



Where do I start?

Successful development needs time, trust and continuity. Here are some tips on how to start your work in Afghanistan.



Six steps to get started.

Step	What to do and why
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Background search.	Review literature on Afghanistan and the locations where you will work. Contact people who have previously been active in your proposed region. Resource: Afghan Ag http://afghanag.ucdavis.edu
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Contact officials early.	In-country, firstly meet with the province Governor and DAIL Director to learn about any priorities and existing development and implementation plans for the region.
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Contact local leaders early.	Talk and listen to local people. Talk with both the Province- and Village- level Shuras (Local Councils) to find out what is important for people in the region and in specific villages. Where possible validate discussions with field visits.
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Contact other active players.	Meet with others active in the region (e.g., NGOs, UN, FAO, etc.). Find out who is doing what and what has been successful or not. You may find an opportunity to collaborate as well as getting good input into new projects.
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Plan.	Plan activities that meet people's needs and DAIL priorities. Consider the main actors who will influence outcome and success. Plan for short and long term impact. Use short term gains to build relationships and confidence and to lay the foundation for long term sustainability and capacity building. Refine and expand plans as you go.
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Meet local groups regularly.	Aim to have regular routine contact (weekly, if possible) with the local officials to build relationships and let them provide input into your plans. Listen, learn and get their buy-in to proposals. They can be a very good resource.
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Build continuity.	Remember the importance of continuity of effort. Try to build continuity across organizations and groups that have already been in country.
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Implement	With local partners, start with a small priority activity (perhaps workshop) that has a tangible output.

Keys to success: Read, meet, listen, meet, build relationships and build on existing

Resource: Impact Check list.

http://afghanag.ucdavis.edu/other-topic/education-and-extension/fact-sheets/FS_Ext_Checklist_Impact.pdf

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