



**Province: Balkh**  
**Governor: Atta Mohammad Noor**  
**Provincial Police Chief: Brig. Gen. Sardar Mohammad Sultani**

<b>Population Estimate:</b> 1,169,000 <sup>i</sup>		Urban: 35% <sup>ii</sup>		Rural: 65%	
Area in Square Kilometers: 16,186.3 (2.5% of area of Afghanistan) <sup>iii</sup> Capital: Mazar-e-Sharif					
Names of Districts:		Shorteapa, Kaldar, Dawlatabad, Nahri Shahi, Khulm, Chahar Bolak, Balkh, Dihdadi, Mazar-e-Sharif, Marmul, Chimtal, Sholgara, Chahar Kint, Kishindih, Zari (subdivided within Kishindih in 2005)			
Composition of Population:		<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> <sup>iv</sup> -Chimtal: multi-ethnic, large Arab and Pashtun populations, significant Hazara minority; - Char Bolaq: Pashtun and Hazara, Turkmens in north; -Dawlat Abad: multi-ethnic with Turkmen majority; -Marmul: almost exclusively Tajik; -Char Kent: Tajik and Uzbek, Sunni Hazara (Kawshi) minority; -Zare: Uzbek, Beloch and Hazara.		<u>Religious Groups:</u> Sunni, Shi'a, Syeed Shi'a,	
Occupation of Population		Major: Agriculture, trade and services, animal husbandry		Minor: manufacture, remittances, non-farm labor, cannabis trading	
Crops/Farming/Livestock:		Sesame, olives, <i>sharsham</i> , wheat, maize, potatoes, rice, soybeans, cannabis, cotton and tobacco <sup>v</sup> . Most farming households keep cattle.		Small ruminants (goats, sheep, etc.) are mainly managed by nomadic Kuchis. <sup>vi</sup>	
Literacy Rate: Male – 38% Female – 19% <sup>vii</sup>					
Number of Educational Institutions:		<u>Schools (Public/Private):</u> <sup>viii</sup> Primary: 153/1 Secondary: 218/3 High School: 94/3 Student/Teacher Ratio: 37:1		<u>Colleges/Universities:</u> Balkh University (4,458 students, 22 % Female) <sup>ix</sup> Balkh Petroleum and Gas Institute (346 students, 4 % Female) <sup>x</sup>	
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation:		<u>2005:</u> 10,837 ha	<u>2006:</u> 7,232 ha	<u>2007:</u> Poppy free	<u>2008:</u> Poppy free
		<u>2009:</u> Poppy free <sup>xi</sup>			
NGOs Active in Province:		UN Habitat, PIN (People in Need, a Czech NGO), CHA (Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance), CARE, ACBAR (Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief), ANSO (Afghanistan NGO Safety Office), ActionAid, ADWR (Association for Defence of Women's Rights), ACTED (l'Agence d'Aide à la Cooperation Technique et au Développement), ARCS (Afghan Red Crescent Society), ARMP/AKDN (Afghanistan Rural Microcredit Programme/Aga Khan Development Network), ATC (Afghan Technical Consultants), BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee), CCA (Cooperation Centre for Afghanistan), GGA (GermanAgro Action, Welthungerhilfe), Hand in Hand Afghanistan Organisation (HiH AO), IAM (International Assistance Mission), ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), IRC			

	(International Rescue Committee), NPO/RRAA (Norwegian Project Office / Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan), NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council), Save the Children Sweden-Norway, Save the Children UK, SCA (Swedish Committee for Afghanistan). <sup>xii</sup>	
Transportation:	<u>Primary Roads:</u> The transport infrastructure in Balkh is reasonably well developed, with 38% of roads in the province able to take car traffic in all seasons, and 34% able to take car traffic in some seasons.	
Electricity:	95% in urban area, 26% in rural.	
Health Facilities: 82% of population has access to health services within 1 hour by foot or by animal. <sup>xiii</sup>	<u>Hospitals:</u> Mazar-e-Sharif: 360 bed hospital under construction. Expected completion in spring 2011. <sup>xiv</sup> Balkh Public Hospital (Mazar) Noor Hospital (Mazar) Military Hospital (Mazar) Jordanian Airport (Mazar Airport) Kodi Barq Hospital (Dehdadi) Balkh District Hospital (Balkh District) Khulam District Hospital (Khulam District)	<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> Mazar City: Noor Khoda CHC, Ali Chopan BCH, Karte-e-Amany Health Facility, Ulmarab CHC, Madan Namak Health Facility, Clinic No. 5, Chughdak BHC Nahre Shahi: Langer Khana Health Facility, Shahrak BHC Shortepe: Bozari CHC, Joi Wakil BHC Dawalat Abad: Dawalat Abad CHC, Chahi Clinic, Qaraghojla BHC, Eshan Uraq BHC Balkh: Maydan BHC, Kole-e-Abmbo BHC, Vazirabad CHC, Boke-Alam Kheil BHC Charbolak: Aq Tapa BHC, Charbolak BHC, Ahmad Abad BHC Chimtal: Chimtal BHC, Pashma Qaleh BHC, Choqanaq CHC, Gaza BHC Sholgara: Dalan Clinic, Bagh-e-Pahlwan BHC, Paikan Dara BHC, Quchi BHC, Shulgara Clinic, Puli-i-Baraq BHC Kishindih: Bala Kishindih BHC, Aq-Kupruck CHC, Qazaq (Zareh) CHC, Hamrakh BHC Chaharkint: Health Clinic, Charkent Qaria Ghauch health center Dihdad: Dihdadi DCH, Sherabad BHC, Mashi BHC Kaldar: Kaldar BHC, Hairatan CHC Khulam: Qurghan CHC, Haji Ali BHC, Baghicha-Sarha BHC, Logariha-Choliza BHC, BHC Feroz Naqsher CHC Marmul: Zabihullah Shaid BHC (Note: BHE – Basic Health Center, CHC – Comprehensive Health Center, DHC – District Health Center)

Primary Sources of Drinking Water/Availability of Potable Water:	Limited perennial river flow, tube well irrigation. <sup>xv</sup>  29% of Balkh population has access to safe drinking water. <sup>xvi</sup>	
Telecommunications:	In the area of telecommunications, Hairatan, Chimtal, Balkh, Dehdadi, Khulam, Charbolak, Nahre Shahi, and Dawlatabad districts of Balkh province has mobile phone coverage.	

### **Political Landscape:**

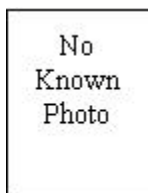
Although appointed in 2004 and given high levels of autonomy by President Hamid Karzai, Governor Atta Mohammad Noor was the only provincial governor to openly support Karzai's rival, Abdullah Abdullah, in the August 2009 election. This opposition has given rise to concerns of violence if the central government decides to attempt to reign in Atta's power. The leaders of Balkh's two other primary political parties supported Karzai.<sup>xvii</sup>

### **Political Leaders:**

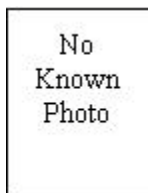
**Governor General Atta Mohammad Noor<sup>xviii</sup>:** Atta Noor is a powerful Tajik and former commander of Rabbani's Jamiat-i Islami *tanzim*. He vehemently fought against the Taliban regime and served as the Northern Alliance's top commander in the Balkh area. Atta Mohammad has served as the Governor of Balkh since 2004 and continues to have a tense relationship with President Hamid Karzai and rival power-broker General Abdul Rashid Dostum (Uzbek). Atta Noor is credited for maintaining political control and economic development and security for Balkh province including its largest city, Mazar-i-Sharif.



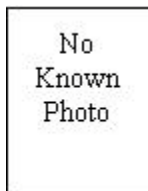
### **Deputy Governor Mohammad Zaher Wahdat**



### **Chief of Police Brig. Gen. Sardar Mohammad Sultani**



### **National Directorate of Security Chief**



## Wolesi Jirga Members:

### BALKH Wolesi Jirga Results

Elected Candidates  
Progress of Audited Results 100.0%  
Result Status: Certified Results

#### Candidates

		رڼگهر قحسا دمحم جاحلا Al-haj Mohammad Ishaq Rahgozar
		يدازا ناخ ملع Alam Khan Azadi
		ديواج ليع دمحم ديس Sayed Mohammad Ali Jawed
		يچيوا يدلگ زور Roz Guldi Awichi
		مدبدمحم جاحلا Al-haj Mohammad Abda
		رفنضغ فسوي دمحم جاحلا Al-haj Mohammad Yosouf Ghazanfar
		لقنادرماهش Shah Mard Anqul
		رورسم رهاظ ديس Sayyad Zahir Masroor
		زايين هروفيس Saifoor Niaza
		يفاص رولالنگ رتکاد Doctor Gulalai Noor Safai

## Meshrano Jirga Members:



Senator **Ebadullah Naqshbani**, son of Ghulam Naqshband, was born in 1950 in the village of Gozar Damla Lashkari in Khulm district of Balkh Province. He completed his primary and secondary education in Balkh, and graduated in 1971 from the Balkh Teacher Training Institute. Subsequently, he worked at Ajani Malki School in Samangan.

In 1971, Sen. Naqshbandi moved to Darai Sof district and by 1974 he was working at Khwaja Burhan Intermediate School in Khulm. He taught in Dara-e Sof in 1979 and served as a headmaster of intermediate schools in Khulm. In 1980 he was headmaster of a Khulm boys' school and in 1985 he became a member of an oversight board in the education office of Khulm. He also taught in Khulm for a year.

In 2003, he was appointed manager of Amin Hussain Intermediate School. Following Sen. Naqshbandi's efforts, the school was upgraded to a high school. He is the recipient of several medals and certificates. Sen. Naqshbandi enjoys poetry. His poems have been published in magazines and daily newspapers. He has traveled to India on official trips for the Ministry of Education.

Sen. Naqshbandi speaks Dari and Pashto. He was appointed to the Meshrano Jirga by the President. He is married and has five children.



Senator **Al-Haj Abdul Ghani Ghani**, son of Al-Haj Ghulam Muhammad, was born in 1960 in the village of Aaqak Barak in Kishand district of Balkh province. He received a religious education in private schools from 1968 to 1979.







When the Communist regime was established, he left the country and lived in Peshawar, Pakistan from 1981 until 1983. In February 1983, he returned to the country but by June 1983 he left for Iran, where he lived until 1986. He returned in March 1986 and attended a medical course organized by an American organization. After a year of study, he graduated in second place and began providing basic health care and first aid services.

During the occupation by terrorists, Sen. Ghani lived in the Saudi Arabian cities of Makkah and Medina. He returned to the country in 2001 and started serving his people. He obtained an agreement from the Ministry of Education to establish 17 schools in Kishand. He enrolled 2,500 students and recruited 70 teachers, including himself, along with other staff.






Meanwhile, he strove to promote peace by encouraging armed fighters to trade in their weapons for work tools. As a result of his efforts, 700 former mujahideen fighters handed in all their weapons to the government in 2002. He received a DDR medal and letter of appreciation from the President. He also received a silver medal for his participation in the Constitutional Loya Jirga.

Sen. Ghani was indirectly elected to the Meshrano Jirga through Provincial Council elections in Balkh. He is married and has ten children.

**Provincial Council Members<sup>1</sup>:**

BALKH	
Provincial Council Results	
Elected Candidates	
Progress of Audited Results 100.0%	
Result Status: Certified Results	
Candidates	
	 لځاس ارښه Zuhra Sahil
	 ښايض دمځم ريم Amir Mohammad Ziayee
	 رځين راقفلاد Zulfikar Nazari

<sup>1</sup> 19 Members (five female), Dr. Muhammad Afzal Hadeed is the provincial council chief. <sup>1</sup>

		میهاربا الم Mullah Ibrahim
		غلام عباس آخلاقى Ghulam Abas Akhlaqi
		مى دى عىس رادرس دمحم Mohammad Sardar Saeedi
		مى نامحر ىدرب نمحر ىولوم Mawlawi Rahman Berdi Rahmani
		مى مېظخ داهرف Farhad Azimi
		دمحم رتخا ىجاح Haji Akhtar Mohammad
		مى اب ىخم Makhi Bai

### **Primary Political Parties:<sup>xix</sup>**

***Jumbish-i-Milli Islami Afghanistan (Islamic Movement of Afghanistan):*** General Abdul Rashid Dostum controls a political party called *Jumbish-i-Milli Islami* (National Islamic Movement) which is a core of *Jabhe-ye-Motahed-e-Milli*. He claims to have a strong support in up to eight provinces in the north of the country, including Samanagn province, predominantly populated by ethnic Uzbeks. Dostum's major power base is in Uzbek enclaves in the northern provinces of Jowzjan, Balkh, Faryab, and Samangan. Dostum's headquarters is located in Jowzjan's capital, Shiberghan. In the past, Dostum held various official positions (deputy defense minister, a special adviser on security and military affairs, President Karzai's representative in the north) until the relations between President Karzi and General Dostum deteriorated.

***Jabhe-ye-Motahed-e-Milli (the United National Front):*** The largest opposition block built by General Dostum and aimed against President Karzai. Burhanuddin Rabbani and the late Ahmad Shah Massoud's closest advisers joined Dostum in his demands to change the presidential system into parliamentary, to negotiate with armed groups and to recognize the Durand line. On August 27 of 2008 the Front in a statement urged the neighboring countries, members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, and members of NATO alliance to hold a crisis meeting on Afghanistan.

***Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan):*** *Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan* began as a Shi'a umbrella party led by Abdul Ali Mazari. Abdul Ali Mazari died under mysterious circumstances while in custody of the Taliban. During the Soviet invasion the party received support from Iran. The party "remains the primary political force among the Hazara."<sup>2</sup> During the period of Taliban rule, the party held on to the Hazarajat against the attempted blockade by the Taliban. It is currently led by Mohammad Karim Khalili, who is currently the Second Vice President to Hamid Karzai. For a time Haji Mohammad Mohaqeq was the military leader of the party under the political leadership of Khalili. Mohaqeq and Khalili had a falling out, however, over Mohaqeq's decision to run for president without the official approval of the party. Subsequently,

<sup>2</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

Mohaqq split away and formed his own party, Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Mardom-e Afghanistan.<sup>3</sup> The original Wahdat party has begun to lose influence and support among the Hazara, in part because of the pull of Mohaqq's new party and likely because Khalili's position as Second Vice President distracts from his efforts to look after the needs of the Hazara.<sup>4</sup>

### ***Jamiat-e Islami (Islamic Society of Afghanistan):***

Led by Bahadrudin Rabbani, *Jamiat-e-Islami* became the dominant political resistance party in northeastern Afghanistan. In 1980, *Jamiat* was the second most popular resistance front and enjoyed strong support from the Tajik communities of Badakhshan, the Panjshir Valley and Herat Province in the west.<sup>5</sup> Ahmad Massoud, Ismail Khan, Mullah Naqibullah and Zabibullah,<sup>6</sup> all influential *Jamiat* military commanders, would help galvanize *Jamiat* into one of the most formidable resistance movements of the Soviet-Afghan war. The failure of the Soviet Army to pacify the Panjshir Valley despite seven massive military offensives against the region between 1980 and 1984 solidified Ahmad Shah as a legendary commander and helped preserve popular support for *Jamiat* throughout the region. In general, *Jamiat* is considered to be a moderate Islamist movement that drew recruits from those educated in government schools (both religious and secular) and among the *ulema* (in the north) and the naqshbandi Sufi order found throughout the north. Although multiple ethnic groups including Pashtuns formed comprised *Jamiat*, it is most commonly referred to be dominated by Tajiks from the northeast.

### **Supervisory Council of the North (SCN):**

In 1984, top resistance commanders operating the northern provinces of Takhar, Badakhshan, Balkh and Kunduz formed a council under the leadership of Ahmad Shah Massoud.<sup>7</sup> The Supervisory Council of the North became an integrated military unit comprised of both political and security components and posed the greatest threat to the communist occupation of Afghanistan in the north. Although many of the SCN leaders were affiliates of Rabbani's *Jamiat-e-Islami*, the SCN established deep ties with local communities and ran its affairs independently from the *Jamiat* leadership based in Pakistan.<sup>8</sup> Many former SCN commanders and fighters continue to exert influence and power at various levels throughout the Northern provinces.

### **Human Terrain:**

**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 Samangan, 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. Uzbeks speak Uzbek, a Turkic language, although many, especially outside of their core areas in Northern Afghanistan, speak Dari and other languages.

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<sup>3</sup> Institute for War and Peace Reporting, at [http://iwpr.net/index.php?apc\\_state+hen-sabrina%20saqeb&s=o&o=afghan\\_elect\\_2005\\_profiles.html](http://iwpr.net/index.php?apc_state+hen-sabrina%20saqeb&s=o&o=afghan_elect_2005_profiles.html), accessed on 26 September 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Global Security, *Karim Khalili*, at <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/afghanistan/khalili.htm>, accessed on 26 September 2007.

<sup>5</sup> Olivier Roy, *Islam and Resistance in Afghanistan*, (NY: Cambridge University Press, 1990), 127.

<sup>6</sup> Zabibullah was based in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif and was responsible for the area from Faryab Province to Kunduz Province. He was killed in 1984. He was succeeded by a less charismatic and less ideological commander, Mawalwi Alam, who never achieved as high of a status as Zabibullah.

<sup>7</sup> Neamatollah Nojumi, *The Rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan: Mass Mobilization, Civil War and the Future of the Region*, (NY: Palgrave, 2002), 92-93.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

**Tajiks:**<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup>

**Hazara:** 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 Shi'a 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>11</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>12</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 Mazara-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, Wardak and Ghazni. [Hazara Genealogy \(PDF\)](#)

**Tatars:**<sup>13</sup> The Tatars, a group of Turkic people most of them live in Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation, around the Volga River in Russia. Large ethnic Diasporas are Central Asian and Caucasus of the former Soviet Union, Turkey and Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, many of the Tatars settled after either trying to escape the Russians, or as traders. Majority are Sunni Muslims.

### **Security Landscape:**

***General Level of Security:*** Security in Regional Command North, which includes Balkh province, is among the best in the country. As the majority of the population in the north is non-Pashtun, the Taliban and al-Qaida have failed to establish a base there. Still, warlords, criminal groups, drug smugglers, and tribal feuds have destabilizing effects in RC North.<sup>xx</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Table on Tajik tribal genealogy is available at our site: <http://www.nps.edu/programs/CCS/Docs/Tribal%20Trees/Tajik.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> 2007 CIA World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html> (accessed June 28, 2007).

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

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> See the table on Tatar tribal genealogy at <http://www.nps.edu/Programs/CCS/Docs/Tribal%20Trees/Tatar.pdf>



The districts of primary concern are:

Chimtal

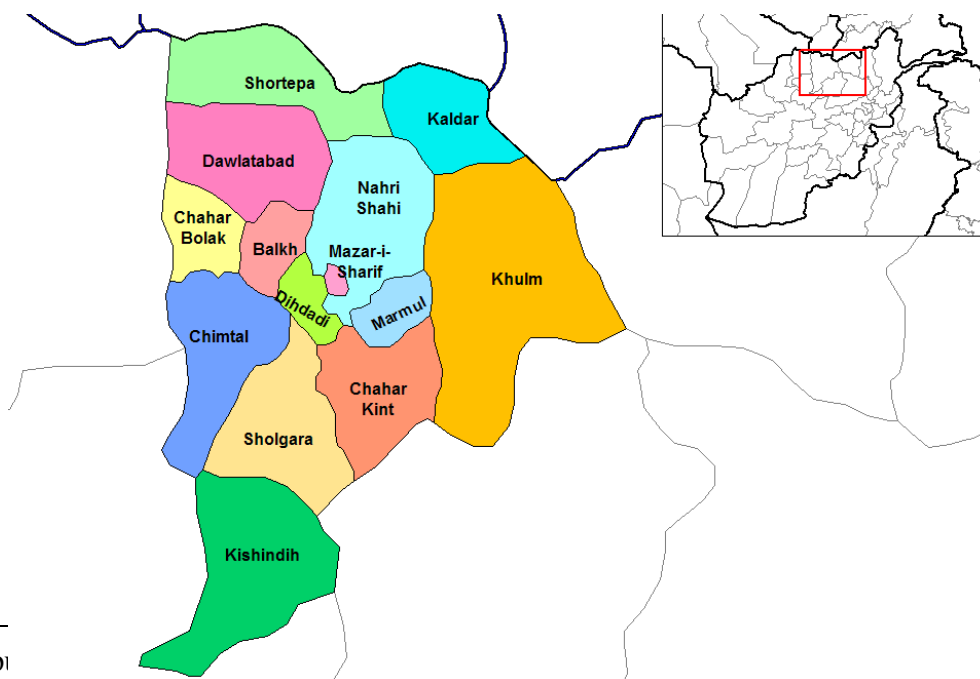
Char Bolaq

**Public attitudes toward Taliban:** There is very limited popular support for the Taliban, except for in a few enclaves inhabited by ethnic Pashtuns. These areas are mainly the Chimtal and Char Bolaq districts.<sup>xxi</sup>

## DISTRICTS

The districts of Balkh Province are

- Shortepa
- Kaldar
- Dawlatabad
- Nahri Shahi
- Khulm
- Chahar Bolak
- Balkh
- Dihdadi
- Mazar-e-Sharif
- Marmul
- Chimtal
- Sholgara
- Chahar Kint
- Kishindih
- Zari (subdivided within Kishindih in 2005)



<sup>i</sup> 2009 popl

<http://www.cso.gov.af/demography/population.html>. Accessed May 2010.

<sup>ii</sup> Statistical Yearbook 2007/2008, CSO, pg. 9.

<sup>iii</sup> Statistical Yearbook 2007/2008, CSO, pg. 5.

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- <sup>iv</sup> Larsson, Katarina. "A Provincial Survey of Balkh, Jowzjan, Samangan and Saripul." November 2008, pg. 25.
- <sup>v</sup> Larsson, pg. 26.
- <sup>vi</sup> Regional Rural Economic Regeneration Strategies (RRERS), "Provincial Profile: Balkh," pg. 2.
- <sup>vii</sup> NRVA 2007/2008, pg. 67
- <sup>viii</sup> Statistical Yearbook 2007/2008, CSO, pg. 69, 74.
- <sup>ix</sup> Beginning of educational year 2006-2007. Statistical Yearbook 2007/2008, CSO, pg. 39.
- <sup>x</sup> Beginning of educational year 2006-2007. Statistical Yearbook 2007/2008, CSO, pg. 50.
- <sup>xi</sup> UNODC, "Afghanistan Opium Survey 2010: Rapid Winter Assessment," February 2010, pg. 26.
- <sup>xii</sup> Larsson, pg. 53-58, 77.
- <sup>xiii</sup> NRVA 2007/2008, pg. 75.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Auswertiges Amt, "Building work starts on a new provincial hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif," 30 May 2009. <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2009/090530-Krankenhaus-Balkh.html>. Accessed May 2010.
- <sup>xv</sup> RRERS, pg. 1.
- <sup>xvi</sup> NRVA 2007/2008, pg. 96.
- <sup>xvii</sup> Trofimov, Yaroslav. "Powerful Afghan Governor Challenges President," The Wall Street Journal. 06 November 2009. <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125745832585731891.html#printMode>. Accessed May 2010.
- <sup>xviii</sup> Photo by Andy Rogers, Seattle Post-Intelligencer. 18 September 2007. <http://www.seattlepi.com/photos/photo.asp?PhotoID=147144>. Accessed May 2010.
- <sup>xix</sup> Institute for War and Peace Reporting, *Election Heats Up in Balkh*, 6 August 2009, ARR No. 329, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4a81609dc.html>. Accessed May 2010.
- <sup>xx</sup> "Regional Command North," Institute for the Study of War. <http://www.understandingwar.org/region/regional-command-north>. Accessed May 2010.
- <sup>xxi</sup> Larsson, pg. 26.