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)

as of July 2018