



Press Release:

Afghanistan Provincial Briefs, a joint publication of the Ministry of Economy and World Bank, officially released.

Kabul – The Ministry of Economy (MoEc) and the World Bank (WB) jointly released today the report “Afghanistan Provincial Briefs”, based on the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) 2007/08. The report provides a summary of selected social and economic measures of individual and household wellbeing for each province of Afghanistan. The selected provincial indicators in the report encompass multiple dimensions of wellbeing, including poverty and inequality, food security, labor market outcomes, sectoral distribution of employment, gender, education, health, and access to services and infrastructure.

The statistics presented in this report highlight that development outcomes in Afghanistan vary significantly from province to province. The prevalence of poverty, for example, varies from 9 percent in Helmand to 76 percent in Paktika; a considerably large spread around the national average of 36 percent. School enrollment rates among children aged 6-12 are the highest in Daykundi with over two thirds of the children enrolled in schools, while Urozgan has one of the lowest enrollment rates with an estimated 2 percent of its children enrolled in schools. Access to key services such as electricity and safe drinking water also shows a high degree of variation across provinces. For example, 85 percent of households in Kabul have access to electricity compared to less than 4 percent in Badghis and Urozgan.

This compendium of key indicators is based on the 2007/08 nationally representative National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) survey. The NRVA 2007/08 is a comprehensive multi-topic survey of 20,576 households in 2,572 communities, collected from all 34 provinces over an entire year. The report serves three purposes. First, it provides a snap-shot of the development performance of each province and benchmarks it to that of other provinces and of nation as whole. This comparative perspective is provided with a view to assist policy makers and other development actors in their efforts to improve development effectiveness. Second, by unbundling variations in development outcomes at the provincial level, these briefs enrich the aggregate description of well being presented in the previously released MoEc-WB “Poverty Status in Afghanistan” report. Third, these indicators provide baselines to be updated by future rounds of the NRVA. The monitoring of indicators, both at the national and provincial level, is a key input to assessing progress towards the goals described in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy.

Note to editors: This report is an output of a joint work program of MoEc and the WB to provide a solid empirical basis to facilitate better informed discussions leading to improved policies to reduce poverty. The production and release of this report was made possible by the support and guidance of HE Abdul Hadi Arghandehwal, the Minister of Economy, and Nicholas Krafft, World Bank Country Director. HE Minister Arghandehwal and Mr. Krafft note that these Provincial Briefs can provide evidence to prioritize and better target interventions at the provincial level and thereby reduce poverty and improve the wellbeing of the people of Afghanistan. The Ministry of Economy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the World Bank thank AusAID for their support of this report. The report has benefited from input from the Central Statistics Organization (CSO), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MOLSAMD), as well as representatives from the European Union (EU), UK Department for International Development (DfID), World Food Programme (WFP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).