

**Province: Ghor**  
**Governor: Baz Mohammad Ahmadi**  
**Deputy Governor: Keramuddin Razazada**  
**Provincial Police Chief: General Shah Jahan Naserullah Noori**  
**PRT Leadership: Lithuania**

Population Estimate: <sup>47</sup>	Urban: 5,600	Rural: 580,300
Area in Square Kilometers: 36,479 sq. km	Capital: Chaghcharan	
Names of Districts:	Chaghcharan, Shahrak, Tulak, Saghar, Taywara, Pasaband, Lal Wa Sarjantal, Dowlat Yar, Chaharsada, Dowlina	
Composition of Population: <sup>48</sup>	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Tajik 58% Hazara 39% Pashtun 3% Uzbek <1%	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Sunni 70% Shi'a 30%
Occupation of Population	Major: Agriculture	Minor: Livestock, Handicraft
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	Opium, Wheat, Barley, Sesame, Pea	Cattle, Sheep, Goat, Horse, Donkey, Camel, Poultry
Literacy Rate Total: <sup>49</sup> 15%		
Number of Educational Institutions: <sup>50</sup>	<u>Schools:</u> Primary: 293 Secondary: 58 High School: 31 Religious: 8 Girls: 56 With Buildings: 56	<u>Colleges/Universities:</u> None
Number of Security Incidents, 2007: 3	January: 0 February: 0 March: 0 April: 0	May: 2 June: 0 July: 0 August: 0
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation: <sup>51</sup>	<u>2006:</u> 4,679 ha	<u>2007:</u> 1,503 ha
NGOs Active in Province:	WV, Afghan Aid, CHA, MADERA, Global Partners, DACAAR, Shura-e-Ulaema, WFP, UNHCR, RAMP, NSP, Christian Aid, ARCS, ICRC, MDM, OMAR, IAM, Lipco, Shohada	
<u>PRT Activity</u>	Total PRT Projects: Complete: 130 / \$3,410,633 Ongoing: 107 / \$12,126,880 Planned: 1 / \$105,000 Total: 238 / \$15,642,513	Other Aid Projects: Planned Cost: Total Spent:
Per Capita: \$27		
Transportation: <sup>52</sup>	General Condition: The Province is dominated by multitude of poorly maintained "Track Roads" which leaves many villages inaccessible during winter months. Many villages have no road access and the local populace utilizes overland animal transport to	

<sup>47</sup> Central Statistics Office Afghanistan, *2005-2006 Population Statistics*, available from <http://www.cso-af.net/cso/index.php?page=1&language=en> (accessed May 7, 2008).

<sup>48</sup> Afghan Information Management Services, Ghor District Profiles, available from <http://www.aims.org.af/ssroots.aspx?seckeyt=365> (accessed July 17, 2008)

<sup>49</sup> *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 164.

<sup>50</sup> AISA, *Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies Report*, Ghor Provincial Profile. Available from <http://www.aisa.org.af/Downloads/ProvincialProfiles/Ghor.pdf> (accessed July 17, 2008)

<sup>51</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2007*, 153.

	access surrounding villages. All Weather Primary: None All Weather Secondary: Shindand-Tulak-Shahrak-Chaghcharan Road All Weather Tertiary: Shinkot-Taiwar Road, Shinkot-Dwlaina Road, Shinkot-Baaghuran Road, Shinkot-Khambullagh Road	
Electricity:	Current: Diesel Generators only Future: Hydroelectric potential with Morghab, Hirayrud, and Farahrud Rivers <sup>53</sup>	<u>Estimated Population w/access:</u> <sup>54</sup> 6%
Health Facilities: <sup>55</sup>	<u>Hospitals:</u> 1 in Chaghcharan	<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 7
Primary Sources of Drinking Water: <sup>56</sup>	Piped water or Public tap/standpipe or tube well/borehole or protected spring/well/rainwater	Availability of Potable Water: 16 %
Rivers: Morghab, Hirayrud, and Farahrud Rivers flow from Ghor Province into Badghis, Herat, and Farah Provinces respectively. Rivers in Ghor represent potential source of hydro-electric power and canal fed irrigation.		
Significant Topographic Features	The province is extremely mountainous and characterized by small, isolated villages which are generally inaccessible during winter months.	
Significant Historical Features	The Minaret of Jam: the second tallest minaret in the world of 65 meters. It is located in a remote valley on the banks of the Hari Rud River. It was constructed in the 1190s during the reign of Ghiyasuddin Ghor and remains a national treasure.	

### **Political Landscape:**

#### ***Political Leaders:***

#### **Governor:**

#### **Baz Mohammad Ahmadi**



Governor Ahmadi was born in Kishm District of Badakhshan Province. He is of Tajik ethnicity. He earned a B.A. from Kabul University in Agriculture. He was a military commander in Badakhshan from 1979-2001. From 2001 – 2005, Ahmadi was the Commander of Afghan Militia Forces Corps IV in Herat, replacing Ismail Khan. From 2005-2007, he was leader of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration. In the summer of 2007, he was appointed Governor of Ghor. Governor Ahmadi is affiliated with Shuria-e Nazar Party and allied with Fahim Khan.

#### **Deputy Governor:**

#### **Keramuddin Razaada**

<sup>52</sup> UNHCR Sub-Office Herat District Profiles: Chaghcharan, Lal Wa Sarjantal, Pasaband. 2002. Available at: [http://www.aims.org.af/afg/dist\\_profiles/unhcr\\_district\\_profiles/western/ghor/chaghcharan.pdf](http://www.aims.org.af/afg/dist_profiles/unhcr_district_profiles/western/ghor/chaghcharan.pdf) (accessed July 30, 2008)

<sup>53</sup> AISA, Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies Report, Ghor Provincial Profile. Available from <http://www.aisa.org.af/Downloads/ProvincialProfiles/Ghor.pdf> (accessed July 17, 2008)

<sup>54</sup> MRRD, NRVA Survey Results: Access To Electricity Report. Available at <http://www.mrrd.gov.af/aird/Access%20to%20Electricity%20report.pdf> (accessed July 21, 2008)

<sup>55</sup> USAID Ghor Health Facilities Map April 2003, available at <http://www.emro.who.int/eha/maps/Ghor.pdf> (accessed July 17, 2008)

<sup>56</sup> *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 166. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/nationalreports/asiathepacific/afghanistan/nhdr2007.pdf> (accessed July 21, 2008)

**Chief of Police:  
General Shah Jahan Naserullah Noori**



**Wolesi Jirga Members:** <sup>57</sup>



Doctor Mohammad Ibrahim Malikzada



Mawlawi Din Mohammad Azami



Abdul Qadir Imami Ghuri



Qurban



Ruqia Nayel



Doctor Nosh Afarin Shahab Dawlati

**Meshrano Jirga Members:** <sup>58</sup>



Hayatullah

Permanent Meshrano Jirga Member



Sayyad Mohammad Muhsin

Transitional Meshrano Jirga Member

**Provincial Council Members:** <sup>59</sup>

<sup>57</sup> Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, available from <http://www.results.jemb.org/leadingCandidates.asp?ElectionID=1&ProvinceID=31> (accessed July 21, 2008)

<sup>58</sup> Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, available from <http://www.results.jemb.org/resultsMJ.asp?list=mj&offset=45> (accessed May 18, 2008).

<sup>59</sup> Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, available from <http://www.results.jemb.org/leadingCandidates.asp?ElectionID=2&pcv=2&ProvinceID=31&ShowFemaleOnly=False> (accessed July 21, 2008)



Laal Bahadur Frutan



Sayyad Sardar Samimi



Haji Mawlawi Mohammad Adeem



Doctor Abdul Haq Rasooli



Mohammad Dawood Ghafari



Hussain Bakhsh Safari



Mohammad Sharif



Doctor Aqila Sharaf



Fazal Ahmad Kohistani



Gul Paida Manish



Haji Abdul Ghafoor



Qamar Gul Amir Gul



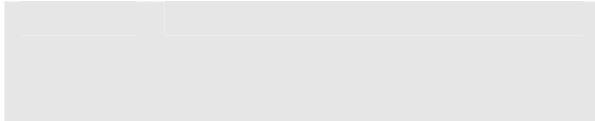
Ahmad Khan



Anjila Sharifi



Noor Ahmad Joya



**Primary Political Parties:**

**Shuria-e Nazar:**

Baz Mohammad Ahmadi, the Governor of Ghor, is a member of Shuria-e Nazar. The party was founded by Ahmed Shah Masood, a Tajik, in an effort to offset the power of the Pashtun ethnic majority. The Shuria-e-Nezar group was a key player in the Afghan Civil war that followed the Anti-Soviet Jihad. After the Taliban were removed from power in 2001, this same group re-emerged in Afghan politics and has continued to seek power for their former Northern Alliance patrons. Many Afghan observers believe that groups like Shuria-e Nazar serve to alienate the Pashtun majority and inadvertently undermine U.S. anti-terror and counterinsurgency efforts in Afghanistan.<sup>60</sup>

**Jamiat-e Islami (Islamic Society of Afghanistan):**

Led by Burhanuddin Rabbani. It is predominately a Tajik political party which was active in the anti-Soviet jihad and a major political player in the Northern Alliance. Today Rabbani supports Karzai. Yunus Qanuni's Hezb-e Afghanistan Naween broke away from Jamiat-e Islami. At least two of Ghor's District Heads are members of Jamiat-e Islami, including the head of the capital district of Chaghcharan.

<sup>60</sup> Afghan Meli Tolena: US and the Warlords in Afghanistan. Available at: <http://afghanmelitolena.com/html/warlords.html> (accessed July 28, 2008)

### **Hezb-e Wahdat (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan):**



Hazara umbrella organization led by Mohammad Karim Khalili (pictured left). Hezb-e Wahdat is an offshoot and successor to a party of the same name that was established in 1990 when several Iran-based, Shi'a jihadi parties merged. Khalili was chosen to lead the party after the Taliban killed Abdul Ali Mazari, the head of original Wahdat party, in 1995. Khalili's drift toward an alliance with the Taliban is generally blamed for his party's factional disintegration. Khalili has served as second vice president in President Karzai's government and wields particular influence among Hazaras in central Afghanistan. His party's success or failure might be viewed as an indicator of the degree to which Hazaras believe the current government reflects their aspirations.<sup>61</sup>

### **Islamic Unity Party of the People of Afghanistan (Hizb-e Wahdat-e Islami-ye Mardum-e Afghanistan):**



Led by Mohammad Mohaqeq, The Islamic Unity Party of the People of Afghanistan, like Khalili's party, is an offshoot of the original Wahdat entity formed with the merger of Iran-based, Shi'a Jihadi groups. Mohaqeq was Wahdat's main representative in northern Afghanistan once the Taliban gained control of Kabul in 1996, becoming an ally of the United Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (aka the Northern Alliance). In the post-Bonn Interim Administration, Mohaqeq served as a Karzai deputy and minister of planning; allegedly fired in March 2004.<sup>62</sup> Mohaqeq placed third in the presidential ballot with 11.7 percent of the vote. Mohaqeq's party is expected to participate in a powerful opposition bloc in the National Assembly.<sup>63</sup>

### **Harakat-e Islami (NUF):**

A Shia party originally led by Muhammad Asif Muhsini, the Harakat-e Islami fought the Soviets with support from Tehran. Known for having many Hazara as well as non-Hazara members, this Shiite party refused to join the Hazara coalition Hizb-i Wahdat in the ensuing civil war. Since 2005 they have been led by Hojjatolislam Seyyed Muhammad Ali Jawed, a minister in Karzai's first cabinet.

### **Human Terrain:**

**Tajiks:** Tajiks are the second largest ethnic group in Afghanistan after the Pashtuns and comprise between 25-30% of the population. The Tajiks in Afghanistan tend to live in settled communities as opposed to a nomadic lifestyle. Pashtuns refer to them as *Farsiwan*, or speakers of Farsi, the lingua franca of Afghanistan (50% of Afghanistan speaks Farsi, as opposed to only 35% for Pashtu). Between the Tajiks and Pashtuns there has been significant animosity in recent years. Forming the backbone of the Northern Alliance, they also have a base in the nation of Tajikistan. They held out fiercely against the Taliban. Most Tajik are Sunni Muslims, but a few are Shi'a. Tajiks made up the majority of the Northern Alliance, both in terms of membership and leadership. Tribal ties have largely broken down among the Tajiks; therefore, social organization is defined primarily by geography. Despite their lack of cohesiveness the Tajiks are often brought together due to the perceived common threat posed by the Pashtuns.<sup>64</sup> In the Province of Ghor, Tajiks are them majority ethnic group and present throughout the province.

**Aimak:** The Aimak are a Persian-speaking nomadic or semi-nomadic tribe of mixed Iranian and Mongolian descent who inhabit the north and north-west highlands of Afghanistan and the Khorasan Province of Iran.<sup>65</sup> They are closely related to the Hazara, and to some degree the Tajiks. They live in western Hazarajat in the provinces of Ghor, Farah, Herat, Badghis, Faryab, Jowzjan and Sar-e Pol. The term Aimak derives from the Mongolian term for tribe (Aimag). They were originally known as *chahar* or (the four) Eimaks, because there were four principal tribes: the Taimani (the predominating element in the population of Ghor), the Ferozkhoi, the Temuri, and the

<sup>61</sup> Afghanistan Votes: Political Parties, Major Parties. Available at: <http://www.azadiradio.org/en/specials/elections/parties.asp> (accessed July 24, 2008)

<sup>62</sup> Abdullah Qazi, "Biography of Mohammad Mohaqeq," *Afghanistan Online*, <http://www.afghan-web.com/bios/today/mohaqiq.html> (accessed October 15, 2008).

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> 2007 CIA World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html> (accessed June 28, 2007).

<sup>65</sup> Janata, A. "AYMĀQ". *Encyclopædia Iranica*. Ed. Ehsan Yarshater. United States: Columbia University.

Jamshidi. Estimates of the Aimak population vary between 250,000 and 2 million. They are Sunni Muslims, in contrast to the Hazara, who are Shias. The best estimates of the Aimak population in Afghanistan hover around 1-2 million. The tally is made difficult since, as a consequence of centuries of oppression of the Hazara people in Afghanistan, some Aimagh Hazaras are classified by the state as Tajik, or Persian instead of Aimaks.

**-Chanar:** The Chanar Aimaqs are believed to be of Turco-Mongolian origin. This assessment is based on their physical appearance and the style of dwellings they utilize which closely resemble Mongolian style yurts. The Chanar speak a Persian dialect (Dari) unlike their Turco-Mongolian kinsmen in other areas.<sup>66</sup> The Chanar Aimak of predominate all but the eastern districts Ghor Province.

**Hazara:** The Hazara, a distinct ethnic and religious group within the population of Afghanistan; they have often been the target of discriminatory and violent repression. Most likely descended from the Mongols of Genghis Khan, (there is also a strong argument that they are of Eastern Turkic origin), the Hazara are noticeably different in physical appearance when compared to the Pashtun majority. In terms of religion, the vast majority of the Hazara are of the Shia Muslim faith, again in contrast to the Pashtuns who are Sunni Muslim. Due to these differences, “the Hazara have experienced discrimination at the hands of the Pashtun-dominated government throughout the history of modern Afghanistan.”<sup>67</sup> As the traditional underclass of Afghan society, Hazara were exploited and made to work as servants and laborers. As a result, there tends to be an anti-government and anti-Pashtun bias among the Hazara. In present day Afghanistan, the Hazara are divided geographically into two main groups: the Hazarajat Hazara and those who live outside the Hazarajat. The Hazarajat is located in the Hindu Kush Mountains in central Afghanistan and is “centered on Bamiyan province and include[s] areas of Ghor, Uruzgan, Wardak, and Ghazni province.”<sup>68</sup> The Hazara living outside of the Hazarajat live in and around Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e Sharif and Samangan province. Due to atrocities committed against them by the Taliban, the Hazara by and large are opposed to the Taliban. In August 1998, the Taliban massacred approximately 4,000 Hazara in Mazara-e Sharif; this massacre was followed by another the next month when the Taliban killed another 500 Hazara in Bamiyan. The Hezb-e Wahdat (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan) is an umbrella political organization which commands the support of large numbers of Hazara. The Hazara are also often at odds with the Kuchi population within the Hazarajat. The Hazara are the majority ethnic group in the eastern districts of Ghor Province.

**Pasthun:** Pashtuns are few in number in Ghor province.

**Uzbek:** The Uzbek people of Afghanistan are found north of the Hindu Kush in Afghan Turkistan and are even fewer in number than the Pashtun in Ghor Province. The Uzbek of Afghanistan number approximately 1.6 million but comprise only a small percentage of the population of Ghor Province. The presence of the Uzbek people in this region was facilitated by the frequent invasion of Central Asian Turks throughout history. Uzbeks are the most populous Turkish group in Afghanistan and are recognizable by their broad, flat faces and lighter skin when compared to the Pashtuns. They are historically farmers and stockmen, breeding the karakul sheep and an excellent type of Turkman horse. Their kinsmen reside in the central Asian republic of Uzbekistan. Many Uzbeks fled into northern Afghanistan in the 1920s to escape the suppression when the Soviet government was trying to stamp out their customs and Moslem religion. The Uzbek of Ghor are present in the far north east of the Province in Chahar Sadeh District.<sup>69</sup>

### **History:**

The Ghurid State was led by Muhammad of Ghor from 1148- 1206 AD. The Ghurids founded the second Islamic state stretching from modern Iran, all of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and parts of India from 1148 – 1215 AD. They borrowed language, identity, arts and literature from Persian culture. Their native province, between Herat and Ghazni was named Ghur.

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<sup>66</sup> "Afghanistan". Encyclopedia Britannica. Ultimate Reference Suite. Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica, 2008.

<sup>67</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

<sup>68</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

<sup>69</sup> The Afghan Network: Ethnic Group Profiles, The Turkish Groups of Afghanistan. Available at: <http://www.afghan-network.net/Ethnic-Groups/uzbeks-turkmen.html> (accessed July 24, 2008)

## **Security Landscape:**

### **General Level of Security:**

The Taliban have spent the last three years patiently establishing their support and intelligence network throughout northwest Afghanistan. Recently Afghan and ISAF forces have mounted a series of attacks against their command and control structure. Scarcity of food and other resources is common in Ghor and could push impoverished elements of the population into the arms of the Taliban over time.

Due to its proximity to areas producing large amounts of opium, Ghor Province is a potential transit area for illegal narcotics. However, its rugged terrain and undeveloped infrastructure make it a less likely avenue of transport. Opium originating in Helmand and bound for Central Asia may become more common in the province as interdiction efforts are increased in Farah and Herat Provinces.

The likely increase in narcotics trafficking in Ghor may result in a corresponding increase in highway crimes and Warlordism in the province as independently armed militias seek to collect road taxes from smugglers transiting the area.

In Lal Wa Sarjantal District, continuous tension exists between the Khalili and Akbary Hazara rival political factions which mutually dominate the district and vie for expanded influence at the cost of their political rivals.

In the Dawalatyar area, a long standing dispute between the Khana and Bybuga tribes periodically serves as a source of local instability and conflict. The dispute has primarily manifested itself as a result of competition over land use and access to other scarce resources.

### **Recent Security Chronology:**

- **September 2008:** Afghan police shot and killed two Taliban commanders in the Pasaband district. Mullah Sher Aqa and Mullah Ahmadullah were identified as the slain commanders. They led a band of armed fighters who infiltrated into Ghor from neighboring Helmand's Baghran district, according to Col. Abdul Rauf Ahmadi, police spokesman for the western zone.
- **July 2008:** Famine threatens thousands in Ghor province. It is estimated that 80 percent of the population is going hungry, and many people have been forced to eat grass to survive. Twenty percent of children die before their fifth birthday in Ghor, and about half of the population lives on less than \$1 a day.
- **May 2008:** The Taliban shadow governor for Ghor province, Mullah Jalil, and Mullah Abdul Saraj, who was appointed as police chief for the province by the Taliban leadership, were killed along with four other insurgents during an Afghan security operation. One ISAF soldier and two civilians were killed and one ISAF soldier, 10 policemen and seven civilians were wounded in a violent demonstration at Chaghcharan Airfield.
- **February 2008:** Protestors and loyalists of Mawen Ahmad, a former local commander in western Ghor province, released local authorities they had taken hostage in a violent demonstration in Ghor province.
- **November 2007:** At least four policemen were killed when they were attacked by militants.
- **September 2007:** Three tons of narcotics seized following a clash with smugglers. Brig. Gen. Shah Jahan Noori, police chief of the province stated the huge quantity of narcotics was being smuggled in a truck which was intercepted at a police check-point in the Shahrak area. One policeman was killed while the truck was seized with three smugglers. Noori said 3,240 kilograms of raw opium were recovered from the vehicle. Some small arms were also seized.
- **November 9, 2006:** Provincial Coordination Centre (PCC) by Lithuanian led PRT.

### **Taliban/Insurgent Commander in Ghor:**

**Maulvi Abdul Rahman:** This Taliban-era governor of Ghor province now heads the Taliban's operations in northwestern Afghanistan. He coordinated two large-scale assaults on two districts in neighboring Badghis province in the summer of 2007 resulting in numerous casualties.

**Mawen Ahmad-** Mawen is a former judge and local commander in Ghor province.<sup>70</sup> He later aligned himself with the Taliban and became a leading commander in Ghor province<sup>71</sup>. Following his arrest by local authorities in February, 2008, the Taliban launched a large scale attack against police forces in the Dawlatyar district and successfully captured Khan Muhammad Qanoni (district chief) and Muhammad Nabi (district police chief) along with dozens of policemen as hostages.

**DISTRICTS:** Chaghcharan, Shahrak, Tulak, Saghar, Taywara, Pasaband, Lal Wa Sarjantal, Dowlat Yar, Chaharsada, Dowlina

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<sup>70</sup> Protestors Release District Chief, Commander. Available at: <http://www.afgha.com/?q=node/6264> (accessed October, 14 2008)

<sup>71</sup> Taliban spokesman Zabihuallah Mujahid confirmed Mawen as being a Taliban Commander in a statement issued in February 2008. Available at: <http://theunjustmedia.com/Afghanistan/Mujahideen%20operations/March%202008/Mujahideen%20operations%20in%20Afghanistan%2002-03-08.htm> (accessed October, 14, 2008)