

PROGRESS SINCE 2001

The international effort to which France contributes has helped...

... RESTORE RULE OF LAW, IMPROVE GOVERNANCE AND STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY

- Presidential elections in 2004 and 2009.
- Parliament elected in 2005, renewed in 2010.
- A national solidarity programme was implemented creating joint councils in over 20,000 villages.
- Five million refugees have returned to Afghanistan since 2002
- Ensuring freedom of expression: There are now over 700 newspapers, 110 radio stations and over 30 television channels as a result of the 2009 law on the media and freedom of expression.

... PROMOTE GREATER RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- The constitution adopted in January 2004 guarantees the protection of human rights for all men and women.
- Mixed genders: women make up 27% of the Afghan Parliament.
- Education for girls: There are now 2.2 million girls in primary and secondary education, comprising 35% of the total school-going population.
- Number of women dying in childbirth down 50%.

... MAKE PROGRESS IN HEALTH ISSUES

- Drop in infant mortality: down 26% since 2005.
- Access to basic medical care: 85% in 2010 compared to 8% in 2002.
- Preventing child blindness: 3 million children aged between nine months and five years received vitamin A supplements.

... IMPROVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION

- School enrolment has increased sixfold since 2001, with 6 million children now attending.
- Since 2002, 4,480 schools have been rebuilt or newly constructed.

... REBUILD INFRASTRUCTURE

- Over 13,000 km of roads have been rebuilt since 2001.
- Electricity production has tripled since 2002.
- Increase in the number of telephone subscribers nationwide: 30% in 2010 compared to 0.1% in 2000.
- Renovation of Kabul airport which now accommodates five airlines and has reopened to international air traffic.

... PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- A 30% increase in mining over the past 2 years.
- GDP increase of 22.5% between 2009 and 2010, the largest since 2003.
- Household income for 2010 up 53% compared to 2008.
- Self-sufficiency in agricultural production for 2009-2010.



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MORE DETAILS

AFGHANISTAN IN FIGURES, MAIN DATA

Area	652,090 km ² (1.2 times the size of France)
Average altitude	1,800 m
Population	Approximately 29 million
Demography	42.9% of the population is under the age of 14
Capital	Kabul (population: approx. 5 million)
Major cities	Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif
Working population	17 million people (15.7% in services, 5.7% in industry, 78.6 in agriculture)
Languages	Persian, Pashto, Uzbek, Turkmen as well as other minority languages
Literacy rate	Men: 43% – Women: 22 %
Natural resources	Natural gas, oil, coal, copper, precious stones



USEFUL LINKS

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr

For further information on Afghanistan's history, economy, domestic situation and politics, the commitment of the international community, the role of the United Nations and France's action.

www.defense.gouv.fr

To find out more about French forces around the world and in Afghanistan in particular.

www.unama-afg.org

For more information on United Nations action in Afghanistan.



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MINISTÈRE
DE LA DÉFENSE

FRANCE'S COMMITMENT IN AFGHANISTAN



2011 EDITION

A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH FOR THE AFGHAN PEOPLE



WHY FRANCE IS TAKING PART

BECAUSE OF ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND VALUES

France is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and is present in Afghanistan under a UN mandate and alongside 45 nations, including 24 of the 27 European Union countries. In line with its principles and values, it therefore helps to uphold human rights and improve women's position in society.

TO HELP FIGHT TERRORISM

Afghanistan must not once again become a haven for international terrorism, as it was during the Taliban regime. It must be protected from chaos and totalitarianism. In fighting such threats, France is also working to bolster its own security.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

After decades of war, Afghanistan's ravaged infrastructure, governance, economy, education and health systems must be entirely rebuilt. France is playing an active role in these efforts to empower Afghans to control their own destiny as quickly as possible.

THROUGH LOYALTY TO A LONG HISTORY OF FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE AFGHAN PEOPLE

Since 1920, there has been continued cooperation between France and Afghanistan, even in the country's darkest hours, when the French NGOs continued to help civilian populations. Since 2001, our ties have grown even stronger.



DIPLOMATIC ACTION



ENHANCED BILATERAL RELATIONS

- Increased high-level bilateral visits since 2007:
- French political leaders in Afghanistan (President of the Republic, ministers, members of Parliament).
 - Afghan political leaders in France (President Karzai, ministers, parliamentary opposition leaders).

STEPPED-UP ACTION AND A GREATER ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

- Following a French proposal at the April 2008 NATO Summit in Bucharest, the adoption of pillars of the political-military strategy, which today oversee the action of the international forces in Afghanistan.
- The organisation of the International Conference in Support of Afghanistan (Paris, June 2008) and the regional meeting between Afghanistan and its neighbours (La Celle-Saint-Cloud (France), December 2008): reassertion of international political and financial support; adoption of the Afghan national development strategy; increased regional cooperation.
- As of February 2009, the appointment of a French Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- London Conference in January 2010: the definition of the political transition for the Afghan authorities to assume their responsibilities.
- Kabul Conference in July 2010: the approval of national reform programmes to implement the transition announced at the London Conference.

MILITARY ENGAGEMENT

There are currently around 4,000 French troops serving in NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) under a United Nations Security Council mandate.

STRENGTHENING THE AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY (ANA)...

France supports the ANA's training and provides operational assistance to units. The ANA already has 120,000 troops, with a target of 171,600 by the end of 2011.

The professionalization of the Afghan security forces is built on basic training and specialization in police and army training schools.

About 20% of the French troops, including 150 gendarmes, are specifically focusing on strengthening the Afghan security forces. Since 2003, 8,400 Afghan officers have been trained by French troops.

...BY TRANSFERRING RESPONSIBILITY...

The aim is to continue transferring responsibility from the international forces to the ANA.

The mission of the Brigade La Fayette and Afghan armed forces is to facilitate the reconstruction and development operations so that the Afghan government can take responsibility for them as soon as possible.

...FOR THE SECURITY OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE

The French Brigade La Fayette and the ANA provide security in Kapisa Province and the Surobi district.

The Afghan forces, whose main mission is to ensure the security of the population, have been able to regain control of these regions as a result of the operations carried out alongside the French troops.

France's efforts have already allowed responsibility for the Kabul region, involving the security of 5 million people, to be transferred to the Afghan authorities.



DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

French government assistance:

- has greatly increased over the last three years to reach an overall amount of 40 million euros in 2009 and 2010;
- is allocated in close consultation with the Afghan national and local authorities so that they can ensure that it is used to meet the immediate needs of the population;
- is used for many purposes, both in Kabul and the regions, especially the region of Kapisa/Surobi.

For example...

In Kapisa/Surobi:

HEALTH

Sick children transferred to the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) in Kabul for treatment.

AGRICULTURE

- Development of activities relating to agriculture and the rural economy (6 million euros in 2009), distribution of seeds and fertilizers and the installation of water supply points.
- Support for rural development: contribution of 8 million euros for the implementation of a national solidarity programme to construct local infrastructure (roads, wells, public buildings, etc.).

On a national scale:

HEALTH

Support for the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) in Kabul, which has so far treated 4,000 children; involvement in four polio prevention campaigns which has provided vaccinations for 7.5 million children; 86% of district hospitals can now carry out surgical procedures.

AGRICULTURE

Revival of the cotton industry, development of horticulture, institutional support for the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture. In five years, wheat production rose 3.4 million tonnes.

EDUCATION

Support for French secondary schools in Kabul for boys (Esteqlal) and girls (Malalai); French-language teaching at Kabul University; 73 scholarships awarded to Afghan students to study in France in 2009.

GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW

Support for parliamentary work and the training of Afghan judges, and financial support for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS AND SUPPORT FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Training police officers and providing appropriate equipment.

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Financing micro-credit programmes to encourage local activity; supporting the country's main mobile phone operator to expand its network to the country's main cities.

SAFEGUARDING AFGHAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cooperative projects in archaeology (including the Balkh excavation site) and the audiovisual sector.

