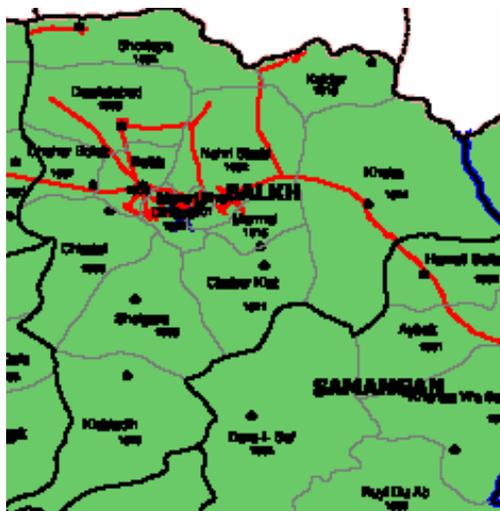


BALKH

1. PROVINCIAL PROFILE



Source: UNSS Provincial Assessment provided by UNAMA

1.1. General Information

A. Geography

Balkh province is situated in the northern part of Afghanistan, bordering Uzbekistan in the North, Tajikistan in the North-East, Kunduz province in the East, Samangan province in the South-East, Sar-e-Pul province in the South-West and Jauzjan province in the West. The capital city of the province is Mazar-e-Sharif, one of the biggest commercial and financial centres of Afghanistan. The province covers an area of 16,840 km². Nearly half of the province is mountainous or semi mountainous terrain (48.7%) while half of the area (50.2%) is made up of flat land, as the following table shows:

Topography type					
Flat	Mountainous	Semi Mountainous	Semi Flat	Not Reported	TOTAL
50.2%	42.0%	6.7%	.9%	.3%	100.0%

Source: CSO/UNFPA Socio Economic and Demographic Profile

The province is divided into 15 districts. The provincial capital is Mazar-e-Sharif which has a population of about 375,181 inhabitants.

B. Demography and Population

Balkh has a total population of 1,123,948. There are 119,378 households in the province and households on average have 7 members. The following table shows the population by district:

Population by Districts			
District	Number of males	Number of females	Total population
Mazar-i-Sharif	190,626	184,555	375,181
Dehdadi	33,860	32,149	66,009
Nahr Shahi	19,805	18,986	38,791
Marmal	4,804	4,706	9,510
Khalam	25,093	24,114	49,207
Koldar	9,141	8,791	17,932
Shortipe	15,551	14,763	30,314
Dolat Abad	40,529	39,109	79,638
Balkh	48,868	48,187	97,055
Chrpolak	35,304	34,671	69,975
Chamtal	41,107	40,204	81,311
Sholgare	43,576	41,693	85,269
Charkont	16,615	15,691	32,306
Kashande	25,020	24,063	49,083
Zari	21,426	20,941	42,367
Total	571,325	552,623	1,123,948

Source: CSO/UNFPA Socio Economic and Demographic Profile

Around 66% of the population of Balkh lives in rural districts while 34% lives in urban areas. Around 51 % of the population is male and 49% is female. The major ethnic groups living in Balkh province are Tajiks and Pashtoons followed by Uzbek, Hazaras, Turkman, Arab and Baluch. Dari is spoken by about 50% of the population and 58% of the villages. The second most frequent language is Pashtu, spoken by the majorities in 266 villages representing 27% of the population, followed by Turkmani (11.9%) and Uzbeki (10.7%).

Balkh province also has a population of Kuchis or nomads whose numbers vary in different seasons. In winter 52,929 individuals, or 2.2% of the overall Kuchi population, stay in Balkh living in 80 communities. Half of these are short-range partially migratory, another third are long-range partially migratory, and 18% are settled. Overall, for long and short range migratory categories, less than half of the community migrates. In the winter both groups stay mostly in one area and don't move around during the season. In the summer season, some 120 long range migratory Kuchi households come from Saripul province to Balkh province. The Kuchi population in the summer is 59,776 individuals.

C. Institutional framework

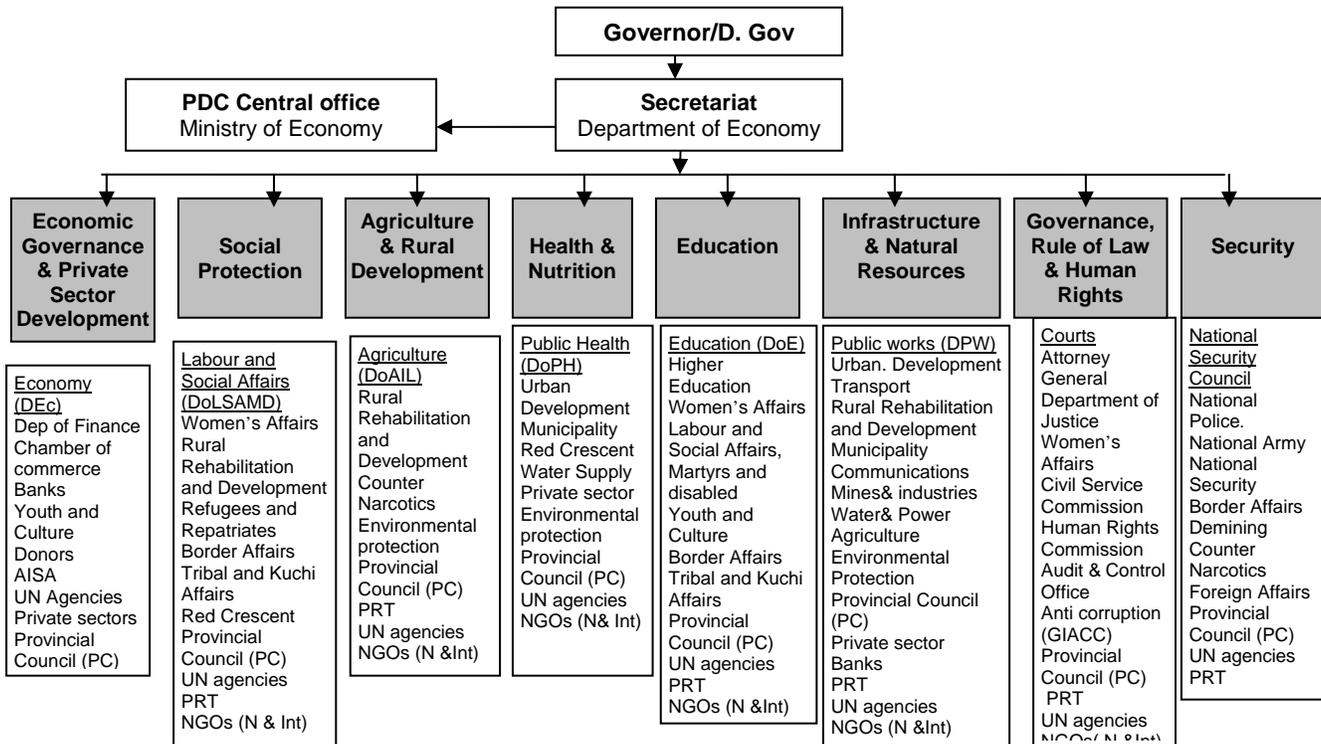
In total the government employs 18,376 people in Balkh province. As the table below shows, 69% of these are employees and 31% are contract workers. 82% of government workers are men and 18% are women.

Number of people employed by government			
	Male	Female	Total
Contract workers	5,302	403	5,705
Employees	9,786	2,885	12,671
Total Workers	15,088	3,288	18,376

Source: CSO Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2006

In addition, each province has a Provincial Development Committee (PDC) which is responsible for overseeing the progress made on implementation of the Provincial Development Plan, and which will lead the provincial development planning process in the future. The PDC involves all government line departments and other key stakeholder groups involved in development activities in the province. It also has a number of working groups devoted to different sectors, each of which should be chaired by the director of the core responsible line department. The structure of the PDC and its associated working groups approved by the Ministry of Economy for use in all provinces is shown in the diagram below:

Provincial Development Committee Structure endorsed by Ministry of Economy



Source: Ministry of Economy

The Provincial Development Committee in Balkh province was formed in January 2006. In April 2007 UNAMA made the following assessment of the PDC in Balkh:

UNAMA assessment of Provincial Development Committee in Balkh	
Supporting Agencies	Functioning Status of PDC meetings
UNAMA provides some support to PDC.	Meeting doesn't take place regularly and participation of UN agencies is weak. Line departments attend meetings.

Source: UNAMA, April 2007

Balkh also has a number of other bodies which play an active role in development planning at the local level. There are District Development Assemblies active in 14 districts in the province, involving 293 men and 388 women members. Each DDA has its own District Development Plan. There are also 676 Community Development Councils in the province which are active in development planning at the community and village level. The following table shows the number of CDCs active in each district:

Number of CDCs by District

District	Number of CDCs
Nahri Shahi	35
Zari	58
Shortepa	25
Dawlat Abad	62
Chahar Bolak	83
Chimtal	81
Sholgara	60
Chahar Kint	59
Dihdadi	36
Kaldar	21
Khulm	73
Kishindh	83
Total	676

Source: MRRD, National Solidarity Programme (NSP)

D. Donor Activity

In addition to the activities of government agencies, a number of national and international organizations play an active role in promoting development in the province. For example, 15 UN agencies are currently involved in reconstruction and development projects in different parts of the province. These are shown in the following table:

UN Operations in Balkh		
Agency	Project	Location
UNAMA	RRR, human rights and political assistance	Balkh, Sar-e-Pul, Jawzjan and Samangan provinces
WFP	Food For Work, food relief	Balkh, Sar-e-Pul, Jawzjan, and Samangan
UNHCR	Returnees, shelter	Balkh, Sar-e-Pul, Jawzjan and Samangan
UNICEF	Education, child protection, health malnutrition, water and sanitation	All northern provinces
UNODC	Drug and crime	Counter-narcotics in all northern provinces; crime only in Balkh province
UNDP UDG	Urban development projects	Balkh province
UNDP GAIN		
ANBP	DIAG and disarmament	All northern provinces
UN-Habitat	NSP	All northern provinces
FAO	Agriculture	All northern provinces
UNOPS	Rehabilitations	All Northern Provinces
IOM	Rehabilitation of school and clinics, returnees and reintegration of ex-combatant.	Balkh, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul and Samangan
WHO	Health	All northern provinces
UNDSS	Safety and security	All northern provinces

Source: UNAMA

There are also at least 45 national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) supporting development projects across a range of sectors in the province, as the following table shows:

International and National NGO Operations		
Organization	Project	Location

ATC	De-mining	Hayratan
SC/UK	Child protection, quality primary education projects	Mazar City, Nahri Shahi
WOCCU	Farmers, vendors, women, professional businessmen	Mazar City, Dehdadi, Khulm, Charbolak, Charkent, Sholgara, Balkh, Chemtal, Nahri Shahi, Dawlatabad
WWI	Educational courses	Mazar-e-Sharif
DCA	Animal health	Khulm, Alburz, Chimental , Kishindeh, etc.
PRB	Agriculture, education	Balkh 280 farmers, Chemtal 280 farmers, Nahri Shahi 240 farmers, Charkent 240 farmers, Zari 280 farmers
MCPA	De-mining	Naher-e-Shahi, Mazar
PWJ	Construction/engineering/IGA Project/agriculture	Dehdadi
CADA	Building two intakes, seed project, greening campaign and cleaning, community development	Balkh, Bangala village, Marmul, Mazar
KAAs	Culture & education, road construction	Mazar, Charbolak
NPO/RRAA	Water supply, environmental sanitation, agriculture, women, water health	Dawlat Abad, Khulm
DHSA	Education	All districts
HAFO	Agriculture & irrigation	All districts
AGEF	Education, vocational training, job opportunity, vulnerable women, women's handicraft, kindergarten	Mazar City
CoAR	Agriculture	Naher-e-Shahi, Mazar, Khulam, Keshindi, Marmul, Sholgara
ARRAF	Computer & English language training programs	Mazar-e-Sharif
IACD	Health	Mazar, Balkh, Dehadi, Sholgara
Action Aid	Women right / mobile health services	Chimental, Charbolak, Balkh, Dawlatabad
GAA	School	Dawlatabad, country side of Mazar
JDA	Agriculture, health and sanitation	Dihdadi, Sherabad, Baba Yadgar, Kungrad Hisarak, Mazar and Ali Abad village
LEPCO	Health	All of Mazar City and northern Afghanistan
HNI	Health / malaria & lashmania	All Districts
IAM	Health	Mazar-e-Sharif
PAD	Course conduct	
CHA	Education	Mazar-e-Sharif, Chimental, Dawlatabad, Charbolak, Kishindh
BRAC	Education and health	Dehadi, Mazar, Khulam, Balkh, Char Kent, Kishindh, Shortepa,
GP	School adoption program and water well project	Mazar City, Dawlatabad, Hairatan
SHA	Construction	Mazar City
SCA	Disability	Mazar City, Khulam, Dehadi, Balkh, Dawlatabad, Charbolak.
ACTED	Construction, rehabilitation, water supply, NSP training	Balkh, Alburz, Nahre Shahi, Mazar
CAFÉ	Construction, teacher training, computer training and community development	Dawlat Abad, Shortepa, Mazar

NRC	Legal rights	All Districts
Aschiana	Vocational training and basic education	Mazar-e-Sharif, Nahiye-4
AREA	Road Construction	Balkh (Dewali)
HHI	Shelter	Naher-e-Shahi, Mazar
Samaritan purse	Green house, kindergarten, women's center and education	Khulm
BDF	Legal	All districts
IBNSINA	Health	Mazar-e-Sharif
DACAAR	Water Supply	Charbolak, Dawlatabad, Balkh, Dehdadi, Nahre-Shahi and Mazar
HALOTRUST	De-mining/BAC	Dehdadi, Hairatan and Nahre Shahi
AWEC	Women's political participation, community, literacy classes, peace education workshop, wool spinning, vocational training, cuddly making and women in prison	Mazar-e-Sharif, Nahiye-4 and Nahre Shahi
PIN	Education	Dawlatabad, Mazar, Ayback
ESC	Employment service	Mazar-e-Sharif
ADWRB	Legal assistance for women and civic society support	Mazar City and all related districts
CESVI	Refugee Women's Training	Under selection

Source: UNAMA

In addition the following Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) operate as facilitating partners (FPs) for the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) in different districts in the province, as shown below:

NGOs Facilitating NSP by District	
District	Facilitating Partner
Dawlatabad	CHA
Chahar Bolak	CHA
Chahar Kint	CARE
Chimtal	CHA
Dihdadi	UN Habitat
Kaldar	PIN
Khulm	CARE
Kishindh	CHA
Marmul	CARE
	PIN
Nahri Shahi	UN Habitat
Sholgara	CARE
Shortepa	PIN
Zari	PIN
Marmul	CARE

Source: MRRD, National Solidarity Programme (NSP)

1.2. Current State of Development in the Province

A. Infrastructure and Natural Resources

The provision of basic infrastructure such as water and sanitation, energy, transport and communications is one of the key elements necessary to provide the building blocks for private sector expansion, equitable economic growth, increased employment and accelerated agricultural productivity.

In Balkh province, on average only 31% of households use safe drinking water. This rises to 67% in the urban area, and falls to 12% in rural areas. Four of five households (80%) have direct access to their main source of drinking water within their community, however almost one in five households (18%) has to travel for up to an hour to access drinking water, and for 1% travel to access drinking water can take up to 6 hours as the table below shows:

Time required accessing main source of drinking water			
In community	Less than 1 hour	1-3 hours	3-6 hours
80%	18%	1%	1%

Source: NRVA 2005

On average only 12% of households have access to safe toilet facilities. The situation is better in the urban area where 15% of households have safe toilets, but this is true for only 10% of rural households. The following table shows the kinds of toilet facilities used by households in the province:

Toilet facilities used by households					
None/ bush open field/	Dearan / Sahrah (area in compound but not pit)	Open pit	Traditional covered latrine	Improved latrine	Flush latrine
1%	1%	2%	84%	11%	1%

Source: NRVA 2005

In terms of meeting the basic requirements for energy, on average 49% of households in Balkh province have access to electricity with the great majority of these (41%) relying on public electricity. Access to electricity is much greater in the urban area where 95% of households have access to electricity, however, this figure falls to just 26% in rural areas, and a little more than half of these (14%) have access to public electricity.

The transport infrastructure in Balkh is reasonably well developed, with 38% of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons, and 34% able to take car traffic in some seasons. However, in more than a quarter (27.5%) of the province there are no roads at all, as shown in the following table:

Road Types				
District	Cars all season	Cars some seasons	No roads	Not reported
Dehdadi	94.8%	1.7%	3.4%	.0%
Nahr Shahi	86.4%	13.6%	.0%	.0%
Marmal	42.9%	57.1%	.0%	.0%
Khalam	44.1%	47.1%	5.9%	2.9%
Koldar	7.7%	69.2%	23.1%	.0%
Shortipe	15.0%	85.0%	.0%	.0%
Dolat Abad	60.0%	37.6%	2.4%	.0%
Balkh	49.1%	50.9%	.0%	.0%
Chrpolak	82.6%	16.5%	.9%	.0%
Chamtal	27.1%	60.8%	12.0%	.0%
Sholgare	42.7%	34.5%	21.8%	.9%
Charkont	13.9%	59.5%	26.6%	.0%

Kashande	9.0%	10.2%	80.7%	.0%
Zari	13.2%	17.8%	68.4%	.7%
Total	38.0%	34.2%	27.5%	0.3%

Source: CSO (analysis by AIRD)

The following table indicates road travel times between the provincial capital, Mazar-e-Sharif, and the major district centers in the province, and other key provincial centers in the region:

Road Travel Times			
From	To	Time	Road Condition
Mazar-e-Sharif	Kabul	6-7 hrs	Asphalt
Mazar-e-Sharif	Dehdadi	18 minutes	Asphalt
Mazar-e-Sharif	Balkh	25 Minutes	Asphalt
Mazar-e-Sharif	Chaharbolak	40 Minutes	Asphalt
Mazar-e-Sharif	Chimtal	90 minutes	Asphalt, partially graveled
Mazar-e-Sharif	Sholgara	2 hours	Asphalted, partially graveled
Mazar-e-Sharif	Kishindeh	3 hours	Asphalt, partially graveled
Mazar-e-Sharif	Zari	3.5 hours	Asphalt, partially graveled
Mazar-e-Sharif	Charkent	3 hours	Graveled
Mazar-e-Sharif	Marmul	2 hours	Graveled
Mazar-e-Sharif	Nahri Shahi	10 minutes	Asphalt
Mazar-e-Sharif	Dawlatabad	1.30 hours	Asphalt, partially graveled
Mazar-e-Sharif	Shortapa	3 hours	Asphalted, partially graveled
Mazar-e-Sharif	Karldar	3 hours	Asphalt, partially graveled
Mazar-e-Sharif	Khulam	1 hour	Asphalt

Source: UNAMA

In the area of telecommunications, Hairatan, Chimtal, Balkh, Dehdadi, Khulam, Charbolak, Nahre Shahi, and Dawlatabad districts of Balkh province has mobile phone coverage.

B. Economic Governance and Private Sector Development

Creating the conditions in which a dynamic and competitive private sector can flourish, is key to promoting economic growth, employment creation and poverty reduction. Balkh is both an agricultural and an industrial province. In terms of industry, one fertilizer factory is working in the province. The majority of commercial activity in Balkh is related to agriculture and small businesses.

Agriculture is the major source of revenue for 42% of households in Balkh province, including 61% of rural households and 7% of households in the urban area. Seventy percent of rural households and 6% of urban households own or manage agricultural land or garden plots in the province. However, more than half of households (58%) in the urban areas and more than one-fifth of households (21%) in rural areas derive income from trade and services. More than a third of households (35%) in urban and at least a quarter (25%) in rural areas earn some income through non-farm related labour. Livestock also accounts for income for 29% of rural households as the following table shows:

Sources of income reported by households			
Source of income	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (%)
Agriculture	61	7	42
Livestock	29	3	20
Opium	12	2	9
Trade and Services	21	58	34
Manufacture	11	14	12
Non-Farm Labor	25	35	28
Remittances	2	1	1

Other	2	3	2
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Source: NRVA 2005

In 2005 there were 21 agricultural cooperatives active in Balkh involving 1,617 members. This was almost three times more people than in 2003 when the figure was only 601 members. In 2005 agricultural cooperatives controlled a total of 11,714 Hac of land and achieved a surplus of products for sale of 90,000 tons. As a result of this, each member held a share in the capital of the cooperative to the value of 703,100Afs.

Balkh produces industrial crops such as cotton, sesame, tobacco, olives, and sharsham in a relatively substantial number of villages. Of the 1,140 villages, 434 or 38% produce sesame, 422 villages produce cotton, 148 produce tobacco, and 123 produce sugar extracts. Together, these four products account for almost nine out ten commodities produced in the province. agricultural or animal products, there is not a very large production of industrial products in Balkh. Balkh and Sholgara districts are major producers of each, Chintal also a major producer of cotton and sesame: Kishindeh is a major producer of sesame; and Dehdadi is a major producer of cotton.

The sector of small industries is dominated by one commodity-karakul skin. The districts of Dawlat Abad, Balkh, Chintal, and Sholgara together house close to three quarters of the villages engaged in this particular industry. In the area of handicrafts, rugs are the most prominent, engaging more than 408 villages of the 1,140 (36%). Carpets, jewelry, and shawls are also produced, albeit in substantially less number of villages: rugs concentrated particularly in Chahar Kint, Sholgara, and Dawlat Abad; carpets in Dawlat Abad, Dehdadi, Balkh, and Chahar Bolak; jewelry in Dehdadi, in particular, and Chahar Kint; and shawls in Dawlat Abad, Chintal, Chahar Kint, and Sholgara.

In 2005, 25% of households in Balkh reported taking out loans. Of these loans, a small percentage were used to invest in economic activity such as business investment (9%), agricultural inputs (8%) and buying land (1%).

C. Agriculture and Rural Development

Enhancing licit agricultural productivity, creating incentives for non-farm investment, developing rural infrastructure, and supporting access to skills development and financial services will allow individuals, households and communities to participate licitly and productively in the economy. As agriculture represents the major source of income for more than two-fifth of the households in the province, rural development will be a key element of progress in Balkh. The most important field crops grown in Balkh province include wheat, barley, maize, flax and melon/water melon. The most common crops grown in garden plots include fruit and nut trees (67%), grapes (13%) and vegetables (4%). Melon/water melons (6%) and cotton (2%) are also frequently grown in garden plots in the province.

Six out of seven households with access to fertilizer use this on field crops (84%) and to a much lesser degree on garden plots (8%), although nearly one of ten households use fertilizer on both field and garden (8%). The main types of fertilizer used by households in the province are shown in the following table:

Main Types Of Fertilizer Used By Households					
Human	Animal	Urea		DAP	
%	%	%	Average Kg per Household	%	Average Kg per Household
21	35	56	448.1 Kg	50	488.4 Kg

Source: NRVA 2005

On average 67% of households in the province have access to irrigated land, whereas 28% of rural households and 14% of urban households have access to rain-fed land.

Households (%) access to irrigated and rain-fed land			
	Rural	Urban	Average
Access to irrigated land	66	69	67
Access to rain-fed land	28	14	26

Source: NRVA 2005

Sixty three percent of rural households, 89% of Kuchi households and 12% of households in urban areas in the province own livestock and poultry. The most commonly owned livestock are cattle, donkeys, poultry, sheep and goats as the following table shows:

Households (%) owning poultry and livestock				
Livestock	Kuchi	Rural	Urban	Average
Cattle	86	56	8	40
Oxen	46	21	2	15
Horses	49	11	1	8
Donkey	63	41	4	29
Camel	23	4	1	3
Goats	71	31	4	22
Sheep	83	33	4	24
Poultry	63	35	8	26

Source: NRVA 2005

D. Education

Ensuring good quality education and equitable access to education and skills are some of the important ways to raise human capital, reduce poverty and facilitate economic growth. The overall literacy rate in Balkh province is 44%, however, while more than half of men are literate (54%), this is true for just about one-third of women (32%). However, in the population aged between 15 and 24 the situation for men is slightly better with 58.3% literacy, and there is a smaller improvement for women (35.4%). The Kuchi population in the province has particularly low levels of literacy with just 6.1% of men and none of women able to read or write.

On average 58% of children between 6 and 13 are enrolled in school, including around two-thirds of boys (66%) and almost half of girls (48%). Amongst the Kuchi population, nearly half of boys (47%) and one in five girls (20%) attend school in Balkh during the winter months, however, only a quarter of the boys (25%) and about one in ten girls (9%) attend school in the province during the summer.

Overall there are 344 primary and secondary schools in the province catering for 305,895 students. Boys account for 59% of students and 95% of schools are boys' schools. There are 8,481 teachers working in schools in the Balkh province, almost half of whom are women (49%).

Primary and Secondary Education						
	Schools		Students		Teachers	
	Boys	Girls	boys	Girls	Male	female
Primary	272	11	154,473	113,611	-	-
Secondary	56	5	24,843	12,968	-	-
Total	328	16	179,316	126,579	4,315	4,166
	344		305,895		8,481	

Source: CSO Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2006

Balkh province also has a number of higher education facilities. The University of Balkh has faculties of Medicine, Engineering, Law, Literature, Economics, Agriculture, Religious Law, and Education. In 2005 there were 5,023 students enrolled at the university 3,337 men (66%) and 1,686 women (34%). Of those, 769 students were in their first year, 649 men (84%) and 120 women (16%). Residing in the dormitories provided by the University are 1,097 male and 103 female students.

There is an Agricultural vocational high school with 12 teachers, including seven females, catering for a total of 106 students, all of whom are men, and a Chemical Technology school with 46 staff, including 16 females, and 63 male students. In 2005, 23 students from the Agriculture and 12 students from the Chemical Technology schools graduated.

E. Health

Ensuring the availability of basic health and hospital services, and developing human resources in the health sector is essential to reduce the incidence of disease, increase life expectancy and enable the whole population to participate in sustainable development. A basic infrastructure of health services exists in Balkh province. In 2005 there were 39 health centers and 7 hospitals with a total of 477 beds. There were also 280 doctors and 270 nurses employed by the Ministry of Health working in the province, which represented an increase of about 9% in the number of nurses and 18% increase in the number of doctors in the province compared to 2003. The major health facilities in the province are shown in the following table:

Health Services Hospitals	
Name	Location
Balkh Public Hospital	Mazar City
Noor Hospital	Mazar City
Military Hospital	Mazar City
Jordanian Hospital	Mazar Airport
Kodi Barq Hospital	Dehdadi District
Balkh District Hospital	Balkh District
Khulam District Hospital	Khulam District

Source:

UNAMA

Health Services Clinics by District	
District	Clinics
Mazar City	Noor Khoda CHC, Ali Chopan BHC, Karte-e-Amany Health Facility, Ulmarab CHC, Madan Namak Health Facility, Clinic No. 5, Chughdak BHC
Nahre Shahi District	Langer Khana Health Facility, Shahrak BHC
Shortepea District	Bozari CHC, Joi Wakil BHC
Dawatat Abad District	Dawatat Abad CHC, Chahi Clinic Qaraghojla BHC, Eshan Uraq BHC
Balkh District	Maydan BHC, Kole-e-Abmbo BHC, Vazirabad CHC, Boke-Alam Kheil BHC
Charbolak District	Aq Tepa BHC, Charbolak BHC, Ahmad Abad BHC
Chimtal District	Chimtal BHC, Pashma Qaleh BHC, Choqanaq CHC, Gaza BHC
Sholgara District	Dalan Clinic, Bagh-e-Pahlwan BHC, Paikan Dara BHC, Quchi BHC, Shulgara Clinic, Puli-i-Baraq BHC
Kishindih District	Bala Kishindih BHC, Aq-Kupruck CHC, Qazaq (Zareh) CHC, Hamrakh BHC
Chaharkint District	Health Clinic, Charkent Qaria Ghauch health center

Dihdadi District	Dihdadi DHC, Sherabad BHC, Mashi BHC
Kaldar District	Kaldar BHC, Hairatan CHC
Khulam District	Qurghan CHC, Haji Ali BHC, Baghicha-Sarha BHC, Logariha-Choliza BHC, Feroz Naqsher CHC
Marmul District	Zabihullah Shaid BHC
Note: BHC-Basic Health Center CHC-Comprehensive Health Center DHC-District Health Center	

Source: UNAMA

The province also has 252 pharmacies of which 243 are owned privately and 9 are run by the government.

The majority of communities do have a health worker permanently present in their community. However, thirty-two percent of men's shura and 35% of women's shura reported that there was no community health worker present, and both groups most commonly said that a hospital was their closest health facility.

F. Social Protection

Building the capacities, opportunities and security of extremely poor and vulnerable Afghans through a process of economic empowerment is essential in order to reduce poverty and increase self-reliance. The level of economic hardship in Balkh is reasonably low. Around a quarter of the households in the province report having problems satisfying their food needs at least 3–6 times a year, and a further more than fifth of households face this problem up to three times a year, as the following table shows:

Problems satisfying food need of the household during the last year					
	Never	Rarely (1-3 times)	Sometimes (3-6 times)	Often (few times a month)	Mostly (happens a lot)
Households (%)	52	22	24	2	1

Source: NRVA 2005

Nearly a third of the population in the province is estimated to receive less than the minimum daily caloric intake necessary to maintain good health. This figure is much less for the rural population (17%) but significantly high for people living in the urban areas (53%). In both rural and urban areas just about half the population has low dietary diversity and poor or very poor food consumption as shown below:

Food consumption classification for all households				
	Low dietary diversity		Better dietary diversity	
Households (%)	Very poor food consumption	Poor food consumption	Slightly better food consumption	Better food consumption
Rural	10	39	34	18
Total	8	43	32	19

Source: NRVA 2005

In 2005, 24% of the population of Balkh province received allocations of food aid, which reached a total of 265,402 beneficiaries. In addition, of the 25% of households who reported taking out loans, 58% said that the main use of their largest loan was to buy food. A further 10% used the money to cover expenses for health emergencies. In the same year about a third of the households in the province reported feeling that their economic situation had got worse compared to a year ago, and more than two-thirds felt that it had remained the same, as the following table shows:

Comparison of overall economic situation compared to one year ago					
	Much worse	Worse	Same	Slightly better	Much better
Households (%)	8	24	42	24	3

Source: NRVA 2005

In 2005, more than a tenth of all households in the province reported having been negatively affected by some unexpected event in the last year, which was beyond their control. Rural households were slightly more vulnerable to such shocks, with 17% of households affected, as opposed to urban households (5%). People living in urban areas were most vulnerable to shocks related to natural disaster and drinking water, whereas those in rural areas were most at risk from agricultural shocks, as the following table shows:

Households experiencing shocks in the province (%)			
Types of shocks	Rural	Urban	Average
Drinking water	36	17	34
Agricultural	63	0	55
Natural disaster	23	21	23
Insecurity	1	13	3
Financial	13	8	13
Health or epidemics	0	0	0

Source: NRVA 2005

Of those households affected, nearly three quarters reported that they had not recovered at all from shocks experienced in the last 12 months (73%), and a quarter said they had recovered only partially (25%).

G. Governance, Law and Human Rights

Establishing and strengthening government institutions at the central and sub-national levels is essential to achieve measurable improvements in the delivery of services and the protection of rights of all Afghans

No relevant data analysed at provincial level available from national sources has been identified in this area.

H. Security

Ensuring a legitimate monopoly on force and law enforcement that provides a secure environment for the fulfilment of the rights of all Afghans is essential to ensure freedom of movement for people, commodities and ideas, and to promote social and economic development. A recent assessment made by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) reported that the security situation in the Balkh province remains relatively calm and stable. A high level of criminal activity is the main concern of the Balkh authorities and still remains one of the main factors of insecurity. Reportedly, every ethnic community has its own illegal armed or criminal grouping being involved into drug business, general crimes and other illegal activity, which mainly affects the security situation in the province. A certain decrease of incidents related to road robbery has been observed since the beginning of 2007 however, the number of incidents connected to house invasion and armed robbery of private residences still remain typical for the province. There have been no specific incidents that could be related to the activity of Anti-Government Elements (AGE). The UNDSS assessment highlights the following key factors of insecurity in the province:

Factors of Insecurity	
Illegally Armed	Illegally Armed Groups (IAGs) exist within every ethnic community in the

Groups (IAGs)	province
Anti Government Elements (AGEs)	No Anti-Government Elements (AGE) activity has been observed for the past 6 months.
Criminality and Organized Crime	In general the level of crime is high in the province and crimes such as road robbery are increasing
Narcotics	Poppy and Hashish cultivation in Balkh is still significant. Reportedly 40% of poppy cultivated land was destroyed by government and the remaining 60% is under the control of influential local commanders or owned by individuals who have paid to ensure their crops are not destroyed. There has always been a certain tension between Afghan National Police (ANP) and local commanders who control the poppy cultivation and this remains one of the factors of insecurity in the province.

Source: UNAMA

Profile compiled by NABDP / MRRD

Information Sources

Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2006, Central Statistics Office

Geography: Area

Demography and Population: Rural and Urban population

Institutional Framework: Total Government employees

Economic Governance & Private Sector Development: Agricultural cooperatives, members, land, surplus, capital

Education: Primary and secondary schools, students and teachers, Higher education faculties, total students, first year students and graduates, Students in university dormitories, Vocational high schools, staff, students and graduates, Teacher training institutes, students and graduates.

Health: Number of Health centers, Hospitals, beds, Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacies.

Social Protection: Allocations of food aid,

Socio Economic and Demographic Profiles (per province), 2003, Central Statistics Office/ UNFPA

Geography: Topography, No of Districts, Provincial capital – population

Demography and Population: Population by district, Number of households, Main Languages Spoken

Infrastructure and Natural Resources : Road types (analysis by Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development)

Economic Governance & Private Sector Development:– Industrial crops, small industries and handicrafts

Education: Distance from educational services

Health: Distance from Health Services

The National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2005, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the Central Statistics Office, June 2007

Demography and Population: Average household size

Infrastructure and Natural Resources : Use of safe drinking water, Travel time to drinking water, Access to safe toilet facilities, Toilet types, Household access to electricity, Access to public electricity

Economic Governance & Private Sector Development: Source of household revenue, Households taking out loans, loan investment in economic activity

Agriculture and Rural Development: Most important field crops and garden crops, Fertilizer use and type, Access to irrigated and rainfed land, Ownership of livestock and poultry

Education: Literacy rate overall and for population 15 to 24, school enrolments

Health: Availability of community health workers, closest type of health facility

Social Protection: Problems satisfying food needs, Population receiving less than minimum recommended daily caloric intake, dietary diversity & food consumption, Comparison of economic situation with 12 months ago, Loan use for food and medical expenses, Vulnerability to shocks, Kinds of shocks , Recovery from shocks

National Multi sectoral Assessment on Kuchi, Frauke de Weijer, May 2005

Demography and Population: Kuchi population Winter and Summer

Education: Literacy rate for Kuchi, School attendance for Kuchi (summer / winter)

UNSS Provincial Assessments or UNAMA Provincial profiles, Supplied by UNAMA

Geography: MAP , Location and description,

Demography and Population: Major ethnic groups and tribes,
Institutional Framework: Line Department offices,
Donor Activity: UN agencies and projects, IO/NGO agencies and projects
Infrastructure and Natural Resources : Road Travel times, Mobile Network Coverage
Economic Governance & Private Sector Development: General economic profile, Major industries/
commercial activities
Health: Health facilities
Security: Assessment of the security situation, Factors of insecurity

Information supplied by United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Provincial Development, Provincial Budgeting and Integration of the Provincial Development Plans into the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS). Draft Discussion Paper for the ADF)

Institutional Framework : Assessment of functioning of PDC

Information supplied by Ministries

Institutional Framework: PDC structure (*Ministry of Economy*), DDAs and CDCs (*Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development*)

Donor Activity: NGO facilitating partners for NSP (*Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development*)