

Provincial profile for

- Ghor Province -

1 Natural Resources (*ANDS Sector 3*)

There are 9 districts in Ghor province; Names of the districts are Taiwara, Dolaina, Saghar, Lal wa serjinglr, Passaband, Sherak, Tolak, Dowlatyar and Charsadda.

Following Natural resources potential opportunities are available in Ghor province

1. Pistachio Forest.
 2. Morghab, Hairayrud and Farahrud rivers
 3. Springs
 4. Rain fed Agriculture, Pasture and range land.
 5. Tourism.
 6. Lime mine
 7. Honey bees.
- Pistachio area is located in Morgab valley and has been neglected in the past decades. Some of the trees are cut and land is changed to rain fed cultivated area.
 - Morghab, Hirayrud and Farahrud Rivers are emerging from Ghor province and could be one another source naturally existed there and running toward Badghis, Herat and Farah. There is no any dam constructed on the rivers to use for energy production. Also no water is diverted to use for irrigation only traditionally some people use water to irrigate very small pieces of land.
 - There is no good quality of ground water in some part of the province but Ghor province had more than (400mm) rainfall in the past normal years which is a good source to make some Micro dams to store the water, use for livestock and also recharge the ground water and increase out put of springs, Karizes and wells for sustainable water use in the areas suffering from lack of water.
 - Through establishment of Micro-dams it is possible to store some water and use for one or two irrigation during critical stage of crop growth.
 - Economy of Ghor communities is depending to the Rain fed agriculture, Livestock, remittances, dry fruits and handicrafts. 90% of the area is rain fed hills with good soil characteristic and deep profile, which is suitable for Rain fed agriculture.
 - Ghor has very good pasture land and most of the nomads staying in summer and early fall season in Ghor province because of very good productive pasture area.
 - There are some historical places and it could be a source of tourism income. Munari Jam is one of the interested historical places for all tourists.
 - There is a lime mine in Tolak, Dolaina and Shehrak district but it is not in proper use only people traditionally use it.
 - Honey bees is another source naturally available there and community utilise it's honey traditionally. It is in Saghar district.

2 Human Resources

There were about 25000 families of returnees and or internal displacement .Mostly 70% of them returned to their home villages and only 30 % not returned yet. Ghor Immigration office had assigned 1000 jeribs of land for returnees to construct houses their and make a returnees compound. Only 750 families received land and 62 started construction and others could not start yet, because of water shortage and lacking of money to purchase construction materials. There is some evidence indicate that some families may start displacement

form Dolayna, Shehrak, Pasaband and Dowlatyar districts because of lacking of water for dinking and shortage of food to eat, if there is no any assistance in the late fall and early winter.

There is need to give some skill training to the returnees to find work in the community. Returnees do not have any skills and or capital to invest for some business.

There are 390 schools in Ghor province including 8 religious, 31 high school, 58 secondary schools and 293 primary schools. Out of 390 Schools only 56 are girls' school. From these 390 schools only 56 have building and the rest studying in open areas or using tents.

3 Agriculture (ANDS Sector 6)

3.1 Overview

- There is 9 administrative units of agriculture are active in Ghor province but did not have enough capacity to work. Ghor province contain total of 43686 hac. irrigated, 146692 hac. rain fed, 22440 hac. forest and 34166 hac. pasture land area. More then 85% for Ghor residence were reported as livestock owners in the past decades but due to drought only 20% exist. Some of districts are famous in orchard production like Saghar, Shaehrak, Taywara and lal wa Sarjingle and a part of tolak districts.
- Farming system is traditional and ploughing is done by bullocks or donkeys. Only 1% of farmers may use tractors. Recently some of farmers start to cultivate poppy and Ghor is a traffic place for poppy traders.
- Agriculture department is introducing 3.5 jerib of nursery and vaccine to the livestock and treatment of grass hoper and mice.
- Not enough improved seeds and quality fertilizer is available to the farmers. FAO had distributed 80 MT of improved wheat seed and RAMP/USID distributed 309 MT of wheat seed to 12000 farmers in the past.
- Most of rain is running away through run off and caused a lot of erosion on exposed and uncovered land areas. Over grazing and drought and turning of some of range land to cultivate cumin decreased soil fertility and productivity and change then to bear land and exposed to erosion. Destruction of Intakes and sedimentation in the canals caused to disturb irrigation system in the area. Only 17% of land available in Ghor province is under irrigation condition and use water from springs, Karizes and or washes in spring season.
- In some villages there is no under ground water up to dept of 150m but in spite of more then 400mm rain fall in normal years no recharging of ground water is rendered through micro dams construction. Construction of Micro-dams would provide very good opportunity to recharge ground water and increase irrigation capacity of springs and Karizes specially it can store some water and could be used during critical stages of crop growth. Diversion of Water from the rivers running through Ghor province and construction of canals is a potential to provide irrigation water for a lot of land available in many districts. Snow harvesting, decreasing run off and different techniques of water harvesting could protect the water from excessive run off and protect the precepitation to be used for agriculture and re-charge ground water.
- There is 150 canals, 45 karizes and 50 springs recorded with department of irrigation in Ghor province to use for irrigation of irrigated land. 5 canals are under improvement and 20 are in plan to complete up to end of this year.

3.2 Crops

Wheat, Barley, sesame and pea are growing under rain fed as a larger scheme and under irrigation condition in a lower scheme. Community are not familiar with vegetable and Ghor has good potential for production of vegetable in the springs and Karizes irrigated areas.

Some of the Districts produce very good *stone fruits* like apricot, almond and walnut, also a quality of mulberry fruit.

3.3 Livestock

Livestock is one of the *main sources of income* for Ghor people and they were famous in production of quality skin, wool, intestine and export to other countries through Herat. Drought during the past and war caused to decrease the number of livestock. There is not reliable survey available but according to Staff in Agri. Directorate only 20% of livestock exist and the rest lost during past drought and/or war.

Improving of range land, protection and control of pasture land from overgrazing and provision of credit scheme to the livestock owners will be a potential opportunity to assist the livestock owners to increase number of livestock and take part in increasing of livestock products.

3.4 Fisheries

Still there are no Fisheries in the Ghor but it is a potential to start in raising, producing and supplying to Ghor and other provinces. Spatially it is possible to start in Morghab River which has very good quality and quantity of fish now.

3.5 Land tenure

There was no a reliable source but I could find from Agri. Department that 20% of residence of Ghor is land less and 40 % are small land owner holding land 1 to 10 jeribs 25% are medium size land from 10-25 Jeribs and 15% are land lord holding more then 25 jeribs of land.(no any survey source but i received from Agri. Directorate staff.)

3.6 Agricultural support services and input supplies

No enough Agricultural support and services and inputs provided by the Government. 3.5 jerib of land is planted for fruit nurseries and crop protection for control of gross hoper and mice treatment and livestock vaccinating is rendered.

Some improved wheat seed is distributed through FAO and some through Afghan aid exact data was not available.

3.6 Agricultural structures (farmer groups/organisations/larger farmers etc)

No active farmers groups were existed in the past in the province. But recently only a few seed bank is established through Afghan Aid and they are not very active.

3.8 Agriculturally related businesses

Only individual traders are purchasing dry fruits and some other livestock production and supply to Herat or other markets. Also they supply agriculture inputs from other provinces especially from Herat to Ghor province. Fruit was supplied through Kabul to Chekhcheran during data collection. Road condition is very bad and security is also deteriorated recently and cause to increase price of all imported materials in Chekhcheran.

4 Other business activities (ANDS Sector 8)

There is *poppy traffic* through Ghor to boarder provinces. All consumption, construction and or other materials and equipments imported from neighbour provinces to Ghor through individual traders. Local material like livestock products, handicrafts, and dry stone fruits are purchasing in a very low price and selling to Herat or Kabul market through individual traders.

Transportation cost is very high because of bad road conditions which have caused an increase in the price of all materials and equipments in Ghor province. PRT gentlemen said that they wanted to purchase a container to one of the government offices and while they want to find out the cost they found to purchase it from

Herat and so cost of container in Herat was US \$1,000 and another US \$1,000 was needed to transfer it from Herat to Ghor province.

Handicraft productions like Carpet and Gleem also individually purchasing by business men from Ghor and transfer to other provinces for further processing and export. They are informal sectors implementing activities and no formal sectors active in this type of business.

There are some local and small workshops for Vehicle, Radio and TV repairing, which have the capacity for minor repairing and for major repairing of vehicles they should refer to Herat, or other provinces.

All construction material is imported from Herat or Kabul and except local material available there. There are no any other active groups like Chamber of commerce in the province.

5 Security (ANDS Sector 1)

In general as compare to other provinces security is good in Ghor province. But it wa about 2 months that security is deteriorated in the province and some of the districts like Charsadda hope to get better in the future.

Ghor province security is significantly affected by the neighbour provinces especially from the southern part. During winter season some times road is blocked and then it will be too difficult to assist the security in Ghor via road.

6 Physical infrastructure (ANDS Sector 8)

There is no sustainable energy power supply in the province and they use Diesel generators which consume a lot of fuel and are only available in a higher price. During winter some times may not be available or not easy to find in a reasonable price. During the RRERS Study data collection there was only one night when there was electricity supply but the other two nights there was no any electricity. But still there is potential in Morghab, Hirayrud and or Farahrud Rivers to generate electricity and it will provide opportunity of operating some small industries and provide job opportunity to the community.

No agricultural infrastructure in the province available.

Ghor province is blocked by Helman, Farah, Uruzgan, Herat, Badghis, Farah, Jowzjan and Bamian and has no any boarder to other countries. Geographical location of Ghor province depend it to the other provinces for importing and exporting of all materials. There is a lot of potential for local productions like livestock, Handicrafts, Rain fed Agriculture, orchard production, vegetable production etc but there is no road for transportation and import of inputs and other consumption materials. Improvement of road will activate all potential opportunities to the province. Other wise any investment in Ghor province will not affect more its economy and will not be cost efficient. Also improvement of road will change the priorities in Ghor province.

7 Institutional constraints (ANDS Sector 8)

Un-paved and bad condition of road caused to de-motivate the business people to start any business in Ghor province and to invest capital there. Unpaved and mountainous roads give opportunity to the robberies to disturb the security of the road. There are no any other major institutional constraints but traffic of poppy may counted as an institutional constraint in the area. Coast wise people are divided in to four groups in Ghor province and are Meri, Morghabi, Rowza and Byboqa groups.

8 Credit

There is no any credit institutions active yet in Ghor Province. Afghan Aid started some credit schemes in some districts and established some wheat banks and cash grant to the villages. Also through GERCY fund they provide 2500 goats to Widows, orphans and or disables.

9 Stakeholders

Poppy traders may affect to create obstacles on implementation of development activities.

Name of Stake holders	Ranking	Status
<i>National authorities</i>		
Provincial council	1	they are interested to development activities, and can Influence any development activities. PC will give speed up to the development process but they do not have enough capacity and need for capacity building. Since they are elected by the community then they have very good and close relationship with the others. Any development plan should be approved by them in provincial level. Critical success factor for them is capacity building and awareness about the development plan or activities.
<i>Regional and local</i>		
Directorate of Rural Development	1	This office is more active then all other offices in the Province and can play a key role in monitoring and supervision phase of development activities. Still it need capacity building and does not have enough professional staff and technical equipment for implementation of big projects.
Directorate of Education	1	It is also one of the active Local offices in the province. It is important to provide training opportunity to the existed offices (stake holders) and provide quality education to the students in long run.
Agriculture	1	Income source of the community is depend on Rain fed Agriculture, Livestock, Forest nut, remittances and handicrafts, orchards and then this sector is one of the important stack holders. But unfortunately it does not have capacity to make short, medium and long run planning. It needs capacity building and hiring of specialist professionals. Director of Agriculture arrived recently to the area
Irrigation department	1	the same as above
Economic department	1	The same as above
Directorate of Women Affairs	2	since Women's are not involved in the out side Activities then they are categorized as 2 nd important and should not be neglected. Still they are lacking of educated and experienced staff and existed staff needs capacity building.
Directorate of Immigrating	2	there is no more internal displacement and or returnees. Therefore it is ranked in 2 nd category.
Health Sector	1	This sector is an important sector in the Area.
<i>Regional or local organizations</i>		
NSP	1	NSP is implemented in the districts of Ghor province and more then 500 communities

		Development councils established. They are trained and can play an important role in implementation Of development plan.
		Weakness is still they need training and capacity building.
		No other groups are established in the province.
Cooperatives/Associations	3	only one cooperative established in 1383 of Solar year And 5 cooperatives established this year in Lalwaserjingle district. But still they are very new to play role in whole the province level. But in the district level they may take some part.
<i>NGOs/CBOs: advocacy</i>		
World Vision	1	There is 5 NGO's working in Ghor and they can plays an important role in implementing of development activities. Weakness is due to security they leave the area for example WV suspend some of it's activities temporary And some gape may exist there.
Afghan Aid		
CHA		
MADERA		
Global Partners		
DACAAR		Ministry of women affair is existed in province level. Also women's shura's are established in all districts and a women association is established in Lalwa Serjingle district but they are not very active
Women advocacy groups	2	
<i>Religious organizations</i>		
Shura-e-Ulaema	2	is there but not so active.
Donors		
PRT	1	PRT is providing fund for some development activities and supporting Security and Govt. capacity building.
WFP	1	WFP provide some assistant during disaster to the Vulnerable in the area.
<i>UNHCR, RAMP, NSP</i>		
Land and livestock owner's	1	both can play important roles
Heads of four coasts	1	direct beneficiaries.

10 Summary of key potential development opportunities:

1. Lime mine extraction.
2. Road construction to connect Ghor to other provinces.
3. Dam construction on Morghab, Hirayrud and Farahrud rivers for energy production.
4. Diversion of water from rivers for irrigation.
5. Water harvesting (Micro hydro power construction)
6. Wind and solar energy, utilization.
7. Range land improvement
8. Live stock development
9. Processing and marketing of Livestock products.
10. Honey bee's development
11. Tourism
12. Improvement and extension of Orchards.
13. Dry fruit production, processing and marketing
14. Rain fed seed Development
15. Marketing improvement
16. Poultry farming extension.
17. Handicrafts improvement and marketing.

Annexes

Annex 1: Summary of the main development activities in the province

Programmes/Projects		Agency/Donor	Approx Value US \$	Comments significance etc.
No	Completed.			
1	6 Cooperatives established in Lalwa Serjingle district	Govt.	NA	
2	24 School Building is constructed	Various	NA	
3	9 clinics constructed and 16 clinics repaired	Various	NA	
4	89 km secondary road improved	MRRD	NA	
5	900 MT Wheat is distributed	WFP/MRRD	NA	
6	3.5 jeribs of Nursery	Agriculture directorate	NA	
7	80 MT improved wheat seed distributed	FAO/Afghanistan Government	NA	
8	309 MT of improved wheat seed	RAMP/USAID		
9	Livelihood programme	Afghan Aid/DFID/EC		
10	Improvement of canals	FAO/PCO		
11	Returnees compound	Govt.		
12	Construction of 27 schools	Govt.		
Ongoing/planned projects				
1.	2500 MT wheat FFW	WFP	NA	
2.	20 Canals improvement	UNHCR	NA	
3.	5 schools	PRT/WFP/MRRD	NA	
4	2-3 Micro Hydro power projects	PRT	NA	
5	English and Computer coerces	Globe Partners	NA	
6	TB control	Globe Partners	NA	
7	Cash for Work Project	MRRD/CNTF	NA	
8	Survey of Ring road in Ghor province	Swedish Government	NA	
8	NSP	Afghan Government	NA	

Annex 2: Sources of data and relevant reports: All nine Government Sectors, NGO's and PRT.

Annex 3: Working methodology used:

Individual interviews implemented and one persons asking questions and recording notes. Also first the provincial profile discussed with Head of MRRD Mr. Ab. Rahman Farhang and Eng. Gulab Subhani NABP Advisor in Ghor province and their cooperation is highly appreciated. They provide me all facilitation, transportation and accommodation.

Annex 4: List of persons/agencies visited/contacted

Name	Position/agency/relevance re	Topic discussed	Date
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	future development		
Ab. Rahman Farhang	Provincial Director of MRRD in Ghor province	All	01.10.06
Eng Gulab Subhani	MRRD/NABDP Regional Advisor	All	01.10.06-04.10.06
Dr. Eng. M. Aslam Ariapoor	Director of Agriculture	Agriculture, and Natural resources	02.10.06
Zabiullah Khan	Admin in Agriculture directorate	Agriculture, and Natural resources	02.10.06
Bahaudding Wafae	Director of Economic	Natural resources, Stake holders, Ongoing, completed and planned projects, security	02.10.06
Mohammad Omar Sarwari	Head of oil sector	Natural resource	02.10.06
Mohammad Iqbal	Head of Public works	Natural resources	02.10.06
Aqa Jan Sultani	Program Manager Afghan Aid Ghor/Noristan	Natural resources, Stake holders, Ongoing, completed and planned projects, security	02.10.06
Mohammad Zia Ahmadi	Provincial PM Afghan Aid Ghor Province	Natural resources, Stake holders, Ongoing, completed and planned projects, security	02.10.06
Mohammad Ibrahim	Acting Irrigation Department	Irrigation System	03.10.06
Ahmad	Head Water Management	Irrigation System	03.10.06
Ab. Rauf Ghafari	Deputy Director Immigration and Returnees	Human resources	03.10.06
Sosan Yezdani	Director of Women Affairs	Human resources	03.10.06
Eid Gul Azeem	Director Education department	Human resources	03.10.06
Shah Abdulhaq Afzali	Governor of Ghor Province	Natural resources, Stake holders, Ongoing, completed and planned projects, security	03.10.06
Dr. Mohammad Qaseem	Director of Health	Stake holder/On going/planned and completed projects	03.10.06
Michael Sethi	Program Manager of GP in Ghor	Stake holder/On going/planned and completed projects	03.10.06
Brint A.Fryling, MD	Medical Consultant GP	Stake holder/On going/planned and completed projects	03.10.06
Mr. Lars-olof Eliassan	First Secretary, Development Embassy of Sweden in Kabul	Planned project	03.10.06
Bartas Trakymas	Political representative at PRT CHG, Deputy Head of the special Mission of Lithuania to Afghanistan.	Stake holders, Ongoing, completed and planned projects, security	03.10.06

Annex 5: Provincial summary of socio economic data: NA