Developing e-Government in Afghanistan

By

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Introduction

About Afghanistan

Role of e-Government in ANDS

Current ICT/E-Gov In Afghanistan

References
Use of ICT in government activities has become a common phenomenon in recent years.

In the late 1990s, ICT introduced a unique concept, e-Government, in the field of Public administration.

With rapid development of ICT and increasing awareness of the benefits of e-government, ICT-enabled Transformation of government process become part of national development strategies in the developing world.
E-Government at least in the eyes of Public service users, produce several benefits,

- reduced corruption,
- increased transparency,
- greater convenience,
- revenue growth, and empowering people to participate in political processes that affect their lives directly.

In short, use of ICT in government facilitates an efficient, speedy, and transparent process for disseminating information to the public & agencies,
About Afghanistan

Neighbor Countries:
- Pakistan
- Iran
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Tajikistan

Provinces: 34 no.
Districts: 380 no
Land Area: 647,500 km²
# About Afghanistan

## Afghanistan Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pashto</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajik</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazara</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbek</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aimak</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tukmen</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baloch</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Afghanistan Geography and Land Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Area</td>
<td>647,500 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Features</td>
<td>Landlocked &amp; Mountainous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arable Land</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigated Land</td>
<td>27,200 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area under crop</td>
<td>0.21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Afghanistan Economy Current Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>12.850 Billion (2008 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP growth</td>
<td>3.5 percent (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita</td>
<td>$457 (2008 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP by sector</td>
<td>agriculture: 31% industry: 26% services: 43% (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation (CPI)</td>
<td>3.2% (2008 End of period)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population below poverty line</td>
<td>53% (2003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor force by occupation</td>
<td>agriculture 80%, industry 10%, services 10% (2004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>40% (2008)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Role of E-Gov in Afghanistan National Development

Basic Concept: **Optimal Use of ICT in Governance.**

Ideal Government

- Citizen Centric
- Service Oriented
- Inclusive and holistic
- Efficient and Responsive
- Transparent
- Participatory and democratic

[Diagram of Optimization of a Governance System]
Is an Ideal Government Possible?

Government as an Organization is
• Complex
• Large and diffused
• Often diverse groups and entities

We can approach an Ideal Government through the use of Technology
### Traditional VS E-Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Traditional</th>
<th>E-Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of Resources</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Service</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed of Service</td>
<td>Months /days</td>
<td>Hours / Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROI</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High (pay back or years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transparency</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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#### Traditional Vs E-Government

- **Productivity**
- **Use of Resources**
- **Participation**
- **Transparency**

![Graph comparing traditional vs e-government productivity, use of resources, participation, and transparency.]

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#### Traditional Vs E-Government

- **Cost of Transactions**
  - E-Government: 1
  - Traditional Government: 100

- **Speed of Service Delivery**
  - E-Government: 1000
  - Traditional Government: 1
No other nation has faced, Simultaneously, the range and scale of far-reaching challenges with which Afghanistan is now in and must contend with:

- Security
- Governance and Role of law
- Education
- Health
- Social Protection
- Agriculture & Rural Development
- Economic Governance and private Sector Development
- Gender Equality
- Counter-Narcotics
- Anti Corruption
- Regional Cooperation
- Environment
Role of e-Government in Security:
Several ICT projects (e-NID card, RFID Tag, TDF, DCN, VCN) will provide the basic connectivity to eliminate this obstacle to progress. Another aspect is the storage and processing of authentic people and physical data of the country.

Role of e-Government in Governance & Rule of Law:
With the implementation of e-Government and e-Democracy the rule of law will be strengthened.

Role of e-Government in Education:
Use of ICT by the government in the education can increase literacy rates significantly. Web-based education and e-learning have emerged as handy tools for distance learning. Both video and computer conferencing have made it possible for students in remote rural regions to have access to teachers anywhere in the world.
Role of e-Government in Health:
The telemedicine and e-Health will enable Afghans living in far and remote areas of the country to benefit from the health facilities in metropolitan cities of the country and the rest of the world.

Role of e-Government in Social Protection:
Through having national wide data bases with people data on it, it will enable the citizen as well the government to securely host, process and produce the authentic data about individuals thus reducing the tempering of people data. Thus no entity will abuse any one with the false testimonials in the society.

Role of e-Gov Agriculture and Rural Development:
Information technology also can empower rural people by providing them with both accesses to information and the tools for analyzing it. In agriculture, technologies can help providing information concerning planting date selection, water use and management, pest and disease control, and harvest management. The Land Information
Role of e-Gov in Economic Governance & Private Sector Development

It is always important to have the right information (facts and figures) in the right time to make a good economical decision. Most of the time the economical data in Afghanistan are missing, thus discouraging the FDI and economic growth. Bureaucracy is another factor of this discouragement, ICT can play vital role through the implementation of different MIS, the private sector development and economical governance will foster.

Role of e-Government in Gender Equality

Mobile and Electronic commerce will make it possible for women to work at home and be commercially viable without offending cultural sensitivities.
Role of e-Government in Counter-Narcotics:
Well connected societies are the lesser victims of narcotics and terrorism besides low employment is another breeding factor for terrorism, ICT will connect afghan society and will create job opportunities and facilitate ground for entrepreneurship.

Role of e-Gov in Anti Corruption:
E-Governance and other e-Enabled services will reduce the corruption chances. If information is shared among all, then it is less prone to force any entity for corruption.

Role of e-Government Environment:
Telephone services and the internet reduce the need to travel, which saves expenditures on gasoline and eliminates harmful emissions.
Modern telecommunication technology arrived to Afghanistan in 1930.

In 2002 the infrastructure was negligible and services were extremely limited. Wealthy people could afford to use satellite phone (at cost 5$/Min).

In 2003, the initial broad policy statement was further refined and split into two separate policies, Telecom infrastructure & regulatory principles and second ICT applications.

In 2005 the Telecom law was promulgated.

The telecom infrastructure aspect are being implemented by ATRA, which was established in 2006.

In 2007, the ICT council was established.
Key performance indicators for the Telecom and IT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Telephones Penetration</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Phones Penetration</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8.00%</td>
<td>16.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet User Penetration</td>
<td>0.25%</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Cities/Towns/Villages connected</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (M US$)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecom Direct Employment</td>
<td>6000</td>
<td>10000</td>
<td>15000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Employment</td>
<td>12000</td>
<td>25000</td>
<td>35000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Telecom statistics end December 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GSM Subscribers</td>
<td>13,304,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDMA Subscribers</td>
<td>83,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landlines</td>
<td>56,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penetration</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments in $ Millions</td>
<td>1,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecom Base Station</td>
<td>3,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Coverage</td>
<td>Over 80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table.: (a) Ministry of communication and IT indicators of 2005 to 2009 and (b) Telecom Statistics end of 2009
Figure: (a) Ministry of Commutation and IT Communication towers from 2002 – 2009 and (b) Mobile subscribers.
Figure: (a) Cost of National Calls in Afghani /Minute and (b) Cost of international calls in Afghani/ minute
Figure: (a) Afghanistan Fiber optic connection with neighbors’ and . (b) Telephone penetration 2007 percentage of the population.
Ministry of Communication and IT, in 2008 started developing e-gov strategy, the program methodology was developed by UNU/IIST (United Nation University/International Institute for Software Technology).

- Agency level survey
- National Level survey

**OBJECTIVES.**
- Readiness Assessment
- Research
- Strategy Development
- Program Development
- Human Capacity Development
- Organizational Capacity Development
ongoing e-government projects in MCIT

- NID Cards
  1. License
  2. Vehicle registration
- e-Vote
- e-health
- e-passport
- Land Titling
- Customized Reception Disk
- Electronic Document Management System
- Establishing 80 websites for governmental organizations
REFERENCES

[1] Introduction e-government Bangladesh, http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0IMR/is_34_78/ai_113139423/


Thank you