

VOA Broadcasting to Afghanistan

VOA *Ashna* (“Friend”) reaches roughly 64 percent of Afghanistan’s adult population with its popular TV, radio and digital content. VOA is one of the leading sources of daily news and information for the country’s population of some 37 million, as well as a large Afghan diaspora around the world. *Radio* and *TV Ashna* cover a wide variety of issues including current affairs, U.S. policies, security, health, science, entertainment, sports, youth and women’s rights. In addition, VOA reaches about 80 percent of Afghanistan’s web and social media users, including more than 8 million followers on its Dari and Pashto Facebook pages. Afghanistan’s post-Taliban constitution guarantees freedom of press, but insurgent and terrorist groups, the government, powerful warlords and clerics continue to control and influence major news sources. *Radio* and *TV Ashna* and the service’s digital platforms fill the information gap by providing daily local and international news.

Programs and Features

Quick Facts

Dates Established: Dari (10/1980)
Pashto (07/1982)

Radio Programming: 4 hours Dari, 4 hours Pashto, and 4 hours Special English

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.

Programs and additional features available at:

www.pashtovoa.com
www.darivoa.com

Facebook:
[voadari](#)
[voapashto](#)

Twitter:
[@voadariafghan](#)
[@voapashto](#)

Youtube:
[voaafghanistandari](#)
[voaafghanistan](#)

TV Ashna is a Sat.-Thur. 60-min program in Dari and Pashto. The programs include interviews with Afghan and American policy makers, news, features, and reports from Afghanistan and other cities worldwide. State broadcaster RTA airs the new VOA programs at 1330 UTC (6:00 p.m. in Afghanistan).

Karwan (“Caravan”) is a 30-min. weekly youth-oriented TV magazine in Dari and Pashto focusing on science and technology in the U.S. hosted by former *Afghan Star* emcee Daoud Sediqi.

Radio Ashna broadcasts 8 hours of programming daily in Dari and Pashto, and 4 hours in Learning English. Dari and Pashto begin this broadcast with 30-minutes of fast-paced, latest news and current affairs programming featuring original reports from Afghanistan, world news round-ups, business and economic features, and topics of interest to Afghan women and youth. Airls on FM, AM, and shortwave and is streamed on the Web, starting at 1430 UTC (7:00 p.m. in Afghanistan).

Talk to VOA is a 30-minute radio call-in show focused on current affairs. Experts, officials, and activists discuss a variety of topics, serving as a forum for VOA’s audience in Afghanistan and the diaspora. It airs daily 1430-1530 UTC (8:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Afghanistan).

Women’s Call-in Programs are weekly 25-minute radio shows presented by women hosts, airing separately in Dari and Pashto. They bring together female officials, analysts and callers to discuss critical issues facing women in Afghanistan and to raise women’s awareness about legal, health, political and social issues -- Tuesdays (8:00 to 9:00 p.m. local time).

Young Hopes is a weekly radio program aimed at Afghan youth who aspire to grow their country through education, innovation and public service – It airs in Dari and Pashto on Thursdays 1430-1530 UTC (9:00 to 10:00 pm in Kabul).