

Afghanistan Research Newsletter



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The purpose of this newsletter is to alert readers to new research being undertaken on Afghanistan and to help disseminate the results of research. It is AREU's goal to produce this newsletter regularly. Copies of most published research cited here is available on the Internet; in other instances copies are available by contacting newsletter@areu.org.af.

Current Research & Resources

This section lists current and proposed research projects and related resources. The information appears as submitted by the individuals or organisations involved and the status of these projects may have changed since publication of this newsletter.

National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) 2005

As previously announced, the NRVA 2005 is planned to take place in the spring, both for urban and rural populations. At this stage, the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit of the World Food Programme and the Vulnerability Analysis Unit (VAU) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development are critically reviewing the methodology used in the last NRVA, as well as data needs of the clients of the NRVA data and analysis products. Key issues being examined include:

- Sampling to be improved based on the CSO pre-census household listing.
- Welfare measure to be used - a repeat of the seven-day consumption recall (to ensure compatibility with the NRVA 2003), or a simplified proxy of dietary diversity and perception questions?
- What are the indicators needed to ensure adequate description of urban poverty and vulnerability?
- Should indicators specifically explore links between rural and urban livelihoods?
- Reducing the number of units of observation: NRVA 2003 had district, community, wealth group and household.
- Updating: In summer 2004, as a response to the need to update the estimation of all food-insecure people at a district level (for drought response planning), market prices and satellite imagery (NDVIs or crop greenness measures) were used.
- Water security is becoming equally, or in some cases, more important than food security, and therefore the new instrument must reflect this.
- Iodized salt - testing to be included at the household level?
- Livelihoods zones use.
- Inclusion of an HIV awareness module.

A number of programs have been contacted, and others will be contacted in the next few weeks concerning data needs that might be addressed by NRVA 2005.

There is a meeting on 10 January 2005 to re-define the collaboration needed to regularly produce early warning information from the various stakeholders and publish this regularly in the monthly bulletin of the Afghan Network of Food Security. Participating stakeholders in this meeting will be Ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation, Health, and Rural Rehabilitation and Development, along with FEWS NET, WFP, UNICEF and FAO. This will also be an opportunity to discuss issues and data needs for NRVA 2005.

Current analysis of NRVA 2003 is available in *Report on findings from the 2003 National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) in rural Afghanistan* / Kabul: Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit of the World Food Programme and the Vulnerability Analysis Unit (VAU) of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, 2004. 128 p.; col. maps; 30 cm.

Hard copies of this publication will be printed, and a Dari translation is being prepared, and will be printed. Possibly a Pashto translation will be made as well. Further pending analytical reports based on NRVA 2003 data will focus on:

- Education;
- Gender;
- The relationship between opium growing and poverty;
- Nomadic pastoralists – the National Multi-Sector Assessment of Kuchi (NAMA) database has been restructured and repaired and is ready for quantitative analysis; and
- Nutrition and dietary diversity.

To download the report, go to:
<http://www.mrrd.gov.af/vau/Downloads/NRVA%202003%20Livelihoods%20Report%20&%20Annexes%20Dec%202004.pdf>

Recent Research and Evaluation Projects from Altai Consulting

Micro Finance Market Analysis in Southern Afghanistan (for MISFA / USAID / RAMP): The objective of this work was to identify the opportunities and threats to providing micro credit services in the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar. The focus was three-fold: i) understand the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAPs) of farmers and traders regarding micro-credit, ii) identify key actors/ decision-makers involved in financial transactions in the agricultural sector, and iii) assess the feasibility of future programs.

Safe Motherhood (UNICEF/Asiatic): In June 2004, Altai Consulting presented the final report on the formative research it conducted between March and May on the issue of Safe Motherhood. Mothers, women at different stages of pregnancy, fathers, husbands, and health workers were interviewed in various parts of the country (Badakhshan, Kandahar, Bamiyan and Kabul). The output of this work is a set of recommendations that drive the communication strategy to be implemented in 2005.

Universal Salt Iodization Project (for UNICEF): This eight month project launched in August 2003 was designed to help UNICEF implement its strategy for providing iodized salt to the entire Afghan population. Afghanistan has one of the highest prevalence rates in the world of iodine deficiency disorders. This stems both from a lack of awareness about the benefits of iodized salt, and from a lack of supply. UNICEF and Altai Consulting set up salt-iodization factories in partnership with the private sector throughout the country. In that process, Altai Consulting provided an analysis of the salt-economics in every region of Afghanistan, set up business plans for all the factories, and identified potential partners in the seven locations chosen by UNICEF to implement the factories – Ghazni, Herat, Taloqan, Mazar, Khost, Jalalabad and Kabul. During the project, Altai Consulting worked with all the stakeholders involved in the supply chain as well as the Ministry of Health and the governors of each of the provinces in which factories were set up.

Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) / National Solidarity Program (NSP) / Evaluation of the Facilitating Partners: Altai Consulting has been conducting an evaluation of the Facilitating Partners of the NSP program in 25 provinces of Afghanistan. The

evaluation covers contractual fulfillments, adherence to the objectives and processes of NSP, management, cost-effectiveness and implementation methodologies of the 20 leading NGOs of Afghanistan facilitating the NSP, as well as a study of the social impact of the program in Afghan villages. Altai Consulting has put together a team of eight international consultants, ten national consultants and 26 field officers to undertake this project.

International Republican Institute (IRI)/ Impact Study on Civic Education Project: Prior to Afghanistan's first presidential elections, in October 2004, the IRI disseminated 27,000 "SADA" listening devices with a built-in 8 hours of educational programming, in Dari and Pashto. Altai Consulting was commissioned by the IRI to do an impact analysis of the project, in two districts of Kandahar Province.

"Afghan Media, 3 years after." Nationwide evaluation of the impact of media on Afghan society (USAID-OTI / Internews): Altai Consulting is conducting a five month project to evaluate the impact of Afghan media at a nationwide level, and measure the interaction between newly born media and traditional sources of information in Afghan communities. The methodology is a combination of large scale survey, in-depth interviews and focus groups, sociological observations and debates with *shuras* and religious leaders. It covers 50 communities, from urban areas to remote villages, and targets knowledge, attitudes and practices as well as expectations towards all types of media (radio, TV, print, mobile theater and cinema, internet). The project involves a team of seven international consultants and 20 national consultants in 16 provinces.

For more information, go to:
<http://www.altaiconsulting.com/index.html>

New DACAAR Website

The Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR) launched a new website to mark 20 years of continued Danish commitment to provide humanitarian aid to Afghan refugees and support the reconstruction in Afghanistan. Visit it at www.dacaar.org

Statistical Master Plan for Afghanistan

A Statistical Master Plan (SMP) has been developed for Afghanistan by a joint inter-agency mission, comprised of representatives of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IMF and DFID. A seminar was held on May 25, 2004 in Kabul and a revised plan has been prepared.

The SMP will serve a number of purposes, which include:

- A planning tool to identify work program priorities;
- The scope of institutional reforms to develop a sustainable statistical capacity based on organisational changes and management processes;
- The adoption of a statistical law that emphasises accountability and transparency;
- Quantifying budgetary and other resource needs, including technical assistance from external sources;

- Defining the role and responsibility of different stakeholders in the statistical system for data collection; and
- Promoting more effective coordination among agencies.

For external agencies and donors engaged in assisting the government in the development of a functioning statistical system, the SMP will provide greater clarity about the aspirations of the government and its priorities between competing statistical requirements. The SMP provides a framework for technical assistance and a basis for better coordination among donors within the context of the priorities established by the government. In addition a new statistical law has been drafted.

To download a draft of the report, go to:
<http://www.aims.org.af/cso/capacityBuilding/document/AfghanistanStatisticalMasterPlan.pdf>

Featured Publications

This section highlights research publications recently received by AREU, or those forthcoming in early 2005.

Agriculture

Drought, livestock losses and the potential for feed production from arable land in Afghanistan: a case study of 183 villages with mixed crop/livestock farming systems / Euan Thomson, Terence Barker, Joaquin Mueller. Aleppo, Syria: International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), 2003. viii, 34 p.; 24 cm.

This (as yet) rarely cited report addresses “[t]wo topics that have so far received little attention: the impact that the drought has had upon animal numbers and the potential of arable land with regard to feeding the country’s livestock as numbers recover in the aftermath of the drought. This report examines these topics using information collected during a Rapid Diagnostic Survey (RDS) conducted in 183 villages in mid-2002, when most Afghan rural communities had already suffered four years of drought.”

The report is available online at http://www.icarda.org/Afghanistan/Content_INRM.htm

Disarmament

Putting guns in their place : a resource pack for two years of action by humanitarian agencies / Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue; Cate Buchanan and Mireille Widmer. Geneva: Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 2004. 67 p.; 30 cm.

An October 2004 publication by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, *Putting guns in their place* specifically seeks to provide communities with an accessible guide for tackling the issue of small arms. Described by Jan Egeland, the OCHA Emergency Relief Coordinator, as “a real resource for turning words into action,” it provides an overview of areas for action - public health, forced displacement, protection of children, gender rights, taking weapons out of circulation and the safety of relief workers - including questions to include in project design or evaluation. An introduction to the UN Programme of Action on small arms and existing processes and instruments regulating weapons transfers is also offered (also available in French and Spanish).

The publication can be accessed at: www.hdcentre.org/?aid=121.

Elections

Media monitor: a newsletter on Afghan media, 30 September, 2004: covering the first elections/ Internews. Kabul: Internews, 2004. 54, 59 p.: ill.; 28 cm.

Including the first survey of Afghan journalists' attitudes towards the elections and their roles, issue six of *Media Monitor*, entitled *Covering the first elections*, examines the place of journalism in Afghan politics and democracy. With interviews, analysis of the media law governing journalists, and commentary on the state of the media in Afghanistan. Also available in Dari.

This issue of the *Media Monitor* can be found at: [http://www.internews.fr/documents/Media_Monitor_2004_Sep_\(English\).pdf](http://www.internews.fr/documents/Media_Monitor_2004_Sep_(English).pdf)

Gender

Gender, conflict, and development / by Tsjeard Bouta, Georg Frerks, Ian Bannon. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2004. 220 p. ISBN 0821359681. US\$20.00. Released: November 2004

Gender, conflict, and development was written as an effort to fill a gap between the Bank's work on gender mainstreaming and its agenda in conflict and development. The authors identify a link between gender and conflict issues and provide the most comprehensive review of external and internal sources on gender and conflict, with a particular focus on policy relevance for an institution such as the Bank.

The book highlights the gender dimensions of conflict, organized around major relevant themes such as female combatants, sexual violence, formal and informal peace processes, the legal framework, work, the rehabilitation of social services and community-driven development. For each theme it analyses how conflict changes gender roles and the policy options that might be considered to build on positive aspects while minimising adverse changes.

Humanitarian Aid

Country survey, Afghanistan : building effective partnerships: what ails the relationship between internal and external actors in post-conflict countries / Hamidullah Natiq, David Alexander Poplack, and Abdul Wakil Sidiqi; with

contributions from Katarina Ammitzboell and Sarwar Mamound. Geneva: WSP International, 2004. 49, 6 p.: map; 30 cm. The Peacebuilding Forum 2004. "Please do not cite without permission of WSP International"—cover.

The purpose of the present research is to gain an understanding of "what ails the relationship between internal and external actors in post conflict countries," in this case, Afghanistan. A survey team of three researchers contacted a total of 114 individuals, 79 internal and 35 external actors, over a period of two months in early spring of 2004 in four provinces of Afghanistan to assess the spaces for, and quality of, dialogue among and between foreign and national actors involved in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

This report can be found at: http://wsp.dataweb.ch/wspapplets/data/Documents/Afghanistan_Country_Survey.pdf

Measuring the impact of humanitarian aid: a review of current practice / Charles-Antoine Hofmann, Les Roberts, Jeremy Shoham and Paul Harvey. London: Overseas Development Institute, 2004. 38 p.; 30 cm. ISBN 0850037182. (HPG report; 17).

This report investigates the current state of the art in measuring and analysing the impact of humanitarian assistance. It is concerned with questions around how impact can be measured, why this is increasingly being demanded, and whether it is possible to do it better. It also explores the benefits, dangers and costs that paying greater attention to impact might entail.

The report can be accessed at: <http://www.odi.org.uk/hpg/papers/hpgreport17.pdf>. A four page briefing paper is also associated with this: <http://www.odi.org.uk/hpg/papers/hpgbrief15.pdf>

Opium

Afghanistan: narcotics and US policy / Christopher Blanchard. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress, 2004. 35 p.; 30 cm. (CRS report for Congress; RL32686). "Order code RL32686"—cover. "December 7, 2004"—cover.

This report describes the structure and development of the narcotics trade in Afghanistan

and explores its relevance to Afghan, U.S. and international security interests, including the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the United States make a long-term commitment to the stability and security of Afghanistan. The report provides current statistical information on the opium trade, profiles its various participants, explores alleged narco-terrorist linkages, and reviews the US and international policy response since late 2001. The report also considers current policy debates regarding the role of the US military in future counter-narcotics operations in Afghanistan; planned opium poppy eradication; and funding issues for Congress.

Bitter-sweet harvest: Afghanistan's new war [electronic resource] / Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) / OCHA. Nairobi, Kenya: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2004. 1 DVD: col.; 12 cm + col. poster (42 x 30 cm) + bookmark. Title from disc. Contents: *Bitter-sweet harvest* (documentary 14:08 minutes) – Global illicit drug trends 2003 / UNODC (371 p.).

This film explains why farmers are drawn to poppy cultivation and why central government finds the trade so hard to control. It highlights the devastating effect that drug trafficking is having on Afghanistan and the region, and warns of the dangers that opium poses to peace and security in Afghanistan particularly in light of the recent presidential elections.

More information on the film, as well as many useful web links, can be found at: www.irinnews.org

Road to ruin: Afghanistan's booming opium industry / Barnett R. Rubin. Washington, D.C.: Center for American Progress, Center on International Cooperation, 2004. 24 p.; 30 cm. "October 7, 2004"—cover.

This paper examines the historical context of Afghanistan's opium industry, its current nature, and the past missteps of the United States and international community in addressing the narcotics threat. It also offers recommendations for a more effective counter-narcotics strategy based on three principles: counter-narcotics policy must be integrated with broader international efforts; increased security and reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan remain essential; and countering the drug threat in

Afghanistan will require a full and long-term commitment. To this end, the United States and the international community should:

- Implement a policy of sanctions against warlords and militia commanders involved in drug trafficking and incentives for those who renounce trafficking;
- Provide greater security and reconstruction assistance;
- Provide military backup and monitoring to Afghan authorities in certain counter-narcotics operations;
- Help Afghans establish or strengthen institutions of the rule of law;
- Curtail the use of crop eradication;
- Focus counter-narcotics law enforcement efforts on trafficking, including both processing and trading;
- Integrate a comprehensive program of alternative livelihoods for rural communities into a state building and development strategy for Afghanistan. This strategy should include measures to end the trafficking of women and girls in settlement of debts contracted by opium-producing farmers; and
- Include transitional assistance for Afghanistan's macroeconomic balance in counter-narcotics efforts.

The report can be accessed at: www.cic.nyu.edu/pdf/RoadtoRuin.pdf

Politics/Government

'Good' state vs. 'bad' warlords?: a critique of state-building strategies in Afghanistan / Antonio Giustozzi. London: Crisis States Programme, Development Research Centre, 2004. 19 p.; 30 cm. (Crisis States Programme: working papers series; no. 1). ISSN 1740-5807 (print), ISSN 1740-5807 (on-line).

The current Afghan government, having weak social roots has been forced to rely on the support of "warlords" to stay in power. But a high price had to be paid. Despite the predominant stress in much current analysis on the issue of regional warlordism, the limited reform achievements in the Kabul ministries and the enduring domination by the militias of some key ministries are potentially much more threatening to the reform and re-establishment of the Afghan state. Widespread corruption is preventing some key ministries from achieving the minimal effectiveness required. Even within Kabul, the focus of the international community has been

misplaced. In particular, the pressure of donors on the Ministry of the Interior has been nowhere near as strong as that exerted over the Ministry of Finance. The international community also failed to support adequately the attempts by "civil society" to change the corrupt practices of the state administration.

This paper can be accessed at: <http://www.crisisstates.com/Publications/wp/wp51.htm>

Kriegsfürstentum und Bürgerkriegsökonomien in Afghanistan / Conrad Schetter. Köln: Lehrstuhl für Internationale Politik, Universität zu Köln, 2004. 50 p.: map; 30 cm. (Arbeitspapiere zur Internationalen Politik und Außenpolitik (AIPA)); 3/2004). ISSN 1611-0072.

This paper is on warlordism and the war economies in Afghanistan. It is available at : <http://www.politik.uni-koeln.de/jaeger/downloads/aipa0304.pdf>. The map below from this paper (p. 15) has been updated from an earlier version was published in: *Ethnizität und ethnische Konflikte in Afghanistan* / Conrad Schetter. Berlin: Reimer, 2003. 641 p.; 24 cm. ISBN 3496027509.

Urban Issues

A large website sponsored by the British Department for International Development (DFID) brings together more than 700 pdf documents on: urban economy, urban governance, urban society, urban infrastructure and urban environment.

The grouping of materials by theme and sub-theme provides urban practitioners with a wide range of experience, reflections and innovations from diverse development contexts. Although there are no Afghanistan-specific documents or studies, many of the papers provide directly relevant parallels from development experience elsewhere: e.g., capacity building, participatory budgeting, transparency, corruption, etc.

In the Afghan context it is particularly useful to have these important resources from international journals available online.

The site can be accessed at: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu-projects/drivers_urb_change/home.htm



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Feature: The Role of Learning, Research and Practice in Socio-Economic Development

by Dr. Abdul Khalil "Zarifi"
Natural Science Deputy President
Afghanistan Academy of Science

Every community is working towards improving their development. When looking at human history, it is clear that socio-economic development is founded on three main principles: *learning*, *research* and *practice*. It is by understanding the role of *learning* in initiating development processes, and enabling access to information on different subjects, that we can appreciate the importance of learning institutions such as schools and universities. Through institutions of learning human knowledge gradually improves on different subjects, such as the chemical and physical properties of substances, and people receive critical information through which to achieve socio-economic development.

Research is another key principle for community development, which is in many ways a more advanced form of learning. There are many different research methodologies including field research, clinical research, laboratory research, farm research, and analytical or comparative research (this is research conducted in libraries).

Field research is generally used to collect essential evidence on the culture and social relations of communities as well as the nature of economic services. For instance, field research could include undertaking a structural evaluation of school curricula or collecting information on basic and higher levels of learning, so as to improve the quality of education. Field research can also focus on issues such as climatic conditions. Most often *clinical research* is related to health issues, while *laboratory research* (e.g., natural science laboratories) is used to perform scientific or technological experiments. In *farm research* we usually conduct agricultural or horticultural experiments. Lastly, *analytical or comparative research* involves studying different publications and reference books to analyse and assess a specific topic. After undertaking research using any of the above methods, the outcomes, conclusions and recommendations of the respective research are published and presented.

In addition to the important role that *learning* and *research* play in the social development of a community's welfare, there is a third principle that is essential for development processes. This is the principle of *practice* or of implementing the outcomes of acquired knowledge and research findings.

To respond to the need for *learning*, *research* and *practice*, the new constitution of Afghanistan states: "The state shall devise effective programmes for the promotion of science, culture, literature and the arts. The state guarantees the rights of authors, inventors, and discoverers and encourages and supports scientific research in all areas and publicises the effective use of their results in accordance with the law." (See Article Forty-Seven) To achieve the objectives of the constitution, we first of all need to distinguish between the conducting of scientific research and the implementation and effective utilization of research findings.

As has already been made clear in this article, the three principles of *learning*, *research* and *practice* are vital for community development. They have their own separate targets and objectives, and at the same time are linked and have an effect on each other. Thus independent research and scientific organisations exist in all countries and have specific objectives, while effecting learning and practice.

In Afghanistan, luckily, there is such an independent research organisation, the Afghanistan Academy of Sciences. The idea of establishing such an academy first came from cultural and academic associations and intellectuals during the second decade of the present century (1320/1941). Later, at the end of the

monarchical era, there were designs and plans for such an institute of science and research. The institute was formally established when it was approved by the late Mohammad Daoud during his last presidency.

From the outset, the role of the Afghanistan Academy of Sciences has been expanding. It is currently conducting research in three main areas: human sciences, Islamic sciences, and technical-natural sciences.

The Academy has been a member of the *Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies* (FASAS) for many years. During the last two years the Academy has obtained membership of the *Third World Academy of Sciences* (TWAS), now called the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World. It covers 54 countries worldwide. In addition, the Academy is a member of individual Asian country academies of sciences and is also one of the founders of an association of Islamic country academies.

Since the establishment of the Afghanistan Interim Administration, the president and delegations from the Academy have had official visits to Germany, India, China, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, attending scientific conferences and seminars, presenting declarations and representing the Academy. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with Iran, India, Tajikistan, Turkey and Malaysia for mutual cooperation and maintaining scientific communications. Of course such external communications will add to the prestige of the academy and bring the country scientific dignity.

In spite of the damages caused by the war, such as losing laboratory equipment essential for research, the Academy has not stopped its mission. At the present, more than 300 scientific research papers (technical, social and economical) are finished, some are published and the rest are going to be published in turn. Around 30 other natural science projects are underway on agriculture, mining, health and environment, and energy technology.

By favor of the almighty God and the struggles of the assistance communities the new constitution of the country has been adopted. The result has been the election of His Excellency Hamid Karzai as president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. By implementing the new constitution people are strongly expecting to see economic structures rehabilitated and the circumstances created for community development. Undoubtedly the legitimate wishes of the people are also shared by President Karzai.

For favorable working circumstances, sound and expert administration system, and the enforcement of law, the state should specify and implement action-oriented frameworks to attain socio-economic development for the country. Such a national programme should also include providing opportunities for research and technical institutions to improve their activities. However, each institution's responsibility in accordance with existing conditions and future developments should also be defined and specified.

Therefore, to reach Afghanistan's development goals and to achieve public and community well-being, the following should be considered:

1. Specific responsibilities should be assigned to *learning/research* institutions and organisations *implementing* programmes, as well as attending and providing necessary supplies to them;
2. Expanding the use of research findings to inform practice via communication and cooperation among *learning/research* institutes and *implementing* organisations;
3. Ensuring that an expert or professional leads institutions to build essential capacities;
4. Establishing an authorised central government committee or commission to coordinate the duties of *learning/research* institutions and *implementing* organisations, and to consolidate their efforts toward achieving the objectives of Afghanistan's reconstruction and development programme, and also to evaluate the operations of institutions and provide reports to the president.

This article was translated from the Dari by AREU. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of AREU. To read the original version of the paper, please see the Dari section of this newsletter.

Recent & Forthcoming Publications from AREU

Recent Publications

Looking for Peace on the Pastures: Rural Land Relations in Afghanistan. This paper, by Liz Alden Wily, synthesises the lessons learned from a study of land tenure relations in Bamyan, Badakhshan and Faryab Provinces. It also offers recommendations on how to move forward from the existing muddle of land policy and law to engage in "learning by doing" projects aimed at mitigating conflict on communal land.

Gender and Local Level Decision Making: Findings from a Case Study in Panjao. The extent to which women across Afghanistan are offered opportunities to influence and direct decisions made at the household and community level varies by region, background, and circumstance. In this, the first of several case study reports on this issue, author Shawna Wakefield examines how women in two villages in Panjao, Bamyan Province are able to participate in community institutions and influence household affairs.

Gender and Local Level Decision Making: Findings from a Case Study in Mazar-e Sharif. The second in a series of case studies, this paper examines the degree of influence women and men have on household and community decision making in an urban context, specifically two diverse neighborhoods in Mazar-e Sharif, and makes recommendations for how organisations operating in Mazar can increase their participation in community development efforts.

Forthcoming Publications

Urban Governance, Management and Livelihoods. This issues paper examines the problems of governance, management, and livelihoods in urban settings across Afghanistan, especially as urban areas are pressed to accommodate growing numbers of returning refugees. It specifically looks at the physical legacy of war and its effects on urban management, as well as how current and planned

government programmes are coping with urban problems.

Women's Access to Land and Livestock. This working paper explores the degree to which women in different areas of Afghanistan are able to access and wield control over the physical assets of land and livestock.

Other papers currently in production at AREU include three more case studies/field notes (Samangan, Herat and Kabul) from the Gender and Local Level Decision Making Project, as well as case studies from Herat and Faryab on transnational networks.

Additionally, AREU plans to release several briefing papers in early 2005 around the following topics:

- Transnational networks of returning refugees and internally displaced persons;
- Increasing women's participation in and influence over household and community decision making;
- Parliamentary elections and the single non-transferable voting system; and
- Urban management, governance and livelihoods.

All of AREU's publications, as well as information on upcoming research projects, can be found at our web site at: www.areu.org.af

Online Contact Directory

The contact directory from the *A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance* is now online at AREU's website (www.areu.org.af). Users can search the directory for donors, UN agencies, NGOs and others by province, name, or type of organisation. The online directory is being constantly updated, and AREU welcomes submissions/changes to the list. Visit us online for more details.

UNHCR District Profiles

UNHCR District Profiles contain a wide range of information concerning population and the general situation in the districts that may be useful to researchers studying specific areas of Afghanistan (some profiles include hard-to-find estimates of ethnic groupings).

Individual pdfs of the profiles are downloadable from <http://www.aims.org.af/>

Available profiles include the following, grouped by region:

Western Region

Badghis Province: Ab Kamari (26 August 2002), Murghab (26 August 2002), Qalay-i-naw (26 August 2002)

Farah Province: Gulistan (26 August 2002), Pur Chaman (26 August 2002)

Ghor Province: Pasaband (09 November 2002), Chaghcharan (21 October 2002), Lal Wa Sarjantal (21 October 2002)

Herat Province: Injil (26 August 2002), Kohsan (26 August 2002), Kushki Kuhna (26 August 2002)

Eastern Region

Kunar Province: Asad Abad (08 October 2002), Chapa Dara (08 October 2002), Chawkay (08 October 2002), Dangam (08 October 2002), Khas Kunar (08 October 2002), Marwara (07 October 2002), Narang (08 October 2002), Nari (08 October 2002), Nurgal (08 October 2002), Sirkanay (08 October 2002), Asmar (06 June 2002), Mano Gay (05 June 2002), Wata Pur (01 June 2002)

Laghman Province: Dawlat Shah (10 January 2003), Mehtarlam (10 January 2003), Qarghayi (10 January 2003), Alingar (10 January 2003), Alishing (31 December 2002)

Nangarhar Province: Hisarak (02 July 2002), Lal Pur (02 July 2002), Kot (23 May 2002), Nazyan (23 May 2002), Dih Bala (21 May 2002), Shinwar (19 May 2002), Chaparhar (16 May 2002), Khogyani (16 May 2002), Sherzad (14 May 2002), Pachir Wa Agam (13 May 2002), Bati Kot (12 May 2002), Muhmand Dara (09 May 2002), Achin (08 May 2002), Goshta (02 May 2002), Kama (02 May 2002), Rodat (02 May 2002), Dur Baba (May 2002), Dara-I-Nur (30 April 2002), Behsud (25 April 2002), Kuz Kunar (22 April 2002), Surkh Rod (21 April 2002), Jalalabad (08 April 2002)

Nuristan Province: Wama (31 December 2002), Waygal (31 December 2002), Kamdesh (11 November 2002), Bargi Matal (November 2002), Du Aab (08 July 2002), Mandol (02 July 2002), Ghazi Abad (01 July 2002), Nangarage (July 2002), Paroon (24 June 2002)

Central Region

Bamyan Province: Bamyan (18 September 2002), Shibar (18 September 2002), Yakawlang (18 September 2002), Panjab (17 September 2002), Waras (17 September 2002)

Ghazni Province: Khugiani (07 March 2003), Malistan (24 February 2003), Ajristan (15 October 2002), Gelan (15 October 2002), Ab Band (20 December 2002), Giro (11 September 2002), Khwaja Omari (31 July 2002), Nawa (31 July 2002), Jaghori (30 July 2002), Jaghatu (24 June 2002), Moqur (24 June 2002), Qarabagh (23 June 2002), Rashidan (23 May 2002), Dehyak (05 April 2002), Ghazni City (04 April 2002), Nawur (04 April 2002), Andar (17 February 2002), ZanaKhan (17 February 2002)

Kabul Province: Bagrami (31 July 2002), Char Asyab (31 July 2002), Khak-e-Jabbar (31 July 2002), Paghman (31 July 2002), Sarobi (06 June 2002), Deh Sabz (03 June 2002), Farza (09 May 2002), Mussahi (29 April 2002), Guldara (04 April 2002), Istalif (04 April 2002), Kalakan (04 April 2002), Mir Bacha Kot (04 April 2002), Qarabagh (04 April 2002), Shakardara (28 January 2002)

Kapisa Province: Kohistan 1st part (29 May 2002), Kohistan 2nd part (31 July 2002), Tagab (11 June 2002), Nejrab (11 June 2002), Alasai (11 June 2002)

Logar Province: Puli - Alam (07 July 2002), Khoshi (06 July 2002), Mohammad Agha (06 July 2002), Kharwar (19 March 2002)

Parwan Province: Shinwari (31 July 2002), Bagram (12 June 2002), Shaikh Ali (09 June 2002), Lolinge (Surkh Parsa) (09 June 2002), Hessa-e-Char (part four of Panjshir) (05 June 2002), Hessa-e-Say (part three of Panjshir) (04 June 2002), Siagerd (02 June 2002), Salang (05 May 2002), Jabalsarraj (04 April 2002), Charikar (11 February 2002)

Wardak Province: Jaghatu (31 July 2002), Chak (31 July 2002), Village Alisha (31 July 2002), Village Alasang (31 July 2002), Maidan Shahr (06 July 2002), Nirkh (06 July 2002), Day Mirdad (06 February 2002)

Central Region Summary Report (Number of Returnees by Village) (02 April 2002)

Northern Region

Baghlan Province: Kahmard (18 September 2002), Saighan (18 September 2002), Dushi (10 April 2002), Andarab (09 April 2002), Baghlan Jadid (09 April 2002), Burka (09 April 2002), Dahna - i - Ghori (09 April 2002), Khinjan (09 April 2002), Khost-u-fring (09 April 2002), Nahrin (09 April 2002), Pul -i- Khumri (09 April 2002), Tala-wa-Barfak (09 April 2002)

Administrative/Judicial/Security Profile

Balkh Province: Balkh, Mazar-i-Sharif, Sholgara (11 April 2002) Administrative/Judicial/ Security Profile

Faryab Province: Almar (12 September 2002), Andkhoy (12 September 2002), Gurzewan (12 September 2002), Khani Chahar Bagh (15 July 2002), Qaramqol (15 July 2002), Quargham (14 July 2002), Qaysar (25 June 2002), Village Shakh (August 2002), Maymana (22 May 2002), Shirin Tagab (10 May 2002), Bilchiragh (26 April 2002), Dawlat Abad (26 April 2002), Kohistan (26 April 2002), Koja Musa (26 April 2002), Pashtun Kot (26 April 2002), Khwaja Sabz Posh (17 April 2002)

Kunduz Province: Ali Abad (12 September 2002), Archi (12 September 2002), Chahar Dara (12 September 2002), Imam Saheb (12 September 2002) Inter - Agency Assessment Mission in Imam Saheb and Summary of Findings, Kunduz (12 September 2002), Qalay-i-Zal (12 September 2002), Khanabad (04 August 2002)

Saripul Province: Sayed Abad, Village Gor Tapa (05 April 2002) Village Sayed Abad Hazara (05 April 2002)

Takhar Province: Baharak (12 September 2002), Bangi (12 September 2002), Chah Ab (12 September 2002), Chal (12 September 2002), Dashti Qala (12 September 2002), Ishkamish (12 September 2002), Khwaja Ghar (12 September 2002), Warsaj (12 September 2002), Yangi Qala (12 September 2002), Rustaq (August 2002), Farkhar (23 June 2002), Taluqan (10 June 2002), Kalafgan (05 June 2002), Baharak (12 September 2002)

Northern Region Summary Report (02 April 2002)

Southeast Region

Paktya Province: Azra (31 July 2002)

Southern Region

Helmand Province: Baghran (31 December 2002), Garmser (31 December 2002), Kajaki (31 December 2002), Musa Qala (31 December 2002), Nad Ali (31 December 2002), Naw Zad (31 December 2002), Washar (31 December 2002), Sangin (01 December 2002), Nahri Saraj (29 November 2002), Lashkargah (26 November 2002), Dishu (26 November 2002), Khanishin (Reg) (25 November 2002), Nawa-e-Barakzai (24 November 2002)

Zabul Province: Atghar (01 July 2003), Daychopan (01 July 2003), Mizan (01 July 2003), Qalat (01 July 2003), Shahjoy (01 July 2003), Shamulzayi (01 July 2003), Shinkay (01 July 2003), Tarnak Wa Jaldak (01 July 2003), Arghandab (30 June 2003), Khak-e-Afghan (20 October 2002), Suraj (18 October 2002)

Other Publications

In addition to the recent publications noted previously, several organisations and individuals submitted the following publications.

Anthropology

A survey of ethnic composition, some social institutions and recent political history of Afghanistan / Sergei Andreyev. Islamabad: United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMIA), 2002. 93, 53, 180-190 p.: maps; 30 cm. Bibliography, p. 180-190. AREU copy faulty: chapter two (p. 1-53, second group) corrupted and unreadable.

Art

The restoration of the Kafir effigies in the Kabul Museum / Austrian Afghan Society. Vienna: Austrian Afghan Society, [2004]. 1 folded sheet: col. ill.; 21 cm. "Kabul, November 2004".

Baseline Survey

Baseline survey: Shinya Tahkt, Waras [Bamiyan] [Aga Khan Development Network]. Kabul: [Aga Khan Development Network], 2004. 60 p.; 30 cm. Available at: <http://community.eldis.org/columnists/afghanistan/?14@@!nopopup=1&cat=Northern%20Afghanistan>

Development

National Solidarity Program operational manual: 15 October 2004 / [Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development]. [Kabul]: [Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development], 2004. 54 p.; 30 cm.

Peace and conflict impact assessment workshop (AKF Afghanistan), 13 – 16 June, 2004 / AKF

Office. Baharak, Afghanistan: Aga Khan Foundation, 2004. 23 p.; 30 cm. Available at: <http://community.eldis.org/afghanistan>

Provincial Development Committees (PDC) / [ISAF]. [Kabul: ISAF, 2004]. 6 p.; 30 cm. "ISAF unclassified." The aim of this short paper is to examine the PDC and establish the role of the military within the structure. PDF available from newsletter@areu.org.af

Protracted relief and recovery operation: a report on the combined second and third quarterly review workshop, 17-18 February 2004, Kabul / World Food Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. Kabul: World Food Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, 2004. 32 p.; 30 cm. "March 2004"—cover.

The shape of post-conflict reconstruction: has it fit Afghanistan? / Beth Eggleston. Unpublished Masters thesis. 144 p.: ill.; 30 cm. "Masters in Development Studies, University of Melbourne. 7 June 2004."

Technical assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan for capacity building in land policy and administration reform / P. Heytens and A. Kelly. [Kabul]: Asian Development Bank, 2004. 14 p.; 30 cm. June 2004.

Disarmament

"Afghanistan: new approaches for weapons management." In *Small arms and human security bulletin*, no. 4, (October 2004), p. 5. Available at: <http://www.hdcentre.org/?aid=60>

Economics/Finance

Preparation of the 1384 national budget process / Ministry of Finance, Development Budget and External Relations Unit. Kabul: Ministry of Finance, Development Budget and External Relations Unit, 2004. 8 p.; 21 x 31 cm. "10th-11th November, 2004." Overheads from PowerPoint presentation. Also available in Dari.

Shâkhs-i qiyam-i shahr-i Kâbul = Kabul consumer price index (CPI). / Central Statistics Office. Kabul: Dawlat Intiqâlî Islâmî Afghânistân. Issues received: 22 (September 2004), -23 ([October] 2004), 25 (December 2004).

Education

AKF Afghanistan education base line survey (BLS) (2003): a summary. [Kabul]: Aga Khan Foundation, 2003. 4 p.; 30 cm. Available at: <http://community.eldis.org/afghanistan/>

Elections

The Afghan economy after the election / Manabu Fujimura. Tokyo, Japan: Asian Development Bank Institute, Knowledge Management Unit, 2004. 16 p.; 21 cm. (ADB Institute Research Policy Brief; no. 12). "Based on ADBI monograph entitled: *Post-conflict reconstruction: the Afghan economy*" – title-page. "October 2004." Available at: <http://www.adbi.org/research-policy-brief/2004/10/15/698.afghan.economy.after.election/>

اصطلاحات رأی دهندگان : انتخابات افغانستان ۱۳۸۳ - درایه ورگونگی قاموسکی : د افغانستان انتخابات ۱۳۸۳

Voters' lexicon : Afghanistan elections 2004. [Kabul]: UNAMA, JEMB, UNDP, [2004]. 112 p.; 21 cm. Contents: Definitions of election relevant terms, p. 1-[57] in Pashtu, p. [59]-112 in Dari.

Energy

سپینار علمی تحقیقی : راه یابی حل پرابلم انرژی افغانستان / اکادمی علوم افغانستان دولت انتقالی اسلامی افغانستان

Finding [a] way of solving [the] energy problem of Afghanistan: abstract[s] = scientific-research seminar / Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan, Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan. Kabul: Academy of Sciences, 1382 [2003]. 16, 22-1 pages; 30 cm. Abstracts in English and Dari.

Gender

انکشاف و جندر

MRRD 2004. Kabul: MRRD, 2004. 36 p.; 30 cm. Spiral bound. Handout from a "Regional workshop on Gender Operational Guidelines, 8th December 2004, MRRD compound, Kabul." Includes definitions of key terms in Dari. Copy available for consultation in the AREU library (no soft copy received).

Health

Hospital policy for Afghanistan's health system, February 2004 / Afghanistan Ministry of Health, Hospital Management Task Force. Kabul: Afghanistan Ministry of Health, Hospital Management Task Force, 2004. 6 p.; 30 cm. "February 2004"—cover. Available at: http://www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADA640.pdf

A strategic framework for action against TB and malaria in Afghanistan: guidance to USAID/Afghanistan / Dennis Carroll, Christine Whalen, Paul Arnow. Boston: Rural Expansion of Afghanistan's Community-Based Healthcare (REACH), Management Sciences for Health, 2003. 20 p.; 30 cm. "December 2003"—cover, but only released recently. Available at: http://www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACY585.pdf

Three unpublished master's papers from Mary E. Dean, each with useful bibliographies: Copies can be obtained from: medean@MEER.NET

Afghan refugees: mental health and flight to Iran / Mary E. Dean. Perth, Australia: Curtin University of Technology, 2004. 17 p.

The high incidence of low birth weight in Afghanistan / Mary E. Dean. Perth, Australia: Curtin University of Technology, 2004. 19 p.

A review of the nutritional situation of Afghan refugees at New Jalozai Camp, Pakistan in 2000-2001 / Mary E. Dean. Perth, Australia: Curtin University of Technology, 2004. 21 p.

Human Rights/ Social Conditions

Report of the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan / M. Cherif Bassiouni. New York: United Nations, 2004. 32 p.; 30 cm. "21 September 2004"—caption. Human rights – Afghanistan. Available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/informal/documents.htm>

A society in transition: focus group discussions in Afghanistan / prepared by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). Washington, D.C.: National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), 2003. 39 p.; 30 cm. "December 2003"—cover. Available at: http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/1677_af_focusgroups_120103.pdf

www.accessdemocracy.org/library/1677_af_focusgroups_120103.pdf

Humanitarian Aid

The charity of nations: humanitarian action in a calculating world / Ian Smillie and Larry Minear. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press, Inc., 2004. ix, 276 p.: ill., maps; 23 cm.

Livelihoods

Livelihoods monitoring in three villages in Sayyad district of Saripul province in North-west Afghanistan : final report / German Agro Action and Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit. [Kabul]: German Agro Action and Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, 2004. 36 p.; 30 cm. A study undertaken by German Agro Action Saripul in partnership with AREU, June 2003 to March 2004. "May 2004"—cover. A copy is available for consultation in the AREU library.

Project document: Alternative Agricultural Livelihoods Programme / FAO/Government Co-operative Programme, project of the government of Afghanistan. [Kabul]: FAO/Government Co-operative Programme, [2004?]. 43 p.: map; 30 cm.

Opium

Afghanistan: drugs and terrorism and US security policy: hearing before the Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives, One Hundred Eighth Congress, second session, February 12, 2004. Washington: US Government Printing Office, 2004. iii, 54 p.: ill.; 24 cm. Available at: <http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS50400>

Drugs and development in Afghanistan / William Byrd, Christopher Ward. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank, 2004. 25 p.; 30 cm. (Social development papers: conflict prevention and reconstruction; no. 18). "December 2004"—cover. Available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/conflict> (see "Publications" in the navigation menu).

National drug control strategy: 5-year strategy (1381-1386) for tackling illicit drug problems in Afghanistan / Counter Narcotics Directorate (CND). Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan. Kabul: Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2003. 19, xiv p.; 29 cm. "18 May 2003"—cover. The CND is continuing to develop its website at www.cnd.gov.af

Politics/Government

US strategy in Afghanistan on the eve of the national elections / written testimony of Andrew S. Natsios. [Washington, D.C.?]: [USAID], 2004. 7 p.; 30 cm. "Before the International Relations Committee, US House of Representatives, September 29, 2004." Available at: <http://www.state.gov/p/sa/rls/rm/36625.htm>. This and links to many other documents are available online at the Military Education Research Library homepage on Afghanistan at: <http://merln.ndu.edu/index.cfm?secID=102&pageID=3&type=section>

Reconstruction

Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund: report to donors: first quarter of the Afghan fiscal year 1883 (March 20, 2004 to June 20, 2004) / prepared by the World Bank ARTF administrator. [Kabul]: ARTF Management Committee, 2004. 46 p.; 28 cm. Available at: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFGHANISTAN/Resources/ARTF_quarterly_report-June_2004.pdf

ARTF Administrator's Report on Financial Status as of October 22, 2004 [ARTF administrator]. [Kabul]: [ARTF Management Committee], 2004. 10 p.; 30 cm. Available at: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFGHANISTAN/Resources/ARTFFinancialStatusMemoOct2204.pdf>

ARTF newsletter (Issue no. 1, November 2004)

To find the webpage for the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund go to <http://www.worldbank.org> then follow the links: Countries and Regions>South Asia>Afghanistan (link is on the left at the bottom)

Statistics

Afghanistan index: tracking variables of reconstruction and security in post-Taliban Afghanistan / Michael E. O'Hanlon, Adriana Lins de Albuquerque. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 2004. [15 p.]; 30 cm. Updated December 14, 2004. Available at: <http://www.brook.edu/dybdocroot/fp/research/projects/southasia/afghanistanindex.pdf>. More publications on Afghanistan from the Brookings Institution can be found at: www.brookings.edu/afghanistanindex

Travel

Fragments of grace: my search for humanity from Kashmir to Kabul / Pamela Constable. Lahore: Vanguard, 2004. 269 p; 25 cm. ISBN 9694024854.

Water

Dispute between Iran and Afghanistan on the issue of Hirmand river [sic] / by Gholam-Reza Fakhari; translated by Sher Zama Taizi; edited by S. Fida Yunas. Peshawar: Area Study Centre (Russia, China and Central Asia), Peshawar University, 2004. 73 p.; 22 cm. First published Tehran, 1993 in Farsi.

New Online Community for Afghan Agriculture and Rural Development

A number of parties, currently Mercy Corps Afghanistan and the Aga Khan Foundation Afghanistan in collaboration with the Institute for Development Studies, Sussex are at the initial stages of developing a pilot web-based document centre that can serve as a place for interested parties to access work that has been done to date on different elements of the Afghan rural sector. This is an extremely useful new site and a central point to begin tracing basic documents on Afghan agriculture.

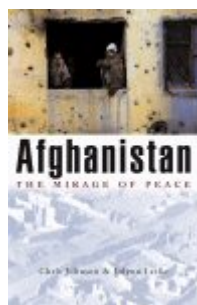
It supplements the resources that already exist on the web, e.g., the Development Gateway's Afghanistan page, but provides a more focused subgrouping of agriculture and rural development resources.

Visit the resource centre online at: <http://community.eldis.org/afghanistan/>

Upcoming Workshop on Rebuilding Afghanistan

A workshop on the challenge of rebuilding Afghanistan is scheduled to be held at the Hotel Regent Plaza in Karachi, Pakistan on 2-3 March 2005. This workshop is being organised by the Program on Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution of the Department of International Relations, University of Karachi in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation, Islamabad.

For more information contact Professor Moonis Ahmar at: amoonis@hotmail.com



New book critical of aid delivery

Afghanistan: the mirage of peace
by Chris Johnson and Jolyon Leslie

London: Zed Books, 2004. 237 p. : ill. ; 22 cm. Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 1 84277 376 3 (hardback) £55.00 \$75.00. ISBN 1 84277 377 1 £14.95 \$22.50

“This is a refreshing new look at the layers of complexity that characterize assistance to Afghanistan. The style is blessedly free of academic jargon and bureaucratic rhetoric - and occasionally enlivened by wry asides. The often blunt analyses of ground realities gain credibility from the many years Johnson and Leslie worked within the aid delivery system, heightened by their sustained engagement with Afghans in the cities and in villages. The difficulties the international community and government have in trying to understand one another are interwoven with unusual insights into the nuances of attitudes rooted in social customs. The recommended operational changes will benefit all who care about the well being of Afghanistan.” - Nancy Hatch Dupree, Director of ARIC, The ACBAR Resource and Information Centre.

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