

# AFGHAN LINKS

*ISSUE – 4 – 29th January 2005* (TOTAL NO. 13)

Afghan Links is a free newsletter for readers who have a keen interest in Afghanistan, 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.

## CONTENTS home

### **BOOKS**

**Afghanistan: Ending the Reign of Soviet Terror –** [page 2](#)  
**New 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition by: Bruce G. Richardson**

### **GLOBAL GIVING**

**Internet Based Organisation Offers Direct Contact with** [page 2](#)  
**Aid Projects and Their Donors**

### **JOB VACANCIES**

- **International Resource Group (IRG) is Seeking Health** [page 3](#)  
**Sector Experts**
- **Foundation for Culture And Civil Society (FCCS)** [page 4](#)  
**require a Project Director - Closing Date February 14<sup>th</sup>**

### **OPIUM**

- **Germany sees Afghan unrest as drug war intensifies** [page 5](#)
- **Afghanistan Rural Finance and Opium Workshop** [page 6](#)  
**Summary Outcomes**

### **RECONSTRUCTION**

**AFGHANISTAN INDEX - Tracking Reconstruction and Security** [page 7](#)  
**in Post-Taliban Afghanistan**

### **SECURITY**

**RedR/ANSO Regional Security Learning Initiative** [page 7](#)

### **TRAVEL**

**ANAAR Travels Launches Operations in Afghanistan** [page 8](#)

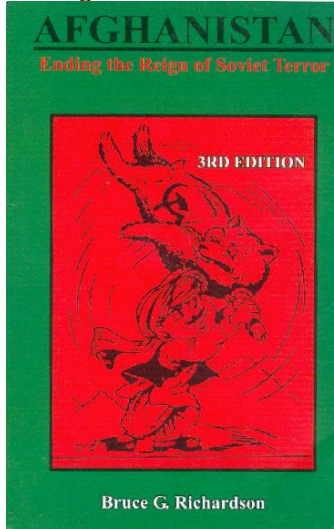
### **WORLD BANK**

**World Bank Increases Support for Afghanistan's Public** [page 9](#)  
**Administration**

## **BOOKS**

### **Afghanistan: Ending the Reign of Soviet Terror - New 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition by: Bruce G. Richardson**

A unique first hand account and analysis of events in Afghanistan, from the 1979 Soviet invasion, through to the late 1990's. Bruce Richardson scholar and photo-journalist, accompanied Afghan Mujahideen on numerous occasions into Afghanistan, as they struggled to weaken the grip of a brutal Soviet occupation. Bruce Richardson reported to the world from his clandestine trips, writing for Newsweek, Chicago Tribune, The Guardian and other newspapers. His photographs provide a lasting record of the reality of the struggle.



*This book contains Bruce Richardson's first hand account: unique details, the words of the political leaders, fighters and long suffering Afghan people, documents and photographs. He provides an insightful analysis of the political maneuvering and the battle for Afghanistan.*

*"Afghanistan, Ending the Reign of Soviet Terror" is also a search for truth. Notwithstanding the ubiquitous propaganda and public relations spin emanating from Western government and media sources, as well as from the Panjsher Valley itself, the truth about the "Lion of the Panjsher" emerges in the book from Russian archival and other official sources.*

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[home](#)

## **GLOBAL GIVING**

### **Internet Based Organisation Offers Direct Contact with Aid Projects and Their Donors**

GlobalGiving was founded in 2001 by two former World Bank executives. It is a growing, highly visible Internet-based organization that is shaping the future of international aid and philanthropy.

By creating an Internet-based marketplace, GlobalGiving offers direct contact between aid projects and their donors. It works with corporations, institutions, and individuals to enhance the strategic impact of their philanthropy while creating a support network for the world's most innovative social entrepreneurs. **For more information go to**

<http://www.globalgiving.com/ac/ctry00afghan1.html>

**A selection of projects are as follows:**

#### **Gaining Ground: Afghan Women's Rights Education**

Women who live in Afghanistan or as refugees in Pakistan will learn to secure their rights within their culture and to create positive changes as leaders within their families and communities.

**Location:** Afghanistan | **Theme:** Human Rights | **Need:** \$5,216

### [Afghan Women Earning Income through Tailoring](#)

Teaches 30 poor Afghan women tailoring, an income-generating skill. Women are able to start home-based businesses and become self-reliant.

**Location:** Afghanistan | **Theme:** Economic Development | **Need:** \$2,466

### [Computer Training Scholarships for Afghans](#)

Provides 10 students scholarships for 6 months of computer training, a skill in demand in workplaces in Afghanistan. This project increases access to technology in a devastated yet developing country.

**Location:** Afghanistan | **Theme:** Technology | **Need:** \$1,920

### [Increasing Self-Sufficiency through Carpet-Weaving](#)

Revitalizes the ancient art of carpet weaving in Herat. About 17 women carpet weavers will receive training, supervision, equipment, and supplies for this trade.

**Location:** Afghanistan | **Theme:** Economic Development | **Need:** \$3,333

[home](#)

## **JOB VACANCIES**

- **International Resource Group (IRG) is Seeking Health Sector Experts**

International Resource Group (IRG) is currently seeking qualified international Health Experts for upcoming projects with USAID and other international donor agencies. They are recruiting for both general health sector experts available worldwide as well as emergency response health experts available for disaster and relief situations in hardship locations such as Darfur, Iraq, Afghanistan.

IRG seeks experts in the following technical areas:

- general healthcare
- environmental health
- urban health
- infectious disease
- epidemiology
- disaster response
- health economics.

Qualifications should include:

- a minimum of ten years relevant professional experience in emergency/disaster health services, environmental health, or general health services
- graduate or doctoral degree in healthcare and/or the health sector
- prior international development work experience
- previous USAID experience and fluency in English as well as at least one other language.

To apply please send resume to [HealthExperts@irgltd.com](mailto:HealthExperts@irgltd.com) with the subject heading "Health Services".

[http://www.irgltd.com/Contacts/Job\\_Opportunities.htm](http://www.irgltd.com/Contacts/Job_Opportunities.htm) . **Closing date is the 15th February 2005.**

[home](#)

- **Foundation for Culture And Civil Society (FCCS) require a Project Director - Closing Date February 14th**

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Job Title</b>	Project Director
<b>Location</b>	Kabul
<b>Job Purpose</b>	To lead the design, implementation and management of a small grants unit to promote cultural and civil society activities throughout Afghanistan.
<b>Reporting to Supervising</b>	Executive Director Grants Management Unit Staff

### **Background**

The Foundation for Culture and Civil Society (FCCS) is an Afghan social organisation established in April 2003. It is directed by a Board of Directors consisting of well-known Afghan professionals. It has currently three fields of action: the Cultural Unit operates a Cultural Centre in Kabul and actively promotes the development of Afghan arts in Kabul and the rest of the country; the Civil Society Unit has established a nationwide network of local organizations and takes part in nationwide campaigns in fields such as elections monitoring and transitional justice; and the research and publications unit operates a fund to promote free Afghan media in the regions while organizing, among others, a wide-scope oral history project.

The Foundation is currently setting up a Grants Unit, in order to implement a grants-making project for the European Commission. The EC delegation in Kabul has signed a 2.3 million Euro contract with UN Habitat for the implementation of a nation-wide small grants programme. The Foundation for Culture and Civil Society will implement this programme nationwide. The goal of the programme is to: contribute to the empowerment of civil society in Afghanistan, leading to an increase in social, artistic and cultural activity and to the strengthening of local and national governance.

The Project Director will be responsible for the overall management of this small grants programme:

### **Key Responsibilities:**

Lead the project overall in close consultation with other senior staff members. This includes the fine-tuning of an operational manual that will outline all the systems necessary for the effective functioning of a small grants unit, conducting periodical reassessments of the overall project and subsequent reorientations of the programme.

Recruit and manage staff effectively ensuring that they are given opportunities for training and development.

In conjunction with UN-Habitat staff monitor the financial status of the project in terms of grants disbursements and operating costs.

Develop work-plans and strategies for achieving the objectives set out in the proposal.

In close cooperation with the Technical Advisor oversee the development and implementation of a civil society capacity-building strategy.

Represent the FCCS at external meetings with donors, Government ministries and civil society organisations.

In collaboration with other senior staff members develop appropriate 'calls for proposals' ensuring that they target different sectors of Afghan civil society in a balanced way.

Manage the design and implementation of an effective communications strategy including promoting 'calls for proposals' across the country and developing creative materials about projects funded using a range of media (radio, television, photos, print, events).

Facilitate project management meetings on a regular basis with other senior staff members of FCCS and UN-Habitat.

Ensure the efficient approval of grants through a system of expert committees/juries and other boards.

Ensure the timely preparation of progress reports as required.

Establish and manage monitoring and evaluation systems to support reporting requirements and learning throughout the project lifetime. Set up and manage project evaluations at various stages of the 2-year project.

Ensure good working relationships between UN-Habitat and FCCS staff.

### **Position**

The Project Director will lead a team of 5 dedicated full time staff, while drawing upon the resources of the rest of the FCCS, such as 11 regional offices and support from the other Units of the FCCS.

During the first months the Project Director will be assisted by a Project Designer who is currently setting up the operational manual, conducting a survey of Afghan civil society and in charge of building a good team. After that the Project Director will be in charge of all operations alone.

On the UN Habitat side, the Project Director will have as counterpart the Technical Advisor of UN Habitat, who leads a parallel team of about 4 people

The Project Director will share information with these counterparts, but report only to the Executive Director of the FCCS

The contract is for two years with a 3 months probation period, starting between 15 and 31 January 2005

Starting salary is \$1,500 USD but can be negotiated according to skill levels.

### **Qualifications and Experience:**

- A University degree in a relevant subject matter and/or strong commitment to the building of Afghan society and its cultures, and the intellectual capacity to do this in a sensible way.
- Minimum of 5 years senior management experience in relevant organisation.
- Proven financial management skills including use of financial management software.
- Knowledge and understanding of civil society/cultural issues
- Excellent writing skills in English, Dari and/or Pashtu.
- Demonstrated people skills and ability to develop teams and work as a part of a team.
- Active commitment to promoting women's empowerment
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.

Send applications along with CV (Resume) in English and a motivation letter in Dari or Pashto by e-mail to [stallard@comsats.net.pk](mailto:stallard@comsats.net.pk) or by post to FCCS, P.O.Box 5965 Kabul General Post Office, or hand deliver it to the FCCS in an envelope marked "attention to Dawn Stallard". [home](#)

### **OPIUM**

- **Germany sees Afghan unrest as drug war intensifies**

Violence in Afghanistan is expected to increase when the Afghan government steps up its war on drugs, German Defence Minister Peter Struck said today.

Afghan opium output has surged to near-record levels since 2001, when the Islamic Taliban regime, which harboured Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda, was ousted in a US-led invasion The United Nations said in November that drug exports accounted for more than 60 percent of Afghanistan's economy and it risked turning into a "narco-state".

"We have to expect that the security situation will worsen when the Afghan government massively increases measures to combat drugs, probably in the next two or three months," Struck told a news conference.

Germany has 2,200 soldiers in NATO's 9,000-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), which is focused on peacekeeping in the capital Kabul and the north and plans to extend its presence in other areas of the country.

The Afghan deployment is Germany's most high-profile contribution to the war on terror. Berlin opposed the Iraq war and has ruled out sending troops there.

Struck said that while destroying drug crops is not part of the German mission, its troops were passing on information to the Afghan authorities and would also provide logistical help to British and US troops involved in the anti-drug campaign.

"It's not the case that we drive through the provinces of Kunduz and Faizabad with our eyes closed and don't see the poppy fields," Struck said.

He said German forces would certainly be needed in Afghanistan until parliamentary elections, which have slipped from their planned April schedule and which he said might not take place until the autumn.

"The question of when one can assume Afghanistan is stable and the central government in Kabul has consolidated its authority cannot be answered as of today ... Of course we are trying to make that happen as soon as possible," Struck said.

**Source:** Reuters, Berlin – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2005.

[home](#)

- **Afghanistan Rural Finance and Opium Workshop Summary Outcomes**

## **RURAL FINANCE IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE CHALLENGE OF THE OPIUM ECONOMY**

### **A two day workshop held in Kabul on December 13-14, 2004**

#### **SUMMARY OF KEY OUTCOMES**

This workshop, jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development of the Government of Afghanistan, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, and the World Bank, brought together international and Afghanistan-specific expertise to develop ideas and approaches for enhancing rural finance in Afghanistan. The challenges posed by the opium economy, and particularly of opium-related debt, were addressed.

A number of promising initiatives for rural finance are already in place but there are major gaps, both quantitative and in terms of the types of instruments matched to different categories of clients. The importance of opium-denominated indebtedness (estimated roughly at \$190-350 million, including seasonal and accumulated debt), as an economic and social problem and as a "driver" of continuing poppy cultivation by many poor farmers, was emphasized.

A number of principles and general directions were proposed to guide further work: design and test mechanisms for refinancing of accumulated opium debt; develop a range of rural finance products and programs adapted to each product/income stream and to each region; bring support to rural finance within a coherent framework by supporting the further development of national programs such as MISFA, and integrating with other national programs such as NSP and NEEP; expand supply chain financing as part of a program to stimulate market development (drawing on studies and pilot work done with RAMP and OTF); develop new approaches through the formal financial system and facilitate the growth of informal and semi-formal financial markets, develop the capacity of financial institutions, facilitating partners, and business development services at all levels; and firm up a conducive legal and regulatory framework that reduces risk and protects clients but

allows flexibility in rural financial market development. **To see the findings, recommendations and agreed action program please see ATTACHMENT 1.4 or**

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFGHANISTAN/Event/20319860/AF\\_rural\\_finance\\_and\\_Opium\\_Workshop\\_Summary.htm](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFGHANISTAN/Event/20319860/AF_rural_finance_and_Opium_Workshop_Summary.htm) posted on 14th January 2005.

[home](#)

## **RECONSTRUCTION**

### **AFGHANISTAN INDEX - Tracking Reconstruction and Security in Post-Taliban Afghanistan**

[The Afghanistan Index](#) is a statistical compilation of economic and security data. This resource will provide updated information on various criteria, including troop fatalities, essential services, strength of militias, Afghan security forces and polling.

The index is designed to quantify the rebuilding efforts and offer an objective set of criteria for benchmarking performance. It is a non-partisan assessment of international efforts in Afghanistan. Although measurements of progress in any nation-building effort can never be reduced to purely quantitative data, a comprehensive compilation of such information can provide a clearer picture and contribute to a healthier and better informed debate.

Michael O'Hanlon spearheads the Afghanistan Index project at Brookings, with assistance from Senior Research Assistant Adriana Lins de Albuquerque. O'Hanlon is a Foreign Policy Studies senior fellow.

**Source:** Humayun Hamidzada - Research Associate - Center on International Cooperation - New York University.

Tel: (212) 998 3683 - Fax: (212) 995 4706

<http://www.brookings.edu/fp/research/projects/southasia/afghanistanindex.pdf>

[home](#)

## **SECURITY**

### **RedR/ANSO Regional Security Learning Initiative**

#### **RedR/ANSO National Staff Security Officer Training Programme 2005**

One of the goals of the RSLI is to increase the capacity of NGO National Staff Security Officers. In order to achieve this RedR/ANSO will be running a National Staff Security Officer Training Programme in 2005.

**Aim** - The National Staff Security Officer Training Programme aims to develop the security management skills of NGO National Staff who have security responsibilities to a standard where they can operate as a programme security officer with limited supervision by a Country Director or Security Manager.

#### **Programme Activities**

The National Staff Security Training Programme is a 3 Month Training Programme culminating with attendance on a RedR/ANSO Security Management Workshop.

Training progression and personal development will be monitored and recorded in a personal log book and Certificates will be issued on graduation.

There will be two National Staff Security Officer Training Programmes facilitated in 2005. Each programme will train 10 Staff from Kabul and 10 staff from each Region (ANSO North, West, South, and East). The activities for each programme are outlined below;

## National Staff Security Training Programme

4 day introductory course covering core skills of Security Officer (held in Kabul)  
2-day skills update workshop at the midway point (Held in ANSO Regional locations)  
Assignments – Relevant and useful to host Agency (to be carried out in agency office and submitted by e-mail for review)  
Training of Trainer – Guards (as part of the introductory course)  
Security Management Workshop on Graduation (held in Kabul)

### Further Information and Application Details

Further Information and application details for this programme can be obtained on request from Dave Heed ( [redr@afgnso.org](mailto:redr@afgnso.org) ).

**Completed application forms must reach the ANSO Kabul office by 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005**

Dave Heed - Regional Security Learning Initiative Coordinator - ANSO/RedR  
Tel +93 (0)79177017

*RedR/IHE, 1 Gt George St, London SW1P 3AA, UK  
Tel +44 (0)20 7233 3116 fax +44 (0)20 7222 0564*

Web sites [www.redr.org](http://www.redr.org) [www.ihe.org.uk](http://www.ihe.org.uk)

[home](#)

### TRAVEL

#### ANAAR Travels Launches Operations in Afghanistan



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[home](#)

## **WORLD BANK**

### **World Bank Increases Support For Afghanistan's Public Administration**

Washington, January 27, 2005--The World Bank today approved a US\$27 million grant to strengthen the administrative functions of the Government of Afghanistan. It will support ongoing work to improve public procurement, financial management and accountability systems.

Afghanistan's economy has performed strongly in the past two and half years with non-drug GDP reaching US\$4.6 billion in 2003-04 (corresponding to a GDP per capita of about US\$200 per year), an increase of almost 50 percent, albeit from a very low base. This is mainly attributable to the recovery of agriculture from the drought, revival of economic activities after major conflict ended, and the commencement of reconstruction efforts. This solid performance has been supported by the government's sound macroeconomic policies - a highly successful currency reform in late 2002, a prudent no overdraft policy prohibiting domestic financing of the budget deficit, conservative monetary policy, and good management of the exchange rate.

"The Government of Afghanistan has taken substantive measures to build an effective public administration that is small and focused on core functions. It is more decentralized, better skilled, equipped and managed, more accountable, and more representative in terms of gender and ethnicity," said Jean Mazurelle, World Bank Country Manager for Afghanistan. "However enormous challenges remain, including improving security throughout the country, re-establishing national unity, developing institutions capable of formulating and implementing policies, and reaching out to provinces to collect revenues and deliver services."

The Third Public Administration Capacity Building Project, financed by a grant from the World Bank's International Development Association, builds upon successful work of two earlier projects and aims to build capacity within the government in key procurement and fiduciary areas so that government staff can assume key functions to adequate standards. The project will help develop the regulatory and institutional framework in core fiduciary management areas; furthering systems development based on a full understanding of medium-term requirements and the country's implementation capacity; and building capacity so that government staff can maintain and operate systems independently and effectively.

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Finance, the Afghanistan Research and Development Services, and the Control and Audit Office.

## Key Achievements under Emergency Public Administration Projects I and II:

- As of early September 2004, the Procurement Unit has processed 196 contracts with a value of US\$382 million with a further 80 contracts in progress worth US\$337 million. A draft procurement law has been prepared and between 110 and 150 procurement staff from line ministries have received training in basic and specific procurement rules.
- In the Treasury, a functioning computerized general ledger and payments system is in place with some networking of components; significant improvements have been made in cash management, grant management, bank reconciliations, revenue recording, and the recording of budget appropriations and allotments.
- The Auditor General has completed the audits of the financial statements of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, the state budget, and an increasing number of IDA- and ARTF-funded projects.

For more information about World Bank activities in Afghanistan, visit:

<http://www.worldbank.org/af>

For more information about the project, visit:

[http://www.wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS\\_IBank\\_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000104615\\_20041219225717](http://www.wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000104615_20041219225717)

**Source:** Raouf Zia, (93) 702 80800 Email: [azia@worldbank.org](mailto:azia@worldbank.org) and

Benjamin Crow (202) 473-5105 Email: [bcrow@worldbank.org](mailto:bcrow@worldbank.org)

[home](#)

**If you want further information on any of the above subjects please email Jeanne Bryer at [Afghanlinks@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:Afghanlinks@aol.com) and your address will be removed.**



