

BEST ESTIMATES PROVINCIAL FACT SHEET 4

BALKH

When compared with indicators from all 32 provinces in Afghanistan from which similar data is available

Balkh ranks 16th overall.

It ranks amongst the best five provinces for both overall and girls' primary school, and amongst the best fifteen provinces for under-5 mortality rates and maternal mortality ratios.

When compared to the mean of the world's Least Developed Countries

Balkh is 36 per cent worse off.



Key indicators

Children

Under-18 population	678,000
Under-5 population	216,000
Annual number of births	54,027
Under-5 mortality rate	230
Deaths of under-5's per year	12,426

Women

Women of child-bearing age	252,000
Maternal mortality ratio	1,800
Maternal deaths per year	972

Education

Net primary school attendance	71.8%
Net primary school girls' attendance	61.1%
Primary school age children out of school	66,000
Female literacy rate	12%
Number of illiterate women	245,000

Child health and nutrition

Polio vaccination coverage	51%
DPT vaccination coverage	24.5%
Measles vaccination coverage	72.3%
Households consuming iodised salt	0.6%
Children 1-4 years with at least one form of disability	4%

Maternal health

Births attended by skilled birth attendant	7.6%
Births delivered at home	96%
Expectant mothers receiving ante-natal care	7.9%

Water and sanitation

Population using safe water source	39.5%
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Threats to childhood

Women 20-24 married before age of 18	46.3%
Children 5-15 years involved in child labour	31.7%
Children under-5 with births registered	2,808

Based on the indicators above, amongst others,

it is recommended that in addition to continuing the successes made in the province, investment is also prioritised in Balkh to:

- ◆ **Tackle serious abuses of child rights including early marriage and child labour;**
- ◆ **Actively promote the use of iodised salt to help reduce risks of physical stunting, intellectual impairment and brain damage amongst new born children;**
- ◆ **Provide quality obstetric care services closer to women's homes to reduce number of maternal deaths.**