

**Province: Uruzgan**

**Governor: Mullah Abdul Hakim Monib**

<b>Population Estimate:</b> 320,589	Urban: 10,000	Rural: 310,589
Area in Square Kilometers: 12,640	Capital: Tarin Kowt	
Names of Districts:	Shahid-e Hassas, Jawarah, Khas Oruzgan, Tarin Kowt, Dihrawud	
Composition of Population:	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Durrani Pashtun, Hazara	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Sunni majority, Shia minority <u>Tribal Groups:</u> Noorzai, Achakzai, Hazara, Popalzai, Barakzai, Ghilzai,
Occupation of Population	<u>Major:</u> agriculture (60-70%), animal husbandry (30-40%), labor.	<u>Minor:</u> small business
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	<u>Crops:</u> Poppy, wheat, corn, rapeseed, flax	<u>Animals:</u> Chickens, cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys
Literacy Rate Total: 5% (10% male, 0% female) <sup>1</sup>		
Number of Educational Institutions:	<u>Schools:</u> Primary & Secondary: 125 (112 are all-male)	<u>Colleges/Universities:</u> One Agricultural Vocational High School
Number of Security Incidents, 2007: 51	January: 7 February: 3 March: 2 April: 2	May: 2 June: 9 July: 2 August: 1 September: 0 October: 8 November: 9 December: 6
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation:	<u>2006:</u> 9,703 ha	<u>2007:</u> 9,204
NGOs Active in Province:	ADA, PEP, CADG, AHDS	
Transportation:	<u>Primary Roads:</u> \$21 million new road project that will span more than 91 kilometers from Tarin Kowt through Deh Rawod and then turn north to Oshay	
Electricity:	Extremely limited; only an eighth of power is public	<u>Estimated Population w/access:</u> 8% <sup>2</sup>
Health Facilities:	<u>Hospitals:</u> 3	<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 3 Clinics, 55 private pharmacies <sup>3</sup>
Primary Sources of Drinking Water/Availability of Potable Water:	85-90% of agriculture is derived from surface water, the remaining 10-15% on karezes and wells <sup>4</sup>	8-9% of households have access to safe drinking water <sup>5</sup>
Rivers:	Helmand, Teri, Darwishan or Chor, Khalaj, Tamazan <sup>6</sup>	
Topography	47% Mountainous, 31% hills, 21% flat <sup>7</sup>	

<sup>1</sup> "Provincial Profile," *Uruzgan*, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the National Area Base Development Programme, 2006, <http://www.mrrd.gov.af/> (accessed February 29, 2008).

<sup>2</sup> This figure seems extremely high (*Altai Public Opinion Info*, Altai Consulting, 2007).

<sup>3</sup> "Provincial Profile," *Uruzgan*, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the National Area Base Development Programme, 2006, <http://www.mrrd.gov.af/> (accessed February 29, 2008).

<sup>4</sup> National Area-Based Development Programme, "Provincial Profile for Uruzgan Province," *Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies*, 2006, [www.aisa.org.af/Downloads/ProvincialProfiles/Uruzgan.pdf](http://www.aisa.org.af/Downloads/ProvincialProfiles/Uruzgan.pdf) (accessed February 21, 2008).

<sup>5</sup> "Provincial Profile," *Uruzgan*, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the National Area Base Development Programme, 2006, <http://www.mrrd.gov.af/> (accessed February 29, 2008).

<sup>6</sup> Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies (RRERS), *Uruzgan Provincial Profile*, GRM International, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Kabul, October 2006, <http://www.aisa.org.af/Downloads/ProvincialProfiles/Uruzgan.pdf> (accessed Jan 2, 2008).

<sup>7</sup> "Provincial Profile," *Uruzgan*, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the National Area Base Development Programme, 2006, <http://www.mrrd.gov.af/> (accessed February 29, 2008).

**Political Landscape:**

**Political Leaders:**

**Governor Asadullah Hamdam**



A Ghilzai Pashtun from Qalat, Zabul. Governor Hamdam replaced Abdul Hakim Munib in September, 2007 (a reformed Talib who in turn replaced Jan Mohammad Khan in February, 2006). He has a good reputation. He served in the Afghan army before moving to the U.K. for studies. He speaks Pashtu, Dari, and English. He spends much of his time in his province, and is actively engaged with NGOs in the area.

**Deputy Governor: forthcoming**






**Chief of Police: forthcoming**




**National Directorate of Security Chief: forthcoming**



**Wolesi Jirga Members:<sup>8</sup>**


	Abdul Khaliq	Male	Pashtun / Achikzai tribal elder. Committee of Armed Services. 14 years education. Links to Barakzai tribe. Former Chora District head.
	Mohammad Hashem Watanwaal	Male	Pashtun / Popolzai, Sunni. Committee of Government Affairs. Bachelors Degree. Former refugee in Sweden (fluent Swedish), former Khalq.
	Sona Niloofar	Female	Pashtun / Popolzai, Sunni. Committee of Health. Medical Doctor. Born in Tarin Kowt. Close to Governor.

**Meshrano Jirga Members:<sup>9</sup>**


	Khairoo Jan	Permanent Member	Male, Pashtun / Popolzai, Solh Aworan party, Committee of I.R. Popular local mediator / power broker.
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<sup>8</sup> US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

<sup>9</sup> US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

	Mohammad Hanif	Transitional Member	Male, Pashtun / Achikzai, Independence party, Committee of National Economy, 12 years education, Son of district Malik. Local commander and refugee in Pakistan during Taliban years, returned to Afghanistan with Karzai in the South.
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**Provincial Council Members:**

	Nazar Mohammad		Atiqullah
	Haji Gul		Noor Mohammad
	Noor Mohammad		
	Al-Haj Mawlawi Hamdullah		

**Human Terrain:**

**Noorzai:** Based mainly in Shahidi Hassas and Dihrawud districts, the Noorzai are usually categorized and self-identified as Panjpay Durrani. Many Zirak Durrani, however, dismiss the Noorzai as Ghalji or Ghilzai, not Durrani at all. At this point in time, it is not clear whether this is a long-standing belief or has arisen out of the turmoil of the past three decades, particularly the close partnership between the Noorzai and the Ghalji-dominated Taliban leadership. Given the numbers and importance of the Noorzai in the south, this attitude may have consequences for long-term tribal politics.

**Hotak:** Found primarily in Tirin Kot, this is Taliban leader Mullah Omar’s tribe. One of the main divisions of Ghilzais, the Hotak, or Ohtak, often lived next to and competed with the Popalzai and Tokhi for resources. Controlling the more mountainous areas of “Pashtunistan,” they often received income from trading snow, wood and higher altitude crops with their lowland compatriots.

**Barakzai:** They rose to prominence with Dost Mohammad Shah (the British East India Company’s adversary in the first Anglo-Afghan War) and furnished a string of kings through the current aspirant to the throne, Heir Apparent Ahmad Shah. Accordingly, they are one of the most respected tribes in the country.

**Popalzai:** The tribe of President Karzai, the Popalzai are Durrani Pashtuns. The Popalzai are of the eastern Zirak (or Zarak) branch of the Durrani family, along with the Barakzai, Alikozai, and Achakzai, with its nexus in Kandahar. Subsets of Popalzai include the Ayubzai, Babakzai, Badozai, Bamezai, Hasanzai, Kanalagh, Khanzai, Kudezai, Madozai, Mangalzai, Mardozhai, Marsinzai, Nozai, Pamizai, Sadozai, and Shamizai. The kings of Afghanistan have traditionally been drawn from the Sadozai section.

**Achakzai:** Found mainly in Chora and Khas Uruzgan districts, the Achakzai were formerly part of the Barakzai grouping. The Achekzai were separated from the rest of the tribe by Ahmad Shah Durrani for management purposes, and the Achekzai remained one of the most troublesome tribes in the area. Traditionally nomadic, they further divide themselves into two large sub-groupings, the Gujanzais and the Badinzais, and had a reputation for disunity and predation.

**Hazara:** Primarily now residing in Tirin Kot, the Hazara were half the provincial population before Uruzgan was split and Day Kundi Province was created from the northern portion. The Hazara, a distinct ethnic and religious group within the population of Afghanistan, have often been the target of discriminatory and violent repression.

Most likely descended from the Mongols of Genghis Khan, (there is also a strong argument that they are of Eastern Turkic origin), the Hazara are noticeably different in physical appearance when compared to the Pashtun majority. In terms of religion, the vast majority of the Hazara are of the Shia Muslim faith, again in contrast to the Pashtuns who are Sunni Muslim. Due to these differences, “the Hazara have experienced discrimination at the hands of the Pashtun-dominated government throughout the history of modern Afghanistan.”<sup>10</sup> As the traditional underclass of Afghan society, Hazara were exploited and made to work as servants and laborers. As a result there tends to be an anti-government and anti-Pashtun bias among the Hazara. In present day Afghanistan, the Hazara are divided geographically into two main groups: the Hazarajat Hazara and those who live outside the Hazarajat. The Hazarajat is located in the Hindu Kush Mountains in central Afghanistan and is “centered around Bamiyan province and include[s] areas of Ghowr, Uruzgan, Wardak, and Ghazni province.”<sup>11</sup> The Hazara living outside of the Hazarajat live in and around Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif and Samangan province. Due to atrocities committed against them by the Taliban, the Hazara by and large are opposed to the Taliban. In August 1998, the Taliban massacred approximately 4,000 Hazara in Mazar-e-Sharif; this massacre was followed by another the next month when the Taliban killed another 500 Hazara in Bamiyan. The Hezb-e Wahdat (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan) is an umbrella political organization which commands the support of large numbers of Hazara. The Hazara are also often at odds with the Kuchi population within the Hazarajat.

**Alizai:** Major branch of the Panjpay Durrani Pashtuns with two main sub-tribes, **Jalozai** and **Hasanzai**. Clashes between the Jalozai and Hasanzai have been a major source of tension in northern Helmand province. Present Governor Sher Mohammad Akhundzada is Jalozai while Abdul Wahid, a major figure in Baghran district, Helmand province is Hasanzai. The feud between Abdul Wahid and the father of Sher Mohammad dates back to the Jihad period.

**Kuchi:** Kuchis are nomads. Kuchis are most often Pashtuns, but occasionally may be some non-Pashtun ethnicity, such as Baluch. To be a Kuchi is not who one is, or what one does, but what one is. More than a vocation and less than a race, the Kuchi are more appropriately thought of as a caste of nomadic herdsmen. Their four main animals are sheep, goats, camels and donkeys. They cross boundaries with ease. They have a very high illiteracy rate.<sup>12</sup> Involved in a constant and centuries old range war with the Hazara, the Kuchis have moved across Afghanistan and Pakistan for generations. Dispersed and well-traveled, they often receive news from distant relations in far-away provinces relatively quickly. The self-declared “leader” of the Kuchis is one Hashmat Ghani Ahmadzai. Partially settled by the king and the following socialist governments, they were strong supporters of the Taliban, both ideologically and pragmatically, as they came into possession of many Hazara lands thanks to the repression of the Shi’ite Hazara by the Taliban. There are estimated to be around three million Kuchi in Afghanistan, with at least 60% remaining fully nomadic, and over 100,000 have been displaced in the South of Afghanistan due to drought in the past few years.<sup>13</sup>

Uruzgan is one of the main summer pasture areas for Kuchi, who pass through the highlands of the province in summer, particularly to Chora, Gaizab and Khas Uruzgan, while they come down to Dehrawood, Terinkot, and Charchino in winter.<sup>14</sup> They remain vulnerable to the overall lack of security in Uruzgan, and very

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<sup>10</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

<sup>11</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

<sup>12</sup> “Afghanistan,” 2007 CIA World Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html> (accessed June 8, 2007), and Marc Herold, “War and Modernity: Hard Times for Afghanistan’s Kuchi Nomads,” *Cursor*, <http://www.cursor.org/stories/kuchi.html#5> (accessed June 8, 2007).

<sup>13</sup> “Afghan Nomads Say U.S. Bombing Killed Nine,” Associated Press, September 25, 2003 [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20030925\\_221.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20030925_221.html) (accessed June 8, 2007), and Paul Garwood, “Poverty, violence put Afghanistan’s fabled Kuchi nomads on a road to nowhere,” Associated Press, May 14, 2006, <http://www.rawa.org/nomad.htm/> (accessed June 8, 2007).

<sup>14</sup> Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies (RRERS). *Uruzgan Provincial Profile*. GRM International. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Kabul, October 2006. <http://www.aisa.org.af/Downloads/ProvincialProfiles/Uruzgan.pdf> (accessed Jan 2, 2008).

distant from the government. According to the UN, absolutely none of their children attend school, ever. Expect this to be reflected in literacy rates.<sup>15</sup>

### **Security Landscape:**

**General Level of Security:** By any stretch, security in Uruzgan is not good. Every district has at the very least a “high” level of insecurity. It is estimated that anywhere between 40-60% of province is controlled by the Taliban.<sup>16</sup> A number of districts are completely out of the question for NGOs or other development organizations to work in, including Tarin Kot, and transport especially is vulnerable to extortion and violence.<sup>17</sup> District centers are in control of the government, but the rural areas are very much not. The Dutch Provincial Reconstruction Team has initiated a number of good projects and is working hard to establish security in the province, but it is an extremely difficult task. Along with the Pakistani border, Uruzgan was a sanctuary for Taliban on the run after 9/11. The Dutch are continuing to make progress in the province, but there is much work to be done in establishing greater levels of security and presence in Uruzgan.

### **The districts of primary concern are:**

**Shahid-e Hassas:** On the eastern edge of the province, Shahid-e Hassas is part of the hilly, remote terrain that makes up the cluster of trouble with northernmost Helmand and westernmost Farah. Additionally, bordering upon Hazara lands, the district can be a zone of conflict between Kuchi Pashtun nomads and Hazaras.

**Khas Uruzgan:** A stronghold of the Taliban since the early days of the insurgency, Khas Uruzgan, like Shahid-e Hassas, has suffered from the Kuchi/Hazara conflict. Additionally, on the borders of both Zabul and outer Ghazni, Khas Uruzgan has seen a steady traffic of anti-coalition militias.

## **DISTRICTS**

The districts of Uruzgan Province are:

- Shahid-e Hassas
- Jawarah
- Khas Oruzgan
- Tarin Kowt
- Dihrawud



<sup>15</sup> “Provincial Profile,” *Uruzgan*, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the National Area Base Development Programme, 2006, <http://www.mrrd.gov.af/> (accessed February 29, 2008).

<sup>16</sup> NPR News. “NATO’s Afghan Trade School Underscores Challenge.” *All Things Considered*. Feb. 21, 2007, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7532214> (accessed December 18, 2007).

<sup>17</sup> Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies (RRERS), *Uruzgan Provincial Profile*. GRM International. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Kabul, October 2006. <http://www.aisa.org.af/Downloads/ProvincialProfiles/Uruzgan.pdf> (accessed Jan 2, 2008).