



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

COUNTRY PROFILE

September 2013



USAID helped establish a \$100 million Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) to provide loans to Afghan farmers and lending organizations. (Photo: USAID/Afghanistan)

OVERVIEW

Thirty years of conflict devastated the economy, institutions, and people of Afghanistan. Thanks to the joint efforts of the U.S. government, NATO, and international partners, Afghanistan is moving toward a more secure, stable, and prosperous future.



The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), as part of the U.S. government effort, is working to build the capacity of the Afghan government and people to take ownership of long-term development and reconstruction efforts. USAID's partnership with Afghanistan will extend well past the 2014 security transition in order to build Afghanistan's resilience to withstand economic, security, and governance challenges, while

maintaining gains realized over the past 12 years. Sustainability and protection of women's rights will remain vital components of USAID's efforts in Afghanistan.

PROGRAMS

INVESTING IN PEOPLE: HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Under the Taliban regime in 2001, only 900,000 boys and no girls were enrolled in schools. Today, more than eight million children attend school, 37 percent of whom are girls. More than 11,700 professors and students have benefitted from USAID's English and professional development programs. In areas with no government schools, USAID has set up 3,695 classes serving 52,500 students, 65 percent of them girls. To strengthen higher education, USAID trained 1,700 professors in modern teaching methods, and supported the development of two Master's degree programs, one in Education and the other in Public Policy and Administration. Today, university enrollment in Afghanistan has grown to 95,000 from 8,000 in 2001, of which more than 20 percent are women. USAID's activities in higher education align with the Afghan National Development Strategy and the National Higher Education Strategic plan (2010-2014). The strategy envisions a reinvigorated, higher education system that plays a major role in the emergence of a pluralistic, democratic, and stable society. USAID coordinates closely with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) at the central level. The MoE developed a human resources management system, with technical support from USAID, which included the design and implementation of a teacher credentialing system and salary reforms to enhance teaching as a career choice, particularly among women. USAID is also collaborating with other donors such as the World Bank in support of implementing the MoE's second National Education Strategic Plan (2010-2014).

USAID's approach to improving Afghan health includes: improving health-related behaviors, increasing demand for and access to quality private sector health products and services, and strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). Since 2001, through

USAID'S IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Infant mortality has decreased by 53 percent and child mortality by 62 percent since 2002
- More than one million Afghans per month are treated at USAID-supported health facilities
- Since 2002, Afghan government revenues have grown almost 20 percent per year, and in 2012 domestic revenue reached \$1.6 billion, or more than 11 percent of gross domestic product (GDP)
- Five mobile phone companies together have more than 17 million subscribers

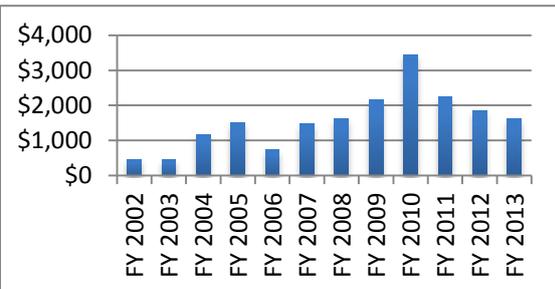


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

**USAID ASSISTANCE TO
AFGHANISTAN BY FISCAL YEAR**



MoPH leadership and multi-donor support, access to basic health services to the Afghan population has risen from 9 percent to 57 percent, and maternal mortality has decreased by 79% since 2002, with 60% of women receiving antenatal care. The number of functioning primary health care facilities has increased from 498 in 2002 to more than 2,000 in 2013. More than one million people per month are treated at USAID-supported health facilities, of whom 76 percent are women and children under the age of five. Additionally, infant mortality has decreased by 53 percent and child mortality by 62 percent since 2002.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND AGRICULTURE

USAID works with the Afghan government and the private sector to develop sound economic governance, attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. Since 2002, the average economic growth rate in Afghanistan has been 9 percent, reaching 12 percent in 2012. Since 2002, Afghan government revenues have grown almost 20 percent per year, and in 2012, domestic revenue reached \$1.6 billion or 11.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Revenue from customs is the fastest growing segment, increasing over 400 percent since 2006. USAID has assisted the Afghan government to develop a centralized customs collection system, contributing to the sharp increases in annual customs revenues. USAID is also promoting the use of mobile technologies to improve transparency of payment systems. The Afghan government now utilizes mobile technology to pay government employees and police officers, and over 100,000 Kabul households now pay their energy bills by mobile phone.

Reliable infrastructure and energy networks are critical for economic growth. USAID's rehabilitation of more than 2,000 km of roads – including regional and national highways – is increasing mobility, increasing access to services, and strengthening trade. USAID and other donors have made significant investments to improve Afghanistan's energy infrastructure. In 2002, only 6 percent of Afghans had access to reliable electricity. Today that number has reached 30 percent, including more than 2 million people in Kabul who now benefit from electric power 24 hours a day. USAID assistance is working to make the Afghan national power company (DABS) self-sustaining through increased revenue collection and efficiency, resulting in more than doubling DABS revenues since 2009. In southern Afghanistan, USAID's rehabilitation of the Kajaki Dam doubled the region's hydroelectric capacity, which improved access to reliable and affordable electricity for more than 40,000 households.

With dual objectives of creating jobs and increasing incomes, USAID works with farmers to boost agricultural productivity and food security, to provide market opportunities, and to decrease the country's poppy production. USAID helped establish a \$100 million Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) to provide loans to Afghan farmers and lending organizations. To date, \$37.6 million in loans have been disbursed through the ADF benefiting more than 21,000 farmers. USAID also supported the first women's farm service center, which serves over 10,000 women working in agriculture. In addition, USAID support to water management and watershed conservation has improved irrigation of scarce arable land. USAID also supports the private sector to expand



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

access of Afghan farmers to improved technologies, higher quality seeds and fertilizers, and financial services.

GOVERNING JUSTLY AND DEMOCRATICALLY

The U.S. Mission is working to enable the improved stability in Afghanistan and government legitimacy by strengthening democratic institutions and improving their accountability and performance. USAID helps develop the capacity of key institutions, including the Independent Electoral Commission, the National Assembly, the Supreme Court, the Independent Directorate for Local Governance, and the Civil Service Commission. USAID trained more than 16,000 civil servants (26 percent of whom are women) in core administrative functions, and promoted a new merit-based hiring process which has been used to place over 75 deputy governors and sub-governors. USAID also provides training to Afghan civil-society organizations to advocate for society-led reform. To promote stability at the local level, USAID supports Afghans in addressing the drivers of instability, and establishing an environment for sustained social and economic development. USAID implemented more than 5,325 community stabilization activities and is improving the ability of municipal governments to deliver service.

CONTACT INFORMATION

USAID/Afghanistan
6180 Kabul Place
Dulles, VA 20189-6180
Tel: (301) 216-6288 x4454
Tel: 0093 (0) 799-794-674
kabulaidinformation@usaid.gov

USAID/Washington
Afghanistan Desk
Tel: (202) 712-0518

USAID/Afghanistan Website
<http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

government has provided humanitarian assistance and economic development to those in

