



**Situation Analysis & Baseline Surveys For Poverty
Reduction through Rural Development in KPK,
FATA & Balochistan**

**DEVELOPMENT PROFILE OF
LOWER DIR DISTRICT**

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Submitted by:



Empowerment Performance Result

In Association with:



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Acronyms

ABL	Allied Bank Limited
ACF	Action Contre la Faim (Action Against Hunger)
AKBT	Association for Behavior and Knowledge Transformation
AKRSP	Aga Khan Rural Support Program
ASF	Agribusiness Support Fund
CO	Community Organization
CPI	Community Physical Infrastructure
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DGDC	Directorate General for Development Cooperation
DIG	Deputy Inspector General
DoE	Department of Energy
DPO	District Police Officer
DRC	Dispute Resolution Council
DRC	District Reconciliation Committee
DSP	Deputy Superintendents of Police
DTCE	Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment
EPS	Environmental Protection Society
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FHA	Frontier Highways Authority
FIR	First Information Record
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GoI	Government of Italy
GPI	Gender Parity Indices
GRHO	Gender Reproductive Health Organization
GTTTC	Government Technical Teachers Training Centre
HSRU	Health Sector Reform Unit
IDA	International Development Association
IDP	Internally displaced persons
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LEAs	Law Enforcement Agencies
LEP	Livelihood Enhancement and Protection
MCB	Muslim Commercial Bank
MDTF	Multi-Donor Trust Fund
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
MPAs	Member Provincial Assembly
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NRSP	National Rural Support Program
PATA	Provincially Administered Tribal Areas
PBS	Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PEI	Poverty Eradication Initiative
PHC	Peshawar High Court
PHED	Public Health Engineering Department
PPAF	Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
PS&JP	Public Safety and Justice Program
PSLM	Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement
RDO	Regional Development Organization

SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SIDO	Social Integrated Development Organization
SRLMP	Strengthening Rule of Law in Malakand Program
SRSP	Sarhad Rural Support Program
SWWS	Support With Working Solutions
TAF	The Asia Foundation
TDEA	Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability
TMA	Town Municipal Administration
TNSM	Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi
TTP	Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
UBL	United Bank Limited
UCs	Union Council
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
ZTBL	Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited

Foreword

Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) for undertaking the consulting services titled as “Situation Analysis and Baseline Surveys for Poverty Reduction through Rural Development in KP, FATA and Balochistan” in 14 targeted districts. The study is awarded to the consortium of AASA Consulting and Gender Reproductive Health Organization (GRHO).

The findings of this research would be utilized for the three year’s investment program in Balochistan, KP and FATA which would be financed by the Government of Italy (GoI) through the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGDCS).

The project is divided in two phases. A macro picture of target districts will be portrayed in Phase-I by developing, “District Situation Analysis” reports, while household poverty and assessment of Community Organization (CO) will be assessed through detailed quantitative and qualitative surveys in the selected Union Councils (UCs) of the target areas in Phase-II of the project.

This report furnishes the Situation Analysis of the district of Lower Dir with respect to its socio-economic status. It employs mainly secondary data collected by Pakistan Bureau of Statistic (PBS)s, the provincial bureaus, and the donor organizations. Three main data sources were used to compile the district profiles; the latest available Provincial Development and Social Statistics, District Census and Population Reports (1998), and the latest available household survey (Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement, PSLM 2012-13). PSLM is mainly used to compile education, health, demographic and housing profiles. Other secondary sources such as line departments of the district, provincial reports, and major research studies carried out at the district level, are also used to expand the situational analysis of the district.

The report starts with district geography, followed by the socio economic profile of the district including education and literacy, health, housing quality and housing services, transport and communication, employed labor force and livelihood. The other areas covered in the report include Law and Order, Conflict Management, The Role of Women, Environmental Analysis, and Social Mobilization. A brief on financial institutions operating in the district is also shared.

Some information, which is significant for profiling districts with respect to development characteristics, such as the strength of social organizations and institutions, conflict resolution practices, disaster management etc. are limited at the district level, but wherever possible the information is shared and analyzed.

The report provides a quick reference with respect to the current socio-economic status of district Lower Dir and the information readily available for planning and development initiatives at a local level. Wherever possible, the information is presented in visual form (tables and graph) with a very brief commentary to make these profiles a handy and practical booklet.

District Lower Dir– At a Glance

District Headquarter: Timergara

Tehsils and UCs

Samar Bagh Khazana, Mian Kali, Munda, Drangal, Mayar, Maskini, Samarbagh, Asbanr, Chakdara

Timergara Khadakzai, Khan Pur, Ouch, Balambat, Koto, Laj Book, Munjai, Rabat, Beshi Gram, Gal Maidan, Kotkai, LalQilla, Zimdara, BaghDushkhel, NooraKhail, ShahiKhail, Khall, Shalfalam, Toormang, Badwan, Khungi, Tazagram, Kotigram, Timergara, Hayaserai, Bandagai, SadbarKalay, Kambat

Area 1582 Square Kilometer

Climate The summer season is hot and winter is extremely cold. A steep rise in temperature occurs from May to June, and then it gets very hot during July to the end of August, but during September weather turns normal, especially at nights. A rapid fall of temperature occurs from October onwards. The coldest months are December and January. Towards the end of cold weather there are occasional thunderstorms and hailstorms.

Major Ethnic Groups Isazai, Ismailzai

Demography

Projected Population – 2014 (thousand) 1229

Population Density (Persons per Square Kilometer) 776

Percentage of Rural Population 95%

Percentage of Female Population 50%

Sex Ratio (Males per 100 Females - Percentage) 100

Percentage of Children (0-5 years) 17%

Percentage of Active Population (15-64 years) 51%

Dependency Ratio (Percentage) 97%

Household Size 8

Livelihood Sources

Total Cropped Area (Hectares) 46701

Total Irrigated Area (Hectares) 43140

Major Crops Wheat, Maize, Rice, Canola

Livestock Head Per thousand Rural Population 2016

Major Minerals Granite, Limestone

Head of Household Work Status (Percentages):

Wage Employed 40

Self Employed 13

Employer 1

Agriculture 43

Livestock 2

Education

Percentage of Population that Ever Attended School	53
Primary Enrollment Rate (Gross)	92
Middle Enrollment Rate (Gross)	54
Matric Enrollment Rate (Gross)	42
Percentage of Literate Persons (10 years and above)	51
Percentage of Literate Persons (15 years and above)	44

Health

Health Institutions (numbers):	
Hospitals	3
Dispensary	19
Rural Health Centre	4
Basic Health Centre	33
Health Staff per One Hundred Thousand Population	
Doctors	17
Nurses	18
Paramedics	36

Housing

	Percentage of Households
Inadequate Roof Structure (Wood, Bamboo)	67
Un-electrified Households	3
Households with No-Toilet	7
Inadequate Fuel for Cooking	96
Inadequate Source of Drinking Water	43

Sources:

- Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014, Bureau of Statistics, Government of KP
- Important district-wise socio-economic indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014
- Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement Survey, 2012-13, Government of Pakistan
- District Census Report, 1998

1.0 District Geography

1.1 Location and Boundary

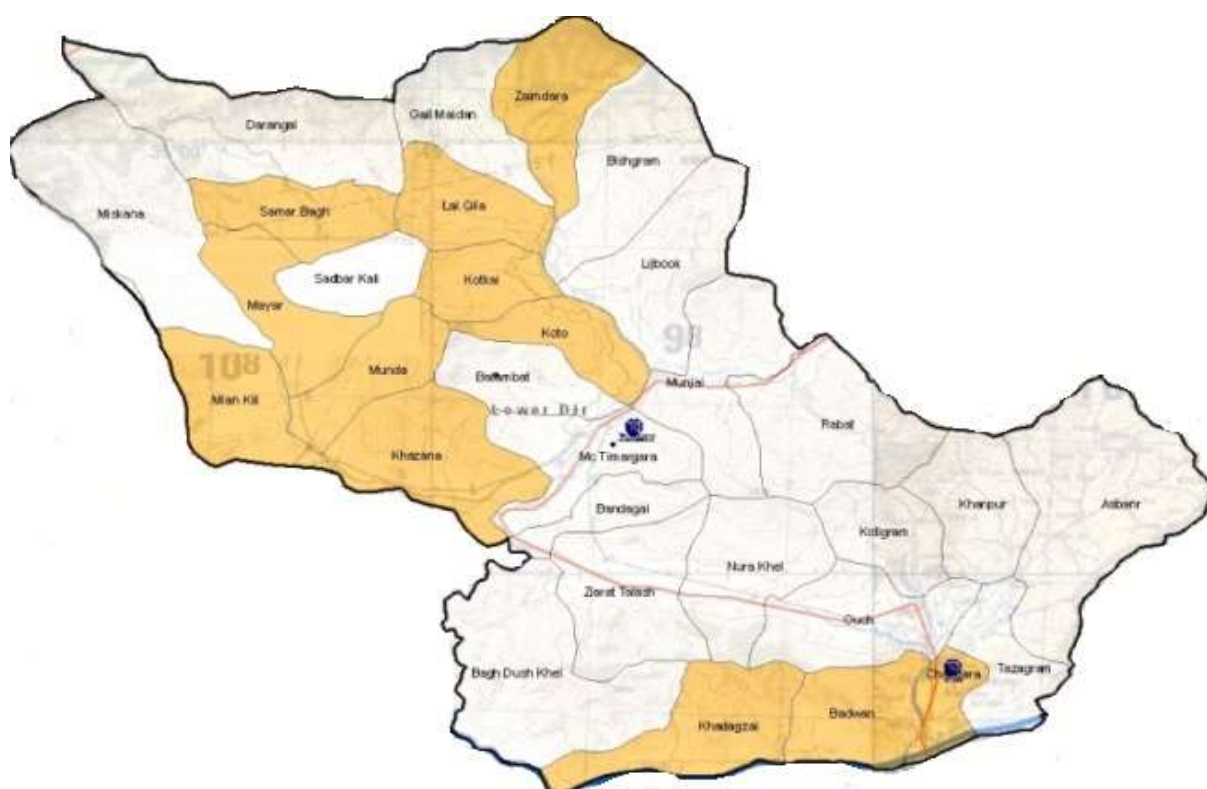
Lower Dir is the lower part of the old District Dir. At the time of independence, Dir was a state ruled by Nawab Shah Jehan Khan. It was merged in Pakistan in 1969 and later on declared a district in 1970. In 1996, it was bifurcated into Upper and Lower Dir districts.

District Lower Dir is located in the north-western part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and is spread over an area of 1583 square kilometers. Apart from small areas in the south-west, the District is mostly a rugged mountainous terrain. The District borders with Swat District on its East, Afghanistan on its West, Upper Dir and Chitral on its North & north-west respectively and Malakand & Bajaur Agency on its South.

The district is administratively subdivided into two Tehsils which contain a total of 37 UCs. The district is represented in the provincial assembly by four elected MPAs.

The short route that links District Lower Dir to the provincial capital is the one that passes through District Charsadda and Malakand Districts. For the people coming from down country, however, the more convenient approach is through the Mardan and Malakand Districts. There is no railway tract leading to the District¹.

Map of Lower Dir District



Sources: ACTED Pakistan, Rapid Need Assessment Project

1.2 Topography

The topography of the district is dominated by the mountains and hills which are part of the ranges/branches of southern Hindukush with the highest peaks in the northern part of Dir. The major valleys of Lower Dir include; Timergara, Jandool Maidan, Samarbagh, and Asban.

¹This section is largely benefited from "Health Facility Assessment –Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, District LowerDir", <http://pspu.punjab.gov.pk/system/files/HFA-Lower-Dir.pdf> , 2012

1.3 Tribes Ethnic Groups and Languages

Pushto is the main language of Dir, while Gugro, and Kohistani are the languages of Kohistanis and Gugars. A few people speak Hindko (a variant of Punjabi, Gujar and Khowar Chitrali). The majority of the population in this area belongs to Isazai and Ismailzai tribes.

1.4 Climate

The summer season is hot and winter is extremely cold. A steep rise of temperature occurs from May to June, and then very hot during July to the end of August but during September weather turns normal, especially at nights. A rapid fall in temperature occurs from October onwards. The coldest months are December and January. The mean minimum temperature recorded for the month of January is -8 °C. Most of the rainfall occurs in the months of July, August, December, January and February. Towards the end of the cold weather, there are occasional thunderstorms and hailstorms.

2.0 Socio-Economic Profile of the District

2.1 Education and Literacy

This section highlights the major characteristics of schooling in the district by providing a situation analysis in terms of access, equality and quality of primary and secondary education. Moreover, besides providing the level of adult literacy, school facilities and physical characteristics are collated to provide an idea of the quality of education in the district.

Access to education is generally gauged with reference to the gross and net enrolment rates, based on the relevant age group. Traditionally in Pakistan, enrolment rates are calculated on the basis of age group, 5-9 years, and 10-14 years, for primary and secondary levels of education respectively. Therefore, following the tradition, these age groups are preferred for documentation of the educational status of children in terms of out-of-schooling and enrolments in public, private or religious institutions. Access and equality indicators are derived from Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement (PSLM) surveys, while the available physical facilities in primary and secondary schools are ascertained from the Development Statistics of the province.

Exhibit 2.1.1 displays the educational status of children for the 5-9 years age group. Overall, about 37 percent of children (30 percent boys and 45 percent girls) of the primary age group were out of school in the year 2013. The private school phenomenon is not widespread in the district. About 9 percent of boys and 7 percent of girls were enrolled in private institutions according to the estimates from household survey (PSLM, 2013). Moreover, the enrolments in religious schools are not observed in the district, while insignificant (0.28 percent) girls' enrollments in schools run by NGOs are evident in the exhibit.

Exhibit 2.1.1
Educational Status of Children of 5-9 Years Age Group
[percentage Distribution, 2012-13]

	Overall%	Boys%	Girls%
Out of School	36.97	30.08	44.72
Enrolled in Public Schools	54.50	60.41	47.85
Enrolled in Private Schools	8.40	9.51	7.15
Enrolled in Religious Schools (Madrasa)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Enrolled in Schools Run by NGOs	0.13	0.00	0.28

Source: Estimated from Household Level Data of PSLM, 2012-13

Exhibit 2.1.2 documents the educational status of children in the 10-14 age year group. Overall, about 9 percent of boys and 41 percent of girls of the 10-14 age year cohort were not attending school during 2013. The majority (about 69 percent out of 77 percent) of students were enrolled in government schools. Moreover, about 2 percent boys' enrollment in religious school is also estimated from the PSLM 2013 data.

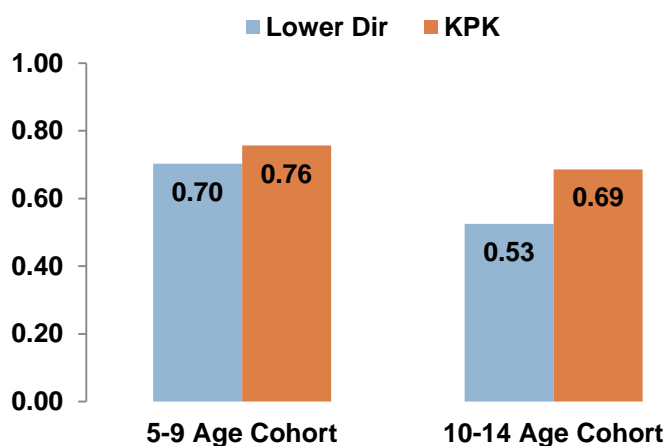
Exhibit 2.1.2
Educational Status of Children of 10-14 Years Age Group
[Percentage Distribution, 2012-13]

	Overall%	Boys%	Girls%
Out of School	23.27	9.18	40.75
Enrolled in Public Schools	69.36	80.64	55.35
Enrolled in Private Schools	5.91	8.02	3.30
Enrolled in Religious Schools (Madrasa)	1.46	2.16	0.60
Enrolled in Schools Run by NGOs	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: Estimated from Household Level Data of PSLM, 2012-13

A summary index “Gender Parity Index (GPI)” is commonly used to assess gender differences. It is the value of an indicator for girls divided by that for boys. A value of less than one indicates differences in favor of boys, whereas a value near one indicates that parity has been more or less achieved. Exhibit 2.1.3 is developed to document the prevalence in gender disparities in school enrolment for the children in primary and secondary age groups respectively. Relatively higher gender disparity is observed in the district as compared with the province for the school enrolment in the 5-9 years age cohort (0.70 versus 0.76). A similar trend is observed in secondary school enrolment where the district magnitude of GPI is low as compared with that estimated for the province (0.53 versus 0.69).

Exhibit – 2.1.3
Gender Parity Index in Primary and Secondary Enrollment
[2012-13]



Source: Estimated from Household Level Data of PSLM, 2012-13

Exhibit 2.1.4 furnishes information regarding number and type of education institutions as well as the number of teachers. This supply-side information is obtained from the provincial Development Statistics. Due to data constraints in terms of various indicators of quality inputs, this section only describes the available physical facilities in schools, which is the most important pillar of quality input to education. School buildings, drinking water, boundary walls, electricity and toilets for students are considered basic facilities.

Exhibit 2.1.4
Teaching Institutions and Staff - Numbers
[2011]

	Schools	Teachers		
		Total	Male	Female
Primary School	1272	4077	2590	1487
Middle School	143	732	477	255
High School	105	1126	831	295
Higher Secondary	29	640	510	130
Community School	12	80	-	80
Private School	80	1487		
Intermediate/Degree College	5	171	125	46

Source: Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014

Exhibit 2.1.5 summarizes the extent of available facilities across various levels (primary, middle and high) of education. Electricity is available in about 61 percent of primary schools, while only 46 percent of primary schools reported the drinking water facility in school. Although, almost all primary schools reported the availability of buildings, about 26 percent of schools run without boundary walls. The situation in middle and high schools is however comparatively better. Electricity and drinking water are available in 83 percent and 75 percent of high schools

respectively. About 89-99 percent of school buildings have 'pacca' structure in high and middle schools respectively, while about 86 to 97 percent schools buildings are in satisfactory condition.

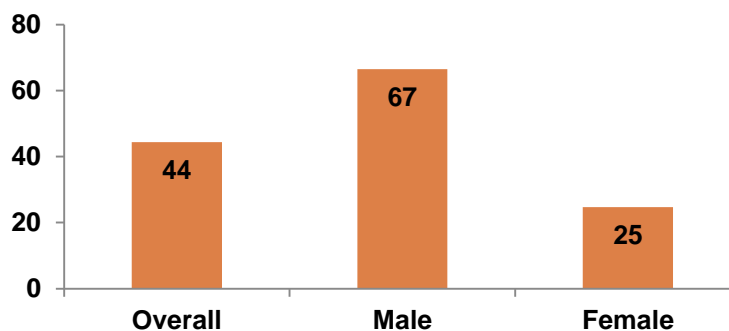
Exhibit 2.1.5
School Facilities and Physical Characteristics – 2011
[Percentage of Schools]

	Primary%	Middle%	High%	Total%
Boundary Wall Exists	73.98	84.62	77.14	76.58
Building Availability	99.14	103.50	93.33	100.59
'Pacca' Structure of Schools	84.20	98.60	88.57	87.30
Satisfactory Building Condition	75.63	97.20	85.71	79.54
Electricity Availability	61.48	83.22	82.86	66.38
Drinking Water Availability	45.83	73.43	75.24	51.78
Latrine Availability	77.12	96.50	84.76	80.66

Source: Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014

Exhibit 2.1.6 documents the adult (15 plus age cohort) literacy rates for the district. According to the table, literacy rates in the district are 44 percent for the overall population, with 67 percent for males and 25 percent for females during the year 2012-13. The estimated corresponding literacy rates for the province are; 48 percent, 67 percent and 30 percent for overall, male and female population respectively.

Exhibit 2.1.6
Adult Literacy Rate (%) - [2012-13]



Source: Estimated from Household Level Data of PSLM, 2012-13

According to UNDP Human Development Report (2014), Pakistan has been placed 146th out of 187 countries in terms of the Human Development Index with an overall adult literacy rate of 54.9%. Over the years, several non-formal literacy programs were launched but these suffered from lack of political commitment, inadequate financial support, weak implementation structures and the absence of effective supervision and monitoring.

2.2 Health

Health is the factor which plays the key role in determining the human capital. Better health improves the efficiency and the productivity of the labor force and thus ultimately contributes to the economic growth, and leads to human welfare. On the other hand, there is a strong correlation between poverty and the health of the poor.

The health status of a region may be evaluated in terms of either input indicators (doctors, institutions etc.) or output indicators (Infant Mortality, Maternal Mortality, Life Expectancy etc.). Unfortunately, district-wise data on output indicators are not available in Pakistan from either published or unpublished materials. The latest Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) which was conducted in 2008 in the province, reports various district-wise indicators, but the data on district-wise mortality rates and life expectancy are not provided. Therefore, to gauge an idea

about the health status in the target districts, data on the maximum possible input indicators is collated in the following tables.

A rough sketch on child health is furnished in Exhibit 2.2.1. About 94 percent of children in the 12-23 months age cohort reported fully immunized according to the recall and record method, while the corresponding percentage is low (74 percent) in household which provided records of immunization. About 79 percent of children reported the use of ORS for the treatment of diarrhea, however the percentage who consulted physicians in case of diarrhea is quite high (95 percent). No gender discrimination is evident from the table.

Exhibit 2.2.1
Status of Child Health – Percentages[2012-13]

	Overall%	Boys%	Girls%
Children (12-23 Months) – Fully Immunized			
Record Only	74	68	79
Recall and Record	94	93	94
Diarrhea in Children Under 5			
Physician Consulted	95	100	92
Treatment of Diarrhea – ORS	79	80	78

Source: PSLM, 2012-13

Some indicators of maternal health care are compiled in Exhibit 2.2.2. The information in the table reveals that only 54 percent of pertinent women reported having Tetanus Toxoid Injection, while this percentage is quite high (85 percent) in urban areas. About 54 percent and 42 percent of pertinent women confirmed pre-natal and post-natal consultation respectively in the district. The situation in terms of child delivery is miserable. Child delivery at home is reported by about 55 percent of households in rural areas. The corresponding percentage for the urban population is about 39 percent.

Exhibit 2.2.2
Status of Maternal Health – Percentage of Pertinent Women [2012-13]

	Overall%	Urban%	Rural%
Have Received Tetanus Toxoid Injection	54	85	53
Pre-Natal Consultations	54	66	54
Child Delivery at Home	54	39	55
Post-Natal Consultations	42	25	43

Source: PSLM, 2012-13

Numbers of health institutions in the district during the year 2012-13 are collated in Exhibit 2.2.3, while the strength of health staff in the district is depicted in Exhibit 2.2.4. A gloomy picture is evident in terms of the strength of the district in providing health facilities. Only 17 doctors and 18 nurses are available for one hundred thousand ('lakh') population, according to the statistics provided by the provincial official publications.

Exhibit 2.2.3
Health Institutions – Numbers [2013]

Hospital	3
Dispensary	19
Rural Health Centre	4
Basic Health Units	33
Maternal and Child Health Centre	9
Leprosy Clinic	2
S.H.C.	2

Source: Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014

Exhibit 2.2.4
Health Staffs – Numbers [2013]

	Numbers	Per One Hundred Thousand population
Doctors	204	17
Nurses	227	18
Paramedics	442	36

Source: Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014

2.3 Housing Quality and Housing Services

It is of interest to assess the means and standards of living directly provided by the government, and that which is acquired by standard households. Shelter is one of the basic needs, and housing conditions are one of the key determinants of the quality of life.

To observe the access to housing facilities, three indicators are used vis a vis, proportion of households using electricity, cooking gas and tap water, while the quality of housing stock is evaluated in terms of the material used in walls, roofs and the type of toilet in the house. All this information is obtained at the household level from the household survey (PSLM) and thus truly reflects the conditions of living standards in the district.

Information regarding the type of material used in roofs is displayed in Exhibit 2.3.1. The exhibit reveals that about 67 percent of households (39 percent urban and 68 percent rural) reported inadequate (wood) roof material. Iron and cement are used in about 6 percent of urban households, while 54 percent and 30 percent of urban and rural households respectively reported RCC/RBC roofing.

Exhibit 2.3.1
Material Used in Roof - Percentage of Household
[2012-13]

	Overall%	Urban%	Rural%
RCC, RBC	31.54	54.21	30.44
Iron, Cement	1.5	6.05	1.28
Garder, T-Iron	0.44	1	0.41
Wood etc.	66.52	38.74	67.87

Source: PSLM, 2012-13

In terms of material used in the wall, the majority (58 percent rural and 39 percent urban) households reported the use of wood or other materials (Exhibit 2.3.2). Burnt bricks or blocks are used in about 39 percent and 60 percent of rural and urban households respectively.

Exhibit 2.3.2
Wall Structure – Percentage of Households
[2012-13]

	Overall%	Urban%	Rural%
Burnt Brick- Blocks	39.84	60.25	38.84
Mud Bricks/ MUD	2.76	1.06	2.84
Wood and Other Materials	57.40	38.69	58.32

Source: PSLM, 2012-13

Information regarding the type of toilet used by the household is furnished in Exhibit 2.3.3. About 8 percent of rural households reported unavailability of toilet facilities in the house. The table also reveals that bulk of households reported the use of a lush toilet. About 76 percent and 97 percent of households reported the use of a flush toilet in rural and urban areas respectively.

Exhibit 2.3.3
Type of Toilet – Percentage of Households
[2012-13]

	Overall%	Urban%	Rural%
Flush	77	97	76
Non-Flush	16	0.00	16
No Toilet	7	3	8

Source: PSLM, 2012-13

Almost all households are connected with the grid and use electricity for lighting purposes as evident from Exhibit 2.3.4. The percentages of households who reported the use of electricity are 100 percent and 97 percent in urban and rural areas respectively.

Exhibit 2.3.4
Source of Lighting – Percentage of Households
[2012-13]

	Overall%	Urban%	Rural%
Electricity	97.22	100	97.08
Oil	2.25	0.00	2.37
Candle	0.52	0.00	0.55

Source: PSLM, 2012-13

Exhibit 2.3.5 furnishes information regarding the sources of cooking fuel. Wood and charcoal are the main sources of cooking fuel according to the table. About 67 percent and 97 percent of urban and rural households use either wood or charcoal, whereas about 33 percent of urban households reported use of oil/gas for cooking purposes.

Exhibit 2.3.5
Cooking Fuel – Percentage of Households
[2012-13]

	Overall%	Urban%	Rural%
Gas/Oil	4.18	32.77	2.78
Wood/Charcoal	95.82	67.23	97.22

Source: PSLM, 2012-13

The provision of safe drinking water is an important part of planning for a healthy population. Exhibit 2.3.6 displays sources of drinking water in the district with an urban-rural division. About 44 percent of rural households fetch water from unsafe sources (uncovered water reservoirs and dug well). The corresponding percentage for urban areas is about 22 percent. A tap water source is reported by 37 percent of households; 56 percent and 36 percent in urban and rural areas respectively.

Exhibit 2.3.6
Source of Drinking Water – Percentage of Households
[2012-13]

	Overall%	Urban%	Rural%
Tap Water	37	56	36
Hand Pump	1	1	1
Motor Pump	19	20	19
Dug Well	6	4	6
Other (Uncovered)	37	18	38

Source: PSLM, 2012-13

2.4 Transport and Communication

Roads, transportation and telecommunication networks have a significant impact on socialization and modernization. Three indicators have been utilized to portray the level of development of the transport and communication sector in a district; road mileage per 100 square kilometers of geographical area, availability of public and private transport and vehicles, and the number of telephone and internet connections per one hundred thousand persons. These indicators (depicted in Exhibit 2.4.1) are estimated from the latest published data of the provincial Development Statistics.

Exhibit 2.4.1
Indicators of Communication[2012-13]

	Numbers	Per one Hundred Thousand Population
Number of Connections		
Landline	11175	910
Broadband	Data is not available	
Road Kilometers		
		Per '000' Square Kilometer
Black Topped	679	429
Shingle	64	40
Total	743	469
Motor Vehicles Registered		
Public Service Vehicles	5163	
Private Vehicles	7118	
Government Goods Vehicles	-	
Private Goods Vehicles	2206	
Others	8754	
Total Vehicles	23241	

Source: PSLM, 2012-13

The table reveals that about 910 persons out of one lakh (one hundred thousand) population were connected with PTCL landlines during the year 2012-13. The data on broadband connections in the district is not available.

About 429 kilometers and 40 kilometers of metalled (black topped) and Shingle road is available for every one thousand kilometers of geographical area respectively, with about 23 thousand registered vehicles.

2.5 Population and Employed Labor Force

The characteristics of the employed labor force are important to understand the economic structure and potential of any region. This section provides information with respect to the distribution of the labor force into sectors, occupational group and working status.

According to the Exhibit 2.5.1, the estimated current population of the district is about 12 lakh (1.229 million) with an average growth rate of 3.37 percent per annum. These population projections are taken from "Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, -2014". About 0.45 million people are estimated as active labor force members by applying the crude activity rate of KP.

Exhibit 2.5.1
Estimated Population - [Number in Thousand]

	Overall	Urban	Rural
1998 – Census	717	44	673
2010 – Projected	1074	66	1008
2014 – Projected	1229	76	1153
Growth Rate [1998-2014]	3.37%	3.42%	3.36%

Sources: Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014
District Census Report, 1998

The distribution of the employed labor force by major economic sectors is furnished in Exhibit 2.5.2. The exhibit reveals that the agriculture sector absorbs the bulk of the labor force. About 48 percent of rural employment was recorded in this sector during 2012-13 (PSLM survey), whereas about 14 percent of the urban employed labor force also reported work in the agriculture sector. The construction sector provides employment to about 19 percent (8 percent in urban and 20 percent in rural) of labor force. About 4 percent of the urban employed labor force is absorbed in the manufacturing sector, while the service sector provides employment to about 22 percent (48 percent and 21 percent in urban and rural areas respectively).

Exhibit 2.5.2
Percentage of Employed Labor Force by Major Sectors[2012-13]

	Overall%	Urban%	Rural%
Agriculture	46.65	14.40	47.97
Mining	-	-	-
Manufacturing	1.39	4.01	1.28
Construction	19.36	7.97	19.83
Trade	10.37	25.66	9.75
Other Service Sectors	22.22	47.97	21.17

Source: Estimated from Household Level Data of PSLM, 2012-13

Exhibit 2.5.3 reports the distribution of the labor force into the major occupational groups. About 48 percent of the rural labor force is working in the occupational group 'Skilled Agriculture and Fisheries Workers', while about 11 percent of the urban labor force is also reported employed as skilled agriculture and fisheries workers. About 6 percent of labor is employed as craft and related trade workers.

Exhibit 2.5.3
Percentage of Employed Labor Force by Major Occupational Group[2012-13]

	Overall%	Urban%	Rural%
Elementary (Non-Skilled)	14.31	29.98	13.67
Clerks/Sales Workers	6.66	25.93	5.88
Skilled Agriculture and Fisheries Workers	46.23	10.76	47.68
Craft and Related Trade Workers	6.49	16.05	6.10
Other	26.32	17.29	26.69

Source: Estimated from Household Level Data of PSLM, 2012-13

Wage employees constitute the largest group with respect to the work status of the employed labor force. According to Exhibit 2.5.4, about 52 percent and 40 percent of the urban and rural labor force respectively is working as employees. About 39 percent of owner cultivators in rural areas are evident in the table, while the percentage of the labor force working as sharecroppers is about 2 percent. The table also reveals that only 2 percent of the employed labor force is linked with the livestock profession. The percentages of self-employed (own-account workers) groups are 37 percent and 12 percent in urban and rural areas respectively.

Exhibit 2.5.4
Employment Status [2012-13]
[Percentage of Employed Persons]

	Overall%	Urban%	Rural%
Employer	0.52	-	0.54
Self Employed	12.92	37.33	11.93
Wage Employee	40.33	51.91	39.86
Un-Paid Family Worker	1.58	-	1.64
Owner cultivator	37.49	5.32	38.80
Sharecropper	1.85	1.75	1.86
Contract cultivator	3.53	1.57	3.61
Livestock	1.79	2.12	1.78

Source: Estimated from Household Level Data of PSLM, 2012-13

2.6 Livelihood Sources

Sources of livelihood represent the economic base of the district. Various features of agriculture, livestock, mining and forestry are compiled in this section, while district-wise manufacturing and fisheries data is not available.

The land utilization statistics in terms of cultivated, cropped and irrigated areas is furnished in Exhibit 2.6.1. Accordingly, the district shares are about 3 percent, 3 percent and 6 percent in the province respectively, while the share of geographical area is about 2.5 percent. As evident in the table, canal is the major source of irrigation with about 86 percent share in the total irrigated areas.

Exhibit 2.6.1
Land Utilization Statistics – [2012-13]

	(Hectares)	As percent of the Province
Geographical Area	142638	2.5
Cultivated Area	42570	2.6
Cropped Area	46701	2.8
Irrigated Area	43140	5.6
Sources of Irrigation		
Canal	37601	6.2
Wells	375	0.9
Tube Wells	3472	4.7
Tanks	260	10.1
Lift Pump	218	0.8
Others	1214	4.3

Sources: Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014,
Important District-Wise Socio-Economic Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014

Major crops in the district are shown in the Exhibit 2.6.2. With the largest share in the cropped area, wheat is sown on 26750 hectares. This is followed by maize (5170 hectares). Rice, rapeseed and mustard, onion and barley have also significant shares in the cropped areas and are sown on more than 1000 hectares.

Exhibit 2.6.2
Area and Production of Major Crops
[2011-12]

	Area [Hectares]	Production [Tons]
Crops		
Wheat	26750	49800
Maize	5170	7250
Rice	4250	6960
Canola	2000	770
Barley	1400	1250
Onion	1300	13480
Rape Seed and Mustard	1300	560
Vegetables	980	12450
Fruits	720	5630
Sugarcane	150	3680
Masoor	60	40
Peas	10	40
Garlic	10	70

Source: Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014

The number and share of agricultural machinery reflects the extent of modernization of agriculture. This information is collated in Exhibit 2.6.3. The exhibit reveals low shares of

agriculture machinery with respect to cropped areas. About 28 tractors and 19 threshers respectively are available per one thousand cropped area.

Exhibit 2.6.3
Agriculture Machinery – [2011-12]

	Numbers	As percent of '000' cropped area
Tractors	1306	28.0
Threshers	904	19.4
Husking Machine	211	4.5

Source: Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014

Livestock is also an important source of livelihood in rural areas. Exhibit 2.6.4 displays the availability of various livestock per one thousand rural households. The table reveals that Goats and Cattle are the major type of livestock in the district.

Exhibit 2.6.4
Population of Livestock - [2006]

	Numbers	Per thousand Rural Households
Cattle	249007	2008
Buffalo	16258	131
Sheep	47946	387
Goats	292539	2359
Camel	348	3
Horse	148	1
Mule	2980	24
Asses	387	3
Poultry (Non-Commercial)	1049590	9464

Source: Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014

In minerals, only the production of granite in the district is significant with a provincial share of 9 percent. According to the Exhibit 2.6.5, 2443 tons were produced during 2013. Limestone is also extracted; however its share in the provincial production is insignificant.

Exhibit 2.6.5
Mineral Production - [2012-13]

	(Tons)	As percent of the Province
Granite	2443	9.0
Lime Stone	520	0.0

Source: Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014

Exhibit 2.6.6 reports the area under the control of the Forest Department of the province. The table reveals that the district has about 0.134 million acres which is about 3 percent of the provincial forest area.

Exhibit 2.6.6
Area Under the Control of Forest Department – [2012-13]

	(Acers)	As percent of the Province
Protected Forest	23025	1.98
Miscellaneous Forest Area	4779	1.56
Private Plantation	106054	6.00
Total	133858	2.88

Source: Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014

Information regarding the fish production in the district is furnished in Exhibit 2.6.7. According to the table the district share in the province is small. About 5 percent of the total fish production of KP belongs to the district Lower Dir.

Exhibit 2.6.7
Fish Production– [2012-13]

	(Tons)	As percent of the Province
Trout	-	-
Non-trout	276	9.72
Total	276	4.96

Source: Development Statistics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2014

3.0 Law and Order

The biggest problem prevailing is that of the Internally Displaced People. Lower Dir is part of FATA which comprises of seven agencies. Home to 3.5 million Pashtuns, the area has been consistently unstable for various political reasons. Moreover, the area is in desperate need of development work. But most importantly, the district has been in continuous distress for the past decade due to the rise in militancy. The effects of these political and social issues are widespread in the district. The natives are neither left with homes nor a source of income and thus have to move. There are 250,000 people from Bajaur agency and 180,000 from Mohammad Agency registered as IDPs in Lower Dir and Nowshera.

3.1 Background of Peace and Security

Timergara is the district Headquarter of Lower Dir. The overall chief executive of the district is the Deputy Commissioner (DC). He has to maintain the law and order situation in the area and give leadership to civilian forces. In the wake of militancy and trouble on western border area, the DC has also got operational support of the FC and one brigade of the Pakistan Army. The Dir Scouts of FC and one brigade of Pak Army have the joint duty of security in both lower and Upper Dir districts².

The DC has a localized force of levies, which works under his direct command. They mainly provide security to government buildings and functionaries working in the district. They also provide security services at some check posts³.

3.2 Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)

Currently there are four types of LEAs operating in the district. The prime responsibility of maintaining law and order in the district lies on the shoulders of Police. The Police are led by the District Police Officer (DPO). Then there are levies, Dir Scouts and Pakistan Army, responsible for law and order maintenance.

Exhibit 3.2.1
Strength of the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)

#	Agency/ Department	Number of Personnel Deployed		Details
		Male	Female	
1	Police (Regular)	2763	Nil	▪ 12 Police Station (PS)
2	Special Police Force (SPF)	1050	Nil	▪ Two years contract
2	Levies	709	Nil	▪ Levies Lane
3	Frontier Corps (Dir Scouts)	3000+	Nil	▪ 1 wing at Benshahi ▪ 1 Wing at Head Quarter Timergara
4	Pak Army	▪ 1 Brigade deployed in both Upper and Lower Dir Districts with a strength of some 3500 personnel		

Source: Interviews with Police and Levies Officials.

3.3 Judicial Infrastructure in Lower Dir

Lower Dir is part of the Provincial Administration for Tribal Areas (PATA) under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Government. The Justice system in district Lower Dir comes under the Peshawar High Court, while lower courts are working like other districts in the province.

²Interview with Head of law Department of a University in Malakand.

³Interview with a local journalist

Exhibit 3.3.1
Justice System in Lower Dir

#	Court (Formal Justice)	Justice System	Regulation
1	District and Session Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 District and Session Judge ▪ 3 Additional District and Session Judges ▪ 1 Senior Civil Judge ▪ 4 Civil Judges (1 each at Timergara, Samar Bagh, Chakdara, Maidan) 	Regular Pakistan Justice Regulations/Laws
2	Tehsil Courts or Sub-Divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each Tehsil is comprising of 1 Additional and District Judge and 2 Civil Judges 	Regular Pakistan Justice Regulations/Laws

Source: Interviews with an Advocate of the District Bar and the Head of Law Department of the University of Malakand

Exhibit 3.3.2
Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanism

#	ADR Tool	Level of Working	Achievement
1	Jirga	People refer to local elders of the area for dispute resolution at household, community or tribal levels.	<i>Jirga</i> decides matters on <i>Riwaj</i> and brings people together and creates reconciliation among parties. This is the oldest and most successful tool for conflict resolution in the area.
2	Dispute Resolution Council (DRC)	Currently in Dir (Lower) there is only one DRC active.	DRC is established at district level for solving district level disputes. It has a valuable role in fighting bigger issues, like it has played a role in fighting militancy and keeping the district safe.
3	Musalihati Committee	Established at every Police Station level.	It has a membership of around 18-20 members. Every dispute is first referred to this committee before registration.

Source: Interviews with an Advocate of the District Bar and a Local Journalist

3.4 Main Crimes in 2014

The number of murders and attempted murders shows a very high ratio among the major crimes in the district. This is more related to the militancy and the volatile situation in the bordering areas with Afghanistan. However, other crimes ratios are quite low. The main dispute in the district is over land and its related issues.

Exhibit 3.4.1
Crimes Rate

#	Crime (Description)	Main Reasons	Incidents/Losses in 2014	Police Action
1	Murders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hilly area land disputes, female disputes, family enmities, tribal enmities 	56	Arrests: 96
2	Murder Attempt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hilly area land disputes, female disputes, family enmities, tribal enmities 	45	Arrests: 129
3	Hurt Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Firing, personal quarrels and accidents etc. 	193	Arrest: 525
4	Dacoits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Road side robberies 	8	
6	Anti-Terrorism Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Those registered under the anti-terrorism act, were allegedly involved in terror acts 	3	-
Total			305	

Source: Interview with a Police Official

3.5 Law and Order Reforms

- Online FIRs are in operation but not effective due to the low level of education/ literacy.
- DIG Darbar takes place once a year, providing a good platform to local people for resolving their issues on the spot.
- Musalihati Committee at the Police Station level is very effective in decreasing the burden on the Police
- Established a Dispute Resolution Committee at the district and local Level.
- Established a Tribal Militia (Lashkars) for protection of militant attacks.

3.6 Prisons

There is only one central jail located at Timergara. This prison facility is in use for Swat and Dir (Upper) districts as well.

4.0 Conflict Management

4.1 Tribal Conflict and their Impact on the Local Community and Economy

Like other districts there are tribes in Lower Dir as well. They are, Yousufzais, Iman Khel, Muhamadi, Sultan Khel, etc. According to the natives of Lower Dir, the strongest of them are Yousufzai followed by Iman Khel. Mostly conflicts among tribes are on inheritance issues followed by politics, poverty, land and water. The strongest tribe has more political influence than the rest and is often found exploiting it. A plausible reason is because they have a higher population and most of them are associated with government. Some stated that they mostly use their power to occupy land illegally considering the fact they have a higher population in the political parties.

Exhibit 4.1.1
Tribal Orientation in Lower Dir

Tribes	Percentage of Total Population
Yusufzai	35%
Utmankhel	25%
Roghani	12%
Akhunzadagan	10%
Kattanian	18%

Source: Research by Fata Research Center

4.2 Local Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

Two forms of justice systems prevail in this district as in the others; *Jirga* and the court system. The *Jirga* system is often divided into two categories, the formal system and the informal. The formal system is when two individuals solve their dispute themselves. The informal is when the *Jirga* solves the dispute between two individuals.

As far as rights of women are concerned, women are more or less acquainted with them and some even visit the court if required. Given the strong cultural values, those who go to court only go out with families. The issues at this level are very tedious. Mostly conflicts among families are over the fact that the husband or his mother wants a son in their family which is out of the hands of the wife or daughter in law. Sometimes they are based on religious aspects, the females are strongly asked to take the *hijab* and *parda*. The remaining issue arises because the husband wants a second marriage or there is excessive poverty in the house. Other various reasons include, business, land ownership, distribution of wealth etc. Most of the in-house conflicts are solved among the family members themselves. With conflicts related to religious ties, mothers of the women sit and talk to them about it.

4.3 Conflict Background

Decades' long deprivation and low human development created a sense of disparity among common people, especially the youth in the people living on the Pak-Afghan border. This situation was coopted by the religious leaders, creating a supply line of warriors to fight in Afghanistan and then in Kashmir was created.

Passion and the divine cause of Jihad combined with training, money and a battlefield has radicalized the society in some areas of Lower Dir to the extent that they first announced the movement of bringing Shariat i.e. Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi (TNSM) and then "Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)" in the area. Both of these movements were initiated by militant organizations that had their roots mainly from Lower Dir. For almost two and half decades, the area of Dir has remained unstable and lagged behind in the run for development and prosperity. The major conflict of the area is militancy and radicalization of youth⁴.

⁴ Interview with a Development Professional, Lower Dir

4.4 Other Conflicts and Disputes

Most of the land in district Lower Dir is not clearly divided or demarcated due to the absence of a proper organized system of *Patwaris* in the district. This leaves people fighting among themselves and often creates big problems. Main issues regarding land are,

- a) Division among family members
- b) Water distribution
- c) Shamilaat (it is a piece of land that remained undivided like Jungle, hills, graveyards etc.)⁵.

Recently, there have been many conflicts due to the women's share in inheritance. This is one of the local issues, where traditionally women have not been given share in the inherited land but with spread in education, most of the deprived women, now take the lead to acquire their own share in inheritance⁶.

4.5 Conflicts Resolution System

4.5.1 *Jirga*

Jirga is the main source of conflict resolution in the Pakhtoon dominant areas. People mostly refer their issues on for mediation to some elders and influential people from their families or local communities. Religious scholars also play a very active role in the *Jirga* in the area. Major issues dealt with by the *Jirga* are regarding land disputes, female related family issues, inheritance, honor issues and others.

4.5.2 District Reconciliation Committee

There is one major District Reconciliation Committee (DRC) with a membership of more than 20 senior citizens; it works with office of the deputy commissioner in maintaining law and order and dealing with issues of collective interests.

4.5.3 Musalihati Committee

This is a Police Station level set-up, recently established to resolve disputes outside Police Stations. This Committee has a membership of some 18-21 senior persons. This committee speaks to both disputing parties and they try to mediate issues and resolve these outside before lodging First Information Record (FIR). Recently these committees have been trained in dispute resolution mechanisms by UNDP⁷.

4.6 Displacement

No one is currently displaced within or outside the district. The people living in bordering areas have been facing frequent attacks from across the border but there have been gallant responses from local militia leaders. The cross border attacks pose a threat to the stability of the district and a possible displacement from the area. During the military operation against TTP in Malakand division some 3 million persons were displaced from Swat, Bunair and Dir (Lower) in 2009⁸.

⁵ Interview with the head of law department of University of Malakand

⁶ Interview with an advocate of the district bar

⁷ The entire section 4.5 is hugely benefited by interviews with local journalists and advocates.

⁸ Interview with Ph. D scholar on IDPs, Peshawar

5.0 The Role of Women

5.1. Status of Women

Most of the women in the Lower Dir district are not aware of their rights. In most cases they are not allowed to visit police stations or the court of law to fight for their rights. It is primarily because of strong cultural and social norms that women are not allowed to exercise their rights. Those who do are not welcomed in their family and often alienated. They are not even allowed to use the local justice system because according to them, the elder of the family has the right to decide whether or not she should be considered for legal advisory.

5.2. Education and Health Facilities for Women

Women in the district have low access to education and health resources. Only 46 percent of the women actually deliver in a hospital and 42 percent of the women have access to postnatal care. The adult female literacy rate in the district is only 25 percent. . These statistics reflect the limited access of resources and public space for women.

Exhibit 5.2.1
Socio-Economic Situation of the Lower Dir District

Indicator	Adult Literacy Rate			Child Delivery			Hospitalized Post-Natal Care
	Male	Female	Total	Home	Private Hospital	Government Hospital	
Percentage	67 %	25 %	44 %	54 %	10 %	36 %	42 %

Source: PSLM, 2012-13

5.3. Maternal Health Care

Only 54 percent of the pertinent women reported having Tetanus Toxoid Injections, while this percentage is quite high (85%) in the case of urban areas⁹. About 42 percent to 54 percent of pertinent women confirmed pre-natal and post-natal consultation respectively in the district. The situation in terms of child delivery in the district is miserable. Child delivery at home is reported by about 55 percent households of the rural areas whereas in the urban areas the figure is about 39 percent.

5.4. Gender Based Violence

The floods of July 2010 were a disaster of an enormous magnitude, effectively submerging one fifth of the country¹⁰. During the disaster and post disaster situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, high levels of Gender Based Violence (GBV) resulted from the disruption of social structures, men's loss of traditional roles, increase poverty, food insecurity etc. Women became vulnerable to gender based crimes as they lost their homes which resulted in the displacement and lack of protection. The victims do not have access to female professionals in reporting crimes, seeking medical attention or shelter¹¹. The cultural restrictions on the women in the districts mean that the women do not feel safe or comfortable in accessing GBV related services.

5.5. Education Ratio

In Lower Dir District the education ratio is very low (29.51%) for both sexes in the area due to lack of educational facilities.¹² Most of the areas have not yet established girl's primary schools. The female education ratio is about 12 percent but the trend has now been changed and their

⁹ Situation Analysis, ibid

¹⁰ ibid

¹¹ Final Report on Assessment and Mapping of Services, ibid

¹² Profile of Dir Area Support Program (DASP)

awareness about the importance of female education is increased. The females are now working in female institutions as well as private institutions. But they are still strictly following their customs and traditions.

Exhibit 5.5.1
Education Facilities Available For Women in Lower Dir

#	Institution	Total No.
1	Govt.Primary Schools	858
2	Govt.Girls Primary Schools	414
3	Govt.Middle Schools	92
4	Govt.Girls Middle Schools	51
5	Govt.High Schools	79
6	Govt.Girls High Schools	26
7	Govt.Higher Secondary Schools	21
8	Govt.Girls Higher Secondary Schools	8
9	Colleges(Boys)	3
10	College (Girls)	2
11	University	1

5.6. Source of Income

In Lower Dir and Upper Dir, around 30 percent to 40 percent of the population has to go out of their villages to earn their livelihoods¹³ at the domestic level; women produce handicrafts and also work in the fields with the men. In the villages women's main source of income is livestock products, poultry and grain from the fields. Except for a few flour mills, no major industries exist in the area and about 70 percent of people are living below the poverty line.

¹³ ibid

6.0 Environmental Analysis

The district was formed in 1996, when the district of Dir was divided into Upper Dir and Lower Dir. District Dir Lower is located in the province of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa in Pakistan. It lies in Hindu Kush range and the area occupied is 5,284 km². This now forms two districts of Pakistan - Upper Dir and Lower Dir (1,585 km). These two districts are the part of Malakand Division. Panjkora River rises in the Hindu Kush Mountains and joins the Swat River near Chakdara. In the North of Dir lower there are rugged mountainous peaks rising from 1100 to 3119 meters. Swat is located in the East while Afghanistan lies in the West¹⁴.

The district is 1,582 square kilometers in area and formed part of the Malakand Division until divisions were abolished in 2000. Almost all of it lies in the valley of the Panjkora which rises high in the Hindu Kush at Lat. 35.45 and joins the Swat River near Chakdara, where the district is usually entered, at Lat. 34.40.

Apart from the tehsils of Adenzai round Chakdara and Munda in the south-west, Lower Dir is rugged and mountainous.

The district is bounded by Swat District to the East, Bajaur Agency to the West, Upper Dir to the North, and Malakand District to the South¹⁵.

District Dir Lower is situated in the Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa at a Distance of 124 KM from Peshawar. The District starts from "Chakdara" just on the left turn of the main road from Malakand Pass at 15KM distance, just crossing the bridge on river Swat (Chakdara is the gate way to District Dir Lower and Upper. Dir Lower is bounded in the North by Dir Upper, in the South Malakand Agency in the East Swat and Bajawar Linked at we stem edges. The higher peaks of Afghanistan join the north-west hilly tracts.¹⁶

6.1 Climate, Land and Water

The elevation of district ranges from 1200m to 2800m above sea level. The climate of the District largely depends on altitude. July is the hottest month (15.67 to 32.52°C), while January and February are the coldest months and the temperature generally falls below freezing point. The mean maximum and minimum temperature are 11.22°C and 2.39°C. The winter season is from mid- November to March.

Relative humidity is higher in January, February, August and December. It receives the highest amount of rainfall in March (242.22 mm) and lowest in July, October, and November. Snowfall starts from December to March and remains up to June and July on high mountains, adding to the beauty of the valley¹⁷.

The climate can be described as mild temperate. It is characterized by cold frosty winters with occasional snow fall and warm to hot summers, mostly hot during May and June and warm to hot with increased humidity during the monsoon season. The northern parts are generally colder and receive more precipitation. Semi-dry condition prevails in its southern parts. Annual average rainfall varies from 700 mm to 1200 mm. Generally 55% of the rain fall occurs from December to April and 35% from July to September. The mean maximum temperature rises to 38 degree centigrade while mean minimum temperature falls to 0 degrees¹⁸.

Apart from small areas in the south-west, Dir is a rugged, mountainous zone with peaks rising to 5,000 meters (16,000 ft.) in the north-east and to 3,000 meters (9,800 ft.) along the

¹⁴ District Lower Dir, Pakistan, 2010, Nasrullah khan, [http://www.pakbs.org/pjbot/pdfs/42\(5\)/pjb42\(5\)3029.pdf](http://www.pakbs.org/pjbot/pdfs/42(5)/pjb42(5)3029.pdf)

¹⁵ Dir Valley, <http://visitorsheaven.com/dir.php>

¹⁶ Welcome to Dir State the Land of Peace and Hospitality, Lower Dir District, by Shafiq-ur Rehman, Executive District officer, <http://dirbeauty.webs.com/dirlower.htm>

¹⁷ District Lower Dir, Pakistan, 2010, Nasrullah khan, ibid.

¹⁸ Welcome to Dir State The Land of Peace and Hospitality, Lower Dir District, by Shafiq Ur Rehman, EXECUTIVE DISTRICT OFFICER AGRICULTURE, DIR LOWER AT TIMERGARA, <http://dirbeauty.webs.com/dirlower.htm>

watersheds, with Swat to the east and Afghanistan and Chitral to the West and North respectively¹⁹.

There was an acute shortage of drinking water in villages in Dir Lower due to closed water supply schemes. Residents of various areas were finding it hard to get potable water because the water supply schemes had been out of order due to some reason. A total of 125 water supply schemes had been supplying water to more than 800,000 people. They said 85 schemes were still working well²⁰.

6.2 Agriculture

Agriculture is the main stay of the people of the District, more than 85% of the population is directly or indirectly dependent on Agriculture. The main source of revenue is from the people working abroad and Agricultural crops like Onion and seasonal Tomato which are the major crops, but due to price instability in the local market, the land owners are facing acute problems in Agriculture marketing. Tobacco is also grown on a small area in the lower parts of the District i.e. Chakdara and supplements the revenue of the farmers of that specific locality. Main crops are wheat, rice, maize, oil crops. Vegetable is also grown on limited area, water being the limiting factor. Citrus fruit is also attractive farm income source of the farmers of the area but the decline has not been noticed either due to mismanagement which leads to disease and insects attack²¹.

6.3 Environmental Hazards

Floods: Heavy snow on the northern mountains of the province starts melting with rising temperatures during summer, thus causing a rise in the water level of River Kabul and Swat²². During the same period the monsoon patterns also develop in the region. Heavy precipitation of monsoon, results in disproportionate water flow in these rivers which ultimately generate floods around the banks of rivers.

Physical configuration of the northern and north-eastern portion of the province is excessively mountainous, spanning from Chitral up in the North to districts of Upper and Lower Dir, Shangla, Swat and Mansehra which are prone to flash flooding, cloud bursts and sliding activities²³. Therefore, depending on the intensity of monsoon precipitation and ice melt, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is vulnerable to both sudden and expected hydro-meteorological disasters which require integrated surge and quick response.

The impact caused by the floods in 2010 was severe. After the floods 70 water supply schemes (i.e. 89 percent of the total water schemes) were reported as damaged by the floods, out of which, 60 are no longer functional²⁴. Only 48 percent of water supply schemes were providing drinkable water according to community leaders after the floods. 30 water tanks were reported with a medium capacity of 8,000 gallons out of which 7 water tanks have been damaged by the floods.

Earthquakes: A moderate earthquake of 4.1 magnitudes jolted some parts of Lower Dir and Chitral and other parts of the country in 2013²⁵. According to the meteorological department, the epicenter of the quake was 43 kilometers North of Mengora at a depth of 10 kilometer. People came out of their houses, but no loss of life and property was reported as a result of the quake.

¹⁹ The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribune, Lower Dir District, <http://KPtribune.com/index.php/en/lower-dir>

²⁰ Dir News, Lower Dir Most of the Water Supply Schemes are Out of Order, <http://www.dirnews.net/lower-dir-water-supply-schemes-order/>

²¹ Welcome to Dir State The Land of Peace and Hospitality, Lower Dir District, by Shafiq Ur Rehman, Executive District Officer Agriculture, Dir Lower At Timergara, <http://dirbeauty.webs.com/dirlower.htm>

²² Monsoon Contingency Plan 2014, PDMA, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

²³ ibid

²⁴ Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, Rapid Need Assessment, Lower Dir District

²⁵ 4.1 magnitude earthquake hits Lower Dir, Chitral, AAJ News, 29th June 2013

7.0 Social Mobilization

Numerous government and non-government programs and approaches have been used to promote rural development and poverty alleviation. Among these have been initiatives designed to build rural infrastructure, mobilize communities, enhance access to rural finance, and provide a social safety net.

7.1 Role of PPAF

PPAF has facilitated its partner organization Poverty Eradication Initiative (PEI) in completing 3 projects in the health sector that are providing health care services to 70,809 community members. Mainly, PPAF has been providing support for two models namely: (a) Establishing community managed health centers, and (b) Strengthening government health centers, operating them for a period of up to 3 years and handing them back to the government. The objective of PPAF health program has been to provide access to quality, basic health services with a special focus on maternal and child health to the poor and marginalized rural communities by focusing on all aspects required in this regard. These aspects include hiring of qualified and trained health care staff and paramedics, availability of proper building, standardized equipment, furniture and medicine and following WHO guidelines in terms of infection prevention practices.

7.2 Local NGOs

There are various NGOs working in the district namely:

- SIDO
- AKBT
- SRSP
- RDO

7.3 Focus of Donor Community

In order to gain a better understanding of the programmatic focus of the various donor agencies operating in the area, the following table summarizes various projects operated in different sectors distinguished by donor and executing agencies in the district.

**Exhibit 7.3.1
Donor Projects**

Project Name	Sector	Donor	Executing Agency
Agribusiness Project	Agriculture	USAID	Agribusiness Support Fund (ASF)
Small Grants Ambassador's Fund Program	Wildlife Conservation, Women Issues, Cultural Preservation, Entrepreneurship, Water Sanitation and Hygiene	USAID	NRSP
Strengthening Citizen Voice and Public Accountability Program	Democracy and Governance	USAID	Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA) and The Asia Foundation (TAF) NGO Development and Empowerment Women Association
Economic Revitalization of KP		Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF)	GOP KP

**Exhibit 7.3.1
Donor Projects**

Project Name	Sector	Donor	Executing Agency
Governance Support Project	Governance	Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF)	GOP KP
Strengthening Health Services in Crisis-affected Districts of KP	Health	Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF)	GOP KP
Revitalizing Health in KP	Health	World Bank	GOP KP
KP Emergency Roads Recovery	Disaster / Emergency	World Bank	GoP Pakistan
Strengthening Health Services in Crisis-affected Districts of KP	Health	The Netherlands	Health Sector Reform Unit (HSRU) Department of Health
Public Safety and Justice Program (PS&JP)	Disaster / Emergency	The Netherlands	DTCE
Community Policing - Under Strengthening Rule of Law in Malakand Program (SRLMP)	Governance / Security	UNDP	Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Judiciary, BAR Associations, Informal Justice Sector Actors, Civil Society Organizations
Government Officials Survey on Administrative, Tax and Gender Reforms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa		Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	Elementary and Secondary Education Department KP; Directorate of Education FATA
Reducing vulnerability through DRM in KP	Governance / Security	Norway	ACF International
Dev Swap V: Health Infrastructure	Health - Infrastructure	German Development Cooperation	Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Edu Swap II: School-Infrastructure KP	Education - Infrastructure	German Development Cooperation	Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Dev Swap III: Housing Reconstruction KP	Infrastructure	German Development Cooperation	Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Dev Swap IV: Rehabilitation of Schools KP	Education	German Development Cooperation	Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Program	Refugees / Host Communities	European Union; Government of Japan; Government of Germany; US State Department; and Ministry of States and Frontier Regions, Government of Pakistan	UNDP- Planning and Development Department of, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; and Department of Planning and Development, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)

**Exhibit 7.3.1
Donor Projects**

Project Name	Sector	Donor	Executing Agency
Education sector development program in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)	Education	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Elementary and Secondary Education Department KP; Directorate of Education FATA
Livelihoods Program Hindukush Pakistan	Livelihood	Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)	Inter corporation, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Rehabilitation of Drinking Water Supply in KP after the Floods 2010	Water	Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)	PHED, TMA, PDMA, WMC, DoE, DOH, WAP, WB
Reconstruction of Schools	Education - Infrastructure	Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)	AKRSP

8.0 Important Institutions

8.1 Institutions and Stakeholders

The district is administratively subdivided into two Tehsils which contain a total of 37 UCs and is represented in the provincial assembly by four elected MPAs.²⁶

8.2 Financial Institutions in the District

Most of the people living in Lower Dir are poor. The economy is highly influenced by the remittances that are sent by family members of the local residents. Except for a few manufacturing plants that include cement block manufacturing units and flour mills, there are hardly any manufacturing units in the district. The main source of revenue comes from the people living abroad, and agricultural activities. Both fruits and vegetables are grown in the district. Commercial banks play an important role in complimenting these economic activities. Commercial banks operating in the district include Muslim Commercial Bank (MCB), United Bank Limited (UBL), Bank of Khyber, Allied Bank Limited (ABL), Bank Islami and Alfalah Bank Limited. Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited (ZTBL)'s role is encouraging in promoting agricultural activities in the district. Poverty Eradication Initiative (PEI) is one of the welfare institutes that work in Lower Dir.

²⁶ Lower Dir District Wikipedia the free encyclopedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_Dir_District