

Province: Khost
Governor: Arsala Jamal
Provincial Police Chief: General Mohammad Ayoub



Population Estimate: 487,400	Urban: 9,300	Rural: 478,100
Area in Square Kilometers	4,152	Capital: Asadabad
Names of Districts: ¹	Bak, Gurbuz, Jaji Maydan, Khost (Matun), Mandozai, Musa Khel, Nadir Shah, Qalandar, Sabari, Shamal, Spera, Tani, Tere Zayi	
Composition of Population:	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Pashtun: 99% Tajik: 1%	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Primarily Sunni Muslims <u>Total # Mosques:</u> 1,961
	<u>Tribal Groups:</u> Pashtun: Khostwal, Mangal, Waziri, Suleimankhel, Zadran, Kharoti	
Literacy Rate Total:	23% ²	
Number of Educational Institutions: 177	<u>Schools:</u> 267 ³ Primary: Secondary:	<u>Colleges/Universities:</u> 1 – Khost University, Khost City
Number of Security Incidents, Jan-Jun 2007: 60 ⁴	January: 10 February: 5	March: 13 April: 13 May: 12 June: 7
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation:	Minimal to no poppy (opium) cultivation; likely a transit route	
NGOs Active in Province:	PRT, UNOPS, UNHCR, CARE, WFP	
<u>Provincial Aid Projects:</u> ⁵ Total Projects: 1,212 Planned Cost: \$17,118,634 Total Spent: \$4,766,857	Total PRT Projects: 16 Planned Cost: \$3,467,132 Total Spent: \$0	Other Aid Projects: 1,196 Planned Cost: \$13,651,502 Total Spent: \$4,766,857
Transportation:	<u>Primary Roads:</u> Khost-Gardez Highway (poor condition). Four provincial roads radiate out from Khost City into the surrounding districts; a number of secondary roads and cart tracks. ⁶	
Electricity:	<u>Estimated Population w/access:</u> 42% ⁷	
Health Facilities:	<u>Hospitals:</u> 2	<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 72
Rivers and Bodies of Water:	A number of streams	
Significant Topographic Features:	The province is dominated by the Khost Valley and the mountains that surround it. There are a number of streams throughout the province. Khost Valley and Bak areas sustain rain fed and intensively irrigated crops. Natural forests run along the border with Pakistan and Paktia. A large area of rangelands runs from Gorbuz district in the south to Jaji Maydan district in the north. ⁸	

¹ The exact number of districts in Khost is unclear. Some credible maps indicate that existing districts have split into other districts.

² UNDP Afghanistan, *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*

³ Afghan Women's Fund

⁴ BBC Monitoring. Limited to incidents reported in the press. Not inclusive of all incidents occurring, but provides an excellent cross-section of events.

⁵ ISAF and CJTF 82, *Afghanistan Comprehensive Stability Project*, June 2007. The PRT project data for Khost suggests a discrepancy in actual amounts spent. Despite indicating that zero dollars were spent on the 16 PRT projects, each project is indicated as complete.

⁶ Nelles Verlag, *Afghanistan*, 2006.

⁷ Altai Consulting, *CEE: Cognitive Effects Evaluation*, 9 March 2007.

⁸ AIMS, *Afghanistan Khost Province Land Cover Map*, April 2002 and Nelles Verlag, *Afghanistan*, 2006.

Political Landscape:

Political Leaders:



Governor Arsala Jamal (aka Jamal Arsala, Sayed Jamal Arsala):

Appointed governor in August 2006; born in 1966 in Paktika. Served previously as Chief Program Coordinator for Water and Sanitation at the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development. Graduated with a degree in economics from a university in Indonesia or Malaysia. His prior work experience included several jobs in the NGO community, such as CARE International, and he remains heavily focused on grass-roots development issues. In 2003 he worked on Afghan Stability Program with the MOI, and later served in MRRD as the chief Program Coordinator for Water and Sanitation and Emergency Response Coordinator in MRRD prior to appointment as Governor of Khost.



Deputy Governor Ajab Khab Sangeen (aka Khan Mangan):





Appointed deputy governor in June 2005; 43 years old. Pashtun. Served as a deputy governor under the Communist government.



Chief of Police, General Mohammad Ayoub (aka Ayub, Yaqoub):



Pashtun; 49 years old. Twenty years experience as professional police officer.

Wolesi Jirga Members:⁹

	Sayed Mohammad Gulabzoy	Pashtun male	Formerly associated with communists. Internal security committee. Received MA in Law and Military Science.
	Hajji Amir Khan Sabri	Pashtun Male	Associated with Hezb-e Islami. Communications committee. Ninth-grade education.
	Mawlawi Hanif Shah al-Hussaini	Pashtun Male	Associated with Hezb-e Islami and possibly Qanooni faction. Justice committee. High school graduate.
	Sahira Sharif	Female Pashtun	Possibly associated with Hezb-e Islami. Education committee. May have completed university education to a master's degree level.

⁹ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

Meshrano Jirga Members:¹⁰

No Photo Available	Qamar Khosti	Female Pashtun.	Women and Civil Society committee. MA in Education.
	Hajji Saber Khan	Male	Assigned to Communication committee. Degree in Business.
	Dr. Mirbat Khan Mangal	Male	Assigned to Women and Civil Society committee. Medical doctor.

Provincial Council Members:

	Taj Ali		Zabith Khan
	Dawood Khan Shahidzoy Zadran		Zuhra Jalal
	Najibullah Gurbuz		Nasima
	Nawab Khan		Naatbibibi
	Dr. Gul Jamil Husaini		

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 Hajji 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 Hajji 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

¹⁰ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

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 who is a Kharoti Ghilzai. Actively opposed to US-led and Afghan national forces. Hekmatyar is a Kharoti Ghilzai and, therefore, less influential than the much more respected and powerful Khugianis, such as Hajji Din Mohammad and Anwarul Haq Mohammad.¹¹ Harakat, the second most influential member of HiG, is also a Kharoti Ghilzai as well.

Public Attitudes toward Political/Religious Leaders:

According to survey data, shuras and elders are considered the most respected leaders by 43% percent of the population. Religious leaders, such as mullahs and mawlawis, are considered the most respected by 18% of the population. 42% indicated that they feel local shuras and population provide the best security to the local areas.¹²

Human Terrain:

Khostwal:

Various factions of the Khostwal tribe are dominant in the Tanai, Musa Khel, Mandozai, Tirzaye, Sabari and Bak districts. Historically, the Khostwal tribal groups have combined with the Wazirs against their traditional enemies the Turi. The Khostwal consider themselves Pashtun.¹³

Mangal:

Pashtun tribe, located in Jaji Maydan district. History of rebelling against local governors and appointees of the central government.¹⁴

Waziri:

Pashtun tribe, primarily located in Pakistan. The Waziris in Khost live in the Garboz, Qalandar, and Nadar Shah Kot districts. According to the State Department PRT Political Officer, the Waziris are “divided and extremely fractious [and] play both sides of the fence.” It is assumed that the Waziris supply a significant number of recruits to the ACM in Paktika and Pakistan, although it is unclear if this is true in Khost as well.¹⁵

Suleimankhel (Sulimankhel):

Ghilzai Pashtuns; largest of the tribal clans in Paktika. According to Ghulab Mangal, former governor of Paktika Province, the Suleimankhel provide the majority of recruits for the Taliban in the province. As a result, the level of Anti-Coalition Militia activities remain high in areas dominated by Suleimankhel. In Khost, the Suleimankhel reside in Spira district along with members of the Zadran tribal group. See entry on Suleimankhel in Paktika Executive Summary for more details.¹⁶

Zadran:

Pashtun tribe which resides in the Spira district with the Suleimankhel and in the Nadar Shah Kot and Qalandar districts with the Waziris. Pacha Khan Zadran, is a one of the most famous of the Zadran tribe, who controls the area near the Khost road. Jalaluddin Haqqani, another ACM leader (the Haqqani Network), is another influential member of the Zadran tribe. The Zadran also live in Paktika province.¹⁷

¹¹ Chris Mason, *Tora Bora Nizami Mahaz*.

¹² Altai Consulting, *CEE: Cognitive Effects Evaluation*, 9 March 2007.

¹³ Adamec, Vol. 6, 427.

¹⁴ Adamec, Vol. 6, 550.

¹⁵ US State Department Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2004.

¹⁶ US Department of State Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2004.

¹⁷ US State Department Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2004.

Kharoti:

The Kharoti clan are located Shomal district of Khost. Generally, they do not cooperate with ACM or participate in their activities. Their political stance and support for the government is in part, at least, due to their rivalry with the Suleimankhel and the Waziris. Notable members of the Kharoti clan include Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Harakat, both of Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HIG). Overall, however, the Kharoti are not supportive of HIG. Former provincial governor of Paktika, Ghulab Mangal, considered the Kharoti among the most reliable of Ghilzai tribal groups.¹⁸

Security Landscape:***General Level of Security:***

The overall threat assessment for Khost is considered high due to its shared border with Pakistan. The temporary ceasefire in North Waziristan likely contributed to increased activity by the Haqqani Network and the Taliban. Insurgents are active and have easy access across the Afghan-Pakistan border. BBC Monitoring reports 60 security incidents from January to June 2007 in the province. The actual numbers are probably much higher. Suicide attacks are common.

Public attitudes toward security:

Despite Khost's high threat assessment, 95% of the population consider the security situation fair to good.¹⁹

Public attitudes toward FF:

70% of the population agree or somewhat agree that coalition and foreign forces bring peace and security to the province; 73% indicate that they feel very safe or safe in the presence of coalition and foreign forces.²⁰



¹⁸ US State Department Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2004.

¹⁹ Altai Opinion Info, 2007.

²⁰ Altai Consulting.