

Afghanistan Research Newsletter

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AFGHANISTAN RESEARCH AND EVALUATION UNIT

Key Dates in the 2009 Afghanistan Presidential and Provincial Council Elections

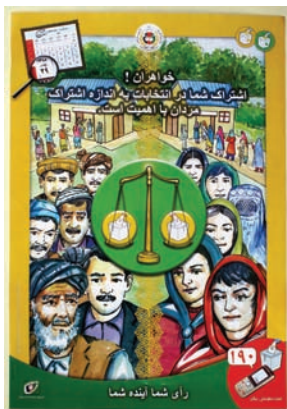
<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>
21 April	Publication of election calendar
18 to 24 April	Launch of candidate registration process
25 April to 8 May	Nomination of candidates
9 to 15 May	Scrutiny of applications
16 May	Notification to candidates of any deficiencies in nomination applications
17 to 22 May	Remedy of deficiencies in nomination applications
21 May	Launch of Voter Education/Public Information campaign
23 to 25 May	Preparation of preliminary list of candidates
26 May to 1 June	Display of preliminary list of candidates plus challenges, corrections, and appeals
26 May to 8 June	ECC hearings and decisions
9 June	ECC informs IEC of decisions on nominations
9 to 12 June	IEC prepares final list of candidate
12 June	Publication of final list of candidates
9 to 14 June	IEC prepares final ballot designs
14 June	Final ballot designs sent to printers
15 June to 15 July	Printing of ballot papers
16 June to 18 August	Political campaign period
20 June	Recruitment of District Field Coordinators (DFCs)
1 to 10 July	Recruitment of polling and counting staff
15 July	Finalise polling centre locations and number of polling stations
16 July	Ballot papers arrive in Kabul
17 July to 19 August	Packing of kits and distribution of ballot papers to provinces and polling centres
20 July to 20 August	Publicise polling centre locations
9 to 11 August	Polling and counting training for centre managers and station chairperson
20 August	Polling day
20 August	Retrieval of results from polling centres
3 September	Preliminary results for Presidential election (pending decisions on complaints)
17 September	Final certified results of Presidential election
1 October	Approximate date for Presidential run-off (if required)

Source: UNDP/ELECT

Documenting the 2009 Election

The website of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) <http://www.iec.org.af/content.asp?id=law> is the first place to check for election material updates. The candidate lists for Presidential and Provincial Council elections 2009 have been uploaded in Dari/Pashto already: <http://www.iec.org.af/cnlist.asp> (the PDFs total 27.4 MB). An unofficial translation of this was prepared by the Cooperative for Peace and Unity (CPAU) (PDF 648 KB—not currently online).

Posters advising people about the election have already been released:



Papers on the election from other organisations are starting to appear and include:

“2009 Voter Registration Observation: Report.” Free and Fair Election Foundation (FEFA). Kabul: Free and Fair Election Foundation, May 2009. 51 p. <http://www.fefa.org.af/download/Final%20Report%20FEFA.pdf>. The

Free and Fair Election Foundation (FEFA) is Afghanistan's only domestic election observation agency. Between October 2008 and February 2009 it observed the voter registration process that registered around 4.5 million new voters. Overall, FEFA believes the process was a successful effort that enabled Afghanistan to move forward towards democratisation. FEFA observed the process with trained volunteers throughout the country. A number of violations were also observed: registration of voters who will be under 18 on polling

day, multiple registrations where people obtained more than one registration card, registering women based on a list of names provided by male relatives, lack of observers and media in registration centres, and poor security conditions that stopped people participating in registration. FEFA has identified reasons for these: lack of adequate training of staff by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), lack of appropriate vetting of staff by the IEC, lack of female electoral staff, and a lack of understanding of democratic values among electoral workers and the people. These, and other suggestions, are included in six pages of recommendations for the IEC, Afghan civil society, the Afghan Government and international donors.

“Afghanistan’s Presidential Election: Power to the People or the Powerful?” London: International Council on Security and Development (ICOS), March 2009. 52 p. http://www.icosgroup.net/documents/power_to_the_people.pdf (952 KB). This

ICOS THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
ON SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

AFGHANISTAN'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION:
POWER TO THE PEOPLE, OR THE POWERFUL?

report examines the key dynamics and personalities at play in the run-up to the Afghan Presidential election. It details some recommendations for conducting the election, and possible scenarios that might shape its outcome. In February 2008, ICOS released a report called *Decision Point 2008*. That report listed the names of individuals given by Afghans as potential Presidential candidates and examined the issues facing Afghanistan in the run-up to the Presidential election, then scheduled for April/May 2009. This report updates that list and reports on key dynamics and issues at play in Afghanistan in the run up to the election now scheduled for 20 August 2009 (p. 5).



London, March 2009

Addis, Casey and Kenneth Katzman. “Middle East Elections 2009: Lebanon, Iran, Afghanistan and Iraq.” Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, 18 May 2009. <http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/mideast/R40586.pdf> (192 KB). This report provides an overview of the election contests in Lebanon, Iran, Afghanistan and Iraq including possible outcomes and implications for US policy. Afghanistan is covered on pages 7-9.

"Afghanistan's Election Challenges." Kabul/Brussels: International Crisis Group (ICG), 24 June 2009. 34 p. <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/getfile.cfm?id=4002&tid=6176&type=pdf&l=1> (1.38 MB). "Afghanistan's forthcoming elections, with presidential and provincial council polls on 20 August 2009, and National Assembly and district elections scheduled for 2010, present a formidable challenge if they are to produce widely accepted and credible results. The weakness of state institutions, the deteriorating security situation and the fractured political scene are all highlighted by—and will likely have a dramatic effect on—the electoral process. The years since the last poll saw the Afghan Government and international community

fail to embed a robust electoral framework and drive democratisation at all levels. This has made holding truly meaningful elections much more difficult. Rather than once again running the polls merely as distinct events, the enormous resources and attention focused on the elections should be channelled into strengthening political and electoral institutions as a key part of the state-building efforts required to produce a stable country." (p. i).

For daily translated extracts from Afghan media relevant to the elections see the Daily Afghanwire newsletter (info@afghanwire.com).

List of New Laws Published in the Official Gazette

New Laws

The publication section of the Ministry of Justice has had staff changes and in late-June 2009 said there were delays in releasing issues of the *Official Gazette (OG)*. No issues have yet been published relevant to 1388, however some 1387 issues are in production and will be released sometime "soon". Earlier issues:

- 960 6 September 2008:
- Modification of paragraph one of article 15 of regulation on production and import of medicine and medical equipment.
 - Regulation on formulation of civil service grades
- 961 21 September 2008: Registration of commercial documents and trademarks.
- 962 21 October 2008: Registration of commercial documents and trademarks.

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 (corner of Flower Street and Street 2, Kabul) and open to researchers Sunday to Thursday, 9:00am-12:00pm and 12:30pm-4pm. The Newsletter is compiled by Royce Wiles and translated by Waheed Ahmad and Mary Shirzad. If you have ideas for books or other publications or resources that should be included in the newsletter, please send an email to newsletter@areu.org.af.

AREU is an independent research organisation based in Kabul. AREU's mission is to conduct high-quality research that informs and influences policy and practice. AREU also actively promotes a culture of research and learning by strengthening analytical capacity in Afghanistan and facilitating reflection and debate. Fundamental to AREU's vision is that its work should improve Afghan lives.

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 governments of Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Specific projects have been funded by the Foundation of the Open Society Institute Afghanistan (FOSIA), the Asia Foundation (TAF), the European Commission (EC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the World Bank.

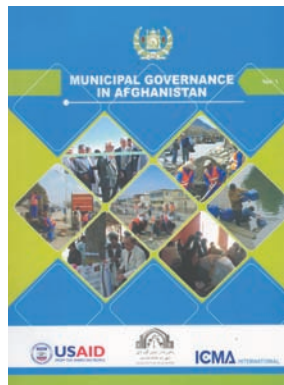
Research News

Clarifying the Role of Municipal Governance Institutions in Afghanistan

Samaraweera, Vijaya. *Municipal Governance in Afghanistan: A Handbook: volume 1*. Kabul, Afghanistan: ICMA International, 2009. xix, 168 p. ISBN 9789936210622. This important and original new publication has a very practical aim: to assist municipal government leaders in understanding their roles and responsibilities within the overall roles and responsibilities of the governmental structure of Afghanistan. No one working with governance (including subnational governance) issues and development in general in Afghanistan can afford to ignore the information, clarifications or insights offered here.

This book is not an attempt to provide a detailed examination of the working of municipalities in Afghanistan, instead it is an all too necessary first step in the documentation of the institutional arrangements currently in place for municipalities. The writer has reviewed and synthesised the contents of information extracted from thousands of pages of reference materials (often very difficult to locate) in multiple languages and re-presented it in a way that is immediately useful for local Afghan Government officials, members of the international donor community and all those grappling with issues of municipalities in Afghan subnational governance. In addition, the Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG) of the Afghan Government has reviewed the content (in English, Dari and Pashto) and this quality assurance greatly enhances the value of the material presented (Preface, p. v).

Volume one (released in June 2009) is devoted to the description and analysis of the place of provincial municipalities in the subnational governance structure set up in Afghanistan. Volume two will offer select reference material, primary sources drawn from the publications of the Afghan state and governments that have been selected for their value in illuminating the subjects and topics covered in the first volume. This first volume describes the interaction of the municipalities with central authorities, provincial government, districts, etc. and outlines major issues in municipal governance. All future work with municipalities in Afghanistan will benefit from the original description and clarifying analysis offered here.



An outline of the contents of this first volume is presented here as a way of familiarising readers with the valuable original material in the book. The introduction and second chapter outline the place of municipalities in the government structure and provide a very brief history of their establishment. The introduction identifies three institutional bases for subnational governance: provinces (*wilayats*), districts (*woliswalis*) and municipalities (*shahrdari*). Outlining the case for this present handbook, Samaraweera states that where municipalities have been a focus of previous publications, "they exemplify Kabul which in structural and governance terms ... is so unique that it does not represent municipalities at all" (p. 1). Kabul Municipality is excluded from this handbook because the body that governs the capital is ranked as a ministry and, in terms of administration and politics falls outside the usual arrangements for municipalities.

Afghanistan has two types of municipalities in the districts of the 34 provinces: (1) provincial municipalities are those based on provincial centres and mandated to administer them, and (2) rural municipalities are those outside the districts with provincial centres. Uniquely for subnational bodies in Afghanistan, municipalities are required by law to raise revenue from local sources and sustain their operations and services entirely from such fund raising. In contrast, provinces and districts are collectors of revenue, which they send to the capital for inclusion in the national budget, and they are in turn funded by transfers from the central government.

The constitutionally-mandated legislation necessary for the municipalities (under the 2004 constitution) has not yet been enacted; instead they function under mayors appointed by the president, and elected municipal councils have yet to be established. According to the author, the municipalities are not integrated strata of the provincial government hierarchy, and they have no vertical relationship with provinces, districts and villages, and instead can be seen as appendages to provincial government structures, eg. municipalities and mayors are not technically under the control of the provincial governor, although ad hoc and practical linkages obviously occur. The municipalities are the lowest administrative layer that touches the largest percentage of Afghanistan's people: this shows the extremely important place municipalities occupy

for subnational governance. “The recognition of the critical importance of sound local government policies and practices addressing citizen needs underpins the goals and visions for subnational government that have emanated since 2001 from the Afghan state and its international donors ... when surveys evaluate the opinions of the Afghan people on local government issues, what emerges most clearly is the importance of basic services to them.” (p. 5).

Chapters three to six examine the institutional arrangements currently in place for governance at the subnational level in Afghanistan. Particularly important is the clarification of the place of municipalities vis-à-vis the province-district-village hierarchy. These sections of the book outline the various actors in subnational governance: ministries, independent commissions, directorates or offices, governors, provincial councils, villages, provincial line departments etc., as well as the constitutional and legal framework applying to municipalities and the authorities and roles vested in them.

Chapter seven looks at municipal fiscal management in terms of fiscal authority, sources of revenue, procurement and budget formulation and execution. Chapter eight looks at the interaction of the Afghan municipalities with central authorities, provincial government, districts and rural municipalities and “reviews the contours of the informal relations that the mayors have developed with the traditional Afghan governance authorities, civil society and the development agencies,” (p. 119). Definition and demarcation of the responsibilities between these different institutions is at best ambiguous.

Part two of this volume examines issues in municipal management in some detail: mayoral performance, municipal administrative apparatus, internal audit, fundamental rights or human rights, transparency, accountability and corruption, citizen participation, land use management and environmental protection.

Two appendices follow: (1) “Obligations and powers” of municipalities and (2) the Ministry of Finance’s municipality chart of accounts. Finally, a bibliography lists web sites and documents that proved particularly useful in developing this work. The discussion in this volume is applicable to and valid for Afghanistan’s provincial municipalities in general, even though many of the exemplifications presented are drawn from the municipalities covered by the Afghanistan Municipal Strengthening Project (AMSP). The versions in Dari and Pashto are currently being prepared for publication. This book from a USAID-supported project should not be overlooked by any agency currently working on governance issues in Afghanistan.

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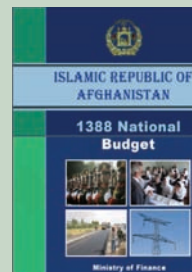
New Compilation of Statistics on Afghanistan

“Women and Men in Afghanistan: Baseline Statistics on Gender.” [Kabul]: Ministry of Women’s Affairs, 2008. 60 p. This cumulation of statistics covers the general population, issues of security, legal protection and human rights, political participation, the economy, work and poverty, as well as health and education. Most of the statistics are sourced from the Central Statistics Office (some of these from previously unpublished collections) and Asian Development Bank sources.



National Budget for 1388 (March 21, 2009 - March 20, 2010)

English (2.0 MB) and Dari (23.0 MB) versions of the finalized 1388 national budget are available for download from <http://www.budgetmof.gov.af> along with significant other donor and assistance documents, eg. the most recent set of donor profiles for Afghanistan (April 2008).



New Publications From AREU

Governance

June 2009, “Policy Note: Improving Mutual Accountability for Aid Effectiveness,” by Rebecca Roberts. Mutual accountability is advocated as a way to improve aid effectiveness. To develop a broader understanding of how mutual accountability could be practiced to achieve greater aid effectiveness in Afghanistan, staff from local NGOs and students in higher education in Kabul expressed their views on mutual accountability during workshop discussions. Radio Killid also hosted two roundtable discussions and phone-ins on mutual accountability. This paper summarises opinions from the workshops and radio broadcasts about which actors should be accountable to whom, the challenges to mutual accountability, and the opportunities to improve mutual accountability.

May 2009, “Between Discipline and Discretion: Policies Surrounding Senior Subnational Appointments,” by Martine van Bijlert. Over the years the calls for improved governance in Afghanistan have become increasingly urgent. Understanding the various ways in which governors and district governors are appointed, and the different influences that affect the process, is important if ways are to be found to improve overall governance in Afghanistan. This new discussion paper from AREU explores this issue, examining existing appointment practices and suggesting a number of ways that the process could be improved, along with the shifts in emphasis needed to make them happen.

Livelihoods

July 2009, “From Access to Impact: Microcredit and Rural Livelihoods in Afghanistan,” by Paula Kantor. Reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan have prioritised access to and delivery of microcredit to stabilise livelihoods. Since 2003, over US\$569 million in microcredit loans have been delivered to over 440,000 urban and rural clients. This paper from AREU examines the effect that the availability of microcredit has had on existing informal credit systems and on livelihoods in rural Afghanistan.

June 2009, “Beyond Poverty Factors Influencing Decisions to Use Child Labour in Rural and Urban Afghanistan,” by Pamela Hunte. Complex decision-making processes lie behind a household’s decision to use—or not use—child labour in Afghanistan. This paper aims to go beyond explanations of poverty as a sole determinant and explore the range of social and

cultural factors that also influence the decision to use child labour. The paper accompanies and expands on *Confronting Child Labour in Afghanistan*.

May 2009, “Confronting Child Labour in Afghanistan,” by Amanda Sim. According to recent estimates, one in four Afghan children aged seven to 14 is engaged in some form of work. This briefing paper explores the issue, drawing on findings from an in-depth, qualitative study of poor households that use child labour, as well as those that do not. The report looks beyond poverty to explore the range of social and cultural factors that affect a household’s decisions regarding child labour, particularly the crucial way in which a household weighs the costs and benefits of work versus school, which leads them to increase or limit their investment in education based on their perceptions of the potential for future returns.

April 2009, “Reflections on the Paris Declaration and Aid Effectiveness in Afghanistan,” by Rebecca Roberts. Aid to Afghanistan is widely criticised for being ineffective. This report argues that although the principles of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness are worthy, the framework is inadequate to ensure aid effectiveness in Afghanistan.

Natural Resources Management

June 2009, “Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy: Opportunities for Pro-Poor Agricultural Growth,” by Lorene Flaming. This paper brings together key findings and recommendations from three years of research conducted by the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit under the “Applied Thematic Research into Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy” (WOL) project. This paper builds directly on the research findings presented in the first and second year WOL Synthesis Papers. The major objective of this research is to enhance the sustainability of Afghan rural livelihoods and reduce dependency on illicit crops by providing policymakers with clear and accurate information on the use, management and role of natural resources in farming systems, and how these influence opportunities for agricultural development.

May 2009, “Poppy Free Provinces: A Measure or a Target?,” by David Mansfield. This report focuses on the concept of “poppy free” provinces—an increasingly important metric by which performance in counter-narcotics in Afghanistan is currently being judged. It is based on the fourth consecutive year of fieldwork conducted in the provinces of Nangarhar and Ghor

under the auspices of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit's "Applied Thematic Research into Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy" project. The report details the processes by which two provinces achieved what the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has come to refer to as "poppy free" status in the 2007/08 growing season.

May 2009, "Research and Development for Better Livestock Productivity," by Euan Thomson. Knowing the levels of production of livestock found in the main production systems, and also knowing livestock prices, is essential when taking decisions about the importance that should be given to nutrition, health, breeding and management. This case study on livestock undertaken by the "Applied Thematic Research into Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy" project presents information that could contribute to the ongoing debate preceding any revision of the current Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) Master Plan and Strategy.

April 2009, "Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy: Challenges and Opportunities for Strengthening Licit Agricultural Livelihoods," by Alan Roe. This paper brings together key findings and recommendations arising from the second year of research conducted by the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit under the auspices of the "Applied Thematic Research into Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy" project.

April 2009, "Interrogating Irrigation Inequalities: Canal Irrigation Systems in Injil District, Herat," by Srinivas Chokkakula. This report presents the findings of a case study looking at irrigation systems in Injil District, Herat Province, Afghanistan. The purpose of the study was to understand inequities and inequalities in irrigation distribution in a typical canal irrigation system. Two canals of the Hari Rud river system flowing in Injil District, Herat Province, were selected as the focus of the study.

April 2009, "Water, Opium and Livestock: Findings from the First Year of Farm and Household Monitoring," by Alan Roe. This report provides a summary overview of the results from the first year of farm and household

monitoring undertaken under the auspices of the EC funded project "Applied Thematic Research into Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy." The overall objective of this project is to enhance the sustainability of Afghan rural livelihoods, by providing policymakers with recommendations for improving the effectiveness of agricultural policy and rural planning. Farm and household monitoring was adopted as one of several complementary research tools utilised by the project team and so is not expected to be a stand-alone research action. Nevertheless, since the empirical evidence produced by farming monitoring has important policy relevance, some key findings are summarised in this report.

April 2009, "Water Strategy Meets Local Reality," by Kai Wegerich. Afghanistan is attempting to adopt internationally recommended water management policies. This report from AREU explores different Afghan drafts of the Water Sector Strategy and the Water Law and how they reflect these international recommendations. Subsequently, it compares these drafts with local water management practices.

April 2009, "Land Conflict in Afghanistan: Building Capacity to Address Vulnerability," by Colin Deschamps and Alan Roe. This Issues Paper presents the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the "For Building Capacity to Address Land Related Conflict and Vulnerability in Afghanistan" research project. The project's overall objective was to help reduce land-related insecurity and vulnerability by strengthening the Afghan Government's capacity to resolve or assist in the resolution of land conflict in a manner that is fair, effective and legitimate.

Policy-making

May 2009, "Policy-making in Agricultural and Rural Development," by Adam Pain. The agriculture sector in Afghanistan is seen to have a key role in driving economic growth. This paper examines the making of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) policy in Afghanistan. It is part of a series by the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit looking at policy-making processes in Afghanistan, and aims to open up space for informed political choice.

New Publications and Resources

National Agriculture Development Framework (NADF)

Since the fall of the Taliban, the agriculture sector in Afghanistan has received significant policy and strategy development (as outlined in the diagram below). The latest incarnation will be the 2009 National Agriculture Development Framework of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) currently being put together. A document outlining the NADF and related concept papers have recently been added to the revived ministry website: www.mail.gov.af. The aim of the framework is to promote economic growth and food security by managing natural resources and increasing agricultural production and productivity, improving physical infrastructure and developing markets.

Documents available (late-June 2009) are:

- Umbrella Document for the National Agriculture Development Framework (10 p.)

The following concept papers are all dated April 2009, and include budget estimates:

- Critical Change Management Interventions (includes Annex 1: A Kuchi Policy Unit) (31 p.)
- Financial Services for Agricultural Development (6 p.)
- Home Based Food Processing and Preservation (5 p.)
- Kuchi Service Centres: Pilot Project (7 p.)
- Land Lease One Stop Window (7 p.)
- Pilot for Improving On-farm Water Management in Irrigated Agriculture (6 p.)
- Rapid Action Wheat Seed Production and Distribution and Review of the Seed Sector in Afghanistan (10 p.)
- Strategic Grain Reserve: Infrastructure for Food Security (13 p.)



The New US Administration's Policy Toward Afghanistan

In his speech on 27 March 2009, the new US President Barack Obama announced a review of US policy towards Afghanistan and Pakistan. A number of papers addressing that review have appeared, both before and after the speech. The first paper listed below formed part of the basis for that address, underneath it are listed some of the other publications about this review.

"White Paper of the Interagency Policy Group's Report on US Policy Toward Afghanistan and Pakistan." Washington, D.C.: Interagency Policy Group, 2009. 6 p. http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/Afghanistan-Pakistan_White_Paper.pdf. This paper formed part of the basis for Barack Obama's speech (27th March 2009) on the new Afghanistan-Pakistan ("Afpak") policies of his administration.

"Back from the Brink?: A Strategy for Stabilizing Afghanistan-Pakistan." New York: Asia Society, April 2009. 51 p. <http://www.asiasociety.org/taskforces/afpak/Afghanistan-PakistanTaskForce.pdf> (PDF 768 KB). This strategy paper attempts to clarify new directions for US policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It assumes a dramatic change of course is needed rather than incremental change to the policies of the former US administration. Policy recommendations cover pages 19-44.

Bever, James A. "Afghanistan and Pakistan: Resourcing the Civilian Surge." 2009. 4 p. "Statement of James A. Bever, Director, Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force, US Agency for International Development." http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACM880.pdf (28 KB). An outline of steps needed for USAID to recruit and retain sufficient staff for the planned increase in civilian presence in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Browne, Des and Stephen Carter. "Afghanistan, the Change We Need." 2009. 7 p. "[To be published in the] *RUSI Journal*, July 2009"—back page. (PDF 649 KB). "As the election in Afghanistan approaches, the American administration has begun implementing a rational and overdue redirection of policy. While there is much in the new strategy that is welcome, with the most visible element being an increase in funding and manpower, there remains the question of how it will engage with the difficult political questions that have been present since 2001, and have presented more fundamental challenges for the international and Afghan effort than the lack of resources." (Abstract).

Cantalapiedra, David Garcia. "Is there a Better

Strategy for Afghanistan?." [Madrid?]: Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE), May 2009. 4 p. <http://www.fride.org/publication/607/is-there-a-better-strategy-for-afghanistan> (PDF 204 KB). According to this paper, Afghanistan is approaching a tipping point: its stabilisation hangs in the balance, even though increased international commitment has been forthcoming for the August 2009 elections; the strategy for Afghanistan that President Barack Obama presented in March—accepted by the allies at NATO's Strasbourg-Kehl Summit in April 2009—amounts to a complete change of pace, however, it comes a year too late. The 2008 Bucharest Summit could have agreed new contributions, above all from Europe. According to this author, another year has been lost in Afghanistan's stabilisation.

"Civilian Surge Plan." Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. April 29, 2009. 52 p. (PDF [scan of printed version] 4.0 MB). "The objective of the National Civilian Surge plan is to create a demand-driven vehicle to assist the donor community to provide technical assistance in line with the needs and priorities of the people of Afghanistan, as defined by the Government." (p. 5). This document lists technical and other skills required in various ministries (both in Kabul and in the provinces).

Cordesman, Anthony H. "US Strategy for Afghanistan: Achieving Peace and Stability in the Graveyard of Empires: a Statement before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia." Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS), April 2, 2009. 26 p. http://www.csis.org/index.php?option=com_csis_congress&task=view&id=277 (80 KB). A paper by a prolific commentator on the security situation in Afghanistan (see http://www.csis.org/index.php?option=com_csis_experts&task=view&id=3#pubs for other papers from him) explicitly outlining four main things the US needs to get right: (1) to clarify the level of commitment in Congress to the fight in Afghanistan; (2) to fully resource the US effort in Afghanistan; (3) to have accurate information on the use of those resources and (4) to have a fully detailed US strategy for the area before the end of summer 2009.

Exum, Andrew M., Nathaniel C. Fick, Ahmed A. Humayun and David J. Kilcullen. "Triage: the Next Twelve Months in Afghanistan and Pakistan." Washington, D.C.: Center for a New American Security, June 2009. 31 p. ISBN 9781935087120. http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/ExumFickHumayun_TriageAfPak_June09.pdf (1.5 MB). Eight years into the US-led war in Afghanistan,

the situation is as perilous as ever and continues to worsen. The rapidly deteriorating security situation in Pakistan, where the centre of gravity of the insurgency has now shifted, further complicates the campaign. In counter-insurgency campaigns, momentum matters. Over the next 12 months, the United States and its allies must demonstrate they have seized back the initiative from the Taliban and other hostile actors. This paper makes four operational recommendations—two on each side of the Durand line—that allow the new strategy articulated by the White House a better chance of success.



Ghani, Ashraf. "A Ten-year Framework for Afghanistan: Executing the Obama Plan ... and Beyond: A Report by the Atlantic Council." Washington, D.C.: The Atlantic Council, April 2009. http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/65/AfghanistanReport-200904.pdf (998 KB). This report offers a prioritised approach to building state functions sequentially and in a way that creates self-sustaining linkages and reform processes.

Harbo, Karl and Klas Marklund. "Afghanistan: Stocktaking, May 2009." Stockholm: The Institute for Security & Development Policy, May 8 2009. 4 p. http://www.isdp.eu/files/publications/pb/09/policy_brief_harbo-marklund.pdf (232 KB). A review of current issues: domestic politics, insurgency, narcotics, the new Obama strategy and Pakistan.

Markey, Daniel. "From AfPak to PakAf: a Response to the New US Strategy for South Asia." New York: Council on Foreign Relations, April 2009. 15 p. http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/POP_AfPak_to_PakAf.pdf (197 KB). This response to the strategy outline from the new US administration recommends reversing prioritising Afghanistan over Pakistan, by "[recalibrating] ... strategy to emphasise the priority of the mission in Pakistan and to prepare domestic and international audiences for expanded, sustained US engagement in South Asia." (p. 8).

O'Hanlon, Michael. "Toward Reconciliation in Afghanistan." *The Washington Quarterly*, April 2009, p. 139-147. http://www.twq.com/09april/docs/09apr_OHalon.pdf (196 KB). This author supports the review of US policy in Afghanistan and offers an overview of the current situation as well as policy recommendations.

Parasram, Ajay. "Call in the Neighbours: Indian Views on Regionalizing Afghanistan Strategies." *Asia Pacific Bulletin* no. 307 (14 May 2009). <http://www.asiapacific.ca/files/Bulletins/307WarinAfghanistan.pdf> (32 KB). The allies of the United States are adjusting their Afghan policies in the wake of Washington's new "AfPak" strategy. Two points have become clear: firstly, current "regional" strategy involves just Afghanistan and Pakistan, rather than the broader Central/South Asian region; secondly, the extra troops and enhanced development push needed to stabilise Afghanistan cannot come in sufficient volume solely from the west.

Samar, Sima. "A New Way Forward in Afghanistan: A Request for Change in US Policy." *The Human Rights Brief* 16, no.3 (Spring 2009): 2-4. <http://www.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief/16/3samar.pdf> (496 KB). "Depose the Taliban. Restore freedom and democracy. Protect women's rights and human rights. The United States has always presented its military intervention in Afghanistan in these simple terms. After the quick ousting of the Taliban, the signing of the Bonn Agreement brought hope for pluralistic government and human dignity. Seven years into Operation Enduring Freedom, however, promises made by the United States and the international community to the people of Afghanistan remain largely unfulfilled. The demands of the Afghan people were not very high; they included basic notions of human security and freedom to exercise basic human rights. Several strategic mistakes have undercut the achievement of these goals. US-led forces succeeded in removing the Taliban but failed to eradicate it before diverting attention to Iraq. Relying on warlords who have no commitment to democracy to maintain order, US policy over-emphasized military power at the expense of nation and state building, economic growth, and social development." (p. 2).

"Smart Development in Afghanistan: Field Report from Afghanistan." Boston: Oxfam America Headquarters, 2009. 9 p. http://www.oxfamamerica.org/newsandpublications/publications/research_reports/field-report-from-afghanistan/field-report-from-afghanistan.pdf (412 KB). This report aims to convey the views of people who have extensive experience with US development aid to Afghanistan. Forty people were interviewed in Kabul in November and December 2008. They included employees of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), other foreign donors, contractors, consulting companies, and Afghan and international nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), many of whom have several years of experience working in Afghanistan, as well as Afghan Government officials. Several interviewees made the important point that all major donors struggle to achieve their objectives in Afghanistan. Despite

difficulties, many interviewees believed there were key areas where the US could substantially increase the effectiveness and impact of its assistance:

- Purpose - Interviewees were concerned about the US using aid for security objectives; overemphasising short-term goals instead of long-term development; and overlooking sectors like agriculture and rural trade that support the livelihoods of most Afghan households
- Modernisation - Despite some laudable efforts in Afghanistan, US aid practitioners are bound by structures and strategies that often constrain their ability to work effectively on the ground. In particular, interviewees raised their concerns that USAID's contracting system relies too much on private contractors.
- Ownership - Good development helps people help themselves, but US assistance tends to be too supply-driven and is overly reliant on contractors and Provincial Reconstruction Teams to deliver development assistance, rather than being led by Afghans themselves.

Tellis, Ashley J. "Reconciling With The Taliban: Toward An Alternative Grand Strategy in Afghanistan." Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2009. 104 p. http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/reconciling_with_taliban.pdf (948 KB). During the run-up to the announcement of the US' new "Af-Pak" strategy a flurry of "new solutions" to the conflict emerged. Promoting reconciliation with the Taliban is one idea that reappeared. For these authors, "Any effort at reconciliation today will undermine the credibility of American power and the success of the Afghan mission. Most important, reconciling with the Taliban is both premature and unnecessary for the success of Western aims." (p. v).



European Nations Reassess Policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan

Korski, Daniel. "Shaping Europe's Afghan Surge." London: European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), 2008. 8 p. <http://ecfr.eu/page/-/documents/ECFR-Policy-Brief-Afghanistan.pdf> (1.0 MB). Unnoticed

by many, the last few years have seen something of a European military surge in Afghanistan. Since late 2006, 18 of the 25 EU countries participating in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), NATO's Afghan mission, have increased their troop contributions and, as a result, EU member states now account for 43 percent of ISAF's total deployment. This military surge has been accompanied by a steady growth in European efforts to contribute to Afghanistan's reconstruction, from development aid to police training—although not every EU member state is pulling its weight. These measures have made the EU a major stakeholder in Afghanistan. Yet the EU's real impact on the country has been limited. In the face of a likely request from the Obama administration to do more, European Governments should now formulate a hard-headed political strategy as a complement to the coming US military surge.

"UK Policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan: The Way Forward." HM Government. London: Cabinet Office, April 2009. 31 p. http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/Crossgovernment/ukgov_afghanistan_pakistan.pdf (2.3 MB). After a brief presentation of the context of Afghanistan and Pakistan this paper outlines the guiding principles of UK strategy in these countries, making explicit both regional objectives and objectives for Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Cross-cutting and General

"Afghanistan Country Stability Picture (ACSP)" [Database] Edition 17 was released in May 2009 on a single DVD. This is the compilation of development and assistance information by ISAF from Afghan Government ministries (including some CSO and NRVA materials), USAID and other donors, PRTs etc. The information is shared with NGOs and humanitarian agencies for planning and development purposes (contact in Kabul is Necmi Koksal 0799512417).

Afghanistan: Now you See me? edited by Nicholas Kitche; additional research by Luke Graham. London: London School of Economics, 2009. 23 p. <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/IDEAS/publications/Reports/SU001.pdf> (3.98 MB). In this collection of four essays, Jamie Shea discusses the difficulties of retaining the support of NATO governments and publics for the reconstruction effort in Afghanistan unless there is what he calls a "comprehensive approach" among the international actors, which has a renewed commitment to a realistic counter-insurgency strategy at its heart. Antonio Giustozzi reflects on the growth of the neo-Taliban and associated insurgent groups. He highlights that their disparate strategies, and in particular the difficulties in establishing Mullah Omar's goals, makes the path of negotiations a profoundly

uncertain one. Fabrice Pothier paints a picture of the sheer scale of the opium problem in Afghanistan and argues for a decoupling of the counter-insurgency and counter-narcotics operations as the first step towards creating the conditions under which the problem can be comprehensively addressed and negotiated settlements can proceed. Amalendu Misra explores the regional dimension to the Afghan problem, and suggests that the current variant of India and Pakistan's deeply historical geostrategic competition for Afghanistan threatens both the country's security and development. At the same time, Iran could emerge as a relatively stable partner that might play a constructive role in compromise agreements. (p. 5).

"United Nations Development Framework in Support to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, 2010-2013." Kabul: UNAMA, Ministry of Economy, 2009. 27 p. (PDF 435 KB). "Afghanistan is at a crucial stage in its struggle to rise out of poverty and conflict. The intensifying insurgency adds to the critical need for the international community to do more to help Afghans build effective institutions and promote equitable economic growth. The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) charts how the government and its partners meet the country's development needs. Based on its unique role and breadth of expertise, the UN framework in support of the ANDS focuses on three priority areas: (1) Governance, Peace and Stability, (2) Sustainable Livelihoods, and (3) Basic Social Services, underpinned by cross-cutting issues such as human rights, gender equality, environment, mine action and counter-narcotics. These three priority areas are where the UN is best placed to support the Afghanistan National Development Strategy by focusing on the nexus between stability and poverty alleviation, particularly for the most marginalised and vulnerable." (Executive Summary).

Agriculture

"Afghanistan Agrometeorological Monthly Bulletin." [Kabul]: Agromet Project of USGS. Issues 47-51 (January - May 2009) are now available on the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock webpage: <http://www.mail.gov.af/m/english/English.htm> (on the right under the heading 'Agro meteorology forecast'). This is an important regular compilation (published since March 2004) of information on wheat crop conditions, precipitation and temperature information from across the country.

Bruno, Greg. **"Nourishing Afghanistan's Agricultural Sector: Backgrounder."** [New York]: Council on Foreign Relations, May 26, 2009. 3 p. http://www.cfr.org/publication/19478/nourishing_afghanistans

[agricultural_sector.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2F](#). As the United States focuses revived attention on the Afghan war front, US policymakers are emphasising rural development and agricultural reform as keys to long-term stability. Bruce Riedel, who co-authored the Obama administration's review of Afghanistan-Pakistan strategy, says Washington is "going to emphasize wheat" as an alternative to opium poppy production, which has helped fund the country's strengthening insurgency. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says the farm sector is a pillar of future development, and the US Department of Agriculture plans to spend \$27.5 million on food assistance and rural development projects in Afghanistan and Pakistan, on top of \$208 million spent on Afghan food aid programmes since 2003.

Milich, Lenard. **"The Behsud Conflicts in Afghanistan: a Blueprint to Avoid Further Clashes in 2009 and Beyond."** *EurasiaCritic* June 2009, p. 26-33. <http://www.eurasiacritic.com/sites/default/files/e-magazine/June-2009/ffdsew/index.html>. An overview of recent developments in this land dispute, with recommendations for future action.

Children

"Child Labour: the Situation of Street Working Children in Mazar City." Child Protection Action Network (CPAN), Balkh Province. [Mazar?]: [UNICEF?], July 2008. 12 p. (PDF 1.05 MB). This paper reports on a rapid assessment of the situation of street working children in Mazar. It aims to understand the working situation of children in general and find out more specifically the scope of their vulnerability, their level of access to education and to measure the "protective environment of the children." Bleakly, 89 percent of the children came from the age category five to 14 years, with a sharp increase from the age of ten to 14. In total, 780 children were interviewed.

Climate Change

"Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness Working Group Final Thematic Report [on Afghanistan]." [Kabul?]: GEF [Global Environment Facility], UNEP [United Nations Environmental Programme], [Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan], February 2008. 83 p. This paper was a technical output of the National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) and National Adaptation Programme of Action for Climate Change (NAPA) projects, financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with technical assistance and support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It was undertaken

to review activities adopted by Afghanistan to comply with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It identifies related priority capacity needs and opportunities for capacity development at individual, organisational and systemic levels and prioritises potential adaptation activities. (PDF 2.66 MB).

McSweeney, C. M. New and G. Lizcano. "UNDP Climate Change Profiles: Afghanistan." Oxford: UNDP, 2008. 26 p. + data compilation. <http://country-profiles.geog.ox.ac.uk/>. UNDP and the School of Geography and Environment at Oxford University have generated country-level studies of climate observations and multi-model projections for 52 developing countries, including Afghanistan, which are now available at the website above. For each of the 52 countries, a report contains a set of maps and diagrams illustrating the observed and projected climates of that country as country-average timeseries as well as maps depicting changes on a 2.5° grid, and summary tables of the data. A narrative summarises the data in the figures, and places it in the context of the country's general climate. A dataset for each country, containing the underlying observed and model data in text format, is also made available, on the website above, for use in further research.

"Socio-economic Impacts of Climate Change in Afghanistan: A Report to the Department of International Development." Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI); Matthew Savage ... [et al.]. [Oxford]: Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), [2008?]. 37 p. The main body of the report sets out the results of climate modelling work undertaken [in 2008?] in the UK by the University of Oxford and Tyndall Centre for DFID and UNDP. It assesses these potential climatic risks and their implications for three policy areas: Agriculture, Social Protection and Energy and Water. The report then reviews the suitability of current government policy frameworks to address such challenges in terms of mitigation and adaptation and sets out an approach to incorporate climate risk management and adaptation into development policy formulation. (PDF 2.66 MB).

Development

"Afghanistan and Pakistan." Washington, D.C.: Office of Inspector General, US Agency for International Development (USAID). April 2009. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACN018.pdf (1.2 MB). An account of the audit of USAID-funded projects in Afghanistan and Pakistan with recommendations where necessary to improve accountability and control, and details of prosecutions and dismissals.

"Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, 1387 Annual Report (March 21, 2008 - March 20, 2009)."

[Kabul]: ARTF Management Committee. This annual report presents the ARTF financial and implementation status for 1387. The ARTF has a new calligraphed logo that appears for the first time here.



"Afghanistan Report 2009." Brussels, Belgium: NATO Public Diplomacy Division, 2009. 42 p. http://www.nato.int/nato_static/assets/pdf/pdf_2009_03/20090331_090331_afghanistan_report_2009.pdf (3 MB). This report from NATO offers an overview of each of the three main lines of work in which NATO-ISAF is involved, directly or in a supporting role: security, governance and development.

"Afghanistan: Japan's Experiences Revisited." [Tokyo]: Japan Institute of International Affairs, 2009. 51 p. http://www2.jiia.or.jp/pdf/research/2008_afghanistan/2008_afghanistan.pdf (309 KB). Supported by the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), an Afghanistan Study Group Japan was formed from members with experience in assisting various sectors in Afghanistan. They have conducted a series of discussions on the international intervention in Afghanistan since 9/11 and summary recommendations based on the group's discussions are released in this paper.

"Afghanistan: Key Issues for Congressional Oversight." Washington, D.C.: United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), April 2009. 33 p. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09473sp.pdf> (2.4 MB). The United States has provided approximately US\$38.6 billion in reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan and in February 2009 had over 35,000 troops in the country. Some progress has occurred in areas such as economic growth, infrastructure development and training of Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) but the overall security situation in Afghanistan has not improved after more than seven years of US and international efforts. In response, the new administration plans to deploy approximately 21,000 additional troops and has completed a strategic review of US efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Based on past work and the significance of US efforts in Afghanistan to the overall US counter-insurgency strategy, this report highlights Afghanistan as an urgent oversight issue facing the US Congress. Issues covered here include US and international commitments to Afghanistan, Afghanistan's security environment, deployment of US forces and equipment in Afghanistan, building capable ANSF, combating narcotics trafficking in Afghanistan,

the economic development of Afghanistan, Afghan government capacity, accountability for US-provided weapons in Afghanistan and oversight of contractor performance in Afghanistan. Bound with: "Afghanistan: U.S.- and Internationally-funded Roads (GAO-09-626SP), an e-supplement to GAO-09-473SP (6 p.) http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PCAAB877.pdf.

Bennett, Jon ... (et al.). "Country Programme Evaluation: Afghanistan." London: Department for International Development (DFID), May 2009. 70 p. http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/evaluation/afghan_eval.pdf (3.72 MB). This evaluation looked at DFID's work in Afghanistan from 2002 to 2007 with an update of activities for 2008. As with most reports, the "uniquely complex" nature of working in Afghanistan, both socially and politically, is recognised. The review is structured according to programme relevance, programme effectiveness and efficiency and programme impact and sustainability.

Byrd, William and Stephane Guimbert. "Public Finance, Security and Development: A Framework and an Application to Afghanistan." (Washington, D.C.): World Bank, January 2009. 41 p. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/Southasiaext/es/223545-1144956091324/2443614-1238182344763/AfghanFin.pdf> (374 KB). "Security is increasingly viewed as a key condition for economic growth and development. The authors argue that the work and impact of all development partners would be enhanced if the multiple linkages between public finance, security, and development were explicitly taken into account. At the extreme, in some cases better public finance management could have more impact on security than more troops would. The paper first outlines three core linkages between security and development—through the investment climate, human and social capital and institutions. The authors then propose three complementary tools to analyse the security sector from the point of view of public finance management, service delivery and governance. This conceptual framework is applied to the case of Afghanistan. The paper closes by drawing some conclusions about possible entry points for dialogue in this difficult area." (Abstract).

Coelmont, Joe. "End-state Afghanistan." Gent: Royal Institute for International Relations, March 2009. (Egmont paper; 29). ISBN 9789038214108. <http://aei.pitt.edu/10881/> (212 KB). This paper analyses the strategic objectives at the start of the international intervention in Afghanistan (Bonn Agreement onwards) and the steps subsequently taken that have led to the situation today. The second section puts forward and assesses ideas about key objectives and desired strategic outcomes with recommendations.

Cornish, Stephen and Marit Glad. "Civil-military Relations: No Room for Humanitarianism in Comprehensive Approaches." Oslo: Den Norske Altanterhavs Komite = The Norwegian Atlantic Committee, 2008. 27 p. <http://www.careinternational.org.uk/download.php?id=835> (PDF 1.1 MB). This paper seeks to outline a number of issues arising from the politicisation and militarisation of aid resulting from the use of comprehensive approaches, and to highlight the new challenges that this trend poses for civilian populations and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs). Through an examination of the Afghanistan case, it aims to explain some of the reasons for NGO criticism of comprehensive approaches and their reluctance to collaborate with military actors.

"Fact Sheet [for each of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan]" from USAID Afghanistan. [Kabul?]: USAID, 2008. (PDFs total 3.83 MB). These multi-page summaries were released at the September 2008 PRT conference in Kabul and provide a province-by-province overview of USAID programmes (completed and ongoing). The summaries are arranged by theme (Alternative Development and Agriculture, Democracy and Governance, Economic Growth, Education, Health, Infrastructure and PRT Assistance) with an approximate total of assistance per province in US dollars also given.

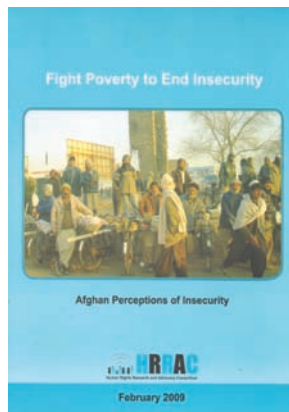
Huria, Sonali. "Failed States and Foreign Military Intervention: the Afghanistan Imbroglia." New Delhi: Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, February 2009. 8 p. http://ipcs.org/pdf_file/issue/SR66-Sonali-Final.pdf (208 KB). "Afghan and international actors, involved in reconstruction efforts must be cognisant of the fact that any hope for a successful regeneration of Afghanistan's governance structures will depend on an integration of its indigenous systems with western liberal, democratic institutions. According to Coyne, "attempts to reconstruct weak and failed countries suffer from a nirvana fallacy, [since they] overlook the possibility that indigenous governance mechanisms may evolve that are more effective than those imposed by military occupiers." (p. 7)

Malkasian, Carter and Gerald Meyerle. "Provincial Reconstruction Teams: How Do We Know They Work?" [Carlisle Barracks, Pa.]: Strategic Studies Institute, United States Army War College, 2009. 53 p. ISBN 1584873833. <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=911> (PDF 736 KB). Over the past six years, Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) have played a growing role in the US counterinsurgency effort in Afghanistan. PRTs are one of several organisations working on reconstruction, along with civilian development agencies, including the US Agency for International Development, numerous nongovernmental organisations and the Afghan Government's National

Solidarity Programme. Unsurprisingly, perhaps, something of a debate has emerged over whether PRTs are needed. The authors argue that civilian reconstruction agencies cannot do the same job as the PRTs. While these agencies remain essential for long-term economic and political development, the PRTs conduct reconstruction in ways that help create stability in the short term.

"Monitoring and Evaluation Framework [for] Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS)." [Kabul]: General Directorate of Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation of ANDS, Ministry of Economy, [2009]. 25 p. Overheads from a PowerPoint presentation (1.1 MB). Outline of planned procedures for monitoring ANDS targets.

Nicholls, Riona and Burke Butler. **"Fight Poverty to End Insecurity: Afghan Perceptions of Insecurity."** Kabul: Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium (HRRAC), February 2009. 16 p. http://www.afghanadvocacy.org.af/documents/Security_Report_Eng.pdf (888 KB). This report presents follow-up research to that conducted by HRRAC in 2004 and published as "Take the Guns Away." That report focused on Afghans' perceptions of the security situation in the country prior to the 2005 presidential elections. The researchers returned to the same provinces surveyed in 2004 and have documented findings concerning rising crime, lack of confidence in law enforcement bodies, the nature of security for Afghans, security for children, etc.



Rietjens, Bas, Myriame Bollen, Masood Khalil and Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi. **"Enhancing the Footprint: Stakeholders in Afghan Reconstruction"** In *Parameters*, Spring 2009, p. 22-39. <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/USAWC/Parameters/09spring/rietjens.pdf> (384 KB). The focus of this article is participation by local stakeholders in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)'s stability and reconstruction activities and ways to improve it. Since the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) are typically tasked to "cover" reconstruction within ISAF, they form the basis of this analysis.

Schütte, Stefan. **"Informal (In)security in Urban Afghanistan."** *Iranian studies* 42 no.3 (2009): 465-491. Poverty and insecurity in Afghan cities are intricately intertwined with conditions of "informality." The term and the realities it describes refer to living situations in which basic needs and

activities, such as work, housing, and social security are unprotected by laws and standards. Immersion into such a convulsion of informality determines the life of a majority among urban populations in Afghanistan and conveys a deep sense of insecurity for the urban poor. The paper looks at how rapid and unprecedented urban growth in Afghanistan accompanies rising levels of livelihood insecurity and explores how the urban poor cope with livelihood risks through a range of informal arrangements. Conceptually, the notion of "informal security regimes" helps capture informality as a coping strategy and how it relates to urban poverty in Afghanistan. Informed by extensive empirical fieldwork, the paper identifies different elements of the "informal security regime" in urban Afghanistan and explores their specific operations. The paper mainly focuses on the Afghan capital, Kabul, supplemented with evidence from other urban sites in Afghanistan.

Sedra, Mark, Anne-Marie Sanchez and Andrew Schrumm. **"A Way Forward in Afghanistan: A Report of the National Town Hall on Afghanistan."** Toronto, Ontario: Canadian International Council = Conseil International du Canada, April 2009. 19 p. <http://www.cigionline.org/publications/2009/4/way-forward-afghanistan> (PDF 1.6 MB). "On December 9, 2008, the Canadian International Council (CIC), in cooperation with The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), convened a Town Hall on The Way Forward in Afghanistan, in Waterloo, Canada. Convened shortly after national elections in Canada and the United States, the Town Hall was framed as a mechanism to collect input and advice for new governments in both countries. The purpose of this discussion was threefold: to provide Canadians with a comprehensive view of the current situation in Afghanistan, to offer a forum for a wide variety of interested individuals to express their views and opinions, and to spur a genuinely inclusive national debate. Canadian International Council (CIC)." (p. 3).

Tamas, Andy. **"Warriors and Nation Builders: Development and the Military in Afghanistan."** Kingston, Ontario: Canadian Defence Academy, 2009. 249 p. <http://www.tamas.com/index.php?q=node/28> (PDF 2 MB). This book was commissioned by the Canadian military to help senior officers better understand the development dimension of peace and security missions in fragile post-conflict states. It also helps development practitioners better understand their military colleagues in these challenging missions. It draws mainly from experience in Afghanistan.

Waisová, Šárka. **"Post-war Reconstruction in Afghanistan and the Changing NGO-Government Relationship."** 2008. p. 65-85. *China and*

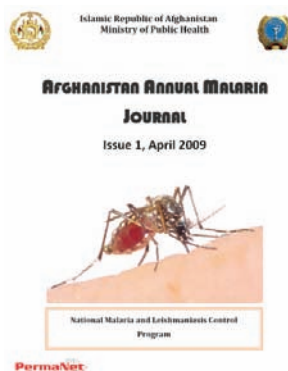
Eurasia Forum Quarterly 6, no. 3 (2008): 65-85, <http://www.isdp.eu/files/publications/cefq/08/sw08afghanistango.pdf> (PDF 134 KB). "Previous experiences with post-war reconstruction may lead us to the conclusion that NGOs could play a positive role in conflict management. However, after monitoring and analysing post-war reconstruction in several countries (Afghanistan, Bosnia, Iraq), this article concludes that the initial positive attitude of governmental representatives towards cooperation with NGOs in post-war reconstruction is starting to wane. What is the reason for the current skepticism towards NGOs and the tensions between governments and NGOs? This article looks at the relationship between the Afghan central government, local communities and NGOs and the existing tensions between them." (Abstract).

Health

Afghanistan Annual Malaria Journal. Kabul: Ministry of Public Health. v.: 30 cm. Issue 1 (April 2009) has just been released as part of Afghanistan's National Malaria and Leishmaniasis Control Programme. http://www.emro.who.int/afghanistan/pdf/aamj_4_09.pdf (4.98 MB).

Contents include: National Malaria and Leishmaniasis Control Programme annual report, 2008—"Progress and Challenges to Malaria Control in Afghanistan" by Najibullah Safi, Toby Leslie, Mark Rowland—"National Malaria Indicators Assessment, 2008" by Randa Youssef et al.—"Therapeutic Efficacy of Anti-malarial Drugs in the Treatment of Uncomplicated Malaria in Afghanistan, 2004-2007" by Najibullah Safi et al.—"Home Based Management of Malaria through the BDN (Basic Development Needs) Programme in North-East and Eastern Regions of Afghanistan" by Khalil Ahmad Kohestani et al.—(the following papers have been produced by various teams led by Toby Leslie) "Assessment of the Present Role of the Private Sector in Malaria Diagnosis, Treatment and Control in Afghanistan, 2008"—"Malaria Sentinel Surveillance in Afghanistan"—"Vector Surveillance in Nangahar Province, Afghanistan, June-October 2008"—"A Baseline Survey of Malaria in Pregnancy in Eastern Afghanistan"—and "Insecticide Treated Nets and Operational Research: Progress and Future Plans under GF Round 5".

"Afghanistan Health Sector Portfolio Review: Aide-Mémoire." 2009. 35 p. (Word 552 KB). A World Bank team visited Afghanistan from 28 March to 9 April 2009 to review the implementation of various projects supported by the Bank: The Health Sector



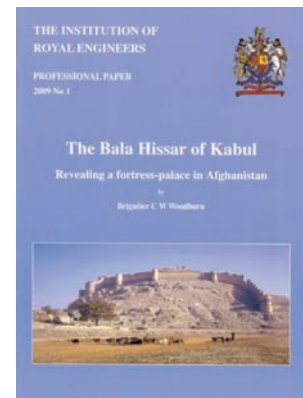
Emergency Reconstruction and Development Project (HSERDP), The Strengthening of Health Activities for the Rural Poor Project (SHARP), The Afghanistan HIV/AIDS Prevention Project (HAPP) and The Human Health Component of the Avian Influence Project.

"Afghanistan: USAID Country Health Statistical Report". 19 p. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADO658.pdf (224 KB). A new version of this regular compilation of health statistics was released in May 2009, it gives figures for life expectancies, literacy rates, population indicators, etc.

"Balanced Scorecard Report for Provincial and Kabul Hospitals 2008." [Kabul?]: [Ministry of Public Health?], 2008. 226 p. Tabulated results of evaluation of health services for each province of Afghanistan, 2008. Earlier reports of this type appeared in the four years from 2004 to 2007. In 2008, 39 hospitals were assessed, 32 outside Kabul and seven inside Kabul. In general, improvements in performance were recorded in almost all areas (though in Kabul to a lesser degree).

History

Woodburn, C.W. "The Bala Hissar of Kabul: revealing a fortress-palace in Afghanistan." Chatham, Kent [United Kingdom]: Institution of Royal Engineers, 2009. 47 p. This heavily illustrated paper examines what can be learnt about the former structure of the Bala Hissar, particularly in the early 19th century, when it was still a great fortress palace, and then identifies changes that were made later in that century.



Justice, Rule of Law, Laws

UNAMA, Human Rights, "Arbitrary Detention in Afghanistan: a Call for Action." Kabul: UNAMA Human Rights, January 2009. 2 volumes. <http://unama.unmissions.org/LinkClick.aspx?link=Images%2fLinkImage%2fADVC++VolI+-+English.pdf&tabid=1763&mid=2026> (PDF, 1 MB), <http://unama.unmissions.org/LinkClick.aspx?link=Images%2fLinkImage%2fADVC++VolII+-+English.pdf&tabid=1763&mid=2026> (PDF 2 MB). In order to assist the Government of Afghanistan, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), with the cooperation of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), monitored detainees in Ministry of Interior (police) and Ministry

of Justice detention facilities throughout Afghanistan from November 2006 – July 2008. This report draws upon this field monitoring to discuss the patterns and causes of arbitrary detention and to make recommendations on measures to effectively combat it. This report does not cover conflict-related detentions, including those by the National Directorate for Security (NDS) or international military forces (IMF). Monitoring found that Afghans are often detained without a legal basis, including for so-called “moral crimes,” breaches of contractual obligations, family disputes, or to pressure a relative or associate into confession. Second, there are indications that Afghans have been detained in order to deny them fundamental rights, particularly that of freedom of expression and many of the fundamental rights of women. Third, Afghans are detained without enjoying essential procedural protections, rendering many detentions arbitrary. (Executive Summary).

Alston, Philip. “Promotion and Protection of all Human Rights, Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the Right to Development: Addendum, Mission to Afghanistan, Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions.” New York: United Nations General Assembly, May 2009. 37 p. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/11session/A.HRC.11.2.Add.4.pdf> (168 KB). This report, from a fact-finding mission to Afghanistan in May 2008, aimed to understand how and why civilian deaths were occurring in the country. A civilian-centric view of the conflict was adopted and attempts were made to understand how the tactics of each side in the conflict lead to civilian deaths, and how the conduct of one side increases the likelihood of killings of civilians by the other. Each of the military actors in the conflicts shifts blame to the other for civilian deaths. In fact, “the Taliban, Afghan forces and international military forces all bear responsibility for unlawful killings, and each bears responsibility for reducing the numbers of civilians killed in the conflict” (p. 2).

Deeks, Ashley. “Detention in Afghanistan: the Need for an Integrated Plan.” Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 2009. 3 p. http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/080213_deeks_afghanistan.pdf (64 KB). Amnesty International has sued Canada to prevent Canadian troops in Afghanistan from transferring detainees to the Afghan Government. Amnesty claims that the Afghans mistreat detainees, making such transfers a violation of Canada’s Constitution. Since November, Canada has chosen not to transfer detainees to Afghanistan, presumably relying instead on short-term, ad hoc detention arrangements. Even though a Canadian court has declined to issue an injunction preventing Canada

from transferring detainees to the Afghan Government, Amnesty’s broader challenge to the transfers remains to be heard later this year.

Leonardo, Ernest. “Assessment of Corruption in Afghanistan.” [Washington, D.C.?]: USAID, 2009. 82 p. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADO248.pdf (408 KB). USAID/Afghanistan commissioned an assessment to provide a strategy, programme options, and recommendations on needs and opportunities to strengthen the capacity and political will of the Government of Afghanistan to fulfill its National Anti-Corruption Strategy. This report assesses the issue of corruption in Afghanistan, the legal and institutional frameworks for combating corruption, as well as USAID, USG and other donor activities against corruption, including monitoring mechanisms. The report concludes with recommendations on objectives for USAID anti-corruption assistance, a strategy to guide this set of actions, and a focused agenda for assistance to the government and civil society to help counter corruption in Afghanistan. (p. 1).

“Shiite Personal Status Law: English Translation.” Kabul: Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (ARoLP), 2009. 106 p. Translated before publication in the Official Gazette. <http://www.afghanistantranslation.com> (follow the link to “Laws” and then “Civil”) (PDF 916 KB). This is a full (unofficial) translation of the controversial law relating to Shia personal affairs.

“US Central Command Investigation into Civilian Casualties in Farah Province, Afghanistan on 4 May 2009: USCENTCOM’s Unclassified Executive Summary.” 18 June 2009. 13 p. <http://www.centcom.mil/images/pdf/uscentcom%20farah%20unclass%20exsum%2018%20jun%202009.pdf> (12 KB). “This document summarises the investigation directed by the Commander, US Central Command into the allegations that the use of US air power caused civilian casualties in the vicinity of Gerani Villages, Bala Balouk District, Farah Province, on May 4 2009. Commander USCENTCOM approved the investigating officer’s findings and recommendations on 8 June 2009.” (p. 1).

Walsh, Barry. “An Information Management and Organizational Plan for the Judiciary of Afghanistan.” Washington, D.C: Afghanistan Rule of Law Project, February 2009. 45 p. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDADM742.pdf (240 KB). The general aim of this consultancy during October and November 2008 was to evaluate the options available to the Afghan judiciary for improving its use of information and to suggest practical strategies for implementing them. An evaluation of information management and organisational development strategies should assist in guiding and perhaps adjusting current priorities for

the Supreme Court and interested donors. This report reviews and evaluates the history of information management planning and associated organisational development activities within the Afghanistan judiciary. Based on that assessment, this report offers a list of potential programme activities that are concerned with the collection and processing of management information by courts and that relate to the strategic priorities that the Supreme Court has already identified.

Maps

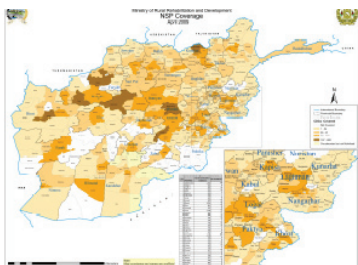
Agricultural maps:

The US Geological Survey (USGS) has made available three re-worked colour maps using Landsat data from 1993 and 2001 (the maps however are not dated). All include data from the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO) and other sources. They show significant changes in agricultural areas. <http://earlywarning.usgs.gov/Afghan/product.php?image=ar>

1. Afghanistan: Agricultural and Rangelands 1993 (Landsat). Reston, Virginia: US Geological Survey, [2008?]. (1.7 MB).
2. Afghanistan: Agricultural Lands 1993 (Landsat). Reston, Virginia: US Geological Survey, [2008?]. (3.8 MB).
3. Afghanistan [map]: Agricultural Lands 2001 (Landsat). Reston, Virginia: US Geological Survey, [2008?]. (3.8 MB).

Hirat city map / map prepared by AIMS Herat office. [Kabul]: Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS), March 2009. 1 col. map. http://www.aims.org.af/maps/urban/hirat_city.pdf (400 KB). A revision of the AIMS city map for Herat.

"NSP (National Solidarity Programme) Coverage Map" (April 2009). http://www.nspafghanistan.org/reports_and_publications/nsp_coverage_map.shtm (PDF 2.4 MB). This map tabulates and shows graphically the spread of the 22,148 Community Development Councils (CDCs) already working across Afghanistan as part of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)'s NSP programme.



Migration

Koser, Khalid, Susanne Schmeidl. "Displacement, Human Development and Security in Afghanistan: Draft." Published by the "2009 US-Islamic World Forum" http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/0216_afghanistan_koser/0216_afghanistan_koser.pdf (124 KB). "Nearly five million refugees have returned to Afghanistan since 2002 and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) often cites Afghanistan as a positive example of refugee repatriation. In reality, however, the return of Afghan refugees may prove to be one of the most ill-conceived policies in the Islamic world in recent times. While in the right circumstances the return of refugees can contribute to peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction, those circumstances cannot really be said to have existed in Afghanistan when repatriation commenced in 2002; much less at the moment. An estimated 40 percent of rural Afghans are malnourished; about 70 percent of the population lives on less than \$2 per day; over two-thirds of Afghans over the age of 15 cannot read and write; and one in five children dies before they reach their fifth birthday. The economy was already described as "little short of catastrophic" even before it was hit by the recent hike in food and fuel prices." (Introduction).

NSP

Affolter, Friedrich W. "Transformative Learning and Mind-Change in Rural Afghanistan." *Development in Practice* 19, no. 3 (May 2009): 311-328. This article presents the results of quantitative and qualitative enquiry into "transformative learning" and "mind-change" dynamics among rural community representatives participating in the Government of Afghanistan's National Solidarity Programme (NSP): a community-driven, nationwide initiative to rehabilitate the country's infrastructure.

Opium

Corti, Daniela and Ashok Swain. "War on Drugs and War on Terror: The Case of Afghanistan." *Peace and Conflict Review* 3 no. 2 (Spring 2009): 41-53. <http://www.review.upeace.org/pdf.cfm?articulo=86&ejemplar=17> (PDF 416 KB). The drug trade is a very important component of Afghanistan's economy. Post-9/11, the United States has made the war on drugs in Afghanistan a high priority, after linking the drug trade to the financing of Islamic terrorist groups. The basic strategy of the US in Afghanistan has been forcible eradication of opium (poppy) cultivation, which has failed in controlling the production of illicit drugs. Instead it has brought further miseries to a large number of poor poppy farmers and their families. This

article argued for a review of US policy of the war on drugs in Afghanistan and called for concerted efforts to provide other sources of livelihood to the Afghan population (p. 41).

Muhammad Ali. "Afghanistan's Poppy Production: Counting Things and Things That Count." The Hague, The Netherlands: Institute of Social Sciences, 2008. [80] p. This research paper (MA thesis from the Graduate School of Development Studies, Institute of Social Studies) examines why poppy cultivation is sustainable in Afghanistan despite the efforts of the Afghan Government and international community. It seeks to identify the drivers of sustainable poppy cultivation and drug production in Afghanistan and suggests a way forward to tackle a deteriorating situation.

Politics and Government

"Afghanistan: Post-Taliban Governance, Security and US Policy." Kenneth Katzman. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, 4 March 2009. <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL30588.pdf> (2.31 MB). As US and outside assessments of the efforts to stabilise Afghanistan became increasingly negative throughout 2008, the Bush Administration conducted several reviews of US strategy and began a plan to build up US forces in Afghanistan. The new Administration authorised adding 17,000 US forces to Afghanistan while conducting its own "strategic review," which was used to formulate new policies discussed at the April 3, 2009 NATO summit. Obama Administration policy in Afghanistan is facing an expanding militant presence in some areas previously considered secure, increased numbers of civilian and military deaths, growing disillusionment with corruption in the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the inability of Pakistan to prevent Taliban and other militant infiltration into Afghanistan.

Austin, Bradley, Elizabeth Dvorak-Little and Edward Joseph. "Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCD) Evaluation: Final Report." [Washington, D.C.?]: Checchi and Company Consulting, January 2009. 44 p. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDADM816.pdf (168 KB). This report is part of the contractually required assessment of the performance of Development Alternatives International (DAI) and Associates in Rural Development (ARD) in their work with the LGCD programme. That programme was designed to build the capacity of local government, through direct capacity building and by providing for the implementation of community development projects with an overall aim of strengthening the legitimacy of the Afghan Government. According to

the evaluation the programme did not meet its overall objectives, though there were "pockets of success."

Bajoria, Raghav. "The Troubled Afghan-Pakistan border." [New York]: Council on Foreign Relations, March 2009. 3 p. http://www.cfr.org/publication/14905/troubled_afghanpakistani_border.html?breadcrumb=%2Fbios%2F13611%2Fjajshree_bajoria%3Fgroupby%3D0%26hide%3D1%26id%3D13611%26filter%3D280. Afghanistan shares borders with six countries, but the approximately 1500-mile-long Durand Line along Pakistan remains the most dangerous. Kabul has never recognised the line as an international border and instead claims the Pashtun territories in Pakistan that comprise the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and parts of North West Frontier Province along the border are part of Afghanistan. Incidents of violence have increased on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border since the US-led war in Afghanistan. In the last few years, US officials and national intelligence reports have repeatedly attributed the growing strength of al-Qaeda and resurgence of the Taliban to safe havens in this border region. By early 2009, there was growing consensus in Washington that to win the war in Afghanistan, it had to address the chaos in Pakistan's tribal areas. In March 2009, General David McKiernan, the top commander in Afghanistan, told Newshour the only way to break the stalemate is to take "an Afghanistan-Pakistan approach to this insurgency."

Gavrilis, George. "Harnessing Iran's Role in Afghanistan." [Washington, D.C.]: Council on Foreign Relations, 2009. 2 p. http://www.cfr.org/publication/19562/harnessing_irans_role_in_afghanis_tan.html?breadcrumb=%2Fregion%2F279%2Fsouth_asia. This paper compares the role of Pakistan and Iran towards Afghanistan and comes down on the side of the US expanding and improving relations with Iran.

Hakimi, Aziz. "Violence as Nation Building: Essay." [7] p. *Himal*, April 2009. http://www.himalmag.com/Essay-Violence-as-nation-building_nw2889.html. According to this Afghan analyst, the current model of consolidating Afghanistan as a "security state" to manage the increasing violence and prevent collapse of the current government promises only to promote greater instability.

Sharma, Raghav. "Afghanistan in 2009: The First Quarter." New Delhi: Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS), May 2009. 4 p. http://www.ipcs.org/pdf_file/issue/IB102-Raghav-Afg.pdf (152 KB). In the first quarter of 2009, three issues have taken centre stage: Taliban resurgence and its spread into Pakistan, the "Af-Pak" strategy of the US unveiled by President Obama and the debate on the planned elections.

Ibrahimi, Niamatullah. "The Dissipation of Political Capital among Afghanistan's Hazaras: 2001-2009." London: Crisis States Programme, Crisis States Research Centre, 2009. 21 p. <http://www.crisisstates.com/download/wp/wpSeries2/WP51.2Ibrahimi.pdf> (555 KB). This paper aims to explain the historical background and processes in which the Hezb-i Wahdat-i Islami Afghanistan was formed and then lays out its political agendas and strategies, as well as its eventual disintegration. It will also look at how its character, political agenda and strategies have evolved throughout the years of civil war, Taliban rule and the post-2001 political process.

Public Opinion

"Afghanistan Public Opinion Survey, May 3-16, 2009." The International Republican Institute, Lapis. [Kabul?]: IRI, 2009. 70 p. <http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/world/afghanpoll.pdf> (3.0 MB). A sample of 3,200 Afghans in 35 provinces (5 districts in each) were interviewed about their views on the situation in Afghanistan, the performance of the government, the approaching elections, security and military forces.

Cordesman, Anthony H. "Afghan Public Opinion and the Afghan War: Shifts by Region and Province: a Breakout of the Data in the ABC News poll." Washington, D.C.: The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), April 2009. 42 p. http://www.csis.org/index.php?option=com_csis_pubs&task=view&id=5395 (PDF 2.2 MB). ABC News, in cooperation with other news organisations like the BBC, ARD and USA Today has run a long series of polls in Afghanistan. Most of this polling data has been published in forms that focus on nationwide opinion, rather than the differences by region and province. This presentation shows the key trends and results of these polls and provides considerable insight into how Afghan opinion has changed over time and with the growing impact of the fighting.

Graham, Carol and Soumya Chattopadhyay. "Well-being and Public Attitudes in Afghanistan some Insights from the Economics of Happiness." Washington: Brookings Institution, May, 2009. 31 p. http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/05_afghanistan_happiness_graham.aspx (PDF 1.03 MB). This analysis uses "the tools provided by a new approach in economics, which relies on surveys of happiness or reported well-being, to deepen our understanding of the situation there. These tools also provide a window into public attitudes, ranging from opinions about democracy and political freedom, to trust in others and in public institutions, to concerns about crime and corruption. The paper is written with the objective of bringing new insights to

bear on a complex situation; neither author claims to be an expert on the economics or politics of Afghanistan. Our results in Afghanistan conform to a world-wide pattern: remarkable consistency across individuals in the determinants of happiness within countries of all different development levels—even in the midst of extreme circumstances." (Executive Summary).

Security

"Afghanistan Security: US Programmes to further Reform Ministry of Interior and National Police Challenged by Lack of Military Personnel and Afghan Cooperation." Washington, D.C.: United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), March 2009. 33 p. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09280.pdf> (3.08 MB). According to this evaluation, "U.S. agencies and Afghanistan have achieved their goals of restructuring and reducing a top-heavy and oversized Ministry of Interior and Afghanistan National Police (ANP) officer corps, modifying police wages, and planning a reorganization of Ministry of Interior (MOI) headquarters. These efforts are intended to help ensure that the MOI and ANP are directed by professional staff that can manage a national police force. U.S. agencies and MOI cut the officer corps from about 17,800 to about 9,000, reduced the percentage of high-ranking officers, and increased pay for all ranks" (reverse of title-page). Although US contractor personnel have validated the status of almost 47,400 current MOI and ANP personnel, they have been unable to validate the status of almost 29,400 additional personnel" (p. 22).

"At what Cost?: Contingency Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan: Interim Report to Congress," Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Washington, D.C.: Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, June 2009. v, 111 p. http://www.wartimecontracting.gov/.../reports/CWC_Interim_Report_At_What_Cost_06-10-09.pdf (5.1 MB). In 2008, the US Congress established a Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan in response to increasing indications of widespread waste, fraud and abuse of government contracting. The Commission was tasked to produce and interim and a final report. This report examines issues of management and accountability, logistics, security and reconstruction. It identifies areas of immediate concern and will address systemic causes and produce recommendations for reform.

Bebber, Robert J. "The Role of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Counterinsurgency Operations: Khost Province, Afghanistan." *Small Wars Journal* 2008 (no further numbering given). [18] p. <http://smallwarsjournal.com/mag/docs-temp/131-bebber.pdf> (160 KB). An assessment of how

Cooperative for Peace and Unity (CPAU) case studies

This Afghan organisation has produced five conflict analysis reports based on original field work and observation and the work of Peace Councils in Afghanistan. All can be downloaded from http://www.cpaug.org.af/Research/our_pub.html.

1. "Baharak District, Badakhshan Province" (February 2009, 24 p.). Conflict dynamics are affected by a complex range of factors in Afghanistan. This report uses new data that identifies some of the trends and dynamics in local conflict in Baharak district in northeastern Badakhshan province in the context of local, provincial and regional influences. The conflict analysis of Baharak is the first of five reports looking at conflict dynamics in Badakhshan, Kunduz, Kabul, Wardak and Ghazni. [695 KB]
2. "Kunduz City, Kunduz Province" (March 2009, 24 p.). Conflict dynamics are affected by a complex range of factors in Afghanistan, this is particularly important when carrying out peacebuilding and conflict resolution activities in urban environments. This report uses new data that identifies some of the trends and dynamics in local conflict in Kunduz city in northern Afghanistan in the context of local, provincial and regional influences. The conflict analysis of Kunduz is the second of five reports looking at conflict dynamics in Badakhshan, Kunduz, Kabul, Wardak and Ghazni. [1.64 MB]
3. "Farza and Kalakan Districts, Kabul Province" (March 2009, 22 p.). Focusing on rural Kabul, this report uses new data that identifies some of the trends and dynamics in local conflict in Farza and Kalakan districts in the context of local, provincial and regional influences. The report demonstrates the key importance of land in local conflict, but also demonstrates the impact that Kabul city has on the Shomali Plain. (634 KB)
4. "Jaghori and Malistan Districts, Ghazni Province" (April 2009, 18 p.). Focusing on Jaghori and Malistan district in Ghazni province, this report uses new data that identifies some of the trends and dynamics in local conflict in Jaghori and Malistan in the context of local, provincial and regional influences. The report demonstrates the impact of wider insecurity on local conflict dynamics, particularly on the key areas of local conflict such as land. [890 KB]
5. "Chak and Sayedabad Districts, Wardak Province" (April 2009, 18 p.). This is the final report in CPAU's series on conflict dynamics in Afghanistan, it completes the conflict analysis series by demonstrating the need for long-term, high quality monitoring of local conflict dynamics. The paper also argues that the impact of insecurity and nongovernmental groups in the province have had a significant impact on the way in which local conflicts are resolved. [675 KB]

Based on those a synthesis report was also released (June 2009):

Dennys, Christian and Idrees Zaman. "Trends in Local Afghan Conflicts: Synthesis Report." [Kabul]: Cooperative for Peace and Unity (CPAU), June 2009. 44 p. This paper is a national comparison of the data and information collected in eight districts in Kabul (2), Kunduz, Badakhshan, Wardak (2) and Ghazni (2) that brings together the findings of district level analysis and puts them in a provincial and national context. The conflict analysis project run by CPAU looked at three key areas: (1) are there lessons to be learned about the impact and effectiveness of peace-building and conflict resolution programmes; (2) what are the impacts of other actors on local level conflict; and (3) are there any links between local level conflict and national level conflict? Local conflict is a major concern for Afghans faced with informal and formal governance structures that struggle to find equitable and suitable resolutions as a result of the conflict and associated social changes. Local conflict is also highly seasonal and associated largely with livelihoods, particularly land and water, followed by conflicts around debt and other financial issues, marriage, divorce and domestic violence. (PDF 2 MB)

the PRT in Khost has functioned as a counterinsurgency force, with recommendations for improvements (by an “Information Warfare” officer).

Blatt, Darin J., Eric Long, Brian Mulhern. “Tribal Engagement in Afghanistan.” *Special Warfare* 22, no. 1 (January/February 2009): [18]-26. <http://milnewstbay.pbwiki.com/f/TribalEngagement-swmag-31Jan09.pdf> (775 KB). Brief presentation of attempts by ISAF forces to work with tribal institutions along the Afghan-Pakistan border.

Campbell, Jason Michael O’Hanlon and Jeremy Shapiro. “Assessing Counterinsurgency and Stabilization Missions.” [New York]: Brookings Institution, 2009. 28 p. http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/05_counterinsurgency_ohanlon/05_counterinsurgency_ohanlon.pdf (408 KB). This paper studies both Iraq and Afghanistan in terms of measures to assess progress achieved by counterinsurgency and stabilisation missions. The findings underscore the complexity of this process but generally concludes that “the current Afghanistan strategy of the Obama administration is rightly focused on population security—and, more generally, improving the lives of normal citizens—as well as Afghan institution building,” (p. 6).

Clarke, Ryan and Khuram Iqbal. “NATO Supply Lines in Afghanistan: the Search for Alternative Routes.” Singapore: S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), 15 June 2009. 3 p. <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/Perspective/RSIS0572009.pdf> (48 KB). An evaluation of the three possibilities for supplying the troop surge in Afghanistan: Central Asia (“the fraught option”), Iran (“the non-option option”) and Pakistan (“still the best option”).

Cook, Barnaby, Curtis J.K. Frazer and D. Jonathan Roberts. “The Size of the Fight in the Dog: 2009: An Assessment of the Security Situation in Afghanistan.” London: King’s College, March 2009. 30 p. http://www.humansecuritygateway.info/documents/KINGS_AssessmentSecuritySituation_Afghanistan.pdf (716 KB). “The current situation in Afghanistan is characterised by a resurgent Taliban and al-Qaeda coupled with a weak and corrupt central government. The anti-coalition forces exhibit the capacity to inflict casualties and hamper coalition efforts at pacifying the region. The coalition war aims are currently shifting away from winning the war, towards ending the war and achieving something of a Nixonian peace with honour. To do this, the surge in all but name is being used to purchase a window of opportunity in which the coalition hope to make progress while the Taliban are on the back foot. Attaining even a limited victory of this kind will depend on the age old concept of division and conquest.

While the conflict should be seen as one of multiple insurgencies, it should be combated with a cohesive and unified effort. Thus if the conflict is to be won, it will be won on the district level, village by village. Failure to arrive at a situation in which the coalition can withdraw on their own terms will result in a protracted and unpleasant stalemate that will see the evaporation of domestic support at home.” (Executive Summary).

Dansie, Grant. “Enemies, Irregular Adversaries, Spoilers, Non-compliant Actors: How the Definition of Actors Influences Afghanistan Strategies.” Oslo, Norway: Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), 2009. 49 p. http://www.ciaonet.org/wps/nupi/0016551/f_0016551_14307.pdf (3 MB). This study examines how definitions may significantly affect strategy by focusing on the example of non-violent or low level violent actors in Afghanistan perceived as negatively affecting international peace and stability operations. It highlights that the situation is inherently more complex than it appears at first glance. Our definitions may carry entrenched meanings that negatively affect our perceptions of certain actors. At the same time the situation on the ground is extremely complex with numerous factors influencing this perceived negative behaviour. The study outlines a number of dilemmas involved in developing these definitions, as well as highlighting how these play out on the ground. The study draws on a number of interviews with NGO workers, researchers, Western government officials and NATO/ISAF troops. (Abstract).

Giustozzi, Antonio and Dominique Orsini. “Centre-periphery Relations in Afghanistan: Badakhshan between Patrimonialism and Institution-building.” *Central Asian Survey* 28, no.1 (March 2009): 1-16. PDF (384 KB). This article offers a review of centre-periphery relations and local politics in the Afghan province of Badakhshan from the 1980s to the post-2001 era. It maps the local powerbrokers and charts the transformations that occurred during this period, with particular reference to the impact of the central government’s policies on local political alignments and relations of power. The key argument is that President Karzai’s and the cabinet’s behaviour towards Badakhshani politics was aimed at re-establishing a patrimonial system, rather than at institution-building as claimed. Unable or unwilling to successfully deal with established local players, Kabul resorted to sponsoring new players in local politics and facilitating their rise in order to weaken more independent powerbrokers. However, a local perception of weakness in Kabul, not least due to uncertainty over the durability of the Karzai administration, led local players, old and new, to behave with very short-term horizons, as “roving bandits” rather than as “stationary” ones.

Gross, Eva. "Security Sector Reform in Afghanistan: the EU's contribution." Paris: European Union Institute for Security Studies, April 2009. 47 p.; 30 cm. (EU-ISS Occasional Paper No. 78). <http://aei.pitt.edu/10717/> (665 KB). The EU engages in aspects of Security Sector Reform (SSR) through EUPOL Afghanistan, the police mission launched in 2007, and through the European Commission's contributions to justice reform in the country. Based on an analysis of past efforts at police reform by the EU and other European and international actors, this Occasional Paper identifies a set of internal and external coordination challenges that hamper mission success. Internally, institutional constraints have meant that the coordination of EU instruments has been difficult to achieve. Member States, meanwhile, have until recently focused primarily on bilateral contributions to police and justice reform in the case of Germany and Italy, respectively, or on their military contributions to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Externally, the resource gap and differing philosophies underlying police reform on the part of the US (the biggest contributor to police reform) and the EU have meant that coordination has been lacking and existing coordination bodies are unable to fulfill their tasks. Limited resources deployed in pursuit of police reform exacerbate these difficulties as inadequate commitments of political, material and personnel resources all too often translate into a loss of political influence at the strategic level. The paper therefore argues that only by improving coordination and by increasing resources and efforts at formulating and implementing joint strategies will the EU and its member states have a positive impact on Security Sector Reform in Afghanistan. Given the deteriorating conditions in the country, the upcoming presidential elections, and a renewed focus on Afghanistan of the US administration, the EU and its Member States would do well to step up their efforts and their commitment to reforming Afghanistan's police and justice system.

Korb, Lawrence, Caroline Wadhams, Colin Cookman and Sean Duggan. "Sustainable Security in Afghanistan: Crafting an Effective and Responsible Strategy for the Forgotten Front." Washington, D.C.: Center for American Progress, March 2009. 35 p. http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/03/pdf/sustainable_afghanistan.pdf (2.8 MB). This paper recommended that the Obama Administration's strategic review answer five fundamental questions: (1) what is the scale of US objectives in Afghanistan; (2) what is the timeframe for US engagement; (3) what is the right balance of civilian and military resources to be sent in; (4) how to work with Pakistan to stabilise Afghanistan; and (5) is a sustained military, political and economic effort in Afghanistan still in the US national interest?

"[Papers from the] International Security Assistance Force PRT conference, 10-11 September 2008." [Kabul]: Headquarters, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), 2008. (Files on cd 473 MB). This collection of documents includes a variety of source materials presented at the PRT conference in 2008: it includes Provincial development plan spreadsheets, guidelines for coordination of emergency operations, civil-military guidelines, PRT Executive Steering Committee policy notes (1-3), publicity sheets from UNHCR and USAID project summaries (usefully arranged by province), etc.

Rahimi, Roohullah. "Afghanistan: Exploring the Dynamics of Sociopolitical Strife and the Persistence of the Insurgency." Ottawa, Canada: Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, 2008. 32 p. http://www.peaceoperations.org/CMS/Files/OP2_Rahimi.pdf (3 MB). This paper seeks to understand the dynamics fostering the insurgency in Afghanistan, particularly within the context of Afghanistan's history. The insurgency is understood as a symptom of deep-rooted political and social divisions as well as "pernicious" economic interests in Afghanistan and the region, "hence countering the insurgency is not just fighting it per se but understanding the multiple types of strife and responding in kind," (p. 3).

Schmidt, Søren. "Afghanistan: Organizing Danish Civil-military Relations: DIIS Report 2009:15." Copenhagen, Denmark: Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), 2009. 70 p. http://www.minibib.dk/F?func=find-b&P_CON_LNG=ENG&DOC_LNG_00=ALL&local_base=dcism&find_code=SYS&request=409232 (PDF 776 KB). This report is part of a broader analysis of Danish experience with civil-military integration and deals with Afghanistan. Foremost in this report is the analysis of the political nature of the challenge to development in high-conflict areas. The summary includes the statement that "certain types of projects, e.g. education and schools, may at best not be relevant in relation to the available "political time" to achieve results in Afghanistan. Another finding is that "political stabilization is an outcome of a process between domestic political actors" and that the situation in Badakhshan and that in Helmand require different handling.

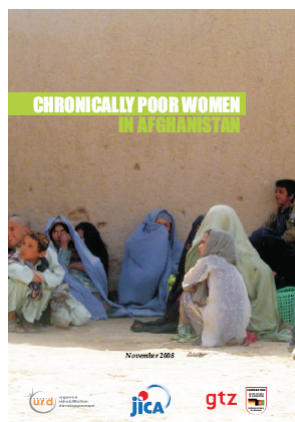
Waldman, Matt. "Caught in the Conflict: Civilians and the International Security Strategy in Afghanistan: A Briefing Paper by Eleven NGOs Operating in Afghanistan, for the NATO Heads of State and Government Summit, 2-4 April 2009." Kabul: Oxfam International, 2009. 27 p. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/civilians-caught-in-the-conflict-afghanistan> (420 KB). This paper makes recommendations on how the security strategy of the international

community should be changed to minimise the harm caused to Afghan civilians and reduce the disruption of development and humanitarian activities in Afghanistan.

Younosi, Obaid, Peter Dahl Thruelsen, Jonathan Vaccaro ... (et al.) *"The Long March: Building an Afghan National Army."* Santa Monica, CA: RAND, 2009. 65 p. ISBN 9780833046680. <http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG845/> (PDF 392 KB). "The Afghan National Army (ANA) is critical to the success of the allied efforts in Afghanistan and the ultimate stability of the national government. This monograph assesses the ANA's progress in the areas of recruitment, training, facilities and operational capability. It draws on a variety of sources: in-country interviews with US, NATO, and Afghan officials; data provided by the US Army; open-source literature; and a series of public opinion surveys conducted in Afghanistan over the past several years. Although the ANA has come a long way since the outset of the recent conflict in the country, the authors conclude that coalition forces, especially those of the United States, will play a crucial role in Afghanistan for the foreseeable future, particularly in light of the increased threat from Taliban forces and other illegally armed criminal groups."

Women

"Chronically Poor Women in Afghanistan." [Kabul]: JICA Afghanistan Office, November 2008. xii, 134 p. (PDF 136 MB). This study aims to improve the understanding of women's chronic poverty in Afghanistan, analyse the factors pushing women into chronic poverty and keeping them there, and provide input to relevant government programmes. Fieldwork was done in five provinces (Bamiyan, Badakhshan, Herat, Kabul and Nangarhar) in both rural and urban areas. Poverty was defined as resources amounting to \$1 per person per day or less. The degree of chronic poverty is determined by three variables: human assets of their household (male or female composition, ages, respective skills), access to economic activities, and significance of their social networks (determined mainly by their family and extended family). The drivers for chronic poverty were found to be the same as for chronic poverty within Afghan society (war, insecurity, natural disasters, disability). However, the maintainers of chronic poverty are gender-specific, especially structural barriers that tie women to limited roles in Afghan society.



Kandiyoti, Deniz. *"The Lures and Perils of Gender Activism in Afghanistan."* [London]: School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 2009. 8 p. <http://www.soas.ac.uk/ccac/events/anthonyhyman/file50277.pdf> (67 KB). Text of the most recent Anthony Human Memorial Lecture delivered on 16 March 2009 with three sections: (1) feminism-as-imperialism or conversations "through" Afghan women; (2) donor-driven gender activism: engineering gender equality and (3) internal struggles and uneasy compromises addressing the sharp internal debates in Afghanistan involving parliamentarians, clerics, bureaucrats, the media and local NGOs concerning the acceptability of the rights agenda pushing to expand women's constitutional, political and civic rights.

"Status of Gender Units in the Government of Afghanistan." [Kabul]: Ministry of Women's Affairs, [2008]. 90 p. This undated paper (from late-2008?) sought to provide a detailed update on the status of gender units in Afghan Government ministries and agencies. In all, 24 ministries and two independent divisions were surveyed. Interviews were used to supplement the written information received. In many interviews women reported discrimination and felt they lacked a voice in their work environment. There was also a demonstrated lack of understanding of the meaning of gender and the benefits of gender mainstreaming. Women civil servants account for approximately 26 percent of most ministries' overall work force: according to other figures (from the Ministry of Women's Affairs) there are approximately 39,000 women compared to 181,000 men in ministries.

Pashtun Cultural Magazine

"Khyber: the voices of Pashtuns." The first issue (June 2009) of a new monthly publication in English about Pashtun culture has appeared: <http://www.airra.org/analysis/Khyber.pdf> (3 MB). "The need for Khyber was felt due to the ever increasing misconceptions about Pashtuns in the region and the criticality of the same in the development of various stereotypes about the Pashtun nation in general. Khyber is an initiative to engage the Pashtun intelligentsia and youth, both in the homeland and in the diaspora with the aim to discuss Pashtun issues and contribute to a more informed debate on the Pashtun question on both sides of the Durand Line. The magazine also intends to provide a forum for our youth to remain in touch with their culture, art and literature and at the same time, to illustrate the softer image of the Pashtun to the outer world." (June 2009 issue, p. 3).