



Province: Nangarhar
Governor: Gul Agha Shirzai
Provincial Police Chief: Colonel Sayed Ghaffar

Population Estimate: 1,261,900	Urban: 169,000	Rural: 1,092,900
	Male: 632,212 (50.1%)	Female: 629,688 (49.9%)
Area in Square Kilometers	7,727	
Names of Districts:	Achin, Batikot, Behsood, Chaparhar, Dahbala, Darah Noor, Dur Baba, Goshta, Hesarak, Jalalabad (Provincial Center), Kama, Khogiani, Kuz Konar, Kot, Lalpoor, Muhamand Dara, Nazyan, Pachar Wagan, Rodat, Shairzad, Shinwar, Surkhrod	
Composition of Population:	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Pashtun: 90.1%, Tajik: 1.6%, Arab: 2.6%, Pashai: 3.6% Other: 2.1%	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Primarily Sunni Muslims <u>Total # Mosques:</u> 3,834
		<u>Tribal Groups:</u> Pashtun: Shinwar, Mohmand, Pashai, Khogiani, Ghilzai, Kuchi, Others ¹
Occupation of Population	Major: Agriculture, animal husbandry, day labor, opium (poppy) trade	Minor: Forestry, nurseries, smuggling
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	Wheat, maize, corn, rice, cotton, vegetables, sugar cane	Cows, goats, sheep, donkeys, etc.
Literacy Rate Total:	27% ²	
Number of Educational Institutions: 293	<u>Schools:</u> Primary: 217 Secondary: 40	<u>Colleges/Universities:</u> 2 (Jalalabad University—key agricultural college funded by USAID & USDA; Nangarhar University) ³
Number of Security Incidents, Jan-Jun 2007: 40 ⁴	January: 6 February: 7	March: 3 April: 8 May: 3 June: 13
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation:	2006: 4,872 ha	2007: 18,872 ha Percent Change: + 285%
NGOs Active in Province:	USAID, PRT, DAI, MADERA, AREA, ISRA, FAO, BRAC, FINCA, ICARDA, RI, DACAAR, GAA, SC, WB, GTZ	
<u>Provincial Aid Projects:</u> ⁵ Total Projects: 2,083 Planned Cost: \$19,786,867 Total Spent: \$10,623,456	Total PRT Projects: 48 Planned Cost: \$4,574,750 Total Spent: \$1,579,025	Other Aid Projects: 2,035 Planned Cost: \$15,212,117 Total Spent: \$9,044,431
Transportation:	<u>Primary Roads:</u> Kabul-Jalalabad-Torkham; Mehtarlam to Kabul-Jalalabad Highway; Marawara-Jalalabad; a number of tracks between districts	
Electricity:	Little-to-no access to electricity outside of Jalalabad	<u>Estimated Population w/access:</u> 47%
Health Facilities:	<u>Hospitals:</u> 9	<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 229
Primary Sources of/ Availability of Potable Water:	Karezes, shallow wells, rivers, springs	48.6%

¹ Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies (RRERS), *Provincial Profile for Nangarhar*, (2006), at <http://www.mrrd.gov.af/ENGLISH/GRM/Nangarhar%20Provincial%20Profile.pdf>, accessed on 5 October 2007.

² UNDP Afghanistan, *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*

³ Ibid

⁴ BBC Monitoring. Limited to incidents reported in the press. Not inclusive of all incidents occurring, but provides an excellent cross-section of events.

⁵ ISAF and CJTF 82, *Afghanistan Comprehensive Stability Project*, June 2007.

Rivers:	Kabul and Kunar Rivers
Significant Topographic Features:	Spin Ghar and Safed Mountain Ranges along the southern border; belt of forests along souther mountain ranges and in Dara-I-Nur District in north; Khyber Pass in Mahmud Dara District in east; rangeland, bare soil, and rocky outcrop dominate throughout center of the province

Political Landscape:

Political Leaders:

Governor Gul Agha Shirzai:



Shirzai has a history of opposition to the Taliban. Prior to the rise of the Taliban, Shirzai was Governor of Kandahar. In 1994, the Taliban forced him into exile in Quetta, Pakistan. Shortly after the Northern Alliance seized Kabul in 2001, Shirzai led a force of 200 to 1,000 men from Quetta into Afghanistan. Once his forces regained control of Kandahar he reclaimed the office of Governor and was eventually reappointed officially. Shirzai supported the interim government of Hamid Karzai and supported him in the election for president. In 2003 Shirzai was removed as Governor of Kandahar and transferred to Kabul where he was named Minister of Urban Development, a job he served in for only a short time before being returned to Kandahar for another brief term as Governor. However, after significant public dissatisfaction with crime levels and increasing kidnappings in Kandahar into early 2004, Karzai decided to transfer Shirzai yet again, and appointed him Governor of Nangarhar. Shirzai has emerged as a powerful political player in the current Afghan state. He is considered pro-American, religiously conservative, and a charismatic leader. He also maintains an advantage over some of his political opponents through his marriage to one of President Karzai’s close female relatives (a sister or a cousin). Shirzai’s leadership style, however, has been called into question despite his frequent protestations declaring how committed he is to defeating the Taliban and supporting the national government. Many within the population consider him corrupt and vindictive.⁶

Deputy Governor, Mohammad Alim Ishaqzai:

Appointed deputy governor in May 2006. Former Provincial Director of Finance and Income Tax, Ishaqzai was likely responsible for assisting Governor Shirzai’s efforts to collect additional, local taxes on traffic crossing into Nangarhar from Pakistan through the Torkham border gate.

Chief of Police, Colonel Sayed Ghaffar:

Appointed chief of police in January 2007. He previously served as Senior Advisor to the Minister of Interior in Kabul.

National Directorate of Security (NDS) Chief, Abdul Zabur Khani:



NDS Chief in November 2005.

Hajji Din Mohammad:



Former Governor of Nangarhar, and current Governor of Kabul. An influential warlord from Nangarhar, he and his family are involved in Nangarhar politics, local poppy production, and have ties with Hezb-e Islami Khalis (HiK). Two of his brothers are now deceased, including former US-ally Abdul Haq; both brothers were well known mujahideen commanders during the

⁶ Global Security, *Gul Agha Sherzai*, January 2002 and [slideshow](#)

Soviet invasion. Din Mohammad was a former mujahideen fighter with HiK and became Governor of Nangarhar after the assassination of his brother Hajji Abdul Qadir.⁷ Governor Sherzai is renting Hajji Din Mohammad's home in Jalalabad.



Abdul Haq

Deceased. Mujahideen commander from the war against the Soviet Union; executed by the Taliban in October 2001.

Member of Afghan Parliament, Founder of NSMA, Pir Sayed Ishaq Gailani:



Descendant of a powerful family of Sufi religious leaders and head of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan Party and head of the National Solidarity Movement of Afghanistan (NSMA). Pir Gailani remains active, and spends most of his time at his residence in Kabul with his son Hamid Gailani. Particularly influential among the Sufi and Khugiani. Mr. Sayed Ishaq Gailani is the son of Mr. Sayed Ali Gailani (Shir Aqa Jan) and the grandson of Dear Naqib Sahib. Mr. Gailani was born in

1954 in Shahr e Naw, Kabul. He grew up under the supervision of his sufi father in Kabul. He completed his primary and secondary education in Masod e Sad School and completed high school education at Nadiria High School. Mr. Gailani excelled in school and received a scholarship to study Political Science in Tehran University of Iran. Upon his graduation from Tehran University, he completed his LLB. Mr. Gailani belongs to a highly respected spiritual Sufi family in Afghanistan.

Hajji Hazrat Ali:



He is the I Corps AMF commander.⁸ “A Pashai tribal leader from the Dara-i-Nur District...which he effectively controls.”⁹ He took control of Jalalabad from the Taliban with help of American air support. Hazrat Ali essentially led the failed effort to capture Osama bin Laden in Tora Bora. It is suspected that he took cash from the US military and then allowed bin Laden and his cohorts to escape. He remains an influential political player

in Nangarhar.

Hajji Zaher:



Border Brigade commander in Nangarhar Province. Hajji Zaher controls most of the border access points between Nangarhar and Pakistan. He has large, wealthy residences in Jalalabad City, as well as a very large compound in western Nangarhar province. Hajji Zahir is known to be corrupt. However, despite his corrupt activities, he has enjoyed some political protection from his uncle, and current governor of Kabul Province, Hajji Din Mohammad. Zaher is also known to maintain ties to Jan Daud, a brutal warlord in the Kunar Province.¹⁰

⁷ See <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2004/08/e5259719-c880-4bc2-9e16-31b8abc87c89.html>, <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/afghanistan0703/7.htm>, and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcfour/documentaries/features/afghan-warrior.shtml>.

⁸ US Department of State Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, Jim Hunter, 2004.

⁹ Susan Glasser, “U.S. Backing Helps Warlord Solidify Power,” *Washington Post*, February 18, 2002: p. A1.

¹⁰ US Department of State Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, Jim Hunter, 2004.

Anwarul Haq Mujahid:

Son of Yunus Khalis, the deceased founder and former leader of HiK. Media reports indicate that since the death of his father, Anwarul Haq Mujahid has formed a new militant party known as the Tora Bora Military Front. The party supposedly is intent on attacking US-led forces and driving them out. It remains unclear how much in terms of membership and resources the new organization is pulling from the HiK.

Wolesi Jirga Members:¹¹



Mawlawi Ataullah Ludin:

Ethnic Pashtun; associated with Hezb-e Islami. Justice committee. He has an MA in Islamic Studies. In 2003 he was Head of the Nangarhar courts and in 2004-2005 he was a prosecutor in Kabul. He was also a senior HIG commander and a former district governor. He is from Karma district.



Safia Sidiqi:

Female Pashtun; associated with Qanuni. National Economy committee. She has a masters degree. She was a Loya Jirga delegate, a provincial official in Women's Affairs, and a refugee in Canada. Shortly before the elections she was a victim of an attack.



Pir Bakhsh:

Momand Pashtun; possibly associated with Qanuni. Counter-narcotics committee. He is a high school graduate. In 2002 he was director of Nangarhar Department of Transportation; in 2003 he was the NDS Chief of Nangarhar.



Sayed Hashem Fawlad:

Ethnic Pashtun; associated with Afghan Mellat. National Economy committee. High school graduate. He is a writer and journalist.



Mirwais Yasini:

Ethnic Pashtun; associated with NIFA. Deputy on the Counter-narcotics committee. He has an MA in Theology and Law. He is the former Deputy Minister of Counter-narcotics.



Abdul Majid:

Ethnic Pashtun; politically associated with Pir Gailani. National Economy committee. He has a university education and is a local militia commander.



Doctor Sayed Ghulam Farooq Merani:

Ethnic Pashtun; associated with Afghan Mellat. Petitions committee. He is a medical doctor and Afghan Mellat activist.



Fariadoon Momand:

Momand Pashtun; possibly associated with Qanuni. Armed Services committee. He is a high school graduate and comes from an old tribal family. He is a former provincial director of

¹¹ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

Tribes and Frontiers and was associated with the PDPA.



Babrak Shinwari:

Shinwari Pashtun. Budget Committee. He has a university degree. He is the former PDPA Minister for Border Affairs. He is part of a strong tribal network. He is considered a secular Pashtun nationalist.



Hajji Azizurrahman:

Ethnic Pashtun; associated with Hezb-e Islami. Communications committee. He is a high school graduate and local militia commander.



Noorziya Atmar:

Female Pashtun. Women's committee. Vocal and active contributor to debate in Parliament. She comes from a politically active family.



Saima Khugyani:

Female Pashtun. Chair of the Women's committee. She is the head of a 16-member Independent Parliamentarian Association of Afghan Women. Her platform is based on women's education, health care, and basic services. She is a former teacher and was a delegate to the Constitutional Loya Jirga.



Aryan Yoon:

Female Pashtun; associated with Afghan Mellat. International Relations committee. She has a BA from Kabul University, Faculty of Languages. She is a former university lecturer and UNAMA gender employee. She is from Khewa district and is married to Ismail Yoon, a Pashtun author and nationalist cultural figure. She was a delegate to the Constitutional Loya Jirga and a refugee in Pakistan during the Taliban era.



Hajji Hazrat Ali:

See entry above.

Meshrano Jirga Members:¹²

No ***Hajji Mohammad Isa Khan Shinwari:***

Photo Ethnic Pashtun; associated with Hamnazar. Petitions committee.

No ***Kubra Aman:***

Photo Female Pashtun; associated with Hamnazar. Petitions committee. Has university education and is a former teacher.

No ***Doctor Burhannuddin Shinwari:***


















Photo Ethnic Pashtun; associated with Hamnazar. Second Deputy Speaker. He is a medical doctor. He is the former dean of Afghan Refugees University in Peshawar, Pakistan.

No ***Doctor Shah Bibi:***

Photo Associated with Hamnazar. Public Welfare committee. He is a medical doctor.

¹² US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

Provincial Council Members:

	Mawlawi Abdul Aziz Khairkhwah		Hajji Guldad Khan
	Allahdad		Hajji Fazal Rahim
	Hajji Najibullah Mahboob		Fazlhadi Muslimyar
	Mohammad Tahir Omar		Ustad Ghafoori
	Muhtarama		Al-hai Mohammad Hassan
	Qazi Khan Mohammad		Dr. Mohammad Kabir
	Dr. Esmatullah		Mudeer Adbul Latif
	Habiba Kakar Qazizada		Zeba
	Hajji Mulla Jan Shinwari		

Primary Political Parties:

Hezb-e Islami Khalis (HiK):

Originally a mujahideen group which broke away from Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami under the leadership of Yunus Khalis. HiK was dominant in Nangarhar. Khalis died in 2005 or 2006, resulting in an internal power struggle for control of the party between Khalis' son Anwarul Haq Mujahid and Hajji Din Mohammad. It appears that Mohammad was successful in consolidating his control over much of the party. Recent and active political players in Nangarhar have connections to HiK. Led by Hajji Din Mohammad, current governor of Kabul.

Hezb-e Afghan Millat (Afghan Nation Party):

National Pashtun party, led by Finance Minister Dr. Anwar Ul-haq Ahadi. Over 10,000 members in Nangarhar. Platform based on unity, security, and creating an Islamic version of democracy. Maintains a muted, ethno-nationalist rhetoric.

Nazhat-e Hambastagi Milli (National Solidarity Movement/National Islamic Front):

Led by Pir Ishaq Gailani. Party promotes national unity, security and a national development plan. Tied to the Maraboutic Sufi order; has considerable influence over the Khugiani tribesmen.

Hezb-e Afghanistan Naween (New Afghanistan Party/Qanuni):

Led by Mohammad Yunus Qanuni. Part of a political alliance called Jabahai Tafahim Millie or National Understanding Front. Qanuni was the primary contender against Karzai for the presidency. He is a Tajik who has been a mujahideen, spokesman for Ahmed Shah Masoud, and Minister of Interior and Education.

He was elected to parliament in 2005 and was chosen to lead the Wolesi Jirga. Support for him and his party may be a political counter-weight to Karzai.

Tora Bora Nizami Mahaz (Tora Bora Military Front):

Led by Anwarul Haq Mujahid. The faction broke away from HiK following the death of Khalis and the power struggle between Mujahid and Din Mohammad. The Tora Bora Military Front has openly declared its opposition to US-led forces. According to the group's spokesman Qari Sajjad has indicated that the group is under the operational control of Taliban. For now it appears that the party's activities are limited to Nangarhar and the surrounding area.

Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HiG):

Mujahideen party active since the Soviet invasion; led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Actively opposed to US-led and Afghan national forces. Politically active in Sherzad, Surk Rod and Pachir Wa districts. Hekmatyar is a Kharoti Ghilzai and, therefore, less influential than the much more respected and powerful Khugianis, such as Hajji Din Mohammad and Anwarul Haq Mohammad.¹³

Public Attitudes toward Political/Religious Leaders:

According to survey data, shuras and elders are considered the most respected leaders by 66% percent of the population. Religious leaders, such as mullahs and mawlawis, are considered the most respected by 10% of the population.¹⁴

Human Terrain:

Shinwari:

Located primarily in Chaparhar, Dih Bala, Achin, Shinwar, Nazyan, and Dur Baba districts. Feud with Khogiani. History of opposing the British and the central government in Kabul. A major thorn in the side of Amir Abdur Rahman Khan during the 1880s. They are classified as Eastern, Sarbani Pashtuns.

Khogiani:

Located primarily in Sherzad, Khogiani, and Pachir Wa Agam districts. Feud with Shinwari and Ghilzai. History of opposing the British. They are classified as Karlanri and Hill Tribe Pashtuns.

Mohmand:

Located primarily in Rodat, Kot, Bati Kot, Goshta, Lal Pur, Kama, and Muhmand Dara districts. Classified as Eastern or Sarbani Pashtun.

Pashai:

Located primarily in Dara-I Nur and Kuz Kunar districts. There is very little useful data on the Pashai, outside of some intense research on their language. They inhabit Nuristan, parts of Laghman, and northern Nangarhar, seemingly between the Pashtun and Nuristanis. Many consider themselves Pashtun. They speak a Dardic language referred to as Pashai. Often they are associated with or referred to as Kohistani.

Ghilzai:

Located primarily in Hisarak district.

Security Landscape:

General Level of Security:

¹³ Chris Mason, *Tora Bora Nizami Mahaz*.

¹⁴ Altai Consulting, *CEE: Cognitive Effects Evaluation*, 9 March 2007.

The overall security level in the province is considered relatively good by the residents surveyed.¹⁵ According to BBC Monitoring there were 40 security incidents in Nangarhar from January to June 2007 with approximately 60 killed, 70 wounded, 41 captured/kidnapped, for a total of more than 170 casualties. BBC also reported 5 suicide attacks in the province over the same period. The majority of security incidents tend to occur in the Khogiani tribal areas. The districts of primary concern are:¹⁶

Khogiani	Chaparhar
Pachir Wa Agam	Achin
Dur Baba	Lal Pur

Spin Gar and Kot Districts are not recognized by the UN, but shadow governments are supported by the provincial government.

Public attitudes toward security:

96% of the public consider the security situation good¹⁷

Public attitudes toward FF:

89% of the population agree or somewhat agree that coalition and foreign forces bring peace and security to the province; the same percentage indicate that they feel very safe or safe in the presence of coalition and foreign forces.¹⁸

Nangarhar is the largest recipient of aid money, which likely contributes to the positive attitude toward coalition and foreign forces.¹⁹



¹⁵ Altai Consulting.

¹⁶ Jalalabad PRT Report, 18 July 2005

¹⁷ Nangarhar Altai Opinion Info, 2007.

¹⁸ Altai Consulting.

¹⁹ Nangarhar Altai Opinon Info, 2007.