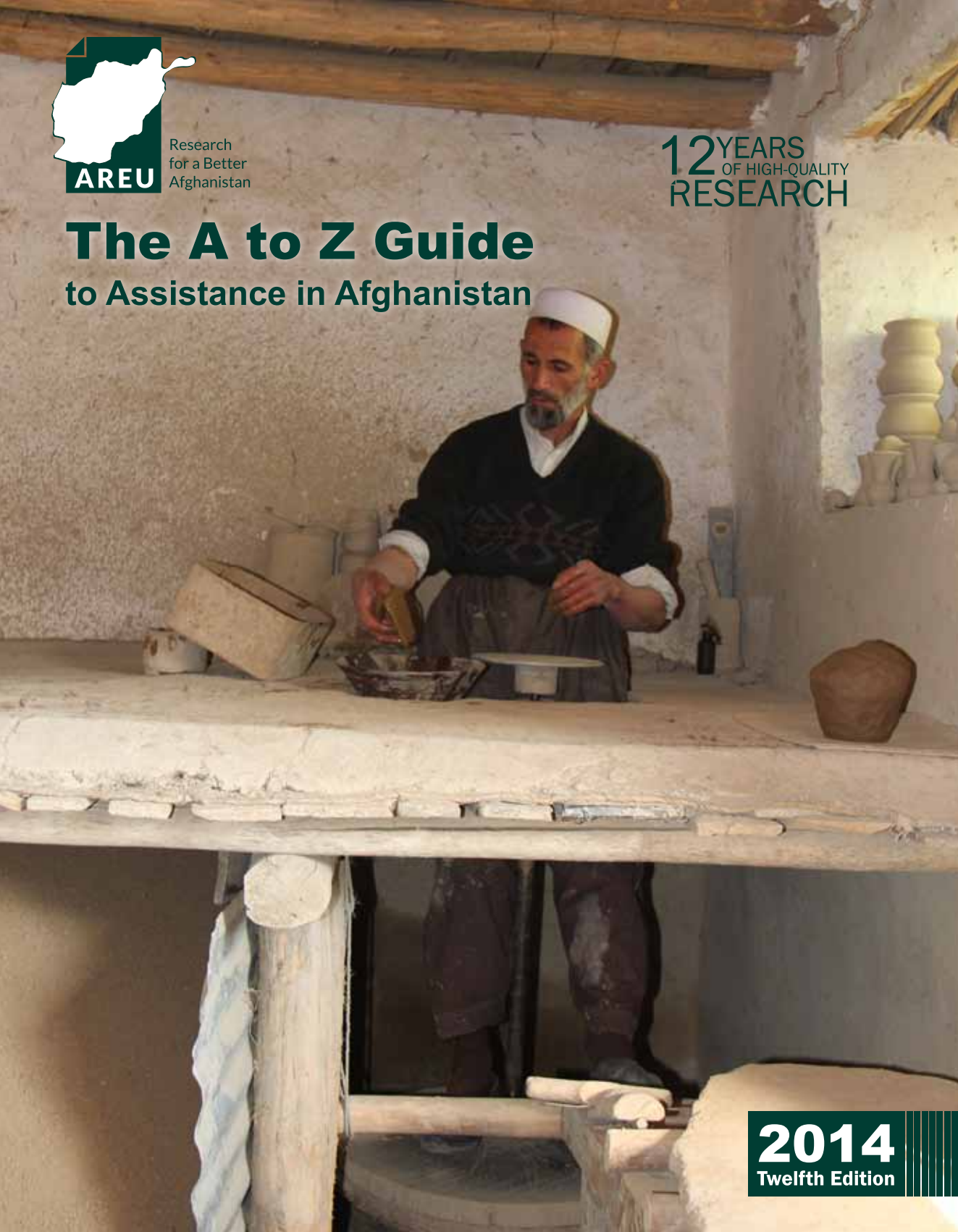




Research
for a Better
Afghanistan

12 YEARS
OF HIGH-QUALITY
RESEARCH

The A to Z Guide to Assistance in Afghanistan



2014
Twelfth Edition



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OF HIGH-QUALITY
RESEARCH

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2014
Twelfth Edition

IMPORTANT NOTE: The information presented in this guide relies on the voluntary contributions of ministries and agencies of the Afghan government, embassies, development agencies, and other organisations representing donor countries, national and international NGOs, and other institutions. While AREU makes a sincere effort to provide the most accurate and current information possible with each edition produced, details evolve and change continuously. Users of this guide are encouraged to submit updates, additions, corrections and suggestions to publications@areu.org.af.

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Provincial Profiles (maps and data): Word Bank and Central Statistics Organization

Photos: Sameer Hamgam

Cover photograph: An Afghan man making pottery in Istalif.

Tab photographs: Provincial Profile: Mandawi Bazar, Kabul Nov 2013. A to Z : An Afghan man making Rubab (music instrument), Kabul Dec 2013. Government: A shop of pottery dishes, Kabul Dec 2013. Mar 2012. Contacts: A child polishing shoes, Kabul Dec 2013. Documents: Cement factory, Kabul Dec 2013. Index, Pottery dishes in which grapes are kept in winter called “kangina”, Kabul Dec 2013.

Contact Information:

3rd street on the left from Charahi Haji Yacoub toward Charahi Shaheed
House No. 144, first gate on the right
Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul, Afghanistan
Phone: +93 (0) 799 608 548
Email: areu@areu.org.af
Website: www.areu.org.af

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About the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit

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

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

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

The AREU Library

Established in 2003, the AREU Library supports the research activities of AREU and provides public service to approximately 15,500 titles held about Afghanistan. The library also has over 63 gigabytes of accumulated softcopy publications on Afghanistan. The focus of the collection is contemporary materials produced inside Afghanistan and materials in Dari and Pashto, with an emphasis on long-term research value.

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

About the A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance

Updated each year, the A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance aims to enhance general understanding of the array of actors, structures, and government processes related to aid and reconstruction efforts in the country. The Guide provides: a wide-ranging glossary of assistance terms and actors, an overview of Afghanistan's system of government, political provincial briefs, key primary documents, and an extensive contacts directory that includes government agencies, NGOs, donors, and international actors. Where not otherwise specified, all dollar amounts are US\$. The Guide is also published in Dari and Pashto.

When the first edition of the A to Z Guide was published in 2002, the goal then—as it is now—was "to provide a guide to the terms, structures, mechanisms and coordinating bodies critical to the Afghanistan relief and reconstruction effort to help ensure a shared vocabulary and common understanding." Over the years the Guide has increased in scope and size, but has always followed the same successful model.

AREU Publications 2013

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

- Water rights and conflict resolution processes in Afghanistan: The case of the Sar-i-Pul sub-basin, by Vincent Thomas
- Women's Economic Empowerment in Afghanistan, 2002 - 2012 'Situational Analysis', by Lena Ganesh, Rahim Azami, Masouda Kohistani and Rebecca L. Miller
- Women's Economic Empowerment in Afghanistan, 2002-2012: Information Mapping and Situational Analysis, by Lena Ganesh, Rahim Azami and Masouda Kohistani
- Women's Economic Empowerment in Afghanistan 2002-2012 'Information Mapping', by Lena Ganesh, Rahim Azami, Masouda Kohistani and Rebecca L. Miller
- EYES WIDE SHUT: Counter-Narcotics in Transition, by David Mansfield and Paul Fishstein##*
- Women's Rights, Gender Equality, and Transition: Securing gains, moving forward , by AREU#
- Women's Economic Empowerment in Afghanistan: Creating Spaces and Enabling the##* Environment, by Lena Ganesh
- Balkh's Economy in Transition, by Paul Fishstein, Islamuddin Amaki and Mohammed Qaasim##*
- A Little Bit Poppy-free and a Little Bit Eradicated: Opium poppy cultivation in Balkh and Badakhshan Provinces in 2011-2012, by Paul Fishstein
- "Good" water governance models in Afghanistan: Gaps and Opportunities, by Vincent Thomas
- Land, People, and the State in Afghanistan: 2002 - 2012, by Liz Alden Wily##*
- All Bets are Off! Prospects for (B)reaching Agreements and Drug Control in Helmand and Nangarhar in the run up to Transition, by David Mansfield
- The 2013 A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance, by AREU##*



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About this section

This section aims to provide a brief overview of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, by presenting a range of information: geographical location, population, rural population, areal size, number of districts, and seat allocation in both the Wolesi Jirga and the Provincial Council. Details on the Meshrano Jirga, the Upper House, is omitted as one-third of the 34 candidates are appointed by the President and the remaining two-thirds from each of the 34 provincial councils are indirectly elected (until the district council elections are held when 34 from the district councils will comprise the remaining third).

Allocation of seats: The Constitution states that the Wolesi Jirga seats are to be distributed among the provinces according to population based on the SY1381-1384 (2003-2005) Household Listing (HL) and the 1979 census with an annual population growth rate of 1.92 percent. The Constitution reserves an average of two seats per province for female candidates, and a total of ten Wolesi Jirga seats for Kuchis, of which three are reserved for female candidates.

The provincial profiles are arranged according to unofficial "regions" of the country, presented alphabetically by province name. The figures given in brackets are the seats reserved for female candidates. Two figures for number of districts indicate temporary divisions or disputes.

Glossary of Provincial Development Indicators:

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

National Profile:

Area: 647, 500

Population: 25, 500 100

Rural Population: 76%

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

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

Provincial Council seats: 420 (124)

Acknowledgements:

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

AREU is very grateful for the copyright permission that allows them to be presented here.

Central Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Kabul (Kabul)

Area: 4523.9 km²

No. of districts: 14

Population: 3950.3

Rural population: 640.9

Urban Population: 3309.4

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 9 Female; 24 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 8 Female; 21 Male

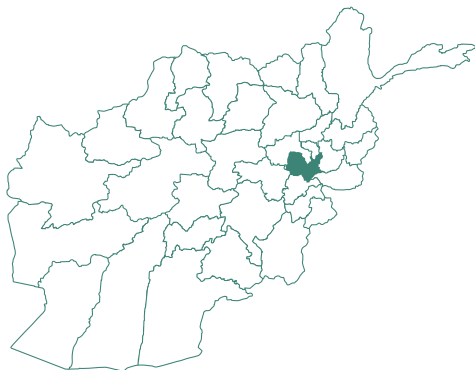
Poverty Rate (%): 23.1

Basic Health Services: 75

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 38

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 99
- Telecommunication: 6
- Energy: 13
- Irrigation: 77
- Agriculture: 17
- Industry: 3



Province and Capital: Kapisa (Mahmood Raqi)

Area: 1908.0 km²

No. of districts: 6

Population: 419.8

Rural population: 418.4

Urban Population: 1.4

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 3 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 9 Male

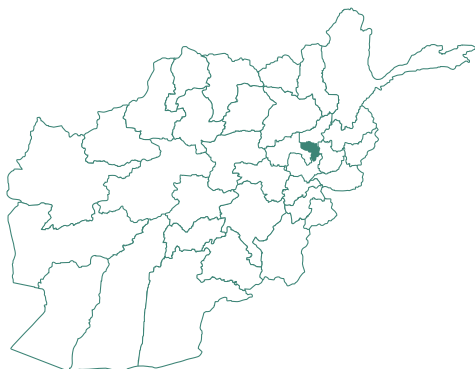
Poverty Rate (%): 21.5

Basic Health Services: 15

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 8

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 13
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 1
- Irrigation: 37
- Agriculture: 5
- Industry: 0



Central Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Bamyan (Bamyan)

Area: 18029.2 km²

No. of districts: 6

Population: 425.5

Rural population: 413.5

Urban Population: 12.0

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 3 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

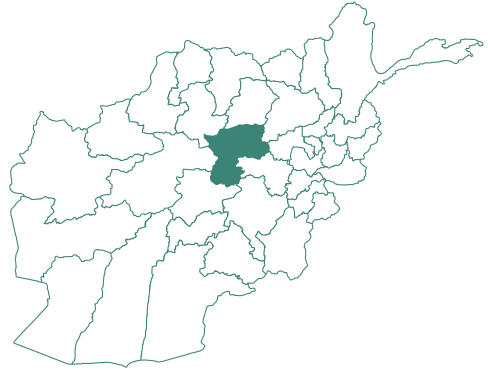
Poverty Rate (%): 55.7

Basic Health Services: 23

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 10

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 87
- Telecommunication: 3
- Energy: 9
- Irrigation: 156
- Agriculture: 3
- Industry: 2



Province and Capital: Daykundi (Nili)

Area: 17501.4 km²

No. of districts: 8

Population: 438.5

Rural population: 435.0

Urban Population: 3.5

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 3 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 9 Male

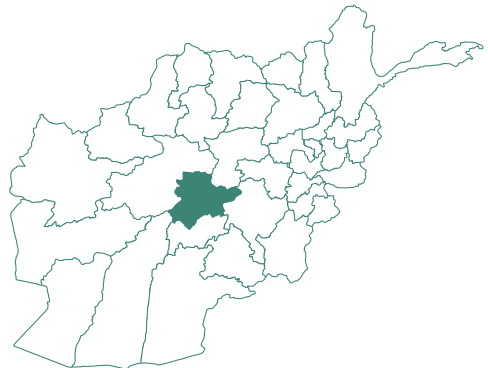
Poverty Rate (%): 43.4

Basic Health Services: 14

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 7

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 66
- Telecommunication: 3
- Energy: 1
- Irrigation: 35
- Agriculture: 1
- Industry: 1



Central Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Logar (Pul-i-Alam)

Area: 4568.0 km²

No. of districts: 6

Population: 373.1

Rural population: 363.8

Urban Population: 9.3

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 3 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 9 Male

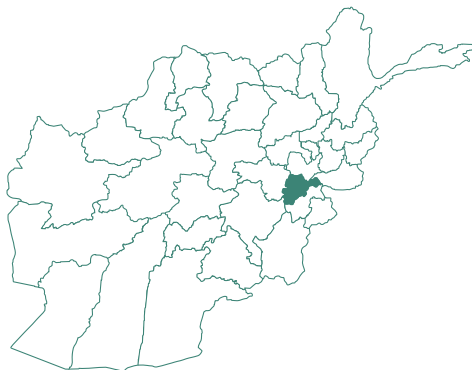
Poverty Rate (%): 75.5

Basic Health Services: 21

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 7

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 28
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 1
- Irrigation: 58
- Agriculture: 2
- Industry: 0



Province and Capital: Panjsher (Bazarak)

Area: 3771.6 km²

No. of districts: 6

Population: 146.1

Rural population: 146.1

Urban Population: 0

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 1 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

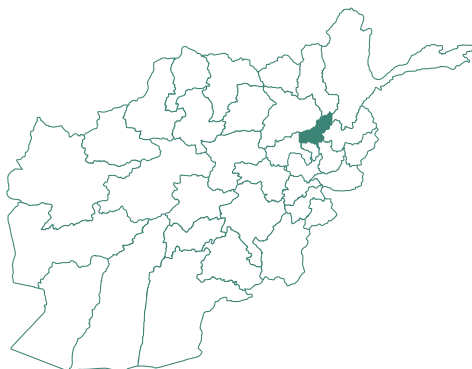
Poverty Rate (%): 22.6

Basic Health Services: 9

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 2

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 19
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 26
- Irrigation: 68
- Agriculture: 3
- Industry: 0

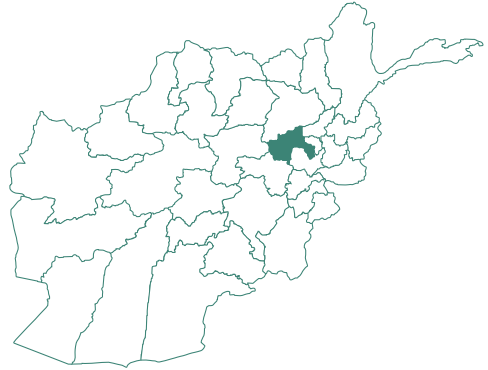


Central Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Parwan (Charikar)

Area: 5715.1 km²
No. of districts: 9
Population: 631.6
Rural population: 576.0
Urban Population: 576.0
Wolesi Jirga Seats: 2 Female; 4 Male
Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 11 Male
Poverty Rate (%):18.9
Basic Health Services: 32
Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 10
Development Projects:

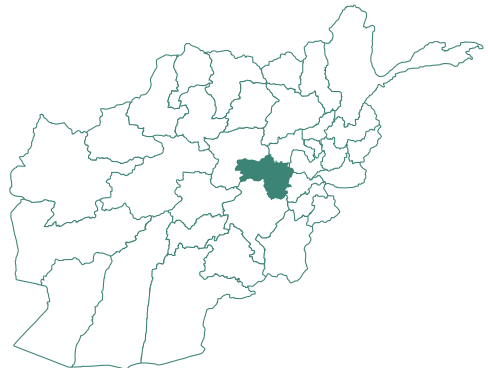
- Transportation: 88
- Telecommunication: 3
- Energy: 5
- Irrigation: 68
- Agriculture: 5
- Industry: 0



Province and Capital: Wardak (Maidan Shahr)

Area: 10348.3 km²
No. of districts: 8
Population: 567.6
Rural population: 564.8
Urban Population: 2.8
Wolesi Jirga Seats: 2 Female; 3 Male
Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male
Poverty Rate (%): 59.9
Basic Health Services: 26
Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 10
Development Projects:

- Transportation: 44
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 9
- Irrigation: 56
- Agriculture: 2
- Industry: 0



Northeast Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Badakhshan (Faiz Abad)

Area: 44835.9 km²

No. of districts: 27

Population: 904.7

Rural population: 869.6

Urban Population: 35.1

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 11 Male

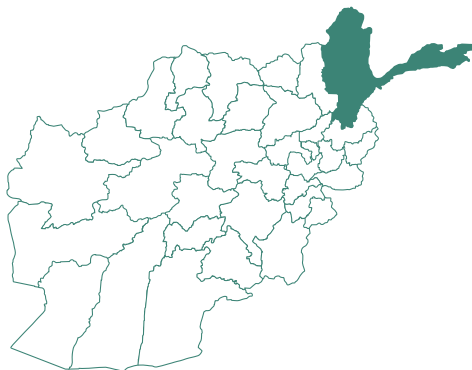
Poverty Rate (%): 61.1

Basic Health Services: 33

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 14

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 118
- Telecommunication: 3
- Energy: 42
- Irrigation: 111
- Agriculture: 3
- Industry: 1



Province and Capital: Baghlan (Pul-i-Khumri)

Area: 18255.2 km²

No. of districts: 14

Population: 863.7

Rural population: 691.1

Urban Population: 172.6

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 2 Female; 6 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 11 Male

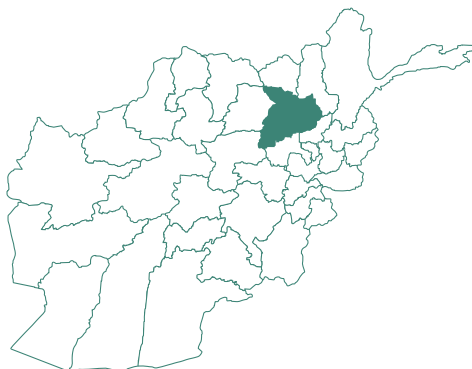
Poverty Rate (%): 18.0

Basic Health Services: 26

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 15

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 65
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 31
- Irrigation: 105
- Agriculture: 4
- Industry: 0



Northeast Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Kunduz (Kunduz)

Area: 8080.9 km²

No. of districts: 6

Population: 953.8

Rural population: 716.8

Urban Population: 237.0

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 11 Male

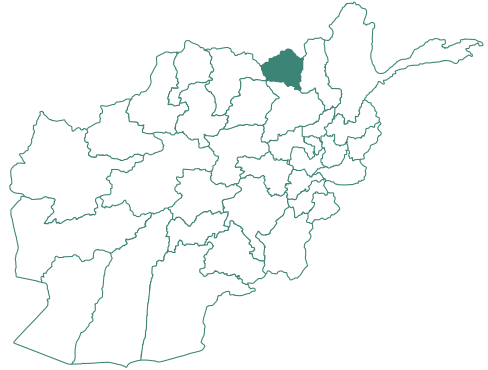
Poverty Rate (%): 29.7

Basic Health Services: 31

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 14

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 154
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 30
- Irrigation: 135
- Agriculture: 5
- Industry: 3



Province and Capital: Takhar (Taluqan)

Area: 12457.8 km²

No. of districts: 16

Population: 933.7

Rural population: 812.2

Urban Population: 121.5

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 2 Female; 7 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 11 Male

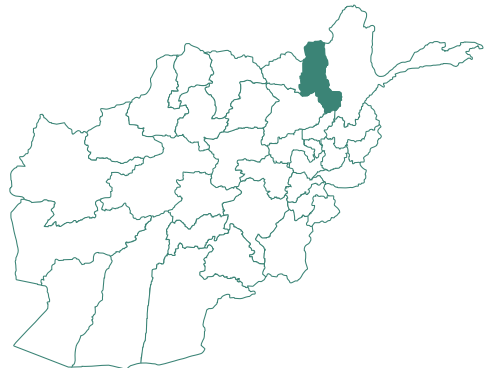
Poverty Rate (%): 36.6

Basic Health Services: 37

Comprehensive Healthcare Services:

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 203
- Telecommunication: 3
- Energy: 14
- Irrigation: 195
- Agriculture: 4
- Industry: 0



East Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Kunar (Asad Abad)

Area: 4925.9 km²

No. of districts: 14

Population: 428.8

Rural population: 415.7

Urban Population: 13.1

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 3 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

Poverty Rate (%): 62.0

Basic Health Services: 17

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 8

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 13
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 3
- Irrigation: 14
- Agriculture: 1
- Industry: 0



Province and Capital: Laghman (Mehterlam)

Area: 3977.9 km²

No. of districts: 4

Population: 424.1

Rural population: 419.3

Urban Population: 4.8

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 3 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

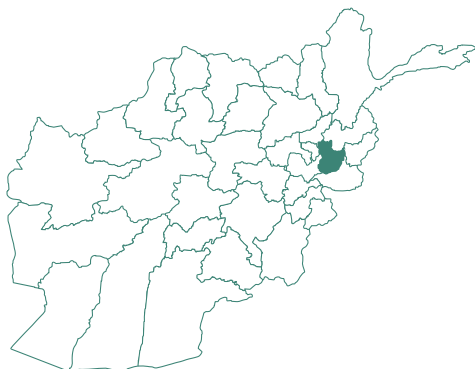
Poverty Rate (%): 66.8

Basic Health Services: 17

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 8

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 33
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 2
- Irrigation: 34
- Agriculture: 1
- Industry: 0

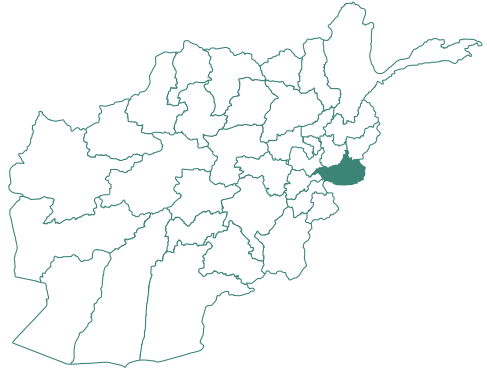


East Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Nangarhar (Jalalabad)

Area: 7641.1 km²
No. of districts: 21
Population: 1436.0
Rural population: 1225.0
Urban Population: 211.0
Wolesi Jirga Seats: 4 Female; 14 Male
Provincial Council Seats: 5 Female; 14 Male
Poverty Rate (%): 33.0
Basic Health Services: 71
Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 19
Development Projects:

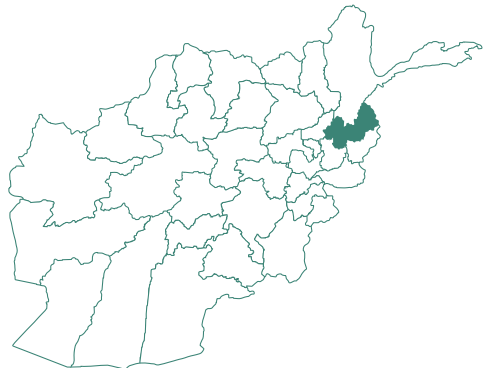
- Transportation: 106
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 12
- Irrigation: 278
- Agriculture: 3
- Industry: 3



Province and Capital: Nouristan (Paroon)

Area: 9266.7 km²
No. of districts: 7
Population: 140.9
Rural population: 140.9
Urban Population: 0
Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 1 Male
Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male
Poverty Rate (%): 49.8
Basic Health Services: 10
Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 2
Development Projects:

- Transportation: 16
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 10
- Irrigation: 23
- Agriculture: 1
- Industry: 0



North Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Balkh (Mazar-i-Sharif)

Area: 16186.3 km²

No. of districts: 14

Population: 1245.1

Rural population: 794.9

Urban Population: 450.2

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 3 Female; 8 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 5 Female; 14 Male

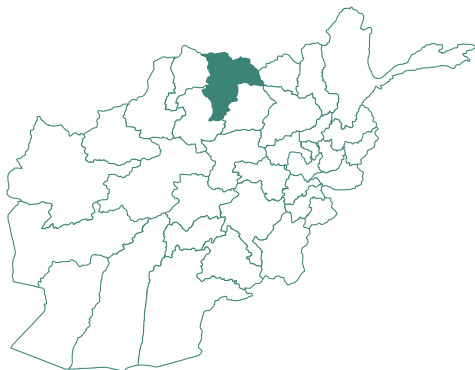
Poverty Rate (%): 60.3

Basic Health Services: 44

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 14

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 157
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 66
- Irrigation: 147
- Agriculture: 5
- Industry: 2



Province and Capital: Faryab (Maymana)

Area: 20797.6 km²

No. of districts: 13

Population: 948.0

Rural population: 833.7

Urban Population: 114.3

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 11 Male

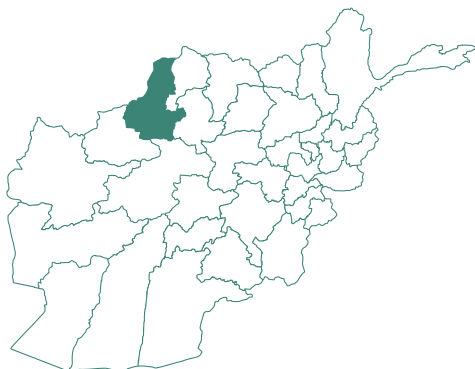
Poverty Rate (%): 29.1

Basic Health Services: 21

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 16

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 114
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 47
- Irrigation: 248
- Agriculture: 2
- Industry: 1



North Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Jawzjan (Sheberghan)

Area: 11291.5 km²

No. of districts: 10

Population: 512.1

Rural population: 403.5

Urban Population: 108.6

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 4 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

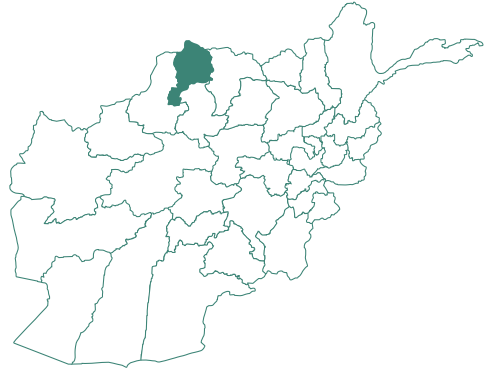
Poverty Rate (%): 14.5

Basic Health Services: 16

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 7

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 41
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 4
- Irrigation: 20
- Agriculture: 3
- Industry: 2



Province and Capital: Samangan (Aybak)

Area: 13437.8 km²

No. of districts: 6

Population: 368.8

Rural population: 341.0

Urban Population: 27.8

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 3 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

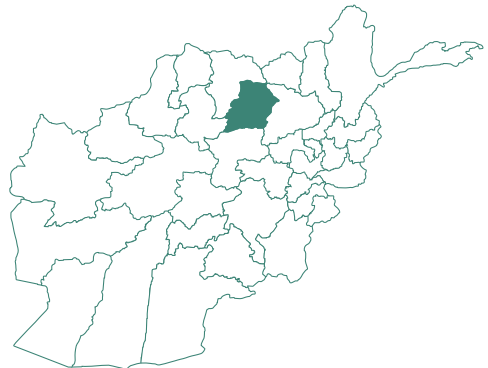
Poverty Rate (%): 55.1

Basic Health Services: 13

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 5

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 12
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 7
- Irrigation: 38
- Agriculture: 5
- Industry: 0



North Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Sar-i-Pul (Sar-i-Pul)

Area: 16385.6 km²

No. of districts: 6

Population: 532.0

Rural population: 491.1

Urban Population: 40.9

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 4 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

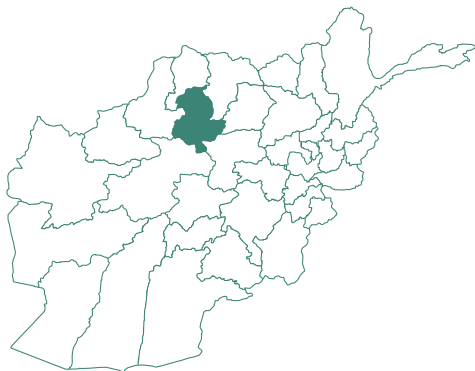
Poverty Rate (%): 24.7

Basic Health Services: 17

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 8

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 65
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 2
- Irrigation: 42
- Agriculture: 1
- Industry: 0



South Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Helmand (Lashkar Gah)

Area: 58305.1 km²

No. of districts: 12

Population: 879.5

Rural population: 828.1

Urban Population: 51.4

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 2 Female; 6 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 11 Male

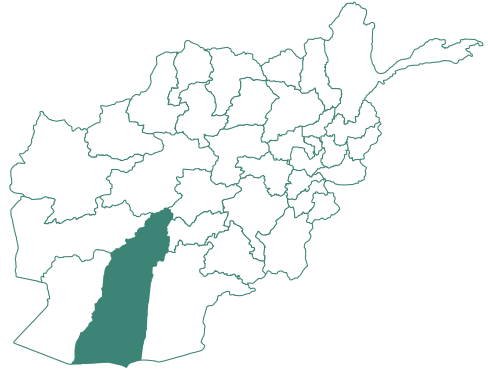
Poverty Rate (%): 8.9

Basic Health Services: 29

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 15

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 61
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 2
- Irrigation: 44
- Agriculture: 2
- Industry: 1



Province and Capital: Kandahar (Kandahar)

Area: 54844.5 km²

No. of districts: 15

Population: 1151.1

Rural population: 753.6

Urban Population: 397.5

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 3 Female; 8 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 11 Male

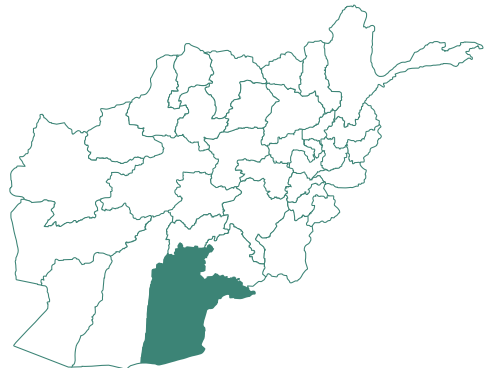
Poverty Rate (%): 22.8

Basic Health Services: 19

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 23

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 112
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 2
- Irrigation: 339
- Agriculture: 1
- Industry: 2



South Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Nimroz (Zaranj)

Area: 42409.5 km²

No. of districts: 4

Population: 156.6

Rural population: 131.7

Urban Population: 24.9

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 1 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

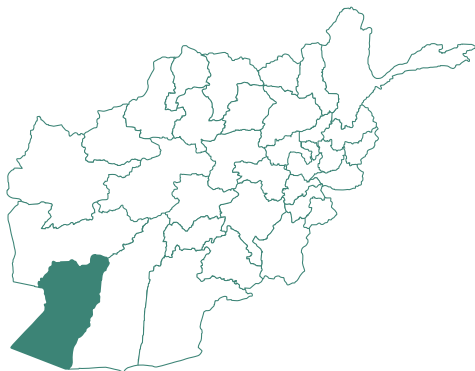
Poverty Rate (%): 24.5

Basic Health Services: 5

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 2

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 21
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 1
- Irrigation: 5
- Agriculture: 3
- Industry: 1



Province and Capital: Uruzgan (Tarinkot)

Area: 11473.7 km²

No. of districts: 4

Population: 333.5

Rural population: 323.9

Urban Population: 9.6

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 2 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

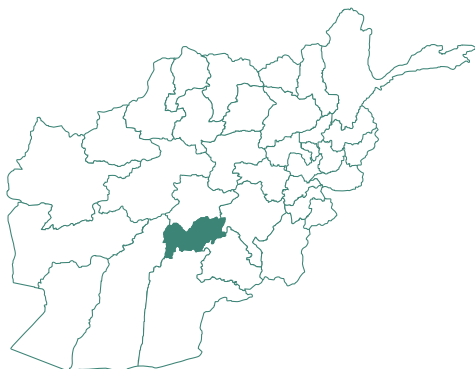
LPoverty Rate (%): 40.8

Basic Health Services: 7

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 6

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 77
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 1
- Irrigation: 88
- Agriculture: 2
- Industry: 0



South Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Zabul (Qalat)

Area: 17471.8 km²

No. of districts: 10

Population: 289.3

Rural population: 277.9

Urban Population: 11.4

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 2 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

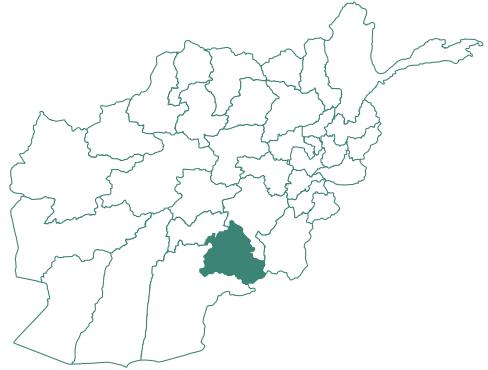
Poverty Rate (%): 37.4

Basic Health Services: 8

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 7

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 37
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 2
- Irrigation: 72
- Agriculture: 1
- Industry: 0



Southwest Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Badghis (Qalai-i-Naw)

Area: 20794.0 km²

No. of districts: 6

Population: 471.9

Rural population: 458.1

Urban Population: 13.8

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 3 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

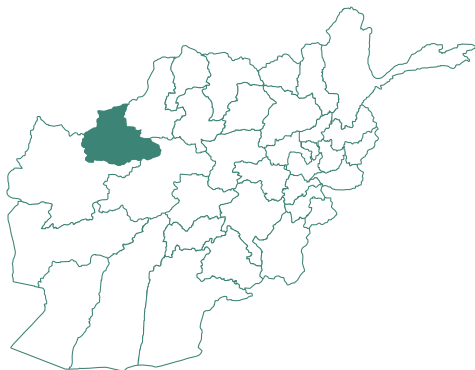
Poverty Rate (%): 41.7

Basic Health Services: 23

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 3

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 70
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 4
- Irrigation: 57
- Agriculture: 3
- Industry: 0



Province and Capital: Farah (Farah)

Area: 49339.1 km²

No. of districts: 10

Population: 482.4

Rural population: 447.4

Urban Population: 35.0

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 4 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

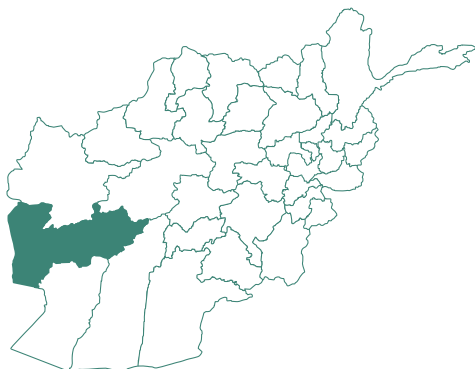
Poverty Rate (%): 12.2

Basic Health Services: 5

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 11

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 89
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 1
- Irrigation: 38
- Agriculture: 1
- Industry: 0



Southwest Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Ghor (Chaghcharan)

Area: 36657.4 km²

No. of districts: 9

Population: 657.2

Rural population: 650.5

Urban Population: 6.7

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 2 Female; 4 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 4 Female; 11 Male

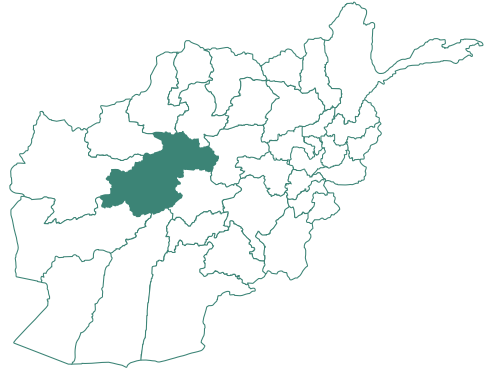
Poverty Rate (%): 44.2

Basic Health Services: 21

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 8

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 96
- Telecommunication: 3
- Energy: 25
- Irrigation: 138
- Agriculture: 1
- Industry: 0



Province and Capital: Herat (Herat)

Area: 55868.5 km²

No. of districts: 15

Population: 1780.0

Rural population: 1280.1

Urban Population: 499.9

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 5 Female; 12 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 5 Female; 19 Male

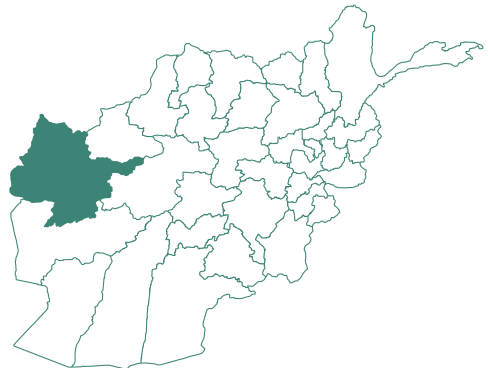
Poverty Rate (%): 38.7

Basic Health Services: 39

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 25

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 126
- Telecommunication: 3
- Energy: 7
- Irrigation: 347
- Agriculture: 4
- Industry: 2



Southeast Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Ghazni (Ghazni)

Area: 22460.5 km²

No. of districts: 18

Population: 1168.8

Rural population: 1112.4

Urban Population: 56.4

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 3 Female; 11 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 5 Female; 14 Male

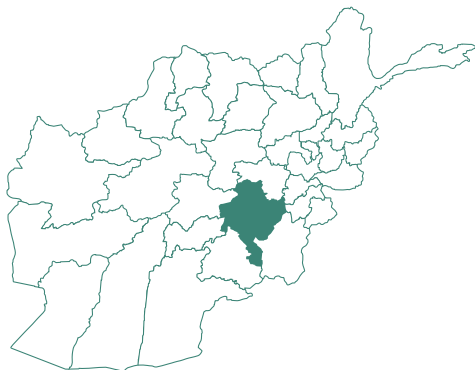
Poverty Rate (%):19.0

Basic Health Services: 39

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 26

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 17
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 4
- Irrigation: 47
- Agriculture: 2
- Industry: 0



Province and Capital: Khost (Khost)

Area: 4235.3 km²

No. of districts: 12

Population: 546.8

Rural population: 535.8

Urban Population: 11.0

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 4 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

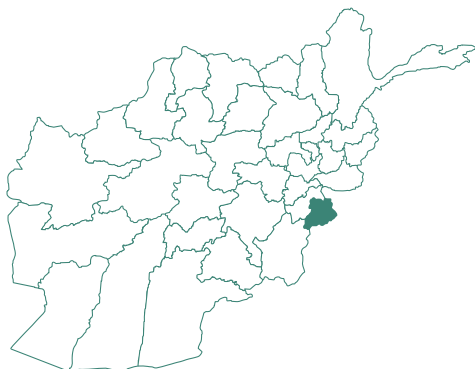
Poverty Rate (%): 47.9

Basic Health Services: 10

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 12

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 23
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 1
- Irrigation: 66
- Agriculture: 2
- Industry: 0



Southeast Afghanistan

Province and Capital: Paktika (Sharan)

Area: 19515.9 km²

No. of districts: 18

Population: 413.8

Rural population: 411.2

Urban Population: 2.6

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 3 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

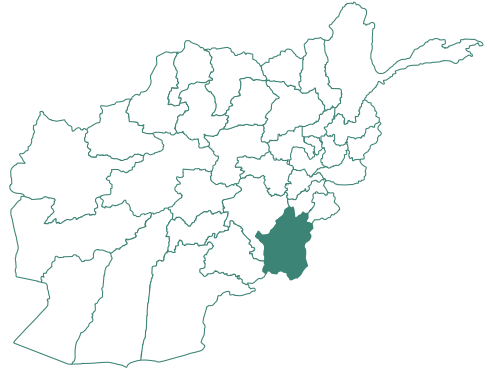
Poverty Rate (%): 76.1

Basic Health Services: 19

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 4

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 3
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 1
- Irrigation: 2
- Agriculture: 1
- Industry: 0



Province and Capital: Paktya (Gardez)

Area: 5583.2 km²

No. of districts: 10

Population: 525.0

Rural population: 501.9

Urban Population: 23.1

Wolesi Jirga Seats: 1 Female; 4 Male

Provincial Council Seats: 3 Female; 6 Male

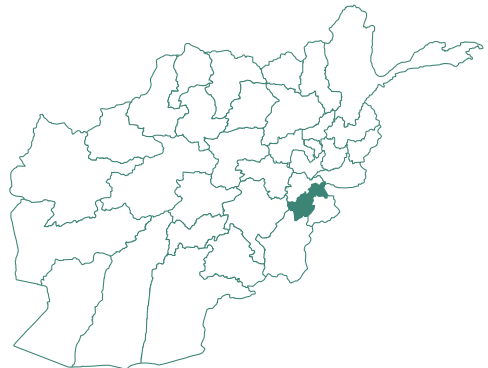
Poverty Rate (%): 60.6

Basic Health Services: 17

Comprehensive Healthcare Services: 8

Development Projects:

- Transportation: 19
- Telecommunication: 2
- Energy: 5
- Irrigation: 217
- Agriculture: 3
- Industry: 2





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Government Initiatives and Programmes

Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO)

www.agcho.gov.af

The Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO) is the government agency responsible for all official mapping and related activities in Afghanistan. Its primary focus is on the production, publication and distribution of maps (physical, topographical, political, thematic, cadastral and natural resource), geodetic work and the national atlas. Reporting directly to the President, AGCHO has approximately 700 staff and regional offices in 16 provinces. The Office is divided into five departments:

- Metadata and client services
- Cartography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Cadastral work
- Photo-grammetry and remote sensing
- Geodesy

Since 2001, there have been renewed efforts to modernise the agency. AGCHO has produced a number of thematic maps for government departments and external organisations and currently provides GIS training. It also established departments of Geography and GIS instruction at Kabul University and Kabul Polytechnic. In 2011 AGCHO published several new maps, including a 1:18,000 digital imagery street map of Kabul, produced in association with GISWorking consultancy in Kabul. In co-operation with the German government, AGCHO is launching a national atlas containing over 50 maps at the beginning of 2014.

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

Afghan Local Police (ALP)

The Afghan Local Police (ALP), founded by Presidential Decree in August 2010, and led by the Ministry of Interior (MOI), is deployed in selected districts to foster security and defend rural communities in areas where there is either missing space between (ANA) and or National Police (ANP). The ALP is not authorised to enforce laws and is therefore intended as a defensive force.

Districts selected to take part in the programme nominate around 300 men to receive uniforms, AK47s and training from US Special Forces. Recruits are vetted and approved by district-level Shuras (councils) and the Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS). The Shuras responsible for vetting recruits are those created by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance's Afghanistan Social Outreach Program.

As of December 2013, the ALP had 27,000 members. The US Department of Defense (DOD) largely funds the ALP, ISAF supports the program through provision of funding, training, equipment and technical assistance to the MOI.

Afghan National Army (ANA)

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

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

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

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

As of December 2013, the ANA has 195, 000 troops. Currently, there are 701 women in the ANA. Established in 2007, as of December 2012, the Afghan Air Force has 96 aircraft, and 51 of its 6,325 personnel are female.

The United States military is the ANA's key international partner; they train and equip the Army, provide the majority of the necessary technical and financial support, and committed to provide \$17 billion from 2008 to 2013. From 2014 onwards, the United States will reduce funding to \$4.2 billion annually; other donor nations are expected to contribute a combined total of \$1 billion annually. The current aim of the Afghan government is to assume full security responsibility throughout Afghanistan by the end of 2014, as part of the Transition process.

Afghan National Police (ANP)

www.moi.gov.af

The Afghan National Police (ANP) is the Afghan government's overarching police institution and operates under the authority of the Ministry of Interior (MoI). The ANP's roles span a wide spectrum of security activities, including law enforcement, maintenance of order, criminal investigation, border security, counter-narcotics, and counter-terrorism.

As of December 2012, the ANP had a combined strength of 157,000 officers, of which 2,200 are female, who together support the following forces: 1) National Police, or Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) responsible for most day-to-day policing. 2) Afghan National Civil Order Police, highly trained and special equipped quick-reaction force aimed at dealing with civil disorder, looting, hostage taking and riots. 3) Afghan Border Police, engaged in law enforcement at international borders. 4) Other units, including personnel assigned to the MoI, the Criminal Investigation Division, and the Counter-Narcotics Police, with some providing training, intelligence, and support to the fire department.

Since 2005, the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) has led police reform efforts by the US, along with the training and development of the ANA. CSTC-A has several thousand personnel and contractors dedicated to its ANP mission. In addition to the main ANP training facility in Kabul, regional training facilities have been established in Gardez, Herat, Kandahar, Khost, Mazar-i-Sharif, and Wardak.

The main laws governing the ANP are the 2005 Police Law and the 2004 Interim Criminal Procedure Code. These laws are based on Articles 56, 75 (3), and 134 of the Constitution. The chain of command is: 1) Minister of Interior, 2) Deputy Minister for Security Affairs, 3) Regional Commanders, 4) Provincial Chiefs of Police, and 5) District Chiefs of Police.

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

www.aihrc.org.af

In 2002, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) was established under Article 58 of the Afghan Constitution, which reads:

The State, for the purpose of monitoring the observation of human rights in Afghanistan, and their promotion and protection, shall establish the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan. Everyone in case of violation of his/her human rights can report or complain to this Commission. The Commission can refer the cases of violation of the human rights of the persons to the legal authorities, and assist them in defending their rights. The structure and mode of function of this Commission will be regulated by law.

The Law on the Structure, Duties and Mandate of the AIHRC was adopted by the Cabinet and endorsed by the President in May 2005 (published in Official gazette no. 855). Under the Law (Article 4), the AIHRC is mandated to protect and promote rights and freedoms enshrined in the Afghan Constitution and international human rights instruments to which Afghanistan is a party. Article 6 of the Law requires the Afghan government, civil society organisations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and all Afghan citizens to "cooperate with the Commission in achieving the objectives set up by this Law."

The AIHRC is led by nine Commissioners with service terms of five years who are appointed by the President. As of December 2012, the AIHRC is chaired by Dr. Sima Samar with Mr. Mohammad Farid Hamidi as the Deputy Chair. The President is required to appoint Commissioners who reflect the gender, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity of Afghanistan, and who represent academic institutions and CSOs.

AIHRC Staff

Currently, around 600 employees work for the AIHRC at the HQ in Kabul and in 14 regional and provincial offices scattered around the country. The gender breakdown of AIHRC's staff is 30% female and 70% male. The AIHRC seeks to increase women's employment within the organisation.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

The AIHRC believes that the transition period is a turning point that will affect all fields of life, including the status of human rights. However, the AIHRC believes that it is too soon to know whether those changes are going to be positive or negative.

Regional and Provincial Offices

To ensure nationwide coverage of services, the AIHRC has eight regional offices in: Herat, Kandahar, Paktya, Bamyán, Nangarhar, Kabul, Kunduz and Balkh; and six provincial offices: Ghor, Daykundi, Helmand, Uruzgan, Faryab and Badakhshan.

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

www.aisa.org.af

The Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) was set up as a "one stop shop for investors" by the Afghan Government in 2003, and is responsible for the registration, licensing, and promotion of all new investments in Afghanistan. AISA's vision is to become a world-class investment promotion and support agency by ensuring a business-friendly environment for private sector development, and therefore robust and sustainable economic growth in Afghanistan.

Regional and Provincial Offices

AISA is headquartered in Kabul with regional offices in Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Khost, Helmand and Nanagarhar.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

AISA services include: individual client investment support, visa facilitation, organising domestic or foreign conferences and exhibitions, as well as providing opportunities for "matchmaking" between companies and investors. Since 2008 AISA has published an Investor directory, both online and in hard copy providing a listing of foreign and local companies operating in Afghanistan (a new edition is due in early 2014). Additionally, www.directory.asia.org.af allows visitors to search and verify businesses by name and license number.

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

Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP)

The Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP), signed by President Karzai in June 2010 aims to reintegrate into Afghan society all members of the armed opposition who are willing to renounce violence and accept the constitution of Afghanistan. It is the most comprehensive of any reintegration and reconciliation programme in Afghanistan thus far and is budgeted at a total of \$782 million.

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

The Government strategy has three pillars:

- Strengthening security and civilian institutions to promote peace and reintegration
- Facilitating political conditions for, and support to, the Afghan people to establish an enduring and just peace
- Enhancing national, regional and international support and consensus to foster peace and stability

These efforts are divided between two broad categories which operate simultaneously:

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

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

- Activities for social outreach, grievance resolution, confidence building, negotiations involving government and NGOs, and the mobilisation of local shuras to reach out to communities that demonstrate intent to join the peace process
- A 90-day demobilisation process whereby a combatant disarming is registered in the Reintegration Tracking and Monitoring Database managed by the Joint Secretariat, provided with an identification card guaranteeing freedom of movement and given amnesty
- A delivery of a “menu of options” designed to “consolidate peace and support community recovery” through improvement of basic service access, civic education, literacy, technical and vocational training, and employment

The APRP is present in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF)

www.worldbank.org/artf

The Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) was established in April 2002 as a means for coordinating donor funds to support the recurrent expenditures of the Government of Afghanistan (GoA). The ARTF is now one of the most important delivery mechanisms for channelling aid to the government’s core budget, not only for salaries and operating costs, but also for priority development programmes aimed at achieving the country’s national development targets. The Afghan government encourages donors to channel funding through the ARTF rather than through NGOs or other actors, because it sees the ARTF as a way of increasing Afghan ownership of the reconstruction process, facilitating the tracking and coordination of aid and increasing transparency. When donating funds to the ARTF, donors are able to specify a preference for supporting a particular government project or programme; such preferences are limited to 50 per cent of an agency’s annual contribution.

The 2012-2014 strategy is based on new donor financing of around \$3bn over the three year period, representing a substantial increase over the \$1.8bn received from donors during the three year period of 2007-2010. The ARTF is financing projects in the agriculture, rural development, human development, infrastructure and governance sectors. The ARTF supports elements of a core set of National Priority Programmes (NPPs) focused on delivering essential services, strengthening local institutions, agriculture and building infrastructure nationally.

- **Agriculture:** The strategy envisages \$250 million in new funding for this sector. Four projects would fulfill this. Two of the investments are under preparation (Strategic Grain Reserve and Agricultural Inputs Delivery). The Horticulture and Livestock Project (HLP) is an continuing project for which the World Bank and the Ministry of Agriculture are discussing a scaled-up investment in line with the new agriculture NPP.
- **Rural Development:** The strategy envisages \$666 million in new funding over the three-year period in the rural development sector. In accordance with the 5-year National Solidarity Programme (NSP) agreed upon by the World Bank and the GoA, incorporated in the NPP, the majority of funds are allocated to the NSP. To date \$390 million has been provided by IDA and ARTF. The programme absorbs \$150-250 million per annum.

- **Infrastructure:** The strategy includes \$585 million in new funding over the three year period for the infrastructure sector. Delivery of this ambitious target is heavily dependent on the capacity of line ministries, as well as the availability of donor funding and coordination across sectors. The main areas of on-going work in infrastructure are in rural access, the power sector and urban development. The Afghanistan Rural Access Project (ARAP) is a follow-on project to the on-going National Emergency Rural Access Program (NERAP). The project is expected to cost \$325 million over four years, with \$100 million of which is financed by IDA.
- **Human Development:** The strategy includes \$380 million in new funding over the three-year period in this sector. The core of the human development programme is the basic education programme (EQUIP) and the basic package of health services and the emergency package of hospital services (SHARP), both of which are on-going programmes and core components of the relevant NPPs. In education additional financing for EQUIP II and a follow-on project are to commence during this period.
- **Governance:** \$264 million will be allocated in new funding over the three year period in this sector. The three programmes of the ARTF on governance are components of three of the NPPs under discussion in the Governance Cluster: Financial and Economic Reforms, Efficient and Effective Government, and Law and Justice for All.
- **Gender:** While gender is not a sector in itself, it is an important crosscutting theme and of particular interest to ARTF donors and the World Bank. The World Bank has applied this approach since the start of its engagement and gender is, therefore an integral part of many ARTF projects.

The ARTF management committee consists of the World Bank (the administrator), the Asian Development Bank and the Afghan Ministry of Finance. The largest contributors to the Fund are the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. Other donors include 15 European countries, the EC, Australia, India, Iran, Turkey and the Gulf States.

Afghanistan's Renewable Energy (ARE)

The strategic goal of the Afghanistan energy sector is to provide energy services to the whole population of Afghanistan. The Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) has set the target of providing access to electricity to the rural population by 2020 and providing high quality services to all rural areas by 2050. The strategic goal of the related Afghan power sector is to provide power to the population throughout Afghanistan by 2032. Currently 28% of Afghan households are connected to power supply systems. The connection rate in provinces differs widely ranging from zero in rural areas to nearly 100% in urban areas. To achieve the goal of providing power for all of Afghanistan, a large investment effort in all sub-area infrastructures is needed, for generation expansion, transmission reinforcement and development.

In Afghanistan, renewable energy resources are hydro, solar, wind, biomass and geothermal sources. These offer the greatest opportunity for Afghanistan in general, and rural energy in particular, but unfortunately until now renewable resources are largely untapped in Afghanistan. The use of renewable energy for Afghanistan has different advantages especially under the natural conditions of Afghanistan and as well as the stage of development. A reliable and cost effective power supply of sufficient quality and quantity, is an important input for the sustainable development of Afghanistan and will support economic development and employment. Renewable energy sources are available throughout Afghanistan and offer the possibility of implementing energy supply solutions independent

of the national grid. A unique characteristic of renewable energy systems, in addition to being able to utilise resources that are available throughout Afghanistan where energy is required, is that these systems are available at any scale (from solar energy for watches to megawatt-scale centralised electricity generation). Until now, renewable energy systems have provided a significant proportion of energy needs in Afghanistan and still have a key role to play in Afghanistan for the following reasons:

- Improved access to energy
- Increased security of supply
- Equitably improved socio-economic conditions for people
- Reduced negative environmental effects
- Rapid implementation
- Access to funding and market mechanisms

Currently, no renewable energy sources contribute to on-grid power generation in Afghanistan, all existing renewable energy sources are off-grid and stand-alone. Renewable energy systems can be integrated into the national energy system in three different configurations, namely:

- Centralised energy systems with energy conversion in megawatt-scale power stations or bio-energy refineries. Decentralised energy systems with energy conversion at a smaller scale for decentralised electricity networks or biofuel/gas distribution systems
- Stand-alone systems at watt- and kilowatt-scale for direct conversion of renewable energy into hot water, lighting, cooking, etc.

The Renewable Energy Department (RED) is the main department responsible for all renewable energy project related work in Afghanistan. The RED works closely with other line ministries and departments so that renewable energy projects in Afghanistan proceed in accordance with the Energy Policy “Afghanistan National Energy Policy” and Energy Strategy of the Ministry of Energy and Water. The vision of the Renewable Energy Department is “To provide access to energy services that are efficient, affordable and environmentally sustainable for all people and all economic sectors in Afghanistan”. More information is available in the online database at www.mew.gov.af/en/page/2078

Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP)

www.aredp-mrrd.gov.af

The Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP) is a national government-led and multi-donor funded programme aiming to jumpstart and facilitate private sector growth in rural Afghanistan. The programme aims at strengthening the private sector by establishing an integrated value chain using top-down knowledge-based interventions, bottom-up community enterprise development, and by addressing credit and capital needs.

Estimated at \$88 million, the AREDP is managed through the AREDP Program Management Office within the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. The programme was officially initiated in June 2010.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement:

AREDP seeks to increase employment, the income of rural residents (men and women), and the sustainability of targeted local enterprises. The project has three key components:

- **Community Based Enterprise Development:** this aims at creating Savings Groups, Enterprise Groups, and Village Savings and Loans Associations, which are assisted and trained to build their own financial capacities, increase the value of trading, ensure production is oriented toward identified market opportunities and create credit access.
- **Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development:** this aims at supporting the emergence of a stronger SME sector with improved trading links to the rural economy and adequate access to financial services. The project identifies key value chains, “choke points” and skill gaps in each province, and enables SMEs to gain access to the technical support necessary for market development.
- **Project Management Support:** this aims at planning, managing, supervising and monitoring the implementation of all programme activities, as well as providing research and technical support services.

AREDP works in accordance with the following key principles:

- Market orientation
- Sustainable businesses
- Clients decide
- Improving coordination
- Building partnerships
- Crowding in, not crowding out
- Simple design
- Sharing best practices
- Vertical integration

Regional and Provincial Offices

AREDP is based in Kabul and is currently operational in Parwan, Bamyan, Nangarhar, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar and Helmand.

Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS)

The Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in 2003 launched the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) in collaboration with the World Bank, USAID and the European Commission as major funders. The BPHS has two objectives:

- To provide a standardised package of health services, which forms the core of service delivery in all primary healthcare facilities
- To promote a redistribution of health services by providing equitable access based on population density

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

Six levels of facility offer the defined package:

- Health posts
- Health sub-centres
- Mobile health teams
- Basic health centres
- Comprehensive health centres
- District hospitals

The BPHS also provides standards for staffing and infrastructure reconstruction and rehabilitation for these facilities, and has introduced primary eye care, private psychosocial counselling and physiotherapy as a result of a 2010 revision of the BPHS.

Calendars in Afghanistan

Three calendar systems are used in Afghanistan:

- The Hijrah-i-Shamsi (solar Islamic) calendar is Afghanistan's official calendar, in use officially since 1922 and re-established in the current Constitution (month names differ from the Iranian or Persian forms). In 2014 the Afghan year begins on 1 Hamal 1393 (21 March 2014).
- The Hijrah-i-Qamari (lunar Islamic) calendar, used for religious events and holidays.
- The Gregorian calendar, or Miladi (solar Christian), used in international relations.

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

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

Central Statistics Organization (CSO)

www.cso.gov.af

Established in 1973, the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) was declared an independent body by Presidential Decree in March 2006. The CSO is the central government agency responsible for the collection and dissemination of official statistics. The CSO collects and analyses data from other government entities on population and demographics, national accounts, price indexes and external trade. This is used for monitoring economic, financial and structural policies, as well as other activities.

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

According to Article 8 of the Statistics Law (2006 Official gazette no. 874), the CSO has the following duties and responsibilities:

- To collect, compile, analyse and publish statistical information relating to the commercial, industrial, financial, social, economic, environmental and general activities and condition of the people
- To collaborate with Ministries and administrations of the State in the collection, compilation and publication of statistical information, including statistics derived from their activities
- To prevent duplication of the information collected by Ministries and governmental administrations or by other non-state agencies
- To promote and develop integrated social and economic statistics throughout the country and to coordinate unified plans for their integration
- To develop and prescribe appropriate classifications and standards for use by line Ministries and other state administrations
- To progressively develop and maintain appropriate databases containing statistical information and to facilitate access to the databases for all users, except for confidential information as provided for in law
- To decide on the manner in which data for statistical purposes is collected, how it is compiled, and when and how reports and official statistics are published

The CSO produces:

- The Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook
- The Consumer Price Index Yearbook
- The Afghanistan Trade Statistical Yearbook (a publication focused on foreign trade)
- The Estimated Population of Afghanistan (with data on gender and rural-urban residence at the provincial and local levels)
- The CSO publishes a quarterly volume on foreign trade statistics
- The monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) and daily updates consumer price indexes in Kabul and Jalalabad

The CSO is headquartered in Kabul with sub-offices in all 34 provinces. The CSO reports directly to the President and is advised by the National Statistics Committee and the National Census Committee (established temporarily to conduct the national census). Both committees include representatives from various ministries and from the private sector. CSO publications are generally printed in Dari, Pashto and English, with information updates regularly reported on the CSO website. All organisations planning to conduct statistical research in Afghanistan are required by law to coordinate their activities with the CSO.

Clusters and National Priority Programs (NPPs)

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

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

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

- Security: Peace and Reintegration
- Governance: economic and financial reforms, National Transparency and Accountability Programme, Efficient and Effective Government, Local Governance, Law and Justice for All, Human Rights and Civic Responsibilities
- Human Resource Development: facilitation of sustainable decent work through skills development, education for all, expanding opportunities for higher education, capacity development to accelerate the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) implementation and Human Resources for Health
- Agriculture and Rural Development: National Water and Natural Resource Development Programme, National Comprehensive Agriculture Production and Market Development Programme, National Rural Access Programme and Strengthening Local Institutions
- Infrastructure Development: National Regional Resource Corridor Initiative, National Extractive Industry Excellence Programme, National Energy Supply Programme and National Urban Delivery Programme
- Private Sector Development: Integrated Trade and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Support Facility and E-Afghanistan

Consultative Loya Jirga

In 2013 President Hamid Karzai convened a Consultative Loya Jirga (Grand Council), to consult with elders and heads of tribes, civil society organisations (CSOs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) about the proposed Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with the United States which would legalise its future military presence in Afghanistan. The agreement had been negotiated for over a year, which occasionally turned into public mudslinging between the respective governments.

Convening Jirgas is a longstanding tradition within the Afghan political context. However, using them at the national level is relatively new. “The Loya Jirga developed as a state institution, but it harked back to large jirgas that Pushtun tribes had held in earlier centuries, when these tribes constituted both the main military force and, in effect, [were] the electors of the king. During periods of turmoil when Afghans recognised no legitimate ruler, such jirgas had taken key national decisions. Drawing on these precedents, Zahir Shah’s followers had developed a proposal for an Emergency Loya Jirga (ELJ) as a first step to reconstituting state power.”¹ Barfield argues, that in the recent political history of Afghanistan, the leaders have used Jirgas as a political tool, claiming that Jirgas are only convened when the president needs public approval for his policies. The invitees were usually supportive of the policy.²

The Jirga held on 22 November 2013 was, however, slightly different. Unlike the previous ones, the 2,500 invitees, subdivided into 50 committees, debated the Strategic Agreement for three days with the outcome being that all 50 committees unanimously voted for signing the agreement, stating that it would be beneficial for the Afghan people to have a close and friendly relationship with the United States. Small amendments such as restricting US troops from conducting house searches were suggested, all of which were adopted in the final draft. The Loya Jirga strongly advised President Karzai to sign the document before the end of 2013, as had been suggested by US officials. President Karzai, however, overruled the proposed date and stated that the agreement would have to be signed by the next Afghan President to be elected in April 2014.

Such an outcome for a Loya Jirga is new in the context of Afghan politics, and it is yet to be seen, how this will proceed in the future.

1 Rubin, B. (2004) *Crafting a Constitution For Afghanistan*, page 7.

2 Barfield, T. (2009) *A Cultural and Political History*, 295.

Development Assistance Database (DAD)

www.dadafghanistan.gov.af/

With the support of UNDP, the Ministry of Finance established the Development Assistance Database (DAD) in June 2002. This web-based database aims to provide up-to-date information on all projects that fall within the national development budget, as well as some extra-budgetary projects. The database stores detailed information about the location of development projects, who is financing them and which organisations are involved in their implementation. The DAD relies on the provision of data from development project funders and implementers, including government organisations, development partners and UN agencies. The database is available in English and Dari.

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

Government Media and Information Centre (GMIC)

www.gmic.gov.af

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

The GMIC's four programme departments serve the goals of the centre:

- The Capacity Building Department (CBD) is building communications capacity in Afghan government communications offices and develops and conducts educational activities linked to the needs of the Afghan government
- The Media Relations Department (MRD) works to develop and implement a comprehensive communication and coordination system in which information producing and distributing entities take an active part and enhance the flow of information to and from the Afghan public and other stakeholders
- The media monitoring area analyses print and electronic media, and provides news and analysis of important national and international events affecting Afghanistan to senior government officials
- The Public Outreach Department (POD) is the awareness-raising unit within GMIC's structure. POD aims at developing a nationwide information collection and dissemination network through which the Afghan public and other audiences are informed about the progress of the Government of Afghanistan (GoA)

High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOOAC)

www.anti-corruption.gov.af

The High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOOAC) was created by Presidential decree in July 2008. The Afghan government committed itself, under the supervision of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) to administer and implement the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. Anti-corruption is also a crosscutting issue of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). In 2006, President Karzai set up the Inter-Institutional Committee on Corruption, which was tasked with assessing remedies for corruption within Afghanistan. This produced the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, which in turn recommended the creation of the HOOAC.

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

The HOOAC's 2011-2013 strategic plan highlights the dangers of increased corruption as governance is devolved to the sub-national level. In response to this threat, the HOOAC is developing four regional offices in the Central, North, East, West and Southwest regions of Afghanistan.

Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC)

www.iarcsc.gov.af

In May 2002, an independent Civil Service Commission was established as required by the Bonn Agreement, it was set up to lead the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) process for public administration reform. Its responsibilities were subsequently amended and extended by two Presidential decrees in June 2003, and the Commission was renamed the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC).

The Commission's work is aimed at building a public administration in Afghanistan that is:

- Sound
- Functional
- Transparent
- Effective
- Accountable
- Responsible
- Apolitical
- Impartial

The Commission is composed of the following units:

- Civil Service and Management Department
- Civil Service Secretariat
- Civil Service Institute
- Independent Appointments Board
- Independent Appeals Board
- Programme Design and Co-ordination Directorate

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

Regional and Provincial Offices

The commission currently has seven regional offices, 34 provincial offices and 27 training centres.

Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG)

www.idlg.gov.af

The Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) was established on 30 August 2007 pursuant to a decree by the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. IDLG was created with the mandate of transferring civilian responsibilities of the Ministry of Interior to an Independent entity. Furthermore, in accordance with the Presidential decree, the responsibility of supporting the Provincial Councils was delegated to IDLG which is the only entity responsible for local governance.

IDLG prepared its Strategic Framework in October 2007 and prepared and presented its strategic work plan in March 2008.

The strategic plan has divided the responsibilities of IDLG into four major sections which are policy development, institutional development (including public administrations reform, capacity building, improving infrastructure, supporting municipalities, reducing corruption and drawing roadmap, and administrative boundaries), comprehensive governance activities (including support to governance development, fight against opium in the provinces, increasing participation of people in government affairs and conducting relationship with the elected entities), and supporting unit for facilitation in effective implementation of national programs in the sub-national level.

IDLG has been established with the objective of a positive change in the people's life through provision of good governance in the sub-national level. The mandate of this office is provision of good sub-national governance and consolidating peace and stability and putting efforts in a balanced development and economic growth in the country.

The National Priority Program for Local Governance (NPPLG) has four key components each with several sub-components and indicators. This plan was endorsed by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and international development partners in 2012 as the only credible and

comprehensive document for sub national governance for a period of four years (2012 - 2015). All priorities and activities for local governance and commitments of the international community have been envisioned in accordance with this plan and the IDLG plays the leadership role in the implementation of this plan.

As a result of IDLG efforts with strong support of its national programs funded by the international development partners, the national priority program for local governance has been implemented with more than 65% progress so far.

Sub-National Governance Framework: information and awareness campaigns have been conducted in national and local levels to raise the level of understanding and awareness in regard to the implementation framework of sub national governance policy in cooperation and participation of the relevant ministries and administrations led by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance.

Legislative Reform: the Local Administration law has been prepared and endorsed by Ministry of Justice and Legislative Committee of the Cabinet and has been sent to Parliament for approval. The law for Provincial Councils has been revised and after endorsement of relevant entities and the cabinet, it has been approved by the Parliament. The new law on municipalities has been prepared and is under revision of the Legislative Committee of the Council of Cabinet.

Reform in Sub National Finance and Planning: IDLG has supported and played a significant role in formulation of the provincial budgeting policy prepared by the Ministry of Finance.

Infrastructures and Facilities for Provinces and Districts: A total of 20 infrastructure projects such as construction of administrative and residential buildings for provinces, districts and provincial councils of various provinces including large and small infrastructure projects for the Islamic Cultural Center in Ghazni province were completed. 25 other infrastructure projects have been contracted and are under implementation in several provinces. The office of provincial governor of Ghazni has been technically supported in planning, procuring and implementing infrastructure and developmental projects of the Islamic Cultural Center in that province.

Public Administration Reform: a total number of 18 deputy provincial governors have been recruited through the merit-based process which brings the total number of deputy provincial governors to 32. During the year 2013, a total number of 126 district governors have been recruited through merit-based process. Therefore, the number of district governors recruited through merit-based reached to 234 and 15 district governor positions has been advertised. 20 directors for the central departments and provinces have been recruited and the pay and grading system has been launched in 11 municipalities of the country. The progress of implementation of pay and grading system in the center and provinces reached to 88% in accordance with the approved structure of IDLG.

Support to Cross-Cutting and National Issues: The IDLG's Peace and Reintegration Unit has facilitated and coordinated peace and reintegration activities in the center, provinces and districts. IDLG's APRP functions as a bridge between the IDLG and the secretariat of High Peace Council to ensure long term support of provincial governors, district governors, and local entities for peace and stability. A framework for devolution of Provincial Reconstruction Teams has been developed and a working committee has been established to dissolve the provincial reconstruction teams with the cooperation of the relevant ministries and the required extent of support and cooperation have been provided to implement the framework to eradicate parallel structures and the provincial reconstruction teams.

IDLG cooperated and traveled with the Transition Coordination Commission to various provinces for assessment of transition process and also provided support and facilitated the fourth and fifth rounds of transition process in the provinces.

Mineral and Hydrocarbon Resources

A 2010 geological survey conducted by the Pentagon estimated the value of Afghanistan's mineral reserves deposits at \$1 trillion, while other estimates have reached as high as \$3 trillion. Afghanistan has two presently known world-class mineral deposits—the copper deposit at Aynak and iron ore at Hajigak. Afghanistan also has potential for gold and gemstones. In the mining sector there are no large commercial scale mines, although some smaller state-owned coalmines do constitute the highest payer of taxes among government enterprises nationwide. The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP) has estimated that by 2024 mineral extraction will be supplying between 42-45% of Afghanistan's GDP.

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

Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India signed the TAPI Gas Pipeline Agreement in 2010. It is estimated to be one of Afghanistan's largest development projects and will transport 33 billion cubic metres of natural gas per year from Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan ending in India. About 735 km of the 1,753 long pipeline will go through Afghanistan.

The World Bank is currently running the Second Sustainable Development of Natural Resources Project, a five-year \$52 million project due to run until June 2016. In 2012 the MoMP launched the Afghan Compressed Natural Gas industry to provide Afghan consumers with cheaper and cleaner domestically produced alternatives to petrol and diesel for vehicles and power generation.

Foremost among a number of major contracts two tenders have been granted to foreign companies to begin extraction in Afghanistan. In 2008, mining rights for the Aynak copper deposit were negotiated with a consortium led by the Metallurgical Corps of China (MCC). As part of their bid, MCC agreed to:

- Build a copper smelting plant.
- Produce 250,000 tons of copper per year.
- Construct 900km of rail infrastructure.
- Develop a 400 megawatt coal-fired power plant.
- Pay royalties to the GoA.

In 2011, tenders for the Hajigak iron ore deposits were granted to Kilo Goldmines of Canada and to a consortium led by the Steel Authority of India (SAI). SAI stated that they planned to invest \$11 billion in Afghanistan to develop extraction, build a steel plant, a power plant and construct rail infrastructure.

The Qarazaghan gold mine in Baghlan province was contracted out in January 2011 to a joint venture of Afghan Krystal Natural Resources (AKNR) and Central Asian Resources (CENTAR). The investment for the 10-year exploration and exploitation contract amounts to \$50 million.

In December 2011, the GoA continued its drive to expand the mineral exploitation sector, opening the tender process for four large copper and gold concessions in the provinces of Herat, Sar-i-Pul, Ghazni and Badakhshan, and signing its first international oil production agreement in several decades. In an agreement with the China National Petroleum Corps and Watan Group allowing the development of oil deposits in the Amu Darya Basin, in the provinces of Sar-i-Pul and Faryab.

In October 2013, MoMP signed a multi-year oil exploration and production contract with an international consortium of energy companies for two deposits of the Afghan-Tajik oil and gas basin in Northern Afghanistan. In December 2013 the MoMP conducted a competitive bidding process, a tender, for a chromite concession located in the Char Asyab district of Kabul province.

Ministry Counter-Narcotics (MCN)

www.mcn.gov.af

The politically and economically destabilising effects of poppy cultivation in Afghanistan have been recognised by both the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and the international community. In recent years the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics (MCN) has intensified its counter-narcotics (CN) efforts, encouraging the national and international development ministries to strengthen and diversify licit rural livelihoods. The MCN also supports a variety of ministries and initiatives, including the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the National Directorate of Security, the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) and the Afghan National Police (ANP) in their efforts to pursue traffickers and eradicate opium crops where farmers have viable alternatives.

However, “Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan reached a sobering record high in 2013. According to the 2013 Afghanistan Opium Survey, cultivation amounted to some 209,000 hectares, outstripping the earlier record in 2007 of 193,000 hectares, representing a 36% increase over 2012. Moreover, two provinces that had previously been declared poppy-free, Faryab and Balkh in Northern Afghanistan lost this status. All in all, opium production in 2013 went up to some 5,500 tonnes, a 49% increase over 2012” (UNODC 2013).³

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement:

Recognising counter-narcotics as a crosscutting issue, the MCN oversees policy, strategy, implementation and coordination of all counter narcotics related activities. The Ministry works closely with several partners, including the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, the Ministry of Public Health, the

³ UNODC (2013) ‘Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013

Ministry of Finance, and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. As defined in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the 2006 National Drug Control Strategy. There are two institutions designed to enforce CN legislation, both of which fall under the Deputy Minister of Interior for Counter-Narcotics: the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) and the Afghan Special Narcotics Force. The 2,500-troop strong CNPA is the primary agency responsible for coordinating counter narcotics law enforcement, as well as detecting and investigating significant drug-trafficking offences. International bodies, such as the National Interdiction Unit and the Sensitive Investigation Unit, advised by the US Drug Enforcement Agency, mentor various central units of the CNPA. The Afghan Special Narcotics Force carries out interdiction operations throughout Afghanistan, working closely with the CNPA. Counter narcotics training is also provided to the ANP, including the Border Police.

National Budget

www.budgetmof.gov.af

Each year the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) produces a national budget, which is an estimate of the cost of providing services for that year and specifies how these services are to be paid for. As usual, the year SY1393 will, for budgetary purposes and by regulation, only have nine months, the budget is therefore estimated and prepared for that period. The national budget for the SY1393 (2014-2015) fiscal year is Afs 444.192 billion, the equivalent of approximately \$7.932 billion, which is 28% higher than SY1392. Since SY1390, this total figure has represented the core budget only, excluding development funds to be spent outside government channels.

The National Budget is funded from three sources: domestic revenue, donor assistance and loans: for SY1393 \$2.379 billion (30%) was funded by domestic revenues and \$5.113 billion (64%) by donor assistance, leaving a deficit of 6%.

Expenditure is classified according to its purpose. The Ordinary Budget is money spent on the day-to-day running costs of the government, such as the salaries of civil servants, teachers, national army and policemen; the running costs of offices and other operational premises; and the purchase of equipment and machinery such as computers and vehicles. Most of this expenditure is funded from taxation and other domestic sources. The operating budget for SY1393 is \$4.925 billion.

Alongside the Ordinary Budget is the country's internal or "core" Development Budget. Managed by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) according to the government's own accounting procedures, this money is spent by the government on expanding and improving service provision. Most of this expenditure is in the form of development projects—building new schools and universities, constructing new roads, installing new water supply and sanitation schemes, supporting and developing agriculture, and enhancing the capacity of human resources. The core development budget for SY1393 is \$3.007 billion.

National Solidarity Programme (NSP)

www.nspafghanistan.org

The National Solidarity Programme (NSP), currently in its 11th year and third phase (NSP III), is recognised as the largest development initiative in Afghanistan and the second-largest community driven development programme in the world. The programme aims to build local governance and provide basic infrastructure in all rural communities in the country. In the face of transition, the objective of NSP III is to build, strengthen and maintain Community Development Councils (CDCs), as effective institutions for local governance and socioeconomic development.

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

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

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) implements the NSP through a project implementation unit involving headquarters, 6 regional coordination units and 34 provincial management units. The NSP considers CDCs as its primary implementers. CDC establishment, capacity building and technical assistance have been outsourced to 30 national and international firms, serving as the NSP's Facilitating Partners (FPs).

The NSP has been implemented in three phases:

- Phase I (2003-2007): contracted FPs to cover 17,300 communities with a first round of block grants
- Phase II (2007-2011): contracted FPs to cover another 5,900 communities with a first round of block grants
- Phase III (2010-2015): will contract FPs to cover another 15,100 communities with a first round of block grants and another 12,600 existing communities with a second round of block grants

The subprojects financed in the NSP are mostly rural infrastructure and may broadly be classified under the following sectors:

- Transport
- Water and Sanitation
- Irrigation
- Power
- Education
- Miscellaneous

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

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

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

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

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

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

In nature an executive body, the OAA is designed to be impartial. It does not formulate policies, it rather coordinates their development. The Office and Secretariat review policies drafted by ministries and ensures their compliance with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy by addressing crosscutting initiatives and containing a clear and accurate budget. When the OAA approves a draft policy, it is forwarded to the President and Cabinet for final review and approval. If a policy is approved, the OAA then monitors and evaluates its implementation.

Transition

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

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

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

Transition is the process by which the lead responsibility for security in Afghanistan is gradually transferred from the NATO-led ISAF to ANSF. The goal is for Afghan forces to assume complete responsibility for security across the country by the end of 2014, when all NATO-led allies and US combat operations are to officially end. A post-2014 presence and the involvement of foreign military is under discussion at the moment. It has been decided that a majority of Afghan security forces expenses will be borne by the international community—more than half by the US. Long-term involvement by foreign military in the capacity of advising, training and equipping has been agreed upon as well.

Transition criteria

An area's suitability for transition was determined by assessments of security, governance and development on the ground. Amongst other factors whether:

- ANSF was capable of shouldering greater security tasks with less ISAF assistance
- Security was maintained at a level that allowed the population to participate in routine daily activities
- Local governance was sufficiently developed so that security was not undermined, as ISAF assistance reduced
- ISAF was ready to reduce its presence, as ANSF capabilities developed and threat levels diminished

The process was not completed suddenly and at times required from a couple of weeks to more than a year for the full transition to take effect.

Status of Transition

Technically all of the following five-phases of transition scheduled and led by Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, have been completed, so Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are in charge of security in all provinces:

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

Tranche 2: On 27 November 2011, President Karzai announced the second set to undergo transition—a total of 6 provinces wholly transferred, and an additional 7 provincial capital cities and 43 districts from 9 provinces. The completion of this tranche left ANSF with responsibility for the security for over 50% of the population.

Tranche 3: On 13 May 2012, President Karzai announced the third set of areas to enter the transition process (three provinces and 122 districts). This third tranche included security transition of all remaining provincial capitals, including capitals where security was known to be a challenge. This third tranche covered over 75% of the Afghan population.

Tranche 4: While the fourth phase was initially only anticipated to be announced in 2013, on 30 December 2012 Dr. Ashraf Ghani announced 12 provinces and 1 district in Helmand to undergo transition. With this, Afghan security forces lead security operations in 23 out of the 34 provinces, and as such were responsible for the security of 87% of the Afghan population.

Tranche 5: On 18 June 2013, President Karzai announced the launch of the fifth and final tranche of transition. Once this has been fully implemented, the remaining 11 provinces will fully enter transition and Afghan forces will be responsible for security across the whole country.

Support for transition

Since the beginning of the transition process, ISAF's support for the ANSF has remained significant, especially in regards to the provision of key enabling capabilities. This support is expected to remain until ANSF becomes fully capable of acting independently. Thereafter, cooperation between NATO and Afghanistan will continue under the Enduring Partnership Agreement (signed at the Lisbon Summit in 2010) with a new mission, which will involve training, advising and assisting ANSF. Military Advisory and Police Advisory Teams will carry out training, advising and assisting of ANSF. The Operation Co-ordination Centres Advisory Teams are key elements in supporting ANSF commanders in coordinating the deployment of forces in their area, and are the means by which ISAF support may be requested.

The transfer of command operations is also accompanied by a rapid increase in the size of the ANSF. However, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has also agreed in principle to reduce ANSF to 230,000 personnel after the NATO mission in Afghanistan ends.

Water Resources

The majority of Afghans rely on subsistence farming for survival, conservation of water resources is vital. Rural communities rely on sufficient precipitation to irrigate crops.

Annually, Afghanistan receives around 2,775 cubic meters of water per capita, comfortably above the 1,700 cubic meters per capita threshold considered necessary to satisfy a population's water needs. However, this significant quantity of water is not uniformly distributed across the country. For instance, the Northern river basin contains only 3% of the country's water volume, giving an average of 676 cubic meters per capita for the region—close to the water scarcity threshold of 500 cubic meters per capita.

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

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

With the water sector seen as a key part of achieving Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals, a Water Sector Strategy was created under the infrastructure pillar of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). Water also features prominently in other sector strategies such as agriculture, energy, the environment, and rural and urban development. With regards to water governance, efforts have mainly focused on developing policies and strategies such as the Water Sector Strategy 2008 and the Water Law 2009 (Official gazette no. 980). The Strategy's short-term goals, such as extending access to sanitary water to 90 percent of villages were due to be completed in 2010. Medium term goals, such as the reform and development of legal and governance structures in the water sector were to be completed by 2013. And long term goals, such as the rehabilitation of existing water infrastructure and the construction of new infrastructure are to be completed by 2023 and beyond.

Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society

Afghan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo)

www.acsf.af

The Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organisation (ACSFo)—formerly ACSF—is a network of Afghan civil society actors and groups. It provides a platform for dialogue, and aims to develop and strengthen the role of civil society in political decision-making processes. ACSFo was founded at the Afghan Civil Society Conference held in parallel with the Bonn Conference in 2001 at Bad Honnef, Germany. ACSFo was initially supported by the swisspeace Foundation and has been an independent local entity since January 2006. Its vision is a democratic, dynamic and vibrant society based upon the values of civil society. ACSFo's mission is to facilitate the process of civic education, good citizenship and state building through capacity building, civic education and coordination. ACSFo's goal is to foster the development of a diverse, inclusive and united civil society.

ACSFo has 211 members, including 146 organisational and 65 individual members; there are also 314 partners for capacity building, civic education and advocacy, research, coordination and peace building.

Provincial Offices

ACSFo has a main library and a resource center in the Kabul head office and maintains civic education resource centres in the following regional offices: Bamyán, Samangan, Ghor, Kunduz, Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalablad, Parwan, Kandahar and Gardez.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

From 2002-05, ACSFo supported the implementation of the Bonn Agreement and conducted educational, media and advocacy activities on the constitution-making process, as well as carrying out civic education and registration campaigns for the 2004 presidential and 2005 parliamentary elections. Since 2005 ACSFo has modified its approach, moving away from public outreach towards support for institution building.

Afghan Development Association (ADA)

www.ada.org.af

The Afghan Development Association (ADA) is a non-government, non-profit and non-political organisation. It promotes and provides development and humanitarian related services to the people of Afghanistan. ADA is one of Afghanistan's largest NGOs focusing on promoting long-term sustainable development. Through training and development programmes, ADA empowers participants to become agents of change. Additionally ADA works with partners to carry out local activities and research, providing insight into consultation processes and multi-stakeholder dialogues.

ADA has long standing relationships with target communities and is working in geographic regions where insecurity has kept most other development organisations away. Its programmes aim to enable communities to become increasingly self-reliant and economically stable.

Regional and Provincial Offices

Nangarhar, Laghman, Parwan, Kapisa, Paktika, Faryab, Kunduz, Takhar, Zabul, Kandahar, and Uruzgan Provinces.

ADA Staff

ADA has 597 paid staff, approximately 10% female.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Capacity Building and Training (vocational training, income generation, micro credit and business competitiveness)
- Education (child and youth protection and development, formal and informal education)
- Environmental Protection (climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation)
- Advocacy and Social Research
- Surveying and Agricultural Engineering
- Peace Building and Conflict Resolution
- Gender and Human Rights
- Good Governance, Counter Narcotics and Anti-Corruption
- Emergency and Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)

Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB)

www.ancb.org

The Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB) was founded in 1991 and aims to coordinate the activities of Afghan NGOs with the Afghan government, the UN, international organisations and donor agencies. ANCB facilitates workshops, seminars and partnerships to enhance the capacity of its 200 member organisations.

ANCB membership is restricted to Afghan NGOs. Applications are considered and approved by the 15-member Board of Directors elected for one year by the General Assembly.

ANCB Staff

ANCB has 20 employees, 4 are female as is 1 volunteer.

Regional and Provincial Offices

ANCB has headquarters in Kabul and satellite offices in Nangarhar and Maidan Wardak.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

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

Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

www.afghanwomensnetwork.org

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

Regional and Provincial Offices

Based in Kabul, the Network supports the operations of member organisations in 28 provinces.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

In 2012, the AWN supported two women delegates to participate in side events at the NATO Chicago Summit and developed a response to the communiqué. The AWN also introduced a female speaker to address the Tokyo Conference in July 2012. The AWN maintains a library and internet cafe for use by women's NGOs and the AWN's website allows member organisations to submit activity reports as well as access training and other resources online.

Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN)

www.aan-afghanistan.com

The Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN) is an independent non-profit policy research organisation. The organisational aim is to bring together the knowledge and experience of a large number of experts to better inform policy and increase understanding on Afghan realities. It is driven by engagement and curiosity and is committed to produce analysis on Afghanistan and the region which is independent, of a high quality and evidenced-based.

Since its founding in 2009 AAN's publications have informed and influenced the work of policymakers, journalists, academics and development workers. AAN's analysts are regularly asked to address

conferences and provide briefings around the world and frequently appear as commentators in the media.

AAN has a permanent office in Kabul staffed with national and international researchers as well as a wider network of contributors with expertise in the fields of Afghan politics, governance, rule of law, security and regional affairs. AAN operates on core funding from the governments of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands. AAN regularly publishes in-depth thematic reports, policy briefings, discussion papers and dispatches. All publications are available on the AAN website.

Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU)

www.acku.edu.af

The ACKU was founded as a result of the efforts of Nancy Hatch Dupree and many associates who had collected documents relating to Afghanistan since the late 1970s. It aims to ensure that information is made available to researchers, policy-makers, development planners and the wider Afghan public. Established in 1989 in Peshawar (Pakistan), as the ACBAR (Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief) Resource and Information Centre (ARIC), it supported humanitarian aid workers assisting Afghan refugee and cross-border programmes. In 2003 a branch was established at the ACBAR office in Kabul and in 2005 ARIC became independent, registering as ACKU with the Ministry of Economy. In July 2006, the entire ACKU collection was transferred from Peshawar to the Central Library of Kabul University.

With a collection of more than 80,000 documents in Dari, Pashto, English and other languages, as well as thousands of photographs and other items relating to the history of Afghanistan, ACKU's holdings represent an invaluable resource for the country. The material comes from the Afghan government, UN agencies, NGOs and international scholars and observers. It includes practical works on health and agriculture, analyses on political and human rights issues, legislation and policy documents, statistics and research reports, agricultural surveys, information on cultural heritage and the arts, Afghan literature and material from the Mujahiddin and the Taliban eras. More than 790,000 pages, or around 35% of the existing collection, has been digitised as part of the effort to safeguard this material and facilitate access by Afghans and those further afield.

ACKU has sought to reach out to Afghans outside Kabul through the ACKU Box Library Extension (ABLE), which encourages a culture of reading by making material available through small lending libraries. managed by local community custodians (including teachers, NGO staff, shopkeepers and mullahs) these 'box libraries' contain titles on a range of topics including history, the environment, home management, good health practices, the use of computers and dictionaries. ABLE has supplied more than 243,400 books to more than 215 schools and community libraries. 137 books, in Dari and Pashto, for new literates have been commissioned from Afghan authors and published, on subjects including mother-child care, agriculture, animal welfare, Islam, etc.

In 2005, ACKU signed a memorandum of understanding with Kabul University and the Ministry of Higher Education that provided a temporary space for the collection at the university library. In 2007, President Karzai authorised funds from the budget of the Ministry of Higher Education for the construction of a new facility for ACKU on the university campus. The new facility was opened officially on 27 March, 2013.

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industries (ACCI)

www.acci.org.af

Established in 1931, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industries (ACCI or “Chamber”) is an independent organisation serving the advocacy and business facilitation needs of a burgeoning private sector economy.

The vision of the ACCI is to be the leading voice of a dynamic, competitive, and rapidly growing Afghan private sector. The ACCI seeks to accomplish this mission by providing leadership and services to foster an enabling private sector environment that generates employment and creates wealth for local and international businesses.

In order to achieve its vision and implement its mission, ACCI has adopted four strategic objectives in the next five years.

- Consolidate ACCI as the premier voice of business and economic development in Afghanistan.
- Win the confidence, support and participation of businesses in every sector of the economy and represent their interests in a reliable and sustainable manner, in accordance with their membership category.
- Attain a level of influence to shape the enabling environment for doing business in Afghanistan, across its borders, and to nurture public and private strategic partnerships in the interest of economic growth and employment creation.
- Enhance and sustain organisational, managerial, technical, and financial capacity of the chamber system by establishing clear roles and functions in its structure and operation at national, regional and provincial levels

ACCI Staff

309 staff (21% female, 79% male).

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

Alongside current projects, research undertakings will continue in 2014.

Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS)

www.aiss.af

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

The AISS furthers its mission by:

- Generating research
- Entering partnership agreements with respected and like-minded research institutes
- Publishing books and journals
- Translating books and articles from English into Dari and Pashto, and vice versa
- Organising national and international seminars, conferences, workshops and briefings
- Offering executive leadership training programmes
- Integrating conventional, social media tools and networks in all its activities

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement:

- Democratic state-building process
- National security
- Sustainable economic development
- Regional cooperation/integration
- US/West-Afghanistan strategic partnerships
- Islamic renaissance
- Khorasan of ideas (national/regional cultural integration/renewal)

Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organisation (APPRO)

www.appro.org.af

The Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organisation (APPRO) is a Kabul based, non-profit, independent social research organisation promoting social and policy learning to benefit development efforts in Afghanistan. To that end, APPRO seeks to fill gaps in the knowledge of existing policy-making processes and build on that knowledge through their own research to deliver evidence-based recommendations in a pragmatic and practical manner. This approach is aimed at generating critical, as well as constructive dialogue on development.

APPRO Staff

APPRO has an Executive Director, a Director of Research, a Director of Communications, 5 Research Project Managers, Finance and Administration Manager and a number of researchers and service staff. The total number of staff is 30, the gender ratio is approximately 35% female to 65% male.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

Research work is roughly divided between gender related issues (70%) and various socio-economic issues (30%). This trend is likely to continue in 2014. APPRO has already conducted two rounds of monitoring of the impacts of transition on women and will conduct three more during 2014.

Afghanistan Watch (AW)

www.watchafghanistan.org

Afghanistan Watch (AW) is an independent, non-governmental, non-political and non-profit organisation focused on activities such as the promotion of justice, respect for human rights, and a culture of accountability and transparency. Based in Kabul, the organisation aims to conduct in-depth research, deliver reports and papers on issues relevant to its goals and values, either independently or in partnership with other national and international organisations.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

AW regularly publishes studies on Afghanistan, including comparative cases from the region on issues such as political inclusion, human rights, conflict and the culture of accountability. In addition to conducting research, AW has experience in:

- Facilitating dialogue, discussion and debate
- Producing video and audio documentaries
- Advocating for policy change
- Capacity building in local (rural and urban) areas
- Publishing a newsletter 'Truth' in Dari and English

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)

www.acbar.org

The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR) is an umbrella organisation that promotes transparency, and accountability, in addition it facilitates coordination among NGOs in Afghanistan. ACBAR was founded in 1988 by NGOs working with Afghan refugees in Pakistan and acts as a conduit for information among the UN, NGOs, donors and the Government of Afghanistan (GoA). Among its funders are Japan (Peace Winds Japan) and Tawanmandi and its NGO members. ACBAR has a membership of 114 national and international NGOs. All applicants are vetted and are required to sign the Afghanistan NGO Code of Conduct. The General Assembly of ACBAR members meets twice a year and the 16-member steering committee (12 full and 4 alternates) meet monthly in Kabul. The chair of the committee is always Afghan, while other members are representatives of both Afghan and international NGOs. Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement:

ACBAR organises its work along four lines:

- The Information/Coordination team is responsible for disseminating information, organising meetings, keeping records of NGO activities across the country, maintaining an NGO Directory, and other communication initiatives
- The Advocacy and Policy team facilitates the exchange of views and information among NGOs to help them “develop and sustain a joint, field-led voice on key issues as they develop”
- The Code of Conduct officer is responsible for promoting and monitoring good governance practices among NGOs, and capacity-building among NGOs as well as line ministries/departments on laws

relevant to NGOs, the code of conduct and 'Sphere' standards

- The Civil Society and State Institutions Interaction team is responsible for working jointly with other NGO/Civil Society networks to structure and strengthen civil society organisations and to build relationships with the government and parliament

ACBAR also assists in the nomination of NGO representatives to government-led inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and regularly advises NGOs on NGO laws and regulations, labour law, income tax law, human rights in conflict and women's rights from Islamic perspectives. ACBAR represented the NGO community at the Afghanistan Development Forum in 2004, 2005 and 2007, and NGOs and civil society at the 2008 Paris Conference, the 2009 Hague Conference, the 2010 London Conference, the National Consultative Peace Jirga and Kabul Conference. ACBAR also facilitates the Civil Society Consultation Board, which interacts with the GoA and UNAMA.

Regional and Provincial Offices

In addition to its main office in Kabul, ACBAR has sub-offices in Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif.

Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)

www.cshrn.af

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

CSHRN's 124 member organisations work individually and collectively to advocate for human rights—including women's rights—freedom of speech, press freedom and the rule of law. Working to facilitate and maintain a dialogue with state institutions, the CSHRN organises debates between member organisations, state institutions and traditional leaders. CSHRN has an experienced pool of trainers who have developed a range of training manuals specifically tailored to the Afghan context, focusing on human rights, conflict transformation, transitional justice, women's rights, international human rights mechanisms, UNSCR 1325 and strategic planning. The CSHRN uses the media to educate and promote a human rights discourse with its own quarterly magazine, *Angaara* and a weekly radio program, *The Voice*. CSHRN also features in *Killid* magazine and local radios in Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat. As well, CSHRN carries out issue-based and policy-based advocacy projects. CSHRN's vision is a society based on democracy and the rule of law in accordance with human rights, and a society, where all people are aware of their rights and claim them through the rule of law.

Regional and Provincial Offices

CSHRN is headquartered in Kabul, with provincial offices in Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Bamyan, Khost and Herat.

CSHRN Staff

The total number staff working in the secretariat is 31, including 9 support staff. Of the 22 staff involved in administrative and managerial issues 8 are female.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

Member organisations constitute the CSHRN General Assembly, the overall policy and decision-making body of the network. A Steering Committee of eleven elected members ensures that CSHRN activities adhere to the agreed standards and strategy.

The current programme provides services for member and partner organisations under five strategic key result areas:

1. Coordination services
2. Capacity building (thematic and institutional capacity building programs)
3. Monitoring of human rights situation jointly with member organisations
4. Public awareness programmes
5. Issue based and policy based advocacy

For the transition period, CSHRN has developed Humanitarian Law Educational Manual and would like to – jointly with Red Cross- conduct training workshops for national security forces. The aim is to decrease civilian casualties during operations executed by national forces.

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

The 2010 Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) for Afghanistan was the first time since 2002 that humanitarian actors convened to develop a coherent plan to address the chronic needs of the Afghan people. With input from 47 organisations, the HAP outlined the humanitarian community's plans and collective strategy. HAP priorities focused on a cross-section of humanitarian, recovery, and development needs and vulnerabilities caused by a combination of extreme poverty, increasing insecurity, natural disasters and weak governance.

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

Projects are organised under nine clusters and sectors:

- Coordination
- Education
- Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items

- Food Security and Agriculture
- Health
- Multi-Sectoral (for IDPs and refugee returnees)
- Nutrition
- Protection
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Alongside the crosscutting objectives of gender, environmental protection and resilience, the four strategic objectives of the 2013 CAP were to:

- Reinforce the protection of civilians
- Reduce mortality and morbidity
- Assist the displaced, returnees, and host communities
- Restore livelihoods for the most vulnerable

Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU)

www.cpau.org.af

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

CPAU also focuses heavily on producing groundbreaking research on Afghanistan and peacebuilding. In the past five years, CPAU's research department has published over 30 reports, analyses, and evaluations, each of which highlight an integral component of peacebuilding work in Afghanistan. Notable past research works include: an in-depth study conducted in 2007 with DFID "Drivers of Radicalisation;" and a research series for the Center for Policy and Human Development/UNDP exploring water scarcity, livelihood, and conflict. CPAU's research department has made CPAU one of the foremost authorities on peacebuilding policy, both in Afghanistan and in Europe. CPAU's current and ongoing projects will continue to focus on peacebuilding and reducing violence, with a commitment to continue serving Afghanistan well into the future.

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

www.cha-net.org

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) is a non-profit humanitarian organisation founded in 1987. Its strategic aims are to reduce poverty and vulnerability, ensure fair distribution of resources, facilitate reliable social and economic development, and ensure the basic rights of the citizens of

Afghanistan. Its sister organisations are the Organization for Human Resources Development (OHRD), Saba Media Organization (SMO) and Watch on Basic Rights Organization (WBRO). CHA's vision is to be an effective, reliable, inventive and pioneer organisation in the field of community development and vulnerability reduction.

Regional and Provincial Offices

CHA began its operations in just two districts of Farah Province, but soon expanded its activities into eight additional provinces: Kabul, Kandahar, Balkh, Herat, Ghor, Faryab, Parwan and Kapisa. CHA is one of the largest national NGOs in Afghanistan.

CHA Staff

Currently CHA has 1,942 Afghan technical and support staff, they are working in various projects focused mainly in rural areas. Females make up 493 (25%) with the remaining 1,431 male. CHA plans to increase female employment to 30% in the future.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

- *The organisation is currently active in six main strategic fields:*
- *Health and nutrition*
- *Education and cultural affairs*
- *Agriculture and livestock*
- *Community development and social protection*
- *Disaster risk reduction and emergency response*
- *Gender mainstreaming*

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

Some projects (e.g. Basic Package of Health Services in Balkh province and EPHS in Farah Province) are currently in a transition stage, with their contracts completed at the end of 2013, they have been handed over to other organisations.

- Health and nutrition
- Education and cultural affairs
- Agriculture and livestock
- Community development and social protection
- Disaster risk reduction and emergency response
- Gender mainstreaming

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Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA)

www.iwaweb.org

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

Integrity Watch was founded in October 2005 and established as an independent civil society organisation in 2006, with approximately 91 staff and 700 local monitors. IWA's core mission is to put corruption under the spotlight.

Regional and Provincial Offices

IWA is headquartered in Kabul, with provincial programmatic outreach in Badakhshan, Balkh, Bamiyan, Herat, Kapisa, Logar, Nangarhar and Parwan.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

IWA has four programme pillars:

- Community Based Monitoring
- Public Service Monitoring
- Extractive Industries Monitoring.
- Community Trial Monitoring

Integrity Watch has two crosscutting units, namely research, and communications and advocacy. These are established to have an impact on policy-making at the macro level. These units update and expand existing knowledge on corruption, accountability, transparency and integrity through research on aid effectiveness, perceptions of corruption and experiences with corruption.

IWA is a member of various related groups:

- Network for Integrity in Reconstruction
- Global Movement for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation
- Task Force on Financial Integrity and Economic Development

International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO)

www.ngosafety.org

The International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO) is a non-profit, non-governmental, humanitarian organisation registered in the UK. INSO Afghanistan, formerly known as ANSO, provides free security/safety information and advice exclusively meeting the needs of the NGO community in Afghanistan. Finance for INSO comes from the European Commission, the Humanitarian Aid Office, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Regional and Provincial Offices

INSO Afghanistan is headquartered in Kabul and has regional offices in Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat, Jalalabad and Kandahar.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

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

- Daily threat warnings and security alerts, weekly incident listings, fortnightly and quarterly reports analysing and projecting security trends
- Weekly regional security meetings
- Monthly orientations for NGO staff
- Representation of NGOs in relations with national and international security agencies
- Training of guards and radio operators
- Upon request, depending on available capacity, INSO may also provide other services including:
- Countrywide safety information for NGO movement
- Organisation-specific security advice
- Reviews of member NGOs' security plans and site security
- Security-related statistical data and analysis
- Crisis response services including liaison and referral assistance

International Psychosocial Organization (IPSO)

www.ipscontext.org

The International Psychosocial Organization (IPSO) is a non-profit humanitarian organisation founded in Germany in 2008 and registered with the Afghan Ministry of Education (MoE) in 2011. IPSO provides and supports psychosocial care services (both directly and indirectly) to the destitute or needy, without discrimination and irrespective of race, religion, creed or political affiliation.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

- Supporting the integration of mental health and psychosocial counselling services into the public health system of Afghanistan: the aim of the project is to strengthen the Afghan public health system by training health staff, psychological counsellors, doctors and nurses working in primary and secondary health care in selected clinics in all provinces. These activities align with the National Mental Health Strategy of the Afghan Ministry of Public Health and aim to address the significant mental health burden of the population.
- Promotion of peace and stability in Afghanistan through cultural dialogue and psychosocial support: this project aims to make Afghan civil society more resilient by promoting social and cultural reflection, competence and “selfefficacy” (confidence in one’s own abilities) as important factors promoting peace and reconciliation. The project builds on two earlier initiatives—Mental Health in Northern Afghanistan, and Mental Health Training in all Afghan Provinces—and integrates lessons learned from them.

Kabul Center for Strategic Studies (KCSS)

www.kabulcenter.org

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

Through its publications and sustained interactions with leading socio-political thinkers in Afghanistan and abroad, the GoA and key international military and civilian stakeholders, KCSS has contributed to a strategic discourse on Afghanistan.

The Center is a member of the Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks (COSATT), the South Asian Regional Research Forum (SARRF) and the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) Forum.

KCSS’s research is focused on six areas: governance, security studies, conflict management, counter-terrorism studies, economic development and parliamentary research. In addition to its research publications KCSS also publishes the monthly magazine Kabul direct.

Leading Entrepreneurs for Afghanistan Development (LEAD)

Leading Entrepreneurs for Afghanistan Development (LEAD) was founded by a group of leading businesswomen in Afghanistan who felt the lack of an advocacy platform to serve their interests and their role in policy making.

LEAD's vision is to be a platform for Afghan female entrepreneurs to have national and international recognition for their contribution to sustainable economic development in Afghanistan. The mission of LEAD is to meaningfully represent and support women's concerns and interests in the economic sector.

LEAD objectives are:

Policy

- To ensure that women's perspectives are included in economic policies and regulations
- To lobby policy makers for better conditions for women in the economic sector

Capacity Building

- To provide and advocate for quality learning opportunities for women in business

Information and Awareness

- To raise awareness about current regulations, laws, procedures and rights relating to women's participation in the private sector
- To establish an information system containing accurate and up-to-date information on economic issues related to women.

Media

Until the constitutional revisions between 1964-1973, and the relative press freedom that it brought, all media in Afghanistan was run by the state. Press freedom reached perhaps its lowest point under the rule of the Taliban, which prohibited all media except for Sharia radio that promoted the Taliban version of Islam and state propaganda. The most obvious feature of the Afghan media environment currently (apart from its explosive growth after the departure of the Taliban government) is its complexity and variety. In this Afghan media institutions match Afghan society and they are just as highly fragmented by ethnic, religious, linguistic, political and other identities.

After the intervention by the international coalition and transition from Taliban rule to "democracy," the media sector experienced unprecedented growth: currently there are over 60 TV stations, 170 radio broadcasters and more than 300 press publications. However the nature of Afghan use of media channels has remained much the same, after being exposed to decades of propaganda Afghans are well aware that all media represent vested interests passing on content for a reason.

Tensions continue to arise between the norms prevalent in much of rural Afghanistan and those that are developing in urban centres, where much of the media production or broadcasting originates. The broadcast of programming sourced from outside Afghanistan also continues to raise issues of its acceptability or not to Afghan society. In addition, the Mass Media law of 2009 restricts the publication of any material against Islamic values or damaging to national security interests, but neither of these is made more precise.

Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA) is the only truly national broadcast system but is seen as the voice of the Kabul government rather than as a national broadcaster, it attracts the smallest audience. The private media are dominated by five media groups which control run radio or TV channels (some run both): (1) Ariana Television Network/AWCC, (2) the Moby Group (Tolo TV, Lemar, Arman FM), (3) Saba Media Organization, (4) Killid Group, and (5) the Noor Television Network.

Radio continues to be the major media exposure of most Afghans, particularly outside cities, with half the population listening to radio every day.

With low literacy amongst adults print media are of limited importance although they do capture the interest of the urban intelligentsia and politically aware.

Internet access is reportedly as low as 2% and that primarily in rural areas so it is not as important as radio for Afghan media interests.

Much of the media has been co-financed by the international community. NAI, a media interest group, suggests that about 20% of current media will be dissolved once the international community withdraws from Afghanistan. Recent studies also expect a significant contraction in media activity when international funding reduces following the 2014 troop draw down. The weakness of the overall Afghan economy cannot support the survival of all media platforms currently in existence.

Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA)

www.misfa.org.af

The Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) was founded in 2003 at the invitation of the Afghan government. MISFA's purpose was to get donor coordination in place from the start and avoid the counter-productive efforts that have emerged in other post-conflict situations from conflicting donor objectives. It was established so the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and international donors could channel technical assistance and funding to build microfinance in Afghanistan.

MISFA was the first facility of its kind pooling diverse donor funding mechanisms and converting them into streamlined, flexible support for microfinance institutions. MISFA is tailored to local priorities, and provides technical assistance and performance monitoring.

In March 2006, MISFA was registered as a limited liability non-profit company—MISFA Ltd—with the Ministry of Finance (MoF), as its sole shareholder. MISFA Ltd. is an independent umbrella organisation with a select group of implementing partners on the ground. In most cases, MISFA functions as either an exclusive or primary provider of funds to its partners.

MISFA's vision is to develop a sustainable, efficient and commercialised development finance sector through the stimulation of economic growth in Afghanistan.

Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA)

www.macca.org.af

The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), the world's largest mine action programme, was established in 1989. MAPA works to meet the goal of the Ottawa Convention to clear all anti-personnel mines (AP) in Afghanistan, provide risk education about Mine/Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and to assist mine survivors.

While the Ottawa Convention does not oblige countries to remove anti-tank (AT) mines or ERWs, MAPA deems these additional hazards worth addressing in the light of discussions on the Ottawa Convention. Afghanistan accepted the Ottawa Anti-personnel (AP) Mine Ban Treaty in September 2002, making a commitment to clear all emplaced AP mines within ten years. The magnitude of the mine problem in Afghanistan, tied with the continuing conflict and under-funding has meant that the initial deadline of 2013 became untenable. In March 2012, the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) submitted a request for a ten-year extension of the deadline to remove all AP mines (2023), which was adopted by all parties.

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

MAPA implementing partners are national and international NGOs which carry out activities such as mine clearance and surveys, M/ERW risk education, victim assistance, capacity building, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, and training. MACCA and DMC work closely with the relevant ministries to ensure proper coordination of MAPA activities with relevant government agencies.

At the end of September 2013, 4,510 identified hazards remained in Afghanistan, affecting 521 square kilometres and 1,628 communities throughout the country. In 2013, MAPA cleared 250 communities from all known mines and ERW, clearing or cancelling 1,059 minefields and 55 battle areas, and destroying more than 17,511 AP mines, 778 AT mines and 643,685 ERW. Currently, an average of 40 Afghans are killed or injured by landmines and other ERW every month.

Peace Training and Research Organization (PTRO)

www.ptro.org.af

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

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

PTRO is currently involved in a number of research and training projects throughout the country, including on-going work on the local effects of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP), particularly for women in reintegration-affected communities. PTRO is also investigating the effects of the transition process (both security and governance aspects) on local areas in six contrasting provinces. These include, assessing the impact of transition on all aspects of community life, and during the first part of 2014 PTRO will sharpen the focus on its impact on local civil society organisations (CSOs).

Training efforts include conflict resolution and mediation workshops for local councils and community representatives in two Northern provinces and sessions to increase engagement in the upcoming 2014 elections. In both, the Southeast and the North, PTRO is delivering training in the rule of law issues to both formal and informal justice representatives. They are heavily involved in support and training for women's groups in four provinces affected by reintegration, encouraging their participation in local decision-making affecting their own communities.

Projects for 2014

PTRO's work on community narratives during transition will continue, as will the research and training surrounding local communities and the APRP. This will be coupled with more extensive advocacy activities, aimed at changing both local governance and national/international policy decisions.

A combined project with civil society groups in Pakistan will begin to look at aspects of human security, common problems and potential lessons to be learned within both countries.

There are a number of potential projects involving research and training on rule of law, evaluations of development interventions, support for civil society groups and advocacy around the needs of marginalised groups.

PTRO has also carried out advocacy work with key stakeholders on issues related to women's roles in the reconciliation and reintegration process, children's rights, and the impact of development interventions.

Regional and Provincial Offices

PTRO's main office is in Kabul, and is supported by field offices in Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Herat, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktya, Takhar, Uruzgan and Zabul.

PTRO Staff

PTRO has 65 staff, including representatives in all provincial offices: approximately 15% are female.

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

The Southern and Western Afghanistan and Balochistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC) is a coordination body for Afghan and international NGOs working in southern Afghanistan. SWABAC's head office is located in Kandahar and was founded in 1988 by twelve NGOs engaged in relief and rehabilitation work with Afghan refugee villages in Balochistan and other communities in Southern Afghanistan. Membership is open to government-registered NGOs working in Southern Afghanistan who show a dedication to coordination, have proof of donor funding, have an organisational profile and are certified by five other NGOs. As of October 2012, SWABAC had 45 members. SWABAC's vision is to see that the activities of NGOs and CSOs are coordinated, aligned, and effectively and efficiently undertaken based on the needs of communities.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

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

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

Currently SWABAC is implementing a multi-media project with the financial support of Internews and AusAid. SWABAC is planning to implement the same programme in other provinces in the region.

The Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS)

www.caps.af

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

CAPS is committed to offer and facilitate research, training and knowledge exchange on conflict, people, and cultures, as well as violent groups in Afghanistan and the region. CAPS aims to reduce the threat of political violence and seeks to assist in the development of a sustainable environment supportive of peace and stability. To this end, CAPS engages in research and policy analysis, education and training, and capacity building and knowledge expansion. The core focus of CAPS is on the research and analysis of security issues, which is subsequently disseminated to government officials, members of the international community, and other stakeholders through regular briefings and reporting. The Centre also organises regular conferences, workshops, seminars and briefings, as well as training courses on Afghan and regional history, culture, warfare and insurgency.

The Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC)

www.mec.af

The MEC was created after the need for independent monitoring and evaluation of anti-corruption efforts was expressed at the London and Kabul international conferences. Following the London Conference, the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) invited the international community to form a joint Afghan-international monitoring and evaluation committee.

The MEC is independent of the GoA and the international community. MEC's terms of reference include the following mandates:

- To develop anti-corruption recommendations and benchmarks
- To monitor and evaluate the efforts by government and the international community to fight corruption
- To report to the President, Parliament, the people and international community

Every six months, MEC submits a report of its assessments and findings of the agreed-upon benchmarks to the President, Parliament and people of Afghanistan through the media.

Experience, Areas of Expertise and Involvement

- Developing anti-corruption recommendations and benchmarks
- Monitoring and evaluation of implementation of recommendations
- Monitoring the implementation of anti-corruption related articles of Presidential Decree 45
- Vulnerability to corruption assessments (VCAs)
- Consultation and outreach
- In 2012 MEC conducted a public inquiry into the Kabul Bank crisis

The Liaison Office (TLO)

www.tloafghanistan.org

The Liaison Office (TLO) is an Afghan non-governmental organisation that emerged at the end of 2003 as a swisspeace pilot project (supported by the Heinrich Böll Foundation) on good governance, following the request of community elders. The community elders had sought assistance in participating in the peace and reconstruction process in their respective communities across the Southeast.

TLO's four main areas of activity are:

- Research
- Peace Building
- Access to Justice
- Livelihood Improvement

In the ten years since its founding, TLO has expanded its field of work from the Southeast to the South (in 2005) and East (in 2008), mainly by conducting research and analysis, and facilitating a series of peace and stability jirgas. In 2009, TLO began working in the Northern and Central provinces and in 2011 started research and analysis work in Western Afghanistan. Its current projects focus on access to justice and research on human security and protection issues, primarily in Afghanistan's East, Southeast and South.

TLO Staff

TLO has 260 staff, in 9 field offices, it is currently active in 25 provinces across Afghanistan.

Afghan-International Initiatives and Programmes

Bonn Conference (2011)

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

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

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

Chicago Summit - NATO (2012)

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

With reference to the NATO-Afghanistan “Enduring Partnership,” signed at the 2010 Lisbon Summit, participants agreed that NATO-led ISAF forces would hand over the command of all combat missions to Afghan National Security Forces by mid-2013 and would complete full withdrawal from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. The Summit reaffirmed commitments made at the 2010 Kabul Conference, the Istanbul Process on regional security and cooperation initiated in 2011, and the 2011 Bonn Conference.

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

Elections 2014

Afghanistan is preparing to hold its nation-wide Presidential and Provincial Council elections, this coming April. With the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan also scheduled to go through at the same year, Afghans see 2014 as a year of massive changes.

Many Afghans, going to the voting centers have the experience of previous elections (presidential elections of 2004 and 2009 and parliamentary elections of 2005 and 2010), however, this election has far more political implications: it will be the first time in the modern history of Afghanistan that power will be transferred from one person to another through peaceful and democratic means. Constitutionally President Hamid Karzai cannot seek re-election for a third consecutive time, having already completed two terms in the office (Article 62).

Eleven candidates, including former government officials, are competing to become the new president of Afghanistan, with some, having closer ties to President Karzai and some, coming from the opposition front. Female representation is limited to only one woman running to be a second vice-president. The change of presidency is likely to trigger major shifts and rearrangements of established patronage and power networks as well as some decision-making processes at the government level.

Provincial Councils elections are just as significant for Afghans in the provinces. Through this election, voters choose their local representatives who then work closely with the provincial administration. One person elected represents the province in the Upper House of the parliament for a term of four years. Each Provincial Council consists of from 7 to 31 seats, based on the population of the province and of those seats, at least one quarter are reserved for women.

Indications from previous elections are that, in spite of mixed efforts from national and international agencies, manipulation of electoral structures and processes has not been eradicated fully. In the up-coming elections too, possible manipulations are expected to play a role.

Another issue is the growing number of young voters in Afghanistan, as the population make-up shifts, with around fifty percent of Afghans estimated to be under the age of 20. However, political representation in elections is dominated by older individuals, as constitutionally persons running for presidency cannot be under 40 years of age.

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)

www.isaf.nato.int

The mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is to assist the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) in establishing and maintaining a safe and secure environment in Afghanistan, with the full involvement of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). Since July 2013, US General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr. has served as the commander of ISAF.

ISAF was established by UN Security Council Resolution 1386 on 20 December 2001, as envisaged in Annex I of the Bonn Agreement and upon the invitation of the Afghan Interim Authority. It is a UN-authorized multinational force, not a UN peacekeeping force and so the costs of maintaining ISAF are borne by its contributing nations and not by the UN.

On 11 August 2003, at the request of the UN and GoA, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) took responsibility for ISAF, initially limited to Kabul, while the Coalition Forces commanded security in the rest of Afghanistan. In October 2003, the UN Security Council authorised the expansion of the NATO mission beyond Kabul and the unifying of both military forces under one central command.

In November 2009, after the NATO allies agreed to review ISAF upper command structure, a new intermediate headquarters was established to better streamline ISAF efforts. This separated strategic political-military from day-to-day functional operations. The new headquarters was commanded by a four-star General and two subordinate three-star generals. Called the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) and ISAF Joint Command (IJC) HQ. Both headquarters are located in Kabul. The North Atlantic Council, NATO's decision-making body provides political guidance to ISAF in consultation with non-NATO nations that contribute troops to ISAF.

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

As part of the Transition process, ISAF forces are gradually handing over security responsibility to the ANSF. Whilst ISAF states that Transition is events-driven rather than calendar-based, the projected date for the completion of Transition is the end of 2014. This process is likely to be accompanied by significant withdrawal of coalition troops. Reductions in troop numbers from the mid-2011 peak of around 140,000 have been on-going for some time.

As of December 2013, ISAF's total strength was 84,271 troops. The 50 troop-contributing countries are: Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, the Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The Istanbul Process

The Istanbul Ministerial Process or Istanbul Process is designed to promote a stronger Afghanistan and “Heart of Asia” by promoting regional security and cooperation. The ‘Process’ includes ministerial meetings and follow-up conferences which can draw delegations from over 50 countries, including most Central Asian states and Afghanistan’s neighbours with a number of other countries outside the immediate region attending as observers or supporters.

Following the Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan: Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia, on 2 November 2011 a 23-clause declaration of intent was released seeking to provide a platform to discuss regional issues, particularly encouraging security, political, and economic cooperation among Afghanistan and its neighbors. The ‘Process’ expands practical coordination between Afghanistan and its neighbors and regional partners in facing common threats, including particularly counterterrorism, counternarcotics, poverty, and extremism.

The second meeting was the ‘Heart of Asia’ Ministerial Conference in Kabul (14 June 2012) which also produced a declaration identifying confidence building and consultation priorities. Most recently the Third Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process, was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan (26 April 2013) where participants highlighted the importance of ongoing commitment to assist the Afghan nation in its process of transition and at the time of withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Forces from Afghanistan. They adopted specific action plans for the confidence-building measures of the Istanbul Process.

The fourth Foreign Ministers’ Conference of the Istanbul Process, will be held in Beijing in 2014.

Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB)

The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) is a high-level governing body established in 2006 to provide overall strategic coordination of the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact. With the expiry of the Afghanistan Compact in 2011, the JCMB expanded its focus to include: (1) the provision of strategic and policy guidance on the implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), (2) monitoring of the Kabul Process, and (3) acting as the highest formal decision-making body linking the Afghan government and the international community. The JCMB also supports the monitoring of the implementation of the Tokyo Framework.

The JCMB is co-chaired by the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan and the Chair of the Afghan government’s cabinet-level Coordinating Committee (currently the Minister of Finance). This Coordinating Committee is responsible for oversight of the JCMB and the implementation of the ANDS. The JCMB consists of 28 representatives, 7 of whom are representatives of the Afghan government, with the remaining 21 representing the international community. The international representatives are selected taking into consideration contributions to development aid, troop numbers, as well as regional representation.

The work of the JCMB is now facilitated by three standing committees covering security, governance, human rights, rule of law, and economic and social development. These thematic groupings correspond to the pillars of the ANDS.

The 19th Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) meeting was held on 12 February 2013, under the co-chairmanship of the Minister of Finance, Dr. Omar Zakhilwal, and the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Afghanistan, Mr. Ján Kubiš. Ministers, deputy ministers, senior government officials, the ambassadors of 37 countries or their representatives, civil society and private sector representatives attended. Participants acknowledged progress made on the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) and endorsed four National Priority Programmes as well as an Aid Management Policy.

The National Priority Programmes endorsed by donors for funding were:

Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster:

- Water and Natural Resource Development
- Comprehensive Agriculture and Market Development

Infrastructure Development Cluster

- National Energy Supply Program

Governance Cluster

- Efficient and Effective Government
- Proceedings and papers of earlier JCMB meetings (numbers 1-7, 10-18) are available at: <http://www.thekabulprocess.gov.af/index.php/jcmb/archive>

Kabul Conference and Kabul Process

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

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

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

- To transfer security responsibilities from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Coalition Forces (CF) to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) by 2014.
- The development of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP)
- A reprioritised and restructured Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS)

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

In a bid to ensure effective management and accountability, the plans articulated measurable six- and twelve-month, as well as three- and five-year targets. In line with the London Conference Communiqué, participants restated their support for channelling at least 50% of development aid through the GoA's core budget within two years (2010-2012). International participants also expressed their readiness to progressively align their development assistance behind the NPPs with the goal of achieving 80% alignments within the next two years. To oversee the implementation of the prioritised ANDS, GoA and the international community stated their intent to meet at the ministerial level on an annual basis to review mutual progress on commitments and to consider new Afghan priorities as part of the Kabul Process. Participants agreed that the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) would meet every four months (supported by standing committees and their sub-committees) to monitor and assess progress. Additionally, the Kabul Process was set to include annual meetings between the GoA, the international community and civil society (including service-providing organisations).

Since 2010, participants at conferences in Bonn 2011 Chicago 2012 and Tokyo 2012 have reaffirmed their commitments to the framework set out at the Kabul Conference

Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA)

www.lotfa.org.af

The Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) was established in 2002 as a funding mechanism for international donors to channel their contributions for Security Sector Reform, particularly the Afghan National Police (ANP), for which the payment of police salaries is the largest outlay. The Fund is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) as the government partner responsible for its implementation. About 75% of the UNDP budget is spent on the ANP. A Management Support Unit (MSU) supports the ministry to implement project activities that cannot be handled through existing government mechanisms. LOTFA donors are Canada, Denmark, the European Union (EU), Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States.

Since the Fund's inception, five phases have been completed. Phase VI was initiated in January 2011 and was due to run until March 2013 with an estimated budget of \$1.4 billion. However, phase VI was extended till 31 December 2013.

LOTFA's key achievements include:

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

Through the police-i-mardumi (Community Police) project, LOTFA is promoting sustainable police-community relations and training all ranks of police in community policing.

LOTFA is currently working on its Phase VII, launched in January 2014.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

In 2004, the government of Afghanistan endorsed the United Nations General Assembly's 2000 Millennium Declaration, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, but aimed to achieve the MDGs by 2020 rather than 2015. The Afghan government adopted "Vision 2020" containing additional targets to take account of Afghanistan's specific constraints in areas such as gender equality, maternal health, and included a ninth Goal to recognise the importance of security as a precondition for achieving sustainable development in Afghanistan. Each of the MDGs below are reflected and incorporated into the three pillars of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS)

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

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

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

www.mfa.gov.af

SAARC is a regional organisation founded in the 1980s. Before Afghanistan became a permanent member in 2007, the association consisted of seven members: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, the Maldives and Nepal. The core values of SAARC are to promote peace and stability and build understanding among its people and expand welfare. The core principle of the association is respect for the national sovereignty and non-interference in national affairs.

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is an intergovernmental regional organisation founded in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for the purpose of promoting economic, technical and cultural cooperation among member states. ECO is the successor organisation of the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD). In 1992, the organisation was expanded to include seven new members, namely: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC)

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) programme is a partnership of 10 countries and 6 multilateral institutions working to promote development through cooperation, in order to accelerate economic growth and poverty reduction. By promoting and facilitating regional cooperation in the priority areas of transport, trade facilitation, trade policy and energy, CAREC wants to assist Central Asian and neighbouring countries realise their potential in an increasingly integrated Eurasia. Membership currently consists of: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

SPECA was launched in 1998 to strengthen sub-regional cooperation in Central Asia and its integration into the world economy. The member countries of SPECA are: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was founded in 2001 with the China, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as permanent members. It is the successor of the Shanghai Five, founded in 1996. The main objective of the Shanghai Five was to provide a platform for resolving the centuries old border disputes between China, Central Asian states and Russia. Initially Uzbekistan wasn't a member of the Shanghai Five, as it did not border China. Later, with the founding of SCO, Uzbekistan was included as the sixth permanent member and the objectives of the organisation were expanded from merely reconciling border disputes to greater social, economic and security cooperation. Recently SCO has granted Afghanistan, India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan the status of observers.

2012 Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan

Co-chaired by the Japanese and Afghan Governments, the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan took place in July 2012. The 55 countries and 25 international organisations at the conference reassured Afghanistan about their long-term commitment to cooperation during Afghanistan's Transformation Decade (2015-2024).

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

The international community agreed to the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF), which lays down the basis for renewed partnership with Afghanistan through mutual commitments and accountability. The participants put forward a strategic document, "Towards Self-Reliance", for the Transformation Decade, in which development of the private sector, diversification of the economy, and improved access to education, health and governance were emphasised. It was agreed that achievements on these issues would ultimately serve as a "platform for self-reliance", prosperity, and peace and stability in Afghanistan. Donors at the Conference pledged to provide \$16 billion in development aid up to 2016.

The United Nations in Afghanistan

www.unama.unmissions.org

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

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

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

UN programmes are governed by frameworks such as the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), a programme-planning framework for all UN development agencies, and the Common Humanitarian Action Plan, which guides the humanitarian aspect of the UN's work in collaboration

with the broader humanitarian community. The UNDAF 2010-2014, signed by the Afghan government and developed to frame UN's support to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, comprises three mutually reinforcing priorities: 1) governance, peace and stability, 2) sustainable livelihoods: agriculture, food security and income opportunities, and 3) basic social services: health, education, water and sanitation. Environment, gender, women's empowerment, and counter-narcotics are considered cross-cutting areas which are to be mainstreamed into all programme areas.

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

Members of the UN Country Team in Afghanistan are:

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



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The Government of Afghanistan

Background

Following the collapse of the Taliban regime at the end of 2001, Afghan leaders signed the Bonn Agreement at a conference organised by the UN in Bonn, Germany. The Agreement appointed the Afghanistan Interim Administration (AIA) and designed a two-and-a-half-year timetable for the re-establishment of permanent government institutions with “a broad-based, gender sensitive, multiethnic and fully representative government” in Afghanistan. The Emergency Loya Jirga of June 2002 replaced the AIA with the Afghanistan Transitional Authority, and elected Hamid Karzai as the Head of State—and temporary Head of Government in the absence of a legislature—of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan.

In line with the Bonn timetable, a new Constitution was debated and endorsed by a Constitutional Loya Jirga (14 December 2003 to 4 January 2004). The Constitution agreed provided for an elected President, along with two nominated Vice Presidents, and a National Assembly comprising two houses; the lower Wolesi Jirga (House of the People) and the upper Meshrano Jirga (House of Elders). At the subnational level it provided for elected Provincial, District, Village and Municipal Councils, as well as Governors and Mayors appointed by the President.

In the election held on 9 October 2004, Hamid Karzai became the first elected President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, with 55% of the vote. He was sworn in on 7 December 2004, at which time the transitional state officially became the new Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Legislative, Provincial and District Council elections were supposed to be held concurrently with the Presidential election, but were postponed due to security and technical problems. Elections for the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Councils were eventually held on 18 September 2005. A second set of Presidential and Provincial Council elections took place in 2009; it was a controversial process that ended with President Karzai assuming office for a second term. These were followed by a similarly problematic second set of elections for the Wolesi Jirga in September 2010. Presidential and Provincial Council elections are planned for April 2014.

The Executive

The executive branch of the central government of Afghanistan consists of the Office of the President, two vice presidents, the Attorney General, the Cabinet of 26 ministers, as well as several independent bodies and other central government agencies.

The President is directly elected for a five-year period and can serve a maximum of two terms. Candidates for the presidency name their two vice presidential candidates at the time of nomination. The President is the Head of State, the Chair of the Cabinet and the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.

The Office of the President consists of the Office of the President itself, the Security Council, the Press Office, and the Office of Administrative Affairs, which provides administrative, logistical, and financial support to the President, Vice Presidents, and advisors to the President.

The President nominates ministers, the Attorney General, the Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank (the Central Bank of Afghanistan), the members of the Supreme Court, the Head of the National Directorate of Security and the President of the Red Crescent Society. Nominees are then subject to parliamentary vote, if rejected by the National Assembly, they may not assume office. According to the Constitution, all other executive posts, including that of the Vice Presidents, the Mayor of Kabul, and the heads of various commissions are appointed by the President and do not require the approval of the National Assembly.

The Legislative

National Assembly

As provided for in the 2004 Constitution the National Assembly—commonly referred to as the Parliament—consists of two houses, the lower Wolesi Jirga (House of the People) and the upper Meshrano Jirga (House of Elders). The National Assembly convened for the first time in December 2005, following the September 2005 parliamentary elections.

Members of the National Assembly must be Afghan citizens, at least 25 on the date of candidacy for the Wolesi Jirga and at least 35 at the date of election or appointment to the Meshrano Jirga. It is not possible to be a member of both the Meshrano Jirga and Wolesi Jirga simultaneously. Members of the Wolesi Jirga are directly elected for five years by provincial constituencies. There are currently 249 seats in the Wolesi Jirga; the Constitution stipulates that the maximum number of seats is 250. Seats are distributed among the provinces according to population. The Constitution states that 20% of the seats should be allocated to women. Ten seats are reserved for the Kuchi (traditionally nomadic) population, three of which must go to women. The provision for Kuchi has been hotly contested among parliamentarians since the 2005 elections.

The Meshrano Jirga has 102 members, selected by a mixture of presidential appointments (one-third) and indirect

elections following popular elections for the Wolesi Jirga, and Provincial and District Councils (two-thirds). The Constitution stipulates that members of the Meshrano Jirga are elected and appointed as follows:

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

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

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

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

According to Article 90 of the Constitution, the National Assembly has the following authorities:

- Ratification, modification, or abrogation of laws and legislative decrees
- Approval of plans for economic, social, cultural, and technological development
- Approval of the state budget, and permission for obtaining and granting loans
- Creation, modification, and abrogation of administrative units
- Ratification of international treaties and agreements, or abrogation of the membership of Afghanistan to them and
- Other authorities specified in the Constitution

Policies and legislation can be initiated by the Office of the President, individual ministries, or the National Assembly, and become law after passing through both houses of the National Assembly and being endorsed by the President. Article 94 of the Constitution states that:

A law is what both Houses of the National Assembly approve and the President endorses unless this Constitution states otherwise; and

An item is considered endorsed and enforced after 15 days, or if the President rejects a bill within the 15 days, when the Wolesi Jirga re-approves it with a two-third majority vote.

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

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

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

Provincial Councils

The 34 Provincial Councils have between 9 and 29 members depending on the size of the province's population and are elected by a single provincial constituency. Candidates must reside in the province in which they stand for election and cannot stand simultaneously for both Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections. The Electoral Law states that 20% of the seats in a Provincial Council are reserved for women. Two members from each Provincial Council serve in the Meshrano Jirga (this will decrease to one member per Provincial Council when District Councils are elected and formed). To date, two rounds of Provincial Council elections have taken place, in 2005 and 2009, following the constitutional requirement that they occur every five years. Accordingly, the next election for these provincial bodies is also scheduled to take place in 2014.

The 2007 Provincial Council Law is vague on the Councils' responsibilities and significant confusion remains about their exact role. While a mandate exists, it is ambiguous and does not allocate to them decision-making authority. Provincial Councils report directly to the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG). Thus far, Provincial Council activities have included: electing provincial representatives from their own membership to the Meshrano Jirga, participating in the development of the provinces and improvement of administrative affairs, and advising provincial administrations on issues such as development planning. Their role in a given province is often dependent on the relationship between the Council and the Provincial Governor.

District Councils

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

However, elections for the District Councils have not been held, it is also unclear when they will take place. There are a number of reasons for this: first, district boundaries in some areas have not been confirmed, therefore it is impossible to calculate district populations, this is necessary to determine the seat allocation for each district (this problem is compounded by the lack of an up-to-date census for the country as a whole). Second, because of the lack of certainty about district boundaries, voters have been registered by province rather than by district, this means that, in order to conduct District Council elections, another registration process would be required.

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

In the absence of formally-elected District Councils, a number of extra-constitutional institutions have been created to provide some level of representation and improve governance at the district level. Managed by the IDLG, the Afghanistan Social Outreach Program (ASOP) has created hundreds of District Community Councils (DCCs) modelled on traditional shuras (councils), while the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) under the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) has formed District Development Assemblies (DDAs).

Village Councils and Municipal Councils

The Constitution also calls for the election of Village Councils, Municipal Councils and Mayors through free, general, secret and direct elections. Village Councils are to be elected for three years. The terms of Municipal Councils and Mayoral elections are not yet specified, and the mandates of Village and Municipal Councils are not elaborated in either the Constitution or the Electoral Law. Elections for these bodies are unlikely to be held in the next few years. Once again, the failure to constitute these bodies has resulted in extra-constitutional attempts to fill the gap. In particular the Community Development Councils (CDC) of the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) effectively function as formal village governance bodies for many areas.

The Judiciary

The major permanent justice institutions in Afghanistan are the Supreme Court (Stera Mahkama), the Office of the Attorney General (Loya Saranwali) and the Ministry of Justice. The 2004 Constitution states: “The judicial branch is an independent organ of the state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court, High Courts, Appeal Courts and Primary Courts, the structure and authorities of which are determined by law” (Article 116). In June 2005, a new law regulating the judiciary system was passed by Cabinet, which divided the courts into three tiers: the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal and the Primary Courts. Furthermore, when needed, it allows for travelling or mobile courts, however, those must be approved by the President. Article 157 of the Constitution calls for the establishment of an Independent Commission for Supervision of the Implementation of the Constitution (ICSIC) to act as an overarching arbitrator.

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

The reach of the formal justice system varies significantly across the country. A large proportion of disputes in Afghanistan are settled outside the formal court system—particularly, but not exclusively, in rural areas. Community-based justice mechanisms—shuras, jirgas, and jalasas (meetings)—often settle civil and sometimes criminal disputes using Islamic and customary tribal laws. The justice system is therefore composed of both formal and informal mechanisms that include civil, Islamic and customary tribal law. In instances where formal and informal mechanisms and actors engage with one another, common elements are most often found with respect to issues regarding land and property, but can diverge dramatically on criminal matters, and the role and nature of punishment.

The Supreme Court

In accordance with the Constitution, the Supreme Court has nine members, each appointed by the President for a ten-year tenure, this requires Wolesi Jirga approval. Out of the nine members of the Supreme Court, the President appoints one as Chief Justice. The Supreme Court manages the personnel, budgets and policy decisions of the entire national, provincial and district court system.

The Supreme Court convenes regular sessions, at least once every 15 days, and additional sessions can be convened by request. The presence of at least six members is needed for a Supreme Court quorum and decisions are made by majority vote. The Supreme Court is divided into four sub-courts or departments (dewans)—General Criminal, Public/National Security, Civil and Public Rights and Commercial—each headed by a Supreme Court Justice.

The current Supreme Court members were sworn in on 5 August 2006.

Courts of Appeal

Courts of Appeal are operational in all provinces (although some provinces do not currently have the requisite number of judges to hear appeal cases). They comprise the Chief of the Court, other judicial members and heads of dewans. Courts of Appeal in more populous provinces have five dewans—General Criminal (which also deals with traffic violations), Public Security, Civil and Family, Public Rights, and Commercial. Those in less populous provinces have four dewans—City Primary Court, General Criminal, Civil and Public Security. Only the Court of Appeals in Kabul has a Juvenile Court, created to hear cases involving adolescents; however, in many provinces there are judges experienced

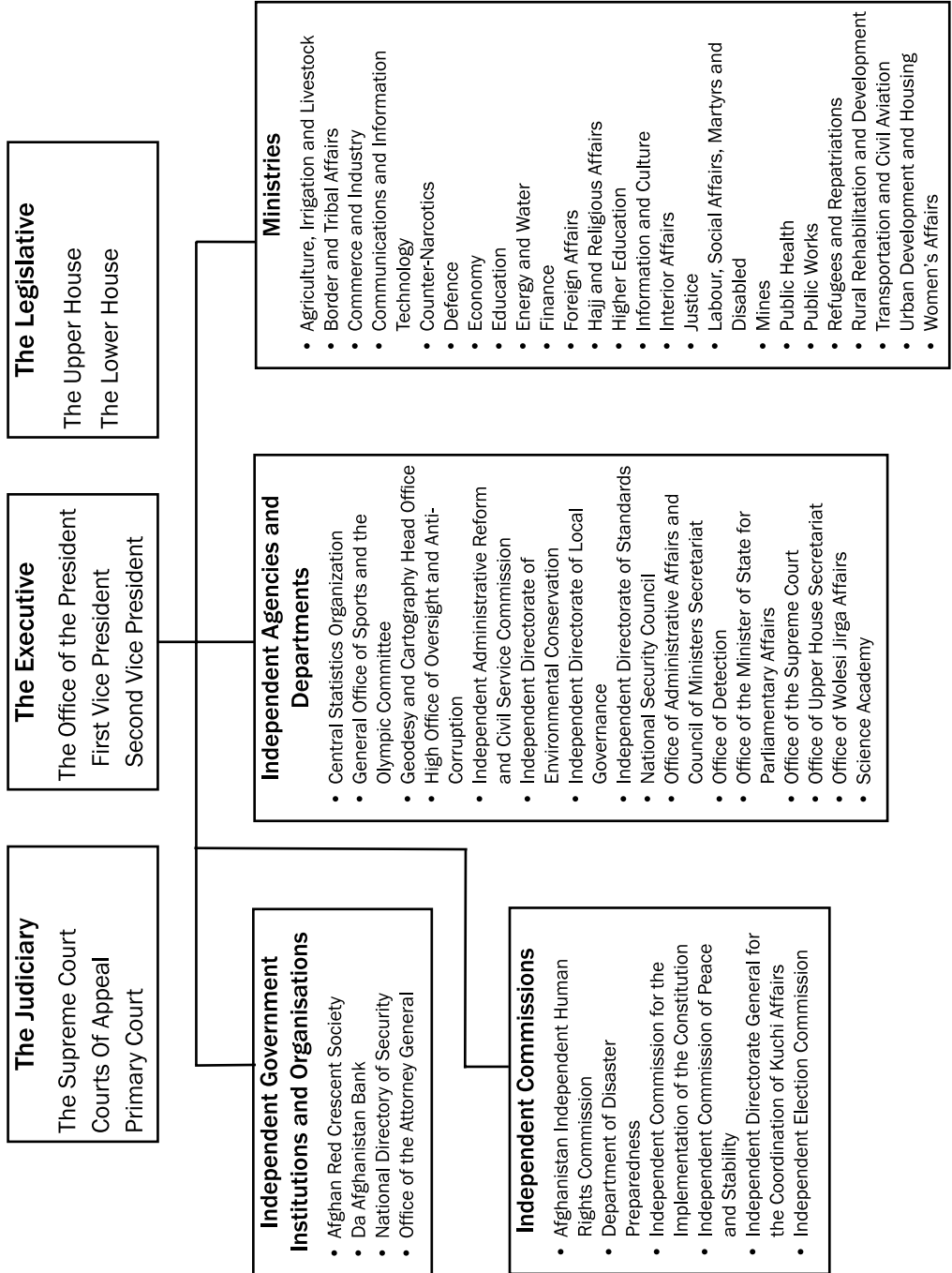
or trained to deal with such cases. The Courts of Appeals oversee the rulings and decisions of the Primary Courts in their respective province and have the authority to correct, overturn, amend, confirm or repeal these rulings and decisions. They are also responsible for deliberating conflicts of judicial jurisdiction.

Primary Courts

At the district level, the City Primary Court (which is the primary court in the provincial capital) consists of five dewans—General Criminal, Civil, Public Rights, Public Security and Traffic. Primary Courts in all districts outside the provincial capitals have three dewans—General Criminal, Public Security, and Civil and Public Rights. Many districts do not currently have functional primary courts, primarily due to security concerns. Judges often hold primary court sessions in the provincial capitals.

Criminal cases are initiated by the Prosecutor’s Office filing them with the Primary Court; civil rights cases are filed with an office in the Ministry of Justice. After that a series of judicial sessions may be held until a decision is reached by the Primary Court. Almost as a matter of customary practice, most cases determined by the Primary Courts are appealed to the Courts of Appeals. If appeals reach the Supreme Court, judges often send the cases back to the Primary Court for a new hearing.

Structure of the Afghan Government



The Public Sector

Structure

Afghanistan's public sector consists of the central government, provinces, municipalities (urban sub-units of provinces), and districts (rural sub-units of provinces), as well as state enterprises (wholly and majority owned). State agencies, including central government ministries and institutions, are considered to be primary budgetary units with their own discrete budgets.

In theory, Afghanistan is a unitary state: all political authority is vested in the government in Kabul. The powers and responsibilities of the provincial and district administrations are determined (and therefore may be withdrawn) by the central government. Though provinces and districts are legally recognised units of subnational administration, they are not intended to be autonomous in their policy decisions. However, given the political and military strength of some regional powerholders, the practical reality is that certain provinces have considerable decision-making authority.

The Constitution explicitly allows a measure of decentralisation by stating that “the government, while preserving the principle of centralism—in accordance with the law—shall delegate certain authorities to local administration units for the purpose of expediting and promoting economic, social and cultural affairs, and increasing the participation of people in the development of the nation” (Article 137).

The country's 34 provinces are the basic units of local administration. The executive at the provincial level is the Governor (Wali), who is appointed by the President. The provinces are not distinct political entities and formally have a very modest role in decisions concerning their own structure, recruitment of senior staff, and size and composition of work force. In effect, the administration of each province is a collection of branches of central government ministries. The majority of decisions on provincial staffing are made in Kabul by the parent ministry, in negotiation with the Office of Administrative Affairs and with oversight by the head of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission. The Independent Appointments Board of the IARCSC is required to ratify appointments at Grades one and two and oversee recruitment of grades three and below. As part of its mandate to improve governance and achieve stability on the subnational level, IDLG is responsible for supervising Provincial and District Governors, Provincial Councils, and municipalities (except Kabul Municipality).

Provinces are divided into districts and municipalities. Administrative arrangements between the province and its districts are similar to those in the relationship between the centre and the province. The central ministry in Kabul determines district senior staffing and budget allocations, leaving provincial officials with relatively little discretion in this regard, at least officially.

Municipalities are overseen by the IDLG, in some provinces with significant influence by the Governor. The IDLG approves staffing numbers and budgets in each municipality, even though municipalities are entitled to collect and retain their own taxes. In some provinces, such as Herat and Kandahar, rural municipalities also have a reporting relationship with the provincial municipality, although this is contrary to the established government structure.

Central government ministries and institutions are primary budget units with specific budgets determined by law; provincial departments of the central government ministries and some independent units are secondary budget units—that is, they receive their allotments at the discretion of their ministries and relevant independent agencies. There are no specific provincial department budgets. Districts are tertiary budget units; their budget allocations depend on the decisions made at the request

of the relevant provincial-level departments of Kabul ministries and other independent units. All revenues collected by provinces and districts are national revenues; provinces are merely the tax collectors. In effect, both provincial and district staffing levels and budgets are determined more on precedence than on rational planning. This system gives Kabul considerable political authority over provincial expenditure policy, although Provincial and District Governors have a certain amount of de-facto authority.

Development is ostensibly managed at the provincial level through two institutions; the Provincial Development Committee (PDC) and the Provincial Administrative Assembly (PAA). PDCs are made up of key development actors such as line ministries, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, NGOs, and occasionally Provincial Council members, meeting under the chairmanship of the Provincial Governor. They are to create coordinated, prioritised and budgeted plans for provincial development, which should then be passed to the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Finance (MoF) in Kabul for approval and incorporation into the budgets and plans of the relevant central line ministries.

In reality, these plans rarely influence the central ministries, which will draft budgets based on information from their respective provincial line directorates and their budgetary allocations from the MoF. This centralised process presents considerable difficulties for the coordination of development projects between ministries at the provincial level.

The PAA is chaired by the Provincial Governor, and includes the heads of provincial line ministries and agencies, the provincial Attorney General and the head of provincial security. PAAs are charged with administering and monitoring the implementation of the Provincial Development Plan. Whilst meetings should theoretically be held weekly, in reality they are more irregular, with the majority of decision-making and discussion taking place in the PDCs.

State enterprises report to the ministry or department in their respective sector. For example, the head of a coal mine would report to the provincial Department of Mines as well as the Ministry of Mines in Kabul. There are no provincially-owned enterprises.

Although they do not hold formal power, informal community shuras or jirgas (i.e. those not convened under the development programmes discussed above) can also be influential local actors. Shuras are a longstanding feature of Afghan political society. They are usually convened on an ad-hoc basis and are rarely permanent bodies with identifiable members. Shuras of ulema (Islamic scholars) and shuras of elders are usually found at the provincial level, though there are often competing local and district shuras, some of which are run by independent strongmen. As District Councils have not yet been elected, many district administrators make use of shuras in their activities. Many districts are also effectively divided into villages (qaryas), which correspond to areas of shared resources.

In addition to the provincial and district administrative structures, historically there has been a definition of regions or zones (hawzas) in Afghanistan, primarily for military purposes. These hawzas have no legal standing as administrative units and, unlike provinces, districts and municipalities, are not mentioned in the 1964 Constitution or the current 2004 Constitution. At times, however, they have been used for administrative convenience. Formally, this zonal structure no longer exists, but some inter-provincial coordination and sectoral activities based on zones continue.

Pay and Grading

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

The key differences between karmand and agir employees are:

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

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

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

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

Elections

The electoral system in Afghanistan is the Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV), where each eligible voter casts one vote for one individual in his or her multi-member constituency (province). Suffrage is universal for all citizens 18 years of age and older. The Constitution (full text p. 201) provides for the election of:

- A President (every 5 years)
- A National Assembly (Parliament) consisting of the Wolesi Jirga (House of the People) and the Meshrano Jirga (House of Elders) (every 5 years)
- Provincial Councils (every 4 years)
- District Councils (every 3 years)
- Village Councils (every 3 years)
- Municipal Councils and Mayors

Thus far, elections have only been held for the first three categories. The President is elected by absolute majority; if no candidate receives over 50 percent of the votes, a run-off election is held between the top two candidates (although the run-off was cancelled in 2009 when a candidate withdrew).

Key bodies in Afghan elections

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

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

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

ECC is an independent body responsible for hearing and adjudicating complaints related to the electoral process, including challenges to the list of candidates and complaints about the conduct of campaigns and polling. ECC was established by Article 52 of the 2005 Electoral Law. The ECC is separate from, and independent of, the IEC. As of today, all ECC members are appointed directly by the President.

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

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



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About this section

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

The information in this directory was updated between September and December 2013, with occasional updates and additions made throughout the year. However, addresses, phone numbers and email contacts constantly change as organisations relocate and staff turn over. The accuracy of this list relies on the voluntary contributions of the organisations listed, which are encouraged to send any additions or changes to publications@areu.org.af. Organisations can also request that their addresses be omitted.

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

No distinction is made between mobile, satellite and digital phone lines. Afghan numbers beginning with 070 , 079 , 077 or 078 indicate mobile lines, 0088 indicate satellite lines, and all others indicate digital or ground lines. When calling Afghanistan from other countries, the country code is +93 and the beginning zero should be dropped.

Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan (ASA)

Masjid Shah Babo Jan (next to Ministry of Interior) Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul

Phone: 0700979856
0772274916

Researcher: Suraia Popal

Email: kabul@aabrar.org.af
abdulbaseer@aabrar.org.af
Website: www.aabrar.org.af

Executive Director: Abdul Baseer Toryalai

Accessibility Organization for Afghan Disabled (AOAD)

Hs. 1, St. 2, 1 Rd. (next to Imam-e- Azam Mosque), District 8, Kabul

Phone: 0773302222
0700157417

Email: zazai.abdulkhaliq@gmail.com
naqib.hamdard11@gmail.com

Website: www.aoad-af.org

Executive Director: Abdul Khaliq Zazai

Afghan Bureau for Reconstruction (ABR)

Hs. 1, St. 8(on the right),Taimani, Kabul

Phone: 0700291104
0752019642

Email: abr.kabul@gmail.com
abr_kabul1@yahoo.com

Director: Ahmad Ibrahim Haidari

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

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

Phone: 0799328714
0799620639
0752023432

Email: matthew.warshaw@acsr-surveys.com
lhsan.atai@acsr-surveys.com

Website: www.acsr-surveys.com

Managing Director: Mattew Warshaw

Action Contre La Faim (ACF)

Herati Mosque St., Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul

Phone: 0799566128

Email: hom@af.missions-acf.org

Website: www.actioncontrelafaim.org

Country Director: Martin Rosselot

Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSFO)

Hs. 172, St. 8, Shaheed Ahmad Shah Masood High School, Qala-i-Fatehullah, District 10, Kabul

Phone: 0793559424
0776271070
0700277284

Email: pr@acsf.af
info@acsf.af

Website: www.acsf.af/www.acsf-rc.com

Executive Director: Aziz Rafiee

ActionAid Afghanistan (ActionAid)

Hs.1117, St. 5,Qala-i- Fataullah, Kabul

Phone: 0202210799
0797075979

Fax: 00930202210799

Email: info.afghanistan@actionaid.org
radioroom.kabul@actionaid.org

Website: www.actionaidafg.org

Acting Country Director: Mobin Totakhil

Afghan Community Development Organization (ACDO)

Opposite Panjshir Watt(next to Khair khana Oil Station), Kabul Children's Academy School,Projayee Jaded, District 11,Khair Khana, Kabul

Phone: 0700281991
0778821063
0787873188

Email: acdo_ngo@yahoo.com

Executive Director: Gul Waiz

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA-Afghanistan)

Hs. 225, St. 10, Paikob-i-Naswar, Qala-i-Fathullah, Kabul

Phone: 0777328402
0777328403
0777328404

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

Website: www.adra-af.org

Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)

St. 3,Taimani Project, Kabul

Phone: 0775558885
0777780896
0777780885

Afghan Education Production Organization (AEPO)

Hs. 271, St.1, Qala-i- Najarha, Khair Khana,
Kabul, PO Box (1919)
Phone: 0202400495
0775737409
0700285240
Email: asef_omar@yahoo.com
Website: www.tajalla.af/www.aepo.af
Director: Mohammad Asif Omar

Afghan Educational Children Circus (AECC)

Dar-ul-Aman Rd., St. 2 (on the right after
Habibia High School),
behind Khoja Mulla Mosque, Karte Se, Kabul
Phone: 0700229987
0700280140
Email: AECC@afghanmmcc.org
Website: www.afghanmmcc.org
Director: David Mason

Afghan Family Guidance Association (AFGA)

South of Habibia High School , Ayub Khan
Mina, District 7, Kabul
Phone: 0799023627
0752012042
Email: nakbari@afga.org.af
info@afga.org.af
Website: www.afga.org.af
Chief Executive Officer: Naimatullah Akbari

Afghan Friend & Cooperation Organisation (AFCO)

St. 1, Taimani Watt, Kabul
Phone: 0799003387
Email: liala_masm@yahoo.com
afco1388@gmail.com
Director: Laila Masjidi

Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO)

Pashtunistan Watt, Kabul
Phone: 0700784727
Email: Afghan_mshafi@yahoo.com
faizm_2006@yahoo.com
Website: www.agcho.org
Manager of Reforms, Correctons and Control: Mohammad
Shafi Zazi

Afghan Health and Development Services (AHDS)

Hs.4, St.2, South of Qasimi Group, District 4,
Kabul
PO Box (53)

Phone: 0700284275
0700300417
Email: fareed@ahds.org
info@ahds.org
Website: www.ahds.org
Executive Director: Mohammad Freed

Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL)

Karte Nijat city , Ahmad Shah Masood
Rd.(opposite of MohammadOrphanage)
District 17, Khair Khana, Kabul
Phone: 0700284326
0752000894
Email: ail.kabul09@gmail.com
Website: www.afghaninstituteoflearning.org
Executive Director: Sakena Yacoobi

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

Ward 5, St. 8, Section B , Mrkaz-e- Taleemi
Rd., Khoshal Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0799190015
0700155410
Fax: 0752023986
Email: aimteic@yahoo.com
azimq@hotmail.com
Deputy Director: Mohammad Azim

Afghan Institute of Training and Management (AITM)

Dar-ul-Aman Rd., Kocha Afghana, Ayoub Khan
Mina, Kabul
Phone: 0799334370
0700078937
0700252117
Email: aitm786@yahoo.com
Managing Director: Sardar Mohammad Samoon

Afghan Journalists Safety Committee (AJSC)

Hs. 229, St. 6, Lane 3, Shahr-i- Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0767718270
07025020870
0202211165
Email: iliass.alami@yahoo.com
info@ajsc.af
Website: www.ajsc.af
Country Coordinator: Najib Sharifi

Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization (ALSO)

St.12 (near Wazir Abad Lane), Qala-i-Fataullah,
 Phone: 0787822080
 0776119164
 0787379837
 Email: info@afghanlandminesurvivors.org
 friba.alsohr@gmail.com
 Website: www.afghanlandminesurvivors.org
 Acting Director: Amina Azimi

International NGOs Coordination Bureau (INCB)

Karte Se, Kabul
 Phone: 0700200266
 0799333621
 Email: ancb@ancb.org
 admin@ancb.org
 Website: www.ancb.org
 NGOs Coordinator: Sadaqat Ali

Afghan Organization of Human Rights & Environmental Protection (AOHREP)

2nd floor, Ansari Square (building opposite of City Centre), Shahr-i- Naw, Kabul
 Phone: 0799234025
 0700260236
 Email: aohrep@yahoo.com
 ar.hotaki@hotmail.com
 Director: Abdul Rahman Hotaki

Afghan Relief Committee (ARC)

Infront of Jaji Baba Mosque, Shah Shaheed, District 8, Kabul
 Phone: 0700223320
 0786980120
 Email: arckabul@live.com
 Director: Fraidoon Stanikzai

Afghan Society Against Cancer (ASAC)

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

Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC)

Hs. 8, Lane 3 (on the left), St. 13, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
 Phone: 0766550101
 0791430506
 0776012000

Email: atc_kabul@yahoo.com
 ekefayatullah@yahoo.com
 Website: www.atc.afghanistan.org
 Director: Kefayatullah Eblagh

Afghan Women Handicraft Commercial Association (AWHCA)

Airport Rd., Qala-i-Wakil Clinic St., District 10, Kabul
 Phone: 0776631425
 0788657383
 Email: gulsloom.awse@yahoo.com
 awhca_g06@yahoo.com
 Website: www.awhca.af
 Executive Director: Soraia Wahab

Afghan Women Organization (AWO)

Gozargah St. Pul-e- Chamcham (opposite of Old Polish Embassy), Kabul
 Phone: 0700292461
 Email: alinarassi@yahoo.com
 Coordinator: Alina Rassi

Afghan Women Services and Education Organization (AWSE)

Clinic St., Airport Rd., Qala-i-Wakil, Kabul
 PO Box (AWSE Post in ACBAR Office)
 Phone: 0799326132
 0772102597
 Email: gulsloom.awse@yahoo.com
 awse.org@gmail.com
 Website: www.awse.af
 Executive Director: Gulsloom Satarzai

Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

Hs. 22, St. 1, Karte Parwan, Part 2, Kabul
 Phone: 0773933580
 0700286598
 Email: hasina.safi@gmail.com
 awn.kabul@gmail.com
 Website: www.afghanwomensnetwork.org
 General Director: Hasina Safi

Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)

Hs. 699, St. 12, Karte Se, Kabul
 Phone: 0700263749
 Email: sarem@awec.info
 awec.kabul@awec.info
 Website: www.awec.info
 Communication and Media Officer: Murtaza Sarem

Afghan Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)

Dainow Debori, St. 3, Silo (opposite of Ariana Kabul Hotel; near Directorate of Repatriation), Kabul

PO Box (362)

Phone: 0700280179
0799203056
0752012958

Email: info@theawrc.net
awrcakbul@gmail.com

Website: www.theawrc.net

Deputy Director: Maryam Rahmani

Email: info@acci.org.af

ceo@acci.org.af

Website: www.acci.org.af

Chief Executive Officer: Mohammad Qurban Hajjo

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

Qarga Rd.(next to Afghan Red Crossent Society), District 5,Afshar,Kabul

Phone: 0202561956

Email: moe_farhad@yahoo.com

moneir.mobbashergmail.com

Director: Farhad Osmani

Afghanaid (Afghanaid)

Hs. 94, Hesa-i-Do, Main Rd., Karte

Parwan,Kabul

Phone: 0799310498

0799309373

0794684005

00882168440140

Email: crdavy@afghanaid.org.uk
abtariq@afghanaid.org.uk

Website: www.afghanaid.org.uk

Managing Director: Charles Davy

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

Hs. 495, St. 62, Karte Char, District 3, Kabul

PO Box (199)

Phone: 0700309291

0700319291

0790009088

Fax: 0776100170

Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af

rahatullah.naeem@ada.org.af

Website: www.ada.org.af

Managing and Country Director: Rahatullah Naeem

Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN)

Qala-i- Fataullah, Kabul

Phone: 0798394167

Email: info@afghanistan-analysts.org

info@afghanistan-analysts.net

Website: www.aan-afghanistan.org

Head of Office: Kate Clark

Afghanistan Environmental Foundation (AEF)

Kabul

Phone: 0775656620

0700164949

0786499499

Email: environmentalfoundation@hotmail.com

General Director: Mohammad Khalid Nasimi

Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU)

Kabul University Central Library,Jamal Mina,

Kabul

PO Box(335)

Phone: 0799193071

0700276440

Email: dupree_hatch@yahoo.com

waheed.tokhi@acku.edu.af/ info@acku.edu.af

Website: www.acku.edu.af

Executive Coordinator: Nancy Hach Dupree

Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO)

Karte Se, Kabul

Phone: 0783636707

0777315029

Email: ahrdoafghanistan@yahoo.com

info@ahrdo.org

Website: www.AHRDO.org

Executive Director: khodadad Bisharat

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Chamane Hozori (next to Kabul Nandary),Kabul

PO Box (233)

Phone: 0772000070

0774559666

0799810184

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

Hs. 7, St. 5, Kocha Qasabi, Baharistan Part 2,
Karte Parwan, Kabul
Phone: 0700203866
0799672404
Email: ahro98@yahoo.com
ahro.lal@gmail.com
Website: www.ahro.af
Chairman: Lal Gul Lal

Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA)

Qala -i Fathullah, St. 3 (opposite of Enterance
Gate of Fathmia Mosque; next to the Madina
Bazaar), Kabul
Phone: 0700223595
0799721469
Email: rqarizada@yahoo.com
Website: www.aiba.af
President: Rohullah Qarizada

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Pul-i-Surkh, Karte Se, Kabul
PO Box (829)
Phone: 0202500676
0794631816
Fax: 0093202500677
Email: mahmodi@aihrc.org.af
aihrc@aihrc.org.af
Website: www.aihrc.org.af
Regional Programme Manager: Shamsullah Ahmadzai

Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS)

Hs. 17, St. 1 (behind Ghazi High School), Karte
Char, Kabul
(PO Box) 5906
Phone: 0700248827
Email: info@aims.org.af
Website: www.aims.org.af
Executive Director: Mohammad Najib Azizi

Afghanistan Insurance Authority (AIA)

Ministry of Finance, Pashtunistan Watt, Kabul
Phone: 0752005431
0783181400
0700184173
Fax: 0093202103258
Email: hias@mof.gov.af
baryalai.barekzai@mof.gov.af
Website: www.mof.gov.af
Head Insurance Affiars Supervision: Baryalai Barekzaie

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

Hs. 42, Computer Plaza St., Haji Yaquob
Square, Shahr-i Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0202103404
Email: Info@aisa.org.af
Website: www.aisa.org.af
President and Chief Executive Office: Wafullah Iftikhar

Afghanistan Libre (AL)

Naderia High School St., Lane 3, Karte Parwan,
Kabul
Phone: 0798296760
0789427667
0799309698
Email: afghanistan.libre@gmail.com
hom.afghanistan.libre@gmail.com
Website: www.afghanistan.libre.org
Head of Mission: Florent Caillibotte

**Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS),
Ministry of Finance (Policy)**

Ministry of Finance, Pashtunistan Watt, Kabul
Phone: 0795883071
Email: directorands.mof@gmail.com
Website: www.thekabulprocess.gov.af/ www.mof.gov.af
ANDS Director: Wazhma Wesa

Afghanistan National Medicines Services Organization (ANMSO)

2nd Floor, Parwan Hotel, Khairkhana, Part 3,
Kabul
Phone: 0788405340
0772255994
0781808181
Email: anms0786@gmail.com
zazai1973@yahoo.com
Website: www.anms0.com
Chief Executive Officer: Abdul Khaliq Zazai Watan Dost

Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization (APPRO)

Hs. P92, St. 2 (between Taimani and Qala-i
-Fatehullah), Taimani, Kabul
Phone: 0797165104
0777011840
Email: saeed.parto@appro.org.af
Website: www.appro.org.af
Director of Research: Saeed Parto

Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP)

Niela Bagh St., Dar-ul-Aman Rd., Kabul
Phone: 0752122880
0752122881
Email: info.aredp@mrrd.gov.af
ramatullah.quraishi@mrrd.gov.af
Website: www.aredp-mrrd.gov.af
Executive Director: Ramatullah Quraishi

Afghanistan Times Daily (ATD)

Behind Kardan University, Parwan 2, Kabul
PO Box (371)
Phone: 0708954626
0772364666
Email: saboorsareer01@yahoo.com
Website: www.afghanistantimes.af
Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Saboor Sareer

Afghanistan Women Council (AWC)

Hs. 61, Burj-i-Barq Stop, Kolola Pushta, Kabul
PO Box (1913)
Phone: 0799888118
0700049980
0778477093
Email: awcafgh@yahoo.com
Website: www.afghanistanwomenscouncil.org
Chair Person: Fatana Ishaq Gailani

Afghans4Tomorrow (Afghans4Tomorrow)

Gozargah Rd. (opposite of OldGozargah Girl School), Kabul
Phone: 0772495080
0752092863
Email: ilias@afghans4tomorrow.org
afghansfortomorrow@gmail.com
afghansfortomorrow@gmail.com
Website: www.afghans4tomorrow.com
Country Director: Mohammad Ilias Barikzay

Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)

Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0799300082
Email: info.info@akdn.org
Website: www.akdn.org
Administrative Assistant: Farangais Karimi

Aga Khan Education Services, Afghanistan (AKES, A)

Hs. 36/172, Etefaq St., Borj-i- Barq Bus Stop (opposite of Kabul Municipality Apartments), Ansari Watt, Kolola Pushta, District 4, , Kabul
Phone: 0795294114
0785605069
Email: sayed.qubad@akdn.org
qubad.rahguzer@gmail.com
Website: www.akdn.org
Administrative Officer: Sayed Kai Qubad Rahguzer

Aga Khan Foundation Afghanistan (AKF)

Hs. 41, St. 2, Qala-i- Fataullah, Kabul
PO Box (5753)
Phone: 0791981910
0700299174
0798589868
Fax: 0202301189
Email: muslim.khurasan@akdn.org
info.info@akdn.org
Website: www.akdn.org/akf
Communications Officer: Ahmad Muslim Khurasan

Aga Khan Health Service Afghanistan (AKHS, A)

Hs. 36/172, Etefaq Street, Borj-i- Barq Bus Stop, Ansari Watt (opposite of Kabul Municipality Apartments), Kolola Pushta, District 4, Kabul
PO Box (5753)
Phone: 0793203044
0799330558
0799410124
Email: shafiq.mirzazada@akdn.org
masrooruddin.mansoor@akdn.org
Website: www.akdn.org/akhs
Country Programme Director: Mohammad Shafiq Mirzazada

Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC)

Kabul
PO Box (5805)
Phone: 0793666222
0796222828
Email: aktc.afg@akdn.org
Website: www.akdn.org/afghanistan_cultural_development.asp
Chief Executive Office: Ajmal Maiwandi

Agence France Presse (AFP)

Kabul
PO Box (710)
Phone: 0700282666
0799215027
0700224338
Email: afpkabul@afp.com
Website: www.afp.com
Bureau Chief: Ben Sheppard

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)

Hs. 61 (behind Zarghona High School),
Qala-i- Fataullah, Kabul
Phone: 0700276650
0700282090
0700662650
Email: deputy.director@acbar.org
director@acbar.org
Website: www.acbar.org
Deputy Director: Najibullah Tajali

Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan (AADA)

End of University St.(opposite Karwan
Institute), Kabul
PO Box (2006)
Phone: 0700299369
0785285530
Email: aaini@aada.org.af
aada.kabul@gmail.com
Website: www.aada.org.af
General Director: Ashrafuddin Aini

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

St. 11, Qala -i- Fatullah, Kabul
Phone: 0700283837
0700196686
0786874345
Email: azimi.area@gmail.com
hemat_area@yahoo.com
Managing Director: Arifullah Azimi

Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)

Hs. 93, St. 397, District 4, Zone 1, Kabul
Phone: 0700282539
0799611775
00882164494205
Email: kabul@acted.org
ziggy.garewal@acted.org

Website: www.acted.org
Country Manager: Ziggy Garewal

Agency French de Development (AFD)

Embassy of France, Sheer Poor Avenue,
Shahr-i- Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0792246565
Email: brouilletp@afd.fr
Website: www.afd.fr
Deputy Director: Pascal Brouillet

Agency of Consultancy for Training (ACT)

Fazil Big, Campany Rd. (near Obrasani,
opposite of Ghazni Ada), District 5, Kabul
Phone: 0777362953
0799188471
Email: act_afg@yahoo.com
act_afg@live.com.au
Managing Director: Alam Gul Ahmadi

Aina Afghan Media and Cultural Center (AINA)

Hs. 21, Hajj Ministry Lan, (opposite of Etisalat
Customer Care Bulding), District 10, Shaheed
Square,Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0799829808
0799332154
Email: bkverma100@hotmail.com
prasant009@gmail.com
Website: www.ainaworld.org
Country Director: Brajesh Verma

Altai Consulting (Altai)

Qala-i - Fatullah, Kabul
Phone: 0799888111
0799888666
Email: edavin@altaiconsulting.com
info@altaiconsulting.com
Website: www.altaiconsulting.com
Director: Eric Davin

American Broadcasting Company News (ABCNews)

Hs. 1024, St.15, Lane 6(on the left) , Sheer
Poor, Kabul
Phone: 0799569692
0796630380
0202300826
Email: aleem.gha@abc.com
Muhammad.lila@abc.com
Website: www.abcnews.com
Producer: Aleem Agha

American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS)

Hs. 25 (5th Hs. on the right), St. 1
(on the right), Qala-i- Fataullah, Kabul
(PO Box) 1708
Phone: 0700252251
0700022578
0700203069
Email: rohullah.amin@yahoo.com
AIAS.KBL@gmail.com
Website: www.bu.edu/aias/
Director: Rohullah Amin

Amitie Franco-Afghane (AFRANE)

St.11, Taimani, Kabul
(PO Bo)x 20225
Phone: 0794179052
Email: afrane.kaboul@gmail.com
afrane.coorproj@gmail.com
Website: www.afrane.asso.fr
Head of Mission: Matthieu Barbary

Anis Daily (AD)

2ndFloor, Azadi Printing Press Building,
Macrorayon 2, Kabul
Phone: 0202301342
0700022116
Email: anisdailypaper@gmail.com
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Fazlhaq Fayeze

Armaghan-e-Melli (AM)

Kabul
PO Box (767)
Phone: 0787430615
0773343250
0786209772
Email: dsiawash@gmail.com
armaghan.mille@gmail.com
Website: www.armaghan-e-melli.af
License Holder and Chief Editor: Mohammad Dauod
Siawash

Arman FM Limited (Arman FM)

Hs. 3, St.12, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
PO Box (1045)
Phone: 0798139530
0799306284
Email: info@arman.fm
sales@arman.fm
Website: www.arman.fm
Business Development Executive: Yosuf Mohseni

Armene Milli Newspaper (AMN)

Kabul
Phone: 0700189494
Editor-in-Chief: Sayed Shoahib Parsa

Armanshahr Foundation, Open Asia (Armanshahr)

Hs. 195, St. 5 (on the left Rashid St), Qassabi
St., Baharestan Cinema, Karte Parwarn, Kabul
Phone: 0796442788
0700427244
Email: armanshahrfoundation.openasia@gmail.com
guissoujahangiri@gmail.com
Website: www.openasia.org
Executive Director: Guissou Jahangiri

Afghanistan's Children, A New Approach (ASCHIANA)

Old Macrooryan (next to Ministry of labor and
Social Affairs), Kabul
PO Box (1827)
Phone: 0700277280
0799277280
Email: programme@aschiana.com.af
yousefaschiana@yahoo.com
Website: www.aschiana.com
General Director: Mohammad Yousuf

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Hs. 126, St. 2, Haji Yacoub Square, Shahr-i-
Naw, Kabul
PO Box (3070)
Phone: 0794226703
0799624286
0795987778
Email: jtokeshi@adb.org
samin@adb.org
Website: www.adb.org/afghanistan
Country Director: Joji Tokeshi

Associated Press (AP)

Hs. 1, St. 15, Lane 7, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0700224432
0796756244
0202300335
Fax: 0202302878
Email: apkabul@ap.org
rfaiez@ap.org
Website: www.ap.org
Correspondent: Rahim Faiez

Attorney General Office (AGO)

District 10, Qala-i -Fatullah, Kabul
 Phone: 0202200017
 0700260440
 0775515469
 Fax: 00930202200019
 Email: ago.afg@gmail.com
 agadviser@yahoo.com
 Attorney General: Mohammad Ishaq Alako

Aumo Rehabilitation and Development (ARD)

St. 4 (opposite of petrol pump), Taimani, Kabul
 Phone: 0700277377
 0700290861
 Email: engnazer_acl@yahoo.com
 Director: Nazir Mohammad

Awaz Media Group (YMG)

Hs.20, Sheer Poor Square, Kabul
 Phone: 0799281528
 Email: info@youthmediagroup.af
 Website: www.youthmediagroup.af
 Chief Executive Office: Hamida Amman

Baghe Babur Trust organisation (BBTO)

Gozargah, Baghe Babur, District 7, Kabul
 Phone: 0700226431
 0799398140
 0700226431
 Email: sahibzadaamanullah@yahoo.com
 javidzafari289@yahoo.com
 Director: Amanullah Sahibzada

Bakhtar Development Network (BDN)

Hs. 326(near Hamam Haji Mir Ahmad)
 Karte Parwan, Baharestan, Kabul
 Phone: 0797359295
 0799007564
 Email: bakhtardn@yahoo.com
 Website: www.bdn.org.af
 Managing Director: Ahmad Farid Fayeq

Bakhtar News Agency (BNA)

Ministry of Culture and Youth, Deh Afghanan,
 Kabul
 Phone: 0202101304
 0777529292
 Email: minawikhalil@gmail.com
 Website: www.bakhtarnews.com.af
 General Director: Abdul Khalil Minawy

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Hs. 472, Lane 2, Haji Mir Ahmad St.,
 Baharistan, Karte Parwan, Kabul
 Phone: 0705934720
 Email: shafiqullah.ayoubi@brac.net
 Website: www.brac.net
 Human Resource Officer: Shafiqullah Ayoubi

Basic Education & Employable Skill Training (BEST)

Hs. 11, St. 7, Spin Kalai Square, District 5,
 Khushal Mina, Kabul
 Phone: 0202562018
 0700606463
 Email: namohmand@bestafg.org
 bestafg@bestafg.org
 Website: www.bestafg.com
 Country Director: Nazir Ahmad Mohmand

BBC News (BBC N)

Hs.526 , St. 13, Lane. 2 (on the right),Wazir
 Akbar Khan, Kabul
 Phone: 0797472174
 0707606064
 0799606064
 Email: bilal.sarwary@gmail.com
 mahfouz.zubaide@bbc.co.uk
 Website: www.bbcnews.co.uk
 Correspondent: Mahfouz Zubaide

Bremen Overseas Research & Development Association (BORDA)

Kabul
 Phone: 0789385647
 0773314895
 008821621209358
 Email: miller@borda.de
 zeinab.nouri@borda-afg.org
 Website: www.borda-afg.org
 Country Director: Alex Miller

British Council (BC)

British Embassy Compound, St.15
 (roundabout), Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
 Phone: 0790000101
 0790000113
 Email: info.afghanistan@britishcouncil.org
 Sadiq.Qasimi@britishcouncil.org
 Website: www.britishcouncil.org/afghanistan
 Director: John Mitchell

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4Wafghan)

St. 5, Hs. 1114, Qala-i- Fataullah, Kabul
Phone: 0702295642
Email: countrydirector@cw4wafghan.ca
Website: www.cw4wafghan.ca
Country Director: Murwarid Ziayee

CARE International in Afghanistan (CARE)

Haji Yacoub Square, Park Rd. (next to Hanzala Mosque) Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
PO Box (433)
Phone: 0202201098
0202201101
00870762212630
Fax: 0093202203610
Email: afghan@care.org
Ahmad.obaid@af.care.org
Website: www.care.org
Country Director: Christina Northey

Care of Afghan Families (CAF)

Hs. 44(opposite of Mirwais Hotaki Intermediate School), St.2 , Dehbori Square, District 3, Kabul
PO Box (5822)
Phone: 0777822304
0700709317
Email: cafkbl@gmail.com
Website: www.caf.org.af
Technical Deputy Director: Mohammad Yasin Rahimyari

Caritas Germany (Caritas Germany)

Hs. 233, St. 5, Qala-i- Fatullah, Kabul
PO Box (3061)
Phone: 0707394480
0752118565
0706056472
Email: caritasgermany.coa@gmail.com
CR-afghanistan@caritas.de
Website: www.caritas-germany.org/54607.html
Country Representative: Patrick Kuebart

Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (CordAid)

Hs. 334, AlberoniWatt (behind Zarghona High School), District 10,Qala-i- Fatullah, Kabul
Phone: 0794717373
0797823798
0799228094

Email: maiwand.farhat@cordaid.net
s.s.shams@cordaid.net
Website: www.cordaid.nl
Director Country Office: Said Shamsul Islam

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Hs.1563, Electricity Station, Bus Stop,Main Rd., District 4, Kolola Pushta, Kabul
Phone: 0795797102
0790847784
Email: feroz.arian@crs.org
william.schmitt@crs.org
Website: www.crs.org
Country Representative: William Schmitt

Center for Contemporary Arts Afghanistan (CCAA)

Kabul
PO Box (11)
Phone: 0700029194
0700282917
Email: ccaa_kabul@yahoo.com
r.omar zad@gmail.com
Website: www.ccaa.org.af
Director: Rahraw Omarzad

Center for Democracy and Development Studies (CDDS)

Shaheed Square, KarteSe, Kabul
Phone: 0799412743
Email: cdd.studies@gmail.com
Head: Najib Yazdany

Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)

Hs. 2, St. 2, District 3, Karte Char, Kabul
Phone: 0773737040
0700295315
0799300003
Email: mnasib@cipe.org
mnaim@cipe.org
Website: www.cipe.org.af/www.cipe.org
Country Director: Mohammad Nasib
Central Afghanistan Welfare Committee (CAWC)
Ghulam Haidar Khan St., Electric Station Bus Stop, Kolola Pushta, Kabul
Phone: 0775070410
0799301802
Email: cawckabul@yahoo.com
Website: www.cawc.org.af

Central Statistics Organization (CSO)

Ansari Watt, Ariana Square, Kabul
 Phone: 0788771667
 0202104095
 0202100329
 Email: alyas.hamed2008@yahoo.com
 afghan_cso@yahoo.com
 Website: www.cso.gov.af
 Secretary of President General: Ilyas Rasooli

Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS)

Hs. 577, St. 9, Phase 6, Dar-ul-aman Main Rd., Karte Se, Kabul
 Phone: 0799750530
 0799750530
 Email: yusufzai@caps.af
 Website: www.caps.af
 Office in Charge: Sameem Yusufzai

Chadari Foundation (CF)

Hakim Nasir Khosraw Balkhi Building, Sarsabzi Square, District 4, Taimani, Kabul
 Phone: 0797676810
 Email: info@chadari.af
 Website: www.chadari.af
 Executive Director: Farkhunda Zarhra Naderi

Channel SEVEN (7TV)

Hs. 252, St. 5, Kolola Pushta Rd. (opposite of Royal Netherlands Embassy), Kabul
 Phone: 0798224434
 0700162945
 Email: info@awanama.com
 Website: www.channelseven.com
 Managing Editor: Lutfullah Rashid

Cheragh Daily (Cheragh)

Hs. 19, Butcher St., Shahr-i- Naw, Kabul
 Phone: 0788275504
 Email: cheragh_daily@yahoo.com
 Website: www.cheraghdaily.af
 Director: Kathreen Wida

Childfund Afghanistan (CFA)

Hs. 207, St. Chamcha Mast, District 6, Kabul
 PO Box (5264)
 Phone: 0797299519
 0798205950
 0798205951
 008821669970781
 Fax: 00930202501287

Email: erashid@afghanistan.childfund.org
 jtotakhail@afghanistan.childfund.org
 Website: www.childfund.org
 Administration: Ehsanullah Rashid

Children in Crisis (CIC)

Taimani Square (opposite Aga Sayeed Naderi House), Kabul
 Phone: 0798611600
 0799324325
 Email: cdcic@ceretechs.com
 omcic@ceretechs.com
 Website: www.childrenincrisis.org.uk
 Country Director: Timor Shah Adib

Civil Service Reform Commission (CSRC)

Nex to Gulbahar Center, Kabul
 Phone: 0799336595
 Email: zurmati_prr@yahoo.com
 General Manager Pay and Grading: Noor Mohammad Zurmati

Civil Society & Human Rights Network (CSHRN)

St. 6, Karte Se, Kabul
 Phone: 0799353481
 0786009112
 0799315875
 Email: nn_cshrn@yahoo.com
 asl_cshrn@yahoo.com
 Website: www.cshrn.af
 Executive Coordinator and Liaison Officer: Naim Nazari

Civil Society Development Center (CSDC)

Hs. 94, St. 2, Taimani, Kabul
 PO Box (1035)
 Phone: 0783725034
 0798557693
 Email: niazi@afghancsdc.org
 mmcsdco@gmail.com
 Website: www.afghancsdc.org
 Director: Mohamm Mansoor Niazi

Community Center for Disabled (CCD): A Resource Centre for Persons with Disabilities

Kabul University Rd. (next to Ali Ibn Abu Talib Mosque and Noor High School Lane), Last Bus Stop, Kabul
Phone: 0799215820
0798275388
0799349752
Email: ccd_kabul@yahoo.com
haroon_ccd@yahoo.com
Website: WWW.CCD.ORG.AF
Executive Director: Saifuddin Nezami

Concern Worldwide (Concern)

Hs. 471, St. 4, Qala-i-Fatullah, Kabul
PO Box (2016)
Phone: 0799489507
Email: Afghanistan.cd@concern.net
hamayoon.shirzad@concern.net
Website: www.concern.net
Country Director: Janardhan Rao

Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA)

Hs. 150. St. 1, Dehbori Square, Kabul
PO Box (26)
Phone: 0700294693
Email: ccakabul@hotmail.com
ahmadi.cca@gmail.com
Website: www.cca.org.af
Program Director: Sayed Abdullah Ahmadi

Cooperation for Peace and Development (CPD)

Kabul
Phone: 0791575072
0799074493
Email: cpd.afg@gmail.com
Website: www.cpdo.blog.af
General Director: Abdul Sami Zhman

Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU)

Hs. 587, St. 2, Haji Yaqoob Square, Shahr-i Naw, Kabul
PO Box (13032)
Phone: 0700278891
0798102521
Email: Kanishka.Nawabi@cpau.org.af
Suleman.Kakar@cpau.org.af
Idrees.Zaman@cpau.org.af
Website: www.cpau.org.af
Managing Director: Idrees Zaman

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

Hs. 27, St (opposite of Kandahari Mosque), District 6, Karte Se, Kabul
Phone: 0799690701
0776675995
Email: directorprogram.coar@gmail.com
Website: www.coar.org.af
Director General: Mohammad Naeem Salimee

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

Jeem Part, 5th District, Qamber Cross Section, Qargha Rd., Khushal Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0700291722
0799446055
Email: abbasy@cha-net.org
info@cha-net.org
Website: www.cha-net.org
Managing Director: Ghulam Yahya Abbasy

Counterpart International: Initiative to Promote Afghan Civil Society (I-PACS)

Hs. 375, St. 15, Lane 5-B, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0700154933
0794126601
0794126601
Email: desi@counterpart-afg.org
khatera@counterpart-afg.org
Website: www.counterpart-afg.org
Deputy Chief of Party: Desislava Dzhurkova

Country Development Unit (CDU)

Hs. 12, Rabia Balkhi St., Karte char, Kabul
PO Box (5510)
Phone: 0700276411
0700244314
0700244299
Email: cduafghan@yahoo.com
cdcafghan@gmail.com
Website: www.cduafghan.org
Director: Abdul Qader

Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB)

Ibn-Sina Watt, Kabul
PO Box (1626)
Phone: 0202104146
0202100301
0202100302
Fax: 0093202100305
Email: info@CentralBank.Gov.Af
Website: www.centralbank.gov.af
Governor: Noorullah Delawari

Da Qanoon Ghush-tonky (DQG)

Red Cross St., Haji Yaquob Square,
Shahr-i- Naw, Kabul

Phone: 0799721011

Email: qanoon_ghush-tonky@yahoo.com

Website: www.dqg.org.af

Director: Freshta Karimi

Danish Assistance to Afghan Rehabilitation and Technical Trianing (DAARTT)

Hs. 430, St. 12, Qala-i- Fatullah, Kabul
PO Box (1699)

Phone: 0752004414

0777735449

Email: pm@daartt.org

program@daartt.org

Website: www.daartt.org

Director: Lars Pedersen

Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR)

Paikob-i-Naswar, Wazir Abad, Kabul
PO Box (208)

Phone: 0700288232

0797011021

0797011000

Email: dacaar@dacaar.org

irshad@dacaar.org

Website: www.dacaar.org

Director: Enzo Vecchio

Danish Demining Group (DDG)

Hs. 64, St. 3, District 3, Karte Char, Kabul

Phone: 0797058482

0795053135

0797058479

Email: pm.afghanistan@drc.dk

head.operations@drc.dk

Website: www.drc.dk

Programme Manager: John Morse

Delegation of the European Union and Office of the Special Representative to Afghanistan (EU Delegation/EUSR)

Sedarat Square, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul

Phone: 0202200458

0202200459

0202200461

Email: delegation-afghanistan@eeas.europa.eu

Website: www.eeas.ec.europa.eu/delegation/afghanistan

Head of Delegation EUSR: Ambassador Franz-Michael MELLBIN

Democracy International (DI)

Sediq Shaheed Plaza, Shaheed Square,
Shahr-i- Naw, Kabul

Phone: 0796209934

0796930803

Email: di-afg@democracyinternational.com

Website: www.democracyinternational.com

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL)

Kabul

Phone: 0700429898

Email: pdkabal@mail.gov.af

Director: Hashmatullah

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Pul-i- Charkhi St. (next to Camp Phoenix), Kabul

Phone: 0799105747

Email: Abdulrab_005@yahoo.com

Director: Abdul Rab Noori

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Hs.33/2, Sedarat Square, Kabul

Phone: 0799310353

Email: malalai.taher@giz.de

Website: www.giz.de

Assistant to the Country Director: Malalai Taher

Development & Humanitarian Services for Afghanistan (DHSA)

Hs. 442, St. 6, Chardehi Watt (near Uzbeka

Mosque), District 6, Karte Se, Kabul

PO Box (133)

Phone: 0202500717

0799329832

Email: n.ayubi@dhisa.af

info@dhisa.af

Website: www.dhisa.af

Director General: Najiba Ayubi

Development and Ability Organisation (DAO)

Hs.2 (on the right), St. 1, Taimani Project, Kabul
Phone: 0700600960
0752024525
Email: director@daoafghanistan.org
info@daoafghanistan.org
Website: www.daoafghanistan.org
Director: Haji Omara Khan Muneeb

Directorate of Public Libraries of Afghanistan (DPLA)

District 2, Malik Asghar Square, Kabul
Phone: 0202103289
0799564818
0788915123
Email: abdulhameed_nabizada@yahoo.com
General Director: Abdul Hamid Nabizada
Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)
Hs. 10, St. 1, Baharistan Power Station Bus
Stop (next to former British Consulate), Karte
Parwan, Kabul
Phone: 0799375552
0202200643
Email: briscoe_raymond@yahoo.co.uk
Website: www.dca-vet.nl
Executive Director: Raymond Briscoe

Education University - Kabul (KEU)

Afshar St. (next to Police Academy), District 5,
Kabul
Phone: 0799067555
Email: a.hamidzai@gmail.com
President: Amanullah Hameedzai

Embassy of Belgium (Belgium)

Phone: 0700200135
Email: Frederic.Henrard@diplobel.fed.be
kabul@diplobel.fed.be
Website: www.diplomatie.be/kabul
Ambassador: Arnout Pauwels

Embassy of Bulgaria (Bulgaria)

District 10, Phase B, St. 16-D, Wazir Akbar
Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0202311746
0700206001
0707826262
Email: bgembassy.kabul@gmail.com
ahaqshnas123@yahoo.com
Ambassador: Nikolay Yankov

Embassy of Canada (Canada)

Hs. 256, St. 15, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0701108800
Email: kabul@international.gc.ca
Kabulgc@international.gc.ca
Website: www.afghanistan.gc.ca
Ambassador: Deborah Lyons

Embassy of Denmark (Denmark)

Hs. 36, St. 13, Lane 1 (on the left), Wazir Akbar
Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0796888100-3
0796888135
Fax: 0093202302838
Email: kblamb@um.dk
ahmras@um.dk
Website: www.ambkabul.um.dk/en
Ambassador: Henrik Bramsen Hahn

Embassy of Finland (Finland)

Hs. 728, Lane 1, St. 10, Wazir Akbar Khan,
Kabul
Phone: 0793322924
008821652401883
Email: sanomat.kab@formin.fi
Website: www.finland.org.af
Ambassador: Ari Mäki

Embassy of France (France)

Sheer Poor Avenue, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
PO Box (1596)
Phone: 0700284032
0202185295
Email: secretariat.kaboul-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr
Website: www.ambafrance-af.org
Ambassador: Jean-Michel Marlaud

Embassy of India (India)

Malalai Watt, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0202200185
0202302829
0087376305560
Fax: 0093202203818
Email: embassy@indembassy-kabul.com
amb.kabul@mea.gov.in
Website: www.meakabul.nic.in
Ambassador: Amar Sinha

Embassy of Italy (Italy)

Great Massoud Rd., Kabul
 Phone: 0202103144
 0798606061/2/3/4
 Email: ambasciata.kabul@esteri.it
 segreteria.kabul@gmail.com
 Website: www.ambkabul.esteri.it
 Ambassador: Luciano Pezzotti

Embassy of Japan (Japan)

St. 15, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
 Phone: 0799363827
 0796930619
 00873762853777
 Fax: 00873761218272
 Email: plt@kb.mofa.go.jp
 Ambassador: Hiroshi Takahashi

Embassy of New Zealand (New Zealand)

St. 15 (roundabout), Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
 Phone: 0796666101
 0700102376
 Email: mea@mfat.govt.nz
 shakoor.sangar@fco.gov.uk
 Ambassador: John Mataire

Embassy of Sweden (Sweden)

Ministry of Interior St. (opposite of
 MOI), Shahr-i Naw, Kabul
 Phone: 0202104912
 Email: ambassaden.kabul@gov.se
 Website: www.swedenabroad.se
 Ambassador: Peter Semneby

Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt (Egypt)

St. 15, Lane 1, Sheer Poor, Kabul
 Phone: 0202304296
 Email: egypt_kabul@mfa.gov.eg
 Ambassador: Majed Abdel-Rahman

Embassy of the Czech Republic (Czech)

Hs. 337, St. 10, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
 Phone: 0798417418
 0781417418
 Email: kabul@embassy.mzv.cz
 mahmodzia.mansoori@hotmail.com
 Website: www.mzv.cz/kabul
 Ambassador: Miroslav Kosek

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany (Germany)

Mina 6, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
 PO Box (83)
 Phone: 0202101512/3
 0202101514/5
 Fax: 00870793188396
 Email: info@kabul.diplo.de
 Website: www.kabul.diplo.de
 Ambassador: Martin Jaeger

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran)

Sheer Poor Intersection, Kabul
 Phone: 0202101391-7
 Email: iranemb.kbl@mfa.gov.ir
 Public Relation: Masoud Azad

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Pakistan)

Karte Parwan, Kabul
 Phone: 0202202745
 0202202746
 0202202870
 Email: pakembkbl@yahoo.com
 Website: www.pakembassykabul.com
 Ambassador: Mohammad Sadiq

Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia)

Behind ISAF , Shash Darak, Kabul
 Phone: 0202304192
 0202304184
 Email: ksa_kamb@hotmail.com
 Ambassador: Abdul Rahman Al Ghaseb

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Netherlands)

Ministry of Interior Rd., Malalai Watt, Shahr-i
 Naw, Kabul
 Phone: 0700286641
 0798002178
 Email: kab@minbuza.nl
 Muzhgan.Mehr@minbuza.nl
 Website: www.minbuza.nl
 Ambassador: J.P.M. Peters

Embassy of the People's Republic of China (China)

Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul
Phone: 0202102548
Email: chinaemb_af@mfa.gov.cn
Website: www.af.china-embassy.org
Ambassador: Deng Xijun

Embassy of the Republic of Hungary (Hungary)

c/o Embassy of the Federal Republic of
Germany, Mina 6, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
PO Box (83)
Phone: 0202101512
Email: huembkbl@gmail.com
Ambassador: Antal Dragos

Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia (Indonesia)

Malalai Watt, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0202201066
Email: kbrikabul@neda.af
Ambassador: Anshory Tajudin

Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Kazakhstan)

Hs. 536, St. 13, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0202300552
0796580195
Email: kabul@mfa.kz
Ambassador: Omirtay Bitimov

Embassy of the Republic of Korea (Korea)

Hs. 34, St. 10/B, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0202102481
0202102482
Fax: 093202102725
Email: kabul@mofa.go.kr
Website: www.afg.mofat.go.kr
Ambassador: Cha Youngcheol

Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan (Tajikistan)

Hs. 3, St. 10, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0202300392
Email: tajembaf@rambler.ru
tajembaf@rambler.ru
kabultj@tojikiston.com
Ambassador: Imomov Sharofuddin

Embassy of the Republic of Turkey (Turkey)

St. 134, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul
Phone: 0202101581
0202103253
0799335303
Fax: 0093202101579

Email: kemal.dogan@mfa.gov.tr
embassy.kabul@mfa.gov.tr
Website: www.kabul.emb.mfa.gov.tr
Personal Assistant to Ambassador: Kemal Doğan

Embassy of the Russian Federation (Russia)

Old Russian Embassy, Dar-ul-Aman, Kabul
Phone: 0700298277
0773786367
Email: rusembafg@multinet.af
Website: www.afghanistan.mid.ru
Ambassador: Andrey Avetisyan

Embassy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Zanbaq Square, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt,
Kabul
Phone: 0786868687
0788400000
Email: kabul@mofa.gov.ae
Website: www.aeembkabul.gov.ae
Ambassador: Yosuf Alali

Embassy of the United Kingdom (UK)

St. 15, Roundabout, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
PO Box (334)
Phone: 0700102273
0700102000
00873762854939
Fax: 0093700102250
Email: britishembassy.kabul@fco.gov.uk
Website: www.ukinafghanistan.fco.gov.uk/en/
Ambassador: Sir Richard Stagg

Embassy of the United States of America (U.S. Embassy)

Great Massoud Rd., Kabul
Phone: 0700108001
Email: kabulpress@state.gov
Website: www.kabul.usembassy.gov
Ambassador: James B. Cunningham

Embassy of Turkmenistan (Turkmenistan)

Next to Habibia High School, Dar-ul-Aman Rd.,
Kabul
Phone: 0700285799
Email: tmembkabul@gmail.com
tmembkabul2@yahoo.com
Ambassador: Khemra Togalakov

Embassy of Uzbekistan (Uzbekistan)

Opposite of Habibia High School, St. 2
(on the right), Karte Se, Kabul
Phone: 0202500431
Ambassador: Yadgharkhoja Shadmanov

Emergency Hospital (Emergency)

Park Rd (opposite of Flower St),
Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0777211404
0729001701
0700211404
Email: emergency@emergency.it
mohammadfarid@msn.com
Website: www.emergency.it
Staff Manager: Mohammad Farid Danish

Empowerment Center for Women (ECW)

Opposite of Silo, Khoshal Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0700276065
0786890980
Email: ecw_afghanistan@yahoo.com
arezo_qanih@yahoo.com
Website: www.ecw-af.org
Executive Director: Malika Qanih

Eqtidar-e-Mili Weekly (EM)

Hs. 1(on the left; opposite of
Kandahari Mosque), Karte Char, Kabul
Phone: 0799348791
Email: Alirezvani2006@yahoo.com
Website: www.eqmweekly.com.af
Editor: Sayed Mohammad Ali Rezvani

Equal Access Afghanistan (EAA)

Hs. 585, St. 8, Taimani linked with Qala-i-
Fatullah, Kabul
PO Box (1449)
Phone: 0799868443
0702200889
Email: ajamili@equalaccess.af
anwarjamili@gmail.com
Website: www.equalaccess.org
Country Director: Anwar Jamili

**European Commission Directorate-General for
Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection
(ECHO-Afghanistan Office)**

Kabul
Phone: 0700282318
0799282318
00871763085358
Email: echo.kabul@echofield.eu
syed.mansoor@echofield.eu
Website: www.ec.europa.eu/echo
Head of Office: Olivier Rousselle

**European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan
(EUPOL Afghanistan)**

3rd Microrayan, Jalalabad Rd., Kabul
Phone: 0783702677
0790697711
0793990469
Email: press.office@eupol-afg.eu
aziz.basam@eupol-afg.eu
Website: www.eupol-afg.eu
Police Commissioner: Karl Åke Roghe

Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan (EPAA)

St. 2 (behind Sorya High School), Karte Char,
Kabul
Phone: 0202504837
Email: info@epaa.org.af
najla.habibyar@epaa.org.af
Website: www.epaa.org.af
Director and Chief Executive Officer: Najla Habibyar

Fekr Organization of Psycho social Development (Fekr)

Hs.2, St. 2, Hozah Station St., Kabul
Phone: 0795686216
0785278645
Email: fekropd@gmail.com
Executive Director: Abas Payiandanik

FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS)

Hs. 583, St.7, Main Rd., Qala-i- Fatullah, Kabul
Phone: 0752079026
0799345010
Email: malohat.shoinbodova@focushumanitarian.org
focusafghanistan@focushumanitarian.org
Website: www.akdn.org/focus
Strategic Coordination and External Relations Manager:
Malohat Shoinbodova

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO)

c/o Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Livestock (opposite of Kabul University), Jamal Mina, Kabul

Phone: 0752041848
0793779097
0797256840

Fax: 0093202510428

Email: ousmane.guindo@fao.org
FAO-AF@fao.org

Website: www.fao.org

Representative: Ousmane Guindo

Foundation for Culture and Civil Society (FCCS)

Hs. 839 (opposite of National Archives) Salang Watt, Deh Afghanistan, Kabul
PO Box (5965)

Phone: 0700276637
0700278905
0799243587

Fax: 0093752023578

Email: hakimyar.t@gmail.com
mir_joyenda@yahoo.com

Website: www.afghanfccs.info

Executive Director: Timor Hakimyar

Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA)

Hs.100, St. 8, Qala-i- Fataullah, Kabul

Phone: 0794775807
0796553417

Email: Zar.Wardak@finca.org
salim.khan@fincaaf.org

Chief Executive Office and Country Director: Zar Wardak

Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES)

Ansari Square, Yaftali St.(opposite of Park Star Hotel),Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul

Phone: 0700280441
0799338094

Email: info@fes-afghanistan.org

Website: www.fes-afghanistan.org

Director: Adrienne Woltersdorf

Future Generations Afghanistan (FGA)

Hs. 114 St.CHE (behind Mawlana Mateen Mosque), Parwan 2, District 4, Kabul
PO Box (290)

Phone: 0799686618
0202230838

Email: shirzai@future.org
afghanistan@future.org

Website: www.future.org/www.future.edu

Country Director: Ajmal Shirzai

Futures Group International (Health Policy Project/ HPP Afghanistan) (COMPRI-A)

Hs. 124, Ahmad Shah Masood High School St., District 10, Qala-i-Fatullah, Kabul

Phone: 0795440459
0700177809
0777440273

Email: KSears@futuresgroup.com
OSayed@futuresgroup.com

Website: www.futuresgroup.com

Team Leader: Kathleen Sears

Gahnama-i-Honar (GH)

Kabul

Phone: 0700282917
0776503608
0700029194

Email: r_omarzad@yahoo.com
ccaa_kabul@yahoo.com

Website: www.ccaa.org.af

Editor: Rahraw Omarzad

General Directorate of Programmes and Policy Implementation, Ministry of Finance (Policy)

Pashtunistan Watt, Kabul

Phone: 0702682600

Email: ameenhabibi@gmail.com

Website: www.thekabulprocess.gov.af/ www.mof.gov.af

Director General: Ameen Habibi

Ghazni Rural Support Program (GRSP)

Hs. 208, St .3T, Pul-i-Surkh, Karte Se, Kabul

Phone: 0799320584
0777900301

Email: mzeerak@gmail.com
e_zeerak@yahoo.com

Website: www.grsp.af

Director: Mohammad Eshaq Zeerak

GIZ- Basic Education Program for Afghanistan (GIZ/BEPA)

Hs. 4, Saray Ghazni, Darul-ul-Quran St., District 3, Kabul
 Phone: 0799725876
 0776669991
 Fax: 0752001243
 Email: laila.hashimi@giz.de
 emadudien.wejdan@giz.de
 Website: www.bepafg.com
 Receptionist: Laila Hashimi

Global Hope Network International (GHNI)

Hs. 822, St.18, District 6, Karte Se, Kabul
 PO Box (30230)
 Phone: 0752003296
 0202504185
 Email: stefan.ziegler@ghni.org
 Website: www.ghni.org
 Director: Stefan Ziegler

Global Partners (GP)

Kabul
 Phone: 0798279603
 0796900747
 0794139790
 Email: wfriberg@Globalpartnersca.org
 Website: www.globalpartnersinternational.com
 Country Director: Wes Friberg

Global Partnership for Afghanistan (GPFA)

Hs. 8, St. 10, Taimani, District 4, Kabul
 Phone: 0788884556
 07888835820780186147
 Email: jahmad@gpfa.org
 mhwafa@gpfa.org
 Website: www.gpfa.org
 Acting Chief of Party: Jawid Ahmad

Global Point Afghanistan (GPA)

St. 2, Pul-i- Khoshk, District 13, Kabul
 Phone: 0794854030
 Email: gpa_org@yahoo.com
 Website: www.globalpointafghanistan.org
 President: Ramazan Ali Zaib

Global Rights - Partners for Justice (GR)

St. 9, Taimani, Kabul
 Phone: 0797753955
 Email: mandanah@globalrights.org
 Website: www.globalrights.org
 Country Director: Mandana Hendessi

Goethe-Institut Kabul (Goethe)

Shah Mahmood St., Kabul
 Phone: 0202105200
 Email: info@kabul.goethe.org
 Website: www.goethe.de/kabul
 Director: Torsten Oertel

Good Morning Afghanistan Radio (GMAR)

Hs. 252, St. 5, Kolola Pushta Rd.(opposite of Dutch Embassy), Kabul
 Phone: 0798224434
 0700162945
 Email: info@awanama.com
 Website: www.awanama.com
 www.gma.com.af/www.awanama.com
 www.gma.com.af/www.awanama.com
 Director: Barry Salaam

Good Morning Afghanistan TV (GMAT)

Hs. 252, St. 5, Kolola Pushta Rd., (opposite of Royal Netherlands Embassy),Kabul
 Phone: 0798224434
 0700162945
 Email: info@awanama.com
 barry.salaam@gmail.com
 Website: www.gma.com.af
 Director: Barry Salaam

Government Media and Information Centre (GMIC)

Council of Ministers Building (in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Shah Mahmood Khan St., Malek Asghar Area, Kabul
 Phone: 0202302817
 0708198399
 Email: info@gmic.gov.af
 sardar.wali@gmic.gov.af
 Website: www.gmic.gov.af
 Director: Sifatullah Sapai

Green Organization of Afghanistan (GOA)

Shaheed Mazari St., Pul-i-Khoshk Square, Dasht-i-Barchi, Kabul
 Phone: 0799174419
 0786177221
 Email: alireza-sohil@yahoo.com
 Director: Zahir Maboob

Green Step (GS)

Hs. 5 (on the left), Shirkat St., Dar-ul-aman
Main Rd. (opposite of Habibia High School),
Kabul
Phone: 0700274682
0797515151
0799349309
Email: Noorulhaq1968@gmail.com
info@gmail.com
Website: www.greenstep.com.af
Deputy Director: Noorulhaq Hashimi

**Group for the Environment, Renewable Energies and
Solidarities (GERES)**

Hs. 2, St. 2, Sara-i-Ghazni, District 3, Kabul
Phone: 0799118304
0799197083
Email: afghanistan@geres.eu
r.rameen@geres.eu
Website: www.geres.eu
Country Director: Maude Tigheuy

HAGAR International (HAGAR International)

Hs. 249, St. 4(near Saba Media Group), District
6,Karte Se, Kabul
PO Box (394)
Phone: 0202500658
0771016284
Email: afghanistan@hagarinternational.org
Website: www.hagarinternational.org
Country Director: Sara Shinkfield

Handicap International (HI)

Hs. 548, St. 5, Qala-i-Fatullah, Kabul
Phone: 0799149642
0779374815
008821621014051
Email: cdafgha@hiafgha.org
supservcoordo@hiafgha.org
Website: www.handicap-international.org
Country Director: Gregory Le Blanc

Hazarajat Assistance Newsletter (Artibat NGO) (HAN)

Hs. 5 (on left) , St. 15, Serahe Allahudeen
(north of Esteqlal Hospital), district 6, Kabul
Phone: 0700224558
Email: yonos_akhtar@yahoo.com
ertebatteam@yahoo.com
Director: Mohammad Yonos Akhtar

**HealthNet–Trans Cultural Psychosocial Organization
(HealthNet-TPO)**

Hs. 144, St. 5, Silo Rd. (near
SangkashahMosque), District 3, Kabul
PO Box (7680)
Phone: 0789884164
0789060108
Email: psm@healthnettpoaf.org
kabul.office@healthnettpoaf.org
Website: www.healthnettpo.org
Head of Mission: Abdul Majeed Siddiqi

Heinrich Böll Stiftung (HBS)

Hs. 238, St.5, Qala-i-Fathullah, Kabul
Phone: 0799890909
0700295972
Email: neelab.hakim@af.boell.org
info@af.boell.org
Website: www.af.boell.org
Country Director: Marion Regina Müller

Help Afghan School Children Organization (HASCO)

Masjid St.,Khoshal Khan, Kabul
PO Box (5984)
Phone: 0792027804
Email: hasco@chello.at
Website: www.help-afghan-school-children.org
Director: Hafizullah Khaled

Help the Afghan Children (HTAC)

Hs. 708, St. 12 (opposite of Allahudeen Park),
District 6, Karte Se, Kabul
Phone: 0799840407
0700018842
0791771187
Email: osman.htac@gmail.com
sfarid.htac@gmail.com
Website: www.htac.org
Managing Director: Mohammad Osman Hemat

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS)

Taimany Project, St. 4 (on the west),
District 4, Kabul
Phone: 0700652004
0775985619
0777413035
Email: fazal.akbar@helvetas.org
hamid.nadeem@helvetas.org
Website: www.helvetas.org
Security and Liaison Manager: Fazal Akbar

HEWAD Reconstruction, Health and Humanitarian Assistance Committee (HEWAD)

Hs. 118, St. 1 (on the left), Taimani Project, Kabul
 PO Box (5138)
 Phone: 0700670710
 0700670710
 0700632330
 0799323920
 Email: hewad_af@yahoo.com
 hewad_Kabul@yahoo.com
 Director: Amanullah Nasrat

High Office of Anti-Corruption (HOOAC)

Badam Bagh Rd., Kabul
 Phone: 0706720200
 0752061445
 Email: amini@anti-corruption.gov.af
 amini-888@hotmail.com
 Website: www.anti-corruption.gov.af
 Executive Secretary: Homayoun Hamdard

Hindokosh News Agency (HNA)

Butcher St. (near District 10),
 Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
 Phone: 0794474821
 Director: Syed Najeebullah Hashimy

Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium (HRRAC)

St. 3, Lane 1 (opposite of Ayna TV), Sheer Poor Mosque, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
 Phone: 0752017744
 0752017733
 0797048344
 Email: dr.rohullah@afghanadvocacy.org.af
 hrrac@afghanadvocacy.org.af
 Website: www.afghanadvocacy.org.af
 Admin Manager: Rohullah Obaidi

Humanitarian Assistance & Facilitating Organization (HAFO)

Hs.146, St. 1, District 3, Dehmazang, Kabul
 Phone: 00797636363
 0787064064
 Email: kabul@hafo.org
 sarabi@hafo.org
 Website: www.hafo.org
 Executive Director: Aman Sarabi

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

Hs.1137, P- Silo Pump St., District 5, Kushal Khan, Kabul
 PO Box (1261)
 Phone: 0706662327
 Email: uahmad@hawca.org
 hawca@hawca.org
 Website: www.hawca.org
 Senior Program Manager: Farshid Rasuli

IbnSina Public Health Programme for Afghanistan (IbnSina-PHPA)

Ahmad Shah Baba Mina (adjacent to Ahmad Shah BaBa Poly Clinic), District 12, Kabul
 Phone: 0786950777
 Email: drsahak@ibnsina.org.af
 drsahak@yahoo.co.uk
 Website: www.ibnsina.org.af
 Country Director: Habibullah Sahak

Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission (IARCS)

Prime Minister's Compound (in front of Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul
 PO Box (5241)
 Phone: 0799435956
 0202103963
 0202103814
 Email: mamoon_af@yahoo.com
 Website: www.iarcs.gov.af
 Chief of Staff: Mamoon Rashidi

Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG)

Ariana Square (next to Embassy of Italy), District 9, Kabul
 Phone: 0799300019
 0202104703
 Email: obaid.ekhlas@idlg.gov.af
 obaidekhlash@yahoo.com
 Website: WWW.idlg.gov.af
 Executive Manager to the Deputy Minister for Policy and Technical Affairs: Obaidullah Ekhlas

Independent Humanitarian Services Association (IHSAN)

Hs.44/45, St. 2, Project Taimani, Kabul
Phone: 0799328597
0700283813
0777603010
Email: ihsan_org@yahoo.com
Website: www.ihsan.org
Director: Raz Mohammad

Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC)

H. 254, Phase 1, Ashraf St., Lane 1-2, Kabul
Phone: 0797515871
Email: contact@mec.af
Website: www.mec.af
Executive Director: Abdul Moien Jawhary

Information Management and Mine Action Programs (IMMAP)

Kabul
Phone: 0794315159
Email: afghanistan@immap.org
Website: www.immap.org
Country Director: Joe Crowley

Institute for War & Peace Reporting (IWPR)

Salim Karwan Plaza (west of Saleem Karwan Square), lane2 (on the left), Kabul
Phone: 0700025635
Email: Noorrahman@iwpr.net
Website: www.iwpr.net
Country Director: Noorrahman Rahmani

Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA)

Hs. 61, Commendan Gada St. (opposite of Municipality Blocks), Kolola Pushta, Kabul
Phone: 0799271624
0785431054
Email: yama.torabi@iwaweb.org
info@iwaweb.org
Website: www.iwaweb.org
Director: Yama Torabi

International Assistance Mission (IAM)

Hs. 472, St. 7, Karte Se, Kabul
PO Box(625)
Phone: 0202501185
0700394390
Email: ea@iam-afghanistan.org
hq@iam-afghanistan.org

Website: www.iam-afghanistan.org
Executive Director: Dirk Frans

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Hs.165 (near Baharistan Cinema; in Front of Power Distribution Station), Part 1, Karte Parwan, Kabul
PO Box (1355)
Phone: 0799216325
0799216322
0799216324
Email: j.rizvi@cgiar.org
a.manan@cgiar.org
Website: www.icarda.org
Country Programme Manager: Javed Rizvi

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

St. 1, lane 1, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0799550055
0700297777
008821651101288
Email: kabul@icrc.org
Website: www.icrc.org
Head of Delegation: Gherardo Pontrandolfi

International Crisis Group (ICG)

Hs. 282, District 4, Shahr-i Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0790660289
0790690857
Email: gsmith@crisisgroup.org
rsorush@crisisgroup.org
Website: www.crisisgroup.org
Country representative: Graeme Smith

International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

Hs. 3 (on the left), Nashenas St., District .9, Shash Darak, Kabul
Phone: 0799274262
0700260015
0799432016
008821644440743
Email: mismail@idlo.int
adarwesh@idlo.int
Website: www.idlo.int
Human Resources and Administration Officer: Mohammad Ismail

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

ARCS Compound , Afshari-i-Silo, Qargha Rd.,
Kabul
PO Box (3039)
Phone: 0700274881
0763043425
Fax: 00873763043426
Email: chris.jackson@ifrc.org
Sayed.omershah@ifrc.org
Website: www.ifrc.org
Country Representative and Head of Delegation:
Christopher Jackson

International Labour Organization (ILO)

WFP Compound, St. 4, Koshani Watt(behind
Kabul Bank),Shahr-i-naw, Kabul
Phone: 0793110038
0792992199
Email: ilo_kabul@ilo.org
nasimi@ilo.org
Website: www.ilo.org
Officer in Charge for Afghanistan: Hideki Kagohashi

International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT)

Hs. 157, St. 2, Lane. 3,Karte Parwan, Kabul
PO Box (5291)
Phone: 0700050246
0202204563
Email: rk.sharma@cgiar.org
shakib_ameeri@yahoo.com
Website: www.cimmyt.org
Senior Scientist and Country Liaison Officer: R.K. Sharma

International Medical Corps (IMC)

Near Dutch Embassy; behind Blossom Hospital;
next UN Black Hs., District 4,
Kolola Pushta, Kabul
Phone: 0799737954
Email: skebede@internationalmedicalcorps.org
ffaqiri@internationalmedicalcorps.org
Website: www.internationalmedicalcorps.org
Contact Person:Solomon Kebede

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Da Afghanistan Bank,
Pashtunistan Square, Kabul
Phone: 0799749608
0799210976

Email: kabdallah@imf.org
Website: www.imf.org
Personal Assistant to IMF Resident: Ahmad Hoshang Naser

International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO Afghanistan)

Kabul
Phone: 0797093073
0799325349
008821621011823
Email: admin.afg@ngosafety.org
Website: www.ngosafety.org

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Hs. 27, St. 4 (on the right; opposite of UNAMA
Alpha), Kolola Pushta Rd., Ansari Squari,
Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0794100542
0202201022
07978501930794100528
Email: iomkabul@iom.int
SHAZRATZAI@iom.int
Website: www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/afghanistan
Senior Liaison and Management Support Officer: Mio Sato

International Relief and Development (IRD)

Kabul
Phone: 0796015020
0777889192
Email: bsediqi@ird-equals.org
sediqi2009@gmail.com
Website:www.ird.org
Country Representative: Bashir Ahmad Sediqi

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Hs. 4, St. 4, Taimani, Kabul
Phone: 0770300800
0770300801
Email: nigel.jenkins@rescue.org
ronald.rentenaar@rescue.org
Website: www.theIRC.org
Country Director: Nigel Jenkins

Internews Afghanistan (Internews)

Hs. 143, St. 1 (on left, Ansari Square), Kolola
Pushtha Rd., Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0700298637
Email: ahashimi@internews.org
Website: www.internews.org
Deputy Chief of Party: Mir Abdul Wahed Hashimi

INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization (INTERSOS)

Near Marshall Fahim's Hs., Ally Lal Agha,
District 4, Part 2, Karte Parwan, Kabul
Phone: 0797551123
Email: afghanistan@intersos.org
alda.cappelletti@intersos.org
Website: www.intersos.org
Regional Director: Alda Cappelletti

ISAF Joint Command Public Affairs Office (ISAF)

Kabul
Phone: 0799513999
0701132000
Email: ijc.media.operations@afghan.swa.army.mil

ISAF Public Affairs Office, ISAF HQ (ISAF)

Military Sports Club, Great Massoud Rd., Kabul
Phone: 0700132114
Email: pressoffice@hq.isaf.nato.int
Website: www.isaf-jq/nato.int

Islah Daily Government (IDG)

Azady Printing Press Building, Microrayan2,
District 9, Kabul
Phone: 0700232558
0781263220
Email: islah.daily@gmail.com
onaby123@gmail.com
Chief in Editor: Dad Mohammad Annaby

Islamic Relief Worldwide – Afghanistan (IRA)

Hs. 338, St. 2, District 10, lane 9, Qala-i-
Fatullah, Kabul
Phone: 0202202000
0786476416
Fax: 0202202000
Email: elhadi.abdalla@ir-afg.org
info@ir-afg.org
Website: www.islamic-relief.com/ www.irafghanistan.org
Country Director: Elhadi Abdalla

Italian Development Cooperation Office (IDCO)

Great Massoud Rd., Kabul
Phone: 0202104751
0797474745
0797474746
Fax: 00930202104752
Email: idress.osman@coopitafghanistan.org
segreteria.utl.kabul@coopitafghanistan.org
Website: www.coopitafghanistan.org
Director: Maurizio Dicalisto

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Kabul
PO Box (461)
Phone: 0700095505
0798012345
Email: an_oso_rep@jica.go.jp
Website: www.jica.go.jp
Resident Representative: Hiroaki Takashima

**Publication of Afghanistan Civil Society Forum
organization (JAMEA-E-MADANY)**

Hs. 172, St. 8 (near Shaheed Ahmad Shah
Masood High School), District 10, Kabul
Phone: 0700061213
0793559424
Email: h_a_radfar@yahoo.com
magazine@acsf.af
Website: www.acsf.af
Head of Chief Editorial: Hashmat Radfar

**Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University
(Jhpiego)**

Hs. 289 , St. 3, Ansari Watt (near German
Clinic), District 4, Shahr-i- Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0796171719
0799008693
Email: nasrat.ansari@jhpiego.org
mariam.akmali@jhpiego.org
Website: www.jhpiego.net
Country Director: Nasratullah Ansari

Johanniter International Assistance (JIA)

Hs. 1730, St. 3, District 3 (behind Police
Station) District 3, Karte Se, Kabul
Phone: 0795391309
0796199229
Email: james.williams@thejohanniter.org
Website: www.thejohanniter.org
Country Director: James A. Williams

Just for Afghan Capacity and Knowledge (JACK)

Hs. 7, (north Rd., to Russian Embassy, behind Watan Bicycle Company), District 6, Dar-ul-aman Rd., Kabul
 Phone: 0787646888
 0787350260
 0752044359
 Email: jack.afg2001@gmail.com
 jack_afg2001@yahoo.com
 Website: www.jack.org.af
 Deputy Director: Noor Agha Omari

Kabul Medical University Heart Institute Kabul Medical university Cardiac Research Center (KCRC)

Kabul University Rd. (next to Kabul Medical University), Jamal Mina, Kabul
 Phone: 0787334468
 Email: asmatn1@gmail.com
 Website: www.kcrc-af.ca
 Director: Asmatullah Naebkhil

Kabul Center for Strategic Studies (KCSS)

Pul-i-Surkh, Karte Se, Kabul
 Phone: 0794000077
 0752091364
 Email: rahmani@kabulcenter.org
 hussieni@kabulcenter.org
 Website: www.kabulcenter.org
 Executive Director: Waliullah Rahmani

Kabul Municipality (KM)

Opposite of Ministry of Education, Zarnegar Park, Deh Afghanistan, Kabul
 Phone: 0202101350
 0799878712
 0700180501
 Email: info@km.gov.af
 m.aziz@km.gov.af
 Website: www.km.gov.af
 Mayor: Mohammad Yonus Nawandish

Kabul Polytechnic University (KPU)

Karte Mamorin, Bagh-i-Bala Rd., District 5, Kabul
 Phone: 0752001933
 0799200452
 Email: chancellor@kpu.edu.af
 Website: www.kpu.edu.af
 President: Ezatullah Amed

Kabul University (KU)

Jamal Mina St., District3, Kabul
 Phone: 0700535350
 0202500326
 0777535350
 Email: Habib.BU@gmail.com
 Habib_78620@yahoo.com
 Website: www.ku.edu.af
 Chancellor: Habibullah Habib

Karamah Network of Advocacy and Human Rights (KNAHR)

Hs. 4 (behind district 10 Office), Butcher St., Shahr-i- Naw, Kabul
 Phone: 0791947947
 Email: karamanet@yahoo.com
 Website: www.karamanet.blogfa.com
 Director: Jamila Safi

KfW Entwicklungsbank (German Development Bank) (KfW-GDB)

Kabul
 Phone: 0780450614
 0700281447
 Email: jan.kleinheisterkamp@kfw.de
 kfw.kabul@kfw.de
 Website: www.kfw.de
 Country Director: Jan Kleinheisterkamp

Khaama Press (KP)

Taimani, Kabul
 Phone: 0798242455
 0795272686
 Email: khushnood@khaama.com
 info@khaama.com
 Website: www.khaama.com
 Chief Editor: Khushnood Nabizada

Kherad Foundation (Kherad)

Kabul
 PO Box (4021)
 Phone: 0783033064
 0781640868
 Email: kherad_foundation@yahoo.com
 Contact Person: Noorudin Alawi

Killid weekly

Hs. 442, St. 6, Chardehi Watt (near Uzbekha Mosque), Karte Se, District 6, Kabul
Phone: 0202500717
0772128116
Email: l.shirin@tkg.af
info@tkg.af
Website: www.tkg.af
Killid weekly Editor-in-chief: Lal Aqa Shirin

Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS)

Hs. 370, St. 10, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0700224800
0798912114
Email: banwal.abdulbaqi@kas.de
Nils.Woermer@kas.de
Website: www.kas.de/www.kas.de/afghanistan
Resident Representative: Nils Woermer

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

Hs. 14, St. 11, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0202302936
0700276772
0700157989
Fax: 0202302937
Email: kmh@koica.go.kr
ezat@koica.go.kr
Website: www.koica.go.kr
Resident Representative: Kong Mooheon

Kunduz Rehabilitation Agency (KRA)

St.3, Kwiti Mosque Rd., Khushal Khan Mina, District 5, Kabul
Phone: 0795989696
0774100066
0787096789
Email: aqtash08@gmail.com
kra_afg@yahoo.com
Website: www.kra.af
Contact Person: Rohullah Mokhtar

Legal and Cultural Services for Afghan Women and Children (LCSAWC)

International Airport St., Qala-i-Wakil, Clinic Rd., BiBi Mahro, Kabul
Phone: 0700222042
0776352279
Email: parwanma@yahoo.com
Website: www.lcsawc-af.org
Director: Parwanma Yousof

Lemar TV Limited (Lemar TV)

Hs. 3, St. 12, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
PO Box (225)
Phone: 0798136980
Email: info@lemar.tv
www.lemar.tv
Website: www.lemar.tv
Business Development Executive: Yosuf Mohseni

Library of American University (AUAF)

Dar-ul-Aman Sanatourim, Kabul
PO Box (458)
Phone: 0797200400
0794800400
Email: admissions@auaf.edu.af
Website: www.auaf.edu.af

Malalai Magazine (Malalai)

Inside FCCS Office, Hs. 839 (opposite of National Archives), Salang Watt, Kabul
Phone: 0700275089
0700275089
0777272736
Email: jmujahed@yahoo.com
jamila_mujahed@yahoo.com
Director: Jamila Mujahed

Management Sciences for Health (Tech Serve) (MSH)

Hs. 124, Dar-ul-Aman Rd., Ayub Khan Mina, Kabul
Phone: 0700216507
Email: ssayedi@msh.org
Website: www.msh.org
Technical Advisor: Sayed Najibullah Sayedi

Marie Stopes International-Afghanistan (MSI)

Hs. 154, St. 3, Karte Char, District 3, Kabul
PO Box (5858)
Phone: 0799329092
0787889500
Fax: 0775101020
Email: pd@msi-afg.org
admin@msi-afg.org
Website: www.mariestopes.org
Country Director: Farhad Javeed

MEDAIR

Hs. 5 (on the right; behind Qasemi Win House, on the west), St. 1, Taimani Old Square, Taimani, District 4, Kabul
 PO Box (5951)
 Phone: 0700296778
 0799337581
 008821652030334
 Email: cd-afg@medair.org
 Website: www.medair.org
 Country Director: Kieren Barnes

Medi Educational Support Association for Afghanistan (MESAA)

c/o SAHA Medical Center (near Embassy of Russia), Dar-ul-Aman Rd., Ayub Khan Mina, Kabul
 Phone: 0700292095
 Email: mesaa_afg@yahoo.com
 Director: Zabiullah Ahmadyar

Medical Emergency Relief International (MERLIN)

Kabul
 Phone: 0799651622
 Email: cd@merlin-afghanistan.org
 Website: www.merlin.org.uk
 Country Director: Mustafa Karim

Medical Refresher Courses for Afghans (MRCA)

Hs.3, St. 7, Qala-i-Fataullah, Kabul
 Phone: 0700656837
 Email: director@mrca-asso.org
 Website: www.mrca-asso.org
 Head of Mission: Valerie Docher

Mercy Corps (MC)

Hs. 39, St. 2, Qala-i-Fataullah, Kabul
 Phone: 0793506507
 008821684441616
 Email: dhaines@af.mercycorps.org
 Website: www.mercycorps.org
 Country Director: David Haines

Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA)

Hs. 195, Esmat Muslim St., Shahr-i-Naw, Dist#10, Kabul
 Phone: 0752040771
 Email: info@misfa.org.af
 Website: www.misfa.org.af
 Interim Managing Director: Bahram Barzin

Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan (MACCA)

Opposite of NDS, Sedarat Square, Kabul
 PO Box (520)
 Phone: 0705966400
 0705966403
 0705966550
 Email: mohammad.sediq@macca.org.af
 mohammad.wakil@macca.org.af
 Website: www.macca.org.af
 Director: Mohammad Sediq Rashid

Mine Clearance and Planning Agency (MCPA)

Hs. 5 (on the left) , Shirkat St., Dar-ul-Aman Main Rd., (opposite of Habibia High School), Kabul
 Phone: 0700276006
 0700274682
 Email: hajiattiqullah@hotmail.com
 noorulhaq1968@gmail.com
 Director: Haji Attiqullah

Mine Detection and Dog Centre (MDC)

South West of Maranjan Hill (opposite of Kabul Electricity Office), Kabul
 Phone: 0785029001
 0707858908
 Email: mdc_afghan@hotmail.com
 Website: www.mdc-afghan.org
 Director: Mohammad Shohab Hakimi

Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)

Opposite of Kabul University, Jamal Mina, District 3, Kabul
 PO Box (10004)
 Phone: 0202500315
 0797269869
 0799344547
 Email: info@mail.gov.af
 asif.rahimi@mail.gov.af
 Website: www.mail.gov.af
 Minister: Mohammad Asif Rahimi

Ministry of Border, Nations and Tribal Affairs (MoBNTA)

Microrayan 3, Airport Rd. (near Supreme Court), District 9, Kabul
 Phone: 0202301768
 0202301773
 0700281501
 Email: abmalek_sediqi@yahoo.com
 Minister: Akram Khpelwak

Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)

Shura St.Dar-ul-Aman Rd.,Kabul
Phone: 0202500356
0202500335
0799302311
Email: hamid.rahimi@moci.gov.af
hamid_rahimiah@yahoo.com
Website: www.commerce.gov.af
Minister: Anwarul Haq Ahadi

Ministry of Communications and IT (MoCIT)

18-Story Main Building, Mohammad Jan Khan
Watt, Kabul
PO Box (5428)
Phone: 0202101100
0202101113
Email: contact@mcit.gov.af
jelani.waziri@mcit.gov.af
Website: www.mcit.gov.af
Minister: Amirzai Sangeen

Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MoCN)

Microrayan 3, Jalalabad Main Rd. (near Traffic
Department), Banayee, District 9, Kabul
Phone: 0774475015
0700294444
Email: mcn.directorate@gmail.com
Website: www.mcn.gov.af
Minister: Mubarez Rashedi

Ministry of Defence (MoD)

Opposite of the Presidential Palace,
Pashtunistan Watt, District 2, Kabul
Phone: 020100451
0799504030020100458
Email: info@mod.gov.af
zia_rashidi777@yahoo.com
Website: www.mod.gov.af
Minister: Bismillah Mohammadi

Ministry of Economy (MoEC)

Malik Asghar Square (opposite of Ministry of
Foreign Affairs), Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt,
Kabul
Phone: 0202100394
0700263748
0752016188
Email: khalid.rahmani@gmail.com
khalid.rahmani@moec.gov.af
Website: www.moec.gov.af
Minister: Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal

Ministry of Education (MoE)

Mohammad Jan Khan Watt, Kabul
Phone: 0752052210
0796800200
0789160314
Email: ssrahimee@gmail.com
ahmad.shah@moe.gov.af
Website: www.moe.gov.af
Minister: Farooq Wardak

Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW)

Dar-ul-Aman Rd., Sanatorium, Kabul
Phone: 0752023394
0799333468
0752004820
Email: Fauzia_amin2003@yahoo.com
qhashmat@yahoo.com
Website: www.mew.gov.af
Minister: Arif Noorzai

Ministry of Finance (MoF)

PashtunistanSquare, District 2, Kabul
Phone: 0202100387
0799240142
Email: chiefstaff.mof@gmail.com
Website: www.mof.gov.af
Minister: Omar Zakhilwal

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)

Malek AsgharSquare, Shah Mahmood Ghazi
Watt, Kabul
Phone: 0797518161
0700104010
0700104007
Email: janam.mosazai@gmail.com
protocolmfa@gmail.com
Website: www.mofa.gov.af
Minister: Zarar Ahmad Moqbel Osmani

Ministry of Hajj & Religious Affairs (MoHRA)

Haji YacoubSquare (opposite of District 10 of
Police Department), Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0202201339
0778899717
Email: niazim.my@gmail.com
hashimi.my@gmail.com
Website: www.mohia.gov.af
Minister: Mohammad Yusuf Niazi

Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE)

Opposite of Mokhabrat Lane, (next toKabul University), District 3, Karte Char, Kabul
 Phone: 0202500049
 0202500325
 0202500321
 Email: azim.noorbakhsh@gmail.com
 Website: www.mohe.gov.af
 Minister: Obaidullah Obaid

Ministry of information and Culture (MoIC)

Behind Ministry of Communications, Pul-i-Bagh Omomi, Kabul
 Phone: 0202101301
 0700290317
 0202102825
 Email: bk_nawabi2004@yahoo.com
 z.nawabi2007@gmail.com
 Website: www.moic.gov.af
 Minister: Sayed Makhdom Rahin

Ministry of Interior (Mol)

Malalai Watt, Shahri-Naw, Kabul
 Phone: 0202201758
 0792670202
 0799446709
 Email: af.moi.press@gmail.com
 moi.spokesman.mediadirectorate@gmail.com
 Website: www.moi.gov.af
 Minister: Mohammad Omar Dawudzai

Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

Pashtunistan Square, Pashtunistan Watt, District 2, Kabul
 Phone: 0202100322
 0706202093
 Email: ab.qayum@gmail.com
 info@moj.gov.af
 Website: www.moj.gov.af
 Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs: Said Yusuf Halem

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD)

Opposite of Makroryan1Market, Kabul
 Phone: 0752035071
 0752075485
 0202300369
 Email: amena.afzali@molsamd.gov.af
 suraya_paykan@gmail.com
 Website: www.molsamd.gov.af/about-ministry.php
 Minister: Amina Afzali

Ministry of Mines (MoM)

PashtunistanSquare, District 2, Kabul
 Phone: 0202102410
 0202100309
 Email: hameedullah_rustami@yahoo.com
 Website: www.mom.gov.af
 Minister: Mohmmad Akbar Barezai

Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)

Near Embassy of United States, District 10, Sehat Aama Square, Kabul
 Phone: 0202301377
 0202302326
 Email: minister.office@moph.gov.af
 rustami_rashewa@yahoo.com
 Website: www.moph.gov.af
 Minister: Suraya Dalil

Ministry of Public Works (MoPW)

St. 1, Old Macrorayon, District 9, Kabul
 Phone: 0799352412
 07861416140700210255
 Email: Esmatullah_kohkan@mopw.gov.af
 hamayoon_h@hotmail.com
 Website: www.mopw.gov.af
 Minister: Najibullah Auodjan

Ministry of Refugees and Repatriates Affiars (MoRRA)

Behind Jangalak factory, Waslabad, District 7, Kabul
 PO Box (5806)
 Phone: 0700999050
 0705181905
 Email: info@morr.gov.af
 Website: www.morr.gov.af
 Minister: Jamahir Anwari

Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MoRRD)

Main Building, MRRD Compound, Tashkilat St., Nila Bagh Rd., Dar-ul-Aman, Kabul
 Phone: 0202520216
 0202520407
 Email: info@mrrd.gov.af
 yasin.mohammad@mrrd.gov.af
 Website: www.mrrd.gov.af
 Minister: Wais Ahmad Barmak

Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation (MoTCA)

Opposite of ISAF Headquarter (next to National TV and Radio), Shash Darak, Kabul
PO Box (165)
Phone: 0202311956
0202311951
0202311958
Email: najafiafg@yahoo.com
dr_nomanhekmat@yahoo.com
Website: www.motca.gov.af
Minister: Daud Ali Najafi

Ministry of Urban Development Affairs (MoUDA)

Microrayan 3, (opposite of Azadi Printing Press) District 9, Kabul
Phone: 0202300339
0799790992
Email: moud@moud.gov.af
abdulrahim.zareen@gmail.com
Website: www.muda.gov.af
Minister: Hassan Abdulahi

Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA)

Next to Cinema Zainab, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0202201378
0700288084
Email: dr.hussnbanu.ghazanfar@mowa.gov.af
Website: www.mowa.gov.af
Minister: Hussn Banu Ghazanfar

Mission d'Aide au Développement des Economies Rurales en Afghanistan (MADERA)

Hs. 113, St. 7, Qala-i-Fatullah, Kabul
Phone: 0776498281
0798018616
0700281869
00882168444293
Email: contact.kbl@madera-afgha.org
countrydirector@madera-afgha.org
Website: www.madera-asso.org
Country Director: H el ene Vidon

Mission East (ME)

Hs. 9, St. 3 (opposite of Marco Polo GuestHs.), Taimani, Kabul
PO Box (3114 Shahr-i-Naw)
Phone: 0799844434
0799297562
0708749422
008821654209781
Email: cd.afg@missioneast.org
Website: www.missioneast.org
Country Director: Benny Werge

Mobile Mini Circus for Children (MMCC)

St. 2 (on the right after Habibia High School; behind Khoja Mulla Mosque), Dar-ul-Aman Rd., Karte Se, Kabul
Phone: 0700229975
0700280140
0700229987
Email: circus@afghanmmcc.org
Website: www.afghanmmcc.org
Co-Directors: Berit Muhlhausen

Mothers for Peace- Belgium (MFP)

Khayata St., Shaheed Square, Qala-i- Fataullah, Kabul
Phone: 0795640755
0794909900
Email: razia.arefi@yahoo.com
aseffoladi@gmail.com
Website: www.mothersforpeace.be
Executive Manager: Asef Foladi

MOVE Welfare Organization (MOVE)

Hs. 353, St. 2, Dehbori Rd., Kot-i-Sangi, Kabul
Phone: 0700212050
0798455547
0700236483
Email: movewelfare@yahoo.com
move.hr@gmail.com
General Director: Abdul Malik Khalili

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan (Nai SOMA)

In front of the Embassy of Uzbekistan, Shirkat Bus Station, Dar-ul-Aman Main Rd., Karte Se, Kabul
Phone: 0774409923
0707486242
Email: mujeeb@nai.org.af
info@nai.org.af
Website: www.nai.org.af
Executive Director: Abdul Mujeeb Khalvatgar

National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP)

Naila Bagh Rd., MRRD Compound, Dar-ul-Aman Rd., Kabul
Phone: 0700232689
0799234766
Email: info.nabdp@mrrd.gov.af
mrrd-nabdp@hotmail.com
Website: www.mrrd-nabdp.org
Media associate and webmaster: Ahsan Saadat

National Centre for Policy Research/Partner der Konrad-Adenauer -Stiftung (NCPR)

Kabul University, Jamal Mina, Kabul
 Phone: 0202500390
 0202500391
 Email: admin@ncpr.af
 ncpr@ceretechns.com
 Website: www.ncpr.af
 Director: Hamidullah Noor Ebad

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

Hs. 159, Khuja Mullah St., Sector 3, Karte Se, District 6, Kabul
 Phone: 0796073459
 Email: azwerver@ndi.org
 Website: www.ndi.org
 Senior Country Director: Ans Zwerver

National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)

Parwan 2 Square, Kabul
 PO Box (209)
 Phone: 0707001010
 0700164949
 Email: kazimhomayon@yahoo.com
 khalidnaseemi@hotmail.com
 Website: www.nepa.gov.af
 Director of Planning and Coordination: Mohammad Kazim Homayoon

National Radio Television of Afghanistan (RTA)

Great Masoud Rd., Kabul
 PO Box (544)
 Phone: 02023107287
 0799321823
 0704757130
 Email: fr_rta@yahoo.com
 panjshiriar@yahoo.com
 Website: www.rta.org.af
 Director of International Relations: Abdurahman Panjshiri

National Rural Access Program (NRAP)

4thFloor,Block 1, Macrorayon 1, Ministry of Public Works, Kabul
 Phone: 0202301871
 0799306173
 0786392559
 Email: info@nrap.org
 salim@nrap.org
 Website: www.nrap.gov.af
 Coordinator: Abdul Sattar Salim

National Solidarity Programme of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP)

Tashkilat St., Dar-ul-Aman Rd., Kabul
 Phone: 0700306314
 0799146147
 0702212134
 Email: a.rahman@nspafghanistan.org
 r.rasouli@nspafghanistan.org
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Executive Director: Abdul Rahman Ayubi

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

NSP HQ Offices, MRRD Compound, Tashkilat St., Dar-ul-Aman Rd., Kabul
 Phone: 0799234170
 0799146147
 Email: a.rahman@nspafghanistan.org
 r.wahid@nspafghanistan.org
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Executive Director, NSP: Abdul Rahman Ayubi

NATO Senior Civilian Representative's Office (NATO)

ISAF Headquarter, Great Massoud Rd., Kabul
 Phone: 0793384008
 0799511760
 0797140024
 Email: christopher.chambers@hq.isaf.nato.int
 alexandra.taylor@hq.isaf.nato.int
 Website: www.nato.int
 NATO Civilian Spokes Person Advisor: Christopher Chambers

Network for Afghan Women List (NAW)

Kabul
 Phone: info@nawlist.org
 Email: info@nawlist.org
 Website: www.nawlist.org
 List Administrator: Lauryn Oates

Noor Educational Capacity Development Organisation (NECDO)

Hs.4 (behind District 10 Office), Kocha-e-Qassabi, Shahr-i- Naw, Kabul
 Phone: 0799337667
 0799824570
 Email: noor_en2001@yahoo.com
 jamila_afghani@yahoo.com
 Website: www.necdo.org.af
 Director: Jamila Afghani

Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC)

Hs. 294, St. 3, Nawai Watt(behind Police Station 10),Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul

Phone: 0790698231

0790698216

Email: t.Watterdal@nacaf.org

ehsan@nacaf.org

Website: www.afghanistan.com

Country Director: Terje Magnussønn Watterdal

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Hs. 1397, Communication Department Rd.(near Dar-ul-Malimeen Square), Karte Char, District 3, Kabul
PO Box (5830)

Phone: 0700228509

079914 7831

0700082007

008821667223346

Email: prasant.naik@afg.nrc.no

afarhad.reshad@afg.nrc.no

Website: www.nrc.no

Country Director: Prasant Naik

Nukhost Weekly (NW)

Hs. 172, St. 2 Karte Mamorin, Kabul

Phone: 0700061213

0773279916

Email: nukhost@hotmail.com

Website: www.nukhostdaily.com

Chief Editor: Hashmat Radfar

Nye Express Office (Nye)

Hs. 444, St. 6 (near Uzbekha Mosque),Karte Se, Kabul

Phone: 0778284888

0772813032

0786980980

Email: atayee@nyexpress.com

Website: www.nyexpress.com

Operation Manager: Yarmohammad Atayee

Office of Administrative Affairs and Council of Ministers Secretariat (OAA/CMS)

Marble Palace, Kabul
PO Box (24)

Phone: 0202101751

0202101771-79

0700085999

Fax: 0202100331

Email: hassan.sadeq@gmail.com

hassan.sadiq@oaa.gov.af

Website: www.oaacom.gov.af

Deputy Chief of Staff: Hassan Sadiq

Operation Mercy (OPM)

Near Habibia High School, Dar-ul-Aman, Kabul
PO Box (7019 Deh Mazang)

Phone: 0786341654

Email: ahmadzia700@gmail.com

Website: www.mercy.se

Office Manager: Ahmad Zia

Organization for Health Promotion and Management (OHPM)

Hs. 2, St. 1 (near Aryub Cinema, Bagh-e-Bala),
Karte Parwan, District 4, Kabul

Phone: 0700210603

0777210603

0798656005

Email: Ohpm.af@gmail.com

farhadpaiman@gmail.com

Website: www.ohpm.org.af

General Director: Farhad Paiman

Organization for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR)

Near Ghazi Olympic Stadium, Chaman-i-Huzuri,
Kabul

PO Box (150)

Phone: 0786777771

0799322129

0799322126

0777322129

Email: fazel02@hotmail.com

Website: www.omar.org.af

Director: Fazel Karim Fazel

Organization for Research and Community Development (ORCD)

Hs. 356, St. 3, Taimani Project, Shah-i-Mardan
Mosque St., Kabul

Phone: 0777103090

0781132456

Email: orcd.org@gmail.com

info@orcd.org.af

Website: www.orcd.org.af

Director: Sidiqullah Saddaqaat

Organization for Sustainable Development and Research (OSDR)

Hs. 568, (opposite of Kateeb University), Shura St., Karte Se, Kabul
 Phone: 0700293450
 0786451519
 0700218216
 Email: osdr.kabul@gmail.com
 ahmadi.osdr@gmail.com
 Website: www.osdr.com
 Director: Sultan Mohammad Ahmadi

Oxfam Great Britain (Oxfam GB)

Hs. 3, St. 5 (Main Rd.), District 4, Kolola Pushta, Kabul
 PO Box (681)
 Phone: 0791705739
 0798413873
 0705678942
 008821684445007
 Email: oxfamkbl@oxfam.org.uk
 Website: www.oxfam.org.uk
 Associate Country Director: Leo Kortekaas

Oxfam Novib (Oxfam Novib)

Hs. 3, St. 5, (Main Rd.), Kolola Pushta, District 4, Kabul
 PO Box (681)
 Phone: 0797110065
 0787291781
 Email: dimitrije.todorovic@oxfamnovib.nl
 info.kabul@oxfam.novib.nl
 Website: www.oxfamnovib.nl
 Country Director: Dimitrije Todorovic

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)

Hs.130-138, St.8, Moy Mubarak Bus Stand, Taimani, Kabul
 PO Box (3129)
 Phone: 0799477492
 0700225375
 0202201814
 Fax: 0202201814
 Email: news@pajhwok.com
 danish@pajhwok.com
 Website: www.pajhwok.com
 Director and Editor-in-Chief: Danish Karokhel

Partners for Social Development (PSD)

Onchi Baghbanan, Gawharshad School, Dasht Barchi, Kabul
 Phone: 0700285122

0799329113
 Email: psdkabul@gmx.net
 abduallah@csc.gmail.com
 Director: Abdulhai

Partners in Revitalization and Building (PRB)

Hs. 300 (Burj-i Barq Bus Stop), Kolola Pushta, Kabul
 Phone: 0700280995
 0202200012
 0799419700
 Fax: 0093202200012
 Email: prbkabul@hotmail.com
 Kabul@prb.org.af
 Website: www.prb.org.af
 Programme Manager and Acting Director: Noor Hussain

Partnership for Education of Children in Afghanistan (PECA)

Kabul
 Phone: 0798171560
 0795944521
 0700683506
 Email: santwana@hotmail.com
 Website: www.afghanmodelschool.org
 Volunteer Executive Director: Santwana Dasgupta

Peace and Justice Organization (PJO)

Hs. 237 (behind Police Station), Kabul
 PO BOX (560)
 Phone: 0700181514
 Email: m_munirkhashi@yahoo.com
 Director: Mohammad Munir Khashi

Peace Training and Research Organization (PTRO)

Hs. 115, Tachnic St. (close to the Police department 3), Karte Char, Kabul
 Phone: 0799261864
 0799302080
 Email: mirwais.wardak@ptro.org.af
 Website: www.ptro.org.af
 Managing Director: Mirwais Wardak

Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Support for Afghanistan (PARSA)

Kabul Marastoon Compound, Afshar Rd., Kabul
 Phone: 0799020588
 0700284286
 Email: mgustav@mac.com
 yasinfarid@gmail.com
 Website: www.afghanistan-parsa.org
 Country Director: Yasin Farid

Première Urgence – Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI)

Hs. 59, St. 5, D -10, Qala-i-Fataullah, Kabul
PO Box (747)
Phone: 0779900781
0779900789
Email: afg.dm.hom@pu-ami.org
Website: www.pu-ami.org
Deputy Head of Mission: Mohsen

Presidential Office (PO)

Presidential Palace, Gul Khana Palace, Kabul
Phone: 0202141135
0202141132
0777344420
Email: aimal.faizi@arg.gov.af
aimal.faizi@arg.gov.af
president@arg.gov.af
Website: www.president.gov.af
President: Hamid Karzai

Radio Amuzgar (RA)

Dane Bagh (near Women's Park), Panjshir
Business Center, Kabul
Phone: 0772929111
0799879879
Email: begana001@yahoo.com
Website: www.amuzgarfm.com
Chief and Director: Rahmatullah Begana

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL, Inc)

Hs. 100, St. 2, District 9, Shash Darak, Kabul
PO Box (1471)
Phone: 0700295887
0782200801
Email: mohmandha@rferl.org
HaroonI@rferl.org
Website: www.rferl.org/www.azadiradio.org
Contact Person: Abdul Hameed Mohmand

Radio Killid

Hs. 442, St. 6, Chardehi Watt (near Uzbekha Mosque), District 6, Karte Se, Kabul
Phone: 0202500717
0787771464
Email: g.waziri@tkg.com
info@tkg.af
Website: www.tkg.af
Station Manager: Abdul Ghayoor Waziri

Rain Bow Organisation (RBO)

Dar-ul-Aman (opposite of Ministry of Energy and Water), Sanatorium, Kabul
Phone: 0777115964
0777206353
0708822383
Email: waheed.moslih@gmail.com
rb2019.org@gmail.com
Deputy Manager: Waheed Moslih

Rasta Educational and Research Organization (RERO)

St. 3 (behind Rabea Balkhi girls' school),
Dehmazang, Kabul
Phone: 0773975944
Email: org.rastaa@gmail.com
dadgarvahid@gmail.com
Director: Sayed Wahid Dadgar

Regional Studies Center of Afghanistan (RCSA)

Near Emergency Hospital, Sheer Poor Square,
Kabul
Phone: 0700292463
Email: ghafoorlewal@yahoo.com
Website: www.rscf.org
President: Abdul Ghafoor Lewal

Rehabilittee Organization for Afghan War Victims (ROAWV)

St. 3, Karte Naw, District 8, Kabul
Phone: 0799475362
0795425181
0786561041
Email: roawv.org@gmail.com
shahjahanmosazai@yahoo.com
Website: www.roawv.org
Executive Director: Shah Jahan Musazai

Relief International (RI)

Hs.23, Old Taimani, Golayee Nal, District 10,
Kabul
Phone: 0777721571
Email: Inge.detlefsen@ri.org
Website: www.ri.org
Country Director: Inge Detlefsen

Relief Organization for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan (RORA)

Hs. 118, St. 4, Karte Se, District 6, Kabul
 Phone: 0795636029
 0799353428
 Email: rora_org@yahoo.com
 Website: www.rora-af.org
 Director: Sakhidad Nasdri

Reuters News Agency (RNA)

Kabul
 Phone: 0707924923
 0799040567
 Email: hamid.shalizi@thomsonreuters.com
 reutersinkabul@hotmail.com
 Website: www.reuters.com
 Senior Correspondent: Hamid Shalizi

Roots of Peace (RoP)

Ayoub Khan Mina, Dar-ul-Aman Rd., Kabul
 PO Box (7044)
 Phone: 0799313547
 0799181313
 Email: sharif.osmani@rootsofpeace.org
 gary.kuhn@rootsofpeace.org
 Website: www.rootsofpeace.org
 Country Director: Sharif Osmani

Royal Norwegian Embassy (Norway)

Hs. 3, Lane 4 (on the right), St. 15,
 Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
 Phone: 0701105000
 0701105090
 Email: emb.kabul@mfa.no
 Website: www.afghanistan.norway.info
 Ambassador: Nils Haugstveit

Rural Capacities Development Committee (RCDC)

Hs.603 (between St., 10-11), Karte Se,
 District 6, Kabul
 Phone: 0799553378
 0700278632
 Email: hazheer_rcdc@yahoo.com
 basir.mohammad@gmail.com
 Director: Mohammad Ali Shah

Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan (NPO/RRAA)

Hs. 669, Dar-ul-Aman Rd. (opposite of Ariana
 Radio and Television network), Ayub Khan
 Mina, District 7, Kabul

PO Box(277)
 Phone: 0752014254
 Email: jawad@nporraa.org.af
 info@nporraa.org.af
 Website: www.nporraa.org.af
 Deputy director: Amanullah Jawad

Salam Watandar (SWAO)

Hs. 143, (near city center), Shahr-i- Naw, Kabul
 Phone: 0791300401
 0791300402
 Email: nasir.maimanagy@internews.af
 nasir.maimanagy@salamwatandar.com
 Website: www.salamwatandar.com
 General Manager: Ahmad Nasir Maimanagy

Sanayee Development Organization (SDO)

Hs. 37 (opposite of Municipality Blocks; near
 Traffic Square), Kolola Pushta Main Rd., Kabul
 PO Box (181)
 Phone: 0700220638
 0202201693
 0775618342
 Email: dalili.kabul@gmail.com
 sdokabul@gmail.com
 Website: www.sanayee.org.af
 Executive Director: Raz Mohammad Dalili

Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal (SGAA)

Central Afghan Red Crescent Society Hospital,
 Tahyee - Maskan Area, District 4, Kabul
 Phone: 0799338973
 Email: sgaakabul3@yahoo.com
 Website: www.sandygallsafghanistanappeal.org
 Administrative and Finance Officer: Ibrahim Akbari

Save the Children International (SCI)

Hs. 586, St. 5, Qala-i-Fatullah,
 District 10, Kabul
 PO Box (624)
 Phone: 0799803165
 0797595991
 0799551601
 Email: Paul.Barker@savethechildren.org
 MohammadAmin.Anwaree@savethechildren.org
 Website: www.savethechildren.net
 Country Director: Paul Barker

Serve Afghanistan (SERVE)

Nahre Darsun, Cinema Barikot St., Karte Char
PO Box (4015)
Phone: 0799653015
0700280506
0702700156
Email: managerkbl@serveafghanistan.org
info@serveafghanistan.org
Website: www.serveafghanistan.org
Head Office Manager: Ghulam Mujtaba

Services for Humanitarian Assistance and Development (SHADE)

St. 3, District 5, Khushal Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0799829629
0785920970
0700470770
Email: shade_afg@yahoo.com
aminzay1@gmail.com
Website: www.shade.org.af
Programme Manager: Ahmad Aminzay

Silk Route Training and Research Organization (SRTRO)

Gray Building, Nawad Family, Parwan 3, Kabul
Phone: 0780016702
01202231523-6
Email: info@srtro.org
natiqk@gmail.com
Website: www.srtro.org
Director: Kayhan Natiq

Social and Health Development Program (SHDP)

Khoshal Mina, Kabul
PO Box 601))
Phone: 0706272491
0777822441
Email: shdpkbl@gmail.com
Website: www.shdp.org.af
General Director: Khalil Ahmad Mohmand

Social Service and Reconstruction of Afghanistan (SSRA)

St. 2, Khushal Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0700600818
0787162788
Email: ssra_afg@yahoo.com
Director: Kanishka

Solidarite Afghanistan Belgique (SAB)

Hs. 1589, Rahman Baba High School St.,
Dehbori, Kabul
Phone: 0799861473
0789621162
Email: sab.exdir@gmail.com
sab_adm@yahoo.com
Website: www.assosab.be
Administrative Manager: Jawad Rasooly

Solidarités International (SI)

Hs. 41, St. 12, (near Paikub-i-Naswar), Qala-i-
Fatullah, Kabul
Phone: 0799303633
0771939523
Email: afg.cdm@solidarites-afghanistan.org
afg.adm.coo@solidarites-afghanistan.org
Website: www.solidarites.org
Deputy Country Director: Emmanuel Moy

Solidarity for Afghan Families (SAF)

Hs.54, Badam Bagh St. (near Parwan 2
Square), District 2, Kabul
PO Box (6084)
Phone: 0707778873
0788087993
0700042611
Email: general_director@saf.org.af
Website: www.saf.org.af
Director General: Jumakhan Nasir Khairzada

South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA)

Dar-ul-Aman Rd.(opposite of Kabul Dubai
Hotel), Kabul
Phone: 0752024107
0708198438
0752024107
Email: safma.afghanistan@gmail.com
Website: www.safma.net
President of Afghanistan Chapter: Muhammad Zia Bumia

SOZO International (SOZO International)

Hs. 23, St. 5, Taimani, Kabul
PO Box (5110)
Phone: 0796555222
0202204522
Email: wakil@sozointernational.org
khan@sozointernational.org
Website: www.sozointernational.org
Country Director: Abdul Wakil Mehrabanzada

Spanish Development Cooperation Agency (AECID)

Lane 3 (right), Sheer Poor, Kabul
 Phone: 0202310405
 Email: david.gervilla@aecid.es
 adjunto.otc.afghanistan@aecid.es
 Website: www.aecid.es
 Coordinator: David Gervilla

Supreme Court of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (SC)

Sehat Aama Square, Great Massoud Rd.,
 District 9, Kabul
 Phone: 0202300361
 0202300345
 Email: afgcourt@supremecourt.gov.af
 afgcourt@hotmail.com
 Website: www.supremecourt.gov
 Chief Justice: Abdul Salam Azimi

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)

Jalalabad Main Rd., Paktia Kot(on the left), 8
 kms from Charrahi Abdul Haq, Kabul
 PO Box (5017)
 Phone: 0202320152
 0799387628
 0700299299
 Fax: 00930202320156
 Email: info@sca.org.af
 Website: www.swedishcommittee.org
 Deputy Country Director: Jorgen Holmstrom

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Minsistry of Interior St. (opposite of MOI),Shahr-
 i-Naw, Kabul
 Phone: 0202104913
 Email: anders.ohrstrom@foreign.ministry.se
 ambassaden.kabul@foreign.ministry.se
 Website: www.sida.se/ www.swedenabroad.com
 Head of Development Cooperation: Andreas Öhrström

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Hs. 55 & 56, Lane. 3, St. 13 (on the right),
 Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
 Phone: 0790080800
 0700274902
 0799203475
 Fax: 0093202302299
 Email: kabul@sdc.net
 Website: www.sdc.org.af
 Director of Cooperation: Marianne Huber

TB/Leprosy Control Organization (LEPCO)

Hs. 175, St. 4, Karte Parwan, Kabul
 PO Box (6057)
 Phone: 0778989510
 0799334401
 0777283956
 Email: lepcokabul@yahoo.com
 Acting Director: Mohammad Jawad Ahmadi
Tearfund (TF)
 Hs. 508, St. 9, Taimani, Kabul
 PO Box (383)
 Phone: 0789026011
 0799337231
 Email: afghan-pd@tearfund.org
 afghan-dpd@tearfund.org
 Website: www.tearfund.org
 Director: Sudarshan Reddy

Terre des Hommes (TdH)

St.1, Qala-i-Fataullah, Kabul
 Phone: 0707154657
 Email: dzi@tdh.ch
 Website: www.tdh.ch
 Country Representative: Dariusz P. Zietek

The American University of Afghanistan (AUAF)

Dar-ul-Aman Sanatourim, Kabul
 PO Box (458)
 Phone: 0797200400
 0794800400
 Email: admissions@auaf.edu.af
 Website: www.auaf.edu.af
 Senior Student Requirment Officer: Reza Sarwar

The Asia Foundation (TAF)

Hs. 861 St. 1 (sub-street of Sheer Poor project),
 Kabul
 PO Box (175)
 Phone: 0793454614
 Email: tafag@asiafound.org
 Website: www.asiafoundation.org

The Chain Of Hope (La Chaîne De L'espoir)

Kabul, Karte Seh, Pule Sorkh
 Phone: 07 97 68 59 29
 Email: Stran@Chainedelespoir.Org
 Website: www.chainedelespoir.org
 Country Coordinator: Sophie Tran

The Children of War (TCOW)

St. 2, Kabul Air Port Square, Kabul
Phone: 0700011819
Email: info@thechildrenofwar.org
tcpw_school@yahoo.com
Website: www.thechildrenofwar.org
Country Director: Mujzhgan Aziz

The HALO Trust International Mine Clearance Organisation (HALO Trust)

Sari-Kotal , Khair Khana, District 17, Kabul
PO Box (3036)
Phone: 0707921788
00873761931817
Fax: 00873761931818
Email: Halo@haloafg.org
Website: www.halotrust.org/ www.halousa.org
Country Director & Programme Manager: Farid Homayoun

The International Psychosocial Organization (IPSO)

St. 2, (west of Prof. Rasul Amin High School), ,
Part 1, Khosahl Khan, District 5, Kabul
Phone: 0704304030
Email: adeeb@ipsocontext.org
Website: www.ipsocontext.org
Deputy Head: Mohammad Adeeb

The Kabul Times (KBT)

Azady Printing Press Building, Microrayan 2,
District 16, Kabul
Phone: 0202301767
0700241845
Email: thekabultimes@yahoo.com
Editor-in-Chief: Najiba Maram

The Killid Group (TKG)

Hs. 442, St. 6, Chardehi Watt (near Uzbekha
Mosque), Karte Se, District 6, Kabul
Phone: 0202500717
0799329832
Email: n.ayubi@tkg.af
info@tkg.af
Website: www.tkg.af
Director General: Najiba Ayubi

The Liaison Office (TLO)

Hs. 959, St. 6, Taimani Rd., Kabul
PO Box (5934)
Phone: 0700203527
0774318779
Email: massod.karokhail@tlo-afghanistan.org

info@tlo-afghanistan.org
Website: www.tlo-afghanistan.org
Director: Masood Karokhail

The New York Times (NYT)

Kabul
Phone: 0796625768
0202101088
Email: nytkabul@yahoo.com
nytkabul63@yahoo.com
Website: www.nytimes.com
Office Manager: Ibrahim Akbari

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Hs. 10, Ministry of Commerce St. (opposite
of Ministry Gate), Dar-ul-Aman Rd., District
3, Kabul
PO Box (10043)
Phone: 0799889928
Email: inayatniazi2000@yahoo.com
info@wadan.org
Website: www.wadan.org
Programme Manager: Inayatullah Niazi

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Kabul
Phone: 0794444382
Email: wcsafghanistan@wcs.org
Website: www.wcsafghanistan.org
Country Director: Richard Paley

The World Bank (WB)

Hs. 19, St. 15, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
Phone: 0700280800
Email: azia@worldbank.org
Website: www.worldbank.org.af
Country Director: Robert J. Saum

Today's Afghanistan Conciliation Trust (TACT)

1stFloor,St.3, Taban Hospital Rd.(opposite
of Temorian Pharmacy), District 4, Taimani
Project, Kabul
Phone: 0752101784
0700280398
Email: tact.afg@gmail.com
Website: ww.tact.org.af
Director: Abdulhaq Niazi

Tolo Service and Cultural Organization/ Social Foundation for Remote Rustic Development (TSCO/SFRRD)

3rd Police Station St. (opposite of Of Estiqlal Higher Education Institute; next to Etihadia Peshawaran Office), Karte Char, District 3, Kabul
 PO Box (1590)
 Phone: 0799301247
 0778823705
 0776221283
 Email: tSCO_org@yahoo.com
 ahmadshahir.zia@gmail.com
 Executive Director: Mohammad Mohsin Zia Ayoubi

Tolo TV Limited (Tolo)

Hs. 3, St. 12, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
 PO Box (225)
 Phone: 0798136980
 0799321010
 0799306284
 Fax: 0097144290964
 Email: info@tolo.tv
 sales@tolo.tv
 Website: www.tolo.tv
 Business Development Executive: Yosuf Mohseni

Training Human Rights Association for Afghan Women (THRA)

Flat. 1, Block 103, Macrorayon 2, Kabul
 PO Box (125)
 Phone: 0700286774
 0799155532
 0700202421
 Email: roshan.sirran@gmail.com
 thra.rights@gmail.com
 Website: www.thra.org.af
 Executive Director: Roshan Sirran

Turquoise Mountain (TM)

Murad Khanee (behind Ministry of Finance), District 2, Kabul
 Phone: 0796777100
 0772626550
 0798149173
 Email: contact@turquoisemountain.org
 wali@turquoisemountain.org
 Website: www.turquoisemountain.org
 Managing Director: Shoshana Clark

UK Department for International Development (DFID)

British Embassy, St. 15, Roundabout, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul
 PO Box (334)
 Phone: 0798138200
 0796207094
 Email: Shivangi-Patel@dfid.gov.uk
 Shivangi-patel@dfid.gov.uk
 Website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development
 Head of Office DFID Afghanistan: Mark Mallalieu

UNDP AFGHANISTAN: Law & Order Trust Fund (LOTFA)

UNOCA Complex, UNDP Country Office, Jalalabad Rd., Kabul
 Phone: 0202124055
 0202124107
 Email: registry.af@undp.org
 communication.af@undp.org
 Website: www.lotfa.org.af

United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Hs. 431, St. 8, Taimani, District 4, Kabul
 Phone: 0791611020
 0791611010
 0791611154
 008821621297372
 Email: peter.dalglish@unhabitat-afg.org
 peterdalglish@hotmail.com
 Website: www.unhabitat.org/www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org
 Country Representative OIC: Peter John Dalglish

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Compound B (between the French and UAE Embassies), Kabul
 PO Box (3205)
 Phone: 0777720860
 0790006386
 Email: gaitanis@un.org
 Website: www.unama.unmissions.org
 Senior Public Information Officer: Ari Gaitanis

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNOCA Compound, Jalalabad Rd., Pul-i-Charkhi, Kabul
PO Box (54)
Phone: 0790507002
0790507003
0798507110
Fax: 00870764042530
Email: agretarsson@unicef.org
Kabul@unicef.org
Website: www.unicef.org
Representative: Alistair Gretarsson

United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)

UNOCA Compound, Jalalabad Rd
Phone: 0700281673
Email: dutoitc@un.org
Chief Security Advisor: Chris du Toit

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP Country Office, UNOCA Complex, Jalalabad Rd., Kabul
PO Box (5)
Phone: 0202124098
0790509133
Fax: 00873763468836
Email: farhad.zalmai@undp.org
registry.af@undp.org
Website: www.undp.org.af
Communications Associate: Sayeed Farhad Zalmai

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Hs. 647, Jame Watt, PD-10, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0202211159
0797507874
0700156005
008821655587533
Fax: 0202211159
Email: p.fontani@unesco.org
kabul@unesco.org
Website: www.unesco.org/kabul
Representative: Paolo Fontani

United Nations Entity for the Equality of Women and Gender Empowerment (UN WOMEN)

UNOCA Compound, Jalalabad Rd., Kabul
PO Box (5)
Phone: 0752141178
Email: Noorullah.bawar@unwomen.org
info.afghanistan@unwomen.org

Website: www.unwomen.org
Executive Associate: Noorullah Bawar

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

UNEP City Office, c/o United Nations Alpha Compound, Kabul
Phone: 0796630412
0778609306
0790697311
008821651079140
Email: Sakhi.hassany@UNEP.Org
Website: www.unep.org/disastersandconflicts
Strategic Communication Focal Point: Mohammad Sakhi Hassany

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Hs. 41, Peace Avenue, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
PO Box (3232)
Phone: 0041227397500
0794600444
0202200381/2
008821651121675
Fax: 0041227397006
Email: nicolaus@unhcr.org
AFGKA@unhcr.org
Website: www.unhcr.org
Representative: Bo Schack

United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS)

St. 4, Koshani Watt (behind Kabul Bank), World Food Programme (WFP) Main Office, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0706004284
0706004283
0706004292
Email: carlos.botta@wfp.org
Khalilullah.kakar@wfp.org
Website: www.wfp.org/logistics/aviation
Chief: Carlos Botta

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

Haji Yaqoob Square, Shahabuddin Watt, WFP Compound, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
 Phone: 0799306311
 0700808404
 Email: F.Azizi@unido.org
 Office.Afghanistan@unido.org
 Website: www.unido.org
 Head of Operation: Fakhruddin Azizi
 United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
 UNOPS Afghanistan Operation Hub (AFOH),
 UNOCA Compound, Jalalabad Rd., Kabul
 PO Box (1772)
 Phone: 0799760000
 0799828834
 Fax: 00930700667788
 Email: mikkoL@unops.org
 reginaca@unops.org
 Website: www.unops.org/agoc
 Director and Representative: Mikko Lainejoki

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Hs.876, St.149, Kolola Pushta, District 4, Kabul
 PO Box (5)
 Phone: 0796520836
 Fax: 004312606074743
 Email: ashita.mittal@unodc.org
 murtaza.mohammadi@unodc.org
 Website: www.unodc.org
 Special Advisor to the SRSG on Counter Narcotics,
 Representative Afghanistan Country Office: Jean-Luc Lemahieu

United Nations Population Fund Afghanistan (UNFPA)

UNOCA Compound, Jalalabad Rd., Kabul
 PO Box (16030)
 Phone: 0700089657
 0700181150
 0700181153
 Email: afghanistan.office@unfpa.org
 Payab@unfpa.org
 Website: www.afghanistan.unfpa.org
 Assistant Representative: Mohammad Younus Payab

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

UNOCA Compound, Jalalabad Rd., Kabul
 Phone: 0700282521
 Email: Naeem.sadat@undp.org
 Website: www.unv.org

Programme Assistant: Sayed Naeem Sadat

United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)

UNOCA Compound, Jalalabad Rd., Pul-i-Charkhi, Kabul
 Phone: 0799761066
 Email: registry@afg.emro.who.int
 Nazarm@afg.emro.who.int
 Website: www.emro.who.int/countries/afg/
 Representative: Richard Peeperkorn

United States Geological Survey (USGS) Liaison Office in Afghanistan (USGS)

Afghanistan Geological Survey building
 (between Pul-i-Mahomood Khan and Abdul Haq Square), Kabul
 Phone: 0786700411
 0777217771
 Email: fahimzaheer@gmail.com
 fahimzaheer@yahoo.com
 Website: www.usgs.org
 USGS Liaison in Afghanistan: Mohammad Fahim Zaheer

US Agency for International Development (USAID)

USAID c/o US Embassy, East Compound, Great Massoud Rd., Kabul
 PO Box (6180 Kabul)
 Phone: 0707626376
 0700114862
 Email: KabulUSAIDInformation@usaid.gov
 KabulAIDDOC@usaid.gov
 Website: www.afghanistan.usaid.gov

Voice of Afghan Women Radio (VAWR)

Inside FCCS Office Hs. 839 (opposite of National Archives), Salang Watt, Deh Afghanan, Kabul
 Phone: 0700275089
 0777272736
 Email: jmujaheed@yahoo.com
 jamila_mujaheed@yahoo.com
 Director General: Jamila Mujahed

Voice of America, Ashna TV & Radio/Afghanistan (VOA Ashna)

Hs. 100, Nashnas St. Shash Darak, Kabul
PO Box (214)
Phone: 0752004166
0799774477
0700277198
Fax: 0042221121913
Email: eshinwari@yahoo.com
eshinwari@vaonews.com
Website: www.voanews.com
Coordinator: Mohammad Ekram Shinwari

Wahdat Library (WL)

Company St., Kot-i-Sangi, Niaz-Big, Kabul
Phone: 0700252598
Email: ahmadshahwahdat@fastmail.fm
Contact Person: Ahmad Shah Wadat

Wakht News Agency (WNA)

Hs. 3 (opposite of Kabul Dubai Wedding Hall),
Dar-ul-Aman Rd., Kabul
Phone: 0700293756
0708198384
Email: newswakht@gmail.com
fnekzad@gmail.com
Website: www.wakht.af
Director and Editor In Chief: Farida Nekzad

War Child Holland (WCH)

St. 8, Qala-i-Fatullah, Kabul
PO Box (3211)
Phone: 0700425620
0772067074
Email: info.kabul@warchild.nl
Website: www.warchild.nl
Country Representative: Angeles Martinez

Welthungerhilfe Internal Displace Person Office (WIDP)

Ministry of Women affairs, Herati Mosque,
Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0791587242
0700163165
0799423889
Email: christophe.arnold@welthungerhilfe.de
Farshid.farzan@welthungerhilfe.de
Website: www.welthungerhilfe.de
Project Manager: Christophe Arnold

Welthungerhilfe/German AgroAction (AgroAction GAA)

Kabul
Phone: 0791860122
0793366618
0700288998
Email: Klaus.Lohmann@welthungerhilfe.de
aziz.shah@welthungerhilfe.de
Website: www.welthungerhilfe.de
Country Director: Klaus Lohmann

Women and Children Legal Research Foundation (WCLRF)

St. 5 (behind Noorin TV; west of Kabul
University), Dehbori, Kabul
Phone: 0700649191
0799383230
Email: wclrf@yahoo.com
Website: www.wclrf.org.af
Programme Manager: Zarqa Yaftali

Women for Women International (WfWI)

Hs. 171, St. 4, Qala-i-Fatullah, Kabul
Phone: 0700288431
07955940108
Email: mshafiq@womenforwomen.org
Website: www.womenforwomen.org
Acting Country Director: Mohammad Shafiq Nikzad

Women Support Organization – Medica Afghanistan (WSO-MA)

Hs. 60, (adjacent Nawroz Zada Property
Dealer), Jami Watt, Charrahee Shaheed, Shahr-
i-Naw, Kabul
Phone: 0798160435
0793200528
Email: info@medica-afghanistan.org
humaira.rasuli@medica-afghanistan.org
Website: www.medicamondiale.org
Executive Director: Humaira Ameer Rasuli

World Food Programme (WFP)

St. 4 (behind Kabul Bank), Koshani Watt, Shahr-
i-Naw, Kabul
PO Box (1093)
Phone: 0797662000-04
Fax: 00873763089563
Email: wfp.kabul@wfp.org
Kabul.reports@wfp.org
Website: www.wfp.org/afghanistan
Country Director: Claude Jibidar

Youth in Action Organization (YIAO)

Near Barikot Cenima, Karte Char, Kabul
 Phone: 0788266645
 0700266645
 0799301951
 Email: info@youthinaction.org.af
 Website: www.youthinaction.org.af
 Co-Founder: Sayed Ikram Afzali

Zardozi - Markets for Afghan Artisans (ZMAA)

Main office: St. 8 Qala-i-Fathullah
 Sub office: Mol Rd. (beside Insaf Hotel),
 Charrah-i- Ansari, Kabul
 PO Box (1119)
 Phone: 0796348315
 0700287963
 Email: kjw@brain.net.com
 contact.zardozi@gmail.com
 Website: www.afghanartisans.com
 Executive Director: Kerry Jane Wilson

ZOA Afghanistan (ZOA)

Hs. 266, St. 2 (next to Ahmad Jam
 Mosque), Karte Char, District 3, Kabul
 PO Box (1515)
 Phone: 0700239825
 0700213949
 Email: office-mgtcentral@zoa-afg.org
 cdafghanistan@zoa-afg.org
 Website: www.zoa-international.com
 Office Manager: Ghulam Jailani Farooq

Badakhshan

Afghanaid
 Faizabad City
 Phone: 0793814451
 0797735372
 008821684400142-44
 Email: skhaliysar@afghanaid.org.uk
 Website: www.afghanaid.org.uk
 Provincial Programme Manager: Sulaiman Khalisyar

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Faizabad
 Phone: 0786500071
 0798112800
 Email: ajzi.jawid1390@gmail.com
 badakhshan@acci.org.af
 Website: www.acci.org.af
 Regional Manager: Jawid Ajze

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Shahr-i-Naw (next to Sports Stadium), Part 3,
 District 5, Faizabad
 Phone: 0773135521
 Email: aihrc_bdn@yahoo.com
 sadi.dihqanzad@yahoo.com
 Website: www.aihrc.org.af
 Provincial Programme Manager: Said Mohammad Qasem

Aga Khan Foundation Afghanistan (AKF)

Ismatullah Hs. (near Alfat Mosque; AKDN
 Compound), Shahr-i-Naw, Faizabad
 Phone: 0796889177
 0790074994
 0798589868
 Email: Muslim.khuram@akdn.org
 Najmuddin.najam@akdn.org
 Website: www.akdn.org/akf
 Regional Director: Najmuddin Najm

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

St. 5 (Imam Bokhari Mosque), District
 5, Faizabad
 Phone: 0770336714
 Email: darya_akbarzai@yahoo.com
 Regional Manager: Darya Khan

Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)

Near The Maiwand Bank, Shahr-i-Naw,
Faizabad
Phone: 0700701459
0788430195
008821644942051
Email: dost.rokai@acted.org
Faizabad.administration@acted.org
Website: www.acted.org
Base Manager: Dost Mohammad Roki

Badakhshan University (BU)

Next to National Directorate of Security, Shahr-i-Naw, Faizabad
Phone: 0799111718
Email: khisrow.nazari@yahoo.com
Website: www.Badakhshan-in.edu.af
Chancellor: Khisrow Nazari

Care of Afghan Families (CAF)

Hs. 462 , AlfathMosque St., Part3, Shahr-i-Naw,
District 5, Faizabad
PO Box (5822)
Phone: 0777822395
0777822396
Email: pm.caf.bdk@gmail.com
Website: www.caf.org.af
Technical Deputy Director: Mohammad Yasin Rahimyar

Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA)

Faizabad
Phone: 008821621138244
Email: ahmadi_ab@yahoo.com
Website: www.cca.org.af
Manager: Shuhaboddin

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

Red Cross Building, Faizabad
Phone: 0799201735
Email: ali.azimi400@yahoo.com
coar_kbl@yahoo.com
Website: www.coar.org.af
Project Manager: Ahmad Ali Azimi

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Faizabad
Phone: 0755800154
0799272961
Email: m.alim_alimi@yahoo.com
alim.alimi@mail.gov.af
Director: Mohammad Alam Alimi

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Faizabad
Phone: 0799477211
Email: peer.mohammad@mrrd.gov.af
Director: Peer Mohammad Yaftali

FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS)

Opposite of GTZ Office, Shahr-i-Naw, Faizabad
Phone: 0795465395
0799345002
Email: rahim.rashid@focushumanitarian.org
nooragha.azimi@focushumanitarian.org
Website: www.akdn.org/focus
Regional Programme Coordinator: Rahim Rashid

International Assistance Mission (IAM)

Near Saif-i- Shaheed High School, Faizabad
PO Box (625)
Phone: 0705321056
Email: rtl.badakhshan@iam-afghanistan.org
Website: www.iam-afghanistan.org
Regional Team Leader: Ray Sherrod

Mercy Corps (MC)

Faizabad
Phone: 0793506721
Email: nakbary@af.mercycorps.org
Website: www.mercycorps.org
Operations Manager: Noor Khan Akbary

Mission East (ME)

Ahmad Maghaza St., Faizabad
Phone: 0796224226
0792802273
Email: ppm.bdk@miseast.org
cd.afg@missioneast.org
Website: www.missioneast.org
Provincial Programme Manager: Blanka Fuleki

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Faizabad
Phone: 0700259100
0791635100
Email: badakhshan@nspafghanistan.org
kabul@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Abdul Wali

Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC)

Hs. 6, Nawai Watt St. 3, Wah Khan Hotel
(behind Police Station), Shahr-i-Naw, Faizabad
Phone: 0790698265
0796122776
Email: broedu@nacaf.org
Website: www.afghanistan.com
Acting Regional Office Manager: Behzad

Oxfam Great Britain (Oxfam GB)

St. 2, Part 1, Faizabad
PO Box (681)
Phone: 0708294201
0799830574
008821684400430
Email: mjuma@oxfam.org.uk
ahadi@oxfam.org.uk
Website: www.oxfam.org.uk
Filed Office Manager: Mohammad Juma

Partners in Revitalization and Building (PRB)

Shahr-i-Naw, Faizabad
Phone: 0700724584
Website: www.prb.org.af
Administrative Officer: Abdul Baseer

Social and Health Development Program (SHDP)

Shahr-i-Naw, Faizabad
Phone: 0777822412
Email: shdpbadakhshan.pm@gmail.com
Website: www.shdp.org.af
Regional Programme Manager: Humayoon Popal

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Hs. 2 (near kochee Darwaza), Faizabad
Phone: 0799462055
Email: draminullah@gmail.com
razaamir20099@yahoo.com
Website: www.wadan.org
Project Coordinator: Muhammad Amin

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Behind Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Shahr-i-Naw, District 5, Faizabad
PO Box (3205)
Phone: 0700250359
0799822337
0797343306
008821621111336

Email: kobuta@un.org
hakim@un.org
Website: www.unama.unmissions.org
Head of Office: Tomoko Kobuta

United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)

Part 3 (opposite of Abdul Rahman Abid Fuel Pump Station), Shahr-i-Naw, District 5, Faizabad
Phone: 0782200367
Email: mazarin@afg.emro.who.int
Website: www.emro.who.int/countries/afg/
Medical Officer: Sayed Mazari Nasiri

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

St. 2 (next to Habibullah Medical Store), Shahr-i-Naw, Faizabad
Phone: 0788099166
0700675235
Email: wajed_m@yahoo.com
achr98@yahoo.com
Website: www.ahro.af
Representative: Jahidullah

Concern Worldwide (Concern)

Shahr-i-Naw, Faizabad
Phone: 0707179759
0773273145
Email: azima.roya@concern.net
Website: www.concern.net
Senior Programme Coordinator: Azima Roya

Noshaq International (NI)

Part 1 (next to Da Afghanistan Bank), St. 2, Shahr-i-Naw, Faizabad
Phone: 0798447037
Email: Saidakbar@noshaq.org
Website: www.noshaq.org
Administrative Assistant: Said Akbar

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

St. 1, Shahr-i-Naw, Faizabad
Phone: 0799226434
0799268596
0796520873
Email: Altaf-hussain.joya@unodc.org
masouveer1@gmail.com
Website: www.unodc.org
Regional Coordinator: Altaf Hussain Joya

Badghis

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Qala-i-Naw
Phone: 0772884745
Email: badghis.cci@gmail.com
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Mohammad Ishaq Darwish

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Qala-i-Naw
Phone: 0700586231
Email: anowarullah@yahoo.com
Website: www.brac.net
Provincial Manager: Mohammad Anwarullah

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

Hs. 201, St. 3, Bazar Qala-i-Naw
Phone: 0795221183
Email: amed_mojab@yahoo.com
coar_kbl@yahoo.com
Website: www.coar.org.af
Provincial Manager: Mohammad Hamid

MOVE Welfare Organization (MOVE)

Sharwal Abobakr Hs. (opposite of Power office), District 1, Qala-i-Naw
Phone: 0795577543
0773505608
Email: dr.g.rahman@gamil.com
azizkhamush@yahoo.com
Project Manager: Gull Rahman Naqshbandi

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Qala-i-Naw
Phone: 0799471549
Email: benish_tanbalkoh@yahoo.com
Website:
Director: Hafizullah Binish

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Qala-i-Naw
Phone: 0799078692
Email: Rasull.akbari@mrrd.gov.af
Contact Person: Syed Rasoul Akbary

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

District 1 (opposite of New Girls High School),
Qala-i-Naw
Phone: 0729080112
0729080106
0729080109
Email: Hamedullah.Durani@rescue.org
Aboobakar.Shahir@rescue.org
Website: www.theIRC.org
Field Manager: Hamedullah Durani

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Next to IEC office, Qala-i-Naw
Phone: 0799224665
0700464609
Email: Badghis@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Haroon Anis

Baghlan

Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)

Phone: 0782422773
 Email: Ahabib.asim@gmail.com
 Website: www.aabrar.org.af
 Field Coordinator: Habib-ur-Rahman Asim

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

Near to Monqazada Mosque, 600 Koti, Pul-i-Khumri
 Phone: 0773488208
 0792457578
 Email: zarminz-watanpal@yahoo.com
 achr98@yahoo.com
 Website: www.ahro.af
 Manager: Zarmina Watanpal

Aga Khan Education Services, Afghanistan (AKES, A)

Hs. 384, St. 1, Silo, District 2, Pul-i-Khumri
 Phone: 0793243000
 Email: sima.niro@akdn.org
 Website: www.akdn.org
 Regional Human Resources : Sima Niro

Aga Khan Foundation Afghanistan (AKF)

Hajee Nazir Hs., St. 5, 600 Koti, Pul-i-Khumri
 Phone: 0791981912
 0792420429
 Email: Muslim.khuran@akdn.org
 Miraj.khan@akdn.org
 Website: www.akdn.org/akf
 Regional Director: Miraj Khan

Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)

Shirdad Hs., Region 3, 600 Koti, Pul-i-Khumri
 Phone: 0700010147
 0700707182
 008821644942051
 Email: ahmad.talib@acted.org
 Website: www.acted.org
 Base Manager: Ahmad Talib Shinwari

Baghlan University (BU)

Phone: 0707411581
 Email: amann_ziai@Website.edu
 Website: www.Baghlan-un.edu.af
 Chancellor: Amannudin Ziaee

Bakhtar Development Network (BDN)

600Koti, Pul-i-Khumri
 Phone: 0705400437
 Email: qawi.qadir@gmail.com
 Website: www.bdn.org.af
 Project Manager: Qawi Qadir

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Pul-i-Khumri
 Phone: 0799591565
 Website: www.brac.net
 Master Trainer/Education: Aminullah

Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA)

Near Agha Khan Foundation, Pul-i-Khumri
 Phone: 0706210773
 Email: ccakabul@hotmail.com
 Website: www.cca.org.af
 Manager: Sayed Kazim Fazil

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Baghlan
 Phone: 0700295886
 0799156675
 Email: az.aimaq@yahoo.com
 Director: Azizullah Aymaq

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0799694102
 0798542573
 Email: eng.abdulrab_hakimi@yahoo.com
 Director: Abdul Rab Hakimi

Ghazni Rural Support Program (GRSP)

Hs. 1, St. 1, District 3, Pul-i-Khumri
 Phone: 0777900268
 Email: grspbaghlan@gmail.com
 Website: www.grsp.af
 Provincial Manager: Bunyad Ali Karemi

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS)

Tala-wa-Barfak District
 Phone: 0773743155
 0773838132
 Email: Mujib.habibzai@helvetas.org
 Sayedtajdar.Anis@helvetas.org
 Website: www.helvetas.org
 District Coordinator: Mujib Rahman Habibzai

Mercy Corps (MC)

St. 10, 600 Koti, Pul-i-Khumri
Phone: 0794921720
0777723232
Email: mshayan@af.mercycorps.org
Website: www.mercycorps.org
Operations Manager: Mohammad Alem Shayan

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

32 Koti St. (next to Nasaji Afghan Club), Pul-i-Khumri
Phone: 0700271508
07994262800
0786443442
Email: baghlan@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Hasibullah Sayedkhily

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Phone: 0755911887
Email: baghlan@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Dost Mohammad

Organization for Research and Community Development (ORCD)

Hs. 2, St. 5, Kabul-Baghlan Rd., Karte-Silo, Pul-i-Khumri
Phone: 0786609680
Email: baghlan@orcd.org.af
Website: www.orcd.org.af
Project Manager: Sidiqullah Saddaqaat

The HALO Trust International Mine Clearance Organisation (HALO Trust)

AFSOTR Compound, Pul-i-Khumri
Phone: 0705335934
Email: halo@haloafg.org
Website: www.halotrust.org/ www.halousa.org
Senior Location Manager: Hamidullah

Balkh

ActionAid Afghanistan (ActionAid)

Hs. 2, St. 1 (Ibrahim Zahda Pump Station No. 03), Karta Zirahat, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0776161715
0790761513
Email: fardin.raez@actionaid.org
Lina.Bayat@actionaid.org
Website: www.actionaidafg.org
Programme Manager: Mohammad Fardin Raez

Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSF)

Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0787406798
Email: nazira456@gmail.com
Website: www.acsf.af/www.acsf-rc.com
Regional Manager: Nazira Ahmadi

Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization (ALSO)

Phone: 0772542989
0785499466
Email: also.mazar@gmail.com
Website: www.afghanlandminesurvivors.org
Regional Manager: Friba Roya Akbaryar

Afghan Support Education Training (ASET)

Gozar-i-Baba-Qambar (near Arizo-Shahr Club), Mazar-i-Sharif
Email: aset.cd@gmail.com
Website: www.aset-uk.org
Country Director: Brian Germann

Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)

Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0777761404
Email: awec.kabul@awec.info
Website: www.awec.info
Contact Person: Hafiza Merzaey

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0777185400
0799268340
Email: acci_mazar@yahoo.com
ceo@balkhcci.org.af
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Nasir Qasimi

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

Hs. 257 (near Daqiqa Balkhi High School),
Karti Sulaha, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0798102936
Email: ferebaakbari@yahoo.com
achr98@yahoo.com
Website: www.ahro.af
Manager: Fariba Akbari

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Mohammad Baig Lane (former Iranian
Consulate), District 1, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0700511246
0799154462
Email: q.s.same@gmail.com
aihrcmzr@gmail.com
Website: www.aihrc.org.af
Regional Programme Manager: Qazi Sayed Mohamd
Samee

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

ACCI Building, 3rd Floor (behind Balkh Police
Security Command), Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0799656821
Email: siddiq_muradi@aisa.org.af
Website: www.aisa.org.af
Regional Manager: Mohammad Siddiq Muradi

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)

St. 4, Sayed Abad Rd., Karte-Maula Ali,
Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0700500499
Email: mazarareamanager@acbar.org
acbarmazar@yahoo.com
Website: www.acbar.org
Area Manager: Abdul Rauf Qaderi

Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan (AADA)

St. Siay Gird (Sub St. of Ortiqul; Beside Masjid
Wasi Qarni), District 3, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0799221707
0798025176
Email: drshagul.hamidy@yahoo.com
Website: www.aada.org.af
Project Officer: Shagul

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

Hs. 100, St. 3, District 3, Balkh
Phone: 0770336617
Email: mousab_nisar@yahoo.com
Regional Manager: Nisar Ahmad

Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)

Gozar Mormal (east of Sultan Razia High
School), Madan-i-Namak St, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0700502376
0700501310
Email: khalil.ahmad@acted.org
mazar.administration@acted.org
Website: www.acted.org
Base Manager: Khalil Ahmad

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

Qala-i-Ghazia, District 4, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0700509402
0752145321
Email: aschianamazar@yahoo.com.au
Website: www.aschiana.com
Coordinator: Shapoor Mayar

Bakhtar Development Network (BDN)

St. 2 (west of ICRC Orthopedic Center),
Karte Sulah, District 7, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0771481520
Email: balkhpm.bdn@gmail.com
Website: www.bdn.org.af
Project Manager: Honey Mukhtar

Balkh University (BU)

Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0799005003
0799344230
Email: balk_university@yahoo.com
Website: www.ba.edu.af
Chancellor: Mokamel Alokozai

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Karte Bukhdi (near Red Crescent Office),
Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0708038717
Email: salim66raza@gmail.com
Website: www.brac.net
Regional Manager of Education Programme:
Mohammad Salim Reza

Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)

Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0774511005
Email: Mano_ebranimi@yahoo.com
Website: www.cshrn.af
North Coordinator: Manocher Ibrahim

Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA)

Near ICRC office, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0799036653
Email: cca.afg@gmail.com
Website: www.cca.org.af
Regional Manager: Hamid

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

Mastofyat St. (next to Mohammad Gul Khan Mosque; opposite of Ghazanfar Bank), Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0799477442
Email: coar_balkh@yahoo.com
coar.northregion@yahoo.com
Website: www.coar.org.af
Regional Manager: Mohammad Sharif Sharif

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

library of Ferdawsi St.(behind Gumruk), St. 3, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0776618955
0798425669
0766558080
Email: mazar@cha-net.org
Website: www.cha-net.org
Office Manager: Mohammad Rashid Sakandari

Da Qanoon Ghushtonky (DQG)

Kala Darak, Rasool Barat Mosque (next to Mawlana Hs.), District 4, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0798236966
Email: qanoon_ghushtonky@yahoo.com
Website: www.dqg.org.af
Head of Office: Abdul Wase Rasikh

Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR)

Qurghan St., Haji Ayub Square, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0793407906
0799023902
Email: north.rm@dacaar.org
Website: www.dacaar.org
Regional Manager-North: Abdul Wali

Danish Demining Group (DDG)

Hs. 2, St. 2, Khalid Bin Walid Shahrak (opposite of Park St.) Hisa-i-Awal, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0797058482
0700948983
0797058479
Email: pm.afghanistan@drc.dk
head.operations@drc.dk
Website: www.drc.dk

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0700215773
0700507820
0796110225
Email: kateb_shams@yahoo.com
as.stagh@yahoo.com
Director: Kateb Shams

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0799039128
0700501983
Email: eng_basit@yahoo.com
Director: Abdul Basit Ainin

Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)

Qabela Parween St. (behind Tafahossat), Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0799184125
Email: zia.formuly@hotmail.com
ziaformuly@hotmail.com
Website: www.dca-vet.nl
Regional Programme Director: Mohammad Zia Formuly

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO)

Pul-i-Tasade (opposite of Kabul Bus Stand), Water Management Department, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0777355355
0799123527
0789909131
Email: Ahmadzia.aria@fao.org
bashirahmad.mawlawizada@fao.org
Website: www.fao.org
Officer In Charge: Ahmad Zia Aria

GIZ- Basic Education Program for Afghanistan (GIZ/BEPA)

District 2 , Shahr-i-Naw, Teacher Training College
 Phone: 0777900402
 0795991898
 Email: zabihullah.qarizada@giz.d
 Website: www.bepafg.com
 Education Officer: Zabiullah Qarizada

International Assistance Mission (IAM)

Koche-i-Marmol, Mazar-i-Sharif
 PO Box (25)
 Phone: 0793258779
 0700504393
 Email: rtl.balkh@iam-afghanistan.org
 balkh.om@iam-afghanistan.org
 Website: www.iam-afghanistan.org
 Regional Team Leader: Juhani Mäkilä

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

St. 1, Karte Bukhdi, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Phone: 0700279082
 Email: mazar@icrc.org
 Website: www.icrc.org

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

ARCS Compound (beside Abu Zar-e-Ghafari Mosque), Karte Ariana, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Phone: 0700501995
 Fax: 00873763043426
 Email: mohammadwahid.nawabi@ifrc.org
 Website: www.ifrc.org
 Office Manager and Regional Programme Coordinator:
 Mohammad Wahid

Islamic Relief Worldwide – Afghanistan (IRA)

Hs. 84, St. 2 (opposite of Salman FarsMosque), Guzdar Pul Hawayee, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Phone: 0799150663
 0786718990
 Email: mansour@ir-afg.org
 Website: www.islamic-relief.com/ www.irafghanistan.org
 Regional Administrative and Finance Officer:
 Sayed Mansour Agha Samady

Johanniter International Assistance (JIA)

Hs. 13, St. 6, Block 2, Karte Ariana, District 10, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Phone: 0797881039
 Email: ashutosh.dey@thejohanniter.org
 Website: www.thejohanniter.org
 Project Coordinator: Ashutosh Dey

Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan (MACCA)

Mazar-i-Sharif
 Phone: 0799436125
 0705966490
 Email: aziz.paktin@macca.org.af
 AzizullahP@unops.org
 Website: www.macca.org.af
 Area Manager: Azizullah Paktin

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

St. 1, District 7, Karte Amani, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Phone: 0796074680
 0799444106
 Email: makbarq@yahoo.co.uk
 maqati@ndi.org
 Website: www.ndi.org
 Regional Programme Manager: Mohammad Akbar Qati

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Hs. 2 (west part of Aryana Park), St. 3, Karte Ariana, Mazar-i-Sharif
 Phone: 0799263600
 0778908868
 Email: balkh@nspafghanistan.org
 eng_humayoonajam@yahoo.com
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Mohammad Humayoon Ajam

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Old Jail Rd. (behind Marko Polo Hotel; opposite of WFP), Mazar-i-Sharif
 Phone: 0799414302
 008821644413842
 Email: sfarid.moqim@afg.nrc.no
 Website: www.nrc.no
 Integrated Office Administrator: Sayed Farid Moqim

Nye Express Office (Nye)

Gozar-i-Mirza Qasim (near to Bakhtar High School), Radio Killid Balkh office, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0774200000
0786680680
Email: ishaq_hanifi@yahoo.com
Website: www.nyeexpress.com
Office Manager: Ishaq Hanifi

People in Need (PIN)

St. 82, Baba Qamber, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0777899100
0777899111
Email: countrydirector.afg@peopleinneed.cz
Website: www.peopleinneed.cz
Country Director: Thomas Harrison-Prentice

Radio Killid

Guzar-i-Bagh, Mirza Qasim, District 3
Phone: 0502041041
0774419700
Email: n.amin@killid.com
info@tkg.af
Website: www.tkg.af
Station Manager: Nasir Ahmad Amin

Sanayee Development Organization (SDO)

Hs.4, (opposite of Arezo Hotel; opposite of Balkh University), Pul-i-Hawayee St,
Phone: 0799237607
Email: dalili.kabul@gmail.com
Website: www.sanayee.org.af
Regional Manager: Mohammad Rafiq Bromand

Save the Children International (SCI)

Qala-i- Meer, Karte Zeraahat, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0799125012
0795998381
Email: mohammadhadi.athar@savethechildren.org.org
Website: www.savethechildren.net
Provincial Senior Manager: Mohammad Hadi Athar

Solidarity for Afghan Families (SAF)

Hs. 38, Guzar-i-Azizabad-i-Bala (old street), District 5, Mazar-i-Sharif
PO Box (6084)
Phone: 0773001012
0502042477
Email: balkh@saf.org.af
Website: www.saf.org.af
Programme Manager: Abdul Basir Mawlawi Zada

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)

Hs. 722 St. 2, Karte Mamorin, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0700299306
0775540755
0792043143
008821654250356
Email: enayat.ghafari@sca.org.af
Website: www.swedishcommittee.org
Office Administrator: Enayatullah Ghafari

TB/Leprosy Control Organization (LEPCO)

St. 3, Nawshad Project, Dasht-i-Shor, Mazar-i-Sharif
PO Box (6057)
Phone: 0778989512
0778989513
Email: lepcokabul@yahoo.com
Clinic Manager: Nawroz

The HALO Trust International Mine Clearance Organisation (HALO Trust)

Juma Asik Rd., Nahr-i-Toap City , District 6, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0700700087
0799700087
Email: halo@haloafg.org
Website: www.halotrust.org/ www.halousa.org
Location Manager: Naimatullah

United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Hs. 117, St. 1, Karte Shafakhana 2, District 2, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0791611309
0700503688
Email: hakim_hafizi@yahoo.com
Website: www.unhabitat.org/www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org
Provincial Manager: Mohammad Hakim Hafizi

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Mazar-i-Sharif
PO Box (3205)
Phone: 0798796829
Email: barezs@un.org
Website: www.unama.unmissions.org
Public Information Officer: Sayed Barez

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Karte Shafakhana (behind Mandawi),
Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0791990031
0041227397504
008821651121598
Fax: 0041227397505
Email: LYNCHC@unhcr.org
AFGMA@unhcr.org
Website: www.unhcr.org
Head of Sub Office: Martin Bucumi

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Department of Counter Narcotics, 2nd Floor,
Baghi Hazoor, Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0799764703
Email: Lutf.rahman@unodc.org
Website: www.unodc.org
Provincial Coordinator: Lutf Rahman Lutfi

United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)

Azizabad Ulya, UNICEF Compound, District 5,
Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0700288401
0782200351
0700044864
Email: Ghaffarim@afg.emro.who.int
Website: www.emro.who.int/countries/afg/
National Health Coordinator (NHC/OIC): Mir Ahmad Ghaffary

Women Support Organization – Medica Afghanistan (WSO-MA)

Jughdak Rd. of Rasul Barat Mosque,
Mazar-i-Sharif
Phone: 0798160435
Email: helia.sohak@medica-afghanistan.org
Website: www.medicamondiale.org
Contact Person: Helai Sohak

Bamiyan
Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSFO)

Phone: 0771023983
0799436747
Email: hussaindad@gmail.com
bamiyan@acsf.af
Website: www.acsf.af/www.acsf-rc.com
Regional Manager: Hussaindad Ahmadi

Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization (ALSO)

Education St. (near UN-Habitat Office)
Phone: 0796139719
Email: also.bamyaan@gmail.com
info@afghanlandminesurvivors.org
Website: www.afghanlandminesurvivors.org

Afghan Women Services and Education Organization (AWSE)

Phone: 0795040103
Email: Ruhani1353@gmail.com
Website: www.awse.af
Contact Person: Mohammad Ruhani

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Phone: 0770008971
Email: bamyanacci_2012@yahoo.com
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Mohammad AliReza Hasanzada

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Chawni (next to Garzandoy Hotel)
Phone: 0775112829
0775112829
Email: frogh.aihrc@gmail.com
bamiyan@aihrc.org.af
Website: www.aihrc.org.af
Regional Programme Manager: Rohullah Frogh

Aga Khan Foundation Afghanistan (AKF)

Near Airport, Sar Asyab
Phone: 0797842939
0790075090
0798589868
Email: Muslim.khuram@akdn.org
Subhasis.Chakarbarti@akdn.org
Website: www.akdn.org/akf
Regional Director: Subhasis Chakarbarti

Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan (AADA)

Sar Asyab, South of Airport
Phone: 0799409582
Email: drkhalilrahman@gmail.com
Website: www.aada.org.af
Provincial Project Manager: Khalil Rahman Anwari

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

Sar Asyab(behind the Airport)
Phone: 0770336692
Email: qattiqi@yahoo.com
Provincial Coordinator: Fazal Bari

Bamyan University (BU)

Phone: 0775938455
Email: aminjoyaa@gmail.com
joyam@indiana.edu
Website: www.bu.edu.af
Vice-Chancellor in Academic Affairs: Mohammad Amin Joya

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Sar Asyab (near the Airport)
Phone: 0700042580
Email: nazrul.stup@gmail.com
Website: www.brac.net
Project Manager (Targeted Ultra Poor): Nazrul Islam

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Next to Girls' High School, Sayeed Abad Village
Phone: 0774304707
0774812764
Email: akbar.ahmadi@crs.org
akbar.saighani@crs.org
Website: www.crs.org
Support Manager: Akbar Ahmadi

Central Afghanistan Welfare Committee (CAWC)

Jogra Khel
Phone: 0770009872
0773453996
Email: cawc_bamyan62@yahoo.com
Website: www.cawc.org.af

Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)

Phone: 0708279439
Email: ismailzaki@ymail.com
Website: www.cshrn.af
Central Highlands Coordinator: Ismail Zaki

Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA)

Next to Ghol Ghola, Shahr-i-Naw
Phone: 0799036653
Email: ccakabul@hotmail.com
Website: www.cca.org.af
Manager: Sayed Ahmad

Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA)

In front of Social Council Office, Yakawlang
Email: ccakabul@hotmail.com
ahmadi.cca@gmail.com
Website: www.cca.org.af
Manager: Rahim

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

In front of the Azizi Bank
Phone: 0797410371
Email: coar_bamyan@yahoo.com
coar_kbl@yahoo.com
Website: www.coar.org.af
Provincial Manager: Haji Hafizulla

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0799354059
Email: atayeebayan@yahoo.com
Director: Mohammad Tahir Attayee

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0778932178
0799306668
Email: Baser_bamyanrrd@yahoo.com
Director: Salman Ali Sadiqi

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS)

Kahamard District
Phone: 0775369794
0778159757
Email: mohammad.asil@helvetas.org
Ejaz.Ahmad@helvetas.org
Website: www.helvetas.org
Contact Person: Mohammad Asil

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS)

Center of Bamyan (north of the Airport), Dasht-i-Essa Khan

Phone: 0771006051

0778013825

0778159712

008821621011259

Email: homayoun.afshar@helvetas.org

keshar.sthapit@helvetas.org

Website: www.helvetas.org

NRM Focal Point and Liaison Officer: Homayoun Afshar

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS)

Saighan District

Phone: 0774088373

0775593721

Email: habibrahman.ahadi@helvetas.org

Mohammad.Hemat@helvetas.org

Website: www.helvetas.org

District Coordinator: Habib-ur-Rahman

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

Next to Mustafa Plaza

Phone: 0776442669

Email: smohammadi@hawca.org

Website: www.hawca.org

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Sar Asyab (north of the Airport)

Phone: 0772093705

Website: www.icrc.org

Islamic Relief Worldwide – Afghanistan (IRA)

Dasht-i-Essa Khan (behind the Airport)

Phone: 0797537250

Email: yahya@ir-afg.org

Website: www.islamic-relief.com/ www.irafghanistan.org

Project Manager: Yahya Ghaznawi

Mobile Mini Circus for Children (MMCC)

Zargaran Village (behind Bamyan University)

Phone: 0797972862

0779650994

0700229987

Email: AECC@afghanmmcc.org

Website: www.afghanmmcc.org

Regional Manager: Asad

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

End of Bazar (near Hamam Safa, from east location of Bazar first sub-street on the right)

Phone: 0799393023

Email: bamyan@nspafghanistan.org

Website: www.nspafghanistan.org

Provincial Manager: Anwar

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)

PO Box (3129)

Phone: 0799369943

0708198206

Email: ghafari_herat@yahoo.com

news@pajhwok.com

Website: www.pajhwok.com

Reporter: Hadi Ghafari

Radio Paywand (RP)

Hs. 202, Sharak Safa

Phone: 0799472483

0795838926

0775790030

Email: radio.paiwand@gmail.com

danesh211@yahoo.com

Director: Akbar Danish

Rehabilitiee Organization for Afghan War Victims (ROAWV)

Kham-i-Kalak and Reg-i-Shaad

Phone: 0799475362

Email: roawv.org@gmail.com

Website: www.roawv.org

Project Manager: Dellawar Aajiz

Save the Children International (SCI)

Sar Asyab Village (near the Airport)

Phone: 0798454590

Email: abduljamil.tabish@savethechildren.org

Website: www.savethechildren.net

Provincial Senior Manager: Abdul Jamil Tabish

Solidarite Afghanistan Belgique (SAB)

Sar Asyab (close to ICRC),

Phone: 0799501027

0777501027

Email: sab.bamyan@gmail.com

Website: www.assosab.be

Provincial Manager: Raziq Hashimi

Spring of Construction, Rehabilitation, Cultural and Social Organisation (SCRCO)

Hs. 332, Sharak Safa
Phone: 0799472483
0772898536
0772898536
Email: scrcso@yahoo.com
danesh211@yahoo.com
Website: www.baharaf.org
Director: Mohammad Reza Danish

United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

District 4 (close to Airport), Shahr-i-Naw
Phone: 0791611322
0791611324
0791611323
Email: smobariz@yahoo.com
sayed.mobariz@unhabitat-afg.org
Website: www.unhabitat.org/www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org
Provincial Manager: Sayed Abdul Aziz Mubariz

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

PO Box (3205)
Phone: 0796958947
Email: rahimj@un.org
Website: www.unama.unmissions.org
Public Information Officer: Jaffar Rahim

Daikundi

Action Centre La Faim (ACF)

Zard Nay Village, Nili District
Phone: 0799669844
Email: fieldco-dk@af.missions-acf.org
hom@af.missions-acf.org
Website: www.actioncontrelafaim.org
Field Coordinator: Abdul Hussain

Afghan Women Services and Education Organization (AWSE)

Phone: 0799339640
Email: gulsoom.awse@yahoo.com
Website: www.awse.af
Contact Person: Abdul Samad

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Khawalak(next to UNAMA office), Nili District
Phone: 0799343970
0773120161
Email: daikundi_aihrc@yahoo.com
jawad.dadgar@gmail.com
Website: www.aihrc.org.af
Provincial Program Manager: Jawad Dadgar

Caritas Germany

Nili District
Phone: 0778033801
0707077814
Email: rahmatullah_caritas@yahoo.com
caritasgermany.coa@gmail.com
Website: www.caritas-germany.org/54607.html
Contact Person: Rahmatullah Husseiny

Central Afghanistan Welfare Committee (CAWC)

Kejran District
Phone: 0778362212
Email: cawcdaikundi@yahoo.com
Website: www.cawc.org.af

Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA)

Center of City, Nili District, Sharistan
Phone: 0776011980
Email: sarwarhussaini@aol.com
ahmadi.cca@gmail.com
Website: www.cca.org.af
Manager: Zia Dabestani

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

Ashterli District
 Phone: 0772623633
 Email: coar_kbl@yahoo.com
 ab.wakil2011@gmail.com.
 Website: www.coar.org.af
 Provincial Manager: Abdul Wakil

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0708302005
 0772513006
 Email: mowahedi_mahdi@yahoo.com
 mis.daikundi@yahoo.com
 Director: Mahdi Mowahedi

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0774203019
 Email: prforg@yahoo.com
 Director: Ghulam Jan

Ghazni Rural Support Program (GRSP)

Chaprasak Bazar, Shahristan District
 Phone: 0777900275
 07779002572
 0772299569
 Email: grsponline@yahoo.com
 m.malistani@yahoo.com
 Website: www.grsp.af
 Programme Manager: Mohammad Mussa

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

Chardal Avenue (in front of the Governor's Office ; next to Godam Zarahat), Nilli District
 Phone: 0708382373
 Email: mfazili@hawca.org
 Website: www.hawca.org

MOVE Welfare Organization (MOVE)

Nili District
 Phone: 0772299517
 0777876613
 Email: drtabesh@yahoo.com
 Project Manager: Mohammad Aref Tabesh

Nasim Radio (NR)

Opposite of Finance Department, Nili District
 Phone: 0776212007
 0708302005

0778302002

Email: Naim.radio@gmail.com
 Website: www.NasimRadio.com
 Director: Mohammad Reza Wahedi

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Main St. (between Governor's Office; next to Kabul Bank; and MOVE Office), Nili Bazar
 Phone: 0772885501
 0707911969
 Email: daikundi@nspafghanistan.org
 jan_ali_shahristani@yahoo.com
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Ali Jan Noori

Organization for Research and Community Development (ORCD)

Next to AWCC Office, Nili District
 Phone: 0788960930
 Email: daikundi@orcd.org.af
 Website: www.orcd.org.af
 Provincial Manager: Ghulam

Oxfam Great Britain (Oxfam GB)

Near Masjid Jami Hawlia, Dasht-i- Valley, Nili District
 Phone: 0708294201
 0708294204
 Email: mjuma@oxfam.org.uk
 gwafayee@oxfam.org.uk
 Website: www.oxfam.org.uk
 Programme Coordinator: Mohammad Juma

Rehabilittee Organization for Afghan War Victims (ROAWV)

Sar-i-Dashti, Nili District
 Phone: 0774447350
 0706677984
 Email: roawv.org@gmail.com
 Daikondi_1499@yahoo.com
 Website: www.roawv.org
 Project Manager: Sayed Akbar Mosavi

Farah

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Phone: 0798193082
Email: hashmat.nor18@gmail.com
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Hashmatullah

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

Hs. 277 (south of Electricity Station), Bagh-i-Pool St.
Phone: 0799615389
0708606086
0766558121
Email: farah@cha-net.org
Website: www.cha-net.org
Office Manager: Malik Afghan Wakili

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0799590438
Email: manan_matin@yahoo.com
Acting Director: Abdul Manan

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0799095499
Email: eng.ab_rauf@yahoo.com
Director: Abdul Rauf

Help the Afghan Children (HTAC)

Hs.117, St. 8, District 4
Phone: 0795702918
0794630362
Email: khalid.htac@yahoo.com
Website: www.htac.org
Administrative and Marketing Officer: Ahmad Khalid

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Haji Khan Mohammad St., District 1,
Phone: 0703734304
Website: www.icrc.org

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Dr. Mohammad Hs. (near to Farah Jail), St. 8, District 4
Phone: 0799617184
Email: farah@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Safiullah Qazizada

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Hs. 2 (near to Agriculture Bank), St. 3, Rd. 9
Phone: 0797482983
Email: plane_top1@yahoo.com
razaamir20099@yahoo.com
Website: www.wadan.org
Project Coordinator: Hameed Khadmat

United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Behind Southern Canal (close to New Mermen Nazo School), District 1
Phone: 0799600384
0791611294
Email: frozanabdullah@yahoo.com.au
Website: www.unhabitat.org/www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org
Senior. Provincial Manager: Frozan Abdullah

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Ronaqa High School St. (behind Education Department), UNAMA Compound
Phone: 0793100459
0794354071
0796002647
Email: drozdik@un.org
malekzadeh@un.org
Website: www.unama.unmissions.org
Head of Office: Elena Drozdik

Faryab

Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)

Phone: 0777761406
0799359543
Email: awec.faryab@awec.info
awec.kabul@awec.info
Website: www.awec.info
Provincial Manager: Homayon

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Andkhoy
Phone: 0788737050
Email: saiedhanif_sadat@yahoo.com
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Said Hanif

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Phone: 0799894998
Email: zabih_fcci2008@yahoo.com
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Hayatullah

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

Yoldoz School St. (next to Abo-Muslim Clab), Maimana Main Rd., Andkhoy
Phone: 0799301766
0799461236
Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af
dr.sadiqi@gmail.com
Website: www.ada.org.af
Provincial Manager: Mohammad Dayan Adil

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Airport Rd. (next to Gawharshad High School), Maimana
Phone: 0799250553
0790690505
Email: fetrat_aihrc@yahoo.com
maimana_adm@yahoo.com
Website: www.aihrc.org.af
Head of Provincial Office: Sayed Hafizullah Fetrat

Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan (AADA)

Airport Rd. (opposite of Imam Abu Hanifa Mosque), Maimana
Phone: 0799271526
0788563775
Email: qfakhri@aada.org.af
qamaruddinfakhri@yahoo.com
qamaruddinfakhri@yahoo.com
Website: www.aada.org.af
Provincial Project Manager: Qamaruddin Fakhri

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

St. 2, Char Samawar, Maimana
Phone: 0773659977
Email: coar_kbl@yahoo.com
coar_maimana@yahoo.com
Website: www.coar.org.af
Provincial Manager: Nabi Shams

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

Hs. of Abdul Raouf Soori (near Qaisar and Almar Bus Stop), Maimana
Phone: 0799679796
0703712605
Email: faryab@cha-net.org
Website: www.cha-net.org
Office Manager: Hayatullah Bakhtari

Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR)

Economy Department St., Karta-i-Afsaran, Maimana
Phone: 0797011010
Email: northwest.rm@dacaar.org
Website: www.dacaar.org
Regional Manager: Eng. Salahuddin

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0799268857
Email: a.baharfaryabi@gmail.com
Acting Director: Asadullah Bahar

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0799187965
Email: eng.alim.mt@gmail.com
Contact Person: Mohammad Alim Marat

Faryab University (FU)

Jad-i-Loduin, Maimana
Phone: 0799089413
0799274712
Email: fazli001@yahoo.com
Website: www.fi.edu.af
Chancellor: Fazli Afzali

International Assistance Mission (IAM)

PO Box (625)
Phone: 0777210920
Email: rti.faryab@iam-afghanistan.org
Website: www.iam-afghanistan.org
Regional Office Manager & CDP Project Manager:
Hamayun

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Hs. 449 (Guzar-i-Baluch khana), Old Pump
Station St., Maimana
Phone: 0798367846
Website: www.icrc.org

INTERSONS Humanitarian Aid Organization (INTERSONS)

District 3(in front of Abu Muslum High School),
Maimana
Phone: 0797551123
Email: afghanistan@intersos.org
Website: www.intersos.org

**National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural
Rehabilitation and Development
(NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)**

Phone: 0799173847
0799860585
Email: faryab@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Zia

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Arab Khana, District 4, Maimana
Phone: 0788794079
0799148064
008821667223346
Email: masoud.sedeqi@afg.nrc.no
Website: www.nrc.no
Office Administrator: Masoud Sediqi

Sanayee Development Organization (SDO)

Arabkhana (behind Faryab Public Hospital),
District 4, Maimana
Phone: 0754520460

Email: dalili.kabul@gmail.com
Website: www.sanayee.org.af
Provincial Manager: Behroz Rozbeh

Save the Children International (SCI)

Airport St. (In front of Abu Hanifa Mosque),
Tulaki Khana Village, District 3, Maimana
Phone: 0799417695
Email: Sohail.Azami@savethechildren.org
Website: www.savethechildren.net
Provincial Sr. Manager: Sohail Azami

Solidarity for Afghan Families (SAF)

Hs.308, St. 4, Guzar-i-Tandorak, Maimana
Phone: 0799158845
Email: faryab@saf.org.af
Website: www.saf.org.af
Programme Manager: Mohammad Naeem Musamem

**United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
(UNAMA)**

Maimana
PO Box (3205)
Phone: 0796002622
0797662500
Email: larin@un.org
Website: www.unama.unmissions.org
Head of Office: Andriy Larin

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
(UNHCR)**

Arab Khana Village, District 4, Maimana
Phone: 0791990111
0799023154
Email: sediqyar@unhcr.org
AFGMN@unhcr.org
Website: www.unhcr.org
Protection Associate/Officer-In-Charge:Abdul Basir
Sdiqyar

Ghazni

Afghan Women Empowerment and Education Organization (AWEEO)

Plan 3
 Phone: 0773133989
 Email: aweeo_af_org@yahoo.com
 Director: Nahid

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Phone: 0799227662
 Email: acci_ghazni2008@yahoo.com
 Website: www.acci.org.af
 Regional Manager: Mohamad Ahsan bayat

Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan (AADA)

Plan 3 (opposite of Mohammadi Mosque)
 Phone: 0799242202
 0770176298
 Email: mnikfar@aada.org.af
 samin_nikfar@yahoo.com
 Website: www.aada.org.af
 Provincial Project Manager: Mohammad Samin Nikfar

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

Near Sayed Ahmad Makee Mosque
 Phone: 0770336622
 Email: sayedattaulhahpacha1@gmail.com
 Provincial Coordinator: Sayed Attaullah

Bakhtar Development Network (BDN)

Naw Abad Bus Station
 Phone: 0777342265
 Email: ghazni.pm.bdn@gmail.com
 Bakhtardn@yahoo.com
 Website: www.bdn.org.af
 Provincial Project Manager: Mohammad Zahir Fayez

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

St. 4, Plan 3
 Phone: 0787266925
 Email: mamozay@gmail.com
 coar_kbl@yahoo.com
 Website: www.coar.org.af
 Project Manager: Mamozay

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0799227550
 Email: S.abasyar2@yahoo.com
 Director: Sultan Hassan Abbasyar

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0799717777
 0786842000
 Email: shekibkhalil.zad@yahoo.com
 Director: Ghulam Sanayee Mayel

Ghazni Rural Support Program (GRSP)

Maradina Bazaar, Malistan District
 Phone: 0772863212
 Email: grsponline@yahoo.com
 abmatin.sina@gmail.com
 Website: www.grsp.af
 Officer: Enayetullah

Ghazni University (GU)

Phone: 0772017173
 Email: ab.qadirkhamosh@yahoo.com
 Website: www.ghi.edu.af
 Chancellor: Abdul Qadir Khamosh

Humanitarian Assistance & Facilitating Organization (HAFO)

KarteFaiz Mohammad Katib (behind Airport)
 Phone: 0799025610
 0787433007
 Email: ghazni@hafo.org
 sarabi@hafo.org
 Website: www.hafo.org
 Manager: Saif Ali Nodrat

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Plan 3, District 4
 Phone: 0706163919
 Website: www.icrc.org

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Kabul-Kandahar Rd., Mahajerin Rd. (on the right., Plan Tawsevee; opposite of Sarwar-e KaynatMosque; and behind Radio Omid Jawanan)
 Phone: 0799371008
 0771110906
 0787575438
 Email: ghazni@nspafghanistan.org
 h.ahmadzai@nspafghanistan.org
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Dad Mohammad Zurmati

Noor Educational Capacity Development Organisation (NECDO)

Plan 3,(opposite of Eyes Clinic)
Phone: 0700909290
Website: www.necdo.org.af

Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC)

Sangi Masha (adjacent to Shohoda Hospital),
Jaghori
Phone: 0790698233
0779815348
Email: hashim.rawab@nacaf.org
Website: www.afghanistan.com
Regional Office Manager: Hashim Rawab

Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC)

St. 9 (close to Mohammadi Mosque), Plan 3
Phone: 0790698308
0787342453
Email: basir.abid@nacaf.org
Website: www.afghanistan.com
NRM Officer: Abdul Basir

Radio Killid (Radio Killid)

Mahtaab St. (in front of Shams-ul-Arefien High
School), Plan 3
Phone: 0790556500
0786740306
Email: n.ahmad@tkg.af
info@tkg.af
Website: www.tkg.af
Station Manager: Nisar Ahmad Azaadzoi

Sanayee Development Organization (SDO)

Qarabagh Bus Stand(opposite of Hamedee
Hospital)
Phone: 0799003129
Email: engineerramakee@yahoo.com
Website: www.sanayee.org.af
Provincial Manager: Abdul Rauf Ramakee

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)

Wahdat St. (infront of Hazrati Ali Mosque)
Phone: 0799384395
0799384393
008821644445978
Email: habib.jan@sca.org.af
Website: www.swedishcommittee.org
Office Administrator: Habib Jan

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Ganj(near Government TB Hospital)
Phone: 0771684210
Email: esmatyaar@yahoo.com
razaaamir20099@yahoo.com
Website: www.wadan.org
Project Coordinator: Esmat

Ghor**Action Contre La Faim (ACF)**

Chaghcharan
 Phone: 0797595405
 0704440276
 008821650206390
 Email: fieldco-gh@af.missions-acf.org
 hom@af.missions-acf.org
 Website: www.actioncontrelafaim.org
 Field Coordinator: Abdul Wakil

Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSFO)

Phone: 0798008974
 Email: waqif.ghor@gmail.com
 Website: www.acsf.af/www.acsf-rc.com
 Regional Manager: Khodayar Waqif

Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)

Chaghcheran
 Phone: 0777761386
 Email: awec.ghor@awec.info
 Website: www.awec.info
 Provincial Manager: Ghosudin

Afghanaid (Afghanaid)

West of Familyha (near Hari Rud River), Ghor-
 Herat St., Chaghcharan
 Phone: 0798405609
 Email: fhomarzai@afghanaid.org.uk
 Website: www.afghanaid.org.uk
 Provincial Programme Manager: Fazil Hadi Omarzi

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Opposite of Governor's Hs., Cheghcharan
 Phone: 0793188725
 Email: rezai.jawad497@gmail.com
 Website: www.aihrc.org.af
 Provincial Programme Manager: Jawad Rezaiee

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Hs. 212 (west of Familyha), Main Rd., ,
 Chaghcharan
 Phone: 0793915832
 Email: benie.chaves@crs.org
 Website: www.crs.org
 Head of Office: Bernie F. Chaves

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

Darai Ghazi St. (West of City), Cheghcharan
 Phone: 0797633870
 0703712605
 Email: ghore@cha-net.org
 Website: www.cha-net.org
 Acting Office Manager: Mohammad Nader Hafeezi

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0787682060
 0704221800
 Email: farid.abed2011@gmail.com
 Director: Faridudin Abid

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0799360180
 0706061571
 Email: Taj.zolal@mrrd.gov.af
 Contact Person: Taj Mohammad Zalal

International Assistance Mission (IAM)

Lal-Wa-Sarjangan, Lal District Center, Dane
 Saqoba Village
 Phone: 0779942664
 0795649854
 008821655589285
 Email: rtl.lal@iam-afghanistan.org
 Website: www.iam-afghanistan.org
 Regional Team Leader: Emily Allan

Mobile Mini Circus for Children (MMCC)

Soltan Razia High School Ghorri Annex,
 Chaghcharan
 Phone: 0700229987
 0796236295
 0700280140
 Email: AECC@afghanmmcc.org
 Website: www.afghanmmcc.org
 Regional Manager: Shir Agha

**National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural
Rehabilitation and Development
(NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)**

Abdul Sattar Hs. (north of the Harirod
River; next to Dahan Kasi Bridge), Jam Rd.,
Chaghcharan
Phone: 0796939891
Email: ghor@nspafghanistan.org
kabul@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Gulzaman Nayeb

Helmand

**Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
(DAIL)**

Lashkar Gah
Phone: 0700009908
0703866100
Email: rohullah.rawan@yahoo.com
Acting Director: Rohaullah Rawan

**Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
(DRRD)**

Lashkar Gah
Phone: 0700337473
Contact Person: Mohammad Omar Qani

Emergency Hospital

Lashkar Gah
Phone: 0795870809
Email: emergency@emergency.it
Website: www.emergency.it

Helmand University (HU)

Lashkar Gah
Phone: 0708212133
0795634367
Chancellor: Soor Gul

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Ghazni 15 Watt St., Lashkar Gah
Phone: 0729080003
0700307408
0799898992
008821650209543
Email: Muhammad.Fahim@rescue.org
Website: www.theIRC.org
Senior Human Resource and Administrative Officer:
Muhammad Fahim

Mercy Corps (MC)

Karte Chahanjer (next to Helmand Education
Department), Lashkar Gah
Phone: 0793506363
0793505702
Email: mawahidi@af.mercycorps.org
Website: www.mercycorps.org
Deputy Programme Manager: Mohammad Ashraf Wahidi

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Lashkar Gah
 Phone: 0706802800
 0799151660
 Email: helmand@nspafghanistan.org
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Abdul Hadi

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Jahah, Bost Jadah (behind Directorate of Information and Culture), Lashkar Gah
 Phone: 0799819553
 0708898096
 0700900660
 Email: arzaheer@wadan.org
 zahir_wadan@yahoo.com
 Website: www.wadan.org
 Regional Manager: Abdul Rahman Zaheer

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

Lashkar Gah
 Phone: 0788886935
 0796836149
 Email: zaman.raofi@gmail.com
 achr@yahoo.com
 Website: www.ahro.af
 Contact Person: Mohammad Zaman Raufi

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Nangarhar St.(opposite of Market),Lashkar Gah
 Phone: 0798145049
 Email: bellal_sidiqi@hotmail.com
 Website: www.aihrc.org.af
 Provincial Programme Manager: Bilal Sediqi

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

Dr. Faizullah Hs.(opposite of National Security Department),River St., Lashkar Gah
 Phone: 0787139011
 Email: feroozahmadzai@aisa.org.af
 Website: www.aisa.org.af
 Regional Manager: Sayed Ferooz Ahmadzai

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Near Police Lane, Lashkar Gah
 Phone: 0708404972
 Email: mdrsaboort@gmail.com
 Website: www.brac.net
 Sector Specialist (Health Programme):
 Abdul Saboor Mudaqia

Humanitarian Assistance and Facilitating Organization (HAFO)

Hospital Rd., District 1, Lashkar Gah
 Phone: 0786500794
 0700838594
 Email: lashkargah@hafo.org
 sarabi@hafo.org
 Website: www.hafo.org
 Regional Manager: Farooq Nadim

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Laghman St., D2-55-54, District 2, Lashkar Gah
 Phone: 0707347841
 Website: www.icrc.org

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)

Lashkar Gah
 PO Box (3129)
 Phone: 0799694881
 0202201814
 Email: zianullah.s@gmail.com
 news@pajhwok.com
 Website: www.pajhwok.com
 Reporter: Zianullah Stanikzai

Herat

Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL)

Park Millat St., (west of AIHRC; behind National Army Requirement Office and AISA), Herat
Phone: 0700401771
0754013122
0708267076
Email: ail.herat@gmail.com
ail.heratfin@gmail.com
Website: www.afghaninstituteoflearning.org
General Coordinator: Ali Akbar Zarin

Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization (ALSO)

Panchra AbakshSt.(opposite of Medical Store), Bad Morghan, Herat
Phone: 0777320051
0787322321
0786935430
Email: also.hadihrt@gmail.com
info@afghanlandminesurvivors.org
Website: www.afghanlandminesurvivors.org
Branch Manager: Hadi Amiri

Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

Jada Mokhabarat (near Mansoor Pharmacy), Herat
Phone: 040261048
Email: parnaian5@yahoo.com
Website: www.afghanwomensnetwork.org
Office Manager: Hasena Nekzad

Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)

Phone: 0777761419
Email: awec.kabul@awec.info
awec.herat@awec.info
Website: www.awec.info
Provincial Manager: Niazi

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Phone: 0799201433
Email: cci_herat@yahoo.com
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Khalil Ahmad Yarmand

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

Darwaza-i-Khush(next to Qumandani Amnia),Herat
Phone: 0703188506
Email: ayubyamen@yahoo.com
Website: www.ahro.af
Contact Person: Amr-ul-Haq Ayouby

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

West of Bagh-i-Milat(next to ANA Compund), Herat
Phone: 0799012018
Email: rahimiqader@hotmail.com
Website: www.aihrc.org.af
Regional Programme Manager: Sayed Abdul Qader Rahimi

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

Bag-i-Milat Rd.(behind National Army Compound; opposite of AIHRC office), Herat
Phone: 040234548
0700433250
Email: shafiq@aisa.org.af
M.jagharagi@aisa.org.af
Website: www.aisa.org.af
Regional Manager: Shafiq Ahmad Ahmadi

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)

End of Belaka St. (next to NPO/RRAA Office), District 8, Herat
Phone: 0799403200
0700403200
Email: heratareamanager@acbar.org
faridniazy@gmail.com
Website: www.acbar.org
Area Manager: Farid Niazi

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

Mokhaberat St., Dr. Enaytullah Mansoori St., Herat
Phone: 0797182960
0700408064
Email: herat_area@yahoo.com
ghafarrashad@yahoo.com
Regional Manager: Abdul Raqeeb

Bakhtar Development Network (BDN)

Hs. 48, Shah Alam Taheri St., Tank-e-Markaz,
Herat
Phone: 0777342265
0799007564
0797359295
Email: dr.shafiq.bdn@gmail.com
bdn.sultani@gmail.com
Website: www.bdn.org.af
Project Manager: Faraidon Sultani

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Bad Nazar Gah, Masjid St., Khaja Abdullah
Ansari Rd., Herat
Phone: 0702236125
Email: ranabrac2@yahoo.com
Website: www.brac.net
Regional Manager (Education Programme): Masoud Rana

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Haji Ghulam Nabi Halemayar Hs. (east
of Abbakhsh), Badmorghan Avenue,
Telecommunication Rd., District 3, Herat
Phone: 0797480490
Email: basir.samit@crs.org
Website: www.crs.org
Head of Office: Abudl Basir Samit

Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)

Phone: 0700402261
Email: Azizakhairandesh22@yahoo.com
Website: www.cshrn.af
North Coordinator: Aziza Khairandesh

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

Jada-i-Khwaja Abdullah Ansar (near Malem
Ghani St.), Deen Mohammad Karokhi St.
Phone: 0778585735
040444365
Email: samimi.hrt@hotmail.com
herat@cha-net.org
Website: www.cha-net.org
Field Office Manager: Mohammad Samimi

Da Qanoon Ghushtonky (DQG)

Hs. 4 (on the left), Khwaja Abdullah Ansar St.,
Herat
Phone: 0798236944
Email: qanoon_ghushtonky@yahoo.com
Website: www.dqg.org.af
Head of Office: Sayed Jawid Ahmadyar Harawee

Danish Afghanistan Committee (DAC)

Mukhaberat St., AB-Bakhsh
Badmorghan Avenue, Baghcha Gulha Rd., Herat
Phone: 040255640
0787007656
Email: dac@afghan.dk
director@afghan.dk
Website: www.afghan.dk
Project Director: Sumitra Mukherjee

Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR)

Check Post 1 (next to Karubar Bridge), Spin
Aday Rd., Herat
Phone: 0797987049
Email: west.rm@dacaar.org
Website: www.dacaar.org
Regional Manager: Abdul Raziq Kiani

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0799154092
0791464646
Email: faqir.baiangar@mail.gov.af
Director: Faqir Ahmad Baiangar

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0700401071
Email: Aqa_mohamad@yahoo.com
Director: Aqa Mohammad Sidiqqi

Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)

Qul-i-Urdu St., Amir Ali Sheer Nawawee School
Lane, Herat
PO Box (407)
Phone: 0700406297
040441484
Email: drqader_fakhri@yahoo.com
Website: www.dca-vet.nl
Regional Programme Director: Abdul Qader Fakhri

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO)

Walayat St., DAIL Compound, FAO Office, Herat
Phone: 0799412662
0799027543
0707046594
Email: Nabi.Gul@fao.org
Abdullah.Hakimi@fao.org
Website: www.fao.org
Officer in Charge: Nabi Gul Shahid Zoi

Handicap International (HI)

Badmurghan, St. 2 of Hazrat Bilal, District 3,
Herat
Phone: 0799541501
0799033119
0799873148
008821684442463
Email: hrtcoordinator@hiafgha.org
hrt-hss@hiafgha.org
Website: www.handicap-international.org
Base Coordinator: Tim Zahid Hossain

Herat University (HU)

Phone: 0799826676
Email: heratuniversity@yahoo.com
Website: www.hu.edu.af
Chancellor: Abdul Zahir Mohtasib Zada

Independent Civil Assistance Nest Organization (ICAN)

Ansari Rd., Helal Ahmad Rd., District 6, Herat
Phone: 0799022500
Email: ehsan022500@gmail.com
icanorganization@gmail.com
Director: Ehsan Habibi

International Assistance Mission (IAM)

Jade Badmorghan, Zaman Jan Cross Section,
Herat
PO Box(9)
Phone: 0799205905
0700400139
040231714
Email: rtl.herat@iam-afghanistan.org
Website: www.iam-afghanistan.org
Regional Team Leader: Kirsi Jokela

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Jade Banke Khon, Herat
Phone: 0700285949
Email: herat@icrc.org
Website: www.icrc.org

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)
Compound(near to Takhti Safar),
District 8, Herat
Phone: 0700400986
Email: Afghanistan.Herat@ifrc.org
Website: www.ifrc.org
Head of Sub Delegation: Basir Ahmad Amiri

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Mahtab Rd. (next to Mahtab Hall), District 5,
Herat
Phone: 0770300866
0770300882
Email: Alem.Faizi@rescue.org
Soraiya.Saddiqi@rescue.org
Website: www.theIRC.org
Field Coordinator: Muhammad Alem Faizi

INTERSONS Humanitarian Aid Organization (INTERSONS)

Khwaja Abdullah Ansari Rd. (next to Monir
Farmacy), District 8, Herat
Phone: 0797551123
Email: afghanistan@intersos.org
Website: www.intersos.org

Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan (MACCA)

Phone: 0700364925
0705966480
Email: moqeeem.noori@macca.org.af
MohammadMN@unops.org
Website: www.macca.org.af
Area Manager: Mohammad Muqeeem Noori

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

St.2 (on the right) Bland Ab Cross Section, Arif
Khan Barezkai Rd., Herat
Phone: 0799205618
008821684400029
Email: asamim@ndi.org
ab.samiem86@gmail.com
Website: www.ndi.org
Regional Programme Manager: Abdul Aziz Samim

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD)

Phone: 0799237601
Email: herat@nspafghanistan.org
kabul@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Mohammad Sohail

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Walayat Rd.(opposite of Agriculture Department), Herat
 Phone: 0789168226
 008821621330214
 Email: mustafa.azimi@afg.nrc.no
 Website: www.nrc.no
 Integrated Office Administrator: Mustafa Azimi

Nye Express Office (Nye)

St., Bagh-i-Azadi, Kaj St., Joint to Radio Killid, Herat
 Phone: 0773333623
 Email: nasermelghary@gmail.com
 kamalnaser_2006@yahoo.com
 Website: www.nyeexpress.com
 Office Manager: Kamal Nasir Milgery

Office of the NATO Senior Civilian Representative (SCR) for Western Afghanistan, Herat (NATO)

c/o RC-West Head Quarter
 Phone: 0796856013
 Email: andrea.romussi@esteri.it
 NATO SCR for Western Afghanistan Office: Counselor Andrea Romussi

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)

PO Box (3129)
 Phone: 0708198584
 Email: news@pajhwok.com
 sharafstankzai@gmail.com
 Website: www.pajhwok.com
 Reporter: Sharaffudin Stanikzai

Radio Killid

Bagh-i- Azadi St.(opposite of Kaj Street), District 1, Herat
 Phone: 040225070
 0772038175
 Email: m.reza@tkg.af
 info@tkg.af
 Website: www.tkg.af
 Station Manager: Sayed Muhammad Reza Hashimi

Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan (NPO/RRAA)

National Security Block St. (opposite of Amniyat-i- Milli's Agricultural Lands), Herat
 Phone: 0700601853
 040441956
 Email: s_abdulhakum@yahoo.com
 rraawest@yahoo.com
 Website: www.nporraa.org.af
 Regional Manager: Sayed Abdul Hakim

Sanayee Development Organization (SDO)

Hs. 255, Walayat St., Herat
 Phone: 0700400765
 Email: herat_sdf@hotmail.com
 stanikzai_hrt@yahoo.com
 Website: www.sanayee.org.af
 Regional Manager: Abdul Khaliq Stanikzai

The HALO Trust International Mine Clearance Organisation (HALO Trust)

Herat-Islam Qala Main Rd.(opposite of West Transport Terminal), Herat
 Phone: 0700665750
 0799016144
 Email: halo@haloafg.org
 Website: www.halostrust.org/ www.halousa.org
 West Regional Operations Officer: Abdul Latif Rahimi

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Hs.4 (on the left, inside the Murad Avenue), Old Qol-i-Urdu Rd., Herat
 Phone: 0786430033
 Email: inayatniazi2000@yahoo.com
 Website: www.wadan.org
 Contact Person: Abdul Rahman Mulawaizada

United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

St. 3, Qul-i- Urdu Rd., District 8, Herat
 Phone: 0791611282
 0791611286
 0791611285
 Email: wahab@unhabitat-afg.org
 habitat_hrt@hotmail.com
 Website: www.unhabitat.org/www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org
 Provincial Manager: Sayed Sadullah Wahab

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

UN HMCA/ Pul-i-Pashtun, Airport Rd., Herat
PO Box (3205)
Phone: 0791400083
0799825957
Fax: 00390831242659
Email: macgregor@un.org
kuzmina@un.org
Website: www.unama.unmissions.org
Head of Office: Andrew MacGregor

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Phone: 0798507660
Email: bpathak@unicef.org
Kabul@unicef.org
Website: www.unicef.org
Chief of Field Office: Bhanu Pathak

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Park Roundabout, End of Majidi St., Herat
Phone: 040447041
040447042
0791990041
00870763097236
Fax: 0041227397506
Email: schuette@unhcr.org
AFGHE@unhcr.org
Website: www.unhcr.org
Head of Sub-Office: Ita Schuette

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Inside Customs Compound, Islam Qala Border,
Islam Qala
Phone: 0791990091
0791990090
Email: AZAMY@unhcr.org
AFGIS@unhcr.org
Website: www.unhcr.org
Assistant Field Officer: Naik Mohammad Azamy

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Hs. 2, Wlayat Rd., Herat
Phone: 0798293799
Email: ahmad-wahid.fayeed@unodc.org
Website: www.unodc.org
Regional Coordinator: Ahmad Wahid Fayeed

United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)

Baghmurad Rd., (near Masjid Baghmurad;
opposite of Afghan Super Market; 2nd Floor
of Main Building), WHO/UNICEF/OCHA
Compound, Herat
Phone: 0700088222
0700044864
0782200358
Email: rasoolis@afg.emro.who.int
Website: www.emro.who.int/countries/afg/
National Health Coordinator: Sayed Abobakr Rasooli

Voice of Women Organization (VWO)

Badmorghan St. (across Masjid Raza), Herat
Phone: 04022634
0700298732
0799209386
Email: vwo_afg@yahoo.com
info@vwo.org.af
Website: www.vwo.org.af
Executive Director: Suraya Pakzad

War Child-UK (WC-UK)

Nazar St. (west of Bagh-e-Azadi), Qala-i-Naw
Phone: 0795663615
008821621344834
Email: helen@warchild.org.uk
karima@warchild.org.uk
Website: www.warchild.org.uk
Field Director: Helen Guillermo

Women Activities & Social Services Association (WASSA)

Bagh-i-Azadi (end of Nazar Qala), Mahtab
Rd., Herat
Phone: 0796135958
0799443350
040229904
Email: nsakhi@gmail.com
sw.sayedi@gmail.com
Founder and Chair: Nilofar Sakhi

Women Support Organization – Medica Afghanistan (WSO-MA)

Opposite of Khayam Wedding Hall,
District 1, Herat
Phone: 0798160435
Email: masiha.fayez@medica-afghanistan.org
Website: www.medicamondiale.org
Contact Person: Masiha Fayez

World Vision International (WVI)

Phone: 040224568
0799252896
Email: wynn_flaten@wvi.org
homayun_siddiqi@wvi.org
Website: www.afghanistan.worldvision.org
National Director: Wynn Flaten

Jawzjan

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Shiberghan
Phone: 0799650481
0700228604
Email: allahberdysurkhy@yahoo.com
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Allah Budrdi Surkhi

Save the Children International (SCI)

Morwarid Wedding Hall St., Bandr-i-Aqcha, Shiberghan
Phone: 0797450206
0786719920
0799186194
Email: sayedahmadshah.qarrar@savethechildren.org
Website: www.savethechildren.net
Provincial Manager: Sayed Ahmad Shah Qarrar

Solidarity for Afghan Families (SAF)

Bander-i- Sar-i-Pul (behind Provincial Council Office), Shiberghan
Phone: 0707778873
Email: jawzjan@saf.org.af
Website: www.saf.org.af
Programme Manager: Hussain Khalili

ZOA Afghanistan (ZOA)

Bander-i-Andkhoy, Shiberghan
Phone: 0798996237
0700282809
Email: pgm-north@zoa-afg.org
osm-north@zoa-afg.org
Website: www.zoa-international.com
Operational Support Manager: Haider Ahmadyar

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

Shaher Dari Building, Shiberghan
Phone: 0799410413
0788886990
Email: achr98@yahoo.com
juz.ahro@yahoo.com
Website: www.ahro.af
Contact Person: Maghfirat Samimi

Bakhtar Development Network (BDN)

KarteDostum, Main St. (opposite of Mosque),
Shiberghan
Phone: 0799300067
Email: khalil.bdn@gmail.com
Website: www.bdn.org.af
Project Manager: Khalil Ahmad Khalil

Welthungerhilfe/German AgroAction (AgroAction GAA)

Shiberghan
Phone: 0799239982
Email: masuod.saad@welthungerhilfe.de
Website: www.welthungerhilfe.de
National Project Manager: Masuod Saad

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Zargari St., Bandar-i-Sar-i-Pul Rd., Shiberghan
Phone: 0799377381
Email: naser_ataye@gmail.com
Website: www.brac.net
Team Leader (Education Programme): Mohammad Naser

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

Phone: 0799102879
Email: abdul.rashid@mail.gov.af
Director: Abdul Rashid

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Karte ShahrukhMirza, Shiberghan
Phone: 0784170608
0755710075
Email: Yosuf.uraz@mrrd.gov.af
Director: Mohammad Yousif Sayed

Help the Afghan Children (HTAC)

Hs. 398, Mosque Lane, Karte Dostam,
Shiberghan
Phone: 0787239154
070008004
Email: qazi.htac@yahoo.com
Website: www.htac.org
Regional Manager: Sayed Noorulhuda Qazi

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Alti Khwaja VillageSt., (opposite of Negeen Shamal Hotel),Karte Doostum, Shiberghan
Phone: 0797368726
0786919037
Email: jawzjan@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Abdul Bashir Karimi

Kandahar

Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)

Anio Mina, Kandahar
 Phone: 0777780904
 Email: kabul@aabrar.org.af
 Website: www.aabrar.org.af
 Contact Person: Rokhan Pasarli

Afghan Health and Development Services (AHDS)

Pataw Ghara, District 6, Kabul Shah, Kandahar
 Phone: 0799331728
 Email: drf_r@yahoo.com
 Website: www.ahds.org
 Provincial Manager: Fazl Rahman Rahmanzai

Afghan Women Services and Education Organization (AWSE)

Phone: 0700785233
 Email: gulsoom.awse@yahoo.com
 Website: www.awse.af
 Contact Person: Mohammad Daud Muhib

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Phone: 0700300650
 Email: kandaharacci@yahoo.com
 Website: www.acci.org.af
 Acting Regional Manager: Abdul Baqi

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

Agriculture Directorate St., District 1, Kabuli Shah, Kandahar
 Phone: 0799821603
 0799821603
 Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af
 saboor_nasery@yahoo.com
 Website: www.ada.org.af
 Provincial Manager: Abdul Sabor Nasery

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

Hs. 12(infront of Zargona Ana High School), Malka Soraya Rd., District 6, Kandahar
 Phone: 0707034410
 0796836149
 0788886935
 Email: zaman.raofi@gmail.com
 achr@yahoo.com
 Website: www.ahro.af
 Contact Person: Mohamad Zaman Raufi

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Shahid Mohammad Daud St.,(west of Mirwais Hospital), District 6, Kandahar
 Phone: 0700000828
 0790690340
 Email: aihrc_k@yahoo.com
 kandahar@aihrc.org.af
 Website: www.aihrc.org.af
 Regional Programme Manager: Abdul Qader Noorzai

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

Meerwais Hospital Rd.(near UNICEF Office),Shahr-i-Naw, Kandahar
 Phone: 0700308505
 Email: hedayet21@yahoo.com
 Website: www.aisa.org.af
 Contact Person: Hedayatullah Rahmati

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Kandahar
 Phone: 0700330433
 Email: dr.rozy.m2012@gmail.com
 Website: www.brac.net
 M&E Officer: Rozi Mohammad

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

North West Alajaded Market, Nayab Aminullah Khan Logary Watt, District 1, Kabuli Shah
 Phone: 0700308470
 0766558130
 Email: qandahar@cha-net.org
 Website: www.cha-net.org
 Acting Office Manager: Abdul Qaher Barakzai

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Kandahar
 Phone: 0799402185
 0702008521
 Email: mis.kandahar@mail.gov.af
 Acting Director: Ahmad Shah Roshan

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Kandahar
 Phone: 0700320602
 0700373937
 Email: eng.qayum@mrrd.gov.af
 Director: Abdul Qayoum Yousafzai

Development and Ability Organisation (DAO)

Sector 1 (to the South of Khirqa Mubarak),
Kandahar
Phone: 07788366414
Email: info@daoafghanistan.org
Website: www.daoafghanistan.org
Liaison Officer: Hafiz Abdul Latif

Handicap International (HI)

Shahr-i-Naw,(north of Sra Jama), District 1,
Kandahar
Phone: 0705813414
0790018683
Email: kdhcoordinator@hiafgha.org
Website: www.handicap-international.org
Base Coordinator: Mohammad Rasool

**Hindara Media and Youth Development Organization
(HMYDO)**

Hs.20 (behind Kandahar Institute of Modern
Studies KIMS), Kabul Shah
Phone: 0700303054
0777303054
Email: frotan@hindara.org
frotan1919@gmail.com
Website: www.hindara.org
Director: Ghousuddin Frotan

**Humanitarian Assistance and Facilitating Organization
(HAFO)**

KarteMalemin, Manzil Bagh, Kandahar
Phone: 0700797953
0789228772
Email: kandahar@hafo.org
sarabi@hafo.org
Website: www.hafo.org
Administrator: Zabihullah Amin

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Shar-i- Naw, District 1, Kandahar
Phone: 0700285191
Email: kandahar@icrc.org
Website: www.icrc.org

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent
Societies (IFRC)**

Eid Gah Jada, Kandahar Marastoon, Afghan
Red Crescent Society's compound, Kandahar
Phone: 0700303597
Email: Sayed.omershah@ifrc.org
Website: www.ifrc.org
Head of office: Sayed Omar Shah

Kandahar University (KU)

Zaheer Shahee Canal (next to Masjid Eid
Gaha), District 9, Kandahar
Phone: 0799305478
0700318932
Email: htotakhail06@gmail.com
Website: www.Kundoz-in.edu.af
Chancellor: Hazrat Mir Totakhail

**Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan
(MACCA)**

Phone: 0700302037
0705966460
Email: abdul.samy@macca.org.af
AbdulSamy@unops.org
Website: www.macca.org.af
Area Manager: Abdul Samy

**National Democratic Institute for International Affairs
(NDI)**

Sera Jomat St., District 6, Kandahar
Phone: 0790272611
Email: ahalimyar@ndi.org
Website: www.ndi.org
Regional Programme Manager: Abdul Khalil Halimyar

**National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural
Rehabilitation and Development
(NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)**

Kandahar
Phone: 0799722603
0700303865
Email: kandahar@nspafghanistan.org
kabul@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Timor Shah Ayoubi

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Next to Adabi Private School, Kandahar
Phone: 0700300730
Email: Kandahar@nrc.no
Website: www.nrc.no

Nye Express Office (Nye)

Deh Khwaja, Haji Habib Mosque St., Kandahar
Phone: 0776218001
Email: amanull.nawabi32@gmail.com
Website: www.nyeexpress.com
Office Manager: Amanullah Nawabi

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)

Kandahar
 Phone: 0799806508
 0708198459
 Email: bashir.naadim@googlemail.com
 news@pajhwok.com
 Website: www.pajhwok.com
 Reporter: Bashir Ahmad Naadim

Save the Children International (SCI)

Shahr-i-Naw, Kandahar
 Phone: 0797077514
 Email: labibullah.makhawer@savethechildren.org
 Website: www.savethechildren.net
 Senior Provincial Manager: Labibullah Makhawer

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

Herat Rd., (after the Sera Jomat; next to Khoshbakht Marriage Hall), Shahr-i-Naw, Kandahar
 Phone: 0799088036
 0700301105
 Email: swabac@yahoo.com
 swabac@gmail.com
 Executive Coordinator: Jan Mohammad

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Hs. 3, St. 3 (opposite of Ghazi Park), Shahr-i-Naw, Kandahar
 Phone: 0798415961
 Email: dr.najibs@yahoo.com
 Website: www.wadan.org
 Project Coordinator: Najib Sherzad

United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Shaidan Chawk (opposite of Gulistan-e-Nazanin Plaza), District 1, Kandahar
 Phone: 0791611262
 0700301051
 Email: mustafa_zagham@yahoo.com
 Website: www.unhabitat.org/www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org
 Senior Provincial Manager: Sayed Nader Shah

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Kandahar
 Phone: 0700494003
 Email: rahman36@un.org

Website: www.unama.unmissions.org
 Public Information Officer: Mujeeb Rahman

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Mohammad Jan Khan Watt (opposite of UNICEF office), Sector 2, Shahr-i-Naw, Kandahar
 Phone: 0791990061
 008821651121624
 Fax: 0041227397511
 Email: jelev@unhcr.org
 BIBISH@unhcr.org
 Website: www.unhcr.org
 Head of Sub Office: Dimitar Jelevev

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Shahr-i-Naw (close of Muslim Chouk), District 6, Kandahar
 Phone: 0797223335
 Email: fazal.fazli@unodc.org
 Website: www.unodc.org
 Provincial Coordinator: Fazel Mohammad Fazli

United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)

Part 1 (near Mirwais Hospital), Kandahar
 Phone: 0700290175
 0700300365
 Email: Kamwakr@afg.emro.who.int
 Website: www.emro.who.int/countries/afg/
 National Health Coordinator (NHC): Rhamtullah Kamwak

Kapisa

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries

(ACCI)

Phone: 0786733141
Email: nasirsadat@gmail.com
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Nasir Ahmad Sadat

Alberuni University (AU)

Shirkat Nasaji Gulbahar, Mahmood Raqi
Phone: 0799376470
0799302429
Email: fbarnayar1965@gmail.com
Website: au.edu.af
Chancellor: Barna Yar

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Da Bala, Mohammad Raqi
Phone: 0783736087
Email: ayar400@yahoo.com
Website: www.brac.net
Regional Manager (Education Programme): Ahmed Farhad

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

Mohamood Raqi
Phone: 0776675995
Email: coar_kbl@yahoo.com
Website: www.coar.org.af
Liaison Person: Nesar Ahmad

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Mohamood Raqi
Phone: 700913113
Director: Abdul Walid Tasal

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Mohamood Raqi
Phone: 0799435582
Email: eng.hayatullah@yahoo.com
Contact Person: Hayatulla Farhang

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

1st Kohistan District (Sherkat Gulbahar; south kohistan; Governor's Office) 1 District, Mohamood Raqi
Phone: 0700242334
Email: kapisa@nspafghanistan.org
kabul@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Abdul Aziz Jawed

United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Hs. 39, District 1, Mohamood Raqi
Phone: 0791611345
0791611347
Email: saifurrahman.haris@unhabitat-afg.org
Website: www.unhabitat.org/www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org
Provincial Manager: Saifurrahman Haris

Khost

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Phone: 0799114813
 Email: faizaqa.usefzai@yahoo.com
 Website: www.acci.org.af
 Regional Manager: Nawab Amirzay

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

3rd floor, Afghan Tower, Bland St.
 Phone: 0708998010
 Email: eisa_ti@yahoo.com
 Website: www.aisa.org.af
 Regional Manager: Mohammad Eisa

Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan (AADA)

Matun Tapa (opposite of HN-TPO Provincial Office), St. 6
 Phone: 0706353081
 0799418779
 Email: drawalizraswand@gmail.com
 aaini@aada.org.af
 Website: www.aada.org.af
 Technical Manager: Abdul Wali Zraswand

Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)

Phone: 0700927370
 Email: Ahsas_walizai@yahoo.com
 Website: www.cshrn.af
 Coordinator: Boostan Walizai

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0799135564
 0777135564
 Director: Zabiullah Hassanzai

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

West of Tapa Matun; next to Radio Paygham
 Phone: 0702228485
 0700794486
 0700794486
 Email: Khost.mrrd@yahoo.com
 Director: Mohammad Usman Mehdi

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Bagh Project, Azadi Mina
 Phone: 0705740664
 Website: www.icrc.org

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Hs. 15, Melmastoon St., District 3
 Phone: 0729080176
 0729080181
 008821621297223
 Email: Sultan.Karim@rescue.org
 Aziz.Rahman@rescue.org
 Website: www.theIRC.org
 Field Coordinator: Sultan Karim

Khost University (KU)

Phone: 0707445570
 0756800150
 Email: chancellor@szu.edu.af
 bawary1@hotmail.com
 Website: www.szu.edu.af
 Chancellor: Rasool Bawary

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

Khost Town Ring Rd., Matun Ghondi
 Phone: 0799135656
 008821684400020
 Email: nmandozai@ndi.org
 Website: www.ndi.org
 Regional Programme Manager: Niaz Mohammad Mandozai

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Amir Kror Watt (near to Governmental Guest Hs.; Police Head Quarter)
 Phone: 0799422540
 Email: khost@nspafghanistan.org
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Abdul Basir

Nye Express Office (Nye)

Mojahed Book Store
 Phone: 0799155988
 Email: atayee@nyexpress.com
 Website: www.nyexpress.com
 Office Manager: Mateullah Fazly

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)

Phone: 0707395580
 0799766976
 Email: i.rahimi2009@gmail.com
 news@pajhwok.com
 Website: www.pajhwok.com
 Contact Person: Mohammad Ibraheem Rahimi

Radio Killid

Infront of Shamaly Darwaza; Near Khost
Yaqoobi Aday Jomat), St. 1,
Phone: 0799110214
0707004646
Email: n.matoonwal@tkg.af
info@tkg.af
Website: www.tkg.af
Station Manager: Naqibullah Matoonwal

**The Welfare Association for the Development of
Afghanistan (WADAN)**

West of Tribal Directorate
Phone: 0770658290
Email: hawas.khan122@yahoo.com
razaaamir20099@yahoo.com
Website: www.wadan.org
Project Coordinator: Hawas Khan

Kunar

**Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries
(ACCI)**

Asadabad
Phone: 0700472077
Email: mohammad.jalal@acci.org.af
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Mohammad Jalal

**Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
(DAIL)**

Asadabad
Phone: 0700698302
Email: Kunar.ghayas@yahoo.com
Director: Abdul Ghayas Sediqi

**Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
(DRRD)**

Asadabad
Phone: 0700642426
Email: jaffarjabarkhail@yahoo.com
Director: Mohmmad Jaffar Jabarkhail

Development and Ability Organisation (DAO)

Mandokhel Rd. (next to RTA), Asadabad
Phone: 0786353407
Email: rehab@daoafghanistan.org
Website: www.daoafghanistan.org
Project Manager: Khuwaja Abdul Hafiz Siddiqi

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Chaghan Dosaraka, Pech Valley Main Rd.,
Asadabad
Phone: 0795788335
Website: www.icrc.org

**National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural
Rehabilitation and Development
(NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)**

Asadabad
Phone: 0700613315
Email: kunar@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Mir Zaman Momand

Organization for Research and Community Development (ORCD)

2nd floor, Anti-Lashmania and Malaria Office,
Asadabad
Phone: 0796002613
Email: kunar@orcd.org.af
Website: www.orcd.org.af
Provincial Manager: Aziz-ur-Rahman

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)

Asadabad
Phone: 0707806172
0202201814
Email: khanwali30@yahoo.com
news@pajhwok.com
Website: www.pajhwok.com
Contact Person: Khanwali Salarzai

Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)

Asadabad
Phone: 0777780896
Email: abdulnadir@aabrar.org.af
Website: www.aabrar.org.af
Monitoring Officer: Zar Alam

Kunar University (KU)

Asadabad
Phone: 0700603977
0778098712
Email: mirahmadhamid@yahoo.com
mirahmadhamid@gmail.com
Chancellor: Mir Ahmad Hamid

Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan (NPO/RRAA)

Hs. 4 (opposite of Afghan Red Crescent Society Office), Asadabad
Phone: 0777730360
0777636929
Email: rlpkunarero@gmail.com
mikaihan@hotmail.com,
Website: www.nporraa.org.af
Manager: Mohammad Ibrahim Qaderi

Kunduz**Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)**

Phone: 0700620025
Email: khalid.aabrar@gmail.com
Website: www.aabrar.org.af
Field Coordinator: Mohammad Khalid

Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSFO)

Phone: 0700701014
Email: jawad.aiazy@hotmail.com
Kunduz-rmanager@acsf.af
Website: www.acsf.af/www.acsf-rc.com
Regional Manager: Ahmad Jawad Aiazy

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Phone: 0708518496
Email: kunduzccci@yahoo.com
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Abdul Samea

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

Hs. 1174, Bandar-i-Kabul (opposite of Chahardara Main Rd.), District 4
Phone: 0700317954
0799697100
Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af
malang.safi2@gmail.com
Website: www.ada.org.af
Provincial Manager: Mohammad Malang Safi

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

Arz-i- Bigi Mosque St., (old Zegher Bazar)
Phone: 0794651901
Email: usuly2011@gmail.com
achr98@yahoo.com
Website: www.ahro.af
Contact Person: Mohammad Abubakar Usoly

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Block 57, Part 1, District 5, SarDawra Town
Phone: 0799212845
0790690229
0799212895
Email: hayatullah.amiri@gmail.com
kunduz@aihrc.org.af
Website: www.aihrc.org.af
Regional Programme Manager: Hayatullah Amiry

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

Address: Azady St.(near Khyaban School)
Phone: 0705383912
Email: sayedekram@aisa.org.af
Website: www.aisa.org.af
Regional Manager: Sayed Ekramuddin Wasil

Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan (AADA)

Address: Madrasa Khiaban (old Building of Mostofyat)
Phone: 0799494269
Email: manochehr.mirzay@gmail.com
Website: www.aada.org.af
Project Manager: Manochehr Mirzayee

Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)

Address: Kolali St.
Phone: 0700706742
0773815291
008821650601527
Email: qahar@acted.org
Website: www.acted.org
Contact Person: Abdul Qahar

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Phone: 0707921726
Email: mohasin76@yahoo.com
Website: www.brac.net
Regional Manager (Education Programme):
Mohammad Mohasin Ali

Childfund Afghanistan (CFA)

Address: Hs. 925 (behind Speen Zar Hospital), Dar-ul-Malimeen St.
Phone: 0799173332
0707544871
0798205950
008821669970781
Fax: 00930202501287
Email: mhashim@afghanistan.childfund.org
jtotakhil@afghanistan.childfund.org
Website: www.childfund.org
Project Manager: Mohammad Hashim

Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA)

Address: Center of the City
Phone: 008821621280659
Email: sarwarhussaini@aol.com
Website: www.cca.org.af
Manager: Musa Kashifi

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0797065427
0799281468
0799651496
Email: nabi.raufi@yahoo.com
m.haleem-haleem@yahoo.cm
Director: Mohammad Nabi Raufi

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0700706493
Email: shafiq_alamyar@yahoo.com
Director: Shafiq Alamyar

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO)

Address: In front of Prof. Al-Haj Azizullah Safar Hospital, Se Darak
Phone: 0707404748
0700049519
0797173608
Email: ghulam.masood@eirp-afg.org
Abdul.Ghafar@fao.org
Website: www.fao.org
Contact Person: Ghulam Masood

Ghazni Rural Support Program (GRSP)

Address: Hs. 1334, Haji Sanghi St., District 3
Phone: 0799205115
0777900267
Email: grspkunduz14@gmail.com
Website: www.grsp.af
Provincial Manager: Sardar Mohammad Nemati

GIZ- Basic Education Program for Afghanistan (GIZ/BEPA)

Address: Kunduz TTC, University St.
Phone: 0799394684
Email: ayub.aryayee@yahoo.com
ayub.aryayee@giz.de
Website: www.bepafg.com
Education Officer: Mohammad Ayub Aryayee

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Address: District 1 (next to Haji Mohammad Alam Mosque)
Phone: 0799864420
Website: www.icrc.org

Kunduz Rehabilitation Agency (KRA)

District 1, Khuja Mashad
 Phone: 0795989696
 0774100066
 0787096789
 Email: kra_afg@yahoo.com
 aqtash08@gmail.com
 Website: www.kra.af
 Contact Person: Rohullah Mokhtar

Kunduz University (KU)

Se Darak
 Phone: 0799212980
 0512001414
 Email: abdulqudus.zarifi@yahoo.com
 Chancellor: Qazi Abdul Qudoos

Mercy Corps (MC)

Mukhaberat St., Wolayat Rd.
 Phone: 0793506462
 0700220025
 0799220025
 Email: npaiman@af.mercycorps.org
 naqib.paiman@yahoo.com
 Website: www.mercycorps.org
 Operations Manager: Naqibullah Paiman

Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan (MACCA)

Phone: 0799226274
 0700957702
 0705966450
 Email: sayed.gha@macca.org.af
 sayeda@unops.org
 Website: www.macca.org.af
 Area Manager: Sayed Agha Atiq

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Phone: 0700909120
 Email: kunduz@nspafghanistan.org
 kabul@nspafghanistan.org
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Hameedullah Sadiq

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Feroz Kohi Street
 Phone: 0799639066
 0702419034
 0088216333401118

Email: hayatullah.sobman@afg.nrc.no
 Website: www.nrc.no
 Office Administrator: Hayatullah Sobman

Nye Express Office (Nye)

End of Poroja-e-Jadid St., Naw Abad, khoja Mashhad
 Phone: 0799151451
 Email: s_kabir106@yahoo.com
 Website: www.nyeexpress.com
 Office Manager: Said Kabir Faqiri

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)

Phone: 0799395005
 0708198220
 Email: sarfraz.afghan@gmail.com
 Website: www.pajhwok.com
 Contact Person: Abdul Mateen Sarfaraz

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)

Hs. 2351, (opposite of Ice Factory), Sayeed Abaad St., District 1
 Phone: 0799215424
 0755505386
 008821684400354
 Email: zabiullah.aziz@sca.org.af
 obaid.faqir@sca.org.af
 Website: www.swedishcommittee.org
 Field Office Administrator: Zabiullah Aziz

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Near Security Guest Hs., Television St.
 Phone: 0799214682
 Email: nasim.amin50@yahoo.com
 razaaamir20099@yahoo.com
 Website: www.wadan.org

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Phone: 0799825955
 Email: hamedis@un.org
 Website: www.unama.unmissions.org
 Public Information Officer: Shamsuddin Hamedi

United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)

Hs. 1121, District 2
 Phone: 0799208916
 Email: ahmadiab@afg.emro.who.int
 Website: www.emro.who.int/countries/afg/
 Regional Polio Officer: Abdul Nazar Ahamdi

Laghman

Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)

Mehtarlam Baba City
Phone: 0700604191
0789004162
Email: azatsahil@aabrar.org.af
Kabul@aabrar.org.af
Website: www.aabrar.org.af
Field Coordinator: Sayed Mohammad

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Mehtarlam
Phone: 0700603970
0799028009
Email: dawlatzai2000@gmail.com
Director: Mohammad Ismail Dawlatzai

Laghman University (LU)

Mehtarlam
Phone: 0774142394
Email: ghafoorzy@yahoo.com
Chancellor: Abdul Saboor Ghafoori

United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Behind Gudama Building, Mehtarlam
Phone: 0775483774
0791611236
Email: zakiullah.storay@unhabitat-afg.org
abdulrasheed.rasheedi@unhabitat-afg.org
org
Website: www.unhabitat.org/www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org
Provincial Manager: Zakiullah Storay

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

Hs. 23, 24, St. 2, District 1,
Shahr-i-Naw, Mehtarlam
Phone: 0786763198
0700989971
Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af
rahim.alikhil@gmail.com
Website: www.ada.org.af
Provincial Manager: Rahimullah Alikhil

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Mehtarlam
Phone: 0799208946
Contact Person: Aminudding Bedar

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Karte Mamoreen Rd.(near Qala Seraj Bagh),
Mehtarlam
Phone: 0706504880
Email: laghman@nspafghanistan.org
kabul@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Mohammad Ismail Zarifi

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)

Hs. 221 (Behind Siraj Garden), Shaheed
Rd.,Mehtarlam
Phone: 0789818688
Email: arif.adil@sca.org.af
Website: www.swedishcommittee.org
Office Administrator: Mohammad Arif Adel

Logar**Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)**

Pul-i-Alam
 Phone: 0772279510
 Email: anwarulhaq@aabrar.org.af
 Website: www.aabrar.org.af
 Field Coordinator: Anwar-ul-Haq

Afghan Women Services and Education Organization (AWSE)

Charkh
 Phone: 0797685510
 Email: m.saffaa@yahoo.com
 Website: www.awse.af
 Contact Person: Mohammad Musa

Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)

Pul-i-Alam
 Phone: 0777761381
 Email: awec.kabul@awec.info
 awec.logar@awec.info
 Website: www.awec.info
 Provincial Manager: Mohmmad Ghous

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

Hs. 4 (in front of Mullahkhil Mosque),
 Pul-i-Alam
 Phone: 0787266925
 0781195194
 Email: coar_kbl@yahoo.com
 coar.logar@gmail.com
 Website: www.coar.org.af
 Provincial Manager: Wali-ul-Rahman Mamozay

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0705974690
 0770421548
 Email: humayun.omary@yahoo.com
 omarhumayun@mail.gov.af
 Director: Hamayoon Omar

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0799455606
 Email: rahmatullah.sarwary@yahoo.com
 Contact Person: Rahmatullah Sarwari

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Hs. 509 -B, St. 2, Hony Sufia, Pul-i-Alam
 Phone: 0729080226
 0799147166
 Email: Noorulhaq.Saqib@afghanistan.theirc.org
 Karima.Ghafury@afghanistan.theirc.org
 Website: www.theIRC.org
 Field Coordinator: Noorulhaq Saqib

Medical Refresher Courses for Afghans (MRCA)

Behind Pul-i-Alam Girls' High School
 Phone: 0799834585
 0700929656
 Email: fkhaliqyar@gmail.com
 Website: www.mrca-asso.org
 Head of Sub Office: Faqir Mohammad Khaliqyar

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Pul-i-Alam (in front of Hazrat Omar Farooq High School; next the Kabir Zadrán Market)
 Phone: 0799371004
 0705300537
 Email: logar@nspafghanistan.org
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Zafar Khan

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Behind Lodin Market, Pul-i-Alam
 Phone: 0799058074
 0799889928
 Email: inayatniazi2000@yahoo.com
 info@wadan.org
 Website: www.wadan.org
 Coordinator: Gul Ahmad

Nangarhar

Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)

Near ARCS office, Jalalabad
Phone: 0700611917
0777611917
Email: abdulnadir@aabrar.org.af
Website: www.aabrar.org.af
Assistant Director: Abdul Nasir

Afghan Bureau for Reconstruction (ABR)

Shura St., Apartment 16, 4th Floor, Fayeze Ahmad
Haidari Plaza (near Daramsal)
Phone: 0700291104
0752019642
Email: abr.kabul@gmail.com
abr_kabul1@yahoo.com
Director: Ahmad Ibrahim Haidari

Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSFO)

Jalalabad
Phone: 0700157262
Email: ahmadmtasal@yahoo.com
Website: www.acsf.af/www.acsf-rc.com
Regional Manager: Ahmad Mustafa Tasal

Afghan General Help Coordination Office (AGHCO)

Hs.2, St. 2 (opposite of University Hospital),
Jalalabad
Phone: 0700601534
0799800270
Email: aghco_kbl@yahoo.com
aghco_kbl@hotmail.com
Country Director: Mohammad Mahboob

Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB)

Hs. 1517(next to Fruit Market), St. 3, District
3, Jalalabad
Phone: 0795787637
Website: www.ancb.org
Contact Person: Shir Ali

Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

St. 1 (across from Sehat Ama Clinic), AliKhalil
Rd., Jalalabad
Phone: 0700602373
Email: awn.hamdard@yahoo.com
Website: www.afghanwomensnetwork.org
Office Manager: Khan Aqa Gharmal

Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)

Phone: 0777761301
0700601943
Email: awec.kabul@awec.info
awec.nangarhar@awec.info
Website: www.awec.info
Provencial Manager: Zakia Kakar

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Jalalabad
Phone: 0789999980
0797999980
Email: ncci@acci.org.af
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Shams-ul-Haq

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

Hs. 97, St.3 Shaheed Abdul Haq Mina, District
5, Jalalabad
Phone: 0786763198
0786763198
Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af
rahim.aliikhil@gmail.com
Website: www.ada.org.af
Provincial Manager: Rahimullah Alikhil

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

Hs.716 St, 2, part 2, District 4, Jalalabad
Phone: 0788886960
0799672404
Email: achr98@yahoo.com
Website: www.ahro.af
Manager: Muneer

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Public Health Square, Baborian Alley, Jalalabad
Phone: 0700617270
Email: sabrina.hamidi1451@yahoo.com
aihrc.jalalabad@gmail.com
Website: www.aihrc.org.af
Regional Programme Manager: Sabrina Hamidi

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

Kabul-Jalalabad Bus Stand(near Anti-Narcotics
Directorate), District 5, Jalalabad
Phone: 0799448117
Email: mfazal@aisa.org.af
Website: www.aisa.org.af
Contact Person: Fazel Rabbai

Afghanistan National Medicine Service Organization (ANMSO)

3rd Floor Akhakhil Market
 Phone: 0777607775
 Website: www.anmso.org.af

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)

Dr. Sharifullah Hs., Zara Saranwali St. (near to UNICEF Office; Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA); and Jalalabad Project Office)
 Phone: 0700601917
 0786070117
 Email: jalmanager@acbar.org
 drsharaf_ahmad@yahoo.com
 Website: www.acbar.org
 Area Manager: Mohammad Sharaf Sharifi

Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan (AADA)

Hs. 1684, St.16, MarastoonSquare, District 3, Jalalabad
 Phone: 0799036522
 Email: Muhammad Jan Sherzai
 Website: www.aada.org.af
 Provincial Project Manager: Muhammad Jan Sherzai

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

Hs. 664, Zara Charparhar Ada, New Darmsal St.,Jalalabad
 Phone: 0773737999
 Email: sahibzada.area@gmail.com
 Regional Manager: Sultan Mohammad

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Near Al Takwa High School, Jalalabad
 Phone: 0706299652
 Email: nazmulhassan.brac@gmail.com
 Website: www.brac.net
 Provincial Manager/NSP Programme: Najmul Hassan Khan

Basic Education and Employable Skill Training (BEST)

Hs. 4, St. 2, Garnizon, Jalalabad
 Phone: 0786097736
 0700606463
 Email: namohmand@bestafg.org
 bestafg@bestafg.org
 Website: www.bestafg.com
 Country Director: Nazir Ahmad Mohmand

Childfund Afghanistan (CFA)

Hs. 4196 (behind Nangarhar Public Health Hospital), Marastoon Cross Section, Jalalabad
 Phone: 0797299519
 0798205950
 0787136613
 Email: bzwanmal@afghanistan.childfund.org
 Website: www.childfund.org
 Project Coordinator: Brikhna Zwanmal

Civil Societies Unity Council (CSUC)

3rd floor, Apartment 8, Akakhil Market
 Phone: 0777611520
 Email: csucngr@gmail.com
 Chairman: Najeebullah Sahibzada

Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)

Phone: 0700620976
 Email: Niamat.h@hotmail.com
 Website: www.cshrn.af
 Coordinator: Niamatullah Hamdard

Da Qanoon Ghushtonky (DQG)

Ghulam Mohammad Square, District 3
 Phone: 0798236944
 Email: qanoon_ghushtonky@yahoo.com
 Website: www.dqg.org.af
 Head of Office: Hamdullah Kakar

Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR)

Sayed Kayan St., Ikhlas Mosque, Rig-i-Shamurd Khan, Jalalabad
 Phone: 0793407901
 Email: east.rm@dacaar.org
 Website: www.dacaar.org
 Regional Manager: Haji Mohammad Amin

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Nangarhar Canal
 Phone: 0771114111
 Email: ziarat.rahel@mail.gov.af
 Director: Ziarat Gul Rahel

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0799395465
0778356490
0700625249

Email: h_safi1@hotmail.com
Director: Mohammad Hussain Safi

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0700601617
Contact Person: Hazrat Bilal Nurstani

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Jalalabad
Phone: 0773140875
Director: Hakimuddin

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO)

Zone 4(close to old bus station of Toorkham),
Mechaniza Farm Shisham Bagh, Jalalabad
Phone: 0798410572
0700613868
0700600136
Email: khushal.asifi@fao.org
Israrullah.Hamkar@fao.org
Website: www.fao.org
Officer in Charge: Khushal Asifi

Heela Social Association (HAS)

3rd floor, Joy-i-Haft, Shaiq Network
Phone: 0777611520
Email: heelanargis@yahoo.com
Website: www.shaiqnetwork.com
Director: Shala Shaiq

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

Green Gate St. 16 (in front of Khyber Ahmadzai
Property Dealers), Sehat Aama Square,
District 3
Phone: 0702838323
Email: lgharzai@hawca.org
Website: www.hawca.org

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

University Rd. Part 3
Phone: 0795788335
Email: jalalabad@icrc.org
Website: www.icrc.org

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

ARCS Compound (opposite of Public Hospital),
District 3, Jalalabad
Phone: 0799331821
0708801055
Email: afghanistan.jalalabad@ifrc.org
Website: www.ifrc.org
Head of Sub Delegation: Qiamuddin Rahimee

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Hs. 1, Fazlulhaq Mujahed St., District 4,
Jalalabad
Phone: 0770300895
0793400895
Email: Majroom@rescue.org
ardalan.zamani@afghanistan.theirc.org
Website: www.theIRC.org
Field Coordinator: Majroom

Islamic Relief Worldwide – Afghanistan (IRA)

Phone: 0778410411
Email: ziarmal@ir-afg.org
Website: www.islamic-relief.com/ www.irafghanistan.org
Programme, Administrative and Finance Officer: Ziarmal Rahimi

Kunduz Rehabilitation Agency (KRA)

District 3, Angorbagh, Jalalabad
Phone: 0795989696
0774100066
0787096789
Email: kra_afg@yahoo.com
aqtash08@gmail.com
Website: www.kra.af
Contact Person: Rohullah Mokhtar

Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan (MACCA)

Jalalabad
Phone: 0799116813
0705966440
Email: abdul.wakil@macca.org.af
AbdulWa@unops.org
Website: www.macca.org.af
Area Manager: Abdul Wakil

Mine Detection and Dog Centre (MDC)

South of Masjid Eid Gah, Jalalabad
 Phone: 0788881345
 Email: khudainazarsheenwari@yahoo.com
 mdc_afghan@hotmail.com
 Website: www.mdc-afghan.org
 Field Officer: Khudai Nazar Sheenwari

Mobile Mini Circus for Children (MMCC)

Jalalabad Orphanage Annex
 Phone: 0707580710
 0700229987
 0700280140
 Email: AECC@afghanmmcc.org
 Website: www.afghanmmcc.org
 Regional Coordinator: Zarwali

Nangarhar University (NU)

Daronta
 Phone: 0786358426
 0774560873
 Email: chancellor@nu.edu.af
 mohammadsaber@hotmail.de
 Website: www.nu.edu.af
 Chancellor: Mohammad Saber

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

Hs. 1267, Ajab shah St., District 4, Jalalabad
 Phone: 0799382597
 Email: ayousof@ndi.org
 Website: www.ndi.org
 Regional Manager: Mohammad Yousaf Alkozay

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Marastoon Cross Section, Jalalabad
 Phone: 0700642279
 0776062017
 Email: nangarhar@nspafghanistan.org
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Habibullrahman

Noor Educational Capacity Development Organisation (NECDO)

Joy-i-Haft(opposite of Hasan Property Dealer), Jalalabad
 Phone: 0799337667
 Website: www.necdo.org.af

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Regi Shahmard khan St.4(Sayeed Kayhan Shopes), Zone 4, Jalalabad
 Phone: 0700030422
 008821667223346
 Email: samiullah.himat@afg.nrc.no
 Website: www.nrc.no
 Integrated Office Administrator: Samiullah Himat

Nye Express Office (Nye)

Joint to Radio Killid, Jalalabad
 Phone: 0777014031
 0700684447
 Email: guldad_momand2008@yahoo.com
 Website: www.nyeexpress.com
 Office Manager: Guldad Momand

Organization for Research and Community Development (ORCD)

Hs.. 230, Qari Jan Shaheed St., Jalalabad
 Phone: 0786622665
 Email: ningarhar@orcd.org.af
 Website: www.orcd.org.af
 Provincial Manager: Naqibullah Habib

Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN)

Jalalabad
 Phone: 0798581380
 0786500517
 0202201814
 Email: mahbobshahmahbob@yahoo.com
 news@pajhwok.com
 Website: www.pajhwok.com
 Reporter: Mahbobshah Mahbob

Peace and Community Service Organization (PCSO)

3rd Floor, Apartment 8, Akhakhil Market
 Phone: 0772011163
 Email: sanwarmomand@gmail.com
 Director: Habibullah

Radio Killid

Hs.565, St.6(in front of Police Department), Kabul-Jalalabad Rd., Jalalabad
 Phone: 0756013020
 0700097893
 Email: y.yaqubi@killid.com
 info@tkg.af
 Website: www.tkg.af
 Station Manager: Yahya Yaqoobi

Relief International (RI)

District 4(near UNICEF Office), Jalalabad
Phone: 0777011367
0792992294
Email: mehrullah.perdes@ri.org
Website: www.ri.org
Provincial Programme Coordinator: Mehrullah Perdes

Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan (NPO/RRAA)

Hs.861, District 4, Part 2, Jalalabad
Phone: 0700601853
0799855469
Email: info@nporraa.org.af
eng_shah_wali@yahoo.com
Website: www.nporraa.org.af
East Regional Office Manager: Shah Wali Alokozai

Save the Children International (SCI)

Hs. 1714, St. 7, Marastoon Cross Section,
Districts 3, Jalalabad
Phone: 0798454587
Email: Faridullah.mushfiq@savethechildren.org
Website: www.savethechildren.net
Officer in Charge: Faridullah Moshfiq

Serve Afghanistan (SERVE)

Regee Shah Morad Khan, District 4, Jalalabad
Phone: 0775286594
0790855550
Email: regionalofficejlb@serveafghanistan.org
info@serveafghanistan.org
Website: www.serveafghanistan.org
Regional Finance Manager: Abdul Wahid MiaKhel

Shaiq Network (SN)

Joy-i-Haft
Phone: 0700600531
Email: sharqradiotv@gmail.com
Website: www.shaiqnetwork.com
Contact Person: Shafiqullah Shaiq

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)

Dr.Sharifullah Hs., Sarnwali-i-Kuhna St.(near
UNICEF Office), Jalalabad
Phone: 0797069169
0756002323
Email: najeebullah@sca.org.af
Website: www.swedishcommittee.org
Office Administrator: Najeebullah

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Hs. 1072, District 4, Angoor Bagh, Jalalabad
Phone: 0796210116
Email: drnoorjehankabiri@yahoo.com
Website: www.wadan.org
Project Coordinator: Noor Jahan

Training Human Rights Association for Afghan Women (THRA)

Hs. 819 (behind Public HealthHospital), Sector
3, Jalalabad
Phone: 0799326661
0202302724
Email: roshan.sirran@gmail.com
jina_thra@yahoo.com
Website: www.thra.org.af
Director: Roshan Sirran

United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Hs. 111, Itifaq St., District 5, Jalalabad
Phone: 0791611115
0791611367
Email: drniamat.rahimi@unhabitat-afg.org
zameer.farooqi@unhabitat-afg.org
Website: www.unhabitat.org/www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org
Senior Provincial Manager: Niamatullah Rahimi

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Next to Governor'sOffice, Pashtunistan Square,
Jalalabad
Phone: 0799822329
012129632668
Fax: 00390831242359
Email: songh@un.org
waak@un.org
Website: www.unama.unmissions.org
Head of Office and Area Security Coordinator: Heran Song

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Manzili Sayeed Abass(behind New Eidgaah
Mosque), District 4, Jalalabad
Phone: 0798507460
0798507468
0798507461
Email: amohamed@unicef.org
jalalabad@unicef.org
Website: www.unicef.org
Chief of Office: Amina Mohammad

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Kabul- Jalalabad Ada, Canal Rd., Jalalabad
 Phone: 0797223341
 Email: Mohammad.Ghaleb@unodc.org
 Website: www.unodc.org
 Provincial Coordinator: Mohammad Alem Ghaleb

United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)

Old General Attorney's Office (near UNICEF Office), Jalalabad
 Phone: 0702217732
 Email: hussainak@afg.emro.who.int
 Website: www.emro.who.int/countries/afg/
 Medical Officer: Mohammad Akram Hussain

Welthungerhilfe/German AgroAction (AgroAction GAA)

Phone: 0779638383
 0700638383
 Email: delawer.haqmal@Welthungerhilfe.de
 Website: www.welthungerhilfe.de
 National Project Manager: Delawar Haqmal

Women for Afghan Women (WAW)

Fazal Haq Mujahed Hs.Chal Metra
 Phone: 0772463383
 Email: hayatullah_talibzada@yahoo.com
 Website: www.womenforafghanwomen.org
 Contact Person: Hayatullah Talibzada

Nimroz**Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)**

Zaranj
 Phone: 0799597713
 Email: danesh.net2007@yahoo.com
 Website: www.acci.org.af
 Regional Manager: Shir Ahamd Chakhansoori

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Abudaud Sajistani (in front of Central Jail), Zaranj
 Phone: 0705130670
 Email: anas_rahimi@yahoo.co.uk
 Website: www.brac.net
 Project Manager (Health Programme): Anasul Haq Rahimi

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

Hs. of Haji Ahmad Shah (street in front of Ahmad Shah Abdali Transportation Company; next AWCC Customer Center), Zaranj
 Phone: 0774040228
 Email: coar_nimrooz@yahoo.com
 coar_kbl@yahoo.com
 Website: www.coar.org.af
 Provincial Manager: Kazimi

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Zaranj
 Phone: 0795774421
 Email: eng.khalilrahman@yahoo.com
 Contact Person: Khalil Rahman Asad

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

PRRD Compound, Zaranj
 Phone: 0799479603
 Email: nimroz@nspafghanistan.org
 kabul@nspafghanistan.org
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Abdul Khalil Bahaduri

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Zaranj
Phone: 0799598131
Email: m.Akbar_sharifi@yahoo.com
Director: Mohammad Akbar Sharafi

Relief International (RI)

St.10, Chahar Rahi Marif-i-Haamoon, Zaranj
Phone: 0799251231
0792992300
Email: zabihullah.honar@ri.org
Website: www.ri.org
Provincial Programme Coordinator: Zabihullah Honar

Nooristan

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0706604010
Email: rauf_nuristani@yahoo.com
Director: Abdul Rauf

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0797564717
Email: rrdnuristan@yahoo.com
Acting Director: Sayeed Masoom Sayeedi

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Pashaki Village, Paroon
Phone: 0700812855
Email: noristan@nspafghanistan.org
kabul@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Essa Wahdat

Paktia

Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)

Khair Kot, Castle District, Urgun
 Phone: 0772828678
 Email: muhammadkhalid@aabrar.org.af
 Website: www.aabrar.org.af
 Administrator: Mohammad Khalid

Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)

Sharana City, Urgun District
 Phone: 0777780911
 Email: naqeebullah@aabrar.org.af
 abdulbaseer@aabrar.org.af
 Website: www.aabrar.org.af
 Administrative and Finance Officer: Naqeebullah Miakhel

Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSF0)

Phone: 0799332139
 Email: paktia@acsf.af
 info@acsf.af
 Website: www.acsf.af/www.acsf-rc.com
 Regional Manager: Muhammad Misbah-ud-Din

Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)

Phone: 0777761312
 Email: awec.kabul@awec.info
 awec.paktya@awec.info
 Website: www.awec.info
 Provincial Manager: Mahera Ahmadzay

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

6th Floor, Room Number 14Haji Ahmad Shah Market, Gardiz
 Phone: 0776717003
 07001483337
 Email: abdulnasir.alamyar@yahoo.com
 paktia@acci.org.af
 Website: www.acci.org.af
 The President of Chamber of Commerce Paktia Province:
 Abdul Nasir Alamyar

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Terrah Bagh Project, Gardiz
 Phone: 0785467941
 Email: aihrcgdz@yahoo.com
 Website: www.aihrc.org.af
 Regional Programme Manager: Noor Ahmad Shahim

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

Hs. 2(behind Alshafa Plaza), St. 3, Gardiz-Kabul Main Rd.
 Phone: 0783311325
 Email: mirwais.ahmadzai@aisa.org.af
 Website: www.aisa.org.af
 Regional Director: Mirwais Ahmadzai

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

Gardiz
 Phone: 0777243591
 0784301799
 Email: aschiana@gmail.com
 Website: www.aschiana.com

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Phone: 0771417748
 Email: drhashimzadran@gmail.com
 Website: www.brac.net
 M&E Officer: Hashim Zadran

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0799133235
 0772865537
 0797174036
 Email: lali.zadran@mail.gov.af
 Director: Niaz Mohammad Lahi Zadran

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0700068700
 Email: paktiarrd@yahoo.com
 Contact Person: Abdul Rahman Rahmani

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Hs. 3(near Afghanistan Bank), St.3, Shahr-i-Naw
 Phone: 0729080264
 0729080198
 0729080209
 Email: Asadullah.nazaree@rescue.org
 Website: www.theIRC.org
 Acting Field Coordinator: Najibullah Attiqi

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Hs. 2(opposite of Paktia University), St. 3
Phone: 0774918131
0786560984
Email: paktya@nspafghanistan.org
kabul@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Safar Mohammad

Nye Express Office (Nye)

Chawk-e-Gardiz, sayeed karam Lane
Phone: 0700656722
Email: atayee@nyexpress.com
Website: www.nyexpress.com
Contact Person: Waheedullah

Paktia University (PU)

Phone: 07998235609
0798981662
Email: paktia.un@gmail.com
Website: www.pu.edu.af
Chancellor: Sheer Mohammad Rawan

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Behind Custom Office, Shahr-i-Naw, Gardez
Phone: 0700154887
Email: adil_samim123@yahoo.com
Website: www.wadan.org
Project Coordinator: Adil

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Gardez
Phone: 0775232958
Email: dilawar@un.org
Website: www.unama.unmissions.org
Public Information Officer: Dilawar Khan Dilawar

United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)

Section 1 (inside UN Compound, near Governor's Office)
Phone: 0799226152
0700282361
Email: bhayo_6@hotmail.com
bhayom@afg.emro.who.int
Website: www.emro.who.int/countries/afg/
Medical Officer: Mukhtiar Hussain Bhayo

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

Haji Mohammad Zaman Market(opposite of Sharana Square), Sharan
Phone: 0799008456
Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af
guluryakhil@gmail.com
Website: www.ada.org.af
Provincial Manager: Gul Mohammad Oryakhil

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Sharan
Phone: 0775440605
Email: paktikamrrd@yahoo.com
Director: Najibullah

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Sharan
Phone: 0773022717
Email: salihhamdard9@gmail.com
Website: www.brac.net
Provincial Manager-NSP: Saleh Mohammad

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Sharan
Phone: 0779765450
0796198269
Email: waseel2010masood@yahoo.com
Director: Mohammad Wasil Masuod

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Sharan
Phone: 0707103400
Email: paktika@nspafghanistan.org
kabul@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Mohammad Shafiq

Panjshair

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0700297305
 Email: tkhallilallah@yahoo.com
 Director: Shahmir Amiri

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0708110009
 Email: khurami_mrrd@yahoo.com
 Director: Azimul Rahaman Khurami

Emergency Hospital

Aunaba
 Phone: 0700228574
 0729001720
 Email: emergency@emergency.it
 akbarjan@emergency.it
 Website: www.emergency.it
 Hospital Manager: Akbar Jan

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Beside Engineer Arif Hs., Unaba District, Qala-i-Miranshah Village
 Phone: 0700248580
 Email: panjshair@nspafghanistan.org
 kabul@nspafghanistan.org
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Ghulam Mahfooz

United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Malaspa Village, Bazarak District
 Phone: 0700222233
 0791611098
 Email: dost.khurami@unhabitat-afg.org
 info@unhabitat-afg.org
 Website: www.unhabitat.org/www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org
 Senior Provincial Manager: Dost Mohammad Khurami

Parwan

Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR)

Charikar
 Phone: 0778585491
 Email: Ahmadsohail@aabrar.org.af
 Website: www.aabrar.org.af
 Field Coordinator: Ahmad Sohail

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)

Phone: 0786146126
 Email: Obaidullah_pcci@yahoo.com
 Website: www.acci.org.af
 Regional Manager: Obidullah Alamyar

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

Haji Abdul Karim Hs. (behind No. 1 Boys Secondary School; opposite of Jab-ul-Saraj Palace)
 Phone: 0799146630
 0700041698
 Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af
 saboor.hadi@gmail.com
 Website: www.ada.org.af
 Provincial Manager: Abdul Saboor Popal

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

Mazar-i-Sharif Rd., Charikar
 Phone: 0770336717
 Email: najeeb_sherzad95@yahoo.com
 Provincial Coordinator: Najeebullah

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Gulgundi St. (near Ariana Private High School), Part 6, Charikar
 Phone: 0700931118
 Email: najbullah555@gmail.com
 Website: www.brac.net
 Regional Manager (Education Programme): Mohammad Najibullah

Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)

Near Masjid Imam Abu Hanifa

Phone: 0799887911

0766558172

Email: qahar_sabor@hotmail.com

Website: www.cha-net.org

Project Manager: Abdul Qahar Saboor

Da Qanoon Ghushtonky (DQG)

Hs. 3, (behind Parwan Jail), District 1

Phone: 0798236933

Email: qanoon_ghushtonky@yahoo.com

Website: www.dqg.org.af

Head of Office: Ahmad Shekib Sultani

**United Nation Human Settlements Programme
(UN-Habitat)**

Hs. 31(next to Khwaja Akashe Wali Mosque),
Mandawi St., District. 6,Charikar

Phone: 0791611355

0799337788

Email: mirwais.saifi@unhabitat-afg.org

Website: www.unhabitat.org/www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org

Provincial Manager: Mir Waisuddin Saifi

**Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
(DAIL)**

Phone: 0799325413

0752520861

Email: Abdulk.farzam@yahoo.com

Director: Abdul Kabir Farzan

**Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
(DRRD)**

Phone: 0700213709

Email: aziziwassy@gmail.com

Acting Director: Abdul Wassy

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Gulbahar Bazar, Jab-ul-Saraj District,

Phone: 0796329684

Website: www.icrc.org

**National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural
Rehabilitation and Development
(NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)**

District Charikar St. (behind the Parwan
Hospital), St. 1(behind Kabul Bank Branch),
Charikar

Phone: 0799022246

Email: parwan@nspafghanistan.org

kabul@nspafghanistan.org

Website: www.nspafghanistan.org

Provincial Manager: Zaki Ahamad Rasees

Parwan Institute of Higher Education (PIHE)

Phone: 0700211133

0797909874

Email: atta.poia@yahoo.com

Website: Parwan-in.edu.af

Rector: Atta Mohammad Poia

Samangan

Action Contre La Faim (ACF)

Dara Suf Bala District
 Phone: 0799835583
 0777835583
 Email: fieldco-sa@af.missions-acf.org
 Website: www.actioncontrelafaim.org
 Field Coordinator: Shawkatullah

Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization (ACSF0)

Phone: 0798008974
 Email: samangan@acsf.af
 Website: www.acsf.af/www.acsf-rc.com
 Regional Manager: Najibullah Danish

Afghanaid

Hs. 277, Karte Mamorin St., Aybak
 Phone: 0799172809
 0776673450
 008821684400148-51
 Email: rsaid@afghanaid.org.uk
 mmasoli@afghanaid.org.uk
 Website: www.afghanaid.org.uk
 Provincial Programme Manager: Rehman Said Sadaat

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

Karti Sulha St. 3, (in front of Jami Mosque),
 District 2, Aybak
 Phone: 0797545241
 Email: sakina.tahire@yahoo.com
 achr98@yahoo.com
 Website: www.ahro.af
 Manager: Sakina Tahiri

Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan (AADA)

Karte Mamorin, Aybak
 Phone: 0786004022
 Email: msidiqi@aada.org.af
 Website: www.aada.org.af
 Provincial Project Manager: Mirwais Seddiqie

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

St. 3 (near National Security Office), Aybak
 Phone: 0770336742
 Email: naim.safi@gmail.com
 Provincial Coordinator: Mohammad Naim

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Aybak
 Phone: 0700565651
 Email: mehedihasan1969@yahoo.com
 Website: www.brac.net
 Provincial Manager-NSP: Mehedi Hasan Khan

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0799202260
 0755800154
 Email: aslamdana@yahoo.com
 Director: Mohammad Aslam Dana

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0700706268
 0794830213
 Email: muhammad.asif@mrrd.gov.af
 Director: Mohammad Asif Dawlatshahi

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS)

Aybak
 Phone: 0774076810
 Email: ahmadgul.ahmadi@helvetas.org
 Website: www.helvetas.org
 Liaison Officer: Ahmad Gul Ahmadi

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS)

Ruy-i-Doab District
 Phone: 0771002090
 0774245015
 Email: farhad.naziri@helvetas.org
 Website: www.helvetas.org
 District Coordinator: Farhad Naziri

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Aybak
 Phone: 0776957747
 Email: samangan@nspafghanistan.org
 Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
 Provincial Manager: Fazel Haq

Samangan University (SU)

Phone: 0700542211
 Email: muslimyar.786@gmail.com
 Chancellor: Ahmad Shohib Muslimyar

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)

Gozari Asyab Arab (in front of Asyab Arab
Masque), District 2, Karte Mamorin

Phone: 0707775090
0779308701

Email: nasir.noori@sca.org.af

Website: www.swedishcommittee.org

Office Administrator// HRM & Security Focal Point: Nasir
Ahmad Noori

Sar-i- Pul

**GIZ- Basic Education Program for Afghanistan
(GIZ/BEPA)**

AfardiTeacher Training College, Shahr-i-
Naw, District 2

Phone: 0777900402

Email: zabihullah.qarizada@giz.de

Website: www.bepafg.com

Master Trainer: Zabiullah Qarizada

**National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural
Rehabilitation and Development
(NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)**

Sar-i-Pul

Phone: 0799151340

0788878859

Email: sarepul@nspafghanistan.org

kabul@nspafghanistan.org

Website: www.nspafghanistan.org

Provincial Manager: Ahmad Zaki Wahaj

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

In front of Independent Election Commission,
District 2, Sar-i- Pul

Phone: 0799414302

008821644413842

Email: sfarid.moqim@afg.nrc.no

Website: www.nrc.no

Office Administrator: Nazrullah Qasimi

Save the Children International (SCI)

Behind the Independent Election Commission
Office Rd., District 2, Sar-i- Pul

Phone: 0797969189

Email: mohammadismail.yousofi@

savethechildren.org

Website: www.savethechildren.net

Provincial Senior Manager: Mohammad Ismail Yousufi

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)

Next to Azizi Bank, Shahr-i-Naw, Sar-i- Pul

Phone: 0789076690

Email: nor.isaqzai@sca.org.af

Website: www.swedishcommittee.org

Office Administrator: Noor Isaqzai

Bakhtar Development Network (BDN)

Hs. 4(next to Police HQ Detention), District 2,
Sar-i-Pul

Phone: 0771818490
Email: drjalalhemmat@gmail.com
Website: www.bdn.org.af
Project Manager: Jalaluddin Hemmat

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Sar-i-Pul

Phone: 0796916681
Email: eng_amirzai2009@yahoo.com
Director: Mohammad Jaffar Amirzai

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Sar-i-Pul

Phone: 0799158696
Email: ahmad.jawid@mrrd.gov.af
Contact Person: Jawid

Islamic Relief Worldwide – Afghanistan (IRA)

Sar-i-Pul

Phone: 0774311724
Email: farid@ir-afg.org
Website: www.islamic-relief.com
www.iraafghanistan.org
Contact Person: Ghulam Dastgir Farid

Takhar**Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)**

PO Box

Phone: 0700706852
Email: kefayetullahjahid@yahoo.com
Website: www.acci.org.af
Regional Manager: Mehrabudin

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

Hs. 714, Shirkat Area, District 4, Taloqan

Phone: 0797919631
0799698633
Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af
malang.safi2@yahoo.com
Website: www.ada.org.af
Provincial Manager: Mohammad Malang Safi

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

Near Bibi Maryam High School, Mukhaberat
St., District 4, Taloqan

Phone: 0700585212
Email: sahebullah@gmail.com
Website: www.ahro.af
Manager: Sahibullah Aziz

Aga Khan Foundation Afghanistan (AKF)

Provincial District 1, Maref St., Taloqan

Phone: 0799158425
0799878247
0798589868
Email: Musilm.khurasan@akdn.org
Jalaluddin.dashti@akdn.org
Website: www.akdn.org/akf
Regional Director: Jalaluddin Dashti

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

St. 3, ShayeriSquare, Taloqan

Phone: 0770336715
Email: zabi.area@gmail.com
Provincial Coordinator: Zabiullah

Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)

Mukhaberat Rd., Taloqan

Phone: 0700706742
008821644942051
Email: qahar@acted.org
Website: www.acted.org
Deputy Area Coordinator: Abdul Qahar

Ariameher Rehabilitation Establishment (ARE)

Estern Project(opposite of Zaid Bin Sabet Mosque), District 6, Taloqan
Phone: 0700203654
Email: are_afghanistan@yahoo.com
Director: Abdul Ahad Haris

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Hs. 456, St. 2, Taloqan
Phone: 0705816477
Email: mahbubbrac@yahoo.com
Website: www.brac.net
Provincial Manager/ NSP Program: AKM Mahbul Hoque

Care of Afghan Families (CAF)

Hs. 559, Chahar Saraka-i-Shahidi, Taloqan
Phone: 0700704861
0777822326
Email: pm.takhar.caf@gmail.com
wrasekh@gmail.com
Website: www.caf.org.af
Project Manager: Ahmad Wali Rasekh

Concern Worldwide (CWW)

Wakil Mohammad Nazar Khan St., Taloqan
Phone: 0773273145
0700740605
0789445331
Email: hamayoon.shirzad@concern.net
Website: www.concern.net
Education and Programme Support Coordinator:
Homayoon Shirzad

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0775251567
0700184996
Email: msaalimsaaie@yahoo.com
Director: Mohammad Saleem Saeed

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0707124747
0788889842
Email: Faiz1390@yahoo.com
Acting Director: Raz Mohammad Faiz

GIZ- Basic Education Program for Afghanistan (GIZ/BEPA)

Takhar TTC , Taloqan
Phone: 0799028316
Email: hamidullah.hamim@giz.de
Website: www.bepafg.com
Education Officer: Hamidullah Hamim

Mission East (ME)

Wakil Mohammad Nazar St., Taloqan
Phone: 0799099701
Email: ppm.tak@miseast.org
Website: www.missioneast.org
Province Programme Manager: Nader Fayed

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Taloqan
Phone: 0799229248
Email: takhar@nspafghanistan.org
kabul@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Sayed Qurban Shah

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)

St. 1, Central Hospital, Taloqan
Phone: 0752066280
0776299670
0796492567
Email: sanjar@sca.org.af
Website: www.swedishcommittee.org
Office Administrator: Shah Jahan Sanjar

Takhar University (TU)

Taloqan
Phone: 0705024115
0755611698
Email: m.hamid1391@yahoo.com
Website: www.tu.edu.af
Chancellor: Maboobullah Hamid

The HALO Trust International Mine Clearance Organisation (HALO Trust)

Golayee Baghi Zakhera(next to the Fuel Market), District 3, Taloqan
Phone: 0707732779
Email: halo@haloafg.org
Website: www.halotrust.org/ www.halousa.org
Location Manager: Mirwais

Uruzgan**Afghan Health and Development Services (AHDS)**

Trinkote

Phone: 0776989988

Email: ahdsmaruf@yahoo.com

Website: www.ahds.org

Provincial Manager: Gul Mohammad Maruf Khil

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

Mokhaberat St., Trinkot

Phone: 0700877414

Email: abdulghafar_st@yahoo.com

Website: www.aihrc.org.af

Provincial Program Manager: Ghafar Stanekzai

Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA)

Trinkote

Phone: 0776438125

Email: ccakabul@hotmail.com

Website: www.cca.org.af

Manager: Sekandar Balaghi

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Trinkote

Phone: 0798263037

0700262062

Email: engmhashim@yahoo.com

Contact Person: Mohammad Hashim

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

St.3, (opposite of Kam Air), Trinkote

Phone: 0797311489

0797311489

Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af

ada.urozgan@gmail.com

Website: www.ada.org.af

Provincial Manager: Khan Mir Khan

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Trinkote

Phone: 0797201571

0700325414

0798448841

Director: Haji Sardar Mohammad

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD) (NSP/PMU)

Trinkote

Phone: 0706954063

Email: uruzgan@nspafghanistan.org

kabul@nspafghanistan.org

Website: www.nspafghanistan.org

Provincial Manager: Amir Khan Waizy

Save the Children International (SCI)

Qalacha St., Trinkote

Phone: 0799180252

Email: abdulbasir@savethechildren.org

Website: www.savethechildren.net

Contact Person: Abdul Basir Shirzad

Wardak

Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB)

Next to the Directorate of Information and Culture; behind Maidan Wardak Public Hospital, Maidan Shahr
Phone: 07881894114
Email: ancb@ancb.org
admin@ancb.org
Website: www.ancb.org
Contact Person: Fazal Wahid

Afghan Women Services and Education Organization (AWSE)

Maidan Shahr
Phone: 0778826191
Email: Masood.aycca@gmail.com
Website: www.awse.af
Contact Person: Masoud

Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC)

Maidan Shahr
Phone: 0777761353
Email: awec.kabul@awec.info
awec.wardak@awec.info
Website: www.awec.info
Provincial Manager: Fahima Wardak

Agency for Assistance and Development of Afghanistan (AADA)

Behind Provincial Police Station; old office of Swedish Committee, Maidan Shahr
Phone: 0799687925
Email: fatif@aada.org.af
Website: www.aada.org.af
Programme Manager: Faiz Muhammad Atif

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

Near Emergency Hospital, Maidan Shahr
Phone: 0770336618
Email: hydari_h@yahoo.com
Provincial Coordinator: Hedayatullah Hayderi

Cooperation Center for Afghanistan (CCA)

Ab-i-Shiroom, Maktab Technic, Maidan Shahr
Phone: 0700294693
Email: ccakabul@hotmail.com
Website: www.cca.org.af
Manager: Molem Amin

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Main Kabul Rd. (near Ghazi Muhammad Karim Khan Hall), Madan Shahr
Phone: 0786163861
Email: nasim.amin50@yahoo.com
Website: www.wadan.org
Project Coordinator: Nasim Amin

Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)

Maidan Shahr
Phone: 0787266925
Email: mamozay@gmail.com
coar_kbl@yahoo.com
Website: www.coar.org.af
Project Manager: Mamozay

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Maidan Shahr
Phone: 0799867285
0752800051
Email: waseems17@yahoo.com
Director: Fazal Omar

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Maidan Shahr
Phone: 0799760308
Email: Janhekmattjoo@yahoo.com
Director: Jan Mohammad Hikmatjoo

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD)

Maidan Shahr
Phone: 0788880247
0775570945
Email: Wardag@nspafghanistan.org
Website: www.nspafghanistan.org
Provincial Manager: Mohammad Naseer Fareed

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)

Asmaee Mina, Nasir Abad, Maidan Shahr
Phone: 0799153339
Email: ghlamnabi.wbphs@sca.org.af
Website: www.swedishcommittee.org
Office Administrator: Ghulam Nabi

Zabul

Afghanistan Development Association (ADA)

Kabul-Kandahar Main Rd. (opposite of Red Crescent Department), Qalat

Phone: 0708896830

0707012422

Email: ada.headoffice@ada.org.af

ada.zabul@gmail.com

Website: www.ada.org.af

Provincial Manager: Mohammad Samin

Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)

Qalat

Phone: 0788886920

0700675235

Email: said.sh_m@yahoo.com

achr@yahoo.com

Website: www.ahro.af

Manager: Sayed Shafiqullah Mushfiq

Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL)

Phone: 0775528794

0794479932

0702959048

Email: b.harifal@yahoo.com

Director: Besmillah Arifahl

Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)

Phone: 0793589880

0700305382

Email: Zabul_rrd@yahoo.com

Contact Person: Mohammad Qasim Popal

National Solidarity Programme, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (NSP, MRRD)

Hamam St., PMU Office, Qalat

Phone: 0700358045

0753820330

0790140352

Email: zabul@nspafghanistan.org

Website: www.nspafghanistan.org

Provincial Manager: Sayed Abdullah Nickbeen

The Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan (WADAN)

Hs. 2 (near National Security Office), St. 1, Qalat

Phone: 0703792354

Email: hd.faizi2010@gmail.com

Website: www.wadan.org

Project Coordinator: Hedayatullah Faizi



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Laws in Afghanistan

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

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

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

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

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

The Constitution of Afghanistan (2004)

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

Year 1382

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

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In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Preamble

We the people of Afghanistan:

1. With firm faith in God Almighty and relying on His lawful mercy, and believing in the sacred religion of Islam,
2. Realising the injustice and shortcoming of the past, and the numerous troubles imposed on our country,
3. While acknowledging the sacrifices and the historic struggles, rightful Jihad and just resistance of all people of Afghanistan and respecting the high position of the martyrs for freedom of the country,
4. With the understanding that Afghanistan is a single and united country and belongs to all ethnicities residing in this country,
5. Observing the United Nations Charter and respecting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
6. For strengthening national unity, safeguarding independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country,
7. For establishing a government based on people's will and democracy,
8. For creation of a civil society free of oppression, atrocity, discrimination, and violence and based on the rule of law, social justice, protection of human rights and dignity and ensuring the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people,

9. For strengthening the political, social, economic, and defensive institutions of the country,
10. For ensuring a prosperous life and sound environment for all those residing in this land,
11. Finally, for regaining Afghanistan's deserved place in the international community, have adopted this Constitution in accordance with historical, cultural, and social requirements of the era, through our elected representatives in the Loya Jirga dated 14 Jaddi 1382 in the city of Kabul.

Chapter One: The State

- Article 1 • Afghanistan is an Islamic Republic, and an independent, unitary and indivisible state.
- Article 2 • The religion of the state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is the sacred religion of Islam.
- Followers of other religions are free to exercise their faith and perform their religious rites within the limits of the provisions of law.
- Article 3 • In Afghanistan no law can be contrary to the beliefs and provisions of the sacred religion of Islam.
- Article 4 • National sovereignty in Afghanistan belongs to the nation that exercises it directly or through its representatives.
- The nation of Afghanistan consists of all individuals who are the citizens of Afghanistan.
 - The nation of Afghanistan is comprised of Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Turkman, Baluch, Pashai, Nuristani, Aymaq, Arab, Qirghiz, Qizilbash, Gujur, Brahwi and other ethnic groups.
 - The word Afghan applies to every citizen of Afghanistan.
 - No member of the nation can be deprived of his/her citizenship of Afghanistan.
 - Affairs related to citizenship and asylum are regulated by law.
- Article 5 • Implementation of the provisions of this constitution and other laws, defending independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and ensuring the security and defence capability of the country, are the basic duties of the state.
- Article 6 • The state is obliged to create a prosperous and progressive society based on social justice, protection of human dignity, protection of human rights, realisation of democracy, and to ensure national unity and equality among all ethnic groups and tribes and to provide for balanced development in all areas of the country.
- Article 7 • The state shall observe the Charter of the United Nations, international treaties, international conventions that Afghanistan is a party to, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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- The state prevents all types of terrorist activities, cultivation and smuggling of narcotic drugs, and production and consumption of intoxicants.
- Article 8 • The state regulates the foreign policy of the country on the basis of preserving independence, national interests, territorial integrity, non-interference, good neighbourliness, mutual respect, and equal rights.
- Article 9 • Mines and other underground resources and cultural heritages are the properties of the state.
- Protection, management and mode of proper utilisation of public properties shall be regulated by law.
- Article 10 • The state encourages and protects private investments and enterprises based on the market economy and guarantees their protection in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 11 • Affairs related to domestic and external trade shall be regulated by law in accordance with the needs of the national economy and the public interest.
- Article 12 • Da Afghanistan Bank is the central and independent bank of the state.
- Issuance of currency and formulation and implementation of monetary policy of the country are the mandates of the central bank in accordance with the law.
 - The central bank shall consult the economic commission of the Wolesi Jirga in matters related to printing of currency.
 - Structure and operation of this bank shall be regulated by law.
- Article 13 • The state shall formulate and implement effective programmes for the development of industries, growth of production, increase of public living standards, and support of craftsmanship.
- Article 14 • The state shall design and implement within its financial resources effective programmes for the development of agriculture and animal husbandry, improving the economic, social and living conditions of farmers, herders, and settlements and living conditions of the nomads.
- The state adopts necessary measures for housing and distribution of public estates to deserving citizens in accordance within its financial resources and the law.
- Article 15 • The state is obliged to adopt necessary measures for safeguarding and improving forests and the environment.
- Article 16 • From among the languages of Pashto, Dari, Uzbeki, Turkmani, Baluchi, Pashai, Nuristani, Pamiri and other languages spoken in the country, Pashto and Dari are the official languages of the state.

- In areas where the majority of people speak one of the Uzbeki, Turkmani, Baluchi, Pashai, Nuristani and Pamiri languages, that language shall be recognised as third official language in addition to Pashto and Dari, the modality of its implementation shall be regulated by law.
 - The state adopts and implements effective plans for strengthening and developing all languages of Afghanistan.
 - Publications and mass media are allowed in all languages spoken in the country.
 - The existing national academic and administrative terminology of the country shall be preserved.
- Article 17 • The state shall adopt necessary measures for promotion of education in all levels, development of religious education, and organising and improving the conditions of mosques, madrasas and religious centres.
- Article 18 • The calendar of the country shall be based on the migration of the Prophet (Peace be upon Him).
- The basis of work for state offices shall be the solar calendar.
 - Fridays and the 28th of Asad and the 8th of Sawr are public holidays.
 - Other holidays shall be regulated by law.
- Article 19 • The Afghan flag is made up of three equal parts, with black, red and green colours juxtaposed from left to right perpendicularly.
- The width of every coloured piece is equal to half of its length. The national insignia is located in the centre of the flag. The national insignia of the state of Afghanistan is composed of a Mehrab and pulpit in white colour. Two flags are located on its two sides. In the upper-middle part of the insignia the sacred phrase of “There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his prophet, and Allah is Great” is placed, along with a rising sun. The word “Afghanistan” and year 1298 (solar calendar) is located in the lower part of the insignia. The insignia is encircled with two branches of wheat.
 - The law shall regulate the use of national flag and emblem.
- Article 20 • The National Anthem of Afghanistan shall be in Pashto and mention “Allahu Akbar” and the names of the ethnic groups of Afghanistan.
- Article 21 • The capital of Afghanistan is the city of Kabul.

Chapter Two: The Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

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

- The citizens of Afghanistan—whether woman or man—have equal rights and duties before the law.
- Article 23 • Life is a gift of God and a natural right of human beings. No one shall be deprived of this right except by the provision of law.
- Article 24 • Liberty is the natural right of human beings. This right has no limits unless affecting the rights of others and public interest, which are regulated by law.
- The liberty and dignity of human beings are inviolable.
 - The state has the duty to respect and protect the liberty and dignity of human beings.
- Article 25 • Innocence is the original state.
- An accused is considered innocent until convicted by a final decision of an authorised court.
- Article 26 • Crime is a personal action.
- The prosecution, arrest, and detention of an accused and the execution of penalty cannot affect another person.
- Article 27 • No act is considered a crime, unless determined by a law adopted prior to the date the offence is committed.
- No person can be pursued, arrested or detained but in accordance with the provisions of law.
 - No person can be punished but in accordance with the decision of an authorised court and in conformity with the law adopted before the date of the offence.
- Article 28 • No citizen of Afghanistan accused of a crime can be extradited to a foreign state unless according to mutual agreement and international conventions that Afghanistan has joined.
- No Afghan can be sentenced to deprivation of citizenship or to exile inside the country or abroad.
- Article 29 • Torture of human beings is prohibited.
- No person, even with the intention of discovering the truth, can resort to torture or order the torture of another person who may be under prosecution, arrest, detention or convicted to be punished.
 - Punishment contrary to human integrity is prohibited.
- Article 30 • Any statement, confession or testimony obtained from an accused or of another person by means of compulsion, is invalid.

- Confession to a crime is a voluntary admission before an authorised court by an accused in a sound state of mind.
- Article 31 • Every person upon arrest can seek an advocate to defend his/her rights or to defend his/her case for which he/she is accused under the law.
- The accused upon arrest has the right to be informed of the attributed accusation and to be summoned to the court within the limits determined by law.
 - In criminal cases, the state shall appoint an advocate for a destitute.
 - The confidentiality of oral, written or telephonic communications between an advocate and his/her accused client are immune from invasion.
 - The duties and authorities of advocates shall be regulated by law.
- Article 32 • Being in debt does not limit a person's freedom or deprive him/her of liberty.
- The mode and means of recovering a debt shall be regulated by law.
- Article 33 • The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to elect and be elected.
- Law regulates the conditions and means to exercise this right.
- Article 34 • Freedom of expression is inviolable.
- Every Afghan has the right to express thoughts through speech, writing, or illustration or other means by observing the provisions of this Constitution.
 - Every Afghan has the right to print or publish topics without prior submission to the state authorities in accordance with the law.
 - Directives related to printing houses, radio, television, the press, and other mass media, shall be regulated by law.
- Article 35 • The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to form social organisations for the purpose of securing material or spiritual aims in accordance with the provisions of law.
- The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to form political parties in accordance with the provisions of law, provided that:
 1. The programme and charter of the party are not contrary to the principles of sacred religion of Islam, and the provisions and values of this Constitution.
 2. The organisational structure and financial sources of the party are made public.
 3. The party does not have military or paramilitary aims and structures.
 4. The party should have no affiliation to a foreign political party or sources.
 - Formation and functioning of a party based on ethnicity, language, religious sect and region is not permissible.

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- A party set up in accordance with provisions of the law shall not be dissolved without lawful reasons and the decision of an authorised court.
- Article 36 • The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to unarmed demonstrations for legitimate peaceful purposes in accordance with the law.
- Article 37 • Confidentiality and freedom of correspondence and communication, whether in the form of letters or through telephone, telegraph and other means, are immune from invasion.
- The state does not have the right to inspect personal correspondence and communication unless authorised by the provisions of law.
- Article 38 • A person's residence is immune from invasion.
- Other than the situations and methods indicated in the law, no one, including the state, is allowed to enter or inspect a private residence without prior permission of the resident or holding a court order.
 - In case of an evident crime, an official in charge of the situation can enter or conduct a house search prior to the permission of the court.
 - The official involved in the situation is required to obtain a subsequent court order for the house search within the period indicated by law.
- Article 39 • Every Afghan has the right to travel or settle in any part of the country except in the regions forbidden by law.
- Every Afghan has the right to travel abroad and return home in accordance with the provisions of law.
 - The state shall protect the rights of the citizens of Afghanistan abroad.
- Article 40 • Property is immune from invasion.
- No person shall be forbidden from acquiring and making use of property except within the limits of law.
 - No person's property shall be confiscated without the provisions of law and the order of an authorised court.
 - Acquisition of a person's property, in return for a prior and just compensation within the bounds of law, is permitted only for securing public interests in accordance with the provisions of law.
 - Inspection and disclosure of private property are carried out only in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 41 • Foreign individuals do not have the right to own immovable property in Afghanistan.
- Lease of immovable property for the purpose of investment is permissible in accordance with the law.

- The sale of estates to diplomatic missions of foreign countries and to those international agencies of which Afghanistan is a member is permissible in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 42 • Every Afghan is obligated to pay taxes and duties to the government in accordance with the provisions of law.
- No taxes and duties are enforced without provisions of the law.
 - The rate of taxes and duties and the method of payments are determined by law on the basis of observing social justice.
 - This provision is also applied to foreign individuals and agencies.
 - Every kind of tax, duty and income collected shall be delivered to the state account.
- Article 43 • Education is the right of all citizens of Afghanistan, which shall be provided up to the level of the Bachelors free of charge by the state.
- The state is obliged to devise and implement effective programs for a balanced expansion of education all over Afghanistan, and to provide compulsory intermediate level education. The state is also required to provide the opportunity to teach native languages in the areas where they are spoken.
- Article 44 • The state shall devise and implement effective programs for balancing and promoting education for women, improving of education of the nomads and elimination of illiteracy in the country.
- Article 45 • The state shall devise and implement a unified educational curriculum based on the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, national culture, and in accordance with academic principles, and develop the curriculum of religious subjects on the basis of the Islamic sects existing in Afghanistan.
- Article 46 • Establishing and operating higher, general and vocational education are duties of the state.
- The citizens of Afghanistan also can establish higher, general, and vocational private educational institutions and literacy courses with the permission of the state.
 - The state can also permit foreign persons to set up higher, general and vocational educational private institutes in accordance with the law.
 - The conditions for admission to state higher education institutions and other related matters are regulated by law.
- Article 47 • The state shall devise effective programs for the promotion of science, culture, literature and the arts.

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- The state guarantees the rights of authors, inventors, and discoverers, encourages and supports scientific researches in all areas, and publicises the effective use of their results in accordance with the law.
- Article 48 • Work is the right of every Afghan.
- Working hours, paid holidays, rights of employer and employee and other related affairs are regulated by law.
 - Choice of occupation and craft is free within the limits of law.
- Article 49 • Forced labour is forbidden.
- Active participation in times of war, calamity, and other situations threatening lives and public welfare is a national duty of every Afghan.
 - Children shall not be subjected to forced labour.
- Article 50 • The state is obliged to adopt necessary measures for creation of a strong and sound administration and realisation of reforms in the administration system of the country.
- Government offices are bound to carry out their work with full neutrality and in compliance with the provisions of law.
 - The citizens of Afghanistan have the right of access to information from government offices in accordance with the provisions of law. This right has no limits, unless in violation of the rights of the others.
 - The citizens of Afghanistan are employed for state services on the basis of qualification without any kind of discrimination and in accordance with the law.
- Article 51 • Any person suffering undue harm by government action is entitled to compensation, which he can claim by appealing to court.
- With the exception of situations stated in the law, the state cannot claim its right without the order of an authorised court.
- Article 52 • The state is obliged to provide free means of preventive health care and medical treatment, and proper health facilities to all citizens of Afghanistan in accordance with the law.
- The state encourages and protects the establishment and expansion of private medical services and health centres in accordance with law.
 - The state adopts necessary measures to promote physical education and improve national and local sports.
- Article 53 • The state takes necessary measures for regulating medical services and financial support to descendants of martyred and lost, re-integration of disabled and handicapped individuals and their active participation in society in accordance with the law.

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

Chapter Three: The President

- Article 60 • The President is the head of state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and conducts authority in executive, legislative, and judicial branches in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- The President shall have first and second Vice Presidents.
 - The candidate to the Presidency on his or her candidacy shall also declare the names of the Vice Presidents to the nation.

- The First Vice President in the absence, resignation, or death of the President, acts in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
 - In the absence of the First Vice President, the Second Vice President shall act in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- Article 61 • The President is elected by receiving more than 50 percent of the votes cast through free, general, secret, and direct voting.
- The presidential term expires on the first of Jawza of the fifth year after the elections.
 - Elections for the new President are held thirty to sixty days before the end of the presidential term.
 - If none of the candidates succeeds in receiving more than 50 percent of the votes in the first round, a run-off election shall be held within two weeks.
 - In this round, only the two candidates with the highest number of votes will participate.
 - In the run-off, the candidate who gets the majority of the votes shall be elected as the President.
 - In case of death of one of the candidates during the first or second round, after the elections or prior to the announcement of the results of elections, new elections shall be held in accordance with the provisions of law.
- Article 62 • Presidential candidates should possess the following qualifications:
1. Should be citizens of Afghanistan, Muslim and born of Afghan parents, and should not have citizenship of another country.
 2. On the day of becoming a candidate, his/her age should not be less than 40 years.
 3. Should not have been convicted of crimes against humanity, a criminal act, or deprived of their civil rights by a court.
- No one can be elected as president for more than two terms.
 - The provision of this article applies to the Vice Presidents as well.
- Article 63 • The President-elect, prior to assumption of his/her duties, performs the following oath in accordance with the rules of procedures prescribed by law:
- In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate; In the name of God Almighty, in the presence of you representatives of the nation of Afghanistan, I swear to obey and safeguard the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, to observe the Constitution and other laws of Afghanistan and supervise their implementation; to safeguard the independence, national sovereignty, and the

territorial integrity of Afghanistan and the fundamental rights and interests of the people of Afghanistan, and with the assistance of God and the support of the nation, to make great and sincere efforts for the happiness and progress of the people of Afghanistan.

Article 64 • The power and duties of the President are as follows:

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

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19. Issuing medals and honorary titles in accordance with the provisions of law
 20. Establishing commissions for the improvement of the administrative condition of the country, in accordance with the law
 21. Exercising other authorities in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution
- Article 65 • The President can call for a referendum on important national political, social or economic issues.
- Calling for a referendum shall not be contrary to the provisions of this Constitution or for amending it.
- Article 66 • The President takes into consideration the supreme interests of the people of Afghanistan while enforcing the powers stated in this Constitution.
- The President cannot sell or bestow state properties without the provisions of law.
 - The President cannot act based on linguistic, ethnic, religious, political, and regional considerations during his/her term in office.
- Article 67 • In case of resignation, impeachment, or death of the President, or of a serious illness that could hinder the performance of duties, the First Vice President undertakes his/her duties and authorities.
- The President submits his/her resignation personally to the National Assembly.
 - Serious illness shall be proved by an authorised medical committee appointed by the Supreme Court.
 - In this case, an election for a new President shall be held within the period of three months in accordance with Article 61 of this Constitution.
 - During the time when the First Vice President acts as the interim President, he/she cannot perform the following:
 1. Amendment of the Constitution
 2. Dismissal of Ministers
 3. Call for a referendum
 - During this period the Vice Presidents can nominate themselves as candidates for the post of President in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.
 - In the absence of the President, the duties of the First Vice President shall be determined by the President.
- Article 68 • In case of resignation or death of one of the Vice Presidents, another person shall replace him/her by the proposal of the President and approval of the Wolesi Jirga.
- In case of the simultaneous death of the President and the First Vice President, in turn the Second Vice President, the Chair of the Meshrano Jirga and in the

absence of the chair of the Meshrano Jirga, the Chair of the Wolesi Jirga, and in the absence of the Chair of the Wolesi Jirga, the Foreign Minister shall perform the duties of the President in accordance with Article 67 of this Constitution.

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

Chapter Four: The Government

- Article 71 • The government consists of the Ministers who work under the Chairmanship of the President.
- The number of Ministers and their duties shall be regulated by law.
- Article 72 • A person who is appointed as a Minister should have the following qualifications:
1. Must have only the citizenship of Afghanistan. Should a nominee for a ministerial post also hold the citizenship of another country, the Wolesi Jirga shall have the right to confirm or reject his or her nomination.
 2. Should have higher education, work experience and good reputation.
 3. His/her age should not be less than 35.
 4. Should not have been convicted of crimes against humanity, a criminal act, or deprived of civil rights by a court.
- Article 73 • The Ministers can be appointed from within and without the National Assembly.
- If a member of the National Assembly is appointed as a minister, he/she loses his/her membership in the National Assembly, and is replaced by another person in accordance with the provisions of law.

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- Article 74 • Prior to taking office, the Minister shall perform the following oath in the presence of the President:

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate: I swear in the name of God Almighty to support the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, follow the Constitution and other laws of Afghanistan, protect the rights of citizens, and safeguard the independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and consider God Almighty present in performing all my responsibilities, and honestly perform the duties assigned to me.

- Article 75 • The government shall have the following duties:

1. Execute the provisions of this Constitution, other laws, and final orders of the courts
2. Protect the independence, defend the territorial integrity, and safeguard the interests and dignity of Afghanistan in the international community
3. Maintenance of public law and order and elimination of administrative corruption
4. Prepare the budget, regulate financial affairs and protect public wealth
5. Devise and implement programmes for social, cultural, economic, and technological progress
6. Report to the National Assembly at the end of the fiscal year about the tasks accomplished and about the main plans for the new fiscal year
7. Perform other duties as recognised by this Constitution and other laws to be duties of the government

- Article 76 • In order to implement the main policies of the country and regulation of its duties, the government shall devise and approve regulations. These regulations should not be contradictory to the text and spirit of any law.

- Article 77 • As heads of administrative units and members of the government, the Ministers perform their duties within the limits determined by this Constitution and other laws.

- The Ministers are responsible to the President and the Wolesi Jirga for their particular duties.

- Article 78 • If a Minister is accused of crime against humanity, national treason or a criminal act, the case shall be referred to a special court in accordance with Article 134 of this Constitution.

- Article 79 • In cases of recess of the Wolesi Jirga, the government can adopt legislation in an emergency situation on matters other than those related to budget and financial affairs.

- The legislative decrees become laws after they are signed by the President. The legislative decrees should be submitted to the National Assembly in the course of thirty days beginning from the first session of the National Assembly.

- In case of rejection by the National Assembly, the legislations become void.
- Article 80 • Ministers during the course of their work cannot use their posts for linguistic, regional, ethnic, religious and partisan purposes.

Chapter Five: The National Assembly

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

representatives of the disabled and impaired and two representatives from the Nomads.

- The president appoints 50 percent of these people from among women.
- A person who is appointed as a member of the Meshrano Jirga shall relinquish their membership in the respective council, and another person replaces him/her in accordance with the law.

Article 85 • A person who is nominated or appointed as a member of the National Assembly should have the following qualifications in addition to those considered by voters:

1. Should be a citizen of Afghanistan, or has obtained citizenship of the state of Afghanistan at least ten years before becoming a candidate or being appointed.
2. Should not have been convicted by a court for committing a crime against humanity, a crime, or sentenced to deprivation of his/her civil rights.
3. Members of the Wolesi Jirga should be at least 25 years old at the date of candidacy and members of the Meshrano Jirga should be at least 35 years old at the date of candidacy or appointment.

Article 86 • Credentials of members of the National Assembly are reviewed by the Independent Election Commission in accordance with the law.

Article 87 • In the beginning of the legislative period, each one of the two houses elects one of its members as the Chairperson for one legislative period, and two people as the first and second Vice Chairperson, and two people as the Secretary and Assistant Secretary for a period of one year.

- These individuals constitute the Bureau in their respective houses.
- The duties of the Bureau are determined in the regulations pertaining to the internal duties of each house.

Article 88 • Each house of the National Assembly sets up commissions to study the topics under discussion in accordance with its internal regulations.

Article 89 • The Wolesi Jirga has the authority to set up a special commission if one-third of its members put forward a proposal to inquire about and study government actions.

- The composition and procedure of this commission is specified in the internal regulations of Wolesi Jirga.

Article 90 • The National Assembly has the following authorities:

1. Ratification, modification, or abrogation of laws and or legislative decrees
2. Approval of plans for economic, social, cultural, and technological development
3. Approval of state budget, permission for obtaining and granting loans
4. Creation, modification, and or abrogation of administrative units

5. Ratification of international treaties and agreements, or abrogation of the membership of Afghanistan to them
 6. Other authorities specified in this Constitution
- Article 91 • The Wolesi Jirga has the following special authorities:
- Deciding on interrogation of Ministers in accordance with the provisions of Article 92 of this Constitution.
 - Taking decisions about the State's development programmes and the State budget.
 - Approval or rejection of the appointments according to the provisions of this Constitution.
- Article 92 • The Wolesi Jirga, based on a proposal by 20 percent of its members, can interrogate a Minister.
- If the responses given are not satisfactory, Wolesi Jirga shall consider a vote of no confidence.
 - The vote of no confidence in a Minister shall be explicit, direct, and on the basis of well-founded reasons. This vote should be approved by a majority of all members of the Wolesi Jirga.
- Article 93 • Any commission of both Houses of the National Assembly can question each of the Ministers about specific topics.
- The person questioned can provide verbal or written response.
- Article 94 • Law is what both Houses of the National Assembly approve and the President endorses unless this Constitution states otherwise.
- In case the President does not agree to what the National Assembly approves, he can send the document back with justifiable reasons to the Wolesi Jirga within 15 days of its submission. With the passage of this period or in case the Wolesi Jirga approves a particular case again with a majority of two-thirds votes, the bill is considered endorsed and enforced.
- Article 95 • Proposal for the promulgation of a law can be initiated by the government, or members of the National Assembly, and in the domain of regulating judicial affairs through the Supreme Court by the government. Proposals for drafting the budget and financial affairs laws shall be made only by the government.
- Article 96 • If a proposal for the promulgation of law includes imposition of new taxes or reduction in State incomes, it is included in the working agenda on condition that an alternative source is also envisioned.
- Article 97 • Proposals for promulgation of law initiated by the government are submitted first to the Wolesi Jirga.

- The Wolesi Jirga approves or rejects as a whole the proposal for promulgation of law including budget and financial affairs and the proposal of taking or giving a loan after discussion.
 - The Wolesi Jirga cannot delay the proposal more than one month.
 - The proposed draft of law is submitted to the Meshrano Jirga, after its approval by the Wolesi Jirga.
 - The Meshrano Jirga decides on the draft within a period of 15 days.
 - The National Assembly shall give priority to the promulgation of laws, treaties, and development plans of the government that require urgent consideration and decision as per the request of the government.
 - If a proposal for promulgation of law is initiated by ten members of one of the two Houses and then approved by one-fifth members of the respective houses, it can be admitted to the agenda of the respective houses.
- Article 98
- The state budget and development plan of the government is submitted through the Meshrano Jirga along with advisory comments to the Wolesi Jirga.
 - The decision of the Wolesi Jirga, irrespective of the consent of the Meshrano Jirga, is enforceable after it is signed by the President.
 - If for some reason the budget is not approved before the beginning of the new fiscal year, the budget of the year before is applied until the approval of the new budget.
 - The government is obligated to give to the Wolesi Jirga the budget of the new fiscal year and a brief account of the current year's budget within the fourth quarter of the fiscal year.
 - The definite account of the previous fiscal year shall be submitted by the government to the Wolesi Jirga within six months of the new year, in accordance with the provisions of law.
 - The Wolesi Jirga cannot delay the approval of the budget for more than one month or permission to give or take a loan for more than 15 days.
 - If during this period the Wolesi Jirga does not take any decision with regards to taking or giving a loan, the proposal will be considered as approved.
- Article 99
- If, during a session of the National Assembly, the annual budget or a developmental plan or an issue related to public security, territorial integrity, and the country's independence is under discussion, the session of the Assembly cannot end before the approval of the matter.
- Article 100
- In case the decision of one house is rejected by another house, a combined committee composed of equal members of each house is formed to resolve the disagreement.

- The decision of the committee is enforced after its approval by the President.
 - In case the combined committee cannot solve the disagreement, the defeated resolution is considered void.
 - In this case the Wolesi Jirga can approve it at the next session of the Wolesi Jirga by a two-thirds majority vote of its all members.
 - This approval is assumed as enforceable, after it is signed by the President, without submission to the Meshrano Jirga.
- Article 101• No member of the National Assembly is legally prosecutable for expressing his / her views while performing their duty.
- Article 102• When a member of the National Assembly is accused of a crime, the law enforcement authority informs the house of which the accused is member about the case, and the accused member can be prosecuted.
- In case of an evident crime, the law enforcement authority can legally pursue and arrest the accused without the permission of the house of which the accused is a member.
 - In both cases, when legal prosecution requires detention of the accused, law enforcement authorities are obligated to inform the respective house about the case immediately.
 - If the accusation takes place when the National Assembly is in recess, the permission of arrest is obtained from the administrative board of the respective house and the decision of this board is presented to the first session of the aforementioned house for a decision.
- Article 103• The Ministers can participate in the sessions of each one of the two houses of the National Assembly.
- Each house of the National Assembly can demand that Ministers take part in its session.
- Article 104• Both houses of the National Assembly hold their sessions separately at the same time.
- Under the following circumstances, both houses can hold joint sessions:
 1. When the legislative session or the annual session is inaugurated by the President
 2. When it is deemed necessary by the President
 - In this case, the head of the Wolesi Jirga chairs the joint session of the National Assembly.
- Article 105• The sessions of the National Assembly are open unless the Chairman of the assembly, or at least ten members of the National Assembly, request secrecy and the assembly accepts this request.

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

Chapter Six: Loya Jirga

- Article 110 • A Loya Jirga is the highest manifestation of the people of Afghanistan.
- A Loya Jirga consists of the following:
 1. Members of the National Assembly
 2. Chairpersons of the Provincial and District Councils
 - The Ministers, Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General can participate in the sessions of the Loya Jirga without the right to vote.
- Article 111 • A Loya Jirga shall be convened in the following situations:
1. To take decisions on issues related to independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the supreme interests of the country
 2. To amend the provisions of this Constitution
 3. To prosecute the President in accordance with the provisions of Article 69 of this Constitution
- Article 112 • The Loya Jirga in its first session elects from among its members a Chairperson, a Deputy Chair, a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary.

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

Chapter Seven: The Judiciary

- Article 116 • The judicial branch is an independent organ of the state of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
 - The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court, High Courts, Appeal Courts, and Primary Courts, the structure and authorities of which are determined by law. The Supreme Court shall be the highest judicial organ, heading the judicial power of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- Article 117 • The Supreme Court is composed of nine members who are appointed by the President for a period of ten years with the confirmation of the Wolesi Jirga with observance of the provisions of the final clause of Article 50 and Article 118 of this Constitution. In the beginning the appointment will be as such:
 - Three members are appointed for a period of four years, three members for seven years and three members for ten years.
 - Later appointments will be for a period of ten years.
 - The appointment of members for a second term is not permissible.
 - The President appoints one of its members as the Head of the Supreme Court.
 - Members in no way can be dismissed from their service until the end of their term, except circumstances stated in Article 127 of this Constitution.
- Article 118 • A member of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:
 1. The age of the Head of the Supreme Court and its members should not be lower than 40 at the time of appointment
 2. Should be a citizen of Afghanistan
 3. Should have higher education in law or in Islamic jurisprudence, and enough expertise and experience in the judicial system of Afghanistan
 4. Should enjoy high ethics and good reputation
 5. Should not have been convicted of crimes against humanity, crimes, or sentenced to deprivation of civil rights by a court

6. Should not be a member of any political party during the term of official duty

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article 126 • Members of the Supreme Court enjoy official financial benefits for the rest of their lives provided they do not occupy state or political positions.

Article 127 • When more than one-third of the members of the Wolesi Jirga demand the trial of the Chief Justice, or a member of the Supreme Court due to a crime committed

during the performance of duty, and the Wolesi Jirga approves of this demand by a majority of two-thirds, the accused is dismissed from their post and the case is referred to a special court.

- The setting up of the court and the procedures of trial are regulated by law.

Article 128 • In the courts of Afghanistan, trials are open and everyone is entitled to attend in accordance with the law.

- The court, in situations which are stated in the law or in situations in which the secrecy of the trial is deemed necessary, can conduct the trial behind closed doors, but the announcement of the court decision should be open in all instances.

Article 129 • The court is obliged to state the reasons for the decisions it issues.

- All final decisions of the courts are enforceable, except for capital punishment, which is conditional upon approval of the President.

Article 130 • While processing cases, the courts apply the provisions of this Constitution and other laws.

- When there is no provision in the Constitution or other laws regarding ruling on an issue, the courts' decisions shall be within the limits of this Constitution in accord with the Hanafi jurisprudence and in a way to serve justice in the best possible manner.

Article 131 • The Courts shall apply the Shia school of law in cases dealing with personal matters involving the followers of the Shia Sect in accordance with the provisions of law.

- In other cases, if no clarification by this Constitution or other laws exists, courts will resolve the matter according to laws of this Sect.

Article 132 • Judges are appointed with the recommendation of the Supreme Court and approval of the President.

- The appointment, transfer, promotion, punishment, and proposal to retire judges are within the authority of the Supreme Court in accordance with the law.
- The Supreme Court shall establish the General Administration Office of Judicial Power for the purpose of better arrangement of the administration and judicial affairs and ensuring the required improvements.

Article 133 • When a judge is accused of having committed a crime, the Supreme Court shall inquire about the case involving the judge in accordance with the law.

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

- Article 134 • Discovery of crimes is the duty of the police and investigation and prosecution are conducted by the Office of the Attorney General in accordance with the provisions of the law.
- The Office of the Attorney General is part of the Executive branch, and is independent in its performance.
 - The structure, authority and activities of the Office of the Attorney General are regulated by law.
 - Discovery and investigation of crimes related to the armed forces, police, and national security officials are regulated by a special law.
- Article 135 • If parties involved in a case do not know the language in which the trial is conducted, they have the right to understand the material and documents related to the case through an interpreter and the right to speak in their native language in the court.

Chapter Eight: The Administration

- Article 136 • The Administration of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan shall be based on central and local administrative units in accordance with the law.
- The central administration is divided into a number of administrative units, each of which shall be headed by a Minister.
 - The local administrative unit is a province.
 - The number, area, parts, and structures of the provinces and the related administrations are regulated by law on the basis of population, social and economic conditions, and geographic location.
- Article 137 • The government, while preserving the principle of centralism, shall delegate certain authorities to local administration units for the purpose of expediting and promoting economic, social, and cultural affairs, and increasing the participation of people in the development of the nation.
- Article 138 • In every province a Provincial Council is to be formed.
- Members of the Provincial Council are elected in proportion to the population by free, direct, secret and general elections by the residents of the province for a period of four years in accordance with the law.
 - The Provincial Council elects one of its members as Chairman.
- Article 139 • The Provincial Council takes part in securing the developmental targets of the state and improving its affairs in a way stated in the law, and gives advice on important issues falling within the domain of the province.

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

Chapter Nine: The State of Emergency

- Article 143• If due to war, threat of war, serious rebellion, natural disasters, or situations similar to these, protecting the nation's independence or survival becomes impossible by following the provision of this Constitution, the President in confirmation with the National Assembly shall declare a state of emergency in some or all parts of the country.
- If the state of emergency continues for more than two months, the agreement of the National Assembly is required for its extension.
- Article 144• During the state of emergency, the President, with the consultations of heads of the National Assembly and the Supreme Court, can transfer some authorities of the National Assembly to the government.
- Article 145• During the state of emergency, the President, with the consent of the heads of the National Assembly and the Supreme Court, can suspend the validity of the following Articles or can place restrictions on them:
1. Clause two of Article 27
 2. Article 36
 3. Clause two of Article 37
 4. Clause two of Article 38
- Article 146• During the state of emergency, the Constitution cannot be amended.

- Article 147 • If the presidential term of office and or the legislative period expire during a state of emergency, the new elections shall be postponed, and the presidency and the legislative period shall be extended for up to four months.
- If the state of emergency continues for more than four months, a Loya Jirga shall be called by the President for further decisions.
 - Following the termination of state of emergency, elections should be held within two months.
- Article 148 • After the end of the state of emergency, the measures adopted on the basis of Articles 144 and 145 of this Constitution shall be considered invalid immediately.

Chapter Ten: Amendments

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

Chapter Eleven: The Miscellaneous Provisions

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

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

Chapter Twelve: The Transitional Provisions

- Article 158 • The title of the Father of the Nation and the privileges granted by the Emergency Loya Jirga of 1381 (2002) to His Majesty Mohammad Zahir Shah Former King of Afghanistan are preserved for him during his lifetime, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- Article 159 • The period following the adoption of this Constitution until the date of inauguration of the National Assembly is deemed as a transitional period.
 - During the transitional period, the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan shall carry out the following tasks:
 1. Issue legislative decrees related to the elections of the President, National Assembly and local councils within six months
 2. Issue decrees regarding the structure and authorities of the courts and basic administration structures within a period of less than one year
 3. Establish an Independent Election Commission
 4. Take necessary measures for reform of executive and judicial affairs
 5. Adopt necessary measures for preparing the ground for enforcement of the provisions of this Constitution
- Article 160 • The first elected President shall take up his/her duties after 30 days of the announcement of the elections in accordance with this Constitution.

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

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

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

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

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

NGO Legislation and Code of Conduct

www.ngo-dept.gov.af/

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

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

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

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

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

Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

We refers to all signatories to the Code of Conduct.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NGO Mission Statement

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

Purpose of the Code

The Code of Conduct will promote:

- improved understanding of NGOs, their purposes and their accomplishments among the general public, government, donors and the media;

- transparency, accountability and good management practices in the operation of NGOs by voluntary self-regulation; and
- improved quality of services provided by NGOs by raising standards of conduct.

Principles of Conduct

1. Our organisations are people-centered

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

2. Our organisations are committed to sustainable positive impact

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

government and the general public.

3. Our organisations are committed to transparency and accountability

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

4. Our organisations are committed to good internal governance

- 4.1 Governing documentation: We have written constitutions or memorandums of association that clearly define our missions, our objectives and our organisational structures.
- 4.2 Equal opportunity: We develop and apply written policies, rules and procedures that affirm our commitment to equal opportunities in our employment practices and in the promotion of staff.
- 4.3 Employment practices: We apply hiring and termination practices that respect the freedom of choice of individuals and the human resource needs of other stakeholders. We offer positions based on merit, pay appropriate salaries, allocate job responsibilities according to individual capacities, and demand adequate notice from employees and provide adequate notice for terminations without cause.
- 4.4 No conflicts of interest: All our organisational transactions are free of conflicts of personal and professional interest. The services of board members shall be given freely and voluntarily, other than reimbursements for essential costs incurred during service.

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

- 5.1 Honesty: We are truthful in all our professional activities.
- 5.2 Integrity: We refrain from internal and external practices that undermine the ethical integrity of our organisations. We do not engage in theft, corrupt practices, nepotism, bribery or trade in illicit substances. We accept funds and donations only from sources whose aims are consistent with our mission, objectives and capacity, and which do not

undermine our independence and identity.

- 5.3 Cost effectiveness: We utilise the resources available to our organisations in order to pursue our missions and strategic objectives in cost-effective ways. We strive to minimise waste and unnecessary expense, and to direct all possible resources to the people we serve.

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

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

7. Our organisations are committed to building Afghan capacity

- 7.1 Capacity building: We take every appropriate opportunity to help build Afghan capacity to understand needs, establish priorities and take effective action so that ultimately humanitarian, development and reconstruction needs are met by Afghans.
- 7.2 Consultation: We design and implement projects in consultation with local communities and the government because we are committed to the long-term sustainable development of Afghanistan.
- 7.3 Sustainability: We design and facilitate projects so that services may be taken over by target communities or by government bodies to enhance sustainability.

- 7.4 Human resources: In line with our policy of commitment to capacity building, we give priority to Afghan nationals in our recruitment, hiring and training practices.
- 7.5 Physical and technical resources: We maximise the utilisation of locally available physical and technical resources, where appropriate.
- 7.6 Appropriate technologies: We promote the use of appropriate technologies that can be owned and maintained by communities.

8. Our organisations are committed to independence

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

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

- 9.1 Impartiality: We provide aid on the basis of need alone. We provide support regardless of the race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or nationality and political affiliation of the recipients. We do not tie the promise, delivery or distribution of humanitarian assistance to the embracing or acceptance of a particular political or religious creed.
- 9.2 Neutrality: We do not promote partisan national or international political agendas. We do not choose sides between parties to a conflict.
- 9.3 Application of SPHERE: We are knowledgeable about the SPHERE Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, and seek to apply these standards and the SPHERE indicators in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of our humanitarian projects and programs.

Code Observance

The Code Observance Committee

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

Composition of the Committee

- The Committee shall have seven members.
- The Agency Coordination Body For Afghan Relief (“ACBAR”), the Afghan NGOs’ Coordinating

Bureau (ANCB), and the South-West Afghanistan and Balochistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC) will each nominate two representatives to the Committee.

- The Afghan Women’s Network (AWN) will nominate one member to the committee.
- The term of office of members of the Committee shall be one year.
- A member can only serve for three consecutive terms.
- The Committee shall select a Chair and a Secretary **from among its members.**

Functions of the Committee

- The Committee shall act as guardian of the Code of Conduct.
- The Committee shall ensure understanding, trust and co-operation between the Public, the Government, the donors, the NGO sector itself and community partners.
- The Committee shall meet twice a year to consider:
 - Petitions by NGOs to become Code signatories. The Committee will permit NGOs to sign the Code only upon such NGOs furnishing the appropriate documentation as listed in Clause 14 below.
 - Petitions or complaints related to the nonobservance of the Code by an NGO. The petition may be received from government, a donor, a community partner, the public or another NGO.
- The Committee shall nominate a Secretary who will manage the administrative responsibilities of the Committee. Among other things, the Committee Secretary shall:
 - Receive all requests from NGOs to become Code signatories.
 - Maintain files of public documents of signatories, and make those files available to key stakeholders upon request.
 - Request a signatory to provide a written report when implicated in alleged breach of Principles of Conduct.
 - Ensure that a signatory receives a copy of the complaint registered against it by the person or group of persons who lodged the complaint.
- The Committee shall be engaged in awareness raising about the Code of Conduct enshrined herein involving Signatories.

Becoming a Signatory to the Code of Conduct

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

- Legal registration: A copy of the NGO’s legal registration with the Government of Afghanistan;
- Operational experience: A signed statement on official stationery affirming that the NGO has been operational for at least one year;

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

Complaints

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

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

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

Jurisdiction of the Committee

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

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

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

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

- Request any signatory and/or official to provide evidence on the case under consideration.

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

- Provide the necessary education for compliance;
- Call on another signatory to assist in the education process;
- Advise the signatory in violation to take corrective measures against the NGO official or employee who is directly responsible for the breach of the Code;
- Admonish the signatory;
- Suspend or cancel the signature of the NGO to the code.

The Unseating of a Committee Member

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

Scope of Application

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

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

Compliance to the Code

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

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

Revision of Code

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

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

Annex: Historical Context

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

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

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

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

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

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



This index lists organisations, events, programmes and other items mentioned in the A to Z Guide. It does not list people who appear in the guide, or organisations who feature only in the contacts directory; the latter are listed alphabetically by province, with a table of contents on page 131.

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Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit

Hs. 144, 3rd street on the left from Charahi Haji Yacoub toward Charahi Shaheed, First block on the right Shahr-i-Naw Kabul, Afghanistan

Phone: +93 (0) 799 608 548

Email: areu@areu.org.af

Website: www.areu.org.af

12 YEARS
OF HIGH-QUALITY
RESEARCH