Afghanistan

Full name: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Government: Islamic republic

Location: Southern Asia, north and west of Pakistan, east of Iran
Capital: Kabul
Area: 652,225 sq km (251,773 sq miles); slightly smaller than Texas

Climate: arid to semiarid; cold winters and hot summers
Terrain: mostly rugged mountains; plains in north and southwest
Natural Hazards: damaging earthquakes occur in Hindu Kush mountains; flooding; droughts

Population: 26 million (UN, 2005)
Ethnicity: Pashtun 42%, Tajik 27%, Hazara 9%, Uzbek 9%, Aimak 4%, Turkmen 3%, Baloch 2%, other 4%
Major Language: Pashto, Dari (Persian)
Religion: Sunni Muslim 80%, Shi'a Muslim 19%, other 1%
Life expectancy: 46 years (men), 46 years (women) (UN)

Currency: 1 Afghani = 100 puls