

BAGHLAN

Located in northern Afghanistan, Baghlan borders Kunduz and Takhar to the north, Panjshir and Parwan to the south, Samangan and Bamyan to the west.

Baghlan River plays a big role in this province, with 78% of cultivated land concentrated in the north and east alongside it – home also to 78% of the province's cultivated land in 5 districts. The remaining 10 districts are suitable for raising livestock because of high elevations and mountainous terrain.

Baghlan is famous for producing rice, sugar beats and for raising sheep, cattle and goats.

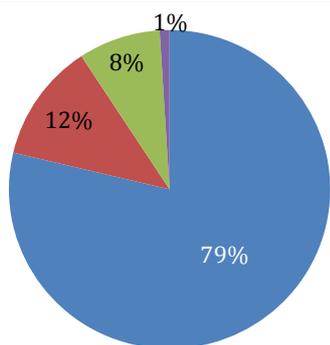
Baghlan in a Nutshell

- *Surface area:* 55,000 sq. km
- *Capital:* Pul-e-Khumri
- *Districts:* 15 - Anderab, Baghlan Jaded, Burka, Dahna Ghor, Deh Salah, Doshee, Faring, Guzargahi Noor, Jilgah, Khinjan, Khost, Nahreen, Puli Hesar, Pul-e-Khumri, Tala Wa Barfak
- *Main markets:* Kunduz, Imam Sahib, Khanabad Manduy, Mazar-e-Sharif, Faizabad, Takhar, Tajikistan
- *Population:* 0.8 million inhabitants (80% in rural areas)
- *Most populated districts:* Pul-e-Khumri, Baghlan Jaded
- *Ethnic Groups:* Mainly Tajiks and Pashtuns and minority groups of Hazaras and Uzbeks
- *Main languages:* Dari
- *Kuchi Migrations:* Between 50–100,000 individuals in both winter and summer
- *Returnees, IDPs:* Baghlan is the destination of 5.1% (roughly 236,000 individuals) of the total returnee population, but not an important hosting province for IDPs

HORTICULTURE

KEY CROPS

Total production (2008): 428,636 metric tons



- Grains: Wheat, Rice
- Vegetables: Onion, Potato
- Fruits & Nuts: Pistachio, Apricot, Apple
- Fodder & Industrial

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Production:

Baghlan stands out as women appear to be more active in cultivation than in many other provinces. Whereas women are only marginally involved in cultivation in other provinces, women and men both participate in the cultivation of all crop types in Baghlan. Harvesting is done by both men and women for all crop categories.

Processing:

Drying fruit and shelling nuts is mainly done by women.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

Men handle a large majority of the selling and trading of horticulture goods.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Unlike many other provinces, children in Baghlan are involved in cultivation as well as harvesting. They also assist in drying fruits and shelling nuts.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

Use of fertilizer (% of farming households):

- Field crops: 76%
- Garden plots: 6%
- Both field and garden plots: 18%

Other Improved Practices: According to key informants, there has been an increase in the use of drip irrigation, tractors, notably threshers; machines for cleaning and harvesting rice.

LIVESTOCK

KEY ANIMALS

Main Animals	District Concentration	Total Heads
Sheep	Burka and Khost	241,584
Goats	(43.7% of livestock)	291,832
Cattle		170,312
Poultry	Burka (59% of poultry)	537,189

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children share the responsibility of raising livestock and poultry with their older family members in Badakhshan. While they are typically not involved in the sale of livestock, it is common for them to sell

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Animal husbandry:

Women are the main caretakers of livestock and poultry in Baghlan. Men are involved more often with goats, although women are still dominant in this sector.

Processing:

Men perform most of the butchering. Both men and women participate in shearing of animals. Women are in charge of producing dairy products and processing wool into yarn.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

- **Livestock & Poultry:** Men sell and trade most livestock. Both men and women sell poultry, while eggs are mainly sold by women.
- **Dairy:** Women sell a majority of the milk and dairy products.
- **Commodities:** Trading of commodities is handled solely by men

IMPROVED PRACTICES

According to key informants, there has been an increase in vaccinations, artificial insemination,

eggs, milk and dairy products.

and machines for preparing butter. A new system for feeding hens has been introduced.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES

Just over half (54%) of rural households rely on agriculture as their major source of income and a quarter of households in rural areas derive income from trade and services. Around a third of households in both urban and rural areas earn some income through non-farm related labor.

Key Income Sources

Poor: Labor sales, Crop sales, livestock sales
Better-off: Crop sales, livestock sales, trading

ACCESS TO CREDIT

Access for men and women

Men who need to borrow money or buy goods on credit in Baghlan mainly go to their family or neighbours.

According to interviewees, More than half of the women in Baghlan are able to borrow money or buy goods on credit from family and neighbours.

Microfinance Institutions

The implementing partners of MISFA present in the province are BRAC and FMFB:

All Programs	Ag and Livestock Programs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active clients: 12,181 • Active borrowers: 7,185 • # of loans disbursed: 53,474 • Amount of loans disbursed: 42,459,079 Afs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active clients: 755 • Active borrowers: 786 • # of loans disbursed: 2,408 • Amount of loans disbursed: 1,810,793 Afs.

LAND TENURE

In 2007, 72% of the households in Baghlan owned land or farmed land based on renting, sharecropping or mortgaging arrangements. According to our interviews,

both commercial and subsistence farmers primarily own their land (sole ownership) or use it for sharecropping. Interviewees claim that livestock producers in the province are both sedentary and nomadic. Their main challenges with regards to access to land are the conversion of pastures into cropland.

IRRIGATION

In 2007, on average 62% of households in Baghlan had access to irrigated land, whereas three quarters of rural households and 14% of urban households had access to rain fed land. According to our interviews in the province, most of the farmers use irrigated land and the proportion has increased somewhat over the past three years.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS

In 2007, the transport infrastructure in Baghlan was reasonably well developed, with 42% of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons, and 32% able to take car traffic in some seasons. However, in a quarter of the province there were no roads at all. Interviewed stakeholders in Baghlan perceive the quality of roads linking rural areas to markets as having deteriorated in the past 3 years. The main challenges identified by interviewees were lack/poor quality roads, distance from markets, lack of transportation, and seasonal flooding.

SOCIAL FACTORS

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Poverty rate: 18.0%
Per Capita monthly total consumption: 1,827 Afs.

LITERACY

Literacy rate: 24.2%
In 2007, the Kuchi population in the province has particularly low levels of literacy with just 6.6% of men and 0.3% of women able to read and write.

FOOD SECURITY

Problem satisfying food need of the household during the year (households %):	Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never: 28%, • Rarely (1-3 times): 20%, • Sometimes (3-6 times): 48%, • Often (few times a month): 2%, • Mostly (happens a lot): 1% 	10.7%

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Child labour: 19.2%
School Enrolment: 62.3%

In 2007, amongst the Kuchi population, one in four boys (26%) and one in eight girls (16%) attended school in Baghlan during the winter months, however none attended during the summer.

SECURITY

Level of security in Baghlan: ↗
According to interviews in the province, the security situation has improved somewhat over the past year and most roads that link rural areas with the provincial markets are perceived as safe.

STATUS OF WOMEN *Female literacy rate:* 9.9%; *Female share in active population:* 41.8%

Access to markets / female mobility: According to our interviews, around half of the women in the provincial center go to the local bazaar to buy goods; Nearly all are accompanied by a male relative when they do so; Very few go to sell items. Women outside of the provincial center are less likely to go to the local bazaar to buy goods and more likely to be accompanied by a male relative.