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# FACT SHEET

## Baghlan Province

### OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Baghlan from January 2002 - June 2011: \$108.9 million

Estimated population: 804,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Puli Khumri

Note: Hungarian-led PRT



The history of the northern province of Baghlan reaches back to the first century AD, when it was the site of a famous Zorastorian fire temple. Baghlan's modern residents come from a balanced mix of ethnicities, including Tajik, Pashtun, and Hazara. The province has many fertile regions, and its main source of economic activity is the cultivation of grain, vegetables, and timber. Before the Soviet invasion, Baghlan hosted a number of industries, all of which are currently being rehabilitated, and it currently has the only functioning cement factory in Afghanistan. The region is also rich in unexploited coal and marble. While the province still lacks basic amenities, the economy continues to grow as financial institutions and micro-credit loans are made available.

### 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 prepares farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved irrigation, agricultural inputs, veterinary services, financial systems, market information, and training.

#### Current Activities:

- Improve rural roads and irrigate crop areas
- Train farmers on commercial vegetables, oilseeds, rice, feed crops, high-value crops, grapes, timber, fruit and nut orchards, and nurseries
- Train farmers and MAIL staff on improved livestock practices
- Increase the economic viability and capacity of agricultural related input supplier businesses in anticipation that there will be a stimulus effect leading to the creation of employment opportunities

#### Accomplishments:

- Constructed/rehabilitated four canals (147.8 km), which include the Ab Qul Canal, the Darqad Canal, the Darqad Canal Structure, and the Gurgurak Canal
- Provided five agri-input dealer trainings, conducted a two-day fertilizer workshop, and provided technical assistance to beekeepers
- Established 27 veterinary field units and trained 32 para-veterinarians, who have provided more than two million vaccinations



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- Distributed approximately 43,000 vouchers for seeds and fertilizer
- Established 11 AgDepot stores that cover ten districts and are owned by eleven different private-sector operators (AgDepot stores are private, full-service farm stores that provide agriculture supplies and services to support key licit crops and complement other value chain development efforts)
- Promoted economic expansion in Baghlan by establishing seven micro-finance institutions, which have issued 3,487 loans
- Brought 45,000 hectares of land under improved natural resource management and trained seven staff of the Provincial Agriculture Department in natural resource management
- Distributed improved wheat seed and fertilizer, developed four rural poultry production activities, and conducted two sun pest control activities
- Trained seven Afghan government officials from MAIL, the National Environmental Protection Agency, and other related organizations on community-based natural resource management practices
- Approved a line of credit to the Islamic Investment and Finance Cooperative Group to support farmers with agricultural inputs
- Conducted a rangeland survey
- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods and conflict resolution
- Institutionalized three rangeland management technologies within the Ministry of Agriculture
- Paid \$770,000 in wages directly to communities on 33 cash-for-work projects
- Established 902 lead farmer plots in seven districts, where 9,700 farmers received training related to modern crop production practices, orchard layout, irrigation systems, fertilizer use, pruning techniques, and pest control
- Trained 318 women on gabion-weaving skills, who later weaved 13,000 gabions that were used for construction of flood protection walls in five districts
- Improved income for 210 rural women through the poultry project

## DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

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

**Summary:** USAID builds the capacity of government institutions through activities supporting the development of justice, media, civil-society, and governance sectors.

### Current Activities:

- Provide capacity building training to civil-society organizations
- Support two radio stations in Puli Khumri District
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development
- 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
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations



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### Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to all 50 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 47 sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for 31 judicial candidates, providing judges access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and trained 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 training to the provincial council, which improved professionalism, knowledge, and skills resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers, improving professionalism, knowledge, and local leadership skills
- 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 and technical assistance to four civil-society organizations
- Established two radio stations in Puli Khumri District
- Awarded twenty two grants

### ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

**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 a lawful economy in Baghlan Province through expanding access to telecommunications and modern banking services and through supporting small and medium enterprises.

### Current Activities:

- Support a factory through a value-chain improvement grant to improve business management skills
- Support district with economic development grant to open copy shop
- Support a community-owned and managed Islamic investment and finance cooperative, which provides financial services to members

### Accomplishments:

- Completed a market survey for dairy products to expand market information for investors
- Conducted public outreach sessions with local officials, students, and other community members to raise awareness about these new resources



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- Created a restructuring plan for the Power Construction Enterprise
- Disbursed more than \$3.97 million in microfinance loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Established two Islamic investment and finance cooperative with 359 members (17.6 percent women)
- Disbursed more than \$4.2 million in sharia-compliant loans
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) that operates as the paying agent for the government, disbursing 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)
- Installed 17 district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and copying services to district government officials and the public
- Installed the revenue reconciliation and accounting database in the Baghlan 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
- Promoted economic expansion and private-sector development through training, consulting, and grant assistance to a variety of businesses in the micro, small, and medium enterprise sector
- Reorganized land titling documentation at the Makhzan court register with new cost-efficient technology, enabling Afghans to easily access their property documents (prior to 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)
- Trained and provided work opportunities for 60 students under a capacity-building internship program to build the professional skills of Baghlan's future businesses and government leaders
- Supported 364 small and medium enterprises and three associations through training, grants, internship
- Supported New Baghlan Province with grant assistance for a grain market
- Supported Pulikhum District with grant assistance for a meat market
- Supported Samsoor Gypsum Production Factory through a value-chain improvement grant which created more job opportunities in the stone loading market
- Supported the Waziri Copy Shop in Pulikhumri City through an economic development grant to develop and expand an existing information technology center and provide more information technology facilities
- Provided Global Development Alliance support for Nomade Carpet Weaving Ltd., enabling the firm to rebuild the domestic Afghan textile capacity
- Transferred the assets, liabilities, employees, and all rights and obligations of the Baghlan branch of the Central Authority for Water Supply and Sewerage to a new corporation, Afghan Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation, improving water and sanitation services for the people of Baghlan
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Baghlan 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; support community-based education; improve the quality of higher education; improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability instruction.



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**Summary:** USAID supports educational improvements in Baghlan through three national education projects. USAID has provided support to local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-governmental organizations and Ministry of Education (MoE) personnel, provided literacy and vocational schools training, printed textbooks, trained education faculty professors, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

### Current Activities:

- Offer the 18-month program in literacy and productive skills to youth and adults
- Support community-based schools and adult literacy classes to expand access and quality of education in areas where there are no formal schools
- 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
- Continue textbook support

### Accomplishments:

- Integrated 10 community based education classes into the Ministry of Education system
- Provided literacy training for 4,800 adults (including 3,000 women) in 192 centers (120 centers for women) in 48 communities
- Provided the accelerated learning curriculum to 10,000 students with little to no education, who subsequently transferred to formal MoE schools at a seventh grade level
- Printed 3,150,000 primary education textbooks
- Established the Professional Development Center at the university's Faculty of Education
- Introduced a teacher standards program and a standards working committee for assessment and validation at the university
- Constructed or refurbished 21 schools

## 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 Baghlan Province come through support for the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS), including technical assistance to the Provincial Health Office and implementing non-governmental organizations, pre-service training for community health workers, and the provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

### Current Activities:

- Support 28 health facilities to implement the BPHS and EPHS
- 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
- Procure and distribute high quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives
- Support full implementation of tuberculosis activities including initial and refresher trainings on the treatment of tuberculosis, upgrading lab facilities, strengthening lab microscopy, and introducing or scaling-up community based initiatives such as community awareness of tuberculosis and treatment of tuberculosis by community health workers



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- Distribute community awareness materials for tuberculosis, diagnostic, treatment and training packages for tuberculosis including a database information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in five sentinel sites
- Implement the Integrated Child Survival Package at the community level in Khenjan district, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS
- Conduct quality assurance strengthening training for health providers, including Basic Newborn Care, Advanced Newborn Care, Infection Prevention, Gender Awareness, and Family Planning
- Provide technical support to strengthen the Baghlan Provincial Hospital in order to serve as a clinical training site for the community-based midwifery training program
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians
- Fund province-wide Community Health Worker pre-service and refresher training

### Accomplishments:

- Trained 7,300 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Established two model tuberculosis learning centers for health providers
- Procured and distributed high quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives to health facilities valued at \$870,000
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

## INFRASTRUCTURE

**Goal:** Improve infrastructure in Baghlan Province to increase access to economic opportunities and improve health.

**Summary:** The infrastructure program in Baghlan Province focuses on improving sanitation.

### Current Activities:

- Improve health by conducting community-led training on proper sanitation and hygiene behavior

### Accomplishments:

- Provided winter maintenance and temporary improvements to ensure that the Bamyān-Dushi remained passable during the winter season
- Constructed 24 wells that provide safe drinking water to more than 4,000 residents of Dushi District
- Completed the design work needed to enable the reconstruction of the Bamyān-Dushi Road, which will open economic opportunities for Bamyān and Baghlan provinces, and provide an alternate route to the Salang Pass, which will ensure safe, year-round transportation between Kabul and Afghanistan's northern provinces
- Facilitated trade and access to social services by rehabilitating the Darqad, Jue Naw, and Mongalah roads, covering 37 km



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- Supported commerce and shortened travel times after rehabilitating the Baghlan and Nahrin district center roads, covering 4 km

### STABILIZATION

**Goal:** Improve security, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and facilitate reconstruction to contribute to building the foundations of stabilization.

**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 poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)

#### Accomplishments:

- Constructed a telecommunications building
- Constructed Baghlan's Department of Education building, which enables government officials to run the education system effectively
- Completed an underground water assessment for two communities plagued by lack of water
- Provided 190 school desks to schools in two remote districts
- Trained more than 80 communities in operation and maintenance of existing micro-hydro power plants, which serve as the communities' only source of electricity
- Conducted a media training workshop for 26 local officials on communicating with local citizens using various media outlets
- Provided vocational training on carpet weaving, beekeeping, and motorcycle repair in four districts
- Constructed a women's garden, three District Communication Network buildings, micro-hydro power plants, bridges, and public showers
- Supported the Agriculture High School and Baghlan's Department of Agriculture through district-level demonstration sites, construction projects, and capacity building workshops for farmers
- Provided technical advisors and commodities to the provincial governor, the Department of Economy, and the Department of Agriculture
- Supported the Provincial Development Council through capacity-development training
- Constructed community infrastructure, including school buildings, cold storage facilities, school retaining walls, wells for drinking water, and irrigation for trees
- Helped 5,400 people through community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment
- Assisted 10 families (including small businesses and standard kits) who suffered losses as a result of international military operations against anti-government elements