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L'organisme des Nations Unies chargé des migrations

Information on Return and Reintegration in Afghanistan 2017



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Cover page: <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/afghanis.pdf>

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. GENERAL INFORMATION	1
II. HEALTHCARE	2
A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HEALTHCARE SITUATION	2
B. CONDITIONS FOR THE COVERAGE OF MEDICAL TREATMENT	2
C. BASIC PACKAGE OF HEALTH SERVICES.....	2
D. MEDICAMENTS AVAILABILITY	3
III. HOUSING	3
A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HOUSING SITUATION.....	3
B. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO BUY/RENT REAL ESTATE	4
C. AVERAGE RENT, RUNNING COSTS/UTILITIES (E.G. ELECTRICITY, WATER, ETC.)	4
1. Examples of rental fees in the country	4
2. Requirements to obtain a place to live from the social services or emergency shelter	5
3. Availability of social grants for housing	5
IV. EDUCATION	6
A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM	6
1. Primary Education.....	7
2. Middle Education	7
3. Secondary Education	7
B. HOW RETURNEES CAN ACCESS PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY	7
C. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN DIPLOMAS	7
D. VOCATIONAL TRAINING POSSIBILITIES, SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANTS	8
V. EMPLOYMENT	8
A. UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE STATE	9
B. REQUIREMENTS TO ACCESS THE LABOUR MARKET	9
C. GENERAL INFORMATION ON MOST AVAILABLE JOBS AND SALARY LEVELS	9
D. BUSINESS SECTORS WITH HIGH SUCCESS RATE.....	10
E. BUSINESS SECTORS WITH LOW SUCCESS RATE	11
F. CHILD CARE	12
G. PENSION SYSTEM AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RETURNEES TO GAIN ACCESS TO IT (INCLUDING RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN PENSIONS)	12
H. POSSIBILITIES OF TRANSACTIONS (CASH AND GOODS) FROM ABROAD.....	13
VI. TRANSPORTATION	13
A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD SYSTEM	13
1. Transport in Afghanistan.....	13
2. Roads in Afghanistan.....	13
VII. TELECOMMUNICATION	14
VIII. LIST OF CONTACTS	15
A. HEALTHCARE CENTRES.....	15

B.	NGOS, IOS OR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.....	17
C.	NGOS, IOS OR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR (SUCH AS VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR RETURNEES, ETC.)	18
D.	MICROCREDIT ORGANIZATIONS	18
E.	MAIN BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	19
F.	NGOS, IOS OR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR	21
G.	LIST AND CONTACTS OF MAIN TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES.....	23

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Afghanistan is a landlocked and mountainous country that shares borders with Iran on the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan on the north, a small border with China on the north-east, and the largest border with Pakistan on the east and south. Afghanistan has 34 provinces and Kabul is the capital; the population of Afghanistan is estimated at 32.6 million. Afghanistan is home to a number of ethnic groups, the largest being the Pashtuns, followed by Tajiks, Hazaras, Uzbeks, Aimaks, Turkmen, Baluchi, Nuristanis and Kizibashis. Life expectancy for both men and women in Afghanistan is 60 years. Many languages are spoken in Afghanistan but the official languages are Pashto and Dari. When it comes to religion, 99% of the population is Muslim (80% Sunni and 19% Shia).

Afghanistan has suffered from such chronic instability and conflict during its modern history that its economy and infrastructure are in difficult conditions and many of its people are refugees, according to the BBC website¹. The Taliban, who imposed strict Islamic rule following a devastating civil war, were ousted by a US-led invasion in 2001 but have recently been making a comeback. Indeed, after the invasion of 2001, NATO-led combat troops had the main responsibility for maintaining security. The formal end of NATO's mission in 2014, although the transition phase was extended and international military troops remain in the country, was followed by an upsurge in Taliban activity.

In 2014 also, the election of a new president was held, to succeed former President Hamid Karzai. The winner of the much-disputed election was Ashraf Ghani.

The situation in Afghanistan is currently still unstable. As reported by Human Rights Watch, fighting continued between Taliban and government forces in Afghanistan in 2016 and thousands of civilians were killed and injured in insurgent suicide and IED attacks. The Taliban claimed responsibility for many of these, but groups affiliating themselves with the Islamic State (also known as ISIS) claimed several particularly deadly attacks in Kabul².

IOM's mission in Afghanistan was established in 1992 and has maintained an uninterrupted presence in the country. IOM Afghanistan is one of the largest IOM missions worldwide, with over 300 staff members and offices in the capital Kabul, as well as in Badakhshan, Balkh, Bamyan, Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Nimroz and Paktia. IOM currently implements a range of humanitarian assistance, community stabilization and migration management initiatives in Afghanistan, in cooperation with government and humanitarian partners as well as local communities³.

¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-12011352>, consulted on 8 August 2017

² <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/afghanistan>, consulted on 8 August 2017

³ <https://afghanistan.iom.int/about-iom>, consulted on 8 August 2017

II. HEALTHCARE

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HEALTHCARE SITUATION

Afghanistan faces a significant challenge to create a functional medical system in a post-conflict setting (although the situation in Afghanistan might be considered as an “intra”-conflict setting). However, the Afghan health system has made considerable progress during the past decade. Data from household surveys (between 2003 and 2015) show significant declines in maternal and child mortality.

Despite significant improvements in the coverage and quality of health services, Afghan health indicators remain below average for low-income countries, especially when it comes to women accessing services. Furthermore, Afghanistan has one of the highest levels of child malnutrition in the world, with about 40.9 per cent of children under 5 suffering from chronic malnutrition while both women and children suffer from high levels of vitamin and mineral deficiencies.

B. CONDITIONS FOR THE COVERAGE OF MEDICAL TREATMENT

War has caused not only deaths and injuries but also poverty and a serious shortage of trained doctors and nurses. Over 770 hospitals have closed because of damage or security issues during the last fifteen years.

This leaves people vulnerable to diseases that would be preventable or easily treatable if they had access to health services and a balanced diet. For instance, women in Afghanistan are the most likely in Asia to die from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. As another example, diarrhoea is one of the biggest causes of child death in Afghanistan, according to WHO (World Health Organisation) and MoPH (Ministry of Public Health).

However, when it comes to healthcare access, progress has been made. According to the Ministry of Public Health, “in 2003, only 9% of Afghans had access to healthcare services, whereas today, as much as 67% of Afghans have access to the Basic Package of Health Services and Essential Hospital Services provided by over 2200 health facilities in all 34 provinces.”

MoPH runs healthcare centres in Kapisa, Panjshir, and Parwan provinces while providing health services in the rest of 31 provinces of Afghanistan has been contracted out to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) through a robust competitive bidding process.

C. BASIC PACKAGE OF HEALTH SERVICES

In March 2002, the Afghan Ministry of Public Health developed the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) as a guide for the health services that the Afghan government would commit to provide all Afghan citizens with. Services were identified that would have the greatest impact on major health problems, be achievable given the limitations in infrastructure, be cost effective, and give equal access to healthcare in both rural and urban areas. Focus areas included maternal and newborn health, child health and immunizations, nutrition, communicable diseases, mental health, disability, and pharmaceutical supply. Nevertheless, even if progress has been made in recent years, the impact and spread of the BPHS remain limited.

D. MEDICAMENTS AVAILABILITY

Access to essential medicines through basic healthcare, secondary and tertiary health services is the main concern of the Ministry of Public Health and other health service providers. In addition to the challenges linked to the quantities, access to quality essential medicines is one of the important objectives to be addressed.

The main source of essential medicines is the local market for private pharmacies and non-governmental organizations implementing health programs. Most of the essential medicines are imported from neighbouring countries with little or no control. Afghanistan's capacity to certify imported medicine through quality control checks is weak. There are pharmacies around the cities but the famous place to find most medications is the Parwan Hotel medicine market, a wholesale market in Kabul. In the same area, there is another market for prescriptions and rare medicines that cannot be found in other pharmacies (Location: Khair Khana section 2 PD-11 Kabul).

The best and most complete medical services can be found in Kabul. Psychiatric services in the capital are available, and a consultation costs around AFA 500 (USD 7.32)⁴. For a list of medical institutions, the relevant section at the end of the document can be consulted.

It has to be highlighted that in Afghanistan, there are some restrictions regarding the treatment of complicated diseases, as for example endocrine diseases, tumours, malignancies and microsurgery. More information on this last point has to be collected on a case-by-case basis.

The current instability and the deterioration of the security situation in the country cause higher numbers of psychiatric diseases such as anxiety, tension, depression, ETSD and PTSD. The most common approach to treat mental health issues is drug therapy. Most medication, as mentioned above, can be found in Kabul as well as in other major cities, on the markets. The quality of the medicines remains an issue, also when it comes to mental illnesses. To go from a secure place to an insecure place, as it is the case for several returnees, can be dangerous for people with psychiatric issues, as it can worsen their mental health condition and even lead to suicidal thoughts.

III. HOUSING

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HOUSING SITUATION

The housing situation in Afghanistan is different in rural areas compared to urban areas. The rent prices in cities are higher than in rural locations but the facilities are also better (availability of electricity, water and other public and social service facilities). On the other hand, the rents are lower in rural areas, but so is the quality of the facilities.

⁴ UN yearly conversion rates of October 2017 used for the whole document.

B. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO BUY/RENT REAL ESTATE

The differences in the housing situation between rural and urban areas do also apply when it comes to the documentation and procedures for renting an accommodation.

In almost each part of the cities, property dealers are available offering renting services. They have a legal business licence from the Ministry of Justice. They act as intermediaries between the landlord and the person willing to rent a house and get commissions from both sides. There is no specific list or contact address for the property dealers, as they are present in all parts of the cities and the returnees can easily contact them and rent a house where they want.

When the deal is set between the dealer, the landlord and the renting party, the required document (before signing the contract) is the National ID card (Tazkira) or the passport. The contract will be issued in three copies of which one has to be sent to the Ministry of Justice (by the property dealer).

In rural areas, parties can make a deal without involving a third party. The procedure can be done through a simple written agreement in presence of a witness.

C. AVERAGE RENT, RUNNING COSTS/UTILITIES (E.G. ELECTRICITY, WATER, ETC.)

The rent of an apartment ranges from USD 400 to USD 600. Living expenses cost up to USD 500 per month. The utilities like electricity and water cost not more than USD 40 per month.

There are many apartments and houses for rent in Kabul and surroundings, as well as in other provinces. The rent cost in Kabul is generally higher than in other provinces.

When it comes to the deposit payment, this has to be agreed by the involved parties: three or six months' rent in advance can be requested or even the whole amount of the location.

I. Examples of rental fees in the country

The examples below are estimated costs and they may vary due to different situations such as security, income level, political issues, etc. The cost examples are representative for locations that are secure and have proper living facilities. The rent costs in other parts of the cities which do not have the same facilities can be lower.

	Approximate cost in Kabul	Approximate cost in Herat	Approximate cost in Mazar-I-Sharif
Studio	USD 200–250 per month	USD 150–200 per month	USD 150–200 per month
Two-rooms accommodation	USD 250–300 per month	USD 200–250 per month	USD 200–250 per month
Three-rooms accommodation	USD 350–400 per month	USD 300–350 per month	USD 300–350 per month
Four or more rooms accommodation	USD 450–500 per month	USD 400–450 per month	USD 400–450 per month

2. Requirements to obtain a place to live from the social services or emergency shelter

There are temporary accommodation options in Kabul, but they need to be organized in advance. The beneficiaries can stay two weeks in the reception centres overseen by IOM. The costs are approximately USD 6 per night.

There are also many cheap hotels located in the centre of the city. Costs are between AFA 400 (USD 5.84) and AFA 600 (USD 8.76) per night. Two hotels that are recommended in the city centre are:

- Nik Zaad Hotel and Guest House
Address: PD#2, Puli Bagh Omomi, Kabul City
They have three types of rooms with different conditions and different costs 400 AFA (USD 5.84), 500 AFA (USD 7.3) and 600 AFA (USD 8.76).
- Benafsh Hotel and Guest House
Address: PD#1, Jada e Maiwand Sare Chawk, Kabul City
They have two types of rooms with different conditions and different costs 400 AFA (USD 5.84) and 500 AFA (USD 7.3).

3. Availability of social grants for housing

These services are only available for returnees coming back from Pakistan or Iran. Several NGOs provide tents or provisional shelters, but not for returnees from other countries.

IV. EDUCATION

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

Afghanistan is going through a nationwide rebuilding process and, despite setbacks, institutions are established across the country. By 2013, there were 10.5 million students. Access to school can sometimes be challenging, due to geographical conditions or religious reasons. In general, access to schools is easier in urban areas, and for boys. Education in governmental schools and universities is free of charge. The students just need to buy the educational material. When it comes to private institutions, the costs vary depending on the quality. However, the following fees are most current:

The fees for school (Primary or Secondary) go from AFA 1500 (USD 21.95) to AFA 5000 (USD 73.16) per month.

The fees for university can be AFA 12,000 (USD 175.59) up to AFA 40,000 (USD 585.31) per semester.

The table below represents a summary of the education system in Afghanistan:

Education	School/Level	Grade From	Grade to	Age From	Age to	Years	Notes
Primary	Primary School			7	13	6	
Middle	Maktabeh Motevaseteh	7	9	13	16	3	
Secondary	Doreyeh Aali	10	12	16	19	3	
Vocational	Vocational in Lower & Upper Middle School	7	13	13	19	6	
Vocational	Technicums	9	14	14	20	3	Graduates of these institutions are recognized as holding qualifications equivalent to those of post-secondary education.
Tertiary	Bachelor's Degree University level first stage					4	
Tertiary	Master's Degree	16	18			2	
Tertiary	Doctorate					3	

I. Primary Education

Two education systems exist in parallel in Afghanistan. On one side, the religious education, which is under the supervision of clerics at mosques, and on the other side, free academic education at state schools provided by the Government. From ages 7 to 13, pupils attend primary schools where they learn the basics of reading, writing, arithmetic and their national culture.

2. Middle Education

Three years of middle school follow where academic-style education continues. Students must pass an examination at the end of this phase if they wish to study further.

3. Secondary Education

At secondary school, students have the choice between continuing with an academic path for three years that could potentially lead to university, or study specific subjects such as applied agriculture, aeronautics, arts, commerce and teacher training. Both programs culminate in a *baccaluria* examination.

B. HOW RETURNEES CAN ACCESS PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY

The returnee can request enrolment at the Ministry of Return and Repatriation, which then will refer the returnee to the Kabul provincial education department (Marif Shahr) for the verification of the educational documents. Afterwards, the returnee gets enrolled in the institutions according to the approved level of education.

When it is not possible to clarify the level of education beforehand, children can go to school informally until their level is evaluated. After this, they will be directed to the relevant school and be able to enrol officially.

There is not any special discount or offer from private schools and universities for returnees. They need to show their ordinary documentation as all other individuals to get access to education. However, if they don't have official documents, tests can be organized to evaluate their level and grant them access to the adapted school or university.

C. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN DIPLOMAS

Returnees can show the documents that they obtained abroad to the Ministry of Education (Primary or Secondary) and Higher Education that checks the documents in order to confirm their accuracy and the efficient transfer of qualifications, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A short exam as a further clarification can then be requested and organized.

The process is made easier if the degree obtained abroad is shown to the local embassy of Afghanistan in the country of destination. If this is not done, the process will take more time once in Afghanistan.

The address of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan is as follows:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan
Malek Asghar St., Kabul, Afghanistan
Phone: 0093 (0)202,100,372; 0093 (0) 20 2,100,371

D. VOCATIONAL TRAINING POSSIBILITIES, SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANTS

Globally, there is no organization offering discounts or grants for returnees in Afghanistan. However, UNHCR provides scholarship opportunities for those returnees who have graduated in universities and schools from Pakistan. At the same time, UNHCR is providing assistance in the form of a School reconstruction for returnees as well.

Formal educational institutions include vocational and technical high schools, as well as tertiary institutions such as the Kabul Polytechnic Institute. Numerous institutions, under the overall guidance of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, offer training courses. When it comes to the vocational training, there are two types:

1. The first type is organized by NGOs: it is a six-month duration vocational training from an NGO for unemployed people, which usually takes place in the fields of welding, carpentry, tailoring and so on. Within six months, the trainee gets experience in dealing with the relevant infrastructure and equipment. After graduation, the NGO then provides the trainee with specific machines and equipment so that she/he can start to work on his own.
2. The second type is proposed by the Government: It is dedicated to school students in specific fields, such as machines, carpentry, electricity, mechanics, plumbing, carpet weaving, metal works, hairdressing and tailoring. The students of secondary school can choose whether they are interested in vocational training or not. If they are, the school introduces them to vocational training courses. This service is available as of the 9th grade.

Both types of vocational trainings are free.

V. EMPLOYMENT

Agriculture is the largest sector of employment in Afghanistan. Workers employed in the agriculture sector represent 60 per cent of total employment. This share is, of course, higher in rural areas, where employment in agriculture is almost 70 per cent (including livestock). The non-farm sector is dominated by employment in family-based, small-scale trade activities. Retail trade, with petty trade and shop-keeping activities, represents the main source of employment in the non-farm sector, followed by services and construction that benefited enormously from the massive inflow of aid over the past ten years. The public sector is another key source of employment opportunities in urban areas, mainly in the Kabul province. The manufacturing sector only plays a small role, accounting for only five per cent of the total employment nationwide.

The average income in Afghanistan is around USD 80 to USD 120 per month. In general, the country's economy depends on the international assistance from the donors since 2002. However, Afghanistan is currently facing a difficult financial situation due to the decrease in the fund from the international donors since 2014. Because of the uncertain situation in the country, the companies and investors' interest to invest in Afghanistan is limited.

A. UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE STATE

There is no state financial assistance scheme for unemployed people. However, the Department of Youth provides consular assistance for finding an employment, by providing concrete advice regarding vacant positions, application procedures, etc. This department is part of the Ministry of Information and Culture, and it assists young educated people to get access to jobs. In the meantime, there are some grants projects from USAID for newly graduated young Afghans. They are hired as interns for a specific period of time to get training and experience. After graduation at the end of the internship, the project itself provides them with jobs, or introduces them to other available vacant positions in the market.

As for employment in the public sector, the Civil Service Commission Management Directorate (CSMD) of Civil Service Commission and Administrative Reform announces vacant positions online: www.afghanexperts.gov.af. When it comes to the private sector, job opportunities are published on the following websites: www.acbar.org and www.jobs.af.

B. REQUIREMENTS TO ACCESS THE LABOUR MARKET

For Afghan citizens, no specific documents are needed to work with NGOs or Governmental organs, but for non-Afghan citizens, the new workers need to have a permit from the Ministry of Labour with proper approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' consular section. Furthermore, skilled workers also need to present a copy of their qualifications and a document confirming their experience to the Ministry of Labour in order to obtain a work permit. A letter from the NGO might also be needed in some cases for non-Afghan workers.

Almost all kinds of small businesses require a business licence, the cost of which ranges from USD 8.36 to USD 47.79, depending on the type and the scale of the business. There is no specific registration for tax returns or collection by the tax office. The tax office employees simply go to every business and collect the tax, which is about 10% of the gross profit.

C. GENERAL INFORMATION ON MOST AVAILABLE JOBS AND SALARY LEVELS

Several jobs nowadays are found within NGOS and USAID projects. Regarding the wages, they are based on the NTA Salary Scale which starts from USD 300 and can reach up to USD 3000.

Experience has shown that the business projects of returnees are more successful if the returnees already have a network of friends or family in Afghanistan that can assist them. This is particularly valuable if there are persons in this network who have returned from Switzerland recently so that they can get access to relevant information regarding society, economic situation and security, for example. These persons should be contacted before the return.

It is also beneficial to use the professional experience gained in Europe. Businesses that are based on the combination of the experience collected in Afghanistan and in Europe are particularly successful.

When it comes to the age of the beneficiaries, there is no legal restriction. However, the general knowledge and experience of the returnee plays an important role in the success of a business project. It is generally recommended for minors to look for cooperation and not to open an independent business. However, there is no legal framework to officially register business partnerships.

D. BUSINESS SECTORS WITH HIGH SUCCESS RATE

The areas mentioned below are business sectors that have a good success rate in Afghanistan:

Grocery Selling Businesses: In most parts of the country, grocery businesses generate a considerable profit and are easy to run and manage. Furthermore, the business can be run during the whole year. Such businesses can be run both independently and on a partnership base because they are operated at a small scale and can be run with few investment resources. In addition, it is easy to fulfil the legal requirements: only a business licence is needed, which can be obtained at the city's municipality. In order to obtain this document, the returnee needs to be an Afghan national and have a national identity document. It is particularly well adapted for returnees that have some experience in trading and that have good language skills. A school background in order to be able to read and write is an advantage, in order to perform several tasks such as drafting bills and invoices and keeping records of the sales and purchases, which will enable the returnee to keep track of the business's benefits and losses.

It is important to select a proper location for this business and to keep a good eye on the perishable products and those which have expiry dates. Furthermore, returnees should be polite in order to attract customers and keep them loyal.

Livestock Businesses: This kind of business is really suitable for most of the mountainous areas. More than 50 per cent of the Afghan population make a living from agriculture and livestock rearing. Livestock rearing businesses are considered as family businesses in Afghanistan and almost every third family has livestock for either personal needs or commercial purposes. Livestock rearing businesses do require experience and knowhow, but in Afghanistan, as this business is considered as a family business, most families have knowledge and experience in this field. There are no legal requirements for this activity. Livestock rearing business should be considered only in specific areas where livestock feed and medicines can be accessed. The list below indicates the approximate price of various livestock:

Livestock	Type	Approximate cost
Milking Cow	Afghani or Watani	50,000 AFA (730 USD)
	Zarati	120,000 AFA (1,752 USD)
Meat Cow	N/A	40,000 AFA (584 USD)
Sheep	N/A	10,000 AFA (146 USD)
Chicken	One month of age (100 pcs)	12,000 AFA (USD 175 USD)
	Three months of age (100 pcs)	18,000 AFA (USD 263)

Mobile Phones Selling Businesses: Due to the high demand, this business is considered profitable especially suitable in urban areas. It has a fast sales turnover and high margin profits can be obtained. Along with mobile phones, mobile phone accessories can also be sold. This activity requires some experience and knowhow in order to be properly managed. The only legal requirement is to obtain a business licence from the local municipality. However, IOM Afghanistan does not purchase SIM cards for returnees.

Cloth/Garments Selling Businesses: Cloth or garments selling business is a very common business in Afghanistan and there is a big demand. It can be run throughout the year and is based on first-necessity products. It can be established with small or large investments. This activity requires some experience, and a business licence from the local municipality.

For this business, it is important to consider market trends, customers' demands and the latest fashion trends in order to better position the business and attract more customers. It should also be adapted to the various seasons.

E. BUSINESS SECTORS WITH LOW SUCCESS RATE

The areas below are business sectors where the success rate is low and returnees should therefore not be encouraged to invest there:

Taxi business: To set up a taxi business is not recommended because of the following reasons:

- It requires a proper driving licence
- Most of the taxi businesses collapsed due to accidents, mechanical problems, high mechanical fixing costs and lack of proper knowledge of the driving rules. The drivers also need to fulfil several legal requirements.
- The monitoring of these activities was difficult, as the taxi businesses are difficult to locate.

Money Exchange: Although money exchange businesses at a local level are legal in Afghanistan, they are not recommended for the following reasons:

- They require significant experience and knowledge of the foreign exchange rates and the currency intrinsic value in order to take clever decisions and establish good strategies. The managers need to be expert in this field and have a good network, in order to deal and communicate with other money exchange businesses.
- In Afghanistan, money exchange businesses are not considered as stable and certain. There are frequent fluctuations in the exchange rates.
- Money exchange businesses require high investments.

Video Games Centres: This business is not recommended because it is not well known and profitable in Afghanistan due to the following reasons:

- According to Afghan culture and tradition, this business is considered as time wasting and immoral.
- Children and young people are encouraged not to invest their time in such activities.
- There is also a general lack of knowledge about these technologies in the country, which has a negative impact on the business's development.

F. CHILD CARE

There are some kindergarten centres financed and administered by the public entities. They provide their staff members' children with facilities for free.

G. PENSION SYSTEM AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RETURNEES TO GAIN ACCESS TO IT (INCLUDING RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN PENSIONS)

There is no pension available for returnees who return to Afghanistan voluntarily or by force.

The normal retirement age in Afghanistan is 65. After having worked 40 years, retirement is also possible, regardless of the age. Finally, voluntary retirement is also possible after having reached 55 years of age and having worked for 25 years.

H. POSSIBILITIES OF TRANSACTIONS (CASH AND GOODS) FROM ABROAD

The central bank of Afghanistan, which is called Da Afghanistan Bank, is reviewing every single transaction made by commercial banks in Afghanistan. For outflows, the maximal limit for a transaction is USD 10,000. If an amount is over this limit, then the person willing to make the transaction has to provide proper documentation to justify this amount. When it comes to inflow transactions, the limit is unspecified. Nevertheless, the central bank requests some justifications for important amounts. The local commercial banks are affiliated with international banks, like for example AIB (Afghanistan Internal Bank). Through this mechanism, they get more freedom regarding their transactions.

Every commercial bank provides similar services, and the contacts are provided in a list at the end of the document.

Furthermore, there are no major restrictions when it comes to the trade of goods from abroad. Afghanistan has open trade deals with most of its neighbour countries. There are only some restrictions with Pakistan, due to political reasons.

There is a list of private organizations that provide microcredit opportunities at the end of the document. No public entity provides similar services.

VI. TRANSPORTATION

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD SYSTEM

1. Transport in Afghanistan

Transport in Afghanistan is limited. Most of the nation's road network was built during the 1960s but left to ruin during the wars. New national highways, roads and bridges have been rebuilt in the last decade to help increase exchange with neighbouring countries.

2. Roads in Afghanistan

Highway 1 or A01, formally called the Ring Road, is a 2200 kilometres two-lane road network circulating inside Afghanistan, connecting the following major cities: Mazar, Kabul, Ghazni, Kandahar, Farah, and Herat in the west or northwest. It has extensions that also connect Jalalabad, Lashkar Gah, Delaram (Route 66), Islam Qala, and several other cities. It is part of AH1, the longest route of the Asian Highway Network. Costs of transport to the main destination cities are as follows:

From	Main destination cities	Approximate cost
Kabul	Herat	2500 AFA (USD 36.5)
	Kandahar	2000 AFA (USD 29.2)
	Mazar	2500 AFA (USD 36.5)
	Nangarhar	1200 AFA (USD 17.52)
	Paktiya	1500 AFA (USD 21.95)
	Ghazni	1400 AFA (USD 20.49)
	Bamyan	2000 AFA (USD 29.27)
	Badakhshan	2000 AFA (USD 29.27)

Transportation by plane in Afghanistan is only available to the below three provinces of Afghanistan. For the remaining 31 provinces, returnees have to travel by road.

From	Main destination cities	Approximate cost
Kabul	Herat	85 USD
	Mazar	90 USD
	Kandahar	90 USD

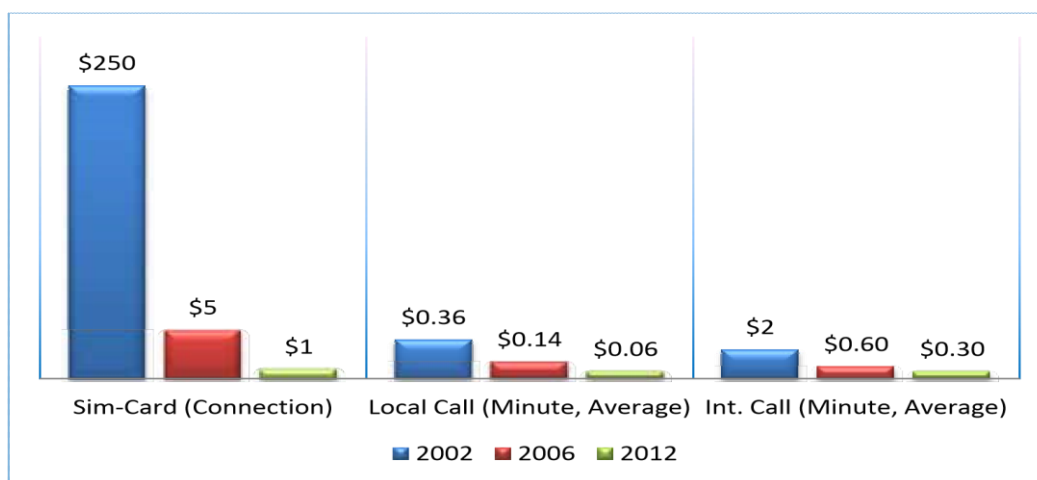
Due to security problems on the highway and also accident risks, travelling by aeroplane to Mazar, Herat and Kandahar is recommended.

Indeed, travelling to many provinces or cities of Afghanistan is not totally safe, due to security problems. For example, travelling to Ghazni, Kandahar, Paktiya, Baghlan, Helmand or Herat can be dangerous. The risk is particularly important for government employees as well as for NGO or UN staff. However, it is recommended for all returnees not to travel in the evening or by night, and to keep their travel documents hidden.

VII. TELECOMMUNICATION

As of 2012, the country's telecom market consists of six active service carriers; the four mobile operators (AWCC, Roshan, Etisalat, and MTN) and the two fixed-line carriers Afghan Telecom and Wasel Telecom. i. Roshan leads with 5.6 million subscribers, followed by MTN with 4.5 million subscribers. Wasel Telecom is the only private fixed-line operator with a relatively smaller operation, which provides wireless CDMA (2000 1X) services in the northern provinces of Balkh, Baghlan, Jawzjan and Kunduz. The state-owned Afghan Telecom is the only national fixed-line operator with the largest physical infrastructure and service presence in all 34 provincial capitals (mostly wireless CDMA) and most principal cities, including Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif.

The growing competition in the telecom market for providing cheaper and improved quality of services has caused a continuous decline in the price of telecom services. While SIM cards were sold for more than USD 250 in 2002, SIM cards are now readily available from operators for less than a dollar. The local costs for using a mobile telephone has already fallen more than 500% from AFA 18 (USD 0.36) per minute in 2003 to AFA 3 (USD 0.06) in 2012. The international calling tariff has also decreased from AFA 100 (USD 2) per minute in 2003 to an average of AFA 15 (USD 0.30) in 2012. Since 2012, the rates have continued to decrease, even if not as quickly as in the neighbour countries such as Pakistan and Iran. There are also monthly based packages for the internet and phone provided by local telecommunication companies.



Periodic Cost Comparison, Mobile Telephony

VIII. LIST OF CONTACTS

A. HEALTHCARE CENTRES

Name of the hospital	Address	Contact	Comments
Atatürk Children's Hospital	Located near to the Kabul University	Phone: 020 250 0312 Dr. Zmarai Haseen, phone: 0799 034 242 Dr. Aminuddin Shefajo, Chief of Hospital: 0700 151,544 Dr. Farooq: 0799 319,217	Focus on internal medicine

Name of the hospital	Address	Contact	Comments
Indira Ghandi Children Hospital	Located in Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul	Phone: 020 230 2281 Dr. Noor-ul-Haq Yosufzai, Chief of Hospital: 0799 312,369 Dr. Ajab gul Momand: 0700 218,787	Focus on internal medicine, orthopedic and general surgery.
Jamhoriat Hospital	Located in Sidarat Square, Kabul	Phone: 020 220 1375 Dr. Mohammad Essa Qanei, Deputy Chief of Surgery: 0700 237,390	Specialized in surgery
Maiwand Hospital	Located in Jada-e-Maiwand, Kabul	Phone: 020 210 0447 Dr. Kohdamani, Chief of Maiwand Hospital: 070 286,994	Specialized in skin treatments
Noor Eye Hospital	Located in Deh Bori near the Kabul University	Phone: 020 210 0446; Dr. Reshad Siddeqyar, Chief of Eye Hospital: 070 279,445 Dr. Nazeer: 070 033 765	
Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital	Located opposite to the ANA ("400 Bed") Hospital in the Wazir Akbar Khan District of Kabul	Phone: 020 230 1360	Specialized in orthopedic work
Rabia-I-Balki Maternity Hospital:	Located in downtown Kabul, near the Foroshgha-e-Bozorg Afghan.	Phone: 020 210 0439	
Malalay Maternity Hospital	Located in Shahrara	Phone: 020 220 1377	
Dr. Salam Aziz Dental Clinic	Located at Deh Afghanan, opposite to the Ministry of Culture and Information	Phone: 0700 291,315	
Balkh regional hospital	Mazari Sharif	Phone: +93,799,180,570 Dr. Shafiq Shaeq	
Karte sae mental hospital	Karte sae Serahi Allauding PD-6	Phone: +93 799 3,190,858 Dr. Temor Shah Mosamem	Psychiatric hospital

Name of the hospital	Address	Contact	Comments
Ali Abad neuropsychiatric section	Located in the Ali Abad area behind the Kabul Medical University	Phone: +93 799 457,370 Dr. Ematullah Rasooli	
Sayed Jamaluding psychiatric hospital	located in Khoshal Mina section 1	Phone: 93 799 128,737	For neurotic patients

B. NGOS, IOS OR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

There are several non-governmental organizations that provide medical assistance on different levels, such as emergency hospitals, care hospitals, the Ibni Sina organization, AHDS (Afghan Health and Development services), MSF (Médecins sans frontières), MCH (mother child health), MARACA, ADHA and IMC (International Medical Corps):

Name of the organization	Address	Contact
Afghan Health and Development Service	St. 38, St. 4, Zargonna Mydan Shahr-e Naw Kabul City, Kabul	Phone: + 93 (0) 20,210,716 E-mail: info@ahds.org; ahdskabul@hotmail.com
Aide Médicale internationale (AMI)	Hs. 14, St. A, D 4/10 Karte Pawan, Kabul City, Kabul	Mobile: +93 (0) 79,338,239; +93 (0) 70,281,658 E-mail: homafgha@amifrance.org www.amifrance.org
The ICRC International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society	PD#4, Shahre e Naw, Kabul City	Phone: 0700607811/0771909360 Enrique Landelino Contreras Pulido, Head of Office (econtreraspulido@icrc.org) Habib Rahman Shinwari, EcoSec Field officer (hhabiburahman@icrc.org)
SCA Swedish Committee for Afghanistan	PD#21, Jalalabad Road, Patia Kot, Kabul, Afghanistan	Phone : 0788228020 Enrique Dr. Hafizullah Malang, Project manager (hafizullah.malang@sca.org.af) Dr. Muhammad Arif Adel, Admin/HRM (arif.adel@sca.org.af)

C. NGOS, IOS OR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR (SUCH AS VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR RETURNEES, ETC.)

Name of the organization	Address	Contact
CHA (Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance)	Hs. 1&2, St. 3, West of Baharistan Park, Karte Parwan Kabul City	Mobile: +93 (0) 70,291,722 www.ch-net.org

D. MICROCREDIT ORGANIZATIONS

There are several institutions providing microcredit opportunities. However, there is no public organization active in this field.

Name of the organization	Address	Contact	Comments
AKMFB: Aga Khan Microfinance Bank	The First MicroFinanceBank, Kabul, Afghanistan	Phone.: +93 79,321,001, E-mail: olivier.massart@akdn-afg.org.	Loans go up to USD 3000. Amongst others, returnees, IDPs and vulnerable persons can benefit from this microfinance project.
AREA: Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan	Baghi-e-Bala Road, Karte-Parwan House 35, Street B, Kabul	Phone.: +93 (20) 220 11 40, E-mail: areakbl@brain.net.pk.	Loans go up to USD 300. AREA provides microfinance projects amongst others to vulnerable people, returnees, IDPs and, in particular, to women.

Name of the organization	Address	Contact	Comments
BRAC: Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh	Tel : PABX: (880-2) 9881265-72 Fax: (880-2) 8,823,542, 8,823,614 E-mail:public-affairs@brac.net Loans up to USD 200	Operates in the field of education, health and income generation under the umbrella of BRAC-Afghanistan since June 2002. In Afghanistan, there are eight branches of this agency currently providing loans to women as well as poor and disabled people.
AFSG: Ariana Financial Services Group operated by Mercy Corps	Mercy Corps Afghanistan Fund, Dept. NR PO Box 2669 Portland		Loans go up to USD 1000. AFSG provides loans to groups of four to eight persons with a minimum of 16 years and six months of business experience.
Afghanistan Rural Microcredit Programme- AKDN, Bamyan Branch	Sarasyab, Beside UNHCR Office, Bamyan City, Bamyan	Branch Manager: Lutfulrahman Lutfi Thuraya: +88 216 211 348 13 Mobile: +93 (0)79 39 0800 E-mail: armp_bamyan@hotmail.com; lutfrahman_lutfi@hotmail.com	

E. MAIN BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Name of the institution	Address	Contact
Afghanistan International Bank	Shahab Uddin Watt, Haji Yaqoob Square, Kabul-Afghanistan	www.aib.af Phone: +93 (020) 2550256; +93 (0) 202,550,255
Azizi Bank.	Azizi Bank, Zanbaq Square, opposite to the Turkish Embassy, Kabul-Afghanistan	www.azizibank.af Phone: +93 (0) 202,104,470; +93 (0) 202,104,471

Name of the institution	Address	Contact
Arian Bank.	Opposite to the Attorney General, hanzala Masque Road, Shahre Now, Kabul, Afghanistan	E-mail: Info@arian-bank.com.af Phone: +93 (0)202,203,996
Alfalah Bank Ltd.	House # 279, 2nd Street, Shahr-e- Nou, 4th District, 1st Zone, Kabul, Afghanistan	www.bankalfalah.com Phone: +93 (0)202,203,362; (0)202,203,363,
Bank-E-Millie Afghan	Jade Ibne Sina, next to the Da Afghanistan Bank, Pashtoonistan Square, Kabul, Afghanistan,	www.bma.com.af Phone: +93 (0)202,102,119
BRAC Afghanistan Bank	Baharistan, Karte Parwan Kabul Afghanistan	E-mail: hossain.anowar@brac.net Phone: +93 (0) 700,288,300
Habib Bank of Pakistan	First Floor, Park Plaza, Torabaz Khan Square Shar-e Now Kabul- Afghanistan	E-mail: operations.afg@hbl.com Phone: +93 (0)0202200147
New Kabul Bank	Turbazkhan Share-e- Now, Kabul- Afghanistan	E-mail: info@newkabulbank.af Phone: +93 (0)791,600,700; 0791600800
National Bank of Pakistan	House # 2 Street # 10, Wazir Akbar khan, Kabul-Afghanistan	E-mail: nbpkbl.operations@yahoo.com Phone: +93 (0)0202302729; (0)22,302,739
Pashtany Bank	Pulbaghomomi, Kabul-Afghanistan	E-mail: pashtanybank.com Phone: (0)705,180,000
The First Microfinance Bank	Street No. 2, House No. 4, left side, Shahr Now, near to Holland Embassy, Kabul, Afghanistan	E-mail: info@fmfb.com Phone: +93 (0)790,010,105; 790,010,104
Ghazanfar Bank.	866, Shar Pur Main Road, Kabul, Afghanistan	E-mail: info@ghazanfarbank.com Phone: +93 (0) 202,101,111
Maiwand Bank.	Charrahi Torabaz Khan, Shar e Naw Kabul Afghanistan	E-mail: info@maiwandbank.com Phone: +93 (0)700,700,300
Bakhtar Bank.	Sher Pur Square, Kabul Afghanistan	E-mail: info@bakhtarbank.com +93 (0)776,777,000

Name of the institution	Address	Contact
Afghan United Bank	Turbazkhan Square Share-e- Now Kabul-Afghanistan	E-mail: info@afghanunitedbank.com +93 (0)202,203,834; (0)202,203,838
Afghanistan Commercial Bank	Last Station of Kabul University, Dehbori, Kabul, Afghanistan	E-mail: info.@afgcommercialbank.com +93 (0)728,001,070

F. NGOS, IOS OR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

Name of the organization	Address	Contact
Action contre la Faim (ACF)	Hs. 180, St. 15, Rd. 3, Wazir Akbar Khan Kabul City (Offices also in Mazar-e-Charif, Sar-e Pol, Region of Hazaradjat – Banyan, Ourozgan, Ghor – , Panjsheer and Kandahar)	Mobile: +93 (0) 70,224,694 E-mail: acfafgha@kbl.pactec.net www.actioncontrelafaim.net Frederic Bardou (Country Director) E-Mail: acf4m@inmarsat.francetelecom.fr
ACF-Kabul/Logistics	Microyan 3 Kabul City, Kabul	Mobile: +93 (0) 70,272,766
Afghan-German Help Coordination Office (AGHCO)	Hs. 7, St. 7, Taimani (Near Gharwall Mosque), P.O. Box 994 Kabul City, Kabul	Mobile: +93 (0) 70,224,891, +93 (0) 70,277,766 Phone: +882 (168) 985,506 56 E-mail: aghco_kbl@hotmail.com
Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)	Hs. 12, st 6, Khwaja Mullah Ln. Darulaman Rd, Karte She Kabul City, Kabul	Phone: +93 (0) 20 250 0268 Mobile: +93 (0) 79,214,472, E-mail: area@pes.comsats.net.pk www.area-afg.org
Afghan Development Association (ADA)	Hs. 48, Haji Mir Ahmad Mosque, Karte Parwan (Across from Haji Mir Ahmad Sarai) Kabul City,	Phone: + 882 162 113 0087 E-mail: ada@neda.af www.afgdevas.org
CARE International in Afghanistan	Chahar Rahi haji Yaqoob, park Road, Shar-e-Naw, Kabul City,	Phone: +93 (0) 20 220 1101/1098 Mobile: +93 (0) 70,243,325; + 93 (0) 70,276,716 www.care.org/afghanistan

Name of the organization	Address	Contact
Caritas Germany	House No. 649, Char-ye-Shaid, District 10, Shar-e-Naw, Kabul City,	Mobile: +93 (0) 70,283,313; +93 (0) 70,283,955 E-mail: caritas_germany_Kabul@yahoo.de www.caritas-international.de
Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (CHA)	Hs. 1&2, St. 3, West of Baharistan Park Karte Parwan Kabul City,	Mobile: +93 (0) 70,291,722 www.ch-net.ort
Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR)	Paikobe Nawar, Wazirabad Kabul City,	Phone: +93 (0) 20 220 1520 Mobile: +93 (0) 70 288,232 E-mail: dacaar1@get2net.dk www.dacaar.org
GOAL	House 339, St. 4, Taimani Watt Kabul City,	Mobile: +93 (0) 70,286,727 www.goal.ie
HOPE Worldwide	Corner of Ln. 12 and St. 13, Wazir Akbar Khan Kabul City	Phone: +93 (0) 20,290,138 Mobile: +93 (0) 70,275,168; +93 (0) 70,284,399 E-mail: Mark_timlin@hopeww.org www.af.hopeww.org
Mercy Corps (MC)	Hs. 55R, St. 5, Qalai Fatullah (Near to the Herat Bus Stop Transport) Kabul City,	Mobile: +93 (0) 70,289,441 Phone: +873,762,201,815 E-mail: admin.kabul@mercycorpsfield.org www.mercycorps.org
Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC)	206 St. 3, Ansari Square, Shahr-e Naw Kabul City,	Mobile: +93 (0) 70,285,532; +93 (0) 70,284,525; Phone: + 873,761,965,075 E-mail: nacadmin@neda.af

G. LIST AND CONTACTS OF MAIN TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES

Public transportation is not available in the country. People are travelling from city to city or in the city by private cars such as taxis and buses.

Name of the company	Address	Contact
Afghan Young Generation Transportation Company (AYG CARGO)	Kart-e-Char, Kabul Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan, 1001	Phone: +93 782,050,505
KIFFCO – Kings-Line Intl Freight Forwarding Co	Kabul International Airport Road, Khoja Rawash, Kabul, Afghanistan, 5419 – Central Post Office	Phone: +93 793,260,260
AS Logistics	Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed St, Al Swan – Amber Gem Tower E1, Plot # 4, 36th Floor, Office E1-3620 – Ajman – United Arab Emirates, House # 32, Road # 13, Street # 15, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul, Afghanistan 24,041	Phone: 00971562600021 Fax: 0093790000021
SZ Group of Companies	House No: 4, Sarak-e-Hawza, Policharkhi Industrial Zone, Kabul, AFG , Dist 9, Kabul, 1002	Phone: 0093790000081 Fax: 0093202320831
Aazan Logistics	Ansari Square, Shahra e Now, Kabul, Afghanistan, 25,000	Phone: +923,009,050,900
Globalink Logistics Group	Street 10, House 276, Taimani watt, Kabul, Afghanistan,	Phone: +93 20 2,201,560 Fax: +93 20 2,201,560
Emerlog Ltd	Avenue de Cherpour, PO Box Kabul, Kabul, Kabul	Phone: +870 000000000
TrustPort SCS	Kolala Pushta, Radio Kleed Street, Kabul, 100,000	Phone: +93 700 068328
ACTCO – Afghan Container Transport Co	No. 43, St. No. 2, West of Charahi Haji Yakub, Kabul,	Phone: +93–70214666; +9715-0-6452849 Fax: +9714–3533991



Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
L'organisme des Nations Unies chargé des migrations

For more information on return and reintegration possibilities on this country, please consult the IOM Bern office and/or visit <http://www.ch.iom.int/>
