



**UNHCR Sub-Office JALALABAD
DISTRICT PROFILE**

DATE: 10/01/2003

PROVINCE	Name: Laghman	Geo-Code: 9			
DISTRICT	Name: Mihtarlam	Geo-Code 901			
Population in 1990:	Settled 99224 refugees in Pakistan 17474				
CURRENT ESTIMATED POPULATION (ACCORDING TO LA INFORMATION)					
Total (Ind.)	Returned IDPs (Fam.)	Recent Returnees (Fam.)	IDPs (Fam.)	Children Under 12	Female Households
135075	40	2000	82	67000	1725
ETHNIC COMPOSITION: Pashtun 60% Hazara 0% Tajik 35% Uzbek 0% Other: 5%					
CURRENT ESTIMATED RETURNEE POPULATION (ACCORDING TO UNHCR RECORDS)					
	Returned IDPs (Fam.)	Update on		Recent Returnees (Fam.)	Update on
	60	12/31/2002		1715	1/10/2003
EXPECTED RETURNING POPULATION 2002					
	IDPS (Fam.)	40	RETURNEES (Fam.)	375	
AUTHORITY					
Head of District:	Governor Ibrahim Babarkhel is based in Mehterlam				
Other Information:	<p>Mihtarlam City is the provincial headquarters for Laghman Province. The current Governor, Ibrahim Babarkhel, replaced the previous incumbent, Abdul Hadi Wahedi, in September 2002. Other key figures in the province and district are Deputy Governor Dr. Jafar, Head of Security Mohamed Zaman, head of army Naqibullah, who recently replaced Dr Abdullah, Judge Mohamed Amin, and head of municipality Mohamed Qais. According to a decision of the Kabul government in December 2002, the Laghman military is independent of the Nangarhar Corps, however the Nangarhar military still exercises considerable authority in many areas of the province, particularly in Qarghayi district. In addition, two commanders linked to the former Governor, Engineer Qarar and Dai Gul, are also opposed to the current authorities and effectively control a number of areas in the province. Mehterlam however appears stable, and is under the control of the provincial authorities. Functioning government departments located in the provincial centre (with at least one staff member) are: Health Department, Education Department, Agriculture Department, Finance Department, Repatriation Department, Martyred and Disabled Department, Water Supply Department, Electricity Department, Bank, Statistics Department, Transport Department, Cultural-information Department, Social Affairs and Red Crescent Department.</p>				
GENERAL SITUATION					
<p>Mihtarlam district is located in the center of Laghman province and consists of the urban centre and 24 major villages (269 sub-villages). The Alishing and Alingar rivers run through the district. The district extends as far west of the city as Bad Pookh, Garuch, Andror and Sha Kulyyan villages, located 40 km from the urban centre. Pange Pai and Gul Haram villages are located 12 km east of the city and are badly drought-affected.</p>					
SECTORAL INFORMATION					
SHELTER:	Percentage and Number of Houses Destroyed:	50 %			
	Housing Situation of Returning Population :	Many returnee families are reportedly living with friends and relatives.			
	Comments:	More than 4000 houses (15%) are destroyed and more than 9800 (35%) are partially damaged.			
WATER:	Type of Potable Water Sources (and distance):	Shallow wells, hand pumps, rivers and springs. Average distance is 2 Km from springs.			
	Availability of Potable water (%):	48% of population have access to potable water.			

SECTORAL INFORMATION						
	Sanitation and Drainage:		Local (self built) system.			
	<p>Comments: According to DACAAR (coverage report, March 2002) 92 dug wells and 121 tube wells are required to achieve 100% coverage in the district. It was reported that there were already 243 DACAAR waterpoints. The district profiling team observed that in six villages (Bad Pookh, Sha Kulyan, Andror, Pange Pai, Gul Haram and Garuch) women and children were bringing water by donkey from springs located around 2 km away.</p>					
AGRICULTURE:	Main crops:		Rice, potatoes, wheat, corn and vegetables.			
	Current Land Condition:		About 24000 Jerebs of land is irrigated by intakes, canals and streams.			
	Existing Irrigation schemes:		Rivers, canals, streams, intakes.			
	Agri/tool Banks:		Tractors and ploughs.			
	Animal Husbandry		Goats, sheep, cows, hens and donkeys.			
	Comments: There is a need for irrigation schemes in Bad Pookh and Andror.					
INCOME GENERATION:	Main Sources of Income:	Farming, government employment and daily wage labour.	% of NO income in the district	10 %		
	Comments: Many young men are working as labourers in Pakistan and Iran.					
HEALTH:	Health Centre:	Types	Currently functioning	Before 1998		
		No. of Clinic:	5	5		
		No. of Mobile Clinic:	0	0		
		No. of Hospital:	1	1		
		Nurses and Mid-wives	45	30		
<p>Comments: The general hospital has 52 beds and is supported by AMI. The clinics are supported by ISRA, AFRC, IMC, HEWAD and UNICEF. Many of the health facilities are located in Mihtarlam city and are accessed only with difficulty by those living in more remote villages (Bad Pookh, Andror and Sha Kulyan villages are located approximately 40 Km away from the nearest clinic). The district profiling team recorded 8 MD doctors, 8 vaccinators, 4 laboratory assistants, 4 health educators, 4 traditional birth attendants and 11 female nurses in the district.</p>						
EDUCATION:	Education Centre:	Types	Currently functioning	Before 1998		
		No. of High School:	5	5		
		No. of Primary School:	28	20		
		No. of Home Based Sch:	25	30		
	Teacher:	Female:	72	Pupils:	Girls:	6355
		Male:	474		Boys:	15078
Literacy Rate %:		30				

SECTORAL INFORMATION	
	Comments: Data on schools, teachers and students are provided by UNICEF (January 2003), and includes informal schools. In many areas classes are held under trees or in the open air. Badiabad school, Qamain school, Shamatai school, and Qasaba school need school buildings, teaching materials, stationery and other equipment. Many families reportedly remain unwilling to send their girls to school.
MINE/UXOs:	Existence of mines & UXOs: None
	Identified priority villages to clear: None
	Comments: It was reported that the area had already been cleared by demining teams.
PROTECTION	
Population Movement:	Mehterlam district received the second highest number of returnees to Laghman in 2002, with 1715 returnee families recorded by UNHCR.
Minority Issue:	The largest ethnic group is Pashtun, followed by Tajik and then Pashai. No minority issues were reported.
Land Ownership:	
House Occupation:	None reported
Others:	There are credible reports that groups linked to Engineer Qaraar and Dai Gul (commanders linked to the former provincial governor) exercise control in some areas of the district and have harrassed local residents and looted properties.
NGOs Working in the District	
NGOs and other international agencies working in the district include DACAAR, MADERA, SCA, AMI, GTZ, ICRC, ISRA, HEAWAD, MCA, NRO, GAA, LEJNATUL DAWAT, LEJANTUL QATAR, IBNSINA, HNI, AFGHAN-GERMAN EDUCATION. Some activities have also been carried out by UNICEF, WHO, FAO, WFP, UNHCR.	
Other Comments (including accessibility)	
Data on total population is taken from EPI report prepared by the Eastern Region Health Directorate (2002).	
Mehterlam city has three Shuras: 1st- Military shura, consisting of police commanders, head of army and other commanders attached to them. 2nd- Local Shura consisting of 28 village elders of villages. 3rd- the civilian provincial authority headed by the Governor and consisting of 18 members including the deputy governor, judge, head of municipality, attorney and other heads of provincial departments. The population figure is taken from statistics for 2002 prepared by the Eastern Region EPI management team for 2002 UNI Data Population of the Republic Health Department. Data collected from the district shura and district health authorities suggested a higher figure (168000).	