



**UNHCR Sub-Office MAZAR-i-SHARIF  
DISTRICT PROFILE**

DATE: 12 September 2002

<b>PROVINCE</b>	Name: Takhar		Geo-Code: 12		
<b>DISTRICT</b>	Name: Baharak		Geo-Code:		
<b>Population in 1990:</b>	Settled : 57003				
<b>CURRENT ESTIMATED POPULATION</b>					
<b>Total</b>	<b>Returned IDPs</b>	<b>Recent Returnees</b>	<b>IDPs</b>	<b>Children Under 12</b>	<b>Female Households</b>
55-80,000	See Below	See below	1,200-1,500	See below	See below
<b>ETHNIC COMPOSITION: 10% Pashtun 2% Hazara 5% Tajik 83% Uzbek % Other:</b>					
<b>EXPECTED RETURNING POPULATION 2002</b>					
<b>IDPS</b>		See below	<b>RETURNEES</b>		See below
<b>AUTHORITY</b>					
<b>Head of District:</b>	Mohammed Tahir Bik Zad (Jamiat Party) coming from a well-known rich local family.				
<b>Other Information:</b>	District of Baharak was established in 1992, but was not working due to conflicts and it only started functioning normally after the events of September 11 <sup>th</sup> . Information, especially regarding population was not readily available and estimates vary widely. Shura does not operate.				
<b>GENERAL SITUATION</b>					
Good in comparison to other districts in Takhar. Economic situation is normal and agriculture is generally good this year. No political problems are reported (although previously the district was factionalised between Dostum and Hekmatyar etc. and there was factional fighting).					
<b>SECTORAL INFORMATION</b>					
<b>SHELTER:</b>	<b>Percentage and Number of Houses Destroyed:</b>		250-300		
	<b>Housing Situation of Returning Population :</b>		Returnees are living under plastic sheeting.		
	<b>Comments:</b> Villages of Mir Ambarko, Arazaw, Qara Kamar completely destroyed by the Taliban. Building materials are readily available, but in rain-fed villages water supply is a problem that prevents building.				
<b>WATER:</b>	<b>Type of Potable Water Sources (and distance):</b>		River canals & some shallow wells.		
	<b>Availability of Potable water (%):</b>				
	<b>Sanitation and Drainage:</b>		Poor, few latrines and traditional system.		
	<b>Comments:</b> Some villages (Shoor Qodug, Gul Mesh, Madan Quchlaq, Shaiman Sai, Khair Abad, Qazal Sai, Haji Ashim, Abdullah, Jar Quchlaq, Shoor Gozar, Rang Quchlaq, Qara Qamar) are 1-2 hours far from the nearest water supply. Head of district has requested digging of new wells and maintenance of existing wells in the area. (SCA previously dug 30, but now only 5 are working). He also requested hygiene training to reduce instance of disease.				
<b>AGRICULTURE:</b>	<b>Main crops:</b>		Wheat, rice, barley & flax.		
	<b>Current Land Condition:</b>		90% of rain-fed land not cultivated this year due to lack of tools and seeds.		
	<b>Existing Irrigation schemes:</b>		60% rain fed, 40% irrigation.		
	<b>Agri/tool Banks:</b>		Locally made tools and animals.		
	<b>Animal Husbandry</b>		No.		

SECTORAL INFORMATION						
	<p><b>Comments:</b> Figures for irrigated land were supplied by the local authorities and may be in -accurate (too low). Prior to war and drought there was animal husbandry, but almost all livestock was lost. Drought in recent years hit the district very hard.</p>					
INCOME GENERATION:	<b>Main Sources of Income:</b>	Farming and labouring (80%)	<b>% of No income in the district</b>	1-2% at present (but see below).		
	<p><b>Comments:</b> Majority of work is seasonal labouring which is affected by outside factors such as drought and war. This year there is wide employment but the situation is not stable.</p>					
HEALTH:	<b>Health Centre:</b>	<b>Types</b>	<b>Currently functioning</b>	<b>Before 1998</b>		
		<b>No. of Clinic:</b>	2	2		
		<b>No. of Mobile Clinic:</b>	0	0		
		<b>No. of Hospital:</b>	1 (70 beds)	1 (70 beds)		
		<b>Nurses and Mid-wives</b>	18	18		
<p><b>Comments:</b> Health Sector is weak in general due to lack of facilities and doctors. There is only one clinic (supported by SCA). There are 15 local medical stores in the district and one laboratory, but no dentist. Common diseases include Malaria, TB &amp; Some mine injuries (2 per month on average). Rabies is widespread (20 cases recorded in one week recently). Aprox. 40% of the population live in remote villages, and there is a need for a mobile clinic to reach them. Other equipment lacking includes a generator, ambulances, and medicine for the clinic (especially for TB).</p>						
EDUCATION:	<b>Education Centre:</b>	<b>Types</b>	<b>Currently functioning</b>	<b>Before 1998</b>		
		<b>No. of High School:</b>	1			
		<b>No. of Primary School:</b>	4			
		<b>No. of Home Based Sch:</b>	0	0		
	<b>Teacher:</b>	<b>Female:</b>	1	<b>Pupils:</b>	<b>Girls:</b>	466
		<b>Male:</b>	71		<b>Boys:</b>	2,447
<b>Literacy Rate %:</b>	10%					
<p><b>Comments:</b> Education facilities are very poor. Lack of teachers (in particular female teachers) is a big problem. 3 schools have no buildings and operate out of UNICEF tents. Several schools have no blackboards, desks &amp; chairs. They are also lacking water and latrines. No NGOs are working in the field of education in the district. The shortage of materials and teachers has led to a decline in the number of students attending school.</p>						
MINE/UXOs:	<b>Existence of mines &amp; UXOs:</b>		Yes			
	<b>Identified priority villages to clear:</b>		Former front-line villages - Qoqin, Aibak, Khairkhana, Khairabad, Ambarku region (Qarabeel, Juma Qala, Jangao, Gharigul).			
	<p><b>Comments:</b> Halo Trust operates in the district, but is focusing on the main roads rather than the villages at the moment. Head of district identified the presence of mines as a big problem in the district - both in villages and on approach routes.</p>					
PROTECTION						
<b>Population Movement:</b>	Almost all IDPs have now returned to Baharak District from neighbouring provinces. Residents of Ambarku villages (aprox 160 houses) are living in neighbouring villages and are unable to return due to presence of landmines. They have no plans to return in the near future.					
<b>Minority Issue:</b>	Some difficulties which Pashtuns are facing regarding land ownership are reported.(see "land ownership").					
<b>Land Ownership:</b>	Some incidents of commanders taking over land (e.g. Commander Pahlawsan Rashid ( Uzbek ) taking lands belonging to Pashtuns)					

SECTORAL INFORMATION	
<b>House Occupation:</b>	None reported
<b>Others:</b>	Presence of guns (not all weapons were collected) and some looting by gunmen, including stealing livestock exist in the district. It should be noted that there is no ethnic dimension in these activities, which are purely criminal.
NGOs Working in the District	
<p>SCA: supporting one clinic, repairing wells that are currently out of order.            ACTED: Road construction project (food for work).            MCI: Food and non-food distribution in the past in destroyed villages in Ambarku area (Mirimbaku, Arazal, Karakhama). No current projects.</p>	
Other Comments (including accessibility)	
<p>Generally road conditions are very bad – in particular the main road from Taloqan to Baharak is very slow (ACTED are currently improving this road through food for work programme).</p>	

**Name of Staff/Agency:**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_