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Ministry of Counter Narcotics

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Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey



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Abbreviations

ANP	Afghan National Police
CPEF	Central Poppy Eradication Force
GPS	Global Positioning System
ICMP	Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme (UNODC)
MCN	Ministry of Counter-Narcotics
ORAS	Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey
RAS	Research and Analysis Section (UNODC)
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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Table of Contents

1. FINDINGS.....	6
1.1. GENERAL FINDINGS.....	6
1.2. REASONS FOR OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION.....	8
1.3. CASH ADVANCES RECEIVED FOR POPPY CULTIVATION.....	9
1.4. FAMILIES INVOLVED IN OPIUM CULTIVATION.....	9
1.5. EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE.....	10
1.6. FIELD SECURITY.....	13
1.7. REASONS FOR NON-CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPY.....	13
1.8. ERADICATION.....	14
1.9. PRICES.....	15
1.10. CANNABIS CULTIVATION.....	16
2. FINDINGS BY PROVINCE.....	26
NORTH-EASTERN REGION.....	26
<i>BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE</i>	26
<i>TAKHAR PROVINCE</i>	27
EASTERN REGION.....	28
<i>NANGARHAR PROVINCE</i>	28
<i>KUNAR PROVINCE</i>	29
<i>NURISTAN PROVINCE</i>	30
NORTHERN REGION.....	31
<i>BAGHLAN PROVINCE</i>	31
<i>BAMYAN PROVINCE</i>	31
<i>BALKH PROVINCE</i>	32
<i>FARYAB PROVINCE</i>	33
<i>KUNDUZ PROVINCE</i>	33
<i>JAWZJAN PROVINCE</i>	34
<i>SAMANGAN PROVINCE</i>	34
<i>SARI PUL PROVINCE</i>	35
CENTRAL REGION.....	36
<i>GHAZNI PROVINCE</i>	36
<i>KHOST PROVINCE</i>	36
<i>LOGAR PROVINCE</i>	37
<i>PAKTIKA PROVINCE</i>	37
<i>PAKTYA PROVINCE</i>	38
<i>PARWAN PROVINCE</i>	38
<i>KAPISA PROVINCE</i>	39
<i>WARDAK PROVINCE</i>	39
SOUTHERN REGION.....	40
<i>KANDAHAR PROVINCE</i>	40
<i>HILMAND PROVINCE</i>	40
<i>URUZGAN PROVINCE</i>	41
<i>ZABUL PROVINCE</i>	42
WESTERN REGION.....	43
<i>HIRAT PROVINCE</i>	43
<i>FARAH PROVINCE</i>	43
<i>NIMROZ PROVINCE</i>	44
<i>GHOR PROVINCE</i>	44
<i>BADGHIS PROVINCE</i>	45
3. METHODOLOGY.....	46

Maps

Map 1: Expected opium poppy cultivation trends in 2007 (by province)	18
Map 2: Expected opium poppy cultivation trends in 2007 (by district)	19
Map 3: Calendar of opium poppy planting in 2007	20
Map 4: Expected opium poppy flowering time in 2007	21
Map 5: Expected opium poppy harvest time in 2007	22
Map 6: Dry opium prices (USD)	23
Map 7: Sampling frame and selected villages.....	24
Map 8: Security situation in surveyed villages.....	25

PREFACE

In most of Afghanistan opium poppy planting has been completed. While the seedlings for the 2007 harvest have just started to grow, UNODC has assessed the likely cultivation trends.

This Winter Survey suggests that opium cultivation in Afghanistan in 2007 may not be lower than the record harvest of 165,000 hectares in 2006, although trends may vary among provinces.

Significant decreases are expected in the North. This welcome news is the result of several initiatives aimed at providing farmers and local leaders with incentives to switch to licit livelihoods.

The situation is worse in Afghanistan's richly fertile yet highly unstable southern provinces. Bear in mind that this region accounted for more than 50 per cent of all opium cultivated in Afghanistan last year.

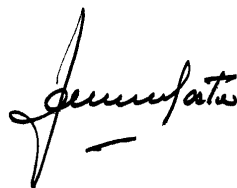
This Survey looks at reasons why farmers decide to grow opium, or not. Evidence shows that villages that have received assistance are less likely to grow opium. Since this not a new finding, it would be desirable to build on this evidence by making Afghanistan the best example of how poppy cultivation can be countered by greater development assistance.

There is some good news on this front. A Good Performance Fund was recently established to reward provinces demonstrating significant progress towards becoming opium free. The goal for 2007 is to double the number of opium-free provinces from six to twelve. That will create an opium-free belt across the middle of the country so as to concentrate later efforts to combat crime and insurgency in the South.

The results also show clear correlations between insurgency and illicit drug-related activities. While this is not new, Afghanistan seems to be the most obvious case in the world of how drug cultivation, refining and trafficking fund political violence, and vice versa.

Using the results of this assessment, district and provincial authorities are now alerted about opium cultivation trends in their jurisdiction. This Survey helps authorities put names and places together in order to improve transparency and accountability. The government and other stakeholders can now better target eradication efforts as well as reward areas that are opium free. Over time this will contribute to winning back Afghanistan from the drug lords, province by province.

While opium attracts most attention, this report raises a new and disturbing trend: a significant increase in cannabis cultivation. The last thing we need is for Afghanistan to switch from one drug to another or – worse – to become a world leader in cannabis as well as opium production.



Antonio Maria Costa
Executive Director
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1. FINDINGS

1.1. GENERAL FINDINGS

Opium poppy cultivation trends

The Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey (ORAS) forecasts the following cultivation trends in 2007:

- An increase in cultivation in 15 provinces, mainly in the South, East and West;
- A decrease in cultivation in seven provinces, mainly in the North and North-East;
- No change in six provinces, mainly in the North and North-East;
- No poppy cultivation in six provinces, mainly in the central region.

Overall, opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan is likely to increase in 2007. However, effective countrywide eradication may alter this trend.

Table 1: Expected opium poppy cultivation trends in 2007

Cultivation trend in 2007	Region	No. of provinces	Provinces
Increase (15 provinces)	South	6	Uruzgan, Zabul, Hilmand, Kandahar, Day Kundi
	West	3	Nimroz, Hirat, Badghis
	East	3	Nangarhar, Kunar Laghman
	Central	3	Kabul, Kapisa, Khost, Ghazni
Decrease (7 provinces)	West	1	Ghor
	North	5	Balkh, Saripul, Samangan Bamyán, Jawzan
	North-East	1	Badakhshan
No change (6 provinces)	West	1	Farah
	North	2	Faryab, Baghlan
	North-East	2	Takhar, Kunduz
	East	1	Nuristan
Opium poppy-free (6 provinces)	Central	6	Panjshir, Parwan, Wardak, Logar, Paktya, Paktika

In 2006, opium poppy cultivation increased in 13 provinces, decreased in eight provinces and remained at the same level in seven provinces; six provinces were found to be opium poppy-free (Annual Opium Survey 2006 Report, UNODC). The 2006 ORAS pointed to an increase in cultivation, which was confirmed by survey results reported in August 2006. A total area of 165,000 hectares was under opium poppy cultivation in 2006, which represents an increase of 59 per cent as compared to 2005. That increase was chiefly attributable to large-scale poppy cultivation in the South, particularly in the Hilmand province. A decrease in cultivation was observed in the northern provinces in 2006.

The 2007 ORAS indicates a decrease in poppy cultivation in the North and North-East, but an increase in the main opium poppy-growing areas of the southern provinces, which may result in an overall increase in opium poppy cultivation in 2007.

However, these trends may be affected by the eradication campaign. While the Government and international stakeholders remain committed to eradication, few

eradication activities had been reported in the provinces of Nimroz, Farah, Nangarhar, Laghman and Badakhshan by mid-January 2007 (only 653 ha of crops had been eradicated). To date, no eradication activities have been implemented in the northern and southern provinces.

The 2007 ORAS highlights the following key cultivation trends as compared to 2006:

- A sharp increase in cultivation in the provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar and Uruzgan;
- A sharp decrease in the northern provinces (Balkh, Samangan, Saripul) and in Ghor;
- An increase in the Hilmand and Kandahar provinces;
- Six provinces continue to be poppy-free.



Alfalfa in Nangarhar province



Wheat in Nangarhar province



Opium poppy in Nangarhar province



Vegetables in Nangarhar province

In Hilmand and Zabul, 100 per cent of respondents in surveyed villages believed that poppy would be cultivated in those villages. A significantly high proportion of respondents in Kandahar (93 per cent), Uruzgan (88 per cent), Farah (86 per cent), Badakhshan (67 per cent) and Nangarhar (67 per cent) indicated likewise. While Ghazni province was poppy-free in 2006, the ORAS forecasts that 13 per cent of surveyed villages in the province will cultivate poppy in 2007.

Additional opium poppy crops could be sown in upland areas of the northern and central provinces before mid-March, particularly in rain-fed areas, potentially leading to a further increase in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. In 2007, rainfall and water availability

are expected to be extremely good throughout Afghanistan, which may result in good opium poppy yields.

Table 2: Cultivation levels from 2004 to 2006 and expected trends in 2007

PROVINCE	Cultivation 2004 (ha)	Cultivation 2005 (ha)	Cultivation 2006 (ha)	Change 2005-2006 (ha)	Change 2005-2006 (%)	2007 Cultivation trend
Kabul	282	0	80	80	100%	Increase
Khost	838	0	133	133	100%	Increase
Logar	24	0	0	0	0%	Poppy free
Paktya	1,200	0	0	0	0%	Poppy free
Panjshir	0	0	0	0	0%	Poppy free
Parwan	1,310	0	124	124	100%	Poppy free
Wardak	1,017	106	0	-106	-100%	Poppy free
Ghazni	62	0	0	0	0%	Increase
Paktika	0	0	0	0	0%	Poppy free
Central Region	4,733	106	337	231	218%	
Kapisa	522	115	282	167	145%	Increase
Kunar	4,366	1,059	932	-127	-12%	Strong increase
Laghman	2,756	274	710	436	159%	Increase
Nangarhar	28,213	1,093	4,872	3,779	346%	Strong increase
Nuristan	764	1,554	1,516	-38	-2%	Stable
Eastern Region	36,621	4,095	8,312	4,217	103%	
Badakhshan	15,607	7,370	13,056	5,686	77%	Decrease
Takhar	762	1,364	2,178	814	60%	Stable
North Eastern Region	16,369	8,734	15,234	6,500	74%	
Badghis	614	2,967	3,205	238	8%	Increase
Baghlan	2,444	2,563	2,742	179	7%	Stable
Balkh	2,495	10,837	7,232	-3,605	-33%	Strong Decrease
Bamyan	803	126	17	-109	-87%	Strong Decrease
Faryab	3,249	2,665	3,040	375	14%	Stable
Jawzjan	1,673	1,748	2,024	276	16%	Decrease
Kunduz	224	275	102	-173	-63%	Stable
Samangan	1,151	3,874	1,960	-1,914	-49%	Strong Decrease
Sari Pul	1,974	3,227	2,252	-975	-30%	Strong Decrease
Northern Region	14,627	28,282	22,574	-5,708	-20%	
Hilmand	29,353	26,500	69,324	42,824	162%	Increase
Kandahar	4,959	12,989	12,619	-370	-3%	Increase
Uruzgan	11,080	2,024	9,703	7,679	379%	Strong increase
Zabul	2,977	2,053	3,210	1,157	56%	Increase
Day kundi	N/A	2,581	7,044	4,463	173%	Increase
Southern Region	48,369	46,147	101,900	55,753	121%	
Farah	2,288	10,240	7,694	-2,546	-25%	Stable
Ghor	4,983	2,689	4,679	1,990	74%	Strong Decrease
Hirat	2,531	1,924	2,287	363	19%	Increase
Nimroz	115	1,690	1,955	265	16%	Increase
Western Region	9,917	16,543	16,615	72	0%	
Total (rounded)	131,000	104,000	165,000	61,000	59%	Overall Increase

1.2. REASONS FOR OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION

According to respondents, the high sale price of opium is the main reason for poppy cultivation. For one hectare of opium poppy, farmers can earn nearly 10 times more than cereal crop (Afghanistan Annual Opium Survey 2006 Report, UNODC).

Table 3: Reasons for opium poppy cultivation in 2007

Reasons for opium poppy cultivation	Percentage of respondents
High sale price of opium	26.2%
Poverty alleviation (provision of basic food and shelter)	20.5%
Lack of land	14.3%
High cost of financing a family wedding	14.1%
No aid received from the Government or other sources	12.9%
Possibility of obtaining a loan	7.3%
Demand among addicts	2.3%
Lack of water during summer	1.7%
External pressure (e.g., from a drug trader or local commander)	0.5%
Unemployment	0.1%
Total	100%

It is interesting to note, by way of comparison, that in 2006, poverty alleviation (provision of basic food and shelter) was the most commonly cited reason for opium poppy cultivation (37 per cent of respondents), while 20 per cent of respondents cited lack of aid from the Government or other sources.

1.3. CASH ADVANCES RECEIVED FOR POPPY CULTIVATION

Villages in the Badakhshan, Hilmand, Uruzgan, Laghman, Logar, Farah, Khost and Kunar provinces reported that they had received cash advances from drug traffickers to grow opium poppy. The ORAS indicates that 32 per cent of the opium poppy-growing villages received such advances.

Table 4: Cash advances by province in 2007

Province	No advance received	Advance received	Total	Advance received (percentage of respondents)
Khost	0	2	2	100%
Uruzgan	11	18	29	62%
Badakhshan	8	12	20	60%
Hilmand	14	14	28	50%
Laghman	4	4	8	50%
Nangarhar	10	8	18	44%
Zabul	12	7	19	37%
Kunar	4	2	6	33%
Farah	10	2	12	17%
Kandahar	25	2	27	7%
Total	150	71	221	32%

1.4. FAMILIES INVOLVED IN OPIUM CULTIVATION

ORAS results indicate that 13 per cent of families in surveyed villages are involved in opium cultivation. This figure is consistent with the findings of the 2006 Annual Opium Survey. The corresponding percentage for the southern provinces is strikingly high, closely followed by that for the eastern provinces. A high proportion of families are

reported to be involved in opium cultivation in the following provinces: Hilmand (88 per cent), Zabul (86 per cent), Uruzgan (64 per cent), Nangarhar (52 per cent), Farah (39 per cent), Kandahar (31 per cent), Laghman (29 per cent) and Nuristan (26 per cent). While Nuristan was not a opium poppy-growing province until 2005, surveyors report that farmers in the province are increasingly turning to opium poppy cultivation.

1.5. EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

Of the 508 villages visited, 451 received external assistance (89 per cent). A total of 828 assistance activities were reported in those 451 villages. The fact that 42 per cent of villages that had received external assistance cultivated poppy, as compared to 50 per cent of those that had not, suggests that external assistance has a direct effect on the extent of opium poppy cultivation.

An analysis of the link between external assistance and poppy cultivation by region appears to confirm that villages that have not received assistance are more likely to cultivate opium poppy. However, in certain regions, a significant number of villages have cultivated opium poppy despite having received external assistance: 94 per cent of villages in the South, 53 per cent in the North-East, 51 per cent in the East and 34 per cent in the West. Only six per cent of villages in the central region cultivated opium poppy after receiving external assistance. These figures indicate the degree to which the various regions respond to assistance received by curbing opium poppy cultivation.

Table 5: External assistance by village

Region	Assistance received	No. of villages		% of villages cultivating poppy despite having received assistance
		No opium poppy cultivation	Opium poppy cultivation	
Central	Yes	96	6	6%
East	No	0	2	
	Yes	35	37	51%
North-East	No	9	6	
	Yes	15	17	53%
North	No	15	10	
	Yes	50	7	12%
South	No	0	6	
	Yes	6	97	94%
West	No	3	3	
	Yes	56	29	34%

The table below sets out the type of assistance received by villages and the bodies engaged in providing assistance.

Table 6: Distribution of external assistance activities in 2006

Assistance received	Government	NGOs	United Nations	Unknown	USAID	Total	%
Medical (including vaccinations)	226	32	154	3	1	416	50.2%
Construction (road/other)	63	40	15	3	15	136	16.4%
Agricultural inputs (including fertilizers)	63	27	10	3	9	112	13.5%
Education	57	25	6	1	3	92	11.1%
Off-farm employment opportunities	19	3	9		1	32	3.9%
Irrigation structure	8	3	3			15	1.8%
Electricity	6	7				13	1.6%
Drinking water	2	3				5	0.6%
Supply of tools to self-employed persons	2	2				4	0.5%
Food		1				1	0.1%
Materials for those affected by floods	1					1	0.1%
Refugee shelters			1			1	0.1%
Total	447	144	198	10	29	828	100.0%

In the villages visited, 23 per cent of assistance activities were provided by the United Nations. Agricultural assistance has decreased to 13.8 per cent as compared to 18 per cent in 2005. The number of assistance activities routed through the Government has increased since 2005: in 2006, the Government provided 53 per cent of assistance, as compared to 40 per cent in 2005.

Table 7: Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund projects by province (as of 29 Nov. 2006)*

Province/ Project approved	Mycro-hydro power plants	Residential treatment centre	Counselling/ treatment services	Mushroom production (Pilot)	Greenhouses (Pilot)	Roads/ bridges	Roads/ bridges	Silkworm	Honey- bees	Flood protection	Fruit orchards and check dams	Drought appeal	Irrigation system	No. of projects per province
Badakhshan	Badakhshan			Badakhshan										2
Badghis						Badghis						Badghis		2
Baghlan		Baghlan		Baghlan		Baghlan		Baghlan				Baghlan		5
Balkh		Balkh		Balkh	Balkh			Balkh				Balkh		5
Bamyan			Bamyan	Bamyan										2
Day Kundi														
Farah			Farah									Farah	Farah	3
Faryab		Faryab	Faryab									Faryab		3
Ghazni			Ghazni	Ghazni										2
Ghor			Ghor									Ghor		2
Hilmand														
Hirat				Hirat				Hirat				Hirat		3
Jawzjan		Jawzjan	Jawzjan					Jawzjan				Jawzjan		4
Kabul				Kabul										1
Kandahar									Kandahar					1
Kapisa														
Khost														
Kunar		Kunar							Kunar					2
Kunduz			Kunduz	Kunduz				Kunduz				Kunduz		4
Laghman		Laghman												1
Logar														
Nangarhar		Nangarhar		Nangarhar	Nangarhar				Nangarhar	Nangarhar	Nangarhar			6
Nimroz			Nimroz											1
Nuristan		Nuristan							Nuristan					2
Panjshir														
Paktika														
Paktya									Paktya					1
Parwan														
Samangan		Samangan						Samangan				Samangan		3
Sari Pul							Sari Pul	Sari Pul				Sari Pul		3
Takhar				Takhar		Takhar						Takhar		3
Uruzgan														
Wardak														
Zabul														
Budget approved (in US\$)	2.5 mill	360,000	935,000	130,000	1.4 mill	5.3 mill	650,000	500,000	600,000	300,000	1.2 mill	1.5 mill (up to 4 mill.)	240,000	15.6 mill

* The information presented in this table is not a finding of the Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey.

1.6. FIELD SECURITY

Security was good in most provinces during the Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey. However, it was a general concern in most areas of Hilmand, Uruzgan, Kandahar, Ghazni, Khost, Paktika, Zabul, Nuristan, Laghman, Nangarhar and Farah. This situation may worsen as the opium poppy flowering or harvesting period approaches, since most of these areas report that villagers and certain groups are prepared to resist eradication. Such resistance has already been encountered in Nangarhar province.

The survey indicates that approximately 79 per cent of villages with poor security and 63 per cent villages with very poor security are involved in poppy cultivation, as compared to only 22 per cent of villages with good security. There is a strong link between security conditions and opium poppy cultivation in the southern provinces. Drug traffickers and criminal groups are encouraging villagers to grow opium poppy, particularly in the Hilmand province, giving villagers guarantees for the protection of land on which opium poppy is cultivated and in some areas using threats and intimidation to force those farmers that have not yet cultivated opium poppy to do so.

Table 8: Security situation in surveyed villages

Security situation	No. of villages		% villages cultivating opium poppy
	No opium poppy cultivation	Opium poppy cultivation	
Poor	21	79	79%
Very poor	11	19	63%
Very good	152	42	22%

1.7. REASONS FOR NON-CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPY

The main reason cited for non-cultivation of opium poppy was the belief that opium poppy cultivation is against Islam (24 per cent of respondents). Other major reasons given were respect for the decisions of the Shura (village council) and the Government's ban on opium poppy cultivation. Fear of eradication plays a major role in non-cultivation in areas where eradication has been effective in past years.

Table 9: Reasons for non-cultivation of opium poppy in 2007

Reasons for non-cultivation of poppy	Percentage
Believed to be against Islam	24%
Respect for decisions taken by village elders or Shura	20%
Observance of poppy cultivation ban	18%
Fear of eradication	16%
Fear of other forms of law enforcement (e.g. imprisonment)	9%
Provision of assistance	3%
Lack of water	2%
Low sale price of opium	2%
Low demand for opium	1%
High cost of inputs (seed, fertilizers, labour, etc)	1%
Unfavourable weather	1%
Lack of experience	1%
Not traditional	1%
Fear of addiction	1%

The number of responses received for each of the above reasons was consistent with those given in 2006 (Afghanistan Annual Opium Survey 2006 Report, UNODC).

1.8. ERADICATION

The Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey did not assess the implementation of the eradication campaign, but collected general information on eradication activities in areas visited.



Eradication in Muhmand Dara district of Nangarhar province



Eradication in Baharak district of Badakhshan province

Of the 508 villages surveyed, only 38 had cultivated opium poppy in spite of eradication activities in 2006, whereas 184 villages where eradication measures had not been implemented had cultivated opium poppy. Twenty-two villages have responded to eradication activities in 2006 by desisting from poppy cultivation in 2007.

Table 10: Eradication in 2006 vis-à-vis opium poppy cultivation in 2007

Eradication in 2006	No. of villages		% of villages cultivating opium poppy
	No opium poppy cultivation	Opium poppy cultivation	
No	260*	184*	41%
Yes	22	38	63%

*Includes villages where poppy was not cultivated in 2006

The awareness campaign against poppy cultivation was conducted in many areas of Afghanistan in October and November 2006. Of the 126 villages targeted by the campaign, only 36 villages have cultivated poppy. However, almost 50 per cent of the 337 villages not included in the campaign have opted for poppy cultivation.

Table 11: Impact of the opium poppy prevention campaign

Prevention campaign	No. of villages		% villages cultivating opium poppy after campaign
	No opium poppy cultivation	Opium Poppy cultivation	
No	191	186	49%
Yes	90	36	29%

Regional results indicate that the awareness campaign was highly successful in the northern, central and western provinces, where approximately 90 per cent of villages have not cultivated poppy since the campaign period. The campaign has had mixed success in the East and North-East, where 50 per cent of villages continue to cultivate poppy. In the South, the campaign has had little impact (only four villages have responded positively).

Table 12: Impact of the opium poppy prevention campaign by region

Region	Campaign conducted	No. of villages		Total no. of villages	% of villages cultivating opim poppy
		No	Yes		
Central	No	89	5	94	5%
	Yes	7	1	8	13%
East	No	28	32	60	53%
	Yes	7	7	14	50%
North-East	No	11	8	19	42%
	Yes	10	15	25	60%
North	No	23	15	38	39%
	Yes	41	3	44	7%
South	No	6	99	105	94%
	Yes		4	4	100%
West	No	34	27	61	44%
	Yes	25	6	31	19%

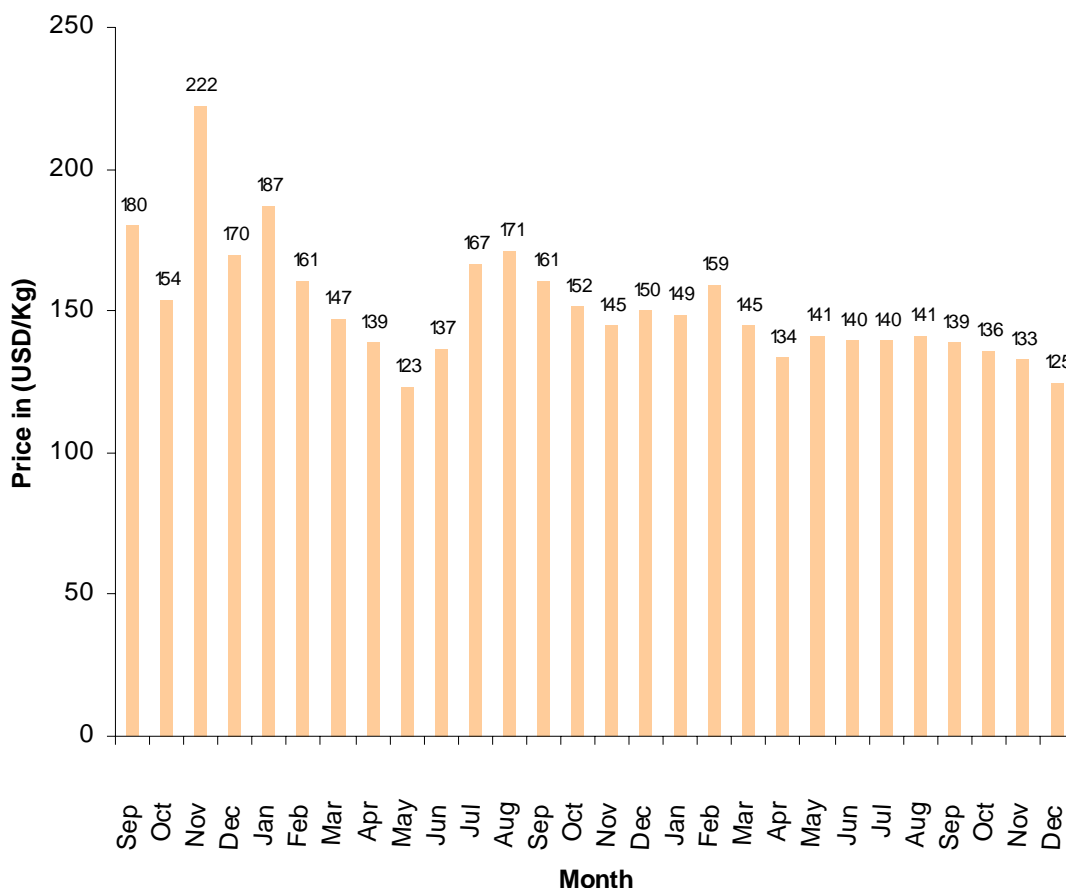
UNODC is verifying Governor-led eradication activities and providing all stakeholders with regular updates on the status of those activities. At the time of drafting this report (15 January 2007), 653 hectares of poppy crops had been eradicated in the Nimroz, Farah, Nangarhar, Laghman and Badakhshan provinces.

1.9. PRICES

In addition to the monthly collection of price information for key provinces, the 2007 ORAS collected price information in all 508 villages surveyed. The average farm-gate prices of dry opium (as at the time of the survey) were in line with the monthly price report. An overview of dry opium prices by province shows that prices are higher in the southern, western and eastern provinces, while generally lower in the northern provinces. Prices are higher in Kabul (province), Khost, Nangarhar and Nimroz owing to the strategic location of these provinces along the trafficking route and/or to strong law enforcement. Overall, opium prices have been conspicuously stable in 2006, and did not decrease as much as one could have expected after the 49% production increase in 2006.

Farmers in Afghanistan usually cultivate crops twice a year in irrigated areas, typically growing maize, rice, vegetables or cotton following the opium poppy or wheat harvest. Some grow cannabis following the first harvest during the summer. None of Afghanistan's agricultural products can currently match per hectare income from opium poppy, which is estimated at USD 4,900.

Figure 1: Average farm-gate prices for dry opium (USD/kg)



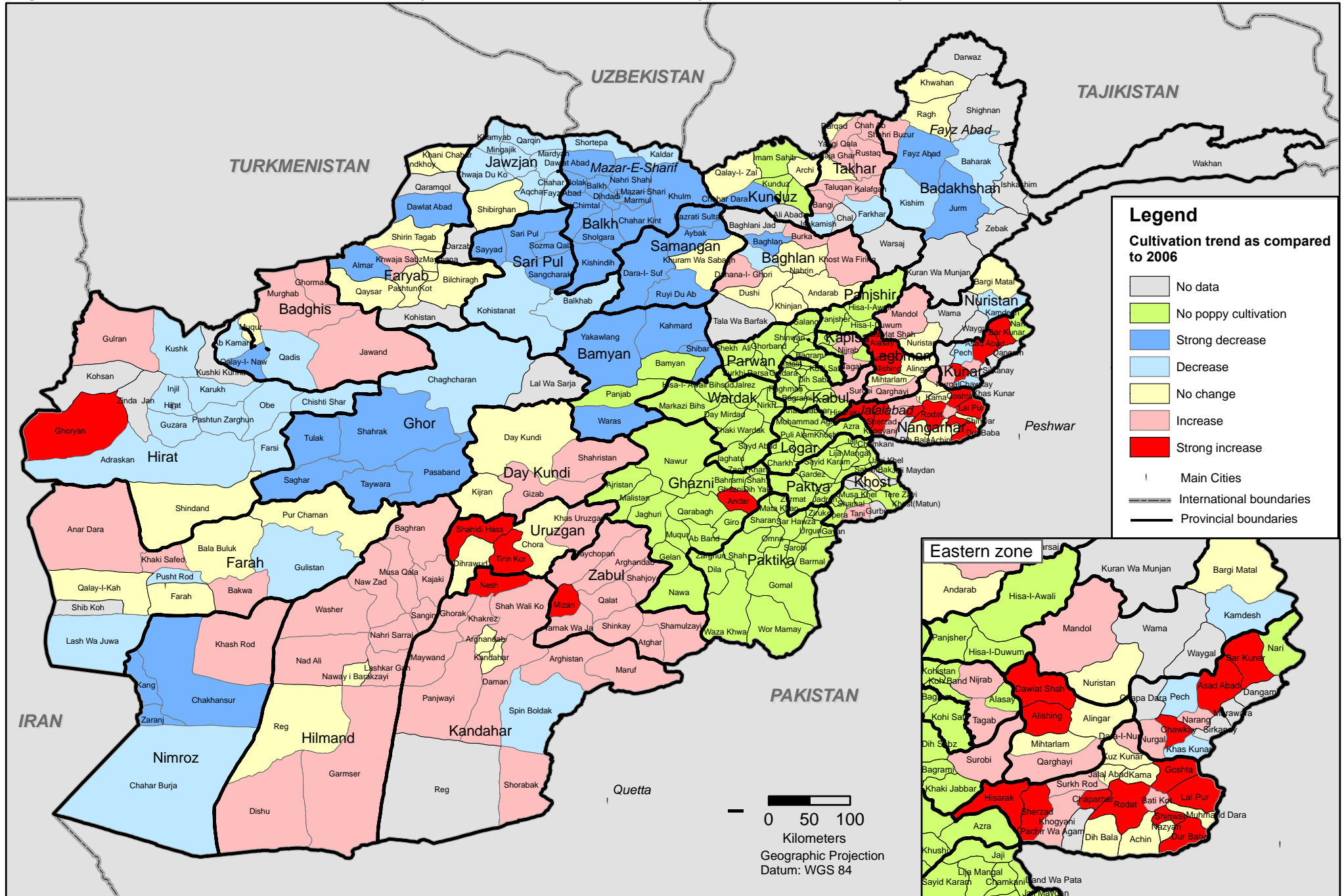
Source: UNODC Monthly Opium Price Report for Afghanistan, December 2006

1.10. CANNABIS CULTIVATION

A greater number of villages are reporting cannabis cultivation than in 2006: of the 508 villages surveyed for the 2007 ORAS, 13 per cent reported cannabis cultivation, whereas the corresponding figure in the 2006 ORAS was only six per cent. Of the villages surveyed, cannabis cultivation was reported in Zabul (74 per cent), Kandahar (62 per cent), Farah (43 per cent), Paktya (33 per cent), Hilmand (29 per cent), Badghis (17 per cent), Logar (17 per cent), Nangarhar (11 per cent), Balkh (11 per cent) and Badakhshan (10 per cent). Small-scale cultivation of cannabis has also been reported in the Takhar, Uruzgan, Baghlan and Hirat provinces.

According to the 2006 Afghanistan Annual Opium Survey, an estimated 50,000 ha of cannabis crops were cultivated in Afghanistan in 2006, as compared to 30,000 ha in 2005. Data obtained from the field indicated a sharp increase in cannabis cultivation in 2006, particularly in the southern provinces and in some areas of Nangarhar and Paktya. Cannabis cultivation in Afghanistan is expected to increase in 2007.

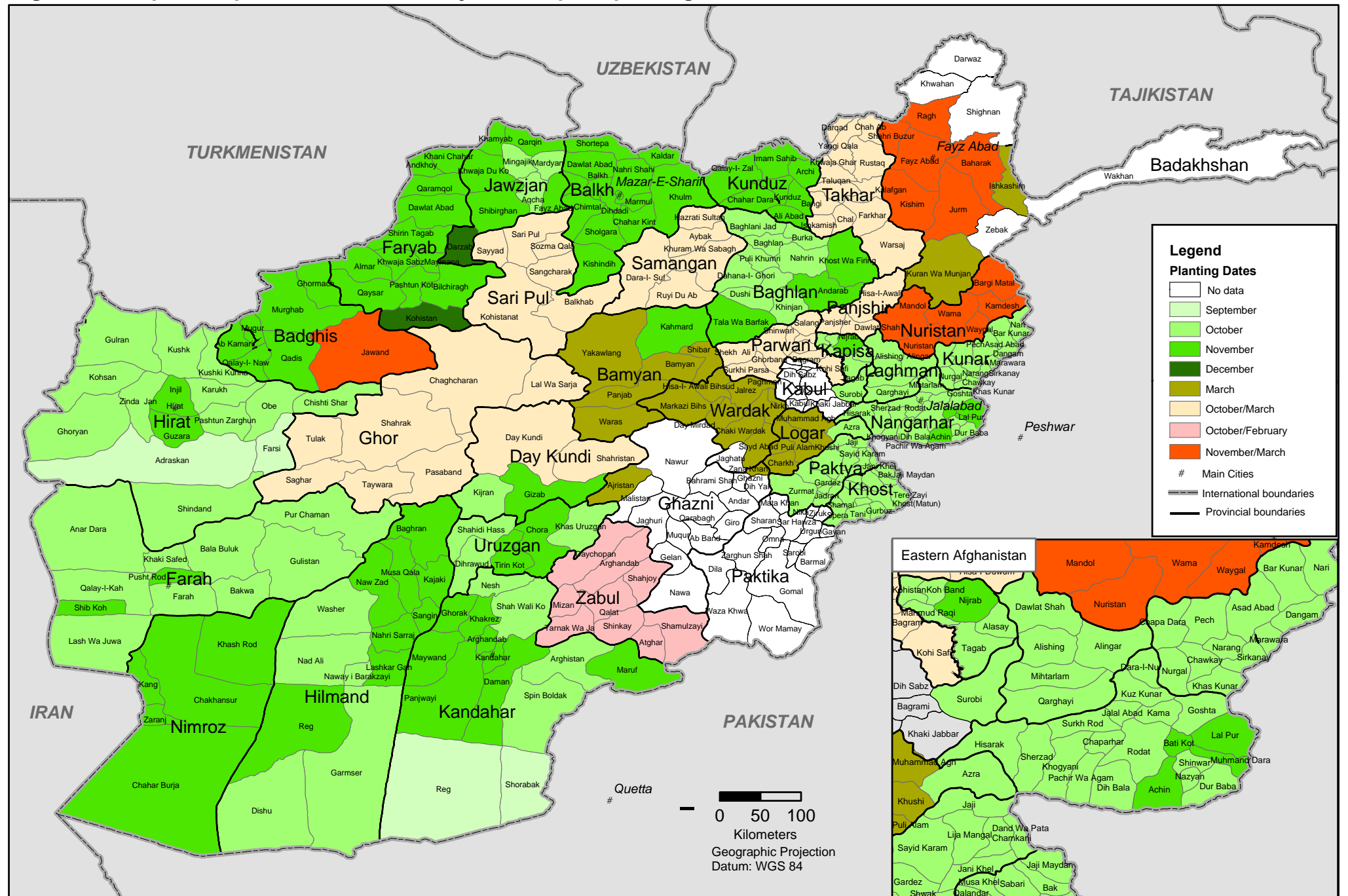
Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007: Expected opium poppy cultivation trends (by district)



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007 (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html)

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

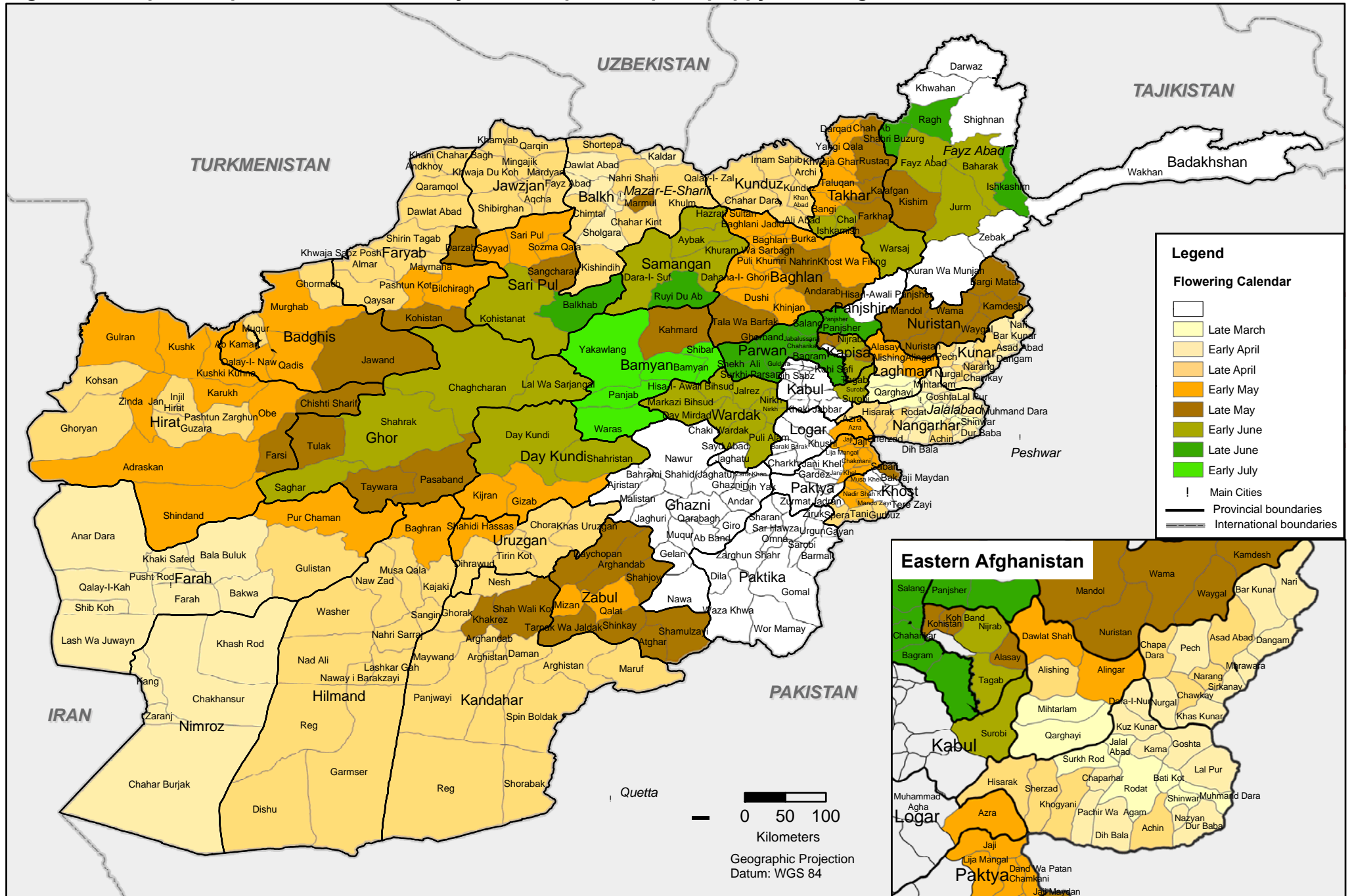
Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007: Opium planting calendar



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007 (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html)

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

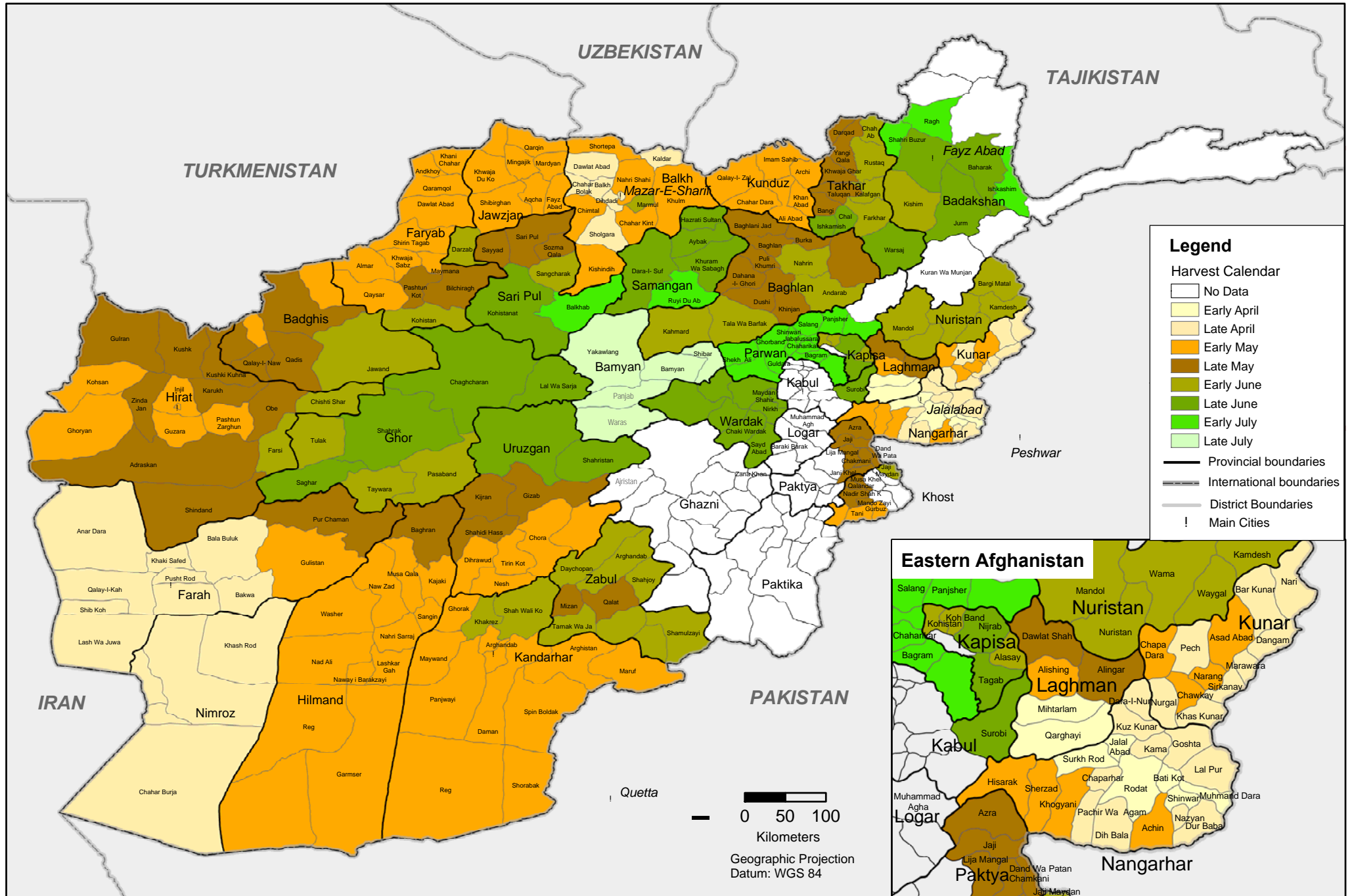
Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007: Expected opium poppy flowering time



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007 (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html)

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

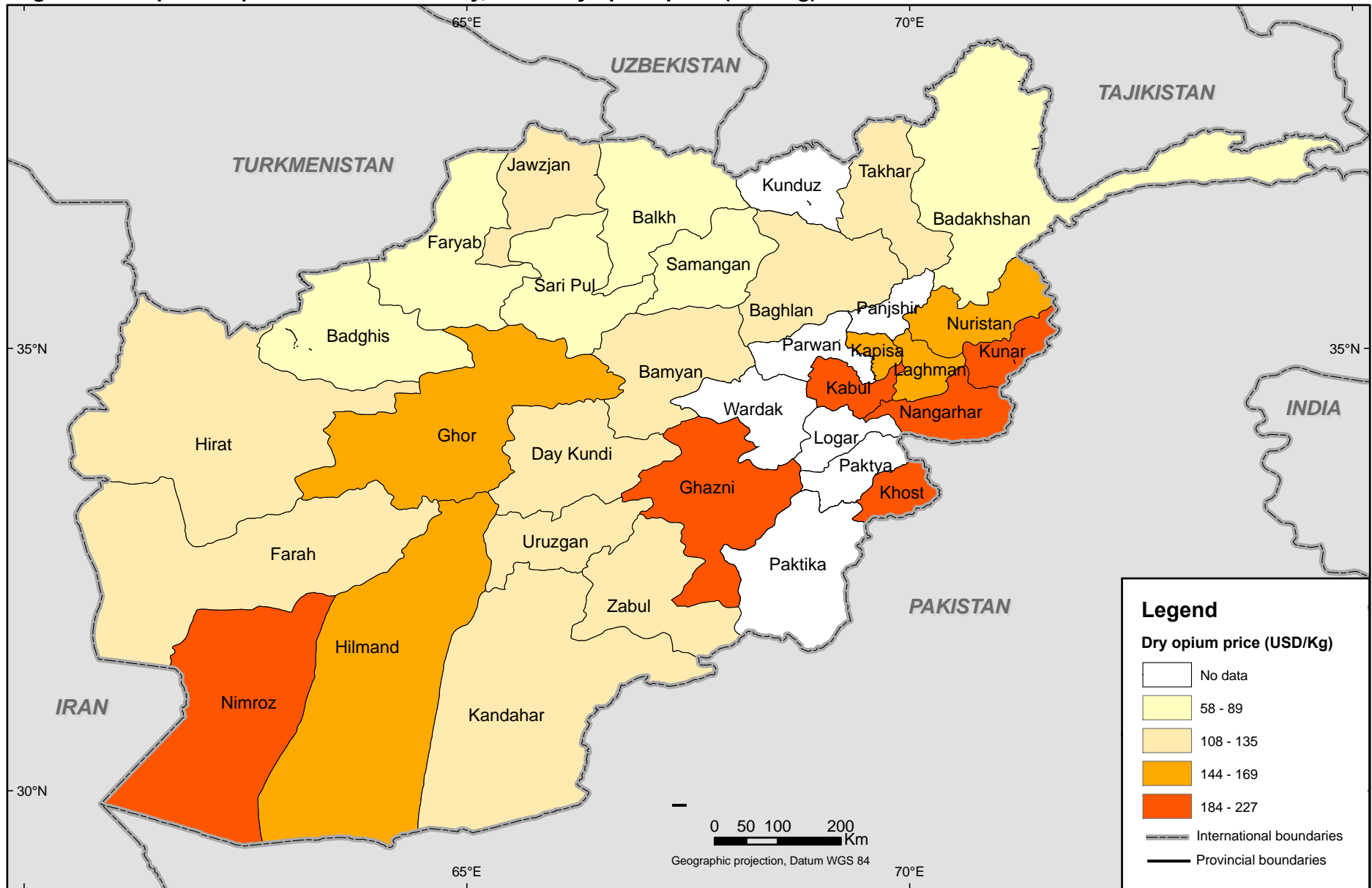
Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007: Expected opium poppy harvest time



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007 (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html)

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

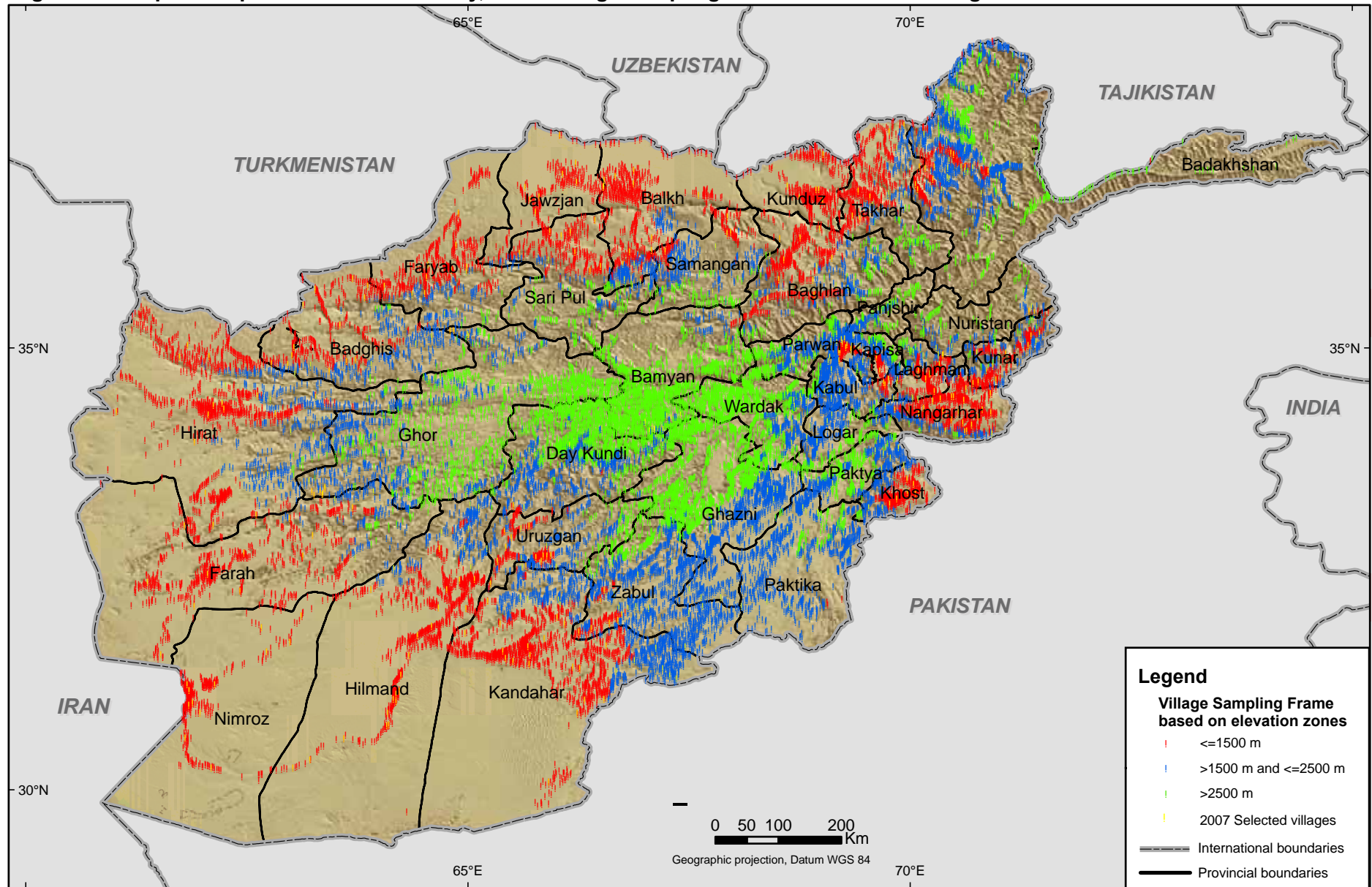
Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007: Dry opium price (USD/Kg)



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

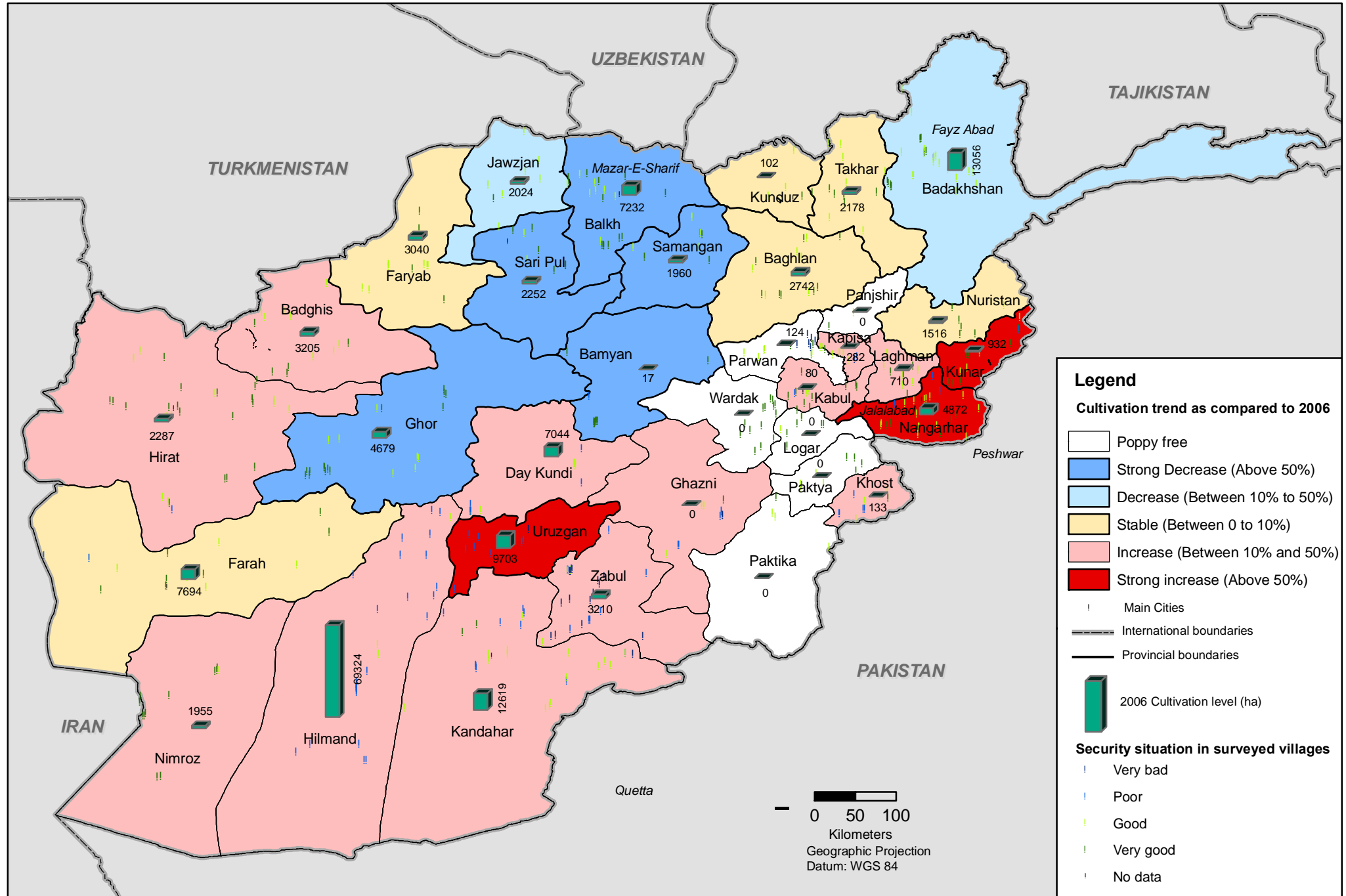
Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007: Village sampling frame and selected villages



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007: Expected opium poppy cultivation trends (by province) and security situation in surveyed villages



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, 2007 (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html)
 Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

2. FINDINGS BY PROVINCE

NORTH-EASTERN REGION

BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE

Cultivation

Interviews with village headmen indicated that cultivation levels in 2007 may decrease sharply as a result of early eradication efforts and campaigns against opium poppy cultivation. In 2006, opium poppy cultivation in Badakhshan increased by 77 per cent. The Dareem and Argo valleys and the Faizabad, Jurm, Kishm and Baharak districts are the main opium poppy cultivation areas in Badakhshan.

Eradication

Governor-led eradication began in the Argo, Baharak, Darayim, Jurm and Kishim district of Badakhshan on 12 November 2006. A total of 502 ha of crops are verified to have been eradicated in 50 villages.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	13 056
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Decrease
Cultivation level	High
Eradication reported	Yes
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	End of June
Security situation	Very good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	85



Opium poppy cultivation in Badakhshan province



Opium poppy eradication in Badakhshan province

TAKHAR PROVINCE

Cultivation

Respondents reported no change in opium poppy cultivation in all districts in 2007. Takhar lies on a major trafficking route to Tajikistan (via the Chah Ab, Yangi Qala, Darqad and Rustaq districts).

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	2 178
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	No change
Cultivation level	Low
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	Mid-June
Security situation	Very good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	117

EASTERN REGION

NANGARHAR PROVINCE

Cultivation

A sharp increase in cultivation was reported in Nangarhar province in 2007, following an increase of 346 per cent in 2006 as compared to 2005. The highest levels of cultivation were reported in districts close to the border with Pakistan and far from the centre of the province, such as Shinwar, Achin and Nazyana, which resumed opium cultivation in 2006. Opium poppy cultivation now appears to be extending towards the centre of the province.

Eradication

Eradication activities have been reported in the Jalalabad, Khogyani and Khash Rod districts. A total of 37 ha of crops were verified as having been eradicated by mid-January 2007

Opium Poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	4 872
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Sharp increase
Cultivation level	High
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-April
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	191



Eradicated opium poppy field in Shinwar district of Nangarhar province



Eradicated opium poppy field in Achin district of Nangarhar province

KUNAR PROVINCE

Cultivation

Respondents reported a sharp increase in cultivation in 2007. An increasing trend in poppy cultivation was also observed in 2006. Asad Abad, Chakay and Pech were the main cultivation areas in 2006.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	932
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Sharp increase
Cultivation level	Moderate
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-April
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	184

LAGHMAN PROVINCE

Cultivation

Opium poppy cultivation in Laghman province is expected to increase in 2007, as in 2006, particularly in remote districts such as Alingar and Dawlat Shah.

Eradication

Eradication has been reported in the Dawlat Shah and Alishing districts. A total of 45 ha of crops were verified as having been eradicated by mid-January 2007.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	710
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Increase
Cultivation level	Moderate
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Beginning of April
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	169

NURISTAN PROVINCE

Cultivation

Cultivation is expected to remain at the same levels in 2007 as in 2006. Nuristan is located at a high elevation, and most planting will begin in mid-March.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	1 516
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	No change
Cultivation level	Low
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Beginning of April
Security situation	Very good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	160

Four of the 11 villages in Nuristan that were visited during the ORAS reported poppy cultivation in 2007.

NORTHERN REGION

BAGHLAN PROVINCE

Cultivation

Cultivation in Baghlan province increased considerably in 2006 (as compared to 2005), and the same level of cultivation is expected in 2007. Opium poppy cultivation has been reported in all districts of Baghlan, but particularly in Andarab and Khost Wa Firing.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	2 742
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	No change
Cultivation level	Moderate
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	End of May to mid-June
Security situation	Very good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	108

BAMYAN PROVINCE

Cultivation

The majority of farmers in Bamyan province prefer not to cultivate opium poppy. Cultivation is therefore expected to fall sharply in 2007, and the province may even become poppy-free.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	17
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Sharp decrease
Cultivation level	Very low
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late July
Security situation	Very good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	125

BALKH PROVINCE

Cultivation

Opium poppy cultivation decreased sharply in Balkh province from 2005 to 2006. According to ORAS results, cultivation levels will again fall steeply in 2007. This trend may be attributable to successful awareness campaigns against poppy cultivation conducted before the planting season.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	7 232
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Sharp decrease
Cultivation level	Moderate
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	End of April
Security situation	Very good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	58



Opium poppy at planting stage in Balkh province



Wheat in Balkh province

FARYAB PROVINCE

Cultivation

An increase in cultivation was reported from 2005 to 2006. ORAS results suggest that opium poppy cultivation will remain at the same level in 2007.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	3 040
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	No change
Cultivation level	Moderate
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-May
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	71

KUNDUZ PROVINCE

Cultivation

Kunduz province is neither a major nor a traditional opium poppy-growing region. In 2006, cultivation levels fell steeply . No change is expected in 2007.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	102
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	No change
Cultivation level	Very low
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-May
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	N/A

JAWZJAN PROVINCECultivation

Jawzjan province was not a significant opium poppy-growing area until 2002. Since then, however, cultivation has increased sharply. In 2006, a reported 2,003 ha of poppy crops were cultivated. However, ORAS results suggest that cultivation will decrease in 2007.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	2 024
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Decrease
Cultivation level	Moderate
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Late May
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	N/A

SAMANGAN PROVINCECultivation

The ORAS suggests that cultivation will decline sharply in 2007. However, since planting takes place mainly during March, farmers may yet decide to cultivate opium poppy.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	1 960
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Sharp decrease
Cultivation level	Low
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	End of July
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	N/A

SARI PUL PROVINCE

Cultivation

Opium poppy cultivation is expected to decrease sharply in Sari Pul province in 2007. However, while few farmers plant opium poppy as late as March, good water availability may encourage them to do so.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	2 252
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Sharp decrease
Cultivation level	Low
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late June
Security situation	Very good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	66

CENTRAL REGION

HAZNI PROVINCE

Cultivation

In 2006, Ghazni was poppy-free. However, an increase in cultivation was observed in the Andar district during the 2007 ORAS.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	0
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Increase
Cultivation level	Very low
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late July
Security situation	Poor
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	N/A

KHOST PROVINCE

Cultivation

In 2006, a slight increase in cultivation was observed. ORAS results suggest an increase in 2007, particularly in the Tani district.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	133
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Increase
Cultivation level	Very low
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late May
Security situation	Poor
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	227

LOGAR PROVINCE

Cultivation

The vast majority of villages in Logar province do not cultivate opium poppy. This trend is not expected to change in 2007.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	0
Type of cultivation	Irrigated/rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Spring/autumn
Expected main harvest time	May/June
Security situation	Very good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	N/A

PAKTIKA PROVINCE

Cultivation

Paktika province was poppy-free in 2006; the same trend is expected in 2007.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	0
Type of cultivation	Irrigated/rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	June
Security situation	Poor
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	N/A

PAKTYA PROVINCECultivation

Paktya province was poppy-free in 2006; the same trend is expected in 2007.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	0
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	June
Security situation	Poor
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	N/A

PARWAN PROVINCECultivation

No opium poppy cultivation was observed in the villages visited, and the province may become poppy-free in 2007. Opium poppy cultivation was reported for the first time in the province in 2004 (1,310 ha). Cultivation was negligible in 2005, and only 124 ha of poppy were cultivated in 2006.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	124
Type of cultivation	Irrigated/rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late June
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	N/A

KAPISA PROVINCE

Cultivation

Although Kapisa is not a major opium poppy-growing province, cultivation is expected to increase in 2007. In 2006, cultivation increased to 282 ha, as compared to 115 ha in 2005.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	282
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Increase
Cultivation level	Very low
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	Late May/ early July
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	167

WARDAK PROVINCE

Cultivation

Wardak was poppy-free in 2006, and is expected to remain so in 2007.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	0
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	Late May/early July
Security situation	Very good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	N/A

SOUTHERN REGION

KANDAHAR PROVINCE

Cultivation

Cultivation levels remained unchanged at around 12,500 ha in 2005 and 2006. Cultivation is expected to increase in all districts except Kandahar and Spinboldak in 2007. .

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	12 619
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Increase
Cultivation level	High
Eradication reported	Yes
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Beginning of May
Security situation	Poor
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	135

Ninety-three per cent of the villages in Kandahar that were visited during the ORAS reported poppy cultivation in 2007.

HILMAND PROVINCE

Cultivation

A steep increase in opium poppy cultivation was observed in Hilmand in 2006. Hilmand accounted for 42 per cent of the total opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, and cultivation levels here were higher than in any other province. ORAS results indicate a further increase in cultivation in 2007. Hilmand is also the most significant province in terms of heroin processing and trafficking.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	69 324
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Increase
Cultivation level	Very high
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Beginning of May
Security situation	Poor
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	144

All of the villages in Hilmand that were visited during the ORAS reported poppy cultivation in 2007.



Opium poppy in Hilmand province



Wheat in Hilmand province

URUZGAN PROVINCE

Cultivation

Uruzgan is one of Afghanistan's major traditional opium poppy-growing provinces. Cultivation increased from 4,605 ha in 2005 to 9,703 ha in 2006. The ORAS results indicate a further sharp increase in opium poppy cultivation in 2007.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	9 703
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Sharp increase
Cultivation level	High
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-May
Security situation	Poor
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	127

Eighty-eight per cent of the villages in Uruzgan that were visited during the ORAS reported poppy cultivation in 2007.

ZABUL PROVINCE

Cultivation

The ORAS predicts an increase in cultivation in all districts of Zabul province in 2007. An increasing trend in poppy cultivation has been observed since 2005. Zabul province is one of the poorest regions of Afghanistan, and a high level of migration from the province to other areas of Afghanistan has been reported.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	3 210
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Increase
Cultivation level	Moderate
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-May
Security situation	Very bad
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	128

All villages in Zabul that were visited during the ORAS reported opium poppy cultivation in 2007.

WESTERN REGION

HIRAT PROVINCE

Cultivation

Respondents expect cultivation to increase slightly in 2007, particularly in the Ghoryan district. Hirat was not a major opium poppy-growing province until 2003. Cultivation levels have remained unchanged at around 2,000 ha since 2004.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	2 287
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Increase
Cultivation level	Low
Eradication reported	Yes
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	Late May/late June
Security situation	116
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	Very good

FARAH PROVINCE

Cultivation

Cultivation in Farah decreased sharply from to 2005 to 2006. Respondents expect cultivation levels to remain unchanged in 2007. Since 2004, poppy has been cultivated in all districts of the province.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	7 694
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	No change
Cultivation level	High
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Early May
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	124

NIMROZ PROVINCE

Cultivation

Cultivation is expected to increase in 2007. The year 2005 marked a record increase in cultivation from 115 ha to 1,690 ha, and a further increase was observed in 2006. Nimroz lies at Afghanistan's borders with Iran and Pakistan, and is therefore one of the major trafficking provinces for the export of Afghani opium.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	1 955
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Increase
Cultivation level	Moderate
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-April
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	186

GHOR PROVINCE

Cultivation

ORAS results indicate a strong decrease in cultivation in Ghor province. This decrease may be attributable to crop disease in 2006, low prices for opium and fear of eradication. Owing to difficult terrain and harsh conditions, agriculture in Ghor province is limited to very narrow valleys. Ghor is one of the main opium-trafficking provinces.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	4 679
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Sharp decrease
Cultivation level	Moderate
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late June
Security situation	Very good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	150

BADGHIS PROVINCE

Cultivation

ORAS results suggest an increase in opium poppy cultivation in 2007. Cultivation levels have risen since 2005, following a sudden increase of 383 per cent (2,967 ha) as compared to 2004.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2006 (hectares)	3 205
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trend in 2006-2007	Increase
Cultivation level	
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Mid-June
Security situation	Very good
Dry opium price (USD/KG)	89

Fifty-six per cent of the villages in Badghis visited during the ORAS reported opium poppy cultivation in 2007.

3. METHODOLOGY

The Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey, including training and deployment, was conducted from 10 December 2006 to 18 January 2007 by 78 local field surveyors. It was jointly supervised by the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics (MCN) and UNODC. The surveyors were selected on the basis of their experience in conducting opium poppy surveys, knowledge of local customs and their acceptance by local communities.

Sampling framework

The surveyors conducted structured interviews with the headmen of selected villages in each district. A total of 508 villages in 236 districts were surveyed across all provinces.

Opium poppy cultivation is most successful at altitudes below 1,500 m, where it is significantly more widespread than in areas of higher elevation; opium poppy cultivation above 2,500 m is comparatively rare. In view of the uneven distribution of opium poppy cultivation at different elevations, a stratified sampling method was used to select the sample villages. The villages in the sampling frame were divided into three groups (strata) according to their elevation:

- Group 1: Villages located at an elevation of less than 1,500 m
- Group 2: Villages located at elevations between 1,500 m and 2,500 m
- Group 3: Villages located at an elevation of more than 2,500 m

Villages were selected from each group using a systematic random selection technique. The total sampling ratio was 1.65 per cent. The design and size of the sample facilitate the establishment of cultivation trends; the sample is not designed for calculating quantitative areas or production estimates. In addition to the sample villages, the surveyors, using their knowledge of the local situation, visited other areas in the province to complement their assessment both of opium poppy cultivation trends and the security situation throughout the province.

Surveyor training

Until 2006, all surveyors were provided with ORAS training in Kabul. In order to prepare for the 2007 ORAS, and as part of a capacity-building exercise for national staff, survey coordinators, coordinators of individual provinces and regional survey assistants were trained in Kabul over a four-day period. They in turn trained surveyors in their respective regions. The extension of survey training sessions to the regional level is one of the milestones that has been reached in building national capacity to conduct opium poppy surveys.

During the training period, a total of 78 surveyors and nine survey coordinators were trained in the use of the survey form and survey techniques by local UNODC staff in the southern, central, eastern, western, north-eastern and northern regions.

Data collection

Opium poppy cultivation is illegal in Afghanistan, and is considered to be forbidden under Islam. Given the sensitive nature of the issue, data collection is difficult and can be dangerous. Surveyors are selected from different regions of

Afghanistan through a very careful selection process. UNODC and MCN regional offices and coordinators recruit surveyors according to survey specifications and the surveyors' skills. Most of the surveyors selected already have experience in conducting UNODC surveys.

Surveyors were trained in techniques for approaching local community members and conducting interviews. Following intensive theoretical and practical training, they were deployed to the field, where they interviewed headmen of villages and conducted other survey-related activities. UNODC and MCN coordinators monitored data quality and the progress of the survey closely. Fortunately, the surveyors did not encounter any security problems.



ORAS training in Hirat province



Surveyor interviewing village headman in Nangarhar province

Debriefing

At the end of the survey, surveyors were debriefed by survey coordinators, reporting on their findings in the areas they had visited and providing an assessment, inter alia, of various factors thought to influence opium poppy cultivation, the security situation, pressure from the Government concerning survey reports, difficulties encountered in conducting the survey, the level of control exercised by Governors over their respective provinces, the presence of anti-government elements with a resulting impact on opium poppy cultivation, corruption, levels of opium poppy and cannabis cultivation. Debriefing facilitates a greater understanding of opium poppy cultivation and the socio-political and other factors that determine cultivation trends, and provides useful guidance in analysing survey data.