

LAGHMAN

Located in eastern Afghanistan, Laghman Province is connected to six other Provinces: in the south it borders the Nangarhar Province, in the east Kunar Province, in the north-east Nuristan, in the north-west Parwan Province, and in the west Kapisa.

More than half of the province is mountainous (55%) and rich in natural resources like minerals. There are natural coniferous forests in the side valleys of the province especially in Alingar and Alishang districts. The major sources of irrigation are three rivers (Alishang, Alingar and Kabul) in the province.

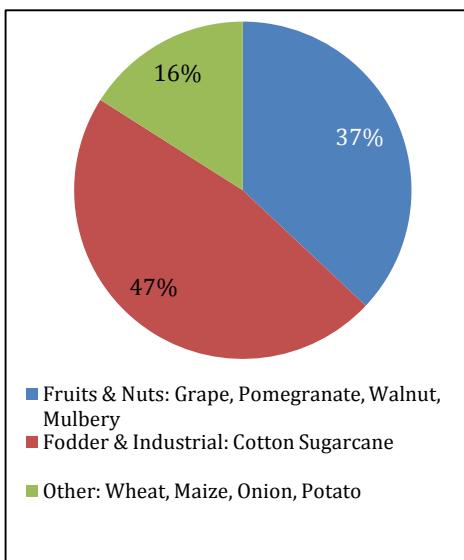
Laghman was once famous for producing quality rice which was supplied to both local and international markets but the rice production has gone down significantly and still rice large fields can be seen on river banks

Laghman in a Nutshell

- *Surface area:* 4,000 sq. km
- *Capital:* Mehtarlam
- *Districts:* 5 – Alingar, Alishang, Dawlat Shah, Mehtarlam and Qarghai
- *Main markets:* Jalalabad, Khost, Peshawar (Pakistan), Kunar, Mehtarlam
- *Population:* 0.4 million inhabitants (99% in rural areas)
- *Most populated districts:* Mehtarlam, Alingar
- *Ethnic Groups:* Sapi, Tajik, Nasir, Ibrahimkhail, Hoodkhail, Nuristani, Kharoti, Jabarkhil, Pashayee, Niazi followed by Pashtuns and Gujjars.
- *Main languages:* Pashtu and Pashayee
- *Kuchi Migrations:* Winter, 50,000 – 100,000; Summer, less than 5,000 individuals
- *Returnees, IDPs:* Laghman is the destination for 2.8% (roughly 128,000 individuals) of the total returnee population, but is not a main hosting province for IDPs.

HORTICULTURE

KEY CROPS



DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Production:

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

Processing:

Drying fruit is mainly done by women. Both men and women are involved in shelling nuts.

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 Laghman assist in the cultivation of cereals and grains, but are generally not involved in the cultivation of other crops. 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: 100%
- Garden plots: 0%
- Both field and garden plots: 0%

Other Improved Practices: According to key informants, there has been an introduction of the use of tractors, notably threshers; improved irrigation systems and pesticides.

LIVESTOCK

KEY ANIMALS

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

IMPROVED PRACTICES

According to key informants, there has been an increase in the vaccination of animals

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

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

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Animal husbandry:

Both women and men raise livestock in Laghman. Poultry is mainly raised by women.

Processing:

Men perform most of the butchering. Both men and women participate in the shearing of animals. Women are in charge of producing dairy products.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

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

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES

Non-farm labor provides a source of revenue for more than a third (39%) of households in Laghman province and another third (36%) of households derive income from trade and services. Agriculture accounts for income of nearly one in three households (29%) and livestock for 17% of the households.

Key Income Sources

*Poor: Agricultural labor, vegetable sales, Off-farm labor
Better-off: Crop sales, trade, livestock sales*

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 private lenders, but to a lesser extent.

Fewer than half of interviewees say women are able to borrow money or buy goods on credits. Those that are able, do so from family /neighbors, suppliers/ shopkeepers, or MFIs (small minority)

Microfinance Institutions

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

All Programs	Ag and Livestock Programs:
• Active clients: 865	• Active clients: 230
• Active borrowers: 452	• Active borrowers: 117
• # loans disbursed: 3,031	• # loans disbursed: 599
• Amount of loans disbursed: 979,212	• Amount of loans disbursed: 342,034

LAND TENURE

According to our interviews, commercial farmers primarily lease or own their land (shared ownership), while subsistence farmers mainly lease their land.

Interviewees claim that livestock producers in the province are mainly sedentary and nomadic. Their main challenges with regards to access to land are expansion of residential housing onto pastures & conflict/insecurity

Land Ownership: Average plot size		
Category of owners	Plot size	% of landowners
Small landowners	>5 Jeribs	60%
Medium landowners	5-20 Jeribs	30%
Large landowners	>20 Jeribs	10%

IRRIGATION

On average 93% of households in the province have access to irrigated land, and 1% of had access to rainfed land. According to our interviews in the province, most farmers in Laghman cultivate irrigated land. The proportion has increased somewhat over the past 3 years.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS

The transport infrastructure in Laghman is reasonably well developed, with nearly two thirds (60.7%) of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons and 10.7% able to take car traffic in some seasons. However, in a more than a quarter of the province (28.3%) there are no roads. Interviewed stakeholders described roads linking rural areas to markets mainly as poor. The main challenges were identified as insecurity/conflict; lack of roads / poor quality roads and distance from markets

SOCIAL FACTORS

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Poverty rate: 66.8%

Per capita monthly total consumption: 987 Afs

LITERACY

Literacy rate: 25.6%

The Kuchi population in the province has particularly low levels of literacy with just 0.2% of men and 0.2% of women able to read and write

SECURITY

Level of security in Laghman: ↓

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

FOOD SECURITY

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

- Never: 6%
- Rarely (1-3 times): 13%,
- Sometimes (3-6 times): 76%,
- Often (few times a month): 1%,
- Mostly (happens a lot): 4%

Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day): 68.2%

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Child labour: 32.2%

School Enrolment: 52.4%

Amongst the Kuchi population, one percent of boys and girls attend school in Laghman during the winter; however none attend school in the province during the summer.

STATUS OF WOMEN

Female literacy rate: 7.3%; Female share in active population: 35.7%

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. Almost no women 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.