

## 1. PROVINCIAL PROFILE



Source: UNDSS Provincial Assessment provided by UNAMA

### 1.1. General Information

#### A. Geography

Sar-e-Pul province is situated in northern of the Afghanistan and bordering Jawzjan Province in the North, Balkh Province in the North-East, Samangan Province in the South-East, Bamyan and Ghor Provinces in the South and Faryab Province in the West. It is a mountainous province especially in its southern part. The province covers an area of 16360 km<sup>2</sup>. Three quarters (75%) of the province is mountainous or semi mountainous terrain while one-seventh (14%) of the area is made up of flat land, as the following table shows:

Topography type					
Flat	Mountainous	Semi Mountainous	Semi Flat	Not Reported	TOTAL
14.2%	14.2%	60.8%	21.3%	2.5%	1.1%

Source: CSO/UNFPA Socio Economic and Demographic Profile

The province is divided into 7 Districts. The provincial capital is Sar-i-Pul centre which has a population of about 115463 inhabitants.

#### B. Demography and Population

Sar-e-Pul has a total population of 442261. There are 73266 households in the province and households on average have 7 members. The following table shows the population by district.

Population by Districts			
District	Number of males	Number of females	Total population
Sar-i-Pul	59390	56073	115463
Sozme Qala	18051	17942	36993
Sayad	24624	22712	47336
Kohistanat	36912	35125	72037
Balkhab	22654	21387	44041

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<b>Sangcharak</b>	44287	43383	87670
<b>Gosfandi</b>	19859	19862	39721
<b>Total</b>	225777	216484	442261

**Source: CSO/UNFPA Socio Economic and Demographic Profile**

Around three quarters (74%) of the population of Sar-e-Pul lives in rural districts while one quarter (26%) lives in urban areas. Around 51% of the population is male and 49% is female. The major ethnic groups living in Sar-e-Pul province are Uzbek, Pashtoon, Hazara followed by Arab and Tajik, the major tribe is Uzbek in all districts. Dari is the most dominant language in the province. It is spoken by about 258000 people (56%) and 525 villages (63%). The second most frequent language is Uzbeki, spoken in 149 villages representing 19% of the population.

Sar-e-Pul province also has a population of Kuchis or nomads whose numbers vary in different seasons. In winter 59843 individuals, or 2.5% of the overall Kuchi population, stay in Sar-e-Pul. 57% of these are short-range partially migratory, 2% are long-range partially migratory and 40% is settled partially migratory. During both the winter time and the summer time they still migrate in search of good pastures within their respective summer and winter areas. The summer areas for the short range migratory Kuchi are in Sozma Qala, Sang Charak, Sar Pul, and Said Abad districts of Sar Pul province (in decreasing order of importance) and for the long range migratory Kuchi are in Chemtal and Sholgara districts of Balkh province. In summer some communities (around 184 households) migrate into Saripul province from Balkh. The Kuchi population in the summer is 60292 individuals. Some 168 Kuchi households are also reported to live in IDP camps.

## C. Institutional framework

In total the government employs 3754 people in Sar-i-Pul province. As the table below shows, 84% of these are employees and 16% are contract workers. More than four fifths (85%) of government workers are men and 15% are women.

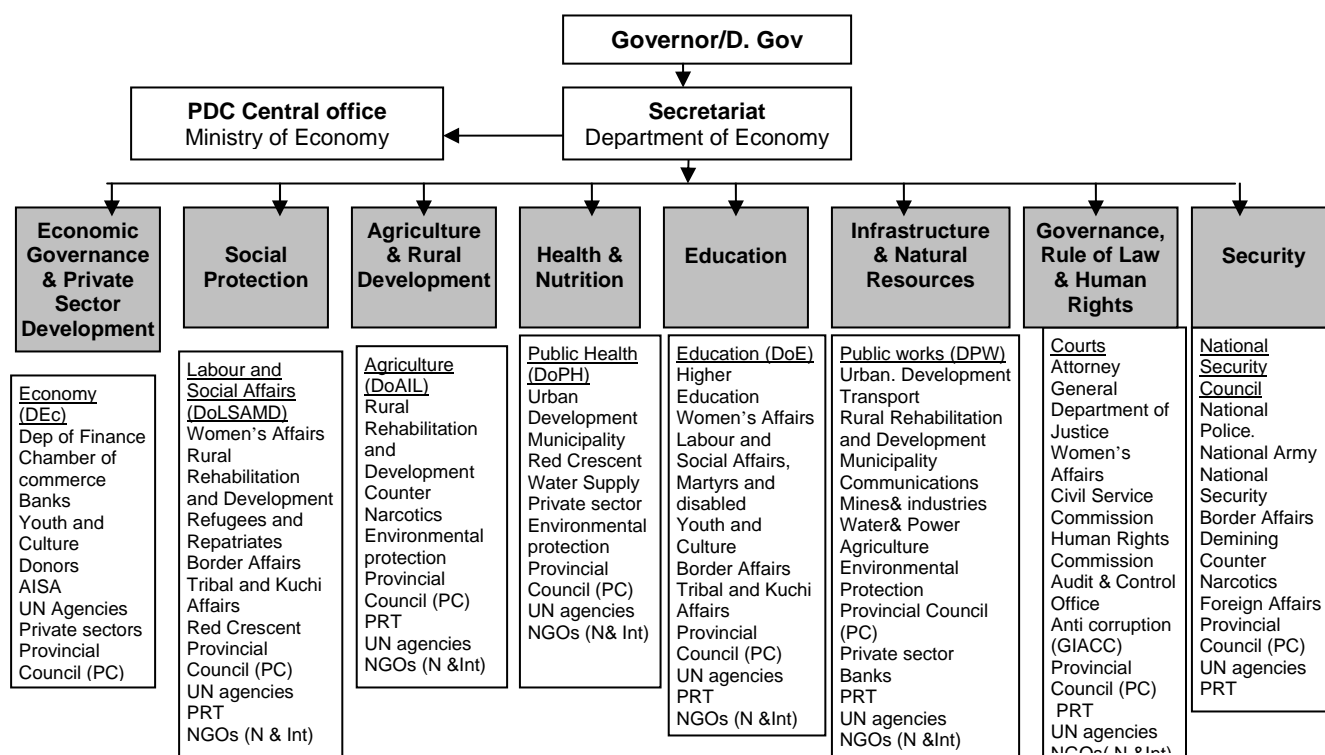
<b>Number of people employed by government</b>			
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Contract workers</b>	565	45	610
<b>Employees</b>	2619	525	3144
<b>Total Workers</b>	3184	570	3754

**Source: CSO Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2006**

Each province has a Provincial Development Committee (PDC) which is responsible for overseeing the progress made on implementation of the Provincial Development Plan, and which will lead the provincial development planning process in the future. The PDC involves all government line departments and other key stakeholder groups involved in development activities in the province. It also has a number of working groups devoted to different sectors, each of which should be chaired by the director of the core responsible line department. The structure of the PDC and its associated working groups approved by the Ministry of Economy for use in all provinces is shown in the diagram below:

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### Provincial Development Committee Structure endorsed by Ministry of Economy



Source: Ministry of Economy

The Provincial Development Committee in Sar-e-Pul province was formed in January 2006. In April 2007 UNAMA made the following assessment of the PDC in Sar-e-Pul:

UNAMA assessment of Provincial Development Committee in Sar-e-Pul	
Supporting Agencies	Functioning Status of PDC meetings
Only UNAMA has provided support to PDC process	Meetings take place regularly and well organized on monthly basis. The governor and deputy governor participated actively.

Source: UNAMA, April 2007

There are also 400 Community Development Councils in the province which are active in development planning at the community and village level. The following table shows the number of CDCs active in each district:

Number of CDCs by District	
District	Number of CDCs
Sar-i-Pul	113
Sangcharak	67
Kohistanat	70
Balkhab	72
Sozma Qala	11
Sayad	48
Gosfandi	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400</b>

Source: MRRD, National Solidarity Program (NSP)

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### D. Donor Activity

In addition to the activities of government agencies, a number of national and international organizations play an active role in promoting development in the province. There are at least 7 national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) supporting development projects across a range of sectors in the province, as the following table shows:

<b>International and National NGO Operations in Sar-e-Pul province</b>		
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Location</b>
PWJ	Construction/Engineering/Agriculture	Sari Pul City
DCA(Dutch Committee for Afghanistan)	Animal Health	Sari Pul City
Braac	Micro credit	Sari Pul City
ZOA (Refugee Care)	Micro credit, Shelter, IGA project & Water, Health, Education	Sari Pul City
SC-USA	Education School reconstruction	Sari Pul City
CoAR	NSP, Quick Business Courses	Sari Pul City
SHA	Shelter, IGA project	Sari Pul City

Source: UNAMA

The following Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) operate as facilitating partners (FPs) for the National Solidarity Program (NSP) in different districts in the province, as the following table shows:

<b>NGOs Facilitating NSP by District</b>	
<b>District</b>	<b>Facilitating Partner</b>
Balkhab	GAA
Gosfandi	GAA
Kohistanat	GAA
Sangcharak	GAA
Sari Pul	GAA
Sayyad	GAA
Sozma Qala	GAA

Source: MRRD, National Solidarity Program (NSP)

## 1.2. Current State of Development in the Province

### A. Infrastructure and Natural Resources

The provision of basic infrastructure such as water and sanitation, energy, transport and communications is one of the key elements necessary to provide the building blocks for private sector expansion, equitable economic growth, increased employment and accelerated agricultural productivity. In Sar-e-Pul province, on average 45% of households use safe drinking water. The figure rises to 49% in rural areas. More than two-thirds (69%) of households have direct access to their main source of drinking water within their community, however nearly one-third of households (29%) has to travel for up to an hour to access drinking water, as the table below shows:

<b>Time required accessing main source of drinking water</b>				
	<b>In community</b>	<b>Less than 1 hour</b>	<b>1-3 hours</b>	<b>3-6 hours</b>
%	69	29	1	0

Source: NRVA 2005

On average only 20% of households have access to safe toilet facilities. The following table shows the kinds of toilet facilities used by households in the province:

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Toilet facilities used by households						
	None/ bush open field/	Dearan / Sahrah (area in compound but not pit)	Open pit	Traditional covered latrine	Improved latrine	Flush latrine
%	26	5	5	62	0	0

Source: NRVA 2005

On average 6% of households in Sar-i-Pul province have access to electricity and only half of these (3%) have access to public electricity.

The transport infrastructure in Sar-i-Pul is not well developed with only 12% of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons, and two thirds (67%) able to take car traffic in some seasons. In one-fifth (21%) of the province there are no roads at all, as shown in the following table:

Road Types				
District	Cars all season	Cars some seasons	No roads	Not reported
Sar-i-Pul	12.9%	78.6%	7.5%	1.0%
Sozme Qala	3.0%	95.5%	.0%	1.5%
Sayad	17.7%	63.3%	19.0%	.0%
Kohistanat	6.5%	53.6%	38.4%	1.4%
Balkhab	.8%	60.5%	38.7%	.0%
Sangcharak	18.2%	65.0%	16.8%	.0%
Gosfandi	35.1%	42.1%	22.8%	.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>66.5%</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>.6%</b>

Source: CSO (analysis by AIRD)

The following table indicates road travel times between the provincial capital, Sar-e-Pul centre and the major district centers in the province, and other key provincial centers in the region.

Road Travel Times from provincial Capital			
From	To	Time	Road Condition
Sar-i-Pul	Mazar	3 hrs	Good condition (paved)
Sar-i-Pul	Sayad	30 min	Gravelled
Sar-i-Pul	Sozma Qala	1hr	Gravelled
Sar-i-Pul	Kohistanat	4hrs 30 min	Gravelled
Sar-i-Pul	Balkhab	6hrs	Gravelled
Sar-i-Pul	Gosfandi	1hr 30 min	Gravelled
Sar-i-Pul	Sangcharak	2 hrs	Gravelled

Source: UNAMA

As far as telecommunications is concerned, both the main mobile telephone operators Roshan and AWCC are present in the province.

## B. Economic Governance and Private Sector Development

Creating the conditions in which a dynamic and competitive private sector can flourish, is key to promoting economic growth, employment creation and poverty reduction. In terms of industry there is some natural gas extraction and a number of small businesses working in the

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Province. Agriculture is a major source of revenue for three quarters (75%) of households in Sar-e-Pul province. Sixty seven percent of rural households own or manage agricultural land or garden plots in the province. However, one-eighth (13%) of households in rural areas derive some income from trade and services and around half of households (45%) in rural areas earn income through non-farm related labour. Livestock also accounts for income for one-fifth (20%) of rural households as the following table shows:

<b>Sources of income reported by households</b>			
<b>Source of income</b>	<b>Rural (%)</b>	<b>Urban (%)</b>	<b>Total (%)</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	75		75
<b>Livestock</b>	20		21
<b>Opium</b>	1		1
<b>Trade and Services</b>	13		13
<b>Manufacture</b>	6		6
<b>Non-Farm Labour</b>	45		45
<b>Remittances</b>	4		4
<b>Other</b>	3		3

Source: NRVA 2005

In 2005 there were 40 Agricultural cooperatives active in Sar-i-Pul involving 1554 members. This was ten times more people than in 2003 when the figure was only 145 members. In 2005 agricultural cooperatives controlled a total of 16941 Ha of land and achieved a surplus of products for sale of 50,000 tons. As a result of this, each member held a share in the capital of the cooperative to the value of 829.800Afs.

Industrial commodities including sesame, tobacco and cotton are produced in the province. Sar-i-Pul district is the major producer for all three commodities, housing 62% of the villages which produce cotton and 49% of the villages growing tobacco. All three commodities are also produced in Balkhaband Sozam Qala and sesame and tobacco are grown in Gosfandi.

The sector of small industries is in inexistent in Sar-i-Pul, with the exception of karakul skin, produced in 41 villages, and silk in two. The sector of handicrafts is dominated by rugs. Rugs are produced in large numbers of villages in Sar-i-Pul, Balkhab, Kohistant and Sangcharak districts. Three other items are also produced in reasonable numbers of villages: jewelry (157), shawls (104), and carpets (90).

In 2005, 42% of households in Sar-e-Pul reported taking out loans. Of these loans, small percentages were used to invest in economic activity such as buying land (1%), agricultural inputs (1%) and business investment (1%).

## C. Agriculture and Rural Development

Enhancing licit agricultural productivity, creating incentives for non-farm investment, developing rural infrastructure, and supporting access to skills development and financial services will allow individuals, households and communities to participate licitly, and productively in the economy. As agriculture represents the major source of income for three quarters of the households in the province, rural development will be a key element of progress in Sar-e-Pul. The most important field crops grown in Sar-e-Pul province include wheat, maize, alfalfa, barley and flax. The most common crops grown in garden plots include grapes (75%), fruit and nut trees (16%) and vegetables (3%).

More than three quarters (78%) of households with access to fertilizer use this on field crops although around one quarter (23%) of households use fertilizer on both field and garden. The main types of fertilizer used by households in the province are shown in the following table:

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Main Types Of Fertilizer Used By Households					
Human	Animal	Urea		DAP	
%	%	%	Average Kg per Household	%	Average Kg per Household
13	65	17	58,6 Kg	9	84.2Kg

Source: NRVA 2005

On average 17% of households in the province have access to irrigated land and nine-tenths (90%) of rural households have access to rain fed land as the following table shows:

Households (%) access to irrigated and rain fed land			
	Rural	Urban	Average
Access to irrigated land	18		17
Access to rain fed land	90		90

Source: NRVA 2005

Eighty-four percent of rural households and 70% of Kuchi households in the province own livestock or poultry. The most commonly owned livestock are donkey, goats, sheep, cattle and oxen as the following table shows:

Households (%) owning poultry and livestock				
Livestock	Kuchi	Rural	Urban	Average
Cattle	43	50	-	31
Oxen	35	39	-	25
Horses	17	11	-	9
Donkey	70	74	-	48
Camel	43	5	-	16
Goats	65	48	-	38
Sheep	65	37	-	34
Poultry	30	38	-	23

Source: NRVA 2005

## D. Education

Ensuring good quality education and equitable access to education and skills are some of the important ways to raise human capital, reduce poverty and facilitate economic growth. The overall literacy rate in Sar-e-Pul province is 12%, however, while nearly one in five (18%) of men are literate this is true for just over one in twenty (6%) women. In the population aged between 15 and 24 the men have a slightly lower literacy rate (17.7%), and so do women (4.8%). The Kuchi population in the province has particularly low levels of literacy with just 4.3% of men and 0.4% of women able to read and write.

On average 29% of children between 6 and 13 are enrolled in school, however the figure is around one-third of boys (30%) and one-sixth of girls (15%). Amongst the Kuchi population, more than one-fifth of boys (21%) and 6% of girls attend school in Sar-i-Pul during the winter months and one in twenty boys (5%) and one in a hundred girls (1%) attend school during the summer months.

Overall there are 337 primary and secondary schools in the province catering for 76344 students. Boys account for 67% of students and 71% of schools are boys' schools. There are 2092 teachers working in schools in the Sar-i-Pul province, one fifth (22%) of whom are women

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Primary and Secondary Education						
	Schools		Students		Teachers	
	boys	girls	boys	girls	male	female
Primary	207	94	50052	23428	---	---
Secondary	33	3	2474	386	---	---
Total	240	97	52530	23814	1628	464
	337		76344		2092	

Source: CSO Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2006

Primary schools are located in-village for more than a fifth of the population. For another 44% the distance to travel to reach the school is less than five kilometers and one-fifth of students have to travel more than 10 kilometers to reach to their nearest primary school. Secondary schools are located in-village for 3.2% of students and more than one-fifth (22%) of students have to travel less than five kilometers but three-fifths of students have travel more than ten kilometers distance to reach their closest secondary school. High schools exist in-village for just one student in 200 (0.5%), and more than two thirds (68%) of students have to travel more than 10kms to reach their nearest high school.

## E. Health

Ensuring the availability of basic health and hospital services, and developing human resources in the health sector is essential to reduce the incidence of disease, increase life expectancy and enable the whole population to participate in sustainable development. A basic infrastructure of health services exists in Sar-i-Pul province. In 2005 there were 16 health centers, 2 hospitals with a total of 42 beds. There were also 28 doctors and 47 nurses employed by the Ministry of Health working in the province, which represented an increase of about 40% in the number doctors (up from 20) and 4% in the number of nurses (up from 45) compared to 2003. The major health facilities in the province identified in 2007 are shown in the following table:

Health Services, (Hospitals)	
Name	Location
Sari Pul District Hospital (50 Beds)	Sari Pul
Sancharak District Hospital (20 beds)	Sangcharak Center

Source: UNAMA

Health Services Clinics by District	
District	Clinics
Sayad	CHC-Comprehensive Health Centre
Sayad	CHC
Kohistanat Paseeni	CHC
Sai Pul Adrang	CHC
Sozma Qala	CHC
Sangcharak	CHC
Gosfandi	CHC
Balkhab Karkhoch	CHC

Source: UNAMA

The province also has 48 pharmacies of which 46 are owned privately and 2 are run by the government.

The majority of communities do not have a health worker permanently present in their community. Sixty nine percent of men's shura and 61% of women's shura reported that there



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was no community health worker present. The proportion of the population that don't have to travel out of their respective districts to seek medical attention is 1.9% for health centers and 2.2% for dispensaries. For a further 8% of the population, health centers are located within five kilometers, but four out of five people have to travel more than ten kilometers to reach to their nearest health facility.

### F. Social Protection

Building the capacities, opportunities and security of extremely poor and vulnerable Afghans through a process of economic empowerment is essential in order to reduce poverty and increase self-reliance. The level of economic hardship in Sar-i-Pul is high. In 2005, around half (49%) the households in the province report having problems satisfying their food needs at least 3 – 6 times a year and nearly one-fifth (19%) of households faced this problem up to three times a year, as the following table shows:

<b>Problems satisfying food need of the household during the last year</b>					
	<b>Never</b>	<b>Rarely (1-3 times)</b>	<b>Sometimes (3-6 times)</b>	<b>Often (few times a month)</b>	<b>Mostly (happens a lot)</b>
<b>Households (%)</b>	9	19	49	14	9

Source: NRVA 2005

Around half of the population (46%) in the province is estimated to receive less than the minimum daily caloric intake necessary to maintain good health. In the whole province more than half the population (58%) has low dietary diversity and poor or very poor food consumption as shown below

<b>Food consumption classification for all households</b>				
	<b>Low dietary diversity</b>		<b>Better dietary diversity</b>	
<b>Households (%)</b>	<b>Very poor food consumption</b>	<b>Poor food consumption</b>	<b>Slightly better food consumption</b>	<b>Better food consumption</b>
<b>Rural</b>	14	43	27	15
<b>Total</b>	13	45	25	17

Source: NRVA 2005

In 2005, 26% of the population of Sar-i-Pul province received allocations of food aid, which reached a total of 127401 beneficiaries. In addition, of the 42% of households who reported taking out loans, nearly half (45%) said that the main use of their largest loan was to buy food. In the same year half (51%) of the households in the province reported feeling that their economic situation had got worse or much worse compared to a year ago, and more than one-third (35%) felt that it had remained the same, as the following table shows:

<b>Comparison of overall economic situation compared to one year ago</b>					
	<b>Much worse</b>	<b>Worse</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Slightly better</b>	<b>Much better</b>
<b>Households (%)</b>	16	35	35	13	1

Source: NRVA 2005

In 2005 more than half (52%) of all households in the province reported having been negatively affected by some unexpected event in the last year, which was beyond their control. People living in rural areas were most vulnerable to natural disasters followed by agricultural shocks and drinking water problems, as the following table shows:

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Households experiencing shocks in the province (%)			
Types of shocks	Rural	Urban	Average
Drinking water	31	-	31
Agricultural	44	-	44
Natural disaster	79	-	78
Insecurity	-	-	-
Financial	8	-	8
Health or epidemics	16	-	18

Source: NRVA 2005

Of those households affected, over three quarters (76%) reported that they had not recovered at all from shocks experienced in the last 12 months and more than one-fifth (22%) said they had recovered only partially

## G. Governance, Law and Human Rights

Establishing and strengthening government institutions at the central and sub-national levels is essential to achieve measurable improvements in the delivery of services and the protection of rights of all Afghans

*No relevant data analysed at provincial level available from national sources has been identified in this area.*

## H. Security

Ensuring a legitimate monopoly on force and law enforcement that provides a secure environment for the fulfillment of the rights of all Afghans is essential to ensure freedom of movement for people, commodities and ideas, and to promote social and economic development. A recent assessment made by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) reported that the Security situation in Sar-i-Pul Province remains relatively calm and stable. However, unsolved land disputes and criminal activities have been the main concerns in 2007. No Anti Government Element (AGE) activity has been registered within the Province so far.

The UNDSS assessment highlights the following key factors of insecurity in the province:

Factors of Insecurity	
<b>Illegally Armed Groups (IAGs)</b>	Every commander can be considered as a leader of an illegally armed group. In Sar-i-Pul Province there are two main groups of this kind.
<b>Anti Government Elements (AGEs)</b>	There has been no evidence of any anti government element activity so far; however Islamic fundamentalists could have links with Taliban.
<b>Criminality and Organised Crime</b>	Criminal activities within the province have risen dramatically in recent months. Recent ambushes on the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and Anti Personnel mines set up on the road leading to PRT training area might be connected with drug trafficking.
<b>Narcotics</b>	Poppy cultivation is ongoing and the province is used as a transit area for drug trafficking.

Source: UNDSS profile supplied by UNAMA

Profile compiled by NABDP / MRRD

## Information Sources

## Sar-i-Pul

### Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2006, Central Statistics Office

**Geography:** Area

**Demography and Population:** Rural and Urban population

**Institutional Framework:** Total Government employees

**Economic Governance & Private Sector Development:** Agricultural cooperatives, members, land, surplus, capital

**Education:** Primary and secondary schools, students and teachers, Higher education faculties, total students, first year students and graduates, Students in university dormitories, Vocational high schools, staff, students and graduates, Teacher training institutes, students and graduates.

**Health:** Number of Health centers, Hospitals, beds, Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacies.

**Social Protection:** Allocations of food aid,

### Socio Economic and Demographic Profiles (per province), 2003, Central Statistics Office/ UNFPA

**Geography:** Topography, No of Districts, Provincial capital – population

**Demography and Population:** Population by district, Number of households, Main Languages Spoken

**Infrastructure and Natural Resources :** Road types (analysis by Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development)

**Economic Governance & Private Sector Development:**– Industrial crops, small industries and handicrafts

**Education:** Distance from educational services

**Health:** Distance from Health Services

### The National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2005, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the Central Statistics Office, June 2007

**Demography and Population:** Average household size

**Infrastructure and Natural Resources :** Use of safe drinking water, Travel time to drinking water, Access to safe toilet facilities, Toilet types, Household access to electricity, Access to public electricity

**Economic Governance & Private Sector Development:** Source of household revenue, Households taking out loans, loan investment in economic activity

**Agriculture and Rural Development:** Most important field crops and garden crops, Fertilizer use and type, Access to irrigated and rainfed land, Ownership of livestock and poultry

**Education:** Literacy rate overall and for population 15 to 24, school enrolments

**Health:** Availability of community health workers, closest type of health facility

**Social Protection:** Problems satisfying food needs, Population receiving less than minimum recommended daily caloric intake, dietary diversity & food consumption, Comparison of economic situation with 12 months ago, Loan use for food and medical expenses, Vulnerability to shocks, Kinds of shocks , Recovery from shocks

### National Multi sectoral Assessment on Kuchi, Frauke de Weijer, May 2005

**Demography and Population:** Kuchi population Winter and Summer

**Education:** Literacy rate for Kuchi, School attendance for Kuchi (summer / winter)

### UNDSS Provincial Assessments or UNAMA Provincial profiles, Supplied by UNAMA

**Geography:** MAP , Location and description,

**Demography and Population:** Major ethnic groups and tribes,

**Institutional Framework:** Line Department offices,

**Donor Activity:** UN agencies and projects, IO/NGO agencies and projects

**Infrastructure and Natural Resources :** Road Travel times, Mobile Network Coverage

**Economic Governance & Private Sector Development:** General economic profile, Major industries/ commercial activities

**Health:** Health facilities

**Security:** Assessment of the security situation, Factors of insecurity

### Information supplied by United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA)

*Provincial Development, Provincial Budgeting and Integration of the Provincial Development Plans into the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS). Draft Discussion Paper for the ADF)*

**Institutional Framework :** Assessment of functioning of PDC

### Information supplied by Ministries

**Institutional Framework:** PDC structure (*Ministry of Economy*), DDAs and CDCs (*Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development*)

**Donor Activity:** NGO facilitating partners for NSP (*Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development*)