

Province: Samangan
Governor: Khairullah Anosh
Deputy Governor: Ghulam Sakhi
Provincial Police Chief: Abdul Razaq Eilkhani
PRT Leadership: Swedish PRT AO



Population Estimate: ¹ 327,700	Urban: 23,400	Rural: 304,300
Population by Gender:	Male: 167,800	Female: 159,900
Area in Square Kilometers: 11,262 (4,348 sq mi)		Capital: Aybak
Names of Districts:	Aybak , Dara-i-Suf, Hazrati Sultan, Khuram Wa Sarbagh, Ruyi Du Ab	
Composition of Population: ²	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Uzbek (30%) Tajik (65%) Pashtuns Hazaras Arabs Tatars	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Sunni Muslims; Shi'a Muslims
Income Generation ³	<u>Major:</u> Agriculture (36%); Livestock (15%); Trade and Services (17%); Non-Farm Labor (28%)	<u>Minor:</u> Manufacture and industry, carpet making, opium
Crops/Farming/ Livestock:	<u>Agriculture:</u> Major: cattle (meat and traction) Secondary: doubled mixed cropping of mainly rice, wheat and cotton in rotation with fodder, legumes, potato and vegetable crops Tertiary: Pistachios Household: vegetables (water melon, carrots, onion, tomatoes, okra). Farm Forestry and cottage fruit production is widely found. ⁴	<u>Livestock:</u> Cattle, Oxen , Horses, Donkey ,Camel, Goats, Sheep, Poultry
Literacy Rate Total: Female literacy rate 5%, Number of illiterate women 75,000 ⁵		

1 Central Statistics Office Afghanistan, 2005-2006 Population Statistics, available from <http://www.cso-af.net/cso/index.php?page=1&language=en> (accessed August 21, 2008).

2 According to UNFPA, Afghanistan has never had a complete census of its population. The last attempt to conduct a national population census was in 1979 and that operation had to be abandoned before enumeration was completed due to the rapidly deteriorating security situation. The census is planned for 2010.

3 Source: NRVA 2005

4 Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies (RRERS), Provincial Profile: SAMANGAN. Afghanistan investment Support Agency, available at <http://www.aisa.org.af/Downloads/ProvincialProfiles/Samangan.pdf>

5 Samangan Key Indicators, UNICEF. Available at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/files/Best_Estimates_Fact_Sheet_-_Samangan.PDF

71,248 students are enrolled in schools which is 1.26% of total number of students in Afghanistan. ⁶				
Number of Educational Institutions: ⁷	<u>Schools:</u> Total: 182 Primary: 137 Lower Secondary: 29 Higher Secondary: 16 Islamic: 3 Tech/Vocational: 1			
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation: ⁸	<u>2006:</u> 1,960ha	<u>2007:</u> Poppy Free	<u>2008:</u> Poppy Free	<u>2009:</u> Poppy Free
NGOs Active in Province: ⁹	ADRA, AMI, PWJ, BRAC Bangladesh, Solidarity, ARMP, Save the Children USA.			
Transportation:	The transport infrastructure in Samangan is not very well developed, with under a third (28.3 %) of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons, and 41.2 % able to take car traffic in some seasons. In 28.4 % of the province there are no roads at all. ¹⁰ Distance from Aybak to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kabul: 312km/195 mi., time: 5 hrs; - Pul-iKhurmi: 82km/51 mi., time: ¾ hr. - Tashkurghan (Khulm): 60 km/38mi., time: ¾ hr.; - Mzari-Sharif: 120 km/76mi, time: 1,5 hr. 			
Electricity: ¹¹	6% of households have access to electricity			
Health Facilities: ¹²	<u>Hospitals:</u> 2 Aybak and Main hospital Center of Dar-i-Souf district		<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> Comprehensive Health Centre: 5 Basic Health Centers:8	
Primary Sources of Drinking Water:	Small rivers; water harvesting schemes		12.2 % of population use safe water source ¹³ (Defined as: Piped water, public tap, public well, protected spring, well, or rain water.)	

⁶ Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ministry of Education: School Survey Summary Report, 2007, available from <http://www.moe.gov.af/> (accessed August 22, 2008)

⁷ Ibid

⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: Afghanistan Survey, February 2009.

⁹ Source: UNAMA. NSP: National Solidarity program

¹⁰ Source: CSO (Analysis by AIRD)

¹¹ MRRD, NRVA Survey Results: Access to Electricity Report, 2005. Available at

<http://www.mrrd.gov.af/aird/Access%20to%20Electricity%20report.pdf> (accessed August 22, 2008)

¹² World Health Organization, http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccs_afg_en.pdf (accessed August 21, 2008)

¹³ Samangan Key Indicators, UNICEF. Available at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/files/Best_Estimates_Fact_Sheet_-_Samangan.PDF

Significant Topographic Features: ¹⁴	Samangan is nearly half mountainous terrain, (58.8% mountainous and 21.4% semi mountainous) with only a small percentage of flat land (-20%).
---	---

Political Landscape:

Political Leaders:

Governor Khairullah Anosh

No
Known
Photo

Khairullah Anosh began his work as the governor of Samangan Province on April 13th. He also promised residents of Samangan at his inaugural ceremony that he won't let anyone to break the law. He said if he doesn't fulfill his promises, he will quit the job. Anosh is the member of *Jumbish-e-Islami* party (Dostum party.) He used to serve as the district governor of Andkhoy district of Faryab province.

(Former) Governor: Qazi Enayatullah Enayat



An Uzbek-Pashtun from Maymana District , Faryab Province (of Uzbek descent with a Pashtun mother), Enayatollah has been reported to have had previous affiliations with HIG. However, despite his rumored past affiliations with HIG, he currently enjoys a close relationship with Karzai and former President Rabbani. President Karzai has given Governor Enayat many opportunities to serve as provincial governor in at least three provinces.

He was on the law faculty at Kabul University, and also served as a judge. From 2006 through 2007, he was Head of the Senior Appointment Panel and appears to want to continue to fulfill this function. Enayatullah is known for his non-biased interaction with various ethnic groups, and attempted to appoint a representative sample of the population to senior provincial government positions while governor in Badghis and Faryab provinces.

Karzai appointed Enayatullah Governor of Faryab from April 2003 through May 2004 and Governor of Badghis from May 2005 through 2006, until he was driven from Badghis by local *Jumbesh-e Melli*-affiliated commanders. He is from a wealthy family, and understands English, Dari and Pashto. Enayatullah worked on the Afghan Supreme Court from 1982-1985, but was arrested and jailed by the Communist government for subversion. After his release 18 months later, Enayatullah fled to Pakistan, where he remained until Karzai asked him to participate in the Grand Loya Jirga in 2002.

Deputy Governor: Ghulam Sakhi

Ghulam Sakhi is a reputed former HIG associate from Baghlan province who reportedly enjoys little support in his current position as Deputy Governor in Samangan. Deputy Governor Sakhi is an ethnic Hazara who is believed to be affiliated with the *Jumbesh-e Melli* political faction, and reviews of his performance have been generally negative by international observers.

Police Chief: Abdul Razaq Eilkhani










Abdul Razaq replaced Provincial Police Chief Ashrafuddin Sharaf . Sharaf had replaced Col. Muhammad Qayum after Qayum was charged with negligence following an attack against Samangan MP Muhammad Hussain Fahimi which left him unconscious. Qayum, who was present during the attack in mid-May 2009, did not intervene.

¹⁴ Source: CSO/UNFPA Socio Economic and Demographic Profile

(Former) Police Chief: Juma Mohammad Adeel

Juma Mohammad Adeel reportedly attended Kabul Military University and served as a teacher after graduation from the University at the Herat Military High School. He has reportedly completed the Interior Ministry's Afghan National Police testing and screening process, and was therefore deemed qualified to serve as police chief. He can understand both Dari and English.

Samangan Provincial Council 2009:

	Dr.Ziauddin Shariati	<i>Jamiat Islami</i> Party (4,625 votes/4.0%)
	Haji Abdul Qayoum Sharwal	Independent (4,379 votes/3.8%)
	Mohammad Asif Azemi	<i>Jamiat Islami</i> Party (4,372 votes/3.8%)
	Said Agha Hussain Hashimi	Islamic Movement of Afghanistan (3,916 votes/3.4%)
	Mohammad Ewaz Beck (Beckzada)	<i>Jamiat Islami</i> Party (3,463 votes/3.0%)
	Ahmad Ali Shah Thamaski	Islamic Unity of the people of Afghanistan Party (3,420 votes/2.9%)
	Dr.Masouma Hassani	Independent (female) (2,397 votes/2.1%)
	Sadat Hamidi	Independent (female) (2,209 votes/1.9%)
	Hanifa Aminpur	Independent (female) (1,671 votes/1.4%)

Meshrano Jirga Members 2005:¹⁵

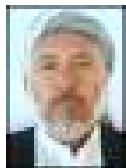
Hajji Faqir Mohammad¹⁶ - Senator Al-Haj Faqeer Mohammed Ahmadi, son of Khan Zada, was born in 1961 in the village of Qara Ghach of Aibak, Samangan to a farming family. In 1968, he was enrolled to the Joyee Zhwandun School in Aibak. In 1980, after completing the twelfth grade, he joined the *mujahideen* resistance. In 1982, he went to Pakistan, where he undertook military and political courses. He returned to Afghanistan in the same year.



After the victory of the mujahideen, Sen. Ahmadi was appointed commander of the 12th Battalion of the 512th Detachment, and later as chief of the 757th Regiment of the 19th Division of Samangan. With the arrival of the Taliban, he went to Pakistan. He then joined the Taliban resistance front in the north of Afghanistan. After the fall of the Taliban and the establishment of an interim administration, Sen. Ahmadi was appointed as an employee by Hairatan Liquid Gas Company of Balkh province, where he worked for three years.

Sen. Ahmadi was indirectly elected to the Meshrano Jirga through the 2005 Provincial Council elections in Samangan. He has traveled to Saudi Arabia via Pakistan for Haj in 1992, and in 2004, he went to Uzbekistan for medical treatment. He speaks Dari, Pashto, Uzbeki, Turkmeni and English. He is a member of the National Movement Party of Afghanistan. He is married and has seven children.

Hajji Raz Mohammad¹⁷ - Senator Haji Raz Muhammad, son of Haji Baz Muhammad, was born in 1955 in the village of Chehar Deh in Darai Suf district of Samangan province. From 1962 to 1974, he completed his primary and secondary education in Chehar Deh High School, followed by religious studies.



Sen. Raz Muhammad visited Pakistan from 1980 to 1990 in an effort to coordinate and strengthen the *mujahideen* resistance movement. In 1992, he went on the Haj pilgrimage. Between 2001 and 2004, he served as a commander of the 571st Division. Between 1997 and 1999, he served as the head of services for the north region for *Hizb Wahdat* and as a coordinator of military forces for *Wahdat* in the north. Sen. Raz Muhammad headed a relief organization called Etifaq and worked for the reconstruction and development of his region. He is still affiliated with *Hizb Wahdat*. Sen. Raz Muhammad was indirectly elected to the Meshrano Jirga in the 2005 provincial council elections in Samangan province. He is married and has eight children.

Wolesi Jirga Members 2005:¹⁸



Dilbar Nazari - Dilbar Nazari is a female candidate and former *Junbesh* party affiliate. An Uzbek, Dilbar has a high school education and teaches high school. She previously worked for Oxfam.

¹⁵ Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, available from <http://www.results.jemb.org/resultsMJ.asp?list=mj&offset=30> (accessed August 16, 2008)

¹⁶ Information obtained from official website for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan website. Accessed Friday 06 June 2008.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, Samangan province; available from http://www.results.jemb.org/assets/pdf/reports/certified_18_samangan_wj_wc_e.pdf (accessed August 18, 2008)



Haji Sultani Ali Sultan- Haji Sultani is a Shi'a Hazara from the Darra Souf district located in southern Samangan. He is affiliated with the *Hezb-e-Whadat* party and served as a political affairs chief for *Whadat* during the Soviet-Afghan war and during the 1990s.















Mawlawi Mohammad Islam Mohammadi- Mohammad Islam (Tajik) is affiliated with *Jamiat (Rabbani)* and *Qanooni (New Afghanistan Party)*. Mohammad Islam is a former commander. He gained notoriety as the governor of Bamyan under the Taliban (who allowed the Taliban to destroy the Bamiyan Buddahs). He served briefly as the Minister of Justice in the Mujahedin government. During the Soviet-Afghan war, he served as an *Harekat-e Engelab-e Islami* commander. He is still black-listed under the 1257 Sanctions List.



Ahmad Khan Samangani- Ahmad Khan is an Uzbek and former *Jumbesh* party affiliate. He has secondary school education and is a former commander (19th Div, 8th Corps); former deputy governor.

Provincial Council Members 2005: ¹⁹

		مدار خيښ مي عن دم حم Mohammad Naeem Shaikhzada
		ناخ سا مډا Almas Khan
		ني دلا جارس ي جاح Haji Sirajuddeen
		دم حم ري ش الم ي جاح Haji Mullah Sher Mohammad
		م کاح ی حل ادب ع مود خم Makhdoom Abdul Hai Hakem
		دل ادب ع ی جاح Haji Abdullah

¹⁹ Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, Samangan province; available from <http://www.results.jemb.org/leadingCandidates.asp?ElectionID=2&pcv=2&ProvinceID=18> (accessed August 18, 2008)



اليس Suhailah



ىدارم قويدص Sediqa Muradi



هيقدر Roqia

Primary Political Parties:

Jumbish-i-Milli Islami Afghanistan (Islamic Movement of Afghanistan): General Abdul Rashid Dostum controls a political party called *Jumbish-i-Milli Islami* (National Islamic Movement) which is a core of *Jabhe-ye-Motahed-e-Milli*. He claims to have a strong support in up to eight provinces in the north of the country, including Samanagn province, predominantly populated by ethnic Uzbeks. Dostum's major power base is in Uzbek enclaves in the northern provinces of Jowzjan, Balkh, Faryab, and Samangan. Dostum's headquarters is located in Jowzjan's capital, Shiberghan. In the past, Dostum held various official positions (deputy defense minister, a special adviser on security and military affairs, President Karzai's representative in the north) until the relations between President Karzi and General Dostum deteriorated.

Jabhe-ye-Motahed-e-Milli (the United National Front):The largest opposition block built by General Dostum and aimed against President Karzai. Burhanuddin Rabbani and the late Ahmad Shah Massoud's closest advisers joined Dostum in his demands to change the presidential system into parliamentary, to negotiate with armed groups and to recognize the Durand line. On August 27 of 2008 the Front in a statement urged the neighboring countries, members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, and members of NATO alliance to hold a crisis meeting on Afghanistan.

Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan): *Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan* began as a Shi'a umbrella party led by Abdul Ali Mazari. Abdul Ali Mazari died under mysterious circumstances while in custody of the Taliban. During the Soviet invasion the party received support from Iran. The party "remains the primary political force among the Hazara."²⁰ During the period of Taliban rule, the party held on to the Hazarajat against the attempted blockade by the Taliban. It is currently led by Mohammad Karim Khalili, who is currently the Second Vice President to Hamid Karzai. For a time Haji Mohammad Mohaqeq was the military leader of the party under the political leadership of Khalili. Mohaqeq and Khalili had a falling out, however, over Mohaqeq's decision to run for president without the official approval of the party. Subsequently, Mohaqeq split away and formed his own party, *Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Mardom-e Afghanistan*.²¹ The original Wahdat party has begun to lose influence and support among the Hazara, in part because of the pull of Mohaqeq's new party and likely because Khalili's position as Second Vice President distracts from his efforts to look after the needs of the Hazara.²²

²⁰ US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

²¹ Institute for War and Peace Reporting, at http://iwpr.net/index.php?apc_state+hen-sabrina%20saqeb&s=o&o=afghan_elect_2005_profiles.html, accessed on 26 September 2007.

²² Global Security, *Karim Khalili*, at <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/afghanistan/khalili.htm>, accessed on 26 September 2007.

Jamiat-e Islami (Islamic Society of Afghanistan):

Led by Bahadruddin Rabbani, *Jamiat-e-Islami* became the dominant political resistance party in northeastern Afghanistan. In 1980, Jamiat was the second most popular resistance front and enjoyed strong support from the Tajik communities of Badakhshan, the Panjshir Valley and Herat Province in the west.²³ Ahmad Massoud, Ismail Khan, Mullah Naqibullah and Zabibullah,²⁴ all influential Jamiat military commanders, would help galvanize *Jamiat* into one of the most formidable resistance movements of the Soviet-Afghan war. The failure of the Soviet Army to pacify the Panjshir Valley despite seven massive military offensives against the region between 1980 and 1984 solidified Ahmad Shah as a legendary commander and helped preserve popular support for Jamiat throughout the region. In general, Jamiat is considered to be a moderate Islamist movement that drew recruits from those educated in government schools (both religious and secular) and among the *ulema* (in the north) and the naqshbandi Sufi order found throughout the north. Although multiple ethnic groups including Pashtuns formed comprised Jamiat, it is most commonly referred to be dominated by Tajiks from the northeast.

Supervisory Council of the North (SCN):

In 1984, top resistance commanders operating the northern provinces of Takhar, Badakhshan, Balkh and Kunduz formed a council under the leadership of Ahmad Shah Massoud.²⁵ The Supervisory Council of the North became an integrated military unit comprised of both political and security components and posed the greatest threat to the communist occupation of Afghanistan in the north. Although many of the SCN leaders were affiliates of Rabbani's *Jamiat-e-Islami*, the SCN established deep ties with local communities and ran its affairs independently from the *Jamiat* leadership based in Pakistan.²⁶ Many former SCN commanders and fighters continue to exert influence and power at various levels throughout the Northern provinces.

Shuria-e Nazar:

The party was founded by Ahmed Shah Masood in an effort to offset the power of Pashtun ethnic majority in Afghanistan. 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.

Human Terrain:

Uzbeks: Although primarily inhabiting the North of Afghanistan, Uzbeks can be found all over the country. At present, Uzbeks in Afghanistan number just under three million, making up approximately nine percent of the country. They are concentrated in Samangan, Balkh, Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul, Takhar, Kunduz, and Faryab provinces. The most famous Uzbek in the country is undoubtedly the warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, a colorful character who has fought on most sides in the last thirty years. After the Taliban took control of his home base of Mazar-i Sharif he fled to Turkey, but has since returned to Afghanistan, and is once again debatably the most powerful man in Northern Afghanistan. Uzbeks speak Uzbek, a Turkic language, although many, especially outside of their core areas in Northern Afghanistan, speak Dari and other languages.

²³ Olivier Roy, *Islam and Resistance in Afghanistan*, (NY: Cambridge University Press, 1990), 127.

²⁴ Zabibullah was based in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif and was responsible for the area from Faryab Province to Kunduz Province. He was killed in 1984. He was succeeded by a less charismatic and less ideological commander, Mawalwi Alam, who never achieved as high of a status as Zabibullah.

²⁵ Neamatollah Nojumi, *The Rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan: Mass Mobilization, Civil War and the Future of the Region*, (NY: Palgrave, 2002), 92-93.

²⁶ Ibid.

Tajiks:²⁷ 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.²⁸

Hazara: The Hazara, a distinct ethnic and religious group within the population of Afghanistan, 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 Shi'a 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."²⁹ 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 around Bamiyan province and include[s] areas of Ghowr, Uruzgan, Wardak, and Ghazni province."³⁰ 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, Wardak and Ghazni. [Hazara Genealogy \(PDF\)](#)

Tatars:³¹ The Tatars, a group of Turkic people most of them live in Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation, around the Volga River in Russia. Large ethnic Diasporas are Central Asian and Caucasus of the former Soviet Union, Turkey and Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, many of the Tatars settled after either trying to escape the Russians, or as traders. Majority are Sunni Muslims.

Security Landscape:

General Level of Security:

The security situation in the province is stable. The region, a home of the Northern Alliance, with little Pashtu population, has opposed the Taliban in the past and communities continue to resist Taliban infiltration. In May 2010, the Taliban Shadow Governor for Samangan, Mullah Gulistan, also known as

²⁷ Table on Tajik tribal genealogy is available at our site: <http://www.nps.edu/programs/CCS/Docs/Tribal%20Trees/Tajik.pdf>

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

²⁹ US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ See the table on Tatar tribal genealogy at <http://www.nps.edu/Programs/CCS/Docs/Tribal%20Trees/Tatar.pdf>

“Akhundak” and “Shamsur Rahman,” was captured during a police operation.³² He is allegedly linked to the Haqqani Network and has carried out attacks in Ghazni province before being appointed to Samangan. While operating in Samangan, Mullah Gulistan orchestrated the attack that killed the Dehna Ghori district mayor and his son.³³ The small but present Taliban cadres in Samangan are mainly operating within the provincial capital of Aymak. These groups occasionally launch small scale attacks, such as the police ambush north of the city on July 8, 2009 and a suicide attack in Aymak that left one person injured on April 13, 2009.³⁴

The larger threat to the province comes from natural disasters which is chiefly a spell of floods and landslides caused by heavy rains and droughts. In late May nearly 200 families were displaced in the Hazrat Sultan district. The locals are vulnerable to these floods occurring during spring months which destroy homes and causes humanitarian problems for population and authorities. According to the Afghanistan National Disasters Management Authority, in 2007, flash floods wiped out hundreds of homes and killed approximately 400 people.

Another great challenge for the province is extreme hunger, unemployment and extreme poverty. Despite generally high level of poverty in the country, Samangan province is among top most impoverished regions. According to Ghulam Sakhi, the former deputy of Samangan province, five thousand families have no food and need urgent help.³⁵ Inability of the government to solve these socio-economic problems undermines the government’s credibility which eventually may cause pro-Taliban sentiments among locals.

SAMANGAN DISTRICT MAP



³² Bill Roggio, “Afghan forces capture northern shadow governor,” *Long War Journal*, May 20, 2010. http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2010/05/afghan_forces_captur_1.php

³³ Khalil Fitri, “Talibans governor for Samangan captured,” *Pajhwok Afghan News*, May 20, 2010. <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=94561>

³⁴ “Suicide attack rocks N Afghan province,” *Xinhua*, April 13, 2009. <http://www.globaltimes.cn/www/english/military/2009-05/425890.html>

³⁵ “Afghan Man Dies of Hunger Along With his Wife,” May 22, 2008, Available at www.rawa.org/temp/runews/2008/05/22/a-man-died-of-hunger-along-with-his-wife_9476.phtml

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE MAP

