

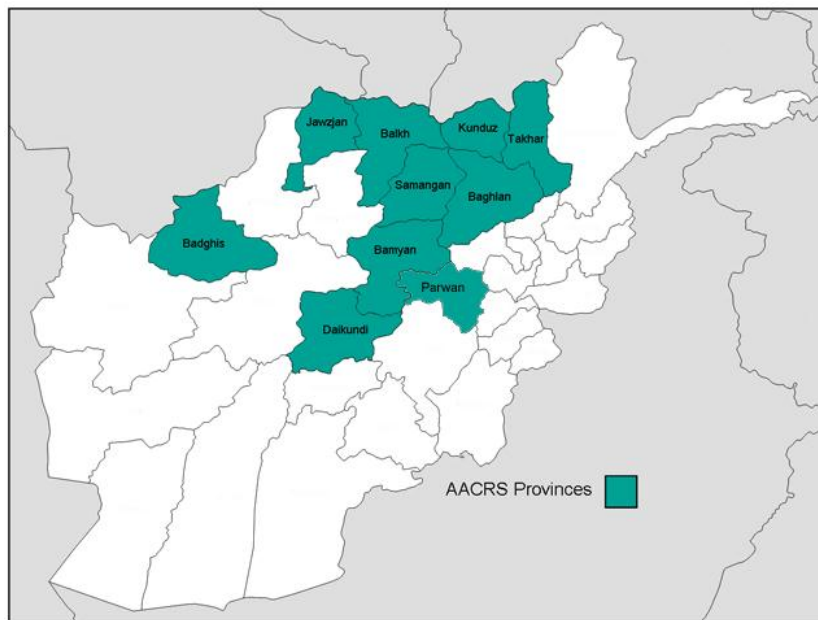


# Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme

Fact sheet: January 2015

## Overview

The Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme (AACRS) is a new Australian Government rural development program in Afghanistan with a budget of up to \$25 million over four years. AACRS began in May 2014 and is expected to conclude in early 2018.



The AACRS is a collaboration between the Australian Government, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and five non-government organisations (NGOs): ActionAid Australia, the Aga Khan Foundation – Afghanistan, CARE Australia, Oxfam Australia, and World Vision Australia.

## Objective

The AACRS will improve the resilience of rural Afghan communities by promoting innovative solutions to livelihood challenges. Target communities and families will benefit from more and better agricultural production, institutions that are more aware of people's needs and rights, and higher incomes. The AACRS focuses on helping the most vulnerable in communities, particularly women, to access more economic opportunities. AACRS NGOs are working with at least 95,000 men, women and children throughout ten provinces.

## AACRS activities

AACRS NGOs will implement a range of activities, including:

- › training farmers in improved agricultural approaches and providing innovative technologies;
- › establishing links to markets and supporting private sector growth;
- › building the capacity of local civil society organisations; and
- › rehabilitating irrigation infrastructure.

## Where the AACRS is working

Projects will be implemented in 10 provinces in the central highlands, and north and west Afghanistan.

## AACRS Partnership

Australia and the AACRS NGOs are working together as partners to:

- › Support each other to improve approaches by sharing successes and failures
- › Increase cooperation and coordination between partners
- › Ensure links with other donors and Afghan Government programs

## The AACRS and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

All AACRS activities contribute to the Government of Afghanistan's priorities for rural development. The key partner ministries are the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the Ministry of Economy (MoEc).

These ministries will join Australia on an AACRS Oversight Committee. The Committee will review implementation, share information, and support coordination between partners.

Engagement in AACRS implementation and progress will provide a range of benefits, including:

- › Building skills and knowledge
- › Sharing experiences and learning from each other
- › Supporting community participation, including by women
- › Improving coordination with other government activities
- › Supporting government participation in monitoring and evaluation activities
- › Supporting women to access economic opportunities
- › Increasing food security and nutrition for vulnerable men, women and children



*An Afghan farmer participating in a livelihood project.  
Photo: Patrick Thomas, World Vision.*

## More information

More information can be obtained by contacting the AACRS team at [aacrs@dfat.gov.au](mailto:aacrs@dfat.gov.au)