district body that can take an active role in local planning and hold ministries and the administration to account.

July 2011, "The Impact of Microfinance Programmes on Women's Lives: A Case Study in Kabul Province," by Sogol Zand. This case study looks at women's participation in a microfinance programme in a community in Kabul Province. It finds that while the process of taking loans has allowed some women to gain a degree of empowerment, the microfinance initiative has had little impact on changing decision-making power or the gendered division of labour. Instead, microfinance institutions' focus on financial sustainability and reluctance to address perceived social conservatism have limited their ability to transform women's position in the community.

August 2011, "Governance and Representation in the Afghan Urban Transition," by Tommaso Giovacchini. How to govern Afghanistan's booming cities? AREU's urban governance research in Herat, Charikar and Jalalabad was designed to test the hypothesis that Afghanistan's urban transition is precipitating a crisis in local governance, stifling repre-

sentation of new and old urban groups and interests, and leaving current regulatory mechanisms incapable of addressing the challenges of city growth.

This report suggests that cumbersome official mechanisms are being superseded in many instances by informal settlement or land-grabbing. It also demonstrates that municipalities are suffering a crisis of finance as their "formal" tax base fails to expand, leading municipalities to act as real-estate brokers in the markets they regulate to generate windfalls. Further, it shows that urban vulnerability is not necessarily linked to informal settlements, which often enjoy relatively good access to services and security of tenure thanks to the backing of powerful patrons. Finally, it explores the need for democratic representation for new urban constituencies, including the municipal councils promised by the constitution.



August 2011, "Managing Concurrent and Repeated Risks: Explaining the Reductions in Opium Production in Central Helmand Between 2008 and 2011," by David Mansfield. Using satellite imagery and on-the-ground research to track cropping patterns over several years, this report explores opium poppy cultivation in Helmand: what has driven recent reductions and how sustainable are they?

It finds that while household concerns about food security because of high wheat prices drove down poppy cultivation between 2008 and 2009, the coercive power of the Afghan state and international military forces has been significant in determining levels of cultivation in central Helmand in 2010 and 2011. Sustainability of these effects will vary among different communities, depending on factors such as their security, access to markets, and agricultural potential.

October 2011, “Wartime Suffering: Patterns of Violations in Afghanistan,” by Emily Winterbotham, Akbar Ludin, Amin Sheikhzadeh, Farkhloqa Amini, Fauzia Rahimi, Jamila Wafa, Shukria Azadmanesh, Zaman Sultani. This paper accompanies the Bamiyan, Ghazni and Kabul provincial case studies from AREU’s legacies of conflict research. It must be noted that the research was not designed to systematically document wartime experiences. However, a vast number of people gave up their time to tell their stories and while this was at times painful, many respondents also described the process as cathartic and healing. It was with this in mind that it was felt that the wartime stories gathered were worth both preserving and highlighting. This is a role served by this paper, which also provides a simple narrative for putting them in perspective.

October 2011, “Legacies of Conflict: Healing Complexes and Moving Forwards in Kabul Province,” by Emily Winterbotham. The first written in the series, this paper presents findings from an urban district of Kabul City and a rural community in Shakardara District. The research aims to deepen understanding of the impact of past and present war crimes and human rights violations on Afghan communities and of what community members want in terms of “justice,” “peace” and “reconciliation.”

October 2011, “Legacies of Conflict: Healing Complexes and Moving Forwards in Bamiyan Province,” by Emily Winterbotham, Fauzia Rahimi. The second written in the series, this paper presents findings from an urban area of Bamiyan City and a rural community in Yakowlang District. The research aims to deepen understanding of the impact of past and present war crimes and human rights violations on Afghan communities and of what community members want in terms of “justice,” “peace” and “reconciliation.”

October 2011, “Legacies of Conflict: Healing Complexes and Moving Forwards in Ghazni Province,” by Emily Winterbotham. The third written in the se-

ries, this paper presents findings from an urban area of Ghazni City and a rural community in Qarabagh District. The research aims to deepen understanding of the impact of past and present war crimes and human rights violations on Afghan communities and of what community members want in terms of “justice,” “peace” and “reconciliation.”

October 2011, “Rethinking Rural Poverty Reduction in Afghanistan,” by Paula Kantor, Adam Pain. This policy note draws on the findings of AREU’s Afghanistan Livelihood Trajectories project. It calls for a re-examination of poverty reduction strategy in Afghanistan as donor and government priorities shift in anticipation of the 2014 transition process. Outlining some of the core challenges to rural livelihood security, it argues for a revised understanding of poverty that goes beyond issues of resource scarcity to address the social and economic structures that underpin it.

October 2011, “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Counter-Narcotics Efforts and Their Effects in Nangarhar and Helmand in the 2010-11 Growing Season,” by David Mansfield. This paper contrasts the socio-economic and political developments that have taken place in the opium growing provinces of Nangarhar and Helmand in the 2010-11 growing season. Both provinces have cultivated significant amounts of

opium poppy over the last 15 years but are currently located at quite different points on the trajectory toward being “poppy free.” After being declared poppy free in 2008 following successive years of low cultivation, Nangarhar is now experiencing a resurgence in cultivation along its southern borders with Pakistan. Meanwhile, in Helmand—where cultivation has been heavily concentrated for well over a decade—there have been some dramatic reductions in cultivation over the last season. This paper charts the reasons for the different outlook for opium production in these two provinces. Specifically, it explores whether there are lessons to be drawn from the socio-economic and political processes involved that might inform both drug control and stabilisation efforts in the run up to transition in 2014.



November 2011, “Painful Steps: Justice, Forgiveness and Compromise in Afghanistan’s Peace Process,” by Jay Lamey, Emily Winterbotham. This paper places AREU’s legacies of conflict research into the context of ongoing peace efforts. It shows that Afghans are generally both pragmatic and principled in search of peace. During interviews, they maintained a keen sense of justice but usually showed a willingness to make compromises in the interests of national stability and cohesion. However, differing attitudes to the insurgency show that local flexibility will be required for a durable settlement.

As negotiations continue regarding the future US presence in Afghanistan, the research found that many people from a variety of urban and rural communities distrust foreign motives and want any peace process to be genuinely Afghan. A stronger and more trustworthy state was seen as central to this, but many had deep concerns about the capacity of the current government to achieve a lasting peace.

While efforts continue toward transition, some simple measures could provide a degree of comfort to the victims of Afghanistan’s conflicts. Government recognition of people’s suffering through the official Victims’ Day would be one such way. Overall, the principles of justice and recognition were considered more important than the processes used to seek them.

December 2011, “Afghanistan Looking Ahead: Challenges for Governance and Community Welfare,” by AREU. Ten years after the first Bonn conference attempted to lay the foundations for Afghanistan’s reconstruction, Afghan and international actors at Bonn II met to discuss the post-2014 handover of security responsibility to the Afghan government and the nature of the international community’s ongoing commitment to the country.



To coincide with the event, AREU released a package of policy notes based on its research on topics of relevance to the conference, including governance, development and justice. In doing so, it hoped to ensure that decisions on Afghanistan’s future are informed by an in-depth understanding of the real-

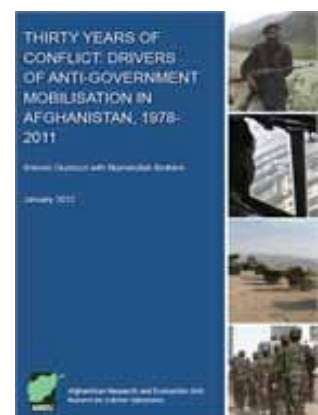
ity on the ground that reflects the needs and desires of Afghans themselves.

March 2012, “Social Protection for Informal Workers,” by AREU. This brochure outlines the aims and structure of AREU’s new project with the Overseas Development Institute, which forms one part of a multi-country study on social protection for informal workers and its impact on social inclusion.

January 2012, “Healing the Legacies of Conflict in Afghanistan: Community Voices on Justice, Peace and Reconciliation,” by Emily Winterbotham. This paper synthesises the findings from AREU’s Legacies of Conflict research project from across the Bamiyan, Ghazni and Kabul research sites, in search of broadly acceptable approaches to address the legacies of conflict and support reconciliation in the country. It also examines the political context for transitional justice and reconciliation and considers which policies might need to be changed or adopted.

The research found that many Afghans continue to struggle with the legacies of their wartime experiences. They usually saw peace and justice as complementary, and not as alternatives to each other. Justice was often widely conceived to include processes of recognition and recompense, and not simply criminal trials or punitive measures. There was a widespread desire for a strong and caring government that could drive a justice process and also negotiate for a peace that would not only end the insurgency, but reconcile Afghanistan’s different groups. However, a widespread pessimism prevailed about the prospect of this occurring in the near future. In the meantime, certain initiatives—whether locally-driven or at the national level—have the potential to provide a measure of comfort to conflict victims while paving the way for a more enduring peace.

January 2012, “Thirty Years of Conflict: Drivers of Anti-Government Mobilisation in Afghanistan 1978-2011,” by Dr. Antonio Giustozzi. This paper traces the structural factors driving anti-government mobilisation in Afghanistan in each successive phase of the country’s thirty years of



conflicts. Drawing on extensive literature from both international and Afghan sources, it analyses the social and political factors behind the ideological war of the 1980s, the factional conflict of the 1990s, and the current insurgency. In doing so, it explores how such an extended period of warfare has fundamentally reshaped Afghan society, spurring changes which have in their turn altered why the conflict is fought.

The study also devotes specific focus to examining the Taliban as an example of a political organisation enabling and driving conflict. Starting with the origins of the Taliban insurgency, it goes on to explore what is known about their ability to mobilise communities and the kind of non-military, tacit support it receives from them. It also looks at the role played by different groups of individuals such as mullahs, madrasa students and young people, and the economic and funding dimensions of the movement.

March 2012, “Does Women’s Participation in the National Solidarity Programme Make a Difference in their Lives? A Case Study in Balkh Province,” by Chona Echavez. This case study examines women’s participation in the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) in a Pashtun-majority community in Balkh Province. It finds that despite women’s weak involvement in actual project implementation, the NSP offered them an unprecedented chance to take part in activities outside their homes, an opportunity to be involved in community decision-making, and a venue to collectively explore and express their capabilities. While often fragile, these developments were seen as significant positive changes by those involved.

March 2012, “Equal Rights, Unequal Opportunities: Women’s Participation in Afghanistan’s Parliamentary and Provincial Council Elections,” by Oliver Lough, Chona Echavez, Farid Ahmad Bayat, Farkhloqa Amini, Massouda Kohistani, Reyhaneh Gulsun Husseini, Zia Hussein. The establishment of a democratic system under Afghanistan’s 2004 constitution has without doubt led to an unprecedented expansion of political participation for its women. In the years that have followed, millions of women have turned out to vote in successive rounds of presidential, legislative and provincial elections. Thousands more have competed for positions in parliament and the provincial councils. This paper explores some of the dynamics of women’s participation as candidates and voters in these elections, drawing on conversations with successful and unsuccessful female candidates,

along with men and women in six study communities spread across Balkh, Bamiyan and Kabul provinces.

It finds that there is no one blueprint for a successful female candidacy, and the stories of individuals interviewed for this study were as diverse and complex as the various political environments in which they operated. In almost all cases, successful candidates ultimately secured victory via a combination of good access to financial resources, ties to a powerful family or a political party, and—often most importantly—a strong relationship with a given community or other constituency of voters. Significantly, surprisingly few female candidates chose to court female voters.



Women voters in the research communities generally had reasonably unhindered access to the ballot box, and understood how to cast their votes. However, their voices were shut out of the community-level discussions so vital to electoral politics in contemporary Afghanistan. Although they were rarely forced to vote for a given

candidate, the refusal of their husbands to talk politics with women in their households left many of them struggling to make informed choices. Nonetheless, taking part in elections had a deeply positive personal impact on many of the women in this study, providing a vital affirmation of their equal rights in the eyes of the state, boosting their self-confidence and raising hopes for changing the existing status quo.

March 2012, “Gender and Economic Choice: What’s Old and What’s New for Women in Afghanistan?,” by Chona Echavez. In summer 2011, AREU conducted a rapid qualitative assessment of four communities in Kabul and Parwan provinces as one of the country case studies for the World Bank’s 2012 Human Development Report. This paper presents its results.

Focusing on the broad topic of gender and economic choice, the paper is divided into four thematic areas: power and freedom; marriage and children; education; and economic opportunities.

April 2012, “Does Women’s Participation in the National Solidarity Programme Make a Difference in

their Lives? A Case Study in Kabul Province,” by Chona Echavez. This case study is part of a larger project that explores women’s participation in different development programmes and projects in Afghanistan. The research specifically explores women’s participation in the National Solidarity Programme (NSP)’s Community Development Councils (CDCs) as well as non-government organisation (NGO)-initiated groups for microfinance under the Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA). It examines the effects these forms of women’s participation are having on gender roles and relations within the family and the local community. This Kabul case study is the third and final one in a series that focuses exclusively on women’s participation in the NSP.

May 2012, “A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance 2012 - Tenth Edition,” by AREU. The tenth edition of AREU’s flagship publication is a guide to the terms, structures, mechanisms, and coordinating bodies critical to the Afghanistan relief effort. It aims to ensure a shared vocabulary and common understanding of the forces at play in the country. In addition to a glossary of terms and organograms of key assistance structures, the guide includes maps and a contacts directory to make it easier to communicate with assistance actors working on the ground. A “live document,” the guide is updated and published annually.



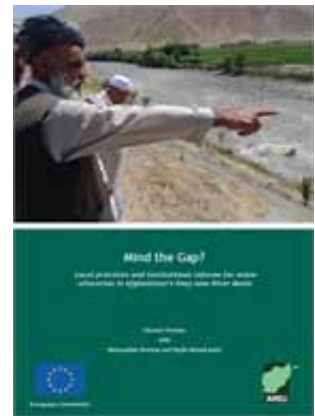
New additions this year include:

- In collaboration with the World Bank, a new section of 34 provincial profiles presenting key development indicators against national benchmarks, all drawn from NRVA data.
- A province-by-province guide to radio, TV and

print media currently active in Afghanistan courtesy of Nai Media.

June 2012, “Mind the Gap? Local Practices and Institutional Reforms for Water Allocation in Afghanistan’s Panj-Amu River Basin,” by Vincent Thomas, Mujib Ahmad Azizi, Wamiqullah Mumtaz. Since 2004, policymakers and international donor agencies have been trying to introduce “good” water governance concepts in the reform of Afghanistan’s water sector, including

integrated water resource management, river basin management and participation in decentralised decision-making via Multi-Stakeholder Platforms. Starting in 2005, the Panj-Amu River Basin Program piloted the introduction of these imported concepts in north-eastern Afghanistan.



With this context in mind, this paper draws on research carried out in two areas of the Panj-Amu Basin—the Taloqan Sub-basin and Lower-Kunduz Sub-basin—during the dry year of 2011. In doing so, it attempts to provide a better understanding of how local institutions currently deal with water allocation at the sub-basin level in times of drought, and discuss further policy challenges and opportunities.

June 2012, “The Impact of Microfinance Programmes on Women’s Lives: A Case Study in Balkh Province,” by Chona Echavez, Sogol Zand. This case study is part of a larger project that explores women’s participation in different development programmes and projects in Afghanistan. The research specifically explores women’s participation in the National Solidarity Programme (NSP)’s Community Development Councils (CDCs) as well as non-government organisation (NGO)-initiated groups for microfinance under the Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA). It examines the effects these forms of women’s participation are having on gender roles and relations within the family and the local community.

This Balkh case study is the third and final one in a series that focuses exclusively on women’s participation in MFI loan programmes. It finds that, while not the sole factor driving changes in gender relations the study community, women’s taking loans was an important contributing factor, giving them the necessary resources to act on and expand their power and authority both within and outside the household.

June 2012, Liveliness, Basic Services and Social Protection in Afghanistan,” by Adam Pain. This paper is a contribution to a broader comparative review by the Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC) of the current state of evidence and understanding on livelihoods, service delivery and social protection in

fragile states. It pays particular attention to the nature, robustness and depth of evidence available to support claims made about the effects of policy, programme and project interventions on the livelihoods of poor people in fragile states.

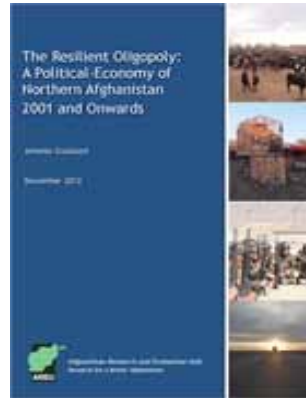
July 2012, “Fixing Afghanistan’s Electoral System: Arguments and Options for Reform,” by Andrew Reynolds, John Carey. Following Afghanistan’s deeply flawed Parliamentary election in 2010, calls for electoral reform among both national and international actors have been steadily gaining momentum. One major focus of criticism has been the country’s use of the single non-transferable vote (SNTV) system, which many argue must be scrapped or overhauled before the next set of legislative elections in 2015.

A new paper for AREU by international election experts Andrew Reynolds and John Carey explores how and why SNTV has been so damaging over the course of the last two rounds of legislative polls in 2005 and 2010. It argues that by choking political parties or other alliances of the oxygen they need to flourish, SNTV has left Afghanistan with a weak legislature, unable to advance coherent national policy programmes to deal with the country’s significant challenges. In addition, it highlights a raft of other problems that SNTV has either caused or exacerbated, exploring in particular the ways in which it has left the electorate struggling to see how their votes translate into meaningful representation.

It goes on to examine possible options for reform, including an analysis of a new draft Electoral Law proposed by Afghanistan’s Independent Election Commission in June 2012. Its broad recommendations are that:

- Any reform should build on the current system and avoid radical change.
- The complexity of the existing system can be reduced by having fewer MPs within each provincial constituency, leading to fewer candidates, a less fragmented vote, and more manageable ballots.
- Significant space needs to be created to encourage the development of political parties, while at the same time ensuring that opportunities remain for independents.
- It is crucial to avoid complexity within the system and to educate the electorate on not merely how to vote, but how their vote will affect the government that forms.

October 2012, “Land Governance at the Crossroads: A Review of Afghanistan’s Proposed New Land Management Law,” by Liz Alden Wily. Afghanistan’s long-standing Land Management Law, last revised in 2008, is again under review. More than 100 amendments had been formally proposed by mid-2012. So far the proposed changes are mainly editorial and do not reform problematic fundamentals of the law. Some important issues still requiring urgent attention are discussed and examined in this paper.



January 2013, “The Resilient Oligopoly: A Political-Economy of Northern Afghanistan 2001 and Onwards,” by Dr. Antonio Giustozzi. This paper studies the political and social dynamics of Northern Afghanistan, defined here as the provinces of Faryab, Jawzjan, Sar-i Pul, Balkh and Samangan, not just from the short-term

perspective of political rivalry and personal competition, but also from the wider and longer-term perspective of the resilience and weaknesses of organisations, patronage networks, and institutions, by looking at the social and economic interests underpinning them.

January 2013, “All Bets are Off! Prospects for (B) reaching Agreements and Drug Control in Helmand and Nangarhar in the run up to Transition,” by David Mansfield. The issue of illicit drug production has largely fallen off the policy agenda in Afghanistan. In addition to the increasing focus on the part of Afghanistan’s foreign partners on an exit strategy, this has been to a considerable extent due to a favorable trend in the short-term metrics by which the drugs issue is typically judged.

February 2013, “Land, People, and the State in Afghanistan: 2002 - 2012,” by Liz Alden Wily. This paper reviews the formal treatment of land rights in Afghanistan over the post-Bonn decade (2002 - 2012). The objective is to document the developments in the recent



past to better understand present and possible future trends.

March 2013, “‘Good’ Water Governance Models in Afghanistan: Gaps and Opportunities,” by Vincent Thomas. This policy note draws on evidence from recent EU-funded AREU field research to explore how “good” water governance principles—as piloted by the EU-funded Panj-Amu River Basin Programme (PARBP)—have been applied in practice.



April 2013, “A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance 2013 - Eleventh Edition,” by AREU. Aiming to enhance understanding of the actors, structures, and government processes related to aid and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, the eleventh edition of the A to Z Guide offers: a comprehensive glossary of assistance terms; an

overview of Afghanistan’s system of government; key primary documents; political overview of the 34 provinces; and extensive contacts directory.

May 2013, “A Little Bit Poppy-free and a Little Bit Eradicated: Opium poppy cultivation in Balkh and Badakhshan Provinces in 2011-2012,” by Paul Fishstein. This Case Study is based on field research carried out in May 2012 which focused on individual household decision-making and the economic, social, and political contexts in which those decisions are made, placing opium poppy cultivation in the broader livelihoods, governance, and political context.

August 2013, “Balkh’s Economy in Transition,” by Paul Fishstein, Islamuddin Amaki, Mohammed Qaasim. This Issues Paper extends beyond the more common conversation concerning Transition and its effect on the security and government, to that on the economy. Based on field work conducted between September 2012 and May 2013 in Balkh, the paper offers observations and recommendations appli-



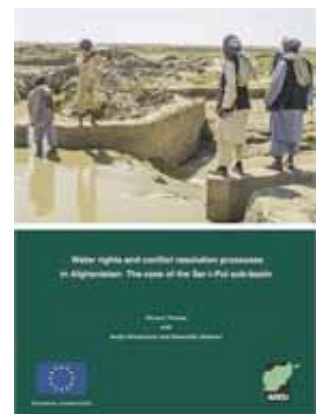
cable to the country as well.

August 2013, “Women’s Economic Empowerment in Afghanistan: Creating Spaces and Enabling the Environment,” by Lena Ganesh. This Policy Note is based on research findings which place Afghan women’s inadequate economic participation within the wider frame of the policy environment and deep-rooted socio-cultural barriers.

November 2013, “Women’s Rights, Gender Equality, and Transition: Securing gains, moving forward,” by AREU. The ouster of the Taliban in 2001 ushered in a new era of opportunity for women in Afghanistan. This paper examines the gains made over the past decade for Afghan women and girls and explores the obstacles that continue to impede progress toward gender equality. With their eyes on the 2014 transition, the authors argue that failure to adequately invest in women and girls will impede the country’s economic growth and stymie further development.

September 2013, “EYES WIDE SHUT: Counter-Narcotics in Transition,” by David Mansfield, Paul Fishstein. It is now clear that the production and trade of opiates will have a significant influence on not only the economic, political and security landscape, but even the physical terrain of post-Transition Afghanistan. Levels of opium poppy cultivation are already rising; estimated cultivated area rose by 18 percent in 2012 and is likely to rise significantly over the next few years. And this trend may intensify further as politico-military actors make deals and form coalitions in response to the 2014 handover of security responsibility from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

December 2013, “Water Rights and Conflict Resolution Processes in Afghanistan: The Case of the Sar-i-Pul Sub-Basin,” by Vincent Thomas, Ihsanullah Ghafoori, Mujib Ahmad Azizi. Over the past decade, research in Afghanistan has paid a great deal of attention to justice and dispute resolution processes related to civil and criminal issues. However, studies dealing with water-related conflicts have been extremely limited. This research is an attempt to fill



this gap, and focuses specifically on water rights and the resolution of conflicts related to water-sharing at different hydraulic and social levels within the Sar-i-Pul sub-basin in northwestern Afghanistan. In doing so, it examines the on-going gulf between actual water management practices and the recent “good water governance” models that have been enshrined in the 2009 Water Law.

December 2013, “Women’s Economic Empowerment in Afghanistan 2002-2012 ‘Information Mapping,’” by Lena Ganesh, Massouda Kohistani, Rahim Azami, Rebecca L. Miller. In the recent socio-economic culture of Afghanistan, as in most countries since the industrial revolution’s introduction of the artificial division between production and reproduction, women’s participation in the labour economy, whether productive or reproductive, has been invisible and unaccounted for in much policy-making, planning and budgeting. In parallel, socio-cultural practices specific to Afghanistan—often an uncertain mix between the Shari’ah and the customary laws followed by different ethnicities and tribes—have adversely affected the living conditions of women and girls. As a consequence, women’s practical and strategic needs have not been addressed by consecutive regimes. In parallel, the discourse of women’s human rights has not permeated much of the more recent rhetoric around “gender empowerment” to materially and politically improve the lives of women and girls in Afghanistan.

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March 2014, “Governance in Afghanistan: An Introduction,” by Aarya Nijat. Afghanistan is not new to governance reform. But the establishment of a sound system of public administration is a long-term process depending on strong, sustained and coordinated partnership between and within the Afghan government and the international community. Government reform implementation requires an accurate understanding of the Afghan context which is characterized by difficult geography, ethnic divisions, religious supremacy, a young demographic, patriarchal society, authority-driven leadership practices and continued conflict. Strong informal, feudal, top-down



governance mechanisms overwhelm the on-paper appearance of the Afghan government where patronage trumps law enforcement.



May 2014, “**The Afghan National Army: Sustainability Challenges beyond Financial Aspects,**” by **Antonio Giustozzi, Peter Quentin.** The ANA is commonly viewed as one of post-2001 Afghanistan’s strongest institutions, if not the strongest. However, with the imminent withdrawal of international forces, the ANA’s ability

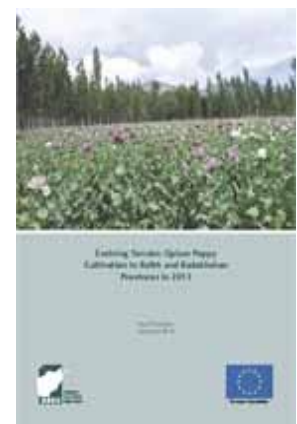
to stand on its own and successfully confront its enemies faces its first major test. This study shows that the Afghan government’s financial crisis is not the only challenge confronting the ANA: crucial weaknesses and flaws continue to undermine the ANA’s readiness that could derail its efforts to contain or defeat the ongoing insurgency.

March 2014, “**Adjudicating Election Complaints: Afghanistan and the Perils of Unconstitutionalism,**” by **Ghizzal Haress.** The Constitution of Afghanistan guarantees the rights of its citizens to elect and be elected, and provides for the establishment of an Independent Election Commission (IEC) to administer and supervise elections in the country. However, the Constitution does not stipulate any details regarding the framework and responsibilities of the IEC, including the mechanisms for resolving election complaints. Such details should rather be legislated.



April 2014, “**Evolving Terrain: Opium Poppy Cultivation in Balkh and Badakhshan Provinces in 2013,**” by **Paul Fishstein.** It is generally assumed that there will be significant increases in the level of opium poppy cultivation after the critical year 2014, when international military combat forces withdraw and Afghanistan selects its next president and takes control of all aspects of governance. In 2012-13, at the national

level, the area cultivated increased for the third consecutive year, and total opium production rose significantly. With 410 hectares (ha) of opium poppy recorded in the province, for the first time since 2007 Balkh is no longer classified as “poppy-free,” while Badakhshan saw an increase of 23 percent in area cultivated, despite the largest reported eradication of any province.



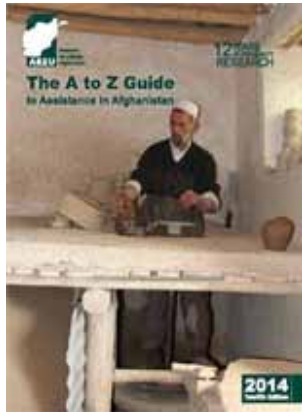
April 2014, “**How do Labour Programmes Contribute to Social Inclusion in Afghanistan?,**” by **Chona Echavez, Jennefer Lyn Bagaporo, Jessica Hagen-Zanker, Shaheen Akter.** This study adopts a social exclusion lens to analyse the effects of BRAC’s life skills education and livelihoods trainings for young women in Afghanistan and tests assumptions about the role labour programmes can play in contributing to social inclusion. It used mixed methods and employed a quasi-experimental impact evaluation. The findings show that the trainings had only small effects on some indicators of social inclusion related to knowledge and skills acquisition but almost no impact in terms of employment and business activity. A key factor contributing to the limited income-generating outcomes of the livelihoods training related to its design and delivery. More generally, the research revealed that education, access to financial capital and restrictions on female mobility were the key barriers to female employment.

April 2014, “**The Contribution of BRAC’s Life Skills Education and Livelihoods Trainings to Social Inclusion in Afghanistan,**” by **Chona Echavez, Babken Babajanian, Jessica Hagen-Zanker.** This study adopts a social exclusion lens to analyse the effects of BRAC’s life skills education and livelihoods trainings for young women in Afghanistan and tests assumptions about the role labour programmes can play in contributing to social inclusion. It used mixed methods and employed a quasi-experimental impact evaluation.

April 2014, “**How do Social Protection and Labour Programmes Contribute to Social Inclusion?,**” by **Babken Babajanian, Jessica Hagen-Zanker, Rebecca Holmes.** Discussions around the post-2015 development goals and the proposed ‘leave no-one behind’ principle have revived global interest in inequality and

the role of social protection in promoting social inclusion. The growing body of evidence on rising inequality and persistent structural poverty has prompted researchers and development professionals to look for policy measures to address the exclusion of particular groups from development processes as well as broader social and political life.

May 2014, “The A to Z Guide to Assistance in Afghanistan 2014 - Twelfth Edition,” by AREU. Updated each year, the A to Z Guide to Assistance in Afghanistan aims to enhance general understanding of the array of actors, structures, and government processes related to aid and reconstruction efforts in the country.



May 2014, “Afghanistan: Developing a Method for Village Characterisation,” by Adam Pain. This report describes the methods that are to be used to identify key village variables that might help account for ‘village behaviour’ and explain how they link to potential or actual public good delivery outcomes in Afghanistan. It is argued that this understanding will allow a preliminary characterisation of village preconditions before programmatic interventions engage with villages. This may allow a clustering of villages that are similar and different with respect to the potential generation of public goods. Such differences need to be systematically addressed both in programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

June 2014, “‘From Bad They Made It Worse’ The Concentration of Opium Poppy in Areas of Conflict in the Provinces of Helmand and Nangarhar,” by David Mansfield. Levels of drug crop cultivation have long been seen as an indicator of the success or failure of counternarcotics efforts. However, to rely on this indicator is to misunderstand the socioeconomic and political processes that support farmers moving out of opium poppy cultivation, as



well as the limited scope of many interventions currently categorised and budgeted as “counternarcotics” by the international community and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA).

June 2014, “Roundtable Discussion on ‘Afghanistan’s Electoral Experiences,’” by AREU. For a country with such a turbulent history as Afghanistan, to have a Constitution is itself an achievement. Afghanistan has had several Constitutions in the past that were never put into effect. Previous Constitutions, including the 1964 Constitution, were created by rulers to legitimise their governments and not focused on the people’s needs and rights.

June 2014, “Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium Annual Seminar,” by AREU. The Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium Afghanistan (SLRCA), a joint three-year research programme of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), being financially supported by the European Union, convened a half-day seminar to discuss livelihoods and governance on January 26 in Kabul.

June 2014, “Politics and Governance in Afghanistan: the Case of Nangarhar Province,” by Ashley Jackson. This paper seeks to explore regional political dynamics and governance being undertaken by the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit and the Overseas Development Institute as part of the Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium. This research aims to look at subnational governance and access to public goods. It seeks to understand the power relations at play, attempting to separate how government functions in reality from narratives created by the international community about how governance systems should function.

August 2014, “Afghanistan’s Constitution Ten Years On: What Are the Issues?,” by Mohammad Hashim Kamali. January 2014 marks the tenth anniversary of the current constitution of Afghanistan. Issues have arisen since then over textual ambiguities in the constitution as well as the locus of authority that can address and clarify them. Ambiguities are not unexpected with a new constitution.



The question is whether the constitution itself, and the institution it creates, are able to resolve and clarify the ambiguities in the way that fortifies the constitution and the rule of law.

Following the publication of the paper, Dr. Kamali gave an interview expanding on his analysis and reflections. An edited extract of the interview can be found at (<http://www.usip.org/olivebranch/afghanistans-prospective-unity-government-test-the-constitution>). The full length transcript of the interview will be included in a forthcoming revised version of this paper.

August 2014, “Despair or Hope? Opium Poppy Cultivation in Post-2014 Afghanistan,” by Paul Fishstein, David Mansfield. Like so much else in Afghanistan, the direction that the opium economy takes after 2014 will depend on a complex matrix of factors. Those who despair point to the more than one-third increase in cultivation, with a new high in 2013. They observe that with a contracting economy, increasing insecurity in rural areas, reduced international spending (and leverage) and a search for alternative sources of patronage among local power-holders, there are no obvious factors that would discourage expansion even beyond the current “unprecedented” levels. The absence of state influence in the 1980s and 90s allowed the expansion of opium poppy from relatively small and isolated areas to widespread cultivation, in the process becoming integrated with the larger rural economy and tilting political and economic power away from Kabul. Now, similar if not identical conditions underlie the fear of even greater expansion.

September 2014, “Unpacking the Complexities of Water Conflicts Resolution Processes in Afghanistan,” by Vincent Thomas. Over the past few decades, research in Afghanistan has paid a great deal of attention to justice and dispute resolution processes related to civil and criminal issues. However, studies focusing more specifically on water-related conflicts have been extremely limited and anecdotal.

August 2014, “The State of Electoral Dispute Mechanisms in Afghanistan,” by AREU. In 2010 Afghanistan faced an unprecedented situation where despite having two bodies to address electoral irregularities, the executive created an extra-constitutional measure to adjudicate electoral complaints. Ambiguities in the legal framework and unexpected electoral results in Ghazni province prompted a large number of electoral complaints.

September 2014, “Despair or Hope: Rural Livelihoods and Opium Poppy Dynamics in Afghanistan,” by Paul Fishstein. AREU conducted field research in Badakhshan, Balkh, Helmand and Nangarhar Provinces during the three agricultural years from 2010-11 to 2012-13, to explore the dynamics of opium poppy cultivation: the history of government policies and programmes and the ways in which these policies and programmes affected the ability of rural households to maintain their livelihoods.

September 2014, “Gender, youth and urban labour market participation: evidence from the tailoring sector in Kabul, Afghanistan,” by Adam Pain, Richard Mallett. The creation of good jobs and decent work in conflict-affected places is widely seen to generate not just better-off households, but also safer societies and more legitimate states. However, so much of the good jobs agenda is dominated by technical approaches more concerned with balancing out supply and demand than with serious analysis of the role of institutions, identity and power in mediating access to opportunities.

September 2014, “Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium Afghanistan Research Programme,” by Chona Echavez. Decades-worth of attempts to engineer a social transformation in Afghanistan from its existing social order to one more reflective of Western norms have largely failed to take root and have often helped consolidate a rule of patronage and personalized relationships.

December 2014, “Why Do Children Undertake the Unaccompanied Journey?,” by Chona Echavez, Jennefer Lyn Bagaporo, Leah Wilfreda RE Pilongo, Shukria Azadmanesh. The issue of children undertaking unaccompanied journeys abroad has been the focus of increasing attention, in light of the significant numbers of unaccompanied children arriving in Europe and the child protection concerns raised by this risky, and often irregular, travel. Afghanistan is one of the most notable countries of origin of children undertaking unaccompanied journeys abroad.



November 2014, “The Dilemma of Women and Leadership in Afghanistan: Lessons and Recommendations,” by Aarya Nijat. Afghanistan is a rural, patriarchal, traditional and religious society. At almost all levels, decision-making dynamics are top-down and largely informal. Identity is shaped by factors such as ethnicity, social privilege, financial assets, or by one’s authority—formal or informal—the source of which can be any of the above, or even the number of armed body guards and armored vehicles one possesses. Afghan society is elitist at its core, populist in its aura, and misogynist in its heart, where women are secondary citizens, always one of four: someone’s daughter, sister, wife or mother. Those who are none of the above may well be perceived to have less dignity.

November 2014, “The Social Life of the Onion: The Informal Regulation of the Onion Market in Nangarhar, Afghanistan,” by Giulia Minoia, Wamiqullah Mumtaz, Adam Pain. Within Afghanistan’s agricultural economy, there are many obstacles that cross-cut social, economic, and political trajectories to keep rural livelihoods constrained. A recent development programme, the Comprehensive Agriculture and Rural Development Facility (CARD-F), which aims to lift farmers from poverty, has focused on supporting value chains, identifying a lack of market information and access to credit systems as the primary constraints to market engagement.

December 2014, “Public Lecture and Open Discussion ‘The Afghan National Army: Sustainability Challenges beyond Financial Aspects,’” by AREU. On 18 November AREU researcher Dr. Antonio Giustozzi gave a lecture on the condition of Afghanistan’s security forces, in particular Afghan National Army. The lecture was focused on a recent AREU research paper titled “The Afghan National Army: Sustainability Challenges beyond Financial Aspects.” The lecture, however, covered issues further than this particular research topic. The lecture was attended by a number of experts and researchers on Afghanistan.

January 2015, “The Informal Regulation of the Onion Market in Nangarhar, Afghanistan,” by Giulia Minoia, Adam Pain, Wamiqullah Mumtaz. This study on the onion market investigates how one agricultural commodity market works and the ways in which social relationships govern access to the market in terms of information, credit, trading costs, returns and risks. As becomes clear there are powerful actors within the onion value chain who manipulate prices and costs to

their advantage, concentrating power within the market which limits access to small traders and farmers

February 2015, “Labour Markets, Social Inequality and the Tailors of Kabul,” by Richard Mallett,



Adam Pain. This study is about understanding how labour markets actually work in insecure and dynamic contexts. It does so through an analysis of the experiences of young women and men working in the tailoring sector of Kabul, Afghanistan. Tailoring employs more women than any other sector in urban Afghanistan, and it is also the fourth largest

employer of men living in urban areas. It therefore offers an ideal opportunity for gendered labour market analysis.

February 2015, “Politics and Governance in Afghanistan: The Case of Nangarhar Province,” by Ashley Jackson. Afghanistan’s government is often described as fragmented and fragile. In many instances, the central government is viewed as failing to function effectively, particularly beyond the capital. This does not mean that there is disorder at the regional or provincial level. To date, the international community’s governance agenda has consistently failed to consider and adequately address the more informal, relationship-based reality of how Afghan government institutions function.

February 2015, “Ten Years of the Constitution,” by AREU. AREU recently completed the “Afghan Constitutional Analysis and Dialogues” Project, the first major study reflecting on a decade of the 2004 Constitution. The project examined the status and evolution of constitutional and legal debates ten years after the adoption of the Afghan Constitution. As part of the project AREU commissioned a series of papers examining key themes of the Constitution including separation of powers, electoral framework, and fundamental rights. Each paper examined actual constitutional crises that took place over the past ten years, and analysed underlying legal and political issues.

As part of the Study, on 29 November 2014, AREU held a National Conference entitled “Ten Years of the Constitution,” where the main findings from each paper

were presented. The conference proceedings were conducted in Dari. This report brief presents an edited translation of the proceedings.

February 2015, “Annual Seminar Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium,” by AREU. This seminar brought together representatives from the Afghan government, domestic and international civil society organizations, and research institutes. Additionally, there were key experts in sub-national governance, livelihoods, and rural development. The seminar aimed to stimulate discussion and debate among attendees and revolved around three panels that follow the SLRCA thematic areas of sub-national governance, village level customary structures, and market life.

March 2015, “The A to Z Guide to Assistance in Afghanistan 2015 - Thirteenth Edition,” by AREU.

The guide provides an extensive glossary of assistance terms, an overview of Afghanistan’s system of government, key primary documents, and an extensive contact directory that includes government agencies, NGOs, donors and international actors.



New Research Publications on Afghanistan

Agriculture

“ADCUS final report: roadmap for success.” Kabul: Altai Consulting, 108 p., (November 2014). <http://www.altaiconsulting.com/docs/USDA%20ADCUS%20Final%20Report.pdf> (4.3 MB) (Annexes are not in the PDF version). “Recognizing the increasing need for agriculture data within MAIL, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) began to work with MAIL leadership on a strategy for developing capacity within MAIL to collect, analyze and share reliable national and regional agricultural production data that could be utilized by MAIL to support its programs and policy decisions. With support from USDA, the Agricultural Data Collection and Utilization System (ADCUS) project was initiated. Purdue University, working with USDA and MAIL leaderships, worked with Altai Consulting to design the ADCUS program as a first step towards building the professional capacity within the Agricultural Statistics Unit (ASU) to meet the agricultural production data needs of MAIL.” – (p. 8). “January 2012 to September 2014, Altai Consulting with the support of Purdue University, implemented the Agricultural Data Collection and Utilization (ADCUS) program at the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) in Afghanistan. The purpose of the program was to build the ministry’s



capacity to collect, analyze, and report agricultural data. This report details the progress made, key lessons learned, and a roadmap of actions that should be taken by MAIL over several years to meet its goal of having a professional statistics unit and system.” – (Website).

Central Asia

Bleuer, Christian and Said Reza Kazemi. “Between co-operation and insulation: Afghanistan’s relations with the Central Asian republics.” Kabul: Afghanistan Analysts’ Network (AAN), (June 2014). https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/20140608-Bleuer_Kazemi-Central_Asia.pdf (1.5 MB). “This report seeks to address, in a comprehensive manner, one region of concern within the various foreign relationships of Afghanistan—the former Soviet republics of Central Asia to the north. In contrast to many other reports that treat these countries (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan; only the former three directly bordering at Afghanistan) as if they were a homogenous region (the ‘–stans’), here they are analysed separately, as each forms its own foreign policy—often in a bilateral manner, eschewing genuine regional co-operation. In addition, the US and Russian roles played in security, economic and counter-narcotics fields within Central Asia will be illuminated, as both of those states have recently increasingly seen their engagement in Central Asia as related, by varying degrees, to Afghanistan.” – (p. 1).

“Central Asia/Caspian Sea Basin region after the

withdrawal of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan: summary of a roundtable discussion (November 2013). American foreign policy interests 36: 54-60, (March 2014). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10803920.2014.881215>. “Concern has been growing that, in light of the major U.S. policy decision to withdraw from Afghanistan in 2014, US interests and foreign policy in Central Asia and the Caspian Sea Basin Region are in danger of falling between the stools through a combination of shifting priorities, diminishing resources, and Central Asia ‘fatigue.’ As a result, the National Committee on American Foreign Policy conducted a roundtable to address the following three questions: Why is the region important to U.S. strategic interests, why is it necessary for the United States to maintain a presence in the region, and what would be the consequences if the United States walks away? The report explains the importance of U.S. strategic interests in the region and sets forth specific policy recommendations.” – (Abstract).

Civil society

Battiston, Giuliano. “Waiting for 2014: Afghan civil society on peace, justice and reconciliation.” 157 p., (September 2013). http://www.arciculturaesviluppo.it/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Waiting-for-2014_Giuliano-Battiston.pdf PDF (552 KB). “Afghanistan is going through one of the most important and complicated periods in its recent history: the transition (Inteqal). The transition indicates above all the progressive

handover of responsibility for security from NATO-led ISAF forces to Afghan ones, but is also a process involving many other sectors, from the financial to the administrative and fiscal, and from the political to the social. The transition will officially conclude at the end of 2014, when most foreign troops will leave the country and the Resolute Support Mission

will replace the ISAF one. This research study is based on the assumption that, in order to draw up a strategy adapted to this delicate transitional phase, we have to be aware of the population’s expectations, requests, and suggestions. Any strategy formulated without taking these aspects into account risks creating the conditions for a repetition of past mistakes.” – (p. 8)



Civilian casualties

“Protection of civilians in armed conflict: Afghanistan annual report 2013.” Kabul, Afghanistan: United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, xvi, 73 p., (February 2014). http://www.unama.unmissions.org/Portals/UNAMA/human%20rights/Feb_8_2014_PoC-report_2013-Full-report-ENG.pdf (1.9 MB). This disturbing report has been released annually since 2007. “Armed conflict in Afghanistan took an unrelenting toll on Afghan civilians in 2013. The UNAMA documented 8,615 civilian casualties (2,959 civilian deaths and 5,656 injured) in 2013, marking a seven percent increase in deaths, 17 percent increase in injured, and a 14 percent increase in total civilian casualties compared to 2012. Escalating deaths and injuries to civilians in 2013 reverses the decline recorded in 2012 and is consistent with record high numbers of civilian casualties documented in 2011. Since 2009, the armed conflict in Afghanistan has claimed the lives of 14,064 Afghan civilians.” – (p. 1).



Climate change

Parto, Saeed and Rozbih Mihran. “Climate change and food security in Afghanistan: evidence from Balkh, Herat, and Nangrahar.” Kabul: APPRO, 37 p. (August 2014). <http://appro.org.af/preview/climate-change-and-food-security-in-afghanistan-evidence-from-balkh-herat-and-nangrahar> (2.8 MB). “Afghanistan’s population is estimated at between 26-30 million. The average mortality age is between 42-47 years. The Gross Domestic Product of US\$11.6 billion is made up largely of the development and reconstruction funds that have been coming into the country since the fall of the Taliban in late 2001. Unemployment is estimated at around 40 percent while the total number of food insecure people has been estimated as 4.9 million people, or 19 percent of the population. With children up to the age of 5 years accounting for an estimated account for 21 percent of the population, this means that there are at least 1.5 million food insecure children with insufficient and inadequate daily protein and calorie intakes. There are 5.2 million food insecure people living in rural areas where 72 percent of

the population resides - excluding the 5 percent Kuchi population ... In much of the water-scarce agricultural land in Afghanistan farming has always been difficult. The difference between the past and present is increased fluctuations in weather patterns as far as temperatures and rainfall as well as a general warming which has occurred in most of the last 20 to 30 years. This already critical situation has been exacerbated by social and political turmoil during the same period.” – (p. 7).



Development assistance

“Country operations business plan: Afghanistan 2015-2017.” Manila, Philippines: Asian Development Bank (ADB), 10 p. (November 2014). <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/150413/cobp-afg-2014-2016.pdf> (306 KB). “The country operations business plan (COBP) 2015-2017 for Afghanistan will be implemented under the interim country partnership strategy (ICPS) 2014-2015 and a new country partnership strategy (CPS) that is expected to be approved in late 2015 or early 2016. The ICPS extends the validity of the CPS 2009-2013 and its strategic focus. The priority sectors under the CPS 2009-2013 include energy, transport and communications, and agriculture and natural resources. The COBP 2015-2017 is consistent with this sector focus and will promote inclusive economic growth, regional integration, gender equity, governance and capacity development, and private sector development. The COBP 2015-2017 is also aligned with selected development priorities featured in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the national priority programs.” –(p. 1) An interim plan for 2014-15 is also available. <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/82618/icps-afg-2014-2015.pdf> (2 p., 108 KB).

D’Souza, Anna and Dean Jolliffe. “Food insecurity in vulnerable populations: coping with food price shocks in Afghanistan.” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 96 (3) 790-812. “Based on data from Afghanistan collected prior to and during the 2007-2008 food price crisis, this paper illustrates that caloric intake is an ineffectual indicator for monitoring the onset of food insecurity. Unconditional Quan-

tile Regression estimates indicate that the most vulnerable of households, which cannot afford to make substantial cuts to calories, exhibit no decline in caloric intake in response to increasing wheat prices. In contrast, households with high-calorie diets experience large declines. The estimates also reveal declines in dietary diversity across the entire distribution of households. The most vulnerable households may be sacrificing diet quality to maintain calories, with the potential for serious and long-term health consequences.” – (Abstract).

“DFID’s Bilateral Support to Growth and Livelihoods in Afghanistan.” [London]: Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI), (March 2014). <http://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/ICAI-Report-DFID%E2%80%99s-Bilateral-Support-to-Growth-and-Livelihoods-in-Afghanistan.pdf> (724 KB). “This review assesses the effectiveness of DFID’s bilateral growth and livelihoods projects, which account for approximately 30% of DFID’s £190 million annual aid budget in Afghanistan. We examine the impact on intended beneficiaries of five case study projects that aimed to strengthen infrastructure and give people the necessary skills and resources to improve their livelihoods. We also assess how DFID is preparing to deliver sustainable impact. Afghanistan is one of the most difficult places to deliver aid and DFID’s staff work hard under demanding conditions. Although the five projects we reviewed were, on the whole, well delivered, we found mixed results. The more ambitious and multi-faceted projects were less successful than those with more limited scope. Our fieldwork provides evidence that a positive difference is being made to the livelihoods of intended beneficiaries in the areas we surveyed. It is not clear, however, how positive impacts will, in all cases, be sustained in the long term this year and beyond.” –(Executive summary, p. 1).

Wells, Jeremy L. “COINing a country: reconstruction and relief amid insurgency, Afghanistan 2004-2009.” (July 2013). <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2411606> or, <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2411606> PDF (498 KB). “The reprisal of the Taliban in Afghanistan beginning in 2003 forced the occupying military forces into counterinsurgency. The release of the *Afghan War Diary* allowed scholars and the public to analyze trends of violence in the prosecution of the war against the insurgency; however, the effects of the more than \$90 billion in US aid to Afghanistan have gone untested. A substantial portion of that aid has come from the Department of Defense via the Commanders Emergency

Relief Program (CERP). Including data on CERP projects provides an expanded understanding of how development and relief aid have affected counterinsurgency efforts in Afghanistan and offers a rare glimpse of how aid affects the course of a violent conflict. The number of economic development and humanitarian relief projects fosters collaboration of Afghan civilians with Western forces; interestingly however, the actual amount of money spent has a negligible effect.” –(Abstract).

Economy

“**Afghanistan economic update, April 2014 and October 2014.**” Washington, DC: World Bank, (April 2014; October 2014) <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/18633> (PDF 1.9 MB) <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/20668> (PDF 1.7 MB). This update of the fiscal state of Afghanistan has been published once or twice a year since September 2009. It provides a summary of data trends and an overview of economic indicators as reported by the Afghan government. “Economic growth slowed considerably to 3.6 percent (estimated) in 2013 despite robust agricultural production, as heightened uncertainty surrounding the political and security transition led to a slump in investor and consumer confidence. Growth is projected to remain weak in 2014, while a smooth political and security transition would help restore confidence in the economy and enable a pickup in growth in 2015. Revenue collection continued to weaken in 2013, while Afghanistan’s large security expenditure obligations and high aid dependence pose the risk of crowding out important civilian operating and development spending. Domestic revenues declined to 9.5 percent of GDP in 2013 from 10.3 percent in 2012 and the peak of 11.6 percent in 2011. The decline in revenue collections is a result of the economic slowdown as well as weaknesses in enforcement in both tax and customs administration. In light of tight resources, austerity measures in 2013 disproportionately affected civilian

expenditures as security expenditures have continued to grow. A concerted effort will be required going forward to improve revenue mobilization, while at the same time safeguarding important civilian spending. In addition to managing the transition related uncertainty and underperformance, Afghanistan will need to stay focused on its medium term structural reform goals, which include: (i) ensuring fiscal sustainability by mobilizing revenue, securing grant assistance, and safeguarding non-security expenditures; (ii) supporting inclusive and job-creating private-sector led growth by unlocking the potential of the agriculture, services, and natural resource sectors and by tapping the potential of regional integration; (iii) continuing to improve upon the still low levels of human capital and skills; and (iv) continuing to strengthen institutions and governance.” – (Website).

“**Assessing potential for micro finance in rural livelihoods.**” Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting, 58 p. (October 2013). <http://samuelhall.org/REPORTS/Assessing%20Potential%20for%20Micro%20Finance%20in%20Rural%20Livelihoods.pdf> (3.0 MB). “This report was commissioned by the First Micro Finance Bank of Afghanistan (FMFB-A) to study the demand for micro finance services in Bamyan and Kunduz provinces, which will feed into its rural and agricultural business strategy. This study presents findings from a socio-economic survey about livelihoods and financial behavior ... For the study 192 (160 male and 32 female) respondents from Bamyan and 250 (213 male and 37 female) from Kunduz were surveyed as part of the quantitative survey. In total 277 respondents were from urban locations and 165 from rural villages.” – (p. 5).



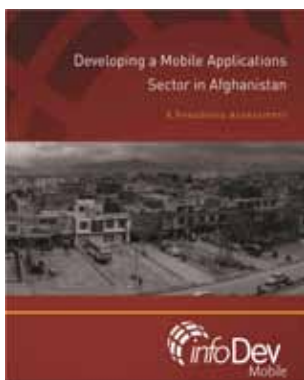
Assessing Potential for Micro Finance in Rural Livelihoods
 Prepared by Samuel Hall Consulting
 Commissioned by the First Micro Finance Bank of Afghanistan



Bove, Vincenzo and Evelina Gavrilova. “Income and livelihoods in the war in Afghanistan.” *World Development*, v. 60, p. 113-131, (2014). This article explores “the impact of the insurgency and military deployment on the livelihoods of local communities in Afghanistan. [It uses] monthly wages and commodity prices at the provincial level over the period 2003-09 and [looks] for their response to conflict events and ISAF deployment. Overall [the article finds] that prices are more sensitive to deployment than to attacks. Commodity prices

are not significantly affected by insurgent violence, which is consistent with coping strategies already in place. On the opposite [side], military deployment is associated with an increase in the levels of wages and commodity prices, as ISAF is a new source of uncertainty.” – (Summary).

Baudeau, Rodolphe, Alice Bodreau and Alexandre Plichon. “Developing a mobile applications sector in Afghanistan.” Washington, DC: Information for Development Program (infoDev)/The World Bank, 88 p. (2014). <http://www.infodev.org/infodev-files/afghanistan-mobile-feasibility-assessment.pdf> PDF (2.83 MB). “[T]he information and communications technology (ICT) sector in [Afghanistan] has witnessed remarkable growth. An estimated 12 million mobile phone users utilize the services and products of four private mobile companies and one state-owned company. A recent survey conducted by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) noted that around



80 percent of women in the country have regular or occasional access to a mobile phone. The government supports the ICT sector and is adopting technologies to expand service delivery and support good governance. The potential in this sector is vast with guaranteed high returns for employment opportunities, generating foreign investment and producing

government revenue ... Recognizing the capacity and potential in this sector, infoDev embarked on a feasibility study to gauge the ICT and mobile applications sector in Afghanistan. The feasibility aimed to map and understand the current business environment for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the ICT sector and assess the overall ecosystem for business incubation. The study also measured the opportunity to create and support a vibrant mobile applications-focused incubator. The analysis concludes by offering a set of recommendations and a roadmap on the way forward for implementation.” – (Executive summary).

“ICT economic impact assessment.” Kabul: Altai Consulting, 90 p. (July 2014). <http://www.altaiconsulting.com/docs/ICT%20Economic%20Impact%20Assessment.pdf> (2.7 MB). “The primary purpose of the assessment was to determine the impact of informa-

tion and communication technology (ICT) on the Afghan economy and employment. The study estimates the extent to which ICT has contributed to economic growth and job creation since 2002, and forecasts future growth until 2017. Moreover, the research provides an analysis of and recommended reforms on selected aspects of the public policy framework of the ICT sector.” – (Website)



“Market research on mobile money in Afghanistan.” Kabul: Altai Consulting, 29 p. (November 2013). http://www.altaiconsulting.com/library_details/160983 (PDF 939 KB). “The aim of the study is to support key stakeholders in designing the right strategies to boost mobile money penetration and usage in Afghanistan. This report is a summary of the findings. The research in its entirety can be found in the appendix. The research consisted of a nationwide quantitative survey of 1,070 SIM owners (equal sample of men and women) as well as 12 qualitative focus group discussions (FGDs) with the general public and businesses.” – (Summary).

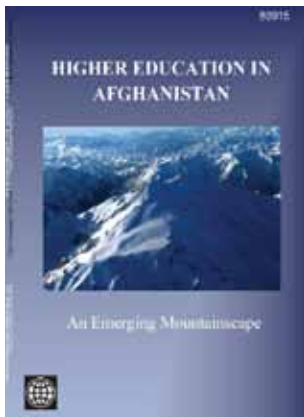
“Mortgage market assessment in 5 major cities of Afghanistan.” Kabul: Afghanistan Holding Group (AHG), 82 p. (April 2014). http://www.harakat.af/site_files/14011678611.pdf (6.2 MB). “Afghanistan Holding Group’s research into the mortgage market of Afghanistan has revealed a strong public demand for more mortgage products. Financial firms, however, report that the legal infrastructure of Afghanistan needs to be improved before they can invest in developing mortgage products. AHG’s analysis is that mortgage products, especially Sharia compliant products, are highly desirable if they are priced properly and if proper adjudication and law enforcement mechanisms are put in place and strengthened. AHG believes that the current laws, in general, are supportive of the industry but the enforcement and interpretation of those laws need additional work.” – (p. 7). Based on a survey of 1959 households.

Parto, Saeed and Jos Winters. “Business licensing in Afghanistan: procedural reform or institutional regression?” Kabul: Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organisation (APPRO), 31 p., (May 2014). http://www.scribd.com/document_downloads/226159710?e

xtension=pdf&from=embed&source=embed (PDF 1.72 MB). “Through the lens of business licensing reforms, this working paper examines progress and remaining challenges under the economic reconstruction models currently in use by the Government of Afghanistan and its international donors. To this end, the paper compares the procedural steps for business licensing and renewal officially mandated by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and those actually needed to complete the process. Survey data and resulting analysis then pinpoint areas of continued difficulty for applicants/investors, including bottlenecks, duplicative or unnecessary processes, and opportunities for corrupt practices to emerge and become firmly embedded.” –(Abstract).

Education

Aturupane, Harsha. Higher education in Afghanistan: an emerging mountainscape. Washington, DC: the World Bank (August 2013). http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/09/05/000333037_20130905112816/Rendered/PDF/809150WP0Afgha0Box0379822B00PUBLIC0.pdf (PDF 6.9 MB). “This report, which has been prepared in consultation with senior higher education policy makers, academics, researchers, staff and students in higher education in Afghanistan, intends to serve several purposes.



First, the report provides a wide-ranging and evidenced-based review and analysis of the higher education sector in Afghanistan. Second, the report surveys a rich variety of higher education systems, policies and reforms observed in the modern world with an emphasis on those areas where Afghanistan faces the great-

est higher education policy challenges. The report provides a menu of policy options for consideration among policy makers in the Government of Afghanistan, including the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Higher Education, as well as stakeholders and beneficiaries of the higher education sector such as public and private higher education institutions, members of the academic community, development partners, and employers and business leaders. The information and analysis presented in the report can contribute to the

preparation and implementation the next phase of the higher education development strategy for Afghanistan. Finally, the analysis in the report will inform future support from the World Bank for higher education in Afghanistan.” – (p. xi).

“Balkh education facility: building remains unfinished and unsafe to occupy after nearly 5 years.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR). 19 p. (January 2014). http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/inspections/SIGAR_Inspection_14-24.pdf (1.2 MB). “The Balkh education facility has not been completed or constructed in accordance with contract requirements and technical specifications. As a result, nearly 5 years after construction began, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is unable to transfer the facility to Afghan authorities. USAID and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identified a number of repairs that need to be made to address, among other things, a leaking roof, defective electrical wiring, and an improperly sloped terrace roof. USAID technical office and contracting staff have developed a revised procurement strategy to contract out this remaining construction and repair work, which they expect to be completed by mid-2014.” – (Reverse of title page).

“Creating a network of model schools to support the future of Afghanistan’s children: an educational midline survey for the Womanity Foundation.” Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting (August 2013). <http://samuelhall.org/REPORTS/School-in-a-box%20midline%20survey%202013.pdf> (6.1 MB). “This report examines the work done by the Womanity Foundation in three of their model Afghan schools located in the provinces of Kabul and Kapisa. The ‘School in a Box’ flagship initiative aims at creating model institutions for girl’s education that can function as learning hubs in often-remote areas.”—(Executive summary). An earlier baseline survey is also available: “‘School-in-a-box’ baseline survey: Kabul, Paghman, Panjshir Afghanistan.” Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting, 121 p., (January 2012). <http://samuelhall.org/REPORTS/School-in-a-box%20baseline%20survey.pdf> (3.4 MB).



Kibria, Md Golam. “The magnitude of cultural factors that affect school enrolment and retention in Afghanistan: an analysis through Hofstede’s cultural model.” *Canadian Social Science*, v. 9 (6) pp. 161-168 (2013). “This study aims to measure the magnitude of the cultural factors that affect enrolment and retention in both primary and secondary education levels in Afghanistan and advocate cultural transformation or modification in Afghanistan to enhance enrolment and retention in school. The study uses quantitative and particularly qualitative data regarding cultural constraints to school enrolment and retention in Afghanistan from secondary sources like Afghan government publications, private publications, publications from non-government organizations, journal articles, newspaper articles, newsletter articles, web documents, dissertations, published interviews, database articles, and books. It employs Hofstede’s cultural dimensions model to analyze the cultural factors. However, the study found out that on the scale of Geert Hofstede’s cultural dimensions model, Afghan culture was characterized by high degree of power distance, masculinity, i.e., conventional gender role focus, high level of uncertainty avoidance, and long term orientation that were deterrents to education in Afghanistan. Finally, it recommends a culture with low level of power distance, femininity focus, low degree of uncertainty avoidance, and long term orientation to increase school enrolments and retention in Afghanistan.” – (Abstract).

Mujtaba, Bahaudin G. “Education status and development strategies in Afghanistan: a perspective from Dr Saif R. Samady, former Deputy Minister and Chairman of the Independent High Commission of Education.” *Journal of Applied Management and Entrepreneurship*, 19:1 110-120 (2014). “In this interview, Dr Saif Samady offers a realistic view of the current education process in Afghanistan along with ... reflections and prescriptive remedies that can be used by educators, administrators, managers, business leaders, and politicians inside Afghanistan and those outside of the country who are helping during this transition period.” – (p. 111).

“Schools as zones of peace: the challenges of making Afghanistan’s schools safe for education.” Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting, Save the Children (November 2013). http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/szop_report_final_9oct13.pdf (375 KB). “As highlighted by this report, the reasons why schools are threatened and



SCHOOLS AS ZONES OF PEACE:
The Challenges of Making Afghan Schools Safe for Education

attacked are complex and often unclear. Education is a politically contentious subject and schools are caught in the middle of conflicting viewpoints about the role of education in a particular district or community. Schools may be attacked simply because they are symbols. As a consequence, no single model for school protection is either appropriate or possible and advocacy needs to be locally owned and specific to each particular context. However, it is clear that community institutions are crucial in spreading positive, pro-education messages. It is also clear that advocacy to declare schools as zones of peace is very important as 2014 approaches. This report provides a springboard and framework for facilitating discussions at both local, district and national levels on how best to protect schools and prevent attacks on education.” – (p. ii-iii).

Skovdal, Morten, Sue Emmott and Rachel Maranto. “The need for schools in Afghanistan to be declared as zones of peace and neutrality.” *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 38 (2) 170-179, (February 2014). http://www.ifsv.ku.dk/ansatte/?pure=files%2F105346647%2FSkovdal_et_al_2014_SZOP_in_Afghanistan.pdf (2.6 MB). An article outlining the Save the Children study “Schools as zones of peace” (listed above).

Elections

(see the Politics and government section below)

Health

Bennett, Matthew and Rainer Gonzalez Palau. “Polio in Afghanistan and Pakistan: prospects for eradication.” [Norfolk, Virginia]: Civil-Military Fusion Centre, 9 p. (November 2013). https://www.cimicweb.org/cmo/afg/Documents/Social_Infrastructure/201311_CFC_Polio_Afghanistan_Pakistan.pdf PDF (782 KB). This report outlines the current state of affairs regarding the polio virus in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Furthermore, it reviews the unique challenges confronting the campaign for the eradication of polio in both countries while highlighting recent developments. Prospects for the eradication of this disease in the future are also discussed.” Only three countries remain with polio present: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Fogarty, Linda et al. “Job satisfaction and retention of health-care providers in Afghanistan and Malawi.” *Human Resources for Health*, 12:11, 12 p. (2014). <http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/12/1/11PDF> (272 KB). “The construction of concepts of health-care worker satisfaction and intention to stay on the job are highly dependent on the local context. Although health-care workers in both Afghanistan and Malawi reported satisfaction with their jobs, the predictors of satisfaction, and the extent to which those predictors explained variations in job satisfaction and intention to stay on the job, differed substantially. These findings demonstrate the need for more detailed comparative human resources for health-care research, particularly regarding the relative importance of different determinants of job satisfaction and intention to stay in different contexts and the effectiveness of interventions designed to improve health-care worker performance and retention.” – (Conclusion, p. 1).

Saadat, Mostafa, and Khadijeh Tajbakhsh. “Prevalence of consanguineous marriages in west and south of Afghanistan.” *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 45 (06) p. 799-805 (November 2013), doi:10.1017/S0021932012000661. “The prevalence of consanguinity in eight provinces of Afghanistan has recently been reported by Saify & Saadat (2012). The present cross-sectional study was done in order to illustrate the prevalence and types of consanguineous marriages among other populations of Afghanistan. Data on types of marriages were collected using a simple questionnaire. The total number of couples in this study was 5200 from the following provinces: Farah, Ghazni, Herat, Hilmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Logar, Parwan and Wardak. Consanguineous marriages were classified by the degree of relationship between couples: double first cousins, first cousins, first cousins once removed, second cousins and beyond second cousins. The coefficient of inbreeding (F) was calculated for each couple and the mean coefficient of inbreeding (a) estimated for each population. The a in the country was 0.0226, ranging from 0.0203 in Farah province to 0.0246 in Herat province. There were significant differences between provinces for frequencies of different types of marriages ($p < 0.001$). First cousin marriages (21.7%) were the most common type of consanguineous marriages, followed by second cousins (16.0%), first cousins once removed (14.0%), beyond second cousins (6.9%) and double first cousins (1.6%). There was significant difference between ethnic groups for the types of marriage ($p < 0.001$). Tajiks (Soni) and Sadats showed the

lowest (a $\frac{1}{4}$ 0.0215) and highest (a $\frac{1}{4}$ 0.0242) levels of consanguinity among ethnic groups in Afghanistan, respectively. The present study shows that the Afghani populations, the same as other Islamic populations, have high levels of consanguinity.” – Summary.

“Salang hospital: lack of water and power severely limits hospital services, and major construction deficiencies raise safety concerns.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 17 p. (January 2014). http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/inspections/SIGAR_14-31-IP.pdf (753 KB). “Salang hospital [Parwan Province] was not built in accordance with contract requirements. In mid-2012, a U.S. Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) task force inspected the site during construction and found a number of deficiencies, including water, sewer, electrical, and heating systems that were incomplete or needed repair. The task force noted the inhabitants of Salang district would have inadequate access to healthcare until construction deficiencies were remedied and missing equipment provided. In November 2012, the contractor was paid in full. However, SIGAR’s November 2013 inspection found that the deficiencies identified by the task force had not been corrected.” – (p. [1]).



Seddiq, Khaled et al. “Implementing a successful tuberculosis programme within primary care services in a conflict area using the stop TB strategy: Afghanistan case study.” *Conflict and Health*, 8:3 (9 p.) (January 2014). http://www.researchgate.net/publication/260129289_Implementing_a_successful_tuberculosis_programme_within_primary_care_services_in_a_conflict_area_using_the_stop_TB_strategy_Afghanistan_case_study (226 KB). “Afghanistan has faced health consequences of war including those due to displacement of populations, breakdown of health and social services, and increased risks of disease transmission for over three decades. Yet it was able to restructure its National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP), integrate tuberculosis treatment into primary health care and achieve most of its targets by the year 2011. What were the processes that enabled the programme to achieve its targets? More

importantly, what were the underpinning factors that made this success possible? We addressed these important questions through a case study.” –(Introduction).

“USAID’s Health Services Support Project [HSSP]: audit of costs incurred by Jhpiego Corporation.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 51 p. (February 2014). http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/Financial_Audits/SIGAR-14-34-FA.pdf (3.9 MB). Audit of the USD\$60 million spent on USAID’s Health Service Support Project (HSSP) in Afghanistan. “The Health Services Support Project (HSSP) was a \$62 million project that provided technical assistance and capacity-building support to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) contracted by Afghanistan’s Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to improve service delivery and the quality of basic health services in Afghanistan.” –(USAID HSSP webpage).

Heart of Asia Process

Ghiasy, Richard and Maihan Saeedi. The Heart of Asia Process at a juncture: an analysis of impediments to further progress: policy paper. Kabul: Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, June 2014, 68 p. (2014). http://www.academia.edu/7427601/The_Heart_of_Asia_Process_at_a_Juncture_An_Analysis_of_Impediments_to_Further_Progress_POLICY_PAPER (PDF 3.0 MB). “The complexity of relations among Heart of Asia Process (henceforth *HoAP* or *the Process*) participating states, the inner circle, cannot be understated. Brokering discussion on common threats and opportunities pertaining to Afghanistan within a single platform among states that have hitherto had difficulty interacting is a victory in itself. The brief timeframe in which it has done so should be underlined. Yet, the Process finds itself at risk of losing momentum. HoAP members need to be persuaded that this process will yield results. What are impediments to further progress? This policy paper attempts to answer this question and provides policy recommendations to HoAP stakeholders to mitigate such impediments.” – (Executive summary, p. 6).

History

Faridullah Bezhani. “The Second World War and political dynamics in Afghanistan.” *Middle Eastern Studies*, v. 50:2, p. 175-191, (2014) DOI: 10.1080/00263206.2013.870892. “Although Afghanistan was not involved in the fighting in the Second World War, the war brought a new dimension to its politics. It forced the country out of its isolation and

moved it towards the centre of Axis and Allied politics in Central and South Asia. It also caused a new dynamic in internal politics, including introducing new players and facilitating the emergence of political parties.” – (p. 186).

Faridullah Bezhani. “Pan-Islamism in Afghanistan in the early twentieth century: from political discourse to government policy, 1906-22.” *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, v. 25:2, p. 193-210, (21014) <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09596410.2014.881008>. “The idea of pan-Islamism in Afghanistan emerged after the foundation of the Constitutional Party in the early 1900s. The party was an underground organization which had cells in an educational institution, the royal court and among the foreign group (Indians) employed in government departments. Pan-Islamism served to unite various political forces toward certain political and cultural goals. After the accession of Amanullah to the throne in 1919, pan-Islamism became a state policy. It served as the key to the government’s foreign policy, especially towards the two imperial powers in the region, Britain and Russia. Amanullah used it as a means to fulfil his political expansionist ambitions. This article examines what pan-Islamism meant to the Constitutional Party and to King Amanullah, the reasons behind their approaches, and the political context that made pan-Islamism the most appealing ideological and political strategy for them. The article also explores the means the party and Amanullah used to propagate pan-Islamism.” – (Abstract).

Foot, Peter. “Afghanistan 2001-2014: the enduring literature?” *The Quarterly Journal*, 13:2 105-109, (2014). The author overviews the large number of publications on Afghanistan, setting aside what he terms “military pornography,” he prefers William Dalrymple *Return of the king*, Edward Giradet *Killing the cranes: a reporter’s journey through three decades of war in Afghanistan*, Rodric Braithwaite *Afghantsy: the Russians in Afghanistan 1979-1989*, Peter Tomsen *The wars of Afghanistan*, Andrew Wegener *A complex and changing dynamic: Afghan responses to foreign intervention 1878-2006*, Sherard Cowper-Coles *Cables from Kabul*, Lucy Morgan Edwards *The Afghan solution: the inside story of Abdul Haq, the CIA and how western hubris lost Afghanistan* (London: Bactria, 2011), and Astri Suhrke *When more is less: the international project in Afghanistan* (London: Hurst, 2011).

Marion, Forrest L. “‘Ten seconds to impact’: the B-52 air strike at Bagram, Afghanistan, November 21, 2001.” *Air Power History*, 61, no. 1 (Spring 2014).

An insider's account of the preparations and initial flights for B-52 bombers over Afghanistan following the events of September 11, 2001. “

Smith, Shane A. “Afghanistan after the occupation: examining the post-Soviet withdrawal and the Najibullah regime it left behind, 1989-1992.” *The Historian*, v. 76 (no. 1), p. 308-343, (2014). <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/hisn.12035/abstract>. “Is Afghanistan’s government doomed to fall soon after most NATO forces leave in 2014, as many in the government, intelligence, and academic communities seem to think? This debate has echoes in the country’s past. As such, this study explores the 1989-1992 time frame, a period during which international expectations of Afghan collapse proved premature, but ultimately accurate. In spite of assessments that the government of the Republic of Afghanistan might not even last until the Soviet withdrawal was complete, Mohammad Najibullah (1947-96)’s regime outlived the USSR itself, collapsing only after Soviet assistance dried up. Najibullah’s survival involved copious Soviet aid and deft political maneuvering in an attempt to manipulate the environment in his favor.”

Humanitarian assistance

“Baghlan prison: severe damage to \$11.3 million facility requires extensive remedial action.” Arlington, VA: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 22 p., (May 2014). <http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/inspections/SIGAR-14-62-IP.pdf> (2.2 MB). The new prison built in Baghlan in 2012 has such severe structural problems that some parts have had to be demolished. This report sets forth the problems with the contracting and construction process.



“Evaluation of the UNHCR Shelter Assistance Programme: full report.” Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting, 261 p. (November 2013). <http://samuelhall.org/REPORTS/UNHCR%20Shelter%20Assistance%20Programme%20Evaluation.pdf> (3.9 MB). “UNHCR’s Shelter Assistance Programme [SAP] has provided, since 2002, more than 220,000 units of shelter to vulnerable returnees and IDPs throughout Afghanistan. ... To date, only one internal assessment of the programme has

been conducted by UNHCR - with a limited scope, in 2005. ... Several other studies have researched the needs and vulnerability of returnees and IDPs in the country, but the SAP’s contribution to reintegration outcomes, defined as achieving sustainable return and parity between returnees and other members of the local community, has not been researched. The present study ... aims at filling this important gap and its objectives are: [1] Assess the shelter programme contribution to reintegration outcomes and in achieving parity between returnees and others; [2] Evaluate the shelter programme design in terms of performance at the beneficiary level and its effectiveness according to UNHCR guidelines; [3] Assess the relevance and sustainability of the shelter programme in the broader context of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.” – (p. 9).



“Humanitarian assistance in a (pre)-conflict Afghanistan: a contextual analysis.” Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting, 34 p. (May 2013). [http://samuelhall.org/REPORTS/Humanitarian%20Assistance%20in%20a%20\(Pre-\)%20Conflict%20Afghanistan.pdf](http://samuelhall.org/REPORTS/Humanitarian%20Assistance%20in%20a%20(Pre-)%20Conflict%20Afghanistan.pdf) (1.7 MB). A perceptive and useful paper outlining possible (likely?) scenarios for Afghanistan’s future, not comfortable reading for anyone who cares about the country. “The objective of this paper is to provide information that enables the World Food Programme (WFP) to make responsible, safe, and sound planning and decision making in an increasingly volatile operating environment. The first section [(1) ‘Macro-analysis: the withdrawal and its consequences’ by Giles Dorransoro (p. 8-15)] draws a macro-level picture of the Afghan political context, to better elaborate on a series of likely scenarios that may occur up until 2016. The second section [(2) ‘Meso-analysis: fighting hunger in displacement’ by Nassim Majidi (p. 16-19)] fine-tunes this analysis at the provincial scale, by assessing the regional security situation and testing the hypothesis of a national atomisation. The conclusive [sic] section [(3) ‘Micro-analyses: the regional patchwork’ by Antonio Giustozzi (p. 20-28)] will outline how these scenarios can affect WFP’s implementation of assistance and provide recommendations as to how WFP can best prepare for the next Afghan historical turning point.” – (p. 7).



“Humanitarian assistance through mobile cash transfer in northern Afghanistan: final report.” Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting, 98 p. (May 2014). https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/327636/Humanitarian-assistance-mobile-cash-transfer-afghanistan.pdf (2.7 MB). “The purpose of

this evaluation is to examine the use of cash transfers via mobile phone, rather than the impact of the programme itself. It will examine whether the technology used was appropriate, whether it could reduce the use of coping strategies and whether it would work in the challenging humanitarian context of Afghanistan. In addressing these questions, this independent evaluation will examine the overall efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and value for money of setting up emergency short-term, cash-based projects to disaster affected populations. Differences will be explored between the cash transfer scheme defined by DFID and implemented by its partners (ACTED, Action Aid, and Afghan Aid) and other humanitarian interventions, specifically the USAID and WFP programmes (the latter of which is food aid).” – (p. 5).

“Quarterly report to the United States Congress, 30 April 2014.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 262 p. <http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/quarterlyreports/2014-04-30qr.pdf> (8 MB). “This report provides a summary of SIGAR’s oversight work and an update on developments in the three major sectors of Afghanistan’s reconstruction effort from January 1 to March 31, 2014. It also includes a discussion of the threat corruption poses to the reconstruction effort. During this reporting period, SIGAR published 20 audits, inspections, alert letters, and other reports assessing the U.S. efforts to build the Afghan security forces, improve governance, and facilitate economic and social development. These reports identified a number of problems, including weaknesses of assessment and oversight, corruption, construction deficiencies, and other threats to health and safety. The criminal fines, restitutions, forfeitures, and cost savings to the U.S. government from SIGAR’s ongoing investigations in this reporting period amounted to approximately \$6.7 million. SIGAR investigations also resulted in an arrest,

a criminal information, two plea agreements, and six sentencing in the United States. In Afghanistan, two subjects were convicted and sentenced and eight individuals were barred from having military installation access.” – (Executive summary, p. iv).

“Report on an International Symposium on Monitoring and Management in Insecure Environments: Applying Best Practices to Afghanistan.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), (June 18, 2014). http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/spotlight/USIP-SIGAR_SymposiumReport.pdf (834 KB). “[T]he Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) partnered to present an international symposium on ‘Monitoring and Management in Insecure Environments: Applying Best Practices to Afghanistan.’ The objective was to engage the US agencies, international donor community, and think tanks involved in development and reconstruction work in Afghanistan in a focused discussion to identify and discuss past and current best practices, techniques and technologies, as well as limitations and challenges, of sustaining effective management and monitoring in insecure environments.”

Sopko, John F. “Lessons learned from oversight of the US Agency for International Development’s efforts in Afghanistan: testimony before the Subcommittee on National Security Committee on Oversight and Government Reform US House of Representatives.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 37 p., (April 2014). <http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/testimony/SIGAR-14-46-TY.pdf> (361 KB).

Sopko, John F. “Oversight of USAID and State Department reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan: testimony before the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, Committee on Foreign Affairs US House of Representatives.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 43 p., (June 2014). <http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/testimony/SIGAR-14-65-TY.pdf> (435 KB).

“USAID assistance to Afghanistan reconstruction: \$13.3 billion obligated between 2002 and 2013.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), Office of Special Projects. 17 p., (January 2014). <http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/special%20projects/14-27-SP.pdf> (489 KB). “USAID funds its activities in Afghanistan through the Economic Support Fund (ESF). The ESF is appropriated

by the US Congress to advance US interests by helping countries meet short- and long-term political, economic, and security needs. As of June 30, 2013, Congress had appropriated \$16.65 billion to the ESF for reconstruction activities in Afghanistan” (p. 2). “US-AID reported obligating \$13.3 billion in 406 contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and G2G agreements for reconstruction in Afghanistan between the beginning of 2002 and June 2013.” – (p. 3).

“**USAID’s Community Development Program: audit of costs incurred by Central Asia Development Group, Inc.**” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 87 p. (January 2014). http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/Financial_Audits/SIGAR_14-23-FA.pdf (802 KB). Audit of USAID’s Community Development Program (USD\$255 million) through the Central Asia Development Group, Inc. (CADG).

“**USAID’s Food Insecurity Response for Urban Populations program: audit of costs incurred by CARE International.**” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 17 p., (January 2014). http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/Financial_Audits/SIGAR-14-29-FA.pdf (285 KB). Audit of a USAID programme to provide short-term cash-for-work opportunities to help promote temporary employment and income in targeted areas of Afghanistan. Total project costs were USD\$60 million from March 2009-November 2011.

“**USAID’s Food Insecurity Response for Urban Populations program: audit of costs incurred by World Vision, Inc.**” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 95 p., (January 2014). http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/Financial_Audits/SIGAR_14-23-FA.pdf (772 KB). Audit of a USAID programme to provide short-term cash-for-work opportunities to help promote temporary employment and income in targeted areas of Afghanistan. Total project costs were USD\$11 million from March 2009 to January 2011.

“**Geospatial fact sheet: oversight access for selected US Army Corps of Engineers Projects and the Kajaki dam project.**” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 11 p., (January 2014). <http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/special%20projects/SP-14-28-SP.pdf> (852 KB). “This report is the first of a series of reports illustrating the potential oversight access challenges for US reconstruction projects and programs in Afghanistan. It identifies various



US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) projects and one US Agency for International Development (USAID) reconstruction project which may not be readily accessible to US civilian oversight personnel as a result of the impact of the coalition troop draw-down on security.” – (p. 2). Because of the troop draw-down inspection will only be possible for sites within an hour of medical facilities.

Justice, human rights, internments

Braithwaite, John and Ali Wardak. “Crime and war in Afghanistan: part 1 the Hobbesian solution.” *British Journal of Criminology*, (2013) 53 (2): 179-196. <http://bjc.oxfordjournals.org/content/53/2/179.full.pdf+html> (PDF 359 KB) doi:10.1093/bjc/azs065 (PDF 359 KB). “This article views Afghanistan less as a war, and more as a contest of criminalized justice systems. The Taliban came to power because they were able to restore order to spaces terrorized by armed gangs and Mujahideen factions. After the Taliban’s ‘defeat’ in 2001, their resurgence was invited by the failure of state justice and security institutions. The Taliban returned with a parallel court system that most Afghans viewed as more effective and fair than the state system. Polls suggest judges were perceived as among the most corrupt elements of a corrupt state. Police were widely perceived as thieves of ordinary people’s property, not protectors of it. While the US diagnosis of anomie in Afghanistan up to 2009 was aptly Hobbesian, its remedy of supporting President Hamid Karzai as a Leviathan was hardly apt. The West failed to ask in 2001 ‘What is working around here to provide people security?’. One answer to that question was jirga/shura. A more Jeffersonian rural republicanism that learnt from local traditions of dispute resolution defines a path not taken.” –(Abstract). Part II is entitled “Crime and war in Afghanistan: part 2 the Jeffersonian alternative.” *British journal of criminology*, 53 (2): 197-214, (2013). <http://bjc.oxfordjournals.org/content/53/2/197.full.pdf+html?sid=720ef2ab-b72d-4f42-ba62-f8582d45ca61> (PDF 2.4 MB). “Ironically, the main sources of violence and disorder in Afghan rural villages are the very forces—the Taliban, ISAF and the Afghan state—that try to impose order. But their imposed orders have proven fragile, artificial and unsustainable.” – (p. 198).

Clark, Kate. “Thematic dossier VII: detentions in Afghanistan: Bagram, transfer and torture.” *Kabul: Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN), 2012-14.* <https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/publication/aan-thematic-dossier/thematic-dossier-vii-detentions-in-afghanistan-bagram-transfer-and-torture/> (3.3 MB). This series of articles follows the transfer of Bagram detention facilities from US to Afghan management. Details of the 12 papers (so far):

- (1) The Bagram Memorandum: handing over ‘the other Guantanamo’ (21 March 2012) (10 p.).
- (2) The Afghan state begins internment (23 May 2012) (11 p.).
- [3] Bagram and the struggle for sovereignty (10 September 2012) (9 p.).
- (4) The final handover of Bagram in sight? (3 March 2013) (6 p.).
- (5) A new MoU for Bagram and, finally, a handover? (24 March 2013) (6 p.).
- (6) Afghans still struggling for sovereignty at Bagram (25 July 2013) (12 p.).
- (7) Foreigners in limbo at Bagram (3 October 2013) (8 p.).
- (8) A full list of foreign detainees at Bagram? (August 2014) (13 p.).
- (9) Bagram prison to close with BSA, 13 foreign detainees left (2 October 2014) (12 p.).
- (10) Bagram prison to close with BSA: 13 foreign detainees left - what to do with the rest? (2 October 2014) (12 p.).
- (11) More transfers, a court’s scrutiny and possible redress (28 November 2014).
- (12) Bagram closes, CIA torture revealed, US to be held to account? (12 December 2014) (12 p.).

De Lauri, Antonio “Access to justice and human rights in Afghanistan.” *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 60 261-285, (2013). DOI 10.1007/s10611-013-9440-3. “In anthropological and legal literature, the phenomenon termed ‘legal pluralism’ has been interpreted as a co-presence of legal orders which act in relation to their own ‘levels’ of referring ‘fields’. The Afghan normative network is generally described in terms of pluralism, where different normative systems such as customs, *shari’a* (Islamic law), state laws and principles deriving from international standard of law (e.g., human rights) coexist. In order to address the crucial question of access to justice, in this article, I stress the category of legal pluralism by introducing the hypothesis of an inaccessible normative pluralism

as a key concept to capture the structural injustices of which Afghans are victims. Access to justice can be considered a foundational element of every legal project. Globally, the debates concerning the diffusion and application of human rights develop at the same time ideologically, politically, and pragmatically. Today in Afghanistan, these levels are expressed in all their complexity and ambivalence. It is therefore particularly significant to closely observe the work done by the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and to discuss the issue of human rights by starting from a reflection on what might be defined a socio-normative condition of inaccessibility.” – (Abstract).

De Lauri, Antonio. “Corruption, legal modernization and judicial practice in Afghanistan.” *Asian Studies Review* 37:4 527-545, (2013). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10357823.2013.832112>. “Afghanistan’s justice system is currently at a crucial and troubled stage of development that will determine its effectiveness. This article focuses on the phenomenon of corruption inside judicial institutions. By integrating the analysis of narratives of corruption with the observation of judicial practice and a critical approach to the reconstruction process, I argue that in Afghanistan, the phenomenon of corruption can be understood in terms of its ‘double institutionalisation,’ whereby mechanisms of exchange and of compensation, both already affirmed at the level of social practice, find a possibility of reaffirmation (of re-institutionalisation) in the legal system itself. The creation of an economic system that depends on international aid, the consolidation of a state apparatus over-determined by warlordism and foreign influences, and the process of legal modernisation itself all play an important role in the re-institutionalisation and radicalisation of corruption. By taking into consideration this scenario, I adopt an ethnographic perspective to explore some of the effects of corruption on the work of judges and on the access to justice itself.” – (Abstract).

Elham Atashi. “Afghanistan: transitional justice in the midst of war.” *Nationalities Papers: The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity*, v. 41:6, p. 1049-1064, (2013). DOI: 10.1080/00905992.2013.801414. “In Afghanistan, there has been much talk about, and international support for dealing with past injustices by developing transitional justice mechanisms. Reconciliation is being promoted as a nation-building strategy. This article argues that the implementation of transitional justice poses several challenges. First, a

significant component of such a strategy is based on reconciliation taking place internally among competing armed groups and ethnic identities with the goal of transforming Afghan society. This assumes the cause of past conflicts to be internal and along ethnic divisions which limits the accountability for war crimes. It also considers violence and crimes of war as a thing of the past, ignoring the present situation. Furthermore, given the ongoing war between the US-led forces and the Taliban, insecurity and escalating levels of violence one has to question whether transitional justice can take place during a war. This article concludes that transitional justice is interconnected to perceptions of security and stability. The analysis of the present situation in Afghanistan poses critical questions as to whether memories of victims can be considered as the past in the midst of war.” – (Abstract).

Kem, Jack D. “Establishing the rule of law in Afghanistan: developing a just society.” *Global Virtue Ethics Review*, 6:4 31-59, (2014). <http://www.spaef.com/file.php?id=1512> PDF (496 KB). “In transitional societies, the goal should be to establish societal boundaries that are predictable and not just to provide true liberty for the governed. To establish these societal boundaries during governmental transitions, the focus should be on those specific institutions that provide a measure of trust and confidence in the rule of law. These institutions include the legislature to enact laws, a police system to enforce laws, a functioning corrections system, and an independent judiciary to interpret the laws and to provide redress of grievances. In addition to those institutions that are directly related to “law and order,” a number of institutions within society reinforce the rule of law that must also be developed, such as family structure, the media, and the educational system. These institutions provide a critical role in society maintaining and encouraging trust and providing stability in the lives of citizens in the transition to democracy, particularly when that transition is rapid and violent, it is critical that these institutions receive immediate attention so that an appropriate form of governance can take hold. Without these legitimate society-maintaining institutions, other competing institutions and players such as radical fundamental religious institutions and corrupt government officials will fill the void. Establishing the rule of law and society-maintaining institutions, therefore, is a critical focus in transitioning societies to set the stage for an enduring form of government that respects the rights of its citizens. This paper will address these efforts in Afghanistan after the fall of

the Taliban in 2001, as well as future efforts that are needed.” – (Abstract).

“**Support for Afghanistan’s justice sector: State Department programs need better management and stronger oversight.**” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 52 p. (January 2014). http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/SIGAR_14-26-AR.pdf (2.9 MB). “This report discusses the results of SIGAR’s audit of the [US] State Department’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs’ (INL) management of programs to support the development of Afghanistan’s justice sector, specifically its management of the Justice Sector Support Program (JSSP) and Justice Training Transition Program (JTTP).” – (p. [1]). A considerable number of shortcomings are identified.

Labour/Labor

“**Labor market intelligence for a demand driven labor force in Afghanistan.**” Kabul, Afghanistan: National Skills Development Program (NSDP), x, 57 p., (2014). http://www.harakat.af/site_files/14000670341.pdf (PDF 6.53 MB). “This project was conducted under the auspices of the National Skills Development Program (NSDP) and in partnership with the Afghan Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD). Harakat-Afghanistan Investment Climate Facility Organization, provided funding and defined the operational framework. A point to note is that technically the study consists of five distinctive small domain Labour Market Information (LMI) reports - which are data about a particular



aspect of the labour market - and not a single large data framework LMI. Six priority sectors of the economy were initially surveyed. Later, two sectors were merged to bring the total down to five sectors. Distinctive questionnaires were developed and used in each of the five sectors in, coincidentally, five major provinces in Afghanistan.” – (Executive Summary, p. ix).

Wickramasekara, Piyasiri and Nilim Baruah. “**Labour migration for decent work in Afghanistan: issues and challenges.**” Bangkok: ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. <http://www.ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/>

publications/WCMS_229671/lang--en/index.htm (456 KB). “This background paper was prepared for the International Labour Organization and the World Bank supported capacity building Conference on “Creating Sustainable Jobs in Afghanistan,” on 7-8 May 2013, co-chaired by the Ministry of Economy, and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled. It examines the trends and profile of labour migration from Afghanistan, prospects for foreign employment and foreign employment promotion, including existing and needed mechanisms to provide skills for foreign labour market demands, the institutional and legal framework to regulate labour migration as well as future challenges for migrant returnees and responses.” –(Website blurb). The paper includes a useful bibliography and puts forwards policy issues to address the needs of Afghan labour migrants.

Winters, Jos. “Return migration and development nexus: casual labourers of Kabul.” Kabul: Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organisation (APPRO), (April 2014). <http://appro.org.af/preview/return-migration-and-development-nexus/PDF> (1.59 MB). “There is much enthusiasm for the linkages between return migration and development. However, this has hardly been researched for low-skilled returnees in a south-south migration context. This research samples a host of returnees among casual labourers in Kabul. The main question is to what extent these low skilled casual labourers have gained from their migration experience upon return in terms of accrued skills and techniques. The hypothesis is that those who are better prepared (circumstance) for their return will have more gains (impacts) from their migration experience upon return. The main conclusion of this study is that despite the many problems that plague Afghanistan’s socio-economic conditions, and the distant prospect of these problems being addressed, the migrants that have gained skills abroad have a significant relative advantage over others without those skills as far as employability. They learned new generic and technical skills, aesthetic values, and the use of tools they were not accustomed to before. Upon return their quality of work is claimed to be better, their employability increased and source of income is less volatile.” – (Abstract).

Media

Farzana Marie. “Afghan media analysis: themes, trends and implications: based on the monthly, ‘Haqiqat/Truth’ newsletter, May 2012-April 2013.” Kabul, Afghanistan: Afghanistan Watch, (March 2014).



http://www.watchafghanistan.org/files/Afghan_Media_Analysis_English.pdf (2.3 MB). “This paper utilizes a variety of quantitative and qualitative tools to assess the most important themes, trends, and implications indicated by ...twelve months of Afghan media analysis. One aspect of the quantitative approach involves corre-

lating the number of articles on various topics with the events that occurred during that time period, to determine the events and issues of relatively greatest importance to the news media and their audiences. In addition, this report undertakes a quantitative review of the sources of news and editorials on the various subjects, comparing the output of media sources in two categories: daily newspapers and weekly publications. For each newsletter Afghanistan Watch monitored a total of 19 daily newspapers and 23 weekly or less frequent publications. Some of these outlets did not end up publishing articles of interest on these topics during the course of the year, and those numbers are reflected accordingly.” – (p. 9).

Mineral resources

Schroder, John F. “Building resource corridors in Afghanistan: a solution to an interminable war?” *Earth* (September 2013), p. 24-31, http://world.unomaha.edu/cas/img/Sept2013EARTH_Feature_Afghanistan_S Schroder.pdf (1.2 MB). “Afghanistan’s government, with help and guidance from the international community, has started putting together an economic development program – called the National and Regional Resource Corridors Program – to develop the country’s resources. The program cultivates ‘resource corridors’ (RCs), which are development concepts based around certain geographic zones rich in mineral resources. RCs capitalize on investments made in the extractive minerals sector – everything from building the supporting infrastructure, like roads, training the necessary workers and extracting the minerals, to developing the infrastructure, like railroads, to get those minerals to market, and eventually selling the minerals. That investment in infrastructure, goods and services will help develop the regional economy.” – (p. 24).

Sheraz, Umar. “Afghanistan mineral resources and implications on India’s future.” *Futures*, v. 56,

p. 94-97, (2014). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2013.10.014>. This article examines the nature of India's engagement in Afghanistan, starting from the premise the new aspiring super-powers (China and India) are poised to engage with Afghanistan's mineral resources. Raising perhaps more questions than it answers the article begins to map out new areas of analysis for Afghanistan's developmental future.

Sheraz, Umar. "Foresight as a tool for sustainable development in natural resources: the case of mineral extraction in Afghanistan." *Resources Policy*, 39, p. 92-100, (2014). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.resourpol.2014.01.001>. This paper aims to inform decision makers and stakeholders about the issues that will arise in future from plans to access the much touted mineral wealth announced in 2010 (though long ago mapped in part by earlier Soviet surveys). According to the author how Afghanistan "traces its way forward to a democratic and peaceful future will depend on how it responds to the challenge of harnessing the overall potential for natural resource wealth to meaningfully transform Afghan society and construct a viable socio-economic system." – (p. 92).

Opium and cannabis

"Afghanistan: survey of commercial cannabis cultivation and production 2012." [Vienna]: United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 30 p., (September 2013). http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/_Afghanistan_Cannabis_Survey_Report_2012.pdf (4.5 MB). "This report presents the results of the fourth Afghanistan Cannabis Survey implemented by the Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN) with support from UNODC. The first survey was carried out in 2009, as evidence from cannabis resin seizures had long pointed to Afghanistan as one of the world's main producers of this cannabis product. In 2012, the survey consisted of yield studies and satellite image interpretation, only. In contrast to previous years no socio-economic village survey was conducted; therefore several indicators could not be provided."—(p. 7). "In 2012, the estimated area under commercial cannabis cultivation declined by 17% compared to 2011; however, the area covered by the survey was reduced compared to 2011, which reduces the comparability of the two area estimates. Due to higher per hectare yields, production increased by 8% compared to 2011." – (p. 6).

"Ending the drug wars: report to the LSE Expert Group on the economics of drug policy." London: LSE, 84 p. (2014). <http://www.lse.ac.uk/ideas/publications/reports/pdf/lse-ideas-drugs-report-final-web.pdf>.

"A major rethink of international drug policies is under way. The failure of the UN to achieve its goal of 'a drug free world' and the continuation of enormous collateral damage from excessively militarised and enforcement-led drug policies, has led to growing calls for an end to the 'war on drugs.' For decades the UN-centred drug control system has sought to enforce a uniform set of prohibitionist oriented policies often at the expense of other, arguably more effective policies that incorporate broad frameworks of public health and illicit market management. Now the consensus that underpinned this system is breaking apart and there is a new trajectory towards accepting global policy pluralism and that different policies will work for different countries and regions. The question, however, remains, how do states work together to improve global drug policies? This report highlights two approaches. First, drastically reallocating resources away from counterproductive and damaging policies towards proven public health policies. Second, pursuing rigorously monitored policy and regulatory experimentation." – (Executive summary, p. 6). Felbab-Brown's article (p. 41-48) uses information from AREU's work on Afghanistan.



Rosen, Liana and Kenneth Katzman. "Afghanistan: drug trafficking and the 2014 transition." Washington, USA: Congressional Research Service, 9 May, 22 p., (2014). <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R43540.pdf> (PDF 716 KB). "This report describes key US counternarcotics programs in Afghanistan in the context of the 2014 transition and analyzes policy issues related to these programs for Congress to consider as policy makers examine the drug problem in Afghanistan. The report's Appendix contains historical figures and tables on trends in Afghan drug cultivation, production, and trafficking." —(Summary). "Afghanistan is the world's primary source of opium poppy cultivation and opium and heroin production, as well as a major global source of cannabis (marijuana) and cannabis resin (hashish). Drug trafficking, a long-standing feature of Afghanistan's post-Taliban political economy, is linked to corruption and insecurity, and provides a source of illicit finance for non-state armed groups.

Based on recent production and trafficking trends, the drug problem in Afghanistan appears to be worsening—just as the U.S. government finalizes plans for its future relationship with the government of Afghanistan in 2015 and beyond and reduces its counternarcotics operational presence in the country to Kabul, the national capital. As coalition combat operations in Afghanistan draw to a close in 2014, and as the full transition of security responsibilities to Afghan forces is achieved, some Members of the 113th Congress have expressed concern regarding the future direction and policy prioritization of U.S. counternarcotics efforts in Afghanistan in light of diminishing resources and an uncertain political and security environment in 2015 and beyond.” – (Summary).

Sopko, John F. “Future U.S. counternarcotics efforts in Afghanistan.” 14 p., (January 15, 2014). <http://www.drugcaucus.senate.gov/hearing-1-15-14/SIGAR%20John%20F%20Sopko.pdf> (365 KB). Discussing the perilous state of the US counternarcotics effort in Afghanistan, in testimony before the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control. “In the opinion of almost everyone I spoke with, the situation in Afghanistan is dire with little prospect for improvement in 2014 or beyond. Afghan farmers are growing more opium poppies today than at any time in their modern history. The UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates the value of opium plus its heroin and morphine derivatives produced by Afghanistan at nearly \$3 billion—or the equivalent of about 15 percent of Afghanistan’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—in 2013. This was a substantial increase over 2012 when the value of Afghan opiates totaled about \$2 billion and equaled about 11% of Afghanistan’s GDP. The narcotics trade is poisoning the Afghan financial sector and fueling a growing illicit economy. This, in turn, is undermining the Afghan state’s legitimacy by stoking corruption, nourishing criminal networks, and providing significant financial support to the Taliban and other insurgent groups. There are already signs that elements within the Afghan National Security Forces are reaching arrangements with rural communities to allow opium poppy cultivation, or even encouraging production, as a way of building local patronage networks and to establish rent seeking opportunities.” – (p. 2).

Peace

Kacsó, Zsuzsanna et al. “Contributing to peace consolidation in Afghanistan: needs assessment country report.” [Kabul]: Peace Action, Training and Research

Institute of Romania (PATRIR), Cooperation for Peace and Unity Afghanistan (CPAU) and Conley International, Canada, 46 p., (May 2014). <http://cpau.org.af/images/CPCA%20-%20Needs%20Assessment%20Country%20Report%5B1%5D.pdf> (1.84 MB). “Peace consolidation needs to be understood from the perspective of positive peace creation, in which, based on the absence of direct violence, equitable and integrated outputs and outcomes are developed in the spheres of



economy, social services, politics, justice, human relations, and constructive conflict resolution. Essentially, successful peace consolidation may be achieved only through the interrelated cycle of peacebuilding peacemaking/peacekeeping, sustainable development, and nationally owned capacities. The present Needs Assessment Country Report

(NARC) is the output of a 4-months, joint Afghan-Romanian-Canadian research process implemented within the framework of the research and capacity building project “Achieving the MDGs through Peacebuilding: Capacity building in transition to democracy, community based dialogue and peacekeeping operations for international, national and local actors in Afghanistan,” aiming at highlighting and analyzing peace consolidation related capacity building gaps, challenges, achievement, lessons learned and “best-fit” solutions for Afghanistan on the eve of the 2014 transition process and the 2015 MDG mark.” – (Executive summary)

Politics

“Afghanistan’s 2014 Presidential and Provincial Council Elections” [by Martine van Bijlert, Fabrizio Foschini, Borhan Osman, Pakteen Ibrahimi, Qaoom Suroush, Fazel Rahman, Kate Clark, Thomas Ruttig]. Kabul: Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN), 2014. Various pagings: ill.; 30 cm. A number of authors from the Afghanistan Analysts’ Network produced a series of individual thematic reports and analyses on these elections; this is the best blow-by-blow account of the process. The series began on 4 April 2014 (number 1) and continued until number 29 October 2014 (number 54). Included in the reports are numerous URL links to supporting documentation and other reports, etc. The individual papers can be accessed from <https://www>.

afghanistan-analysts.org/publication/aan-thematic-dossier/thematic-dossier-iv-afghanistans-2014-presidential-and-provincial-council-elections/.

List of separate files making up this comprehensive dossier of reporting and analysis of the 2014 election process: (1) Impressions from Kunduz at the eve of the elections, AAN team (4 April 2014) (4 p.). –(2) The polling centres that were taken off the list, Martine van Bijlert (4 April 2014) (5 p.). –(3) Snapshots from the provinces before the vote, AAN Team (5 April 2014) (5 p.). –(4) The election day in snapshots from the provinces, AAN Team (5 April 2014) (5 p.). –(5) Inky Fingers and Wet Feet Polling Day, Martine van Bijlert (5 April 2014) (2 p.). –(6) Two types of security in the Shomali, Fabrizio Foschini (7 April 2014) (5 p.). –(7) An emerging mixed picture, Martine van Bijlert (9 April 2014) (5 p.). –(8) Kandahar, a centre-districts divide and the weakening of the tribal fact, Borhan Osman (11 April 2014) (5 p.). –(9) Making sense of the first ten per cent of the results, Martine van Bijlert (13 April 2014) (4 p.). –(10) Paktia - where rain helped the ‘king making’ voters, Pakteen Ibrahimi (14 April 2014) (7 p.). –(11) How the Hazaras voted in Bamyan, Qayoom Suroosh (16 April 2014) (3 p.). –(12) The Taleban rant and take a harder line on peace, Borhan Osman (21 April 2014). –(13) The IEC and IECC’s reluctance to be transparent, Martine van Bijlert (22 April 2014) (11 p.). –(14) Why two thirds of Andar’s polling centres may have never opened, Fazal Rahman (23 April 2014) (4 p.). –(15) Hazaras overturning all expectations, Qayoom Suroosh (24 April 2014) (6 p.). –(16) Final preliminary results, complaints, campaigns and negotiations, Martine van Bijlert (28 April 2014) (5 p.). –(17) Journalists argue over neutrality, patriotism and the E-Day blackout, Kate Clark (30 April 2014) (9 p.). –(18) The Abdullah interview, Kate Clark (11 May 2014) (6 p.). –(19) Final results’ timeline trumps transparency, Martine van Bijlert (16 May 2014) (7 p.). –(20) The Ashraf Ghani interview, Kate Clark (18 May 2014) (7 p.). –(21) A closer look at the IECC’s performance and the challenges it faced, Qayoom Suroosh (19 May 2014) (9 p.). –(22) How disenchantment with General Dostum split the Uzbek vote bank, Obaid Ali (22 May 2014) (9 p.). –(23)

Deals and insults in Afghanistan’s second round campaign, AAN Team (9 June 2014) (4 p.). –(24) The IECC’s performance addressing provincial council complaints, Qayoom Suroosh (9 June 2014) (6 p.). –(25) Election mobilisation of women in the Pashtun southeast, Thomas Ruttig (12 June 2014) (5 p.). –(26) The other possible vice president Dr Abdullah’s running mate Muhammad Khan, Kate Clark (12 June 2014) (9 p.). –(27) Snapshots from the provinces before the second round vote, AAN Team (13 June 2014) (6 p.). –(28) Last minute procedural changes to pacify candidate complaints, Martine van Bijlert (13 June 2014) (8 p.). –(29) The second round election day in snapshots from the provinces, AAN Team (14 June 2014) (6 p.). –(30) Some initial reflections on E-Day II, Thomas Ruttig (15 June 2014) 7 p. –(31) Afghanistan’s confusing election maths, Thomas Ruttig (19 June 2014) (5 p.). –(32) A second round surge in turnout in Loya Paktia?, Pakteen Ibrahimi (20 June 2014) (8 p.). –(33) ‘Amarkhel Gate’ - sheep, tape, resignation, Kate Clark (24 June 2014) (14 p.). –(34) The tug-of-war over the Hazara vote, round II, Qayoom Suroosh (26 June 2014) (6 p.). –(35) a delay, an audit and a change of tone, Martine van Bijlert (3 July 2014) (5 p.). –(36) Some key documents, AAN Team (8 July 2014) (14 p.). (1. Abdullah’s letter to the IEC, dated 25 June 2014, IEC response the next day, transcripts of three tapes released by Abdullah). –(37) Preliminary results before agreement on auditing, Kate Clark (8 July 2014) (6 p.). –(38) Candidate positioning after the preliminary results, Martine van Bijlert (9 July 2014) (5 p.). –(39) Has Kerry saved the day?, Kate Clark (14 July 2014) (10 p.). –(40) The IECC open sessions on election day complaints, Qayoom Suroosh (17 July 2014) (4 p.). –(41) Audit started, rules as yet unclear, by Kate Clark (14 July 2014) (5 p.). –(42) Audit stopped, re-started, UN intervenes, Kate Clark and Qayoom Suroosh (25 July 2014) (8 p.). –(43) The second installment of a Kerry brokered agreement, Martine van Bijlert (6 August 2014) (9 p.). –(44) Key documents underwriting the electoral agreement, Martine van Bijlert (13 August 2014) (13 p.). –(45) Solving audit problems by creating new ones, Martine van Bijlert (19 August 2014) (5 p.). –(46) Déjà vu - Abdullah pulls out, process continues, Martine van Bijlert

(30 August 2014) (6 p.). –(47) Audit enters its final precarious phase, Martine van Bijlert (4 September 2014) (7 p.). –(48) Key documents underwriting the electoral audit, Martine van Bijlert (11 September 2014) (15 p.). –(49) Still deadlock, make or break, Kate Clark (14 September 2014) (7 p.). –(50) Experience with ‘governments of national unity’ elsewhere, Thomas Ruttig (16 September 2014) (13 p.). –(51) Finally, a deal, but not yet democracy, Kate Clark (21 September 2014) (13 p.). –(52) The not yet officially announced results: electoral maths with unknowns, Thomas Ruttig (28 September 2014) (21 p.). –(53) Ghani sworn in as Afghanistan’s new president, Kate Clark (30 September 2014) (4 p.). –(54) Provincial council results creaking under the weight of manipulation, Martine van Bijlert (29 October 2014) (8 p.)

Dhaka, Ambrish. “Factoring Central Asia into China’s Afghanistan policy.” *Journal of Eurasian Studies* 5:1, p. 97-106 (2014). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.euras.2013.10.002>. “China’s footprints in Afghanistan are vied by many, both, friends and rivals as it cautiously reveals its geostrategic goals. It would like to emulate the African and Central Asian success story in Afghanistan as well, which is not terra incognita. Afghanistan has been the fulcrum of geopolitical balance of power during the Cold war days. China’s Afghanistan policy (CAP) is marked by its insecurities of terrorism, extremism and separatism in Xinjiang province. It has heavily invested in procuring Central Asian energy resources. Both, the concerns go well in formulation of CAP. However, the presence of the US and Russia make the scenario competitive, where its ‘Peaceful Rise’ may be contested. Besides, China sees South Asian Region as its new Goeconomic Frontier. All these concerns get factored into CAP. It remains to be seen what options partake in CAP, as China prepares for durable presence in Afghanistan in the long run.” – (Abstract).

Kamminga, Jorrit. “Public diplomacy in Afghanistan beyond the 2014 transition: lessons from the United States and the Netherlands.” The Hague: Clingendael Institute, 25 p., (2013). <http://www.clingendael.nl/sites/default/files/Public%20Diplomacy%20in%20Afghanistan%20beyond%20the%202014%20Transition.pdf> (808 KB). “The end of the security transition process in Afghanistan in 2014 marks the need to rethink foreign public diplomacy efforts in the country. As Afghanistan

is entering its ‘transformational decade’, there is a unique opportunity to disconnect public diplomacy from the military-security paradigm that has dominated international relations with Afghanistan since 2001. With a much more limited foreign military presence on the ground, public diplomacy can be considerably more than a strategy to win hearts and minds. Comparing the experiences of the United States and the Netherlands, the more sizeable American ‘model’ of public diplomacy can be considered a more defensive mechanism of foreign policy, linked to the military and counter-insurgency activities in Afghanistan, and to the broader ideological objective of being part of the debate on the relationship between ‘Islam and the West’.² In contrast, the Dutch ‘model’ shows a limited public security effort that incorporates cultural activities and training as an extension of foreign policy. This model is less ideological and is not directly connected to the military conflict in Afghanistan. It is a more indirect form of supporting foreign policy objectives. What is needed beyond 2014 is an approach that is disconnected from the current military framework, that departs from the more modest and non-military Dutch model, but that includes the broader political and especially financial commitment of the American model.” – (Abstract).

Krambs, Timothy A. “Central Asia and the Afghanistan security dilemma: amelioration, retrograde, or status quo? Central Asia’s Role in Regional Security Regarding Afghanistan after 2014.” *Connections: The Quarterly Journal* 12 (no. 2), p. 1-26. (2013). http://defencemanagement.org/system/files/12.2.01_Krambs_0.pdf?download=1. “The regional security of Central Asia hinges on the level of stability within Afghanistan and its foreign relations with its neighbors. Afghanistan is not only pivotal in the maintenance of regional security, but is also crucial to the region’s economic and political development. As Ashraf Ghani, chairman of the Afghan transition commission, stated, ‘The region needs to make a choice, a stable Afghanistan ... is absolutely essential.’ However, there is looming doubt as to the ability of Afghan forces to be able to defend the state against domestic and external insurgent movements and to sustain the progress in



counterterrorism and counterinsurgency that the U.S.-backed, NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan has established under UN mandates since the United States initiated military action against the Taliban in 2001. The year 2014 is the deadline that has been set for ISAF troops to withdraw from the war-torn country and hand over the responsibility for ensuring security in the nation to the Afghan Security Forces. ... This article evaluates what kind of role the Central Asian states will play in Afghanistan after U.S. and NATO/ ISAF forces complete their withdrawal in 2014. Through a survey of regional media and analysis from renowned security agency assessments of these countries, I assess the interests and political will of each Central Asian state to provide their own security, and that of the region in dealing with Afghanistan.” – (p. 1).

Münch, Philipp. “Resolute support light: NATO’s new mission versus the political economy of the Afghan National Security Forces.” Kabul: Afghanistan Analysts’ Network (AAN), 9 p., (2015). https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/20150112-PMuench-Resolute_Support_Light.pdf (230 KB). What are “NATO’s chances of achieving its goals in Afghanistan with Resolute Support (RS). The mission replaced ISAF on 1 January 2015”? “The “implicit assumption”, argues Münch, behind the RS focus on training, advising and assisting is “that, for the most part, the ANSF already function as proficient organisations as per their formal structure and aims” and “only ‘fine-tuning’ its leadership is required.” Yet this is “highly questionable.” Rather, he says, “they are still dominated by patronage networks shaped to a large degree by factional interests and rent-seeking by senior personnel (and other members of the Afghan elites).” In other words, the political economy of the ANSF - the way economics drive corruption, lack of accountability and the factionalisation of appointments - actually prevents its components “from working like modern organisations.” ISAF practice, however, often reflected a misreading of deficiencies as ‘technical.’ – (Website introduction to the paper).

Münch, Philipp and Thomas Ruttig. “Between negotiations and ongoing resistance: the situation of the Afghan insurgency,” in: *Orient III*, p. 25-41, (2014) (print only). http://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/products/fachpublikationen/Muench_Ruttig_2014_Situatio_of_the_AFG_INS.pdf. (203 KB). “In this contribution we will ask what political and military capabilities Afghan insurgents currently possess.

How much political influence are they able to exert in Afghanistan? Is their concept of population control territorial? What are their political aims? Do they seek negotiations or do they attempt to win by military means? Considering the brief character of this contribution and the, at best, patchy information about the insurgents due to difficulties to access them in a systematic manner, we cannot claim to provide a full picture but an analysis of the information available. What we do is rather to point out some of the most recent developments of the insurgency and offer some interpretation. Empirically, our research rests on published academic and media accounts as well as on interviews during recent field trips to Afghanistan or by telephone as well as experience in dealing with Taliban officials directly while they were in power” (p. 25). “The authors conclude that, given the assurances of continued international support and ANSF progress, the short-term chance for an all-out military victory of the Taliban is comparatively small. With this prospect, they might still be persuaded to talk-although Taliban hawks will use any post-2014 foreign military presence as an argument to continue the insurgency. It needs to be considered that, against claims to the opposite, the movement is more than just an externally manipulated terrorist outlet. Its local networks are not interested in a further destruction of the country, but they will also not accept any solution that does not consider their interests, and honour, and continues to treat them as a minor conflict party that has either the choice to lay down arms and join the legitimate government or be defeated.” – (AAN website summary).

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “Informal federalism: self-governance and power sharing in Afghanistan.” *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* vol. 44 (2), pp. 324-343. “Although the 2004 Constitution of Afghanistan establishes a highly centralized political system, this article suggests Afghanistan is an informal federation in which customary organizations comprise a legitimate level of government capable of providing many public goods and services at the village level. Despite the absence of formal village government, governance in practice involves extensive power sharing between district government officials and customary representatives appointed by villagers themselves. The effectiveness of such self-governing customary arrangements is anticipated by the work of Elinor Ostrom, while the finding that day-to-day relations between levels of government are based in local norms rather than parchment institutions of the state demonstrate the continued insight of Vincent Ostrom into

intergovernmental relations.” – (Abstract).

Research

Bryld, Erik, et. al. “Evaluation of [the] Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU): final report.” [Stockholm]: Sida, 121 p., (February 2014). <http://www.indevel.se/publications/publication-evaluation-of-afghanistan-research-and-evaluation-unit-areu/PDF> (2.6 MB). “This report presents the findings and conclusions of the evaluation of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU). AREU is an organisation that was created in what was an effective vacuum in relation to in-depth, empirically-based analysis. It has provided high quality research and data. However, periods of ineffective management combined with a lack of clear direction, identity, goals and indicators, has had a negative impact on the organisation and threatens its ability to stay relevant and effective. Recent indications of a constructive approach to addressing AREU’s challenges should be maintained and implemented. Without these, it would be difficult for the evaluation team to recommend continued funding to the organisation. However, with the new leadership, AREU has developed a number of internal plans and a draft strategy aimed at addressing the bulk of the problems that have arisen in recent years.” – (Blurb from website).

Gezari, Vanessa M. “The Human Terrain System sought to transform the army from within.” *Newsweek* 18 p., August 16, 2013. <http://www.newsweek.com/2013/08/16/human-terrain-system-sought-transform-army-within-237818.html>. A detailed insiders’ account of the formation and early days of the US Human Terrain Teams in Afghanistan, which sought to use anthropological and ethnographic methods to inform military decision-making.

Public opinion

“Hope and concerns about Afghanistan’s transition in 2014: a survey in 34 provinces of Afghanistan.” Kabul: Afghanistan Watch, 17 p., (February 2014). http://www.watchafghanistan.org/files/Hope_and_Concerns_about_Afghanistans_Transition_in_2014_English.pdf (1.6 MB). “In January 2014, Afghanistan Watch conducted a survey about concerns and optimism of people in 2014 in collaboration with 7 local focal point organizations in 34 provinces of the country. The survey has been conducted through open interviews and respondents were randomly chosen from different segments of society. Efforts has been made to ensure that gender, age, nationality [ethnicity?]



and regional proportion be taken into account in the survey in order for the survey result to reflect pluralistic views of the Afghan people.” “There is only a small number of Afghans who consider the year 2014 to be a normal year or similar to previous years with most having major concerns about what might follow as 2014 has already

began. A number of processes are in development or completion phases giving birth to either public concerns or optimism.” – (p. 7).

Roads and transport

“Transport sector development in Afghanistan: improving resettlement planning.” [Manila, Philippines]: Asian Development Bank (ADB), 16 p., (April 2014). <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/42004/transport-sector-development-afghanistan-efcas.pdf> (648 KB). “This paper discusses how land acquisition and resettlement in Afghanistan during road infrastructure planning, design, and implementation can be improved. That is, given the conditions associated with the post-conflict and fragile situation, how can affected persons and communities along the proposed road corridors be meaningfully and substantively involved during the planning and implementation of the project to minimize negative impacts on assets and livelihoods, particularly on those most vulnerable? The conclusion drawn is that resettlement plans are best prepared and implemented with the close participation of communities and affected persons in a seamless process, after funding approval, at the onset of the project effectiveness.” – (p. 1).



“Unstoppable: the Hairatan to Mazar-e-Sharif railway project performance-based operation and maintenance contract.” [Manila, Philippines]: Asian Development Bank, (February 2014). <http://adb.org/sites/default/files/pub/2014/unstoppable-hairatan->

mazar-e-sharif-railway-project.pdf PDF (1.21 MB). “Constructed in record time—and despite highly challenging circumstances—ADB’s first railway project in Afghanistan unclogged a key transport artery in the north crucial to Afghanistan’s reconstruction and trade potential. During the first year of its operation, an impressive 4 million tons of goods were transported on the Hairatan-Mazar-e-Sharif link, strengthening the local economy, increasing regional trade, and helping Afghanistan begin to redefine its role in the region. Today, this rail link still runs smoothly, and the socio-economic benefits, already significant, continue to accrue. The project’s sustained operational achievement can be largely attributed to an innovative new tool used by ADB: the performance-based operation and maintenance (O&M) contract. Under such a contract, the Hairatan-Mazar-e-Sharif Railway Project is outsourcing the O&M of the successful rail link, exemplifying that this arrangement can be duplicated in other developing member countries, especially fragile states like Afghanistan, to deliver projects efficiently and effectively.”— (Reverse of title-page).

“USAID’s Strategic Provincial Roads Program: audit of costs incurred by International Relief and Development, Inc.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 97 p., (February 2014). [http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/Financial_Audits/Financial%20Audit%2014-39.pdf](http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/Financial_Audits/Financial%20Audit%202014-39.pdf) (3.1 MB). The results of an audit of USAID’s Strategic Provincial Roads (SPR) programme (2007-2012) (USD\$317 million).

Security

“Afghan National Security Forces [ANSF]: actions needed to improve plans for sustaining capability assessment efforts.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 21 p., (February 2014). http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/SIGAR_14-33-AR.pdf (1.5 MB). “The objectives of this audit were to assess the extent to which (1) the International Security Assistance Force’s (ISAF) tool for evaluating the manning, training, and equipping capacity of the ANSF—the Commander’s Unit Assessment Tool (CUAT)—was consistently applied to assess ANSF units, and (2) ISAF is taking steps to plan for the continued collection, validation, analysis, and reporting of ANSF capacity assessments during the military drawdown and the transition of security responsibility to the Afghan government.” — (p. [1]).

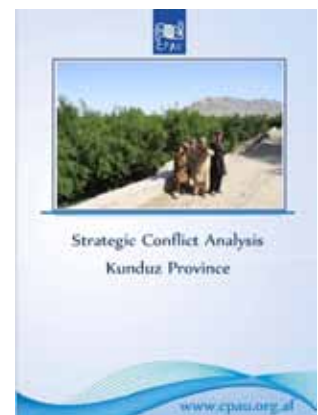
“Afghan National Security Forces: despite reported

successes, concerns remain about literacy program results, contract oversight, transition, and sustainment.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 31 p., (January 2014). http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/SIGAR_14-30-AR.pdf (1.3 MB). This report outlines the serious shortcomings of the literacy programme devised to ensure national security force recruits have at least basic functional literacy.

Callen, Michael, Mohammad Isaqzadeh, James D. Long and Charles Sprenger. “Violence and risk preference: experimental evidence from Afghanistan.” *American Economic Review* 104:1, 123-148, (2014). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1257/aer.104.1.123>. Working with a sample of 1,127 Afghans this study found that “first, our data speak to the permanence of traumatic exposure’s influence on risk preference. Violence-exposed individuals may be altered, but it is the susceptibility of their behavior to priming triggers that is altered, not their risk preferences, per se. Second, if a specific pattern of behavior can be triggered for violence-exposed individuals, then this information is potentially actionable by both marketers and policy-makers in product design and policy intervention.” — (p. 125).

Islam Shah, M. “The Bundeswehr in Afghanistan: a fight on two fronts?” *Journal of European Studies* 29:2, 118-135. (2013). This paper traces changes in the nature of recent German military involvement in Afghanistan (as a contributor to ISAF forces). In particular it examines the relationship between German civilian and military initiatives focused on northern Afghanistan and the changes and alterations in strategy and implementation.

Peavey, Seth. “Strategic conflict analysis Kunduz Province.” Kabul: CPAU, 74 p., (2013). <http://www.cpaug.org.af/images/CPAU%20Strategic%20Conflict%20Analysis%20-%20Kunduz.pdf>. “This Strategic Conflict Analysis report seeks to identify drivers of peace and conflict and provide recommendations for conflict-sensitive development support in Kunduz. A predominantly rural province in northern Afghanistan, Kunduz has been the site of growing insecurity



since 2009, when the Taliban and other armed, non-state actors, including illegal militia groups, began to establish a strong presence in rural and outlying areas of the province.”

Ucko, David H. “Beyond clear-hold-build: rethinking local-level counterinsurgency after Afghanistan.” *Contemporary Security Policy*, 34:3, 526-551, (2013). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13523260.2013.839258>. “Despite a highly uneven track record, clear-hold-build has remained a dominant, even universal, approach to counterinsurgency. Its prevalence is rooted in its incontestable sequencing of operations and the attendant promise of a linear path towards peace. Yet the appeal of this approach also makes it deceptive and possibly dangerous. Clear-hold-build is not a strategy and must not be mistaken for one, as it has been in Afghanistan, where it inspired false hope for swift progress. Instead, it is necessary to reach a more problematized view of this approach and of what it aims to achieve. This article provides such an evaluation, proposing five principles that should guide its future application. These principles point to the need for a far deeper understanding of how security, development, and governance interact at the local level. Counterinsurgents must understand the relationships between aid and security, between government and governance, and between state and periphery. Where the central government is predatory or lacks support, clear-hold-build also raises difficult questions of authority, legitimacy, and control - questions that counterinsurgents must be capable of answering. Thus problematized, clear-hold-build emerges as a framework with heuristic utility; a schema that can be helpful in planning but which must at the time of application be populated by knowledge, substance, and skill. The implications of these requirements are troubling, particularly for those governments still in the business of armed intervention.” – (Abstract).

“US civil-military framework for Afghanistan.” Kabul: [US Embassy?], 25 p., (August 2013). <https://info.publicintelligence.net/US-CivilMilitaryAfghanFramework-2013.pdf> (878 KB). “This is the most recent version of the US Civil Military Strategic Framework for Afghanistan. The original version from March 2012 ... [It] outlines US priorities through the Transformation Decade (2015-2024). It is meant to be adaptive, giving decision makers in Kabul and Washington, and policy implementers throughout Afghanistan, the flexibility needed to respond to changing conditions while advancing a set of commonly stated strategic goals and

priorities.” – (Website)

Social history

Hafizullah Emadi. “Minorities and marginality: pertinacity of Hindus and Sikhs in a repressive environment in Afghanistan.” *Nationalities Papers: The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity*, v. 42 (2), p. 307-320, (2014). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00905992.2013.858313>. “The situation of Hindus and Sikhs as a persecuted minority is a little-studied topic in literature dealing with ethno-sectarian conflict in Afghanistan. Hindu and Sikh communities’ history and role in Afghanistan’s development are examined through a structural, political, socioeconomic, and perceptual analysis of the minority populations since the country gained its independence in 1919. It traces a timeline of their evolving status after the breakdown of state structure and the ensuing civil conflicts and targeted persecution in the 1990s that led to their mass exodus out of the country. A combination of structural failure and rising Islamic fundamentalist ideology in the post-Soviet era led to a war of ethnic cleansing as fundamentalists suffered a crisis of legitimation and resorted to violence as a means to establish their authority. Hindus and Sikhs found themselves in an uphill battle to preserve their culture and religious traditions in a hostile political environment in the post-Taliban period. The international community and Kabul failed in their moral obligation to protect and defend the rights of minorities and oppressed communities.”

Trade

“Afghan Customs: U.S. programs have had some successes, but challenges will limit customs revenue as a sustainable source of income for Afghanistan.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), (April 2014). <http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/SIGAR-14-47-AR.pdf> (877 KB). “According to ... officials, corruption

impacts all levels of the customs process and is the biggest problem affecting Afghan customs processes and revenues. The scale and impact of corruption in Afghanistan’s customs process is difficult to quantify. Nevertheless, USAID and Afghan Customs Department officials hypothesize that eliminating or



significantly reducing corruption in the customs process could potentially double the customs revenues remitted to the central government. The Border Management Task Force (BMTF) also noted that criminal networks use intimidation to smuggle commodities, resulting in the estimated loss of approximately \$25 million annually for wheat and rice imports at a single customs location. In a separate estimate, Trade Accession and Facilitation for Afghanistan (TAFA) officials stated that approximately \$60 million is lost annually to commercial smuggling. Further complicating efforts to combat criminal and patronage networks are reports from BMTF advisers that Afghan employees are being kidnapped and intimidated because they are listening to the BMTF advisers and properly collecting customs duties.” – (p. [2]).

Urban studies and land issues

Esser, Daniel. “The political economy of post-invasion Kabul, Afghanistan: urban restructuring beyond the north-south divide.” *Urban Studies* 50, p. 3084-3098, (November 2013). “Since the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan, the international aid industry has been using its capital city, Kabul, as a laboratory and launch pad for liberal policies and programmes to demonstrate that security, economic growth and democracy are mutually reinforcing and can therefore be achieved in conjunction. These interventions have resulted in fundamental structural changes in Kabul’s political economy that mimic processes of accumulation by dispossession in the urban global North. Formerly shaped by indigenous political activism and cautious democratic experimentation, Kabul today is a space of accelerated accumulation in the shadows of international peacebuilding.” – (p. 3084).

Miszak, Nick and Alessandro Monsutti. “Landscapes of power: local struggles and national stakes at the rural-urban fringe of Kabul, Afghanistan.” *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, v. 41 (2), p. 183-198, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2014.886566>. “Through the analysis of a specific case of land dispute east of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, we aim at revealing how local struggles are linked to broader geographies of power. Following important changes in the material conditions in Afghanistan, which have led to the expansion of the city and the transformation of the rural-urban fringe, territorialized power appears as a pre-condition to control the circulation of people, goods and money, information and ideas, allowing us to add landscapes, the circulation of land, to the five categories famously distinguished by Appadurai as a

way of organizing the study of the world’s culture and economy.” – (Abstract).

Water

“Afghanistan’s water sector: USAID’s strategy needs to be updated to ensure appropriate oversight and accountability.” Arlington, Virginia: Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 37 p., (April 2014). <http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/SIGAR-14-52-AR.pdf> (836 KB). “Since March 2006, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has invested approximately \$580 million in Afghanistan’s water sector to support, among other things, urban and rural water supply and sanitation and agricultural productivity. The 2010 US Government *Inter-Agency Water Strategy for Afghanistan* lays out efforts across US agencies to achieve a consolidated approach to water sector development. USAID plays a central role in guiding U.S. government efforts and has funded nine water projects since fiscal year 2010. SIGAR’s report focuses on four of these projects. Knowing whether USAID’s efforts are properly targeted, measured, and achieving their goals and objectives is vital to supporting Afghanistan’s water sector. The objectives of this audit were to determine the extent to which (1) USAID met key objectives of the 2010 US Government *Inter-Agency Water Strategy for Afghanistan* and (2) four USAID water projects implemented since 2010 have met their project goals and objectives.” – (p. [1]).

Field, John, Binsar Tambunan and Philippe Floch. “Pyanj River morphology and flood protection.” Manila, Philippines: Asian Development Bank, 44 p., (July 2014). <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/42682/cwa-wp-06-pyanj-river-morphology.pdf> (3.2 MB). “The Pyanj, on the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, is a dynamic river system that has caused considerable damage to life and property in both countries due to flooding and riverbank erosion.

Flood management efforts have often been short-lived and expensive to maintain, and have worsened hazards in adjacent areas because of the river’s sudden shifts in channel position, rapid bank erosion, and continual meander growth. This report presents more sustainable approaches to better understand river processes



and help anticipate how the river channel will respond to management efforts at the project sites and along nearby reaches.” – (Back cover).

Women

“AAN thematic dossier VI: women, rights and politics.” Kabul: Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN), 2013-2014. <https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/publication/aan-thematic-dossier/thematic-dossier-vi-women-rights-and-politics>. A gathering together of six short papers directly relevant to women’s rights, with coverage of the Elimination of Violence against Women Law (from 2013):

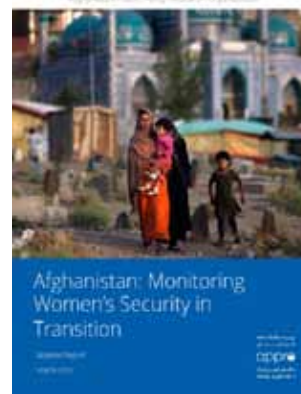
- “Speaking out for justice: an initial victory for women victims of violence.” Wazhma Samandary (6 January 2013) (6 p.).
- “A war with no end in sight: the backlashes regarding Afghan women’s rights (amended), Sari Kouvo (17 February 2014) (4 p.).
- “The EAW law - an evil law?: the backlash at Kabul University, Borhan Osman (26 May 2013) (4 p.).
- “Damage avoided, for now?: the very short debate about the EAW law.” Christine Roehrs (18 May 2013) (3 p.).
- “On a knife’s edge: the looming parliamentary debate about the Elimination of Violence against Women law.” Christine Roehrs (16 May 2013) (6 p.).
- “Speaking out for justice: an initial victory for women victims of violence.” Wazhma Samandary (6 January 2013) (6 p.).

Adlparvar, Naysan, Hosai Wardak and Vanessa Thevathasan. “Getting it right: examining gender programming in Afghanistan.” London: BAAG (British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group), 34 p., (October 2014). <http://apro.org.af/preview/getting-it-right-examining-gender-programming-in-afghanistan/> (PDF 689 KB). “In 2013 the British & Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG), funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), held a series of consultations on gender in Afghanistan. Building on these a Conference entitled “Getting it Right: Women’s Rights in Afghanistan” was held in London on 26/27th March 2014. The Conference aimed to gather Afghan views as to what had been successful in developing gender policy and programming in Afghanistan; what had been unsuccessful and to recommend future actions. This report contains the syntheses of the main

themes discussed during the conference.” – (APPRO website).

“Afghanistan: an overview.” McLean, Virginia, USA: D3 systems, 1 p. (2012). <http://www.d3systems.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/WIMC-Afghanistan-1-Pager.pdf> PDF (406 KB). A short one page summary describing findings from Afghanistan of the “Women in Muslim Countries (WIMC)” research programme. Part of a “multi-country, multi-wave study [that] measures women’s empowerment in daily practice, providing a deep look into the oft-perceived gap between current public policy and empowerment initiatives and actual practice on the personal and local level.” The Afghan data is from face-to-face interviews with adult Afghan women in early 2012 (N = 971): topics included women’s rights, healthcare and education. The first such study is from 2007.

“Afghanistan: monitoring women’s security in transition.” Kabul: APPRO, 71, 61, 88, 107 p., (March 2013-Oct 2014). This important study is made up of four sequential parts (1) Baseline report (March 2013) 71 p. <http://apro.org.af/preview/afghanistan-monitoring-womens-security-in-transition-cycle-2-october-2013/> (PDF 3.4 MB). –(2) Cycle 2 (October 2013) 61 p. <http://apro.org.af/preview/women-in-transition-cycle-3-findings/> (PDF 608 KB). –(3) Cycle 3 (May 2014) 88 p. <http://apro.org.af/preview/women-in-transition-cycle-3-findings/> (PDF 13.5 MB). –(4) Cycle 4 (October 2014) 107 p. <http://apro.org.af/preview/women-in-transition-cycle-4-findings/> (PDF 13.5 MB). Summary from the most recent finding: “Since this monitoring process began in September 2012, the continuing loss of employment opportunities for women and men has been a major concern for all concerned.



It is by now clear that numerous aid programs, operating under the perceived or actual security provided by the presence of international security forces, have ceased to operate largely due to the transition but also because of reduced aid funding from international donors. The departure of international security forces has resulted in the loss of the many auxiliary local businesses and services that emerged since 2001 and served the international security force bases throughout the

country. Many of the thousands of women who worked for the international security forces, auxiliary businesses serving international security forces, or numerous humanitarian and other NGOs have lost their jobs due to the negative economic impact of the transition. For many of the women engaged for the data collection during May-August 2014 the instability and uncertainty caused by the transition, the subsequent decline in the number of women-centered programs, and increased unemployment among women and men are among the key contextual factors for increased domestic violence against women. More than all previous cycles of monitoring, in Cycle 4 women attribute the increase in violence against women to poverty, increased unemployment, and drug addiction.” – (APPRO website).

Barsa, Michelle. “Determining if progress will prevail or peril: the role for women in defining Afghanistan’s future.” *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, vol. 38 (1), , p. 87-94., (Winter 2014). http://www.inclusivesecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/38-1_Barsa.pdf (97 KB). An exploration of issues and scenarios concerning Afghan women and the 2014 elections and Afghan women and Afghan security forces. “Advancing women’s participation in the political arena and security sector must be integrated into existing strategies and correlated resource streams designated to transition U.S.-led coalition forces out of the country without sacrificing the progress made. To sustain even a fraction of what so many fought so hard to achieve, women must be recognized as the fulcrum on which the future of Afghanistan rests.” – (p. 94).

“Country gender profile Afghanistan: final report.” Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting, 85 p., (February 2013). [http://gwwweb.jica.go.jp/km/FSubject1501.nsf/3b8a2d403517ae4549256f2d002e1dcc/74875bed7d20467349257b010026a259/\\$FILE/ATTOZ9UZ.pdf/%E8%8B%B1%E8%AA%9E%E7%89%88%202012.pdf](http://gwwweb.jica.go.jp/km/FSubject1501.nsf/3b8a2d403517ae4549256f2d002e1dcc/74875bed7d20467349257b010026a259/$FILE/ATTOZ9UZ.pdf/%E8%8B%B1%E8%AA%9E%E7%89%88%202012.pdf) (2.0 MB). “The main purpose of this Country Gender Profile is to stimulate gender mainstreaming in JICA programmes and projects in Afghanistan. The Country Gender Profile will serve as reference material for JICA personnel in formulating its assistance plans, programmes and projects with gender perspectives in the country. The Gender Country Profile provides: (1) gender analysis of key sectors, policies, legal frameworks and institutions; (2) assessment of the key interventions of JICA in Afghanistan in terms of gender mainstreaming; and (3) recommendations on how to close programming gaps. The Country Gender Profile also

presents basic gender disaggregated data for identified key sectors.” – (p. 6).

Heck, Axel and Gabi Schlag. “Securitizing images: the female body and the war in Afghanistan.” *European journal of international relations* 19:4 891-913, (2013). DOI: 10.1177/1354066111433896. A theoretical analysis of the use made of the image of an Afghan woman with her nose and ears cut off (*Time* magazine 2010).

Majidi, Nassim and Camille Hennion. “Resilience in displacement?: building the potential of Afghan displaced women.” *Journal of Internal Displacement* 4:1, 78-91, (January 2014). <http://samuelhall.org/REPORTS/Building%20the%20resilience%20of%20Afghan%20displaced%20women.pdf> (642 KB). “Over 76% of Afghans have been displaced by conflict, natural or man-made disasters at some point during their lifetime. Among these, women are ‘the vulnerable within the vulnerable,’ as shown in a recent report written by the authors for the Norwegian Refugee Council, calling for accrued [sic] attention to the needs of displaced women at a time of transition and rising insecurity. What do we know about the vulnerabilities and survival of Afghan displaced women? This article focuses on resilience in displacement, highlights specific gendered vulnerabilities of economic and social isolation, and the overall lack of coping mechanisms observed. In a situation of high vulnerabilities but low resilience, what is - and what can be - the response to Afghan women’s need for protection in displacement? This research will be based on a mix of quantitative and qualitative data collected through various research studies in 2012 and 2013 by the authors of this paper.” – (Abstract).

Rasouli, Yasin and Timurbeg. “Women in [the] 2014 transition: a report on the concerns and demands of women and civil society organizations in Afghanistan’s 34 provinces (reconciliation with the Taliban, transfer of security responsibility, presidential election, economic transition).” Kabul: Afghanistan Watch, 70 p., March 2014. http://www.watchafghanistan.org/files/Women_in_2014_Transition_English.pdf (4.5 MB). “This report provides an analysis of concerns and



demands of women regarding reconciliation process with Taliban, and the overall military, political, and economic transition in 2014. The views and opinions aggregated in this report come from 7 regional conferences entitled “Women’s Mobilization, Political Participation and Leadership in Afghanistan’s Transition Period”, held during the months of October and November of 2013, in seven regions of Afghanistan namely Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Kabul, Bamiyan, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Badakhshan.” – (p. 8).

Ritche, Holly. “Examining women in enterprise development in Afghanistan: barriers and solutions.” Wageningen: IS Academy, (March 2013). <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/RESEARCH%20BRIEF%20%236.pdf> (2.2 MB). “This research brief examines gender dynamics in women’s enterprise development in the fragile and traditional context of Afghanistan. It discusses the dual realities of women in business, and evolving socio-cultural dynamics. Drawing on research case studies, the paper looks specifically at the influence of non-formal institutional barriers (social norms and attitudes) in women’s business development and formalisation. Major barriers to women’s micro and meso-level enterprise development are highlighted vis-à-vis enterprise entry, scope of business/marketing, networks, and (formal) institutional interaction. Reflecting on field insights, the discussion finally suggests potential ‘solutions’ for strengthening women’s small business development in informal and less stable environments such as Afghanistan.” – (p. 3).

Shaheer, Anil Ahmad, Melike Karlidag and Saeed Parto. “Implementation of the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan: an assessment.” Kabul: Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organisation (APPRO), 89 p., (March 2014). <http://appro.org.af/preview/implementation-of-the-national-action-plan-for-women-in-afghanistan/> PDF (2.2 MB). “This study was undertaken to examine and document the extent to which the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) has been implemented since coming to effect in 2008 until 2013. The findings from this assessment are intended to contribute to the broader discussion on the transition planned for 2014 and provisions made to protect women’s rights in Afghanistan. The findings are also aimed at assisting the Government of Afghanistan and its international donors in how to best serve the many needs of Afghan women through development programming.” – (p. 5).

“Women’s role in Afghanistan’s future: taking stock of achievements and continued challenges.” Washington, DC: World Bank, (May 2014). <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/18661> (PDF 102 MB). “This report assesses the overall situation of women in Afghanistan across key sectors, acting as a follow-up to the report published by the World Bank in 2005 entitled, *Afghanistan: national reconstruction and poverty reduction: role of women in Afghanistan’s future*. What can be seen from the sectoral chapters (namely in health, education, work and employment, and legal rights and voice) included in this report is that, in sectors where concerted and coordinated efforts have been made among a collection of key actors (including the Government of Afghanistan, the donor community, NGOs and civil society, significant improvements have been achieved. Where well-



planned systems have been designed and consensus has been garnered for the support of these systems, services are indeed reaching more women and girls, and communities are becoming more accepting of these services. What is also shown in the report is the innovative function that NGOs and civil society actors have played in some of the sectors discussed, developing new mechanisms to include and reach women. The report also highlights areas in which significant improvement has been lacking, and a systematic approach to addressing some issues is still missing. The prevailing lack of reliable data makes understanding the issues faced by women in these sectors challenging. Each chapter in the report concludes by distilling key recommendations for the future, whether based on successes to date, or based on a lack of progress and critical gaps in specific areas. While specific issues can be identified as critical within each of the above sectors, what is also notable is that some issues cut across all sectors as prevailing barriers for women. One of these consistent themes is that the lack of female professionals in key areas poses a barrier to other women and girls accessing these services. Another cross-cutting impediment for women is insecurity, or the perception of insecurity. In each chapter, issues of regional inequality and disparity between rural and urban areas can be seen across key indicators. In addition, barriers such as a lack of mobility, limited

transportation options, inadequate infrastructure that omits women-friendly features, and the prevalence of early marriage, tend to be repetitive cross-cutting barriers. Finally, the report concludes framed through the lens of the upcoming transition years in Afghanistan, when the Government of Afghanistan will take over more and more direct management of services and security.” – (Webpage).

“Women in [the] Afghan National Police: a baseline assessment: project report.” Kabul: APPRO, 72 p., (September 2014). <http://apro.org.af/preview/women-in-anp-a-baseline-assessment/> (PDF 700 KB). ““This baseline report was commissioned by UNDP/LOTFA for the project ‘Policewomen Mentorship Project’ (PWMP). A consortium of five organizations, coordinated by APPRO, worked together to establish the current challenges faced by women in Afghan National Police and devise ways in which these challenges could be overcome. The consortium members were: APPRO, Afghan Women’s Skills Development Center (AWSDC), Justice for All, Medica Afghanistan, and Women for Afghan Women (WAW). The purpose of this baseline was to document challenges and invite suggestions and recommendations by policewomen and other key individuals on how to improve the working conditions of women in ANP and lay a firm foundation for increasing and sustaining the number of policewomen nationally. The sites of this project were Jalalabad, Herat, Kabul, Kunduz, and Mazar-e-Sharif.” (Acknowledgements). “The number of policewomen at the time of writing this report makes up about one per cent of the total police force.” – (Website summary).

Youth

“Afghanistan’s future in transition: a participatory assessment of the Afghan youth.” Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting, 124 p., (2013). <http://samuelhall.org/REPORTS/Future%20in%20Transition:%20A%20Participatory%20Assessment%20of%20the%20Afghan%20Youth.pdf> (2.9 MB). “The findings from this research study ... with fieldwork led in 15 provinces of Afghanistan, and an in-depth and representative survey of Afghan youth in the rural and urban areas of seven main provinces - paint a portrait of the Afghan youth and describe the voice of a generation. It records their beliefs, attitudes and aspirations, and assesses their status within a number of key sectors - education, employment, health, media and civic engagement. The recommendations of this report are intended to serve stakeholders in designing youth-sensitive programmes and mainstreaming youth needs in the development of

the country’s first National Youth Strategy.” – (p. 7).

Zaman, Robert and Abdul Ahad Mohammadi. “Trends in student radicalization across university campuses in Afghanistan.” Kabul: Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, 32 p., (October 2014). <http://www.aiss.af/images/pdf/Trends%20in%20Student%20Radicalization%20across%20University%20Campuses%20in%20Afghanistan1.pdf> (1.8 MB). “This study aims to examine the trends in student radicalization across eight university campuses in Afghanistan. We conclude from our survey of student and staff views and an analysis of the character of protests across campuses that the extent of student radicalization varies. In particular, we come to three noteworthy findings. First, most uni-



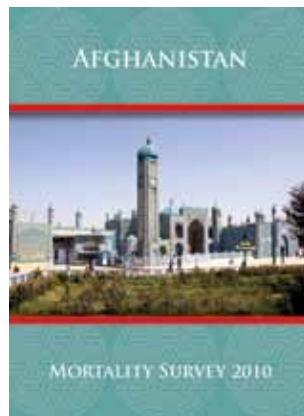
versity students are more concerned over prospects of post-graduation follow-on careers than ideological ambition. Second, while we find that most students and lecturers denounce radical views and violence, a relatively more aggressive response to both the policies of the Afghan government and the armed international intervention exhibited by students from

universities in Kabul, Qandahar and Nangarhar suggests differentiated patterns across university campuses, with these campuses suggestive of a stronger tendency toward radicalized views. Finally, as an institution, the university does not play a strong role in the radicalization of its students. Rather, a charged political climate and the readily available opportunity to mobilize quickly, enable students to stand in protest rather easily. However, findings also suggest that it is this same easy access to mobilize in protest that seems to attract a number of external groups as evident by the black, white and green flags representative of al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the militant wing of Hezb-e-Islami Hekmatyar. Moreover, it is these protests that seem to encourage polarization and consequential division on campus which increasingly resemble the practice of takfir.” – (p. 9).

Data sources

“Afghanistan mortality survey 2010.” (2011) Kabul: Afghan Public Health Institute, Central Statistics Organization, 285 p. <http://moph.gov.af/Content/Media/Documents/AMS2010FinalFullRe->

port14122011142624269553325325.pdf (9.5 MB). “The Afghanistan Mortality Survey (AMS) 2010 is the first nationwide survey of its kind. The survey which covers all 34 provinces of the country was designed to measure mortality levels and cause of death, with a special focus on maternal mortality. The information collected in the survey provides mortality trends by age and sex as well as estimates for sub-national, urban-rural and socioeconomic status. Furthermore, the survey provides current data on fertility, family planning and the extent of utilization of maternal and child health services. The impetus for the fielding of a survey of this nature and magnitude came from the critical need for representative and reliable data on the general health status of the country in the wake of decades of war. It was felt that re-construction efforts will benefit from a baseline of information



on basic demographic and health estimates for the country as a whole. More importantly, the survey was important for gauging the success of development efforts and years of multi-sectoral investment by international partners. This survey was completed in 87% of the country. However, the survey teams were unable to cover rural areas of Helmand, Kandahar and Zabul provinces for security reasons that account for 9% of the total population or one-third of the population of the south of Afghanistan. The insecurity compromised monitoring of field work especially in the South zone.” – (Foreword, p. xiii).

Livingston, Ian S. and Michael O’Hanlon. “Afghanistan index.” Latest issue 10 February 2015, 34 p. (eight earlier issues from 2014 are also available). <http://www.brookings.edu/about/programs/foreign-policy/afghanistan-index>. First published in 2004-2005 and restarted in 2008 this regular cumulation of data and graphs draws mostly on US government documentation: data is presented in the following broad categories (1) security indicators (2) governance and rule of law indicators, (3) economic and quality of life indicators, (4) polling and public opinion, (5) selected indicators for Pakistan are also now included. Released every fortnight, monthly files are cumulated on the website and older issues are all available for download. The sources for the statistics presented (including

journalistic sources) are given (with ULRs) at the end of the data cumulation and provide some very useful links to important documents. “The *Afghanistan Index* is a statistical compilation of economic, public opinion and security data. This resource provides updated and historical information on various data, including crime, infrastructure, casualties, unemployment, Afghan security forces and coalition troop strength. It will be updated periodically. The index is designed to assemble the best possible quantitative indicators of the international community’s counterinsurgency and nation-building efforts in Afghanistan, to track them over time, and to offer an objective set of criteria for benchmarking performance. It serves as an in-depth, non-partisan assessment of American and international efforts in Afghanistan, and is based primarily on U.S. government, Afghan government and NATO data. Although measurements of progress in any nation-building effort can never be reduced to purely quantitative data, a comprehensive compilation of such information can provide a clearer picture and contribute to a healthier and better informed debate.” – (Website).

Refugees and IDPs

“Cash-based assistance programmes for Internally Displaced Persons in the Kabul informal settlements: an evaluation for WHH [Welt Hunger Hilfe] and [the] DRC [Danish Refugee Council].” Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting, (May 2014). <http://samuelhall.org/REPORTS/Cash-Based%20Assistance%20Programmes%20for%20IDPs%20in%20the%20Kabul%20Informal%20Settlements.pdf> (1.5 MB). “To assess the strengths and weaknesses, advantages and disadvantages of ... cash-based assistance modalities - and to draw on lessons learned for future programming in support of IDPs in urban informal settlements WHH and DRC have commissioned Samuel Hall to undertake an evaluation of the 2013/2014 winter’s cash interventions through a three-phased approach including a baseline, midline and endline survey.”

“Displacement dynamics: IDP movement tracking, needs and vulnerability analysis: Herat and Helmand Afghanistan.” Kabul: Samuel Hall Consulting, 100 p., (May 2014). <http://samuelhall.org/REPORTS/IDP%20Movement%20Tracking,%20Needs%20and%20Vulnerability%20Analysis%20Afghanistan.pdf> (5.3 MB). “This study presents the results of IOM’s IDP Movement Tracking and Needs and Vulnerability Analysis Exercise conducted in December 2013 by a research team at Samuel Hall Consulting. It seeks to provide IOM - and its migration and displacement partners - with field-

based evidence of issues that negatively impact both conflict and natural disaster-induced IDPs in Afghanistan. The focus of this report is on the provinces of Herat (West) and Helmand (South), pre-selected by IOM and identified in OCHA's humanitarian overview as provinces that ranked highest on vulnerability indicators collected by clusters. As such, this exercise serves a dual purpose - providing IOM with internal programming recommendations specific to these provinces and providing the humanitarian community in Afghanistan with information upon which to build displacement sensitive and local programming. It is foreseen that through this exercise, an all-inclusive (conflict and natural disaster (ND) -induced IDPs combined with other factors inducing internal displacement) baseline data on internal displacement will be presented which future assessments can build from." – (p. 4).



2,000 visitors per month who are searching for information about Afghanistan. The user base for this site exists, and we are now going to resume providing content for that user base. The Afghanistan Analyst fills a specific niche among the many websites, weblogs, and organizations dedicated to Afghanistan. We do not conduct field research like AREU, provide daily analysis like AAN, or cover daily news like Colin Cookman's outstanding Pakistan-Afghanistan Update. Instead, the Afghanistan Analyst helps to identify resources for researchers, scholars, and other academic-minded individuals to locate scholarly publications, documentation of field research, and other useful information relating to Afghanistan. This site's audience is not policymakers, but rather the researchers and academics who do the difficult work of expanding knowledge and understanding of Afghanistan and who, hopefully, may go on to inform policymakers.

In the weeks ahead, existing resources on this site will be reviewed to remove or update broken hyperlinks. Newly published work will be featured in this blog. Newly located (but existing) work will be added to the site as it is found.

Recommendations are appreciated. If you have a forthcoming book, peer-reviewed journal article, or substantial research that is appropriate for inclusion, please let us know. If you are aware of an online resource that is of use to this site's visitors, please let us know." – (Home page)

This page is an indispensable treasure trove with links to the Afghanistan law bibliography page, lists of research centres focusing on Afghanistan, listservs, NGOs, dissertations and theses, Afghanistan blogs etc.

Portals

The Afghanistan Analyst (not to be confused with the Afghanistan Analysts' Network [AAN]). <http://afghanistan-analyst.org>. "[As of June 30, 2014] The Afghanistan Analyst website is resuming activity. This site is the product of countless hours of work, compensated not in money, but in satisfaction in providing a useful resource for others. Despite lying dormant for nearly two years, this site continues to draw over

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

Since newsletter number six (July 2005) we have published a regular list of newly published laws. As a result of the three-year gap since the last newsletter was published, we need to catch up with the following rather lengthy law listing. All these documents are available for download (in the original Dari and Pushto versions) from the Ministry of Justice website: http://moj.gov.af/content/files/Pages/OfficialGazetteIndex_D-header.htm.

New Laws Received

Official gazette number	Hijri Shamsi date	International date	Title of Law, regulation, etc.
1047	1389 Hoot 29	2010 March 20	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1048	1390 Hamal 6	2011 March 26	Regulation on Salt
1049	1390 Hamal 31	2011 April 20	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1050	1390 Saur 31	2011 May 21	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1051	1390 Jauza 21	2011 June 11	Code of Ethical Conduct for Officials of the Three Branches of Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
1051	1390 Jauza 21	2011 June 11	Law on Acting Affairs of Ministries
1051	1390 Jauza 21	2011 June 11	Annex no. 1 to The Regulation on Pension Rights of Civil Servants
1052	1390 Jauza 25	2011 June 15	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 13, 2006)
1052	1390 Jauza 25	2011 June 15	Diplomatic Conference to adopt a Convention Banning Cluster Munitions
1053	1390 Jauza 31	2011 June 21	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1054	1390 Saratan 5	2011 June 26	Inter-governmental Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and India on the Implementation of [a] Gas Pipeline Project
1055	1390 Saratan 29	2011 July 20	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1056	1390 Asad 25	2011 August 16	Regulation on Arranging Employees' Overtime
1057	1390 Asad 31	2011 August 22	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1058	1390 Sunbula 20	2011 September 11	Regulation on Women's Protection Centers
1058	1390 Sunbula 20	2011 September 11	Regulation on Temporary Job Contracts
1059	1390 Sunbula 28	2011 September 19	Social Charter of the South Asian Countries (SAARC)
1059	1390 Sunbula 28	2011 September 19	Official Declaration and Agreement on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the States of Montenegro, Fiji and the Kingdom of Bhutan
1060	1390 Sunbula 30	2011 September 21	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks

1061	1390 Mizan 05	2011 September 27	Regulation on Firefighting
1062	1390 Mizan 30	2011 October 22	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1063	1390 Aqrab 10	2011 November 1	Transit Trade Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (APTTA)
1064	1390 Aqrab 30	2011 November 21	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1065	1390/09/90	2011 November 30	Part VII of the Financial Administration Act Amendment of and Public Expenditure-Security Statute
1066	09/16/1390	2011 December 7	Regulation of Education Documents Evaluation -Regulation for Night-time Higher Education
1067	1390/09/30	2011 December 7	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1068	1390/10/05	2011 December 26	Modifying Prison and Detention Law - Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. and Government of the Russian Federation
1069	1390/10/20	2012 January 10	Agreements
1070	1390/09/30	2012 January 10	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Mark
1071	5/11/1390	2012 January 25	Amendment of Article VI Police Affairs Act - Appendix to the Fifth Law to the Civil Service Employees
1072	1390/09/30	2011 December 10	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1073	1390/12/23	2012 March 13	Ariana Afghan Air Charter Company - adjustment component (3) of the Statute of security - a list of legislative documents in the Official Gazette, 1390
1074	1390/12/29	2012 March 5	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1075	1391/01/15	2012 April 18	Supplement in Paragraph (2) of Article 9, except (4)in Article 14 of the Regulation on the establishment and registration of political parties - Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan.
1076	1391/01/30	2011 April 19	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1077	1391/02/31	2012 May 8	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1078	1391/03/02	2012 May 22	Working relationship with the National Council of Government Regulation - Regulation Fair held economic progress in Afghanistan - Adjustment Clause (1) Article 6 Regulation of Staff Overtime

1079	1391/03/31	2012 June 20	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1080	04/06/1391	2012 June 26	Long-term Strategic Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and United States of America
1081	4/20/1391	2012 July 10	Regulation for Preparation and Processing of Legislative Documents
1082	31/04/1391	2012 July 21	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1083	20/05/1391	2012 July 23	International Development Law Organization (IDLO) -Agreement on Strategic Partnership between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of India
1084	21/05/1391	2012 August 11	Regulation of Private Health Facilities
1085	05/25/1391	2012 August 19	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1086	06/11/1391	2012 September 1	Decrees of the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan - Regulation on the passing of the sentence enforcement officials Askari - Adjusted Evening Higher Education Provision in Article 15
1087	20/06/1391	2012 September 10	Forestry Law Matters - Regulation of the Activities of the Ministry of Urban Development
1088	29/06/1391	2012 September 19	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1089	10.08.1391	2012 October 1	Anti-Disaster Preparedness Act - Presidential Decree of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
1090	1390/09/30	2012 December 15	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1090	30/07/1391	2012 October 21	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1091	22/08/1391	2012 November 12	Law - ACCI Transit Law of Afghanistan
1092	1391/01/15	2012 April 3	Supplement in Paragraph (2) of Article 9, except (4)in Article 14 of the Regulation on the establishment and registration of political parties - Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan.
1093	09.26.1391	2012 December 16	Civil Aviation Act - Amendment of Certain Articles of the Law on Public Health - Regulation to pursue implementation of the final and conclusive on the courts of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
1094	29/09/1391	2012 December 19	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1095	20/10/1391	2012 December 20	Amendment of Article Sixty-One Public Finance and Expenditure Management Law - Regulation of Tuition Fees, Educational Institutions Ministry of Education

1096	30/10/1391	2013 January 19	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1097	30/10/1391	2013 January 19	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1098	15/12/1391	2013 March 05	Hoarding Act - Establish Aviation Regulation Adjustment - Adjustment of the Component (13) Set Forth in Table (2) Regulatory Fees Posts
1099	12/28/1391	2013 March 18	Some adjustment of the rights and privileges of the survivors of martyrs and missing - modify and delete some of the rights and privileges of the disabled - Statute Fund for Agricultural Development - List of legislative documents in the Official Gazette of 1391
1101	10/01/1392	2013 March 30	Supreme Audit Office Act - Amendment of Certain Articles of the Regulation on the Rights and Privileges of Specialized Medical Fields
1102	20/01/1392	2013 April 09	Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Italy and the Matching Fund Programs - Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Government of India and Turkmen Government
1103	01/25/1392	2013 April 14	Extradition Law Offenders, Convicts and Judicial Cooperation - Adjustments to Income Tax Law
1104			Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1105	1392/04.02	2013 April 24	Diplomatic and Consular Staff - Statute Law Information Technology Institute of Telecommunications
1106	1392/03/11	2013 June 01	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1107	1392/03/11	2013 June 30	Afghan National Standards Law
1108	1392/04/12	2013 July 03	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1109	04/09/1392	2013 June 30	Law on Organisation and Jurisdiction of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
1110	1392/04/12	2013 July 3	Statistics Law
1111	1392/05/15	2013 August 6	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1112	15/05/1392	2013 August 6	Law on the Organisation, Functions and Powers of the Independent Electoral Commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission-Election Law.

1113	1392/06/10	2013 September 1	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1114	06/10/1392	2013 September 1	Adjusted Populations Law and Regulation of the Private Higher Education Institutions - Law No. (20) dated 01.13.1392 Supreme Council of the Supreme Court. The mismatch component (1) of Article 5 and Article 8 of Law diplomatic and consular staff in the constitution of Islamic republic of Afghanistan.
1115	1392/06/30	2013 September 21	State law cases - AMENDMENT ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED Second Income Tax Law - modify and supplement the tenth paragraph (2) of the fifty-ninth regulation of telecommunications services - modify and supplement some of the electoral law - adjusted to eliminate some of the formation and competence of the judiciary IR
1116	1392/07/15	2013 October 7	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1117	07/15/1392	2013 October 7	Organization Law and Jurisdiction Prosecution
1118	07/28/1392	2013 October 20	Regulation discipline, discipline and discipline violators Askari-Adjustment Clause (1) of the Income Tax Law seventy
1119	08/01/1392	2013 October 23	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1120	08/01/1392	2013 October 23	Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Dominican Republic - a long-term bilateral cooperation agreement between the Islamic Republic and the Government of the Italian Republic - Protocol signed between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the training of personnel Northern Ireland parts, Afghan ground forces in Turkey - document ongoing strategic partnership between the Islamic Republic, the kingdom of Great Britain and northern Ireland
1121	08/08/1392	2013 October 30	Salary Ranking Government Law - The Law Regulating the Salary and Expenses of the President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
1122			Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1123	1392/09/20	2013 December 11	Regulation of Financial Autonomy of Universities - Baghlan Sugar Company Statute
1124			Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1125	1392/11/20	2014 February 9	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks

1126	11.20.1392	2014 February 09	Decree of the President of the Islamic Republic of preventing manipulation and utilization of public officials and employees through the process of defining the civil and military services - Fifth Appendix to Civil Services Employees Law - Regulation of Nurseries -
1128	26.12.1392	2013 April 15	Financial Leasing Law - Hundred Seventy-Ninth Amendment of the Civil Procedure Act. - Adjustment Clause (3) of Article Sixty-Seven on Establishment and Jurisdiction of the Judiciary Act, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan - Amendment of Article VI of the Law to Address Abuse of Children - Moderated abolition of some pension rights of civil servants. - Amendment of the Articles of Association of the company Ariana Afghan Airlines. - List of Legislative Documents, Official Gazette in 1392
1129			Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1130	23.1.1393	2014 April 12	Child Custody Law-Law on Organization and Jurisdiction of special courts
1131	1393/02/15	2014 May 05	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trade Marks
1132	15.02.1393	2014 May 05	Criminal Procedure Code-Twenty-Sixth Amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code
1133	20/02/1393	2014 May 10	Internal Police Law, National Security Agencies and Military Organisation Offices
1134	24/02/1393	2014 May 14	The Statute of the International Centre for the Study, Preservation and Restitution of Cultural Property - Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of France - SAARC Convention on Environmental Cooperation - A Comprehensive, Long-term Cooperation Agreement between Afghanistan and Australia - Agreement for the Establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Academy as an International Organisation