



Canada Making a Difference in Afghanistan







Realities of a Fragile State

Occupied by the Soviets and oppressed by the Taliban, Afghanistan has emerged from over twenty years of conflict and instability. The scars of that period are still in evidence:

- infrastructure destroyed or seriously degraded
- society heavily militarized
- economic activity disrupted
- massive dislocation of population
- human skills deficit persists
- poverty widespread (6th poorest state in the world)



Why we are there

We are there at the invitation of the Afghan Government and are guided by core Canadian values – freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

- **Being a responsible global actor** by responding to new, evolving challenges to the international community
- **Creating a secure environment** so that a fragile state may realise its potential to become a stable, democratic society and contributing member of the international community
- **Promoting human rights** - especially for women and girls
- **Fostering development, growth and institution-building** so that the Afghan people can take over from international partners
- **Protecting Canadians** by denying terrorists a safe haven and promoting regional stability



What we have invested

- **Diplomacy:** Canadian Embassy established (2003) and recently expanded
- **Development:** largest current recipient of Canadian bilateral development assistance = nearly CAD 1 billion pledged from 2001-2011
- **Security:** total number Canadian troops deployed (in Afghanistan or environs) since 2001 = 18,000
- **Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT):** established in Kandahar, 4 departments represented.



Significant Progress Already

After the removal of the Taliban-led government from power, the first phase of rebuilding Afghanistan began almost immediately:

- December 2001:** Bonn Agreement signed - democratic state-building process begins
- June 2002:** Afghan Transitional Authority established
- January 2004:** New Constitution adopted
- October 2004:** Presidential elections held – Afghan Transitional Authority replaced with government appointed by President Karzai
- September 2005:** National Assembly and Provincial elections held
- January 2006:** Afghanistan Compact launched



Results to Date

Canadian, Afghan and international investments are already paying dividends:

- **GDP growing:** more than doubled from 2001/2 - 2004/5 (USD 2.4 billion to USD 5.4 billion)
- **Status of women improving:** 582 ran in provincial and parliamentary elections – women hold 25% of seats in legislature
- **Education spreading:** 5 million children now enrolled in primary schools, close to 1/3 are girls
- **Infrastructure:** thousands of km of roads now built
- **Self sufficiency improving:**
 - over 190,000 micro loan clients, mostly women, creating their own livelihoods
 - over 10,000 widows and their families fed, vocational training now underway



Results to Date

Canadian, Afghan and international investments are already paying dividends:

- **Basic services enhanced:** water and sanitation, education, health and electricity projects launched or completed in 13,000 communities
- **Refugees repatriated:** 5 million
- **Combatants:** 63,000 now demobilized and disarmed
- **Weapons:** over 12,000 heavy weapons secured
- **Landmines:** CAD 57 million contributed since 1998 – over 189,000 anti-personnel mines destroyed



The Challenges

Establishing a comprehensive security environment:

- Kabul and northern regions safer
- Kandahar and southeast - facing larger security challenges
- borders remain porous

Reducing poverty and increasing prosperity

Strengthen governance institutions and further extend government's authority outside Kabul

Eliminating the narcotics trade:

- need for alternate sources of revenue for poppy farmers
- drug profits provide direct/indirect funding for insurgents



The Way Forward

*The full spectrum of Canada's activities in Afghanistan are coordinated to address the "Three Pillars" of the new **Afghanistan Compact**:*

1. **Security**
2. **Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights**
3. **Economic and Social Development**



Canada Making a Difference in Afghanistan
