

Province: Kunar
Governor: Hajji Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi
Provincial Police Chief: Abdul Jalal Jalal
Provincial NDS Chief: Jaminullah



Population Estimate: 381,900	Urban: 11,000	Rural: 370,900	
	Male:	Female:	
Area in Square Kilometers	3,742		
Names of Districts: ¹	Asadabad, Asmar, Chapa Dara, Chawki, Dangam, Ghazi Abad, Khas Kunar, Marawara, Narang, Narai, Noor Gul, Pech, Sarkand, Shaikal Shatel, Sirkanay, Watapor		
Composition of Population:	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Pashtun: 95% Tajik: 0% Nuristani: 5% Gujur: 0%	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Primarily Sunni Muslim <u>Total # Mosques:</u> 1,349	<u>Tribal Groups:</u> Shinwari: 25% Safi: 27% Kohistani: 0%
Occupation of Population	Major: Agriculture, animal husbandry, farming, day labor	Minor: Timber	
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	Wheat, rice, corn, sugarcane, maize, vegetable, barley, poppy	Cows, sheep, goats, donkeys, buffaloes, etc.	
Literacy Rate Total: 31%	Percent of Population with Electricity: 53%		
Number of Educational Institutions: 115	<u>Schools:</u> Primary: Secondary:	<u>Colleges/Universities:</u>	
Number of Security Incidents, Jan-Jun 2007: 26	January: 4 February: 2	March: 3 April: 5 May: 5 June: 7	
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation:	<u>2006:</u> 932 ha	<u>2007:</u> 446 ha	<u>Percent Change:</u> - 52%
NGOs Active in Province:			
<u>Provincial Aid Projects:</u> ² Total Projects: 833 Planned Cost: \$6,989,744 Total Spent: \$2,165,561	Total PRT Projects: 19 Planned Cost: \$0 Total Spent: \$0	Other Aid Projects: 814 Planned Cost: \$6,989,744 Total Spent: \$2,165,561	
Transportation:	<u>Primary Roads:</u> Primary highway from Jalalabad through Asadabad to Pakistan and Nuristan border. Majority of the highway is motorway, with portions in poor condition. ³		
Health Facilities:	<u>Hospitals:</u> 3	<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 46	
Primary Sources of Drinking Water/Availability of Potable Water:	River, streams, springs, shallow wells, hand pumps		
Rivers:	Kunar and Pich Rivers		
Significant Topographic Features:	Dominated by the Kunar Valley bounded on the east and southeast by Kabul Tsappar range and on the northeast by the Kashmund range; The Korengal Valley to the west of the provincial capital, Asadabad, has been a key infiltration/exfiltration route used by insurgents transiting through Kunar to/from the Nuristan border with Pakistan through the Nuristan districts of Kamdesh and Barg-e Matal; primary source		

¹ Actual number of districts is unclear, due to differences of opinion at the local, provincial, and national levels.

² ISAF and CJTF 82, *Afghanistan Comprehensive Stability Project*, June 2007.

³ Nelles-Verdag, *Map: Afghanistan*, (Munich, Germany, 2006).

	of the Kunar River is a glacier on the south side of the Hindu Kush. ⁴ River valleys are irrigated for farming with some rangeland, vast majority of mountain ranges are covered in natural forest. Kunar has a 175 km border with Pakistan along the south and southeast.
--	---

Political Landscape:

Political Leaders:

Governor Hajji Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi:



He is the former chairman of the Afghan NGOs' Coordination Bureau (ANCB), a non-profit, apolitical, umbrella organization of over 270 local NGOs. Wahidi served as General Director and Chairman of ANCB Kabul, Afghanistan, and Peshawar, Pakistan, respectively. Wahidi was also the Director of the Afghan-German Help Coordination Office (AGHCO). He continues to represent Afghan NGOs internationally as an elected executive committee member of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (IVCA), which meets twice annually in Geneva, Switzerland.

Wahidi describes himself as a social worker, not a politician, with a background in inter-agency and inter-organizational coordination. Wahidi has worked in the humanitarian relief and assistance fields in Afghanistan for over 25 years.

Wahidi studied either literature or Pedagogy at Kabul University (1972). He also completed a short course at a German University in 1992. Although his first language is Dari, Wahidi speaks both Pashto and English fluently. He assumed office as Governor of Kunar Province on November 18, 2007.

Governor Wahidi is affiliated with the Afghan Mellat (Afghan Social Democratic) Party. During the jihad period, Wahidi was associated with Mahaz-i Milli, the party of Pir Ahmad Gailani. He reportedly maintains close ties to Pir Gailani's son and Deputy Speaker of the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House/Senate) Hamid Gailani. Wahidi is also close to Jelani Popal, head of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance, the body responsible for all appointments of governors and district administrators country-wide. Wahidi also has ties to Member of Wolesi Jirga (Lower House) Farooq Mehran, a fellow "Sayed" from Nangarhar province. The Governor's brother, Dr. Shukrullah Wahidi, is the Director General of Policy & Planning at the Ministry of Public Health, but as of November 2007, took a 2-month leave of absence to serve as Afghanistan Country Director of WHO (Dr. Shukrullah is expected to return to MoPH after his short contract).

During initial public meetings, Governor Wahidi came across as an idealist who intends to stem corruption, "cleaning the waters of the springs." He expressed concern about Kunar's timber industry and emphasized that he will need the help of local communities to interdict smuggling – otherwise, the industry could bring infamy to both the province and the office of the Governor. His stated goals included security, strengthening institutions of democracy, and enforcing the rights of women and children. Wahidi said he intends to liaise frequently with the media to

⁴ Adamec, Vol. 6, pp. 459 and 466.

reach Kunar's population and spread a positive, quick impact message about the provincial government. Wahidi is a colorful speaker whose use of vivid metaphors seemed to resonate with his audience.⁵

Age:	About 55 years / DOB circa 1951
Native Language:	Dari; speaks fluent Pashto; speaks fluent English
Political Affiliation:	Afghan Millati
Tribe:	Claims to be "Sayed," of the descendant line of the Prophet
Place of Birth:	Nangarhar Province, Surkhrod (Surkh Rod) District
Education Level:	Graduate of Kabul University (BA in either Pedagogy-Education or Literature, 1972); completed a short course at Christian Albert University in Germany (1992).
Assumed Office	Governor of Kunar Province, November 18, 2007.

Former Positions:

- Member of Organizing Committee, World Civil Society Forum (WCSF), Geneva, 2001-2004
- Member of Executive Board, International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), Geneva, 2003-present
- Chairman, Afghanistan NGOs' Coordination Bureau (ANCB), Peshawar and Kabul, 2000-2007
- General Director, Afghan-German Help Coordination Office (AGHCO), 1993-2007
- Director of Afghan Nothilf of Germany, Peshawar and Kunar, 1991-1993
- Vice Director of Afghan Nothilf of Germany, Peshawar and Kunar, 1987-1991
- Administrator, Afghan Mujaheddin Doctors' Union, Peshawar, 1984-1987
- Administrator, Society of Afghan Doctors Outside Afghanistan, Peshawar, 1980-1983
- Administrator, Banayee Construction Unit, Nangarhar, 1976-1979
- Director General and Accountant, Nangarhar Water and Agriculture Development Project, Nangarhar, 1973-1975

Deputy Governor Noor Mohammad Khan:

Replaced Haji Rozy Marjahn as deputy governor in June 2005.



2nd Deputy Governor Fazal Akbar Safi:



Deputy Governor Sayyid Fazil Akbar Safai: Governor Fazil Akbar is from Shal village, Bar Konar district. His father's name was Sayyid Ali Akbar. Governor Akbar's father died when he was six months old and he was taken in by his uncle, the famous Afghan poet and main drafter of the New Democracy constitution, Majrooh. One of Majrooh's sons and Akbar created an information center for resistance information during the jihad. This Majrooh was the mentor of Barnett Rubin, the American expert on Afghanistan and author of "The Fragmentation of Afghanistan."

⁵ US Department of State, Provincial Reconstruction Team Officer Reporting, 2007.

Chief of Police, Brigadier General Abdul Jalal:

Ethnic Tajik, associated with the Jamiat-i Islami party. Speaks Dari, Pashto, and English. Earned a masters degree from Kabul University. Appointed chief of police in June 2006. Reportedly spent a number of years in jail starting sometime in the late 1970s.

NDS Chief, Jaminullah:

Nuristani. Father and brother were killed by either HiG or Taliban six to seven years ago, which is likely why he generally is cooperative with the current government and coalition forces. Speaks Dari and Pashto. His family lives in Kabul. Was the previous deputy director of NDS in Kunar under Nazira Shah.⁶

Provincial Chief for Criminal Investigation Colonel Mohammad Gul:

Mohammed Gul: Mohammed Gul is the Director of Criminal Investigations for the Konar province police. He is from the Pech valley and is an associate of Matiollah Khan. He claims he took the position in December 2003 and that he was sent to investigate timber smuggling in the province. His nephew, Zakiollah/Zikrullah, was the translator for the two Global Risk Strategies personnel who were assassinated in

Nuristan and was murdered along with them. Mohammed Gul is a physically large man, at least by Afghan standards. He has a tattoo on his left wrist of five dots in a row across the top of his wrist and then three on “top” of them, i.e., further down the wrist towards the hand, arranged in a triangle with the two base dots parallel to the five line dots. His father’s name is Abdullah.

Gul received his job through Matiollah Khan. He and Matiollah are no longer very close. There is friction between them over money. Gul is from Waradesh village, Pech district. He is a Massoud clan Safay Pashtun. During the Najibullah government he was a police officer in Mazar-I Sharif, Samangan and Kabul. After 1992, he went home and became a shopkeeper in Kabul, which he remained until the fall of the Taliban, except for a two-month stint in Pakistan. He then became a police officer in Kabul at the headquarters of the MINT in the Criminal Investigation Department. A few days before General Mohmand was fired, a MINT delegation came to Asadabad and Gul was a member of it. At that time Matiollah promised him a job. When Gul got the job about two months after Matiollah became the chief of police, Gul tried to kick Matiollah out but Matiollah was too clever and too well-connected. Now, the two are against each other. Matiollah is angry that he gave Gul the job in the first place. Matiollah thought that as Gul was from the Pech Valley and from Matiollah’s clan that he would obey him but Gul did not.

Kunar Islamic Shura Chief/Head Mullah Naqibullah:

Mullah Naqibullah AKA Mullah Naqib AKA Mullah Naqeeb: Mullah Naqib is from Nangalam village in Pech district. He is a Gorbuz clan Safay Pashtun. He is the Mullah of Asadabad’s main mosque. He has memorized the Koran. Mullah Naqib is 52 years old. He has had weak sight since he was a boy but his sight is now “-9”. He got married after the start of the jihad. Naqib speaks pretty good English. His eyesight is failing. Mullah Naqib may be identical to the Naqib that one source claimed is Haji Ruhollah’s cousin. He broke with the jihadis some time ago for ideological reasons. For this reason, the Wahhabis are against him. When his brother died in Peshawar he could not attend the funeral because it was too dangerous. One of his former pupils, Abu Iklas wrote an anonymous letter threatening him when Iklas went to fight the Americans. Naqib knew it was Iklas because he recognized the handwriting. Naqib then went to Governor Yusuf Shahjon, who offered to protect him. Naqib also gave a copy of this letter to U.S. personnel at Firebase Asadabad.

⁶ US Department of State Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2005.

Mullah Naqib has been in Asadabad since the Soviet period. He was with the HiG and during the jihad lived in Peshawar, Pakistan. He was a cousin of Jamilurahman was the younger (and only) brother of Naqib's mother. (See entry for Jamilurahman AKA Mawlawi Hussein.) Jamilurahman gave Naqib a job. Although Naqib and Jamilurahman remained friends during the jihad, they were not in ideological agreement, as the HiG and the Salafis (Jamilurahman's people) had differing ideas about Islam, etc. During the jihad, Naqib received funding from the Arabs like most of the mullahs in the area. For a six-month period during the post-communist Rabbani regime he was Afghanistan's ambassador to Indonesia or Malaysia. When Hekmatyar went to Kabul to assume his post in the post-communist Rabbani government, Naqib became an important figure in Konar.

Naqib left the HiG in desperation upon the arrival of the Taliban. He joined the Taliban at that time and became the mullah of Asadabad's main mosque. The construction of this mosque was started after the Russians left Konar and the jihadis took over and funded by an Arab with his own and Saudi money. The Taliban spent some money on its construction after they took over. Finally, Governor Sayyid Fazil Akbar announced that his administration would complete its construction with tax money. Naqib and Akbar got along well.

Mullah Naqib is not close to either Jon Dod or Malik Zarin, although he got one of the seven judge's houses through Jon Dod. (Note: At the end of Taliban rule Jon Dod and Malik Zarin divided up the assets of Konar between them, including government posts and the government housing reserved for seven of the senior provincial judges. Jon Dod gave one of the houses he got in the deal to Mullah Naqib. End Note.) One acquaintance characterized Naqib as someone who knows a lot and is very active.

Mullah Naqib is paid a nominal salary by the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Charity. He also receives a proportion of the timber money collected by Customs allocated to the construction of the mosque.

Mullah Naqib is the chairman of the committee created by Governor Akbar to manage the construction of the main mosque and collect revenue from the timber trade to finance one of the Governor's promises, i.e., to build a new main mosque for Asadabad. (Comment: The legality of this commission and its taxing activities is questionable. End Comment.) Mullah Naqib was characterized by a reformist figure in Konari politics as, "someone who is free, open-minded, honest and does not take bribes". However, this source also said that Naqib is not entirely trusted in the community because he is widely believed to be pocketing some of the money for the construction of the new mosque.

Although Mullah Naqib appears to be pro-U.S. and pro-Coalition, he told us that he considers Karzai to be a puppet of the U.S.

Major General Matiollah Khan (aka Paswal Al-Haj Matiollah Khan):

Former police chief of Kunar Province. Member of the Massoud clan of the Safay Pashtuns. From prominent Pech Valley family in Goselak Village in Chapa Dara District. 57-58 years old. Was a second-tier commander of a jihadi force aligned with Mahaz-i Milli Party during the Soviet invasion. Became a commander of Taliban forces and a member of the national Taliban shura. Appointed chief of police in Kunar in Fall 2003. He and his police were considered an organized crime unit involved in opium, gem, and timber smuggling. It is also suspected that he was involved in anti-coalition militia (ACM) activities. Replaced as chief of police in June 2006.⁷



Jon Daud, Commander 3rd Battalion, 10th Border Brigade:

A Gorbuz clan Safay Pashtun; is illiterate. Rose to prominence during the Soviet invasion as a tough commander connected to HiG. Allied himself to the Northern Alliance prior to the fall of the Taliban. He was the governor of Kunar from the fall of the Taliban until September 2002. He and his allies control a portion of the province's timber smuggling business and a significant share of the opium market. Considered one of the three most

⁷ US Department of State Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2005.

powerful warlords in Kunar. Like son, Jan Shah, is involved in several illegal activities and schemes. Notorious for his brutality. Also involved in politics, border control, and economics (illicit) in Nangarhar Province.⁸

Jan Shah (NDS Chief in Laghman):

An illiterate, Safay Pashtun. He is allegedly addicted to hashish. Former NDS chief in Kunar. Son of Jan Daud, a notorious narcotics smuggler. From Bardel Village in the Bardel Valley. Jan Shah is suspected in multiple illegal activities. He maintains a residence in the Chowkay District, Konar Province.⁹

Haji Abdul Wali:

Former business partner of Jan Shah. He is a leader of the Gorbuz clan, Safay Pashtuns in the Khadikhel Village, Chowkay District. A partner of Jan Daud in the money changing and opium business. He keeps a house in Jalalabad.¹⁰

Wolesi Jirga Members:

Mawlawi Shahzada Shahid:



Pashtun/Safai; associated with Sayyaf or Hezb-e Islami (unclear). Counter narcotics committee. Religious scholar; studied sharia in Pakistan.

Al-haj Sahib Rahman



KIA on Nov. 6, 2007 from suicide bombing in Baghlan. Replacement pending new election.¹¹ Pashtun; associated with Pir Gailani. National Economy committee. Mushwarnay tribesman from Shigal district; high school education.

Shujaul Mulik



Pashtun; Internal Security committee. Runs a free clinic, prominent Ghaziabad family. 4 brothers in US; has not traveled to US. Prior refugee in Pakistan. Married, no children. High school graduate.

Gul Haar Jalal



Pashtun; Disabled & Martyrs committee. Head of Nari Orphanage. Widow of Maoist killed by Mujahideen. From Nurhar district. Past trip to Paris. High school graduate.

Meshrano Jirga Members:

Roshan Alokzai

Female, Pashtun/Alokzai; affiliated with Misaq-e Melli. Secretary of Tribal Affairs committee. Former refugee commissioner in Peshawar.

Haji Sakhi



Affiliated with Sedaqat. National Economy committee. College graduate.

⁸ US Department of State Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, Jim Hunter, 2004.

⁹ US Department of State Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, Jim Hunter, 2004.

¹⁰ US Department of State Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, Jim Hunter, 2004.

¹¹ Constitution of Afghanistan. Article 108. Chp. 5, Art. 28

Haji Saleh Mohammad



Affiliated with Sedaqat. Chair of Armed Services committee.

Primary Political Parties:

Hezb-e Islami Khalis (HiK):

Originally a mujahideen group which broke away from Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami under the leadership of Yunus Khalis. HiK was dominant in Nangarhar. Khalis died in 2005 or 2006, resulting in an internal power struggle for control of the party between Khalis' son Anwarul Haq Mujahid and Haji Din Mohammad. It appears that Mohammad was successful in consolidating his control over much of the party. Recent and active political players in Nangarhar have connections to HiK. Led by Haji Din Mohammad, current governor of Kabul.

Hezb-e Afghan Millat (Afghan Nation Party):

National Pashtun party, led by Finance Minister Dr. Anwar Ul-haq Ahadi. Over 10,000 members in Nangarhar. Platform based on unity, security, and creating an Islamic version of democracy. Maintains a muted, ethno-nationalist rhetoric.

Nazhat-e Hambastagi Milli (National Solidarity Movement/National Islamic Front):

Led by Pir Ishaq Gailani. Party promotes national unity, security and a national development plan. Tied to the Maraboutic Sufi order; has considerable influence over the Khugiani tribesmen.

Hezb-e Afghanistan Naween (New Afghanistan Party/Qanuni):

Led by Mohammad Yunus Qanuni. Part of a political alliance called Jabahai Tafahim Millie or National Understanding Front. Qanuni was the primary contender against Karzai for the presidency. He is a Tajik who has been a mujahideen, spokesman for Ahmed Shah Masoud, and Minister of Interior and Education. He was elected to parliament in 2005 and was chosen to lead the Wolesi Jirga. Support for him and his party may be a political counter-weight to Karzai.

Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HiG):

Mujahideen party active since the Soviet invasion; led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Actively opposed to US-led and Afghan national forces. Politically active in Sherzad, Surk Rod and Pachir Wa districts. Hekmatyar is a Kharoti Ghilzai and, therefore, less influential than the much more respected and powerful Khugianis, such as Haji Din Mohammad and Anwarul Haq Mohammad.¹²

Public Attitudes toward Political/Religious Leaders:

According to survey data, shuras and elders are considered the most respected leaders by 51% of the provincial population. Mullahs are considered most trusted by 11% of the population and mawalawis by 24%.¹³

Human Terrain:

Shinwari:

Located primarily in Chaparhar, Dih Bala, Achin, Shinwar, Nazyan, and Dur Baba districts. Feud with Khogiani. History of opposing the British and the central government in Kabul. A major thorn in the side of Amir Abdur Rahman Khan during the 1880s. They are classified as Eastern, Sarbani Pashtuns. Adamec suggests they were forcibly settled in valley above Narang by Abdur Rahman.¹⁴

¹² Chris Mason, *Tora Bora Nizami Mahaz*.

¹³ Altia Consulting, *CEE: Cognitive Effects Evaluation*, 9 March 2007.

¹⁴ Adamec, Vol. 6, 459-469.

Safays (Safis):

Kunar Safays are the largest and most powerful of the province's Pashtun tribes and live primarily in the Pech Valley region. The Safays historically have been one of the most dissident tribes in Afghanistan, with a major uprising against the central government in 1945-1946. The tribe is divided into three clans, the Gorbuz, the Massoud and the Wadir. The three clans were divided politically during the communist era. In large part the Wadir Safays were aligned with the communists and served in the government. Many Safay mujahideen leaders came from the Gorbuz clan. The Massoud clan, however, was split between both sides.¹⁵

Mamund:

Pashtun tribe in Marawara District.¹⁶

Nuristani:

Nuristanis comprise a minority in parts of Kunar. The Kom group of Nuristanis extend down into the Kunar Valley.¹⁷

Security Landscape:

General Level of Security:

Security incidents across most of Kunar are rare when compared with other provinces. However, IED strikes and ambushes have occurred frequently along the Pech Valley route between the Coalition's main base for the province at Asadabad and the firebase located at the northern head of the Korengal and Pech River Valleys, Camp Blessing. Of the 26 security incidents which were picked up by BBC Monitoring between January and June 2007 for the province as a whole, only one was a suicide bombing. The majority of security incidents occur in the districts along the Pakistan border.

Public attitudes toward security:

97% of the population considers the current security situation in the province good, 2% consider it fair, and 1% considers it bad.¹⁸

Public attitudes toward FF:

97% of the population agree or somewhat agree that coalition and foreign forces bring peace and security to the province; 89% indicate they feel very safe or a little safe in the presence of coalition and foreign forces.¹⁹

¹⁵ US Department of State Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2005.

¹⁶ Adamec, Vol. 6, 459-469.

¹⁷ Adamec, Vol. 6, 355.

¹⁸ Kunar Altai Opinion Info, 2007.

¹⁹ Altai Consulting, 9 March 2007.

Kunar Province District Map

