

KANDAHAR

Located in southern Afghanistan, Kandahar borders Zabul in the East, Uruzgan in the North, Helmand in the West and an international border with Balochistan province of Pakistan in the South.

Kandahar is flat and arid with three rivers flowing through it, namely, the Arghandab, Tarnak and Arghistan with tributaries to Helmand River and irrigating agricultural land located along the River. Kandahar city, Afghanistan's second largest, sits on a plateau at 1,000 meters above sea level.

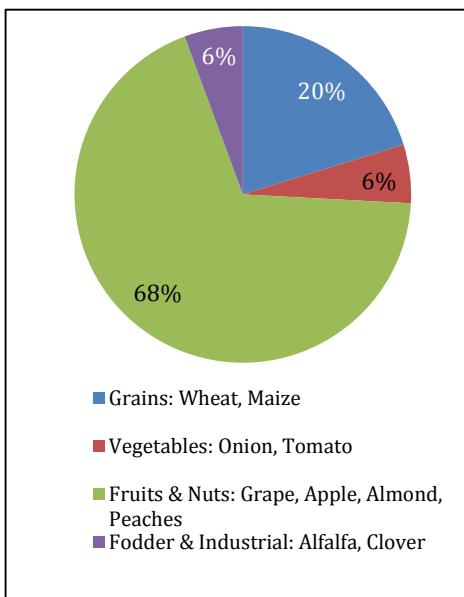
Kandahar is famous for producing grapes (Kishmish), pomegranates, palms and apricots.

Kandahar in a Nutshell

- *Surface area:* 54,000 sq. km
- *Capital:* Kandahar city
- *Districts:* 16 – Arghandab, Arghistan, Daman, Ghorak, Kandahar, Khakrez, Maruf, Maiwand, Miyanishin, Nish, Panjwai, Shah Wali Kot, Shiga (Reg), Shorabak, Spin Boldak and Zherai
- *Main markets:* Zaranj, Kandahar, Lashkargah, Ghazni, Qalat, Quetta (Pakistan)
- *Population:* 1.1 million inhabitants (66% in rural areas)
- *Most populated districts:* Kandahar City, Panjwai, Arghandab, Zherai
- *Ethnic Groups:* Mainly Pashtuns
- *Main languages:* Pashtu
- *Kuchi Migrations:* Winter, 50,000 – 100,000 individuals; Summer, 5,000 – 50,000 individuals
- *Returnees, IDPs:* Kandahar is the destination of 3.7% (roughly 171,000 individuals) of the total returnee population. It is also the 3rd largest hosting province for IDPs (nearly 43,000 individuals)

HORTICULTURE

KEY CROPS



DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Production:

Cultivation is mainly conducted by men in Kandahar. Both men and women are involved in harvesting for all crop categories.

Processing:

Both men and women are involved in drying fruit and shelling nuts, although women are more heavily involved in these activities.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

Men handle a large majority of the selling and trading of horticulture goods.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children under 15 in Kandahar are involved in the cultivation and harvesting of all crop types. Children participate in drying fruit and shelling nuts. They also assist in the selling of all crop types in this province.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

Use of fertilizer (% of farming households):

- Field crops: 38%
- Garden plots: 48%
- Both field and garden plots: 15%

Other Improved Practices: According to key informants, there has been an introduction of tractors, notably threshers.

LIVESTOCK

KEY ANIMALS

Most farmers have livestock. Sheep and goats are most common.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

Most interviews claim that there have been no improvements in livestock practices recently. However, a few mention an increase in the use of artificial insemination, castration and medicines for the animals

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children share the responsibility of raising livestock and poultry with their older family members. They are involved in the production and sale of dairy products. They are typically not involved in the sale of livestock.

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Animal husbandry:

Both men and women care for livestock and poultry in Kandahar. Women are more involved than men in the care of cattle.

Processing:

Men perform most of the butchering and shearing of animals. Women are in charge of producing dairy products and processing wool into yarn.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

- Livestock & Poultry: Men sell and trade most livestock and poultry. Both men and women sell eggs.
- Dairy: Both men and women sell dairy products; however, milk is primarily sold by men.
- Commodities: Trading of commodities is handled solely by men

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES

Less than half (38%) of rural households rely on agriculture as their major source of revenue; a little more than one quarter of rural households (29%) derives some income from trade and services. More than a third of households in rural areas (37%) and more than one quarter of households in urban areas (27%) earn income through nonfarm related labor. Livestock accounts for income for less than one tenth of rural households (8%)

ACCESS TO CREDIT

Access for men and women

Men who need to borrow money or buy goods on credit in Herat mainly go to their family or neighbours as well as shopkeepers or suppliers that sell items on credit. They do seek loans from banks, but to a lesser extent as well as from MFIs and private money lenders.

More than half of interviewees in Kandahar said women are not able to borrow money or buy goods on credit.

LAND TENURE

In 2007, 29% of the households in Kandahar owned land or farmed land based on renting, sharecropping or mortgaging arrangements. According to our interviews, commercial farmers primarily lease their land, while subsistence farmers mainly have shared ownership of their land. Interviewees claim that livestock producers in the province are mainly sedentary and nomadic.

IRRIGATION

On average 46% of households in the province have access to irrigated land. The figure is much higher in the urban areas where all households (100%) have access to irrigated land as opposed to only 45% of rural households whereas one sixth of rural households (17%) have access to rainfed land. Interviewees claim that most farmers in Kandahar cultivate irrigated land. The proportion has increased somewhat over the past 3 years.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS

The transport infrastructure in Kandahar is well developed, with 76.8% of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons, and 19.1% able to take car traffic in some seasons. However, in a very small area of the province (3.3%) there are no roads at all. Interviewed stakeholders felt that the roads had improved somewhat. Despite these improvements, the main challenges identified in access to markets were insecurity/conflict and lack of roads / poor quality roads.

SOCIAL FACTORS

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Poverty rate: 22.8%

Per capita monthly total consumption: 2,066 Afs

LITERACY

Literacy rate: 7.3%

The Kuchi population in the province has particularly low levels of literacy with just 3% of men and no women (0%) able to read and write.

SECURITY

Level of security in Kandahar: ➔

According to interviews in the province, the security situation has remained stable over the past year. They also perceive most roads that link rural areas with the provincial markets to be somewhat unsafe.

FOOD SECURITY

Problem satisfying food need of the household during the year (households %):	Calorie deficiency (%) consuming less than 2100 calories per day): 29.5%
• Never: 38%	
• Rarely (1-3 times): 22%,	
• Sometimes (3-6 times): 33%,	
• Often (few times a month): 4%,	
• Mostly (happens a lot): 3%	

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Child labour: 0.7%

School Enrolment: 10.8%

Amongst the Kuchi population, none of the boys or girls attend school in either the winter or the summer months in Kandahar province.

STATUS OF WOMEN

Female literacy rate: 1.3%; *Female share in active population:* 15.3%

Access to markets / female mobility: According to our interviews, few women in the provincial centre go to the local bazaar to buy goods. Most that do are accompanied by a male relative when they do so. Very few go to sell items. Women outside of the provincial centre are less likely to go to the local bazaar to buy goods and more likely to be accompanied by a male relative.

Key Income Sources

Poor: Labor migration, livestock product sales

Better-off: Livestock and, product sales, trade and smuggling

Microfinance Institutions

BRAC is the only implementing partner of MISFA present in the province:

All Programs	Ag and Livestock Programs:
• Active clients: 1,290	• Active clients: 416
• Active borrowers: 690	• Active borrowers: 216
• # loans disbursed: 1,672	• # loans disbursed: 488
• Amount of loans disbursed: 3,255,960 Afs.	• Amount of loans disbursed: 448,809 Afs.