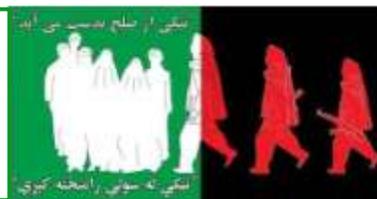


Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program APRP



APRP Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program (APRP)?

The APRP is part of a long-term political process to bring peace to Afghanistan and is part of a strategy to improve justice, governance and development. The APRP was developed by the Afghan Government with support from the 1600 Afghan representatives of the National Consultative Peace Jirga, civil society representatives and the international community. It aims to bring former fighters and their leaders back into Afghan society so they can return honorably to their communities to lead peaceful, productive lives.

What is the significance of the Presidential Decree “About the structure and implementation of the Peace, Reconciliation and Reintegration programs”, signed by H.E. President Karzai on 29 June 2010?

The decree enacted the recommendations of the Afghan people as adopted at the National Consultative Peace Jirga in June, ordering the establishment of a High Peace Council and a Reintegration Joint Secretariat in Kabul to oversee and implement the APRP, with Minister Massoum Stanekzai appointed as Chief Executive Officer and representatives from Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, National Directorate of Security, Independent Directorate for Local Government and the Office of Administrative Affairs of the President. The decree also instructed ministries, governors, and civilian and military officials to work on the peace program with governors. The governors are the lead officials in the provinces. A Joint Order is currently being prepared by Minister Stanekzai’s office. The order will provide specific directions to GIRoA officials in Kabul and the regions on how to deliver support for reintegration, expanding on the Presidential Decree.

Who can join the APRP?

The APRP is available to all Afghan members of the armed opposition and their communities who are willing to renounce violence and ties to terrorist groups and live peacefully within the laws of Afghanistan.

Who is not allowed to join the program?

The Government will not negotiate with foreign extremists or international terrorist networks. Therefore, foreign fighters and fighters who refuse to renounce violence and ties to terrorist groups cannot join the program. Criminals will not be allowed to enter the program.

What about fighters who want to reintegrate but cannot return to their communities?

Communities will have a big say in who they want to receive back into their area and will make their preference known to their Provincial Peace and Reintegration Committee. If the community does not accept the ex-combatant, the Government will make efforts to provide grievance resolution for communities and ex-combatants to live together. If it is still difficult for them to go

Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program APRP



back to their communities, the Government will be responsible for relocating the ex-combatant to a reintegration centre and for assisting with his security.

What does the program involve?

The program has three stages:

1. Social outreach, confidence building, and negotiation: Provincial and district leaders will set up Peace and Reintegration Committees and spread information about the program to individuals and communities who are considering joining it. There will be meetings to build confidence and to start negotiations and grievance resolution among the Government, communities, victims and ex-combatants.
2. Demobilization: Those who join the peace program will be demobilized through a process of assessment and biometric data collection, security vetting and weapons management. Community security will be protected and immediate humanitarian assistance may be given if needed.
3. Consolidation of peace: Following stage one and two, communities will be assessed to determine their needs and offered development options that will benefit everyone in the community, not just the ex-combatants. These may include but are not limited to: improving access to basic services, education, technical and vocational training and long-term employment. Activities will enable those who join the peace program to help rebuild their community and strengthen their ties with their community.

How is this program different from past programs that have seen limited success?

The APRP takes from and incorporates best practices from reintegration programs around the world. It is different from previous Afghan examples because it involves entire communities to deliver peace and reintegration and not just the ex-combatants. Communities, not just individuals, will benefit from the long-term social and economic projects in the program. Ex-combatants and community members will settle their differences through having their grievances heard and resolved in local ways. The current reintegration programs (e.g. Peace Through Strength and Disbandment of Illegally Armed Groups) will be absorbed into the APRP.

How will the security of ex-combatants and their communities be provided?

Security for communities in the APRP is very important and will be provided mainly by ANSF and supported by ISAF/Coalition Forces. The Police and Ministry of Interior's community public protection organizations will be strengthened to stop the creation of illegally armed groups which could harm peace. Community public protection organizations are not jobs programs for former insurgents, but reintegrees may be considered for security jobs based on village *shura* recommendations.

Will ex-combatants be prosecuted for past actions?

Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program APRP



The APRP is not meant to pardon all crimes and provide blanket amnesty. It aims to promote grievance resolution and *afwa* (forgiveness) between Government, communities and ex-combatants through traditional Afghan and Islamic ways. Political amnesty will be granted to ex-combatants, allowing them to peacefully return to their communities without fear of prosecution for their political actions. However, there will be no amnesty for foreign nationals or criminals.

Will human rights be protected by the APRP?

The APRP is in agreement with the Afghan Constitution which protects human rights, including women's and children's rights. Afghan human rights and civil society groups have been involved in discussions about the APRP from the early stages and will be represented at all levels in the program's implementation. The High Peace Council will have female membership and the Joint Secretariat will have an advisor to promote women's rights.

Will the program exist all over Afghanistan?

The provinces for first introducing the program are Helmand, Kandahar, Nangahar, Khost, Baghlan, Badghis, Kunduz, and Herat because these are where the insurgency is most serious and also where communities have shown a commitment to finding peace. However the program is flexible and will respond to reintegration opportunities in any province, where resources allow.

Will the program only benefit Pashtuns?

Reintegration does not favour one ethnic or tribal group over another. Although reintegration is most likely to occur in Pashtun majority areas, all communities will benefit from a lasting peace.

How will people and communities that have been peaceful and law-abiding benefit from APRP?

The aim of the APRP is for all Afghans, in Districts where fighting has taken place, to get long-term benefits from the community development phase. For areas of Afghanistan that have not been affected by fighting, where reintegration does not occur, other development programs will continue their efforts. All Afghans will benefit from the end of conflict and restoration of peace.

Is the program supported by the International Community?

The program is fully supported by the International Security Assistance Force and the International Community which will help to ensure success through financial support, security assistance, and civilian coordination on the ground. However, the APRP is and will always remain a sovereign Afghan program. It is the Government of Afghanistan who will make the final decision about who may reintegrate.

How is the program being funded?

International donors have already pledged over \$160m to the Reintegration Trust Fund which will be able to be used soon after the Kabul Conference. In the meantime, \$100m has been

Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program APRP



pledged by the USA to support the program. The financing of the program will be overseen by a Financial Oversight Committee with representatives from the Afghan Government and donor countries.