

Provincial profile for

Uruzgan Province

Executive Summary

1 Natural Resources (ANDS Sector 3)

According to the information collected, Uruzgan province has got no forestry resources, and if there is, then it is not very significant. Uruzgan's *minerals* are coal mines in Khas Uruzgan and fluoride in Bakhud area, close to Dar-i-Noor. This mine was contracted to a businessman from Kandahar at the rate of Afgh 500 per cubic meter, but was abandoned by the government lately. It is also said that Topchi mountains of Dehrawood has gold deposits, but this is only the people's view and no proper prospecting seems to have been done.

So far no major projects or investments have been taking place to develop a major project in the province. There is potential for improvement of irrigation as well as power generation for local electrification in Uruzgan province through the construction of dams.

Uruzgan has got few main *rivers* flowing in the province and irrigating the agricultural lands in the province.

1. Helmand River – from Gizab via CharChinu (Shahid Hasas) to Dehrawood
2. Teri River – from Khas Uruzgan via Terinkot to Dehrawood joining Helmand river
3. Darwishan or Chor River – from Chora to Terinkot joining Teri River in Terinkot
4. Khalaj River – from Gaizab to Dehrawood joining Helmand River
5. Tamazan River – from Daikundi to Gaizab joining Khalaj River and joining finally Helmand

All rivers join at the end the Helmand River in Dehrawood. The drought has significantly reduced the water level in the rivers. Since 85 to 90% of Uruzgan agriculture is based on surface water such as rivers and traditional canals, it has strongly affected the agriculture and life of the people, which is mainly based on agriculture. Potential areas for construction of *dams* have been identified in the past and could be:

1. Chinar Tangai dam in Terinkot
2. Sar Khum Tangai dam in Terinkot
3. Dehrawood Tangain dam in Dehrawood
4. Ulombagh dam in Charchino (Shahid Hasas)
5. Kandugak dam in Gaizab
6. Chilabaig dam in Khas Uruzgan

Every dam construction will help the people of the area to get better irrigation facilities which will help in them with better cultivations and consequently better economy; on top of that every dam will have the potential for power generation for local electrification.

2 Human Resources

Uruzgan is severely suffering from *lack of skilled and educated human resources*. This is due to the continuous instability as well as the conservative culture, which has prohibited many children to attend formal education. There is a very limited number of schools operational in the province with many schools closed 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 training took place by the NGOs for short term training youth in various crafts.

When it comes to the *IDPs*, Uruzgan has got around 5000-7000 IDP families due to the recent battles and fighting. They are scattered all-over the province coming from the districts where fighting was happening and live among the resident population; there are no formal IDP camps in Uruzgan.

The level of registered returnees to the province in 2006 is not very high. That obviously is due to the security problems and instability in the province. However, according to UNHCR data **15** families have returned from Pakistan and Iran since January 2006 to the 4 Districts Terinkot, Khar Uruzgan, Chora and Dehrawood.

3 Agriculture (ANDS Sector 6)

3.1 Overview

Uruzgan economy is 60-70% based on agriculture and farming, and the rest 30-40% on livestock and other businesses; therefore strong attention should be paid to the improvement of agriculture and empowerment of farmers. Uruzgan agriculture is based on both rain-fed and irrigated system, while about 90% of agriculture is based on surface water irrigation coming from the major rivers flowing in the province and about 10-15% is based on karezes and boreholes.

The drought has strongly affected the agriculture and farming of the province since the rivers don't contain sufficient water for the irrigation requirements. It is said that farming and agriculture is dropped by 30-40% in the province. As mentioned the main irrigation is based on surface water flowing in the rivers passing through the districts and water is being diverted from the rivers via traditional canals. All these canals require proper structuring in order to avoid water wastage and have better water management. Construction of dams in the areas mentioned in article 1, could improve the irrigation system and consequently help in better farming and higher production and better economy.

The farming system is more or less homogeneous in the whole province.

- 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 are the responsibility of the farmer.

3.2 Crops

Uruzgan agriculture could be divided into 2 categories (i) Crops and (ii) Orchards.

- A) The main **crop** in the province is mainly wheat as main crop, of course after poppy, while there are also cumin/caraway, maize, barley, corn, Potatoes, Rice, Melon and Watermelon and some vegetables for domestic use. Rice is coming mainly from Dehrawood, Terinkot and Charchino and potatoes from Khar Uruzgan, Mellon and Watermelon from Deharawood mainly.
- B) Uruzgan also has got **orchards** mainly apricots and almonds. Uruzgan almond is very famous and has got good market in Kandahar.

The cumin, maize, rice, potatoes, almonds and dried apricots of Uruzgan are a cash crop for the farmers. The main market for Uruzgan farming products is Kandahar, from where it is further traded.

The **marketing** is very poor, Uruzgan people are not good traders or businessmen, Kandahar businessmen go and buy their products directly in their villages and bring it down to Kandahar, often using agents in the villages. There is need for introduction of business and trade culture in the province so that they can have direct access to the first hand market in Kandahar. For this purpose farmers' association could play an important role to e.g. do the first cleaning of cumin and bag the product.

It should also be mentioned that currently **poppy** is considered the most important crop in terms of revenue in Uruzgan, which has overshadowed all other crops in the province.

Many farmers have a **poor seed stock** in terms of variety (mixed, often not the most suitable varieties due to donations and retention of seed distributed for food) and quantity. An EU financed programme for the promotion of cumin, whereby farmers were given 3kg of cumin seed, sufficient for 1 jerib, showed a quick increase in the production of cumin (anecdotal evidence from Kandahar cumin traders) and improved quality. Similar projects can be done for other carefully selected crops. With a seed farm to pre-multiply before distribution to farmers continuous injections of new seeds and new varieties can be made.

3.3 Livestock

Uruzgan used to be very rich in terms of livestock and animal husbandry, every household own number of animals for family use and domestic use. On top of that Uruzgan is one of the main summer pasture areas for Kuchi, who are going to 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.

The main production of the livestock is the **by-products** such as ghee, quroot, and wool which are being sold mainly in Kandahar. The drought has strongly affected the livestock, but still Uruzgan livestock is comparatively in better condition it is said that around 30-40% of live stock is lost due to the drought and lack of pasture, fodder and grazing areas.

The farmers still maintain animals mainly **cows, donkeys and sheep** for domestic use which could still be a potential for dairy farm in the province with installation of milk and by-products processing facilities through putting collecting points in villages and buying milk on the spot from the villagers and being transported to the dairy farm for further process. However, the milk is not very much consumed in the province itself and one can hardly find local market for the dairy product since every family has access to milk.

Having accessible **roads** constructed is not only important for the business of livestock and dairy products but also for all other business, the farmers have to have easy and quick access to the market, and therefore dairy business highly requires proper access roads from districts level to the Capital of province and province to province. The road Kandahar Terinkot is constructed but it is not up to standard and already damaged on several places; part of it is not yet rehabilitated.

Most **by-products** (skins, hides and wool) are sold without any processing. If wool washing plants and small tanneries could be established more value could be added in the province before the products are sent out. Business centres and cooperatives should also be introduced to the farmers and livestock owners so that they can improve their access to the markets, services and inputs at more competitive prices.

3.4 Fisheries

Fisheries and Fishing farming has a potential in Uruzgan, nothing has been done in this regard in the province. At current fishing is conducted in very unskilled and crude way by using hand grenades or explosives which is very harmful to the fish stock as all fish die from this “treatment”. The fishing is done everywhere in particular in Terinkot and then sold in Terinkot and Kandahar market.

3.5 Land tenure

Uruzgan is a mountainous province with little plain and flat lands for large-scale crop farming, therefore the land ownership is based on small lands owned by individual farmers. The biggest land owner is in possess of less than 600 jeribs maximum, while the medium land ownership is up to 100-150 and small land ownership from 1-30 jeribs.

According to director of RRD, almost 95% of land is private land belonging to the Uruzgan people and only 5% is state land. This gives only very limited possibilities for resettlement or other products for which one would need state land.

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 projects being implemented by local NGOs in the province who work for canals cleaning and roads graveling, but this kind of projects is not sustainable and can hardly be considered as bringing structural change to the area. NSP through ADA has identified 72 CDCs in 72 villages around Terinkot.

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

According to my information there is no active farmer association or cooperative in Uruzgan province while there is strong need for encouragement towards establishment of farmers cooperatives. There is one state research farm available in Terinkot by the name of Karna Farm with around 1200 jeribs of land which is being leased to someone by the Agriculture department with 0.2 MT of wheat per year and the wheat is used as an income for the agriculture department.

This farm could be developed as research farm for improved seeds and sapling production and multiplication to assist farmers to achieve better yields. It can also spearhead the introduction of new crops and secure the availability of sufficient seed. A farm advisory service should promote the formation of farmers' associations and cooperatives to join forces in the marketing of their produce and gain cheaper access to essential inputs.

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

Training for farmers is needed to understand importance of better marketing, to be able to sell their products and have access to the market with better and improved products.

4 Other business activities (ANDS Sector 8)

Besides agriculture the amount of other economic activities is limited. There are very few businesses operating in the province, a small bazaar in Terinkot city and smaller bazaars with few shops in other districts.

There are no *factories* in Uruzgan, apart from 1 or 2 ice factories and a few hardware shops such as car garages, carpentry shops, and tailors. Some PCOs opened recently after mobile telephone systems started their operation in the province. Almost all construction material are being brought as needed from Kandahar, even burned bricks are being brought from Kandahar as the quality of the local bricks is low.

No business unions exist in Uruzgan.

5 Security (ANDS Sector 1)

Security situation is very fragile in Uruzgan, particularly a number of districts are completely out of question to work, the access roads even Kandahar Terinkot, is not safe and it is 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. The mainly Pashtun population has so far seen extremely little benefits from the post-taliban government. The recently started Dutch PRT still has to establish its presence all over the province. Although NSP has formed CDCs the battle for the minds and hearts of people in Uruzgan still has to be fought. At the moment the other party seems to be in a comfortable position.

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.

- Government offices
- 2 main hospitals and other health facilities (CHC and BHCs) in many districts (EU funded project executed by AHDS)
- Schools everywhere in districts
- Main road between Kandahar-Uruzgan asphalt while other access roads connecting Terinkot to districts and districts to districts all in poor conditions
- Military barracks and police posts
- Few canals and intakes constructed
- One bridge

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
- Lack of storage capacities
- Government bureaucratic procedures
- Lack of quality control and standardization procedures
- Lack supporting mechanism in the government
- Lack financing mechanisms and institutions
- Lack of technical and professional agriculture extension workers

8 Credit

There are no former financial services in Uruzgan. People depend upon hawala and money lenders with exorbitant “costs” for the loans.

9 Stakeholders

No	Description (Name)	Importance Rate	Comment
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		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 and 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 and 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 & CIDA	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 financial services in the province
- Assisting livestock owners & Kuchi with business centres / Associations and assisting in associations' capacity building to run the business centres, which deal in animal fodder, wool and skins and hides.