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# FACT SHEET

## Ghor Province

### OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Ghor from January 2002 - June 2011: \$48.1 million

Estimated population: 615,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Chaghcharan

Note: Lithuanian-led PRT



Once the center of the Ghord Dynasty, Ghor today is sparsely populated with a Tajik majority. Its pasturelands are ideal for grazing, and livestock is the chief source of income for its residents. Ghor also has a smaller agricultural economy that produces grain crops, nuts, fruit, and honey. The need for basic services has become more pronounced in recent years as many unskilled displaced people have returned to the province from neighboring areas.

### 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.

#### Current Activities:

- Create gravity-fed water supply systems and the local capacity and social structures to maintain the systems
- Create new irrigation structures to help provide uninterrupted or increased irrigation water to village farms in three districts
- Increase the pilot soil and watershed conservation areas in nine villages to increase hectares under sustainable rehabilitation

#### Accomplishments:

- Established 29 veterinary field units and trained 32 para-veterinarians, who have delivered more than 3.6 million vaccinations and medications
- Established 20 private, full-service AgDepot farm stores that provide agriculture supplies and services to support key licit crops and animal health
- Installed an AgNet Internet communications system and weather station in the provincial MAIL office, providing access to the National Agriculture Information System database



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- Trained the provincial AgNet officer, who now collects and transmits local weather, market price, and agricultural production information to ministry headquarters and local farmers
- Restored watersheds in 30 communities across four districts on marginal lands prone to erosions and steep hillsides, improving economic productivity and land management
- Conducted a feasibility study and water exploration drilling for the construction of a water system for Ghor's capital, which was thought to have the potential to provide adequate well water
- Constructed 100 wells to provide clean, safe water
- Facilitated the cultivation of 195 hectares of alternative crops to increase food production and reduce dependence on poppy
- Surveyed, designed, and built thirteen village water systems so that a total of 2,300 households now have access to clean spring water within 250 meters of their homes
- Provided training in plumbing and masonry for proper maintenance, and in the equitable and sustainable use of the water systems
- Trained 1,900 women in hygiene-related practices and knowledge
- Created 23 soil and watershed conservation areas in five districts that included training on using simple and available technology to rehabilitate more than 530 hectares of over-grazed and heavily eroded land
- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods

### DEMOCRACY AND 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 Ghor Province through support to the justice sector, media, and civil-society.

#### Current Activities:

- Support a radio station
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations
- 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, increasing access to justice particularly for women, developing and implementing 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 29 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



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- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for 19 sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for nine 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
- 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
- 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
- Established a radio station
- Awarded seven grants
- Trained 368 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.

**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 Ghor Province through micro-lending, expanding access to telecommunications, and automating banking services.

### Current Activities:

- Conduct budgeting training programs and provide technical assistance to provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates

### Accomplishments:

- Installed 10 district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public
- Improved quality of low value bank notes in circulation with disbursement of \$333,000 new notes to Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) branch
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Ghor 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
- Trained four Ghor officials during a west region provincial budgeting capacity building event in preparing budget estimates and planning to increase their participation in the national budget process to reflect local priorities
- Supported DAB's accounting and financial management department to prepare for implementation of the Core Bank System, DAB's automated transaction management and accounting system, which improves service delivery, funds transfers, and financial reporting functions.



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- Promoted economic related information and data collection activities to build DAB regional economic research and analytical functions introduced in DAB zone offices
- Provided support to the revenue reconciliation team of the Ghor 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:** USAID supports educational improvements in Ghor through three national education projects.

**Summary:** USAID provides radio-based teacher support programs, support to local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-governmental organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, literacy and productive skills training, print textbooks, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

#### Current Activities:

- Support 175 community-based classes and 31 accelerated learning classes to expand access and quality of education in areas where there are no formal schools
- Provide radio-based teacher support programs to improve teacher's skills and performance in the classroom
- Offer the 18-month program in literacy and productive skills for youth and adults
- Continue textbook support

#### Accomplishments:

- Integrated 80 community based education classes into the Ministry of Education system
- Established 192 literacy centers (100 centers for women) in 48 communities for 4,800 youth and adults (2,700 female)
- Constructed two schools
- Printed 1.2 million textbooks

#### 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 investments in Ghor Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products, pre-service training for community midwives, and provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

#### Current Activities:

- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in seven 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
- Fund a province-wide community-based midwifery education program to reduce infant and maternal 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



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- Provide technical support to strengthen the Ghor Provincial Hospital in order to serve as a clinical training site for the community-based midwifery training program

### Accomplishments:

- Trained 713 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Graduated 24 midwives from the community-based midwifery training program

## INFRASTRUCTURE

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

**Summary:** The infrastructure program focuses on improving power and water facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available construction materials.

### Current Activities:

- Improve access to electricity through the provision of 1,000 solar lanterns and the installation of solar systems in health clinics located in Teura, Toluk, and Pusaband districts
- Conduct an assessment for the development of a hydropower system that will benefit more than 8,000 residents of Chawkchiran District
- Improve health and sanitation through the construction of water supply systems for communities in Chaghcharan and Lal Wa Sarjantal

### Accomplishments:

- Refurbished the 12 km Chaghcharan community road and the Chaghcharan bridge to connect communities and provide access to essential services
- Constructed a new water and sewage system at the Chaghcharan Hospital to improve health and sanitation

## STABILIZATION

**Goal:** Improve security, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and facilitate reconstruction to increase stability in Ghor Province.

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

### Current Activities:

- Provide temporary employment and income opportunities in communities affected by food insecurity (cash-for-work projects include road rehabilitation and graveling, irrigation canal cleaning, home-based tailoring for women, culvert construction, and latrine construction)
- Assist families who suffered losses as a result of international military operations against anti-government elements

### Accomplishments:

- Constructed the surrounding walls for two girls' high schools to improve access to safe education



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- Increased ease of travel and access to markets by improving two roads and one bridge
- Provided a technical advisor to the Department of Economy and supported the Provincial Development Council through capacity building trainings
- Provided commodities and renovations as needed to both provincial and district government facilities
- Cultivated a professional civil service in Ghor through the construction of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission Training Center
- Constructed a boys' dormitory in Chaghcharan District
- Implemented small-scale community development projects that range from livelihood support to road and bridge repairs
- Helped 18,000 people through labor intensive canal cleaning and road graveling