

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

Translation Services in Seven Languages

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CIVIL SOCIETY

Cooperation with Non Government Organizations and Civil Society

ADB – refer to <http://www.adb.org/NGOs/default.asp> Updated: 11 January 2006

ADB cooperates with a broad range of nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and other civil society organizations (CSOs) to improve the effectiveness, quality, and sustainability of its operations. A new workplan for cooperating with civil society is now being developed. Learn more about our initiatives with civil society organizations:

[How NGOs can work with ADB](#)

[Funding for NGOs](#)

[ADB's Policy on NGO Cooperation](#)

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See also: [Discussion Note](#) [PDF] on the Safeguard Policy Update

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DEVELOPMENT, RECONSTRUCTION AND NATION-BUILDING

❖ **Joint All Party Parliamentary Group on Overseas Development (APGOOD) and Overseas Development Institute (ODI) Meetings Series**



**ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON
OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT**

A Joint APGOOD & ODI Meetings Series

'What's Next in International Development?'

2005 was heralded as a historic year for international development and an unrivalled opportunity for the UK government to provide leadership at the G8 Gleneagles Summit, through the UK Presidency of the EU, at the MDGs Summit in New York and at the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial. What was achieved? How can the momentum be sustained into 2006 and beyond? What are the major issues and challenges that lie ahead? In a year in which the Department for International Development will be publishing a new White Paper, this meeting series seeks to answer such questions.

Thursday 26th January, 1.00-2.15pm, Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House:

'A Retrospective on 2005 & the Challenges for 2006'

**Speaker: Rt. Hon. Gareth Thomas MP
Under-Secretary of State for International Development
Discussant: Matt Phillips, Save the Children Fund & Make Poverty History Campaign
Chair: John Battle MP, Chair, APGOOD**

Thursday 9th February, 1.00-2.15pm, Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House:

'Building Democratic & Accountable States'

Speaker: Rt. Hon. Donald C. McKinnon,
Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat
Chair: John Battle MP, Chair, APGOOD

Tuesday 14th February, 1.00-2.15pm, Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House:

'Leading or Managing Globalization? Towards a Rule-Based Global System'

Speaker: Dr Ashraf Ghani,
Vice-Chancellor, University of Kabul & Former Finance Minister, Afghanistan
Chair: John Battle MP, Chair, APGOOD

Thursday 9th March, 5.00-6.15pm, Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House:

'Re-thinking Aid Architecture'

Speaker: Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn MP,
Secretary of State for International Development
Chair: Baroness Lindsay Northover, Secretary, APGOOD

Tuesday 14th March, 1.00-2.15pm, Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House:

'A UNDP Perspective on the 2006 Development Agenda'

**Speaker: Dr Kemal Derviş (TBC)
Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Chair: John Battle MP, Chair, APGOOD
Note: Further meetings in the series to be announced shortly.

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❖ **World Bank in Afghanistan – Country Update - January 2006**

World Bank Support

Since April 2002, the World Bank has committed US\$973 million for 18 development and emergency reconstruction projects in Afghanistan. This support comprises US\$536.8 million in grants and US\$436.4 million in no-interest loans—known as “credits.” Two projects have so far been completed.

The World Bank also administers six grants, totaling US\$1.31 billion, from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), US\$38.04 million from the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF), and a US\$1.5 million grant for training teachers from the World Bank Post Conflict Fund.

The World Bank has provided advice to help the government manage donor funds effectively and in a transparent way. The World Bank also supported the government by providing analytical work on the economy, public administration, gender, poverty, the opium economy, and an ongoing public finance management (PFM) review. The Bank has actively supported key reforms, particularly in the fiscal and public administration spheres, and through its budget support operations. It has advocated building capacity and legitimacy of the state and channeling donor resources through the government to ensure investments are aligned with national priorities. To this end, the World Bank works closely with other multilateral and bilateral agencies across a number of sectors where aid coordination and government ownership is most critical.

Please see

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFGHANISTAN/Resources/AF_Update_Jan2005.pdf **or**
ask for Reference 2_C. [home](#)

❖ **Department for International Development (DFID) - Growth and poverty reduction: the role of agriculture**

Agriculture has become a key sector for the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) efforts to reduce global poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. This DFID Policy Paper is intended to guide DFID's future international and country-based policy and programmes with regard to agriculture, also extending into other related areas and sectors. Built on an understanding of livelihoods, this paper shows why DFID believe agriculture should be placed at the heart of efforts to reduce poverty, proposes principles and priorities to guide their work, and to help decision-makers to weigh up the potential growth and poverty impact of agriculture compared with other competing demands on resources.

The policy document provides six guiding principles for agricultural development strategies in order to maximise the impact on poverty:

- reflect the stage of a country's development
- give priority to agricultural development in places where significant productivity gains are possible and the potential links to the wider economy are strongest
- give priority to strategies designed to overcome the most significant obstacles to increased productivity and employment
- focus on demand and market opportunities
- make social protection complementary to agricultural growth
- ensure the sustainable use of the main productive resources

Building on these guiding principles, efforts to accelerate agricultural growth in poor countries should focus on seven priority areas:

- create policies that support agriculture
- target public spending more effectively

- tackle market failure
- fill the agricultural finance gap
- spread the benefits of new technology
- improve access to land and secure property rights
- reduce distortions in international agricultural markets.

DFID has always recognised the importance of agriculture to reducing poverty. Some 2.5 billion people in developing countries depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. But beyond its direct benefit to rural livelihoods, the agricultural sector has particularly strong links to the rest of the economy, and this is one of the most powerful ways in which it generates overall growth and reduces overall poverty. When agriculture grows, overall economic growth reduces rural and urban poverty faster.

But we need to do more, and to further improve the quality of our work in order to provide real benefits to poor people. In many poor countries, agriculture has stagnated and failed to deliver its potential. The international community is increasingly recognising, for example in the work of the Commission for Africa and the UN's Millennium Project, that without more effective approaches to improve agriculture's performance we are unlikely to meet our commitment to halve the number of people living on less than US\$1 a day by 2015.

This paper shows why we believe agriculture is so important for economic growth and poverty reduction. It explains our approach to the sector and its important linkages with the wider economy.

And it presents principles and priorities that will direct our efforts to unlock its potential.

Working within the framework of countries' own plans, the paper aims to help DFID think through policy and investment options, and to improve the effectiveness of coordinated development assistance to agriculture.

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP - Secretary of State for International Development

This paper is available at

<http://dfid-agriculture-consultation.nri.org/launchpapers/roleofagriculture.pdf>

or ask for Reference 2_D.

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❖ **Asian Development Bank (ADB) – December 2005 Review**

See the ADB Review at http://www.adb.org/Documents/Periodicals/ADB_Review/2005/vol37-6/vol37-6.pdf

This issue is packed with fascinating, well written articles including current and future transport systems, reconnecting energy sources, development challenges, the opium economy, the role of the private sector in rebuilding the country e.g. mobile phone network, commercial bank, and capacity building.

If you have difficulty accessing the link please ask for Reference 2_H by emailing Afghanlinks@aol.com

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DRUGS

United States Institute of Peace: Afghanistan Working Group Session - Afghanistan and Its Neighbors - Trade, Trafficking and Terrorism

Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2006. **Time:** 10:00 AM–11:30 AM

Location:

U.S. Institute of Peace - 2nd Floor Conference Room - 1200 17th St, NW - Washington, DC 20036

[Get directions](#)

Afghanistan's neighbors are playing a major role – both positive and negative – the post- Taliban era. A group of leading specialists on the geopolitics of the region will assess the interests and influence of the countries surrounding Afghanistan. As a new, ethnically and politically diverse Parliament weighs in matters of governance, questions arise about the region's future:

- ❖ Are Afghanistan's neighbors hindering or helping the reconstruction process?
- ❖ How much are the neighboring countries directly or indirectly involved in Afghanistan?
- ❖ Can economic cooperation between these countries help promote stability and ease tensions?

- ❖ What are the key challenges that remain for Afghanistan that will be affected by the behavior of neighbors?

Speakers

Dr. S. Frederick Starr Chairman, Central Asia-Caucasus - John Hopkins University

Ambassador R. Grant Smith, Forum Director, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and the Silk Road Studies program

Dr. Marvin G. Weinbaum, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois and Scholar-in-Residence Middle East Institute

Moderator

Beth DeGrasse - Coordinator, Afghanistan Working Group U.S. Institute of Peace

To RSVP, please send your name, affiliation, daytime phone number and name of the event to Yll Bajraktari at ybajraktari1@usip.org [home](#)

EDUCATION

Suspected Taliban destroy Afghan coed school in latest attack on education

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - Suspected Taliban gunmen destroyed a coed primary school in the main southern Afghan city Sunday, first tying up two security guards before setting the buildings on fire, officials said.

The attack in Kandahar was the latest in a spate of assaults that have forced many schools to close. The insurgents claim that educating girls is against Islam and they even oppose government-funded schools for boys because they teach subjects besides religion.

Suspected Taliban insurgents last Tuesday beheaded the headmaster of another coed school in the region.

In Sunday's attack, a group of men raided Qabail Primary School before dawn, briefly detaining its guards but not hurting them, said Hayabullah Rafiqi Othak, Kandahar province's education director.

The assailants then went into each classroom, making bonfires of books and wooden desks that eventually razed the whole school, he said.

Some 700 girls and boys had studied at the school. Builders were to immediately start reconstructing it and Othak said some classes may be able to resume when the current two-month vacation ends in March.

The attack came just hours after gunmen had tried to set fire to another school in Kandahar, but its guards had scared away the arsonists, the education director said.

Deputy provincial police chief Abdul Hakim Hungar said five suspects have been arrested. Dozens of schools have been attacked and burned since US-led forces ousted the Taliban in 2001 for sheltering terror leader Osama bin Laden. Most of the attacks have come at night and not caused fatalities.

Source: Associated Press (AP) via Khaleej Times – 8th January 2006.

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FUNDING AND FINANCE

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 2227: Western Basins Water Resources Management Project

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has applied for a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Western Basins Water Resources Management Project. The loan was approved 21 December 2005.

The Project will support infrastructure development, strengthening of institutional frameworks, and capacity development for water resources management and irrigated agriculture in the western basins of Afghanistan (Badghis, Ghowr, and Herat provinces), mainly comprising the Hari Rud River Basin, which includes Herat, and the Murghab River Basin.

Procurement

Procurement financed from ADB loan will be in accordance with [ADB's Guidelines for Procurement](#).

Through International Competitive Bidding:

- ❖ Civil Works - irrigations systems rehabilitation and upgrading
- ❖ Goods - vehicles, motorcycles and machinery at Herat Office
- ❖ Equipment - machinery for irrigation schemes

Through Local Competitive Bidding:

Civil Works

- ❖ Component 1: groundwater investigations
- ❖ Component 2: irrigations systems rehabilitation and upgrading, water resources, regional survey contract, regional design contact
- ❖ Component 3: Project Offices (Herat and Obe)
- ❖ Goods: Equipment- Geographic Information System, Groundwater Monitoring, Environmental Monitoring, Engineering, Machinery for Irrigation Schemes, Project Management

Consulting Services

The Project will require an estimated 892 person-months of consulting services:

468 international and 424 domestic

Consultants will be selected in accordance with [ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants](#) and other arrangements satisfactory to ADB for selecting domestic consultants. Interested bidders from [ADB's member countries](#) who wish to obtain additional information may contact:

Ministry of Finance

Contact: Mr. Wahidullah Shahrani - Deputy Finance Minister - Fax. No. : +93(20)2103258
 E-mail: wahdullah.shahrani@mof.gov.af
 Tel. No.: +93(20) 2102838 - Address : Pashtunistan Watt, Kabul - General Procurement Notice

Source: <http://www.adb.org/Business/Opportunities/not/afg/gpn2227-afg.asp>

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HUMAN RIGHTS

Donor Approaches to Human Rights and Development: Lessons from NGO and Governmental Agencies

(Refer to relevant book recommendation below – Reinventing Development? Translating Rights-based Approaches from Theory into Practice by clicking [here](#)

Monday 23 January, 1.00 - 2.15pm in the conference room at the Overseas Development Institute, 111 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JD.

Speakers: Laure-Hélène Piron, Rights in Action Programme Manager, ODI, Sheena Crawford, CR2 Social Development

Chair: Simon Maxwell, Director, ODI

During 2005, ODI undertook a study for the OECD DAC Human Rights and Development Task Team reviewing and analysing the approaches of different donor agencies to human rights. This study is the most comprehensive and up-to-date of its kind and has contributed to a process that will lead to the DAC's first policy statement on human rights. Also during 2005, a UK NGO Inter-Agency Group on Rights-Based Approaches undertook an evaluation to test the assumption that implementing a rights-based approach increases the impact of their programmes on poverty. In this meeting, the lead authors of these complementary studies will present their findings and recommendations.

Following the high-level events of 2005, it is important for the development community to both sustain momentum and identify strategic priorities. The meeting will contribute to this process by comparing government and NGO

approaches and examining the evidence regarding the impact of rights-based approaches. It will consider the opportunities for the further integration of human rights within aid policies and strategies, and ask whether governments can learn from NGO experiences.

If you wish to attend this meeting please email meetings@odi.org.uk with your name, email and contact details.

Shenel Hakki - Meetings Office - Overseas Development Institute - 111 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JD. T: +44 (0)20 7922 0419. F: +44 (0)20 7922 0399

E: s.hakki@odi.org.uk W: www.odi.org.uk

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SECURITY

❖ Foreign fighters flood into Afghanistan

HUNDREDS of foreign Islamic fighters are gathering in Afghanistan ahead of the deployment of 4,000 British troops to the country in the spring.

British intelligence sources have told The Scotsman Islamic radicals sympathetic to al-Qaeda see Afghanistan as their new frontline and are starting to shift the focus of their anti-western campaign from Iraq.

The fighters, including Jordanians, Yemenis, Egyptians and Gulf Arabs, stepped up their campaign two months ago with a series of suicide bombings against NATO peacekeepers, United States troops and Afghan government leaders.

"Attacks in Afghanistan are now running at more than 500 a month - it's getting as dangerous for westerners as Iraq in some places," said a British officer involved in planning the NATO peacekeeping mission in the south-west of the country.

Particularly worrying for British troops has been a spate of battles over the past month in the area where paratroopers of 16 Air Assault Brigade are due to deploy from April on peace-keeping and anti-drug duties. US special forces teams patrolling Helmand and Uruzgan provinces called in air support on five occasions over the past three weeks. RAF Harriers based in Kandahar joined in two of these incidents, in which large groups of insurgents openly battled with US troops and allied Afghan forces.

Teams of suicide bombers are reported to be active in Kabul and several other major towns, according to British sources. Groups of insurgents regularly mount raids from mountain hideouts against US patrols and units of the Afghan army. In rural areas, insurgents are becoming increasingly proficient in the use of improvised roadside bombs, many of which are similar to those that have taken such a heavy toll on coalition forces in Iraq.

The foreign fighters are making common cause with remnants of the Taliban regime hiding in southern Afghanistan and with local tribesmen who resent efforts by the Kabul regime, backed by the US and Britain, to clamp down on the drugs trade. Washington's decision to pull out 4,000 troops from south-west Afghanistan, ahead of the NATO deployment, has emboldened insurgents, who claim it is the start of a complete defeat of US troops who have patrolled the country since late 2001.

British intelligence officers say the drugs trade and the growing Afghan insurgency are inextricably linked with the dramatic increases in heroin exports, allowing pro-Taliban groups to buy in supplies of weapons and fund foreign fighters.

Worries over casualties and the cost of keeping thousands of troops in Afghanistan for at least two years has made several NATO nations balk at joining the mission in Afghanistan.

Although NATO agreed to back the expansion of the International Security Assistance Force last month, the Dutch parliament has still to agree to a request for 1,000 troops. So far, only Canada, Australia and Denmark have committed troops to join the UK-led NATO command in the south-west.

Yesterday, Francesc Vendrell, the European Union's special representative to Afghanistan, added his voice to the pressure on the Dutch to send troops.

"It is extremely important for the credibility of the EU that we should be willing to go to difficult areas," he said.

Source: Tim Ripley - The Scotsman - 13th January 2006.

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❖ Security Council Report – January 2006

Expected Council Action

No Council action is expected in January. However, important developments taking place off stage will have an impact when the Council takes up the situation again in early 2006.

The London Conference

The UK, the UN and the Afghan government will co-host an international conference in London from 31 January to 1 February to adopt a new Compact built on four pillars-namely governance, security, counter-narcotics, reconstruction and development. This will mark the end of the transitional period in the country as envisaged in the 2001 Bonn Compact.

The Compact is intended to underscore Afghan ownership over future priorities and investments in the country. It contains benchmarks and a timeline for each of the four pillars, which together represent a consensus between the government and the international community of states. As the Afghan government reaches the benchmarks, donors will be committed to disbursing the pledges made during the conference.

Afghanistan is one of the world's top five recipients of aid. As of March 2004, a total of approximately US\$10 billion had been recorded in pledges made over the years from 2002 to 2005. The main donors are the US, the EC, Japan, the UK and the World Bank.

Next Steps for the Security Council

Following the meeting in London, the Secretary-General will recommend to the Council the future shape of the UN presence in the country, and the mandate and size of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the mandate of which expires in March 2006. At present, UNAMA manages UN relief and reconstruction in coordination with the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) and assists the latter with capacity-building and institution-building related to law and order, security and governance.

There will be support for retaining a central role for the UN in helping the Afghan government to coordinate international assistance. There is no agreement among Council members on whether there will be reductions in staff. UNAMA has fulfilled part of its mandate (including the elections), but the tasks ahead continue to be daunting. The security situation in Afghanistan as well as the safety of UN staff are major constraints.

UNAMA is only part of the international presence in Afghanistan, and this is reflected in substantial previous decisions by the Council. The Council's involvement also includes a sanctions regime through resolution 1267 (1999) against the Taliban and al-Qaida. The military picture includes the NATO-commanded 9,200-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), initially authorised by resolution 1386 (2001) to provide security in Kabul, and by resolution 1510 (2003) to support the Afghan government in the maintenance of security countrywide, and the 20,000-strong US-led counterinsurgency coalition (Operation Enduring Freedom, or OEF), present in the country with the consent of the Afghan government to fight particularly Taliban and al-Qaida elements.

On 8 December, NATO members decided to increase ISAF peacekeeping and reconstruction activities in the country. It is gradually expanding operations from the northeast to the entire country through Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs). It is expected that OEF will retain the most dangerous counterinsurgency activities while ISAF will assist Afghan forces with tasks such as disarming militias. NATO's projected increase in troop levels from 9,000 to about 15,000 in 2006 could pave the way for a reduction in US military personnel.

The Council expects a quarterly report from ISAF for January, but this report is usually not taken up for discussion by the Council.

Other Relevant Facts

Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNAMA's Chief of Mission

Jean Arnault (France)

Size and Composition of Mission

Current strength: 199 international civilians, 729 local civilians, 12 military observers, 7 civilian police, 41 UN volunteers.

Duration

28 March 2002 to present

Senior ISAF Civilian Representative in Afghanistan

Hikmet Çetin (Turkey)

ISAF: Size and composition

Current strength: 9,200 troops.

Contributors of military personnel: 35 NATO and non-NATO countries.
Current top contributors: Germany, Italy, Canada, France, the UK, Spain.

ISAF: Duration

20 December 2001 to present.

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❖ **Afghanistan and the Globalisation of Terrorist Tactics**



IDSS COMMENTARIES (1/2006)

IDSS Commentaries are intended to provide timely and, where appropriate, policy relevant background and analysis of contemporary developments. The views of the authors are their own and do not represent the official position of IDSS.

Afghanistan and the Globalisation of Terrorist Tactics by Hekmat Karzai¹ - 4 January 2006

FOUR years have passed since the United States' Operation Enduring Freedom toppled the Taliban regime. While much work remains, several surveys indicate that the overall conditions of the Afghan people appear to have improved, and may actually exceed the conditions of the pre-war period two decades ago. A recent poll conducted by US television network ABC indicates that Afghans generally believe their country is moving in the right direction, demonstrated by the return of more than three million refugees. The country currently enjoys an elected government and an enlightened constitution. Educational opportunities have expanded and schooling is now provided for all children regardless of gender.

Yet, the future success for Afghanistan is far from assured. Security remains a concern in the daily lives of the average Afghan as the Taliban, Al Qaeda, and Hizb-e-Islami continue to regroup and undertake terrorist attacks throughout the South and the Southeast of Afghanistan. They are learning and emulating tactics of other groups, especially, the ones practised in Iraq. Last year, 85 American soldiers and over 1,500 individuals, including NGO workers, religious leaders, international officers and government officials were killed by means common to Iraq.

Many experts say that because of the US military might during Operation Enduring Freedom, the Taliban and the foreign fighters were forced to establish sanctuaries in foreign cities and among tribal protectors living in areas between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Though the Taliban did stay quiet for some time to recover their losses, they have returned to armed action, with their targeting NGO workers and government officials and other cross-border attacks. Today, they act as a terrorist group and have gained momentum by not only attacking civil servants but also US convoys and Afghan military personnel. The Taliban's re-emergence as a more sophisticated group rests on several factors:

- ❖ the reestablishment of their logistics and support from the outside;
- ❖ the return of foreign fighters;
- ❖ financial support through the lucrative narcotics trade.

Please see 2_B for the full paper.

Source: Hekmat Karzai, an Afghan specialist who serves as a RMS Fellow at the International Centre for the Study of Political Violence and Terrorism Research, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies – Singapore – 4th January 2006 – circulated on the Barney Rubin yahoo group.

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❖ **Afghan Public Overwhelmingly Rejects Al-Qaeda, Taliban - Strongly Supports US and International Presence - Favors Expanding Peacekeeping Operation - Believes Pakistan Is Allowing Taliban to Operate There**

A poll of the Afghan public finds an overwhelming majority rejects al-Qaeda and the Taliban, endorses the overthrow of the Taliban and approves of the US military presence in Afghanistan and the United Nations. A strong majority also approves of the recent expansion of the international peacekeeping operation beyond Kabul and would favor further expansion as well.

The poll was conducted by the Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of

Maryland for its new website/webzine www.WorldPublicOpinion.org . Face-to-face interviews were fielded throughout Afghanistan by ACSOR/D3 Systems, Inc. from November 27 to December 4, 2005, with a sample of 2,089 Afghan adults.

Negative attitudes toward al-Qaeda were quite strong. Eighty-one percent of Afghans said they think that al-Qaeda is having a negative influence in the world with just 6% saying that it is having a positive influence. An even higher percentage--90%--said they have an unfavorable view of Osama bin Laden, with 75% saying they have a very unfavorable view. Just 5% said they have a favorable view (2% very favorable).

The fundamentalist Taliban, which governed Afghanistan from 1996 until it was overthrown with the help of US forces in October 2001, received equally poor ratings. Eighty-eight percent said they have an unfavorable view of the Taliban (62% very unfavorable). Only 8% said they have a favorable view. Perhaps most telling, 82% said that overthrowing the Taliban government was a good thing for Afghanistan, with just 11% saying it was a bad thing. These views were held by large majorities of all ethnic groups, including the large Pashtun and Tajik groups and the smaller Uzbek and Hazara groups.

Equally large percentages endorse the US military presence in Afghanistan. Eighty-three percent said they have a favorable view of "the US military forces in our country" (39% very favorable). Just 17% have an unfavorable view.

International agencies also get a warm endorsement. An overwhelming 93% gave the United Nations favorable ratings (57% very favorable). International agencies providing aid for reconstruction were rated as effective by 79%, with 38% saying they are very effective.

See attachment 2_G for the full summary. This research was made possible by a grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. To see the complete questionnaire, frequencies and Methodology click the link below:

http://65.109.167.118/pipa/pdf/jan06/Afghanistan_Jan06_quaire.pdf

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BOOKS AND REVIEWS

Reinventing Development? Translating Rights-based Approaches from Theory into Practice

(Refer to relevant article above on Donor Approaches to Human Rights and Development by clicking [here](#))

Although not specifically about Afghanistan this book has contributions by a number of people who have worked there, including a chapter by Paul O'Brien that uses Afghanistan as an example. All contributors are practioners in the field all over the world, working with leading development agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP, CARE, Oxfam, Save the Children and ActionAid. Details are as follows:

Reinventing Development? Translating Rights-based Approaches from Theory into Practice edited by Paul Greedy and Jonathan Ensor published by Zed Books, London 2005

<http://zedbooks.co.uk/titles/1%2084277%20648%207>

Thank you to Philippa Sackett from Actionaid Asia office who worked in Afghanistan for years and who recommended this book. [home](#)

- ❖ **Key Events During 2005 – compiled by the Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN)**

For the full year of events please see attachment 2_E.

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- ❖ **Chronology of Key Events since 1919 compiled by the BBC**

See BBC website

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/world/south_asia/country_profiles/1162108.stm

for the full Chronology of Events back to 1919 or ask for Reference 2_A.

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HEALTH

After Bullets and Bombs, TB Gets Afghans

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Jan 11 (IPS) - Afghans, survivors of Soviet helicopter gunships and the bombs dumped on their country by a United States prosecuting its 'war on terror', are now confronted by another killer--tuberculosis.

Experts say it is difficult to say who are worse off, the millions of Afghans who continue to live in refugee camps in Pakistan and neighbouring Iran, or the millions who opted to return to a bombed out country where health infrastructure is nonexistent.

After the Palestinians, Afghans remain the world's largest refugee population despite the millions of dollars poured into rehabilitation programmes after the U.S. and its allies ousted the oppressive Taliban regime in 2001.

And no one knows the dangers of erratic tuberculosis treatment in the uncertain conditions of refugee life better than Mujahida Bibi. This Afghan widow lost three of her four sons to TB because she could not ensure uninterrupted treatment for them.

Living on the edge of the sprawling Kacha Garhi slum, Pakistan's largest refugee camp, Bibi is determined to stay put and obtain for her surviving son the full eight-month course of treatment that TB demands.

His chances are better here in this frontier town, than in Afghanistan where, even now, only 40 per cent of children receive vaccination against major diseases and there is just one doctor per 6,000 people.

Two hospitals, 98 basic health units (BHUs) and 47 laboratories have been dedicated to the needs of three million refugees in Pakistan wherein about 10,200 patients have been diagnosed with TB in the last three years.

"I lost my husband in the Afghan war in 1980. Then I saw three of my grown sons die over the last year from TB," she said sitting on a string cot outside her one-room mud-hut in the refugee camp.

Afghans get free treatment in Pakistan, but many do not care to get case- transfer cards for continued TB treatment, when they visit or return to Afghanistan. The disruption can have fatal consequences -- as Bibi discovered.

An official census of Afghans living in Pakistan, conducted last year, showed that some three million still remain in this country while another 900,000 live in Iran.

"Last year, the number of TB patients in over 250 refugees camps in Pakistan was 4,000, but this year the number of such patients is well over 5,000. The reason for this is the sudden relocation of refugees and health units," said Akmal Naveed, director of the Association for Community Development (ACD).

Funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ACD is responsible for the implementation of the TB Control Programme for Afghan Refugees. After the UNHCR slashed funding last year, priority is being accorded to about 60 per cent of the patients while the others have to make do with whatever other resources are available or drop out of treatment.

Akmal says women are more vulnerable to the disease, because of their physical weakness and the overcrowded environment in which they live. - Females account for 63 percent of the disease burden. Most of them are malnourished and anaemic."

The ACD, which started operations in 1985, has been imparting training to the doctors and health staff drawn from healthcare outlets in Afghanistan, he said.

Zabeehullah, a doctor with the ACD, said many refugees discontinue treatment while in their own country and end up with the invariably multi-drug resistant TB, which is fatal. TB patients are expected to avail of transfer-out cards from the respective camp clinics so they can be given drugs back home," he said. Citing World Health Organisation figures, he said that about 70,000 to 80,000 new TB patients are detected in Afghanistan, yearly. Zabeehullah expressed concern at the slashing of funds by the UNHCR and said that more donations were needed to address the problem of refugees afflicted with TB.

Said Ghulam Qadir Habibi, an Afghan microbiologist: "There is no uniform and standardised system for the diagnosis and treatment of TB and if the international donor agencies want to help they should start by rebuilding hospitals in a country ravaged by over a quarter century of wars." Since armed conflict intensified after the Soviet invasion in 1979, civilians have suffered enormously from continuous fighting that lasted through the takeover by the Taliban and its

ouster in 2001. In the intervening years, a fifth of Afghanistan's population of about 30 million people fled to neighbouring Iran and Pakistan.

Habibi attributed life in "one muddy and filthy room shared by 10 people," to resurgent TB in Afghanistan and in the refugee camps of Pakistan. Abdul Muqem Saadat, a training coordinator with ACD, said TB was curable as long as patients got unhindered treatment for eight months under the DOTS (directly observed treatment short course) regimen, but this is difficult under refugee conditions.

While the international community pledged 13 billion dollars worth of aid to Afghanistan, soon after the Taliban's ouster, only about three billion dollars is marked for resettlement of refugees while the rest, according to the government in Kabul, is being spent on security and rebuilding the armed forces.

Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai – Inter Press Service – 11th January 2006.

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