



VOA AFGHANISTAN SERVICE

RADIO PROGRAMMING

**4 hours Dari,
4 hours Pashto**

TV PROGRAMMING

**Two 30-minute
newscasts per day,
6 days per week,
and one 30-minute
TV magazine per
week to both Dari and
Pashto populations in
Afghanistan, Pakistan,
Iran, and Dari/Pashto-
speaking diaspora
in the Middle East
and Europe.**

RFE/RL AFGHAN SERVICE (AZADI)

RADIO PROGRAMMING

**Original Programming
64 hours/week**

TV PROGRAMMING

30 minutes

VIDEO PROGRAMMING

**45–60 minutes
of online video**

VOA AND RFE/RL

**air 12 hours of radio
content every day in a
coordinated stream.**

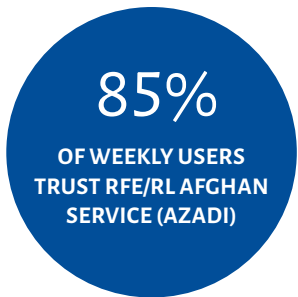
Afghanistan

Though its military presence is drawn down, the United States continues support for Afghanistan, its people and the government of Afghanistan as it undertakes reforms towards good governance, strengthening electoral systems, sustainable development and economic growth, the effective delivery of basic services, measures on anti-corruption and counter-narcotics, the growth of civil society, broader opportunities and education for women and girls, and promoting respect for the rule of law and human rights. The U.S. Agency for Global Media provides objective news, information and content for, and seeks to engage, target audiences during a critical transitional period in Afghanistan's political history.



Afghanistan has a vibrant media sector, with multiple outlets in print, radio, and television that collectively carry a wide range of views and are generally uncensored. (Freedom House, Freedom in the World Report 2018) TV has grown in importance; Radio use is more common in rural areas, and is higher for Pashto speakers. Increased access to mobile phones, the internet, and social media has allowed many Afghans greater access to diverse views and information. In November 2017, after a public outcry, the government quickly reversed an apparent attempt to block the social media applications WhatsApp and Telegram.

Despite this expanding access to news and information and platforms to obtain it, intimidation and violence against journalists are increasing. Journalists faced the threat of attack from IS and harassment by both the Taliban and government-related figures attempting to influence how they are covered in the news. In April 2018, two RFE/RL Afghan Service journalists and one trainee of the Service were tragically killed in a targeted attack against journalists in the country, reinforcing the message that the country has a long way to go until all Afghan citizens can live freely without fear of violence from terrorist forces.



VOICE OF AMERICA

Voice of America (VOA) Deewa broadcasts to over 50 million Pashtuns living in one of the world’s most turbulent regions — Af-Pak border lands. The target region is considered a hub of international terrorism. The service’s target audiences are 15–34 years old youth (around 54 percent of the total population) and their mothers (who can still play a role in girls’ education). The strategic target audiences have increasing access to media but are highly vulnerable to extremist propaganda and anti-American narratives on state and non-state media outlets.

As a separate goal, the Service is monitoring the progress of reforms being considered for the FATA region, where residents have no access to modern day justice system or democratic institutions, and it targets all adults for this portion of its coverage.

VOA Deewa plays a vital role in providing alternate narrative and objective information to the target audiences about democratic values, human rights and co-existence. As media habits change in this region, VOA Deewa is expanding its digital efforts, online journalism and Radio on TV broadcasts to meet the needs of the information hungry audience and maximize the reach to urban population via social media and satellite.

RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) Afghan Service (Azadi) broadcasts include a variety of programs from news bulletins to call-in shows, political satire, and coverage of youth and women. Azadi targets audiences aged 25–44 since these Afghans are critical to rebuilding the country. Azadi strives to provide listeners the opportunity to actively participate in a discussion about the best path of development for Afghanistan in the future.

As a surrogate national public broadcaster, reaching 25 percent of the Afghan population across the country with its programs, Radio Azadi provides in-depth coverage of local issues and events affecting the Afghan people’s daily lives. While most local media are owned by powerful individuals or interest groups, Azadi has become a symbol of fair and objective journalism in Afghanistan; news and information from Azadi is trusted by more than 85 percent of weekly users. The service’s programming includes call-in shows on topics such as current affairs, health and other socioeconomic issues in which listeners participate directly and ask questions from authorities and analysts.

The demographics of Afghanistan are beginning to shift. In the past few years, the population of urban areas such as Kabul and other major cities is increasing as Afghans leave rural areas for better opportunities in the city. The increasing urban population includes a young, educated class, which is increasingly active in the social and political life of the country and seeks to actively participate in civil society. Azadi seeks to engage this key segment of the population via its website and social networks.

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