



UNHCR Field Office Ghazni **DISTRICT PROFILE**

DATE: 15 October 2002

PROVINCE	GHAZNI	Geo-Code:	6		
DISTRICT	Gelan	Geo-Code:	609		
Population in 1990:	38,085 individuals				
CURRENT ESTIMATED POPULATION					
Total : 78,408 individuals (13,068 families, with an average of six members per family)		Based on information provided by Villages' Representatives, local authorities and 2002 WHO Survey.			
ETHNIC COMPOSITION					
Pashtun	100 %	Hazara	0 %		
Tajik	0 %	Uzbek	0 %		
Turkmen	0 %	Balouch	0 %		
Other ()			%		
CURRENT ESTIMATED IDP POPULATION					
Total: 450 individuals (75 families, with six members per families).		Based on information provided by Villages' Representatives and local authorities.			
CURRENT ESTIMATED RETURNEE POPULATION (ACCORDING TO UNHCR RECORDS)					
Returned IDPs (Ind./Fam.) 2002	Updated on	Returned Refugees (Ind./Fam.) 2002	Update on	Children Under 12 ¹	Female Household ²
Nil	13/10/02	207 individuals 35 families	13/10/02	Not available	Not available
AUTHORITY					
Head of the District:	* Mir -a- Jiddin - District Administrator. Arrived in Gelan at the beginning of September 2002.				
Functioning Authorities:	* Haji Fazel- Security Administrator; * Muhammad Umar- Acting Head of Health Department and head of SCA clinic ; * Lal Muhammad- Head of Agriculture Department; * Emas- Head of Property Department Beginning of September 2002, the central Ministry of Interior, and the provincial Government appointed new Heads for Gelan district.				

GENERAL SITUATION

Gelan is located in the South West of Ghazni province, 120 km distant, and a two and half-hours drive from Ghazni centre. The district is bordered by Qalat, Zabul province to the West, Jaghori and Moqur districts to the North, Nawa to the South, and Paktika province to the East. The district capital is Janda.

Historically, Gelan was a sub-district of *Loya Woleswali* Moqur, which included Moqur, Nawa and Gelan. Gelan dissociated itself from this big district during the Jihad time, and has thereof been a separate entity. The district is mainly composed of desert and severely drought affected land, where an estimated 78,408 individuals live. Most of the population belongs to a main tribe, Tarakee, itself subdivided in six sub-tribes: Nah Khil, Mirak Khil, Mana Khil, Nour Khil, Badin Khil and Adam Khil. However, other separate tribes are also present in the district, namely Sulaiman Khil, Andar Khil and Kakar khil. The district is exclusively populated by Pashtoun. It was explained that a village in Rasana area – where were living the only Hazara families – has recently been attached to Jaghori district.

In August 2002, central Interior Ministry and provincial Government appointed a new District Administrator and Security Administrator in this district, which had been ruled by a people and security *shura* since the fall of *Talibans*. The District Administrator, a native of Andar, was acting District Administrator in his native district before his official appointment in Gelan. A Pashtoun ethnic, he has been welcomed by the local population and given specific instructions by provincial Government. Indeed, he explains that his main tasks are to ensure security in the region, establish effective control by the central Government and promote education for the district's children.

A Security Administrator who is a native of Zardalu area, Qarabagh, seconds him. This Hazara ethnic is apparently tolerated by the population and the local authorities; however, his men are mostly posted at the border with Zabul province, where they have the mission to put a term to robberies taking place on this road, coming from Qandahar.

The district was since the fall of the *Taliban* regime considered unsafe for aid agencies and NGOs as the district was a stronghold of the *Talibans* in Ghazni province, and remnants are said to be active. UNHCR FO Ghazni organised its first day mission to the district in October 2002. Following political and military groups are said to have activities and followers in the district:

Hezb-e-Islami (Hekmatyar/Khales), Harakat-e-Islami (Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi), Mahaz-e-Milli (Said Ahmad Gelani), Ittehad-e-Islami (Sayyaf) as well as Jabha-e-Nejat Milli (Sabratullah Mujadidi).

According to the new authorities and representatives of villagers, most pressing needs are in the following sectors:

1. Education
2. Irrigation and potable water
3. Health

SECTORAL INFORMATION

SHELTER:	Settlement State:	Population is living in large compounds, made exclusively of mud brick. A few houses are located inside a large yard, surrounded by high walls.
	Housing Situation of Returning Population :	Families of returnees are housed with their relatives, or in their own houses if not too severe damages have affected their houses during their absence.
	Comments: There is not an acute need for shelter as the district has not experienced a large returnee movement. An estimated 4% of the total families claim their houses need partial or complete repairs (537 families).	
	All material for construction can be either found in Janda bazaar, or in neighbouring Moqur district. More specific materials can be purchased in Ghazni centre.	
	Skilled and unskilled labourers can be found within the district.	

SECTORAL INFORMATION					
WATER:	Major Water Sources:		Karezes and natural springs.		
	Status of Shallow Wells:		According to information provided by the people, there are currently 289 wells completely dry. Remaining wells (both shallow and hand pumps) are in need of constant deepening.		
	Access to Clean Drinking Water:		Based on information provided by villages' representatives, 16% of the population has no access to drinking water (2,150 families): The following areas are severely affected by the drought and go to the following distances to fetch water, with the use of donkeys/ wheel barrows: Rasana area (80 villages)- 700 families, 4km x2. Petab area- 400 families, 5 km x2 Zabet area (5 villages), 6km x2 Shindai area- 800 families, 6 kmx2 Digging or deepening wells prove to be difficult in Rasana area, where the soil is particularly rocky. The average water table level is around 30 meters.		
	Sanitation and Drainage:		Sanitation and drainage are extremely basic in the district. There is neither proper ventilation system, nor septic tank and ditches. Only few houses have proper baths and latrines.		
	Comments: The district is mostly dependent on its <i>karezes</i> for irrigation. According to people and authorities, only 48 <i>karezes</i> are still in complete use, while 78 are nearly completely dried, and another 82 have already not in use. As a consequence, farmers experience acute difficulties to cultivate their lands and secure food for winter.				
AGRICULTURE:	Farming System:	Irrigated:	100%	Comments: Given the drought, all lands are to be irrigated. However, fields for <i>lalmi</i> exist in the district.	
		Rain Fed:	0%		
	Main crops:	Type: wheat, grapes, almonds	Harvest: poor	Problems: No water for irrigation prevents farmer from cultivating their land.	
	Current Land Condition:		According to the Villages' Representatives, only 50% of the arable land is in use, due to the drought. This portion is however seriously affected by the drought. In some of the regions, notably Rasana area, there was no harvest this year, due to lack of water. Area less affected by drought is the middle of Gelan.		
	Existing Irrigation schemes:		Irrigation relies on <i>karezes</i> and natural springs.		
Livestock Situation:		Due to the drought, and absence of grass for the animals, nearly all the herd has disappeared. An average 5% of the herd remains mostly composed of sheep and cow.			

SECTORAL INFORMATION				
	Horticulture Availability:		Fruit trees: - Market sale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X - Home use <input type="checkbox"/>	Small crops of almonds and grapes, mostly for market sale.
			Vegetables: - Market sale <input type="checkbox"/> - Home use <input type="checkbox"/>	None
	Comments: Due to the drought, the agriculture and farming sectors are seriously affected, making difficult for the people to pass winter time on their year's harvest. Most of the livestock has disappeared, and the less affected area appears to be Gahar and Lal Khils area, which have succeeded in keeping 10% of their livestock. Population stress the needs to be assisted with improved seeds			
INFRASTRUCTURE :	The population and the authorities stressed the need to rehabilitate : - Road from Gelan to Ghazni, especially the portion Gelan-Moqur.			
EMPLOYMENT:	Main Sources of Income:	Agriculture (farming)		
	Comments: The population being exclusively dependent on agriculture and farming, their socio-economic conditions have been severely altered by the prolonged drought. An estimated 594 families have no income (5% of the total district population).			
HEALTH:	HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE:		Number currently functioning	
	Hospital (H):		None:	
	Basic Health Centre (BHC):		There are currently only two clinics run by SCA and COAR, respectively located in Palishi and in Janda.	No. with female doctors None- Only three male doctors are employed in the two clinics.
	Mother Child Health Centre (MCH):		None	
	Emergency Obstetrics Care Centre (EOC):		None	
	Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI):		Yes	Where?: WHO runs an EPI programme in the district, with three teams covering for the centre of district, another one for the south and a third one for Rasana area. Two vaccinators paid by UNICEF are located in Janda's clinic. WHO provides the vaccines against measles, polio and tetanos.
	Disability Rehabilitation Facilities:		None	Where?: N/A
			Yes	Where?:

SECTORAL INFORMATION					
	Pharmacies with Medicine:		There is one pharmacy in each of the clinic, which only contains basic drugs. 13 other private pharmacies cover for all the district, the majority of them being located in the district's capital. However, only basic drugs can be found.		
	Comments: The health sector is one of the most pressing needs in Gelan district. There are currently two clinics, one operated by SCA, and another one COAR. In COAR clinic, in Janda, staff has been working without any salary for months. There are two male doctors, two male nurses, 1 lab technician, two vaccinators, 1 dentist, 1 pharmacist and one health educator currently posted. The buildings are in devastated state. In SCA clinic, one doctor, one pharmacist and one health educator are currently posted. The district suffers from lack of medical facilities and especially qualified female staff. As a consequence, delivery cases often result in the death of both mother and child. If patients have the financial means to do so, they go up to Ghazni for medical treatment.				
	EDUCATION:				
	Education Centre:				
	Types	Currently functioning	Teachers:		Students/Pupils:
		M	F	M	F
No. of Secondary Schools:	Three (one high school & two secondary schools)	47	0	1,700	0
No. of Primary Schools:	10	57	0	1,660	60
No. of Informal Schools:	1 girls' school in Petaw (80 students).				
Madrasa:	Three are operating in Asad, Rasana and Aruja villages with an average of 35 pupils (boys).				

SECTORAL INFORMATION		
	<p>Comments: The education sector is drastically lacking well-qualified staff (especially female), basic furniture and supplies, as well decent buildings.</p> <p>In Gelan, there is currently only one high school (boys) and two primary girls' schools. However, one of these two is informal and girls can only attend the first grade. Given the conservatism of the population, and given the distance to walk to the nearest schools, it is likely that girls will not be able to attend mid grades.</p> <p>More than half of the schools holds classes outdoors, due to lack of proper buildings or damages. No tents have been distributed in this district to schools.</p> <p>As a consequence, estimated 6000 school-age children do not attend school, being mostly busy assisting their parents in their daily tasks. Village's representatives state people cannot send their children to school due to poverty. They also add that they have had no access to education, and therefore school is not a priority for their family. The literacy rate is around 3% for men and 0% for women.</p> <p>The most pressing needs in the field of education are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. provision of school supplies & equipment2. rehabilitation of buildings3. provision of well qualified staff (including female)4. Promotion of home-based school as a mean to facilitate girls' education and introduction of literacy classes for children over school age and women.	
MINE/UXOs:	Existence of mines & UXOs:	Mines have been reported in Gahar, Tangae-Rasana Tappae-Gera and Païen-Mata.
	Identified areas to clear:	No demining agency is currently working in the area.
	<p>Comments: According to both local authorities and population, mines have been identified in the above mentioned areas. However, there has been no report of recent incidents in those locations.</p> <p>The following areas have already been cleaned: Push Kanda and Janda (around the main road).</p>	
PROTECTION		
Population Movement:	<p>According to UNHCR's statistics, only 35 families, that is 207 individuals have returned to the district with the assistance of UNHCR.</p> <p>Based on Villages' Representatives, 426 families have recently repatriated to the district, and 300 IDPs families. The people mention that up to 710 families' refugees and 388 IDPs families still remain outside of the district.</p> <p>The movement of population started with the Soviet invasion, mostly towards Pakistan (Quetta) and is currently on-going towards Iran (mostly males), due to the lack of job opportunities and severe drought.</p>	

SECTORAL INFORMATION	
Women:	<p>Women in Gelan are mostly confined to their house yard, and surroundings. Their freedom of movement is limited to their own village, which hampers girls – especially girls over 10/12 years, from going to school. Outside of this perimeter, women are rarely seen, and always with male escort.</p> <p>Ladies are exclusively housewives, and are left with no other alternatives. Women take care of their children, and help their husband in his daily tasks. However, ladies are not seen in the fields, unlike in Hazara populated areas.</p> <p>Given the ultra conservatism of the population, and of the very people in charge of education, it is likely that any community-based programme aiming at women empowerment would be confronted with strong reaction of male population.</p> <p>Women cannot present any claim directly to elders or <i>shuras</i>. In all formalities, they must be represented by a male <i>Wakil</i> for the reason that 'women are not educated' (quotation from responsible for education).</p> <p>The District Administrator recently received a claim from a lady who explained that her mother – a widow – had been remarried against her will. The authorities explain that they were reviewing the case and consider the interest of the lady. Conveniently, the presumed 'new husband' can not be found.</p>
Children:	<p>Only 3,400 children are currently attending school in the district, leaving 6,000 other with no access to school. Children in Gelan district are mostly assisting their parents in their daily tasks, fetching water, taking care of the animals etc.</p> <p>Girls are married as of 16 years, and the dowry price varies between 2 and 40,000 Pakistani rupees.</p> <p>As far as FO knows, there is no NGO implementing programmes in the field of children, apart from SCA who runs a girls' school.</p>
Discrimination:	<p>Gelan being exclusively populated by Pashtoun, there has been no substantive report of discrimination based on ethnicity. Kuchi nomads are welcomed in this district, on their way to Qalat, Helmand or Kandahar.</p> <p>Authorities and people are ill at ease with the idea of having potentially a small group of Hazara families in the district. Allegedly, these families were living in a village of Rasana area, which has recently been attached to Jaghori district.</p> <p>An Uzbek family is said to be living in the district, where their ancestors settled 123 years ago. FO Ghazni has collected no report of discrimination.</p>
Recovery of Property:	<p>According to the authorities, as there is no formal court in the district. A judge based in Moqur district used to go once a week to study cases and receive claims. However recently, claimants have been advised to go directly to Moqur to present their problems.</p> <p>Consequently, the majority of the disputes – including recovery of property, land and house, are settled at the level of villages' shura, and should one of the parties dispute the judgement, are reviewed by District Administrator himself.</p> <p>No case linked to recovery of property has been brought to the attention of UNHCR FO Ghazni.</p>
Availability of Land:	Same as above.
House Occupation:	Same as above.

Sectoral Information	
Security Situation:	<p>Gelan was a no-go district for most NGOs and UN agencies until recently. UNHCR FO Ghazni conducted its first daily field mission in September 2002. The district, having been a stronghold of the <i>Talibans</i>, it is expected that remnants of the previous regime are active in the area. Tracts against foreign presence have been found in this district, as well as in Giru, Ab Band and Nawa.</p> <p>However, no serious security incident was reported so far in Gelan. Security Administrator has taken his functions recently, coming from Qarabagh, Zardalu area. He brought with him 35 of his men – Hazara, while the District Administrator also came with 5 of his men -Pashtoun from Andar. An additional 15 men native of Gelan complete this military contingent.</p> <p>Security Administrator's men are currently posted at the border with Qalat district, Zabul province where robberies are often taking place. Check points have been installed along the main road to the South. It is explained that disarmament was undertaken under Taliban regime. However, newly appointed Security Administrator explained that a truck full of weapons had recently been sent to Ghazni centre.</p>
Others:	
NGOs Working in the District	
<p>The following NGOS are currently functioning in GELAN :</p> <p>* SCA: runs clinic in Janda, capital of Gelan; the NGO also supports three schools in the districts, including one of the two girls' primary schools in Petaw.</p> <p>* COAR: also runs a clinic in the centre of the district.</p> <p>No other NGO is currently operating in the district.</p>	
Other Comments (including accessibility)	
<p>Gelan district is accessible from Ghazni centre, after a two and half-hours drive (120km), on the way to Kandahar. Following districts are crossed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andar, 20 minutes from Ghazni (14 km); - Qarabagh, 25 minutes from beginning of Andar district (18 km); - Moqur, one hour from beginning of Andar district (36 km); <p>Gelan is one hour distant from beginning of Moqur district (51 km). Road is particularly bad while crossing Qarabagh district.</p>	

¹ Children under 12: Estimated figure based on Voluntary Repatriation Forms (VRFs)

² Female Household: Women returned unaccompanied by men. Estimated figure based on VRFs.