

## Who are we?

Established in 2002 and previously known as the Bureau for Reconstruction and Development, the Bureau for Rights-Based Development (BRD) is a registered Afghan non-profit, non-governmental development organization that aims to implement and promote rights-based development for a strong, viable, and pluralistic society in Afghanistan.

## Organization Mandate

The Bureau for Rights-Based Development exists to develop a pluralistic society in Afghanistan where human rights are respected and citizens are empowered to improve their standard of living. The human rights-based approach to poverty eradication and

development lies at the very heart of BRD's work. BRD's approach to poverty eradication starts with the connection between poverty and human rights, from the perspective of people living in poverty.

As a development organization, BRD understands needs as the basis for claiming human rights, and supports marginalized people in their efforts to claim their rights. BRD aims to encourage and support beneficiaries to switch from a passive role to an active role of right holders, taking responsibility for their own development. This leads to increased ownership and sustainability of development efforts.

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[www.brd.org.af](http://www.brd.org.af)

# Bureau for Rights-Based Development Afghanistan

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BRD Current and Past Interventions and CSOs Partner in Afghanistan







## Our Vision

BRD's vision is of an Afghanistan where the entire population lives with improved livelihood, social justice, integrity and prosperity. Where all human rights, including the rights of women and children, are recognized, upheld and respected, and where citizens have an active role in determining the values, direction and governance of their communities and country—for the benefit of all.

## Our Values

### Commitment:

BRD is committed to delivering quality services to its target group based on their needs, to continuous improvement and innovations, and to effective collaboration with our stakeholders and society at large for positive and sustainable change.

### Integrity:

We conduct ourselves at all times in a manner that is ethical, legal, and professional, with the highest degree of honesty, respect and fairness.

### Accountability:

We promote openness and transparency in our operations, ensuring that we are accountable for our actions at all times.

### Respect:

Regardless of gender, caste, religion, language, or ethnic considerations, BRD treats all segments of society without prejudice.

### Impartiality:

We are impartial in our actions. The delivery of our services is based on the needs of our target groups, without consideration of nationality, race, religion, or political point of view.

## Our Mission

BRD is dedicated to creating an environment in which men and women are able to improve their standards of living through the equitable and sustainable use of resources, with special attention to vulnerable groups of society, particularly women and children.

*Bureau for Rights-Based Development  
Afghanistan 2017*

## Programming Principles and Approach:

### Empowerment

One of the distinctive strengths of our empowerment approach includes our participatory processes with our target groups at the local level. The rich set of methodologies we use will be harmonized and enhanced to build people's communication skills and deepen their critical awareness of power and rights.

### Partnership

We build long-term partnerships with organizations and social movements, respecting their autonomy, strengthening their capacities and helping them to share learning across issues, sectors, movements and geographies to build a formidable movement for change.

### Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA):

BRD's approach to development is the Human Rights Based Approach. The Declaration on the Rights to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in 1986, laid the foundation of the UN's rights-based approaches to development, providing its key elements including: putting people at the center of development; ensuring free, active and meaningful participation; securing non-discrimination; fair distribution of development benefits; and respecting self-determination and sovereignty over natural resources; and in all the process that advances civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

We promote the development interventions that address both the demand and supply side, meaning the State as well as the people: empowering right-holders to know, claim, access and realize their rights through:

1. Human rights education to promote awareness among the people on their rights and entitlements;
2. Fostering the confidence, skills



BRD Theory of Change

and resources to communicate with duty bearers, and advocate and claim their rights.

We also strengthen duty-bearers to comply with their human rights obligations and duties by:

1. Identification of the reasons for their underperformance of their duties;
2. Awareness raising on their obligations under international, regional and domestic law and identifying their responsibilities;
3. Capacity development, so that they can meet their obligations e.g. service delivery;
4. Fostering accountability mechanisms, which include downward accountability.

### Cross-cutting objectives Gender

To reduce inequalities between individuals, groups and societies by ensuring that all enjoy human rights, including the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, is the key objective of the HRBA. The objective of reducing inequalities means addressing those factors that cause power imbalances or possible

discrimination of groups of people or areas. The objective of gender mainstreaming is to integrate the gender perspective into development interventions with the goal of achieving gender equality. BRD considers gender mainstreaming as an integrated component of the HRBA and applies gender mainstreaming in both the context of internal organization structures and roles, as well in our policy, programs and interventions.

### Climate Change

Climate change directly affects the enjoyment of many human rights such as rights to food, water and health. Using the HRBA to increase climate sustainability means the adoption of appropriate measures and policies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on human rights. Furthermore, applying the HRBA means that mitigation measures take into account vulnerable groups, including people living in disaster-prone areas. As rights based development organization BRD is committed to integrate climate changes in all aspects of the organization.

### Fragility and Conflict Sensitivity

The application of the HRBA is adjusted to legal and political realities in fragile states and in conflict or post-conflict settings. BRD is committed to be fully impartial in our work. The communities are our most important local partners and their participation in planning, implementation and follow-up is essential to avoid contributing to existing or potential future conflicts. We treat our target groups as active agents of change and work with them as partners rather than recipients with the aim to facilitate change rather than impose it. We work together to identify solutions to local issues.

### Sustainable Development Goals

BRD's work directly contributes towards achieving the United Nations' agreed SDG in Afghanistan, specifically with the following SDGs and its targets:



1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere  
Targets: (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)



4. Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning  
Targets: (3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)



5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls  
Target: 5.5



10. Reduce inequality within and among countries  
Target: 10.2



13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts  
Target: 13.3



16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels  
Targets: 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16.b

