Livelihoods in Afghanistan: a select annotated bibliography

This listing (prepared under an EC-funded rural livelihoods monitoring programme) attempts to list the most important current sources of information on livelihoods in Afghanistan. The annotations are mostly descriptive and indicatory of the content of each item. All documents cited are available in Kabul in the library of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) in Shahr-i Nau: the number below each entry is the call number for the document.

If users have suggestions for documents and resources to be included in the listing please email them to library@areu.org.af

(Kabul, June 2004)


The purpose of this paper was to have a better understanding of the areas at-risk in Kabul and the constraints faced by vulnerable groups throughout the city. A mapping of different livelihood zones was identified to avoid irrelevant averages at city level and define the specific constraints experienced by the various neighbourhoods of Kabul. In addition eleven highly vulnerable neighbourhoods were identified.

p338.9581/(100)/K11/2004


The goal of the National Development Framework (NDF) is to provide a strategic road map for development in Afghanistan around which all actors can unite to address poverty through a series of projects and programmes. The strategy identifies three pillars: (1) to use humanitarian assistance and social policy to create the conditions for people to live secure lives and to lay the foundations for the formation of sustainable human capital; (2) to use external assistance to build the physical infrastructure that lays the basis for a private sector-led strategy of growth in such a manner as to support the building of human and social capital; (3) the creation of sustainable growth, where a competitive private sector becomes both the engine of growth and the instrument of social inclusion through the creation of opportunity.

338.9581/N277/2002


The Vulnerability analysis review provided a review of information and initiatives in the areas of vulnerability focused assessment, analysis and action. The purpose is to provide, on the basis of available information, an accessible overview of the key issues for decision makers and to promote the national and local coordination of multiple stakeholders as part of the process of jointly identifying information and initiatives and in the reviewing of strategic implications of emerging issues. Only one issue was every published.
This summary outlines programme components for the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and UNAMA’s preparations for winter 2002-2003. It is estimated that 1.7 million refugees have returned to Afghanistan in 2002. The overarching concerns for the winter preparedness programme are: food security, population movements, urban preparedness, accessibility and nomads.

This summary reports on the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and UNAMA’s operations to assist those at risk during the winter of 2002-2003. Overall the snowfall was significantly lighter than expected.

The purpose of this Programme is to enhance the effectiveness of policies and investments in the areas of social protection, community development and livelihood promotion, and institutional strengthening. It will focus on chronic poverty, gender inequality, infant mortality and malnutrition, reintegration of returnees and IDPs, destitute pastoralists, reintegration of ex-combatants, inequity for disable persons, poppy ban vulnerability and communities at risk to rapid onset disasters.

The results of the preliminary analyses of data aim to provide a general overview of vulnerability and food insecurity throughout Afghanistan. A reduction (about 25%) in the number of Afghans unable to meet 80% of their daily food requirements is indicated.

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Support to the development of a livelihoods monitoring system in Afghanistan: [Project] summary
[Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU)]. [Islamabad, Pakistan: Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit], 2001. 8 p.; 30 cm.

The project was to work with key agencies, both NGO and UN, to develop appropriate tools to support their programming and strengthen their operating capacity. Monitoring and evaluation systems would be developed to improve understanding of the impact of current interventions in Afghan livelihoods and provide direction for future strategies and practices.

p338.958/S959/2001


The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development has identified five national policy and programme areas to be launched in the fiscal year 1381 [2003]. This brief submission summarizes these areas and outlines the expected results of each of the programmes: (1) institutional strengthening for support to sustainable rural livelihoods, (2) macro-economic regeneration, (3) community based development, (4) protection of lives and livelihoods, (5) income diversification.

p338.958/S964/2002


For this lengthy study the natural resources sector has been defined broadly to include all aspects of natural resource management, utilisation and protection. It is based on sub-sector programs or investments, institutional reforms and capacity building, and policy reform. Eight appendices detail proposals for (1) short term interventions, (2) natural resources management, (3) water resources management, (4) community development, (5) agriculture (crops), (6) livestock production and animal health, (7) agriculture research and technology transfer and (8) institutional development.

333.7609581/A257/2002


To set the stage for sustainable development into the medium term, this report focused on (1) the preparation of project profiles for quick-impact interventions, and (2) a medium-term strategy, policy, and institutional development framework for the natural resource and agriculture sector in Afghanistan. Short term and medium-term programs / interventions are identified for core areas of the natural resource and agriculture sector recovery effort (natural resource management, water resources, community development, agriculture, livestock, agriculture research and technology transfer, off-farm employment). In addition, agendas for institutional reforms, capacity building and policy reform are also delineated.

p333.7609581/R293/2003

The preliminary needs assessment was carried out to determine the amount of external assistance required to reconstruct Afghanistan over the five years following the fall of the Taliban. The assessments were performed through consultation and discussions held primarily in Islamabad and Peshawar, and on a one-day visit to Kabul. For each area examined the current situation is described briefly and then short term priorities are listed along with immediate actions and longer term needs and options. The assessments estimated that US$12 billion would be necessary over five years to address Afghanistan’s immediate reconstruction needs.


The longstanding lack of research on Afghanistan, the difficulties of conducting research in a war zone and the low ranking previously accorded the country have meant that international interventions in Afghanistan have rarely been based on sound analytical foundations. This report focuses on humanitarian actions in Afghanistan, specifically how the humanitarian actors themselves conceptualize and interact with conflict dynamics and support (or undermine) livelihood strategies. The historical and contemporary dimensions of the Afghan political economy are outlined before a presentation of comparative findings from community level research, with a particular focus on livelihoods. This is followed by an analysis of selected commodities (to highlight the interlinkages between various levels of the Afghan political economy) and an assessment of how aid agencies analyze political economy/livelihoods and the implications of this research for their programs.


Caritas wanted to get valid findings about the living conditions of vulnerable women in Kabul. 3,764 women of different ethnic group affiliation and different ages were consulted regarding their families’ living conditions, challenges and problems. Findings cover health, literacy, nutritional situation, income.


The purpose of this paper was to provoke discussion by exploring and elaborating the integrating concept of sustainable livelihoods, in particular implications for both policy and practice. Fundamental to this approach are the three linked concepts of capability, equity and sustainability.

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11/25/2004

p630.90581/C556/2004

Clarke, Paul, and John Seaman. 1998.  

Part one of this paper briefly outlines three methods of assessing food vulnerability and then outlines five ways Afghans households get food: agriculture, animal husbandry, exchange (cash, ‘barter’), non-market exchanges of food and money, relief food. The second part of the paper (thirty pages) briefly describes the food economies of thirty-four areas of Afghanistan.


Coke, Alexia.  
*Wheat seed and agriculture programming in Afghanistan : its potential to impact on livelihoods* / Alexia Coke. [Kabul] : The Afghanistan Research and Evolution Unit (AREU), 2004. 27 p. ; 30 cm. (Case studies series).

p631.52109581/C682/2004


This report documents the findings of a study looking at the application of political economy analysis to humanitarian programming in complex environments. The study, conducted in 2001 and 2002, looked at four cases: Afghanistan, the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sierra Leone and the Casamance in Senegal. The case studies had two principal objectives. The first was to identify and test the analytical and methodological tools that humanitarian agencies can use to help them understand the often complex and difficult environments in which they work. The second was to identify the key themes arising from political economy analysis that could have direct or indirect implications for humanitarian aid interventions.

p338.9001/P881/2003

Cullather, Nick. 2002.  

According to Cullather a succession of United States’ administrations became caught up in development schemes in Afghanistan, including the massive dam-building project in the Hilmand Valley, modelled on the Tennessee Valley Authority. US ventures into Afghanistan were linked to visions of economic development and political stability, however, the goals and effects of the doomed Hilmand Valley project were never viewed outside the distorting mirror of modernization theory.

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Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR). 2002. 

This paper sets out a framework for planning in agriculture and natural resource management in Khwaja Omari District, Ghazni Province [= AIMS geo-code 602 Bahrami Shahid (Jaghatu) District] for the coming three years, by defining priority areas for DACAAR. Following a description of the farming system according to agricultural zones, there is a discussion of DACAAR’s major activities and achievements, then an assessment of the performances of major crops over the project period on the basis of average yields and the major factors affecting crop production, including associated issues such as storage, marketing and credit with recommendations for future sectoral activities.

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe Bonn and German Agro Action Kabul. 2002. 

This study gathered information about livelihoods in these provinces for a project to rehabilitate rural infrastructure (i.e. streets, feeder roads and irrigation systems) through public employment schemes. Summaries cover water availability, agricultural assets, distance to market centres, migration, income structure, important institutional frame conditions determining the access to capital assets.

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe Bonn and German Agro Action Kabul. 2003. 

This livelihood system study represents the results of research commenced in autumn 2002 in four districts. It provides information about the livelihoods of people, their frame conditions and the capital assets available. It identifies the most important parameters withing the livelihood system. In addition key questions for following studies are elaborated (p. 68-72).

*Afghanistan’s population : settled, nomadic, displaced and refugee : their numbers, location and ethnic composition / Thomas H. Eighmy. [Omaha, Nebraska? : Afghanistan Studies Center], 2002. 7 p ; 30 cm.*

Eighmy identifies a tendency for Afghanistan’s population figures to be consistently overstated, and argues for an approximate total Afghan population (including refugees) of twenty-two million in 2001. Of this population he estimates that 38% are Pashtun by ethnicity.
*Kabul and urban Afghanistan: a demographic baseline and prospects for the future: a discussion paper for the International Conference on Kabul and the National Urban Vision.*
7 p.; 30 cm. 2002.

This paper provides urban population estimates for Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kunduz (municipality), using figures from the "sample census" of 1974 and the "pre-census" 1979 as well as 1990 projections. Ministry of Urban Development and Housing figures from 2002 are also included.


An FAO / WFP mission to assess crop and food supply in Afghanistan visited in May 2000 to estimate cereal harvest and cereal import requirement, including food aid needs for the marketing year 2000/01. The mission visited 17 provinces in different regions and fielded teams of national agronomists to collect information on crop production and the livestock situation. These teams carried out sample surveys in 28 out of 31 provinces. The resulting assessment was that Afghanistan faced a serious food crisis due to a severe drought and continuing economic problems. Total cereal output for 2000 (forecast at 1.82 million tonnes) was down 44% compared to the drought-affected 1999 output. Millions of Afghans, including sedentary farmers, nomads and transhumant population had little or no access to food and the situation would worsen as the 2000/01 marketing year progressed. Planned emergency food aid would still be 1.0 million tonnes short and if unmet would result in widespread serious nutritional consequences and loss of life.


The workshop was to further develop a shared understanding of food security issues in Afghanistan. In addition it was to help integrate short- and longer-term approaches, prioritize appropriate instruments and policies, improve coordination and move toward an operational strategy to guide specific assistance activities related to food security in 2000-2002. Themes which emerged from the discussions included: balancing an emergency-related focus with sustainable enhancement of food security, a greater need for prioritization, more stability in funding, and the need for regional strategies.


This paper describes how household livelihood security has been operationalized in CARE. Drawing on lessons learned from a number of countries, the paper shows how livelihood

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concepts and tools have been taken into account in strategic planning, diagnosis, design, implementation, monitoring, reformulation and evaluation. Application of the livelihood framework is not considered as a linear process, but rather a flexible, dynamic and iterative process over time.

338.9001/F829/2000


The assessment identified six foci for projects: (1) institutional strengthening / human capacity building, (2) dairy production, (3) integrated small ruminant production, (4) integrated animal health management, (5) animal power for tillage and transport, and (6) village women’s poultry production. Also identified was the need to fill knowledge gaps before implementing large-scale development projects.

636.009581/N374/2002

Future Harvest Consortium to Rebuild Agriculture in Afghanistan. [2002?] 

Following a meeting in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) in January 2002 a consortium was established to address issues of restoring food security and rebuilding the agriculture sector in Afghanistan. This paper outlines the members, objectives and programme of work established for the consortium. The four focus areas are (1) seed systems and crop improvement, (2) soil and water, (3) livestock, feed and rangelands, (4) horticulture.

Gawęcki, Marek. 1980. 

This brief survey aims at presenting the crucial problems of the situation of Hazara farmers and their historical determinants. The author suggests it is plausible to claim that the majority of the socio-economic problems of Afghanistan are most evident there and that this cause for this is the severe geographical conditions and the turbulent history of the Hazara.

915.8109/(2800)/G284/1980

Gawęcki, Marek. 1986. 

In this article the ethnic and family structures of two villages (one in Hazarajat and one in Kunduz) have been analysed. Relations between landowners and rural workers have also been examined. In addition the study focuses on changes occurring in traditional rural institutions and the social stratification of the village.

p338.9581/G284/2003

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Glatzer, Bernt and Michael J. Casimir. 1983. 

This article deals mainly with herd management and household budget among Pashtun nomadic pastoralists in western Afghanistan. Other aspects, such as shepherd contracts, labour organization, and economic relations with the nonpastoral world, are described briefly. No attempt is made to construct a model of the nomad economy.

p305.891593/(2014)/G549/1983


This paper endeavours to describe and analyse notions and practices of locality, of local boundaries and of social boundaries before and during the recent war in Afghanistan. The war has brought about new “real” (i.e. physically observable) boundaries, as well as eliminating old ones.

p306.09581/G551/2001

Grace, Jo. 
*Gender roles in agriculture: case studies of five villages in northern Afghanistan* / by Jo Grace. [Kabul]: Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), 2004. 21 p.; 30 cm. (Case studies series).

p338.108209581/G729/2004

Grace, Jo. 2003. 

This study is an attempt to understand what winter vulnerability means in an urban context, which types of people are vulnerable to the threats of winter, and how cash-for-work interventions address the needs of those who are susceptible. From this we can explore the usefulness of these projects and determine whether other types of interventions may be more useful.

p338.9581/(100)/G792/2003


This is one of six country case studies in a Global Study on Consultation with and Participation by Beneficiaries and Affected Populations in the Process of Planning, Managing, Monitoring and Evaluating Humanitarian Action. The March 2002 earthquakes in Nahrin, Baghlan Province provide the focus for the study. The study aims to identify current practice

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on participation and consultation, the associated benefits and risks, and to understand factors that constrain or facilitate the practice of participation.

363.349509581/G891/2003


This is a report from an independent mid-term review of the community development programme that Ockenden International has been implementing in ten villages of Enjil district, Herat province, since early 1999. The report focuses on the role and representativeness of development *shuras*, on gender in the context of the organization as well as within the programme; on data-collection and on the use of participatory rural appraisal techniques. It also briefly assess five of the project components in the programme and finally discusses some of the challenges associated with scaling-up the programme.

338.93581/(2000)/H293/2001

d’Hellencourt, Nouchine Yavari, Shuhrat Rajabov, Nasrollah Stanikza, Abdul Salam. 2002. 

The subject of this study is land in the broader context of sustainable urban development with special reference to Kabul City. This preliminary study on urban land aims at fostering a common understanding of the importance of this scarce resource in the well-being of the urban society in Afghanistan and the complexity that surround its use and ownership. One of the primary goals of this study is to promote the establishing of an efficient Land Information System (LIS) in Kabul.

p333.009581/P924/2002


This preliminary study on urban land aims at fostering a common understanding of the importance of this scarce resource in the well-being of the urban society of Afghanistan and the complexity that surround its use and ownership. It includes an analysis of the legal framework of real estate in Kabul, an examination of the compliance of Afghanistan with international human rights treaties pertaining to land and housing and socio-cultural discriminations relating to property ownership.

p333.009581/P924/2002

*Human security and livelihoods of rural Afghans, 2002-2003: a report for The United States Agency for International Development*/ Feinstein International Famine Center, Youth and Community Program, Tufts University, USA. Medford, Ma., USA : Feinstein International Famine Center, Tufts University, 2004. 263 p.; maps; 30 cm. 
Bibliography, p. 258-263.

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This report documents and analyzes recent countrywide trends in the relationship between human security and livelihoods throughout rural Afghanistan from 2002-2003. All countrywide information is generated by analyses of 2003 Nationwide Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) survey data. In addition, the report includes detailed analyses on six provinces based on primary research by the Tufts team in Badghis, Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, and Nangarhar.

The report emphasizes the important links among four key aspects of human security in the livelihoods of rural Afghans and the prospects for peace and development in the country in the longer term. The four aspects of human security are:

- Human rights and personal security,
- Societal and community security,
- Economic and resource security, and
- Governance and political security.

The report also examines and analyzes the formal, traditional, and customary mechanisms that are in place to address injustice and mitigate security and livelihood threats for the rural Afghan population. Policy recommendations are made based on findings and analyses.

323.4409581/H918/2004

Hunte, Pamela A.


p338.958/H944/2004

International Monetary Fund, Middle Eastern Department and Policy Development and Review Department. 2002.


This report surveys economic developments in Afghanistan from January to September 2002 (including the introduction of the new currency) and details the renewed role of the IMF in the reconstruction process.

338.958/R425/2002


*Hazarajat baseline study : interim report* / Chris Johnson. [S.l. : s.n.], 2000. 107 leaves ; 30 cm.

This study collected baseline information on the situation of people living in Hazarajat, one of the poorest parts of Afghanistan, to provide a starting point from which agencies working in the area could measure future progress. After an outline of the social and political profile of the area, a fifteen-page survey covers gender and livelihoods, household types, landownership patterns, agricultural practice, asset assessments, food security and environmental degradation. This is followed by an assessment of access to services (health and education). The ensuing recommendations centre on suggestions for future data collection and the development of

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indicators to assess civil and political rights, livelihood and food security, health, education and assistance activity.

Kane, Marilee and Raja Ehsan Aziz. 2002. 
*Vulnerable livelihood systems in Afghanistan : FAO study, part II : Herat and Badakhshan / Marilee Kane, Raja Ehsan Aziz.* [Rome?]: FAO, 2002. 30 leaves; 30 cm.

The findings compiled in this report are the early results of an FAO study profiling groups with vulnerable livelihood systems in Afghanistan, i.e. those who are food insecure. The focus areas were Herat and Faizabad where the study targeted internally displaced persons, returning refugees, landless casual labourers and Koochis. The summary findings detail the causes of indebtedness, sources of income for the target groups, matters of social and natural capital, problems for women, rural-urban migrants and the priority needs of refugees returning home. The main general recommendations are for the staff of international organizations to make more effort to assess the situations outside Kabul and that there needs to be more Afghan involvement in all aspects of food security surveillance in Afghanistan.


This paper presents data—village and household—and findings from research conducted in three villages in Alingar, Laghman province, by the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR). The purpose of the paper is to stimulate debate over the nature and diversity of livelihood strategies in rural Afghanistan and to highlight programming issues in NGO responses to those strategies.


The aim of this study was to identify the use of space in relation to water supply and water collection practices, and to identify the effects that external influences (including assistance and interventions) have on the use of space in relation to water supply and water collection patterns. Two dimensions of space were found to be important in relation to water supply and water collection patterns: owned space and gendered space.

Lautze, Sue. 1997. 
*Saving lives and livelihoods : the fundamentals of a livelihoods strategy.* Medford, Ma., USA : Feinstein International Famine Center, Tufts University, 1997. 37 p.; 30 cm. (Saving Lives series).

In complex emergencies eight basic principles of self-sufficiency and productivity form the foundation of a livelihoods strategy: (1) rigorous assessment, (2) aggressive capacity building (3) appropriate market support, (4) protecting essential assets, (5) easing vulnerables’ burdens.
(6) timely interventions, (7) limiting harmful population displacement and (8) establishing sustainable systems. In this paper these eight principles are analyzed along with their corresponding strategies and actions.


This report seeks to explain vulnerability to food insecurity in Afghanistan and how vulnerable individuals, households and communities are coping with food insecurity. Based on this analysis, recommendations for a principled strategy of humanitarian assistance are made to USAID. Field work covered fifteen provinces in north, central, southern and western regions of Afghanistan. The report found that vulnerability to food insecurity has increased sharply in recent years and remains very high throughout Afghanistan, despite massive humanitarian relief efforts. Unlike conflict-related threats, Afghan households are less adept at coping with the continuing severe drought and the bulk of Afghanistan’s vulnerable populations are still food insecure. Food security will only come about when Afghans are able to grow, buy or rely on their kinship networks for their own food and water needs. In order to achieve this, a deliberate and integrated strategy of political, economic and military interventions designed to move Afghanistan towards food security is essential.


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This paper seeks to unpack the different motivations and factors that influence opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and document how those are prioritised across different socio-economic groups. It highlights how development interventions aimed at creating licit livelihood opportunities need to adopt a more strategic and targeted approach that addresses the different socio-economic groups involved in opium poppy cultivation and the multi-functional role that opium poppy plays in their livelihood strategies.

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This study explores the impact on households’ decisions to cultivate opium poppy of the changing policy environment within Afghanistan (ie. the Interim Administration for Afghanistan banning opium poppy cultivation, the establishment of the Transitional Administration, the National Drugs Strategy for Afghanistan, etc.). Based on 214 semi-structured interviews conducted in thirteen districts of four provinces of Afghanistan during the planting season for the 2002/03 crop, the study reports that, despite significant increases in the price of opium, overall the amount of opium poppy planted by those interviewed was expected to remain relatively stable in 2002/03 compared with the previous growing season. The absence of alternative livelihoods and the continuing impact of the drought (in some areas), combined with the continuing role opium plays as one of the only sources of informal credit, left most households with no alternative but to defy the ban. The overall conclusion is that there is a perception amongst households that they do not have alternatives to the cultivation of opium poppy.

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This paper was written to introduce eight papers about new contributions to the study and practice of livelihood security presented at a 1999 conference. First it defines and provides a

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conceptual framework for livelihoods and livelihood security. Next it reviews literature on advances and new understandings made possible by a livelihoods approach, and presents the ways in which a livelihoods approach has been applied to programmatic interventions. Finally there are abstracts of the eight papers given at the conference.


This CARE discussion paper aims to contribute to debate about integrating the Household Livelihood Security framework and the rights based approach to programming. First it reviews the core elements of each, considering how each they contribute to CARE’s mission, vision, strategic direction and programming cycle. Finally it suggests some conclusions on points of complementarity, convergence and divergence in the approaches.


This brief paper is intended to explore the links (if any) between food aid distributions, wheat prices and poppy cultivation in Afghanistan using historical data from various sources. Major findings were that in 2003 both wheat and poppy cultivation increased, no evidence was found that current wheat prices discouraged domestic wheat production, domestic production and commercial cereal imports had more impact on wheat prices than food aid, high opium prices and insufficient law enforcement were major factors in increasing opium production.


In order to provide a context for predicting issues that will arise from refugee return and resettlement, the framework of law, custom and practice applicable to public, private and common ownership of land in Afghanistan are outlined here. In addition, types of community disputes concerning land ownership, analysis of issues of land tenure and the capacity for existing Afghan institutions to resolve problems arising from refugee resettlement are also assessed.


This study was commissioned to provide insight into livelihoods strategies in Faryab particularly under the current conditions of drought, as a basis for identifying appropriate

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strategies and interventions for Save the Children (USA) to consider for improving livelihoods of vulnerable families with an impact on women and children. It was carried out during July 2001 over a 16-day period and is based on some 60 household interviews and six village level or group discussions. The paper maintains that it is possible to investigate ways of maintaining or rebuilding a diverse range of household assets, and that it should be possible to use a wider range of instruments than just food transfers to do this.

338.93581/P144/2001


The broad objective of this study was to assess the impact of the opium poppy economy on household livelihoods. A particular emphasis is given to examining effects of the opium poppy economy on household expenditure and income, differential effects on members of the household / family, likely effects of interdiction measures on household strategies, the changing nature of power relations within the opium poppy economy and the effect of that economy on the transformation of social relations and on wider dimensions of conflict and risk management.

p362.2909581/P144/2004

Pain, Adam. 2002.

This paper argues that there is little direct evidence for consistent livelihood understanding and analysis informing humanitarian practice in Afghanistan in the past. The dynamics of chronic conflict in Afghanistan have been poorly understood, not least in terms of its effects on livelihoods. Drawing on three case studies this paper identifies key lessons for interventions, including: the recognition of embedded knowledge of NGOs that have worked long-term in specific locations and the need to build learning explicitly into their programming, the poor understanding of the resilience of livelihoods, the need to recognise the legitimacy of ‘illicit’ activities, the dynamic nature of conflict and power relations and the poor conceptualisation of vulnerability within the livelihoods framework.

p338.958/P144/2002


p333.91009581/ P144/2004

Pain, Adam and Jonathan Goodhand. 2002.

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This report draws on the available literature, direct field experience, publications and other documentation to present an historically based analysis of Afghanistan’s current socio-economic situation and the implications of this for reconstruction and employment creation.


Pain, Adam and Sue Lautze. 2002.

"This paper has two core objectives. The first is to build a critical understanding of the concept of livelihoods in Afghanistan. The second is to investigate the way livelihood issues are being addressed in the policy and programming processes of Afghanistan’s humanitarian and reconstruction agenda. The paper is divided into three parts. The first part is theoretical: it introduces the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework model and discusses this model as applied to conditions of sustained conflict and vulnerability. The second part focuses on Afghanistan and analyses historical and current livelihoods trends and policy approaches to livelihoods issues. The third part is prescriptive, offering recommendations for strengthening the way the government and the assistance community incorporate livelihoods into policy and programming.”—Executive summary, p. 1.

Patterson, Mervyn. 2004.


The objective of this paper was to provide a critical assessment of the WFP/VAM—UN World Food Programme/Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping—country-wide assessment of Afghanistan in 2002. Major aims were to increase the accuracy and validity of the methodology to be used in the 2003 assessment, to ensure the inclusion of indicators to provide a basis for programming decisions beyond food aid, to increase the analysis and use of data collected by government ministries and, to identify how other assessment initiatives designed to monitor changes can better complement the country-wide assessment.

Livelihoods system analysis consultancy on behalf of the development of sustainable agricultural livelihoods in the eastern Hazarajat, Afghanistan (GCP/AFG/029/UK): interim report from the first of Livelihoods in Afghanistan

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The objective of the visit reported here was to assemble and interpret reports, secondary data and maps; rapidly characterise the livelihood strategies and farming systems; identify organisations working in the area and integrate information from key informants; provide a guide framework for village selection; gather preliminary information on needs and priorities, identify information gaps and make recommendations for follow-up study; prepare an interim report.

Projet Qualité. 2002.

This project aimed to identify important lessons from success stories and programme failures in Afghanistan, to incorporate in that identification process material from a variety of feedback mechanisms and then to transform those lessons into a useful form for dissemination. The report focuses on lessons from programmes in agriculture, food security and economic security, nutrition, shelter and housing sector, and the health sector.

Projet Qualité. 2002.

This report from Quality Project’s first visit to Afghanistan presents the main observations and findings on humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan. The mission was to gauge the range of humanitarian interventions and strategies in use, to identify what made health projects successful or problematic, and to raise issues pertaining to the quality of humanitarian interventions and stimulate a debate with agencies and key stakeholders. The analysis covers: habitat and shelter, agriculture and food security, nutrition and health.


This mission aimed to put in order a collection of information gathered from the field as a foundation for developing a self-evaluation and self-learning tool for aid workers in the field, based on a questioning process. The project sought to identify key questions to ask at each critical phase of a project cycle. The focus here is on: (1) the context of intervention, (2) the project cycle and (3) a series of transverse issues (eg. the evaluation of results and impacts on beneficiaries, gender issues, population movements). This report covers the project’s visit to Afghanistan.


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The main objective of this study was to explore the reasons behind poppy cultivation and opium production in five villages in Argu district (Fayzabad District, Badakhshan). The villages were sampled over five days with 52 farmers interviewed individually. The major reasons promoting poppy cultivation were: the destruction of access roads and irrigation systems, external investment in the opium trade, greater income from poppy compared to wheat per unit of land, opium being more easily transported than wheat and having a longer shelf-life, and that wheat yield has been declining due to lack of improved wheat seed, fertilizer, irrigation, etc. Agricultural and micro-finance initiatives, ie. making improved wheat seed available and the setting up of wheat banks (gudams) were recommended as direct challenges to poppy cultivation.

633.7505/Q1/2000

Rodey, Barbara J.

This study drew a distinction between being vulnerable and being needy, vulnerability being defined as being in imminent physical danger. The four-page executive summary highlights a number of significant findings, among them are that illiterate women without able-bodied males in the household remain vulnerable with the lowest levels of income and a high percentage of long-term illness among family members. Contrary to much international focus, returnees on the whole are not the most vulnerable: most return with assets and have considerable assistance. In discussing techniques to identify vulnerable populations, most relief personnel agreed that surveys are faulty since people hide assets and do not tell the full truth. The study concluded that either health assessments that include body mass index, or identification through community participation are the most effective means to determine true vulnerability.

p338.9581/R687/2003


“The 20-year old Afghan conflict has created an open war economy, affecting Afghanistan and surrounding areas. Not only has Afghanistan become the world’s largest opium producer and a center for arms dealing, but it supports a multi-billion dollar trade in goods smuggled from Dubai to Pakistan. This criminalized economy funds both the Taliban and their adversaries. It has transformed social relations and weakened states and legal economies throughout the region. Sustainable peace will require not just an end to fighting and a political agreement but a regional economic transformation that provides alternative forms of livelihood and promotes accountability.”

p958.1046/R896/2000

Schafer, Jessica. 2001.

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This paper examines the provision of aid in contexts of extended political instability which challenge existing aid structures and institutions. The focus is on whether or not external assistance can be used more effectively to enable households to secure their basic needs and to maintain public services, such as health and education. Assumptions about the state and its role in development, the rights and responsibilities of citizens and states, models for development and economic activity, all require serious reconsideration in the light of chronic political instability. This paper was a preliminary to a three-year ODI research programme (planned to begin 2001) exploring these issues.


This article demonstrates how the erosion of the state in Afghanistan enabled the emergence of bazaar economy activities. The main branches of the Afghan “bazaar economy” are drug trafficking and smuggling but there is also a “market of violence.” A symbiosis exists between the war parties and traders: the traders show interest in particular military and political decisions and the combat units behave like economic actors. The “bazaar economy” has changed Afghan society and is leading to the disintegration of Afghanistan.


The first aim of this study was to analyse the livelihoods strategies of poor people in the central highlands of Afghanistan and to use that analysis to identify opportunities for UNDP-OPS to reinforce those livelihoods and contribute to sustainability, gender equity and the improvement of the social and economic status of the poorest. The report consists of an application of the conceptual framework for sustainable rural livelihoods adapted from Chambers and Conway (1992) to three districts in the central highlands (Panjai, Waras and Yakawlang). The key findings relate to sustainability, rural poverty, transforming structures and processes, livelihoods strategies and options for support.

Social and economic survey on 5 districts of central Afghanistan: Bamiyan, Saighan, Kahmard, Shibar, Yakawlang / Solidarités; survey conducted by Julia Quillet and Stéfanie Dufour, report written by Stéfanie Dufour. 3 v.: maps; 30 cm. Kabul: Solidarités, [2003].

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This survey attempted to provide a broad picture of the needs of the inhabitants of Central Afghanistan, as expressed by them to survey teams who visited four out of six districts. Annexed to the report are UNAMA survey: agriculture (34 p.) and UNAMA survey: technical report (180 p.). A “census” of the area was followed by an in-depth questionnaire. The “sample includes 15% of all the sub-villages, representing 30% of the global population” of the area. The survey teams also asked groups or individuals to propose ideas or projects which could ameliorate their livelihood. The results have been analysed in five major areas: demography, livelihood and resources (water and agricultural resources, breeding, natural resources, housing), skills and activities, trade and exchanges, education, and health.

915.8109/(2800)/S678/[2003]


This preliminary consultancy provided information for the implementation of range management (ie. grazing management) activities in two pilot areas. This was part of the early stages of DACAAR’s move away from rehabilitation projects to development work. The consultant visited areas in Ghazni (Dehe Hamza, Barakat, Marqol, Taqduz), Laghman (“Salab Sufa,” Alingar) and Herat (“Pashtun Zargun”). The degradation of grazing land often has very deep socio-economic causes and there is a long history of heavy exploitation and degradation of vegetation in Afghanistan, the study does not recommend any immediate technical fixes. Instead it recommends the improvement of grazing lands through the manipulation of stock management on a pilot basis and the recruitment of a national specialist qualified and experienced in grassland and range management provide technical support and monitor pasture condition.

636.0845/S965/1998

Tunwar, N. S. [1996?]

This paper describes the seed programme being implemented since 1988 in Afghanistan. The aim of the seed programme from its onset has been to create a situation in rural Afghanistan conducive to the return of refugees and displaced families and start to redress the damage wrought by the war and give assistance for agricultural rehabilitation. The history of the programme is outlined as are the implementation methodologies. The expected results from the programme are compared with actual results and the reasons for the achievement of the desired results are analysed (eg. the resilience of the human and agro-ecological systems, unorthodoxy in approach, decentralization, food-for-seed exchanges, NGO involvement).

p631.52109581/T926/[1996?]

UNICEF. 2002.

This survey of Badghis province, the first province-level assessment of nutrition and health since the change of government in Afghanistan, was designed to establish baseline data on the protein-energy nutritional status of children and women, the prevalence of symptomatic

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micronutrients deficiencies, and the level and causes of mortality. Many of the earlier population-based health statistics are outdated and were originally based on local data collections or estimates. This survey of Badghis province represents one of the first population-based surveys and serves as the model for subsequent province-level surveys.


This paper sets out briefly, the Afghanistan Government’s strategy for reducing poppy cultivation by 70% in five years and eliminating it within ten years and the UK’s support to implement this. Also covered is the role of the development of alternative livelihoods in that strategy and DfID’s strategy for developing alternative livelihoods in the context of the UK-Afghan Drugs Control Strategy, the Afghanistan National Development Framework and the programmes of other donors.


This paper outlines projects and project requirements of the Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People (ITAP) as they come under programme areas identified in the National Development Framework (NDF) for Afghanistan.


This paper very briefly outlines the UNDP’s transition strategy for Afghanistan as it moves from a recovery phase to a major reconstruction phase. There are four areas of focus (1) a recovery process that mends as it builds, (2) support to administration, planning and governance systems for Afghanistan’s reconstruction, (3) consideration of regional implications (Pakistan, Iran, Central Asian countries), (4) UN coordination.


This short study surveys the livelihood assets, vulnerability context, structures, processes and activities of nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralist (*kuchi*) communities in Afghanistan. It includes consideration of population figures, migration patterns, internal and external social relations, food consumption, sources of both income and seasonal labour. Short, medium and long term interventions are identified.

Exploration and analysis of land relations in Afghanistan have been slight, both historically and in the present “post-conflict” period. This study aims to provide a quick, but grounded snapshot of land relations in Bamyan province.

333.009581/(2800)/W756/2003


p333.009581/(1800)/W756/2004


This paper comes from the work of an informal team attempting to develop a medium-term operational food security strategy for Afghanistan. Strategic principles were adopted to guide the formulation and implementation of the food security strategy. The strategic directions are summarised as: (1) to mobilise and deliver sufficient food aid and non-food aid to meet the emergency needs of the most vulnerable elements of the population during the current drought; (2) to expand production of quality-certified seeds; (3) to improve the availability and management of irrigation water; (4) to focus on selected, proven livestock interventions; (5) to expand non-agricultural income generation capacities over the medium term; and (6) to develop longer-term strategies and interventions.

p363.09581/F686/2001

World Bank, Islamabad. [1999?]. 
*Role and size of [the] livestock sector in Afghanistan / a study commissioned by the World Bank, Islamabad ; Ulfat-un-Nabi Khan and Muzaffar Iqbal.* Islamabad: World Bank, [1999?]. vi, 77 p. ; 30 cm.

This paper offers an outline and analysis of the Afghan livestock sector, comparing pre-war (1978-79) and post-war (1995-96) figures. Livestock numbers fell during the war but through the actions of international agencies and NGOs cattle, horses and camels have again attained pre-war levels, while sheep, goats and poultry have increased substantially. There is also a summary and analysis of livestock development and rehabilitation programs and discussion about livestock productivity.

636.009581/R745/[1999?]

*Afghanistan food security assessment, July–August 2001 / World Food Programme Afghanistan, Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping Unit ; written and supervised by Pascale Najimi ; cartography and field data analysis by Waheeda Azizi, field data analysis by Ahmad Shah Shahi.* Islamabad, Pakistan: WFP Country Office Afghanistan, 2001. 1 v. (various pagings) ; 30 cm.
This report provides preliminary analysis of a survey that WFP Afghanistan and a number of NGOs undertook covering the entire country. It aims to assess the current levels of food security of the rural settled population at district level and attempts to fill the food security information gap between national and household levels of analysis. It provides an analysis of people’s ability to cope with the degraded food security conditions, considering the specific conditions prevailing in the different parts of the country.


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