

The background of the cover is a composite image. In the upper left, a US Army soldier in camouflage uniform is shown in profile, looking towards the right. In the background, a group of people, including men and women, are sitting in a circle on the ground in an outdoor, dusty setting. There are several military vehicles, including a Humvee and a pickup truck, parked in the background. The overall color scheme is a monochromatic, sepia-toned yellow.

Afghanistan Smart Book

TRADOC Culture Center

**First Edition
Dec 2009**

Purpose

To ensure that U.S. Army personnel have a relevant, comprehensive guide to use in capacity building and counterinsurgency operations while deployed in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

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History

Mongol Invasions



History Timeline

- **320 BCE: Alexander the Great conquers the Near East**
- **1st Century CE: Kushan Empire**
- **642-1200: Islamic Conquests**
- **1200-1500: Mongol Invasions**
- **1839-1842: First Anglo-Afghan War**
- **1878-1880: Second Anglo-Afghan War**
- **1893: British establish the Durand Line, a disputed border separating Afghanistan from its Indian territories**

History Timeline

- **1919: Third Anglo-Afghan War, after which Afghanistan gains full independence from Britain**
- **1923: Slavery abolished**
- **1973: Monarchy abolished; establishment of republic**
- **1978: Coup by communists backed directly by Soviet Union**
- **1979: Soviets invade, install pro-Moscow government**
- **1980s: Anti-Soviet jihad fought by the Mujahideen**
- **1989: Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan**

Afghan-Soviet War



Soviet Occupation

Dec 1979 – Feb 1989

Soviet Loses:

- 14,553 Dead
- 53,753 Wounded

Afghan Loses:

- 1 Million Afghans killed
- 5 Million fled country
- 2 Million IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons)

During the 1980s, one out of two refugees in the world was an Afghan

History Timeline

- **1992: Last Communist regime falls; Mujahideen forces vie for power and factional infighting begins**
- **1994: Civil war intensifies; 70% of country destroyed; Taliban rise to power**
- **1996: Taliban capture Kabul and declare Islamic emirate; Osama bin Laden relocates to Afghanistan**
- **1998: U.S. cruise missiles strike an Al Qaeda terrorist training complex in Afghanistan financed by Osama bin Laden**
- **Sep 2001: Northern Alliance leader Ahmad Shah Masood killed by Al Qaeda; attacks on World Trade Center and Pentagon**

History Timeline

- **Oct 2001: Coalition forces begin air and ground operations in Afghanistan, support to Northern Alliance**
- **Nov 2001: Northern Alliance captures Kabul**
- **Dec 2001: Taliban fall from power; Bonn Agreement establishes Afghan Interim Administration with Hamid Karzai elected as chairman**
- **Jun 2002: Hamid Karzai becomes interim President**
- **2002-2003: Coalition peacekeeping forces enter Afghanistan**
- **Aug 2003: NATO assumes command of Coalition Forces**

History Timeline

- **Jan 2004: New constitution introduced**
- **Oct 2004: Presidential elections, Karzai elected**
- **Oct 2006: NATO assumes responsibility for security across Afghanistan**
- **Jul 2007: Former King Zahir Shah dies**
- **Aug 2007: Opium production soars to a record high, according to UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**
- **Nov 2009: President Karzai sworn in for second term amid controversy and accusations of ballot stuffing**

Political



Flag of Afghanistan

Black stands for the time period of 1839-1919 when the Afghan people fought three wars of independence against the British Empire

Red represents blood, sacrifice, and the continuous challenge of the people to overcome poverty and hardship

Green is the color of Islam and symbolizes peace

The writing on the flag emphasizes the importance of Islam by stating: “There is no God but God and Mohammad is his prophet,” and “God is great.”

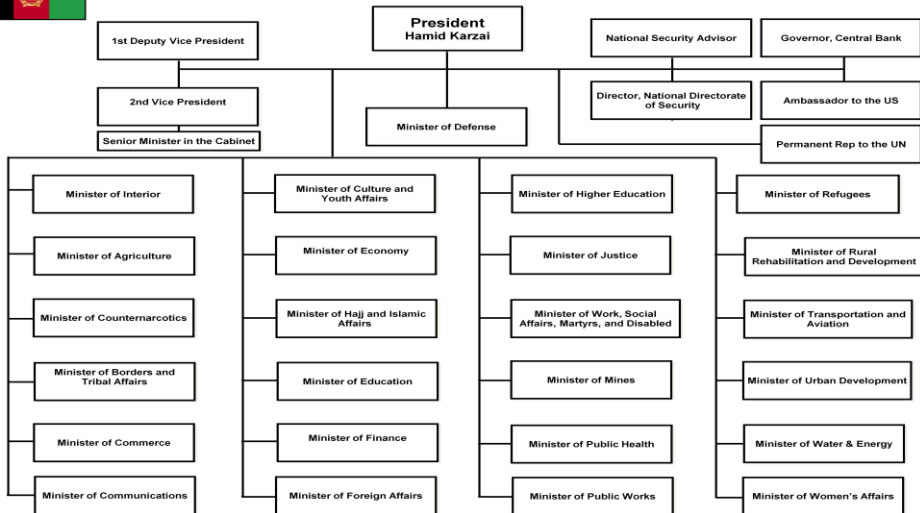
Political Map



Political Structure

- **Executive — President is head of both state and government**
 - **Provincial governors for each of Afghanistan's 34 provinces appointed by the president**
- **Legislative — National Assembly consists of two houses:**
 - **Lower- *Wolesi Jirga* (the House of the People)**
 - **Responsibility for making and ratifying laws and approving the actions of the president**
 - **Upper- *Meshrano Jirga* (the House of Elders)**
 - **Advisory role with veto power**
- **Judicial — Supreme Court**
 - **All justices (nine, including Chief Justice) appointed by the president and approved by the *Wolesi Jirga***
 - **Subordinated by high courts and appeals courts**

President of Afghanistan and Cabinet



Source: Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan; as of 19 September 2009

Relevant Country Data

Location and Bordering Countries



Location:
Southern Asia,
north and west of
Pakistan, east of
Iran

Border Countries:
China
Iran
Pakistan
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan

Comparative Area

Area: 652,230 sq. km
(slightly smaller than Texas)



Social Statistics

Population:

28.396 Million (2009 est.)

Total Fertility Rate:

6.53 children born/woman

Under-5 Mortality:

(m/f) 232/237 per 1000

Life Expectancy at Birth:

Total population: 44.64 yrs

Male: 44.47 yrs

Female: 44.81 yrs (2009 est.)

Literacy:

Age 15 and over can read
and write

total pop.: 28.1%

male: 43.1%

female: 12.6% (2000 est.)

% of population using improved drinking-water sources, 2006, total:

20%

Unemployment rate:

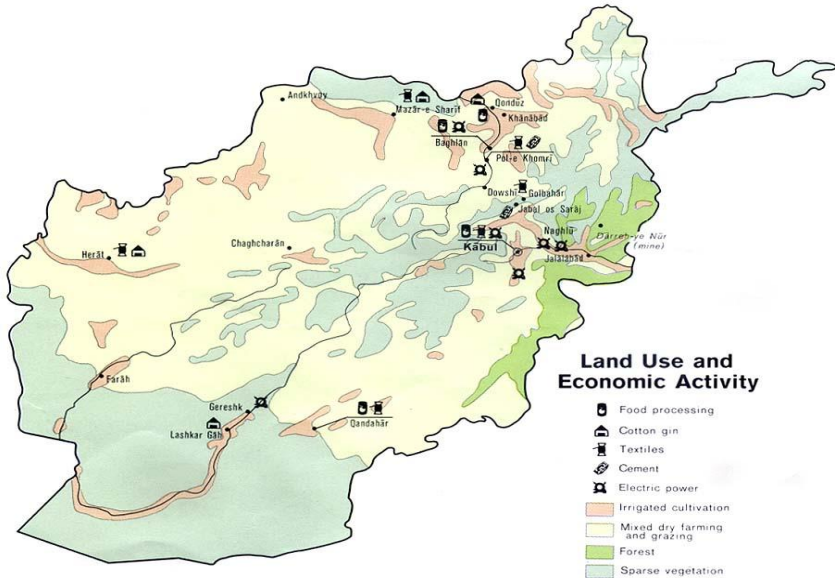
40%

Economy

- **Extremely poor, landlocked, and very dependent on foreign aid**
- **Shortage of housing, clean water, electricity, medical care, and jobs**
- **Other challenges: corruption, criminality, huge opium trade**
- **GDP per capita: \$700 (2008 est.)**
- **Labor force: 15 million (2004 est.)**
- **Agriculture: 80%, Industry: 10%, Services: 10% (2004 est.)**
- **Agricultural/Industrial products: opium, wheat, fruits, nuts, cement, copper, and hand-woven carpets**
- **Exchange rate: 1 \$US = 50 Afghani* (AFs)**

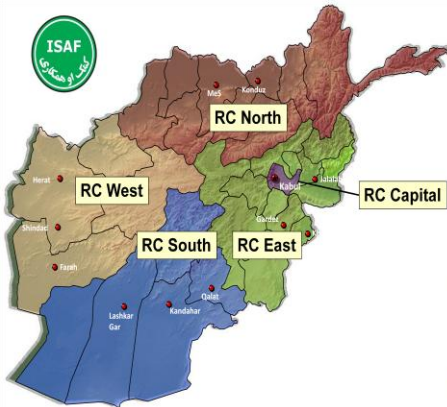
* Note: Afghani denotes the currency; the people of Afghanistan are referred to as Afghans.

Land Use and Economic Activity



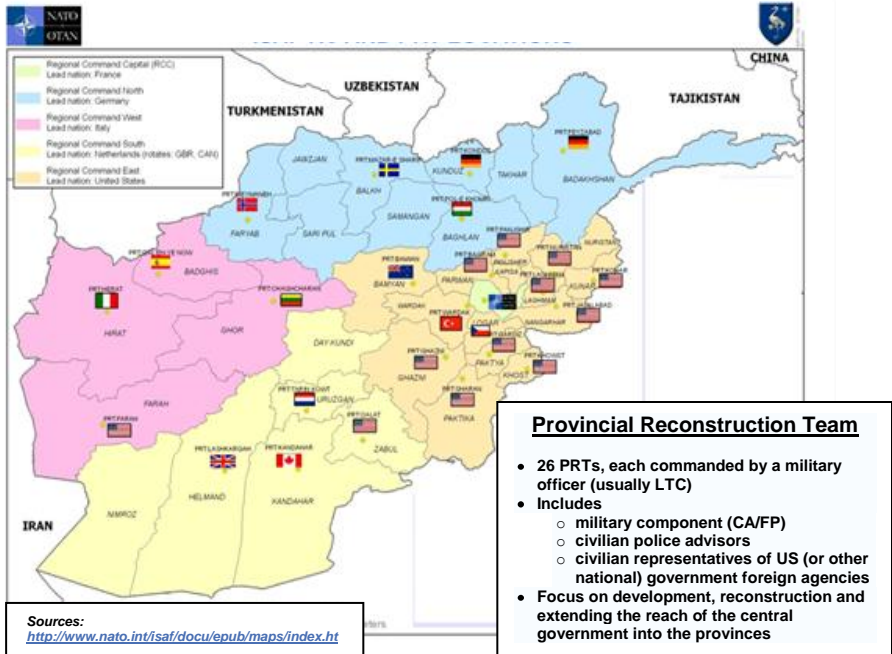
Military Operational Environment

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)

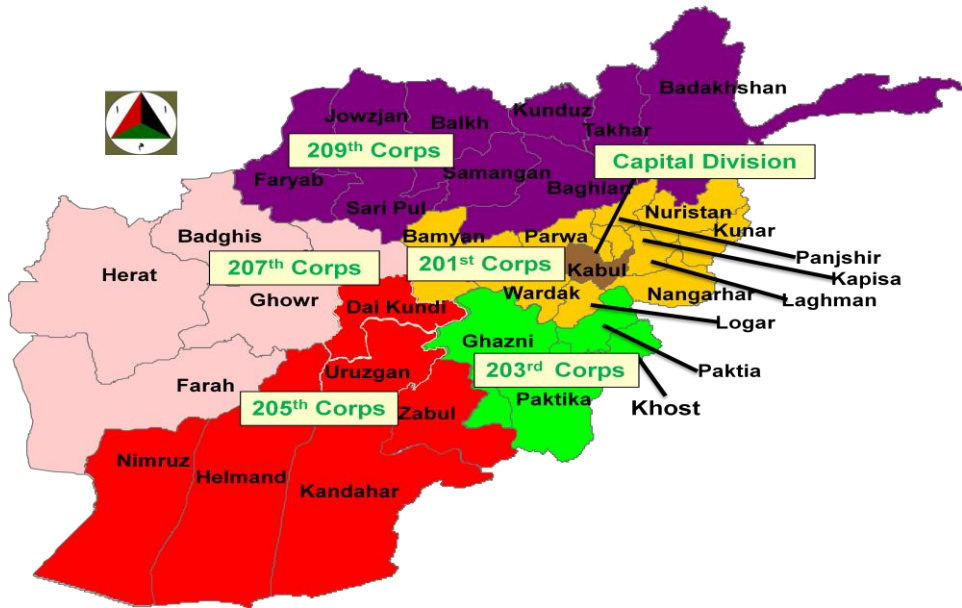


- Conduct security and stability operations
- Support the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF)
- Disarm illegally armed groups
- Facilitate ammunition depots managements
- Reconstruction and development
- Humanitarian Assistance
- Governance
- Counter-narcotics

ISAF PRT Locations



ANA Command Areas of Responsibility



Afghan National Security Forces

**NOTE: ANSF training progress plagued by high illiteracy rates
ANP not trusted by population due to corruption**

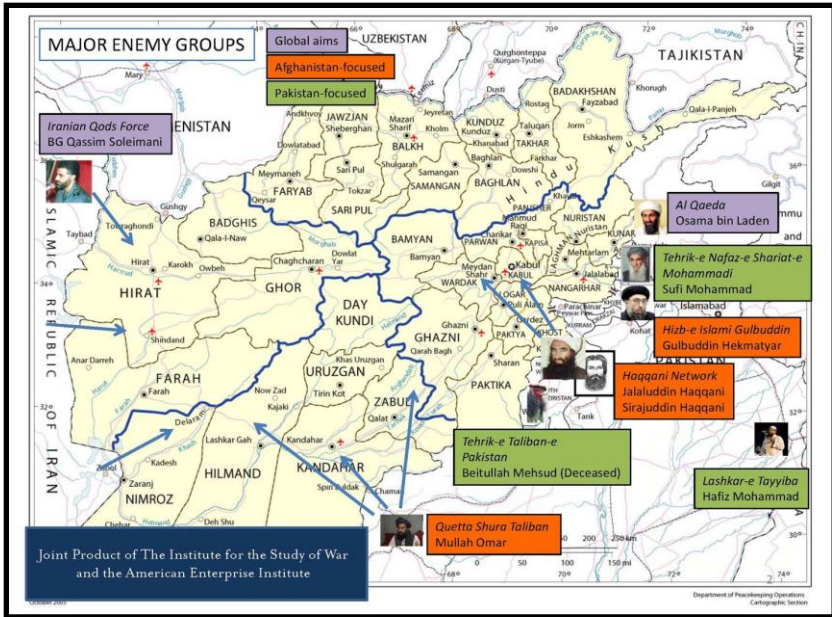
- **Afghan National Army**

- Strength: 93,980 troops (as of September 2009)
- Target Strength: 134,000 (by October 2010)
- Capacity: participates in 90% of ISAF operations and leads 62% of joint operations
- Well respected by the Afghan population

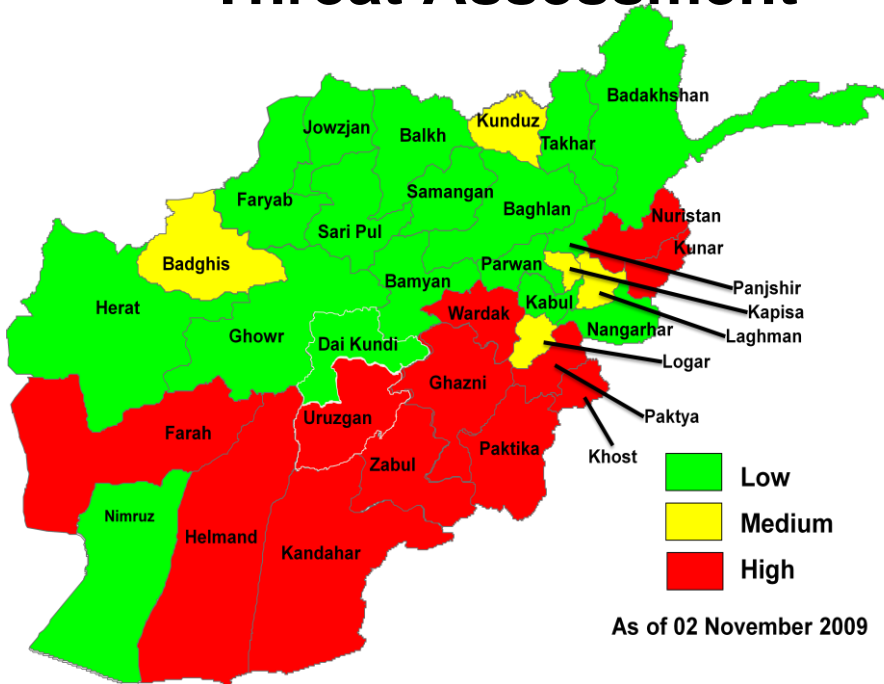
- **Afghan National Police**

- Strength: 90,129 (as of late September 2009)
- Target Strength: 96,800 (by end of 2009)
- Composition of the ANP
 - Afghan Uniformed Police
 - Afghan Border Police
 - Afghan National Civil Order Police
 - Afghan Counter-Narcotics Police

Major Enemy Groups

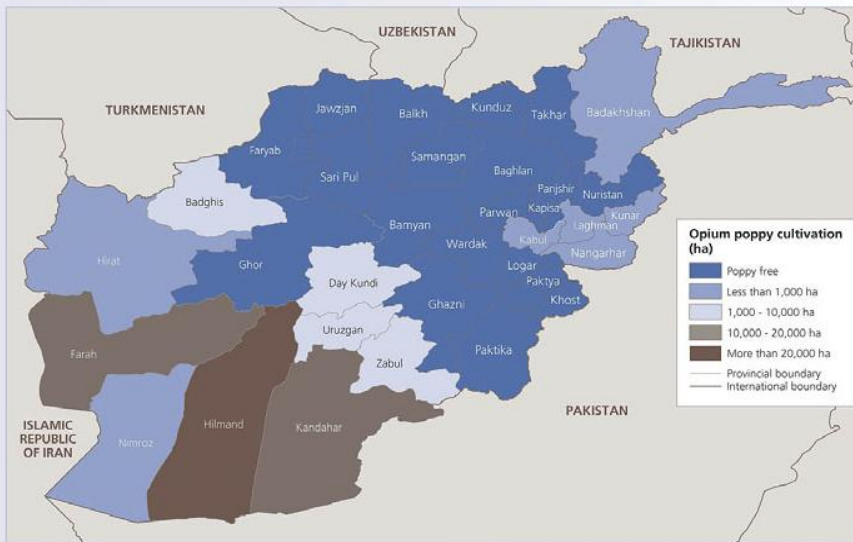


Threat Assessment



Opium Poppy Cultivation

Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, 2009 (at province level)

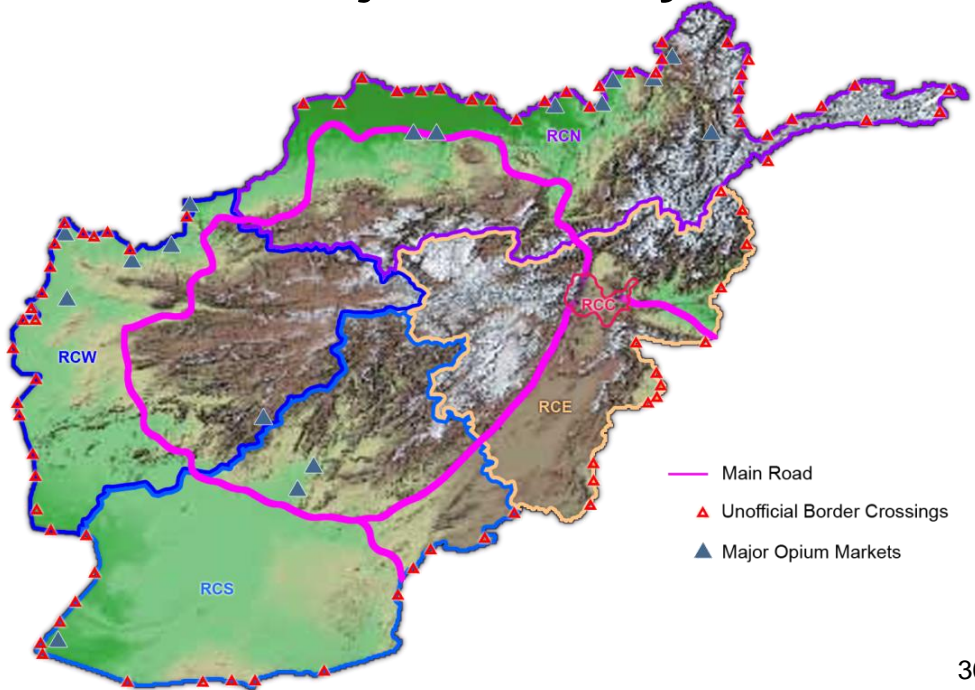


Source: Afghanistan opium survey, 2009, UNODC.

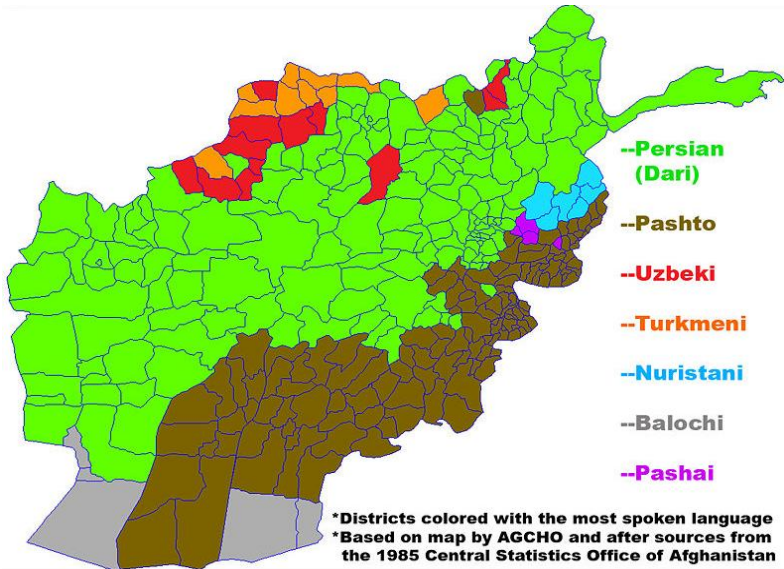
Opium Poppies in Afghanistan



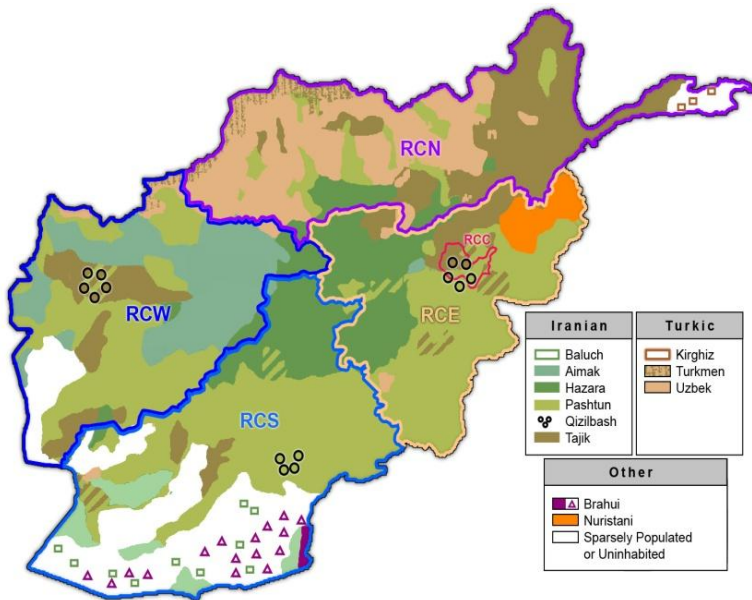
Terrain & Major LOCs by ISAF RC



Major Languages

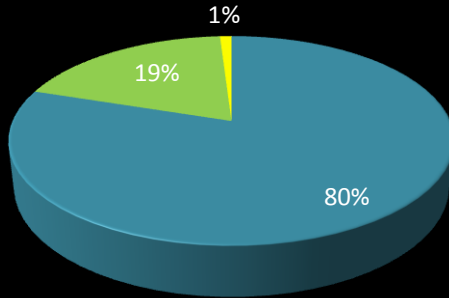


Ethnolinguistic Composition by ISAF RC



Religion in Afghanistan

■ Sunni Muslim ■ Shi'a Muslim ■ Other



- **Other religions include Zoroastrianism, Hindu, Sikh, Christian, and Bahai**
- **Shi'a population mostly Hazara and Qizilbash ethnicities**
- **Sufism practiced by many Sunni and Shi'a Muslims**

Distribution of Shi'a and Sunni



Islam in Afghanistan

- Abrahamic religion-shares roots with Judaism and Christianity
- Qur'an holy book – infallible authority
- Five Pillars: Testimony of faith (*Shahada*), Prayer (*Salat*), Charity (*Zakat*), Pilgrimage to Mecca (*Hajj*), Fasting during month of Ramadan (*Sawm*)
- Other Beliefs: Faith (*Iman*), Oneness of God (*Tawhid*), Prophets and Messengers, Angels, Judgment Day, the Books (Qur'an, Bible, Torah), Fate and Predestination
- Division between Sunni and Shi'a not as important as ethnic/tribal differences
- Pervasive part of daily life – Prayer 5x/day, education, Friday mosque gatherings
- Religious figures (*mullahs*) respected and influential
- Literacy issues: allow for misinterpretation; opportunity for perceived religious authorities to mislead those who cannot read

Masjid (Mosque) Jami, Herat



Culture and Communication

Victory of the Muslim Nation Parade in front of Eid Gah Mosque, Kabul



Holidays (dates* for 2010)

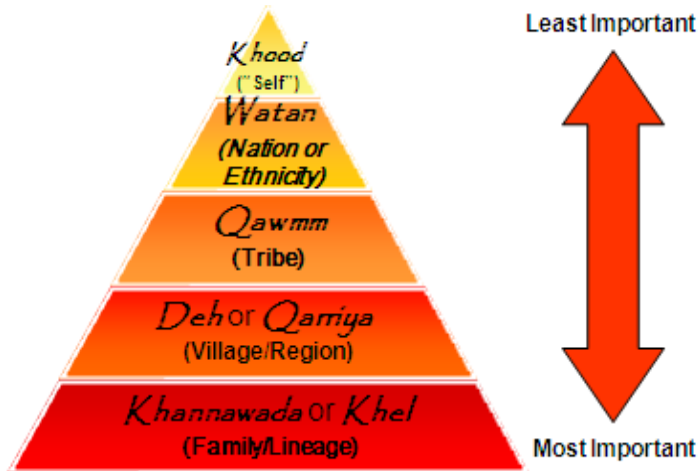
- 26 Feb: Mawlid al-Nabi (Birth of the Prophet Muhammad)
- 21 Mar: Nowruz (Persian New Year)
- 28 Apr: Victory of the Muslim Nation (Withdrawal of Soviet Forces)
- 01 May: Labor Day
- 19 Aug: National Day (Independence from Britain)
- 10 Sep: Eid al-Fitr (After a month of fasting, Afghans visit and/or entertain their friends and give gifts)

Note: The week prior to Eid al-Fitr is an appropriate time to provide performance or other types of bonuses to Afghan national employees such as interpreters/translators

- 15 Nov: Eid-al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice — commemorates the Prophet Abraham's devotion to God)
 - 16 Dec: Ashura (Shi'a day of mourning commemorating the martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Husayn at the Battle of Karbala in 680 C.E.)
- * Dates for religious holidays are approximated; each year the holidays are adjusted to the lunar calendar

Afghan Identity

Loyalty and Decision-Making



Communal & Public takes precedence over Individual & Private

Afghan Culture

Share Basic Qualities

- **Conservative**
- **Patriarchal, Patrilineal & Patrilocal**
- **Process & relationship oriented**
- **Time relatively unimportant**
- **Past oriented**
- **Fatalistic & formal**
- **Physically courageous**
- **Most problem solving is Communal & indirect**
 - Risk averse
 - Consensus approach diffuses responsibility
 - Backdoor approach

Geert Hofstede's Five Dimensions of Culture

- Low vs. High Power Distance

- Afghanistan is a high power society as members of the society do not see themselves as equals but subject to those in power.

- Individualism vs. Collectivism

- Falling under a tribe or ethnic group would define Afghans as a collective society. Individuals answer to the tribe as a whole.

- Masculine vs. Femininity

- Afghanistan is very much a masculine society where competition, assertiveness and power play a crucial role in every day life. Women play a subordinate role in this society.

- Low vs. High Uncertainty Avoidance

- A high uncertainty avoidance society prefers rules and structured activities like tribal laws and religious values to dictate daily life. Superstitions can also play a role.

- Long vs. Short Term Orientation

- Afghanistan is a short term oriented society where saving face, respect for tradition, and immediate stability are important.

Application of the Five Dimensions of Culture

- High Power Distance

- It is critical to identify the power broker of a community, whether it be the local mullah, tribal elder, politician, or businessman; directly dealing in a positive manner with those with power will increase the effectiveness of meetings and negotiations.

- Collective Society

- For any decisions of significance, expect a consensus approach that may require patience on the part of Soldiers.

- Masculine Society

- In Afghanistan, men and women have very distinct gender roles and norms of interaction that may not conform to Western values; consult your Rules of Interaction should any situations of concern arise.

- High Uncertainty Avoidance

- Soldiers should attempt to provide full explanations, assurances, and demonstrate beneficial outcomes when introducing new concepts. It is also advisable to arrange meetings that do not disrupt daily religious and cultural rituals, such as prayer.

- Short Term Orientation

- At the end of a meeting, do not expect command decisions to be made in a timely manner.

Communicating with Afghans: Guidelines

Greeting:

- Handshake or right hand over heart with slight nod
- Greeting in Pashtu or Dari is appreciated
- Men should not attempt to greet a woman unless the woman initiates the greeting
- It is preferable to greet the eldest or most senior first



Small Talk:

- Casual conversation is a must at the beginning of every encounter
- Consists of repeated inquiries about health, family, weather, crops
- Do not make specific inquiries about female family members
- Build rapport by sharing personal information (within the limits of your comfort and security)
- Accept offerings of food or tea (if you must decline, do so gracefully)

Dining With Afghans

- To be invited is an honor, and attending a meal is a powerful way to build rapport
- Do not expect a quick dinner, nor a mixed gender dining arrangement
- Try to take a small gift (no alcohol); the gift will not be opened in front of you
- Allow the host to seat you
- Most likely floor seating – do not sit with legs stretched out in front of others
- Food is often served and consumed from common plates; always use right hand (silverware may or may not be available)
- Try to avoid leaving excess food on your plate and expect offers of 2nd and 3rd helpings



Combined Meeting with US and Afghan Security Forces



Meetings and Negotiations

To foster rapport and willingness to cooperate:

- **Do not expect to address your goals during the initial meetings**
- **The first few meetings should focus on the goals and interests of the Afghans**
- **Never make a promise that you cannot keep**
- **Try to compliment the leader and avoid negatively affecting his honor**
- **Try not to openly disagree with their goals in public; instead, suggest further discussion may be needed**
- **Do not openly express anger or shout, as such behavior is viewed as disrespectful and shows a lack of self control**
- **Greet in Dari and/or Pashtu at the start and end of meetings**
- **In negotiations, allow your counterpart to ask about your agenda, but only allow for small pieces to be revealed (enough for your counterpart to feel comfortable and build his trust in you)**

Ethnic Groups

Pashtun



- ❖ Largest single Afghan ethnicity
- ❖ Pashtu primary language
- ❖ Adherence to “Pashtunwali”
- ❖ Independent, fierce
- ❖ View themselves as rightful leaders of Afghanistan
- ❖ Ghilzai Pashtun tribe formed backbone of Taliban
- ❖ Pashtun proverb: "I against my brother; my brother and I against my cousin; I, my brother, and my cousin against the stranger"

Pashtunwali – The Way of the Pashtun

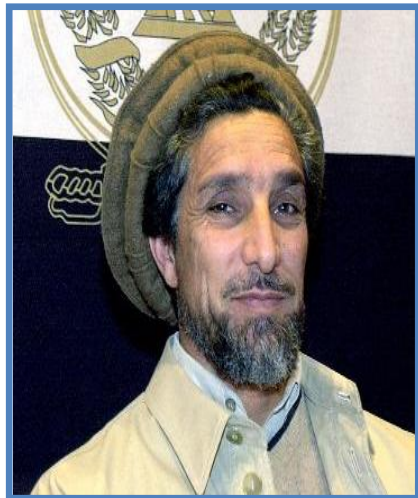
Pashtunwali is a term coined by anthropologists. While the term itself is unfamiliar to them, it is an accurate description of an unwritten code or set of values important to their way of life.

- ❖ **Melmastia** - hospitality
- ❖ **Badal** - justice/revenge
- ❖ **Nanawateh** - asylum
- ❖ **Zemaka** – Defense of land/earth
- ❖ **Nang** – Honor
- ❖ **Namus** - Honor of women
- ❖ **Hewad** – Nation - “Pashtunistan”
- ❖ **Dod-pasbani** - Protect Pashtun culture
- ❖ **Tokhm-pasbani** - Protect the Pashtun
- ❖ **De Pashtunwali Perawano** - Adhere to Pashtunwali



Tajik

- ❖ 2nd largest ethnic group (25 – 30% of population)
- ❖ Refer to themselves as “Farsiwan” – speakers of Farsi/Dari
- ❖ Formed the backbone of Northern Alliance against Taliban
- ❖ Social organization by geography, not tribe
- ❖ Tied together by perceived threat of Pashtuns
- ❖ Mostly Sunni Muslim, with few Shi’a



The late Ahmad Shah Masood

Hazara

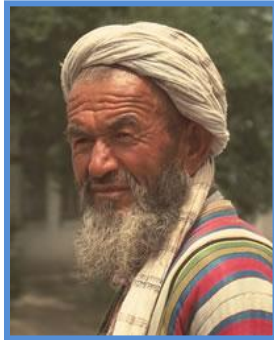


Hazara

- ❖ Mongolian descent
- ❖ Distinct ethnic and religious group
- ❖ Vast majority Shi'a Muslim
- ❖ Historical target of discrimination
- ❖ Often anti-government, anti-Pashtun
- ❖ 2 main groups: Hazarajat (Hindu Kush in Central Afghanistan) and those outside Hazarajat (Central and North Afghanistan)
- ❖ Opposed to Taliban
- ❖ Occasional feuds with nomadic Kuchi

Uzbek

- ❖ Turkic-Mongol mix
- ❖ Located in North Afghanistan and Uzbekistan
- ❖ Uzbek and Dari speakers
- ❖ Most Sunni Muslim
- ❖ Introduced Buzkashi, Afghanistan's national sport



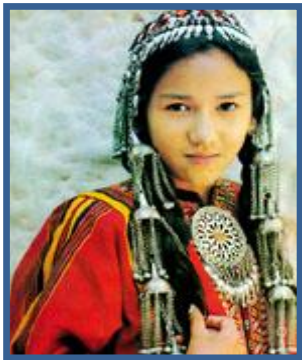
Nurestani

- ❖ Located primarily in NE Afghanistan
- ❖ Claim lineage to Alexander the Great and/or Quraysh tribe of Arabia (who rejected Islam)
- ❖ Previously named “Kafirs” - infidels
- ❖ Converted to Islam late 19th century
- ❖ 15 tribes with numerous sub-groups
- ❖ 5 languages with several dialects
- ❖ Tepid relations with other Afghans; animosity towards Arabs
- ❖ Protective of distinctive culture
- ❖ Many have European features – light eyes, hair

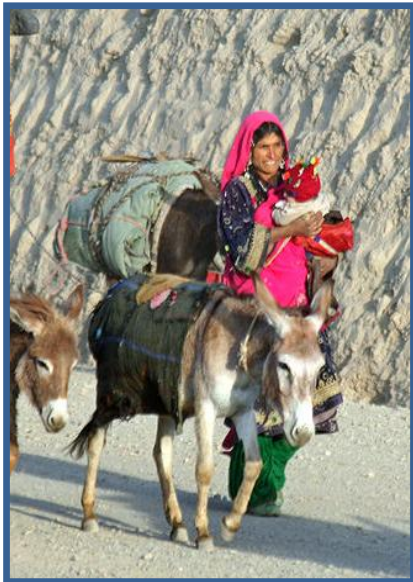


Turkmen

- ❖ Turkic-speaking group
- ❖ Turkic-Mongol origins
- ❖ Tribe structure based on patrilineal genealogies
- ❖ Farmer-herdsmen
- ❖ Jewelry and carpet makers
- ❖ Considerable contributions to the economy



Kuchi



- ❖ Nomadic herdsmen
- ❖ Most often Pashtuns (few non Pashtun, such as Baluch)
- ❖ Cross boundaries with ease
- ❖ High illiteracy rate
- ❖ Strong supporters of Taliban
- ❖ Feuds with Hazara
- ❖ Number around 3 million
- ❖ Suffered from landmines emplaced during and after Soviet-Afghan War

Other Ethnic Groups

Pashai

- ❖ Very little known about them
- ❖ Characterized by language – Pashai (Dardic language)
- ❖ Many identify themselves as Pashtun
- ❖ Often associated with or referred to as Kohistani
- ❖ Inhabit Nurestan, parts of Laghman, and N. Nangarhar
- ❖ Many in timber and livestock businesses

Kabuli

- ❖ Ethnic-neutral, heterogeneous urban population of Kabul City
- ❖ Generations of intermarriages
- ❖ Speak Dari in addition to mother tongue
- ❖ Often secularly educated
- ❖ Familiar with/adopt Western-oriented outlook

Other Ethnic Groups

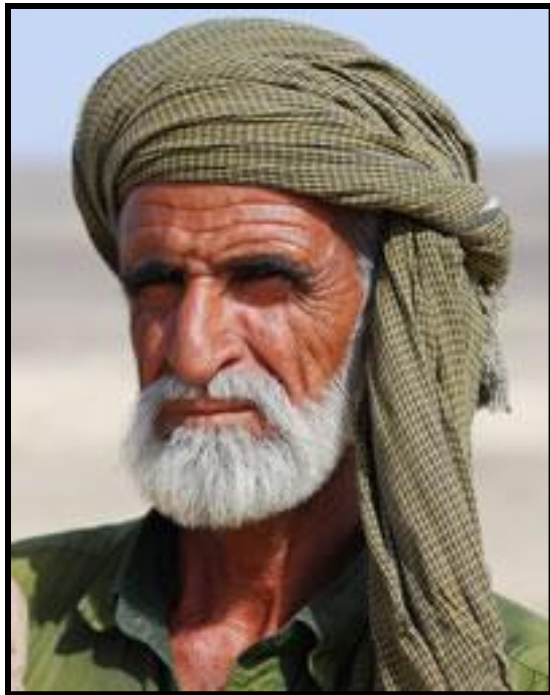
Qizilbash

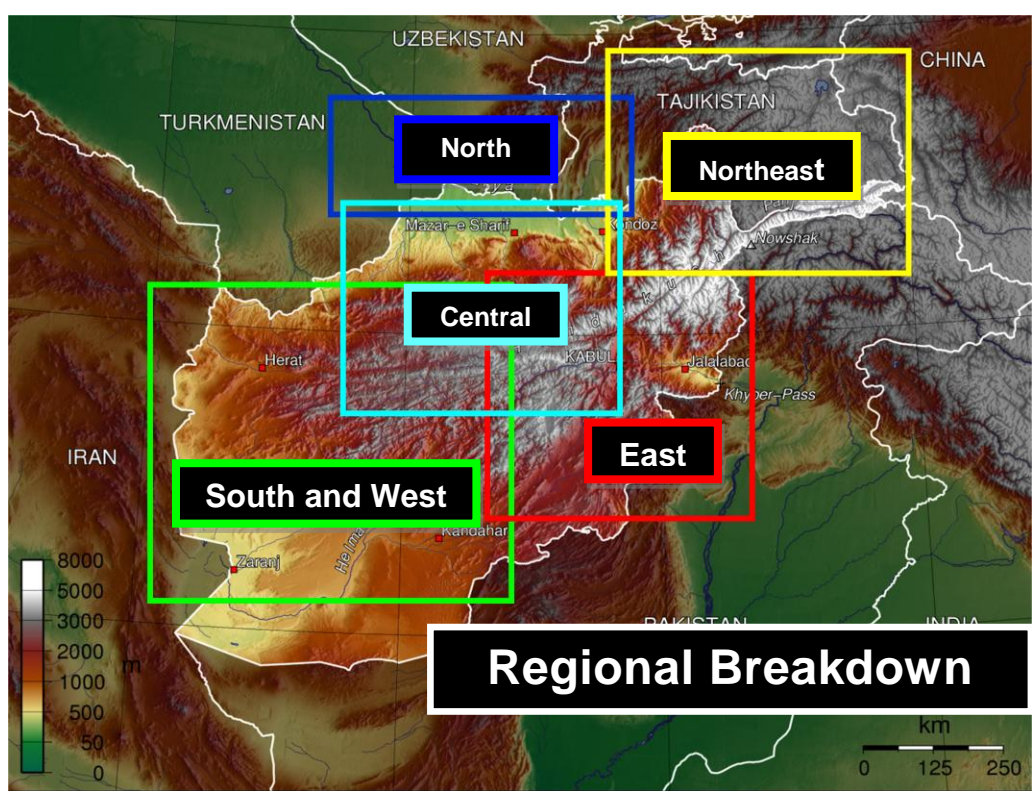
- ❖ Imami Shi'a group
- ❖ Thought to be descendants of Persian mercenaries and administrators of Safavid empire
- ❖ Alienated from Pashtun majority
- ❖ Practice “taqiyya” – hide identity – to avoid political and religious persecution; portray themselves as Pashtun, Sunni
- ❖ Appear to inhabit urban centers as professionals (doctors, teachers, engineers, lawyers)

Other Ethnic Groups

- ❖ **Gujjar:** Nomadic, language not Indo-European, millennia old traditions, somewhat related to Nurestanis
- ❖ **Hindus:** known for money lending, persecuted under Taliban, many returning to Afghanistan
- ❖ **Sikhs:** known for craftsmanship, must carry knife, persecuted by Taliban, many returning
- ❖ **Baluch:** Iranian descent; speak Baluchi (Iranian language); largely pastoral and desert dwellers; Sunni Muslim
- ❖ **Aimak:** Perisan-speaking, nomadic/semi-nomadic, Mongolian/Iranian mix

Baluch Elder





Provinces by Region

South and West:

Herat, Farah,
Nimruz, Helmand,
Kandahar

Northeastern:

Takhar, Panjshir,
Nurestan,
Badakhshan

North:

Faryab, Jowzjan,
Sar-e-Pol, Balkh,
Samangan,
Baghlan, Kunduz,
Badghis

East:

Konar, Nangarhar,
Lowgar, Paktia,
Khost, Paktika,
Ghazni, Zabol,
Laghman

Central:

Ghor, Daykundi,
Oruzgan, Wardak,
Kabul, Kapisa,
Parvan, Bamyān

Southern and Western Regions

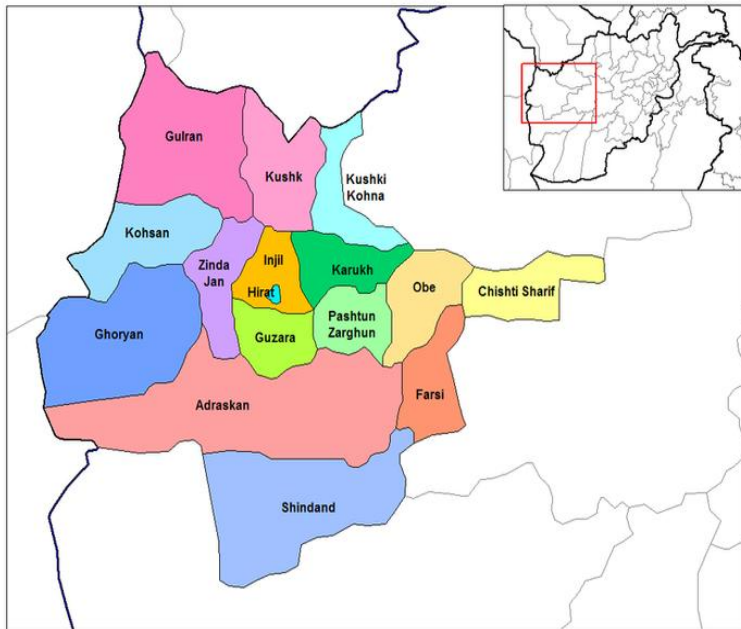
Herat, Farah, Nimruz, Helmand, Kandahar



Southern and Western Regions

The southern and western climate generally covers the Herat, Farah, and Nimruz provinces in the West and the Helmand and Kandahar provinces in the South. This region has incredibly hot summers. Snow rarely falls in the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar during the winter, whereas the Western provinces will see some snow with little to no accumulation. Nimruz and Farah provinces have large, sandy deserts known locally as Registan or “Sandy Land.” The entire southern region experiences high winds and sand storms from May – September. The region has a Pashtun majority, followed by a concentration of Baluch in the southernmost areas. There are pockets of Tajik populations in the region, and a small amount of Hazaras and Aimaks. The security is somewhat unstable, and insurgent groups are known to roam in the region. Helmand province is of great significance as it is responsible for over 50% of the world’s opium production.

Western Afghanistan – Herat



Ethnic Groups

Pashtun

Tajik

Hazara

Languages:

Pashtu

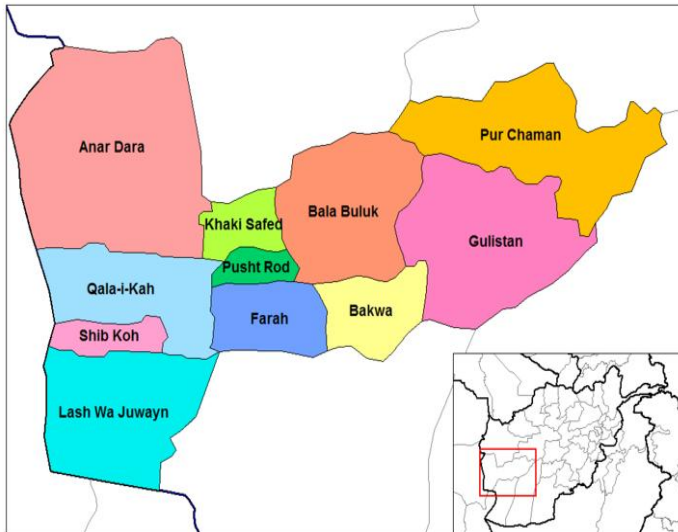
Dari

Herat Province

Capital: Herat

Geography and Climate:	Bounded by the Khorasan deserts in the west, mountains in the east and north fertile tract that contains the districts of Herat, Ghoryan, Obe, and Karukh
Economy:	One of the country's richest agricultural communities; agriculture, livestock, and carpet weaving
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Most of the opium production takes place in Shindand District where insurgent groups are very active
Dangers/Concerns:	High level of criminal activity throughout the province— particularly rural areas
Significance:	Once a center of Persian poetry and philosophy, Herat is still in Iran's sphere of influence

Western Afghanistan – Farah



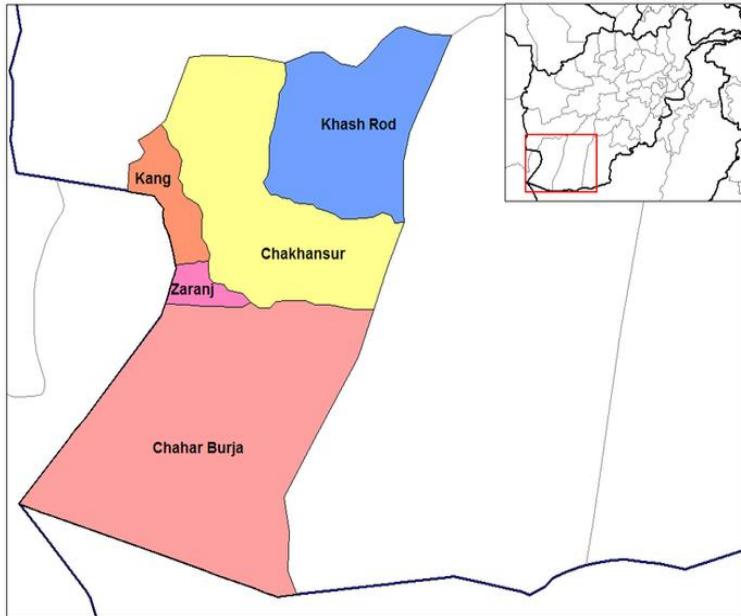
Ethnic Groups
Pashtun-80%
Tajik-14%
Other-6%

Languages:
Dari-50%
Pashtu-48%

Farah Province
Capital: Farah

Geography and Climate:	Desert plains south of Farah Rud; mountainous north and east of Farah City
Economy:	6th largest opium producing province; 9 percent of arable land under opium poppy cultivation
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Opium poppy is mainly cultivated in the Bala Buluk and Bakwa districts
Dangers/Concerns:	Taliban pressure combined with government sponsored poppy eradication programs have pushed residents into arms of insurgency
Significance:	Tomb of Syed Muhammad Jaunpuri (who claimed to be the Mahdi) visited every year by many; home to many ruined castles, including “Castle of Infidel”

Southern Afghanistan – Nimruz



Ethnic Groups:

Baluch – 61%

Pashtun – 27%

Tajik

Uzbek

Languages:

Baluchi- 61%

Pashtu- 27%

Dari-10%

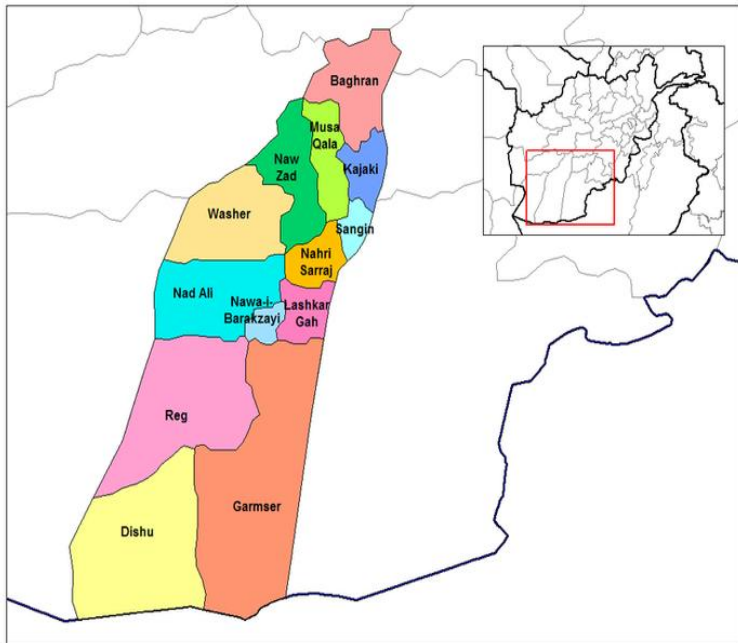
Uzbek-10%

Nimruz Province

Capital: Zaranj

Geography and Climate:	Desert; arid; nearly all of the province (95.3%) is made up of flat land
Economy:	According to USAID, less than a quarter of Nimruz's trade with Iran is legal and more than 70 per cent of the local population participates in smuggling activities
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Important transit point to Pakistan and Iran; fertile Khash Rod District prime opium growing area
Dangers/Concerns:	Narco-trafficker violence to support economic interests; corruption with Afghan Border Security personnel
Significance:	The ancient city of Zaranj was the capital of the Saffarid Empire

Southern Afghanistan – Helmand



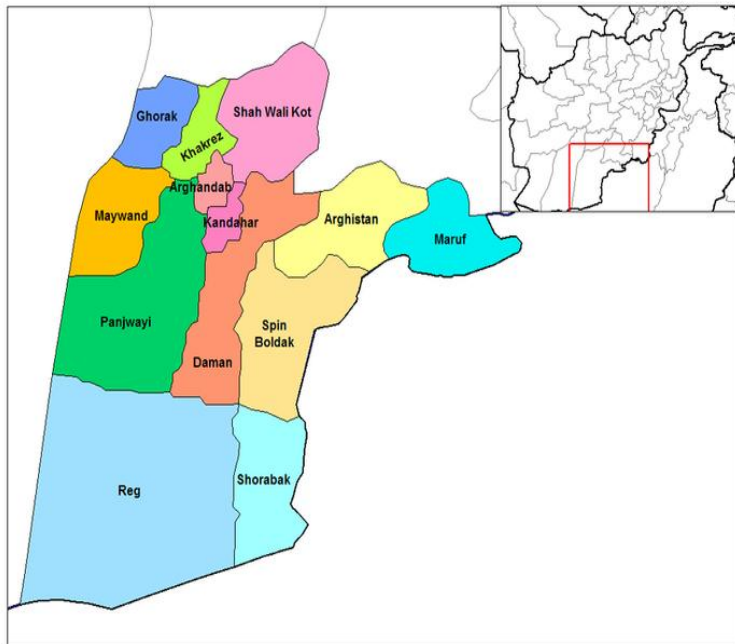
Ethnic Groups:
Pashtun – 92%
Baluch

Languages:
Pashtu-92%
Baluchi
Dari

Helmand Province
Capital: Lashkar Gah

Geography and Climate:	Deserts in the south, hills in the north, and the fertile Helmand River Valley along the length of the province
Economy:	Opium cultivation and production; almost every family is involved in the drug trade; 94% of population lives in rural districts
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Produces 50% of World's opium
Dangers/Concerns:	Security is extremely poor; serious infiltration of anti-government forces
Significance:	One of the early centers of Zoroastrianism; was also known as "White India" due to its populations of Brahmans and Buddhists

Southern Afghanistan – Kandahar



Ethnic Groups:
Pashtun

Languages:
Pashtu 98%

Kandahar Province
Capital: Kandahar City

Geography and Climate:	More than four-fifths flat land; arid
Economy:	Agriculture; recently growing dependence on poppy cultivation
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Statistically the second largest poppy producing province in the country
Dangers/Concerns:	Security situation remains volatile; insurgent presence active or at least present in all Districts
Significance:	Considered the birthplace of modern Afghanistan; home province of President Hamid Karzai

Northern Region

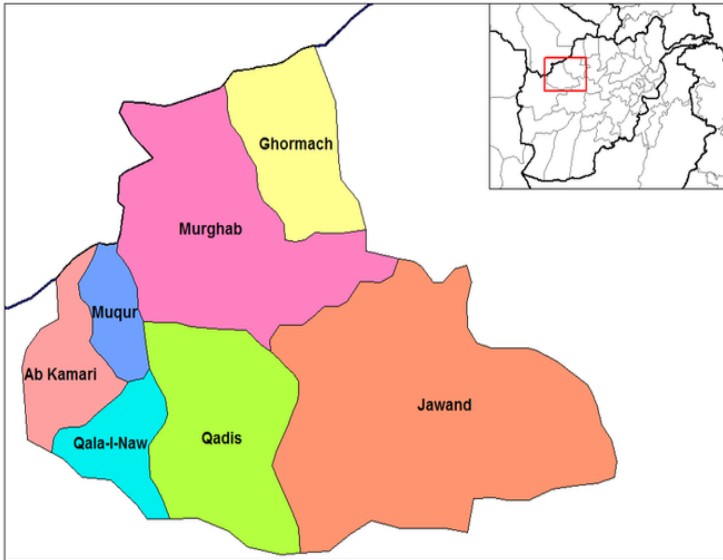
Faryab, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pol, Balkh, Samangan, Baghlan,
Kunduz, Badghis



Northern Region

The northern climate area pertains to the provinces of Badghis, Faryab, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pol, Balkh, Samangan, Baghlan, and Kunduz. Winters here can be very cold with accumulating snowfall especially in the areas around the city of Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh province. Also on this plain, the summers can reach temperatures of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Uzbeks are the ethnic majority in this region, followed by Tajiks and Hazaras; there are also pockets of Pashtuns and Turkmen. In recent years threat activity has been low, but some poppy cultivation and trafficking is ongoing (esp. in Sar-e-Pol). Mazar-e-Sharif is famous for its Blue Mosque, which receives hundreds of thousands of pilgrims each year at Nowruz (Persian New Year).

Northwest Afghanistan – Badghis



Ethnic Groups

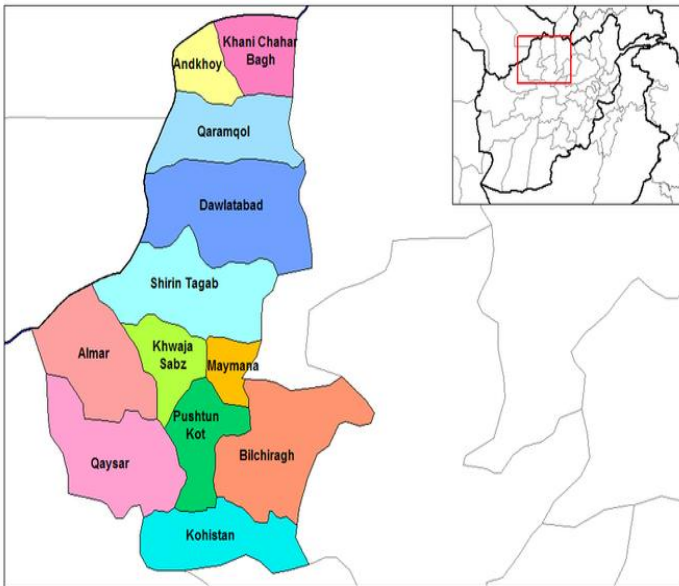
Tajik-62%
Pashtun-28%
Uzbek-5%
Turkmen-3%

Languages:
Dari-56%
Pashtu-40%

Badghis Province
Capital: Qala-I-Naw

Geography and Climate:	Murghab River in the north and the Hari-Rud River in the south; bordered on the north by the Desert of the Sarakhs; extremely mountainous and remote
Economy:	Agriculture and animal husbandry
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Opium poppy cultivated mainly in the Ghormach, Murghab and Qadis districts; opium is not a major source of income for the province
Dangers/Concerns:	Security situation has deteriorated in the northern districts of Ghormach and Murghab; Pashtun population sympathetic to the local Taliban
Significance:	Badghis = “Lap of Wind”; settled by the Emir with purely Afghan tribes in late 19th century

Northwestern Afghanistan – Faryab



Ethnic Groups:

Uzbek – 54%

Tajik – 27%

Pashtun – 13%

Turkmen

Language:

Uzbeki

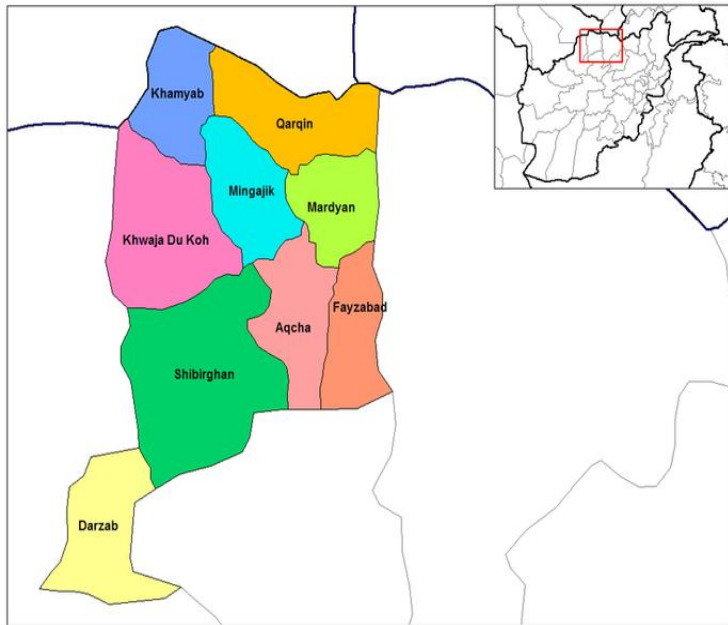
Dari

Pashtun

Faryab Province
Capital: Maymana

Geography and Climate:	Two thirds mountainous or semi mountainous
Economy:	Agriculture; Industrial commodities; handicrafts - rugs and carpets
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Little poppy cultivation but one of the most important transit areas for drug trafficking, especially Bilchiragh, Gorziwan and Kohistan
Dangers/Concerns:	Improvised explosive device attacks against International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) in Maimana City; violent demonstrations with some involvement of the locals
Significance:	Named after a town founded by Sassanids and later destroyed by invading Mongols in 1220

Northwestern Afghanistan – Jowzjan



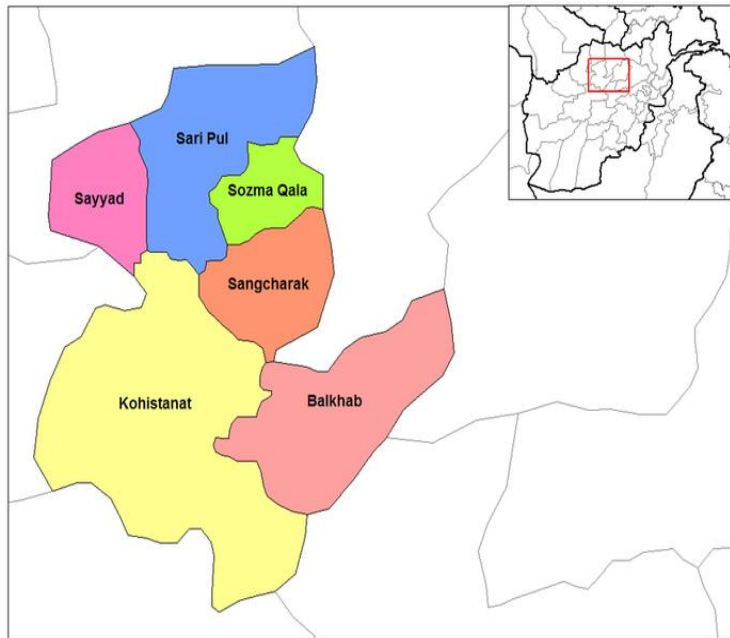
Ethnic Groups:
Uzbek – 40%
Turkmen – 29%
Tajik – 12%
Pashtun – 17%

Languages:
Dari
Uzbek
Turkmen

Jowzjan Province
Capital: Sheberghan

Geography and Climate:	More than one quarter mountainous; two thirds of the area flat
Economy:	Agriculture
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Most local commanders involved in the narcotics business
Dangers/Concerns:	Some unrest; factional clashes continue to cause instability; there are indications that Darzab district may serve as a base for Anti Government Elements (AGE)
Significance:	Traditional powerbase of Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum

Northwestern Afghanistan – Sar-e Pol



Ethnic Groups:

Uzbek

Hazara

Pashtun

Tajik

Languages:

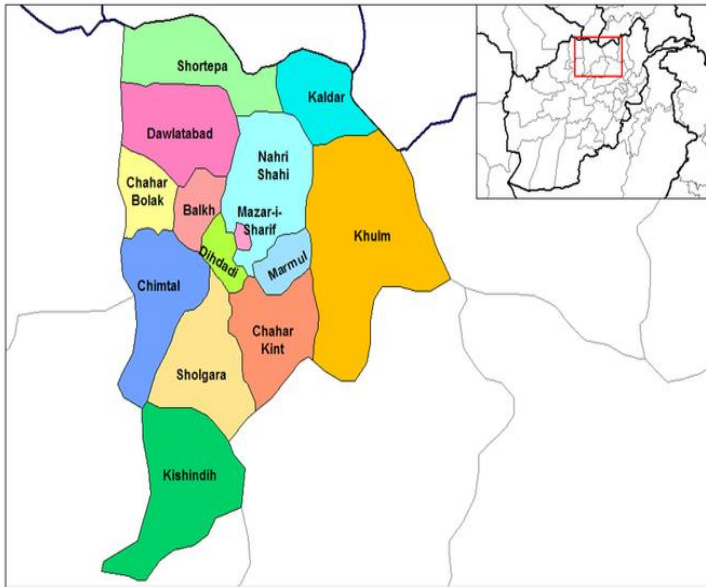
Dari – 56%

Uzbek – 19%

Sar-e-Pol Province
Capital: Sar-e Pol

Geography and Climate:	75% mountainous terrain,14% flat
Economy:	Agriculture; area largely undeveloped
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Poppy cultivation is ongoing; transit area for drug trafficking
Dangers/Concerns:	Relatively calm and stable; some unresolved land disputes
Significance:	Named after Buddhist disciple Sariputta, who originated from the area

Northwestern Afghanistan – Balkh



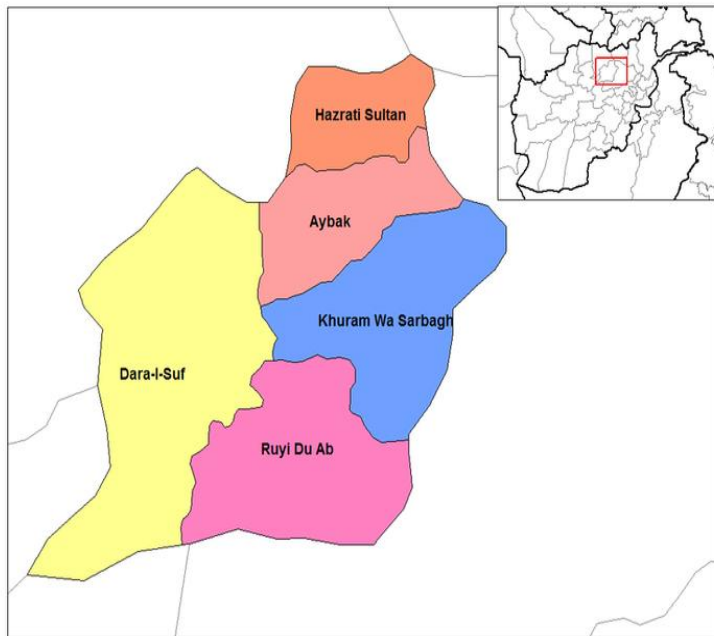
Ethnic Groups:
Tajik
Pashtun
Turkmen
Uzbek

Languages:
Dari - 50%
Pashtu - 27%
Turkmen - 12%
Uzbek - 11%

Balkh Province
Capital: Mazar-e-Sharif

Geography and Climate:	50% mountainous, 50% flat
Economy:	Mazar-e-Sharif is a commercial and financial center; poppy production still a significant source of income
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Poppy and hashish cultivation in Balkh still significant; reportedly 40% of poppy cultivated land destroyed by government; remaining 60% is under control of local commanders and individuals
Dangers/Concerns:	Criminality mostly tied to opium and hashish trafficking
Significance:	Located along the historic Silk Route, was the ancient center of Zoroastrianism and the Bactrian Empire

Northwestern Afghanistan – Samangan



Ethnic Groups:
Uzbek and Tajik
majority
Pashtun
Hazara

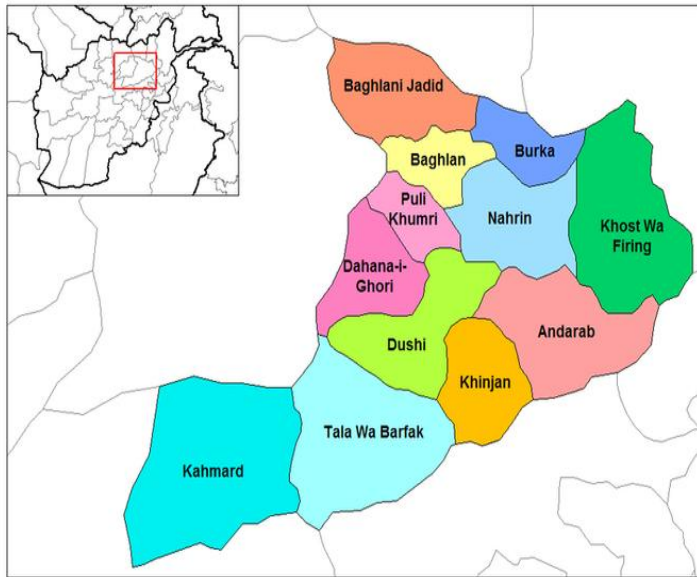
Languages:
Dari: 75%
Uzbek: 22%

Samangan Province

Capital: Aybak

Geography and Climate:	Four fifths mountainous; 12% of the area flat
Economy:	Agriculture
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Poppy eradication successful; few remote areas do continue poppy growing Rui Do Ab and Dara-i-Suf districts still the two major drug transit areas
Dangers/Concerns:	Relatively calm and stable
Significance:	Was once the ancient Buddhist center of Takht-e Rostam

Northern Afghanistan – Baghlan



Ethnic Groups:

Tajiks: 50%

Pashtuns: 20%

Hazara: 15%

Uzbek: 12%

Tatar: 3%

Languages:

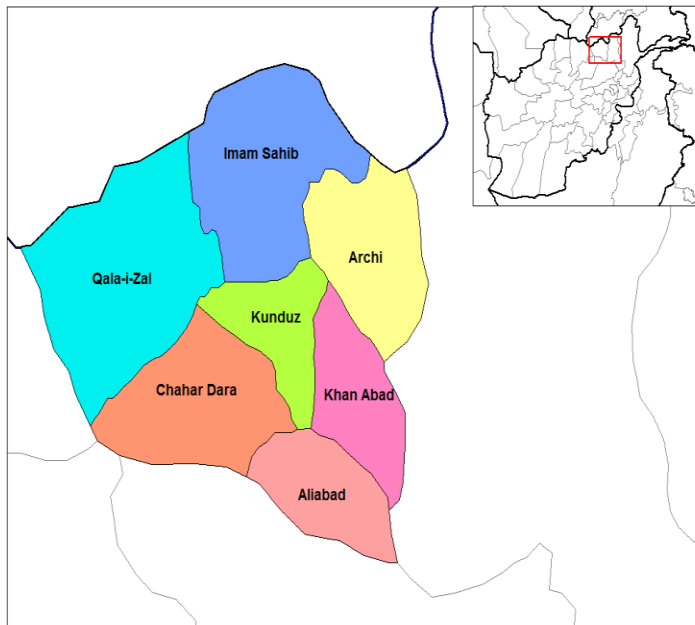
Dari

Uzbek

Baghlan Province
Capital: Puli Khumri

Geography and Climate:	Over half mountainous Lies on main route to Northern provinces
Economy:	Agriculture
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Significant amounts of cultivation and trafficking
Dangers/Concerns:	Opium cultivation remains major concern
Significance:	In 1st century CE was the site of a famous Zoroastrian fire temple; currently has the only functioning cement factory in Afghanistan

Northern Afghanistan: Kunduz



Ethnic Groups:
Majority Pashtun
Tajik
Uzbek
Hazara
Turkmen

Languages:
Pashtu
Dari

Kunduz Province

Capital: Kunduz

Geography and Climate:	¾ flat; 12% mountainous; fertile land; route to access Tajikistan
Economy:	Agriculture
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Very little production; part of Kabul-Pulikhumri-Kunduz-Tajikistan drug route
Dangers/Concerns:	Illegally armed groups and warlords; community support for Anti-government elements; Chahar Dar considered a high threat district
Significance:	On 4 September 2009 German ISAF elements called an air strike against two NATO fuel trucks that had been captured by insurgents; as a result of the US aircraft attack, more than 90 people, among them at least 40 civilians, who had gathered to collect fuel.

Northeastern Region

Takhar, Panjshir, Nurestan, Badakhshan

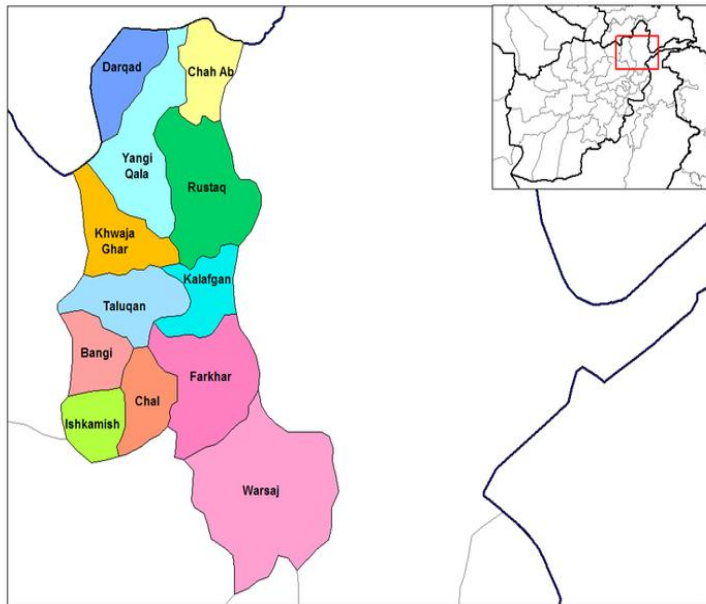


Northeastern Region:

The northeastern border climate is made up of the highest elevations in the Hindu Kush mountain range which leads up to the Himalayan Mountains.

During the winter months, these mountains are impassable and during the summer, heavy poppy trafficking is pervasive. The provinces covered in this region are Takhar, Panjshir, Nurestan, and Badakhshan. With the exception of Nurestan, which is almost 100% Nurestani, the region has an ethnic majority of Tajiks; Uzbeks are the next largest group, and there are a few Hazara and Pashtun populations. Although the Panjshir and Badakhshan provinces never came under Taliban control, there is some Taliban activity in the region. Nurestan is an area of concern as Taliban have been able to operate openly in the region.

Northeast Afghanistan – Takhar



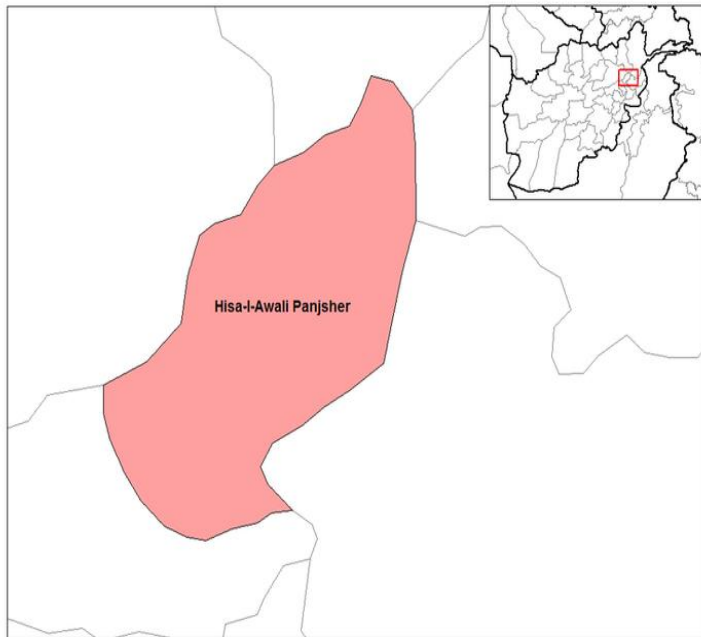
Ethnic Groups:
Majority: Uzbeks
and Tajiks
Minorities:
Pashtuns and
Hazara.

Languages:
Dari
Uzbek
Pashtun

Takhar Province
Capital: Taloqan

Geography and Climate:	Border with Tajikistan; more than half mountainous; one third flat terrain
Economy:	Salt mines one of country's major mineral resources; agriculture, trade and services
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Used by drug traffickers as a secure passage to Tajikistan
Dangers/Concerns:	Internal disputes between local commanders, tribal leaders, and drug traffickers
Significance:	Location where Ahmad Shah Masood, the Tajik Northern Alliance commander, was assassinated

Northeastern Afghanistan – Panjshir



Ethnic Groups:
Mostly Tajik
Some Hazara
(Small number of Pashtun, Nurestani, Pashai)

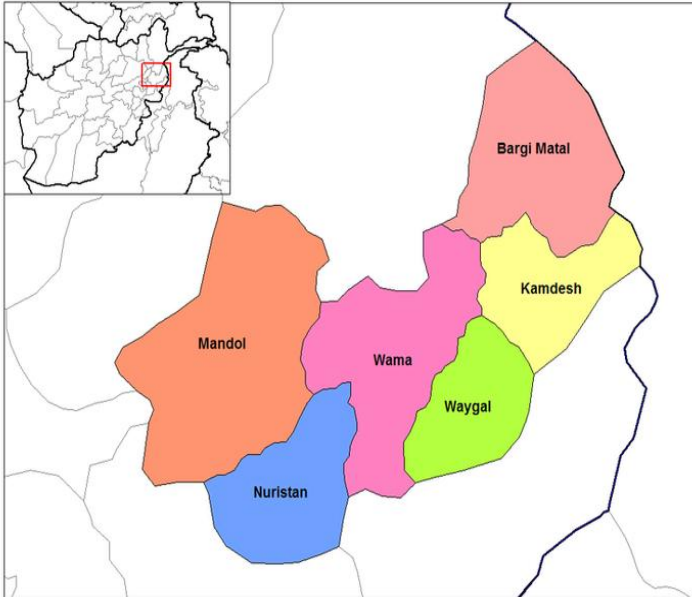
Languages:
Dari
(Small pockets of Pashtu speakers)

Panjshir Province (formerly part of Kapisa Province)

Capital: Bazarak

Geography and Climate:	Panjshir valley; mountainous, high peaks; streams, greenery
Economy:	Non farm-related labor, agriculture, trade and services
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Virtually poppy-free
Dangers/Concerns:	Relatively secure; some unexploded ordinances
Significance:	Panjshir = Five Lions; Tomb of Shaheed (martyr) Ahmad Shah Masood, commander of Northern Alliance; anti-Taliban area

Northeastern Afghanistan – Nurestan



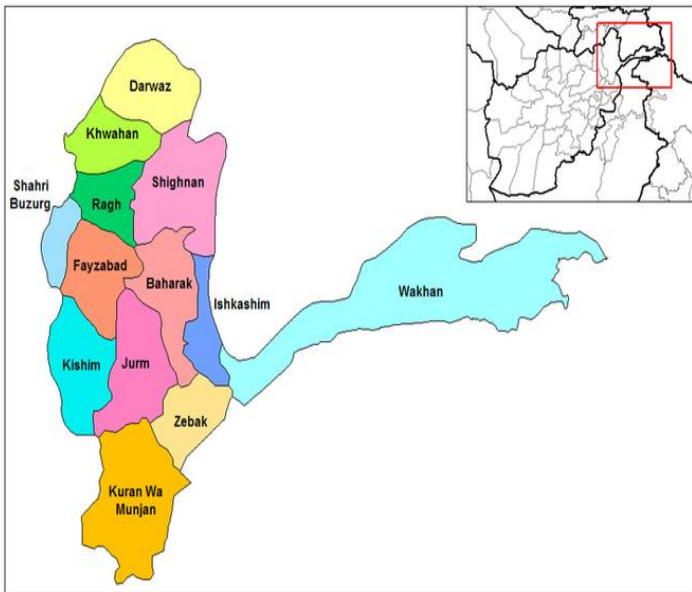
Ethnic Groups:
Nurestani - 99.3%

Languages:
Nurestani - 78%
languages/dialects
Peshayee - 15%

Nurestan Province
Capital: Parun

Geography and Climate:	99% mountainous; most impassable regions
Economy:	Agriculture, livestock, day labor; trade across border with Pakistan; one of poorest regions
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Land unsuitable for poppy cultivation; some drug trafficking across border
Dangers/Concerns:	Poor security/some parts under "enemy" control lack of infrastructure; local militias stronger than government
Significance:	Until the 1890s, the region was known as Kafiristan (Persian for "Land of the non-believers") because its inhabitants were non-Muslims who practiced a form of Zoroastrianism

Northeastern Afghanistan - Badakhshan



Ethnic Groups:
Majority Tajik

Languages:
Dari

Badakhshan Province

Capital: Fayzabad

Geography and Climate:	Between Hindu Kush and Amu Darya; only province to border China via Wakhan Corridor; prone to earthquakes and seasonal flooding
Economy:	Agriculture; rich in natural minerals
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Believed to be a major drug smuggling route
Dangers/Concerns:	Insufficient protection of the Tajik - Afghan border
Significance:	Rich in minerals; has attracted China who has helped with reconstruction of roads and infrastructure

Eastern Region

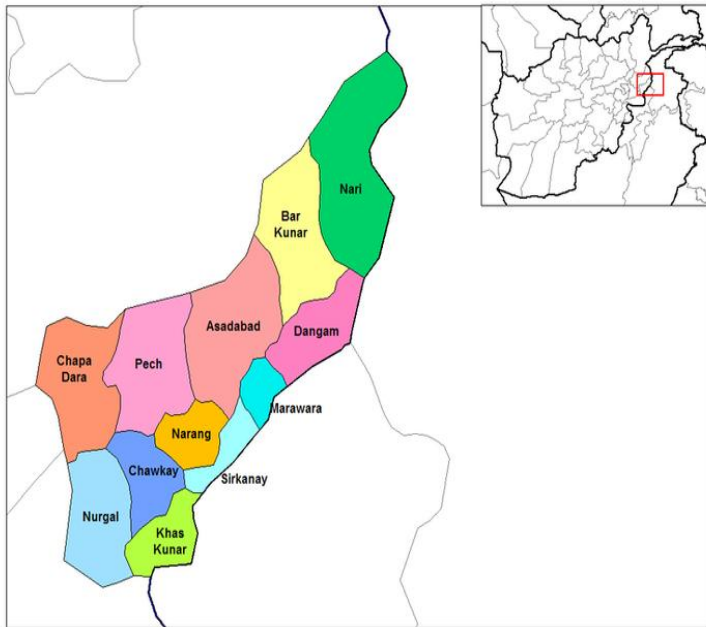
Konar, Nangarhar, Lowgar, Paktia, Khost, Paktika,
Ghazni, Zabol, Laghman



Eastern Region

The eastern border region is extremely mountainous. During the summer, the temperatures can reach in excess of 100 degrees Fahrenheit and during the winter, the mountains are impassable due to heavy snowfall. With many narrow canyons, valleys, and mountain passes, this region provides treacherous terrain that is perfect for guerilla warfare operations. The Pashtun are the ethnic majority in this region, with much smaller numbers of Tajiks and Hazaras. The security of the region is threatened by its insecure border with Pakistan, which allows for free migration in both directions and smuggling of the region's natural resources. The region is also known as an insurgent hideout, especially in the province of Konar. The provinces covered in section include Konar, Nangarhar, Lowgar, Paktia, Khost, Paktika, Ghazni, Laghman, and Zabol.

Eastern Afghanistan – Konar



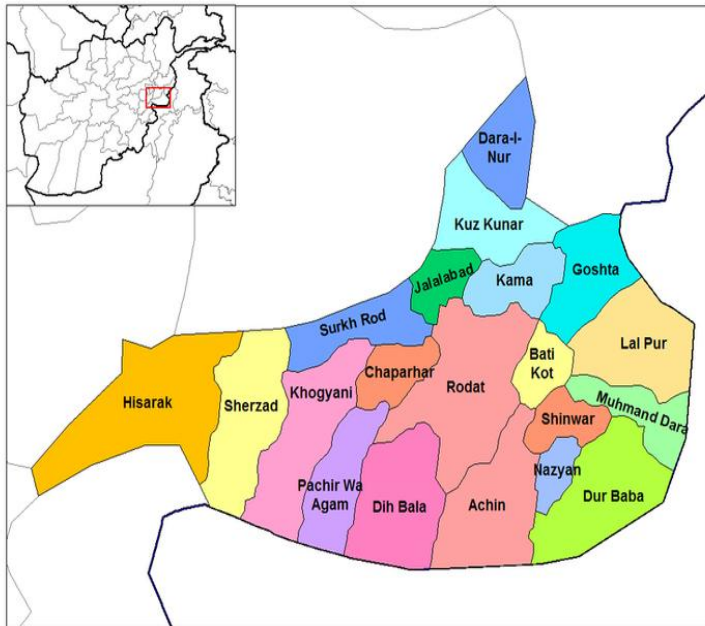
Ethnic Groups:
Pashtun - 95%
Nurestani - 5%
Kuchi (seasonal)

Languages:
Pashtu

Konar Province
Capital: Asadabad

Geography and Climate:	Embedded in Hindu Kush; heavily mountainous and forested
Economy:	Agriculture, livestock, day labor; some timber (smuggling to Pakistan)
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Trafficking of heroin and opium into the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan
Dangers/Concerns:	Established base of insurgent groups; possible Al Qaeda sanctuary
Significance:	Looting of national assets (timber and gems) is a destabilizing factor for province; with some of the largest forests in Afghanistan, trees are now rapidly being cut down illegally and smuggled to Pakistan

Eastern Afghanistan – Nangarhar



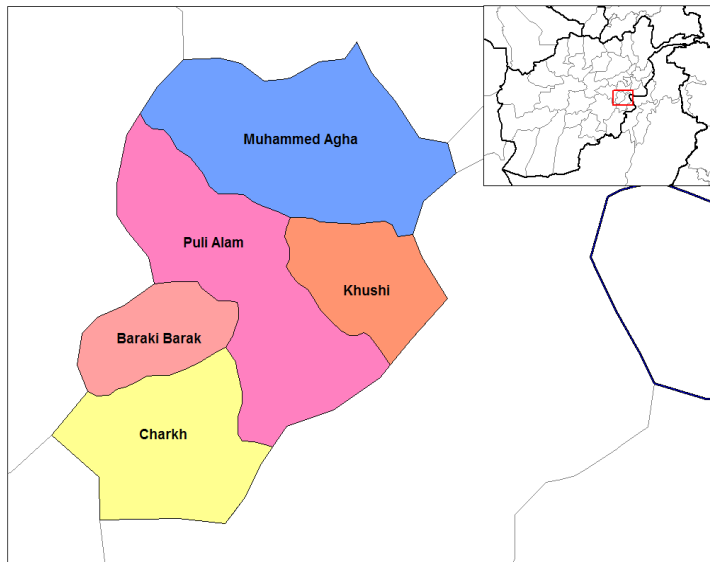
Ethnic Groups:
Pashtun - 90%
Pashayee - 7%
Tajiks
Gujar

Languages:
Pashtu - 92%
Dari - 8%

Nangahar Province
Capital: Jalalabad

Geography and Climate:	More than ½ mountainous; 2/5 flat land
Economy:	½ agriculture; trade and services
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Opium and cannabis production prevalent; once center of poppy production (95% decrease in 2005)
Dangers/Concerns:	Illegally armed groups, anti-government elements active and heavily armed; migration from and to Pakistan
Significance:	Jalalabad is considered one of the most important cities of the Pashtun culture

Eastern Afghanistan – Lowgar



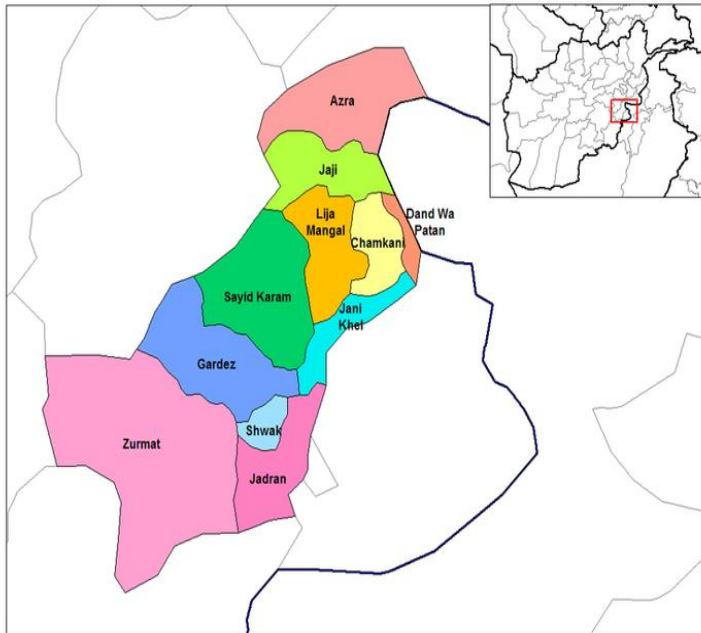
Ethnic Groups:
Pashtun - 60%
Tajik/Hazara - 40%

Languages:
Pashtu - 60%
Dari - 40%

Lowgar Province
Capital: Pol-e-‘Alam

Geography and Climate:	Flat river valley (Lowgar River); rugged mountains in East, South, and Southwest; Tera Pass a critical chokepoint
Economy:	Agriculture, livestock; Ainak copper mine, Mohammad Agha mine; rich with minerals
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Consistently poppy-free between 2002 - 2009
Dangers/Concerns:	Assessed as medium threat; some anti-personnel mines; Taliban assassinated governor in 2008
Significance:	During Soviet-Afghan War, ~ 350 Soviet tanks destroyed in the Tera Pass by Mujahideen

Eastern Afghanistan – Paktia



Ethnic Groups:
Pashtun - 91%
Tajik - 9%

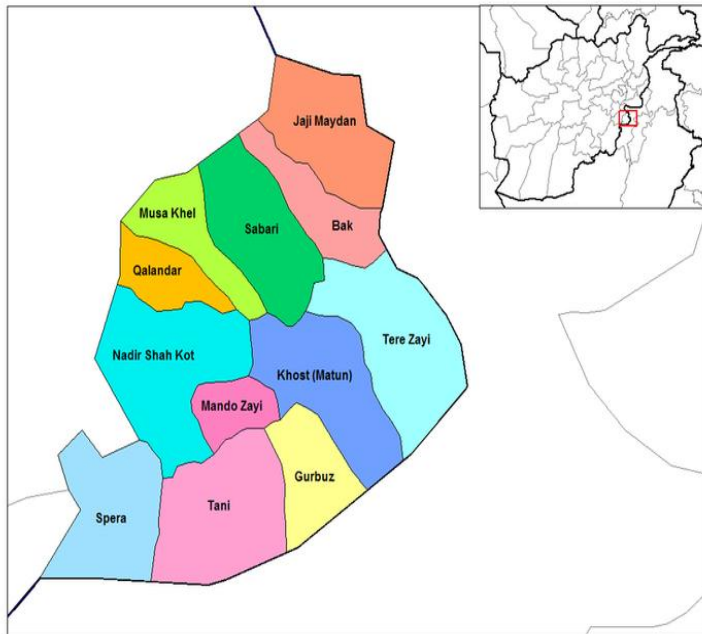
Languages:
Pashtu
Dari

Paktia Province

Capital: Gardez

Geography and Climate:	Seta – Kadow (KG) Pass in Zadran Arc is the premier mountain range in Paktia
Economy:	Forestry and the mining of chromites and natural gas; grains, crops and apple, walnut, and apricot orchards
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Significant precursor trafficking occurs along the eastern belt of Paktia
Dangers/Concerns:	Security situation remains volatile; insurgent presence active or at least present in all Districts
Significance:	KG Pass is the historical home to anti-government elements and Haqqani Network; Shah-i Kot Valley in Zormat District, a mountainous region historically used as a base for renegades

Eastern Afghanistan – Khost



Ethnic Groups:
Pashtun-99%

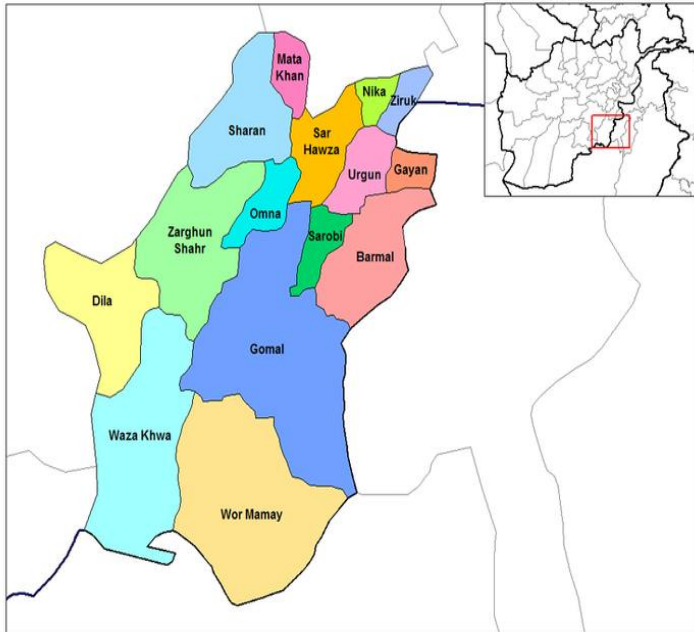
Languages:
Pashtu

Khost Province

Capital: Khost

Geography and Climate:	Dominated by the Khost Valley and the mountains that surround it; natural forests run along the border
Economy:	Agriculture and animal husbandry
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Heroin and opium are trafficked into the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) region of Pakistan where insurgent groups linked to the Taliban and Al-Qaeda dominate
Dangers/Concerns:	Security situation remains volatile with an insurgent presence active or at least present in all Districts
Significance:	Once part of Paktia province; Khost City the first to be liberated from communist rule during Soviet occupation

Eastern Afghanistan – Paktika



Ethnic Groups:
Pashtun

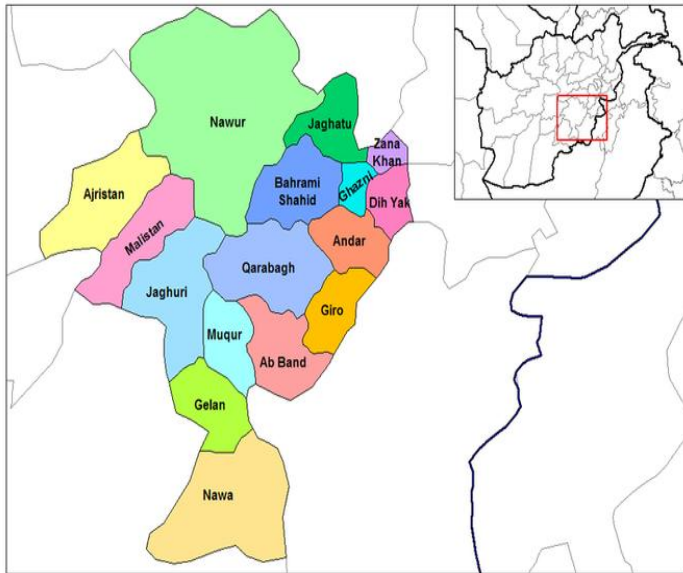
Languages:
Pashtu

Paktika Province

Capital: Sharan

Geography and Climate:	Arid; high desert; 32% mountainous
Economy:	Agriculture and animal husbandry; overall literacy rate in province is extremely low at just 2%
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Heroin and opium are trafficked into the FATA region of Pakistan
Dangers/Concerns:	Security situation remains volatile with an insurgent presence active or at least present in all Districts
Significance:	Once part of Paktia province, was the site of many battles during Soviet occupation

Eastern Afghanistan – Ghazni



Ethnic Groups:
Pashtun - 48.9%
Hazara - 45.9%
Tajik - 4.7%
Kuchis (summer)

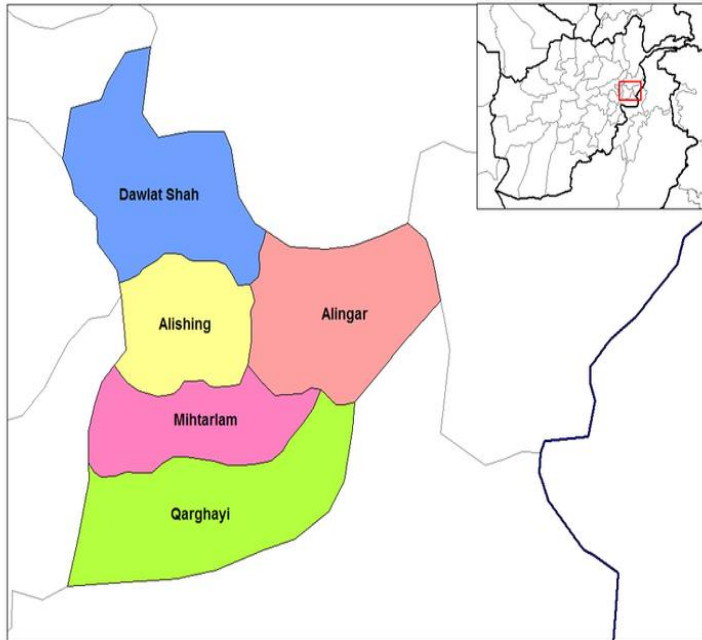
Languages:
Pashtu - 51%
Dari - 47%

Ghazni Province

Capital: Ghazni

Geography and Climate:	Arid; level towards the Southeast, more mountainous and wet toward the Northwest
Economy:	Agriculture, animal husbandry and day labor
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Poppy-free
Dangers/Concerns:	Security situation remains volatile with an insurgent presence active or at least present in all Pashtun districts; Hazara areas low threat
Significance:	Was once the center of the Ghaznavid Empire, which ruled much of India, Central Asia, and Persia

Eastern Afghanistan – Laghman



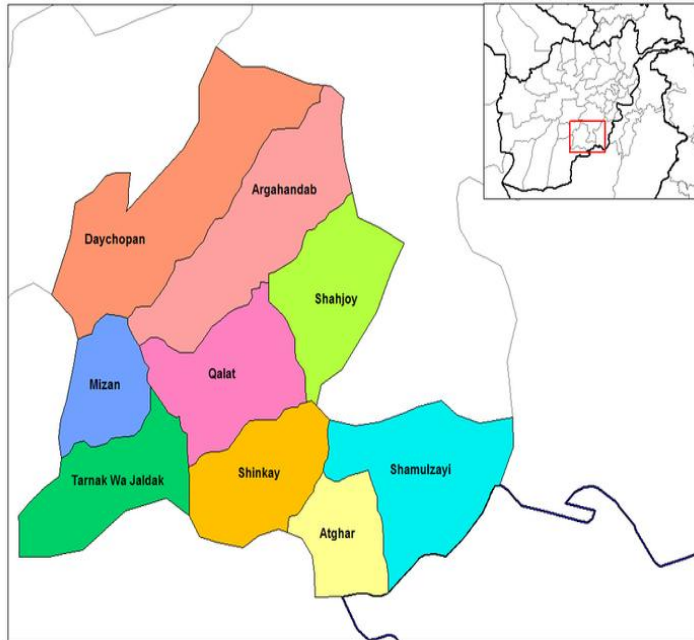
Ethnic Groups:
Pashtuns - 58%
Pashai
Nurestani

Languages:
Pashtu - 58%
Peshayee - 33%
Dari - 9%

Laghman Province
Capital: Mihtarlam

Geography and Climate:	55.4% mountainous; 40.9% flat
Economy:	Trade and services, non-farm labor, agriculture and livestock; rich with stones and minerals
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Some poppy growing; smuggling center for heroin
Dangers/Concerns:	Large number of illegally armed groups; active anti-government elements
Significance:	Once the center of Mahayanist Buddhism with several monasteries

Eastern Afghanistan – Zabol



Ethnic Groups:
Pashtun
Kuchi (seasonal)

Languages:
Pashtu - 80%
Dari - 20%

Zabol Province

Capital:Qalat

Geography and Climate:	Remote and sparsely populated; 41% mountainous; arid; severe drought has reduced fertility of the land
Economy:	Agricultural communities established along Arghandab and Tarnak rivers; animal husbandry
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Some relatively small scale opium cultivation; widespread trafficking along Ring Road and easy overland access to Pakistan
Dangers/Concerns:	Security situation remains volatile with an insurgent presence active or at least present in all Districts
Significance:	Pashtun residents deeply conservative; infrastructure is largely undeveloped; only Qalat City has electricity and only Ring Road paved

Central Region

**Ghor, Daykundi, Oruzgan, Wardak, Kabul, Kapisa,
Parvan, Bamyan**

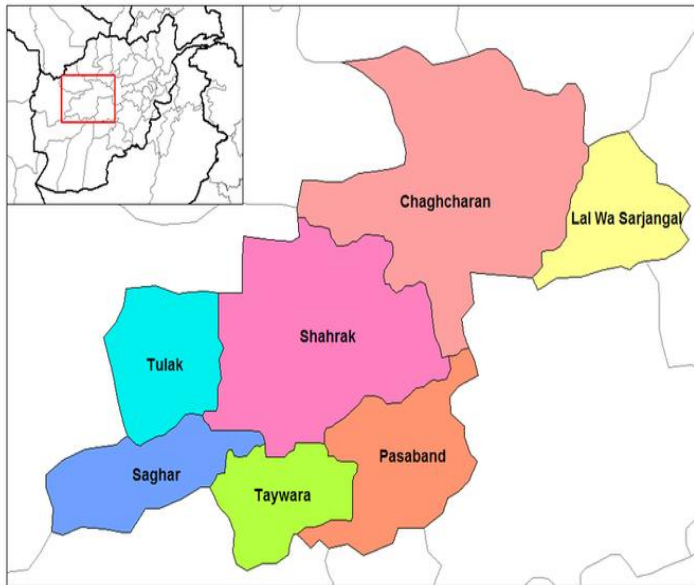


Central Region

The central climate area is generally covered by the Hindu Kush Mountains. Summers can reach temperatures of 100 degrees Fahrenheit and winters will be bitterly cold with very heavy snowfall.

The provinces in this area are Ghor, Daykundi, Oruzgan, Wardak, Kabul, Kapisa, Parvan and Bamyan. This area is considered to be a high desert with terrain similar to southern Arizona and the mountains of central Nevada and eastern California. The area hosts a mix of Pashtun, Tajik, and Hazara, with several other groups in smaller numbers. As the physical center of the country, the region has been influenced by several cultural movements and the Silk Road. The Buddhists statues of Bamyan, destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, are a well-known artifact of the region's rich cultural past. The security of the region has deteriorated, especially in Oruzgan and Wardak.

Central Afghanistan – Ghor



Ethnic Groups

Tajik - 58%

Hazara - 39%

Pashtun - 3%

Languages:

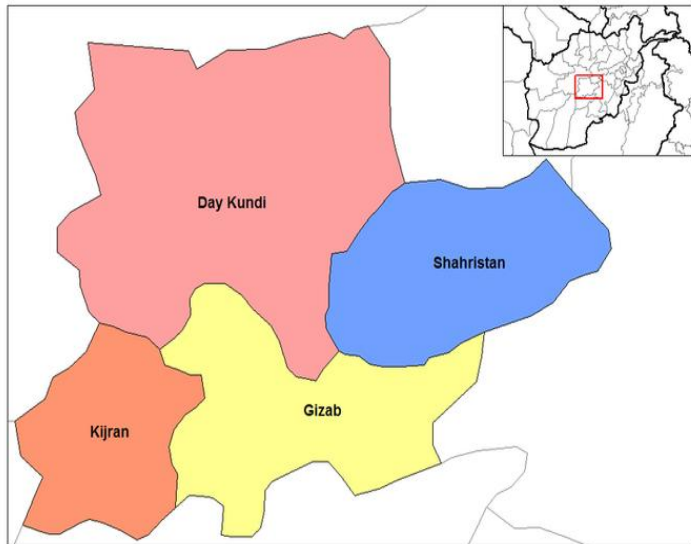
Dari - 97%

Pashtu - 3%

Ghor Province
Capital: Chaghcharan

Geography and Climate:	Extremely mountainous and characterized by small, isolated villages, which are generally inaccessible during the winter months
Economy:	Agriculture and animal husbandry
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Was cultivating opium poppy but between 2007 and 2009 had become poppy-free
Dangers/Concerns:	Lowest threat province in region
Significance:	The Minaret of Jam, the second tallest minaret in the world and a national treasure, is located in a remote valley on the banks of the Hari Rud River

Central Afghanistan – Daykundi



Ethnic Groups:

Hazara - 86%

Pashtun - 8.5%

Baluch - 3.5%

Languages:

Dari - 91%

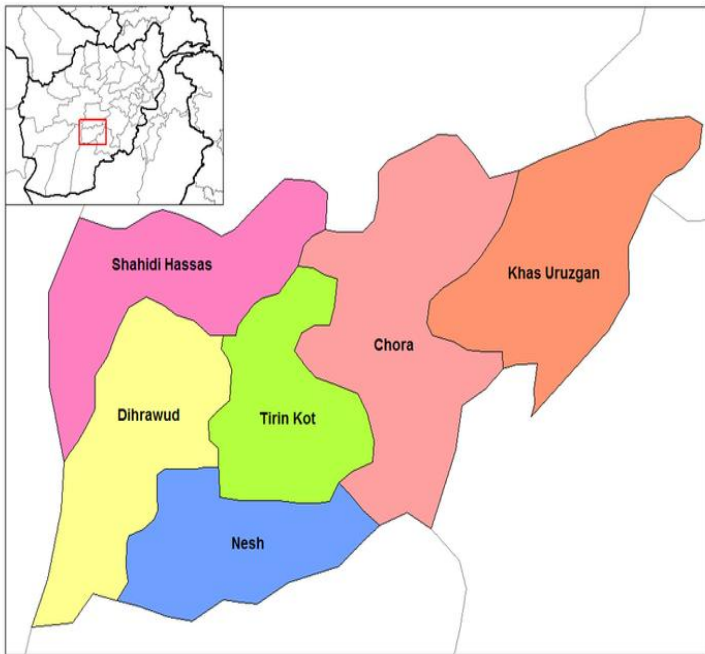
Pashtu - 13%

Daykundi Province

Capital: Nili

Geography and Climate:	90% of terrain mountainous
Economy:	Agriculture; 99% of the population of Daykundi lives in rural districts while 1% lives in urban areas
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Primary transit route for traffickers who transport drugs from the north of Bamyan to the south of Daykundi to provinces like Helmand and Oruzgan
Dangers/Concerns:	Gizab District recently under AGE control (Pashtun-populated Gizab annexed to Oruzgan province in 2006, but change not shown on maps)
Significance:	Part of ethnic region of Hazarajat; Nili first city to have female mayor (Ms. Azra Jafari)

Central Afghanistan – Oruzgan



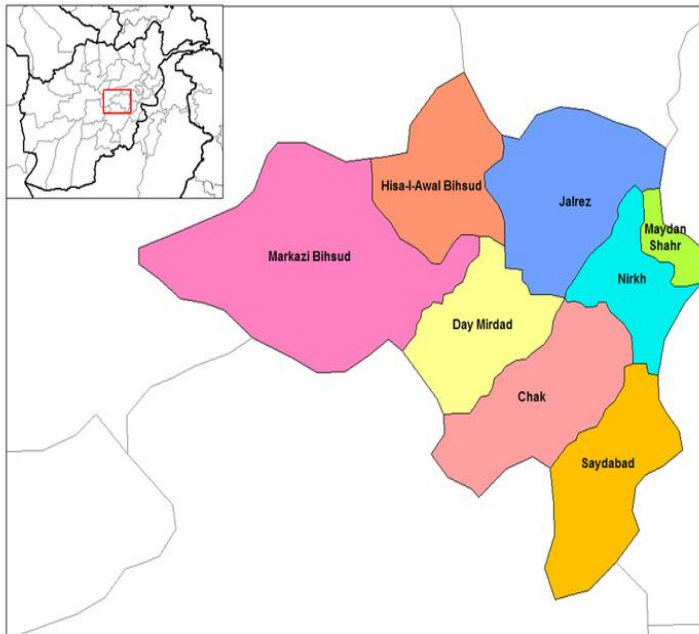
Ethnic Groups:
Pashtun
Hazara
Kuchi (seasonal)

Languages:
Pashtu - 90%
Dari

Oruzgan Province
Capital:Tirin Kot

Geography and Climate:	Around three quarters of the province (72%) is mountainous or semi mountainous terrain
Economy:	Agriculture (grains, apricots, and almonds) was the primary source of livelihood, but many farmers have switched to poppy production
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Opium is now the province's main source of revenue
Dangers/Concerns:	Security situation remains volatile with an insurgent presence active or at least present in all Districts
Significance:	Well-known as the birthplace of Taliban leader Mullah Omar

Central Afghanistan – Wardak



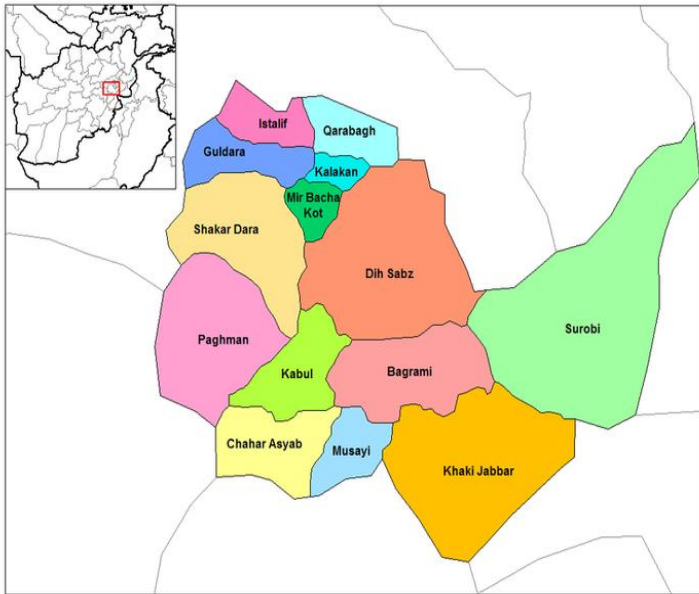
Ethnic Groups:
Pashtun - 70%
Hazara/Tajik - 27%

Languages:
Majority Pashtu
Some Dari

Wardak Province
Capital: Maidan Shar

Geography and Climate:	4/5 mountainous; Southern outcrops of Hindu Kush
Economy:	Trade, agriculture and livestock; stone quarrying; marble factory; marble mines inactive
Drug Production/Trafficking:	After five years of continuous cultivation, the province has regained its original poppy-free status as of 2008
Dangers/Concerns:	Increasing physical presence of Taliban; lack of confidence in government; land disputes between Hazara and Kuchi
Significance:	During the Soviet-Aghan war, much of the population emigrated from the province to Iran (Hazara) and Pakistan (Pashtun), and many have returned since the fall of the Taliban, putting a strain on the already damaged infrastructure.

Central Afghanistan – Kabul



Ethnic Groups:

Pashtun - 60%

Tajik

Hazara

Uzbek

Turkmen

Baluch

Sikh

Hindu

Languages:

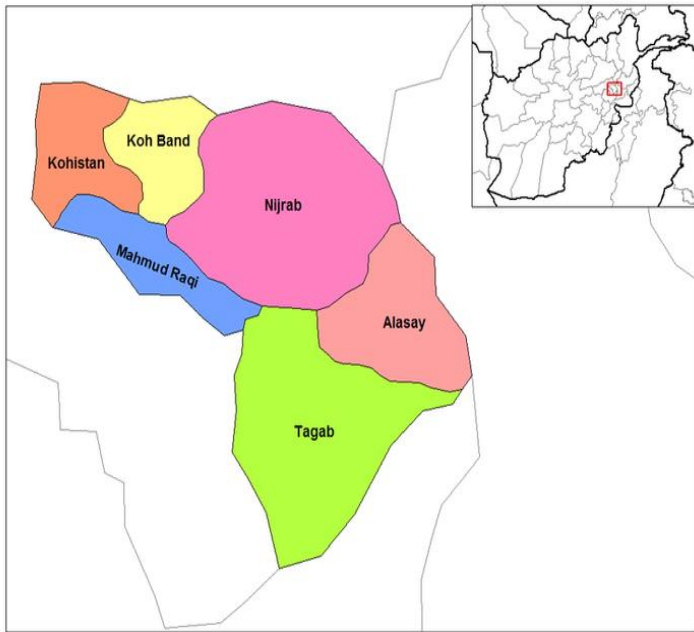
Pashtu

Dari

Kabul Province
Capital: Kabul City (Capital of Afghanistan)

Geography and Climate:	Valley at crossroad; Kabul River; Arid, semi-arid steppe; low precipitation, dry and dusty
Economy:	Industrial; international trade partners
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Drug route connecting South to North; Route to Pakistan; Small cultivation in Surobi
Dangers/Concerns:	As capital, security imperative; target of high profile and complex suicide attacks
Significance:	Was center of Zoroastrianism; Once occupied by British, Soviets, Taliban; battleground for warlords after Soviet departure (destroyed)

Central Afghanistan – Kapisa



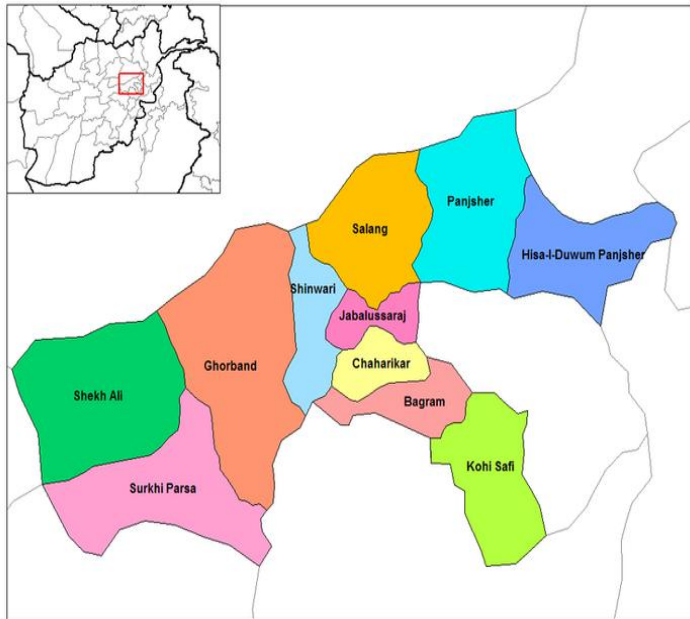
Ethnic Groups:
Tajik - 30%
Pashtun - 27%
Pashai - 17%
Nurestani

Languages:
Dari
Some Pashtu

Kapisa Province
Capital: Mahmud Raqi

Geography and Climate:	Partially surrounded by mountains; two rivers
Economy:	Agriculture; talc mine; “Mela” – trade day once/week
Drug Production/Trafficking:	once was a site of poppy cultivation, but has become poppy-free
Dangers/Concerns:	Satisfactory security
Significance:	Once destroyed by Cyrus the Great; once part of Buddhist kingdom; once known for wine

Central Afghanistan – Parvan



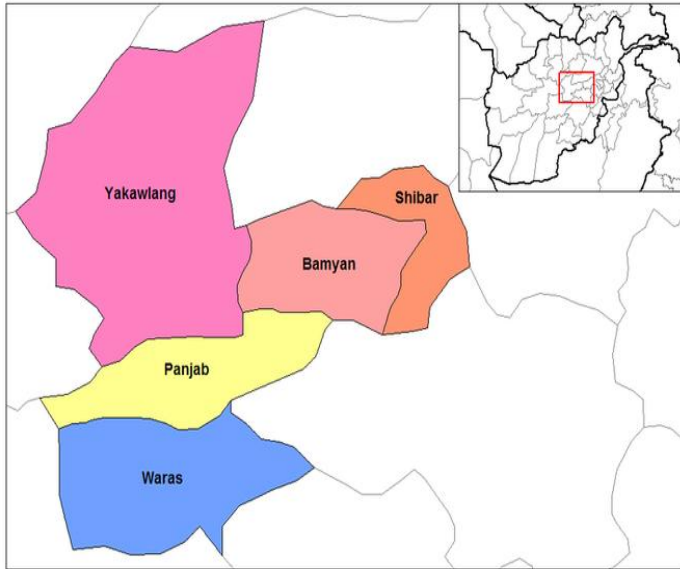
Ethnic Groups:
Tajik/Hazara - 71%
Pashtun - 29%

Languages:
Dari - 70%
Pashtu - 30%

Parvan Province
Capital: Charikar

Geography and Climate:	2/3 mountainous; 1/4 flat land; Parvan River; main route from Kabul to North; Salang Road
Economy:	Industrial crops; herbs
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Regained its original opium poppy free status in 2008 (and continued to be poppy free in 2009) after five years of continuous cultivation between 2003 and 2007
Dangers/Concerns:	Relatively secure
Significance:	Long history of battles; 1840 – defeat British; resisted Soviets and Taliban

Central Afghanistan – Bamyan



Ethnic Groups:
Majority Hazara
Tajik - 15%
Tatars

Languages:
Dari - 96%
Some Pashtu

Bamyan Province
Capital: Bamyan

Geography and Climate:	Dry mountainous terrain; several rivers, including Punjab; Band-e-Amir lakes
Economy:	Agriculture, livestock; day labor secondary
Drug Production/Trafficking:	Some reports of trafficking; small scale poppy cultivation
Dangers/Concerns:	Many landmines
Significance:	Cultural capital of Hazaras; generally opposed to Taliban; strategically placed to thrive from Silk Road; Buddhists of Bamyan statues destroyed by Taliban; first female governor

Language Guide

- **Dari (Afghan Persian/Farsi) and Pashtu are the official languages of Afghanistan.**
- **Pashtu was declared the National Language of the country during the beginning of King Zahir in 1933; however, Dari has always been used for business and government transactions.**
- **Pashtu is primarily spoken in Southern areas and the Eastern areas bordering Pakistan; Dari is used in much of the rest of the country**
- **Dari only differs slightly from Persian Farsi; both use the same alphabet**
- **Pashtu has an alphabet distinct from Farsi/Dari; there are two main dialects (Southern/”soft” and Northern/”hard) that slightly vary from one another (all dialects are mutually understood by all Pashtu speakers)**
- **A significant percentage of the vocabulary of both languages is borrowed from Arabic**

Vocabulary

Basic Words

English	Dari	Pashtu
hello	salaam	as-salaamu 'alaykum
welcome	khoosh aamadeyn	kha raaghlaast
no	ney	na
yes	baley	ho
please	lutfan	mehrabaanee
excuse me	mey bakhshee	bakhana ghwaarom
right	durust	sahee
wrong	ghalat	ghalat

Vocabulary

Basic Phrases

English	Dari	Pashtu
good morning	bubn ba khayr	as-salaamu 'alaykum
good evening	shab ba khayr	shpa dee pa khayr
goodbye	baamaane khudaa	da khoday pa amaan
How are you?	chutoor haste?	
you are safe	bare shumaa khtar neys	khater nashta
my name is _____	naam maa _____ as	zama num _____ deh
What is your name?	name shumaa cheest ?	staa num tsa deh ?
I am fine, thanks	khoob astum, tashakur	zeh khe yum manana

Vocabulary

Survival

English	Dari	Pashtu
Do you speak English?	englisi yawd dawri?	ta pe inglisee khabaree kawaley shee?
What is your name?	name shumaa cheest?	staa num tsa deh?
calm down	awrawm bawsh	aaraam sha
you are safe	bare shumaa khatar neys	taaso ta kom khatar neshta
Where is _____?	_____ da kujass?	_____ cheeree deh?
How many?	chand taw?	tso?

Vocabulary

Survival

English	Dari	Pashtu
shelter	panaw gaw	panaw gaw
medicine	dawaw	dawaw
Do you need help?	shumaa ba kumak zaroora daareen?	kamak ta zaroorat laray?
weapons	asleya	wasley
minefield	mayn daar	da maayn saha
danger area	saayey khatar	khatar naaka seema
What direction?	kudaam taraff?	kamee khwaata?

Vocabulary

Survival

English	Dari	Pashtu
Do you have _____?	shumaa _____ daarin?	tasey _____ larey?
Where?	kujaa?	cheeree?
What?	chee?	tso shey?
Who?	kee?	tsok?
Why?	chiraa?	walee?
help me	mara komak ko	zamaa sara marasta
water	aoo	ooba
food	nawn	dwodey

Vocabulary

Command and Control

English	Dari	Pashtu
stop	estawda sho	wadarega
move	paysh boro	tersha
no talking	chop bawsh	khawaree makewey
drop your weapons	salawhe-ta parto	topak de-par-mi-dzaka ki-xiz-de
hands up	dast-haw bawlaw	laasuna porta kra
lower your hands	bast haita paw yawn ko	laasuna kata kra
sit down	besheen	kishene
lie on your stomach	rooy ba del beft	par makh priooya

Vocabulary

Command and Control

English	Dari	Pashtu
get up	bekheyz	wadarega
come here	byaw	delta raasha
turn around	daowr bekho	makh dee rawarawa
do not move	shor nakho	harakat makawa
stay where you are	da jawyt bawsh	pa khpal zavdee wadrega
walk forward	paysh boro	makh ta wolar sha
one at a time	hark as ba nobat	yaw yaw

Vocabulary

Command and Control

English	Dari	Pashtu
form a line	lavin shawim	pa gataar ke wadaregay
surrender	taslim sho	taslim sha
speak slowly	awhesta gap bezan	karaar khabaree kawa
calm down	awrawm bawsh	aaraam sha
Who is in charge?	awmer kis?	tsok salaahiyat larey?

Numerals

US	Dari	Pashtun	US	Dari	Pashtun
0	sefer	sifar	9	no	naha
1	yak	yo	10	da	las
2	doo	dwa	11	yaazdaa	yolas
3	sey	drey	12	duwaazdaa	dowlas
4	chaar	salor	13	seyzdaa	diyaarlas
5	panj	pinza	14	chaardaa	swaarlas
6	shash	shpag	15	panzdaa	peenzalas
7	haft	oowa	16	shaanzdaa	shparlas
8	hasht	ata	17	havdaa	wol-las

Numerals Cont.

US	Dari	Pashtu	US	Dari	Pashtu
18	hazh-daa	ata-las	90	nawad	navee
19	nuzdaa	non-las	100	sad	sel
20	beest	shal	1,000	yag hazaar	zer
30	see	dersh	10,000	daa-azaar	las zer
40	chel	tsalveKht	100,000	yak sad-azaar	sel zera
50	penjaa	panzohs	Million	yak melyoon	milyon
60	shast	shpeeta	first	awal	lomray
70	haftaad	awayah	second	du-wam	dohom
80	hashtaad	ateyah	third	sey-wum	dreyam

Directions

*rooba roowi
makhamakh



straight

*shamaal
shamaal

N

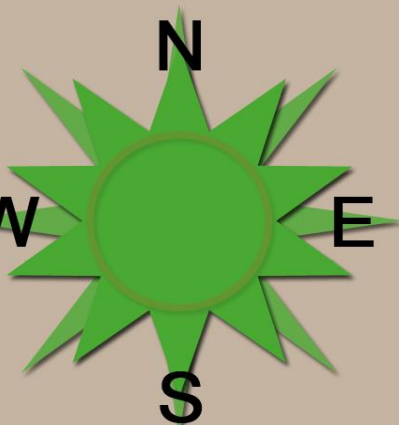
*maabayn
po manz ke



between

*gharb
gharb

W



E

*sharq
sharq

*chap
chop



left

*junoob
junoob

S

*raas
khe



right

*Dari transliteration on top / Pashtun on bottom

Cultural Proverbs, Expressions, and Idioms

- ❖ Tajik proverb says “a person's navel is on his belly while the world's navel is on the Pamirs”.
- ❖ “There is a path to the top of the highest mountain.”
- ❖ “The first day you meet, you are friends. The next day you meet, you are brothers.”
- ❖ “Don't stop a donkey that is not yours.” Meaning to mind your own business.
- ❖ “Blood cannot be washed out with blood.”
- ❖ “No rose is without thorns.”
- ❖ “Without investigating the water, don't take off your shoes to walk through it”.
- ❖ “A liar is forgetful.”
- ❖ “You can't clap with one hand.” There is strength in Union.
- ❖ “A river is made drop by drop.” Step by step, precept by precept.
- ❖ “The right answer to a fool is silence.” Silence is golden.
- ❖ “Don't show me the palm tree show me the dates.”
- ❖ “What you see in yourself is what you see in the world.”



TRADOC Culture Center

Purpose

- **Provide mission-focused culture education and training**
- **Build and enhance cross-cultural competency and regional expertise**
- **Increase effectiveness of US Soldiers in coalition and joint environment; stability, security, and humanitarian operation**

In its effort to support US Soldiers, the TRADOC Culture Center offers the following training and products for initial military training through the Captain Career Course:

Region-Specific Training Support Packages Covering Countries in:

CENTCOM

AFRICOM

SOUTHCOM

PACOM

Core Culture Competency Training Support Packages

What is Culture/Who Am I

Influences on Culture

Cross-Culture Communications

Rapport Building

Cross-Culture Negotiations

The TRADOC Culture Center is committed to fulfilling the needs of US Soldiers and is able to provide culture training tailored to specific requests.

TRADOC Culture Center (TCC)

Sierra Vista, AZ

For more information:

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<https://icon.army.mil/apps/tcc/index.cfm>

To schedule Culture Training:

<https://icon.army.mil/index.cfm>



AFGHANISTAN

