



**UNHCR Field Office Ghazni
DISTRICT PROFILE**

DATE: 11/09/2002

PROVINCE	GHAZNI		Geo-Code:	6	
DISTRICT	GIRO		Geo-Code:	612	
Population in 1990:	Settled: 19,284				
CURRENT ESTIMATED POPULATION					
40, 260 individuals (8,052 families with an average 5 members per family).			Sources: District and villages Representatives and WHO statistics for SO Ghazni (42,485, updated in 2001).		
ETHNIC COMPOSITION					
Pashtun	100%	Hazara	%	Tajik	%
Turkmen	%	Balouch	%	Other ()	%
CURRENT ESTIMATED IDP POPULATION					
645 individuals (129 families with an average 5 members per family).			Sources: District and villages Representatives.		
CURRENT ESTIMATED RETURNEE POPULATION (ACCORDING TO UNHCR RECORDS)					
Returned IDPs (Ind./Fam.) 2002	Updated on	Returned Refugees (Ind./Fam.) 2002	Update on	Children Under 12¹	Female Household²
	09/ 2002	32 individuals (6 families)	09/09/02		
AUTHORITY					
Head of the District:	Abdul Nabee (Hezb Mahaz-e-Milli)				
Functioning Authorities:	Security Commander (Gul Ahmed- Harakat e Inqilab Islami), Assistant to District Administrator (Mawlawee Nouruldin), Department of Properties, Department of Education and Department of Agriculture. There is no Court based in the district; however, once a week, a judge from neighbouring Andar district comes to Pana, capital of the district, and deals with pending cases.				
GENERAL SITUATION					
<p>Giro is located at the South East of Ghazni province; approximately a two and a half-hour drive from Ghazni city. The district is a wide plain, with scattered low mountains.</p> <p>The district shares borders with Andar to the North, Qarabagh to the West and Ab Band to the southwest. Paktika province is located at its East.</p> <p>On a general basis, the district is regarded as a Southern district along with Ab Band, Nawa, Moqur and Gelan where NGOs and agencies are – due to security concerns- reluctant to operate. The district, exclusively Pashtun populated, is said to harbour remnants of previous Taliban regime, and provincial officials discourage aid workers to travel to this district without proper-armed escorts. Threatening tracts against foreigners were found in the district a few months ago.</p> <p>Local population consulted the eldest and most respected Mullah of the district, named Alem Shamsullah, to advise them on a suitable candidate for the post of District Administrator and Security Commander. They are both based in Pana, district's capital.</p> <p>However, a couple of weeks ago, the provincial Governor has announced that District Administrators currently in place would be transferred to other districts within the province. The idea being to have the Hazara populated districts headed by Pashtun and vice-versa, in order to create 'National Unity'. Sources within the Governor's House indicate that the previous District Administrator of Jaghori - Hazara ethnic - could be assigned to Giro, seconded by a Hazara Security Commander.</p> <p>People in Giro seem not to be aware of this possible change, while current authorities officially state they are ready to obey new instructions coming from provincial Governor. According to inhabitants close to Disi village, an incident erupted at the end of August, when the District Administrator was visiting the village, and when he failed to provide agriculture material as requested by the villagers. One villager was injured during the fighting which opposed villagers and the District Administrator's men. It is explained that tension remains in Disi against the person of the District Administrator.</p> <p>Cases of minor insecurity, robberies and burning of crops have been reported in the district, mostly around Pana. No killings were reported. Kuchi nomads - Pashtun - are present and apparently welcomed in this district. An estimated 250 Kuchi families have found temporary residence in Giro, unable to settle in Nawur district, their usual district of summer residence. Kuchi settlements can be found in Melanae, Matan Khan and Musa Khil.</p> <p>Three main political and military groups dominate the district, the strongest being Hezb-e-Mahaz Milli (Sayeed Ahmad e Gilanee). Others are Hezb-e-Islami (Gulbudin Hekmatiar) and Hezb-e-Harakat Inqilab Islami (Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi).</p>					

SECTORAL INFORMATION				
SHELTER:	Settlement State:		Population is housed in large compounds, with high mud walls and large yards around which several houses are located. Houses are built exclusively of mud brick.	
	Housing Situation of Returning Population :		The few families who have returned are mostly living in their own property. Those houses are damaged, are housed by relatives in the same village. (source: village representatives)	
	<p>Comments: According to FO field visit and to Village Representatives, there is not an actual need of shelter in the district. An estimated 6% of the houses (485 families) are damaged and would require repairs.</p> <p>Materials available for construction in the district are sand mud and stone. Remaining material such as cement, wooden beams, wooden planks, windows, doors, and glass have to be purchased in Ghazni centre and brought to the district. Skilled and unskilled labourers can be found within the community.</p>			
WATER:	Major Water Sources:		Wells with hand-pumps, shallow wells and karezes.	
	Status of Shallow Wells:		The general water level in Giro district is around 30 meters. Shallow wells currently in use need deepening, as water table constantly worsens.	
	Access to Clean Drinking Water:		Children and women usually collect water, assisted by donkeys.	
	Sanitation and Drainage:		<p>Latrines are traditional, made with no ventilation system and no septic tanks.</p> <p>No proper ditches for drainage can be found. Baths are rare, with no pipes and no ditches.</p> <p>In recently built houses, sanitation level is a little superior but remains of very low standard.</p>	
	<p>Comments: In Manki, Chamber-e-Satar, Chamber-e-Fateh and Kalagai villages, 260 families fetch water from Shakoor Qala, which is 6km distant from their residence (Total distance: 12 km).</p> <p>Based on information provided by Representatives of the villages, there are currently 1,132 wells in use and other 340 completely dry. Most of the wells with hand-pumps need deepening. 99 Karezes are in use, however 92 are already affected by the lack of water, and another 44 are no longer in use, due to drought.</p> <p>DACAAR is currently implementing a UNHCR-funded Water and Sanitation project in Giro, including the deepening/digging of 19 wells and implementation of 60 baths and 60 latrines in Melanae, Matan Khan, Musa Khil, Batur, Abdul Qala and Azmat.</p>			
AGRICULTURE:	Farming System:	Irrigated:	X	Comments: Traditional tools are widely used. However, tractors are rented during the harvest season.
		Rain Fed:		
	Main crops:	Type: wheat, alfalfa	Harvest: Poor	

SECTORAL INFORMATION				
	Current Land Condition:	According to the local population, only 15% of the agricultural land is in use. The remaining 85% has been adversely affected by the drought.		
	Existing Irrigation schemes:	Main irrigation scheme relies on karezes, which are affected by the drought, therefore reducing the harvest.		
	Livestock Situation:	The livestock has been reduced to around 10% of its habitual level. Sheep are 9% and cows 1%.		
	Horticulture Availability:	Fruit trees: - Market sale <input type="checkbox"/> - Home use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Apples and grapes are cultivated in the district. However, due to lack of water, it does not leave much of the harvest to be sold on the market.	
		Vegetables: - - Market sale <input type="checkbox"/> - Home use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Onions and potatoes are cultivated for a home use only.	
Comments: As in most of Ghazni province districts, agriculture is affected by the drought, and harvests have dropped compared to previous years. Some of the villages have expressed their wish to be assisted with improved seeds and insecticides, as their plantations are suffering from diseases (Matan Khal notably).				
INFRASTRUCTURE:	Roads in Giro district are in extremely bad condition, and consist of narrow, dirty roads. In some villages close to Melanae, the roads are along the sides of karezes, and do not allow two vehicles coming from opposite directions, to drive at the same time.			
EMPLOYMENT:	Main Sources of Income:	Agriculture (farming).		
	Comments: The great majority of the population depends on agriculture and is therefore affected by the drought. Daily labour is available during harvest season. However, there are no real services related jobs in the district. Shops are scarce and there is no proper bazaar in the district. Villagers have explained that some of them regularly go to Pakistan to find odd jobs (daily wages) which would allow them to provide for their family's needs.			
HEALTH:	HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE:	<i>Number currently functioning</i>		
	Hospital (H):	None		
	Basic Health Centre (BHC):	1 clinic	No. with female doctors	
			None	
	Mother Child Health Centre (MCH):	None		
	Emergency Obstetrics Care Centre (EOC):	None		
	Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI):	Yes	Where: WHO is running EPI province-wide and Giro is covered.	
			Where?:	
Disability Rehabilitation Facilities:	None			
Pharmacies with Medicine:	Three	Where: Pana Bazar; Zigai Bazar & Disi area.		

SECTORAL INFORMATION

Comments: The health sector is drastically reduced to its simplest expression. There is only one clinic in Giro, run by SCA, and with only one nurse. There are no other medical facility and personnel in the district.

This situation is particularly dangerous for emergency cases and complicated delivery cases in remote locations, where patients can die on the way to Miri, capital of Andar (25 km distant, 1h15 min drive) or Ghazni city (50 km - 2h30 drive).

There is an urgent need of upgrading the current clinic into a district hospital. Clinics are also required in following areas:

- Disi area: 1200 families located 30 km from Pana, in a remote area with bad roads.
- Zegai area: 1,500 families located 40 km from Pana.
- Shal area: 2000 families located 30 km from Pana.

Moreover, there is no private clinic or doctor available in the whole district.

EDUCATION:

Education Centre:

<i>Types</i>	<i>Currently functioning</i>	<i>Teachers:</i>		<i>Students/Pupils:</i>	
		M	F	M	F
No. of Secondary Schools:	None	None	None	None	None
No. of Primary Schools:	7	65	2	2732	111
No. of Informal Schools:	3 home based-schools (number of boys pupils not available)				
Madrassa:	5: in Nyasi Karez (25 pupils); in Nani Ghoud (15 pupils); in Badee (25 pupils); in Disi (45 pupils); in Matakhan (35 pupils).				

SECTORAL INFORMATION

	<p>Comments: The education sector is one of the top priorities for this district where according to Ghazni Department of Education, 3000 boys and 5000 girls under 18 are not attending school.</p> <p>Out of the ten schools available for the entire district, six do not have proper facilities and, thus, classes are held out-doors. Three are built of mud-brick and one of stone.</p> <p>All of these schools need construction of latrines, and provision of proper furniture and school supplies. Education sector in Giro is affected by a severe lack of qualified teachers, while teachers currently working experience delays in receiving their salaries.</p> <p>Schools are needed in the following areas, for both boys & girls: Pana & Disi- a high school Shakoor Qala & Nani Ghoud - a secondary school Primary schools are needed throughout the entire district.</p> <p>It is worth mentioning that girls' education rate is extremely low in this district and inhabitants and authorities questioned explained that it was not in their culture to send their daughters to school. However, they have explained that they would be ready to send their girls to school, if it was close to their house.</p>	
<p>MINE/UXOs:</p>	<p>Existence of mines & UXOs:</p>	<p>Mines are reported throughout the district, notably in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadi Khan, Mutar Khan and Peroza Khan: Mines on both sides of the road (anti-tanks) were partially cleared three years ago, according to the population. • Manda Parnar: All the way mined by (anti-tanks) mines. • Shela: mined (anti-tanks)
	<p>Identified areas to clear:</p>	
	<p>Comments: Anti-tanks mines located in above-mentioned areas infest the district. According to villagers, these mines have been placed by the Soviet troops, as well as by Mujahidins eight years ago.</p> <p>Villagers questioned explain that the population know the mined areas and do not venture there. There is an urgent need to clear the infested areas, as some of them are 'main' roads (Mutar Khan). As far as FO knows, no mine-clearing agency is currently working in the district.</p>	

SECTORAL INFORMATION	
PROTECTION	
Population Movement:	<p>According to the authorities and the villagers, the district has not produced a large number of refugees. The great majority of them have fled towards Pakistan, where integration was facilitated in the tribal areas.</p> <p>FO statistics mention that only six families have returned to the district with UNHCR assistance. However, representatives of the villages & authorities indicate that as of beginning of September 2002, a total of 433 families have recently returned from Pakistan and another 551 are expected to return. According to same sources, 225 IDPs families (1,125 individuals) have returned to the district recently and 98 families are still displaced.</p> <p>The district keeps strong links with Pakistan and men with no resources are reported to settle temporarily in the neighbouring country and find a job, which would allow them to provide for their family's needs.</p>
Women:	<p>According to the representatives of the villages, there are currently 556 female heads of household, that is 7% of the total number of families. Giro is an extremely conservative district, where women have currently almost no access to the labour market (only two female teachers for the entire district. Women are not seen walking in the villages, even properly covered).</p> <p>Girls have poor access to education and there is no apparent will of the local population to improve the condition of women.</p> <p>All disputes are solved by Sharia and women have to be represented by a Wakil. Local population has reported two cases of kidnapping of women in the recent past; the perpetrators were arrested and were handed over to the head of their tribe for punishment. Women are not associated in the community decision-making process.</p>
Children:	<p>Education being really neglected in the district, it is likely that more than half of the school-age children are not attending school (around 18,000 children are under 12). Fathers employ children in their activities and girls are usually responsible for fetching water.</p> <p>As far as UNHCR FO Ghazni knows, there is currently no agency/NGO operating in a child's sector.</p>
Discrimination:	<p>As Giro is exclusively a Pashtun populated area, there has been no report of any discriminatory act based on ethnicity. Kuchi nomads are accepted in the district and there has been no report of any discrimination against them.</p>
Recovery of Property:	<p>All disputes, be they linked to land, property or access to water, are first referred to the village elders (usually Mullahs), who use Sharia. Should the case be too complicated or criminal, it is ultimately transferred to the provincial Court.</p> <p>However, there is no report of cases involving returnees.</p>
Availability of Land:	Same as above.
House Occupation:	Same as above.
Security Situation:	<p>The current security situation is satisfactory, with no known hostilities or apparent tensions between groups being reported. However, minor cases of robberies (motorbikes or burning of crop) have been reported in the areas close to Pana, the district centre.</p> <p>Nevertheless, Giro is said to host remnants of the Taliban regime.</p>
Others:	<p>The security condition is to be closely monitored in this district, and before planning any field missions, NGOs and agencies should request authorities to provide latest updates on the security situation. UNHCR only started conducting day missions at the end of August 2002.</p>

SECTORAL INFORMATION
NGOs Working in the District
<p>DACAAR: 19 wells to be deepened/ dug + 60 baths + 60 latrines to be constructed with UNHCR funding. SCA: runs two primary schools, in Fanah and Batur and runs a clinic in Pana. NAC: runs a primary school in Takhail and has a vaccination campaign in the entire district. ICRC: has no programme in the district except Red Cross Messages. WHO: has a polio eradication campaign in the entire district.</p>
Other Comments (including accessibility)
<p>Giro is located 50-km Southeast of Ghazni city, a two and a half-hour drive. Up to Andar, the roads are in relatively good condition, but the section Andar-Giro is only composed of dirt roads. However, no further accessibility difficulty should be expected during winter season, as the district is completely flat.</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.**