



**Province: Laghman**  
**Governor: Mohammad Iqbal Azizi**  
**Provincial Police Chief: Abdul Karim Omaryar**

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Population Estimate:</b> 378,100  | Urban: 4,000  | Rural: 374,100  |  |
| Area in Square Kilometers  | Capital: Mehterlam  |   |  |
| Names of Districts:  | Alingar, Alishing, Dawlat Shah, Mehterlam, Qarghayi   |   |  |
| Composition of Population:   | <u>Ethnic Groups:</u><br>Pashtun: 51.3%<br>Tajik: 21.7%<br>Pashai and<br>Kata: 27%  | <u>Religious Groups:</u> Primarily<br>Sunni Muslims<br><u>Total # Mosques:</u><br>1,537 | <u>Tribal Groups:</u><br>Pashtun Ghilzai |
| Occupation of Population   | Major: Agriculture, day labor,<br>government employment   | Minor: Forestry   |  |
| Crops/Farming/Livestock:   | Cows, goats, sheep, donkeys,<br>hens  | Wheat, rice, corn, vegetables,<br>poppy, beans, maize, cotton                           |  |
| Literacy Rate Total:   | 31%   |   |  |
| Number of Educational Institutions: 84   | <u>Schools:</u><br>Primary/Secondary:   | <u>Colleges/Universities:</u>   |  |
| Poppy (Opium) Cultivation: <sup>1</sup><br>0.3% of Afghan Total  | 2006: 710 ha  | 2007: 561 ha  | 2008:      2009:                         |
| NGOs Active in Province:   | DACAAR, MADERA, SCA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, etc.   |   |  |
| <u>Provincial Aid Projects:</u> <sup>2</sup><br>Total Projects: 1,171<br>Planned Cost: \$9,148,603<br>Total Spent: \$3,312,614 | Total PRT Projects: 7<br>Planned Cost: \$0<br>Total Spent: \$0  | Other Aid Projects: 1,164<br>Planned Cost: \$9,148,603<br>Total Spent: \$3,312,614      |  |
| Transportation:  | <u>Primary Roads:</u> From Mehterlam: 2 provincial roads to the Kabul-Jalalabad, 1 to Dowlat Shah, and 1 to Logar, Nuristan. A few secondary roads also run throughout the province. <sup>3</sup>   |   |  |
| Electricity:   | <u>Estimated Population w/access:</u> 47% <sup>4</sup>  |   |  |
| Health Facilities:   | <u>Hospitals:</u> 1   | <u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 42  |  |
| Primary Sources/Availability of Potable Water: <sup>5</sup>  | Springs, rivers, shallow wells,   | 46.7%   |  |
| Rivers and Bodies of Water:  | Alingar, Alishing, and Kabul Rivers   |   |  |
| Significant Topographic Features:  | The majority of the province is mountainous. Kashmund range in the southeast; Kuhestan range in the north. Intensively cultivated land along river valleys. Forested areas in Alingar, Alishing, and Dawlat Shah districts. Lake in Qarghayi district. <sup>6</sup> |   |  |

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Annual Opium Surveys and Annual Winter Rapid Assessment Surveys*, available at <http://www.unodc.org/afg/index.html>.

<sup>2</sup> ISAF and CJTF 82, *Afghanistan Comprehensive Stability Project*, June 2007. The PRT project data for Khost suggests a discrepancy in actual amounts spent. Despite indicating that zero dollars were spent on the 16 PRT projects, each project is indicated as complete.

<sup>3</sup> Nelles Verlag, *Afghanistan*, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> Altai Consulting, *CEE: Cognitive Effects Evaluation*, 9 March 2007.

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR Sub-Office Jalalabad, *District Profiles*, October 2003.

<sup>6</sup> AIMS, *Afghanistan Laghman Province Land Cover Map*, April 2002 and Nelles Verlag, *Afghanistan*, 2006.

## **Political Landscape:**

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



#### **Governor: Mohammad Iqbal Azizi:**

Governor Azizi replaced Lutfullah Mashal on March 18, 2010 as the governor of Laghman province. He formerly served as the Education Minister for Nangarhar Province in 2008-2009 and headed several education reform projects including the delivery of new computers to the Estiqlal High School and the construction of a new religious school in the Haska Mena district.<sup>7</sup>



#### **(Former) Governor Lutfullah Mashal:**

Governor Mashal was appointed in April 2008. He was formerly a spokesman for the Interior Ministry led by Ali A. Jalali (served for two years.) Additionally, Lutfullah Mashal served as a special assistant to the Interior Minister and closely monitored the functions of provincial governors. He also studied abroad in the United States where he received an M.A. before returning to Afghanistan where he worked in the National Security Office. President Karzai tapped Lutfullah Mashal soon afterwards to become the Governor of Laghman.



#### **(Former) Governor Mohammad Golab Mangal (aka Golub Mongul, Gulabuddin Mongal):**

Re-appointed as Governor of Helmand Province on March 22, 2008. Pashtun Mangal, born in Gardez, Paktia. Approximately 52 years old. Received B.S. degree in Literature from Kabul University. Worked in Interior Ministry under the Communist government during the 1970s. Participant in anti-Soviet jihad. Served as Head of Constitution Commission in the United Nations and as governor of Paktika from March 2004 to March 2006.

#### **Deputy Governor Noor Agha:**

Appointed deputy governor in June 2006. Little else is known about Noor Agha.

#### **Chief of Police Abdul Karim Omaryar (aka Qalinleh Rahmani, Colonel Khalinlah Rahmani):**



Appointed chief of police September 2006 and as of March 2010, is still serving as the chief of police. Little else is known.

#### **National Security Directorate Chief Jan Shah:**



An illiterate, Safai Pashtun. He is allegedly addicted to hashish. Former NDS chief in Kunar. Son of Jan Daoud, a notorious narcotics smuggler. From Bardel Village in the Bardel Valley. Jan Shah is suspected in multiple illegal activities. He maintains a residence in the Chowkay District, Kunar Province.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> "Afghan students receive computers," *Quqnoos*, March 19, 2009.

<sup>8</sup> US Department of State Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, Jim Hunter, 2004.

**Hazrat Ali:**



In the past he has exercised considerable authority in Laghman, but maintains his primary residence in Nangarhar province. He was the I Corps Afghan Militia Force (AMF) commander.<sup>9</sup> “A Pashai tribal leader from the Dara-i-Nur District...which he effectively controls.”<sup>10</sup> He took control of Jalalabad from the Taliban with help of American air support. Hazrat Ali essentially led the failed effort to capture Osama bin Laden in Tora Bora. He remains an influential political player in Nangarhar.

**Wolesi Jirga Members:<sup>11</sup>**

**Mawlawi Sayed Durahman:**



Pashtun Sunni. Associated with the Sayyaf political party. Secretary of the Counter-narcotics committee. Received BA in Islamic Affairs. Conservative madrassa teacher originally from Alingar. Now resides in Mehterlam.

**Engineer Mohammad Alim Qarar:**



Pashai. Associated with Hezb-e Islami and possibly the Qanooni political faction. Internal Security committee. Former jihadi commander associated with HIG. Has the support of the Pashtun populace in the province. From Alingar district.

**Zefnoon Safai:**



Female Pashtun. Possibly associated with the Qanooni political faction. Budget committee. Received BA. Former Director of Women’s affairs in Laghman and literacy teacher.

**Esmatullah Muhabat:**



Killed in December 2005.

**Meshrano Jirga Members:<sup>12</sup>**

**Abdul Khaliq Hussaini:**



Pashai. Second Secretary assigned to Communication committee. Expert in education. Former teacher and principal.

**Hajji Mokaram Khan Nasiri:**



Secretary of the Rules committee. Received BA.

**Provincial Council Members:**

|  |                             |  |                  |
|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Mullah Ferajighan           |  | Gulzar Sangarwal |
|  | Hajji Abdul Jamil Afzaizada |  | Hanifa Safai     |
|  | Mohammad Nadar Khan         |  | Wahida           |

<sup>9</sup> US Department of State Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, Jim Hunter, 2004.

<sup>10</sup> Susan Glasser, “U.S. Backing Helps Warlord Solidify Power,” *Washington Post*, February 18, 2002: p. A1.

<sup>11</sup> US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

<sup>12</sup> US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

|   |                             |   |         |
|---|-----------------------------|---|---------|
|  | Mawlawi Qari Rohullah Fayaz |  | Farzana |
|  | Emadudeen Abdulrahimzai     |   |         |

**Primary Political Parties:**

**Hezb-e Islami Khalis (HiK):**

Originally a mujahideen group which broke away from Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami under the leadership of Yunus Khalis. HiK was dominant in Nangarhar. Khalis died in 2005 or 2006, resulting in an internal power struggle for control of the party between Khalis' son Anwarul Haq Mujahid and Hajji Din Mohammad. It appears that Mohammad was successful in consolidating his control over much of the party. Recent and active political players in Nangarhar have connections to HiK. Led by Hajji Din Mohammad, the current governor of Kabul.

**Hezb-e Afghan Millat (Afghan Nation Party):**

National Pashtun party, led by Finance Minister Dr. Anwar Ul-haq Ahadi. Over 10,000 members in Nangarhar. Platform based on unity, security, and creating an Islamic version of democracy. Maintains a muted, ethno-nationalist rhetoric.

**Nazhat-e Hambastagi Milli (National Solidarity Movement/National Islamic Front):**

Led by Pir Ishaq Gailani. Party promotes national unity, security and a national development plan. Tied to the Maraboutic Sufi order; has considerable influence over the Khugiyani tribesmen.

**Hezb-e Afghanistan Naween (New Afghanistan Party/Qanuni):**

Led by Mohammad Yunus Qanuni. Part of a political alliance called Jabahai Tafahim Millie or National Understanding Front. Qanuni was the primary contender against Karzai for the presidency. He is a Tajik who has been a mujahideen, spokesman for Ahmed Shah Massoud, and Minister of Interior and Education. He was elected to parliament in 2005 and was chosen to lead the Wolesi Jirga. Support for him and his party may be a political counter-weight to Karzai.

**Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HiG):**

Mujahideen party active since the Soviet invasion; led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Actively opposed to US-led and Afghan national forces. Hekmatyar is a Kharoti Ghilzai and, therefore, less influential than the much more respected and powerful Khugiyanis, such as Hajji Din Mohammad and Anwarul Haq Mohammad.<sup>13</sup>

**Public Attitudes toward Political/Religious Leaders:**

According to survey data, shuras and elders are considered the most respected leaders by 55% of the provincial population. Religious figures, mullahs and mawlawis, are considered the most respected leaders by only 20% of the population. District authorities are considered the most respected by 15% of those surveyed.<sup>14</sup>

**Human Terrain:**

**Ghilzai Pashtun:**

Comprise just over 50% of the population in Laghman. Concentrated in Alingar, Mehterlam and Qarghayi districts.

**Tajik:**

Occupy same areas, generally, as the Ghilzai Pashtun. Tajiks are the second largest ethnic group in Afghanistan, after the Pashtuns and comprise between 25-30% of the population. The Tajiks in Afghanistan tend to live in settled communities as opposed to a nomadic lifestyle. They are of Iranian descent and

<sup>13</sup> Chris Mason, *Tora Bora Nizami Mahaz*.

<sup>14</sup> Altai Consulting, *CEE: Cognitive Effects Evaluation*, 9 March 2007.

primarily speak Dari. The majority of Tajiks are Sunni Muslims. Tajiks made up the majority of the Northern Alliance, both in terms of membership and leadership. Tribal ties have largely broken down among the Tajiks; therefore, social organization is defined primarily by geography. Despite their lack of cohesiveness the Tajiks are often brought together due to the perceived common threat posed by the Pashtuns.<sup>15</sup>

#### ***Nuristani Tribes:***

The Nuristani in Afghanistan primarily live in high elevations in northeast Afghanistan. They trace their genealogy back to either the Greek forces of Alexander the Great or to the tribes of Mecca which rejected Islam. For centuries the Nuristanis were known as “kafirs”, or infidels. This has changed as most have converted to Islam. There are fifteen Nuristani tribes with numerous sub-groups. Five languages and numerous dialects are spoken by the Nuristani. Do not have overly positive relations with other Afghans or Pakistanis and a strong animosity toward Arabs.<sup>16</sup> **Kata (Western) Nuristanis** occupy the majority of Daulatshai and Alishing districts. Also reside in parts of Alingar, Mehterlam and Qarghayi districts. The Kata are a Nuristani tribe which speaks two dialects of Kamakata viri.

#### ***Pashai:***

Concentrated in northern portion of Daulatshai District. There is very little useful data on the Pashai, outside of some intense research on their language. They inhabit Nuristan, parts of Laghman, and northern Nangarhar, seemingly between the Pashtun and Nuristanis. Many consider themselves Pashtun. They speak a Dardic language referred to as Pashai. Often they are associated with or referred to as Kohistani. The majority of Pashai in Laghman rely on the livestock and timber business.<sup>17</sup>

#### **Security Landscape:**

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

The threat level in Laghman is significant due to the activities of the Taliban and HIG, who use the province as a transit into other provinces. Alishing and Dawlat Shah districts are particularly vulnerable to security incidents. A total of 11 security incidents have been reported by BBC Monitoring in 2007; seven of those 11 involved IED attacks. Only one was a suicide attack.

##### ***Public attitudes toward security:***

38% of the surveyed population consider themselves genuinely unsafe.<sup>18</sup>

##### ***Public attitudes toward FF:***

Over 55% of the population agree or somewhat agree that coalition and foreign forces bring peace and security to the province; 58% indicate they feel very safe or a little safe in the presence of coalition and foreign forces. 69% consider coalition and foreign fighters unfair.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

<sup>16</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

<sup>17</sup> Regional Rural Regeneration Strategies, *Provincial Profile for Laghman*, 2006.

<sup>18</sup> Altai Consulting, 9 March 2007.

<sup>19</sup> Altai Consulting, 9 March 2007.



**Daulatshai**

**Ali Shing**

**Alingar**

**Methers Lam**



**Qarghayi**