

# COUNTRY PROFILE

## AFGHANISTAN



**Location:** Southern Asia, north and west of Pakistan, east of Iran

**Capital:** Kabul

**Government type:** Presidential Islamic republic

**Area:**

Total: 652,230 sq km

Land: 652,230 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

**Population:** 33,332,025 (July 2016 est.)

**Population Density:** (per sq KM) 50 (2015)

**Population Growth Rate:** 2.34% (2016 est.)

**Population below Poverty Line:** 35.8% (2011 est.)

**Ethnic Groups:** Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, and others

**Climate:** Arid to semiarid; cold winters and hot summers

**Natural Resources:** Natural gas, petroleum, coal, copper, chromite, talc, barites, sulfur, lead, zinc, iron ore, salt, precious and semiprecious stones, arable land

**Languages:** Afghan Persian or Dari (official) 50%, Pashto (official) 35%, Turkic languages 11%, 30 minor languages 4%, much bilingualism, but Dari functions as the lingua franca

**Religions:** Muslim 99.7% (Sunni 84.7 - 89.7%, Shia 10 - 15%), other 0.3% (2009 est.)

**Land Use:**

Agricultural Land: 58.1% (arable land 11.9%; permanent crops 0.2%; permanent pasture 46%)

Forest: 2.1%

Other: 39.8% (2011 est.)

**Natural Hazards:** Damaging earthquakes occur in Hindu Kush mountains; flooding; droughts

**Literacy:** 38.2%

**GDP - Real Growth Rate:** 2% (2016 est.)

**GDP - Per Capita (PPP):** \$2,000 (2016 est.)

**Exports:** \$658 million (2014 est.)

**Exports Commodities:** Opium, fruits and nuts, hand-woven carpets, wool, cotton, hides and pelts, precious and semi-precious gems

**Improved Drinking Water Source:** 55.3% of population

**Improved Sanitation Facility Access:** 31.9% of population