

## Where ERRA Works –EQAAs

The earthquake affected area covers a 30,000 sq km region of North West Frontier Province and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK). Full profiles of each district can be found on ERRA's website <http://www.erra.gov.pk/WebForms/publications.aspx> under the heading "District Profiles".

### Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK)

#### 1. Muzaffarabad

Muzaffarabad is the capital of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK). The district of Muzaffarabad is located on the banks of the Jhelum and Neelum rivers and covers a mountainous area. The district is bounded by Punjab Province in the west, by the Kupwara and Baramulla districts of Indian-controlled Jammu & Kashmir in the east, and the Federally Administered Northern Areas (FANA) in the north. The population of the district, according to the 1998 Census, was 725, 000. The district comprises three Tehsils, and the city of Muzaffarabad serves as the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Muzaffarabad was the epicentre of the October 2005 earthquake which had a magnitude of 7.6. The earthquake destroyed 50% of the buildings in the city (including most of the official buildings).

#### 2. Neelum

Neelum district spreads over the Neelum Valley, which is 144 km long and is bow-shaped, filled with majestic pine, fir and deodar trees. It lies north-south of Muzaffarabad (capital of AJ&K). The valley is divided by the Neelum River which flows in serpentine down hill to merge itself into the river Jhelum at Domail. The geographical features of the Neelum valley enhance the natural attraction of the area. Its elevation, a mere 600 meters at the start, gradually rises till it attains a height of 2,425 meters. On both the sides there are high mountains and peaks. Nearly all the forest wealth of Azad Kashmir is found in this valley. There are two approaches to the valley; one from Kaghan valley and other from Muzaffarabad, the capital of AJ&K.

District Neelum suffered less damage from the 2005 earthquake when compared to the neighbouring District Muzaffarabad but due to the relatively underdeveloped communication facilities (in particular the substandard road network), District Neelum was to be reached by international and national relief efforts.

#### 3. Bagh

Bagh City, the headquarters of District Bagh is located 100 km south-east of Muzaffarabad (via Kohala) 80 km via Suddhen Gali, 205 km north-east of Islamabad and 48 km north of Rawalakot. This town is situated on the confluence of two smaller nullahs - Malwani and Mall, which carry water all the year around.

Bagh is located close to the epicentre of the 2005 earthquake. Bagh's physical infrastructure suffered significant damage as a result of the earthquake.

#### 4. Poonch – Rawalakot

Rawalakot is a small size city and the capital of the Poonch District of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. It is in a saucer-shaped valley at elevation 1,615 meters (5,300 ft). It is 76 km (47 miles) away from Kohala, and is linked with Rawalpindi and Islamabad via the neighbouring Tehsils of Azad Pattan and Dhirkot (district Bagh), and with Muzaffarabad via Kohala and Sudhangali by asphalt roads. 84.6% of the population of Poonch lives in rural areas. 83% of all private houses were significantly damaged as a result of the earthquake.

### North Western Frontier Province (NWFP)

#### 5. Abbottabad

Abbottabad, the bordering district of NWFP with Punjab, is scenic and relatively prosperous. It did not sustain the same level of damage as other areas in the earthquake. Abbottabad is the principal city of the District. It is located at 100 km (75 miles) north of the capital Islamabad and 205 km north-east from Peshawar, at an altitude of 4,120 feet (1,250 meters) above the sea level. The city is located in a valley and is known for its pleasant weather, its multitude of educational institutions of high standard and its military training establishments.

#### 6. Mansehra

The district of Mansehra borders in the north with Battagram and Kohistan districts, in the east by Muzaffarabad district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, in the south by Abbottabad and Haripur districts and in the west by Swat district.

The distinct features of the district are its mountain ranges, the plains, valleys and the lakes. The area is characterized by its rich and harmonious combination of tall and stately fine trees, high mountains, plains, scenic valleys and lakes.

Mansehra was the worst affected district of NWFP. 15,997 people from this district died as a result of the earthquake.

#### 7. Battagram

Battagram District is surrounded by Kohistan district to the north, Mansehra District to the east, Kala Dhaka tribal area to the south and Shangla district of Malakand division to the west. Its headquarters is at Battagram town at a distance of about 75 km from Mansehra on the Karakorum Highway.

The district is mostly mountains with peaks rising above 4,000 meters with thick forests. Fertile plain areas exist in Nindhya, Tikri, Deshan, Batamori, Banna and Rashang valleys. The highest point is Darwazai Sar (4,689 meters). The next highest point is in the central part of the district, with an altitude of about 3,000 meters.

#### 8. Shangla

Shangla has the lowest Human Development Index in the province. The district borders on the east by Provincially Administered Tribal Area (PATA) district of Battagram and Tehsil Kala Dhaka

along which the Indus river flows for about 75 km, in the west by district Swat, in the south by district Buner and tribal area of Kala Dhaka and in the north by district Kohistan.

The total area of the district is 1,586 square kilometres. Shangla district consists of small valleys surrounded by high mountains, full of forests comprising Pindrow Fir, Morinda Spruce, Blue Pine (Kail), Chir Pine and Deodar (Cedar) trees. The general elevation of the district is 2,000 to 3,000 meters above sea level. There are beautiful isolated valleys most suitable for seed production of highly demanded cross-pollinated vegetable crops. Moreover, Shangla has got a tremendous potential for hydro power generation - one of such projects is currently under construction at Khan Khwar in Union Council Shang.

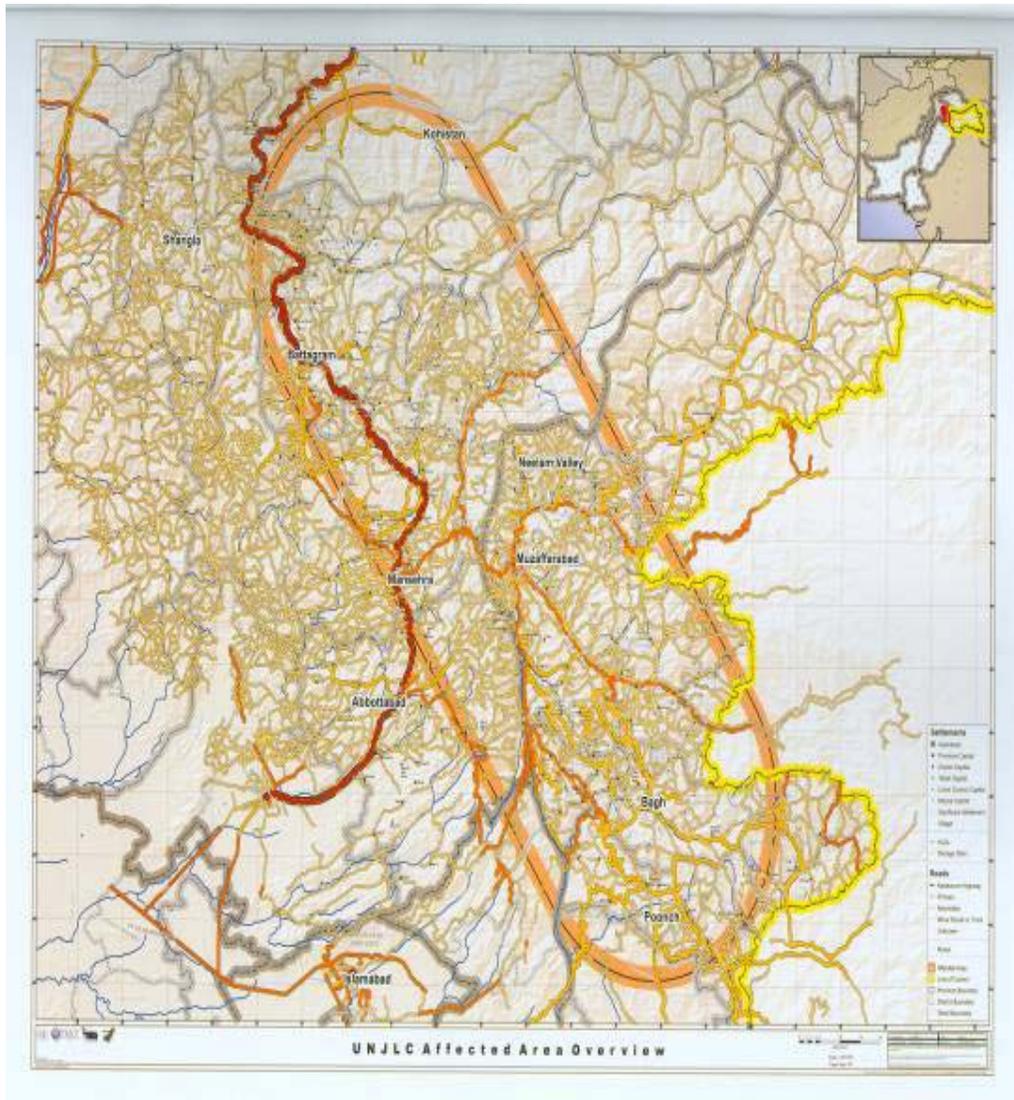
The total population of the district is 512,000 with an annual average growth rate of 3.27% and population density of 274 persons per square kilometre. The total number of households is 64,391 with an average household size of 8.

## 9. Kohistan

Kohistan is a sparsely populated district in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan that stretches from its border with Azad Jammu and Kashmir in the east, to Afghanistan's Nuristan province in the west. It is geographically located in an area where the Eurasian land plate and Indian subcontinent meet and collide. Kohistan is susceptible to earthquakes such as the 2005 Earthquake

District Kohistan is divided into three Tehsils namely Palas, Pattan and Dassu. The capital of Kohistan is Dassu. The word 'Kohistan' literally means 'land of mountains' and is one of the most isolated and the most deprived district not just in Hazara Division but also in the entire NorthWest Frontier Province (NWFP). It is located in the heart of the Himalayas. The total area of the District is 7,492 km .

General Map EQAA



General  
Distance  
Map  
EQAA

