

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN



Photo: Hikmatullah Azizi (Kandahar Province)

A POLICY AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Acknowledgments

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1. INTRODUCTION

Since the increased engagement of the international community in 2001, Afghanistan has received billions of dollars in different forms of financial inflows, such as foreign aid, foreign direct investment, and an increase in remittances from its diaspora. In addition, the country's domestic revenue has increased substantially, from almost 180 million dollars in 2005 to more than 2 billion dollars in 2020.¹ Overall, the country has made some considerable improvements in some sectors (e.g., health, education, banking, and telecommunication) since 2001. But in particular, two decades of billions of international aid also leave much to be desired, as figures by the National Statistics and Information Authority² show that 54.5% of the population in Afghanistan were living below the national poverty line, and almost 24% were unemployed in 2016/2017. Unemployment was the highest among youth (30.7%) and especially among young females (47.4%). In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank anticipated that the poverty rate increased up to 72% and the unemployment rate to 37.9% in 2020. Furthermore, Afghanistan is still in the low Human Development Index ranking failing to make progress, currently ranked 169 out of 189 countries. Generally, the poor living conditions of Afghans are linked to a range of factors, including insecurity, poor governance, and a lack of skilled human capital. In addition, various studies show that foreign aid has not always been in line with the real needs of Afghans, because of the overarching military and political agendas of many donors.

Insecurity and little or sluggish progress towards social and economic development are among the major drivers of both internal and international migration (forced and labour) of millions of Afghans. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in 2019, the total emigrant stock of Afghans (from different waves) was 5.12 million. Of them, 4.43 million are in Asia (mostly in Pakistan and Iran), 488,944 in Europe, and 135,162 in North America. Within Europe, based on the data from the Federal Statistical Office (*Destatis*), Germany hosts the largest number of Afghan nationals (263,000). Other major Afghan migrants or diaspora hosting countries in Europe include the UK, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Austria.

Diaspora members remit millions of US dollars to Afghanistan annually through formal and informal channels. According to the World Bank, a total of 5.82 billion US dollars was formally remitted to Afghanistan between 2008 and 2020. Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, Afghan diaspora remitted 785 million dollars in 2020 alone³, which contributed 4.1% to the GDP. Due to the size of the Afghan labour diaspora in these countries, Afghanistan receives the largest amount of remittances from Iran and Pakistan. Meanwhile, other major remittance sending countries include the UK, the United States, Germany, and the Netherlands.

Overall, beyond sending remittances, diaspora can also contribute by transferring skills, knowledge, technology, entrepreneurship, and providing humanitarian aid to their countries of origin. Thus, they are salient agents of development in their countries of origin. Their contribution can even be considered as an alternative for development aid.

The objective of this policy brief is threefold: (i) to provide an overview of the Dutch government policies on diaspora and development, (ii) to provide an overview of the fields of engagement of the Afghan Dutch Diaspora Organizations (ADDOS), and (iii) to provide policy recommendations to different stakeholders for further support to the ADDO's engagement in the socio-economic development of Afghanistan.⁴

2. DIASPORA: POTENTIAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Photo: Bejal Faizi (Kandahar Province)

In 2004, the Netherlands for the first time explicitly formulated a policy on the role of diasporas in development cooperation. At that time, the Netherlands was regarded as a leader on the subject of diaspora and development in Europe, as other European countries only formulated such a policy from 2008 onwards.

In 2008, the policy brief on “[International Migration and Development](#)” intended to seek information or advice from diaspora members, and to provide support to diaspora organisations in the Netherlands for the purpose of executing development projects in their country of origin.

In 2014, in an updated version of the migration and development policy, “the involvement of the diaspora in the development of their countries of origin” was one of the priority areas stipulated in the Dutch policy and presented to the Parliament. Throughout 2014, the Dutch government’s policies attempted to prevent large migration flows (refugees and economic migrants) to Europe. Therefore, the involvement of diaspora organizations in development cooperation attracted scant attention from the Dutch policy makers.

In 2019, the Dutch government disregarded recognizing diaspora as a different target group for collaboration on migration and the development of the private sector. This decision was made because of an “external evaluation of migrant entrepreneurship projects”.⁵ Overall, the government decided to amalgamate and connect diaspora entrepreneurs and diaspora organisations to the already available policies in the Netherlands, such as the Dutch Good Growth Fund – DGGF). This indicated a U-turn in the Dutch policy in enhancing the inclusion of diaspora in development cooperation, away from its leadership role on this subject in the past. The support of entrepreneurs and businesses people (including diaspora organizations and diaspora entrepreneurs) by the [DGGF](#)⁶ is a good idea for a sustainable development of developing countries. However, the Dutch government needs to include diasporas in its development efforts and enhance their inclusion, especially in countries with ongoing conflict and major producers of migrants, like Afghanistan. First, through their local contacts, language, and cultural affinity, many ADDOs can help the Dutch government to obtain optimal results from its development efforts (e.g., supporting social-economic development)⁷ in Afghanistan. Secondly, the ADDOs fields of engagement in Afghanistan (see Section 3.2) are to a large extent in line with the Dutch government’s development efforts in Afghanistan.

3. AFGHAN DUTCH DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS

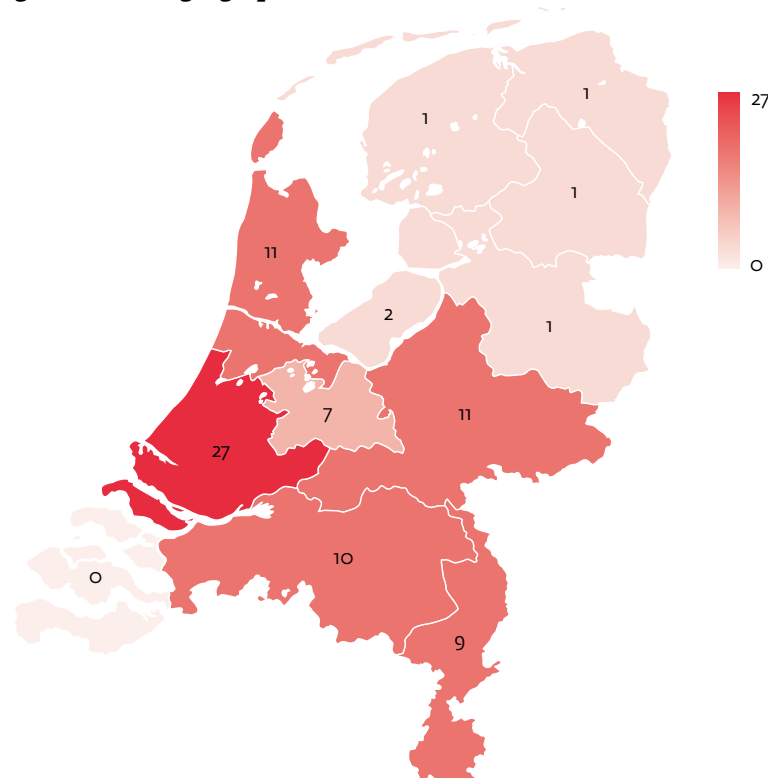
3.1 Afghan Diaspora and Engagement in the Netherlands

The Netherlands hosts approximately 50,000 Afghan migrants. In terms of demographic characteristics, most of the Afghan population (35,490) are first-generation. Gender wise, there are a few more men (25,965) than women (23,157), and most of the population (31,378) are between the age of 20-65 in the Netherlands. In terms of the arrival time, Afghan refugees first arrived in the 1980s in the Netherlands due to the Soviet-Afghan War in Afghanistan. It is a sad reminder of the fact that the conflict has never stopped for the Afghans and is now in its forty-second year.

Regarding the number of ADDOs, there are conflicting estimates. Through online research, the author identified 87 ADDOs (listed and not listed on the website of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce/KVK).⁸ The mapping in Annex 2 provides information about the identified ADDOs' geographic location, their founding year, and their main activities.

According to the mapping, the ADDOs were founded in different years between 1997 and 2020. During this period, more than half of the diaspora organizations were established between 2001 and 2010. In terms of the geographical location, the ADDOs are located in eleven out of twelve provinces in the Netherlands (see Figure 1). They are mainly concentrated in South Holland, North Holland, and Gelderland. This is understandable as these three provinces host most of the Afghan population in the Netherlands. Unlike some other European countries, such as Germany and Denmark, the ADDOs have an inclusive umbrella organization called the Union of Afghan Associations in the Netherlands ([UvAViN](#)). There are more than 30 ADDOs under the UvAViN. Additionally, there is also an umbrella organization at the European level: The Federation of Afghan Refugee Organizations in Europe ([FAROE](#)). FAROE has 53 Afghan diaspora organizations as its members across Europe, the majority from the Netherlands. Having umbrella organizations indicates that Afghan diaspora have good collaboration amongst themselves and are generally more united in the Netherlands compared to Germany, Sweden, and Denmark.

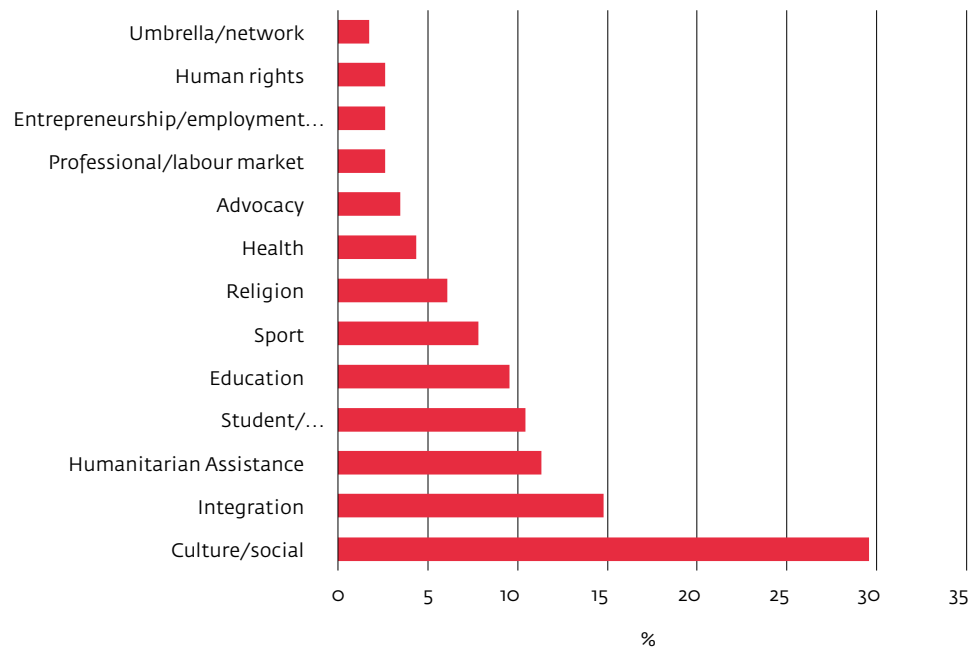
Figure 1: ADDOs geographical location⁹



Source: ADDOs mapping

The available information from the mapping shows that the ADDOs are engaged in multiple fields of activities in the Netherlands and Afghanistan (see Figure 2). In the Netherlands, the ADDOs main focus is cultural/social (29.58%) and integration (14.79%) activities. The aim for integration is largely strengthening the social integration of Afghans into Dutch society. The cultural/social activities by the ADDOs are mainly aimed at preserving their own culture and to promote cross-cultural understanding. For instance, they celebrate *Nowruz* (new Persian year), *Eid* (Muslims' religious festivals twice a year) and International Women's Day. They also organize poetry, music, and cooking events. In addition, some of the ADDOs are engaged in advocacy (e.g. organizing demonstrations to prevent the deportation of Afghan asylum seekers who have exhausted all procedures), and student/academic or educational, religious, and sports related activities in the Netherlands (see Figure 2). In Afghanistan, the ADDOs are also engaged in various fields (e.g. health, education, and humanitarian assistance), which are explained in the next section.

Figure 2: Fields of Engagement of ADDOs¹⁰



Source: ADDOs mapping

3.2 Engagement in Afghanistan

Almost 20% of the ADDOs are, in addition to some of their activities within the Netherlands (e.g. culture and integration), also engaged in humanitarian and development activities in Afghanistan. Engagement in the development of Afghanistan is the desire of many of the diaspora organizations from the Netherlands, and also other European countries. Despite this appetite, the increase in size of the Afghan diaspora and their significant role in the public, private, and civil society sectors' development during the last two decades, Afghanistan does not have a diaspora engagement policy yet. However, since 2018, the Afghan government has been drafting the Afghan National Diaspora Engagement Policy (ANDEP). This effort of the Afghan government is also in line with objective 19 of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), which states: "Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries" (p.6).

Besides the lack of a policy, a number of Afghan diaspora organizations – especially from Europe – have been engaged in Afghanistan with the help of local and/or international partners. The diaspora organizations supporting development in Afghanistan are mostly engaged in the health, education, and humanitarian assistance or relief. This is needed as the decades-long conflict has seriously deteriorated these key sectors for development. This also explains why the ADDOs fields of activities are largely in these sectors (see Annex 2,1). A study on the Afghan diaspora organizations in Germany, Sweden, Denmark, and the UK shows similar findings.¹¹



Photo: Wahid Habib (Herat Province)

3.2.1 Health

According to the mapping data, only about 5% of the ADDOs are engaged in contributing to the development of the health sector in Afghanistan. However, their support focuses mostly on short-term and temporary projects, ranging from knowledge transfer and capacity building to supplying health related equipment, especially since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the active ADDOs engaged in health sector development in Afghanistan is the Keihan Foundation. It has been engaged in Afghanistan for over a decade, mostly through training and academic exchange programs. For example, in 2013, one anatomist from Kabul University of Medical Sciences (KUMS) trained at the anatomy department of Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC) for 10 months. This, in turn, contributed to the improvement of the anatomy curriculum at the KUMS. For its activities in Afghanistan, Keihan Foundation has the support of national and international partners (e.g. KUMS, IOM, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Another ADDO combining Afghan and Dutch expertise is the Medical Committee Afghanistan-Netherlands (MCAN). It is also dedicated to help Afghanistan in the rebuilding process, particularly of the health care system, for instance, through knowledge sharing and networking. One of the interesting initiatives by MCAN is that it has given Afghan health professionals in several hospitals access to Incision Academy - a web-based surgical database.¹² It is also noteworthy that MCAN is supporting and enabling health professionals, especially Afghan diaspora members from the Netherlands, for short or long-term temporary return to help the development of the health sector in Afghanistan.

3.2.2 Education

The mapping shows that nearly 10% of the ADDOs are engaged in educational development in Afghanistan. Interestingly, they are engaged in different provinces, of which most are considered relatively secure. The initiatives of ADDOs in this sector concentrate on various activities such as building schools and libraries, providing study materials, and providing financial support, mostly to women or girls for access to education. For example, the Solidarity Committee Afghanistan-Netherlands (SCAN) foundation has constructed schools and provided school equipment, books, and computers for students in some provinces in the country. Another active ADDO in the sector of education in Afghanistan is the Ariana Foundation for Afghan women. Unlike SCAN, this foundation provides study grants every year for 40-50 poor girls between the ages of 18 and 24. Interestingly, the study grants are targeted for students of the secondary and higher education in Kabul. This will help the girls to gain an equal social position and take part in the rebuilding of their homeland. Surprisingly, according to the mapping data, a few of the ADDOs have, so far, been engaged and/or aim to engage in employment generating activities to help vulnerable people in Afghanistan.

3.2.3 Humanitarian Assistance or Relief

In addition to health and education, almost 12% of the ADDOs are engaged in providing humanitarian aid or relief to the Afghans inside Afghanistan. Humanitarian assistance is provided usually in the form of cash and/or in-kind support. This type of engagement occurs generally during acute crises (e.g. harsh winter, flood, and earthquake) and sometimes in the month of *Ramadan*¹³ to help the needy. Direct donations, organizing charity concerts, and cooking events are among the main sources of funding for several ADDOs for implementing humanitarian assistance or relief projects in Afghanistan. For example, the Nang Foundation has successfully implemented several projects in Afghanistan, including the *Qurbani* project, Kabul camp, and food distribution. In 2015, the Nang Foundation collected 4,000 Euros and then distributed food parcels during the month of Ramadan in Khost province. Prior to this, they had a Kabul Camp project for which they collected clothes from the Netherlands and organized a charity concert to raise money. As a result, they supplied clothes to more than 1,500 displaced families inside the camp.

It is noteworthy that in some cases, humanitarian aid also includes funding small development projects such as building a small protection wall, small bridge, or well for potable water, etc. Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, several ADDOs have supplied the necessary goods (e.g., face masks and hand sanitizers) to support Afghans in need.

In addition to the ADDOs, the IOM has also engaged in the development of Afghanistan through the transfer of social remittances of Afghan diaspora. As of 2014, the IOM had recruited and helped approximately 1,500 Afghan diaspora experts from more than 30 countries, including the Netherlands. This number has increased due to the initiation of new projects by the IOM Netherlands, such as the Connecting Diaspora for Development (CD4D1).¹⁴ Between 2016 and 2019, the IOM as a continuation of its Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN) project, has implemented the CD4D1 project in Afghanistan. During this period, the IOM Netherlands mentioned that they supported 22 assignments (13 Afghan diaspora members) in the framework of CD4D1 in Afghanistan.

According to the CD4D1 final assessment report, the assignments to Afghanistan were more than those in Iraq (10) but less than other CD4D1 targeted countries: Somalia (FGS & Somaliland) (86), Sierra Leone (42), and Ethiopia (24).¹⁵ The CD4D1 project in Afghanistan focused on the health, education, and infrastructure sectors, on providing training to the local staff, on skills and knowledge exchanges, and on creating institutional links to the institutions in the cited sectors. Undoubtedly, the CD4D1 project had a positive impact on the capacity building of the targeted countries, including Afghanistan. Highlighting successful or unsuccessful countries or institutions under this project, however, is still difficult. This is due to the fact that the transfer of knowledge is not only considered a complex task, but is also difficult to measure in terms of long-term impact, and depends on many factors for its success.¹⁶

Overall, the above information shows that the IOM Netherlands and the ADDOs are engaged in virtually the same areas of development in Afghanistan. Yet, there is no formal partnership or Memorandum of Understanding between them. The IOM has cooperation with a few of the ADDOs (e.g., Keihan Foundation and MCAN). For instance, it has supported some of their activities and members for the development of Afghanistan through the transfer of knowledge and skills. Moreover, for the CD4D1 project, the IOM selected the Keihan Foundation as an appropriate ADDO for the purpose of outreach of the project. On the other hand, the UvAViN, an umbrella organisation, supported the IOM in the return of experts to Afghanistan before the CD4D1 project.

Engagement in the development of Afghanistan is not without challenges, especially for the ADDOs. The most common challenges that limit engagement and optimal results, especially in implementing development projects in Afghanistan, are insecurity, corruption, and lack of necessary and timely cooperation by the Afghan government and sometimes the community leaders. Some of the ADDOs pointed out that they have mostly overcome these challenges through their local contacts/networks or by establishing local partners. Others mentioned that these challenges have deterred them from working inside Afghanistan. In addition, the lack of capacity (e.g. proposal writing, leadership, and project management) and access to funding are also seen as important challenges for ADDOs engagement in the development of Afghanistan. These are not only challenges for the ADDOs in the Netherlands, but were also pointed out as challenges by many Afghan diaspora organizations in Germany, the UK, Sweden, and Denmark.¹⁷

4. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

For the Government of Afghanistan:

- The Afghan government should prioritize the finalization and implementation of the Afghan National Diaspora Engagement Policy (ANDEP). This will help the ADDOs to have access to information regarding the facilities, support, and cooperation of the Afghan government for engagement in development in Afghanistan. At the same time, the Afghan government should establish a specific directorate for the diaspora to promote, coordinate, and facilitate their engagement in Afghanistan.
- The government (and other stakeholders such as civil society) should promote a positive image of diaspora engagement through media, including social media.

For Dutch and international NGOs:

- Development and relief actors operating in Afghanistan should provide partnership opportunities for the ADDOs engagement in Afghanistan. They can prioritize these partnership opportunities based on their proximity of areas of interest or expertise, which can lead to joint NGO-diaspora projects and programs.
- International and/or Dutch NGOs should support, facilitate, and/or provide short and long-term capacity building workshops and courses for the ADDOs and diaspora volunteers. These courses and workshops should be mainly on proposal writing for grants, project management, and financial management (for example, see the Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) diaspora program).
- Development and relief actors based in the Netherlands should support the ADDOs also in their communication, lobby and advocacy activities, which can lead to joint advocacy activities.

For ADDOs and Afghan diaspora members:

- In addition to healthcare, education and humanitarian assistance, the ADDOs should focus on employment and income generating activities (for example, see Afghan Action in Annex 1). They can either support the existing enterprises in Afghanistan or train vulnerable women and young graduates to establish new ones. This could be possible with the help of different actors, such as the Afghan-Dutch business diaspora organizations, relevant NGOs, as well as the Afghan government (e.g., Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Economy). In particular, the Afghan-Dutch diaspora businesses try to support Afghan businesses in linking to overseas markets in the Netherlands or Europe.



Photo Omid Noori (Herat Province)

- The ADDOs should have (updated) websites and should promote and apply accountability and transparency in funding, to build trust in both host and home countries.
- Cooperation and collaboration among the ADDOs and with other CSOs and NGOs in the Netherlands or in Germany, the UK, Denmark, and Sweden already engaged in promoting sustainable development in Afghanistan can be a good source of learning lesson. This can also be a good source of information exchange or entry points for the rest of the ADDOs who are interested to engage in Afghanistan.
- For the transfer of social remittances (e.g. knowledge and skills) to Afghanistan, the ADDOs and Afghan diaspora members could cooperate with the IOM Netherlands to further develop the IOM's diaspora skills database. This will help actors involved in the development of Afghanistan to have improved and more secure access to Afghan diaspora members' expertise.

For the next Dutch Government:

- Besides the DCGF option, the Dutch government should further encourage, with specific funding and inclusion efforts, the ADDOs in their development efforts in Afghanistan. Priority should be given to the ADDOs who have the capacity and experience in the development activities in Afghanistan (see Annex 2.1).
- The Dutch government, together with the local private (e.g. Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce, Afghan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries) and/or public (e.g. Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) organizations in Afghanistan, should further support entrepreneurs and employment generating projects. A special focus should be given to providing decent work opportunities for young men and women, as unemployment is the highest among youth. Employment can help Afghan youth in different ways, such as preventing them from joining insurgent groups to earn livelihoods.



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ENDNOTES

- 1 In communication with the Ministry of Finance, Afghanistan.
- 2 Previously known as a Central Statistics Organization (CSO)
- 3 This amount is only the formal inflow of financial remittances to Afghanistan. There are many Afghan diaspora members who remit money informally through the use of the Hawala system.
- 4 This policy brief is based on desk research, mapping of the ADDOs, eight interviews with (members of) ADDOs. Communication with the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, Afghanistan, and the IOM Netherlands - all between February and March, 2021.
- 5 “[The Dutch] Ministry of Foreign Affairs commissioned an external evaluation of the six migrant entrepreneurship projects funded by the subsidy framework aimed at providing incentives to the involvement of the diaspora in the development of the countries of origin” (Willemsen et al., 2019, p. 9).
- 6 The DGGF is “stimulating entrepreneurship and creating jobs in frontier markets [...]. Business opportunities created by local entrepreneurs provide untapped potential for inclusive economic development and are key to transforming these countries into more prosperous societies” (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019, p. 7).
- 7 The Netherlands, as part of its development cooperation in Afghanistan, focuses on promoting security, peace and stability, women’s rights, cementing the rule of law, and supporting socio-economic development in Afghanistan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2020).
- 8 To identify the ADDOs, different key words were used in an online search in different languages: English, Dutch, Dari, and Pashto. The ADDOs established together by Afghan diaspora members and Dutch but focusing on Afghans are also included in the list of ADDOs. The ADDOs indicated permanently closed on Google or Facebook are not included in the mapping.
- 9 The geographical locations for six ADDOs were not available.
- 10 Note: There are not always very clear distinctions between the various fields of engagement by the ADDOs because sometimes they overlap. ADDOs engaged in more than one field are counted multiple times.
- 11 See <https://drc.ngo/media/catnmjite/drc-study-afghan-diaspora-in-europe.pdf>
- 12 For more information on Incision Academy, visit <https://academy.incision.care/>
- 13 Ramadan is a holy month of worship for Muslims once a year.
- 14 The CD4D1 project supported diaspora professionals or experts from five target countries (including Afghanistan) to contribute to the development of their countries of origin through the transfer of knowledge and skills. This project was funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CD4D2 has also started by the IOM Netherlands.
- 15 See <https://migration.merit.unu.edu/research/projects/connecting-diaspora-for-development-cd4d/>
- 16 See <https://migration.merit.unu.edu/research/projects/connecting-diaspora-for-development-cd4d/>
- 17 See <https://drc.ngo/media/catnmjite/drc-study-afghan-diaspora-in-europe.pdf>
- 18 The cases are written based on: the available information on the websites of the diaspora organizations; Ali, A. (2020); and Meshkovska et al., 2019.

ANNEX 1

SOME SUCCESSFUL CASES OF AFGHAN DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN¹⁸

THE NETHERLANDS

Keihan Foundation

Keihan Foundation, located in Leiden, was founded in 2005 by a group of young Afghan students born and/or grew up in the Netherlands. The foundation has three pillars of activities: education, integration, and development cooperation. The first two pillars focus on the Netherlands, and the third one is mainly focused on development in Afghanistan. Today, Keihan Foundation is one of the most active Afghan diaspora organizations, in general in Europe and in particular in the Netherlands.

Projects for development in Afghanistan

Keihan Foundation is largely engaged in the development of the health sector in Afghanistan through various programs: Anatomy Teaching Innovation Program, Academic Exchange Medicine (AEM), and the Clinical Skills Training Program. In addition, the foundation has some other projects as well in Afghanistan such as a Gynaecology project, provision of basic medical materials, access to potable water, and building libraries (e.g., the anatomy media library at the Kabul University of Medical Sciences - KUMS), etc.

Anatomy Teaching Innovation Program: This program was launched in 2013. In the same year, the foundation trained one anatomist from the KUMS at the anatomy department of Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC) for 10 months. This, in turn, contributed to the improvement of the anatomy curriculum at the KUMS. This indicates a good example of cooperation in the sector of higher education between the Netherlands and Afghanistan.

Academic Exchange Medicine (AEM): The Keihan Foundation, with the support of LUMC, arranges a three-month study program for medical students from Afghanistan to study at the LUMC. The aim is transfer of knowledge and experience from the Netherlands to Afghanistan. In 2017, three Afghan medical students took part in the opening of the AEM program. Presently, up to seven students from the KUMS benefit from the program annually.

Gynaecology project: Under this exchange project, doctors and professors from the Netherlands visit Kabul and teach doctors and medical staff. Also, Afghan doctors visit the Netherlands to learn and improve their medical knowledge.

Funding

The Keihan Foundation's partners include IOM, the LUMC, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cordaid, and the Kabul University of Medical Science.

The Ariana Foundation

The Ariana Foundation, located in South Holland, was established in 2003 by a small group of Afghan and Dutch women. The foundation provides educational support to females in Afghanistan to join the labour force and could contribute to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. The foundation's main activity is fundraising in the Netherlands to achieve its objective in Afghanistan.

Study grants project in Afghanistan

The foundation has a study grants project in Afghanistan. With the support of its local partner (Empowerment Centre for Women - ECW) based in Kabul, the Ariana Foundation every year recruits and supports 40-50 poor young girls. The recruited girls then receive study grants. The amount of the grants is 25 Euros for high school students and 35 Euros for university students every month to cover the costs of their education. The ECW as a local partner confirms the ages and eligibility of students for the grant. Every year, a board member from the foundation visits Afghanistan for the purpose of interviewing the recently recruited students and also monitor their progress. Passing all exams every year is a condition for the students to keep their scholarship. If a student fails, she is replaced by another girl from the waiting list. The foundation will focus more on supporting school students rather than university students. This is because several university students, after getting married, are forced to discontinue their education.

Funding

The foundation does not receive any governmental funding. Thus, the foundation receives the vast majority of its funding from private donors and philanthropists annually. Additionally, the chairperson of Ariana Foundation also raises money through public speaking, for example, at schools and media houses to recruit private or individual sponsors.

UNITED KINGDOM

Afghan Action

Afghan Action, located in the UK, is a charity Afghan diaspora organization established in 2005. Afghan Action's mission is "to help develop good jobs, sustainable businesses and fair markets" for young men and women in order to reduce poverty and promote peace and stability. Since 2005, it has "trained, educated and employed" more than 800 poor Afghans at its training and business incubation centre in Kabul.

Projects in Afghanistan

Carpet weaving project

The carpet weaving project trains participants (poor men and women) to learn carpet weaving techniques to produce carpets in different designs (e.g., traditional, modern, and mixed designs). The carpets are produced in different sizes from 1 up to 12 square metres. Training takes place at the Training and Business Incubation Centre of Afghan Action in Kabul. Wool of sheep used for the carpets is brought from Ghazni province. They are dyed naturally.

Sewing and cloth making

Afghan Action started this project in 2011 to help poor people, especially women, to not only support themselves but also their families. The project initially aimed to train 46 people (mainly women) over a two-year period. Finally, by the end of the project in 2014, 52 people received training in sewing and cloth-making.

Funding

The funding by Afghan Action includes donations and it also finds markets, especially for Afghan made carpets in the UK. For its cloth-making project, Afghan Action received funding from the Linda Norgrove Foundation, the Clothworkers Foundation, and ASHRAM International.

GERMANY

The Doctors' Association for Afghan Refugees (Ärzteverein für afghanische Flüchtlinge e.V) (AFAF).

The AFAF was established in Germany in the early 1980s by a group of Afghan refugees. Initially, the AFAF's objective was health care delivery to Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and to Afghans inside Afghanistan. After the withdrawal of the Soviet Union forces from Afghanistan in 1989, the AFAF engaged in the reconstruction of the health care system in Afghanistan. After the engagement of the international community in Afghanistan in 2001, the AFAF continued its training, humanitarian assistance, and supporting hospitals in Kabul with providing necessary medicine and medical equipment, providing ambulances, knowledge transfer, and building schools and clinics/hospitals. In Afghanistan, the AFAF has cooperation with Kawoon Institute of Higher Education (KIHE), the Hashemi Foundation, some local associations for women, and the Afghan doctors in Afghanistan.

Projects in Afghanistan

First Aid for Gunshot and Blast Injuries & Basic Life Support (BLS)

Due to decades of war and conflict, thousands of Afghans are killed or wounded each year. Therefore, the AFAF's "First Aid for Gunshot and Blast Injuries and Basic Life Support (BLS) Training for Schoolteachers and Administrators" – has been implemented in Balkh province in cooperation with the KIHE. The pilot phase of the project held during November and December. As a result, almost 200 staff members in eight different schools benefitted from the BLS. During the next phase of this project, the AFAF aims to provide similar training to 2,000 staff in more than one hundred schools in Balkh province.

Construction work

The AFAF has also engaged in the construction of some projects including a polyclinic in Panjshir province and a clinic and primary school in Khewa district of Nangarhar province. Every year, up to 400 children attend the school. In addition, the Khewa clinic treats approximately 1,100 patients, including women and children. In Kabul, the AFAF supports the department of Neonatology at Maiwand Children hospital.

Funding

The AFAF receives donations from both public and private organizations to implement its projects in Afghanistan. For its "First Aid for Gunshot and Blast Injuries and Basic Life Support (BLS) Training for Schoolteachers and Administrators" project, the AFAF received funding from the General Consulate of Germany based in Balkh province.

ANNEX 2

MAPPING OF THE ADDOS IN THE NETHERLANDS

NAME	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	MAIN FIELDS OF ENGAGEMENT	PROVINCE
Shahmama (Shahmoama), Afghan Social Development Foundation	2010	Cultural, social and educational activities	North Holland
Afghan Foundation Zeist	2010	Celebrating women days, cultural events etc	Utrecht
Afghan Refugees Foundation in the Netherlands	1997	N/A	South Holland
KEIHAN Foundation	2005	Education, Integration, and development cooperation	South Holland
WIJ Foundation (people of Afghan descent from Krimpen)	2010	Organizing conferences and trade fairs / promoting social integration	South Holland
Voice of Afghan Women Foundation	N/A	Language information for women; organizing events on discussing depression and domestic violence; cultural activities	South Holland
Afghan Dutch Foundation in Apeldoorn (SANA)	2006	Culture, recreation, humanitarian assistance	Gelderland
Solidarity Afghan Society Foundation	2017	Cultural, social and community activities	Flevoland
Goshamadeed Foundation	2008	Integration; social and culture; recreation	Gelderland
Foundation Coordination Council Afghan women in the Netherlands	2002	Local welfare work	South Holland
Foundation (Morwarid) Afghan women in Rijnmond	N/A	N/A	South Holland
Ariana Foundation	2003	Support girls and young women education in Afghanistan	South Holland
Afghan Media and Education Foundation Netherlands	2009	Art, Culture, sports and recreation	North Holland
The Afghanistan-Netherlands Cooperation Foundation	2004	Cultural, social and Integration in the Netherlands, development activities in Afghanistan,	South Holland
Foundation Support for Afghan Children "Bakhter"	1998	Support children	South Holland
Asamai Foundation	2001	cultural centre of and for Hindus, music, art, faith	North Holland
Afghan Foundation	2006	Culture, sports and recreation, art	Limburg
The Jafari Foundation	2017	Integration, education in the NL, religious, culture and sport	Limburg
Afghan Cultural Centre Sanai Beverwijk and surroundings Foundation	2013	Culture	North Holland
MCAN	2014	Support health care in Afghanistan via knowledge sharing and return of health professionals for short or long term assistance in the health sector in Afghanistan. Online health related lectures/ webinarss	North Holland
Omed Foundation	2010	Integration	Overijssel
Women's Group Butterfly Foundation	2008	Integration to bring the Dutch and Afghans together (via preparing Afghan food events). Then support underprivileged women and children in Afghanistan / Culture, sports and recreation	Limburg
NAHID Foundation	2004	Assist and help war affected women and children by providing them living, economical, and educational, facilities and possibilities	Groningen
Afghan Islamic & Cultural Centre Foundation	2012	Religious and cultural	North Brabant
KAMRAN Foundation	2006	Welfare	North Brabant
Gole Narges Foundation	2007	Integration and cultural activities (social contacts between Afghans and the local residents/Dutch), sports, religious (funerals), supporting Afghans in the areas of health and education in Afghanistan	South Holland

NAME	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	MAIN FIELDS OF ENGAGEMENT	PROVINCE
Lowee Nangarhar Foundation (East)	2012	Cultural , organising and celebrating social events	South Holland
JAWANAHA Foundation	2007		Gelderland
ABRAR CHARITY Foundation	2020	Support orphan children for education, financial support entrepreneurship (tailoring, sewing, other small enterprises), support to disable, sick and old families	South Holland
Young Social Entrepreneurs for Afghanistan Foundation	2011	Social entrepreneurship	North Brabant
Nang Foundation	2011	Livelihood, shelter, medical assistance, education and employment. Integration and culture of Afghans in the Netherlands	South Holland
Women Aid Afghanistan Foundation	2012	Culture/social, advocacy, women rights	Flevoland
Help Foundation Emran	2009	Supporting and providing aid to the poor; collection, sorting and packaging of used clothing and shoes; Import and export of used clothing and shoes.	N/A
Voice of Afghan Women - Educational and Cultural Peace Foundation	2010	Support Afghan women rights	South Holland
Ahmad Shah Baba Foundation	2009	To assist the Afghan community in the Netherlands in social and civic matters and give them the opportunity.	Utrecht
Pamiryan Foundation	2020	Support Afghan community in the Netherlands	Gelderland
Ameel Foundation	2006	Organizes sociocultural, political and educational activities and meetings. The foundation focuses on integration and awareness	Gelderland
Resallath Foundation	2020	N/A	Friesland
The Federation of Afghan Refugee Organizations in Europe	1999	integration and participation of Afghans by initiating awareness programs, seminars and joint projects with other institutions in the member States of the EU.	South Holland
Afghan Women's Association Hambastagi	2010	Promoting and improving the integration and participation of Afghan women in Dutch society.	North Brabant
Afghan Cultural Association Roosendaal	2018	Culture and social	North Brabant
Afghan Cultural-Islamic Association	2011	Culture and islamic/religious	Utrecht
Islamic Cultural Afghan Association	2000	Organizing recreational, informative and religious gatherings for members jointly and / or for women and young people individually; integration	South Holland
Association of Afghan Interpreters and Translators	2010	N/A	North Holland
Afghan Cultural Association Haarlem	2001	Cultural and social	Limburg
Roshan Women's Association		Social/cultural, Integration, Education, labour	North Brabant
Afghan Association Gouda	2002	N/A	South Holland
Cultural Afghan Association Leidschendam	2011	Cultural, social, integration	South Holland
Afghan Cultural Association in the Netherlands	2000	Cultural, social, integration	Utrecht
Afghan Association Delft (and Environs)	1999	N/A	South Holland
Afghan Cultural Association "Unity & Development 2012"	2012	philosophy, education, social participation/ integration and culture	South Holland
Afghan Cultural Association	N/A	Advocacy (demonstration to stop deportation of Afghans)	Limburg
Afghan Doctors Association in the Netherlands	1999	N/A	Gelderland
National Afghan Association Khorasan Netherlands	2015	N/A	South Holland
Afghan Association Veenendaal and surroundings	2002	Culture, art etc	Utrecht
Cultural Afghan Association Zaanstad	2001	Culture and social	North Holland

NAME	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	MAIN FIELDS OF ENGAGEMENT	PROVINCE
Pamir Noord-Holland Foundation	1999	Celebrating Nawruz, advocacy for the rights of Afghan asylum seekers to prevent deportation	North Holland
Salaam Afghan Cultural Community	2000	Responding to cultural events in Afg; Financing scientific and cultural publications written by Afghan writers; publishing	Drenthe
National Association of Afghan Youth	N/A	N/A	South Holland
FAYAZ Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights in Afghanistan	2007	Human rights	South Holland
Afghanistan centre for civil society	N/A	N/A	North Brabant
Support Afghanistan Foundation	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ass. Of Afghan Women Bibi Mahro	N/A	N/A	South Holland
Board of Directors Afghan Women in the Netherlands	2010	N/A	Gelderland
Association of Afghan Friendship In The Netherlands	2009	N/A	Utrecht
Afghan Cultural Association in Rotterdam	N/A	Cultural and social activities	South Holland
Association of Afghan Women 'Rabe-i-Balkhi	2003	Social and culture	North Holland
Aria Student Association (Rotterdam)	N/A	Art and culture, sport, entertainment, integration, aid without border, etc	South Holland
Union of Afghan Associations in the Netherlands (UvAViN)	2003	Social and economic Integration, culture, advocacy, education (supporting Albiruni university in Afghanistan)	Gelderland
Cultural Association of Afghans in Zwijndrecht	N/A	Cultural and social activities	South Holland
Ayendae Mardom Association	N/A	Cultur	N/A
Chess Association for Afghans in the Netherlands (nationwide)	N/A	Sport	N/A
Cultural Association of the Afghan Refugees in Helmond	N/A	Cultural and social activities	North Brabant
Association of Afghan Women in Eindhoven	N/A	Social and culture;	North Brabant
Afghan Women's Association in EU	2012	Social and culture	North Brabant
Afghan women's association in Nijmegen	2007	Social and culture	Gelderland
Afghan Social and Cultural Centre South Limburg	2000	Cultural and social activities; integration	Limburg
Association of Afghan Refugees in Apeldoorn and surroundings	1998	Integration; culture	Gelderland
Afghan Women Association in Europe	2007	N/A	Gelderland
Imam Abu Hanifa (r) Mosque	2011	Social and cultural activities; Educational activities	North Holland
Afghan House Cultural Foundation (Hakim-Sanay)	2001	Cultural and social activities	Limburg
Foundation Coordination Council for Afghans in the Netherlands	2001	N/A	North Holland
IEAF Foundation (innovation in education for Afghanistan) [it has branches in some other countries too)	N/A	Education: focuses on education of underprivileged children in Afghanistan	N/A
Cultural Federation of the Turks of Afghanistan (FFTA)	N/A	Social and culture	N/A
Association of Hazaras in the Netherlands	2016	Integration, social and culture, sport	Utrecht
Aainda Foundation	2014	Improving the position of young Afghan women by investing in modern teaching materials; integration; social/cultural.	Limburg
Solidarity Committee Afghanistan-Netherlands (SCAN)	2000	Education; health; humanitarian assistance; cultural and social activities	Limburg

Note: The main fields of engagement or activities of the ADDOs in this mapping are mainly based on the information as much as available online.

ANNEX 2.1

MAIN FIELDS OF ENGAGEMENT OF ADDOS IN AFGHANISTAN: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

NO	NAME OF THE ADDOS	HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE/ RELIEF (FOOD, CLOTHS, BLANKETS, ETC)	DEVELOPMENT			
			HEALTH	EDUCATION	ENTREPRENEURSHIP/ EMPLOYMENT	HUMAN RIGHTS
1	Shahmama (Shahmoama), Afghan Social Development Foundation			X		X
2	KEIHAN Foundation	X	X	X		
3	Afghan Dutch Foundation in Apeldoorn (SANA)	X				
4	Ariana Foundation			X		
5	The Afghanistan-Netherlands Cooperation Foundation	X		X		
6	MCAN		X	X		
7	Women's Group Butterfly Foundation	X				
8	NAHID Foundation	X		X		
9	Gole Narges Foundation		X			
10	ABRAR CHARITY Foundation	X			X	
11	Young Social Entrepreneurs for Afghanistan				X	
12	Nang Foundation	X	X		X	
13	Help Foundation Emran	X				
14	Afghan Cultural-Islamic Association	X				
15	Islamic Cultural Afghan Association	X				
16	FAYAZ Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights in Afghanistan					X
17	Aria Student Association (Rotterdam)	X				
18	Union of Afghan Associations in the Netherlands (UvAViN)	X		X		
19	IEAF Foundation (innovation in education for Afghanistan) [it has a branch in Finland too]			X		
20	Aaında Foundation			X		
21	Solidarity Committee Afghanistan-Netherlands (SCAN)	X	X	X		
22	IEAF Foundation			X		
23	Women Aid Afghanistan Foundation					X

Note: The ADDOs that are engaged online in the development of Afghanistan also include in this table.



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ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid works to end poverty and exclusion. We do this in the world's most fragile and conflict-affected areas as well as in the Netherlands. We engage communities to rebuild trust and resilience and increase people's self-reliance. Our professionals provide humanitarian assistance and create opportunities to improve security, health care and education and stimulate inclusive economic growth. We are supported by nearly 300,000 private donors in the Netherlands and by a worldwide partner network. Cordaid is a founding member of Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE.

CONTACT

Cordaid

Postal address
PO Box 16640
2500 BK The Hague
The Netherlands

Address

Grote Marktstraat 45
2511 BH The Hague
The Netherlands

+31(0)70-31 36 300
info@cordaid.org
www.cordaid.org

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