

1. PROVINCIAL PROFILE



Source: UNDSS Provincial Assessment provided by UNAMA

1.1. General Information

A. Geography

Herat province is located in the western part of the country, and borders with Iran (Islam Qala Crossing) and Turkmenistan (Torghundi Crossing). It has internal borders with Badghis province in the North, Ghor in the East and Farah in the South. The province covers an area of 63097 km². More than one third (39%) of the province is mountainous or semi mountainous terrain while more than half (53%) of the area is made up of flat land, as the following table shows:

Topography type					
Flat	Mountainous	Semi Mountainous	Semi Flat	Not Reported	TOTAL
53.3%	25.4%	13.6%	6.6%	1.0%	100.0%

Source: CSO/UNFPA Socio Economic and Demographic Profile

The province is divided into 16 Districts. The provincial capital is Hirat centre which has a population of about 397456 inhabitants.

B. Demography and Population

Hirat has a total population of 1762157. There are 226650 households in the province, and households on average have 6 members. The following table shows the population by district.

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Population by Districts			
District	Number of males	Number of females	Total population
Hirat City	199106	198350	397456
Enjil	113525	111082	224607
Nizam-i-Shaheed (Guzare)	67872	67315	135187
Pashtun Zarghun	46016	44801	90817
Karrukh	29226	29368	58594
Kushk (Rubat-i-Sangi)	66900	66546	133446
Gouran	53055	53928	106983
Kohsan	28687	29095	57782
Ghoryan	45391	44809	90201
Zendajan	27120	27856	54976
Adraskan	27988	28205	56193
Shindand	92285	93133	185418
Fersi	14640	13612	28252
Obe	38122	37053	75175
Chishti Sharif	12875	12553	25428
Kushk-i-Kuhna	20973	20669	41642
Total	883782	878375	1762157

Source: CSO/UNFPA Socio Economic and Demographic Profile

Around three quarters (77%) of the population of Hirat lives in rural districts while just under a quarter (23%) lives in urban areas. Around 50% of the population is male and 50% is female Dari and Pashtu are spoken by 98% of the population and 97.7% of the villages. Languages spoken by the remaining population are Turkmeni and Uzbeki.

Hirat province also has a population of Kuchis or nomads whose numbers vary in different seasons. In winter 98,506 individuals, or 4.1% of the overall Kuchi population, stay in Hirat living in 166 communities. Around Three quarters (75%) of these are short-range partially migratory, 12% are long-range partially migratory and 13% are settled. Half of migratory communities of both categories migrate within the winter area, as well as in the summer area. The most important summer areas for the short range migratory Kuchi are Kushki Sangi, Farsi, Adreskan, Kushk Kohna, Kushk Robad, Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Guzara, Chisht Sharif, Obeh, Kohistan and Karukh districts of Herat province (in decreasing order of importance). The long-range migratory Kuchi are predominantly fully migratory. Their summer areas are in Ghor province. The Kuchi population in the summer is 112311 individuals.

C. Institutional framework

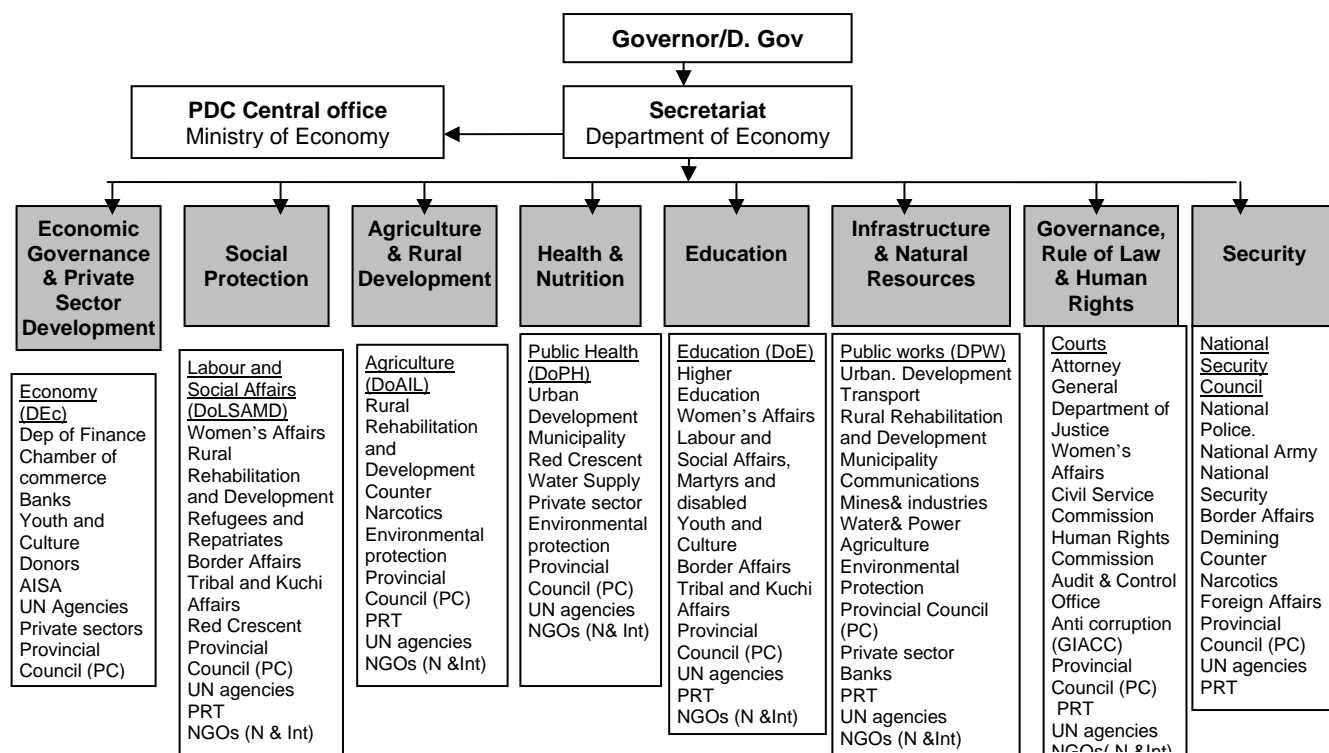
In total the government employs 16866 people in Hirat province. As the table below shows, 84% of these are employees and 16% are contract workers. Around two thirds (65%) of government workers are men and one third (35%) are women.

Number of people employed by government			
	Male	Female	Total
Contract workers	2408	310	2718
Employees	8487	5661	14148
Total Workers	10895	5971	16866

Source: CSO Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2006

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 Hirat province was formed In March 2006. In April 2007 UNAMA made the following assessment of the PDC in Hirat province:

UNAMA assessment of Provincial Development Committee in Hirat province

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Supporting Agencies	Functioning Status of PDC meetings
UNAMA, PRT, INGs provided technical support to PDC to enhance their awareness and establishing of PDC. Short term workshops to enhance PDC capacity are organized and assisted PDC with coaching mentoring and strategic planning process.	PDC meeting take place regularly. Governors, Line departments, PRT and other donors agencies participate. MOE local department needs extra support to function properly

Source: UNAMA, April 2007

Hirat 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 2 districts in the province, involving 69 men and 49 women members. Each DDA has its own District Development Plan. There are also 619 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
Hirat Centre	1
Enjil	160
Guzarah	162
Pashtun Zarghun	69
Karrukh	39
Kushk	68
Zindajan	72
Obe	40
Kushki Kuhna	8
TOTAL	619

Source: MRRD, National Solidarity Program (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 almost all UN agencies are currently involved in reconstruction and development projects in different parts of the province. (Source: UNAMA)

There are also at least 64 national and 42 international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) supporting development projects across a range of sectors in the province. (Source: UNAMA)

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

NGOs Facilitating NSP by District	
District	Facilitating Partner
Guzarah	UN Habitat
Enjil	UN Habitat
Karrukh	UN Habitat
Kushk	DACAAR
Kushk-i-Kuhna	NPO/RRAA
Obe	DACAAR

Pashtun Zarghun	DACAAR
Zindajan	UN Habitat

Source: MRRD, National Solidarity Program (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 Hirat province, on average 31% of households use safe drinking water. This rises to 36% in the urban area, and falls to 30% in rural areas. More than four-fifths (85%) of households have direct access to their main source of drinking water within their community, however around one-tenth (11%) of households have 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
%	85	11	2	1

Source: NRVA 2005

On average only 14% of households have access to safe toilet facilities. The situation is better in the urban area where 32% of households have safe toilets, but this is true for only 9% 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
%	7	5	14	60	8	6

Source: NRVA 2005

In terms of meeting the basic requirements for energy, there is one power station operating in the province, hydraulic water power network (100 kw) and imported power from Iran and Turkmenistan. On average 22% of households in Hirat province have access to electricity with the majority of these relying on public electricity. Access to electricity is much greater in the urban area where 74% of households have access to electricity; however this figure falls to just 6% in rural areas, and only one-third of these (2%) have access to public electricity. Extensions of electricity provision to Gozarah, Enjil, Zindajan, Ghorian, Kushk Kuhna and other districts are underway.

The transport infrastructure in Hirat is reasonably well developed, with more than half (56%) of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons, and a third (35%) able to take car traffic in some seasons. However, in nearly one tenth of the province (9%) 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
Enjil	94.9%	3.7%	.0%	1.4%
Nizam-i-Shaheed (Guzare)	57.9%	41.1%	.0%	1.1%
Pashtun Zarghun	64.6%	16.6%	18.8%	.0%
Karrukh	15.0%	80.0%	4.2%	.8%
Kushk (Rubat-i-Sangi)	71.8%	26.9%	.6%	.6%
Gouran	53.7%	45.0%	.9%	.4%
Kohsan	77.8%	19.4%	2.8%	.0%
Ghoryan	88.0%	9.3%	.0%	2.7%
Zendajan	65.8%	34.2%	.0%	.0%
Adraskan	43.9%	41.5%	13.4%	1.2%
Shindand	38.4%	45.2%	16.1%	.3%
Fersi	19.6%	52.2%	27.2%	1.1%
Obe	51.8%	24.5%	23.0%	.7%
Chishti Sharif	67.6%	16.2%	16.2%	.0%
Kushk-i-Kuhna	57.0%	40.9%	1.1%	1.1%
TOTAL	56.1%	34.5%	8.7%	.7%

Source: CSO (analysis by AIRD)

As far as communications is concerned, the telecommunication department is actively operating in the province and among the private companies Roshan, AWCC, Areeba, Connection, and Afghan Telecom are active in the province which cover Guzarah, Enjil, Zendajan, Ghoryan, Kushk Robat Sangi and Shindand districts. All the districts centres have access to digital phones and over 70 % of the population has access to phones in the province.

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. Hirat is both an agricultural and an industrial province, and salt, marble, gypsums, coal, cement, and construction stones are produced there. In terms of industry, over 360 small and big firms including 350 manufacturing firms are active in the Industrial park in Hirat. The firms produce 103 items of products and employ 19000 workers. The Industrial park has the capacity to sustain 500 firms and is equipped with all necessary facilities. So far US\$550 million has been invested there.

Agriculture is the major source of revenue for over a third (36%) of households in Hirat province, including 48% of rural households and 5% of households in the urban area. Fifty four percent of rural households own or manage agricultural land or garden plots in the province However; more than half of households in the urban area (52%) and one-tenth of households in rural areas (11%) derive income from trade and services. Half of households in rural areas and around two-fifths (38%) of households in urban areas earn some income

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through non-farm related labour. Livestock accounts for income for nearly one quarter (23%) of rural households as the following table shows:

Sources of income reported by households			
Source of income	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (%)
Agriculture	48	5	36
Livestock	23	1	20
Opium	0	0	0
Trade and Services	11	52	21
Manufacture	6	1	4
Non-Farm Labour	50	38	46
Remittances	5	1	4
Other	5	6	8

Source: NRVA 2005

In 2005 there were 26 Agricultural cooperatives active in Hirat involving 2700 members. This was around twice as many people as in 2003 when the figure was only 1392 members. In 2005 agricultural cooperatives controlled a total of 13781 Ha of land and achieved a surplus of products for sale of 2,000 tons. As a result of this, each member held a share in the capital of the cooperative to the value of 2108, 000Afs.

Hirat produces several industrial crops. The three major crops are cotton (produced in 362 villages), tobacco (in 248 villages), and sesame (in 169 villages). Together, these three products account for more than four fifths (86%) of the industrial commodities produced in the province. Nizam-i-Shahid and Injil Districts are the major producers of all three commodities.

The sector of small industries in Hirat is not particularly well developed. Silk is produced in 15 villages in Zendajan and Injil districts; confection engages 16 villages, 12 of which are in Shidand. Sugar candy is produced in seven villages, which are also in Shindand. In the area of handicrafts, carpets and rugs are the most prominent: they engage more than four fifths (87%) of 1907 villages producing handicraft items, almost 40% of rugs are produced in Kushk and shindand.

In 2005, 59% of households in Hirat reported taking out loans. Of these loans, a small percentage was used to invest in economic activity such as agricultural inputs (3%), business investment (3%) 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 nearly half the households in the province, rural development will be a key element of progress in Hirat. The most important field crops grown in Hirat province include wheat, barley, maize and rice. The most common crops grown in garden plots include grapes (77%) and fruit and nut trees (15%).

Over nine-tenths (91%) of households with access to fertilizer use this on field crops and to a much lesser degree on garden plots (2%), although just over one household in twenty (7%)

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uses fertilizer on both field and garden. 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
12	33	80	227.5	64	219.2

Source: NRVA 2005

On average three quarters (67%) of households in the province have access to irrigated land, and 43% of rural households and 28% of urban households have access to rain fed land as the following table shows:

Households (%) access to irrigated and rain-fed land			
	Rural	Urban	Average
Access to irrigated land	68	62	67
Access to rain-fed land	43	28	42

Source: NRVA 2005

Fifty six percent of rural households, 95% of Kuchi households and 10% of households in urban areas in the province own livestock or poultry. The most commonly owned livestock are goats, sheep, and donkey as the following table shows:

Households (%) owning poultry and livestock				
Livestock	Kuchi	Rural	Urban	Average
Cattle	18	29	4	17
Oxen	0	17	1	6
Horses	7	1	0	3
Donkey	65	38	2	35
Camel	37	2	0	13
Goats	85	30	3	39
Sheep	81	24	3	36
Poultry	25	24	6	18

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 Hirat province is 36%, however, while more than two-fifths (43%) of men are literate this is true for just over a quarter (28%) of women. In the population aged between 15 and 24 the situation for men is a little better with 45% literacy and for women the figure shows the same degree of increase to 30%. The Kuchi population in the province has particularly low levels of literacy with just 2% of men able to read and write.

On average more than half (55%) of children between 6 and 13 are enrolled in school. The figure is only slightly higher for boys (58%) than girls (52%). Amongst the Kuchi population, 1% of boys and 2% of girls attend school in Hirat during the winter months; however no Kuchi children attend school in the province during the summer.

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Overall there are 544 primary and secondary schools in the province catering for 425026 students. Boys account for 56% of students and 86% of schools are boys' schools. There are nearly 8697 teachers working in schools in the Hirat province, nearly half of whom are women (42%).

Primary and Secondary Education						
	Schools		Students		Teachers	
	boys	girls	Boys	girls	male	female
Primary	361	33	209274	166853	-	-
Secondary	109	41	28224	20675	-	-
Total	470	74	237498	187528	5088	3609
	544		425026		8697	

Source: CSO Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2006

Primary schools exist in 411 villages out of the 2170. Around three students in five have a primary school within 5kms, but around a quarter (24%) of primary students have to travel more than 10kms to reach their nearest primary school. Secondary schools exist in 129 villages. One in three (30%) students must travel up to 5 kilometers and more than two-fifths of students (43%) must travel more than 10 kilometers to reach their closest secondary schools. For high schools, access appears to be less easy. One in six (16%) students must travel up to five kilometers and nearly four in six (65%) must travel more than 10Km to reach their closest High school.

Hirat province also has a number of higher education facilities. The University of Hirat has faculties including Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, Literature, Religious Law, Political Law, Economics, Arts, Education and Science. In 2005 there were 12080 students enrolled at the university 8631 men (71%) and 3449 women (29%). Of those, 1687 students were in their first year, 1202 men (71%) and 485 women (29%). 836 male and 13 female students live in dormitories provided by the University.

There is an Agricultural vocational high school with 2 teachers catering for a total of 305 students, all of whom are men. There is also a teacher training institute which in 2005 had 130 students in 2005, 77% of whom were men (100) and 23% women (30).

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 Hirat province. In 2005 there were 33 health centers and 4 hospitals with a total of 473 beds. There were also 262 doctors and 228 nurses employed by the Ministry of Health working in the province, which represented a 45% increase in the number of doctors (up from 182) but a 40% decrease in the number of nurses (down from 366) since 2003. The major health facilities in the province identified in 2007 are shown in the following table:

Health Services (Hospitals and Clinics by District)				
District	Basic Health Center	Comprehensive Health Center	District Hospital	Provincial Hospital
Heart City	3	6		1
Guzarah			1	

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Shindand			1	
Ghuryan			1	
Gulran			1	
Different other districts including the above four	28	18	0	0
Total	31	24	4	1

Source: UNAMA

The province also has 522 pharmacies of which 520 are owned privately and 2 are run by the government.

Half of the communities do not have a health worker permanently present in their community. Fifty three percent of men's shura and 55% of women's shura reported that there was no community health worker present, and both groups most commonly said that their nearest health facility is clinic without beds or basic health center. Out of 2170 villages, only 57 have a health centre within their boundaries, and only 100 have a dispensary. Health centers are located less than five kilometers away for only 17 percent of the population, and more than half the households must travel more than 10 kilometers to access a health care 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 Hirat is reasonably high. More than one-third (35%) of households in the province report having problems satisfying their food needs at least 3 – 6 times a year, and more than a quarter (27%) of households faced 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 (%)	23	27	35	6	9

Source: NRVA 2005

A third (33%) 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 higher for the rural population with 36% than people living in the urban area with 22%. In both rural and urban areas around two-fifths (58%) of 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	27	37	8	28
Total	25	33	6	30

Source: NRVA 2005

In 2005, 25% of the population of Hirat province received allocations of food aid, which reached a total of 37024 beneficiaries. In addition, of the 59% of households who reported

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taking out loans, nearly two thirds (62%) said that the main use of their largest loan was to buy food. A further 11% used the money to cover expenses for health emergencies. In the same year nearly half (46%) the households in the province reported feeling that their economic situation had got worse compared to a year ago, and more than third (38%) 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 (%)	17	29	38	15	2

Source: NRVA 2005

In 2005, more than one-third (38%) 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 much more vulnerable to such shocks, with 46% of households affected, compared to people living in urban areas where only 10% of households reported being affected. People living in urban areas were most vulnerable to financial problems whereas those in rural areas were most at risk from agricultural shocks and natural disasters, as the following table shows:

Households experiencing shocks in the province (%)			
Types of shocks	Rural	Urban	Average
Drinking water	25	13	23
Agricultural	50	12	49
Natural disaster	46	10	43
Insecurity	2	0	1
Financial	22	42	23
Health or epidemics	15	17	15

Source: NRVA 2005

Of those households affected, over four-fifths (84%) reported that they had not recovered at all from shocks experienced in the last 12 months and around one-sixth (15%) said they had recovered only partially.

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.

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B. Security

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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.

No relevant data analysed at provincial level is available for Hirat province

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)

UNDSS 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/

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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*)