

EVALUATION DEPARTMENT

REPORT 7/2016 COUNTRY EVALUATION BRIEF



Norad

Afghanistan

Evaluation Portrait



Evaluation Portrait: Afghanistan

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2016

Evaluation	<i>En god alliert- Norge i Afghanistan 2001-2014</i>
Published	2016
Author/Agency	Afghanistankommisjonen
Commissioned by	Regjeringen
Type of Evaluation	Donor evaluation covering all aspects of Norwegian support to Afghanistan
Keywords	Military assistance, state building, development assistance
Abstract	The Commission's mandate was to assess the totality of Norway's contributions to the international engagement in Afghanistan in 2001-2014 and draw out the implications for future participation in international operations. The report describes the overall results of the international engagement in Afghanistan as discouraging. Ongoing hostilities continue to undermine the opportunities for economic and social development, threaten to reverse whatever progress has been achieved, and weaken the possibilities for building a stable, functioning, democratic government. The report concludes that externally assisted state-building – based on large-scale military activities, massive monetary transfers and weak institutions – is extremely difficult. In Afghanistan, a society divided by war and upheavals, it proved impossible. Norway's contribution did not make a significant difference in the overall development in Afghanistan in the period under consideration. The situation set clear limits for what Norway could achieve, although it offered some space for independent action that Norway did utilize with some effect The first and most important objective throughout was the alliance dimension: to support the US and safeguard NATO's continued relevance. This objective was largely achieved; Norway confirmed its role as a solid and reliable ally. The second objective was to help to fight international terrorism by preventing Afghanistan from once again becoming a safe haven for such activities. The report finds that this objective was only partially achieved. The third objective was to help build a stable and democratic Afghan state through long-term development cooperation and diplomacy to promote peace. This objective was not reached. International and Norwegian aid has produced results in certain areas such as health and education. However, Afghanistan has become one of the world's most aid-dependent countries, and the aid inflow has contributed to widespread corruption.
Cross-cutting issues	Sustainability, gender
Link to evaluation	https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/09faceca099c4b8bac85ca8495e12d2d/no/pdfs/nou201620160008000dddpdfs.pdf

Title	<i>Programmes for assisted return to Afghanistan, Iraqi Kurdistan, Ethiopia and Kosovo: A comparative evaluation of effectiveness and outcomes.</i>
Published	2016

Author/Agency	Strand, A. et. al.
Commissioned by	UDI
Type of Evaluation	Comparative thematic evaluation
Keywords	Assisted return, reintegration, sustainable return, migration circle
Abstract	Assisted return programmes aim to assist rejected asylum seekers to return, re-establish themselves in their country of origin and secure a sustainable return through cash and in-kind assistance. Programmes differ between countries, as do the implementation partners (a government entity in Ethiopia). The evaluation found that the information campaign, assistance to prepare for return and the return travel was well managed and appreciated by the returnees. That was also the case for the cash support received upon arrival, which eased the first period after return. The results for the in-kind assistance are more mixed, a general observation is that insecurity and weak economic prospects inhibit the possibilities of returnees to develop income opportunities. Business start-up ventures failed in Afghanistan and Iraqi Kurdistan, but were more successful in Ethiopia. Failed returnee ventures reduced the possibilities for sustainable return in Afghanistan and Iraq, with many returnees planning for re-migration.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, sustainable (return)
Link to evaluation	http://www.cmi.no/publications/5801-programmes-for-assisted-return-to-afghanistan

Title	<i>Review of Norwegian Development Assistance to Afghanistan 2011-2014</i>
Published	2016
Author/Agency	Strand, A. and N. Taxell
Commissioned by	Afghanistankommisjonen
Type of Evaluation	
Keywords	Development assistance, humanitarian assistance, sustainability
Abstract	The review assessed how the Norwegian MFA responded to the recommendations of the 2012 evaluation of Norwegian aid to Afghanistan. It provided an overview of assistance provided in 2011- 14, identified short and long term results and made recommendations for further development cooperation. The review found that the MFA/Norad and the Embassy in Kabul had addressed the shortcomings identified in the 2001-2011 evaluation in terms of M&E, impact reporting and minimizing the risk of corruption, though more could have been done to initiate own M&E activities and not rely on the implementing partners. Support to good governance, education and rural development was found to be relevant, and implementation had progressed satisfactory. There is concern over corruption in the UNDP Law and Order Trust Fund, and that quantity trump quality in some sectors, e.g. education.

	There is concern that Norway since 2013 has not had sufficient management capacity in Afghanistan for a close follow-up of programmes. This also reduced the ability to use “development dialogue” with the Afghan government and other donors to promote strategic interests.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, corruption, sustainability
Link to evaluation	http://www.cmi.no/publications/5852-norwegian-development-assistance-afghanistan

2015

Evaluation	<i>Evaluation of EU Support to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Partner Countries. Country Notes for Afghansitan</i>
Published	2015
Author/Agency	Bennett, J. and O. Nemat
Commissioned by	European Commission
Type of Evaluation	Sector evaluation
Keywords	Gender
Abstract	One of 11 country case studies conducted as part of an evaluation of EU Support to Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) in Partner Countries. The evaluation identified a number of drivers of success as well as obstacles. The following drivers of success have been important: • A common approach and consensus among most donors to maintain and persist with advocacy on gender issues at all levels of government and civil society, matched with consistent funding and support to those Afghan institutions that demonstrate commitment to international conventions and standards. • EU high-level coherent and visible leadership in convening inter-donor dialogues on gender issues backed by strong programmatic gender priorities in development cooperation. • Sufficiently flexible instruments (notably Instrument for stability) to respond to emerging issues and long-term EU engagement in certain sectors (health, security sector) with commensurate influence. Obstacles that have limited further success include: • Certain sectors (natural resource management, agriculture) where the EU Delegation has not sufficiently prioritised gender mainstreaming. This is not through lack of goodwill but an acknowledged lack of capacity and prioritisation.

	• An imbalance between rhetoric (including programme objectives) and the realities of subcontracting to national organisations that may not have adequate training or give adequate attention to qualitative monitoring. The team recommended as follows: 1. Prioritising gender equality beyond the social sectors. Women's economic participation in projects beyond the household is still very limited. 2. Addressing the risks associated with the prioritisation of gender as a cross-cutting issue by a number of Member States. Gender mainstreaming will require a significant investment in terms of building the capacity of generalist or sector staff, in terms of developing and ensuring the use of relevant tools within national implementing agents and in terms of monitoring and accountability for gender equality. 3. Complementarity of work on gender equality. The various gender working groups share information, but there should be greater efforts towards developing a joint strategy where synergies between projects at thematic and geographic levels are more apparent.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/evaluation-cooperation-ec-gender-1338-annex2-201504_en.pdf

Title	<i>Assessing the Impact of Development Cooperation in North East Afghanistan 2007 - 2013: Final Report</i>
Published	2015
Author/Agency	Böhnke, J. R., J. Koehler, et al.
Commissioned by	BMZ
Type of Evaluation	Impact evaluation
Keywords	Development assistance, causal impact, local capacities, perceptions on security
Abstract	Germany provided development assistance to a number of provinces in Northern Afghanistan, including for developing sub-national governance, and headed a Provincial Reconstruction Team. This study surveyed beneficiaries' impressions of coverage and usefulness of development projects and feelings of everyday security through four surveys over the period 2007-2013. The main findings are: Development aid has a positive impact on how respondents perceive the responsiveness of subnational governance structures. Working with and through these structures is therefore a promising strategy for aid organizations in Afghanistan. Under certain conditions, development aid can have a positive impact on attitudes towards development actors, but this is influenced by the security situation. The study also finds some evidence that development aid may have a positive impact on security due to continued and reliable cooperation between villages and development actors. Development aid appears to have no impact on respondent attitudes towards military forces. More development aid does not translate into more

	positive attitudes towards foreign forces. There is no evidence that “hearts & minds” mechanisms actually work. Attitudes towards Western actors and towards the sub-national administration are largely dependent on the local political economy. Local domestic politics play a crucial role.
Cross-cutting issues	Sustainability
Link to evaluation	https://www.bmz.de/de/zentrales_downloadarchiv/erfolg_und_kontrolle/Afghanistan_Impact_Assessment_II_en.pdf

Title	<i>Review of Sida's Support to Afghanistan - Lessons and Conclusions from 7 Evaluations</i>
Published	2015
Author/Agency	Pain, A. et.al.
Commissioned by	Sida
Type of Evaluation	Synthesis of evaluations
Keywords	Public goods, education, participation, corruption, sustainability, conflict sensitivity
Abstract	The major conclusions of the seven evaluations represented in this Review are as follows: 1. While all of the projects have been highly relevant, interventions with an instrumental focus (i.e. directly influencing change) have been more effective in achieving results. Projects seeking to create understanding and reframe debates or build capacities and change behaviours have achieved less. 2. While a number of interventions have improved access to public goods, such as education and health, and improved physical security, there have been few food security and income effects, limiting overall poverty reduction impacts. 3. While girls' access to school has improved, project effects on gender equality have been limited, including with respect to gender mainstreaming and empowerment. 4. While all projects to varying degrees have used participatory processes, strong evidence on inclusive processes is missing, suggesting limited ownership. 5. While most projects have operating procedures to ensure transparency and reduce corruption, measures to address corruption beyond these are limited. 6. While most projects seek to reduce human security risks, conflict sensitivity is scarcely addressed and there are no assessments of the impact of interventions on conflict. 7. There is little evidence that designs for sustainability have been incorporated in the interventions. 8. There are clear opportunities to build such synergies between projects, but design for this purpose is lacking.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, sustainability, corruption

Link to evaluation	http://www.sida.se/contentassets/b4e5b25b182c45bd9535bc9e8f5d7e45/ad07ff5f-6de9-4457-9267-52c3e8aa9d73.pdf
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Title	<i>Working with Gender in Rural Afghanistan: Experiences from Norwegian-funded NGO projects</i>
Published	2015
Author/Agency	Wimpelmann, T. and A. Strand
Commissioned by	Norad
Type of Evaluation	Sector evaluation
Keywords	Gender, NGOs, Rural
Abstract	The study found that the organizations examined had similar 'gender profiles'. One of the organizations appeared to have a higher number of female staff than the others. The study found that 'gender mainstreaming' most commonly was conceptualized as "integrative", i.e. formed by the objective of including women as both beneficiaries and participants to be consulted in needs assessments. In some areas efforts were made to include women in more male-dominated fields. Gender mainstreaming in its most radical version - the idea that all development programmes should have the transformation of gender relations as a core objective - was largely absent. The team found that 3 out of 22 project components specifically targeted women or gender equality. A number of smaller sub-components were similarly targeted. The report argues that there is a risk that targeted approaches can be distorted; instead of improving the gender balance as a whole, it appears as "having something special" for women. The review found differences in how income generation projects were conceived and implemented. The findings suggest that organizations should seek to be more strategic, focused and ambitious in working for women's economic empowerment. The report noted that what 'works' in Afghanistan when it comes to promoting women's rights may not be equally applicable across sectors.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	http://www.cmi.no/publications/file/5299-working-with-gender-in-rural-afghanistan.pdf

2014

Title	<i>Beneficiary Monitoring/ Independent Verification of the Tawanmandi "Strengthening Civil Society in Afghanistan" Programme</i>
Published	2014
Author/Agency	Amin Consulting Group
Commissioned by	Tawanmandi

Type of Evaluation	Programme evaluation
Keywords	Civil society, advocacy, gender
Abstract	Tawanmandi was a multi-donor “challenge fund” operating in 29 provinces of Afghanistan to improve governance through greater accountability and responsiveness of the Afghan government towards its citizens. The evaluation found activities undertaken by 12 CSO grantees largely had been implemented as planned and as reported to the Tawanmandi programme team. Beneficiaries reported positive personal and community results from CSO grantee activities, at times indicating behavioural change flowing from widely reported improved community awareness. Increased community awareness was reported in the fields of human rights, women’s rights, children’s rights, the importance of youth in driving change, access to justice and corruption. The team found it too early in the Tawanmandi programme’s implementation cycle to determine whether widespread awareness raising had translated to more systematic community behavioural change. Many respondents judged the sustainability of CSO grantee programmes as uncertain. CSO grantee staff had routinely reported that Tawanmandi had supported and encouraged grantee capabilities with regard to their networking with other CSOs working in similar sectors, thereby enhancing CSO advocacy with the government of Afghanistan. The consultant report found that, based on project verification and qualitative perception findings, the Tawanmandi programme had delivered according to planned outputs.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, sustainability
Link to evaluation	

Evaluation	<i>Evaluation of the Afghansitan Sub-national Governance Progeramme (ASGP) phase II</i>
Published	2014
Author/Agency	Bryld, E. et.al.
Commissioned by	Sida
Type of Evaluation	Programme evaluation
Keywords	Sub national governance, UNDP, coordination
Abstract	Established in 2006, the ASGP is a multi–donor assisted project that supports the Government of Afghanistan to enhance local governance at the operational and policy levels. It is implemented by UNDP as the international partner and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) as the Afghan partners. The team found the overall programme objective(s) to be fully aligned with government priorities, but could not confirm the relevance of the programme to the current political context in Afghanistan. They conclude

	that the programme outputs would not be able to meet, or substantially contribute to, the overall objective of the programme. The limited effectiveness was primarily a consequence of poor political commitment to devolution. None of the laws drafted with the assistance of ASGP had been passed at the time of the evaluation. Reasons for limited programme effectiveness included internal factors such as poor communication, delay in payments, strong indications of favouritism in recruitment and difficulties in hiring qualified staff. The programme suffered from poor implementation of gender equality and elements for women's empowerment. The programme had failed to explicitly reach out to and include vulnerable groups and had not been in a position to produce tangible evidence of significant impact. The problems were linked to the failure of donors and UNDP to adopt a coordinated approach in support of sub-national governance. The programme also suffered from lack of a sustainability plan and a proper exit strategy. The report recommended that key stakeholders reconsider their approach to sub-national government support in Afghanistan and substantially redesign the ASGP to ensure that its objectives are met and an exit strategy is properly planned from the outset. This would require first and foremost political will, and that all parties agree on a joint strategy for sub-national governance that promotes decentralisation reform and coordinated approaches.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, sustainability, corruption
Link to evaluation	http://www.sida.se/English/publications/Publication_database/publications-by-year1/2014/november/evaluation-of-the-afghanistan-sub-national-governance-programme-asgp-phase-ii---final-report/

Evaluation	<i>ELECT, Final Evaluation: Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow Project.</i>
Published	2014
Author/Agency	Carrio, J. et.al.
Commissioned by	UNDP Afghanistan
Type of Evaluation	Programme evaluation
Keywords	Election, capacity building
Abstract	The purpose of the UNDP run Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow project (ELECT) is to support presidential, provincial council elections and the parliamentary elections in Afghanistan. The programme aims to enable Afghan officials to provide leadership in these elections. The evaluation found that ELECT significantly improved its performance in 2010 and was perceived as an effective partner that provided valuable technical advice and strong operational support. In stark contrast to 2009, its presence was seen as having reduced the scope of potential problems.

	The primary challenge facing ELECT in the post-election environment was how best to use its remaining time and resources to assist the International Election Commission (IEC) to consolidate and institutionalise the gains made during 2010. The evaluation recommended : 1. Maintain international focus on the capacity building and development of the Electoral Management Body, which would require a commitment by the national authorities to respect and guarantee the latter's effective independence, and thus build broader government ownership and responsibility for the holding of free and fair elections. 2. Maintain international support for the IEC under an umbrella project led by UNDP, which had proven itself effective in ELECT in 2010 and had the long-term institutional development and capacity-building perspective needed for effective assistance to the IEC in the future. 3. Support the development of a comprehensive and sustainable voter registry. 4. Deepen synergies with bilateral programmes that address political culture and other contextual issues that adversely affect the integrity of the electoral process. Many of these problems, such as electoral corruption, are deeply rooted and require an integrated and multifaceted approach by donors.
Cross-cutting issues	Corruption
Link to evaluation	https://209.160.24.160/evaluation/evaluations/detail/5048

Evaluation	<i>Assessment of Development Results Afghanistan: Evaluation of UNDP Contribution.</i>
Published	2014
Author/Agency	Independent Evaluation Office
Commissioned by	UNDP
Type of Evaluation	Assessment of development results
Keywords	Governance, law and order, election support, democratisation
Abstract	Afghanistan is the largest UNDP country programme by far, representing approximately 15 percent of UNDP expenditures worldwide. In 2009–2013 UNDP spent approximately US\$ 3.34 billion in Afghanistan, three quarters of which were by the Law and Order Trust Fund, LOTFA. UNDP aims to a) foster good governance, peace and stability, and b) promote sustainable livelihoods. These are pursued through the following interventions: 1. Support to the rule of law; 2. Demobilisation and disarmament, 3. Direct support to key democratic milestones and events; 4. Institutional development and capacity building; and 5. Poverty reduction and provision of basic social services. The evaluation concludes that the programme inevitably would fall short in a number of aspects given the difficult security conditions and complex political situation in Afghanistan. Although important achievements have been made, strong imbalances remain in terms of programme areas, geographic distribution of assistance and types of beneficiaries.

	The report found that very few of the key development results UNDP contributed to were sustainable if international support ended. It noted lack of clear and credible exit strategies in numerous areas. Poor management culture in the UNDP Country Office reduced efficiency and undermined the trust of some important donors in UNDP during the period under review. The evaluation found that UNDP had insufficient ties with civil society. Opportunities for synergies between UN agencies had not been systematically pursued; progress in this respect had been so slow as to seriously test the integrated mission model. The evaluation recommended greater coherence and collaboration among UNDP programmes at the subnational level
Cross-cutting issues	Sustainability, corruption
Link to evaluation	http://web.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/adr/afghanistan.shtml

Title	<i>External Evaluation of the Programme Support to Hospital Midwifery Education in Afghanistan (2010-14)</i>
Published	2014
Author/Agency	Munk Petersen, V. and S. Hamed
Commissioned by	FOKUS
Type of Evaluation	Thematic evaluation (health education)
Keywords	Health,
Abstract	The purpose of the programme is to increase women's access to reproductive rights and to decrease the maternal and child mortality through deployment of educated and empowered midwives to selected districts. The evaluation assessed the programme very positively. It was relevant, objectives and outcomes were adequate, and the technical standards increased considerably over the project period. Relevance and strategy were in line with funding criteria. There was a strong commitment to good and long-term cooperation with government institutions. The programme succeeded in connecting a traditional midwife education with an enhanced rights-based perspective and improved living conditions/ economic development opportunities for the beneficiaries. The report recommended inter alia that a national research institute follow and document the progress and to develop a common M& E system. It also recommended extending the programme for another five years.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	https://www.norad.no/om-bistand/publikasjon/ngo-evaluations/2015/external-evaluation-of-the-programme-support-to-hospital-midwifery-education-in-afghanistan-2010-2014/

Title	<i>NRC Afghanistan: Information Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) Programme Evaluation</i>
Published	2014

Author/Agency	Notio Partners
Commissioned by	NRC
Type of Evaluation	Programme evaluation
Keywords	IDP; information, counselling and legal assistance
Abstract	The Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) Programme supports beneficiaries in claiming and exercising their rights through the provision of information, counselling, legal assistance, collaborative dispute resolution, capacity building and advocacy activities. The evaluation covers the period 2004-2014, and covers 15 362 legal assistance cases and 16 884 information and counselling cases. The evaluation found the programme relevant to the needs of Afghan internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees, and to the priorities of the Afghan Government. The programme is rated as excellent. Effectiveness, efficiency and impact are rated as very good, but sustainability as fair and requiring further attention. The report recommends that the programme do more to articulate a longer term strategic direction and exit strategy, including more strategic engagement with the Afghan government and local civil society.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/evaluations/afghanistan---information-counselling-and-legal-assistance-icla-programme-evaluation.pdf

Title	<i>Evaluating IOM's Return and Reintegration Activities for Returnees and Other Displaced Populations: Afghanistan</i>
Published	2014
Author/Agency	Samuel Hall Consulting
Commissioned by	International Organisation for Migration, Kabul
Type of Evaluation	Programme evaluation
Keywords	Returnees, IDPs
Abstract	The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has a dual objective to assist refugees to return and reintegrate in Afghanistan, and to support IDPs within Afghanistan. The evaluation covers post-arrival assistance, livelihood assistance and shelter assistance during the period 2008-2013 provided in four provinces. The evaluation found that IOM's project-based organisation and approach led to strong emergency assistance but a weaker performance in building livelihoods and hence assist with longer-term reintegration. The result was a clear short-term impact across provinces and activities with respect to emergency assistance, but less effective response to reintegration challenges. However, post-return activities supported the safe return of populations of concern in a reliable and efficient manner. The study found the programme had a limited effect on livelihood, especially for female beneficiaries. The reasons were reliance on traditional skills, limited qualifications of trainers and insufficient monitoring and follow-up mechanisms.

	Activities were implemented relatively smoothly, but beneficiary selection mechanisms were inadequate. The evaluation raised questions about the selection of geographical locations for project activities. There was concern about poor coordination of activities, lack of financial and technical follow-up, lack of post-activity monitoring and non-existent monitoring of beneficiaries.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	https://afghanistan.iom.int/sites/default/files/migrated_files/2013/04/Evaluating-IOMs-Return-and-Reintegration-Activities-for-Returnees-and-Other-Displaced-Populations-in-Afghanistan_Full-Report.pdf

Title	<i>Study on NCA Afghanistan's Partnership Approach</i>
Published	2014
Author/Agency	Bill Sternland et. al.
Commissioned by	Norwegian Church Aid
Type of Evaluation	Participatory evaluation
Keywords	NGO partnership
Abstract	The study was designed to test the assumption of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) that working through local organisations is the best way to ensure ownership, sustainability, and the delivery of programmes appropriate to the local context. The study found that NCA's approach to partnerships in Afghanistan brought considerable added value. This was due to NCA's long-term commitment and continuity of support, which enhanced the organisational stability of partners and facilitated long-term planning, a concept of partnership based on shared objectives and values, support adapted to the Afghan context as well as needs, capacities and culture of the partner organisations, and the notion of partnership as a network. Despite the longevity, the partnerships were not managed strategically. There was lack of clarity among the partners regarding the overall purpose of NCA's partnerships, how they might be strengthened, and when and how they might end. NCA's support for capacity building was insufficiently oriented towards the longer-term organisational development and sustainability of their partners and the strengthening of their role as civil society actors, in particular issue-based advocacy. The decision-making process was not always clear to the partners. The evaluation found that NCA's network approach could be further developed to encourage partners to develop joint projects outside of the NCA programme, to undertake joint advocacy campaigns, or to establish forums for reflection and learning. At the provincial level, partners might be encouraged to establish a system of resource sharing for increased efficiency and deeper collaboration in programme delivery.

	NCA could achieve greater efficiency by working with fewer partners who complement each other better in terms of the roles they play as civil society actors and the skills and expertise they contribute to the programme.
Cross-cutting issues	Sustainability, gender
Link to evaluation	

2013

Title	<i>Strengthened Approches for the Integration of Sustainable Environmental Management in Afghanistan (SAISEM): Final Evaluation Report</i>
Published	2013
Author/Agency	Ahmed, F. B.
Commissioned by	MDG Achievement Fund
Type of Evaluation	Sector evaluation
Keywords	Environment
Abstract	The programme aims to strengthen Afghan capacities to manage the environment and natural resources to achieve sustainable development in line with the 2006-2008 UNDAF, as well as Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The evaluation found that the programme was highly relevant and aligned with the MDGs and the government's priorities. Yet it had suffered at the outset from poor design and weak implementation set-up. The M&E framework of the programme proved inadequate for monitoring activities in the field. The programme supported relevant initiatives but achieved mixed results with regard to creating capacity for managing natural resources as well as sustainable livelihood opportunities at the community level. Visible improvements in livelihoods seemed mostly 'incidental'. The overall conclusion was that the programme constituted a relevant and somewhat effective intervention considering its scope and scale in relation to available resources and, most of all, its limited duration. The value of the programme was primarily in laying the ground for follow-up and continued support. Programme results were not sustainable in the absence of follow-up support initiatives.
Cross-cutting issues	Environment, sustainability
Link to evaluation	http://www.mdgfund.org/sites/default/files/Afghanistan%20-%20Environment%20-%20Final%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf

Title	<i>Randomized Impact Evaluation of Afghanistan's National Solidarity Programme</i>
Published	2013
Author/Agency	Beath, A., Fotini, C. and R. Enikolopov
Commissioned by	World Bank

Type of Evaluation	Impact evaluation
Keywords	Community development, poverty reduction, empowerment
Abstract	The National Solidarity Programme (NSP) was established in 2003 to develop the capacity of Afghan communities to identify, plan, manage and monitor their own development projects. NSP empowers communities to make decisions and manage resources during all stages of the project cycle. The programme lays the foundation for a sustainable form of inclusive local governance, rural reconstruction, and poverty alleviation. The funding takes the form of block grants, which are calculated at US\$200 per family with an average grant of US\$ 27,000 and maximum of US\$ 60,000 per community. The evaluation found that NSP-funded utilities projects delivered substantial improvement in access to drinking water and electricity, but infrastructure projects were less effective. The NSP therefore had limited impact on indicators of economic conditions such as consumption or asset ownership, although it did deliver a short-term economic boost. The latter improved villagers' perception of central and sub-national government authorities. Nevertheless, perceptions of government legitimacy was dependent on regular provision of public goods and/or interaction with service providers. An important finding was that NSP increased men's acceptance of female participation in local governance and wider political activity. Men reported being more open to women participating in elections as voters and national candidates, in addition to holding position in the civil service and working with NGOs and participating in village councils. Overall, the evaluation concluded that the NSP had made a durably impact on the participation of women in local governance.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, sustainability, participation
Link to evaluation	http://www.nsp-ie.org/reports/finalreport.pdf

2012

Title	<i>Evaluation of the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA). Phase V: Report</i>
Published	2012
Author/Agency	Atos Consulting
Commissioned by	UNDP
Type of Evaluation	Programme evaluation
Keywords	Law and order, trust fund, police salaries
Abstract	LOTFA seeks to cover "all reasonable costs associated with the start-up and operational need of the police force" in Afghanistan. The multi-donor fund has been administrated by the UNDP since it was established in 2002. The 2012

	evaluation aimed to take into account progress made against previous recommendations. The evaluation found that overall, and measured against established targets, LOTFA has had some notable successes in establishing an effective mechanism for the reliable payment of salaries. LOTFA's positive work in this regard remains at risk of being undermined by more strategic concerns over the lack of sustainability of the increased <i>tashkeel</i> (official payroll), and ongoing concerns over verification of <i>tashkeel</i> numbers, which raise questions about the capacity of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the police (ANP) to manage personnel and physical assets. Persistent problems reduce the impact of LOTFA, notably the inability to create a multi-year planning framework, the limited institutional capacity building outside of payroll related functions, and the constraints faced in addressing financial risk (particularly in relation to sustainability). MOI reform needs and the lack of skilled human resources to fill key vacancies are additional concerns. The review also points to internal LOTFA challenges, including the need for a coherent vision for the fund and its role in a post-transition Afghanistan (i.e. after 2014). Overall, the review concludes that LOTFA has been meeting its primary goal of remunerating Ministry of Interior personnel, yet acknowledges the need to develop the full range of essential governmental capacity beyond payroll-related functions in the Ministry.
Cross-cutting issues	Sustainability, and (unaddressed): corruption
Link to evaluation	http://www.undp.org/content/dam/afghanistan/docs/crisisprev/evaluation%20report%20%20final.pdf

Title	<i>A study of gender equity through the National Solidarity Programme's Community Development Councils</i>
Published	2012
Author/Agency	Azerbaijani-Moghaddam, S.
Commissioned by	DACAAR
Type of Evaluation	Gender equality study
Keywords	Gender
Abstract	The study objective was to identify means of increasing the degree to which Community Development Councils (CDCs) in the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) reflect and further women's development priorities and to mainstream the associated recommendations. The main conclusion is that NSP has achieved unprecedented, widespread involvement of women in rural Afghanistan's community decision-making

	apparatus with interesting and exciting changes. Albeit on a modest scale so far, the reform process can be built up with appropriate interventions. NSP has provided a unique opportunity for women to participate in the development process from a government-sanctioned platform, allowing women for the first time to gather and discuss their development priorities within a formal framework and have their concerns taken seriously. This has had a profound impact on individuals and communities. NSP has also provided many women with the possibility to learn skills or become literate. Infrastructure projects have changed the quality of life for women and men in communities across Afghanistan. Gender inequality within any development programme represents a huge loss of human potential, with costs for men as well as for women, and NSP is no exception. This lesson has reached policy makers and project implementers in the Afghan context, but much more can be done.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	http://landwise.resourceequity.org/record/1873

Title	<i>Afghanistan: An evaluation of WFP's Portfolio</i>
Published	2012
Author/Agency	Bennett, J. et.al
Commissioned by	WFP Office of Evaluations
Type of Evaluation	Organisation/portfolio evaluation
Keywords	Humanitarian assistance
Abstract	The WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in 2012 was their second largest in the world, representing 9 percent of WFP's total global budget. The PRRO aimed to enhance food security and improve the human and productive capital of 7.6 million food-insecure Afghans. The evaluation found that WFP appropriately and closely aligned with the evolving general architecture of government policy, despite some incoherence over national strategies relating to food security. Operationally, the evaluation found that while WFP worked closely with government partners at the local level for delivery, monitoring and follow-up, there were challenges and concerns related to partners' legitimacy in some regions and the adequacy of their management of WFP's food distribution. The evaluation found that main groups identified for targeting approximated the vulnerable groups identified in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. However, a range of actors targeted these groups simultaneously, and for some time there was a marked lack of coherence in WFP's targeting at the operational level. Relatedly, WFP was far from meeting its commitments on gender in Afghanistan. Efforts lacked a clear institutional vision of WFP's goals in gender and food security over the PRRO period. For a period, there was a lack of robust or systematic approaches to monitoring. Changes made since 2011 include the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation unit and systems – including key performance

	indicators – that enable real-time collection of distribution data. These systems function discretely, however, and harmonisation is needed. Perhaps most importantly, conflict-sensitivity within the portfolio has remained reactive and focused on the maintenance of current activities rather than re-design. The paucity of portfolio performance and results data makes it difficult to measure performance and results. However, the evaluation found that medium- and longer-term activities such as food for assets were well received by beneficiary communities. Mother-and-child health and nutrition projects had shown some encouraging results. The evaluation recommended that WFP i) refocuses the portfolio within the shrinking humanitarian space and shifting staff capacities; ii) makes activities more relevant to communities' medium-/long-term livelihoods; iii) continues the ongoing improvement of national capacity development and operational partnerships; iv) includes a full conflict analysis in the design of the new protracted relief and recovery operation to improve the effectiveness of the portfolio; v) sharpens the focus on national ownership of all programmes; vi) renews emphasis on gender and protection analysis within the design and implementation of all activities.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, corruption, sustainability
Link to evaluation	http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/reports/wfp251674.pdf

Title	<i>Evaluation of Norwegian Development Cooperation with Afghanistan 2001-2011.</i>
Published	2012
Author/Agency	ECORYS in collaboration with IDN
Commissioned by	Norad
Type of Evaluation	Development cooperation evaluation
Keywords	Health, good governance and democracy, education and research, civil society
Abstract	The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the contribution of Norwegian development cooperation with Afghanistan from 2001 to 2011. The central evaluation question concerns what contributions Norway has made to sustainable peace, improved governance and reduced poverty in Afghanistan. The total volume of Norwegian aid over this ten-year period was NOK 5.4 billion The evaluation found that Norway's policy and interventions were closely aligned with the international agenda for Afghanistan and certainly relevant in that framework. The focus on governance, gender equality, education and community development has been consistent over the years, as has been

	the choice of channels and partners. However, the report questions whether this consistency is laudable or only translates into 'more of the same' irrespective of results. Limited participation of Afghans undermines genuine local ownership. This is for example the case for gender equality. As for effectiveness, in output terms, there were real achievements in sectors to which Norway contributed, such as education and community infrastructure. Yet, the report found limited evidence of concrete outcomes. Donors, including Norway, attempted to reduce corruption, but corruption nevertheless remains endemic and negatively affects the attainment of results. The management of a complex portfolio in a very complex environment has received insufficient attention and reduced efficiency. Moreover, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems are notoriously weak and Norway relied heavily on generic M&E provision by others, making assessment and comparison of various aid channels or aid partners difficult. The evaluation concludes that sustainability has not been the most important concern for Norway and has often been sacrificed in favour of other objectives with a higher priority. The results of Norwegian contributions are found to be mixed, but the evaluation concluded that Norway has been a consistent and reliable donor within the framework of the international engagement. Norway has succeeded in putting principles of harmonisation and alignment into practice.
Cross-cutting issues	Sustainability, gender and corruption
Link to evaluation	https://www.norad.no/om-bistand/publikasjon/2012/evaluation-of-norwegian-development-cooperation-with-afghanistan-2001---2011/

Title	<i>Afghanistan: Country Programme Evaluation, 2002 -11. Evaluation of the World Bank Group Programme</i>
Published	2012
Author/Agency	The Independent Evaluation Group
Commissioned by	The World Bank
Type of Evaluation	Country Programme Evaluation
Keywords	Integrated approach, trust funds
Abstract	The World Bank supports a range of programmes in collaboration with the Government and manages the multi-donor Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) on behalf of donors. The evaluation found the Bank's strategy highly relevant to Afghanistan's situation, but strategies could have gone further in adapting ongoing programmes to evolving opportunities and needs and in programming activities to achieve the objectives of the pillars in those strategies.

	Overall, the evaluation concludes that Bank Group assistance has achieved substantial progress toward most of its major objectives, although risks to development outcomes remain high. The Bank Group's direct financial assistance has been augmented effectively by analytic and advisory activities and donor coordination through the ARTF. Knowledge services have been an important part of Bank Group support and have demonstrated the value of strategic analytical work, even in areas where the Bank Group may opt out of direct project financing. Contradictory advice and competing donor programmes for local governance, however, have compounded conflicting views among different government agencies, leading to a "missing middle" in the absence of agreement on subnational governance. Without viable district or provincial institutions, investments in community organisations at the village level may not be sustainable, substantial project benefits notwithstanding. With the expected reduction of the international presence in 2014, the sustainability of development gains remains a major risk because of capacity constraints and inadequate human resources planning on the civilian side. To enhance programme effectiveness, the evaluation recommends that the World Bank Group help the government develop a comprehensive, long-term human resources strategy for the civilian sectors; focus on strategic analytical work in sectors that are high priorities for the government; assist in the development of local government institutions and, in the interim, support the development of a viable system for service delivery at subnational levels. The Bank should assist in transforming the National Solidarity Programme into a more sustainable financial and institutional model to consolidate its gains, help strengthen the regulatory environment for private sector investment; and scale up International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) support to the private sector.
Cross-cutting issues	Sustainability
Link to evaluation	http://web.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64274586&piPK=64256348&theSitePK=1324361&menuPK=64154159&searchMenuPK=64855087&theSitePK=1324361&imgPagePK=64167970&entityID=000442464_20130726145617&searchMenuPK=64855087&theSitePK=1324361

Title	<i>ARTF at a Cross-Roads: History and the Future. Final Report</i>
Published	2012
Author/Agency	SCANTEAM
Commissioned by	World Bank
Type of Evaluation	Trust fund/programme evaluation
Keywords	Trust fund,
Abstract	The overall structure and functioning of the ARTF are seen as very good, reflecting governance changes that have increased the role and voice of the government, but also due to continued strong commitment by ARTF donors. The ARTF remains the mechanism of choice for on-budget funding, with low overhead/transaction costs, excellent transparency and high accountability, and provides a well-functioning arena for policy debate and consensus

	creation. The close links with IDA provide economies of scale and free access to high-quality relevant knowledge products (Bank AAA), but raises questions about ARTF funding decisions being too much driven by IDA choices. Several sectors have produced strong <i>Output</i> results (public finance management, health, education, National Solidarity Programme/NSP) but so far only health provides consistent <i>Outcomes</i> tracking. Ministry leadership that provided vision, positive framework conditions and pushed for delivery and results has been critical to the success stories, as was solid up-front studies/planning and donor support. While there is an increasing attention to the judicial sector and concerns of “good governance” in terms of fighting corruption, actual results so far have been very limited and pose a serious threat to the credibility and legitimacy of the national authorities. The recommendations from the 2008 review have largely been addressed by the ARTF, although some issues are pending: as on gender; performance tracking and managing natural resource rent. The Transition phase for the ARTF is likely to be a period of increased uncertainty, reduced implementation options, uneven political will and capacity to implement across the country and sectors, and thus a period where economic returns to activities may be lower and certainly more difficult to measure. The ARTF should thus focus on defending the gains achieved by concentrating on the activities/sectors that are the more successful ones – public finance management, social sectors, and rural development – and for the time being scale back ambitions regarding expanding into new sectors. The evaluation recommended that: 1. The ARTF should rethink its financing strategy in light of likely increased uncertainty. 2. Continue aligning its funding profile to the ANDS/NPPs, support continued structural reforms in PFM, move from project to programme/sector (SWAp) funding when national policies and instruments permit this, transfer implementation to national authorities against agreed-upon performance targets and relying more on <i>ex post</i> verification rather than <i>ex ante</i> permissions. 3. Develop a comprehensive results/M&E strategy. 4. Support the development of a capacity development strategy for core parts of the public sector at national, province and district levels. 5. Generate and make available data important for improved decision-making. 6. Establish a clearer own identity/visibility with a communications strategy. 7. Review the NSP and the CDC model for local development; 8. Move to more management intensive activities where the World Bank as ARTF administrator needs to find solutions to the need for more management and technical capacity.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, corruption, sustainability
Link to evaluation	http://www.artf.af/images/uploads/ARTF_External_Review_2012.pdf

Title	<i>Evaluation of Danish Support to the Education Sector in Afghanistan.</i>
Published	2012
Author/Agency	Taylor, G. et.al.
Commissioned by	DANIDA
Type of Evaluation	Sector evaluation
Keywords	Education
Abstract	Between 2003 and 2010 Denmark disbursed Danish Kroner (DKK) 431 million for education in Afghanistan, mainly through bilateral programmes, including in Helmand, but also through other channels, e.g. the ARTF. As for relevance, the evaluation found that Danish support has been in line with Afghan needs, and that the strategic decision to work closely with the new Government has had great value. Budget flexibility in particular increased ownership and responsiveness to need. However, the challenge of establishing systems for on-budget modality were under-estimated and there was insufficient assessment of the implications of possible failure. As for effectiveness, there were significant improvements in the education sector during a highly insecure period, and Danida provided major inputs. Nevertheless, in all component areas there were aspects of support that took longer to show progress. Contrary to the planned use of Afghan systems, Ministry capacity still rested with staff designated as TA and not in systems or in the growing skills of established counterparts. The ability to direct funding to areas of need contributed to efficient use of budgets. Management decision-making by the Steering Committee was efficient, though reliant on outside TA to 2006. Funding efficiency through pooled arrangements developed as planned with Danida taking the lead. Separate funding for infrastructure had a mixed evaluation. Effectiveness and efficiency increased where sufficient permanent Danida staff with education sector specific expertise were in place. Ownership by the Ministry of Education of Danida supported interventions contributed to sustainable alignment and partnership. Support to central and provincial planning units was important for targeting and sustainable development of education services as well as measurement of performance. Sustainable capacity at provincial and district levels was yet to be developed.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, sustainability and corruption
Link to evaluation	http://um.dk/en/danida-en/results/eval/eval_reports/publicationdisplaypage/?publicationID=453C0EB9-9B1C-49BD-A7DB-950460E39596

Title	<i>Danish support to statebuilding and improved livelihoods in Afghanistan</i>
Published	2012
Author/Agency	Thomson, A. et.al.
Commissioned by	DANIDA
Type of Evaluation	Sector evaluation

Keywords	State-building, good governance, livelihood support
Abstract	The Evaluation examines Danish support for state-building and improved livelihoods in Afghanistan from 2001-2010. As for state-building the conclusion was that the programmes and institutions that Denmark had chosen to support were relevant to the objectives set out in the partnership agreements with the Government. The nature of projects funded in the area of state-building meant that well defined quantitative were less likely to be targets set. The evaluations suggest that these had mixed results in terms of effectiveness. Positive examples come from the area of human rights. Although the effectiveness of support through the ARTF was noted at national level, with some successes in raising revenue and in public administration reform, and possibly at district level, administration at the provincial level was criticised. Almost all of the projects that Denmark funded in the state-building sector were ongoing at the time of the evaluation. There was little suggestion that they would be financially sustainable in the absence of donor funding. In some cases, human capacity had not been built to a sustainable level. As for Livelihoods the evaluation found that programmes supported by Denmark were relevant to both the objectives of the Government of Afghanistan and donors articulated by the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the strategy documents published by Denmark. The difficult operational environment hindered effective delivery of many programmes in Afghanistan. Nonetheless, recent evaluations indicated significant success and that the support contributed to an enabling environment for economic growth and poverty reduction. Numerical targets for individuals and communities were reached, but geographical coverage of these programmes was uneven. Support to multi-donor projects, largely managed by MRRD, was expected to keep administrative costs low for both Denmark and the government, while meeting commitments under both the Paris Declaration and ANDS. MRRD is recognised as one of the most efficient and effective ministries in Afghanistan. None of the programmes that Denmark supported at the time would be able to function without external financing. NSP in particular was still very dependent on donor funding. The evaluation recommends that Denmark look for ways of supporting the provision of income generating programmes to the poorest. In line with broader donor policy, Denmark's support has focused on communities or individuals with some assets or capacity, and the poorest households have received limited support.
Cross-cutting issues	Sustainability, gender and corruption
Link to evaluation	http://um.dk/en/danida-en/results/eval/eval_reports/evaluation-studies/publicationdisplaypage/?publicationID=0BD807FD-3C77-44AD-8202-866BE6E1A160

2011

Title	<i>External Impact Evaluation of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC): 2002- 2011</i>
Published	2011
Author/Agency	International Human Rights Network
Commissioned by	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Type of Evaluation	Impact evaluation
Keywords	Human rights
Abstract	The main finding is that AIHRC has made some remarkable achievements in its 9 year of existence, achieving a nationwide presence and reach, developing its capacity and systems, and gaining credibility and respect of a wide range of stakeholders, including acknowledgment as having made significant contribution to many positive human rights changes in Afghanistan. AIHRC is particularly recognized for legitimising human rights discourse and protecting a 'space' for others (less empowered or without statutory mandate) to debate and engage in human rights activities. As for details: • Within the self-identified areas of most impact, AIHRC has been largely efficient and effective in delivering activities according to its Strategic Plan Objectives. • The evaluation confirms many elements of human rights based approaches by AIHRC, including explicit and accurate use of human rights law norms, and participatory, empowering methods in both its large-scale processes such as the Transitional Justice consultation and regular Strategic Plan activities. • In the context of detention, the impact of AIHRC monitoring (and other activities) includes securing widespread detention access, seeing the closure of many 'private' detention places, securing changes to legality of detention, treatment and conditions as well as enhancing general human rights awareness across detention staff and detainees. • Impacts in the context of domestic violence includes the establishment of a complaints handling system leading to AIHRC roles such as mediation, referral to other agencies as well as awareness raising of domestic violence as a social problem and a human rights violation. • AIHRC has been the single most important actor in Afghanistan in documenting the experience of victims of conflict and generating a national debate on transitional justice options to address the past. • The enhancement of human rights advocacy through CSO networks has been an area of key impact of AIHRC – including supporting coalitions that have fostered local level cooperation between civil society and government. • AIHRC is both gender sensitive and conflict sensitive in executing its mandate responsibilities. Staff showed high levels of awareness of gender

	specific aspects of their work, and appropriately considered the risks of conflict and harm resulting from sensitive work.
Cross-cutting issues	Human rights, gender
Link to evaluation	https://ext.d-nsbp-p.admin.ch/NSBExterneStudien/externestudien/448/it/1745.pdf

Evaluation	<i>Afghanistan: NGO's Contributions to Development. Assessment of Norwegian funded Projects 2010-2011</i>
Published	2011
Author/Agency	Lexow, J., Berts. H. and N. Murshid
Commissioned by	Royal Norwegian Embassy, Afghanistan
Type of Evaluation	Comparative NGO evaluation
Keywords	NGOs, development assistance
Abstract	The review assessed the results achieved by six NGOs funded by the Norwegian Embassy in Kabul. It found that the NGOs contributed positively to rural development through improved livelihoods and diversification of economic opportunities for the target population. The NGOs were perceived as critical players that facilitated outreach of social services to remote communities. All NGOs reviewed improved local government capacity in the sectors in which they operated through the provision of training opportunities to government staff. In other areas, the NGO projects were complementary to those of the government. The NGOs contributed to the establishment of peaceful dispute resolution mechanisms although conflict-resolution may not always have been an explicit aim. A possible dilemma was that communities relied so much on NGO projects for the provision of social services that this limited the government's role. Introduction of solar energy seemed to be an appropriate technology in some areas, although maintenance costs could be an obstacle. The agricultural projects brought in new technologies and prospects of increased production. Studies captured improvements in hygiene and sanitary practices. It is beyond doubt that the NGOs contributed to the empowerment of women. NGOs were seen as impartial and neutral. The evaluation did not find any significant discrepancy between plans and achievements beyond what can be expected in the insecure environments in which they worked. The volume of activities and outputs was impressive. The quality of reporting was less impressive: there was too little information about community diversity, contexts, reporting on progress against benchmarks, the conflicts in rural areas, cost-effectiveness and unit costs. Issues of corruption were hardly discussed. There was a concern that the NGO-Government relationship (Kabul level) was not optimal.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, corruption

Link to evaluation	https://www.norad.no/om-bistand/publikasjon/2012/afghanistan-ngos-contributions-to-development.-assessment-of-norwegian-funded-projects-2010-2011/
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2009

Title	<i>Country Programme Evaluation: Afghanistan. Report. DFID</i>
Published	2009
Author/Agency	Bennett, J. et al.
Commissioned by	DFID
Type of Evaluation	Country evaluation
Keywords	"Whole of government", technical assistance, political economy
Abstract	DFID's assistance during the 2001-09 period can be divided into four phases : (i) 2001–2003: limited humanitarian effort – funds through UN , IOM, Red Cross and NGOs; (ii) 2003–2005: the Transitional Country Assistance Programme (TCAP), a relatively short-term plan with a long-term strategy; (iii) 2005–2006: the Interim Strategy, a three-pillar programme for state building, economic management, aid effectiveness, and livelihoods; (iv) 2006–2008: a commitment to the ten-year Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA), with a spending of £500 million over three years and an emphasis on Helmand province. Key findings are: 1. An understanding of the political economy and state building context of fragile states require early investment in robust analysis. 2. Devolution of DFID's offices to country level has consequences for the balance of staff between London and Afghanistan. 3. TA does not automatically equate to capacity development, even if on-the-job training is included. 4. DFID should do more to consolidate and deepen its understanding and experience of private sector development in the particular conditions of post-conflict. 5. Governance must be recognised as a central element of economic and social development. 6. There is as yet no proven relationship between stabilisation and longer-term development. Delivering assistance in ways that will have a developmental impact on the lives of Afghans requires longer time frames, specialised expertise and sophisticated forms of interaction with target beneficiaries.
Cross-cutting issues	Governance
Link to evaluation	https://www.oecd.org/countries/afghanistan/47107291.pdf

2005

Title	<i>Afghanistan: Findings on Education, Environment, Gender, Health, Livelihood and Water and Sanitation</i>
Published	2005
Author/Agency	Daoud Saba, in A. Strand and G. Ohlesen (Eds) : Afghanistan: Findings on Education, Environment, Gender, Health, Livelihood and Water and Sanitation. From Multi-donor Evaluation of Emergency and Reconstruction Assistance
Commissioned by	Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom
Type of Evaluation	Multi-donor evaluation
Keywords	Environment
Abstract	The evaluation found that concerns over environmental crisis in Afghanistan are real. The poorest Afghans live in the most ecologically vulnerable areas; persistence of drought have forced hundreds of thousands of people to become environmental refugees; wetlands of southwest Afghanistan have shrunk; in the past 30 years, almost 70 percent of the natural forest cover of the country has been lost, and the remaining is severely degraded. The evaluation establishes that poverty is one of the greatest threats to the environment. If appropriate development policies are not adopted, the poor will continue to overuse their natural habitat merely to survive. Lack of national environmental management capacity, and appalling air and water quality in cities as well as rural areas has led to health problems and substantial economic losses. Likewise, natural capital in the form of land, forest and biodiversity is in long-term decline. These factors combine synergistically to negatively affect human health and welfare and hinder development. They increasingly constrain economic prospects and growth, and so pose a serious threat to Afghanistan's mid and long-term stability, and sustainable human development. Thus, in the short term, efforts in environmental remedy should be focused on more localised phenomenon, such as air pollution, water pollution, soil degradation, and deforestation. National as well as donor priorities for spending should be immediately redirected to the most basic environmental needs and capabilities of Afghans. A model of sustainable development must incorporate environmentally safe technologies into all investment planning and seek ways to reflect the scarcity value of environmental resources in decision-making to ensure sustainability of development. Action in the environmental sector by Afghanistan central and provincial governments as well as the international donors has been almost negligible. Action is needed now, and this requires a major effort and commitment by all actors, including the concerned donors.
Cross-cutting issues	Environment, sustainability
Link to evaluation	http://www.cmi.no/publications/file/2125-afghanistan-findings-on-education-environment.pdf

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Photo: UN Photo/Eric Kanenstein (cover)
Farmer collecting wheat.

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