



Afghan National Police officers in Herat receive flowers on 9 April as a gesture of appreciation from community and business leaders for providing effective security on elections day – which it is hoped will ultimately translate into improved business investment and development

Photo: Col Abdul Rawouf Ahmadi/Provincial Police Headquarters, Herat

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Post-elections praise for Afghan police

The reputation of the Afghan National Police force improved overnight following the country's 5 April national elections.

Police officers were widely praised for their role in providing improved security which enabled citizens to vote in Afghanistan's Presidential and Provincial Council elections in the face of serious threats. In April, the Independent Election Commission announced a record turnout of over 6.8 million voters, 36 percent of whom were women.

The Minister of Interior Affairs, H.E. Mohammed Omer Daudzai, said more than 400,000 police, army and National Directorate of Security personnel (collectively called the Afghan National Security Forces) were deployed across the country to secure election sites. Around 20 policewomen were among those who provided personal protection to the presidential candidates.

Mr Daudzai said police officers were directed to remain fully impartial throughout the electoral process and help prevent any fraudulent activity in the elections. Ninety percent of the polling centres were open, an improvement on the 2009 elections when around one third of the 6,000 polling centres remained closed due to security concerns, according to the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA).

While the elections were far from incident-free, the performance of the national police force exceeded public expectations. The applause came from within Afghanistan – police were even presented with flowers in some cities as a thank you from community elders and business leaders – as well as from the international community, including the United Nations Security Council.

In a statement, the Security Council commended the performance of the Afghan National Security Forces in leading security arrangements for the elections. Police are buoyed by the response.

"I am 100 percent optimistic about the future development of our police and their ability to keep this country safe and implement the rule of law," the Commander of the Afghan National Police Central Training Centre and Regional Training Centres, General Abdul Basir, said. "We've trained many good police and we saw during the elections how they successfully stayed one step ahead and prevented many problems," he added.

The public also played role by reporting suspicious activity to police. On elections day alone, the 119 Emergency Call Centre service received over 8,700 calls, quadruple the usual volume for a Saturday.

A run-off election is scheduled for 14 June 2014.



People in Chekhcharan, Ghor province, publicly applaud the police and army in April with a sign which reads: 'Congratulation for the brave and courageous performance of security forces during the elections from the people of Ghor'
Photo: Hasan Hakimi/Independent News Agency, Ghor Province



Women cast their votes at an outdoor polling station in Herat while police stand guard Photo: Col Noor Khan Nikzad/Police-e-Mardumi, Pashtoon Zarghoon district



Afghan National Police officers in Kabul take time out from their security duties on elections day to vote Photo: Fardin Waezi/UNAMA



Members of the Afghan National Police Explosive Ordnance Disposal team in Herat recover an explosive device from a roadway in April

Photo: Khalid Wadan/UNDP Afghanistan

Women reinforce voter security

Women throughout Afghanistan were recruited to provide security at polling stations on elections day.

The government's Joint Plan for Election Security called for all voters to be searched on their way into polling stations on 5 April for firearms, explosives and other items prohibited by the Independent Election Commission (IEC). The MoIA set about recruiting up to 13,000 women to safeguard the dedicated women's polling stations as there were not enough female Afghan National Police personnel to meet this need. Women comprise less than two percent of the national police force.

"As it's clear to all the world, ensuring security for the elections was not an easy task," the Head of MoIA's Gender, Human Rights and Children Directorate, Brigadier General Hekmat Shahi, said. "There were Female Searchers who worked for long hours and in distant locations and it's admirable. We can't ignore their part in helping achieve the participation of women in the elections."

Following the 2009 Presidential elections, providing safer voting sites was seen as a necessary step to overcome the disenfranchisement of women.

The training and pay for the Female Searchers and their 'Mahrams', or guardians, was funded via LOTFA, with payments handled by the IEC. Lessons learned during the first round of voting will be taken into account in the run-off election when Female Searchers are due to be redeployed.



Female Searcher training in Mazar-e-Sharif in March Photo: Gul Alam Aryan/UNAMA

Police explosives disposal teams save lives

When it comes to landmines and explosive remnants of war, Afghanistan remains one of the most heavily affected countries in the world.

The International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance, observed on 4 April, was an opportunity to reflect on efforts in Afghanistan to reduce the threat of mines and unexploded weapons left behind after conflict.

The UN Secretary-General's latest quarterly report on Afghanistan indicates that in 2013 the number of incidents involving mines and explosive remnants of war increased, with 455 casualties, including 129 deaths, recorded. However, according to the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA), overall there has been an 80 percent reduction in civilian casualties from mines and explosive remnants of war between 2001 and 2013.

Specialist Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams within the Afghan National Police help protect the population from the indiscriminate effects of explosive remnants of war and other unexploded weapons. Personnel who take on this dangerous job receive an annual sign-up bonus and monthly incentive payment on top of their salaries, all funded through LOTFA.

Captain Zalmai leads one such team based at the Provincial Police Headquarters in Herat, in the country's west. Having completed Explosive Ordnance Disposal training over six months, his three-person team focuses on the disposal and clearance of explosive remnants of war and other unexploded ordnance including Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

"It's a sad legacy of war that many in our community, including children, face the risk of being killed or maimed by mines and other explosive devices. Our team is actively and proudly serving the citizens of Herat province," Captain Zalmai said.

Police too are among the casualties. In 2013, in Herat province alone, two police officers were killed and 29 were injured by explosive devices, according to MoIA.

"Afghanistan's mine and explosive remnants of war problem impacts upon the country's security, environment and development, but it's solvable," the Director of MACCA, Mohammad Sediq Rashid, said. "It's through the support of donors and the efforts of many people who put their lives at risk to save others that we can ensure Afghanistan is mine-free," he said.

Contributor: Khalid Wadan, UNDP-LOTFA Regional Project Coordinator, Herat

Marking 12 years of LOTFA

In May 2002, the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan - LOTFA - came into being.

Afghanistan was emerging from decades of conflict and needed to rebuild a police force capable of enforcing the rule of law, containing crime and protecting its citizens. Yet progress was hampered by a lack of funds, police training and basic administrative systems for personnel, procurement and logistics.

Responding to a request from the Afghan Interim Administration and the newly-formed United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) established a unique funding mechanism to enable donor governments to provide support so the national police could resume their operations.

LOTFA has since been a vital mechanism for coordinating contributions from donor governments with the principle priority of covering the salaries of national police and prison guards, as well as building the capacity and professionalism of police and equipping them and their workplaces.

It is unclear how many Afghan police there were in early 2002. Estimates range from virtually zero to 15,000. Today the salaries of some 150,000 Afghan National Police personnel and around 5,500 prison guards are disbursed via LOTFA.

In little more than a decade, funding of US\$3.1 billion from the international community, channelled through LOTFA, has contributed to turning around Afghanistan's ability to maintain law and order.

Many partners have supported their Afghan counterparts to implement LOTFA-sponsored activities, key among them are the Combined Security Transition Command, European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL), International Police Coordination Board, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan and the Sivas Police Training Centre.

In their words...



Photo: Micky Kroeel/OSCE

"The people of Afghanistan are showing that the huge investment of the past 12 years by the international community has brought a new society. The society is here and is telling the international community: 'Don't let us down. Yes, not everything is perfect. Yes, we have problems with corruption, with good governance, but this is not the time to leave us alone. You did it 20 years ago and it was a fatal mistake'."

Ján Kubiš
UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of UNAMA



"The Ministry of Interior Affairs is proud of the significant achievements we've made in improving Afghanistan's police services. We have every intention of continuing to strive to make the country more secure, stable and peaceful. We look forward to further professionalizing our police services with the assistance of LOTFA and other international supporters."

Masood Azizi
Deputy Minister of Strategy and Policy, Afghanistan



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



12 YEARS OF THE LAW AND ORDER TRUST FUND FOR AFGHANISTAN

Tribute to all LOTFA donors since 2002 – for country list see p.8

In their words... 12 years of Afghan National Police progress



"Twelve years after the establishment of LOTFA, Afghanistan is assuming responsibility over reforms of the police as part of the country's broader security transition. We are glad UNDP could contribute to the administration of the disbursements of police and prison guard salaries and other measures to strengthen the rule of law, including supporting a vision for civilian policing. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Afghan government and international partners to enhance sustainable peace and development in support of national priorities."

Alvaro Rodriguez,
Country Director, UNDP Afghanistan



"Transformation of the Afghan National Police (ANP) from a disparate organization of isolated commands, often responsible to local powerbrokers, into a unified national force, that is effective in combatting insurgency, has been a tremendous challenge. While significant work remains to be done, LOTFA has been a central partner of the international community and the ANP in the shared effort to transform the ANP into a modern and multi-disciplined public protection agency."

Dr. Ken Yamashita
Coordinating Director
U.S. Embassy Kabul



"Election day was a good example of the major progress by the Afghan National Police in the past decade: they planned and coordinated their operations perfectly with their counterparts. They acted as a pure civilian police; they remained impartial and just ensured that the citizens of Afghanistan could cast their votes in a secure environment. For me the effort of this day also indicates that our training at the Police Staff College has borne fruit as part of the international partnership supporting the Afghan police."

Karl Ake Roghe
Head of Mission, EUPOL Afghanistan



"The strong steps which were taken to professionalize the Afghan police have, on one hand, made the police more competent at maintaining the law and fighting against extremism and, on the other, strengthened the Afghan citizens' trust more than before. Fortunately, our association has established close working relations with the Interior Affairs Ministry which has resulted in enforcement of the law in this country."

Rohullah Qarizada
President, Afghanistan Independent
Bar Association



"I've been working in the police force for 29 years and there has never been such a strong will to support female police as there is now. Our faithful international partners have been a big influence and made a great contribution to building the skills of Afghan National Police by supporting and training female police – every single one of us."

Col Zakiya Rahmati
Deputy Head, Monitoring and
Evaluation Unit
Gender, Human Rights and Children
Directorate, Ministry of Interior Affairs



"At first, the police were like militia. Instead of uniforms, they wore the shalwar kameez and didn't know about the law. In 2003, the government established the police Central Training Centre. We keep the police trained and provide refresher training as many things are changing in the police force. Now we see the Afghan police operating according to national and international standards."

Col A. Qader Niyazi
Deputy Commander,
Afghan National Police Central
Training Centre



Q&A with Dr Abdul Bari

Having been involved with LOTFA for a decade – as a UNDP Afghanistan senior manager and now as a Policy Advisor for the Swiss Cooperation Office in Afghanistan – Dr Abdul Bari reflects on LOTFA's 12th anniversary and the evolution of the Afghan National Police.

What are your early memories of LOTFA?

In 2004, I became an Assistant Country Director at UNDP. I was asked to manage 14 projects and one was LOTFA. It was designed to support five priorities. The first at that time was police remuneration, and the second was the provision of non-lethal equipment. Rehabilitation of facilities, training and institutional development were the other priorities.

Taking into account the size and the importance of the project, most of my time was given to LOTFA. Within the Afghan government and UNDP, there were people who put a lot of effort and personal time and consideration into LOTFA because security was a big issue.

What was the state of the police when you first became involved in 2004?

The score of the police, in terms of public trust, was very low then. One could hardly call them police. Following the Bonn Agreement, certain armed groups and militia loyal to warlords, who entered provincial and district centres, were included in the police force. In many cases, they were not the right people to bring security or promote the rule of law. They severely lacked the skills.

Yet if you look at recent police perception surveys, things have changed.

How has the international community contributed to progress by the police through LOTFA?

When you do different activities, at one point they all come together. Evolution is the right word. The reform process started with the computerization of the police payroll that helped to remove 'ghost police'. A lot of equipment was provided from the beginning. There was also training and some construction [of police infrastructure], with LOTFA and in parallel with LOTFA. Monitoring helped a lot as that was showing slight progress year-by-year.

So I believe this hard work helped a lot, including changing the police mentality so they think they are there to help people and not the other way around. I would consider LOTFA as a continuous process that has brought us to this point.

What is a key milestone you recall?

I remember in about 2006 discussing with donors that one of the achievements of LOTFA was that the reported number of cases of violence against women had increased. This violence existed in the past but it was not reported because of a lack of trust by the victims towards the law enforcing institutions, including the police. However, with improvement in the police performances, people began to believe more in police and that was why more cases were reported. I think this could be one of the indicators through which change in public perception about police could be measured.

What are the most obvious differences in the Afghan National Police today?

Despite the challenges, the national police are now acting more like a police force. The professional knowledge of police has increased and their behaviour and attitudes have changed. Look to the recent election. Maybe there are single cases here and there where police did not perform, but overall they played the role they were supposed to play. That's the difference. If you look at Kabul city, at the traffic police, they are doing a far better job and that you can't ignore. It's visible and everybody can see it.

How has the police changed since you were growing up in Afghanistan?

I cannot compare the police today. Let's be fair. Police are currently doing more than can be expected. They do counter-insurgency which is beyond their mandate. Police are dying every day. I think it started in the 1980s, during the

Russian time when national police forces were restructured, equipped and pushed to fight alongside the national army.

Will an improved perception of police attract more men and women to join?

Two factors may play a role here. One is danger. Police are targeted daily because they are the face of the government and they are more exposed, especially in remote areas where the insurgents are strong.

The second is tradition. The negative perception of female police still prevails in many local communities where sending female family members to serve in the police is not considered a good idea. I believe this perception was formed during the past 35 years of war and does not represent the 5,000-year-old traditions and culture of Afghanistan. So these factors are major deterrents, but now they are changing.

You now work for a LOTFA donor. What do Swiss people think about their government's support for law enforcement in Afghanistan?

For the whole international community, when they pay money to Afghanistan, they want it to be well spent. People want to be sure this money brings value for Afghans, in terms of positive changes in their lives. I think that's now more important, not only for the Swiss public but for many others.

Should Afghans know more about the international community's support?

I think both the government and its international partners need to communicate better with the Afghan public. There's a saying that if people don't know what you do, they know that you do nothing. If we tell people what we do and why, it makes reform transparent. It also means the community and institutions may correct us. We can learn a great deal from their feedback.

International partnership supports trainees



Afghan National Police trainees (left to right) Murtaza, Esmatullah and Hashmatullah in Kabul prior to departing for six months of intensive training in Sivas, Turkey. Photo: UNDP Afghanistan

In mid-April, the latest intake of 499 male Afghan National Police trainees gathered at the Central Training Centre in Kabul to be briefed before heading to Turkey for six months of intensive training.

For these young Afghans to begin their training against a groundswell of positive sentiment towards the police is a far cry from years gone by. "In my view it was a good achievement for the police during the elections and it's made me proud and happy I applied to become a policeman," explained one trainee, Murtaza, 21.

Accompanied by 12 Afghan National Police instructors, these future police officers will attend Turkey's renowned Sivas Police Training Centre – Afghanistan (Sivas PTC-A), made possible through a 2011 Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of Turkey and Afghanistan for cooperation to build the capacity of the Afghan National Police.

During their Non-Commissioned Officer Training in Sivas, the trainees will gain skills and knowledge in policing and the rule of law, including basic victims' rights, policing in a democratic society, ethics and values, logistics and first aid.

The training is financed by the Government of Japan and the NATO-Training Mission Afghanistan (NTM-A), and supported by UNDP through LOTFA.

"This training project aims to educate a professional police force believing in the principles of universal human rights, respecting democratic values and equipped with knowledge and skills to effectively fight against crime for the security of Afghanistan," the Director of Sivas PTC-A, Rüstem Temel, said at the trainees' official welcome ceremony held on 30 April.

The training cooperation and selection of trainees is led by MoIA. The ministry selects its police trainees from Year 12 high school graduates in all 34 provinces to ensure all language groups and many tribes are represented, and that new recruits can read and write.

This is the fourth batch of LOTFA-sponsored police trainees to attend Sivas PTC-A. Since 2011, a total of 1,458 Afghan police officer candidates have graduated from the Sivas Centre ready to begin police careers, thanks to the LOTFA partnership.

In their words...

"I want to have better police so I hope to return from Turkey with a good understanding of policing so I can serve my country professionally."

Murtaza, 21, Wardak province

"I want to serve my society and my government and I want to help poor people, so that's why I applied to join the police."

Esmatullah, 23, Kandahar province

"We don't want more war. It's my wish and my family's wish for me to join the police, help improve security and unite people in Afghanistan."

Hashmatullah, 21, Parwan province



Afghan police trainees learn self-defence
Photo: Sivas Police Training Centre



The Director of Sivas PTC-A, Rüstem Temel (left), welcomes the MoIA Deputy Minister of Administration, Ekramuddin Yawar, to the trainees' welcome ceremony on 30 April
Photo: Sivas Police Training Centre

More on LOTFA: Contributions from donor governments are used to: pay the salaries of Afghan National Police personnel and Central Prison Department guards; build vital police infrastructure; sponsor capacity development; further institutional reform of MoIA; support gender-responsive policing and the empowerment of female police personnel, and promote community-oriented policing.

LOTFA donor countries since the mechanism was created in 2002 are: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Republic of Korea, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

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About MoIA: Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior Affairs oversees the Afghan National Police and leads efforts to improve the professionalism and strengthen the capacity of police so they can better serve their people and country. Its four deputy secretaries cover: security, administration and support, counter narcotics and policy and strategy.

About UNDP: In partnership with the Government and the people of Afghanistan, UNDP is working to empower Afghan men and women to improve their lives and to help the country become more resilient. In all of its activities, UNDP promotes human rights, gender parity and the protection of the poorest and most vulnerable.



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Police progress video

Police Force Rebuilding is the latest video in the *Afghanistan 10 Years On* series produced by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). It documents progress and ongoing challenges associated with modernising the country's police force, including the contribution of LOTFA. Visit UNAMA on [YouTube](#).

Gender issues aired at coordination forum



Participants take notes at the LOTFA-supported forum on 15 April *Photo: MoIA Media Department*

Overcoming barriers to policewomen being promoted within the Afghan National Police, providing training to police in remote areas and improving public access to information about the government's gender policies were among the wide-ranging topics raised at the second Inter-agency Meeting on Gender Responsive Policing, held at MoIA headquarters in April.

The inter-agency forum was initiated by MoIA to improve coordination between national and international stakeholders on gender-responsive policing and explore solutions to gender issues. Some 50 participants attended the latest meeting, representing the ministries of Women's Affairs, Education and Religion, as well as UN agencies, embassies and civil society groups.

In her opening remarks, the Head of MoIA's Gender, Human Rights and Children Directorate, Brigadier General Hekmat Shahi, thanked LOTFA donors for their steadfast support, in particular for efforts to empower female personnel amid serious issues affecting the employment of policewomen. While the appointment of women to senior roles had ministerial support, she said existing policies left many policewomen ineligible for promotion and changes were needed.

A UNDP Gender Specialist, Dr Sookhee Kwak, updated the group on LOTFA-funded work including upgrading workplace safety by constructing women's dressing rooms at police premises in Kabul province and plans to expand this initiative to benefit female officers in Balkh, Nangarhar and Herat provinces.

Also shared was a Research Institute for Women Peace and Security survey which found that religious leaders played an important role in encouraging women to join the police and in influencing public respect for policewomen.



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