

Provincial profile for

- Laghman -

1. Natural resources

Laghman is a province with lot of natural resources. There are some minerals in the province (http://www.palagems.com/afghanistan_bariand.htm). There is lot of natural coniferous forests in the side valleys of the province especially in Alingar and Alishang districts. The major sources of irrigation are three rivers (Alishang, Alingar and Kabul) in the province.

There are no major developments going on in the province during the last five years. There are some developments in the sectors of agriculture and infrastructure. The traditional agriculture has mainly shifted to intensive multiple cash crops growing during the last five years.

2. Human Resources

According to an estimate more than 40% of the people migrated to other parts of the country, Pakistan during the war. Almost half of the refugees have returned but due to proximity of the province with Pakistan border. Back and forth movement of the people is always going on.

Part of Laghman is the winter grazing grounds for Kochis who stay from October-March in these areas. In some parts they have traditional rights for grazing but in others where they have no rights are leased to them by locals. *Pashai* people who have distinct life style than the majority of Pustun dominated population in the province also live in some valleys of Alishang Alingar and Dawlat Shah. These people mostly depend on the livestock and wood selling and also migrate to summer pastures.

Laghman is rich in human resources and the people of Laghman are considered to be cleverest in the whole country. There is a local proverb that time spent in Laghman is equivalent to time spent in getting education in a university. There are a lot of stories about the cleverness of Laghman people. Several famous people like Zalmey KhalilZad and former Afghan primer minister Abdul Zahir belong to the province. There are 198 schools in the province with an enrollment of 63,624 students. There is a growing trend of education in the area.

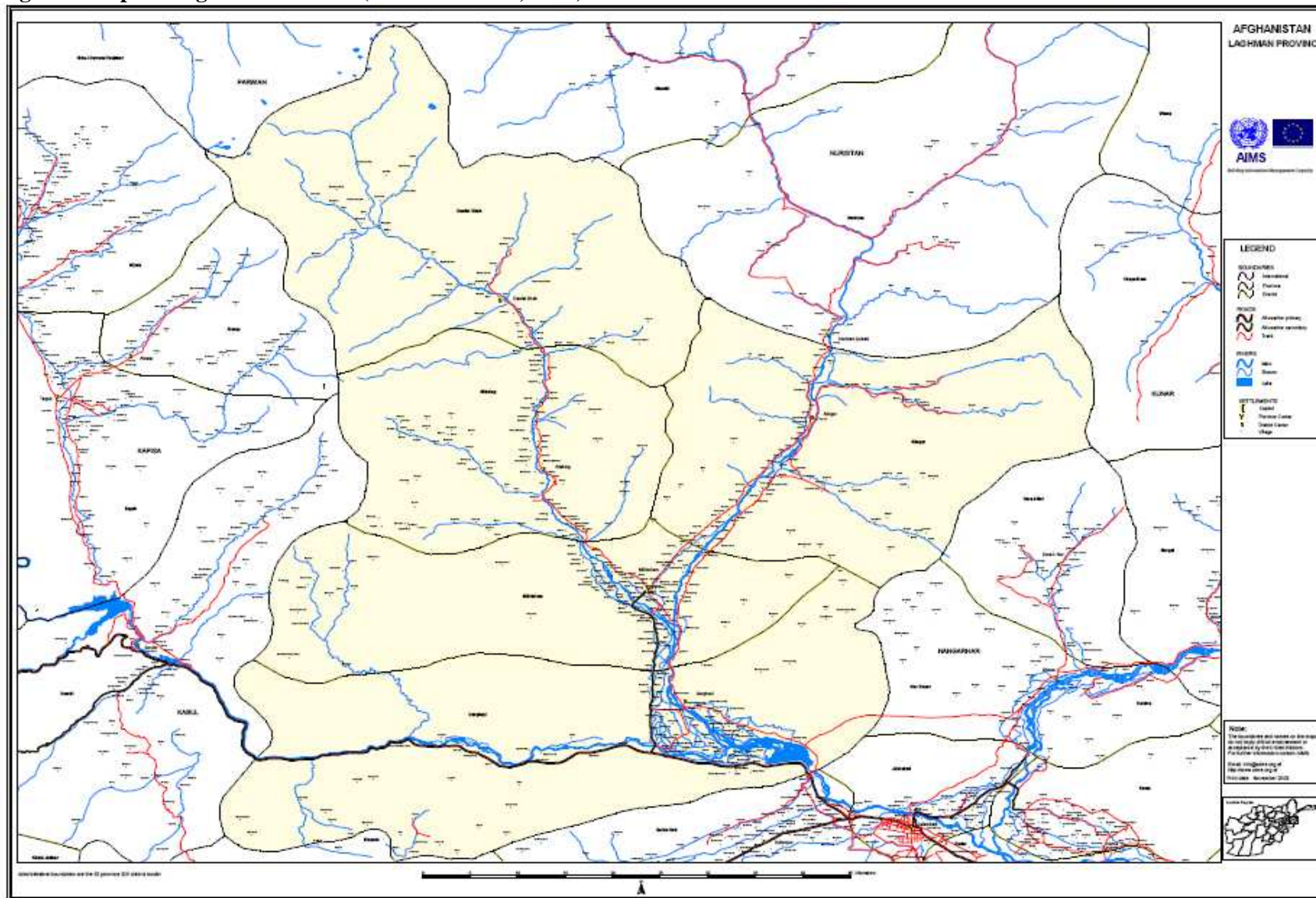
3. Agriculture

Two types of farming system i.e. irrigated and rainfed is found in the province. According to the survey done by DAI in 2005, the figures in the following table show a breakdown of the irrigated and agriculture land by district.

Table1: Area of irrigated and rainfed land by district in Laghman province

S.No.	District name	No. of big villages	Total arable land (Ha)	Total irrigated land (Ha)	Total rainfed land (Ha)
1	Mehtar Lam	39	5516	5490	26
2	Qarghayee	38	5541	2886	2655
3	Alingar	45	25594.4	2514	45.4
4	Alishang	31	2360	2360	0
5	Dawlat Shah	10	400	400	0
	Total	163	16376.4	13650	2726.4

Figure 1 Map of Laghman Province (Source: AIMS, 2003)



The major sources of irrigation are the three rivers in the province. The majority of land in Qarghayee and Mehtherlam districts is irrigated by both Alishang and Alingar rivers while majority of land in Alishang and Dawalat Shah district is irrigated by Alishang river. Majority of land in Alingar district is irrigated by Alingar river. Most of the water for irrigation come from Alingar river having 150 cft high flow during summer and 30 cft flow during winter. There are 58, 42 and 13 big primary canals on Alingar, Alishang and Kabul river respectively. All of the canals are made from local materials and only three are lined with concrete by GAA. There was some repair of the canals during Taliban time and during last four years 25 canals have been repaired. The flood in 2005 damaged most of the canals and their intakes.

The other sources of irrigation are washes and Karezes. There are 143 washes in the district most of them are seasonal and 23 Karezes in Sanger village of Alingar district. All of the Karezes are not operational and need rehabilitation.

3.2 Crops

Mostly three crops are cultivated in two seasons on irrigated land and one crop mainly wheat on rainfed land. The winter crops grown in the province are wheat, barley and vegetables like potato, onion, cauliflower, cumpers, spinach, carrots, turnips and coriander both for home consumption and sale. The summer crops grown for both home consumption and sale are maize, rice, cotton, okra, cucumber, eggplant, pepper, beans and pumpkins.

According to estimates provided by Directorate of Agriculture, on 65% of arable land cereal crops (barley on 5% of land) are grown followed by vegetables (24 % of land) while orchards and forage are grown on 6% and 5% of the total arable land. The stone fruits (apricot, peach, plum are most commonly grown followed by citrus (orange, lemon and sweet orange) and grapes while fig, persimmon, guava, pear and pomegranate are grown on smaller scale. Wild fruits like walnuts, pine nuts, mulberry and black persimmons are also found in the province mainly in Alingar and Alishang valleys. Both vegetable and fruits are traded locally and also sold to Jalalabad market.

Laghman was once famous for producing quality rice which was supplied to both local and international markets but the rice production has gone down significantly and still rice large fields can be seen on river banks. In the last five years there is a shift from growing traditional crops like rice, wheat, barley to vegetables and orchards growing. Now the improved seed, fertilizer and farm implements are available to majority of the farmers through different organizations.

3.3 Livestock

Sheep and goats are found in the mountains of the province but cows are mainly found in low lying areas of the province. Qarghayee district has the largest population of cows and people also keep buffalos. According to Extension department of Laghman province there are 133293 sheep, 133319 goats, 121207 cows, 5468 oxen, 5243 donkeys, 1366 camels, 674 mules and 571 horses. People in mountains and side valleys like Salab keep large herds of sheep and goats (ranging from 100-500) while in the plain areas almost 2-3 cows are owned by majority of the households. In people in upper valleys of the province like Salab in Alingar take their livestock to summer pastures in winter mainly sheep, goats and non-milking cows and oxen. *Pundawachi* system (traditional cow calf exchange) is strong in most districts like Alingar.

The livestock products are mainly for household consumption and less sold to markets because of less demand in local markets and difficulty in transportation to major markets. There are regional markets in the province which operate on certain days like the one in Alingar which is open on Friday only. The main markets for livestock and livestock products sale are Mehtherlam and Jalalabad. Cheese and butter are the main milk products which are sold in a considerable amount while the sale of live animals and wool is also common.

Although livestock population has gone down significantly due to war and drought but the support services provided by different organization in the province is helping in recovering the livestock population.

3.4 Fisheries

Before war a variety of fish were found in all three rivers and also some streams but the indiscriminate fishing through electric current and use of dynamite has reduced the fish population significantly. There is only one private fish farm in Charbagh area and the production is good. The area has got great potential for fishing due to its perennial rivers and streams. DACAAR realizing this potential planned in 2005 to invite a fishery expert for technical advice in this sector but unfortunately due to security situation this plan could not be materialized.

3.5 Land tenure

According to a rough estimate half of the people own land while the landless people are working on other people lands or engaged in off-farm income. Big farmers (having more than 20 jeribs of land) are 10 %, 30 % medium farmers (having land between 5-20 jeribs) and remaining 60 % farmers are small farmers (having land less than 5 jeribs). In hilly and mountainous areas of the province the land holding is smaller and less productive than the flat areas.

Most common sharecropping system is 1/3rd in which all the inputs are provided by owner and only labour and farm yard manure is provided by tenant. The owner receives 2/3rd of the production and the rest goes to the tenant. Leasing and mortgage are not much common. A good irrigated land of one jerib is leased for 280 Kgs of wheat per year.

3.6 Agriculture support services and input supplies

Different departments in Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock provide support services and inputs to the farmers. Two agriculture extension workers from extension department are working in each district. The services of other departments in the Directorate of Agriculture and livestock are mainly located in centre and cover only some districts.

MADERA has long presence in the province working in three districts since 1988 in Agriculture and livestock sector. DACAAR is also working in the province since 1994 in agriculture and livestock sector and currently working in provincial centre, Alingar and Alishang districts. Recently some other NGO has also started working in the province like DAI, Relief International, WADAN and SERVE. These organizations provide technical advices and inputs to the farmers.

3.7 Agriculture structures

There are fifty registered agriculture cooperatives in the province each having membership from 100-500. DACAAR has also established VOs and more recently Majlis Zanha (Women Association) and Farmers Association in Alingar and Alishang districts. DACAAR has also established women resource centres to facilitate women activities. DACAAR and MADERA have also established seed growers association in the province. NSP programme has also established Shoras in different districts of the province.

The locals in Salab valley have also formed a forest protection committee on self motivation. This committee is very successful and has created bylaws which are strictly adhered to and respected by the local population.

3.8 Agriculture related business

The major vegetables produced in the area which are sold to the market are onion, potato, cauliflower, cucumber, okra and beans while in fruits walnuts, pine nuts, oranges, pomegranate and persimmon are mainly traded. The vegetables and fruits are also sold to Kabul and other places through outside traders. Both regional and provincial markets operate in the province to sell local produce. Both local traders and traders from outside buy the local produce for trading. One private fish commercial farm exists in Chargbagh village. Fuel wood and timber trade is also found in the province.

Trade in live animals and livestock products is done both in regional and provincial markets. Cheese, butter and wool are the major livestock products which are bartered or sold in the local and provincial markets.

4. Other business activities

There are no other major business activities except small shops dealing in different items. Some carpentry shops are also found in the province. Most of the people go to Pakistan during winter season for unskilled labour.

5. Security

Security is relatively better in four districts. In Dawlat Shah district security situation is not good as it mountainous area and inaccessible and more conflicts on land.

6. Physical infrastructure

The main road connecting the provincial capital with Jalalabad Highway is under construction and it takes 30 minutes from Jalalabad road to the centre by a car. Two main dirt roads on either side of the rivers run both in Alishang and Aligar valleys. A network of dirt roads exists in the side valleys.

According to a rough estimate less than 50% of households have access to the electricity. There are about 365 micro hydro power stations in different parts of the province having capacity from 2-20 Kilo watts and it is the only biggest source of electricity. Private generator and NSP installed generators also provide electricity to some part of the population.

Wells, springs and rivers water are the major sources of drinking water. According to an estimate there is one well per 15 households for drinking water. Most of the wells in the villages are dug by DACAAR and SCA. There is one hospital in the provincial centre and clinics on almost in every big village providing basic health facilities to the population. Health net and Ibne Sina are also providing health facilities in provincial centre and most of the district centres.

7. Institutional constraints

Lack of security and physical infrastructure is the main issue hindering the development and business activities. Lack of skilled staff in the government departments and their dependence on donors and NGOs is also a big constraint. The suspicious attitude of the locals to outsiders and misconceptions about NGOs mainly found in rural areas is also hindering the development. The government officials complain of lack of support from NGOs.

8. Credit

Informal credit is common mostly in rural areas. The microfinance programme is implemented by BRAC, DACAAR, MADERA and FINCA.

9. Stakeholders

The following table gives a brief description of each stakeholder

Stakeholders	Rank	Comments
National authorities	2	Have presence in the centre and also in some accessible districts
Regional and local	2	Although structures are there but not fully functional due to security situation.
Regional and local organizations	2	Cooperatives, Shoras, VOs, Farmers Associations and Women Association exist but they are in infancy.
NGOs/CBOs	1	NGOs presence is growing and the people have more belief in NGOs than government departments
Religious organizations	2	Religious people and institutions exist mainly in rural areas but majority of them have flexible attitude and due regard is given to them.
Traditional organizations	2	<i>Jirga</i> is one of the most strongest and oldest institution in

		the area
Commercial and business groups	3	No significant commercial and business groups.
Groups defined by beneficiary status, social analysis, rural appraisals or gender analysis	3	These groups have very less impact on decision making and access to services.
The press	3	Press is almost non-existent in the province
Donors	1	The role of donors is significant as the majority of funds are provided by them to both NGOs and government departments
Warlords	2	Some warlords from past have presence in the area and to some extent can influence the development and security situation.

10. Summary of key potential development opportunities

Following key potential development opportunities are recommended for the province and districts.

- Laghman province has three rivers but the water from the water from these rivers is not fully utilized due poor irrigation infrastructure. Following measures are proposed in this regard.
 - Repair of already existing infrastructure for irrigation.
 - Construction of reservoirs and small dams for water conservation and power generation. By construction of such reservoirs deserts like Dasht Shahi (40,000 jeribs) and Dast baba (60,000 jeribs) in the province can be brought under irrigation.
- Strengthening agriculture sector especially promotion of vegetables by providing processing, marketing and storage facilities. The production of traditional crop rice which is on decline need to be revitalized through research and introduction of better and high yielding varieties.
- Developing perennial horticulture especially citruses, walnut and pine nuts. DACAAR has introduced pistachio on trial basis in the Alingar district and the results are promising. This effort should be further developed as pistachio is the most suitable for dry areas.
- Milk collection and processing facility in Qarghayee district which have more cows and buffaloes compared to other districts of the province. Most of the Pashai people are dependent on livestock and already small scale production of cheese, butter and wool taking place in their areas which need to be further developed.
- The community initiated forest protection in Salab need to be expanded to other areas where natural forests exist to create employment for the locals and forest conservation. There is also a lot of potential for afforestation in dry areas near the villages for fuel and fodder production through the introduction of fast growing multipurpose trees.
- One of the limiting factors in increasing livestock population is the scarcity of fodder which is now mainly grown on agricultural lands. The depleted rangelands around most of the villages can be utilized for fodder production especially through reseeding, fencing, rotational grazing and introduction of grass species suitable for dry areas. This will also help in soil conservation.
- There is a lot of potential for fish production in the area which need to be further explored and developed.
- DACAAR has recently established Women Association and Women Resource Centres in Alingar and Alishang districts which are intended to increase income generating opportunities for women through training and providing financial assistance. This effort should be further strengthened to upgrade the living standard of the women in the area.

Annex 1
Provincial Data Base
Province: Ghazni

Programmes/projects		Agency/donor	Approx Value US\$m	Comment, significance
No	Completed			
1				
2				
	Ongoing/planned			
1	Water supply	DACAAR, GAA and SCA	Not known	Working in different districts. 65 wells have already been dug by DACAAR.
2	Agriculture and livestock	DACAAR, MADERA, DAI, WADAN, SERVE	Not know	Each organisation working in different districts of the province.
3	Education	IMC and ADA	Not know	Have educational programmes in the provincial centre and district centres
4	NSP	DACAAR, MADERA	Not known	719 CDCs have been formed in all the districts
5	Microfinance	FINCA, BRAC, MADERA, DACAAR, RI	Not know	Different organizations working in different provinces
6.	Emergency irrigation rehabilitation project	World Bank	Not known	Irrigation structure repair.
7	NADBP	MRDD	Not known	Mostly infrastructure. 43 roads and 2000 small bridges surveyed.
8	Livelihoods improvement	RI/MRRD	Not known	13 projects through RI. Mostly protection walls and canal repair and lining.

Annex 2**Working methodology used:**

DACAAR is working in Laghman province since 1994 and have well established networks with community, government institutions and other NGOs working in the area. DACAAR is working in provincial centre and Alingar and Alishang districts. The checklist of the information needed for RRERS project was sent to all DACAAR Field Management Offices in Laghman on 5 September, 2006 and the relevant staff was requested to collect the required information based on their experience in the area and other key informants.

Senior advisor for the project visited Laghman province on 11 September, 2006 to check the collected information and collect additional information needed. After discussion with Senior DACAAR staff, information was collected from officials of three departments (Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock, Irrigation and Water Resources and MRRD) and staff of MADERA.

Annex 4: List of persons/agencies visited/contacted

Name	Position/agency	Topic discussed	Date
Muhammad Hassan Safi	Director Agriculture and Livestock Department	Agriculture and livestock activities	11 September,2006
Naeem	Director of Irrigation and Water Resources	irrigation and irrigation structures	11 September,2006
Eng. Khalil Muhammad & Eng. Zabeah Ullah	MRRD	MRRD activities, on going and proposed projects	11 September,2006
Gul Makhan & Kochi Khan	DACAAR	Agriculture, Livestock and other information about Laghman	11 September,2006
Nasim Khan	Manager, MADERA	MADERA activities and other information about Laghman	11 September, 2006