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# FACT SHEET

## Kunduz Province

### OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Kunduz from January 2002 – June 2011: \$124.9 million

Estimated population: 883,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008 – 2009)

Capital: Kunduz

Note: German-led PRT



Kunduz lies on Afghanistan's northern Turkman plain and is bordered by Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the north. The Hindu Kush mountain range feeds water to the province from the south, which has rejuvenated the province's strong, grain-producing agricultural economy and helped Kunduz escape the drought affecting most of the country. In the 1960s, Kunduz was home to the Spinzar Cotton Company, which helped to make it one of the wealthiest provinces in Afghanistan. Although the factory is no longer in operation, Kunduz maintains steadily improving infrastructure with a plentiful water supply and high level of literacy. Despite these achievements, problems in the region persist as returning refugees have found their homes destroyed, and roads to the province remain in poor

condition and heavily mined. One of the most densely populated regions in Afghanistan, Kunduz's mainly Tajik population speaks Dari.

### AGRICULTURE

**Goal:** Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

**Summary:** USAID focuses on preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved agricultural opportunities, veterinary services, improved irrigation, and training.

#### Ongoing Activities:

- Identify appropriate agricultural technologies to increase agricultural productivity in areas subject to seasonal drought and high risks of land degradation, deforestation, or loss of biodiversity
- Build roads and irrigation, and construct flood protection
- Train farmers on commercial vegetables, oilseeds, rice, feed crops, high-value crops, grapes, timber, fruit and nut orchards and nurseries, and improved livestock practices
- Increase the economic viability and capacity of agricultural related input supplier businesses

#### Accomplishments:

- Repaired flood damage and installed flood protection for Khanabad Dam and rehabilitated Chardar Canal to provide a consistent water supply to farmers
- Funded a micro-credit institution to extend loans to agribusinesses, enabling growth in the agriculture and commercial sectors



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- Installed an AgNet Internet communications system and weather station in the provincial MAIL office, providing access to the National Agriculture Information System database
- Trained the provincial AgNet officer, who now collects and transmits local weather, market price, and agricultural production data to ministry headquarters and local farmers
- Increased economic opportunities for 5,300 women through poultry production and management training, and built market linkages to sell surplus eggs
- Distributed seed and fertilizer vouchers to more than 55,000 farmers
- Improved farm practices, including use of improved seed varieties and fertilizer, adoption of greenhouse technology, grain post-harvest storage and processing, and improved irrigation and crop management
- Established village-based seed enterprises to produce reliable seeds for food production
- Rehabilitated 55.9 km of primary and secondary roads in Imam Sahib District and 24 km of secondary roads in Khan Abad District to improve farm-to-market access
- Rehabilitated 60 km of irrigation canals to provide farmers with water needed to produce healthy crops
- Established the Kunduz Flour Mill, which now processes wheat provided by approximately 6,000 farmers
- Trained 29 Afghan government officials from the MAIL, the National Environmental Protection Agency, and other related organizations on community-based natural resource management practices
- Provided off-farm business skills trainings to 477 individuals working in different micro-enterprises
- Constructed a dairy processing plant, operated by the Dairy Farmers Association, which strengthened the province's dairy industry and provides nutritious food for citizens
- Established 11 veterinary field units, delivering more than three million vaccinations and other medications for livestock
- Established the Afghan Cashmere Supply Company to promote the cashmere trade, which has a regional office in Kunduz
- Brought 286,000 hectares of land under improved natural resource management and trained 63 staff of the provincial Agriculture Department and Kuchi herders in natural resource management as part of an ongoing natural resource management initiative
- Trained 17 para-veterinarians
- Co-hosted Kunduz Province's first Agriculture Trade Fair in June 2008 for 35,000 participants, bringing buyers and sellers together to increase sales of Afghan agricultural products and services

### DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

**Goal:** Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality of government services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

**Summary:** USAID builds the capacity of government institutions and civil-society in Kunduz Province through activities that include support to the justice sector, media, and civil-society.

#### Ongoing Activities:

- Provide capacity building training to civil-society organizations
- Support radio stations in Kunduz
- Provide technical assistance in Kunduz to improve the ability of the mayor and provincial staff to respond to citizen needs and to provide essential public services such as power, water, sanitation, safe roads, and waste management.
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy



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- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations
- Create district-level governance councils under the auspices of the Independent Directorate for Local Government
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support his needs and serve as incentive to develop
- Develop the human and institutional capacity of the courts, increase access to justice particularly for women, and develop and implement a case tracking system including professional training for judges and administrators on the system

### Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 55 judges in the province
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the new Afghanistan Court Administration System, a case-management system that improves the courts' ability to manage cases and provide due process, leading to more effective and transparent rule of law
- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for 57 sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for 32 judicial candidates, providing judges with access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, thereby making information accessible even to those who cannot read
- Provided four small grants to civil-society organizations to promote peace-building practices, women's rights, human rights, and community mediation and conflict analysis
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers
- Provided training to the provincial council, which improved professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Promoted participation in governance through voter registration and election monitoring activities for the 2004-2005 elections
- Supported the 2008 voter registration exercise, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the elections, and ultimately helped conduct the 2009/2010 elections
- Provided capacity building training to eight civil-society organizations
- Established two radio stations
- Coordinated, educated and directed the Provincial council and provincial government representatives to participate in the Afghan national budget execution and program implementation work shop
- Awarded 30 grants
- Trained 615 civil servants in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy

### ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Goal:** Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.



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**Summary:** USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes economic development in Kunduz Province through automating banking services, reorganizing land titling documentation, expanding access to telecommunications, and supporting business associations.

### Ongoing Activities:

- Support a rice processing factory through a Global Development Alliance to expand production
- Support a community-owned and managed Islamic investment and finance cooperative, which provides financial services to members
- Provide provincial budgeting support to select line ministries and providing training to provincial officials through the establishment of regional provincial budgeting training hubs

### Accomplishments:

- Installed six district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services for district government officials and the public
- Helped promote economic related information and data collection activities to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) regional economic research and analytical function introduced in DAB zone offices
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System (CBS), provided additional communications technology and training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private-sectors)
- Performed the merger of the DAB Kunduz branch CBS with the head office, permitting real time inter-branch payment transfers (with the head office of five additional merged branches) and strengthening DAB consolidated financial management and reporting capabilities
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Kunduz Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated Ministry of Finance Financial Management System
- Established the Afghanistan Central Business Registry office
- Constructed a border crossing post in Sher Kan Bandar, which provided the necessary infrastructure for proper customs control and enforcement
- Trained radio, television, and print journalists on the value of trade and trade issues in order to encourage more and better coverage of trade-related issues
- Trained customs staff on exemptions, valuation, tariffs, certificates of origin, smuggling, penalties, and preparation of trade statistics to build a professional, modern customs authority
- Reorganized land titling documentation at the Makhzan court register with new cost-efficient technology, resulting in easier access for Afghans to their property documents (before the reorganization, the land administration office was unable to properly document land transfers, provide proof of ownership documents, or prevent the registration of fraudulent deeds)
- Formalized land ownership in Kunduz and updated the map of the entire city of Kunduz to expand tenure formalization activities, the first of its kind in Afghanistan, improving land tenure security for residents
- Transferred the assets, liabilities, employees, and all rights and obligations of the Kunduz branch of the Committee of Central Authority for Water Supply and Sewerage to the Afghan Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation that will lead to better water and sanitation services



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- Supported the Afghan Carpet Exporters Guild and Kunduz Fish Farm Association in developing by-laws and services for their members
- Provide private-sector economic opportunities through small grants to business associations, including the Jewelers' Guild of Kunduz Province
- Supported the Kunduz Municipality through a marketplace development grant, creating better conditions and job and business opportunities
- Supported four companies through value-chain improvement grants, creating greater job opportunities for local cashmere, poultry, factory and construction workers
- Supported Kunduz through an economic development grant to improve the local market pavilion
- Trained 314 small and medium enterprises and associations in business management and development, and financed a public-private partnership for the development and empowerment of the Afghan construction sector
- Supported 370 small and medium-sized businesses including the Afghanistan Cashmere Supply Corporation, a major wholesaler of processed cashmere and buyer of raw cashmere from central and eastern Afghanistan
- Trained and provided work opportunities to 49 students to date under a capacity-building internship program to build the professional skills of Kunduz's future business and government leaders
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending and loans to small and medium enterprises
- Disbursed more than \$10.6 million in microfinance and small-business loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Kunduz Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

### EDUCATION

**Goal:** Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks; improve the quality of higher education; improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability instruction.

**Summary:** USAID supports educational improvements in Kunduz Province through two national education projects. USAID has provided radio-based teacher support programs, provided literacy and vocational schools training, printed textbooks, trained education faculty professors, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

#### Ongoing Activities:

- Support a radio-based teacher support program to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom
- Offer an 18-month program in literacy and productive skills for youth and adults
- Work with the faculty of education to improve the teaching skills of professors through training in pedagogy, subject knowledge, computer literacy, English, institutional development, leadership, management, administration, professional attitudes, and teacher standards
- Sponsor higher education opportunities in Afghanistan and abroad (one faculty member is currently enrolled in the Afghan master's program in Kabul, another in a master's program in the United States, and two will complete study tours on university administrative systems)



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- Continue textbook support

### Accomplishments:

- Established 192 literacy centers for 4,800 youth and adults (77 percent female) in 48 communities
- Constructed 38 schools
- Printed more than 2.4 million textbooks
- Provided educational opportunities for more than 7,300 Kunduz residents with no formal education
- Introduced a Teacher Standards Program and a Standards Working Committee
- Established a Professional Development Center at the university

## HEALTH

**Goal:** Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

**Summary:** USAID's principal health investments in Kunduz Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products and provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

### Ongoing Activities:

- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in five sentinel sites
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Introduce a quality improvement collaborative between hospitals and health facilities to share best practices for reducing maternal and neonatal mortality
- Train community health worker trainers and community health supervisors, and orient new non-government organization staff, to expand the use of post-partum family planning

### Accomplishments:

- Trained 20,400 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare

## INFRASTRUCTURE

**Goal:** Improve infrastructure to create licit economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

**Summary:** The infrastructure program in Kunduz Province will improve access to water and previously focused on improving roads. Infrastructure activities build the capacity of local workers and support the provincial economy using locally available materials.

### Ongoing Activities:

- Prepare for the construction of bore wells in Khanabad District

### Accomplishments:



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- Built the 2.2 km Archi District Center Road, the 1.7 km Imam Sahib District Center Road, and the 19.1 km Imam Sahib Connector Road, shortening travel time, opening economic opportunities, and providing access to health services and educational institutions

### STABILIZATION

**Goal:** Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

**Summary:** USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

#### Current Activities:

- Support community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the urban poor to support themselves and their families)

#### Accomplishments:

- Provided 50 days of employment for 5,000 men and 561 women through more than 150 small-scale infrastructure activities, with an aim to strengthen the income and improve the livelihoods of poor households
- Provided assistance for 57 war-affected families (including assistance kits and small business start-ups) related to the August 4, 2009, airstrike in Chardara District
- Provided tailored assistance to fit the circumstances of 137 war-affected families