

# **INTER-AGENCY ASSESSMENT MISSION IN IMAM SAHEB**

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

### **Background**

With the advance of Taliban forces in 2000 and 2001, thousands of Imam Sahib residents as well as IDPs from other areas, Northern Alliance affiliated military leaders and soldiers fled to the 'Islands' to escape the Taliban advance and conflict. To prevent a refugee influx the Government of Tajikistan closed its borders, preventing displacement into Tajik territory and stranding thousands in the "no man's land".

After the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 in the end of October all combatants were able to re-enter the area of Imam Saheb, while the rest population decided to spend the winter on the islands. IDPs that were displaced are planning to return after 21 March (Nowruz). In order to coordinate the planning of physical return, the need for the immediate positioning of assistance, delivery of aid to the populations most in need, including shelter the below-mentioned agencies decided to work together to achieve this goal by means of an assessment survey.

### **Methodology**

Questionnaire sections were designed according to agency's areas of specialization, and then agreed to by the whole. 6 teams of 23 surveyors (local staff) from UNHCR, IOM, Merlin, ACTED, SNI, CCF, Coop, MMR and Government were given one-day training in the questionnaire, supervisors appointed during training.

The survey was started on 10 March and completed on 15 March.

### **Results**

All villages in Imam Saheb were assessed including the villages of origin of "islanders": Qaraul; Buttakashon; Eski; Kalbot; Bosuz; Arabkeshlag; Tazalaqai

### **Demographics**

Villages were surveyed 80 (including the City)  
Total families 35,508  
Total returnee families (so far) 2,400 (6.7%)

Ethnic composition of Imam Saheb district

Ethnic group	Uzbek	Tajik	Pashtun	Turkmen	Hazara
% of total population	47	25	22	4	2

Vulnerable groups

District	Total Families	Unaccompanied children	Female headed households	Elders	Disabled	Minority	Others
Imam Saheb	35508	1795	3027 (8.5%)	6023	1749	3585	3564

Total : 19743

Information on figures should be reviewed, as they appear very high.

## **Health**

Total

	Number of deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
<5yrs	230	241	471
>5yrs	379	292	671
Total	609	533	1142

The question was that how many people in the village have died during the past month?

Due to the exaggerated death rate in some villages this information could not be accepted, therefore surveyors should be very accurate, when asking such information from the leaders of villages.

Health facilities in District

Imam Saheb	Fixed Clinic	Mobile Clinic	Trained Health Worker	TTBA	Vaccination services
No of villages	9	0	33	10	72
%	11.3	0	41.3	12.5	90

Total distance to clinic

How far to nearest clinic		
	No.	%
0 – 1 hour walk	28	35%
1-3 hours walk	31	39%
>3 hours walk	21	26%

## **Food**

Villages have enough food for:

<1 month	1 month	>1 month
1	65	14
1.25%	81.25%	17.5%

Approximately how many households in the village have only got enough food for less than one month?

<20%	20% to 40%	40% to 60%	>60%
36 village	10 village	20 village	14 village

How was the harvest this year?	No of villages	%
Failed	13	16.25
Adequate	64	80
Good	3	3.75

**Economy**

Do people have road access to markets to sell their goods and by what need?	No of villages	%
Yes	26	32.5
No	54	67.5

Negative impacts on the farming economy	No of villages	%
Drought	37	46
Market access	16	20
Seed access	16	20
Water access	17	21
Vet services	11	13.7
Lack of animal feed	6	7.5

Negative impact on the trading economy	No of villages	%
Lack of money	30	37.5
Market access	27	33.7
Lack of money in the community	39	48.7
Lack of good	18	22.5

**Shelter**

Number of villages with:	<10 %	10-20 %	20-30%	>30%
Homes completely destroyed	18	25	10	7
Homes missing doors and windows	12	19	14	35
Homes with minor or no damage	10	15	19	17

The most common problem with shelter:

Timber	Windows/Doors	Other (lack of sources/money)
36	71	14
45%	89%	17.5%

For families whose homes are destroyed do you believe a winterized tents is a good option for the winter in this village?

	No of villages	%
Yes	53	66
No	27	44

Needs for NFI:

Bedding	Cooking equipment	Heating equipment
38	43	38

47.5%	53.7%	47.5%
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### **School**

	No.	%
Functional School	29	36%
Not functioning School	?	?
No School	51	63%

If school is not functioning, why?

	No of villages	%
Needs rehabilitation	45	56.2
No teacher	20	25
No books	49	61.2
Other	11	13.7

Do the boys and girls attending school?

	No of villages	%
Yes	68	85
No	12	15

Need to have information on split between boys/girls.

### **Water and Sanitation**

People per Latrine	No.	%
No Latrine	42	52.5
>100	3	3.7
50-100	10	12.5
<50	27	33.7

Water Source	No.	%
Hand Pump/ Protected Source	0	0
Open well/ Unprotected	26	33
River/ Drainage	46	57

The condition of water source is accessible.

### **Security**

Mines/ Uxo's in Village	No.	%
Yes	1	1
No	79	79

## **SUMMARY**

On the question to name the top three immediate priorities for the village the following percentage mentioned:

<b>Priority</b>	<b>No of villages</b>	<b>%</b>
Education/School	59	74%
Health/Clinic	49	61%
Potable Water	34	43%
Food	19	24%
Irrigation projects	17	21%
Road/Bridge construction	17	21%
Agriculture services	10	12.5%
Shelter	6	7.5%
Income generation	1	1.25%

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The database is available from the UNHCR Dushanbe as well as from UNHCR and IOM offices in Kunduz for anybody interested in producing further analysis.

### ***Shelter***

1. The implementation of the shelter project should be discussed with ACTED and following identification of the potential beneficiaries should be done upon arrival of returnees from the islands. The approximate number of destroyed houses from 400 to 500.
2. The shelter identification should be done jointly by UNHCR/ACTED team and the following criteria should be established:
  - a) houses, destroyed by war during last two years; (some houses were destroyed during Soviet occupation, and the owners still did not arrived from Pakistan, Iran)
  - b) families, whose houses were looted, the windows and doors were stolen;
  - c) beneficiaries must be well targeted and special attention should be paid to Female Headed Households and vulnerable families only;
  - d) Availability of land.

People, who are landless or whose land was washed by river, could not be considered as beneficiaries at this stage, before authorities or local community would solve this issue.

3. Beneficiaries should prepare the mud/brick walls themselves and then the shelter materials should be installed (not distributed to the people). The recent experience from Tajikistan showed that most of people sold their construction materials and was not able to complete the reconstruction of houses. The unemployed population as well as the all community would be able to benefit from the project if food for work would be provided for the laborers.
4. Construction materials and prices.

The possibility of procurement of constructional materials (especially timber for windows and doors) could be considered as an option to prevent forest extermination and price inflation in the local market.

However the local construction materials are available in Imam Saheb district and the prices are good and inexpensive than in Tajikistan. For instance in each village the people used to grow the poplar and the price for 1q.m of timber is 32 USD, while in Tajikistan 1q.m cost 150 USD.

### ***Health***

The number of existing clinics and access to the health service do not meet the requirements of the area. Only a small proportion of the population had access to health facilities, with only 11.3% having access to fixed clinic in their village.

### ***Water and Sanitation***

A special attention should be paid to this sector. In 1995 UNHCR/SCA have been installed 50 hand pumps in the several villages, which need to be repaired. In addition the necessary quantity of hand pumps or protected wells should be constructed.

### ***Schools***

Most villages (65%) have no schools. However the number of surveyed villages have land for the schools, but need funds for construction or rehabilitation. Some villages using the mosques for this purpose as there are no other options.

There is one existing secondary school in Bosuz village consist of 12 classrooms, with total 26 teachers and 1200 pupils, covering 10 returnee villages (Bosuz, Murodshih, Qiyon, Arabkishlaq, Batosh, Dorman, Qaraul, Butakashon, Shalbafi and Zardkamar) need to be rehabilitated immediately. The main problem is absent of doors (25 pcs.) and windows (86 pcs.). The rehabilitation of this school may have a great impact on the community.

### ***Irrigation***

The canal cleaning/dam rehabilitation should be implemented in the area as FFW (Food for work) project

### ***Food***

Food distribution should be considered as food for work only.

### ***NFI***

Non food items could be provided upon arrival of returnees, if it is necessary.