

Afghan Links

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Afghan Links is a free e-newsletter for readers who have a keen interest in Afghanistan and its history, people and culture. It invites news and articles from anyone who wishes to create and maintain constructive links between Afghanistan and other countries by sharing their expertise, information and ideas in any field.

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BUSINESS AND TRADE

Website with Information on Trade Exhibitions

The Brightway Exhibitions and Conference Organising Co. (BECO) supports the revival of Afghanistan after more than 23 years of war, social alienation and crisis, by uniting the diversified efforts of government, financial institutions, foreign investors, international organizations and private business sector.

Estimating the new emerging market of Afghanistan and the necessity of its post-war development, [Brightway Exhibitions & Conference Organising Co. \(BECO\)](http://www.afghanistan-exhibitions.com/) has tied up closely with Afghan Government for organizing the **1st Kabul Int'l Spring Trade Fair 2005**, **Kabul Book, Computer & Stationery Trade Fair** (alongside and as part of the Spring Fair), **REBUILD Afghanistan 2005** – International Specialized Exhibition & Conference, **WEPEX 2005** – Afghanistan Water, Power & Electricity Int'l Specialized Exhibition & Conference 2005, which are presently in advance stage of preparations.

These will be the first ever events that will focus on transforming Afghanistan from post-war country into a modern economy, with open market trade, protective investment law, modern banking system and properly planned infrastructure.

Our final target is to turn these 4 international exhibitions into a real Gateway for Afghanistan's Future!

<http://www.afghanistan-exhibitions.com/>

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CIVIL SOCIETY

Counterpart International – Lead Implementer of US Agency for International Development Funded Initiative to Promote Afghan Civil Society (I-PACS)

Counterpart International is proud to be a key partner with the US government in the effort to build a more democratic, prosperous and gender equitable society in Afghanistan. Since January, 2005 Counterpart has been the lead implementer of the US Agency for International Development-funded Initiative to Promote Afghan Civil Society (I-PACS), a three-year program to support the development of a vibrant Afghan civil society. I-PACS also includes international partners Creative Associates International and the International Center for Nonprofit Law, as well as two local Afghan NGOs, the Afghan Civil Society Forum (ACSF) and the Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC).

Counterpart is providing training and technical assistance to ACSF and AWEC so they can assume the roles and responsibilities of Intermediary Service Organizations (ISOs), resource centers which can provide training and technical assistance to other NGOs. Together with Counterpart, the ISOs will provide support to eight Afghan NGOs located throughout the country to establish them as Civil Society Support Centers (CSSCs). Once this infrastructure is in place, Counterpart, its partners and the CSSCs will provide organizational development training and technical assistance to hundreds of local Afghan NGOs, community based organizations, community development councils and shuras (indigenous councils of elders), which will help these institutions provide critical services to their communities. The partnership network with the CSSCs will allow Counterpart to reach out to the smallest of grassroots organizations, even in very remote areas of the country.

Counterpart views the availability of grants to civil society organizations as an important part of organizational capacity building. Linking grants with lessons learned and capacity developed through training and partnership provides a more tangible impact than generic grant giving. Counterpart is disbursing over \$6.8 million in grant funding to support advocacy and community development projects throughout Afghanistan.

Raising awareness of I-PACS goals and objectives in the wider community is also critically important. Creative Associates is responsible for I-PACS media outreach throughout Afghanistan. They have recently completed a study of Afghan media outlets, including a strategy guide for maximizing I-PACS public outreach. They are now working to train I-PACS local partners in effective communication and media relations.

At the same time, the International Center for Not for Profit Law is continuing its work with the Afghan government to establish a legal framework that enables national and international non-governmental organizations to effectively carry out their mandates in Afghanistan.

Increasing gender equity in Afghanistan is a cross-cutting theme throughout all I-PACS programming. Half of the CSSCs are women-oriented NGOs, and half of all I-PACS grant funding will go to projects which directly benefit Afghan women.

I-PACS is well on its way towards reaching its ambitious goals. Counterpart has just completed a wide-ranging assessment of Afghan Civil society which will inform I-PACS program interventions throughout the life of the three-year project. The assessment has been distributed to a variety of

Afghan organizations, US government agencies, international organizations and research institutions and will serve as a critical resource for the future socio-economic development of the country ([click here for the Civil Society Assessment Report](#)) or ask for Reference 1_E. Counterpart has also finished selection of all eight Civil Society Support Centers, located throughout the country for maximum reach.

Through I-PACS, local Afghan organizations will increase their capacity to meet the vital development needs of people all over Afghanistan.

Just as significantly, local civil society organizations will improve their ability to represent citizens' interests through constructive engagement with government, ensuring citizen participation in political, social and economic decision-making. The end result will be a more participatory and prosperous Afghanistan for all its citizens.

Please see <http://www.counterpart-afg.org/> for full details of Counterpart.

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DRUGS

United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime (UNODC)_Thematic Evaluation of UNODC's Alternative Development Initiatives - Independent Evaluation Unit - November 2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works with the international community and Member States to take action against illicit drug production, trafficking and drug-related crime. Further UNODC provides statistics on drugs and crime and helps Member States to draft legislation as well as train judicial officials to better deal with drug-related crimes. The United Nations and other international agencies have undertaken various forms of rural development initiatives that aim at reducing and eradicating the production of illicit drug crops for about 30 years. The mandate for UNODC and its predecessor agencies to undertake drug control and especially AD is articulated in the UNGASS resolution XXX and CND 45/14 and other official documents. A historical analysis of these initiatives shows that the concept of Alternative Development (AD) has evolved over the last 30 years. The initial rural development activities designed to curb drug production and promote licit economic activities involved crop substitution began in the 1970s. This approach was followed in the 1980s by Integrated Rural Development (IRD). IRD attempted to address the broad socio-economic and infrastructural development issues as a basis of creating conditions for licit economic development. This approach was expensive and met with limited success. Alternative Development was then developed and viewed as a unique development approach that addressed problems in drug dependent economies.

AD aims to reduce economic risk for communities in transition and to improve political stability in drug-affected areas. The ultimate goal of AD is to help shape a set of conditions which, given sufficient time and growth of the licit economy, could lead to permanent behavioral change in drug producing areas. AD aims at creating conditions for those who give up growing illicit drug crops to participate in licit economic activities and hence permanently give up growing drugs. AD has placed more emphasis on measuring the reduction of drug crop acreages than the impact of promoting better livelihoods for the people who give up growing drugs.

Today the AD programme has evolved even further and now encompasses sustainable livelihoods. The emphasis is now on creating conditions for sustainable licit economic livelihoods for communities that give up growing drug crops.

Major Findings:

The Key Findings of the report are outlined by level of analysis

Alternative Development as a Discipline

Finding 1. There is no single definition of Alternative Development operating around the world across agencies and writers. At least four strands of argument are found: that AD is a multifaceted strategic (or systemic) approach to a problem, that AD is one leg of a stool along side eradication, interdiction, policing and education, that AD is a series of discrete projects (or pilot projects), and that AD is equivalent to crop substitution.

Finding 2. There is little empirical evidence that the rural development components of AD on their own reduce the amount of drug crops cultivated. Agriculture, economic and social interventions are not seen to overcome the incentive pressure exerted by the market conditions of the illicit drug trade. Where reduction in drug cropping occurs it seems other factors, including general economic growth, policing, etc, can be identified as contributors to the change that takes

place. In other words it is impossible to attribute all the changes in reduction of drug crops just to AD.

Finding 3. Similarly, there is little evidence that eradication reduces the amount of drugs cultivated in the long term – drug crops move, production technologies evolve, and total production decreases very slowly if at all. Eradication is more pernicious and less politically acceptable than AD. In most areas where drug crops are grown, eradication, policing and AD have all been exerted making it difficult to attribute change to only one intervention.

Finding 4. From a technical perspective, the rural development methodologies used in AD projects are not notably different from those employed in other development settings. There is no concrete basis for designing or evaluating AD activities on different criteria from mainstream development activities. The notable difference is that in most development approaches where drugs are not involved, development efforts normally build on what already exists using local knowledge and improving it. However in drug areas the process involves the destruction of an existing economy and local knowledge and attempts to build something new often introducing foreign ideas. This is particularly true in Asia.

AD as practiced at UNODC

Finding 5. UNODC has played a vital and very positive role in the formulation of drug control policy in many countries. Further it has promoted licit economic activities and assisted communities create conditions that minimize suffering of those who are on transition from a drug economy to a licit one.

Finding 6. There is no well articulated holistic definition of AD or systemic approach to AD within UNODC. Instead, when a definition of AD is needed, the UNGASS document is quoted. The transformation of UNGASS into a systemic approach to drug crop prevention has not occurred. However the understanding of what AD is in UNODC has evolved from crop substitution, through IRD to AD and now sustainable livelihoods.

Finding 7. There is an attribution gap between what UNODC is expected to do and what it, as a UN agency, is able to do. National governments, not UNODC, are responsible for developing and implementing national drug control and economic development programs.

Donor countries are subject to the will of their electorate. Drug policy planning and administration take place within complex international and national political systems that UNODC can influence but not control. UNODC's role is properly described as catalytic.

Therefore UNODC's AD programme should never be expected to eradicate drug crops as this is the job of national governments. UNODC AD can only contribute to creating conditions for licit economic activities which hopefully can contribute to the permanent eradication of drug crops.

Finding 8. UNODC AD projects are negatively affected by limited and unpredictable funding. Projects are often designed based on much larger budgets. When funds do not materialize these projects are often revised downwards or implemented with limited funds but based on original design. It is therefore difficult sometimes to measure performance based on these scaled down activities. Further UNODC is sometimes unfairly criticized for limited AD impact when in fact lack of adequate resources hamper its work and effectiveness.

Finding 9. Despite some famous AD successes, the overall impact is unlikely to be significant because UNODC is a small player.

Finding 10. Given some of the work UNODC has done in places like Laos and Bolivia, the organization has sometimes demonstrated its leadership in this area and yet it has not been able to effectively claim these successes.

UNODC's relationship with donors, anti-drugs agencies, and development partners

Finding 11. UNODC has not used the Office's unique leadership position to best advantage to mold the diverse views of the donor community into a consensus leading to coherent action on AD. As a result the funding for AD is fragmented and different donors have varying views about what AD should do.

Finding 12. UNODC has not taken full advantage of opportunities to partner with other organizations on AD and rural development and thus misses opportunities for multiplying the impact of investments. Partnering with other players would have allowed UNODC to utilize its limited resources more efficiently and in areas where it could maximize impacts.

Go to http://www.liberation.fr/pdf/Liberation.fr_rapport_ONU.pdf for the full report or ask for Reference 1_D. [home](#)

EDUCATION

Literacy Initiative for Empowerment 2005-2015 (LIFE)



The **Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE)** is conceived as a global strategic framework and key operational mechanism for achieving the goals and purposes of the UN Literacy Decade.

Through LIFE, UNESCO's strategy centres on empowering learners through country-led practice, informed by evidence-based research. Working globally, UNESCO will raise international and national awareness on the importance of literacy, rally political will and resources, oversee policy development and capacity-building through technical assistance, and develop rigorous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure LIFE's effectiveness.

As a global strategy supported and led by UNESCO, LIFE operations will be country-led, respond to country-specific needs and priorities, and correspond to national capacities.

LIFE will be implemented in 34 countries with a literacy rate of less than fifty percent or population of more than 10 million without literacy competencies. It will be implemented, over a 10-year period, through three progressive phases. The first phase will start in 2006, the second in 2008, and the third in 2010. In 2011, evaluation and assessment will be undertaken. From 2012 to 2015 the emphasis will be on ensuring the sustainability of what has been achieved in earlier phases.

Download the [LIFE Vision and Strategy Paper](#) or ask for Reference 1_A.

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FUNDING AND FINANCE

❖ Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) and the European Development Research Network (EUDN) Conference Papers

3rd AFD/EUDN Conference – “Financing Development: What are the Challenges in Expanding Aid Flows?”

The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the European Development Research Network (EUDN) organized their third conference: “Financing Development: What are the Challenges in Expanding Aid Flows?” on December 14th, 2005 in Paris.

On this occasion, academics and development practitioners from both the North and the South gathered to exchange views on these critical issues. The conference aimed at promoting a constructive dialogue between academic research and operational expertise, in order to explore lessons and perspectives for ODA policies.

In a context of international negotiations on increasing finance for aid and debt cancellations, the conditions for an efficient and productive use of additional resources devoted to the developing countries have been discussed at this conference. The debate tackled the following issues: How to assess the needs for aid? Which role for aid in weak institutional environments? What is the link between donor coordination and the uses of aid? And which implications for national ownership of development policy? Which instrument for aid: grant or loan? What is the link between absorption capacity and incentive constraints within donor agencies? William Easterly, Arne Bigsten, Daniel Cohen, Pierre Jacquet and Jakob Svensson presented papers focusing on specific dimensions of these issues.

Please see http://www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/home/Home_conference/lang/en for further information and for conferences

http://www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/conference_program/lang/en

or ask for Reference 1_G.

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❖ Fundraising Information

1. ADB websites

<http://www.adb.org/NGOs/funding-national.asp>

<http://www.adb.org/NGOs/funding-private.asp>

2. Guide to Resources for NGOs and Other Organizations of Civil Society Small Grants Program, Social Development Department, World Bank International Youth Foundation at

[http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/eca/eca.nsf/66d6f5004ed085ca852567d10011a8b8/93094e2ff791aacb85256d05005559b1/\\$FILE/Guide%20to%20Resources%202003%20web.pdf](http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/eca/eca.nsf/66d6f5004ed085ca852567d10011a8b8/93094e2ff791aacb85256d05005559b1/$FILE/Guide%20to%20Resources%202003%20web.pdf)

or ask for Reference 1_B.

3. Resource List of Funding Agencies for Projects Supporting Afghan Women – Reference 1_C or go to

<http://www.w4wafghan.ca/pdf/Alternative%20Funding.pdf>

4. Asia Foundation Grant Guidelines

<http://www.asiafoundation.org/Contact/grantguidelines.html>

and existing Projects in Afghanistan

http://www.asiafoundation.org/Locations/afghanistan_projects.html

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HUMAN RIGHTS

Government, Donor Agencies and Civil Society Organizations

Launch a Country wide “Elimination of Violence against Women” (EVAW) Campaign



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Monema Mansoor, Director of Planning and Public Relations Department

Address: Shahr-e-Naw, Next to Zainab Cinema, Ministry of Women's Affairs

Phone: 0093 (0) 752004547

URL: <http://www.mowa.gov.af>

Government, Donor Agencies and Civil Society Organizations

Launch a Country wide “Elimination of Violence against Women” (EVAW) Campaign

Kabul, Afghanistan (January 5, 2006): In Afghanistan, the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), in close collaboration and cooperation with government agencies and Civil Society Organizations, joined the world wide “Elimination of Violence against Women” campaign. The event, which took place in November 2005, is being followed by monthly action plans to ensure greater gender awareness and integration into the programs of the government and Civil Society Organizations.

MoWA established a Consultative Group comprised of government ministries and offices (Ministries of the Interior, Public Health, Information and Culture; the Supreme Court, Police Department, Attorney General's Office, and the High Court), Civil Society Organizations (Counterpart International, the Afghan Women's Network, Oxfam, the International Office of Migration and members of the Agency Coordination Body for Afghan Reconstruction) and various UN offices. The purpose of the Consultative Group is to involve everyone in making the campaign successful with ongoing activities and outcomes. “We can eliminate violence against women by working together strategically,” says Mazari Safa, Technical Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs.

One of the most important tasks of the Consultative Group is for all Civil Society Organizations, donors and government agencies to share their strategic framework and program activities. This will provide donors and CSOs with the information necessary to prevent duplication of their activities and

thus avoid the waste of resources. According to Tilly Reed, Counterpart International (CPI) Chief of Party in Afghanistan, who are implementing the Initiative to Promote Afghan Civil Society (I-PACS) Program in Afghanistan, "This joint work of the Afghan Government, CSOs and donor agencies will encourage transparency, ensure efficient use of resources and increase awareness of gender equity issues."

As a result of the campaign, MoWA managed to:

- Conduct three-day non-stop campaigns in 19 districts of Kabul province in four universities and hundreds of girls' high schools. Discussions and speeches on elimination of violence by MOWA representatives resulted in the engagement of a variety of community players for a common cause.
- Conduct a two day international workshop on early and forced marriages. One of the outcomes of the workshop is a declaration signed by government ministries and Civil Society Organizations agreeing to integrate policies that will prevent forced and early marriages.
- Conduct a one day gathering for 150 *mullahs* (religious scholars) in Kabul. The purpose of which was to seek Islamic views on violence towards any human being and particularly against women and children. The participants assured the government and the Civil Society Organizations of their continued cooperation and expressed their willingness to advocate for the elimination of violence against women within the context of Islam and jurisprudence.
- Conduct round tables, interviews and, via the media, broadcast visual and audio spots on violence and produce special editions of newspapers on the subject.
- Establish a commission of scholars, *mullahs*, university professors, Civil Society Organizations, judges and police to work on drafting a law which will be proposed to the parliament and cabinet in regards to violence against women.
- Promote girls' participation in sports both within and without the country and launch teams for girls in support of eliminating violence against women.
- Make visits to women's shelters and safe houses for women who are at risk due to family and social issues and women's jails and prisons to assess their problems and share them with the police and the Attorney General's Office.
- Form a council comprised of MoWA's 34 provincial departments, Special Government Commissions, and Civil Society Organizations to advocate for the elimination of violence against women. The Attorney General has also required all provincial departments to prioritize violence against women cases and, if needed, to refer them to the central regions for better defense.

This country wide campaign is supported by UNDP, UNIFEM, UNFPA, OXFAM, JICA and the Asia Foundation. Government ministries and CSOs provided technical assistance to the working group in achieving the goals of the campaigns.

One of the participants in the campaign said that as a result of the ERAW campaign, the women of Afghanistan feel that they are not alone in combating violence against women.

MoWA is in the process of incorporating the recommendations into their strategic framework. "We are committed to giving equal voice to men and women across all government sectors," says Dr. Masooda Jalal, the Afghan Minister of Women's Affairs.

For information: www.counterpart-afg.org

Contact: Wazhma Frogh on Wazhma@counterpart-afg.org

Phone: 0092(0) 070203911

For Media Relations:

CPI: M. Halim Fidai on fidai@counterpart-afg.org

Phone: 0092 (0) 070294911

MoWA's Contact:

Monema Mansoor, Director of Plan and Public Relations Department

Address: Shahr-e-Naw, next to Zainab Cinema, Ministry of Women Affairs

Phone: 0093 (0) 752004547

URL: <http://www.mowa.gov.af>

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RECONSTRUCTION AND NATION-BUILDING

❖ 400,000 in Western Afghanistan to Benefit from Integrated Water Resources Project

MANILA, PHILIPPINES - About 400,000 mostly poor people will benefit from a [water](#) resources management project for [Afghanistan](#)'s western basins backed by an ADB assistance package totaling US\$75 million.

The project will help boost agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods in the Hari Rud River Basin, which includes Herat, and the Murghab River Basin located in Badghis, Ghowr and Herat provinces.

The Project will strengthen integrated water resource management, improve irrigation, and promote more efficient agricultural practices to increase productivity in an area that contains some of Afghanistan's most extensive and intensively farmed irrigation areas.

Problems with irrigation water supply directly limit yields of wheat, which is the primary crop grown in the basins, and have been cited nationally by farmers as the primary constraint to agricultural productivity.

Local communities developed their irrigation systems to provide water for irrigation, livestock and domestic use more than 500 years ago, and have sophisticated water allocation methods. But the systems have deteriorated due to neglect during decades of civil unrest that have impeded routine maintenance and repair.

"Given the importance of water to livelihoods in the Hari Rud River Basin, improving integrated water resource management is critical to the area's development," says Thomas Panella, an ADB Senior Water Resources Specialist.

"Irrigation systems can also be rationalized to operate more efficiently and increase the total irrigated area, while water allocations also need to be rationalized."

The project will rationalize irrigation systems to operate more efficiently and increase the total irrigated area. It will also support planning and management to allocate water resources efficiently and equitably for basin development and help in the eventual setting up of a river basin authority. It will provide for the rehabilitation and upgrading of 55,000 to 65,000 ha of traditional irrigation systems. The project will rehabilitate entire systems and enhance irrigation system intakes, improving late season water supplies.

The project will also develop capacity among staff of the Ministry of Energy and Water, which handles irrigation, as well as the mirabs who are the traditional community managers of irrigation systems responsible for overseeing system management and operation and maintenance. An agriculture and livelihoods services component will ensure that the improved water supply from the irrigation system rehabilitation and upgrading is used most effectively to increase the productivity of irrigated agriculture and that project benefits are equitably distributed. This component also supports income generating activities targeted at women and the landless.

"Although poppies are not widely grown in the western basins, the livelihood component will ensure that this practice does not take root and that farmers have viable alternatives to poppy production," Mr. Panella adds.

On-farm water management training will be given to farmers and mirabs. Agricultural extension will be provided to improve wheat yields and to stimulate second season, higher value crops. The project will support farmer training, demonstration plots and community-developed trials. ADB's assistance package, comprising a \$60.5 million loan and \$14.5 million grant - comes from its concessional [Asian Development Fund](#). The loan carries a 40-year term, including a grace period of 10 years and interest of 1% per annum.

Project participants will contribute \$7.8 million and the Government of Afghanistan \$4.8 million toward the total project cost of \$87.6 million. The Ministry of Finance is the executing agency for the project, which is due for completion around March 2013.

With the approval of this project, ADB has provided \$235 million in loans/grants to Afghanistan in 2005, fulfilling a commitment to Afghanistan made by ADB in 2004. Of this total, \$100 million was in the form of grant and the remainder in highly concessional loans.

Source:

http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2006/9066_Afghanistan_water_management/default.asp

4th January 2006.

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❖ Rethinking Nation-Building by Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart

In 1945 the future of capitalism as the organizational form of the economy and democracy as the organizational form of the polity was far from certain in the advanced industrialized world. Today there is a remarkable consensus on both the preferred economic and political forms. With globalization of the media, the benefits of membership in the wealthy democratic club are

beamed daily to the homes of billions of people who in turn aspire to the economic opportunities and political freedoms that the market economies and democratic societies have delivered to their citizens.

Yet the daily experience of so many people in poor countries is confrontation with the realities of failing or fragile states, criminalized and informal economies, and the denial of basic freedoms. It is not resentment of the West but exclusion from the right to make decisions in their own countries that feeds the resentment of the poor. At the same time, the networks of violence that have declared war on the security and order of ordinary people in the developed world are making use of the territory of failed states to expand their bases of destruction.

The path to security is not just investment in the institutions of security. The price tag for security in a fragile state can quickly run into billions of dollars a year. A sustained analysis by NATO of the best means of achieving security in Afghanistan showed that credible institutions and public finance would contribute more to security than would the deployment of troops. Nor is the answer money alone; in these countries, money cannot be translated to capital, because such things as the rule of law, transparency and predictability are lacking. The state is the most effective, economical way of organizing the security and well-being of a population, just as the company is the most effective approach in a competitive economy.

Thus the need for functioning states has become one of the critical issues of our times. Global political, economic and security institutions must have a new goal: to promote the emergence of states that can fulfill their necessary functions. This goal provides a unified answer to numerous initiatives, including debt crisis, implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and security.

It also requires that we make clear what functions need to be performed by a state if it is to have internal legitimacy and external credibility. We have proposed a framework of the 10 most critical functions the modern state must perform, which was endorsed by a group of leaders of post-conflict transitions last year. The functions include maintenance of a monopoly on the legitimate means of violence, the nurturing of human capital, and creation and regulation of the market. We have also proposed that state-building or sovereignty strategies be devised to meet the goal of having the state perform each of the 10 functions -- strategies backed by compacts between the leadership of countries and the international community on the one side and citizens on the other to create capable states that deliver value to their citizens. And instead of thousands of reports, there should be a single global report on state effectiveness, compiled with the involvement of global and local civil societies and issued by a credible international organization.

For this to work, the global institutions must receive renewed attention. Despite some obvious shortcomings of the United Nations and international financial institutions, the fact remains that if they did not exist they would need to be invented. We must not succumb to calls for their abolition or further weakening.

Revitalization of these organizations will require sustained attention from the leaders of the Group of Eight industrial nations, which need to agree on a program of reform. It is critical to redefine their tasks and coordinate their activities. In turn, their leaderships need to become models of transparency in recruitment, evaluation and promotion of staff members. U.N. agencies need the resources to tackle state-building in fragile and conflict-ridden states. The decision at the U.N. summit in September to create a peace-building commission provides the United Nations with the opportunity to demonstrate its commitment and capacity for serious reform.

The international system needs reordering, with a new role for the United Nations, international financial institutions and security organizations. The wars of Europe between 1648 and 1945 were made history by collective security institutions. With that experience in mind, the nature of current threats and opportunities can now be confronted.

Ashraf Ghani is chancellor of Kabul University. He was adviser to the United Nations during the Bonn process and the establishment of the first post-Taliban administration in Afghanistan, and was Afghan minister of finance from 2002 to 2004. Clare Lockhart is a fellow of the Overseas Development Institute in Britain.

Source: Washington Post – 1st January 2006.

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SECURITY

❖ Media Advisory - Monday 09 January 2006 ISAF/CFC-A News Conference at ISAF HQ Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan - Media are invited to attend the ISAF/CFC-A News Conference on Monday the 9th January 2006, at 10:00hrs.

Media wishing to attend should arrive at the main gate of ISAF HQ on the Great Massoud Road between 09:00hrs and 09:30hrs for security checks.

No access will be granted after 09:30hrs.

Media are requested not to use cell phones and laptops whilst in the HQ.
For further information, please contact any of the ISAF PIO team on 0093 079 51155.
Contact Information ISAF - Public Information Office 079-511-155
Chief PIO Lt Col Riccardo Cristoni + 93 07951 1183
Squadron Leader Annie Gibson-Sexton + 93 07951 1291
ISAF Spokesman Maj Andrew Elmes + 93 07951 1291 pressoffice@isaf-hq.nato.int

<http://www.afnorth.nato.int/ISAF/index.htm>

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❖ **Military fears big Afghan losses**

BRITISH troops set to deploy to southern Afghanistan this spring could sustain losses on a scale not seen since the Falklands war, military intelligence officers have warned.

They say insurgent forces in the south are preparing for a large offensive by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, backed by sophisticated weapons and training from Iran.

The warnings follow an increase in fighting in southern Afghanistan over the past year. Several thousand people, including about 100 US soldiers, have been killed.

The insurgents regard the withdrawal of 2,000 US troops as a key victory and are expected to press home their advantage against the British-led Nato force.

An advance party of British troops from 16 Air Assault Brigade will fly to Afghanistan this week to begin preparing for the deployment.

A new terror group linked to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's Al-Qaeda in Iraq has emerged in southern Afghanistan and is imitating his methods. Messages from the group, Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, have appeared on the same jihadist internet sites as those of Zarqawi's terror group.

The Taliban has regrouped, adapting its tactics to a classic insurgency campaign. There has also been a surge in suicide bombings and in roadside bombs similar to those introduced to Iraq last year. US intelligence officers in southern Afghanistan and at the Coalition Joint Task Force headquarters in Bagram, north of Kabul, are blaming Iran for the increase in the use of sophisticated technology.

The British troops' anti-narcotics operations could also provoke attacks from local warlords. The Dutch will decide on February 2 whether to withdraw their contingent because of warnings from military intelligence about the risks. They are expected to do so.

The plan is for just over 3,000 of the 6,000-strong Nato force to come from the UK, with Canada and the Dutch supplying the remaining troops. A British battle group commanded by 16 Air Assault Brigade and led by 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment will take over Helmand province from the Americans. Briefings to officers from 3 Para highlighted the possibility of casualties on a par with those during the 1982 Falklands conflict, when 255 British servicemen died. **Source:** Michael Smith - The Sunday Times – 1st January 2006. [home](#)

❖ **U.S. Cedes Duties in Rebuilding Afghanistan NATO, Other Allies Take On New Roles**

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Four years into a mammoth reconstruction effort here that has been largely led, funded and secured by Americans, the United States is showing a growing willingness to cede those jobs to others. The most dramatic example will come by this summer, when the U.S. military officially hands over control of the volatile southern region -- plagued by persistent attacks from Islamic militias -- to an international force led by the NATO alliance. The United States will cut its troop strength by 2,500, even though it is not clear how aggressively NATO troops will pursue insurgents, who have shown no sign of relenting.

At the same time, the U.S. government is increasingly allowing Western allies, or Afghans themselves, to take on the tasks of rebuilding a country that has suffered more than two decades of fighting and remains beset by poverty, drugs and insurgency.

The United States says that its shifting approach complements Afghanistan's evolution into a self-sustaining democracy and that Washington has no plans to pull out altogether.

"The Afghans have to have enough space to make their own decisions, even to stumble sometimes," said U.S. Ambassador Ronald Neumann. "But we shouldn't leave them without critical support before they're strong enough."

As the U.S. presence becomes less visible, however, Afghans are starting to question whether the U.S. support is sufficient. Some Afghan officials express concern that the Bush administration's priorities are simply shifting elsewhere and that the United States may abandon their country prematurely, much the way it did in the early 1990s following the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, which topped \$1 billion for 2005 and has helped build highways, schools and clinics across the country during the last four years, will be reduced to just over \$600 million in 2006, unless Congress appropriates more money.

On one of the biggest threats facing the country, the illicit drug trade, the United States has largely ceded leadership to the British government and is pinning its hopes on Afghan provincial governors to eradicate poppy fields. Although U.S. officials have warned repeatedly about the need to curb the burgeoning opium business, they have so far spent only modest amounts to help and now say Kabul must take the initiative.

Politically, too, the United States has been less willing to exert its influence. The previous ambassador, Zalmay Khalilzad, played a strong, high-profile role here, negotiating directly with recalcitrant regional leaders and openly advising President Hamid Karzai. Neumann, who arrived several months ago, is a quieter presence who rarely interferes in Karzai's decisions.

Earlier last month, to the surprise of many Afghans, the U.S. Embassy stood by silently during a struggle for the leadership of the new parliament, in which Karzai's government was believed to have backed a radical Islamic scholar and ex-militia leader accused of past human rights abuses over a more moderate candidate who had run against Karzai for president.

Some foreign allies are encouraged by the signs that the United States is willing to loosen its grip and allow others a greater role in the country's rebirth. Several Afghan officials said they welcomed the increased responsibility.

"We don't want to be a permanent burden on the international community," said Defense Minister Rahim Wardak. "This country has been defended by us for 5,000 years. That is our duty." Still, Wardak noted, the abrupt withdrawal of U.S. support after the decade-long Soviet occupation ended in 1989 precipitated a civil war that culminated with the Taliban movement taking power.

"I hope the international community, and especially the U.S., has learned the lesson of what happened," he said. "I hope that history will not repeat itself this time." The transfer of power in southern Afghanistan will provide the first critical test of the new U.S. strategy. The shift will allow the Bush administration, which has spent more than \$47 billion on military efforts in Afghanistan since 2001, to cut the U.S. troop presence by 13 percent, from 19,000 to 16,500.

The move will leave U.S. forces in charge only in the eastern provinces, and only until NATO is ready to assume command there as well. That could happen later in the year, allowing the United States to reduce its troop commitment further. Please see http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/02/AR2006010201942_2.html?referrer=email&referrer=email or ask for Reference 1_H. Source: Griff White – Washington Post Foreign Service – 3rd January 2006.

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❖ **Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) - Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP)**

Latest Figures (3-January-2006)

Disarmament	Demobilization	Reintegration
63,380	62,044	60,646
Weapons Collected		Heavy Weapons Collected
36,571		11,004

Ammunitions Identified	
Boxed	Unboxed
879,936	2,473,116

Source: <http://www.anbpafg.org>

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JOB VACANCIES

❖ **Research Opportunities at the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU)**

AREU is currently hiring for the following positions for international staff:

[Deputy director of research](#); [Senior researchers](#); and [Migration researcher](#).

The following positions are available for national staff: [Research assistantships](#) (male and female) for a wide range of programmes. Please click on the above to check job requirements and deadlines for submitting an application for these positions – or go to www.areu.org.af/jobs.asp [home](#)

❖ **CARE International Require a Program Information Coordinator (International Post)**

Post Title:	Program Information Coordinator (Int.)
Organization:	CARE
Location:	Kabul
Duration:	Permanent
No of Post:	1
Date Announced:	2006-01-01
Closing Date:	2006-01-10

Background:

CARE is a non-governmental, non political, non-profit, non-partisan and non-sectarian humanitarian organization, extending its relief and development assistance to those in need.

Duties & Responsibilities:

A. Facilitate the timely submission of high quality reports to donors:

1. Ensure there is an adequate and efficient system to track contracts and ensure reports are submitted to donors in a timely fashion;
2. Work individually with the writers of reports to bring their draft reports to submission-ready stage;
3. In collaboration with the DME Unit, work with programs to ensure reports reflect qualitative changes as a result of CARE Afghanistan projects;
4. Provide individual and group training to build the English writing and report-writing skills of key project staff;
5. Ensure that all reports are reviewed by relevant staff (PMs, ACD) before submission;
6. Liaise with finance staff to ensure full consistency between narrative and financial reports.

B. Supervise and support the work of the PR & Media and Data & Contracts units:

1. Review and guide development of Individual and Annual Operating Plans;
2. Complete performance management activities, including: performance planning, monitoring, 6-month and annual performance appraisals;
3. Recommend and/or initiate personnel actions, such as promotions, transfers, and disciplinary actions including performance improvement plans;
4. Encourage professional development of staff through facilitating access to appropriate training opportunities and ongoing coaching and mentoring.

C. Work to improve knowledge management, including the archiving of project documents, and compilation of project information.

1. Assist the Data & Contracts unit to maintain and regularly communicate project information, including contract details, and information on activities, sectors, locations and beneficiaries, through the provision of leadership and technical assistance;
2. Work with key program staff, information technology support services and administration to progressively improve internal systems that can facilitate information sharing to and from sub-offices.

D. Support the development of quality information for internal and external sources.

1. Assist the PR & Media unit to identify and communicate key CARE Afghanistan organizational messages and meet the country office publication audience needs through the provision of technical assistance and leadership;
2. Work with the PR & Media Unit to ensure publications layout, design and content are of an appropriate quality and that agreed deadlines are met;
3. Work with the PR & Media Unit to respond to internal publicity needs and external information requests as they arise;
4. Support the PR & Media unit to provide training to project staff in skills related to PR & Media

such as writing, interviewing, web development and photography;
5. Assist in progressively improving consultation with stakeholders, especially communities and government authorities regarding their information needs;
6. Oversee the design, set-up and updating of CARE Afghanistan website;
7. In coordination with the Advocacy Unit, initiate further outreach that reflects CARE's mission and values to the Afghan Government and other key stakeholders in Afghanistan's development.
F. Any other duties as requested by Program Development Officer, Assistant County Director Programs and the Country Director.

Qualifications required:

Education: University degree, preferably a Masters in International Development or related social science field.

B. Work Experience: At least one year of field experience in development, rehabilitation or relief programs or contract management experience.

Skills: Excellent communication, presentation and facilitation skills, Facilitative manager who can motivate staff and is sensitive to their ideas & concerns, Demonstrated ability to prepare quality reports and other written materials.

Language: Excellent command of written and spoken English (preferably as a first language).

Submission Guideline:

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

Information and Legal Aid Centres (ILACS) – “Frequently Asked questions”

See Reference 1_F for UNHCR circular giving information on legal aid centres.

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If you want further information on any of the above subjects please email Jeanne Bryer at Afghanlinks@aol.com NB. All information contained here identifies the source and is shared with readers in good faith. If you find any incorrect details please let me know and they will be rectified immediately. Afghan Links is produced by Jeanne Bryer who formerly worked for the British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group and who currently works for Khorasan Orphanage in Kabul and the Kathy Evans Afghan Education Trust. If you no longer wish to receive the Afghan Links Newsletter please send an email to Jeanne Afghanlinks@aol.com and your address will be removed.

