




## Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

2018

<i>AIHRC phase budget</i>	<i>CHF 26.7 mio, 2015-2019</i>
<i>Swiss phase contribution</i>	<i>CHF 1.8 mio, 2015-2019</i>
<i>Swiss total contribution</i>	<i>CHF 9.1 mio, 2002-2019</i>
<i>Partner</i>	<i>Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)</i>
<i>Geographic focus</i>	<i>Nationwide</i> 
<i>Other donors</i>	<i>Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway contribution</i>

### Context

Gross human rights violations took place in Afghanistan during the last 3-4 decades of war and continue to occur, despite that the Afghan Constitution guarantees universal human rights.

Since 2001, significant improvement in terms of freedom of expression, good governance, and access to education and health care among others has been reached. However, these achievements remain fragile, and there are still many challenging areas for the promotion and protection of human rights and particularly women’s right in the country. These include: weak rule of law and continuation of impunity, access to justice, corruption, harmful traditions, growing conservative attitude towards human rights values, growing threats to journalists and human rights defenders, and worsening overall security situation.



Girls school class, Badakhshan Province, 2014, © SDC.

### What does AIHRC and has achieved so far?

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) has a constitutional mandate to promote and protect human rights of women, men and children in Afghanistan.

Since its establishment in 2002, and despite a challenging political and security environment, the AIHRC has performed commendably, continued to grow as an institution and expanded its mandate and outreach throughout the country. AIHRC contributed to enhance the human rights awareness of millions of Afghans and to generate public debate on issues formerly tabooed. It also helped improve laws’ compatibility with human rights, incorporate human rights into curricula, find solutions for thousands of victims of human rights violations to enhance the state’s human rights accountability and to improve conditions for hundreds of prisoners.

AIHRC recently achieved significant milestones for its long-term sustainability with the approval of 690 staff under the civil servant structure, and the renewal of the “A” status from the Global Alliance National Human Rights Institutions.

### The Swiss contribution

Switzerland considers support to human rights and rule of law as crucial to overcome fragility and foster the accountability of Afghan institutions. As such, it has been an AIHRC core donor since its establishment in 2002.

Besides its financial support, Switzerland also contributes to the strengthening of the AIHRC through direct technical advice and multi-party policy dialogue with the Afghan government and other donors. It also aims at the sustainability of the Commission through stable and politically unconditional state funding.