



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

DATE: 10 May 2002

PROVINCE	Name: Faryab	Geo-Code: 18			
DISTRICT	Name: Shirin Tagab	Geo-Code: 1808			
Population in 1990:	Settled: 83,116	Refugees in Pakistan: 1,644			
CURRENT ESTIMATED POPULATION					
Total	Returned IDPs	Recent Returnees	IDPs	Children Under 12	Number of widows
120,000	15,000	2,069	20,000	50,000	
ETHNIC COMPOSITION: 10% Pashtun % Hazara 10% Tajik 80 % Uzbek Others: (Source: head of the district)					
EXPECTED RETURNING POPULATION 2002					
IDPs		18000	RETURNEES		1500
AUTHORITY					
Head of District:	Khal Nazar Hashim Astana (affiliated to Junbish party)				
Other Information:	There is a functional Shura (local parliament) who meets each week and legal issues are mainly discussed. The ethnicity of the head of district is Uzbek ethnic.				
GENERAL SITUATION					
Hashim Astana, Head of District-Military Council (ethnic Uzbek) is known locally for the loss of 52 of his family members under the Taliban Regime. Abuse of Pashtuns occurred as the Taliban left region in the western Shirin Tagab. Eastern Shirin Tagab, dominated by the Astana Valley, is depopulated with the majority of people living in two IDP Camps near Dawlatabad and Khoja Sabz Posh districts along the main road. In the centre of the district there are many work opportunities but there are still economic problems in the villages. The entire district has been affected by draught for the past three years (there are only few cattle left). There are a number of people who accommodate returnees in their houses although the current infrastructure may not be able to accommodate all of the ones who left.					

SECTORAL INFORMATION		
SHELTER:	Percentage and Number of Houses Destroyed:	20% destroyed according to field mission findings.
	Housing Situation of Returning Population :	Pashtuns' houses have been completely destroyed.
	Comments: Houses of returnees in Shourdarya, Jaliaer, Astana Baba, Islam Qala and Faizabad are in bad condition, requiring beams, doors and windows. All shelter material is not available in the district, only from Maimana district.	
WATER:	Type of Potable Water Sources (and distance):	Rain water, pools, springs, river pools and canals. (15km away).
	Availability of Potable water (%):	20% available, according to field mission findings.
	Sanitation and Drainage:	Open defecation in the villages. Latrines are available mainly in the centre of the district but in the villages there are none.
	Comments: The villages of Shourdarya, Astana Baba and Jalaier need deep wells and water reservoirs. Other areas need semi-deep wells. The main problem for the district is the lack of water availability. Rainfall is in March and April and the rest of the months are very difficult, as they do not have rain or any rivers to provide the people with enough water.	

SECTORAL INFORMATION						
AGRICULTURE :	Main crops:		Wheat, Barley, Pea, Millet, Sesame. Source: Local farmers.			
	Current Land Condition:		10% irrigated and 90% rainfed.			
	Existing Irrigation schemes:		River and rain-fed canals.			
	Agri/tool Banks:		Oxen, limited availability.			
	Animal Husbandry:		Goats, sheep, cows and camels.			
	Comments: The farmers need seed fertiliser, agriculture stations, fertiliser, agricultural research farms, campaign against agricultural disasters (locust, sunpest) and animal clinics.					
INCOME GENERATION:	Main Sources of Income:	Agriculture, animal husbandry, gardening and carpet weaving	% Of No income in the district:	90% of the population have no other work beyond agricultural activities.		
	Comments: Carpet weaving manufacturing and resin cleaning factory should be established.					
HEALTH:	Health Centre:	Types	Currently functioning	Before 1998		
		No. of Clinic:	1	1		
		No. of Mobile Clinic:	no	No		
		No. of Hospital:	no	No		
	Nurses and Mid-wives	1 doctor, 2 nurses				
Comments: The clinic centre is in bad condition, the patients have tuberculosis, malaria, diarrhoea and eyesores. There is only one desk and two chairs for the doctors in the clinic. There are six pharmacies in the district.						
EDUCATION	Education Centre:	Types	Currently functioning	Before 1998		
		No. of High School:	1	1		
		No. of Primary School:	9	9		
		No. of Home Based Schools	0	0		
	Teacher:	Female:	9	Pupils:	Girls:	1,100
		Male:	60		Boys:	11,900
	Literacy Rate %:	10%				
Comments: Schools are completely destroyed, only one school in Feyzabad village needs repair. All schools need teaching materials and furnishings. Students have no furniture or school materials, and they sit on the floor.						
MINE/UXOs:	Existence of mines & UXOs:		UXOs exist in the area. Source: Local residents			
	Identified priority villages to clear:		Islam Qala.			
	Comments: Islam Qala area needs to be cleared. One case was reported during the field mission of one man that stepped on a land mine but fortunately survived. When people find the mines they normally throw them inside water wells. No de-mining agencies have gone to the district.					
PROTECTION						

SECTORAL INFORMATION

<p>Population Movement:</p>	<p>Following the departure of the Talibans (14th of September 2001), approx. 800 Pashtun families left Shurdarya Village to Kunduz Province, Marghab district (Badghis Province), Herat Province in Maslakh IDPs camp and surroundings. From these 800 families, only 5 families have returned on 2nd June 2002 to Shurdarya Village.</p> <p>Another 820 Pashtun families left at the same time from Shurdarya Village to Khoja Musa District (Ghartapa, Charemgar chashma, Langar and Atakhan Khoja Villages) and are currently living there. Another 600 families left Shurdarya Village to go to surrounding villages and have returned approx. 20 days after the change of power. Allegedly they did not depart with the other families to further away places as they did not have enough money. Approx. 500 families (Pashtuns, Arabs, Turkman and Uzbeks) moved from Shirintagab to Acha IDPs Camp (in KSP) because of drought and insecurity. They have not gone back in many cases due to the destruction of their houses as a consequence of an earthquake, which took place in June 2000. Currently (25/06/02), there are 520 families in the camp. (Recent IDP return from Mazar-e-Sharif).</p>
<p>Minority Issue:</p>	<p>Pashtun minorities have fled Shirin Tagab mainly because of security reasons such as abuses, extortion, killings and targeting Pashtuns. Currently (June 2002) in Shoor Darya village soldiers were distributed to each small village of Shoor Darya Village to keep Pashtun Tribes safe from others soldiers' persecution. This protection is provided around the village but Pashtuns can not go out of it without life security risks (e.g. on May 15th 2002, one Pashtun man went to his farm in the desert and on the way 4 Uzbeks killed him. After seven days his family found his body). Even to go to the bazaar they need military escorts. These are the soldiers that some particular Commanders have control over, but the other soldiers can not be controlled by them. According to Pashtuns, there are no guarantees of security even with these Commanders' soldiers. The Pashtuns are forced to cook, clean and do others tasks for the Uzbeks soldiers.</p>
<p>Land Ownership:</p>	<p>During Taliban time some Uzbeks (mainly commanders and soldiers) lost their lands and houses. When the Talibans left, these commanders took back their lands and houses as well as from other Pashtuns. At the same time, some Sub-Commanders took 300 Jirib of land from Pashtuns in Fayzabad and Kuh-e-Sayyad area, where they now live. Pashtuns are silent and do not claim the land, as their life would be put in danger.</p>
<p>House Occupation:</p>	<p>The same situation as above mentioned, Land Ownership problems. Uzbeks have destroyed the houses of the Pashtuns who left.</p>
<p>Others:</p>	<p>As mentioned above, there is a serious persecution and discrimination from armed Uzbek commanders and soldiers against Pashtun minorities. Currently, return for Pashtuns to Shiring Tagab area is not possible as they are faced with discrimination and live threatening security implications. There are a number of reported harassment cases against Pashtun in the district. There is a problem between Pashtun and other ethnic groups in Allah Taiogh area. In these villages they are afraid of the local commander and do not go out of the village.</p> <p>The 600 families earlier mentioned who left Shurdarya Village to go to surrounding villages and returned approx. 20 days after the change of power, had their houses looted.</p>

SECTORAL INFORMATION

NGOs Working in the District

In 2001, UNICEF gave materials for water projects and dams to RDO to distribute.
WFP: Distributed food, as payment to build the latrines and dams.
All of the NGOs (except CHA local NGO who has an office there) and UN agencies do not have an office in the district but are based in Maimana city.
CHA (local NGO): Built a road from Labeshor to Astona Valley and from Alatayogh to Baluch (8kms). They also carried out a Food AC project (food for work-WFP).

Other Comments (including accessibility)

The road between Maimana and Shirin Tagab districts needs to be repaired. The road between the centre and villages need repair and grovels. Two villages should be built on the Shirin Tagab River. The Islam Qala dam should be built to irrigate the valley as far as Feyzabad. Agriculture is the main source for people. Small dams should be built in villages. Accommodation for people on mission may be provided by CHA local NGO.

Name of Staff/Agency:

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