

Province: Nimroz

Governor: Doctor Gulam Dastagir Azad

Population Estimate: 118,000		Urban: ~17,700	Rural: 100,300 ¹
Area in Square Kilometers: 41,356		Capital: Zaranj City	
Names of Districts: Khash Rud, Chakhansur, Kang (also known as Qafak), Zargani, and Chahar Borjak			
Composition of Population:	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Baluch, Pashtun, Brahui, Tajik, Uzbek	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Sunni	<u>Tribal Groups:</u> Barakzai, Noorzai, Kuchi
Occupation of Population	Major: Trade, labor, other ²	Minor: Agriculture, livestock	
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	Wheat, corn, melons, poppies; almost all irrigated	Poultry, goats, sheep, donkeys, cattle	
Literacy Rate Total: 22% (30% male, 11% female) ³			
Number of Educational Institutions:	<u>Schools:</u> Primary: 56 (31,947 students; 63% male) Secondary: 6 (1,979 students; 70% male)	<u>Colleges/ Universities:</u> 1 Teacher training institute (136 students)	
Number of Security Incidents, Jan-Jun 2007:	January: 3 February: 1 March: 3 April: 1	May: 1 June: 1 July: 4 August: 0	September: 1 October: 1 November: 1 December: 1
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation:	2006: 1,955 ha	2007: 6,507	
International organizations/NGOs Active in Province: UNAMA, UNHCR, UNDP/ANBP, BRAC, Okenden International			
Transportation: Roads in Nimroz are relatively good, and the majority are unsurprisingly all-season. The roads are worst in Kang.	<u>Primary Roads:</u> The major road runs from Ziranj through Delaram to the ring road. Other main roads run along the Helmand river from Dishu in Helmand Province and over the Iranian border to Zabol.		
Electricity:	Surprisingly, access is somewhat better in rural parts of Nimroz, with a reported 38% having access. One third of available electricity is public	<u>Estimated Population w/access:</u> 32% ⁴	
Health Facilities:	<u>Hospitals:</u> 1 (Zaranj)	<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 15 health centers, 30 pharmacies	
Primary Sources of Drinking Water/Availability of Potable Water:	Good, considering that communities congregate around water-sources. 100% report water sources within their community	Only 38% have access to safe drinking water, rural areas (45%); only 15% have safe toilet facilities ⁵	
Rivers: Helmand, Khashrod, Farahrod			
Significant Topographic Features	95% Flat. ⁶ A lot of desert. A major lake exists in Kang District called Hamoon Saberi.		

¹ Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies (RRERS), *Provincial Profile for Nimroz*, (2006), at <http://www.aisa.org.af/Downloads/ProvincialProfiles/Nimroz.pdf> (December 7, 2007).

² "Provincial Profile," *Nimroz*, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the National Area Base Development Programme, 2006, <http://www.mrrd.gov.af/> (February 29, 2008).

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

Political Landscape:

Political Leaders:

Governor Doctor Gulam Dastagir Azad





A Pashtun from Chahar Borjak, Governor Azad received his medical degree from Kabul University in the early 1970s before holding a variety of posts in his native Nimroz, including that of Chief of Public Health. During the years of Taliban rule, Gov. Azad worked in the refugee camps across the border in Iran. He was appointed to his post on February 3, 2005, replacing Abdul Karim Brahwi, a Baluch. His son was killed in a Taliban suicide bombing outside the gubernatorial residence in November 2007, along with six police.



Deputy Governor Malang Rasooli



Wolesi Jirga Members:⁷

	Khodainazar Sarmachar	Male Baluch	Member of the International Relations Committee. Former governor of Nimroz. He has a B.A.
	Saliha Mirzad	Female Pashtun	Secretary of the Government Affairs Committee, she was a teacher and a member of the Loya Jirga

Meshrano Jirga Members:⁸

	Mohammad Anwar Muradi	Male	Secretary of the Environment Committee, member of Solh Aworan. Is a teacher, has a Bachelors' degree.
No Photo Available	Najibi Rukhshani	Female Baluch	Member of the Religious Affairs & Education Committee, member of Hamnazar. Former teacher. Good relationship with Malalai Joya.
	Fazal Karim Mahmoudi	Male	Chair of the National Economy Committee, member of Payam-e Solh. Holds a B.A.

⁷ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

⁸ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

Provincial Council Members:

	Sardar Abdul Razaq		Haji Sakhi Ahmad
	Mohammad Sidiq		Rooh Gul Khairzad
	Gul Ahmad Ahmadi		Gul Makai Wakili
	Haji Sayyad Ahmad		Shakila Hakimi
	Khudaidad		

Human Terrain:

Baluch: The Baluch, thought to number over a million in Afghanistan, are an Indo-Iranian ethnic group spread over Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran. Significant numbers also exist abroad. In Pakistan, Baluchi independence groups have fought with Islamabad over the revenues from natural resources in Baluchistan. The capital of Pakistani Baluchistan is Quetta, where many of the Taliban are thought to have fled after their fall from power, but Kalat, further south, has traditionally been the seat of the Baluch Khans. The Baluch are overwhelmingly but not entirely Sunni Muslims. Their power-structures, based on the khan, are generally perceived to be more concentrated than those of the more fractious Pashtuns. In Afghanistan they are primarily nomadic, roaming the southernmost districts of the three southernmost provinces.

Barakzai: Durrani Pashtuns, 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.

Brahui: Numbering around a quarter million in Afghanistan, the Brahui are a small tribal group more usually found in Pakistan’s Baluchistan province. Predominantly Sunni, Brahui are descended from Dravidian tribes that once spanned across India before the Aryan invasions of 2,000 to 3,000 years ago. The Brahui language still retains the Dravidian grammatical structure, although most vocabulary is at this point Indo-Iranian in origin. Having lived amongst the Baluch for centuries, they are in many cases indistinguishable, and even provided the Khans of Kalat.

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.⁹ 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.¹⁰ There are estimated to be around 30,000 Kuchi in Nimroz.¹¹

Noorzai: Although usually categorized and self-identified as Panjpay Durrani, many Zirak Durrani 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.

Tajiks: Tajiks are the second largest ethnic group in Afghanistan after the Pashtuns and comprise between 25-30% of the population. The Tajiks in Afghanistan tend to live in settled communities as opposed to a nomadic lifestyle. Pashtuns refer to them as *Farsiwan*, or speakers of Farsi, the lingua franca of Afghanistan (50% of Afghanistan speaks Farsi, as opposed to only 35% for Pashtu). Between the Tajiks and Pashtuns there has been significant animosity in recent years. Forming the backbone of the Northern Alliance, they also have a base in the nation of Tajikistan. They held out fiercely against the Taliban. Most Tajik are Sunni Muslims, but a few are Shi’a. Tajiks made up the majority of the Northern Alliance, both in terms of membership and leadership. Tribal ties have largely broken down among the Tajiks; therefore, social organization is defined primarily by geography. Despite their lack of cohesiveness the Tajiks are often brought together due to the perceived common threat posed by the Pashtuns.¹²

Uzbeks: Although primarily inhabiting the North of Afghanistan, Uzbeks can be found all over the country. At present, Uzbeks in Afghanistan number just under three million, making up approximately nine percent of the country. They are concentrated in Balkh, Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul, Takhar, Kunduz, and Faryab provinces. The most famous Uzbek in the country is undoubtedly the warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, a colorful character who has fought on most sides in the last thirty years. After the Taliban took control of his home base of Mazar-i Sharif he fled to Turkey, but has since returned to Afghanistan, and is once again debatably the most powerful man in Northern Afghanistan. He still claims that he can raise 10,000 Uzbeks on short notice.¹³ Uzbeks speak Uzbek, a Turkic language, although many, especially outside of their core areas in Northern Afghanistan, speak Dari and other languages. In Nimroz a reported 10% of the population speaks Uzbek.¹⁴

Security Landscape:

General Level of Security:

Many of the attacks in Nimroz are directed at police. There is no permanent NATO/ISAF presence in the province, and very little ANA. Anti-Coalition Militia have been quick to take advantage of this and have sought to take

⁹ “Afghanistan,” 2007 CIA World Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html> (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> (June 8, 2007).

¹⁰ “Afghan Nomads Say U.S. Bombing Killed Nine,” Associated Press, September 25, 2003 http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20030925_221.html (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> (June 8, 2007).

¹¹ “Provincial Profile,” *Nimroz*, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the National Area Base Development Programme, 2006, <http://www.mrrd.gov.af/> (February 29, 2008).

¹² 2007 CIA World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html> (accessed June 28, 2007).

¹³ David Pugliese, “Former Afghan warlord says he can defeat Taliban,” *CanWest News Service*, May 10, 2007, <http://www.canada.com/topics/news/world/story.html?id=1acb5330-dfe8-4f0e-8a1b-4f581478244f&k=44800> (April 14, 2008).

¹⁴ “Provincial Profile,” *Nimroz*, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the National Area Base Development Programme, 2006, <http://www.mrrd.gov.af/> (February 29, 2008).

control from Delaram to the Pakistani border. Security incidents in Nimroz remain few, most probably as a result of the sparse security forces, but as fights spill over from Helmand and Farah, they can be expected to increase. Recent incidents include a suicide bomber ramming a vehicle into a police compound in Zaranj¹⁵ and a Taliban militant detonating his body-borne improvised explosive device on a road killing three Indian engineers.¹⁶ In many ways, Nimroz could be as dangerous as Kandahar or Zabul, but for the most part remains an unknown due to the lack of forces deployed there. It is a situation that will have to be addressed at some point.

The province also suffers from the scourge of narcotics, flowing over both its international and provincial boundaries. Refineries have been set up within Nimroz, indicating a lack of fear on the part of drug-lords.

The districts of primary concern are:

Zaranj: Besides the attack on the governor's residence in November of 2007, the district has witnessed a number of attacks, especially on police targets.

Khash Rod: Bordering Helmand and Farah, Khash Rod and its center Delaram have seen an increasing amount of violence for two primary reasons. First, NATO/ISAF and Afghan government forces, very much engaged in counterinsurgency efforts in neighboring Farah and Helmand, have pushed insurgents into the relatively unprotected Khash Rod district, making it a transitory base and reachback center for insurgents engaged elsewhere. Secondly, the district, possibly the most fertile in the province, is prime poppy growing territory, leading to conflicts with eradication resistance and drug traffickers.

DISTRICTS

The districts of Nimroz Province are Khash Rud, Chakhansur, Kang (also known as Qafak), Zargani, and Chahar Borjak.

¹⁵ Noor Khan, "Suicide attack kills 2 Afghan policemen," *Washington Times*, April 1, 2008, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080401/FOREIGN/665758786/1003> (April 4, 2008).

¹⁶ Reuters, "Afghan suicide blast kills 3 Indians, 1 Afghan," *AlertNet*, April 12, 2008, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ISL206326.htm> (April 14, 2008).

