POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

IN

KANDAHAR PROVINCE

ESTIMATION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION NUMBER,
THE PRESENT AND ABSENT NUMBER OF FAMILIES,
AND THE POPULATION PRESSURE ON CULTIVABLE LAND.

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Date: February 1, 1993.
Introduction.

As the result of 14 year of war, the population development of Kandahar province is misty, because many of its inhabitants have fled to Pakistan and another numerous group is internal displaced. During the last years, a few attempts have been made to estimate the total number of inhabitants for the Kandahar Province, such as UNIDATA and USAID in 1990, and very recently the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (1992). Based on the available statistical information, I have tried to make new estimations on the total population number and the number of present population. Especially in 1992, a great number of refugees have decided to return back to their own villages and cities in Kandahar Province. For repatriation and development agencies it is important to know the demographic situation and its development in order to adjust their efforts to the changing situations. The repatriation and installation of the refugees could create new problems in the local communities: land disputes, availability of housing, food shortage, lack of health care and educational facilities, etc. Access to cultivable land is a pre-requisite for a sustainable livelihood for many rural families. In the densely populated districts of Kandahar Province, the availability of cultivable land is under pressure. Many families will not be able to find a livelihood in agriculture, because they do not have (enough) land or do not have access to it. For them, non-arable economic opportunities will be the only alternative; livestock breeding, kitchen gardening, food processing, handicraft, trade, transport, and other services. A second alternative is migration to other areas, where arable land is still available, or to the cities. MCI should be aware, that many poor rural households already find a great share of their income in non-agricultural activities, and in the (near) many more will have to do the same. Therefore, development activities should be created which reinforce the opportunities of poor rural households to create a livelihood in the non-agricultural sector, in order to avoid a massive migration of these poor rural families to the Afghan cities.


The 1979 Census estimated the total population at 567,204. The 1979 Population Census determined the urban population to be 178,409 or 31.5 percent of the total provincial population. There were 1,865 localities, of which 1,817 were main villages and 48 were sub-villages with an average population per locality of 304 persons, or approximately 43 households. The last population census of 1979 remained incomplete because of reforms instituted by the government and the civil turmoil that followed the introduction of these reforms. The census did not have separate data on population for the districts of Dand and Shega and the sub-district of Nesh. (UNIDATA: 16-18)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>settled population</th>
<th>density of pop. sq.km.</th>
<th>number of households</th>
<th>number of localities</th>
<th>average hh. size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHORAK</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>9,945</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
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<td>SHORBABAK</td>
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<td>979</td>
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<td>6.8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>4,333</td>
<td>174</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>REG</td>
<td>1,103</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>567,204</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>80,021</td>
<td>1,865</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: (UNIDATA: 17)

UNIDATA placed family size at 7. Household size has been affected in many ways. Poor security conditions and damage to shelter caused by war forced families with close ethnic and clan ties to live together. These families are common in urban and rural areas attacked by the mujahideen or subjected to government air raids. So the war sometimes increased the average household size. Nevertheless, at the beginning of the war, the younger generation fled the country. This decreased the household size. People over 40 usually stayed at home. (UNIDATA: 18)


In 1990, UNIDATA estimated the total population of Kandahar province at 737,762, of which 445,120 live actually in the province, and 292,640 are refugees in Pakistan and Iran. Without the refugees, the population density is 9 in 1990. The urban population constitute 8.2% of the total. The number of nomads is estimated at 53,796. (UNIDAT: x)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1979</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Iran</th>
<th>1990 pop. at home</th>
<th>adjusted 1990 pop.</th>
<th>population per sq. km.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1980</td>
<td></td>
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<td>42,871</td>
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<td>24,031</td>
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<td>30,497</td>
<td>20,200</td>
<td>174,733</td>
<td>4,438 5,810 4,019</td>
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<tr>
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<td>23,594</td>
<td>3,192</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,402</td>
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<td>115,512</td>
<td>15,627</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>94,852</td>
<td>166 217 208</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>59</td>
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<td>5,790</td>
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<td>1,358</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13,976</td>
<td>11 14 12</td>
<td></td>
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<td>51,481</td>
<td>25,333</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>21,148</td>
<td>3 5 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>19,920</td>
<td>33,061</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,804</td>
<td>5 6 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>NESH</td>
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<td>9,624</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9,624</td>
<td>4 5 5</td>
<td></td>
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<td>92,409</td>
<td>68,375</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>19,034</td>
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<td>SHEGAH</td>
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<td>6,053</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,053</td>
<td>1 2 2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHORABAK *</td>
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<td>6,323</td>
<td>9,049</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,265</td>
<td>1 1 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>29,500</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>5,900</td>
<td>5 7 1</td>
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</tr>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>539,780</td>
<td>737,762</td>
<td>292,435</td>
<td>37,200</td>
<td>474,051</td>
<td>11 15 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* nomadic population is not included.

source: (UNIDATA: 19-20)

With the refugee population, the total population of Kandahar province increased with 197,982 (+36.7 %) in the 11 years from 1979 to 1990; 3.3 % per year. Without the refugee population, the population decreased with 65,051 persons (-12.2%). In 1990, 329,635 (registered) refugees from Kandahar province were still living in Pakistan and Iran; 44.7 percent of the total provincial population in 1990. Of those who became refugees, 89 percent moved to Pakistan and 11 percent to Iran. The approximately 240,000 refugees from Kandahar province account for nearly 10 percent of all Afghan refugees registered in Pakistan. Considerable internal displacement of the population has also taken place toward Kandahar City, whose pre-war population of nearly 200,000 is thought to have doubled. Should all refugees return in the near future, the country's population will double by the year 2010. (UNIDATA: 20-21)


During July and August 1992, The Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) has conducted a survey in Kandahar Province, which covered 523 villages in the five districts of Arghandab, Arghistan, Dand, Panjwai and Shega. Of these, 46 villages were found to be abandoned. In all, a total of 3,361 individuals from 477 inhabited villages participated in the interviews. Based on their field experience, the enumerators estimated that they surveyed all of the villages in the districts of Arghandab and Shega. For Arghistan, Dand and Panjwai, they estimated that they covered about half of the villages in the district. Based on this information, I have made an extrapolation of the results in order to estimate the total population number for the surveyed districts and for the whole Kandahar Province.

Number of families in the 477 inhabited surveyed villages in 1992.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5,107</td>
<td>6,413</td>
<td>1,306</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1,888</td>
<td>8,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,631</td>
<td>2,288</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1,239</td>
<td>3,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1,754</td>
<td>3,419</td>
<td>1,665</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>4,380</td>
<td>7,799</td>
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<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,159</td>
<td>7,158</td>
<td>2,990</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>2,150</td>
<td>9,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGA</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>968</td>
<td>1,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>13,231</td>
<td>20,020</td>
<td>6,789</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>10,625</td>
<td>30,645</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SCA (October, 1992): 3-10

In aggregate, about two-thirds of the total population of the 477 inhabited villages was present during July and August 1992. SCA Assumes that there are between six and nine individuals per family. The present population of the 477 inhabited villages ranges from 120,000 to 180,000 individuals. Using the same assumptions about family size, there are between 64,000 and 95,000 individuals that have not returned to the inhabited surveyed villages in the five districts. The size of the absent population increased if the abandoned villages are taken into account. This is especially true for Dand which has 31 abandoned villages. Assuming that abandoned villages are of average size for their districts implies that an additional 21,000 to 32,000 individuals have not returned. (SCA: 10)

I prefer to use an average family size of 7.1 individuals, based on the 1979 Census.

Total population of the 477 inhabited villages, based on the assumption that the average family size is 7.1 individuals, in 1992.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>37,680</td>
<td>45,532</td>
<td>7,853</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13,405</td>
<td>58,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11,580</td>
<td>16,265</td>
<td>4,685</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>8,797</td>
<td>25,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12,453</td>
<td>24,275</td>
<td>11,822</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>31,098</td>
<td>55,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29,529</td>
<td>50,822</td>
<td>21,293</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>15,265</td>
<td>66,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGA</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2,698</td>
<td>5,268</td>
<td>2,570</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>6,873</td>
<td>12,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>93,940</td>
<td>142,142</td>
<td>48,202</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>75,438</td>
<td>217,580</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Average size of a village, total population of abandoned villages, and total population of the five districts. (average family size is 7.1 individuals) in 1992

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>AVERAGE NUMBER OF FAMILIES PER VILLAGE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ABANDONED VILLAGES</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF POPULATION IN ABANDONED VILLAGES</th>
<th>TOTAL POPULATION IN INHABITED AND ABANDONED VILLAGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PRESENT</td>
<td>ABSENT</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>PRESENT</td>
<td>ABSENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>96.9</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>60.1</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>78.2</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGA</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total number of individuals, who are absent in the 46 abandoned villages should be estimated at 25,430 persons. Therefore, the total population of the five district could be estimated at 243,010 persons, of which 142,142 individuals were present in the 523 villages in July and August of 1992; 58.5% of the total estimated population.

The average number of families of the surveyed villages is estimated at 65.2, of which 41.8 families were present and 23.4 were absent at the moment of the survey. The distribution of village size is presented in the next table.

<p>| DISTRIBUTION OF VILLAGE SIZE (NUMBER OF PRESENT AND ABSENT FAMILIES) IN 1992. |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>LESS THAN 50</th>
<th>51 - 100</th>
<th>101 - 200</th>
<th>MORE THAN 200</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>NUMBER</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>NUMBER</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>55.8</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGA</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>81.6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>60.4</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

source: SCA: 11

3.2. Estimation of the total population for the five districts.

The estimation is that the SCA Survey covered all the villages in the districts of Arghandab and Shega and about half of the villages in the districts of Arghistan, Dand and Panjwai. Based on this estimation, it is possible to estimate the total number of villages in all five districts.
Estimation of the total number inhabited and abandoned villages in the five surveyed districts in 1992.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>NUMBER OF SURVEYED INHABITED VILLAGES</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF INHABITED VILLAGES</th>
<th>NUMBER OF SURVEYED ABANDONED VILLAGES</th>
<th>PERCENT OF TOTAL SURVEYED VILLAGES</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF ABANDONED VILLAGES</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF VILLAGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arghandab</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arghistan</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dand</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panjwai</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shega</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>870</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the basis of the estimated total number of inhabited (786) and abandoned (84) villages in the five districts, it is possible to estimate the total size of the population. In order to estimate the total population size, the following assumptions are made; the average family size is 7.1 individuals, and the non-surveyed villages have the same average size as the surveyed villages have.

Estimation of the total size of the population of 870 inhabited and abandoned villages in the five surveyed districts in 1992.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS</th>
<th>PRESENT POPULATION AS PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arghandab</td>
<td>6,413</td>
<td>2,029</td>
<td>76.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arghistan</td>
<td>4,576</td>
<td>2,863</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dand</td>
<td>6,038</td>
<td>2,863</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panjwai</td>
<td>14,316</td>
<td>4,300</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shega</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>1,212</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>32,885</td>
<td>25,269</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is now possible to compare the total estimated population size of 1992 with the figures of 1979 and 1990, in order to see if a trend is visible.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arghandab</td>
<td>40,413</td>
<td>62,029</td>
<td>42,871</td>
<td>69.1%</td>
<td>59,931</td>
<td>45,532</td>
<td>76.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arghistan*</td>
<td>18,652</td>
<td>24,031</td>
<td>19,034</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>154,092</td>
<td>132,173</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dand</td>
<td>88,320</td>
<td>115,512</td>
<td>94,885</td>
<td>82.1%</td>
<td>154,092</td>
<td>132,173</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panjwai</td>
<td>68,220</td>
<td>92,049</td>
<td>79,034</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>101,643</td>
<td>84,605</td>
<td>83.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shega</td>
<td>4,699</td>
<td>6,953</td>
<td>6,053</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>5,268</td>
<td>5,268</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>220,104</td>
<td>300,036</td>
<td>167,649</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>412,893</td>
<td>233,476</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


If we compare the population sizes of 1990 and 1992 for the different districts, the following trends can be identified, which need an explanation. For Arghandab District the total population size should have decreased from 62,029 persons in 1990 to 59,931 in 1992 (-3.4%). The total present population shows an increase of 2,661 persons (+6.2%) from 1990 to 1992. The enormous increase in population
size for Arghistan District can be explained by the fact, that in 1990 the nomadic population was not included in the statistics. For Dand District, the sharp decrease of present population is remarkable; from 94,885 persons in 1990 to 48,550 in 1992 (-48.8%). Consequently, the total population/present population rate fell from 82.1% in 1990 to 31.5%. I suppose that the present population size of 1990 is far over-estimated. (see refugee statistics in § 3.4) For Panjwai District the present population size shows a sharp increase of 434%! The 1990 statistics claimed that there were no absent families in Shega District. But the 1992 SCA Survey shows that still 43.5% of the population is absent in this district. The total population size of the five districts together shows a sharp increase from 300,034 individuals in 1990 to 412,893 persons in 1992 (+37.6%). The size of the present population increased even sharper with 39.3% between 1990 and 1992. In the total population size of 1990 the nomadic population from Arghistan District are not included. The Office of A.I.D. Representative for Afghanistan Affairs' study *Afghanistan's Population Inside and Out* estimated the total number of nomadic population in Arghistan District in 1990 at 20,728. If this number is included, the total population number for this district rises to 44,759 individuals. It is impossible to estimate how many of the nomadic population were present in Arghistan District in 1990. Therefore, we should be careful with the interpretation of the different trends.

In 1990, the total population size for Kandahar Province was 737,762 persons (the nomadic population of Arghistan, Maruf, Shorabak, and Spin Boldak were not included). The USAID Population Study estimated the total number of nomadic population at 65,923 persons in 1990. If this number is included in the total population size for Kandahar Province, it increases to 803,684. If we extrapolate the increase rate of the five surveyed districts to the total population size of Kandahar Province, this province could have a total population of about 1 million inhabitants in 1992. The total present population of Kandahar Province could be estimated at around 565,000 individuals at home in 1992. Hence, the number of refugees could be around 435,000 persons; 43.5% of the total provincial population.
3.3. Population density.

On the basis of the available population figures, it is possible to calculate the population density for the five surveyed districts (per km²).

Population density for total area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>1979</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1992</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>PRESENT</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The population density for the five surveyed districts has a wide range: from 2 persons per square kilometer in Shega District to 91 persons per km² in Dand District in 1992. If all the absent families should return to their villages and cities, the population density will increase sharply; in Dand from 91 to 290 persons per km², while in Shega District the population density will rise with 150 percent; from 2 to 5 persons per km². The average population density for the five surveyed districts together will increase from 19 to 33 persons per square kilometer. If all the refugees have returned to the five surveyed districts, the population density would have been increased from 18 in 1979 to 33 persons per km² in 1992: an increase of 83.3%.

3.3.1. Population pressure on arable land.

The population density related to cultivable and cultivated land shows the following pattern.

Population density for cultivated and cultivable land in 1980 (area in jeribs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>49,000</td>
<td>4.9:1</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>40,413</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>10,580</td>
<td>77,340</td>
<td>7.3:1</td>
<td>87,920</td>
<td>18,652</td>
<td>4.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>76,180</td>
<td>214,310</td>
<td>2.8:1</td>
<td>290,490</td>
<td>88,320</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>20,190</td>
<td>70,980</td>
<td>3.5:1</td>
<td>91,170</td>
<td>68,220</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,499</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>116,950</td>
<td>411,630</td>
<td>3.5:1</td>
<td>528,580</td>
<td>220,104</td>
<td>1.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNIDATA: 19-20, 44.
In 1980, for each person in one of the five districts an average 1.87 jeribs of cultivated and 2.40 jeribs was available. In Arghandab and Panjwai Districts the population pressure was higher. An average family of 7.1 persons had an average access to 13.28 jeribs of cultivated land and 17.05 jeribs of cultivable land in 1980.

Population density for cultivated and cultivable land in 1990 (area in jeribs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>8,070</td>
<td>50,930</td>
<td>6.3 : 1</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>1,890</td>
<td>86,030</td>
<td>45.5 : 1</td>
<td>87,920</td>
<td>3.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>145,330</td>
<td>290,490</td>
<td>1.0 : 1</td>
<td>290,490</td>
<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>7,330</td>
<td>83,840</td>
<td>11.4 : 1</td>
<td>91,170</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGAH</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,053</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>162,620</td>
<td>365,960</td>
<td>2.3 : 1</td>
<td>528,580</td>
<td>1.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

source: UNIDATA: 19-20, 46.

In 1990, the cultivated area decreased with 45,670 jeribs between 1980 and 1990: -11.1%. The total (estimated) population increased from 220,104 to 300,034 individuals between 1980 and 1990; an increase of 79,930 (+ 36.3% or 3.6% a year). The average access to cultivated and cultivable land decreased to 1.22 and 1.76 jeribs, respectively.

On the assumption that in 1992 the total area of cultivated and cultivable land was the same as in 1990, the pressure on this agricultural resource increased further: 0.89 and 1.28 jeribs, respectively.

Population density for cultivated and cultivable land in 1992 (area in jeribs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>8,070</td>
<td>50,930</td>
<td>6.3 : 1</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>1,890</td>
<td>86,030</td>
<td>45.5 : 1</td>
<td>87,920</td>
<td>1.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>145,330</td>
<td>290,490</td>
<td>1.0 : 1</td>
<td>290,490</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>7,330</td>
<td>83,840</td>
<td>11.4 : 1</td>
<td>91,170</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGAH</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,053</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>162,620</td>
<td>365,960</td>
<td>2.3 : 1</td>
<td>528,580</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Population density for cultivated and cultivable land in 1990 and 1992, related to present population (area in jeribs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>50,930</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>233,476</td>
<td>1.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>86,030</td>
<td>87,920</td>
<td>4.806</td>
<td>17.90</td>
<td>32,490</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>290,490</td>
<td>290,490</td>
<td>94.885</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>48,550</td>
<td>2.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>83,840</td>
<td>91,170</td>
<td>19.034</td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>101,643</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGAH</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,053</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,260</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>365,960</td>
<td>528,580</td>
<td>167,649</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>233,476</td>
<td>1.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If we consider the estimated present population in 1990 and 1992, the pressure on cultivated and cultivable land shows the following pattern. In 1990, the average access for the five surveyed districts was 2.18 and 3.15 jeribs per persons, while in 1992 the population pressure increased to 1.57 jeribs for cultivated land and 2.26 jeribs for cultivable land.

**Total number of families and average access to cultivated and cultivable land in 1990 and 1992. (area in jeribs; average family size is 7.1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARGHANDAB</strong></td>
<td>50,930</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>8,736</td>
<td>5.83</td>
<td>6.75</td>
<td>8,441</td>
<td>6.03</td>
<td>6.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARGHISTAN</strong></td>
<td>86,030</td>
<td>87,920</td>
<td>3,385</td>
<td>25.42</td>
<td>25.97</td>
<td>7,439</td>
<td>11.56</td>
<td>11.82</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAND</strong></td>
<td>145,160</td>
<td>290,600</td>
<td>16,269</td>
<td>8.92</td>
<td>17.86</td>
<td>21,703</td>
<td>6.69</td>
<td>13.38</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PANJWAI</strong></td>
<td>83,840</td>
<td>91,170</td>
<td>13,015</td>
<td>6.44</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>18,616</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>4.90</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHEGAH</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>853</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,954</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>365,960</td>
<td>528,580</td>
<td>42,258</td>
<td>8.66</td>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>58,154</td>
<td>6.29</td>
<td>9.09</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** UNIDATA: 19-20, 46; SCA 1992.

For the total (estimated) number of families (present and absent), the average access to cultivated and cultivable land was 8.66 and 12.50 jeribs per family in 1990, while in 1992, the pressure has risen to 6.29 and 9.09 jeribs for an average family of 7.1 individuals.

**Number of present families and average access to cultivated and cultivable land in 1990 and 1992. (area in jeribs; average family size is 7.1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARGHANDAB</strong></td>
<td>50,930</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>6,038</td>
<td>8.43</td>
<td>9.77</td>
<td>6,413</td>
<td>7.94</td>
<td>9.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARGHISTAN</strong></td>
<td>86,030</td>
<td>87,920</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>127.08</td>
<td>129.87</td>
<td>4,576</td>
<td>18.80</td>
<td>19.21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAND</strong></td>
<td>145,160</td>
<td>290,600</td>
<td>13,364</td>
<td>10.86</td>
<td>21.74</td>
<td>6,858</td>
<td>21.23</td>
<td>42.48</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PANJWAI</strong></td>
<td>83,840</td>
<td>91,170</td>
<td>2,681</td>
<td>31.27</td>
<td>34.01</td>
<td>14.316</td>
<td>5.86</td>
<td>6.37</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHEGAH</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>853</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>365,960</td>
<td>528,580</td>
<td>23,613</td>
<td>15.50</td>
<td>22.39</td>
<td>32,885</td>
<td>11.13</td>
<td>16.07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** UNIDATA: 19-20, 46; SCA 1992.

If only the present number of families are counted, the average access of an average family to cultivated and cultivable land was 15.50 and 22.39 jeribs, while in 1992 it was reduced to 11.13 and 16.07 jeribs. In 1992, the population pressure of present families on arable land was already high in Arghandab and Panjwai Districts. If all the refugees will be repatriated to their own districts, the population pressure on arable land will sharply increase; in Arghandab and Panjwai District the average access to cultivable land for an average family will be 6.99 and 4.90 jeribs; 1.4 and 0.98 hectares!
3.3.2. Village size.

Distribution of village size for 786 inhabited villages in the five surveyed districts (number of present and absent families) in 1992.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>LESS THAN 50</th>
<th>51 - 100</th>
<th>101 - 200</th>
<th>MORE THAN 200</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUMBER</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>NUMBER</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>NUMBER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>55.8</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGA</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>81.6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SCA 1992: 11

More than 60 percent of the villages in the five surveyed districts are smaller than 50 families (355 individuals), 25 percent have a size of 51 to 100 families (355-710 inhabitants), while nearly 15 percent of all the villages have a population number, which is larger than 100 families. Especially, the villages in Arghistan and Shega Districts are small: 84.6 and 81.6 percent are smaller than 50 families. The predominance of relatively smaller villages in Arghistan and Shega represents the constraint of resources on settlement size; particularly water and irrigable land. (SCA: 11)

3.4. Refugees and returnees.

Since 1991, and largely in the period May through August 1992, the population of the surveyed districts has increased by more than 50 percent, growing from 13,231 to 20,020 families. A total of 6,296 families were identified as repatriated refugees, or about one-third of the total of 20,020 families. In the six months prior to the survey, 5,384 families (86 percent of the repatriated families) have repatriated from Pakistan. Repatriation in the six months prior to the survey accounts for 79 percent of the return since 1991.

Total population and repatriated families for the 477 surveyed villages in the five districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUMBER</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>PRIOR 1992</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>5,307</td>
<td>6,413</td>
<td>1,106</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>1,631</td>
<td>2,288</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>1,756</td>
<td>3,419</td>
<td>1,665</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>1,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>4,159</td>
<td>7,158</td>
<td>2,999</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>2,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGA</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>13,231</td>
<td>20,020</td>
<td>6,789</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>5,384</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SCA: 5-6.
Proportion of 1992 repatriated families in total number of repatriated families and 1991-1992 population increase in the five surveyed districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>906</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>1,357</td>
<td>1,463</td>
<td>94.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>2,402</td>
<td>2,851</td>
<td>84.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGA</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>98.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>5,384</td>
<td>6,296</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The statistics show us that a great majority of repatriated families have returned during the first 8 months of 1992. The average number for all five surveyed districts is 85.5%, but for the districts of Arghandab, Dand and Shega the proportion of 1992 returnees in the total number of repatriated families was higher than 90 percent.

Estimation of repatriated families and total number of population in 786 villages in the five surveyed districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>5,307</td>
<td>6,413</td>
<td>1,106</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>3,262</td>
<td>4,576</td>
<td>1,314</td>
<td>1,152</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>1,812</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>3,508</td>
<td>5,838</td>
<td>3,330</td>
<td>2,774</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>2,926</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>8,318</td>
<td>14,316</td>
<td>5,998</td>
<td>4,802</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>5,702</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGA</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>47.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>20,775</td>
<td>32,885</td>
<td>12,110</td>
<td>9,749</td>
<td>1,767</td>
<td>11,516</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Estimation of the time in which all refugees will be repatriated in the tempo of 1992 for the 870 inhabited and abandoned the five surveyed districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>NUMBER OF FAMILIES REPATRIATED DURING FIRST 8 MONTHS OF 1992</th>
<th>NUMB'R OF ABSENT FAMILIES</th>
<th>ABSENT/1992 REPATRIATION RATIO</th>
<th>REQUIRED NUMBER OF MONTHS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGHANDAB</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>2,029</td>
<td>3.0 : 1</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGHISTAN</td>
<td>1,152</td>
<td>2,863</td>
<td>2.5 : 1</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAND</td>
<td>2,774</td>
<td>14,865</td>
<td>5.4 : 1</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANJWAI</td>
<td>4,804</td>
<td>4,300</td>
<td>0.9 : 1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEGA</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>1,212</td>
<td>3.5 : 1</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>9,749</td>
<td>25,269</td>
<td>2.6 : 1</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1992, an estimated number of 25,269 families in the five surveyed districts were still absent and lived as refugees in Pakistan and Iran. During the first 8 months, an average of 1,219 families returned to one of the five surveyed districts a month. In this tempo, all the 25,269 absent families could be repatriated in 20.7 months. But for the separate districts, the required number of months for repatriating all their absent families in the tempo of the first 8 months of 1992 shows great difference: from 7.2 months for Panjwai District to 42.9 months for Dand District. This calculation only gives an indication of the time that is required to repatriate all the absent families to their own districts. The reality is more complex.

Summary and conclusion.

In 1992, the number of repatriated families in the five surveyed districts has increased sharply. UNIDATA estimated the total population number at 737,762 in 1990 (nomadic population not included). Based on the SCA 1992 Survey in the five districts, I estimate the total population of Kandahar Province at about 1 million in 1992. This means that the total population increased with 6 percent a year between 1979 and 1992. The SCA 1992 Survey mentions that 58.5% of the total population was present in 1992; 5.3% of the villages were abandoned. The average inhabited village has 65.2 families, of which 23.4 were absent during the survey. In 1992, 61.7 percent of all the villages in the five surveyed districts had a size of less than 50 families (± 350 inhabitants).

The population density in the five surveyed districts was 18 persons per square kilometer in 1979; in 1990, it was 24 persons/km² for the total population and 14 individuals/km² for the present population. In 1992, the population density for the total estimated population was 33 persons/km² and 19 for the estimated present population. Consequently, the population pressure on cultivable land has also risen, which could create new problems in the local communities. In 1990, the population pressure on cultivated and cultivable land was 1.22 and 1.76 jeribs for the total estimated population, while for the estimated present population the pressure was 2.18 and 3.15 jeribs. In 1992, the average access of the total population to cultivated and cultivable land was 0.89 and 1.28 jeribs; for the estimated present population the average access was 1.57 and 2.26 jeribs. An average family (7.1 persons), which was present in 1990, had an average access to 15.50 jeribs of cultivated land and 22.39 jeribs of cultivable land. In 1992, this average access had decreased to 11.13 and 16.06 jeribs, respectively. If all the refugees had returned to Southwest Afghanistan in 1990, the average access to cultivated land for an average family was 8.66 jeribs; and should this be the case in 1992 the access for an average family was 6.29 jeribs. For the total amount of cultivable land, the average access of the total estimated number of families was 12.50 and 9.09 jeribs, respectively in 1990 and 1992. In order to increase the access of the returnees to cultivable land, all the irrigation systems should be rehabilitated. But this will not be enough, because the access to important agricultural inputs (fertilizer, seed, and pesticides) is a big problem in order to start agricultural activities and to assure a livelihood for the rural families. If all the refugees will return to their local communities in the rural areas of Kandahar Province, there will be not enough cultivable land available for all of them. Especially the poor rural families without land will have to look for alternative economic opportunities. MCI could help these families with special programs, which are focused on poverty alleviation. Consequently, non-agricultural activities should also be considered by MCI.
If all the refugees from Southwest Afghanistan will return in the same pace as during the first eight months of 1992 in the five surveyed districts, it would take 20.7 months to repatriate all the (registered) refugees to their own communities; for Dand District it would even take 42.9 months. If this will happen, it would create (more) problems, because for many of these returned refugees there will be no housing and the food shortage will aggravate. Also the pressure on the available cultivated land will increase sharply, which will create land disputes and tension in the local communities. The availability of social services (drinking water, education, and health care) is already insufficient for the actual present population, and will become worse if all the refugees return to their "homes".

LITERATURE.


UNIDATA (August 1991): Kandahar Province; A Socio-Economic Profile.