



## FACT SHEET

### 2005 *Wolesi Jirga* Election for Kuchis



**All eligible kuchis in Afghanistan will be able to vote for kuchi representatives in the *Wolesi Jirga* election on 18 September 2005. Candidate nomination, registration and voting for kuchis will take place in all provinces in Afghanistan.**

#### 2005 *Wolesi Jirga* Election for kuchis

- In order to ensure kuchi participation and the inclusion of kuchi interests in the new Afghan National Assembly, 10 out of 249 seats in the *Wolesi Jirga* are reserved for kuchi representatives.
- There will be one ballot for the kuchi *Wolesi Jirga* election. All eligible kuchis in Afghanistan will vote for one candidate from a list of kuchi candidates on Election Day. Eligible kuchis will cast only *one* ballot for the kuchi *Wolesi Jirga* Election. The registration card must indicate that the voter is eligible to vote for a kuchi representative. If the registration card does not have this indication the voter will not be able to vote in kuchi elections.
- Eligible kuchis will be able to vote in dedicated kuchi polling stations across Afghanistan. This procedure is different from non kuchi Afghans who will vote in the province named on their registration card.

#### Kuchi Candidate Nominations

- Kuchis can apply to stand as candidates for the 2005 kuchi *Wolesi Jirga* Election at the Nomination Office located at the Provincial JEMBS Election Office in any province.
- Kuchis must fulfill the candidate requirements as stipulated in the Constitution, the Electoral Law and JEMB regulations. A list of at least 300 legitimate signatures is required in support of a kuchi applicant's candidacy. Signatures must be obtained from eligible voters registered as kuchis.
- Successful kuchi applicant candidates will appear on the ballot for the kuchi *Wolesi Jirga* election. There will be one ballot for the kuchi *Wolesi Jirga* election.
- Kuchi candidates, like all other candidates in the *Wolesi Jirga* election will be allocated symbols framed in squares. At the time of submitting their application for candidacy, kuchi candidates will draw three symbols and choose one of the three. The chosen symbol will appear next to the name and photograph of the candidate on the ballot. Candidates can use their chosen symbol on their campaign material to help their supporters identify them on the kuchi ballot.

#### Kuchi Registration and Voting

- In order to vote for the kuchi *Wolesi Jirga* Election on 18 September 2005, all kuchis 18 years or older on Election Day must have a voter registration card. Voter registration cards from the Presidential Election are still valid for the 2005 kuchi *Wolesi Jirga* Election. Kuchis who did not register, or who no longer have a voter registration card, will be able to register at any registration centre in any province in Afghanistan during the registration period.

- Kuchis will need their voter registration card to vote on Election Day. Kuchis will be able to vote for their preferred candidate on the kuchi *Wolesi Jirga* ballot, at any kuchi polling station in Afghanistan.
- Kuchi voters will cast one vote on one ballot.

**Key Messages:**

- Kuchis will vote on 18 September 2005 for the *Wolesi Jirga* Election for kuchis.
- There will be a single nationwide kuchi ballot for the kuchi *Wolesi Jirga* Election.
- Kuchi candidate nominations can be made at the Nomination Office located at the Provincial JEMBS Election Office in *any* province in Afghanistan.
- Kuchis need a voter registration card to vote. Kuchis who do not have a voter registration card from the Presidential Election can register at any registration centre in *any* province during the registration period.
- Kuchis will be able to vote in specially allocated polling stations.