Located in southern Afghanistan, Kandahar borders Zabul in the East, Uruzgan in the North, Helmand in the West and an international border with Balochistan province of Pakistan in the South.

Kandahar is flat and arid with three rivers flowing through it, namely, the Arghandab, Tarnak and Arghistan with tributaries to Helmand River and irrigating agricultural land located along the River. Kandahar city, Afghanistan’s second largest, sits on a plateau at 1,000 meters above sea level.

Kandahar is famous for producing grapes (Kishmish), pomegranates, palms and apricots.
ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES
Less than half (38%) of rural households rely on agriculture as their major source of revenue; a little more than one quarter of rural households (29%) derives some income from trade and services. More than a third of households in rural areas (37%) and more than one quarter of households in urban areas (27%) earn income through nonfarm related labor. Livestock accounts for income for less than one tenth of rural households (8%).

ACCESS TO CREDIT
Access for men and women
Men who need to borrow money or buy goods on credit in Herat mainly go to their family or neighbours as well as shopkeepers or suppliers that sell items on credit. They do seek loans from banks, but to a lesser extent as well as from MFIs and private money lenders. More than half of interviewees in Kandahar said women are not able to borrow money or buy goods on credit.

LAND TENURE
In 2007, 29% of the households in Kandahar owned land or farmed land based on renting, sharecropping or mortgaging arrangements. According to our interviews, commercial farmers primarily lease their land, while subsistence farmers mainly have shared ownership of their land. Interviewees claim that livestock producers in the province are mainly sedentary and nomadic.

IRRIGATION
On average 46% of households in the province have access to irrigated land. The figure is much higher in the urban areas where all households (100%) have access to irrigated land as opposed to only 45% of rural households whereas one sixth of rural households (17%) have access to rainfed land. Interviewees claim that most farmers in Kandahar cultivate irrigated land. The proportion has increased somewhat over the past 3 years.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS
The transport infrastructure in Kandahar is well developed, with 76.8% of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons, and 19.1% able to take car traffic in some seasons. However, in a very small area of the province (3.3%) there are no roads at all. Interviewed stakeholders felt that the roads had improved somewhat. Despite these improvements, the main challenges identified in access to markets were insecurity/conflict and lack of roads / poor quality roads.

SOCIAL FACTORS
POVERTY AND INEQUALITY
Poverty rate: 22.8%
Per capita monthly total consumption: 2,066 Afs

LITERACY
Literacy rate: 7.3%
The Kuchi population in the province has particularly low levels of literacy with just 3% of men and no women (0%) able to read and write.

SECURITY
Level of security in Kandahar:
According to interviews in the province, the security situation has remained stable over the past year. They also perceive most roads that link rural areas with the provincial markets to be somewhat unsafe.

FOOD SECURITY
Problem satisfying food need of the household during the year (households %):
- Never: 38%
- Rarely (1-3 times): 22%
- Sometimes (3-6 times): 33%
- Often (few times a month): 4%
- Mostly (happens a lot): 3%

Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day): 29.5%

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT
Child labour: 0.7%
School Enrolment: 10.8%
Amongst the Kuchi population, none of the boys or girls attend school in either the winter or the summer months in Kandahar province.

STATUS OF WOMEN
Female literacy rate: 1.3%; Female share in active population: 15.3%
Access to markets / female mobility: According to our interviews, few women in the provincial centre go to the local bazaar to buy goods. Most that do are accompanied by a male relative when they do so. Very few go to sell items. Women outside of the provincial centre are less likely to go to the local bazaar to buy goods and more likely to be accompanied by a male relative.