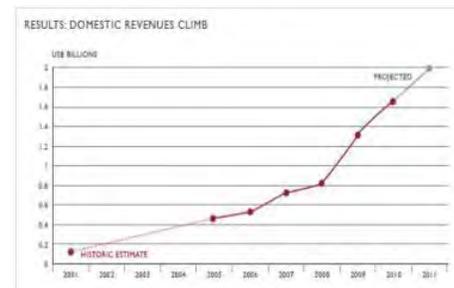




**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## TOP TEN ACHIEVEMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

- 1. Significantly Expanded Access to Education:** Education is a foundation for long-term development, and USAID has helped Afghanistan to rebuild its education system severely degraded by years of conflict. In 2002, an estimated 900,000 boys were in school and virtually no girls. Now there are 8 million students enrolled in school, more than a third of whom are girls. University enrollment has increased from 8,000 in 2001 to 77,000, including 19,000 females. USAID has supported these gains by building 605 schools, training teachers and developing university teaching degree programs.
- 2. Increased Life Expectancy by 15 to 20 Years:** Since the departure of the Taliban, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) with support from USAID, and other donors, has been successful in rebuilding the healthcare system with low cost, high impact interventions, to improve the health of Afghans, primarily women and children. Access to basic health services (ability to reach a facility within one hour by foot) has risen from 9 percent in 2001 to more than 60 percent today, and more than 22,000 health workers have been trained. According to the Afghanistan Mortality Survey 2010, the results of this investment are remarkable:
  - Life expectancy has increased by 15-20 years, from 44 years to over 60 in the last decade.
  - The under-five mortality rate has been reduced from 172 to 97 deaths per 1,000 live births.
  - The estimated maternal mortality ratio declined significantly from 1,600 per 100,000 births to 327 per 100,000 births.
  - The number of functioning primary health care facilities increased from 498 in 2002 to over 1,970 in 2010.
- 3. Five-Fold Increase in Per Capita GDP:** The estimated Afghan GDP in 2010 was \$15.9 billion, more than four times higher than in 2002 representing a 9 percent per year average increase. Per capita GDP also increased by nearly five times over the same period to \$528 in 2010/11. USAID assistance was instrumental in creating physical, institutional, and human capacities in both the public and private sectors to help spur this growth.
- 4. Dramatic Growth in Afghan Government Revenue Collection:** Afghan government revenues have grown almost 20 percent per year since 2002. In 2010/11, domestic revenue reached \$1.7 billion or 11 percent of GDP, exceeding the IMF target of 9.2 percent per year. Revenue from customs is the fastest growing segment, increasing over 400 percent since 2006. USAID has assisted the Afghan government to develop a centralized customs collection system, contributing to the sharp increases in annual customs revenues.



5. **Exceptional Advances for Women:** Despite the ongoing challenges for women in Afghanistan, our development interventions have helped Afghan women take on larger roles in society and shown extraordinary results:
  - Of over 77,000 Afghans enrolled in higher education, almost 20 percent are women.
  - Twenty seven percent of seats in the Parliament, one governor, three cabinet, and 120 judicial positions are now held by women,;
  - Hundreds of women’s organizations are working to end violence and discrimination against women; and
  - The Afghan Government has committed to ensuring that by 2013 at least 30 percent of government employees are women
  
6. **Access to Reliable Power Tripled:** In 2002, only 6 percent of Afghans had access to reliable electricity. Today 18 percent do, including more than 2 million people in Kabul who now benefit from electric power 24 hours a day. USAID assistance has included hydro-electric and solar facilities, and has focused on making the Afghan national power company (DABS) self-sustaining through increased revenue collection and increased efficiency.
  
7. **Expansion of Independent Media:** USAID has fostered an independent media in Afghanistan that had been completely dismantled after years of Soviet occupation and Taliban control. This support from USAID included the development of more than 50 independent, community-based and commercial FM radio stations across the country, and the PAJHWOK News Agency. USAID launched Arman FM and Tolo TV, one of the most popular Afghan television stations with a 45 percent market share.
  
8. **Reformed and Revamped Civil Service Improving Government:** USAID has trained more than 16,000 civil servants (26 percent of whom are women) in core administrative functions. In order to facilitate improved delivery of government services and representation at the district level, a new merit-based hiring process has been put in place to revise appointments of deputy governors and sub-governors. To date, more than 75 deputy governors and sub-governors have been placed using this new method.
  
9. **Increasing Economic Inclusion through Mobile Money:** USAID has helped the Afghan government utilize mobile phones to pay government employees and police officers, allowing Afghans working in areas lacking banks to receive their salaries on time and in full. USAID is also collaborating with the mobile phone operator Etisalat and DABS, the national electricity utility to roll out a new mobile billing and payment system. By autumn of this year, some 110,000 households will be able to receive and pay their monthly electricity bills directly from their mobile handsets, avoiding a bank queue that now averages six hours.
  
10. **Promoting Regional Connections:** USAID assisted in helping Afghanistan and Pakistan negotiate a historic transit trade agreement that will reduce by half the amount of time it takes goods to cross the border between the two countries. The Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit-Trade Agreement (APTTA) updates and improves the joint transit system to reflect current economic conditions, infrastructure, technology, and transport practices. The new transit regime increases the number of transport routes available to trucks from both countries, lowering the cost of imports and making exports more competitive in the global market.