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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Land Reform in Afghanistan (LARA)

OVERVIEW

Land rights in Afghanistan are governed by overlapping and conflicting legal systems including informal systems, civil law, sharia law, and state laws. This has resulted in a poor land management system that has hindered private-sector investment, stunted economic growth, and fed instability. The LARA project seeks to develop a robust, enduring, and Afghan-owned and managed land market framework that encourages investment and productivity growth, resolves/mitigates land-based conflict, and builds confidence in the legitimacy of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA). LARA will provide technical assistance and support to GIROA institutions that address land issues, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Supreme Court, and the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs (MUDA), and will create Afghan capacity to successfully design, manage, and implement needed land tenure reform for land market development.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Assist the Afghanistan Land Authority (Arazi) to identify, manage, lease, and obtain revenue from Afghan government lands
- Build the technical and operational capacity of the private-sector to provide land-related services
- Support MUDA, MAIL, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance, and other GIROA entities and selected municipalities with managing, formalizing, and upgrading informal settlements, cadastral mapping, laws for urban planning and land use regulation, and training in planning and enforcement
- Strengthen land tenure security by supporting the Supreme Court and communities with rights formalization and informal dispute resolution processes to reduce conflict and promote peace and stability

EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- More secure property rights for Afghan citizens through improved institutional, policy, and legal systems
- Improved public awareness of and ability to exercise property rights, especially in vulnerable populations (women and minorities)
- Improved economic growth and increased private-sector investment
- Increased revenue to GIROA from leases of government land
- Increased sanitation tax revenues at the municipal level
- Properties registered with municipal and Supreme Court registration offices