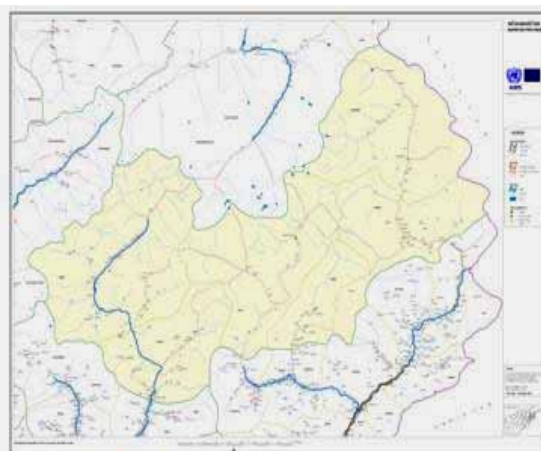


1. PROVINCIAL PROFILE



Source: UNSS Provincial Assessment provided by UNAMA

1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Geography

Nuristan (the Land of Light) is one of the most impassable regions of eastern Afghanistan, lost among the steep spurs of the Eastern Hindu Kush. It is almost locked by sheer cliffs and only in the extreme south and southeast the mountainous terrain goes down towards the Kabul River basin. The province covers an area of 9,942 km². Nearly the entire province (99%) is mountainous or semi mountainous terrain while 1.1% of the area is made up of flat land, as the following table shows:

Topography Type				
Flat	Mountainous	Semi Mountainous	Not Reported	Total
1.1%	96.6%	1.9%	.4%	100.0%

Source: CSO/UNFPA Socio Economic and Demographic Profile

The province is divided into 8 districts. The provincial capital is Paroon which has a population of about 11,508 inhabitants.

B. Demography and Population

Nuristan has a total population of 130,964. There are 19,788 households in the province, and households on average have 7 members. The following table shows the population by district:

Population by District			
District	Number of males	Number of females	Total population
Paroon-Nuristan Centre	5,936	5,589	11,508
Noor Garm	6,652	6,371	13,023
Do Aab	3,333	3,640	6,973

Waigal	13,617	11,808	25,425
Wamma	5,560	5,482	11,042
Mandol	6,254	5,621	11,875
Kamdesh	16,135	16,585	32,720
Barg-i-Matal	8,960	9,438	18,396
Total	66,450	64,514	130,964

Source: CSO/UNFPA Socio Economic and Demographic Profile

The entire population of Nuristan lives in rural areas. Around 51% of the population is male and 49% is female. The major ethnic groups living in the province are Kats, Kunish, Pashayi, Wama, and Paroni, collectively called Nuristanis who make up 99% of the population. These groups are split into six individual tribes: the biggest tribe being Katta (38%) mostly residing in Waigal, Wamma and Do Aab; followed by Kalsha (30%), living throughout Nuristan; Ashkori or Wamayee (12%), residing mostly in Wama; Kam (10%), living mainly in Kamdesh, Barg-e-Matal, Kantewa and Mandol; Satra (5%), residing throughout the province; and Parsoon (4%), also living throughout the province. Nuristani is spoken by 78% of the population and 84% of the villages. The second most common language is Pashayi, spoken by the majorities in 39 villages representing 15% of the population.

Nuristan province also has a population of Kuchis or nomads whose numbers vary in different seasons. In winter 3,160 individuals, or 0.1% of the overall Kuchi population, stay in Nuristan. Of the Kuchis that stay in the province during winter, 50 households are long-range migratory and they migrate to Badakhshan in the summer. The others are short-range migratory, but in general around one third of the community remains in the winter area during the summer season. In summer the kuchi population in Nuristan rises to 4,777 with some Kuchi migrating from Laghman Province into Do Aab and Kamdesh Districts.

C. Institutional framework

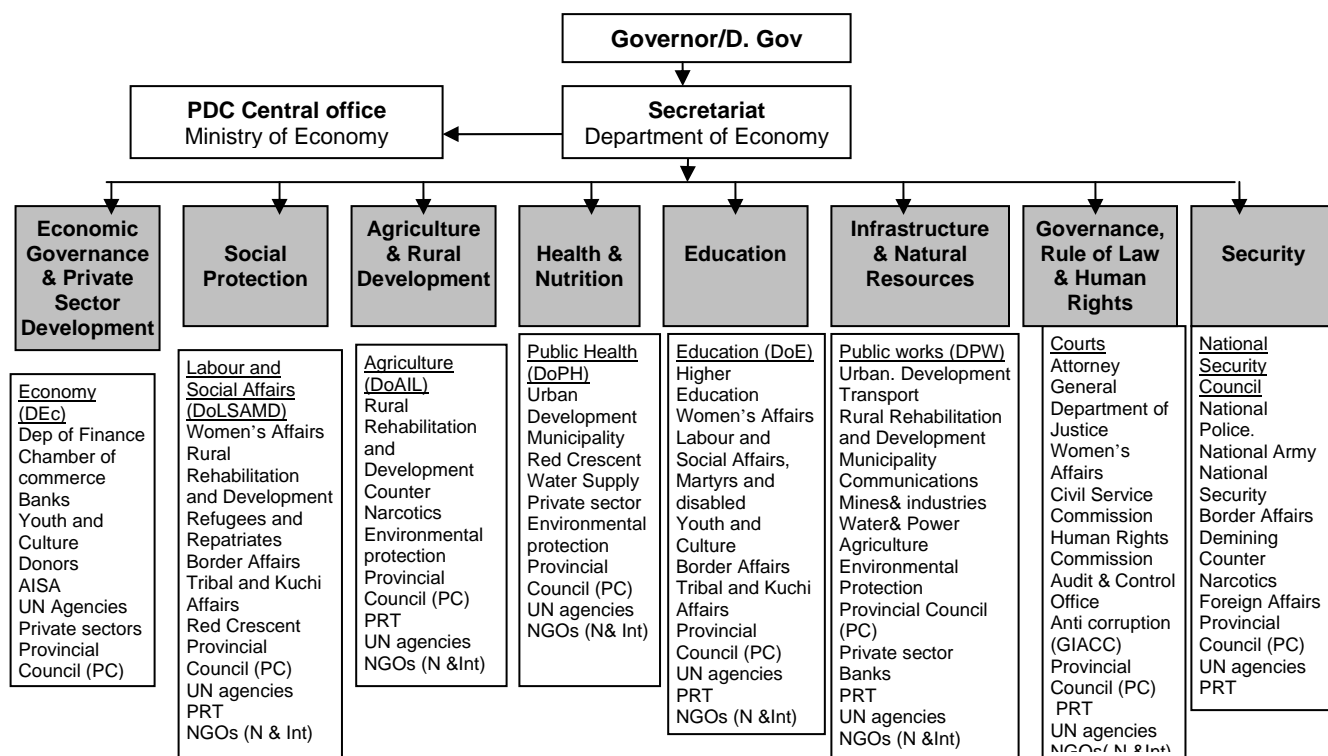
In total the government employs 2,039 people in Nuristan province. As the table below shows, 83% of these are employees and 17% are contract workers. Of the total government workers 94% are men and 6% are women.

Number of people employed by government			
	Male	Female	Total
Contract workers	337	14	351
Employees	1580	108	1688
Total Workers	1917	122	2039

Source: CSO Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2006

Each province has a Provincial Development Committee (PDC) which is responsible for overseeing the progress made on implementation of the Provincial Development Plan, and which will lead the provincial development planning process in the future. The PDC involves all government line departments and other key stakeholder groups involved in development activities in the province. It also has a number of working groups devoted to different sectors, each of which should be chaired by the director of the core responsible line department. The structure of the PDC and its associated working groups approved by the Ministry of Economy for use in all provinces is shown in the diagramme below:

Provincial Development Committee Structure endorsed by Ministry of Economy



Source: Ministry of Economy

As of April 2007 no Provincial Development Committees had been established in Nuristan province.

Nuristan also has a number of other bodies which play an active role in development planning at the local level. There are 210 Community Development Councils in the province which are active in development planning at the community and village level. The following table shows the number of CDCs active in each district:

Number of CDCs by District	
District	Number of CDCs
Kamdes	25
Waygal	26
Bargi Matal	24
Wama	44
Du Ab	43
Nurgaram	48
TOTAL	210

Source: MRRD, National Solidarity Programme (NSP)

D. Donor Activity

In addition to the activities of government agencies, a number of national and international organizations play an active role in promoting development in the province. There are at least 4 national and international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) supporting development projects across a range of sectors in the province, as the following table shows:

IO/ NGO Operations		
Organization	Project	Location
Swedish Committee for Afghanistan	Health projects : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide adequate coverage for the Nuristan population with the BPHS. - To provide high quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care services in Nuristan province that focuses on women and children. - To ensure accessible health services to the people in remote and isolated areas - To develop mechanisms to control tuberculosis as a major health problem in Nuristan. - To establish an efficient project management structure. - To build the capacity of provincial and the cluster health management structures. - To enhance the accessibility and the sustainability of the maternal health care services. - To establish community involvement structures. - To promote community initiatives and multi-sectoral development. <i>The project is funded by the European Commission for 20 months (1st phase 2006).</i>	All districts
Afghan Aid	Livestock, NSP, Road Rehabilitation Afghan Aid will rehabilitate 200 kilometres of farm to market access roads in Nangarhar, Kunar and Nuristan provinces which covers the rehabilitation of 108 kilometres in Nangarhar and 92 kilometres in Kunar and Nuristan provinces.	Kamdesh, Bargi Matal.
MADERA	Livestock, NSP, Engineering, forest protection.	Kamdesh
PRT (KUNAR, LAGHMAN)	Road construction, district offices construction, capacity building.	Western & Eastern Nuristan

Source: UNAMA

The following Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) operate as facilitating partners (FPs) for the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) in different districts in the province, as shown in the table below:

NGOs Facilitating NSP by District	
Bargi Matal	Afghan Aid
Doab	MADERA
Kamdesh	Afghan Aid
Nangaraj	MADERA
Wama-Parun	MADERA
Want-Waygal	MADERA

Source: MRRD, National Solidarity Programme (NSP)

1.2 CURRENT STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROVINCE

A. Infrastructure and Natural Resources

The provision of basic infrastructure such as water and sanitation, energy, transport and communications is one of the key elements necessary to provide the building blocks for private sector expansion, equitable economic growth, increased employment and accelerated agricultural productivity. In Nuristan province, on average only 2% of households use safe drinking water. Around two-thirds (61%) of households have direct access to their main source of drinking water within their community,

however more than one-third (38%) of households has to travel for up to an hour to access drinking water, and for 1% travel to access drinking water can take up to 3 hours as the table below shows:

Time required accessing main source of drinking water				
	In community	Less than 1 hour	1-3 hours	3-6 hours
%	61	38	1	0

Source: NRVA 2005

The following table shows the kinds of toilet facilities used by households in the province:

Toilet facilities used by households						
	None/ bush open field/	Dearan / Sahrah (area in compound but not pit)	Open pit	Traditional covered latrine	Improved latrine	Flush latrine
%	1	72	4	22	0	0

Source: NRVA 2005

On average 62% of households in Nuristan province have access to electricity, however there is no public electricity provision.

The transport infrastructure in Nuristan is not very well developed. Only ten percent of roads in the province are able to take car traffic in all seasons, and 17% are able to take car traffic in some seasons. In around three quarters (73%) of the province there are no roads at all, as shown in the following table:

Road Types				
District	Cars all season	Cars some seasons	No roads	Not Reported
Paroon_ Nuristan Centre	.0%	21.7%	78.3%	.0%
Noorgaram	6.7%	2.2%	91.1%	.0%
Do Ab	5.9%	.0%	94.1%	.0%
Vaigel	8.6%	5.7%	85.7%	.0%
Vama	3.0%	24.2%	69.7%	3.0%
Mandool	.0%	.0%	100.0%	.0%
Kamdish	40.5%	29.7%	29.7%	.0%
Barg Metal	12.5%	75.0%	12.5%	.0%
TOTAL	9.9%	17.1%	72.6%	.4%

Source: CSO Provincial Profiles (AIRD Analysis)

The following table indicates road travel times and road quality on the main access route in the province.

Road Travel Times			
From	To	Time	Road Condition
Jalalabad	Kamdesh	Minimum of seven hrs	Almost entirely paved from Jalalabad to Asadabad, then unpaved in bad to very bad condition with parts that are regularly washed out.

Source: UNAMA

As far as telecommunications is concerned, only Afghan/Indian joint digital company is active in Paroon.

B. Economic Governance and Private Sector Development

Creating the conditions in which a dynamic and competitive private sector can flourish, is key to promoting economic growth, employment creation and poverty reduction. Today, like centuries ago, the main occupations of the Nuristanis are agriculture and sheep and cattle breeding. The majority of commercial activity in Nuristan is related to trade in agricultural, timber, gems, drugs and weaponry.

Agriculture and livestock represent sources of income for 88% of households in Nuristan province. Eighty percent of rural households own or manage agricultural land or garden plots in the province. One in seven households (14%) earn some income through non-farm related labour as the following table shows:

Sources of income reported by households			
Source of income	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (%)
Agriculture	88	-	88
Livestock	88	-	88
Opium	1	-	1
Trade and Services	4	-	4
Manufacture	0	-	0
Non-Farm Labour	14	-	14
Remittances	7	-	7
Other	5	-	5

Source: NRVA 2005

In 2003 there were 5 Agricultural cooperatives active in Nuristan involving 316 members.

There is very little production of industrial commodities such as – cotton, sugar, sesame, tobacco, olives and sharsham in Nuristan. These are produced in only 21 villages. The most notable association links Mandol to tobacco, as all 14 villages which grow it are located in this district.

The sector of small industries is dominated by one commodity, honey, which is produced in a total of 8 villages, 5 of which are located in the district of Kamdesh. Handicrafts are produced in 54 villages. 45 of these produce rugs, 40 of which are in Mandol district.

In 2005, 68% of households in Nuristan reported taking out loans. Of these loans, a significant percentage was used to invest in economic activity such as agricultural inputs (21%).

C. Agriculture and Rural Development

Enhancing licit agricultural productivity, creating incentives for non-farm investment, developing rural infrastructure, and supporting access to skills development and financial services will allow individuals, households and communities to participate licitly and productively in the economy. The major crops grown in Nuristan province are maize, wheat, millet and pulses. For tilling the land, very primitive implements are still used. In Nuristan all agricultural lands, except narrow strips along riverbanks, are the result of meticulous work of man. Their herds consist mostly of cows, small zebu-like oxen and goats as well as sheep. Agriculture, including the hardest work on land, is women's business, while cattle breeding are the occupation of Nuristan men. As agriculture represents the major source of income for nearly nine tenths of the households in the province, rural development will be a key element of progress in Nuristan.

Ninety nine percent of households with access to fertilizer use this on field crops and to a much lesser degree on garden plots (1%). The main types of fertilizer used by households in the province are shown in the following table:

Main Types Of Fertilizer Used By Households					
Human	Animal	Urea		DAP	
%	%	%	Average Kg per Household	%	Average Kg per Household
63	99	83	31.1 Kg	29	9.5Kg

Source: NRVA 2005

On average 97% of households in the province have access to irrigated land, and 3% have access to rain-fed land.

Households (%) access to irrigated and rainfed land			
	Rural	Urban	Average
Access to irrigated land	97	-	97
Access to rainfed land	3	-	3

Source: NRVA 2005

Ninety nine percent of rural households in the province own livestock or poultry. The most commonly owned livestock are cattle, goats and donkey as the following table shows:

Households (%) owning poultry and livestock				
Livestock	Kuchi	Rural	Urban	Average
Cattle	-	93	-	93
Oxen	-	15	-	15
Horses	-	7	-	7
Donkey	-	88	-	88
Camel	-	1	-	1
Goats	-	93	-	93
Sheep	-	8	-	8
Poultry	-	98	-	98

Source: NRVA 2005

D. Education

Ensuring good quality education and equitable access to education and skills are some of the important ways to raise human capital, reduce poverty and facilitate economic growth. The overall literacy rate in Nuristan province is 25%, however, while nearly one-third of men are literate (31%), this is true for around one-fifth of women (19%). In the population aged between 15 and 24 the situation for men is worse than that of general male population with 25% literacy, and for women the figure shows an even greater decrease in the literacy rate to just 9%. The Kuchi population in the province has particularly low levels of literacy with 4.2% of men and no women able to read and write.

On average 47% of children between 6 and 13 are enrolled in school, however, again the figure is a little over half of boys (52%) and around two-fifths of girls (43%). Amongst the Kuchi population, one in seven boys (14%) and no girls attend school in Nuristan during the winter months. None of the Kuchi students attend school during the summer months in the province.

Overall there are 142 primary and secondary schools in the province catering for 25392 students. Boys account for 64% of students and 72% of schools are boys' schools. There are nearly 1000 teachers working in schools in the Nuristan province, and just under one tenth of them are women (8%).

Primary and Secondary Education						
	Schools		Students		Teachers	
	Boys	girls	boys	girls	male	Female
Primary	90	38	15551	9165	-	-
Secondary	12	2	638	38	-	-
Total	102	40	16189	9203	917	78
	142		25392		995	

Source: CSO Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2006

With regards to educational services, accessibility appears to be the most problematic for literacy courses, followed by high schools and secondary schools. All three types of educational services are located more than 10kms away for large majorities of the villages they are supposed to serve – 94.4 percent of people attending literacy courses have to travel more than 10Kms to reach them. This is also the case for 90% of high school students 64% secondary school students Very few people do not have to travel outside their villages to access educational facilities. Only 2% of people have a literacy course in their village, 4% have a high school and 12% have a secondary school. The situation is better for primary schools where over a quarter (28%) of students have a primary school in their village.

E. Health

Ensuring the availability of basic health and hospital services, and developing human resources in the health sector is essential to reduce the incidence of disease, increase life expectancy and enable the whole population to participate in sustainable development. A basic infrastructure of health services exists in Nuristan province. In 2005 there were 10 health centers and 1 hospital with a total of 10 beds. There were also 81 doctors and 40 nurses employed by the Ministry of Health working in the province, which represented a six-fold increase in the number of doctors (up from 14) and almost twice the number of nurses (up from 23) since 2003. The major health facilities in the province identified in 2007 are shown in the following table:

Health Services		
Clinics		Notes
Name	Location	
Paroon Health Clinic	Wama, Pashki	BHC
Wama Basic Health Centre	Wama, Achanu	BHC
Du Aba Comprehensive Health Centre	Nuristan, Du Aba	BHC
Du Aba Comprehensive Health Centre	Nuristan, Daba	CHC
Du Aba Health clinic	Nuristan, Du Aba	CHC
Kamdesh Clinic	Kamdesh, Ormol	CHC
Ormol Kamdesh Clinic	Kamdesh, Ormol	BHC
Waygal Basic Health Centre	Waygal, Waygal	BHC
Bargi Matal Comprehensive Health Centre	Bargi Matal	CHC
PMS	Wama	CHC
Clinic related to Hamza Hostel School	Bargi Matal, Sudgul	BHC
Mandol Clinic	Mandol	BHC
Nangarage basic Health centre	Nuristan, Nengarach	BHC
Kordar Comprehensive Health Centre	Wama	CHC
Basic Health Centre	Bargi Matal, Afsay	BHC
Note: BHC-Basic Health Center CHC-Comprehensive Health Center DHC-District Health Center		

Source: UNAMA

Most communities do not have a health worker permanently present. Fifty percent of men's shura and 52% of women's shura reported that there was no community health worker present, and both groups most commonly said that a health post is their nearest health facility. Out of the 263 villages, only 14 have a health center and only 3 have dispensaries. Most people seeking medical attention have to travel more than 10kms to get it – 64% percent for health centers and 92% for dispensaries. Thirteen percent of people have a health center and 4% have a dispensary between 5 and 10 kms away. Nearly 4 people out of 5 have to travel more than 5kms to reach the closest health facility.

F. Social Protection

Building the capacities, opportunities and security of extremely poor and vulnerable

Afghans through a process of economic empowerment is essential in order to reduce poverty and increase self-reliance. The level of economic hardship in Nuristan is considerably high. In 2005 nearly nine-tenths (87%) of households in the province reported having problems satisfying their food needs at least 3 – 6 times a year and one-eighth (12%) of households faced this problem up to three times a year as the following table shows:

Problems satisfying food need of the household during the last year					
	Never	Rarely (1-3 times)	Sometimes (3-6 times)	Often (few times a month)	Mostly (happens a lot)
Households (%)	0	12	87	0	1

Source: NRVA 2005

Forty percent of the population in the province is estimated to receive less than the minimum daily caloric intake necessary to maintain good health, and nearly nine tenths (89%) of the population has low dietary diversity and poor or very poor food consumption as shown below:

Food consumption classification for all households				
	Low dietary diversity		Better dietary diversity	
Households (%)	Very poor food consumption	Poor food consumption	Slightly better food consumption	Better food consumption
Rural	61	37	2	0
Total	50	39	1	2

Source: NRVA 2005

In 2005, 46% of the population of Nuristan province received allocations of food aid, which reached a total of 60121 beneficiaries. In addition, of the 68% of households who reported taking out loans. 50% said that the main use of their largest loan was to buy food. A further 12% used the money to cover expenses for health emergencies.

In the same year nearly half of the households reported feeling that their economic situation had remained the same (45%) compared to a year ago and around one quarter of the households in the province felt that it had got worse or much worse (24%), as the following table shows:

Comparison of overall economic situation compared to one year ago					
	Much worse	Worse	Same	Slightly better	Much better
Households (%)	15	9	45	11	0

Source: NRVA 2005

In 2005, nearly all households in the province (97%) report having been negatively affected by some unexpected event in the last year, which was beyond their control. People were most at risk from agricultural shocks, financial problems and natural disasters as the following table shows:

Households experiencing shocks in the province (%)			
Types of shocks	Rural	Urban	Average
Drinking water	5	-	5
Agricultural	63	-	63
Natural disaster	53	-	53
Insecurity	4	-	4
Financial	60	-	60
Health or epidemics	23	-	23

Source: NRVA 2005

Of those households affected, two-fifths (40%) reported that they had not recovered at all from shocks experienced in the last 12 months and three-fifths (60%) said they had recovered only partially.

G. Governance, Law and Human Rights

Establishing and strengthening government institutions at the central and sub-national levels is essential to achieve measurable improvements in the delivery of services and the protection of rights of all Afghans

No relevant data analysed at provincial level available from national sources has been identified in this area.

H. Security

Ensuring a legitimate monopoly on force and law enforcement that provides a secure environment for the fulfilment of the rights of all Afghans is essential to ensure freedom of movement for people, commodities and ideas, and to promote social and economic development. A recent assessment made by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) highlighted the following key factors of insecurity in the province:

Factors of Insecurity	
Illegally Armed Groups (IAGs)	Government authority is weak in most parts of Nuristan because local militias are stronger and more organised than police in those areas.
Anti Government Elements (AGEs)	Eastern Nuristan is considered to be under the influence of Hezb-e-Islami and Pakistani Islamic Groups. Central Nuristan is under influence of mixed political groups including Taliban, and Hezb-e-Islami. Western Nuristan is under Taliban influence. It has been noted that Eastern Nuristan has several connecting border points with neighbouring Pakistan and extremists can easily cross the border after launching attacks in Afghanistan.
Criminality and Organised Crime	Looting of national assets (Timber and Gems) has been reported in the province
Narcotics	In Nuristan, there is no drug economy. The area with its mountains of up to 6,000 meters is unsuitable for poppy cultivation. There are some reports regarding drug smuggling (opium and heroin) in West and Central Nuristan to and from Northern Afghanistan.

Source: UNAMA 2007

Profile compiled by NABDP / MRRD

Information Sources

Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2006, Central Statistics Office

Geography: Area

Demography and Population: Rural and Urban population

Institutional Framework: Total Government employees

Economic Governance & Private Sector Development: Agricultural cooperatives, members, land, surplus, capital

Education: Primary and secondary schools, students and teachers, Higher education faculties, total students, first year students and graduates, Students in university dormitories, Vocational high schools, staff, students and graduates, Teacher training institutes, students and graduates.

Health: Number of Health centers, Hospitals, beds, Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacies.

Social Protection: Allocations of food aid,

Socio Economic and Demographic Profiles (per province), 2003, Central Statistics Office/ UNFPA

Geography: Topography, No of Districts, Provincial capital – population

Demography and Population: Population by district, Number of households, Main Languages Spoken

Infrastructure and Natural Resources : Road types (analysis by Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development)

Economic Governance & Private Sector Development:– Industrial crops, small industries and handicrafts

Education: Distance from educational services

Health: Distance from Health Services

The National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2005, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the Central Statistics Office, June 2007

Demography and Population: Average household size

Infrastructure and Natural Resources : Use of safe drinking water, Travel time to drinking water, Access to safe toilet facilities, Toilet types, Household access to electricity, Access to public electricity

Economic Governance & Private Sector Development: Source of household revenue, Households taking out loans, loan investment in economic activity

Agriculture and Rural Development: Most important field crops and garden crops, Fertilizer use and type, Access to irrigated and rainfed land, Ownership of livestock and poultry

Education: Literacy rate overall and for population 15 to 24, school enrolments

Health: Availability of community health workers, closest type of health facility

Social Protection: Problems satisfying food needs, Population receiving less than minimum recommended daily caloric intake, dietary diversity & food consumption, Comparison of economic situation with 12 months ago, Loan use for food and medical expenses, Vulnerability to shocks, Kinds of shocks , Recovery from shocks

National Multi sectoral Assessment on Kuchi, Frauke de Weijer, May 2005

Demography and Population: Kuchi population Winter and Summer

Education: Literacy rate for Kuchi, School attendance for Kuchi (summer / winter)

UNDSS Provincial Assessments or UNAMA Provincial profiles, Supplied by UNAMA

Geography: MAP , Location and description,

Demography and Population: Major ethnic groups and tribes,

Institutional Framework: Line Department offices,

Donor Activity: UN agencies and projects, IO/NGO agencies and projects

Infrastructure and Natural Resources : Road Travel times, Mobile Network Coverage

Economic Governance & Private Sector Development: General economic profile, Major industries/ commercial activities

Health: Health facilities

Security: Assessment of the security situation, Factors of insecurity

Information supplied by United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Provincial Development, Provincial Budgeting and Integration of the Provincial Development Plans into the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS). Draft Discussion Paper for the ADF)

Institutional Framework : Assessment of functioning of PDC

Information supplied by Ministries

Institutional Framework: PDC structure (*Ministry of Economy*), DDAs and CDCs (*Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development*)

Nuristan

Donor Activity: NGO facilitating partners for NSP (*Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development*)