

AFGHANISTAN



GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ashraf GHANI Ahmadzai

Head of Government

President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ashraf GHANI Ahmadzai

Government Type

presidential Islamic republic

Capital

Kabul

Legislature

bicameral National Assembly consists of the Meshrano Jirga or House of Elders (102 seats) and the Wolesi Jirga or House of People (249 seats)

Judiciary

Supreme Court or Stera Mahkama (chief and 8 justices)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Hamdullah MOHIB

US Ambassador

Ambassador (vacant); Special Charge d'Affaires Hugo LLORENS

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 652,230 sq km

Land: 652,230 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

Climate

arid to semiarid; cold winters and hot summers

Natural Resources

natural gas, petroleum, coal, copper, chromite, talc, barites, sulfur, lead, zinc, iron ore, salt, precious and semiprecious stones, arable land

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

34.1 million (July 2017 est.)

Population Growth

2.36% (2017 est.)

Ethnicity

Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, other (includes smaller numbers of Baloch, Turkmen, Nuristani, Pamiri, Arab, Gujar, Brahui, Qizilbash, Aimaq, Pashai, and Kyrgyz)

Language

Afghan Persian or Dari (official) 50%, Pashto (official) 35%, Turkic languages (primarily Uzbek and Turkmen) 11%, 30 minor languages (primarily Balochi and Pashai) 4%, much bilingualism, but Dari functions as the lingua franca

Religion

Muslim 99.7% (Sunni 84.7 - 89.7%, Shia 10 - 15%), other 0.3% (2009 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 25.5% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization: 3.37% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy

38.2% (2015 est.)

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

recovering from decades of conflict, living standards still among the lowest in the world, highly dependent on foreign aid, and suffering from shortages of housing, water, electricity, and jobs

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$69.51 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$1,900 (2017 est.)

Exports

\$784 million (2017 est.)

partners: India 56.5%, Pakistan 29.6% (2017)

Imports

\$7.616 billion (2017 est.)

partners: China 21%, Iran 20.5%, Pakistan 11.8%, Kazakhstan 11%, Uzbekistan 6.8%, Malaysia 5.3% (2017)

