



ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS
DEPUTY MINISTER OF COUNTER NARCOTICS
CIVILIAN VICE DEPUTY COUNTER NARCOTICS
DIRECTORATE OF SURVEY & ANALYSIS OF NARCOTICS



Analytical Report of Village Poppy Cultivation in 2023

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على سيد المرسلين
وعلى آله و أصحابه اجمعين

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The decree of Amir Ul-Mominin regarding the prohibition of poppy cultivation in Afghanistan

To all citizens of Afghanistan,

Effective immediately upon the issuance of this decree, the cultivation of poppy within Afghanistan is hereby strictly prohibited. Any individual found engaged in the cultivation of poppy subsequent to this decree will face the destruction of their crops and will be subject to legal consequences.

Furthermore, all forms of narcotic substances, including but not limited to alcohol, heroin, methamphetamine, Tablet-K, hashish, and any other illicit substances, along with their usage, distribution, sale, trade, import, export, and the operation of narcotics production facilities, are unequivocally forbidden throughout the entirety of our nation.

Any individual found in violation of the terms outlined in this decree will be promptly referred to the judicial authorities of the Islamic Emirate and shall face severe punitive measures.

By order of the Office of Amir Ul-Mominin

Decree No:..... (31)

Date:..... 3/4/2022

Acknowledgements

The esteemed leadership of the Ministry of Interior and the Deputy Ministry of Counter-Narcotics of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan have provided comprehensive support to the Directorate of Survey and Analysis of Narcotics in conducting this survey.

We express our gratitude to the security officials at both the central and provincial levels, whose diligent efforts ensured the safety of fieldwork. Fortunately, no security issues arose during the survey, allowing for optimal progress in terms of time, technical execution, and security.

We acknowledge the dedication of provincial survey managers, village leaders, mosque imams, and farmers who contributed valuable field information through interviews.

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We also extend our thanks to all officials of the Ministry of Interior involved in the survey's design, correction, and review. Special recognition is due to those who played essential roles in the financial and budgetary aspects of the survey, particularly the esteemed Assistant Ministry of the Deputy Ministry of Policy and Strategy, whose cooperation was invaluable in the survey's revision and design process.

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Introduction

From both religious and scientific perspectives, drugs represent an unequivocally harmful phenomenon. The teachings of Allah Almighty, conveyed to humanity over fourteen centuries ago, have long warned against the detrimental effects of drug use.

In line with Islamic principles, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has taken a more rigorous stance compared to the previous administration in combating the cultivation, production, and trafficking of drugs. The Emirate's leadership has issued a decree prohibiting the cultivation of poppy and hashish, as well as the production, smuggling, buying, selling, and use of all drugs, signaling an unwavering commitment to eradicate this scourge.

This decree has placed increased responsibilities on relevant organizations, particularly the Ministry of Interior Affairs and the Deputy Ministry for Counter-Narcotics. These organizations are tasked with implementing the decree and preventing poppy cultivation nationwide, underscoring the necessity of conducting a comprehensive drug survey, especially regarding poppy cultivation.

Between 2005 and 2018, the Ministry of Counter Narcotics, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), conducted significant surveys on poppy cultivation. However, these surveys were not uniformly conducted across all provinces and districts. Following the fall of the Republic and the reinstatement of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, surveys, including village-level poppy cultivation surveys, have resumed. In 2023, this survey was conducted in 34 provinces, 358 districts, and 1795 villages without any security issues, marking perhaps the most extensive and thorough survey in the field with distinctive national characteristics over the past two decades.

This survey aimed to accurately assess the extent of poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. It involved interviews with key stakeholders, including village elders, mosque imams, poppy cultivators, and non-cultivating farmers. The report provides comprehensive insights into various aspects, such as the total areas under poppy cultivation, poppy-free provinces, reasons for cultivation or abstention, public awareness programs, economic dependence on poppy cultivation, per capita income of poppy-growing and non-growing families, reliance on legitimate cultivation and livestock, and suggestions for alternative livelihoods.

Through this concerted effort, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is striving to combat the menace of drug cultivation and production, aiming for a brighter and more prosperous future for its people.

The Message of Genral Alhaj Mullah Abdul Haq Akhund, Deputy Minister for Counter Narcotics

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.

Dear Compatriots!

According to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the Hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad Mustafa, peace and blessings be upon him, anything that undermines a person's intellect and deprives them of their intellectual and psychological freedom is unequivocally forbidden.

In the message of Amir Ul-Mominin, it is unequivocally stated that any form of drug cultivation, production, smuggling, processing, and trafficking must be vigorously combated, with perpetrators swiftly apprehended and brought to justice. No individual or entity within Afghanistan has the right to endorse or engage in the illegal distribution or manufacturing of drugs and their derivatives, whether natural or industrial.

The Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, as a key operational and technical organization, is diligently striving to eradicate this scourge and eliminate all illegal drug-related activities. Through concerted efforts, significant progress has been achieved, garnering international recognition and praise for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan from various countries and organizations involved in counter-narcotics efforts.

These accomplishments have been made possible through the cooperation of the Afghan people, for which their obedience to the directives of their leaders in abstaining from drug cultivation, production, and trafficking is highly appreciated. Such actions not only benefit Afghan society but also uphold the integrity of the ruling system.

Furthermore, the Deputy Ministry of Counter-Narcotics, with its specialized technical departments adhering to international standards, has played a pivotal role in achieving these commendable results. The analysis report of the village-level poppy cultivation survey underscores the adoption of international research standards, affirming the positive impact of Afghan efforts in the global fight against narcotics.

It is evident that the people of Afghanistan are grappling with economic hardships and poverty, factors that often drive individuals towards drug-related activities. In light of this, the international community is urged to provide comprehensive support to the Afghan people, including assistance in alternative livelihood programs, alternative cultivation initiatives, and initiatives aimed at reducing drug demand.

In conclusion, gratitude is extended to all national and international institutions that have collaborated with Afghanistan in its anti-narcotics endeavors. Special appreciation is reserved for the relevant departments involved in the survey design, data collection, analysis, compilation, and publication. Together, let us strive for a drug-free Afghanistan, fostering hope and prosperity for all.

“Hope for a drug-free Afghanistan.”

Key finding

key findings of the villages survey of poppy cultivation in 2023			
Parts	No	Subjects	Results
First Part Poppy Cultivation	1	Poppy cultivation throughout Afghanistan	14712 Hectars
	2	The decrease of poppy cultivation compared to 2022 year	94%
	3	Factors of poppy cultivation	To gain more benefits (58%)
			Poverty, family support and poor economic status (36%)
			It requires a little effort (6%)
	4	Factors for non-cultivation of poppy	According to the Islami law and the decree of Amir al-Mu'minin, the cultivation of poppy is prohibited and illegal. (88%)
			Due to social damage, especially addiction (6%)
			Lack of water, lack of land, lack of money and risk of natural disasters. (4%)
			It takes a lot of effort to grow poppies, and the proceeds are mostly used for the benefit of other people. (2%)
	5	Creating a program to prevent poppy cultivation in villeges.	71%
	6	Mullah Imams of mosques have fulfilled awareness about poppy cultivation	46%
	7	In which sectors are opium revenues mostly used by farmers?	Food, health expenses, debt repayment and educational expenses. (95%)
	8	Distribution of advance money for poppy cultivation	No (86%)
Yes (14%)			
9	Comparision of average price of opium and legal herbs across Afghanistan.	Poppy cultivation (4.1%)	
		Hashish cultivation (0.7%)	
10	Average consumption per acre of poppy cultivation	13446 AF	
11	Average consumption per acre of wheat cultivation	2375 AF	
12	Farmers who benefit from the aid of the agricultural and livestock fields.	24%	
13	Farmers who do not benefit from the aid of the agricultural and livestock fields.	76%	
Second Part Addiction	14	Percentage of drug users among drug addicits.	Hashish (56%)
			Opium, Hashish and Alcoholic beverages (21%)
			Herion or morphine (10%)
			Methamphetamine (8%)
			Methamphetamine, Herion and Tablet-k (3%)
	Tablet-k (1%)		
15	Health status of drug addicits	Medium (35%)	
16		Good (22%)	
17		Bad (38%)	
18		Very Bad (5%)	
Third Part Social Issues	19	Unity among the people of the villeges	75%
	20	People's satisfaction with the security situation and system compared to last year	98%
	21	Number of poors	34%
	22	Number of widows	2%
	23	Number of orphans	5%
	24	Active health centers in villeges	25%
	25	Access to health clinics outside the village	69%
26	The existence of female doctors in villeges	32%	
27	Children's access to school	49%	
Fourth Part Economical Issues	28	The average wages of the agricultural sector, (except opium)	363 AF
	29	The average wages of the non-agricultural sector, (for example, building houses and roads)	389 AF
	30	The average wages in the opium weeding	414 AF
	31	The average wages for collecting opium crops	501 AF
	32	Per capita income of families that grow poppy	151 AF
	33	Per capita income of households that do not grow poppy	58 AF
	34	Average income per hectares of poppy	1099041 AF
	35	Average income per hectares of wheat	147445 AF

Methodology

- 1. Survey Design and Planning:** Design the survey plan to account for financial and regional conditions in the country. Develop a comprehensive strategy that outlines the survey's objectives, scope, and key stakeholders.
- 2. Pre-Survey Coordination:** Coordinate with provincial governors and police chiefs through several meetings before the survey begins. This step ensures cooperation and addresses any regional concerns.
- 3. Surveyor Recruitment:** Recruit surveyors according to the planned zones across the country. The recruitment process should consider the expertise required to conduct the survey effectively.
- 4. Training of Surveyors:** Organize training sessions for surveyors in different regions. These sessions will be led by the central technical team and cover the survey's objectives, processes, and data collection methods.
- 5. Survey Implementation:** Start the survey by conducting interviews with key local figures, such as village chiefs, mosque imams, poppy-growing farmers, and non-poppy-growing farmers. These interviews will provide qualitative data for the survey.
- 6. Fieldwork Supervision:** Monitor the flow of fieldwork during the survey's implementation. Assigned teams will oversee the surveyors' activities and ensure adherence to the survey plan.
- 7. Questionnaire Collection and Correction:** Collect completed questionnaires from the regional centers. Correct any identified errors before sending them to the central region for further processing.
- 8. Central Data Verification:** At the central location, double-check and correct the collected questionnaires for accuracy. This step is crucial for ensuring data integrity.
- 9. Data Entry and Storage:** Enter or store the corrected data in the central database. Proper data management and backup processes should be in place to prevent data loss.
- 10. Database Validation:** Re-check and correct the information in the central database to ensure its accuracy. This step ensures data reliability for further analysis.
- 11. Data Analysis and Reporting:** Create information tables, arrange charts and figures, calculate percentages, and compare new data with previous data. This analysis helps to understand trends and outcomes.
- 12. Yield and Revenue Estimation:** Estimate the yield of opium and legal crops based on the average yield per hectare from different regions. Estimate revenues from opium and legal crops using the average prices and yields.
- 13. Analytical Report:** Compile an analytical report summarizing the survey results, including figures, charts, and key insights. This report serves as a comprehensive summary of the survey's findings.

First Part
Poppy cultivation and
its factors

1 Poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2023

According to the results of the 2023 village survey on poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, across 33 provinces (including Kandahar, Badakhshan, Sar-e-pul, Badghis, Takhar, Nangarhar, Helmand, Baghlan, Kabul, Laghman, Kapisa, Daykundi, Faryab, Jawzjan, Samangan, Ghor, Kunar, Zabul, Balkh, Uruzgan, Bamyan, Pakteka, Ghazni, Farah, Nimroz, Parwan, Logar, Paktya, Hirat, Kunduz, Khost, Nuristan, and Maidan Wardak), a total of **14,712** hectares of land have been planted with poppy.

Key findings from the survey include:

- **Poppy Cultivation Rate:** Only **4.3%** of families are engaged in poppy cultivation.
- **Significant Decrease:** Compared to the unconfirmed UNODC report from 2022 (which indicated parallel cultivation across **233,000 hectares**), there has been a remarkable **94% reduction** in poppy cultivation.

Additionally, the statistics on poppy eradication efforts in 2023 reveal that **12,000 hectares** of poppy cultivation were successfully eradicated. Consequently, farmers have harvested poppy from only **2,712 hectares** of land.

If the yield per hectare of land is calculated at 46.7 kilograms, then the total opium production in Afghanistan reaches 126.7 metric tons.

Based on the average opium price in 2023, the overall value of opium in Afghanistan is estimated to reach **\$47,493,900**.

Table 1: Poppy cultivation figures at the level of Afghanistan in six regions, 2023

The results of the poppy cultivation survey in Afghanistan in 2023					
Region	Sno	Province	Poppy Cultivation (hec)	Poppy Cultivation (acre)	%
Southern region	1	Kandahar	5426	27130	90.6%
	2	Hilmand	399.4	1997	6.7%
	3	Dykundi	98.2	491	1.6%
	4	Zabul	45.2	226	0.8%
	5	Uruzgan	20	100	0.3%
Total			5989	29944	100%
North-eastern region	6	Badakhshan	2934.2	14671	79%
	7	Takhar	776.4	3882	20.9%
	8	Kunduz	3.2	16	0.1%
Total			3714	18569	100%
Northern region	9	Sar-e-Pul	2514.6	12573	85.9%
	10	Baghlan	145	725	5%
	11	Faryab	85.8	429	2.9%
	12	Jawzjan	78.4	392	2.7%
	13	Samangan	73	365	2.5%
	14	Balkh	28.8	144	1%
Total			2926	14628	100%
Western region	15	Badghis	1076.6	5383	92.9%
	16	Ghor	66	330	5.7%
	17	Farah	6.3	31.5	0.54%
	18	Nimroz	6	30	0.5%
	19	Hirat	3.4	17	0.3%
Total			1158	5792	100%
Eastern region	20	Nangarhar	464.2	2321	73.7%
	21	Laghman	113.3	567	18%
	22	Kunar	50.4	252	8%
	23	Noristan	2	10	0.3%
Total			630	3150	100%
Central region	24	Kabul	134.8	674	45.5%
	25	Kapisa	107.7	538.3	36.4%
	26	Bamyan	18.6	93	6.3%
	27	Pakteka	11	55	3.7%
	28	Ghazni	7	35	2.4%
	29	Parwan	4	20	1.4%
	30	Logar	4	20	1.4%
	31	Paktya	4	20	1.4%
	32	Khost	3	15	1.01%
	33	Maydanwardak	2	10	0.7%
	34	Panjsher	0	0	0%
Total			296.1	1480	100%
The Total at the level of Afghanistan			14712	73562	100%

1.1 Cultivation of Poppy at the Regional Level

1.2 Southern Region

According to the table provided, in the year 2023, the southern region of the country witnessed the highest poppy cultivation, covering **5989 hectares**. Within this region, **Kandahar province** accounted for **5426 hectares** of poppy cultivation, constituting **90.6%** of the total poppy cultivation in the southern region. The remaining provinces in the southern region—Hilmand, Daykundi, Zabul, and Uruzgan—contributed only **9.4%** of the poppy cultivation.

1.3 North-eastern Region

In the north-eastern region, a total of **3714 hectares** were cultivated with poppy. **Badakhshan Province** dominated this region, accounting for **79%** of the poppy cultivation, while the remaining **21%** was distributed across Takhar and Kunduz provinces.

1.4 Northern Region

The northern region of the country saw a total of **2926 hectares** of land under poppy cultivation. The breakdown within this region is as follows:

- **Sar-e-Pul province: 85.9%**
- **Baghlan province: 5%**
- **Faryab province: 2.9%**
- **Jawzjan province: 2.7%**
- **Samangan province: 2.5%**
- **Balkh province: 1%**

1.5 Western Region

In the western region, **1158 hectares** of land were dedicated to poppy cultivation. Notably, **Badghis province** accounted for **92.9%** of all poppies in the western region, leaving only **7.1%** for the remaining four provinces.

1.6 Eastern Region

The eastern region witnessed a total of **630 hectares** of poppy cultivation. Within this region:

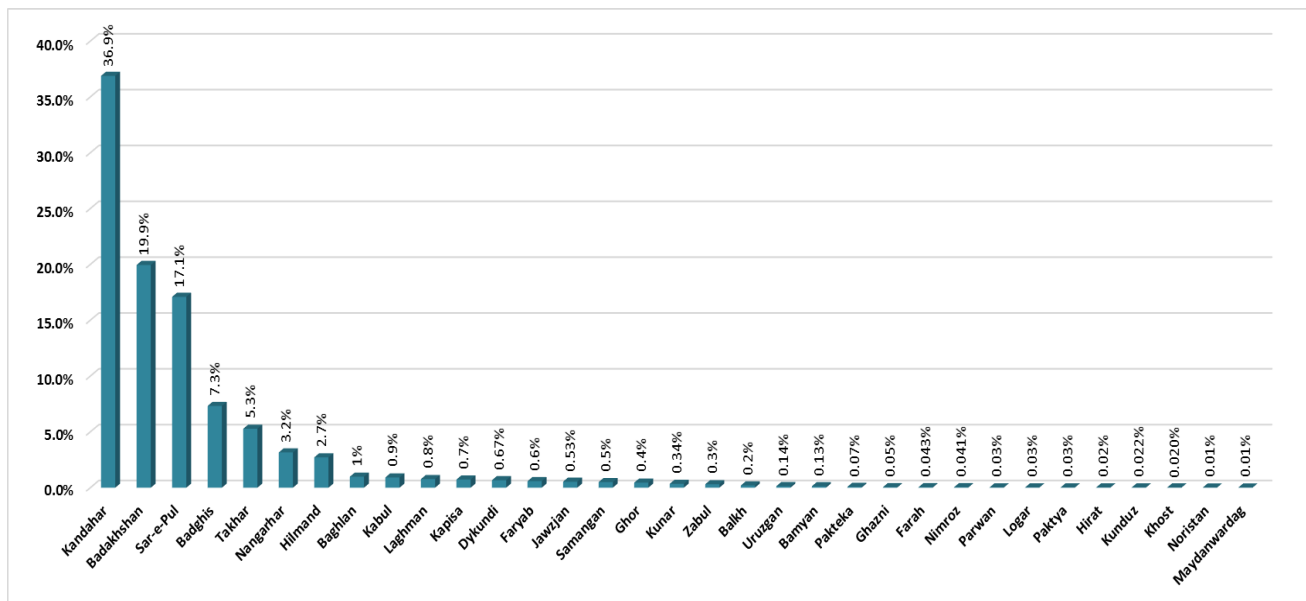
- **Nangarhar province** allocated **73.7%** of the land for poppy cultivation.
- The remaining **26.3%** was distributed among the provinces of Laghman, Kunar, and Noristan.

1.7 Central Region

In the central region of the country, a total of **296.1 hectares** of land are cultivated with poppy. Within this region:

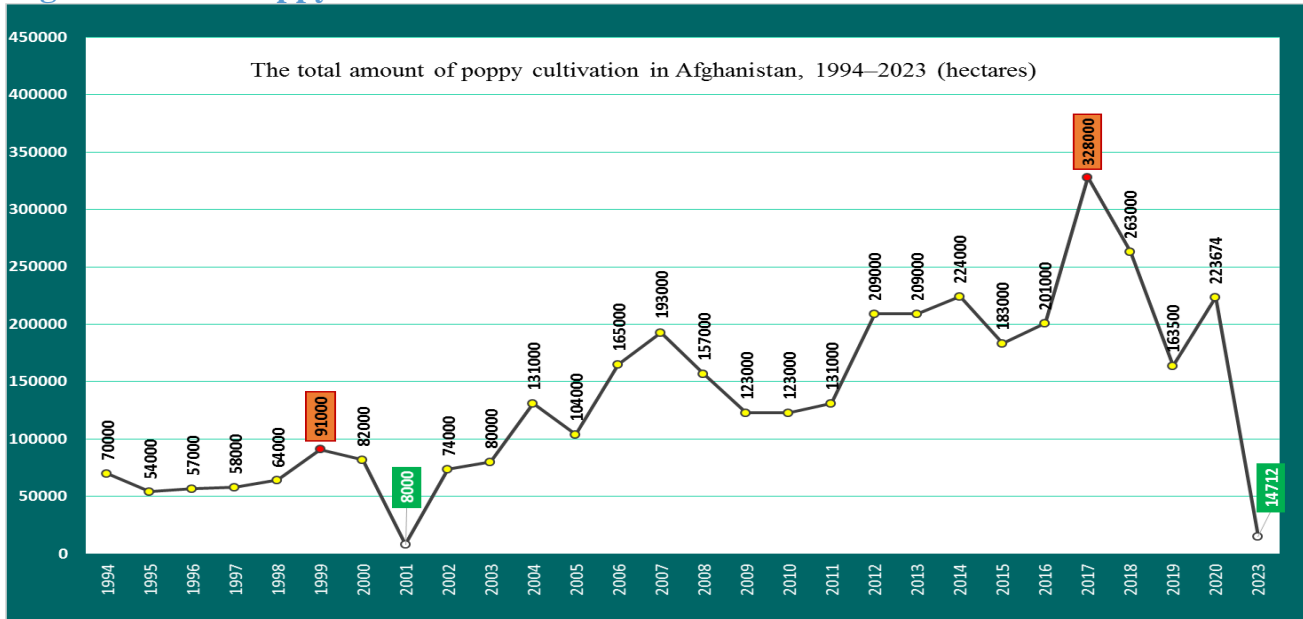
- **Kabul province: Poppy was cultivated on 134.8 hectares, accounting for 45.5% of all poppies in the central region.**
- **Kapisa province: Poppy was cultivated on 107.7 hectares, constituting 36.4% of all poppies in the central region.**
- **The remaining 18% of poppies are cultivated across the other 8 provinces in this region.**

Figure 1: Percentage of Poppy Cultivation at the Provincial Level in Afghanistan in 2023.



The table indicates that **Kandahar province** leads in terms of cultivation percentage, followed by **Badakhshan, Sar-e-Pul, Badghis, Takhar, Nangarhar, and Hilmand**. These provinces have witnessed significant poppy cultivation. Meanwhile, the remaining provinces exhibit relatively lower levels of poppy cultivation.

Figure 2: Impacts of the First and Second Decrees of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan on Poppy Cultivation between 2001 and 2023.



The **first decree** of the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan**, which prohibited poppy cultivation, was issued during the initial phase of the establishment of the Islamic Emirate. During the period from **1994 to 2000**, poppy cultivation experienced fluctuations, reaching its peak in **1999** with **91,000 hectares** of land under cultivation.

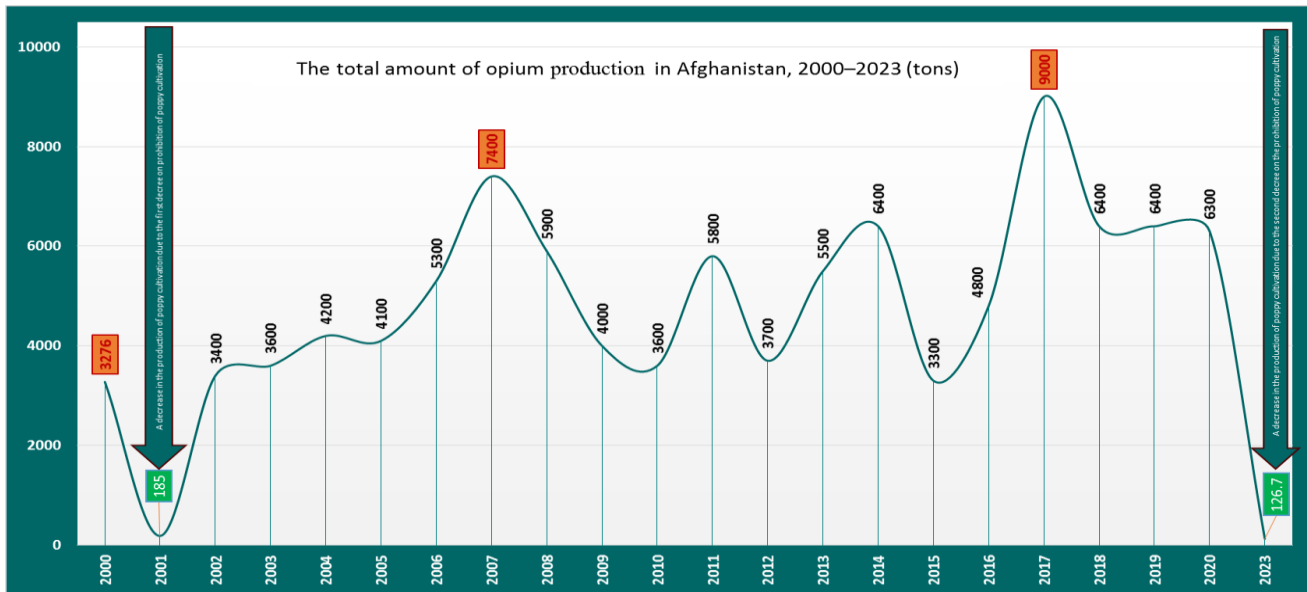
As a result of the decree published in **2001**, poppy cultivation dramatically decreased to **8,000 hectares**, representing a **91% reduction** compared to 1999.

The **second decree**, issued in **April 2022**, reiterated the prohibition of poppy cultivation by the Islamic Emirate. This decree extended to cover not only cultivation but also the **purchase, sale, use, export, and import of drugs**. Consequently, the level of poppy cultivation declined to **14,712 hectares** of land.

Despite substantial efforts in anti-narcotics initiatives between **2002 and 2020**, poppy cultivation continued to rise. In **2017**, a staggering **328,000 hectares** of land were dedicated to poppy cultivation.

The significant reduction in poppy cultivation (**14,712 hectares**) represents a remarkable **96% decrease** compared to the extensive planting in **2017 (328,000 hectares)**. This achievement is crucial for both the people of Afghanistan and the Islamic Emirate, as the expansion of poppy cultivation over the past two decades had adversely affected Afghanistan's international reputation for various reasons.

Figure 3: Effects of the First and Second Decrees of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan on Opium Production in 2001 and 2023



According to the **first decree** of the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan**, opium production decreased from **3276 metric tons** in **2000** to **185 metric tons** in **2001**, representing a **94% decrease** in opium production across the entire country.

Unfortunately, since the beginning of **2002**, with the establishment of the interim government, **poppy cultivation** and **opium production** have expanded rapidly.

At the national level, opium production peaked twice between **2002** and **2017**:

- **2007: 7400 metric tons**
- **2017: 9000 metric tons**

During this period, Afghanistan was the world's leading producer of opium and heroin.

However, with the re-establishment of the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** and the publication of the **second decree** banning poppy cultivation, opium production reached its lowest level in **2023**—a mere **126.7 metric tons**. This remarkable decrease represents a **98.6% reduction** compared to the peak production in **2017**.

Afghanistan has made significant progress toward eliminating opium production, and the efforts in collecting and treating drug addicts, as well as seizing all kinds of drugs, have been viewed positively by the Afghan people.

Figure 4: Factors of Poppy Cultivation, from the Perspective of Farmers Who Plant Poppy

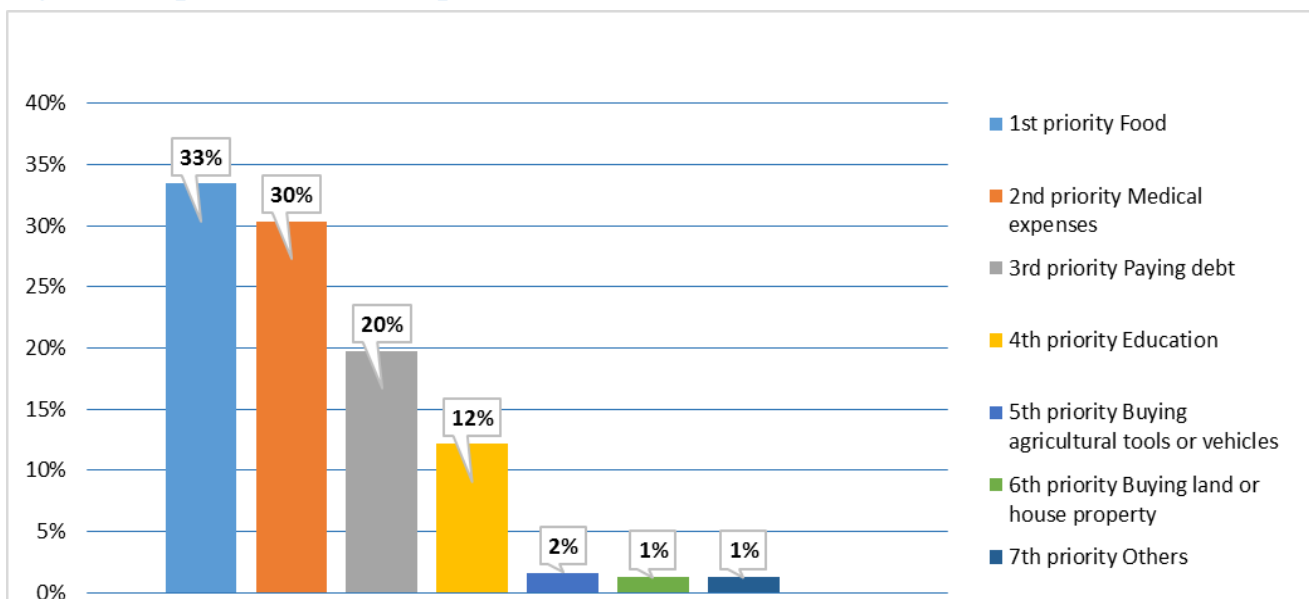


“According to data collected from poppy farmers at the village level, **58% of poppy cultivation** is driven by economic reasons. Farmers turn to poppy cultivation in order to increase their income. Additionally, poverty, scarcity, and the overall economic situation play significant roles, forcing farmers to resort to planting poppies as a means of providing for their families.”

According to our analysis, the first group of farmers cultivates poppy primarily to increase their income. The most effective way to prevent this is through law enforcement. However, the second group of peasants, who resort to poppy cultivation due to poverty and scarcity, rely on it to meet their families’ daily necessities. In addition to enforcing the law, these farmers require economic assistance from the government to explore alternative means of fulfilling basic needs, including food and health expenses.

“According to the data obtained from this survey, **95% of the income from opium cultivation** is allocated by farmers to address the four main priorities that constitute the basic needs of their families. The majority of this income is spent on **food and health-related expenses.**”

Figure 5: Opium Revenue Expenditure Priorities.



1.8 Distribution of Advance Money for Poppy Cultivation.

One of the incentives that has been used for many years to encourage poppy cultivation in Afghanistan is the distribution of **advance money** by beneficiaries to farmers. In this survey, a separate question was asked, and **14% of the farmers** mentioned the distribution of advance money, while **86%** reported the **non-distribution** of advance payment.

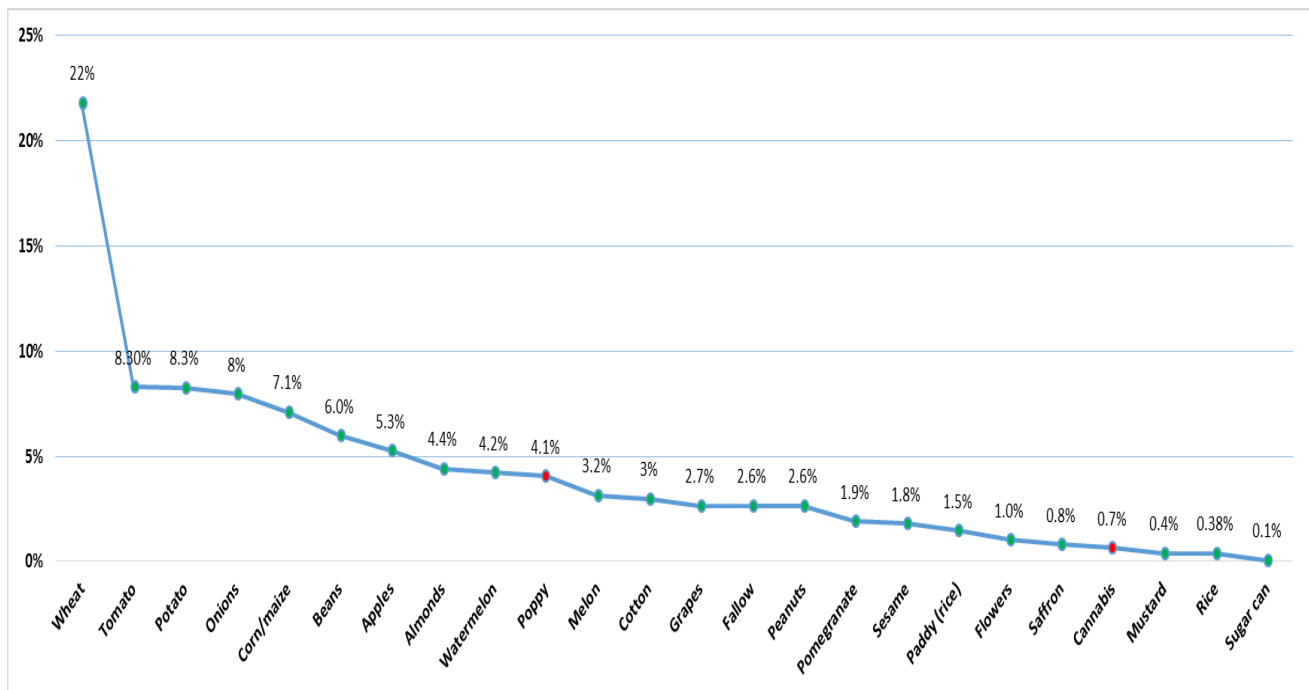
Table 2: Distribution and Non-Distribution of Advance Money for Poppy Cultivation

Responses	Number of Responses	%
Yes	193	14%
No	1206	86%
Total	1399	100%

1.9 Question about the Cultivation of Legal and Illegal Plants by Households

This question has been raised in order to obtain the percentage of **opium poppy and cannabis cultivation** among other legal plants. In fact, this is one of the methods used to measure the cultivation area of poppy and cannabis.

Figure 6: Percentage of Legal and Illegal Plant Cultivation and Horticulture in the Villages of Afghanistan

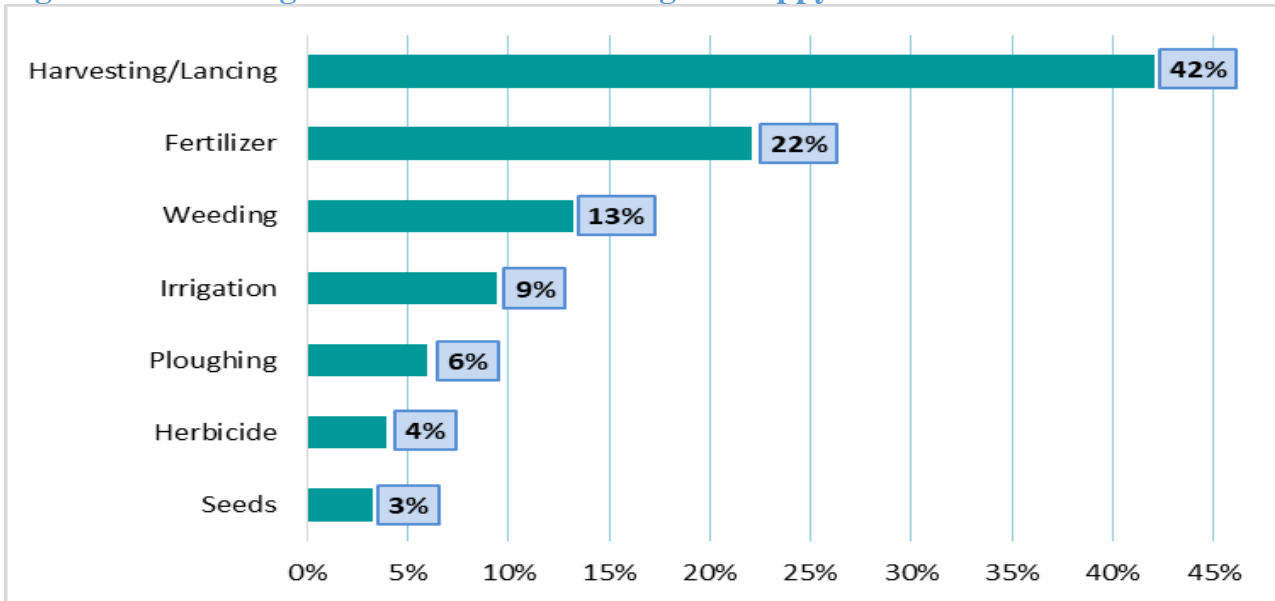


The figure above illustrates **4.1% poppy cultivation** and **0.7% cannabis cultivation** among other plants. These statistics were obtained from a sample of **9,643 farmers in Afghanistan**, and they represent estimated figures.

1.10 Cost per Acre of Poppy Cultivation in Afghanistan.

The purpose of asking this question is to determine the **cost per acre of poppy cultivation**, and this survey specifically focuses on farmers who cultivate poppy. Based on the figures obtained from this survey, each farmer spends an average of **13,446 Afghanis per acre of land** on which they plant poppy. These expenses occur in **seven stages**, with the majority of costs associated with cultivation and collecting the opium harvest. The least significant expense is related to the purchase of opium seeds, as depicted in the figure below.

Figure 7: Percentage of the Cost of Each Stage of Poppy Cultivation



1.11 Cost per Acre of Wheat Cultivation in Afghanistan

In this section, the total cost of cultivating **35,070.7 acres of wheat land**, obtained from farmers in the country's villages, amounts to **83,307,805 Afghani**. Based on this data, each farmer spends an average of **2,375 Afghani per acre of land** for wheat cultivation. These costs are incurred across **eight stages**, with the most significant being **wheat harvest and reaping**. Notably, the estimated average cost of **poppy cultivation**, at **13,446 Afghanis**, is **5.7 times higher** than the average cost of wheat cultivation.

Table 3: Average Cost of Wheat Cultivation in Afghanistan per Acre in Afghanis

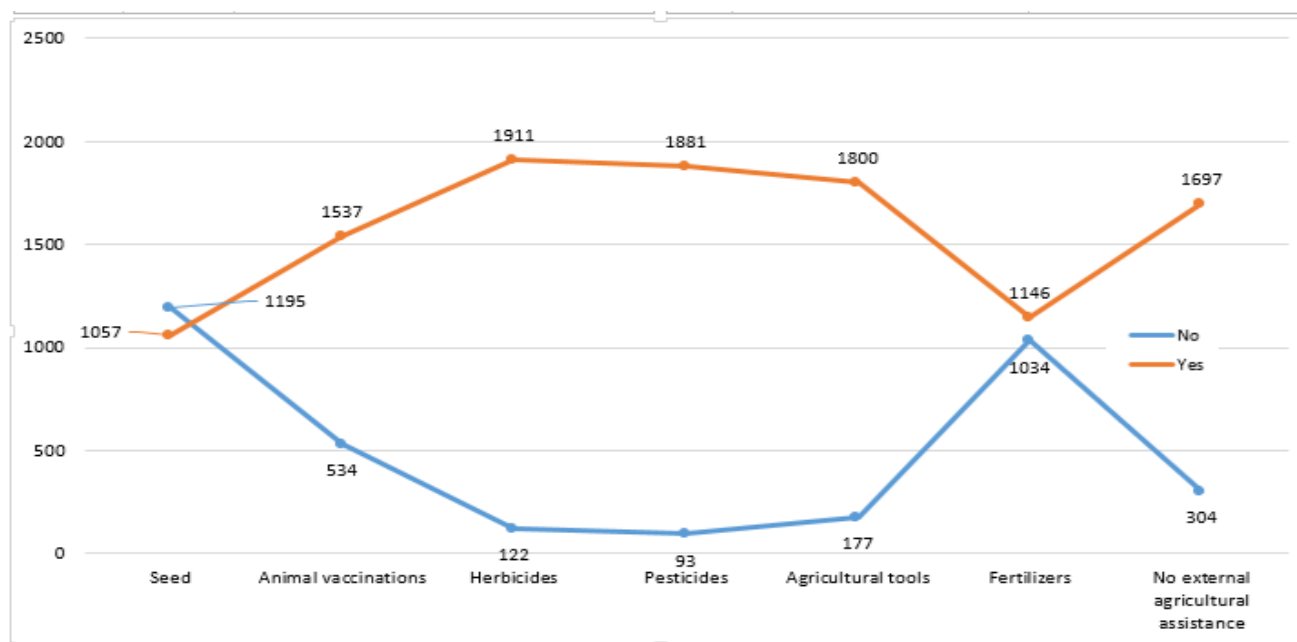
Average cost per acre of wheat cultivation in Afghanistan			
Total area of wheat cultivation	Types of expenses	Cost in (Afg)	%
35070.7 Acre	Reaping	25151445	30%
	Herbicide	15904566	19%
	Weeding	11593340	14%
	Irrigation	10876125	13%
	Fertilizer	8814710	11%
	Thresher Machine	6641499	8%
	Seeds	2712560	3%
	Ploughing	1613930	2%
Total Cost		83308175	100%
The cost of planting wheat per acre in (AF)		2375	

1.12 Status of Agricultural Aid to Farmers

A significant number of people reside in the rural communities of Afghanistan, primarily engaged in agriculture, livestock, and horticulture. Their livelihoods depend on selling and producing goods from these sectors.

Rural life in Afghanistan is marked by economic fluctuations. Various factors, such as drought, overpopulation, and migration, can significantly impact families’ financial stability. Consequently, rural Afghan families require assistance in the realms of agriculture, livestock management, and horticulture. Such support is crucial to prevent the persistence of poverty and curb immigration.

Figure 8: Figures of Farmers Benefiting from Agriculture, Horticulture, and the Livestock sector.



The figure above indicates that the number of farmers benefiting from seed aid exceeds the number of non-beneficiary farmers. However, in other sectors, limited assistance has been provided to land-owning families.

For example, out of a total of **2,071 farmers**, **534 were assisted** and **1,537 were not assisted** in the **animal vaccination sector**; out of a total of **2,033 farmers**, **122 were assisted** and **1,911 were not assisted** in the **herbicides sector**; out of a total of **1,974 farmers**, **93 were assisted** and **1,881 were not assisted** in the **pesticides sector**; out of a total of **1,977 farmers**, **177 were assisted** and **1,800 were not assisted** in the **agricultural sector**; out of a total of **2,180 farmers**, **1,034 were assisted** and **1,146 were not assisted** in the **fertilizers sector**; and finally, out of a total of **2,001 farmers**, **304 were assisted** and **1,697 were not assisted** in the **no-external agricultural assistance sector**

In other words, **24% of the farmers** have benefited from assistance in the **agriculture, horticulture, and livestock sectors**, while the remaining **76% of the farmers** have not received aid from these sectors.

1.13 Comparison of the Average Price of Opium and Legal Plants in Afghanistan

In this section, the report compares the price per kilogram of fresh and dry opium at the farm gate and the level of traders in **2023** with the price of legitimate plants such as **wheat, cotton, rice, and saffron**.

The average price per kilogram of other legitimate plants (**wheat, cotton, and domestic rice**) is **0.4, 2.1, and 0.8 US dollars**, respectively. However, these prices are **not comparable** to the average price of opium. Among these, only **saffron**, with an average price per kilogram estimated at **866 US dollars** from **March 2023 to October 2023**, is comparable to the opium price.

Table 4: Comparative Price of Opium and Saffron

Comparative price per kilogram of opium and saffron in 2023 to the US dollar				Comparing the price of saffron per kilogram to the price of opium per kilogram
Average price per kilogram of dry opium at the farm gate	332	Average price of saffron in per kilogram	866	2.6
Average price per kilogram of dry opium at the level of traders	445			2.5
Average price per kilogram of fresh opium at the farm gate	231			3.8
Average price per kilogram of fresh opium at the level of traders	283			3.6

From the table above, we can deduce that the price of saffron is nearly **four times** that of fresh opium and **two and a half times** that of dry opium. Consequently, saffron could serve as a suitable alternative to poppy cultivation in areas where this plant thrives and is environmentally compatible.

Hirat boasts the finest saffron quality in Afghanistan, making it a major export commodity for the country. Its reputation extends far and wide, with excellent quality recognized by neighboring and distant nations.

Table 5: Reasons for not Planting Poppy from the Perspective of Farmers Who Have Not Cultivated Poppy

Reasons for not planting poppy	No of Farmers	Percentage
According to the Islamic Sharia and the decree of Amir al Mu'minin, the cultivation of poppy is forbidden and illegal.	1681	88%
Due to social damage, especially addiction	109	6%
Due to lack of water, lack of land, lack of money, and the risk of natural disasters	77	4%
It takes a lot of effort to grow poppies, and the proceeds are mostly used for the benefit of other people.	39	2%
Because poppy cultivation is being destroyed by the government again.	3	0.2%
Total	1909	100%

Based on the data in the above table, **88% of the farmers cite obedience to Islamic Sharia and the decree of Amir al-Mominin** as the sole reason for not planting poppy.

The remaining **12%** attribute their decision to a combination of factors, including **social disadvantages of poppy cultivation, lack of resources (water, land, and money), and difficulties encountered at various stages of poppy cultivation**. However, this 12% represents a relatively small percentage of the overall population of farmers.

Our analysis indicates that the primary reason for farmers not cultivating poppy this year is their reluctance to confront the law enforcement department (Counter Narcotics Police) and risk having their poppy crops eradicated. However, according to the survey data, these factors are relatively less emphasized

1.14 Organizing Programs to Ban Poppy Cultivation in Villages

An essential strategy to prevent poppy cultivation involves launching public awareness programs. These initiatives can significantly contribute to the decline in poppy cultivation.

According to our survey, out of the 1,700 individuals interviewed:

- Approximately 1,215 people, or 71%, responded positively to the implementation of these programs.
- The remaining 485 respondents, constituting 29%, were reminded about the non-implementation of poppy cultivation prohibition programs.

In addition to the factors mentioned, the distribution of economic aid to peasants, particularly in the alternative livelihood sector, can also play a crucial role in preventing poppy cultivation.

Figure 9: Percentage of implementation of Poppy Cultivation Prohibition Programs

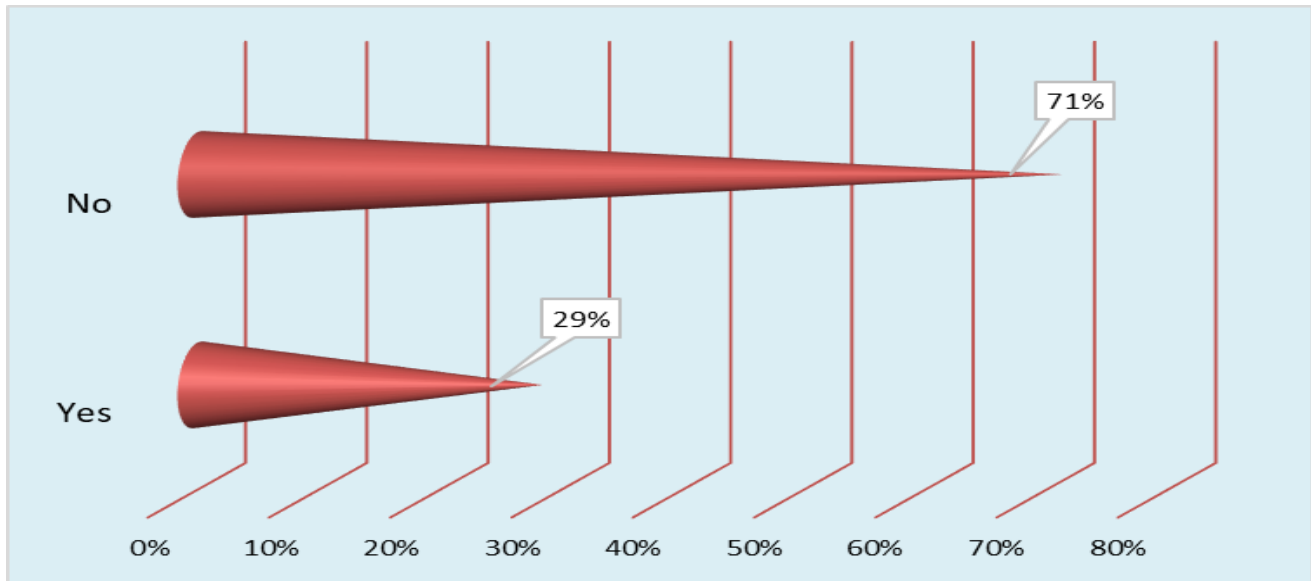
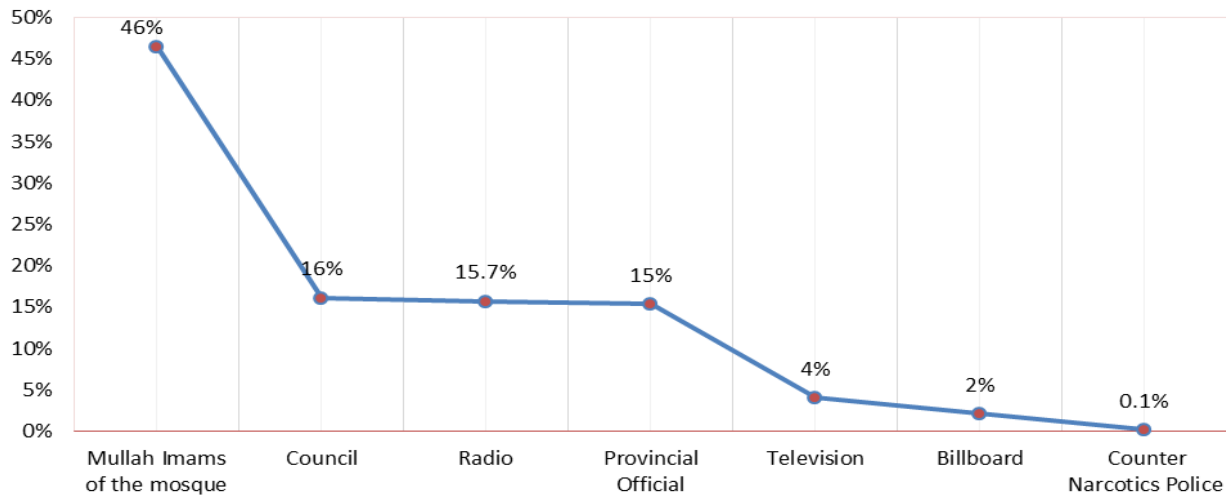


Figure 10: Ways to Raise People’s Awareness about the Prevention of Poppy Cultivation



Based on the figures mentioned in the above data, the **Mullah Imams** of the mosques have fulfilled most of their social and **Shari’a** responsibility in spreading awareness about the prohibition of poppy cultivation. Following that, this awareness is disseminated through councils, audio media (radio), and **Provincial Officials**. Additionally, **video media (television)** and **print media (installation of billboards)** play a role in raising awareness. Finally, the **Counter Narcotics Police** have also contributed to bringing awareness to the people.

Second Part
Addiction and its
factors

2.1 Drug Addiction and Its Factors:

Drug addiction is a phenomenon not only in Afghanistan but also in different countries around the world. It exerts pressure on human societies, alongside other social problems. This issue has a more significant impact in countries where there is **easy access to various drugs**, leading a substantial number of people of different ages to fall into the trap of addiction and become a burden on society. Additionally, addiction drives addicts to commit two primary crimes: **drug possession, purchase, and sale**, as well as **theft to acquire drugs**—both of which are considered crimes due to the necessity of obtaining drugs.

Drug addiction has various contributing factors, which are briefly mentioned below.

A) Social Factors

Unemployment, as a social issue, contributes significantly to social deviations, particularly addiction. Additionally, other factors such as poverty, mental and psychological disorders, self-doubt, incompetence, personality defects, anxiety, and failure collectively play a role in causing addiction.

B) Family Factors

Family factors that contribute to addiction include discord and disharmony in the home environment, low parental literacy levels, orphaned families, a lack of understanding about educational methods from selfish or neglectful parents, and a deficiency in friendly and honest relationships between parents.

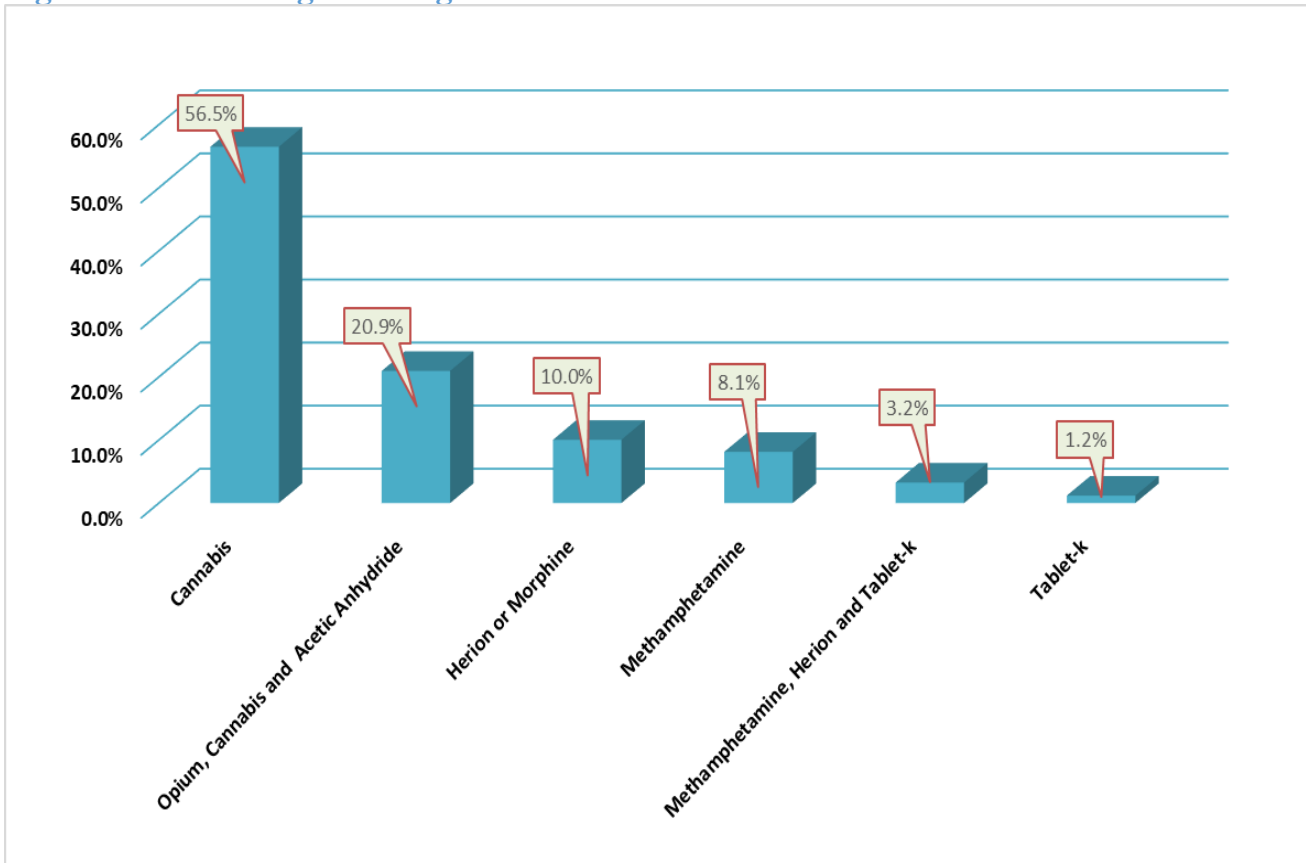
C) Economic Prosperity with Unemployment

Migration to big cities, cultural differences, loneliness, lack of support from family and relatives, poor housing, and environmental conditions contribute to addiction. Drug use, as a social phenomenon, is prevalent in societies where it is not only considered contrary to societal values, but also a part of community traditions and a means of respect. In such contexts, there is little resistance to drug use. Consequently, drug addicts often encourage their friends to use drugs, exposing them to the dangers associated with substance abuse.

D) Economic Prosperity

In families with high welfare and economic income, human relations are weakened due to work or busyness. The weakening of human relationships is also a significant factor contributing to human attraction to drugs. The most compelling evidence for this claim lies in the daily increase in the percentage of addicts in industrial societies, which is directly related to the growth of industry. Consequently, the Ministry of Counter Narcotics conducted a survey to collect data on drug addicts at the village level.

Figure 11: Percentage of Drug Users



In the figure above, it shows that **56.5%** of hashish addicts, **20.9%** use three types of drugs (opium, hashish, and alcohol), **10%** use heroin and morphine, **8.1%** use methamphetamine, **2.3%** use methamphetamine, heroin, and tablet K, and **1.2%** use only tablet K.

Table 6: The Condition of Addicts from the Point of View of Health

Drug addicts' health status in villages		
Medium	390	35%
Good	244	22%
Bad	422	38%
Very Bad(lives on the streets)	58	5%
Total	1114	100%

In the above table, the **health condition** of **more than 70%** of addicts is **medium or bad**, while **22%** are in **good** health. A small number, approximately **5%**, are spending their days in a **very bad condition** (on the streets). From this data, we can conclude that the number of addicts who were living on the roads and under bridges faced **miserable conditions**. However, with the establishment of the **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** and the implementation of the process of collecting drug addicts, this situation has **significantly improved**. This achievement is considered important for the people of Afghanistan.

Third Part
Social issues of
villages

3.1 The Social Status of Rural Families

3.1. The Social Status of Rural Families: This section of the report includes information on poverty, migration patterns, the number of families who have lost family members due to various reasons, the number of orphans, people's access to health centres, contemporary and religious education centres, and the availability of female doctors in the village.

The survey questionnaires specifically address these topics to shed light on how factors such as poverty and illiteracy influence people's choices—whether it's opting to grow poppy, engage in drug sales, or use traditional and industrial drugs that lead to addiction. Additionally, we explore strategies to enhance unity and agreement among village residents, along with insights into the security situation gathered during the survey.

3.2 Statistics of the Poor, Widows, Orphans, and Drug Addicts

According to these figures, which were obtained as a result of interviews with 1795 people, including the headmen of villages and Mullah Imams of mosques, among the 6,235,269 population of the villages, approximately 34% are poor, 2% are widows, 5% are orphans, and some are drug addicts.

3.3 Statistics of the Health Sector in Villages

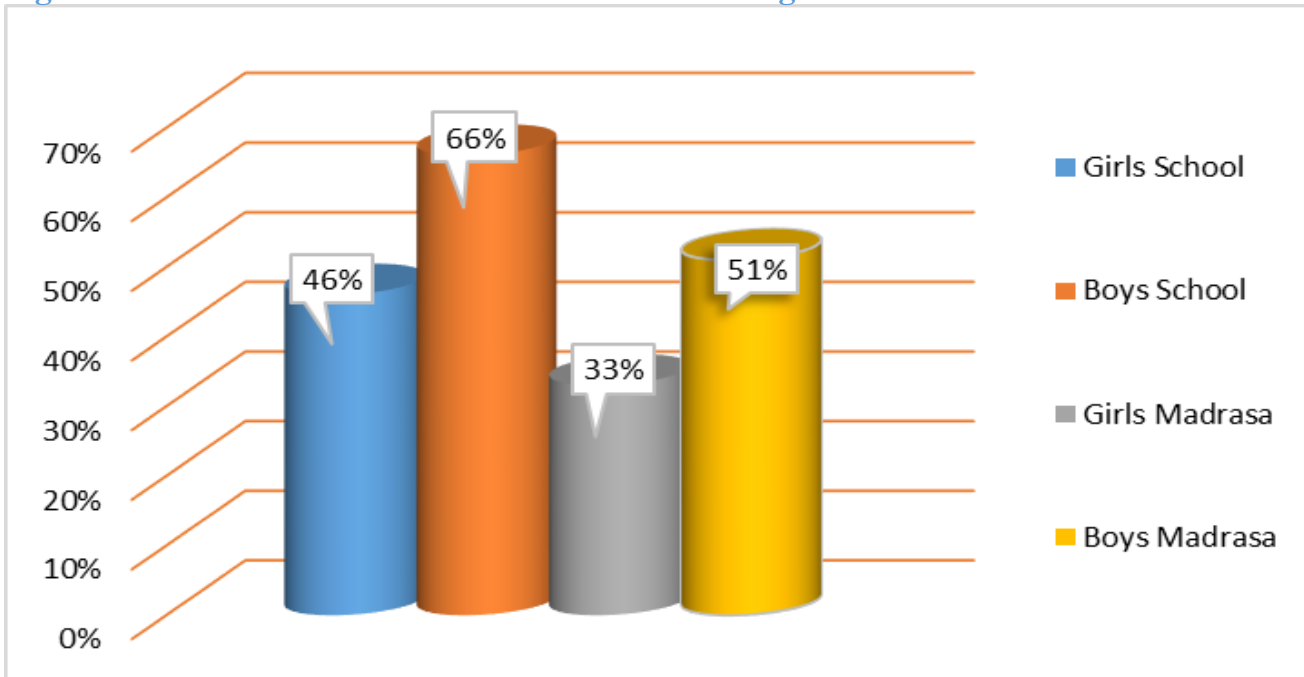
In this section, 25% of villages have health centers. A total of 69% of people go to health centers outside their villages, typically in city centers or districts, to seek treatment for family members. However, 6% of people do not have access to health services for various reasons. Regarding the presence of female doctors, 32% of interviewees responded that their villages had female doctors, while 68% said there were few female doctors in their villages.

3.4 The Security Situation in Villages Compared to Last Year and the Previous Regime

This survey, conducted in the villages of Afghanistan, reveals that an overwhelming 98% of respondents are satisfied with the security situation in their respective villages. The existing security environment provides a solid foundation for planning and implementing development projects within these communities.

In the realm of agriculture and the promotion of legitimate crops, responsible organizations can play a crucial role. They can distribute improved seeds and establish cold-rooms to prevent the deterioration of farmers' products, facilitating the efficient delivery of agricultural goods from the villages. Additionally, investing in infrastructure such as road construction within cities and the development of a drip irrigation system to optimize water usage can enhance agricultural productivity. Furthermore, the establishment of greenhouses and support for farmers in both agriculture and livestock can contribute to the self-sufficiency of Afghanistan's rural communities.

Most of the people in Afghanistan are engaged in agriculture, horticulture, and livestock. Consequently, by fostering the growth of this sector, there is a significant opportunity to boost the gross domestic product (GDP). This, in turn, will lead to an increase in the export of agricultural goods, ultimately shifting Afghanistan's trade balance from deficit to growth. Through the continued development of this sector, Afghanistan is poised to achieve prosperity and economic self-sufficiency.

Figure 12: Statistics of the educational sector in villages

According to the results of this survey, there are shortcomings in the educational sector in the villages of Afghanistan. If honourable officials pay attention to these deficiencies in coordination with the relevant ministries, the problems faced by the people can be eliminated. Furthermore, in the future, educated and knowledgeable youth will not only confront drug-related issues but will also be better equipped to serve their country.

Fourth Part
Economic issues in
villages

4.1 Sources of Income for Rural Households in Afghanistan

4.1: Sources of Income for Rural Households in Afghanistan: This section of the report focuses on the **sources of income** for families, based on data collected through interviews with farmers who planted poppy and those who did not. It highlights that **rural families in Afghanistan rely on various income sources** to meet their daily needs. The income disparity between farmers who cultivate poppy and those who do not will be explored. Additionally, we will examine the impact on household income if earnings from poppy and hashish cultivation fall below legitimate income levels. The following questions will be addressed:

١. How do the incomes of farmers who planted poppy compare to those who did not?
٢. What percentage of household income is affected if poppy and hashish cultivation income declines below legitimate levels?"

Table 7: Sources of Income for Rural Households in Afghanistan

First Part	Sources of income for households that grow poppy		
Number of families	Source of Income	Amount of Annual Income in Af	Percentage
	From the sale of opium (including opium seeds and opium seed oil).	126808939	65%
	From the sale of legitimate plants, fruits, and flowers (including products such as straw).	36926123	19%
	Livestock and its products, such as eggs, milk, etc.	7939223	4%
	Daily wage and peasant work.	5439800	3%
	From the sale of hashish.	4253000	2.2%
	Daily wage work without peasants.	3697800	1.9%
	Send or transfer money from abroad.	3672000	1.87%
	Mission for duty allowance.	2339900	1.2%
	Small business or selling products.	2118700	1.1%
	From renting a house, a car, and furniture.	1350000	0.7%
	From the sale of forest products.	1581950	0.8%
	Other things.	243000	0.1%
	721	Total	196370435
Second Part	Sources of income for households growing poppy		
Number of families	Source of Income	Amount of Annual Income in Af	Percentage
	From the sale of legitimate plants, fruits, and flowers (including products such as straw).	95858376	53%
	Daily wage and peasant work.	17971400	10%
	Livestock and its products, such as eggs, milk, etc.	17220064	9%
	Send or transfer money from abroad.	15631000	8.6%
	Daily wage work without peasants.	10470900	6%
	Small business or selling products.	9512500	5%
	Mission for duty allowance.	6642600	4%
	From the sale of forest products.	3018100	2%
	From renting a house, a car, and furniture.	2100850	1.20%
	From the sale of hashish.	2074500	1.1%
	Other things.	1487600	0.8%
1759	Total	181987890	100%

The data in the table above leads to the following conclusions:

١. **Poppy-growing families** primarily rely on **opium, opium seeds, and opium oil** for their income.
٢. **Non-poppy-growing households**, on the other hand, depend on **legitimate plants, fruits, and flowers** for their livelihood.

In more specific terms:

- **67%** of poppy and hashish farmers' income comes from opium and hashish.
- **33%** of their income is derived from legal crops.
- Among farmers who do not grow poppy, **72%** of their income results from selling legitimate products, while the remaining **28%** comes from other sources.

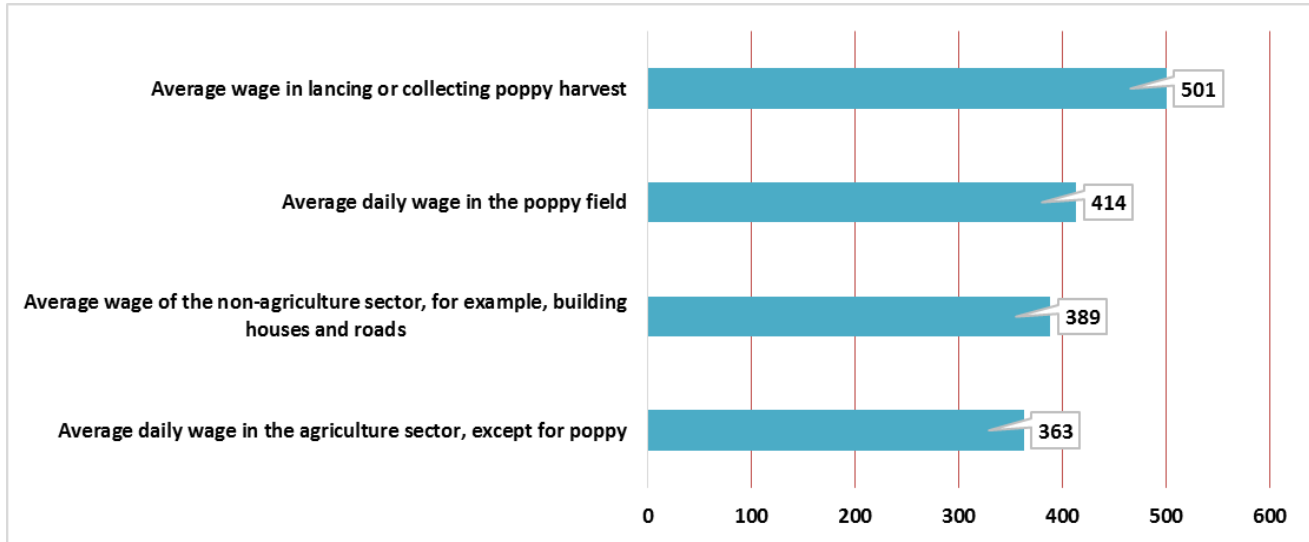
Figure 13: Average Income per Capita of Rural Families in Afghanistan



In terms of **per capita income**, the number of farmers who grow poppy is higher than that of those who do not. The per capita income of farmers in the first category is **151 Afghanis per day**, while the per capita income of farmers in the second category is **58 Afghanis per day**.

It is worth mentioning that when measuring per capita income, the number of family members is assumed to be **5**. This estimate is derived from data collected from villages in Afghanistan, which is a separate question in the survey questionnaire.

Figure 14: Daily Wages of Workers on Poppy and Legitimate Plantations Compared to each other.



As the **per capita income of poppy farmers** was higher than that of non-poppy farmers, the wages of labourers working in **poppy fields** (planting and harvesting poppy) and the wages of workers who work in the field of **legitimate crops** showed an increase, as depicted in the figures above.

According to our analysis, as long as the **high incomes of poppy farmers remain accessible to those cultivating legitimate crops**, people will readily transition to poppy cultivation. This is because the **per capita income of families growing poppy is nearly three times higher** than that of families abstaining from poppy cultivation. Additionally, the **increased daily wages for poppy field workers** may entice many individuals to choose poppy fields over legitimate plantations.

4.2 Comparison of Yields per Hectare of Poppy and Wheat Cultivation

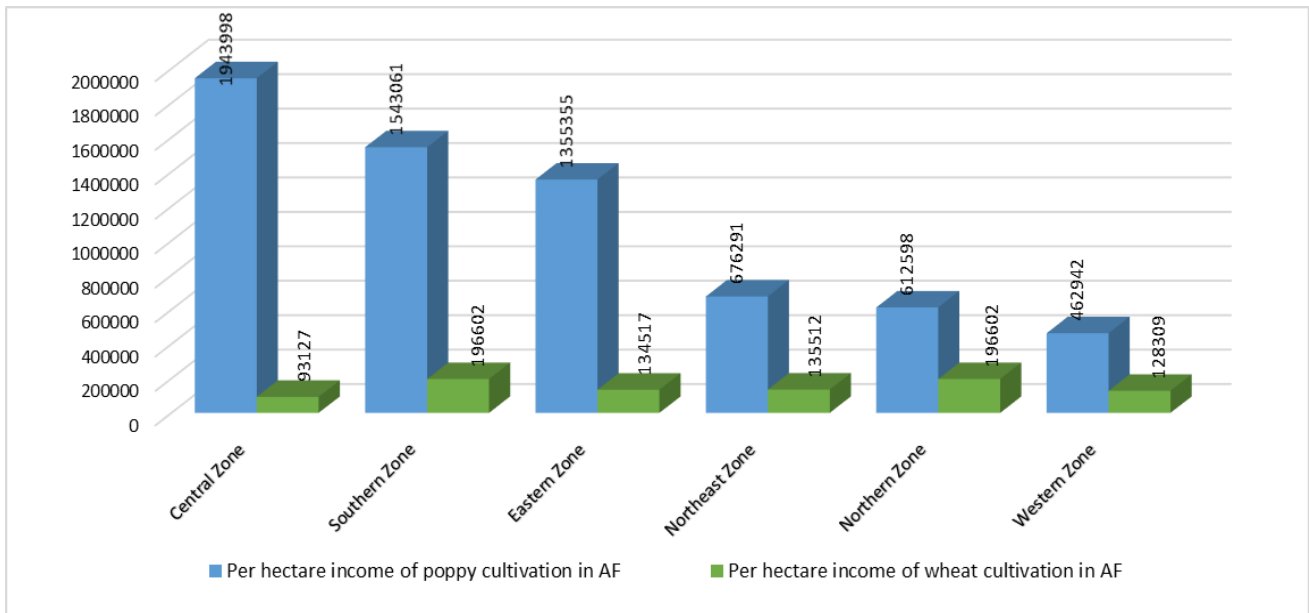
Based on field data comparing one-hectare yields of poppy and wheat, the following points have been identified:

١. **Regional Yields of Poppy and Wheat:** The results of planting poppy and wheat in each region vary depending on the climate and soil conditions of the respective regions. Poppy yields are 75 kg per hectare in the southern region, 65 kg in the central region, and 44 kg in the north-eastern region. The yields in other regions are as follows: 41 kg in the eastern region, 35 kg in the northern region, and 20 kg in the western region. The general average yield of opium in Afghanistan is 46.7 kilograms per hectare.
٢. **Poppy Yield Trends and Quality:** Afghanistan has not conducted a poppy yield survey for several years. During this period, the yield per hectare has increased compared to previous years, due to the use of improved seeds and chemical fertilizers by farmers. However, the quality of opium has decreased, meaning that more opium is now required to produce one kilogram of heroin compared to previous years.
٣. **Variations in Income Due to Opium Prices:** If we consider the average yield per hectare of poppy cultivation as constant, the price of opium has a direct impact on farmers' income. The price of opium varies significantly across regions, from \$450 per kilogram in the eastern region to \$209 per kilogram in the north-eastern region. This price difference results in farmers in the eastern region earning more from their poppy cultivation than farmers in the north-eastern region.
٤. **Income Discrepancies Between Poppy and Wheat:** The yield per hectare of poppy and wheat differs across regions, affecting farmers' incomes. This income disparity can drive farmers to grow poppy over wheat. Given that poppy cultivation is more lucrative, it's a significant factor in why landowners might choose poppy over wheat. These income differences are depicted in the image below.

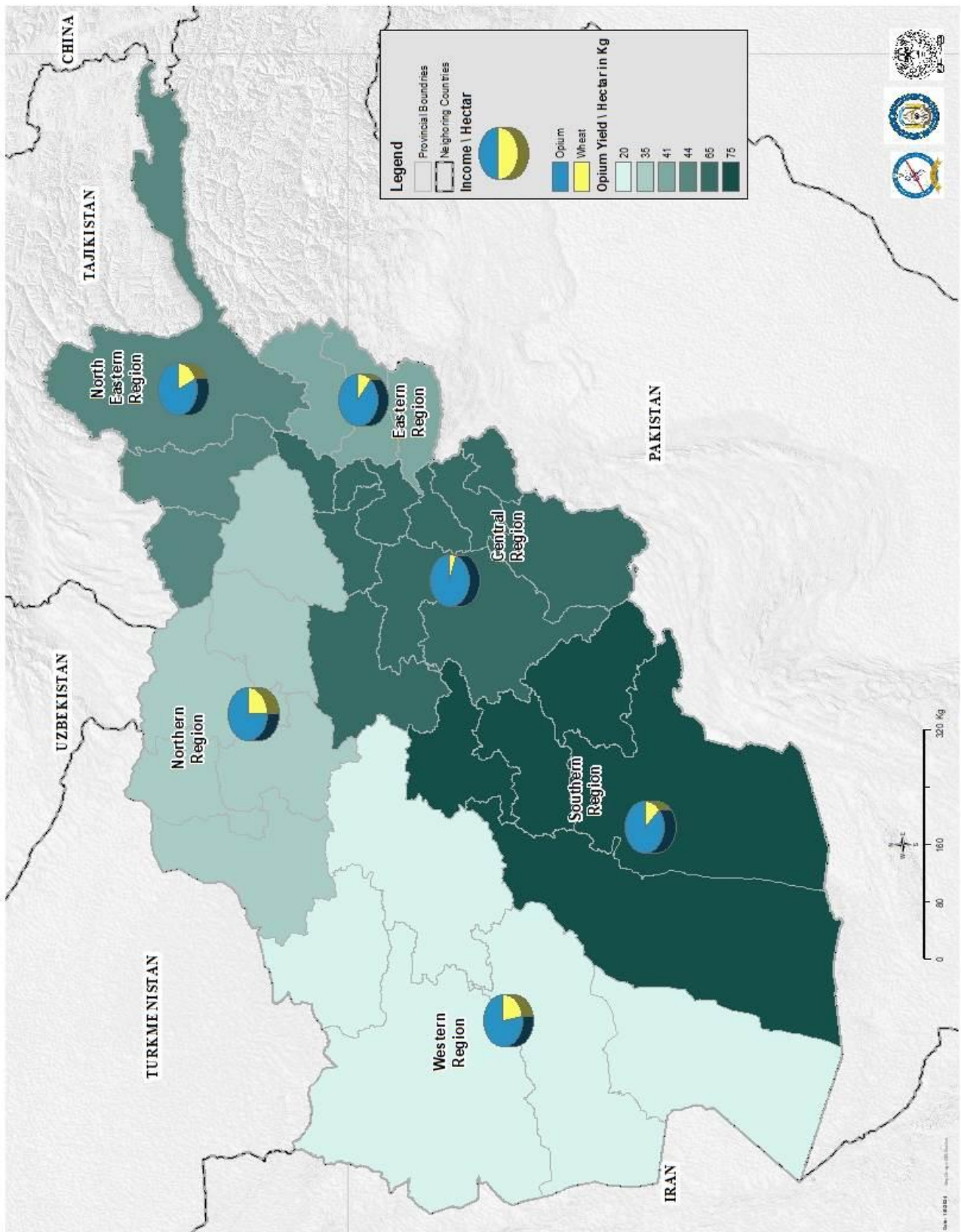
Table 8: Average Yield per Hectare of Poppy and Wheat Crops in Different Regions of Afghanistan, 2023

Regions	Average price per kg of fresh opium at Framgate level in US dollars	Average price per kg of wheat in US dollars	Per hectare yield of poppy cultivation in kg	Per-hectare yield of wheat cultivation in kg	Per-hectare income from poppy cultivation in AF	Per-hectare income from wheat cultivation in AF
Central region	407	0.35	65	3150	1943998	93127
Southern region	280	0.35	75	6650	1543061	196602
Eastern region	450	0.35	41	4550	1355355	134517
Northeast region	209	0.35	44	4550	676291	135512
Northern region	238	0.35	35	6650	612598	196602
Western region	315	0.35	20	4340	462942	128309
Average	316	0.35	46.7	4982	1099041	147445

Figure 15: Yield per Hectare of Poppy and Wheat Compared to Each Other



Map 2: Yield and Revenue per Hectare of Poppy and Wheat Crops at the Region Level in Afghanistan



4.3 Livestock

Diversifying Income in Rural Afghanistan: Domestic Animal Rearing

In rural Afghanistan, domestic animal husbandry—such as raising cows, sheep, and goats—serves as a crucial source of income alongside agriculture. Let's delve into the specifics:

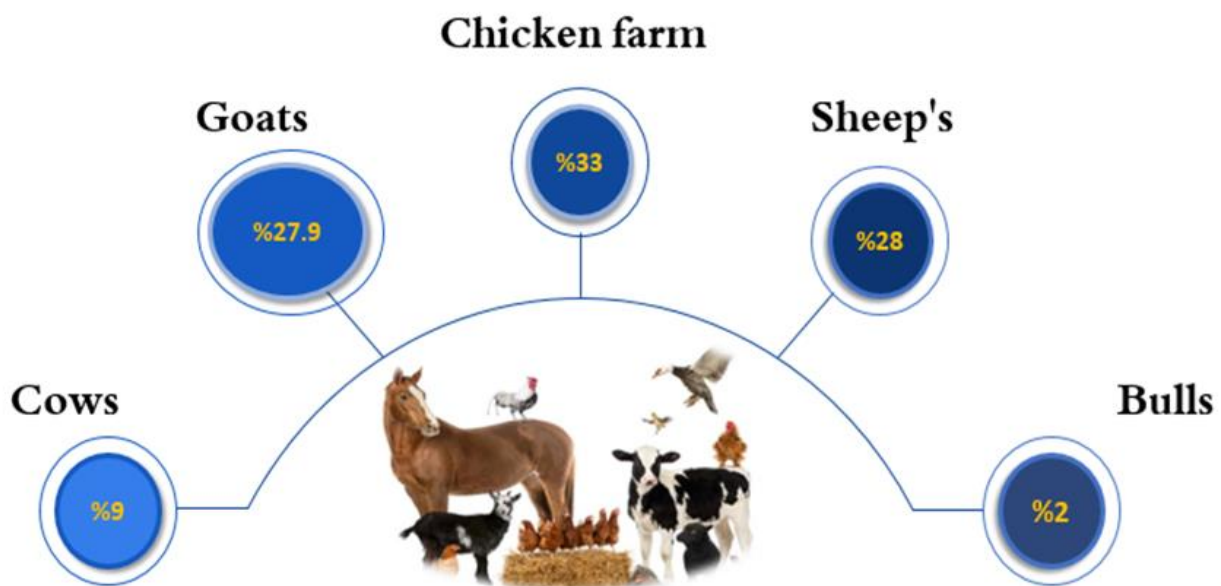
١. **Economic Significance:**

- Among non-poppy farmers, **9%** of their overall economy relies on domestic animal husbandry.
- For poppy farmers, this figure stands at **4%** of their total income.

٢. **Species Distribution:**

- The percentage of domestic animal species maintained by households is depicted in the figure below.

Figure 16: Percentage of the Livestock Sector



Among these, **56%** of rural activities involve **sheep and goat breeding**, while **33%** are dedicated to **poultry farms**, and the remaining **11%** focus on **cattle breeding**. Undoubtedly, the rural families of Afghanistan have encountered challenges due to factors such as drought, population growth, and the encroachment of residential structures into pasturelands. Taking decisive actions in the domains of agriculture, irrigation, and livestock management through relevant institutions under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock would represent a positive stride toward bolstering the economy of Afghanistan's rural households.

Based on our analysis, residential houses should be constructed in areas where plant growth is less likely. In other words, residential development should occur in places devoid of agricultural land and pastures. Failing to heed this point could lead to adverse consequences. With population growth and the encroachment of residential structures into agricultural and pasture areas, Afghanistan's agriculture and livestock sectors may face significant challenges.

Suggestions:

Afghanistan's rural farmers have put forth a total of **1,806** suggestions to enhance their livelihoods. These recommendations encompass a range of measures, including the provision of seeds, chemical fertilizers, and animal vaccines. Additionally, the farmers propose initiatives such as constructing schools and madrasas, cultivating saffron and hashish, distributing improved seeds, fostering conducive working environments, building dams and canals, digging wells for clean drinking water, and constructing houses, roads, and bridges. These fundamental suggestions have been presented to the government.

Table 9: Suggestions

The subject of suggestions	Number of Suggistions	Percentage
We need help with seeds, chemical fertilizers, and animal vaccines.	865	48%
A school and seminary should be built for us.	249	14%
The government should help in the cultivation of saffron, Heng and the planting of modified seedlings for the people.	230	13%
The government should provide the duties for the people	147	8%
The government should help us in the construction of dams and agricultural water canals, digging drinking water wells, and building greenhouses.	100	6%
Should build roads and bridges for us.	87	5%
The government should build a clinic for us.	43	2.4%
Cash aid should be distributed to the people.	39	2.2%
The government should build electricity dams and retaining walls for the people.	28	1.6%
The government should help us with the mechanization of agricultural technical equipment.	17	1%
The government should provide job opportunities for the people through the activation of factories, for example, the Golbahar textile factory.	1	0.1%
Total	1806	100%



Result

Poppy Cultivation

- ❖ Since 2023, poppy has been planted on an estimated **14,712 hectares** of land in Afghanistan, marking a **94% decrease** compared to the **unverified 2022 report** from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- ❖ According to the statistics on the eradication of poppy cultivation carried out in 2023, the eradication of poppy cultivation is estimated to be **12,000 hectares**. However, farmers have only managed to collect poppy from **2,712 hectares** of land. If we assume an average yield of **46.7 kilograms of opium per hectare** based on regional production statistics in Afghanistan, the total opium production would amount to **126.7 metric tons**. Considering the average opium price until October 2023 (which stands at **\$375 per kilogram**), the total value of this opium production would reach an impressive **\$47,493,900**.
- ❖ **Authentic reports** indicate that **3,170.7 tons of drugs** were discovered and seized by the police in Afghanistan during the first and second quarters of this year. Among these figures, there are tens of tons of opium and other narcotics derived from opium, including substances like heroin and methamphetamine.
- ❖ **This year**, the level of opium production has **decreased significantly** compared to previous years. For context, in 2017, opium production in Afghanistan reached **9,000 metric tons**. Based on these figures, the current opium production reflects a **98.6% decrease**.
- ❖ The **primary reason** for poppy cultivation, often cited by farmers, is the pursuit of **greater financial benefits**. Additionally, poverty and hardship drive farmers to plant poppy seeds as a means to provide for their families' basic needs. Approximately **95% of their opium income** is allocated to necessities such as food, health expenses, education, and loan payments.
- ❖ On the other hand, the decision **not to cultivate poppies** is primarily driven by adherence to the rules of **Islamic Sharia** and obedience to the decree of **Amir Ul-Mominin**. Furthermore, concerns about the **social harm** caused by poppy cultivation, water scarcity, and limited land availability have led farmers to abandon poppy planting.
- ❖ Seventy-one percent of people have emphasized the importance of implementing awareness programs about the harms of drugs. Notably, imams of mosques play a crucial role in this regard.

Drug Addiction

- ❖ **Hashish user's** rank at the top among drug addicts, as confirmed by a survey conducted in Kabul in 2022. Additionally, drug addicts often use **multiple types of drugs simultaneously**. Tablets and other medications also find their place among addicts.
- ❖ The health status of drug addicts is generally described as **varying between very good and average**. Only a small percentage (**5%**) experience poor health and spend time away from their families.
- ❖ **Factors of drug addiction:** In addition to access to drugs, **unemployment**—as a social issue—particularly contributes to social deviations. Additionally, **poor mental health**, mental disorders, feelings of inferiority, anxiety, lack of motivation, and failure are all considered **social factors** that contribute to addiction.
- ❖ **Family-related factors** associated with addiction include **discord and incompatibility** within the family environment. Other factors include **low parental education**, both caring and careless parenting, and a **lack of friendship and intimate communication** between parents and children.

Social Issues

- ❖ According to the obtained figures, the **vast majority** of Afghan village residents live together, and nearly all people have expressed their satisfaction with the existing security situation.
- ❖ Unfortunately, **34% of villagers** fall below the poverty line, and the youth who have left the villages also face the **challenges of poverty**.
- ❖ In general, **2% of villagers** are widows, and **5% are orphans**.
- ❖ Regarding health, **health centers are operational in 25% of villages**.
- ❖ In terms of education, a significant number of children in the community **lack access to schools**.

Economic Issues

- ❖ The **average daily wage** for weeding poppy fields is **414 Afghani**, while in the field of lancing and collecting poppy yields, it amounts to approximately **501 Afghani**.
- ❖ Comparatively, the average daily wage in the **non-poppy agricultural sector** stands at **363 Afghani**, and in the **non-agricultural sector (road construction)**, it is **389 Afghani**. Although poppy farmers may earn significantly higher wages, this situation could inadvertently encourage further poppy cultivation.

- ❖ Interestingly, the **per capita income** of families engaged in poppy cultivation surpasses that of families who do not grow poppy. Specifically, the income per person for the first category of farmers is **151 Afghanis**, while the second category averages **58 Afghanis** per family member.
- ❖ Regarding **economic assistance to farmers**, only **24%** of farmers have benefited from such programs, indicating that this level of support falls short.
- ❖ Additionally, when comparing **yield and income per hectare** between poppy and wheat cultivation, a substantial difference emerges. On average, poppy cultivation generates **7.5 times** the income per hectare compared to wheat cultivation. This disparity contributes to the preference for poppy cultivation over wheat.
- ❖ In addition to agriculture, the farmers in Afghan villages are also engaged in livestock raising, which fulfills a crucial role in meeting their basic needs. It's worth noting that the economy of farmers who abstain from poppy cultivation relies less on livestock compared to those who cultivate poppy. Conversely, families that do not engage in poppy planting predominantly depend on livestock and its products.



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