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**AFGHANISTAN**

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# FACT SHEET

## Land Reform in Afghanistan (LARA)

### OVERVIEW

Land rights in Afghanistan are governed by overlapping and conflicting legal systems, including informal systems, civil law, traditional (Sharia) law, and state laws. This has resulted in a poor land management system that has hindered private-sector investment, stunted economic growth, and fed instability. The Land Reform in Afghanistan (LARA) project seeks to develop a robust, Afghan-owned and managed land market framework that encourages investment and productivity growth, supports the resolution/mitigation of land-based conflict, and builds confidence in the legitimacy of the Afghan Government. LARA will provide technical assistance and support to government institutions that address land issues, particularly the Afghanistan Land Authority (Arazi), the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Supreme Court, and the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs (MUDA). The project will develop Afghan capacity to successfully design, manage, and implement land tenure reform for land market development. LARA will support improved land tenure security by helping develop a process for upgrading informal settlements and formalizing land occupants' rights in Jalalabad.

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Assist Arazi to identify, manage, lease, and obtain revenue from government lands
- Build the technical and operational capacity of the private-sector to provide land-related services
- Support MUDA, MAIL, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance, other government entities and Jalalabad Municipality with managing, formalizing, and upgrading informal settlements, mapping, policies and laws for urban planning and land use regulation, and training in planning and enforcement
- Strengthen land tenure security by supporting the Supreme Court, as well as working with communities to develop rights formalization and informal dispute resolution processes to reduce conflict and promote peace and stability

### PROJECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- More secure property rights for Afghan citizens through improved institutional, policy, and legal systems
- Improved public awareness of and ability to exercise property rights, especially in vulnerable populations (women and minorities)
- Improved economic growth and increased private sector investment
- Increased Afghan Government revenue from the lease of government land
- Increased sanitation tax revenues at the municipal level
- Increased Afghan Government land administration capacity through improved systems and training
- Properties registered with municipal and Supreme Court registration offices