



**Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Wellington**

FACT SHEET

The Netherlands in Afghanistan

July 2009

Since 2001, the Netherlands has actively contributed to building a stable and secure Afghanistan, together with over thirty other countries. Since 18 August 2006, the Netherlands is lead nation in Oruzgan province in Southern Afghanistan.

Oruzgan Provincial Reconstruction Team

The Netherlands mission in Oruzgan province is one of a military-civilian nature, and uses a comprehensive approach widely known as "3D". Combining the power of **Development**, **Diplomacy** and **Defence**, the 3D concept is implemented by the civilian led Provincial Reconstruction Team, which consists of defence personnel, diplomats and development experts. Specifically, the Netherlands invests in health, education, infrastructure, rural development, gender balance, human rights and conflict transformation.

Regional Command South

In November 2008, the Netherlands assumed command of ISAF's Regional Command South. This command is rotated every nine months among the lead nations: the Netherlands, Canada and the UK. RC-South covers the ISAF units in the southern provinces of Oruzgan, Kandahar, Helmand and Zabul, where 19,000 troops are stationed.

Afghanistan Conference - A Comprehensive Strategy in a Regional Context

On 31 March 2009, the Netherlands hosted an Afghanistan conference in The Hague entitled 'International Conference on Afghanistan: A Comprehensive Strategy in a Regional Context'. The conference was co-chaired by the United Nations, Afghanistan and the Netherlands. 72 delegations attended, including Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, ISAF countries and countries and organisations that are contributing to Afghan reconstruction.

Fast facts

- 1,700 Dutch troops are in Afghanistan
- 1,200 Dutch troops are based in Oruzgan Province (Deh Rawod and Tarin Kowt)
- Approx. 500 Dutch troops are stationed in Kabul and Kandahar
- Over 6,000 Dutch men and women have taken part in the Afghan mission
- 19 Dutch Soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan
- Our main international partners in Oruzgan are Australia, France, Slovakia and Singapore.
- Afghanistan is the fifth-poorest country in the world with an illiteracy rate of over 80%
- Since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, six times as many boys and girls go to school
- From 2006 to 2011, approximately \$2.9 billion Dutch development funds will have gone to Afghanistan. In addition, the PRT's success is enabling more development organisations to remain in Oruzgan for the long term. Their number has grown fivefold since 2006: from 6 to 30. As a result:
 - 43,000 children, of which 4,150 are girls, go to primary school
 - 7,000 children, of which 250 are girls, receive higher education
 - 87 schools are being built
 - 1,481 male and 45 female teachers are working
 - 12 hospitals and health centres have been built
 - 126 families have been introduced to growing saffron
 - 15,000 families have received 100,000 fruit trees
 - 90 micro credits have been issued

More information

For more information, please contact the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at 04-4716397 or wel@minbuza.nl.

Information is also available online:

- Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.minbuza.nl/en/themes/international_cooperation/afghanistan
- Netherlands Ministry of Defence: www.defensie.nl/missies/afghanistan/english