



Country Fact Sheet

Afghanistan

2019



Disclaimer

IOM has carried out the gathering of information with great care. IOM provides information at its best knowledge and in all conscience. Nevertheless, IOM cannot assume to be held accountable for the correctness of the information provided. Furthermore, IOM shall not be liable for any conclusions made or any results, which are drawn from the information provided by IOM.

Funded by:



Bundesamt
für Migration
und Flüchtlinge



I. CHECKLIST FOR A VOLUNTARY RETURN

1. Before the return
2. After the return

II. HEALTH CARE

1. General information
2. Medical treatment and medication

III. LABOUR MARKET AND EMPLOYMENT

1. General information
2. Ways/assistance to find employment
3. Unemployment assistance
4. Further education and training

IV. HOUSING

1. General Information
2. Ways/assistance to find accommodation
3. Social grants for housing

V. SOCIAL WELFARE

1. General Information
2. Pension system
3. Vulnerable groups

VI. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

1. General Information
2. Cost, loans and stipends
3. Approval and verification of foreign diplomas
4. Vocational Education
5. Child Care

VII. CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR RETURNEES

1. Reintegration assistance programs
2. Support to start income generating activities
3. Micro Finance

VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION AND USEFUL LINKS

1. International, Non-Governmental and Humanitarian Organizations
2. Relevant local authorities
3. Services assisting with the search for jobs, housing, etc.
4. Medical Facilities
5. Other Contacts

I. Checklist for a Voluntary Return



Credit: IOM / 2003

Before the Return

The returnee should

- ✓ request documents from German authorities which may be required for attending school, courses, college, or kindergarten. These documents should be verified by the Afghan embassy in the host country. It is highly recommendable that any vocational training be certified and subsequently verified by the Afghan embassy in the host country as well.
- ✓ obtain information concerning the arrival at the airport and the onward journey. Note that the Salang Pass on the way towards Mazar-e-Sharif and other northern provinces may be impassable due to heavy snowfall.
- ✓ check their own and their children's vaccination records. Although there are no specific requirements, it is advisable to be protected against polio, hepatitis B, influenza, and others. These vaccinations are available in the host country.
- ✓ establish contact with their family to ensure that relatives are present at the airport of arrival to receive them.

After the Return

The returnee should

- ✓ ensure that travel documents are stamped by the Afghan immigration authority upon crossing the immigration check. This is important for (a) the returnee as well (b) organizations supporting them. The stamp confirms the date the returnee re-enters Afghanistan so that they can be registered with the migration authority. If the stamp is missing, the returnee risks getting social, legal, or financial assistance denied.
- ✓ register with relevant authorities.
- ✓ contact services assisting with the search for jobs and housing.
- ✓ apply for child care, schools, or other educational institutions.

II. Health Care

I. General Information

Although there is a handful of private insurance companies, these charge comparatively high fees which a vast majority of the local people cannot afford. There is no public health insurance in Afghanistan. Larger medical centers and public hospitals exist in cities such as Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, and Kandahar. The costs for medical services can vary substantially and are generally paid out-of-pocket. As a general approximation, the Afghan Ministry of Public Health set out the following price list for medical services:

- Routine tests 10AFN
- ECG 20 AFN
- Biochemic 30 AFN
- Ultrasound 30 AFN
- EEG 30 AFN
- Simple x-ray 50 AFN
- Echocardiography 50 AFN
- Serologic 70 AFN
- Digital x-ray 100 AFN
- Endoscopy 100 AFN
- Mamography 100 AFN
- Minor surgery 100 AFN
- Hospitalization 200 AFN
- Histopathologic 250 AFN
- CT-Scan 250 AFN
- MRI 500 AFN
- Major surgery 500 AFN
- Super specialty surgery 1000 AFN

Procedure of admission:

Generally, there is no specific procedure. Physically or mentally disabled persons as well as victims of abuse are advised to build on family and community support.

Benefits:

The private Afghan National Insurance Company will spend up to 50,000 USD for their beneficiaries if certain conditions are met.

Costs:

The annual fee for the Afghan National Insurance Company amounts to 1,000 USD.

2. Medical treatment and medication

Medical facilities and doctors:

Medical assistance is available both in rural provinces and bigger cities, albeit the range of services on offer differs dramatically. Medical facilities in rural areas are not well equipped and far from international standards. At times, it can be difficult to find specialists on a district or local level. In most districts, nurses are responsible for medical treatment instead of doctors. On a local level, predominantly in villages, health workers provide medical assistance to people in need. These health workers refer complicated cases to provincial or zonal hospitals. Surgical operations can almost exclusively be handled in provincial hospitals and above. On a district level, first aid and minor surgeries are available at the most. The quality of medical facilities, and the availability of doctors tend to go hand in hand with a district's security situation. Less service (if any) is provided in insecure areas.

Procedure of admission:

The returnee is required to present their national ID (*Tazkira*) to a hospital where they get registered and referred to the respective doctor. In public hospitals there is no fee for the treatment. In private hospitals there is a fee of 200 to 1500 AFN. In urgent cases, hospitals try offer immediate treatment. Patients are advised to consider their family and community in order to organize transportation, and to purchase necessary medication and food while hospitalized.

Availability and costs of medication:

Returnees should be prepared to be referred to private medical stores to purchase their required drugs. The cost of these drugs may vary depending on location, availability, origin, and quality.

III. Labour Market and Employment (1/2)

I. General information

Afghanistan still heavily depends on international military and economic assistance. Because of the continued political and economic insecurity in the country, combined with a trade deficit and environmental factors, growth rates are stalling. Companies and investors are rather reluctant to invest which hinders the job creation process. According to the World Bank (2018), the total labor force in Afghanistan amounts to 11,316,509 people. This number includes those aged 15 and older who meet the International Labor Organization's definition of an economically active population. 19.52% of Afghanistan's active labor force are female.

Agriculture is the largest employment sector in Afghanistan. People in this sector represent roughly 60% of the total workforce, i.e. three out of five people trace back their main source of income to farm-related activities. This share can be significantly higher in rural areas. The second largest employment sector is dominated by small-scale and oftentimes family-based trade activities. These include retail, petty trade, and shop keeping. The third largest employment sector encompasses services and construction. The public sector is another key source of employment opportunities in urban areas, where it accounts for about 158,000 jobs, 18.80% of which are located in the Kabul province (data from 2014). The manufacturing sector only plays a minor role. It accounts for 5.0% of total employment nationwide (2014).

Average Income:

The Afghan government (2018) estimates that a person's average income lies in between 95-140 USD per month. According to the World Bank (2018), the GDP per capita (PPP) has constantly been rising since 2002 (839 USD), passing 1,806 USD in 2014 and ever since growing at a slow rate, most recently reaching 1,951 USD in 2018.

Year	GDP per capita (PPP)
2002	839 USD
2004	885 USD
2006	1,031 USD
2008	1,218 USD
2010	1,637 USD
2012	1,806 USD
2014	1,897 USD
2016	1,896 USD
2018	1,951 USD

Source: World Bank 2018

Unemployment Rate:

As the unemployment rate increases, roughly a quarter of the Afghan labor force remains unemployed (World Bank 2018). One reason is that job creation opportunities are limited due to a poor security situation while the population continues to grow. It should be noted that even among those who are employed, the job situation is not always secure. This primarily pertains to day or unpaid labor, and self-employment. 46% of young Afghans aged 15-24 are illiterate. Labor participation rates for young women tend to be particularly low.

III. Labour Market and Employment (2/2)

2. Ways/assistance to find employment

For employment in the public sector, the Civil Service Commission Management Directorate (CSMD) of the Civil Service Commission and Administrative Reform announces vacant positions online:

- <http://www.iarcsc.com>

Vacant positions with NGOs, as well as with international and local companies are gathered on these websites:

- www.acbar.org
- www.jobs.af
- www.duty.af
- <http://wazifa.af>
- <http://indeed.af>

3. Unemployment assistance

General information on public and/or private unemployment assistance:

There is no assistance during the duration of unemployment. However, the returnee can get information on relevant jobs through the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and through ACBAR (www.acbar.org), an NGO based in Afghanistan. The returnee is advised to send their CV to both organizations and ask for consultation.

4. Further education and trainings

Public schools are owned by the Government and managed under the line management of the Ministry of Education. Additionally, there are several technical and vocational schools which provide professional trainings:

- Afghanistan Technical Vocational Institute
Karte e Char
Next to MOHE (Ministry of Higher Education)
Kabul City
Email: hr@atvi.edu.af
- Rifah Afghanistan Institute
Hesa e Se, Khair Khana, 3rd Street
Kabul City
Tel: 020 241 3529

Labor Market: Access for Returnees and Vulnerable Groups

For returnees or vulnerable groups, there are no specialized organizations or well-developed support systems to help enter the labor market. For the most part, returnees and vulnerable people who can demonstrate professional qualifications or skills need to rely on their own initiative when looking for opportunities in the private sector or in public projects. Helpful contacts are mentioned above.

IV. Housing

I. General Information

The rent for an apartment ranges from 250 USD up to 400 USD. The monthly living expenses can go up to 350 USD (2019) for a higher living standard. These numbers apply for a family household, and for the central part of Kabul where facilities like security, water supply, schools, clinics, and electricity are more available. Living in rural areas, both rental costs and living expenses can decrease by more than 50%.

Utilities like electricity and water cost no more than 40 USD per month, but depending on the consumption, costs might be higher. There is a high number of apartments and houses for rent in Kabul as well as in other provinces. Usually, the costs in Kabul are higher than in other provinces. There are private property dealers in the cities that can provide information regarding rental premises.

2. Ways/assistance to find accommodation

Returnees can be provided with a two-week accommodation in the IOM reception center at Spinzar Hotel after their return (1425 AFA per night).

- PD#1, Puli Bagh Omomi, Kabul city, +93070 744 3020/0799 44 5210

3. Social grants for housing

There is no information available regarding social grants for housing in Afghanistan.

Housing: Access for Returnees and Vulnerable Groups

The German development agency GIZ provides housing assistance for vulnerable returnees in a project funded by Germany and implemented by IOM. The IOM/GIZ cooperation project has three components:

1. Individualized reintegration assistance
2. Free chat-based online information / helpline
3. Community development projects in areas of high return

How can returnees/vulnerable groups benefit from the project? Reintegration staff offers counselling for returnees at IOM Kabul. If desired, reintegration staff will check the returnees' situation against a set of criteria that need to be met in order to qualify for the IOM/GIZ cooperation project. If the criteria are met, the application is sent to GIZ for approval.

Application process and access to the program:

IOM Kabul can provide samples of required supporting documents. All necessary documents will be collected, checked with the returnee, and verified.

V. Social Welfare

I. General Information

There are no public social welfare services available in Afghanistan except for the free education service provided by the government. Information can be retrieved in the respective sections of this document.

2. Pension System

Pensions are only available in the public sector. The usual retirement age is between 63 and 65 years in public organizations. However, this may differ from case to case. The retiree receives benefits for the actual time of employment. A specific number of years in employment is not compulsory.

Costs:

State employees do not need to contribute financially to the pension system.

Benefits:

Once retired, the former state employees' pension is paid out in cash by the government.

3. Vulnerable Groups

People in vulnerable situations can get access to public services, for instance if the person is physically handicapped. For individuals who have neurological or mental problems, adequate assistance is more cumbersome. They can receive treatment at the respective hospitals (Ali Abad Mental Hospital) and through the Red Crescent Organization. Social welfare amounts to 60,000 AFN per annum, which does not cover all the living costs.

Pension System: Access for Returnees

There is no pension available for people returning to Afghanistan voluntarily or by force. The normal retirement age in Afghanistan is 65. After 40 years of employment, retirement is also possible, regardless of age. Voluntary retirement is also possible after having reached 55 years of age and having worked for 25 years.



Credit: IOM / Matthew Graydon 2014

VI. Educational System (1/2)

I. General Information

Two educational systems exist parallel to each other in Afghanistan. Religious education is the responsibility of clerics at mosques, while the government provides free academic education at state schools. From age 6 to age 10, pupils attend primary schools where they learn the basics of reading, writing, arithmetic, and their national culture.

Educational Level	Age
Child care / nursery school	0,5 – 3
Kindergarten	3 – 6
Primary Level	
Elementary School	6 – 10
Secondary Level	
Middle School	10 – 15
High School	15 – 19
Higher Education	
Colleges, University, Professional School etc.	From 19

Three years of middle school follow. Students must pass an examination at the end of the phase if they wish to continue their studies. At secondary schools, students have the choice to either continue an academic path for 3 years that could perhaps lead to university or studying subjects such as applied agriculture, aeronautics, arts, commerce, and teacher training instead. Both programs culminate in a “Baccaluria” examination.

2. Cost, loans and stipends

Tuition in public educational institutions from primary until university level is free of charge. Only private schools and universities will charge tuition fees.

Access and requirements to stipends and/or loans for covering tuition:

As the government cannot provide higher education for all students, access to university is based on academic merit. Those interested must pass entry examinations with a good score. For private institutions, there are no stipends or loans available for returnees.

3. Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

At the first stage, documents such as diploma or degree certificates need to be sent to the ministry of foreign affairs in Afghanistan. The ministry will accept these documents for verification on the condition that they already had been verified by the ministry of foreign affairs of the issuing country in the first place.

Afterwards, the documents will be referred to the ministry of higher education for final recognition, before being ultimately handed to the holder of the degree or diploma.

VI. Educational System (2/2)

4. Vocational Education

Formal educational institutions include vocational and technical high schools, and tertiary institutions such as the Kabul Polytechnic Institute. Numerous institutions, under the overall guidance of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, offer training and job-related courses. The Ministry of Education also runs a department of vocational education, handling 41 schools. These schools focus on mechanics, carpentry, plumbing, carpet weaving, metal-works, hairdressing, tailoring, and office management.

5. Child Care

There are some kindergartens financed and administered by public entities. However, these facilities are mostly reserved for children of public sector employees. There are several private kindergartens which need to be paid for by the family or community directly.

Educational System: Access and Registration Procedure for Returnees

The returnee can request enrollment at the Ministry of Return and Repatriation, which will then refer the returnee to the Kabul provincial education department (Marif Shahr) for educational document verification purposes. Afterwards, if successful, the returnee gets enrolled in the respective institution in accordance with the approved level of education.



VII. Concrete Support for Returnees

I. Reintegration assistance programs

Besides IOM, other institutions also provide reintegration assistance, e.g. UNHCR, or the Afghanistan Center for Excellence (ACE) :

- Afghanistan Center for Excellence (ACE)
POC : Hassibullah Hafizi
Address: House no 385, Street 5, Kartese District 6, Kabul
Tel: +93 796 999 261
- UNHCR
Tel: +93 (20) 200 38 12
Email: AFGKA@unhcr.org
E03Tel@unhcr.org

2. Support to start income generating activities

Returnees are advised to consider the contacts mentioned in this country sheet to start income generating activities.

To date, more than a dozen commercial banks have started operations in Afghanistan. It is recommended to set up a bank account. The following documents are required:

- ID or passport (*Tazkira*)
- 2 passport size photos
- 1,000 to 5,000 AFN as an initial deposit for the bank account

Available services currently include SWIFT transfers, domestic transfers, and saving accounts. Money transfer mechanisms such as Western Union are also available. To remit money into Afghanistan, individuals and businesses need to have a local bank account.

3. Micro Finance

A growing number of institutions provide micro finance services in Afghanistan. Eligibility criteria tend to vary, though most focus on applicants' vulnerability and the potential sustainability of their projects. Returnees (and women in particular) are regularly assisted with micro finance schemes. Note, however, that interest rates are generally quite high.

VIII. Contact Information and Useful Links (1/4)

International, Non-Governmental and Humanitarian Organizations

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Address: Street No. 4, House No. 27, Ansari Square, Shahr-e-Naw, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Email: iomkabul@iom.int

Internet: www.iom.int

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Jamal Mena Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel (digital): + 93 20 210 1722 or: + 93 (0) 70 277 471 (mobile)

Email: fao.af@fao.org

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Address: 41, Jadi Solh (Peace Avenue) PO Box 3232, Kabul

Tel (digital): + 93 (20) 200 38 12

Email: AFGKA@unhcr.org

Kabul: Shirpoor square

Tel (digital): + 93 (20) 200 38 12

Email: E03Tel@unhcr.org

AIMS Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS)

Address: 3rd street, Qalay e Fatullah, Kabul city

Tel: 070 024 8827

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Address: C/O UNDP, Shah Mahmood Wat. Kabul

Tel: + 93 (0) 70 275 811 or + 93 (0) 70 277 868

Email: david-ilokabul@hotmail.com

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Address: PO Box 5 GPO, UNDP Country Office

Jalalabad Road, UNOCA Complex

Kabul, Afghanistan

UNICEF Kabul Country Office

Address: United Nations Office Complex in Afghanistan (UNOCA) Jalalabad Road

Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel: 07 9050 7000

Email: Kabul@unicef.org

United Nations Assistance in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Address: Shah Mahmood Ghazi Wat, PO Box 5, Shar-e-Naw, Kabul

World Health Organisation (WHO)

Main Office address: House No. 249, Street 10, Wazir Akbar Khan

Tel (digital): + 93 (20) 230 0181 or + 93 (0) 70 279 010 011, 012 (mobile) or + 882 1633 330 737 (Thuraya),

Email: whoafghanistan@hotmail.com

Support Office address: House 218, Margalla Road, F-10/3, PO Box 1963, Islamabad, Pakistan,

Tel: + 92 (0) 51 221 1224, 210 4110,

Email: supply@whoafg.org

World Food Programme (WFP)

Main Office address: Street # 4, Koshani Watt (Behind Kabul Bank), Shar-e-Now, Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel: +93 797 662 000 - 4/+93 700 282 820 - 4

Fax: 1331-2513 (7807) / +873 763 089 561,

Kabul Tel (satellite): + 873 763 044 995

Tel (Thuraya): + 882 162 111 0189 or + 93 (0) 70 278 593 (mobile)

Fax (satellite): + 873 763 044 996,

Email: WFP.kabul@wfp.org

CHA (Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance)

Address: Hs. 1&2, St. 3, West of Baharistan Park, Karte Parwan Kabul City

Tel: +93 (0) 70,291,722

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)

Address: Hs. 12, st 6, Khwaja Mullah Ln. Darulaman Rd, Karte She Kabul City, Kabul

Tel: +93 (0) 20 250 0268 Mobile: +93 (0) 79,214,472

Email: area@pes.comsats.net.pk

VIII. Contact Information and Useful Links (2/4)

Relevant local authorities (employment offices, health/pension insurances etc.)

The ICRC International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society

Address: PD#4, Shahre e Naw, Kabul City

Tel: 0700607811/0771909360

Email: Enrique Landelino Contreras Pulido, Head of Office
(econtreraspulido@icrc.org)

Habib Rahman Shinwari, EcoSec Field officer
hhabiburahman@icrc.org

Afghan Health and Development Service

Address: St. 38, St. 4, Zargonna Mydan Shahr-e Naw Kabul City, Kabul

Tel:+ 93 (0) 20,210,716

Email: info@ahds.org and ahdskabul@hotmail.com

Insurance Corporation of Afghanistan

Address: 4th floor Naseer Building , Sarsabzi Square , Taimany District 4, Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel: 0796 562 932

IPSO (International Psychosocial Organization)

Address: 7th street, Qalay e Fatullah in front of Husaineya Omomi, Kabul

Tel: +93(0)700073676

+93(0)781149264

+93(0)799810675

Services assisting with the search for jobs, housing, etc.

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR)

ACBAR Office Kabul

Shaheed Tomb,

Address: Chahar Rahi Shaheed, Share-e-Now, Kabul city

Tel: + 93 0700282090

Email: www.acbar.org

Internet: <http://www.acbar.org/index.php>

Ahmad Samir Sharifi Property Dealer

Address: Shop # 4, 3rd Line, New Market, 3rd Makrorian, District # 9, Kabul

Tel: +93 (0) 700 085 776

Afghanistan Holding Group

Address: Building 21, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) Street Darulaman, District 6, Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel: 079 600 0111

Email: info@ahg.af

Kabul property dealer

Address: Qalay Musa, 10th street, Kabul city

Tel: +93 (0) 7822798055

<http://www.jobs.af>

Habibi property dealer

Address: Bagrami district, Kabul

Tel: +93 (0) 766666162

VIII. Contact Information and Useful Links (3/4)

Medical Facilities

Ataturk Children's Hospital:

Located near Kabul University. This facility specializes in internal medicine.

Tel: 020 250 0312

Dr. Zmarai Haseen: 0799-034-242

Dr. Aminuddin Shefajo, Chief of Hospital: 0700 151 544

Dr. Farooq: 0799-319-217

Indira Ghandi Children Hospital:

Located in Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul. This facility specializes in internal medicine, orthopedic and general surgery.

Tel: 020-230-2281

Dr. Noor-ul-Haq Yosufzai, Chief of Hospital: 0799-312-369

Dr. Ajab gul Momand: 0700-218-787

Noor Eye Hospital:

Located in Deh Bori near Kabul University.

Tel: 020-210-0446;

Dr. Reshad Siddeqyar, Chief of Eye Hospital: 070-279-445

Dr. Nazeer: 070-033-765

Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital:

Located opposite the ANA ("400 Bed") Hospital in the Wazir Akbar Khan District of Kabul. Specializing in orthopedic work.

Tel: 020-230-1360

Jamhoriat Hospital:

Located in Sidarat Square, Kabul. Specializing in surgery.

Tel: 020-220-1375

Dr. Mohammad Essa Qanei, Deputy Chief of Surgery: 0700-237-390

Maiwand Hospital:

Located in Jada-e-Maiwand, Kabul. Specializes in treating skin problems.

Tel: 020-210-0447

Dr. Kohdamani, Chief of Maiwand Hospital: 070-286-994

Rabia-I-Balki Maternity Hospital:

Located in downtown Kabul,

Near the Foroshgha-e-Bozorg Afghan

Tel: 020 210 0439

Malalay Maternity Hospital:

Located in Shahrara.

Tel: 020 220 1377

Karte sae mental hospital

Psychiatric hospital

Karte sae Serahi Allaudding PD-6

Tel: +93 799 3,190,858

Dr. Temor Shah Mosamem

Ali Abad neuropsychiatric section

Located in the Ali Abad area behind the Kabul Medical University

Tel: +93 799 457,370

Dr. Ematullah Rasooli

Sayed Jamaluding psychiatric hospital

For neurotic patients

Located in Khoshal Mina section I

Tel: 93 799 128,737

SURGICAL CENTRE FOR WAR VICTIMS IN KABUL

Address: Charahi Zanbaq, Shahre e Naw, Kabul city

Dr. Salam Aziz Dental Clinic:

This clinic is located at Deh Afghanan, opposite the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Tel: 0700-291-315

VIII. Contact Information and Useful Links (4/4)

Other Contacts (e.g. NGOs for women and children, microcredit-lending)

Helping Empower the Woman of Afghanistan

Address: House 319, Street 1, Karte 3, District 6, Kabul

Tel: +93 786 505505

Email: Kabul@weafghanistan.org

Children in Crisis (CIC)

Address: Hs. 41, Jami Watt, Charahi Shahid Kabul City

Tel: +93 (0) 70 281 401, +93 (0) 79 337 816

Email: cicafg@ceretechs.com

Internet: www.childrenincrisis.org.uk

Afghan Women Resource Centre (AWRC)

Address: Main Office House No. 122, Usmania Lane, Arbab Road, P.O. Box 1412 Peshawar

Pakistan Tel: + 92 (0) 91 840 311

Address: House No. 221, Street 2 Qali-Fathullah, Sector 10

Tel: +93 (0) 70 280 179 +93 (0) 79 203 056

Save The Children

Address: Darul Aman, Kabul city

Tel: 0093 730 70 70 70