

KUNDUZ

Located in the north of Afghanistan, Kunduz borders Baghlan and Samangan province to the south, Balkh province to the west, Tajikistan to the north and the Amu River forms the border with Takhar province to the east.

Kunduz's cultivated area is mostly concentrated in the north and southeastern districts in the low land near Kunduz River. 74% of cultivated land is concentrated in 4 of its 7 districts. The rest are suitable for raising livestock due to the mountainous terrain.

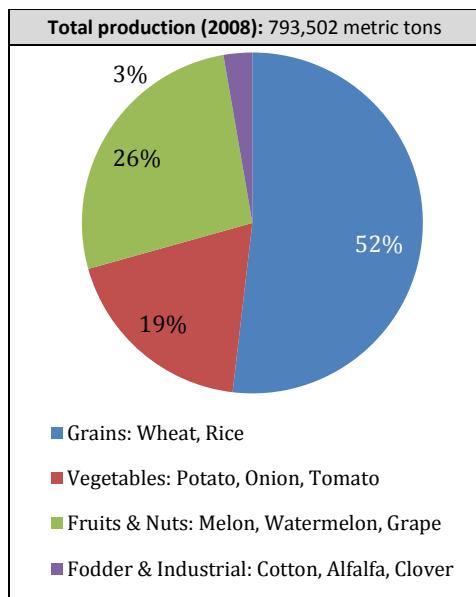
Kunduz is famous for producing melons and cotton, which are considered as being some of the best quality in Afghanistan.

Kunduz in a Nutshell

- *Surface area:* 8,000 sq. km
- *Capital:* Kunduz City
- *Districts:* 7 – Aliabad, Chardara, Dashti Archi, Hazrat Imam, Khanabad, Kunduz Center and Qalaizal
- *Main markets:* Kunduz, Hazrat Imam, Khanabad, Manduy, Mazar-e-Sharif
- *Population:* 0.9 million inhabitants (76% in rural areas)
- *Most populated districts:* Kunduz, Hazrat Imam
- *Ethnic Groups:* Mainly Pashtun (1st) and Tajiks (2nd). Ethnic minorities: Hazaras, Turkmen and Uzbeks
- *Main languages:* Dari, Pashtu and Uzbek
- *Kuchi Migrations:* Winter, 50,000 – 100,000 individuals; Summer 5,000 – 50,000 individuals
- *Returnees, IDPs:* Kunduz is the destination for 6.0% (roughly 277,000 individuals) of the total returnee population, but not a main hosting province for IDPs

HORTICULTURE

KEY CROPS



DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Production:

Cultivation is mainly done by men in Kunduz. 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 are typically not involved in the cultivation of any crop types in Kunduz. They do, however, participate in the harvesting of all crop types. Children also participate in drying fruit and shelling nuts.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

Use of fertilizer (% of farming households):

- Field crops: 76%
- Garden plots: 1%
- Both field and garden plots: 23%

Other Improved Practices: According to key informants, there has been an increase in the use of tractors, notably threshers; sprayers; pruning techniques and improved seed.

LIVESTOCK

KEY ANIMALS

Main Animals	District Concentration	Total Heads
<i>Sheep</i>		703,000
<i>Goats</i>	No significant concentration	65,985
<i>Cattle</i>		468,300
<i>Poultry</i>	Hazrat Imam (36%)	270,900

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Animal husbandry:

Both men and women care for livestock in Kunduz. Poultry are mainly raised by women.

Processing:

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

Sale & Trade of Goods:

- Livestock & Poultry: Men sell and trade most livestock. Both men and women sell poultry. Eggs are mainly sold by women.
- Dairy: Both men and women sell milk and dairy products.
- Commodities: Trading of commodities is handled solely by men.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children share the responsibility of raising livestock and poultry with their older family members in Kunduz. While they are typically not involved in the sale of livestock, it is common for them to sell milk and dairy products.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

According to key informants, there has been an increase in the use of vaccinations & medicine for animals, artificial insemination, milk pumps by dairy farmers and machines for dogh (yogurt drink) and butter

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES

Majority (76%) of rural households rely on agriculture as their major source of revenue; nearly one-fifth (14%) of rural households derive their income from trade and services. Around one-seventh (14%) of households in rural areas and one-fifth of households in urban areas earn income through non-farm related labor. Livestock accounts for income for more than one-quarter (28%) of rural and more than one-fifth (21%) of urban households

ACCESS TO CREDIT

Access for men and women

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

For women, interviewees were split: half of the interviewees said that women are not able to borrow money. Those that do, women borrow from family or neighbors and from microfinance institutions.

LAND TENURE

In 2007, 60% of the households in Kunduz owned land or farmed land based on renting, sharecropping or mortgaging arrangements. According to our interviews, commercial farmers primarily own their land (both sole ownership), while subsistence farmers mainly do sharecropping.

Interviewees claim that livestock producers in the province are mainly sedentary and nomadic. Their main challenges with regards to access to land are quite diverse - overgrazing, conversion, expansion of housing and conflict

IRRIGATION

In 2007, on average 85% of households in the province had access to irrigated land, and 12% of rural households had access to rain fed land. Interviewees claim most or almost all farmers cultivate irrigated land. The proportion has increased somewhat over the past 3 years

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS

In 2007, the transport infrastructure in Kunduz was reasonably well developed, with 68% of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons, and 26% able to take car traffic in some seasons. However, in 4% of the province there were no roads at all. Stakeholders interviewed in Kunduz described roads linking rural areas to markets as sufficient or poor but with some improvement in the past 3 years. Despite this improvement, the main challenges identified were distance from markets, lack/poor quality roads, security and seasonal flooding.

Key Income Sources

Poor: Labor sales, Crop sales (from Dekhani), Livestock sales

Better-off: Crop sales, Livestock sales, Trading

Microfinance Institutions

The implementing partners of MISFA present in the province are BRAC and FMFB:

All Programs	Ag and Livestock Programs:
• Active clients: 17,003	• Active clients: 3,111
• Active borrowers: 13,088	• Active borrowers: 2,940
• # loans disbursed: 63,957	• # loans disbursed: 8,386
• Amount of loans disbursed: 42,303,346 Afs.	• Amount of loans disbursed: 6,228,333 Afs.

SOCIAL FACTORS

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Poverty rate: 29.7%

Per capita monthly total consumption: 1,511 Afs

LITERACY

Literacy rate: 19.7%

The Kuchi population in the province has particularly low levels of literacy with just 1.0% of men and 0.1% of women able to read and write.

SECURITY

Level of security in Kunduz: ↗

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

FOOD SECURITY

Problem satisfying food need of the household during the year (households %):

- Never: 49%,
- Rarely (1-3 times): 19%,
- Sometimes (3-6 times): 17%,
- Often (few times a month): 1%,
- Mostly (happens a lot): 14%

Calorie deficiency (%) consuming less than 2100 calories per day):
21.4%

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Child labour: 21.6%

School Enrolment: 49.7%

Amongst the Kuchi population, one in six boys (16%) and one in twenty girls (5%) attend school in Kunduz during the winter months, however no Kuchi children attend school in the province during the summer

STATUS OF WOMEN

Female literacy rate: 9.2%; *Female share in active population:* 41.8%

Access to markets / female mobility: According to our interviews, around half of women in the provincial centre go to the local bazaar to buy goods; Nearly all 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.