

BEST ESTIMATES PROVINCIAL FACT SHEET 10

HELMAND

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

Helmand ranks 13th overall.

It has the lowest overall primary school attendance and is amongst the five worst provinces for girls' primary school attendance.

Helmand ranks amongst the ten worst provinces for under-5 mortality rates and is about average for maternal mortality ratios.

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

Helmand is 40 per cent worse off.



Key indicators

Children

Under-18 population	463,000
Under-5 population	149,000
Annual number of births	37,321
Under-5 mortality rate	190
Deaths of under-5's per year	7,091

Women

Women of child-bearing age	172,000
Maternal mortality ratio	1,800
Maternal deaths per year	672

Education

Net primary school attendance	18.6%
Net primary school girls' attendance	10%
Primary school age children out of school	131,000
Female literacy rate	4%
Number of illiterate women	182,000

Child health and nutrition

Polio vaccination coverage	16.2%
DPT vaccination coverage	3.9%
Measles vaccination coverage	86.1%
Households consuming iodised salt	56.9%
Children 1-4 years with at least one form of disability	1.1%

Maternal health

Births attended by skilled birth attendant	1.6%
Births delivered at home	98%
Expectant mothers receiving ante-natal care	5.6%

Water and sanitation

Population using safe water source	66.7%
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Threats to childhood

Women 20-24 married before age of 18	29.6%
Children 5-15 years involved in child labour	29.7%
Children under-5 with births registered	2,533

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 Helmand to:

- ◆ **Substantially increase access to education, and encourage families to send all their children to school;**
- ◆ **Improve availability and usage of maternal health services, closer to women's homes;**
- ◆ **Increase women's literacy levels.**