



Afghanistan Update

A humanitarian initiatives and progress report
www.bayatfoundation.org

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Recent News

Solar energy in Afghanistan

USAID in Afghanistan recently reported that new infrastructure projects in remote areas of Afghanistan are providing needed supplies and economic opportunities for communities which are traditionally cut off from much of the country. The USAID agency also [wrote this October](#) that solar technology has been playing a growing vital role in establishing a reliable energy source to supplement these new developments in remote areas. Local workers are building roads to access remote communities and are using their wages to purchase photovoltaic cells (PV cells) to install on top of their homes. In [July](#) USAID wrote that in other areas of the country, inside homes, women entrepreneurs are producing nutritious dried fruits and vegetables thanks to the solar dryers they provided. USAID wrote, "the dryers are made from local materials and built by Afghan carpenters, further bolstering the local economy." Not only are small communities, families and individuals using the 300 days of sunshine in Afghanistan as a way to improve working and living conditions in the country but government ministries, large international corporations and even peace-keeping missions are using the sun to create energy.

[Roots of Peace](#) (ROP), an organization dedicated to land rehabilitation and landmine removal, is using solar panels in Mir Bocha Kot to power an internet lab at a local school. The organization is also using solar panels to power their water pumps to provide water for their vineyard drip irrigation systems. [Those vineyards](#) are part of ROP's goal to rehabilitate war-torn lands to become agriculturally productive. Solar is an important option in areas where the electricity infrastructure is badly weakened or non-existent.

[Afghan Solar](#) is currently providing solar panel and battery technology to the US Army, USAID, Kabul University and the Afghan Ministries of Agriculture, Defense and Rural Development. According to their website Afghan Solar has also partnered with BP Solar and Tata BP and is now operating in 19 offices locally where they offer battery drop-off services

In addition to the US Army and USAID using solar energy to power their

operations in part or on the whole, [Wired Magazine](#) reported last year, "A civil military team in Afghanistan is using green tech as part of a push to bolster security in one of the country's remote southern provinces." NATO news reported that The Zabul Provincial Reconstruction Team recently installed [solar-powered lamps](#) in several communities including Qalat, Sharjoy and Shar-e Safi. These lamps can store enough energy to keep operating for several sunless days in areas where power generation is scarce. An added security benefit is that the lighting allows Afghan security forces to conduct patrols more easily after sunset. Local officials have said that by installing the solar-powered street lights business and security have increased, the community is hungry for development and local leaders have asked for lighting for the bazaar. Major Gregory Ulma, Zabul PRT civil affairs team leader said in the press release, "Already we have noticed an increase in commerce, which is also a sign of increased stability."

R. Michael Smith accepts role as AUAF's General Counsel

R. Michael Smith has accepted a position as General Counsel and Executive Assistant to the President of the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul effective November 15, 2009. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce and a Committee of 100 Member for the Bayat Foundation and its Afghan Trusted Network project. Founded in 2006, The American University of Afghanistan is the country's only independent, private, non-profit, non-sectarian, co-educational institution of higher learning.

Bayat Foundation Announcements

Afghan school for orphans dedicated

The new Bibi Fatima Zahra School for Orphans was dedicated by Chairman Ehsan Bayat on Friday, 30 Oct, 2009, the sixth new or reconstructed school for orphans built as part of the Bayat Foundation's commitment to Afghanistan's children. Bibi Fatima School for Orphans is located in Maimana, in the northern Afghan province of Faryab. With a total area of 13,000 square feet, the building consists of 12 classrooms, conference rooms, a dining room, store, laboratory, toilets and advanced drainage and electrical systems that meet international standards. The Bibi Fatima Zahra School for Orphans is designed to house 350 orphans who will attend classes in a well-constructed building for the first time.

Afghan Trusted Network portal launched

The Bayat Foundation, in collaboration with NC4, launched a secure web portal, www.afitrust.net, to facilitate coordination and communication between Afghan Trusted Network members to improve the quality of life, expand programs and generate educational opportunities and livelihoods for the people of Afghanistan. The Bayat Foundation, with its hospital and maternity

clinic infrastructure across Afghanistan, is leading a telemedicine/nutrition to decrease the mortality and morbidity rate for mothers and newborns in collaboration with other members of the network who plan to contribute their technology, equipment or services including the Medical University of South Carolina and the Afghan Medical Professional Association of America.

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