

## **Good Governance: Acceleration of Poverty Reduction**

How can Afghan Government successfully honour its people more than ever before?

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Rupert Douglas-Bate is a humanitarian aid worker and businessman with over 20 years of experience in sustainable job creation and water supply and agriculture, often in post-conflict zones. He started Global MapAid, not for profit, to map poverty and poverty reduction solutions, it's Patron is Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The opinions expressed here, are entirely his own.

Long term poverty reduction leads to long term peace and in Afghanistan this directly depends upon creating sustainable jobs and micro-credit. Logically, this has to be the foremost national priority for Afghanistan, given the unavoidable arrival of massive numbers of secondary school leavers. Today there are 80,000 school leavers, at least 20,000 will be unemployed, the rest employed or in higher education. By 2013 there will be 600,000 school leavers, of which 100,000 will be in higher education, leaving half a million for an economy that at present experiences 40% unemployment.

'Sustainability' from a scientific perspective, is related directly to 'risk.' The lower the risks of doing business, the better the sustainability. Where basic services are non-existent, and/or the government is corrupt, the risks get higher, the sustainability lower and jobs much harder to 'plant and grow'. Yet sustainable jobs can still be 'planted and grown' even in the hardest parts of Afghanistan, where if they are 'embedded' in 'Promises and Consents for Peace' from Local Leaders, they offer great alternatives to guns.

Rupert Douglas-Bate is the author of a concise book entitled 'The Competition for Hope (Why sustainable jobs for men aged 18 to 29 years are critical to global security)'.

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