

Strengthening Governance



Photo by USAID – L. Sampler

Years of corruption, brutality, and tyranny imposed upon Afghanistan by the Taliban reduced the country to political, economic, and social ruin. The population, especially women and children, have suffered grievously.

USAID is funding programs that enhance the nascent government's credibility and provide it with the tools and technical assistance to govern effectively. These efforts include dismantling the opium market and providing opportunities for legitimate commerce and trade. Institutional strengthening will contribute to improved civil-military relations and the emergence of a robust civil society.

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- Developed and managed the critical logistical support for the Emergency Loya Jirga, including its radio broadcast and transportation of delegates from across the country.
- Funded a \$290,000 initiative to link the Afghan government in Kabul with its 32 provincial governments through an advanced radio network capable of carrying voice and data communications. For the first time, local governments will have a reliable method of communicating with each other.
- Provided the Ministry of Communications with three minibuses to help start a government pouch system between Kabul and the provinces.
- Contributed \$38 million in budget support through the Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund.
- Provided 74 small grants to 39 different Afghan government offices, including funds for rehabilitation of government offices and ministries and small grants to support their' priority projects.
- Oversees the development of political parties and the preparation for the June 2004 elections.
- Employs constitutional and rule-of-law experts to work with the Constitutional and Judicial Commissions.

Website: www.usaid.gov/afghanistan

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