



**UNHCR Sub-Office Central Region
DISTRICT PROFILE**

DATE: 06/07/2002

PROVINCE:	Wardak	Geo-Code: 04
DISTRICT:	Nirkh	Geo-Code: 408
Population 1990:	Settled; 32,925	

CURRENT ESTIMATED POPULATION

Total	Returned IDPs	Recent Returnees	IDPs	Children under 12	Female Households
57,000 ind.	30 F	50 F	60 F		

ETHNIC COMPOSITION: About 80% Pashtun , 15%Tajik and 5 %Hazara

EXPECTED RETURNING PULATION 2002

IDPS	RETURNNEES
60 F	250-400 F

AUTHORITY

Head Of District:	Mr. Mohd Shafiq, has been appointed by the people of this district five months ago, as the head of the district because of his being influential among the people.
Other Information:	<p>District Shura Head : Haji Saleh Mohammad Composition: 18 members,</p> <p>Police Head of Police: Mr. Mohammad Ajan Composition: 45 members (Police & Administrative) Police Stations: Pule-e-Surkh of Shahbuddin village, Head of Police Station: Mr. Abdul Malik, Composition: 25 members (Police & Administrative)</p> <p>Court Location: Bazi Khil village Judges: Mr. Mohammad Sediq</p>

GENERAL SITUATION

Nirkh District is situated in the western part of Wardak province. The altitude from the sea level is 2200 meters and covers 480 Square Km. It's distance from provincial capital (Miadan Shahr) is 20 Km and from Kabul 70 Km, one and half hours drive from Kabul. Centre of the district is called Bazi Khil village. The district is surrounded by Jalriz, Maidan Shar, Dai Mirdad, Said Abad and Chak. The district consists of 5 main valleys (Dadal, Sad Marda, Tokarak, Lalandar and Shah Buddin Khail) and has around 120 villages.

Main villages: Sad Marda, Cheen Zae, Umar Khil, Tokarak, Akhcha, Dadal, Khan Jan Khil, Karim Dad, Deh Hayat, Khane Ezzat, Deh Hindo (now changed to Deh Muslim), Shah Kabul Kalan, Shah Kabul Khord, Durani, Ander, Badam, Chaghar, Awal khi.

Umar Khail is the only village that has Tajik and Hazara ethnic groups. The rest of the villages are Pashtuns.

Nirkh District is famous because of agricultural efforts of defunct Dr. Wakil, Minister of Agriculture. During President Mohammad Daud, Dr. Wakil changed this district into a beautiful garden and planted a lot of fruit trees. As the area has been affected severely by drought and million of trees dried up.

Some part of the district has been destroyed during the fighting, and some others because of an earthquake happened in 1999, which caused destruction of houses, sources of water like Karez, wells and springs.

The security situation has reported to be normal.

SECTORAL INFORMATION

SHELTER:	Percentage and the number of houses destroyed:	15% or 800 houses in all part of district.
	Housing Situation of Returning Population :	Most returnees are living with their relatives until they complete the re-construction of their own houses.

SECTORAL INFORMATION		
	<p>Comments: Majority of the houses (600) have been destroyed during the Russian (bombardment) and Mojahiddin fighting from 1979 to 1988 in three main villages (Karim dad, Omar khial, and Dadal) and around 200 houses in Deh Hayat village, due to earthquake that happened on 1999.</p> <p>UNHCR through ASA, CARE International and FOCUS had provided some shelter assistance during the last years to needy returnees and IDP families.</p> <p>The houses are of traditional design: built of mud-bricks. Shelter material like mud, stone, sand and wood are available locally.</p>	
WATER:	Type of Potable Water Sources and the Distance:	Karizes, Springs and Wells. 1 to 2 Km.
	Availability of Potable water (%):	40% in Sad Marda, Deh Kherqa and Naseem Khile. 20% in Karim dad, Omer Khail and Deh Hayat.
	Sanitation and Drainage:	Local system of septic tanks. Reported routine maintenance and emptying methods raise some health –related concerns.
	<p>Comments: Umarkhile, Dadal, Deh-hayat, Karimdad, Durani and Kani Ezat villages have been severely affected by drought.</p> <p>ARC started digging of 30 deep wells since March 2002 in Sad Marda, Chen Zai, Karim Dad, Omar Khail and Shah Kabul and so far 16 deep wells in Sad Marda and 4 in Chen Zai have been completed. The project is funded by Canada Fund.</p> <p>DACAAR started working on deepening of 60 wells in Akhchi, Khwaja Beland, Kosa Choqorak, funded by UNHCR. So far 2 wells in Kosa Chokurak, 1 in Khwaja Beland and 1 in Akhchi have been completed out of 60 wells. Beneficiaries of each deep well are 25 to 30 families.</p> <p>* In many villages like Deh Hayat and Karim Dad the tube wells that have been dug by rich people of the area are salty and the water is not safe for drinking and irrigation.</p> <p>Priority requirements for potable water is digging of deep or shallow wells in Durani, Deh Hayat, Karim Dad, Kane Ezat, and Shah Kabul Kalan that are the most affected area by drought. The shallow wells that exist in these villages are dried up, people are digging the wells but after one or two weeks the level of water goes down.</p>	
AGRICULTURE:	Main crops:	Wheat, maze and Corn
	Current Land Condition:	50% of the lands are cultivated wheat and corn, and 10% poppies. In average each family owns from 1 to 3 Jeribs of land.
	Existing Irrigation schemes:	50% Karezes, 20% Springs and 30%Tube wells.
	Agri/tool Banks:	Locally made tools oxen and Tractors.
	Animal Husbandry	Cows ,sheep ,goats and poultry

SECTORAL INFORMATION					
		<p>Comments : Agriculture was the main source of income for the people of Nirkh district, but due to drought, most of the people have lost their gardens and lands. However, some aid agencies have been working in this sector and provided some improved seeds for the farmers, but still such assistance can not solve the problem of the people, therefore, they preferred to cultivate poppy.</p> <p>Around 100 Jeribs of land have been cultivated by poppy in Shahbuddin Khail village. In order to demolish the cultivated poppy, the farmers will receive an amount of USD 300 per jireb as they were promised by UNDCP.</p> <p>Those farmers who have dug deep wells inside the villages are selling the water to other people. The cost of water from a water pump per hour is 80,000 to 100,000 Afs.</p> <p>The first priority for irrigation and potable water is construction of reservoir dam in Sad Marda village, which will cover 70% of Nirkh villages.</p>			
INCOME GENERATION:	Main sources of Income:	Agriculture, animal husbandry, trade and other business	% of no income in the district	15% has no income in the district.	
	<p>Comments: Since 1997, about 20% of youths from the villages have left the area for Pakistan and Iran to secure some income for their families in Afghanistan.</p> <p>Children are involved mainly in farming by 40%, trade and commerce by 10% at the district. Women are involved in farming by 30% mainly in Shahbuddin Khail village.</p>				
HEALTH:	Health Centre:	Types	Currently functioning	Before 1998	
		No. of Clinic:	4	1	
		No. of Mobile Clinic:	1	0	
		No. of Hospital:	1	0	
	Nurses and Mid-wives	4	0		
<p>Comments: The entire population at the district has problem of health care. There is only one hospital with a few beds, and there is no enough medicine, medical equipment or professional doctors. SCA supplying medicines for the hospital once a year and also paying salary for 1 doctor, 2 health workers, 1 cook and 2 guards. There is no female doctor at the hospital. On daily basis the hospital is receiving 60-70 patients. People have to walk 2 to 2 ½ hours to bring their patient to the hospital or health clinics.</p> <p>The health clinics are supported by IMC (3 clinics) and SCA (1 clinic) by providing medicines and salary for the doctors. IMC supplies medicine for emergency service of the clinics and SCA supplies medicine for the clinic once a year. The people are suffering from diarrhoea, malnutrition, typhoid and malaria sicknesses.</p>					
EDUCATION:	Education Centre:	Types	Currently functioning	Before 1998	
		No. of high School:	2		
		No. of Primary School:	34 (6 gov.), (25 CARE) (3 SCA)		
		No. of Home Base Sch:	0		
	Teacher:	Female:	38	Pupils:	Girls:
Male:	131	Boys:	6,282		
Literacy Rate %:	70%				

SECTORAL INFORMATION																	
	<p>Comments: The district school system continued to function normally throughout various regimes. Out of 31 primary schools, only 6 of them are public and run by the government. The mentioned public schools have no building and the students are studying under the trees in the open area. There is no educational material at all, no enough teachers, salary for them and stationery for students.</p> <p>The 25 primary schools (boys and girls) that CARE International runs are inside the mosques and private houses. CARE International supplies only educational material for the students. The villagers pay salary for the teachers. According to CARE International educational policy, the students will complete six years of normal educational programme within four years without having leave during the winter.</p> <p>SCA is supporting two girls' primary schools and 1 mixed (boys & girls) primary school in Shahbuddin Khail and Deh Muslim villages by providing basic educational material and salary for the teachers.</p>																
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PROTECTION																	
Population Movement:	As we discussed with the local population, the refugee and IDP families were waiting for the result of Loya Jirga in Kabul. Their houses have been destroyed, but they prefer to return to their places of origin, because they are living in a very bad condition in Iran and Pakistan. So far 50 IDP families have returned back to their villages.																
Minority Issue:	NTR																
Land Ownership:	NTR																
House Occupation:	NTR																
Others:																	
NGOs Working in the District																	
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Other Comments (Accessibility etc)																	
Travel Information																	
Overnight accommodation:	Can stay with NGOs (DACAAR , ARC and Solidarities)																
Distance:	One and Half hour drive from Kabul																
Road security:	Safe																
Accessibility:	Accessible during the winter																

Signature of the responsible researcher: