

Provincial profile for

Zabul Province

Executive Summary

1 Natural Resources (ANDS Sector 3)

Zabul Province is very poor in terms of natural resources such as minerals, forests and even water sources. Daichopan and Arghandab districts used to have some forests in the past, but it seems that only 1-3% of that is remaining and loss is due to severe drought that has affected Nimroz and Zabul Provinces more any other part of the country. It is also said that coal is available in Zabul province, but this has never been exploited.

So far no major projects or investment has taken place to develop a major project in the province, but there is potential for improvement of irrigation as well as power generation for local electrification in the province.

Zabul has got two main *rivers* flowing in the province and irrigating the agricultural lands located along the rivers. These are the:

1. Arghandab River – from Arghandab to Daichopan and then to Shahwalikot of Kandahar
2. Tarnak River – from Moqor to Navar then Shahjoy through Qalat to Shahr-i-Safa and then joining Kandahar Arghandab River.

There are also numbers of seasonal rivers almost everywhere in the province which provide water in the winter and spring time and if the year is rich with rain and snow then water is available during the year in the district. There are many traditional *canals* from the rivers wherever there is river in the district for instance the Shahjoy Loy Canal is one of the biggest canals; while there are many other traditional canals irrigating villages located in the river banks that could be cleaned and improved with construction works.

There is potential for construction of check *dams* in the areas where seasonal rivers are flowing in order to block the rain water in Atghar, Shinkai, Shamolzai, Nawbahar since these districts are very much suffering from lack of irrigation and drinking water. The main water sources are karezes and are no longer producing water and with check dam constructions the water table will be increased that will help karezes with water recharge. There is also potential for construction of dams in the areas where rivers are flowing for instance which will improve irrigation and be used for local electrification:

- Arghandab – on Arghandab river in Kharnai area
- Daichopan – on Arghandab river
- Tarnak River – in Shahjoy at Hasankhil
- Mizana

It has to be clarified that the severe drought has strongly affected the province agriculture and livestock and animal husbandry since the main economy of the province is based on it.

There are also a number of other bridges that according to the people of the area will benefit a lot the economy of people since the mentioned bridges will connected many districts to Qalat city as well as will ease peoples' access to Pakistan to selling of their products.

1. A bridge on Arghandab river that will connect Arghandab district to Daichopan, Khak-e-Afghan, Arghandab, Mizan and all mentioned districts to Qalat city.
2. Abridge on Tarnak River in Shahjoy that will connect Nawbaha, Shamolzai, Shinkai, Atghar, and Seurai districts, this will facilitate access of all abovementioned districts to Pakistan for selling of their products to Pakistan
3. A bridge on Arghistan River in Shinkai District that will connect Shinkai, Atghar, Shamulzai, to Qalat and also the mentioned districts will have access to Pakistan.

The mentioned bridges are indicated by the Dr. Saddiqullah who is working with UNAMA Kandahar and is himself from Zabul and has done number of assessments himself. But still the mentioned projects will require proper feasibility assessments.

2 Human Resources

Zabul is severely suffering from *lack of skilled and educated human resources* this is due to the continuous instability as well as conservative culture. There are very limited numbers of schools operational in the province due to:

1. insecurity
2. threats from sources who try to prevent people to attend schools
3. cultural barriers
4. lack of teachers and capable human resources
5. lack of teaching material
6. low level of salaries for teachers and staff

There is *no vocational or technical school* available in the province, some vocational trainings were made available on short term basis by PRT in Computer and English Literacy, Driving, Carpet weaving and Car Mechanics.

When it comes to peoples' *movements*, Zabul people in particular youth have moved from their villages for job search to other provinces and mainly to Pakistan. The level of availability of skilled labourers is almost none. The level of *returnees* in the province is not very high in 2006 that obviously should be due to the security problems and instability in the region lack of jobs opportunities. However, according to UNHCR data 124 families have returned from Pakistan and Iran since January 2006 to the 8 districts of Zabul province.

3 Agriculture (ANDS Sector 6)

3.1 Overview

Zabul economy prior to drought used to be 50-60% based on agriculture and farming, and the 50-40% on livestock and animal husbandry; while now due to the drought this figure has dropped considerably and livestock is not more that 10-15% left now, therefore strong attention should be paid to the improvement and empowerment of agriculture, farming and livestock. Zabul agriculture is based on both rain-fed and irrigated system, while about 60% of agriculture is irrigated crops out of which 70-75% is karez fed and the rest 20-25% surface irrigation coming form the major rivers flowing in the province.

Agriculture could be divided into 2 forms: Crops and Horticulture. *Orchard* is covering 20-30% of the agriculture mainly Almonds, Grapes (Kishmish) and Apricots (Dried Apricot called Kishta) while 70-80% is *crop* cultivation mainly wheat, maize, barley, and some cumin.

The *drought* has strongly affected the agriculture and farming of the province since the Karezes almost all dried out, rain-fed cropping is out of question due lack of rain, and rivers don't produce sufficient water. It is said that the volume of agriculture has dropped by 70-80% in the province.

As mentioned the main *irrigation* is based on karezes and little on surface water flowing in the rivers passing through the districts and water is being diverted from the rivers via traditional canals irrigating the lands located on river banks. All the karezes require proper cleaning and canals require structuring in order to avoid water wastage and have better water management. For the karezes to function properly the water table has to rise above the intake level. This can be achieved through increased water infiltration: check dams in seasonal streams, reforestation etc.

Construction of dams and check-dams in the areas mentioned in article 1, could improve the irrigation system and consequently the help in better farming and higher production and better economy.

The farming system is similar in the entire region, everywhere the same system exists:

- A) Private lands: There are different categories of land owners big land lords above 100 jeribs, Medium land owners from 10 to 100 jeribs and Small land owners from 1 to 10 jeribs. On the other hand there are many landless farmers who are working for other land owners on the basis of:
1. **Labourers:** Working for the land owner, the land owner has provided them with shelter/house and pays them on labourer whatever agreed upon either on monthly or yearly basis when the harvest is done
 2. **Bazgari or partnership:** The land owner gives his land in partnership to a farmer to work on it on the basis of agreement to give one-third, one-fourth, or one-fifth of the harvest to the farmer who cultivates the land of the owner. The harvest ratio depends on the nature of agreement and share of expenditures, for instance the owner takes the responsibility for provision of fertilizers, seeds, tractor, fuel for water pump or whatsoever and the farmer is only working on land for cultivation, in this case the 4 or 5 shares would belong to the owner and 1 or 2 shares will be given to the farmer.
 3. **Ijara (Lease):** Ijara is the form of agreement between the land owner and the farmer for a longer term that the farmer rents or leases the land of the owner for 1-2-3...5 years for a fixed sum of money or amount of product being cultivated in the land; for instance 100 kg of wheat per each jerib to be given to the owner on annual basis, while all the expenditures fall the responsibility of the farmer. This should be mentioned that for orchards there is another form of Ijara or Lease exist in Helmand; once the orchard is close to harvesting time, someone is ready to buy the fruits of the tree on a lump sum basis from the owner, the picking, packaging and transportation becomes the responsibility of the buyer.

3.2 Crops

Zabul agriculture could be divided into 2 categories: (i) Crops and (ii) Horticulture

- A) The main **crop** in the province is wheat as main crop, of course after poppy, while there are also maize, corn, barley, potatoes, melon and watermelon and some vegetables. Due to drought, the yield levels have been considerably reduced and thus what the farmers get could only be used for their own domestic use, while in certain cases the yield is not sufficient to feed the farmer's family for one year, so there is always a significant food deficit in the area.
- B) Zabul also has got **orchards** mainly Almonds, Grapes and Apricots (Dried Apricot called Kishta) which is considered to be for selling in market. It was once famous for its almonds and dried apricots, where future development potential is present.

The main market for Zabul farming products is Kandahar, Ghazni, Kabul and Pakistan –directly from Zabul;

The **marketing** is very poor, Zabul people are not good traders or businessmen, businessmen from other provinces, mainly Kandahar, go and buy their products directly in their villages and bring it down to Kandahar and Kabul for trade. There is need for an introduction of business and trade culture in the province so that they can have direct access to the first hand market in Kandahar.

It should also be mentioned that currently **Poppy** is considered to be the main production in Zabul, which has over shaded all other crops in the province. According to UNODC report 9703 hectares of land was poppy cultivation. On top of drought, poppy and others, one of the major reasons for reduction of yield in wheat and other farming products is the fact of **very poor variety and quality of seeds and chemicals** being used by the farmers. The tested and good varieties of seeds given to the farmers in the past by the government is no longer existing and has been crossed with different other varieties being imported by different NGOs and farmers themselves has caused significant reduction of harvest and yield.

On the other hand the import of low quality fertilizers that is not matching the soil of the farm is also a major problem; lack of technical and skilled farmers is another constraints. There is no farming advisory system where farmers could be consulted how to improve the yield, how to fight the plant diseases and etc.

3.3 Livestock

Zabul used to be main tracking route and station for Kuchi pastoralists. The province used to be very rich in terms of grazing fields mainly rain-fed that was used by the pastoralists mainly in Shahjoy, Shinkai, Mizana, Arghandab and almost everywhere in the province. The livestock is reduced by 80% in the province and the grazing fields no longer exist as there is no water and thus the livestock was also vulnerable to lack of fodder.

Zabul farmers also used to keep *livestock and animal husbandry*, every household owned in the past around 10-20 sheep and goat and few cows, camels and donkeys, out of which only 10% is surviving. On top of that Zabul is one of the main pasture fields for Kuchi and pastoralists.

The main production of the livestock is the *by-products* such as ghee, quroot, wool as well as the progeny; the male animals are being sold in the markets for slaughter. The main market for animals is Pakistan, since Pakistan has got a long border with Zabul, therefore almost all livestock products are going to Pakistan while some is also coming to Kandahar.

What could be done for improving the livestock would be to introduce wool washing, spinning and colouring mechanisms so that the wool is being processed and sold in considerably higher price to the market. Business centres and cooperatives should also be introduced to the farmers and livestock owners so that they can have access in collective way to financing opportunities, loans and etc.

3.4 Fisheries

Fisheries and Fishing farming has a potential in Zabul in particular in Arghandab, Mizan and Daichopan, nothing has been done in this regard in the province. At current very little fishing is conducted.

3.5 Land tenure

Zabul is partly mountainous and partly flat and hilly province. The state land used to be 60% in the past but, reportedly it seems that people in particular the warlords and politicians of the province are considerably occupying the state land in the province. Land ownership is based on small lands owned by the farmers. The biggest Land owner is in possess of less then no more than 100-150 jeribs maximum, while the medium land ownership is up to 50 and small land owner ship from 1-20 jeribs.

Land ownership is usually on an inheritance basis being distributed among the heirs. In certain cases it has either been given centuries ahead by the governments of that time to the people or the people have just simply occupied the vacate lands and then it became their properties by laps of years and time.

3.6 Agricultural support services and input supplies

There are no major agricultural support services in apart from the department of Agriculture within the government administration; however there are some NGOs who help the farmers in a very small scale such as CADG, ADA, VARA, ALP and PRT. There are also WFP FFW project being implemented by local NGOs in the province who work for canals cleaning and roads graveling sort of projects that are not sustainable and fundamental projects.

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

According to my information there is no active farmer association or cooperative in Zabul province while there is strong need for encouragement towards establishment of farmers' cooperatives.

3.8 Agriculturally related businesses

According to farmers they require improved seeds, tractors, small and medium size loans, water dams, structured canals so that they can have better harvest and will improve their economy accordingly. There is also need for putting small fruit processing mechanisms for instance improved system of drying of apricots,

almond cracking facilities. On the other hand cold storages and transport for dairy products. Cumin cleaning and packaging facilities, rice cleaning and processing facilities etc.

Training for farmers to be able to sell their products and have access to the first hand market with better and improved products both in terms of agricultural and livestock by-products.

4 Other business activities (ANDS Sector 8)

The trading tradition is very poor in Zabul, in many places Kandahar businessmen go and buy the products from Zabul people, so there is need for trainings to farmers to learn how to have access to first hand market and with better and improved way of packing and quality products. There are very few businesses going on in the province, a small bazaar in Qalat city and smaller bazaars with few shops in other districts.

No factories apart from 1 or 2 ice factories, few technical shops such as car garages, carpentry shops, Tailors, few PCOs recently after Mobile system started operation. Almost all construction material are being brought as needed from Kandahar, even bricks are being brought from Kandahar.

No business unions.

5 Security (ANDS Sector 1)

The security situation is very fragile in Zabul, particularly number of districts is completely out of question to work, the access roads even Kandahar Qalat, not safe difficult to transport project related materials and personnel to the project site in districts. Usually fighting is going on, most of district centres are in the control of government while other parts of districts are being controlled by insurgents.

6 Physical infrastructure (ANDS Sector 8)

There is no power in the province while with construction of small dams there is the possibility for electrification of entire province. Physical infrastructure includes:

1. Government offices
2. hospital and other health facilities (clinics) in many districts
3. Schools everywhere in districts but many not operational due to insecurity
4. Main road between Kandahar-Qalat asphalt while other access roads connecting Qalat to districts and districts to districts all in poor conditions
5. Military barracks and police posts
6. Few canals and intakes constructed
7. Few bridges on Kandahar Zabul main roads

7 Institutional constraints (ANDS Sector 8)

Almost entire country and southern region provinces face similar situation and share similar problems:

- Inadequate and less supportive governmental policies in particular in terms of Taxation
- Lack of power and accessible roads
- Air transport is very expensive and then Kandahar Airport is not allowed to be used
- Lack of storage capacities
- Lack of facilities in the industrial park, Power, water, drainage, roads, security etc
- Government bureaucratic procedures
- Lack of quality control and standardization procedures
- Lack supporting mechanism in the government
- Lack financing mechanisms and institutions
- Afghan transport is not allowed into Pakistan and Iran which creates problem in particular for transport of fresh food, has to change goods from one truck to the other in border, while Pakistani trucks are allowed to cross the border and come inside Afghanistan

- Lack of technical and professional agriculture extension workers

8 Credit

Nothing exists there.

9 Stakeholders

No	Description (Name)	Importance Rate			Comment
		1	2	3	
1	Government Authorities	X			To take the lead role & build its capacity
2	Provincial Council	X			As advisory & regulatory body
3	Village & District Councils (CDC)	X			As advisory, participatory and owner
4	National Security Forces (ANP & ANA)		X		As security & stability enforcement bodies
5	International Security Forces (NATO & Coalition)		X		As security & stability enforcement & support to National security bodies
6	Local Commanders	X			As the main influential group
7	District level authorities (District Head/District Police Commander)	X			As facilitators but also in most instances as problem creators
8	Taliban Groups	X			Could be a threat to implementation
9	Religious scholars and Mullahs	X			Very important to be brought in the implementing process to avoid their passive views
10	Local NGOs & Coordination body and women Associations	X			As implementing & participatory body
11	International NGOs		X		As implementing, participatory & support
12	Ulema (Clerics) Shura & Madrassas		X		Can facilitate implementation as participant
13	Banks, AICC and Chamber of Commerce	X			As financing & business promotion bodies
14	IDPs, Returnees, Disables and Kuchi and women and children		X		As vulnerable/marginalized groups to be targeted
15	Media		X		As information & communication bodies
16	PRT & CIMIC	X			As influential bodies in terms funding agencies, but also as constraints due to military involvement
17	United Nation Agencies	X			As funding and capacity building as well as supporting & participatory bodies
18	USAID	X			As influential bodies in terms of funds & resource owners
19	Cooperatives and Unions	X			As managing, organizing, leading & participatory bodies

10 Summary of key potential development opportunities

- Dams construction with irrigation canals and power generators
- Establishment of Research farms with trained extension workers who can assist them farmers with new agriculture mechanisms
- Introduction of mechanized agriculture in particular water saving mechanisms such as drip irrigation and etc.
- Establishment of Dairy processing plants

- Support for farmers' association establishment and their capacity building and supporting it with loans, tractors, improved seeds etc.
- Establishment of financing services in the province
- Assisting livestock owners & Kuchi with business centres / Associations and assisting in associations capacity building to run the business centres as well as provision of