

DAIKUNDI

Daikundi is a relatively new province as it was officially inaugurated in 2004. Located in the Central Highlands of Afghanistan commonly called "Hazarajat", Daikundi is bordered by Ghazni to the east, Uruzgan to the south, Helmand to the southwest, Ghor to the southwest and north, and Bamyan to the northeast.

The province is characterized by its extreme isolation (most parts of the province remain cut off from the rest of the country for more than 6 months of the year), acute water shortage, poor soil quality, and extreme weather conditions especially during winter. Affected by years of drought, many rural families were forced to sell their possessions causing landlessness or migrate to other provinces. With a very high level of food insecurity, the province is considered one of the poorest in the country.

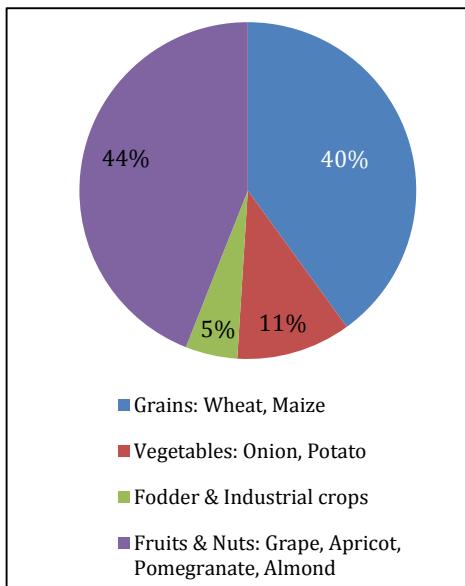
Apart from the financial support provided by those who migrated to other provinces, the main sources of income are derived from agriculture and livestock.

Daikundi in a Nutshell

- *Surface area:* 17,000 sq. km
- *Capital:* Nili
- *Districts:* 9 – Ashtarlai, Geti, Gizab, Kejran, Khedir, Miramor, Nili, Sang-i-Takht and Shahristan
- *Main markets:* Malistan, Jaghuri, Nili, Kabul
- *Population:* 0.4 million inhabitants (99% in rural areas)
- *Most populated districts:* Miramor, Gizab and Shahristan
- *Ethnic Groups:* Mainly Hazaras and minority groups of Pashtuns, Sayeds, and Baluchs.
- *Main languages:* Dari
- *Kuchi Migrations:* Very marginal Kuchi migrations
- *Returnees, IDPs:* Daikundi is the destination of 0.2% (roughly 10,000 individuals) of the total returnee population, but not a main hosting province for IDPs

HORTICULTURE

KEY CROPS



DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Production:

Women in Daikundi are more involved in cultivation than in other provinces. Both men and women cultivate and harvest all crop categories with the exception of orchards, which are mainly tended by men and harvested only by women.

Processing:

Drying fruit and shelling nuts is mainly done by women.

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 Daikundi. 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: 79%
- Garden plots: 1%
- Both field and garden plots: 20%

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

LIVESTOCK

KEY ANIMALS

Sheep, goats and cattle are the main livestock raised in Daikundi.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

According to key informants, there has been an increase in the use vaccinations for animals.

INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN (UNDER 15)

Children share the responsibility of raising livestock and poultry with their older family members. Children in Daikundi are not generally involved in the sale of any items related to livestock, poultry or dairy.

DIVISION OF LABOUR BY GENDER

Animal husbandry:

Both women and men are active in raising livestock. Poultry is 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 into yarn.

Sale & Trade of Goods:

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

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME SOURCES

71% of rural households rely on agriculture as their main source of income. 75% of all households own or manage agricultural land or garden plots in the province. However, 5% of households in both urban and rural areas derive income from trade and services. Nearly a third of households (30%) in both urban and rural areas earn income through non-farm related labor. Livestock accounts for the income of one in six of rural households (16%).

Key Income Sources

Poor: Labor, Livestock product, sales, Credit

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

ACCESS TO CREDIT

Access for men and women

Men who need to borrow money or buy goods on credit in Daikundi mainly go to shopkeepers or suppliers that sell items on credit as well as their family and neighbours.

All the interviewees in Daikundi said that women were not able to borrow money or buy goods on credit.

Microfinance Institutions

MISFA had some very limited microfinance activities in the province through BRAC but today there is no active clients or borrowers anymore

LAND TENURE

In 2007, 91% of the households in Daikundi owned land or farmed land based on renting, sharecropping or mortgaging arrangements. According to our interviews, commercial farmers primarily own their land (sole ownership), while subsistence farmers mainly have both sole and shared ownership with other farmers. Interviewees claim that livestock producers in the province are both sedentary and nomadic. Their main challenges with regards to access to land is overgrazing.

IRRIGATION

On average 91% of households in Daikundi have access to irrigated land, and 8% of rural and urban households have access to rain-fed land. Interviewees claim that most farmers in Daikundi cultivate irrigated land. The proportion has remained stable over the past 3 years.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESS TO MARKETS

The transport infrastructure in the province was not well developed in 2007, at which point only 7% of roads could handle car traffic in all seasons, and 61.5% could take car traffic in some seasons. In nearly a third of the province (31.1%) there were no roads at all. Interviewed stakeholders in Daikundi perceive the quality of roads linking rural areas to markets as very poor but having improved somewhat. The main challenges identified by interviewees in access to markets were lack or poor quality of roads and lack of transportation.

SOCIAL FACTORS

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Poverty rate: 43.4%

Per capita monthly total consumption: 1,243 Afs

LITERACY

Literacy rate: 17.6%

Very marginal Kuchi population. No statistics available about its literacy rate.

SECURITY

Level of security in Daikundi: ↗

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: 4%,
- Rarely (1-3 times): 47%,
- Sometimes (3-6 times): 40%,
- Often (few times a month): 6%,
- Mostly (happens a lot): 4%

Calorie deficiency (% consuming less than 2100 calories per day): 19.1%

CHILD LABOUR AND SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Child labour: 42.5%

School Enrolment: 67.9%

Minimal Kuchi population. No available statistics about Kuchi children's school enrolment.

STATUS OF WOMEN

Female literacy rate: 8.4%; Female share in active population: 52.5%

Access to markets / female mobility: According to our interviews, less than half of 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.