



afghan
action

Let's change tomorrow by working together today

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Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



Crest



Flag



It looks so beautiful...





Afghanistan... what's it *really* like?



Many kids don't go to school...
And those who do are only
there for 2 hours a day

Over 30 years of conflict have
taken their toll



People earn a living... any way they can



[Child labour video \(1\)](#)
[Child labour video \(2\)](#)

General Facts:

- § Population of approximately 30 million people, 60% under 25 ([UNICEF, 2010](#))
- § Mainly Muslim (Sunni 80%, Shia 19%)
- § Official Languages: Dari and Pashto
- § 36% of Afghans live in poverty ([World Bank, 2008](#))
 - international poverty line : 1.25\$ a day ([UNICEF](#) and [World Bank](#))
- § As of 2010, the nation's GDP is \$29.81 billion ([Global Finance, 2010](#))

Afghanistan: Human Development

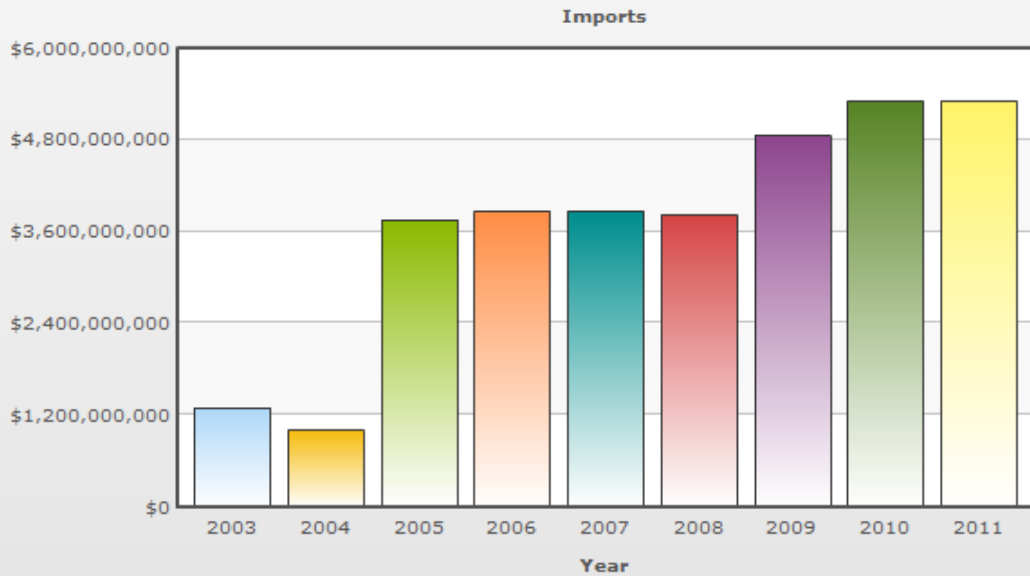
| Year | Life Expectancy at Birth (Year) | Access to Safe Water (%) | Education Enrolment Rate (%) | Adult Literacy Rate 15 + (%) | Infant mortality rate (per 1000) | Under five mortality rate (per 1000) |
|------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1990 | | | | | 168 | 260 |
| 1995 | 44.5 | 23 | -- | 28.7 | 165 | 257 |
| 2004 | 44.5 | 23 | 44.93 | 28.7 | 165 | 260 |
| 2009 | 43.6 | 22 | 50.1 | 28 | 165 | 257 |

Source (HDI, [UNICEF](#) and WHO: 2010)

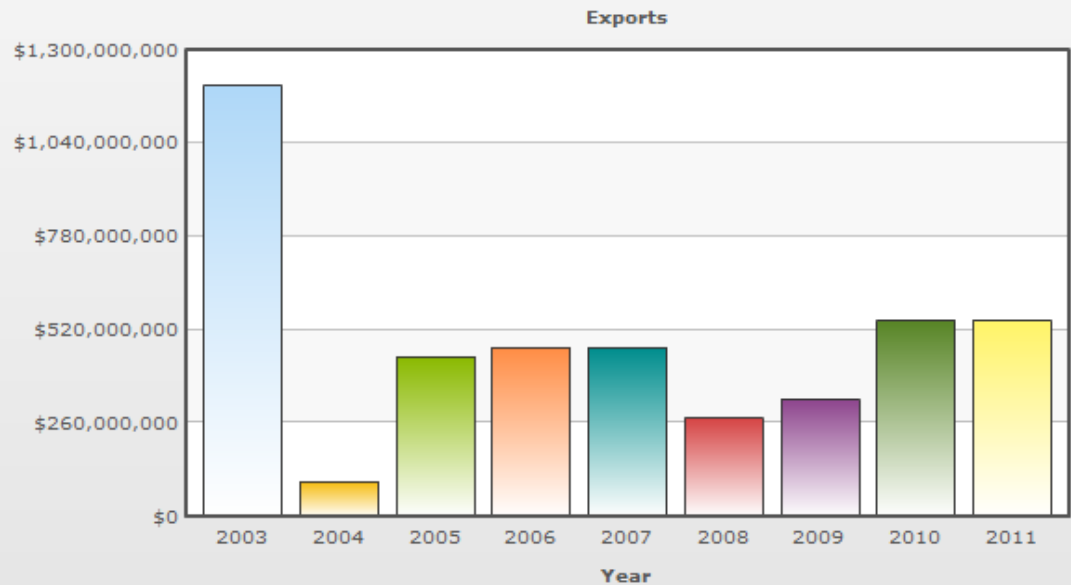
Comparison:

Infant mortality in Lebanon 21.82; Iraq 43.82; and UK 4.85
Under 5 mortality in Lebanon is 29; Iraq 44; and UK 6.

Afghanistan Imports and Exports



Imports: \$5.3 billion (2008 est.)
\$4.5 billion (2007)



Exports: \$547 million (2009 est.)
\$603 million (2008 est.)



Afghanistan is famous for its beautiful, handmade carpets... But they're mainly exported through Pakistan and often relabelled "Made in Pakistan"



Our activities in Afghanistan

- § Afghan Action is registered as charity in the UK and Afghanistan (where we're also an international NGO)
- § We run a Training and Business Incubation Centre in Kabul helping young people acquire skills and start businesses
- § We make handmade carpets and we have just starting a sewing and clothes-making programme
- § We provide education, ICT, English and business skills training
- § On-site healthcare and a free midday meal are provided for all staff and trainees
- § We work with the British Council to connect schools in Kabul and Mazar e Sharif with British schools



Our carpets are made from the wool of Ghazni sheep and mainly natural dyes

...and it takes over a month for one of our weavers to make a square metre of carpet



The wool is bought already spun and is then dyed on our site



Our site in Kabul



One of our trainees

Nasir is 17 and joined Afghan Action 8 months ago. He also attends school part-time but as his family is very poor, he has to support them with his income from weaving carpets. He is ambitious and determined to educate himself so that he can become a professional carpet weaver.



[Carpet weaving video](#)

(January, 2011)

Some of our carpets



Afghan Action trains young men and women to weave carpets and to read and write



Sewing and clothing programme



From August 2011, we started a training programme involving 50 people over the next 2 years in sewing and making clothes.



Lunch time!

Afghan Action works in Kabul and Mazar – and in schools across the UK

School zone



BBC video link –
Afghan Action and
Sacred Heart High
School Hammersmith



You design



We make

Where do we go from here?

- § **Expanding** to more sites across the country
- § **Developing** ICT ‘virtualisation’ in Afghan schools
- § **Supporting** the development of an Afghan Stock Exchange
- § **Growing** our UK-based programmes



For more information about Afghan Action, please contact us on 020 7870 0010 or by email at admin@afghanaction.com

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