

# 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 nearly 37 million, as well as a large Afghan diaspora around the world. *Radio* and *TV Ashna*, *TV Etesal*, *TV 30-Minutes*, *TV Hayel*, *Exclusive Interviews*, *Inside Story* and *Life in the U.S.* cover a variety of issues including current affairs, U.S. policies, security, health, science, entertainment, sports, youth, and women’s rights. In addition, VOA reaches nearly 80 percent of Afghanistan’s web and social media users, including more than 11 million followers on its Dari and Pashto Facebook pages.

## Quick Facts

### Dates Established:

Dari (10/1980) Pashto (07/1982)

### Radio Programming:

6 hours Dari, 6 hours Pashto

### TV Programming:

Two 30-minute newscasts per day, 6 days per week; one 30-minute newscast per day, 5 days per week; one 30-minute TV magazine per week one 30-minute TV Interview programming per week, two weekly one-on-one 30-minute interview shows, one 30-minute program that dives deep into one topic in the news, one 30-minute magazine program covering Afghan life in the U.S., to both Dari and Pashto populations in, Pakistan, Iran, and Dari/Pashto- speaking diaspora in the Middle East and Europe.

### Satellite Programming:

24 hour direct-to-home TV satellite, 7 days per week; 6-hour Dari and Pashto content repeated several times a day.

### Programs and additional features at:

<https://www.pashtovoa.com/>  
<https://www.darivoa.com/>

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

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

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

**Instagram:** [@voadari](#), [@voapashto](#)

## Programs and Features

### TV

**TV *Ashna*** is a Sat.-Thur. 60-min program in Dari and Pashto. It includes interviews with Afghan and American policy makers, news, features, and reports from Afghanistan and other cities worldwide. TV *Ashna* airs at 1430 UTC (7:00pm in Afghanistan).

**TV *Etesal*** is a Sun.-Thur. 30-min program in Pashto. The program includes news and interviews on current affairs with Afghan and American policy makers. TV *Etesal* airs at 1400 UTC (6:30pm in Afghanistan).

**TV *30-Minutes*** is a bilingual 30-min. weekly news wrap program that covers two major news events of the week with a special guest who is an expert in that field. Airls at 1430 UTC (7:00pm in Afghanistan).

**TV *Hayel*** is a weekly 30-min. program in Dari and Pashto. *Hayel* is an interview-based program asking the hard-hitting questions from two opposing views on the ongoing issues in Afghanistan. Airls at 1500 UTC (7:30pm in Afghanistan).

**TV *Bu Ali Sina*** is a weekly 60-min program in Dari and Pashto on health-related issues. The show, hosted by a male and a female medical correspondent, focuses on the most pressing health issues in Afghanistan. Airls at 1230 UTC (5:00pm in Afghanistan).

**TV *Exclusive Interviews*** is a weekly 30 min. program in Dari and Pashto. One-on-one interviews with important news makers in U.S. and Afghanistan dive deeply into issues. *Exclusive Interviews-Pashto* airs Wednesdays at 1330 UTC (6:00pm in Afghanistan). *Exclusive Interviews-Dari* airs Thursdays at 1330 UTC (6:00pm in Afghanistan).

***Inside Story*** is a weekly 30 min. dual language (Dari/Pashto) program that dives into major news of the week covering a range of topics, such as U.S. policy, news, and major events from around the world. It airs Saturdays 1330 UTC (6:00pm Afghanistan)

***Life in the U.S.*** is a weekly 30 min. dual language (Dari/Pashto) program that covers the life of Afghans in the U.S. It covers topics from resettlement, to expats, to celebrating holidays. *Life in the U.S.* airs on Fridays 1330 UTC (6:00pm Afghanistan)

**TV *Cactus+*** - Is a weekly 30 minute-two-part Dari program. *Cactus+* is a one on one, interview program with some of the most sought-after Afghan news makers both in Afghanistan and in the greater diaspora. *Cactus+* Part 1 airs on Fridays and Part 2 airs at 1430 UTC on Saturdays at (6:30 pm Afghanistan).

***Jahani Poetry Show*** – Is a 30 Minute Show, dedicated to the Afghan Poetic literature in Pashto, its meaning and history. *Jahani Poetry show* airs on Friday’s at 1800 UTC (10:30pm in Afghanistan)

***52 Documentaries*** – is a 30-minute biweekly Pashto and biweekly Dari Program that dives deep into various hot button topics globally such as environment, war, substance abuse and many others. *52 Documentaries* airs Sundays at 1800 UTC (10:30 pm in Afghanistan).

***Karwan Tek*** – is a 30-minute weekly dual language (Pashto and Dari) show. *Karwan Tek* breaks down technology news and innovation to the audience. *Karwan Tek* airs on Fridays at 1800 UTC (10:30 pm in Afghanistan)

**Radio *Ashna*:** broadcasts 12 hours of daily Dari and Pashto programming. 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 roundups, business and economic features, as well as topics of interest to Afghan women and youth. Airls on FM, AM, and shortwave and is streamed on the Web.

- **Evening News** Dari starts at 1430 UTC (7:00 p.m. in Afghanistan). Pashto starts at 1500 UTC (7:30 p.m. in Afghanistan)
- **1<sup>st</sup> Breakfast show** Pashto starts at 0030 UTC (5:00 a.m. in Afghanistan). Dari starts at 0100 UTC (5:30 a.m. in Afghanistan)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Breakfast show** Pashto starts at 0130 UTC (6:00 a.m. in Afghanistan). Dari starts at 0200 UTC (6:30 a.m. in Afghanistan)

***Hard Talk*** is a 60-minute bilingual (Dari and Pashto) daily 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 1530-1630 UTC (8:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Afghanistan).

***Today in Afghanistan*** is a 30-minute daily radio program airing separately in Dari and Pashto. It includes latest news, reports from different parts of Afghanistan, as well as Q&As with stringers and analysts to present what is happening in the country. It airs daily 1630-1730 UTC (8:00 to 9:00 p.m. local time).

***Afghan Narratives*** is a 60-minute bilingual (Dari and Pashto) daily radio call-in show focusing on ordinary Afghans. It provides a platform for Afghans to share their stories and raise their voices. It airs daily 1730-1800 UTC (10:00 to 10:30 pm in Kabul).