



Province: Parwan

Governor: Abdul Basir Salangi

Chief of Police: Abdul Rahman Syedkheli

Population Estimate: 560,800	Urban: 47,000	Rural: 513,800	
Area in Square Kilometers	5,974 ¹	Capital: Charikar	
Names of Districts:	Bagram, Chaharikar, Ghorband, Jabalussaraj, Kohi Safi, Shekh Ali, Shinwari, Surkhi Parsa, Salang ²		
Composition of Population:	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Pashtun, Tajik, Uzbek, Qizilbash, Kuchi, Hazara	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Sunni, Shia and Ismaili Muslim <u>Total # Mosques:</u> 2,276	<u>Tribal Groups:</u> Pashtun: Shinwari, Ghilzai, Wardak, Safi
Occupation of Population	Major: agriculture and livestock production		Minor: small and medium size enterprises and industries
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	Grapes, wheat, corn, apples, apricots, vegetables, onions		Sheep, goats, cows
Literacy Rate Total:	30% ³		
Number of Educational Institutions: 196	<u>Schools:</u> Primary: Secondary:	<u>Colleges/Universities:</u> Al-Biruni University	
Number of Security Incidents, Jan-Jun 2007: ⁴ 4	January: 0 February: 1	March: 1 April: 0	May: 1 June: 1
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation:	2006: 124 ha	2007: 0 ha	<u>Percent Change:</u> -100%
NGOs Active in Province:	IMC, Emergency, RRA, HT, MDC, CARE, ACTED, ICRC, MSF, ACF, AMI, WFP, WSD, SCA, UNICEF, AVACINA		
<u>Provincial Aid Projects:</u> ⁵ Total Projects: 1,053 Planned Cost: \$22,779,774 Total Spent: \$33,918,874	Total PRT Projects: 151 Planned Cost: \$11,753,138 Total Spent: \$9,309,355	Other Aid Projects: 902 Planned Cost: \$11,026,636 Total Spent: \$24,609,519	
Transportation:	<u>Primary Roads:</u> Motorway Kabul-Kabul; principal highway Kabul-Charikar-Pol-e Khomri; other provincial roads ⁶		
Electricity:	<u>Estimated Population w/access:</u> 28% ⁷		
Health Facilities:	<u>Hospitals:</u> 1-2 ⁸	<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 59	
Primary Sources/Availability of Drinking Water:	River water through channels, wells, springs		
Rivers:	Ghowr Band River w/tributaries; Panjshir River along border		

¹ The figure may not be accurate since the formation of the Panjshir Province.

² Some sources indicate that the Salang District is in Panjshir Province. A recent report on PRT activities seems to confirm that it is part of the Parwan Province. See Senior Airman Dilia DeGrego, "Progress Continues in Parwan, Afghanistan," *Air Force Print News*, (11 September 2007), at <http://www.af.mil>, accessed on 27 September 2007.

³ UNDP Afghanistan, *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*

⁴ BBC Monitoring. Limited to incidents reported in the press. Not inclusive of all incidents occurring, but provides an excellent cross-section of events.

⁵ ISAF and CJTF 82, *Afghanistan Comprehensive Stability Project*, June 2007.

⁶ Nelles Verlag, *Afghanistan*, 2006.

⁷ Altai Consulting, *CEE: Cognitive Effects Evaluation*, 9 March 2007.

⁸ Some discrepancy. Data provided by ISAF and CJTF 82 suggests there is only one hospital. Data provided in UNHCR District Profiles suggest there are two hospitals in the province. One may have closed since 2002.

Significant Topographic Features:	Mountainous province: Kott-I-Baba Range in southwest, Panjshir Range in north; Paghman Range in southeast. River valleys. Crops are rain fed around Charikar, which includes vineyards and gardens; majority of territory usable as rangeland; some areas of intense irrigation; permanent snow in Ghorband and Shinwari. ⁹
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Political Landscape:

Political Leaders:

Governor Abdul Basir Salangi



Abdul Basir Salangi formerly served as the Chief of Police for Kabul and Kandahar provinces. He was removed from his police post in Kabul in 2003 following a series of investigations into illegal land deals involving Salangi and other high profile officials including General Fahim Qasim. He later served as the Chief of Police for Kandahar and Wardak (2005) before being tapped as deputy governor of Parwan in 2007. On May 7, 2009 he became the governor of Parwan, replacing Abdul Jabar Taqwa. Salangi along with Chief of Police Abdul Rahman

Syedkheli were once again accused of illegal land grabs in the Barikab area in March 2010. He is formerly associated with *Jamiatt-e Islami* and remains close to General Fahim Qasim.

(Former)Governor Abdul Jabar Taqwa:



Appointed governor August 2005. Ethnic Tajik. Previously served as Deputy Reconstruction Minister. He is approximately 60 years old. He was replaced by Abdul Basir Salangi in May 2009.

Deputy Governor: *Information forthcoming*

Chief of Police Abdul Rahman Syedkheli:

Abdul Rahman Syedkheli replaced Mohammed Salem as the police chief. Salem was appointed as chief in January 2007. In March 2010, protestors demonstrated against Governor Salangi and Abdul Rahman Syedkheli who are accused of illegally seizing land in the Barikab area. Residents are claiming they were given access to the land under the rule of King Abdul Rahman (1890s).

National Defense Service Chief, Kalil Amil:



Tajik. Prior position—Deputy Director for Operations of NDS, Kabul.

Chief Prosecutor Abdul Basheer Yaqobi



Abdul Basheer Yaqobi serves as the Chief Prosecutor of Parwan Province and has been in office since at least 2009.

⁹ AIMS, *Afghanistan Paktika Province Land Cover Map*, April 2002 and Nelles Verlag, *Afghanistan*, 2006.

Wolesi Jirga:¹⁰

Hajji Mohammad Almas:



Tajik Sunni associated with the Qanuni political organization. Internal Security committee. High school education. He has been linked to Jamiat-e Islami and was a key commander in the Shomali Plain.

Sami Azizi Sadaat:



Female Tajik Sunni. Education committee. Finished university education. Former provincial Director of Education; now teaches at Kabul University.

Sadiq Ahmad Usmani:



Tajik Sunni. Budget committee. Bachelor of Science in Math and Physics. High school teacher. Formerly associated with Jamiat-e Islami. He is the brother of Minister of the Interior Engineer Zarar.

Saranwal Abdul Satar Khawasi:



Pashtun Sunni associated with Hezb-e Islami. Petitions committee. Bachelor of Arts in Law. Former prosecutor.

Jan Gul Kaargar:



Shafiqa Noori:



Female Tajik Sunni. Secretary of the Environment committee. Former high school teacher; involved with women's association.

Meshrano Jirga:¹¹

Reda Azimi:

Female Tajik associated with the Hamnazar party. International Relations committee. University degree in Journalism. She was the first female TV anchor to read the news after the collapse of the Taliban. She is very involved in women's rights issues and has traveled extensively in Europe.

Abdullah Haqaiqi:

Tajik Sunni; politically independent. Legislation committee. Masters degree.

Khwaja Mahmood Rashid:





Tajik; associated with the Sedaqat party. Religious Affairs and Education committee. Master of Arts in Islamic Studies. Before the Taliban came to power he was a senior employee at the Haj Ministry. He has worked as a professor at Al-Biruni University since 2002.

¹⁰ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

¹¹ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

Provincial Council:

	Mawlawi Mir Hamdullah		Ahmad Zaki
	Abdul Zahir Salangi		Khwaja Rohullah Sadiqi
	Painda Mohammad Kheskhi		Mawlawi Shah Masoom
	Qari Abdul Rahman Ahmadi		Nazifa (female)
	Doctor Abdul Malak Zamrudi		Nazifa Khaliqi (female)
	Farid Ahmad		Abdul Samad
	Sayed Ali Jan Hashemi		Raeesa Saber
	Pashtoon Nayab		

Primary Political Parties:

Hezb-e Islami Khalis (HiK):

Originally a mujahedin group which split with 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, current governor of Kabul.

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 mujahedin, spokesman for Ahmed Shah Masoud, 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.

Hamnazar

One of the most important parties of the Meshrano Jirga, Hamnazar (Alliance or "Same Opinion"/"Same View" Party), It mainly consists of pro-Karzai MPs, who are Western sympathizers. The group numbers

some thirty parliamentarians and is led by Amin Zai. A doctor by profession, he is closely allied with Karzai who strongly supported him for this position.¹²

Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HiG):

Mujahedin party active since the Soviet invasion; led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Actively opposed to US-led and Afghan national forces. Politically active in Sherzad, Surk Rod and Pachir Wa Agam districts. Hekmatyar is a Kharoti Ghilzai and, therefore, less influential than the much more respected and powerful Khogianis, such as Hajji Din Mohammad and Anwarul Haq Mohammad.¹³

Public Attitudes toward Political/Religious Leaders:

According to survey data, shuras and elders are considered the most respected leaders by 48% of the provincial population; mullahs by 25%, mawlawis by 9% and district authorities by 5%.¹⁴

Human Terrain:

Tajiks:

Ethnic Tajiks have a presence in every district in Parwan and are the majority in Salang. 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 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.¹⁵

Shinwari:

Located primarily in Shinwari, Jabalussaraj and Ghorband districts. Feud with Khogiani. History of opposing the British and the central government in Kabul. A major thorn in the side of Amir Abdur Rahman Khan during the 1880s. They are classified as Eastern, Sarbani Pashtuns. Adamec suggests they were forcibly settled in valley above Narang by Abdur Rahman.¹⁶

Hazara:

The Hazara are located primarily in the Chaharikar and Ghorband districts of Parwan and pockets may reside in other districts as well.¹⁷ The Hazara, a distinct ethnic and religious group within the population of Afghanistan, have often been the target of discriminatory and violent repression. Most likely descended from the Mongols of Genghis Khan, (there is also a strong argument that they are of Eastern Turkic origin), the Hazara are noticeably different in physical appearance when compared to the Pashtun majority. In terms of religion, the vast majority of the Hazara are of the Shia Muslim faith, again in contrast to the Pashtuns who are Sunni Muslim. Due to these differences, "the Hazara have experienced discrimination at the hands of the Pashtun-dominated government throughout the history of modern Afghanistan."¹⁸ As the traditional underclass of Afghan society, Hazara were exploited and made to work as servants and laborers. As a result there tends to be an anti-government and anti-Pashtun bias among the Hazara. In present day Afghanistan, the Hazara are divided geographically into two main groups: the

¹² "The New Parliament: an Afghan Way to Democracy," *CeMiSS Quarterly*, Centro Militare di Studi Strategici, April 2006, available from www.difesa.it/NR/rdonlyres/0FA44F42-56BC-4D58-9F93-46A7F42CC8DE/11177/quart_spring_06.pdf (accessed September 25, 2007).

¹³ Chris Mason, *Tora Bora Nizami Mahaz*.

¹⁴ Altai Consulting, *CEE: Cognitive Effects Evaluation*, 9 March 2007.

¹⁵ US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

¹⁶ Adamec, Vol. 6, 459-469.

¹⁷ MAM Computer Graphics, *National Atlas of People's Democratic of Afghanistan*, at <http://www.hazara.net/hazara/geography/ethnic/ethnic.html>, accessed on 28 September 2007.

¹⁸ US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

Hazarajat Hazara and those who live outside the Hazarajat. The Hazarajat is located in the Hindu Kush Mountains in central Afghanistan and is “centered around Bamiyan province and include[s] areas of Ghowr, Uruzgan, Wardak, and Ghazni province.”¹⁹ The Hazara living outside of the Hazarajat live in and around Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif and Samangan province. Due to atrocities committed against them by the Taliban, the Hazara by and large are opposed to the Taliban. In August 1998, the Taliban massacred approximately 4,000 Hazara in Mazar-e Sharif; this massacre was followed by another the next month when the Taliban killed another 500 Hazara in Bamiyan. The Hezb-e Wahdat (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan) is an umbrella political organization which commands the support of large numbers of Hazara. The Hazara are also often at odds with the Kuchi population within the Hazarajat.

Qizilbash:

The Qizilbash are located primarily in Shekh Ali and Surkhi Parsa districts. The Qizilbash are an Imami Shia group thought to be descended from Persian “mercenaries and administrators left behind by the Safavid Emperor Nadir Shah Afshar to govern the Afghan provinces.”²⁰ After the demise of the Safavid Empire in Afghanistan, the Qizilbash, due to their higher levels of education and experience as administrators, remained influential in the Afghan court and government bureaucracies. Their Shia faith combined with their disproportionate political influence often resulted in resentment by large portions of the Sunni majority within Afghanistan.²¹ Also, they were used by the shahs as personal bodyguards and assigned to put down uprisings among the populace, which further alienated them from the Pashtun majority. Due to the persecution, religious and political, the Qizilbash frequently resorted to the use of *taqiyya*, the practice of precautionary dissimulation or the adoption of a dual religious identity. In order to play a role in government and society, the Qizilbash, like other Imami Shia, publicly portrayed themselves as Sunnis or Pashtuns while they privately maintained their Shia faith.²² In present day Afghanistan, the Qizilbash continue to practice *taqiyya* making it difficult to gain accurate census data. It appears that they largely reside in urban centers and “tend to be predominantly urban professionals—doctors, teachers, engineers, and lawyers.”²³

Wardak Pashtun:

The Wardak Pashtuns in Parwan live primarily in Surkhi Parsa district. Some leaders of the Wardak Pashtun were notorious for their opposition to the British in 1879-1880. The Wardak tribe is subdivided in the Mayar, Mirkehl (which may be the same as the Amir Khel), and the Nuri.²⁴ There is some disagreement whether the Wardaks are Karlanri or Ghilzai Pashtun. Most evidence suggests they are Karlanri. Currently several Wardak Pashtuns hold important posts in the central government, including the Ministry of Defense (General Abdur Rahim Wardak), the Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth (Abdul Karim Khoram), and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. It is also important to note that “several Islamic radicals emerged from Wardak who helped to promote and implement Taliban’s conservative interpretation of Islam.”²⁵

¹⁹ US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

²⁰ U.S. Library of Congress, *Country Studies: Afghanistan*, found at <http://countrystudies.us/afghanistan/50.htm>, accessed on 25 September 2007 and Louis Dupree, *Afghanistan*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1980): 331-32.

²¹ World Culture Encyclopedia, *Qizilbash*, found at <http://www.everyculture.com/Africa-Middle-East/Qizilbash.html>, accessed on 25 September 2007.

²² Etan Kohlberg, “Some Imami-Shi’i Views on *Taqiyya*,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 95, No. 3 (July-September 1975): 395-402 and Louis Dupree, “Further Notes on *Taqiyya*: Afghanistan,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 99, No. 4 (October-December 1979): 680-682.

²³ World Culture Encyclopedia.

²⁴ Adamec, Vol. 6, 802-803.

²⁵ Mirwais Wardak, Idrees Zaman, and Kanishka Nawabi, “The Role and Functions of Religious Civil Society in Afghanistan: Case Studies From Sayedabad & Kunduz,” *Cooperation for Peace and Unity*, (July 2007): 9, at www.cpau.org.af, accessed 10 August 2007.

Safis (Safays):

In Parwan, Safis are located primarily in the Kohi Safi district. The Pashtun Safis historically have been one of the most dissident tribes in Afghanistan, with a major uprising against the central government in 1945-1946. The tribe is divided into three clans, the Gorbuz, the Massoud and the Wadir. The three clans were divided politically during the communist era. In large part the Wadir Safis were aligned with the communists and served in the government. Many Safi mujahedin leaders came from the Gorbuz clan. The Massoud clan, however, was split between both sides.²⁶

Uzbeks:

In Parwan, some Uzbeks live in Chaharikar district. Over one million Uzbek live in Afghanistan, primarily along the northern plains. They are often intermingled, down to the village level, with Tajiks. Uzbeks are Sunni Muslim and speak Uzbeki, a Turkic dialect. Known primarily for their farming and herding skills, they are also famous as businessmen and artisans. Some Uzbeks maintain a loose sense of tribal identity. In terms of social structure, they are firmly patriarchal with a considerable amount of authority residing in the hands of the “leaders called *begs*, *arbabs* or *khans*.” Inter-marriage does take place between Uzbeks, Turkomen and Tajiks, but marriage to a Pashtun is considered undesirable. The Uzbeks have a long history of in the north part of present-day Afghanistan. Following the Bolshevik Revolution and the attempt of the newly formed USSR to consolidate control over Central Asia, many rebels, known as *basmachi*, were forced to leave their homelands and immigrated to northern Afghanistan. General Abdul Rashid Dostum is an Uzbek warlord in northern Afghanistan who remains influential.²⁷

Kuchi:

Kuchis are common in the Chaharikar district of Parwan. Involved in a constant and centuries old range war with the Hazara, the Kuchi are Pashtun nomads. Drawn primarily from the Ghilzai tribe, the Kuchis have moved across Afghanistan and Pakistan for generations, and only since Pakistani independence were banned from Pakistani territory. Dispersed and well-traveled, they often receive news from distant relations in far-away provinces relatively quickly. The self-declared “leader” of the Kuchis is one Hashmat Ghani Ahmadzai. Partially settled by the king and the following socialist governments, they were strong supporters of the Taliban, both ideologically and pragmatically, as they came into possession of many Hazara lands thanks to the repression of the Shiite Hazara by the Taliban. There are estimated to be around three million Kuchi in Afghanistan, with at least 60% remaining fully nomadic.²⁸

Security Landscape:

General Level of Security:

The threat level in Parwan is moderate with limited activities by HiG and the Taliban. In the first six months of 2007, BBC Monitoring has reported only four security related incidents in the province. A suicide bombing in February, however, did result in over 19 dead, 15 of which were civilians.

Public attitudes toward security:

Less than 5% of the surveyed population describes the current security situation as bad.²⁹

²⁶ US Department of State Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2005.

²⁷ Peter R. Blood, *Afghanistan: A Country Study*, (Washington: GPO for Library of Congress, 2001), at <http://countrystudies.us/afghanistan>, accessed on 28 September 2007.

²⁸ “Afghan Nomads Say U.S. Bombing Killed Nine,” Associated Press, September 25, 2003 http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20030925_221.html and Paul Garwood, “Poverty, violence put Afghanistan's fabled Kuchi nomads on a road to nowhere,” Associated Press, May 14, 2006, <http://www.rawa.org/nomad.htm/>.

²⁹ Kunar Altai Opinion Info, 2007.

Public attitudes toward FF:

Over 73% of the population agree or somewhat agree that coalition and foreign forces bring peace and security to the province; at the same time, it is important to note that there is a perceived low presence of FF in the province, with 20% indicating that they have never seen any FF.³⁰

Security: The Province is of great strategic importance as the Salang highway leading to Northern Kabul crosses it over the Hindu Kush. During the civil war, the Shamali plain in this Province was the front-line of battle between the Northern-Alliance and Taliban forces. There are no sectarian differences in Parwan as the population is entirely Sunni.

Kohi Safi is the only Pashtun District in the Tajik-dominated Province. There are no ethnic animosities between Kohsi Safi and the rest of the Province but the district itself is much more prone to infiltration of anti-government elements. As the district is one of the poorest in Parwan and has received few development projects so far, the disillusionment towards the government has risen steadily. Bordering with increasingly the volatile Tagab district, Kohi Safi is also much more exposed to Taliban and AGE infiltration. Kohi Safi has poppy plantations and the district population represents more the supporters of Hezb-e Islami than any other party. Mulla Razeq is by far the most powerful commander of the area.

In 2009, there was an increase in reported security incidents in Cheick Ali and Ghorband valley, mainly related to criminal activities. An IED hit a UN vehicle with no reported casualties.

International Military presence/activities: US Coalition Forces (CF), RC-E, based at Bagram Airbase, conduct active patrolling and maintain security in the area abounding the airbase - this extends to all of Parwan and portions of Kapisa Province. A US PRT based at Bagram Airbase previously conducted operations in both Kapisa and Parwan Provinces until it moved basing location to FOB Morales Frasier (TF Lafayette) in Kapisa. The Republic of Korea is well advanced in planning the deployment of a PRT – beginning January 2010. It is anticipated that between 130 and 150 PRT workers will be deployed with a commensurate number of protecting troops (numbers to be determined by assessment of PRT base security requirements). The Korean PRT basing location is yet to be identified. It is expected that the Korean PRT will focus its activities on agricultural development, medical care and education.

Separately, a US provided Agriculture Development Team (ADT) based in Bagram commenced operations in Parwan, Panjsher and Kapisa during the second half of 2009.

ANA

- One Platoon at Jabulsaraj (originally the base of Parwan 2nd Regiment)



³⁰ Altai Consulting, 9 March 2007.