



Country Profile: Afghanistan

After more than two decades of conflict, Afghanistan has begun an enormous political, economic, and social transformation since it was catapulted onto the world stage in 2002. Progress to date has been encouraging, but tremendous challenges remain.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Afghanistan
Continent:	Asia
Capital City:	Kabul
Boundary Countries:	China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	
Main Cities:	Kabul, Kandahar, Konduz, Bagram, Herat, Shir Khan, Zaranj, Ghanzi
Country Size:	647,500 sq km
Population:	31,056,997

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Afghan Persian or Dari (official) 50%, Pashtu (official) 35%, Turkic languages (primarily Uzbek and Turkmen) 11%, 30 minor languages (primarily Balochi and Pashai) 4%, much bilingualism
Currency:	afghani (AFA)
Predominant Religions:	Sunni Muslim 80%, Shi'a Muslim 19%, other 1%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 19 August (1919)
Economic Status:	Afghanistan's economy is recovering from decades of conflict. The economy has improved significantly since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, largely because of the infusion of international assistance, the recovery of the agricultural sector, and growth of the service sector.
Security:	Afghan National Army (includes Afghan Air Force)
US Presence:	The U.S. Embassy in Kabul Phone: (00 93) (0)700-10-8000 Fax: (00 93) (0)700-108-564 The website is www.af.usembassy.gov
Major Airports:	Airports: 46; Airports w/paved runways: 11

