

Provincial profile for Ghazni

1. Natural resources

Ghazni province has *no significant natural resources*. There are some minerals in Zarkashan mountain in Nowar district. There are some natural wild almond forests on an area of 2900 Ha in Qarabagh and Jaghatu districts. The total area for summer and winter pastures is 412380 Ha. There are three man made water reservoirs (Sarda, Zanakhan and Band Sultan) and two natural water bodies (Nowar and Muqar).

There are no major developments going on in Ghazni possibly due to the worsening security situation. Before war agriculture and livestock were the main sectors providing livelihoods to majority of the population but these sectors were badly hit by war as the majority of populations migrated to neighboring countries. There are some efforts for the recovery of agriculture and livestock sectors by different organization but due to persistent drought after 1999 and security situation these efforts are not fully successful.

2. Human Resources

According to a rough estimate 25-30% of people *migrated* during the war to Iran and Pakistan. Almost half of the migrated people have returned. The economically stable people who had well settled businesses in Pakistan and Iran preferred to stay over there while those who had no jobs returned to Afghanistan on the hope that they will get better jobs.

There are *no significant internal movements*. Previously people used to go to other areas of the country during winter to escape harsh winter and find jobs. The *Kochis* from Qandahar stay in the province from April to September mostly in Nowar district. Rich people prefer to send their children to school while the poor people send their children to religious schools or engage them in unskilled labour.

3. Agriculture

According to the figure provided by department of Agriculture in Ghazni approximately 139,391 Ha of land is irrigated and 8,600 Ha is rainfed. But the total area on which crops were grown during 2005/06 is 118,001 Ha and the decrease in total cultivated area is due to the drought during the past six years.

The major sources of irrigation are Karezes, springs, wells and tube wells. It is note worthy over here that the majority of the irrigation in the district is done through extensive network of Karezes. There are 70 canals, 1,280 Karezes and 223 springs in Ghazni province. Since 1995 people have started installing private tube wells (*Chaimeq*) for irrigation which has led to the going down of water table and drying of the Karezes as most of the people have dug wells to install pumps near intakes of Karezes. Most of the Karezes have collapsed during war and no proper repair as it is time consuming and need lot of financial resources.

Grapes, plum, apple and almonds are exported through local marketing channels. Onions, potatoes and leek are sold in Kabul and also exported to Pakistan and other countries.

3.2 Crops

According to the figures provided by Directorate of Agriculture in Ghazni, out of the total arable land *cereal crops* are grown on 59% of the area followed by *orchards* (23% of the area) while *fruits and vegetables* are grown on 11% and 7 % area respectively. On rainfed land only wheat and chick pea are grown while on irrigated land wheat, barley, maize, beans, chick pea, potato, tomato, onion, cucumbers, pumpkins, water melons, melons, leek, pepper and other are grown. *Fodder crops* like maize, barley, barseem and clover are also grown for livestock consumption.

Grapes, apricot, apples, plum, almond and walnut are the main *fruits* grown in the province. Apricots are sold fresh in Ghazni market. Some of the grapes are sold fresh but majority is dried for raisin production which is mainly exported. Very few apples are sold locally, the majority is exported to Pakistan and India and the outside traders buy the apples at the farm from owner. Packing, transportation and marketing is done by outside traders. Dry plum is sold to local market and mostly exported to India and Pakistan. Mostly women are involved in harvesting, peeling and drying of plums which almost takes three months.

Table 1 Land area (jeribs) under different corps in Ghazni province during 2005/2006

	Crops	Area of crops (jeribs)
vegetables	Potato	30108
	Onion	3923
	Leek	2602
	Tomato	1115
	Vine crops	724
	others	1010
	Total	39482
Fruits	Grapes	61103
	Apple	29201
	Apricot	13017
	Plum	12470
	Almond	11327
	others	8102
	Total	135220
Cereals	wheat	276987
	Barley	17464
	Maize	11847
	others	42234
	Total	348532
Fodder	Barseem	53416
	Clover	10015
	others	3338
	Total	66769

In the last 20-30 years there is a *shift from growing cereal crops to vegetables and orchards growing*. Now the improved seed, fertilizer and farm implements are available to majority of the farmers through different organizations. Only 10 % of the land is ploughed through oxen and majority of the farmers use tractors.

In the last six years *drought* has significantly reduced the per hectare production of different crops. According to the statistics provided by Directorate of Agriculture, there is a 60% decrease in vegetable, cereals crops and fodder production while the production of apples, apricots and almond has gone down by 80%. The production of the grapes and plum is has decreased by 50% and 40% respectively.

3.3 Livestock

Ghazni was *famous for quality meat and cream production before the war*. Due to war and drought the livestock population has decreased by 70%. Now most of the livestock is found in Ajeristan, Malistan,

Jaghathu, Rashidan, Jaghori, Qarabagh, wajhaz, Gelan and Muqar districts. People prefer to keep more sheep and fewer goats. Almost every household in the province keep one cow for household consumption.

The main livestock *by-products* sold are Qurooth, butter and chaka which are sold locally. Moreover sale of live animals and hides and skins is also prevalent. Gang livestock market in Ghanzi operates throughout week for sale of livestock and livestock products.

Although the livestock population has gone down significantly but the access to services like Artificial insemination, improved breeds, vaccination has improved during the last five years.

3.4 Fisheries

Fish are found in man made and natural water reservoirs on a smaller scale. Some fish is also found in Karezes.

3.5 Land tenure

According to a rough estimate half of the people own land while the landless people are working on other people lands or engaged in off-farm income. Big farmers (having more than 20 jeribs of land) are 5%, 60 % medium farmer (having land between 5-20 jeribs) and remaining 35 % farmers are small farmers (having land less than 5 jeribs).

Different types of sharecropping systems are prevalent but 1/3rd and 1/4th systems are common. In both systems all the inputs are provided by owner and only labour by tenant. The tenant receives 1/3rd and 1/4th of the production respectively and the rest of the production goes to the owner of the land. The sharecropping system is on decline due to land fragmentation, non-availability of sharecropper as other off-farm incomes are becoming attractive and risk free.

Lease is not very common. For example in Khawaj Omri district the lease for one jerib of fertile irrigated piece of land is 840 Kg of wheat/year. Mortgage is very common as the people are poor and mortgage out land to arrange money for occasions like weeding and other unforeseen circumstances.

3.6 Agriculture support services and input supplies

Twelve different departments of Agriculture and Livestock Directorate in Ghazni are mainly responsible for providing different agriculture support services as shown in the following table.

Table 2: Different departments in Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock and extent of services provided in the Ghazni province

	Name of the department	Extent of services
1	Forests and Horticulture	2 persons each for Qarabagh and Jaghatu districts
2	Agriculture Cooperatives	1 person each for Qarabagh and Khawja Omri districts
3	Land Management	1 person each for all districts
4	Plant Protection	1 person each for Malistan and Jaghori districts
5	Bee keeping	Only in centre
6	Range land Management	Only in centre
7	Agriculture Mechanization	Only in centre
8	Agriculture Planning	Only in centre
9	Agriculture Extension	1 person each for all districts and in some larger districts 2 persons.
10	Animal Extension	Only in centre
11	Artificial Insemination	1 person each for centre, Ghaghori, Qarabagh & Muqar districts.
12	Veterinary	1 person each for Centre, Muqar, Andar and Qarabagh districts

FAO, DACAAR, KoAR, ADA, HAFO and ICARDA are supporting Directorate of agriculture and farmers in agriculture sector.

3.7 Agriculture structures

There are 29 cooperatives having 2,800 members in it in 8 districts (Jaghathu, Malistan, Qarabagh, Khwaja Omri, Dehyak, Andah, Jagori and Provincial centre). The agricultural inputs are distributed by Directorate of Agriculture and other Organizations among the cooperative members on preferential basis. There are 2-3 seed growers association in Qarabagh, provincial centre and Khawaja Omri. There are three farmer (172 members) and three artesian (90 members) associations formed by UNIDO project in Khwaja Omri district.

3.8 Agriculture related business

Trade in *apples, grapes, plum, walnut, apricot and almond* is very common in Ghanzi. Almost half of the shops on the main road in provincial centre are dealing in dry fruits business. Onion and potato are sold to Kabul markets and sometimes to Pakistan. The *sale of live animals and livestock products* is done in Gang market in provincial centre throughout week. Trade in *poplar wood* for construction is very common in provincial centre, Qarabagh, Khawaja Omri and Jaghori.

4. Other business activities

Black smith (Ahangar) and *copper smith (mesgery)* were common professions in Ghazni but now these are on decline due to import of cheap products in the markets. Ghazni was famous for making products from sheep skin called *postendozi* but this profession is also on decline. The trade in wool has decreased significantly as compared to past.

Mosaic and *brick making* is common due to increased construction activities in and around city. *Wool* products like *namad* and *Glem* making is common in Ghaghori and Malistan. A small factory in Roza area of Ghazni is producing pressure cookers which are sold to the market at the rate of 500 Pak. Rs./piece. A significant proportion of the population is involved in off-farm activities like shop-keeping, Govt/NGO services and unskilled labour

5. Security

Security is good in Hazara dominated districts (Jhaghori, Malistan, Ajeristan, Nowar and Jaghtu) and some what good in Khwaja omri district but in Pashtun dominated areas it is not good. The recent attack on CARE and DACAAR staff and offices speaks for itself of the deteriorating security situation.

6. Physical infrastructure

The main *road* from Kabul to Qandahar bisects Ghanzi province and three districts centres (Qarabagh, Moqor and Gelan) and the provincial centre lies on the main road. Majority of the roads linking provincial centre and districts centres are dirt roads. According to a rough estimate, almost 85% of the villages are accessible by road.

In Malistan, Nowar, Ghagori power is provided by *micro hydro powers* installed through NSP. In provincial centre the power is provided by private generator owned by Engineer Qayyum at the rate of AFS. 45/KiloWatt. In some villages people have installed generator either through NSP programme or privately for power supply.

Potable water is mainly from wells installed mostly by DACAAR and Swedish Committee. But according to a recent water analysis by DACAAR the water in Khawaja Omri and Ghazni city contain high quantity of arsenic making it unsuitable for drinking. There are two hospitals in provincial centre and one hospital in Ghaghori, Qarabagh and Ander districts and clinics in almost every district providing basic medical facilities.

7. Institutional constraints

Security is the main issue hindering development and business activities in the province. *Lack of human and financial capacity in government departments* is a major obstacle in their performance. Moreover, the

lack of skilled labour locally is also a major constraint. The lack of awareness among local population and misconceptions about NGOs is also a big hurdle in development process.

8. Credit

Informal credit is common mostly in rural areas. Recently the microfinance programme is implemented by BRAC, DACAAR and CHF in provincial centre and Khawaja Omri district.

9. Stakeholders

The following table gives a brief description of each stakeholder

Stakeholders	Rank	Comments
National authorities	3	Have limited presence in the centre only.
Regional and local	3	Although structures are there but not functional due to security situation and lack of financial and human resources
Regional and local organizations	3	Very few such organization exists except emerging NSP shuras, Cooperative and some VOs and farmer organizations. But all these organization are in infancy and are not much active.
NGOs/CBOs	2	Presence of relatively few NGOs compared to other provinces. Most of the NGO work only in a few safe districts but recently they have down scaled their activities due to security.
Religious organizations	1	The people in rural areas are very religious. The presence of Taliban is very strong in Pastun dominated areas.
Traditional organizations	2	<i>Jirga</i> is one of the most strongest and oldest institution in the area
Commercial/business groups	3	No significant commercial and business groups.
Groups defined by beneficiary status, social analysis, rural appraisals or gender analysis	3	Due to prevalent security situation the rights and voices of such groups are not heard
The press	3	Press is almost non-existent in the province
Donors	2	The role of donors is also limited because of security situation implementation of proposed activities is not easy.

10. Summary of key potential development opportunities

Following key potential development opportunities are recommended for the province and districts.

1. Strengthening the professions which are on decline i.e. blacksmith, copper smith and making products from sheep skin.
2. Ghazni being a history city (also called city of shrines) with lot of historic monuments. These historic sites are in urgent need for preservation which can boost the tourism potential in future.
3. Promoting wool products (Glem and Namad) in Hazara dominated districts.
4. Introduce water harvesting techniques which can address the water shortage problem in summer and also lining of Karezes to reduce loss of water.
5. Further promoting perennial horticulture and vegetable production
6. Processing and packaging of fruits and vegetables. Lot of surplus fruits and vegetable available in growing season. So there is huge demand for fruits and vegetables processing factories (like making of Jam, pickles etc).
7. Technology for plum peeling which takes 3 months now mainly done by women.
8. Cold storage for fruits and vegetables
9. The livestock sector need revitalization especially in Hazara dominated areas which are more dependent on livestock. The processing of animal products should also be streamlined.
10. Smaller enterprises like cooker making factory in Roza area should be further explored and developed.

Annex 1: Provincial Data Base (Ghazni)

Programmes/projects		Agency/donor	Approx Value US\$m	Comment, significance
No	Completed			
1	Construction of green houses in Khwaja Omri, Qarabagh and Centre	ICARDA	No Known	Established green houses in three districts
2	Water supply	World bank administered by MRDD.	Not known	360 wells constructed in provincial centre, Jaghathu, Moqar and Qarabagh districts
	Ongoing/planned			
1	Water supply	UNICEF, DACAAR, SCA, CoAR	Not known	Working in different districts for water and sanitation programmes.
2	Agriculture and livestock	DACAAR, HAFO, CoAR, FAO	Not know	Working in different districts.
3	Health and education	CARE, SCA, CoAR	Not know	Working mostly at provincial centre
4	NSP	DACAAR and CARE	Not known	DACAR is working in one district and CARE in five districts
5	Microfinance	BRAC , CHF, DACAAR	Not know	BRAC and CHF working in provincial centre and DACAR in Khawja Omri.
6.	Emergency irrigation rehabilitation project	World Bank	Not known	Irrigation structure repair.
7	Assistance in reducing the humanitarian deficits of war affected rural communities to increase agricultural productivity and promotion of auxiliary income generating activities.	DACAAR/UNIDO	4,00000 USD	Only in Khwaja Omri district.
8	Roads repair and construction	UNOPS	Not known	One new road from Malistan to Ajeristan (18 Km) under construction and two others 20 and 25 Km long under repair

Annex 2: Working methodology used:

DACAAR has long presence in Ghanzi province working in Khawaji Omri district. The check list of information needed was sent to DACAAR Field Management Office (FMO) in Ghazni on 5 September and Senior Social Organiser and Agronomist were requested to collect information based on their experience in the area and also from other sources. The Senior Advisor for the project visited Ghazni on 25 September to check on the quality of data collected and collect additional information for the province. Senior Advisor met with officials of Directorate of Agriculture, MRRD and Senior DACAAR staff to collect and cross check the collected information.

Security was a real concern during the field visit and moving around freely in the provincial centre. Discussion with different authorities revealed that very less documented information is available about the province. Due to time limitation and month of Ramazan it was not always possible to meet a substantial number of key informants.

Annex 4: List of persons/agencies visited/contacted

Name	Position/agency	Topic discussed	Date
Chaman Milati	Deputy Director Agriculture and Livestock Department	Agriculture, Livestock and irrigation	25 September 2006
Muhammad Kabir	Administrator, MRRD	MRRD activities & other developments in the province	25 September 2006
Muhammad Juma	Engineer MRRD	On going and proposed projects	25 September 2006
Shah Mardan	Field Manager DACAAR	Agriculture, Livestock and other information about Ghazni	25 September 2006