

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

**Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)
Snow Emergency
Preliminary Findings, Neelum District
24 January 2020**



Summary of Key Findings

Affected Population



30,370

Total affected families of Neelum District



12,410

Families are severely affected



68

People injured



74

People died



182

Houses damaged



436

Livestock deaths

- Initial findings indicates that in Neelum district, three Union Councils (UCs) are severely affected. These include; **Sharda, Guraiz, Dodhnial** and **Kel**. The remaining seven UCs of Neelum, UC Bahadi of Haveli and UC Leepa of Jhelum Valley districts are also affected.
- **31,466** families of Neelum district are directly or indirectly affected, out of which **12, 410** families of the district living in three Union Councils are severely affected.
- The population of the area are dependent on livestock, agriculture, forest, seasonal labour and business at micro level for its subsistence. Maize is the major crop grown in the area, other main food crops include red beans and potatoes.
- During this season the unexpected early and heavy snowfall in mid-October 2019 has destroyed ready-to-harvest Maize crop and the resident were not able to properly preposition their food stocks and fodder for the livestock. This has resulted in critical shortage of food in the affected areas.
- Around **17** shops in the Valley are destroyed along with the food and non-food stocks inside. Due roads blockage some other markets in the valley are inaccessible, and also disconnected with other big markets within or/and outside the district. This has resulted in critical shortage of food availability in markets of the area.
- Road access to the affected areas is not fully operational, as of 23 January, Athmuqam to Surgon and up to Kel are accessible by road from Muzaffarabad. Upper areas in the valley are still not accessible.
- Immediate needs of the affected population include; food, non-food items, shelter (winterized shelters, tents, warm clothes, heating system etc.) and lifesaving medicines etc.
- Initially un-conditional food distribution to **12,410** families of the three severely affected UCs could be an important means to ensure their food and nutrition security.
- There is a need to collect detailed information about sector-wise humanitarian needs to have a targeted humanitarian response.

District Profile

Neelum district is situated at north and north east of Muzaffarabad, and borders with Indian held Kashmir. Area wise it is the biggest district of AJK, having total area of 3,621 km². Key statistics of the district are as below.

Demographic

Total population	Total	Male	Female
	191,251	94,333	96,900
Total number of households	27,184		
Average household size (Neelum district)	7		
Average household size (AJK)	6		
Administrative			
Total number of tehsils	2		
Total number of union councils	10		
Total number of revenue villages	88		
Agriculture, livestock and food			
Total farm area (hectare)	22,217		
Farm area per family (hectare)	0.817		
Cereals production(tons) 2017			
Wheat production	140		
Maize production	8,302		
Rice production	45		
Vegetable production(tons) 2017			
Onion	9.94		
Garlic	35.65		
Cucumber	13.46		
Tomato	86.78		
Potato	1,405.05		
Others	790.9		
Livestock population (2017)			
Cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, horses, mules, asses	180,873		
Livestock heads per family (avg.)	7		
Poultry	161,960		
Poultry per family (avg.)	6		

Source: Azad Jammu & Kashmir
Statistical Year Book 2018¹

Livelihood

Majority of the population in the district depends on livestock, agriculture, forest, seasonal labour and business at micro level for its subsistence. On average farm area per family is two acres, while livestock heads per family is seven. Maize is the major food crop in the area.

¹ <https://www.pndajk.gov.pk/uploadfiles/downloads/STATISTICAL%20YEAR%20BOOK%202018.pdf>

Education

Neelum district has low literacy rate of 50% as compared to the overall literacy rate (71%) of AJ&K. Mostly the government schools have shortage of staff with in-sufficient school buildings, labs, extra-curriculum and other education facilities. According to Alif Ailaan report 2017 Neelum has school infrastructure score of 21.02 with the 144th position among 156 districts of Pakistan².

Main Hazards

Neelum district is one of the most disaster prone districts of AJK because of the presence of many hazards; land sliding, avalanches, cross border firing, flood and earthquake. Landslide is a frequently occurring hazard intensified by the effects of earthquake. During summer season when snow melts and during monsoon season landslide becomes a routine occurrence. During winter season snow avalanche is another frequently occurring hazard because many parts of the district receive snowfall for almost half of the year.

Snow Avalanche in Neelum Valley; 14 January 2020

Between 13 and 14 January 2020, a spell of heavy snowfall, avalanches and landslides have affected districts of Neelum, Haveli and Jhelum Valley. The worst affected district is Neelum, resulted in casualties and massive infrastructure damage. The upper parts of Neelum were disconnected with lower parts and with its neighbouring districts. This resulted in access constraints to the affected areas delaying rescue and relief operation which exacerbated the situation of the affected people.

Methodology: To assess the preliminary status on damages, affected population and their needs, VAM mission was planned to Muzaffarabad from 22-24 January 2020. To understand the situation, the mission had one to one meetings with key officials and sectors representatives of the AJK Government in Muzaffarabad and also had telephonic interview with representative of District Disaster Management Authority (DDLA), Neelum district. List of the Govt. officials and sector representatives with whom meetings were held is Annexed D.

Findings

- a) Heavy snow fall and avalanches have resulted in casualties and massive infrastructure damage in three districts of AJK: Neelum, Haveli and Jhelum Valley.
- b) As of 23 January 2020, total number of people died are **74**, injured **68**, houses completely damaged **88**, houses partially damaged **94**, shops destroyed **17**, and livestock deaths **436**. Annexure B: Details of livestock deaths
- c) Initial assessment indicates that in Neelum district, three Union Councils (UCs) are severely affected. These include; Sharda, Guraiz and Kel. The remaining seven UCs of Neelum district and UC Bahadi of Haveli district and UC Leepa of Jhelum Valley district are also affected. Annexure A: Map of affected areas.
- d) The preliminary findings indicates that directly and/or indirectly Neelum district entire population is affected. In numbers, total affected population are: **30,370**

² <https://elections.alifailaan.pk/wp-includes/file/DER17.pdf>

families, **225,846** individuals, out of which severely affected families are **12,410** living in Union Councils of Sharda, Guraiz, Dodhnial and Kel. Union council wise population numbers are provided in table below.

District	Tehsil	Union Council	Population (source: BOS AJK)		Population (source: SDMA)		Remarks
			Individuals	Households	Individuals	Households	
Neelum	Sharda	Guraiz	17,234	2,238	20,631	2,980	Severely affected
	Sharda	Kel	19,771	2,589	29,284	3,500	
	Sharda	Sharda	17,681	2,329	17,833	3,420	
	Sharda	Dodhnial	12,769	1,971	13,895	2,510	
	Athmuqam	Ashkot	18,385	2,875	22,191	2,840	Affected
	Athmuqam	Barian	22,374	3,614	24,581	2,820	
	Athmuqam	Kundal Shahi	28,598	3,493	29,087	4,240	
	Athmuqam	Minicipal Committee	7,922	1,204	32,778	3,200	
	Athmuqam	Neelum	34,157	4,967	35,566	4,860	
	Athmuqam	Salkhala/Shahkot	12,360	1,904	—	—	
Total			191,251	27,184	225,846	30,370	
Haveli	Haveli	Bahadi	—	—	23000	3,000	Affected
Jhelum Valley	Leepa	Leepa	—	—	31829	4,304	Affected
Total					54,829	7,304	

- e) The people in the area have mixed sources of livelihood and are dependent on livestock, agriculture, forest, seasonal labour and business at micro level for its subsistence. Maize is the major crop grown in the area, other main food crops include, wheat, rice, red beans and potatoes.
- f) Mid-April to mid-May is the sowing period for the Maize and Red Beans, whereas October-November is the harvesting period for these crops.
- g) Usually, the snow fall in Neelum Valley start by end November, and by that time the residents have harvested Maize and Red Beans crops and have stocked the fuel wood and fodder for their livestock. However, during this season the unexpected early and heavy snowfall in mid-October 2019 has destroyed their ready-to-harvest Maize crop and the resident were not able to properly preposition their food stocks as planned and fodder for their livestock.
- h) The spells of heavy snowfall in January 2020 has partially or fully destroyed the houses in parts of Upper Neelum Valley, and the limited food stocks at homes is also destroyed. This has resulted in critical shortage of own food stocks in the affected areas.
- i) Around 17 shops in the Valley are destroyed along with the food and non-food stocks inside. Due roads blockage some other markets in the valley are

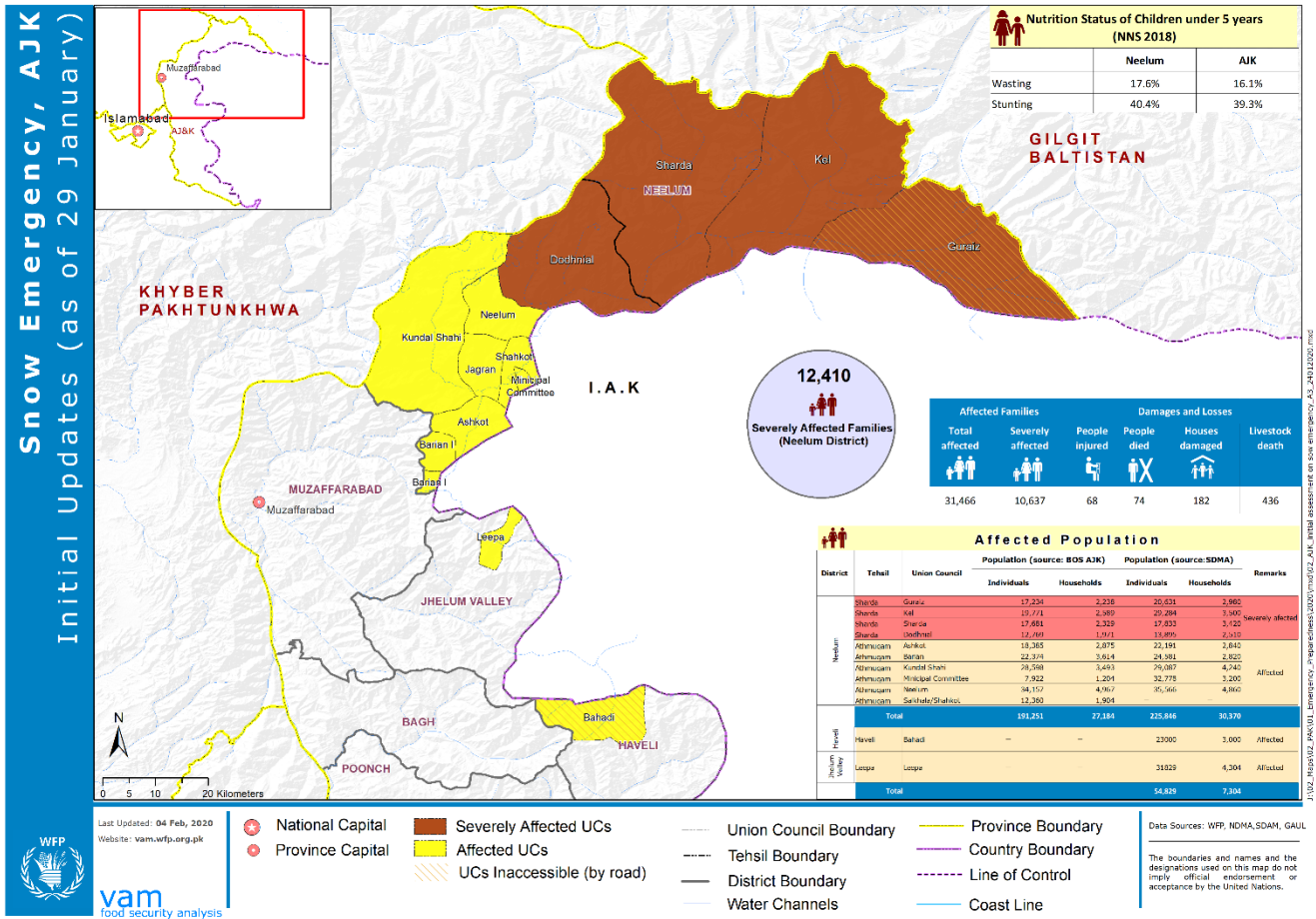
inaccessible, and also disconnected with other big markets within and outside the district. This has resulted in critical shortage of food availability in markets of the area.

- j) As of 23 January with improvement in the weather, few areas of the Valley starting from Athmuqam to Surgon and up to Kel are accessible by road from Muzaffarabad. It is anticipated that if weather situation continue improving, the road access to upper areas will possibly be improved in coming few days.
- k) Immediate needs of the affected population include; food, non-food items, shelter (winterized shelters, tents, warm clothes, heating system etc.) and lifesaving medicines etc.
- l) As of 23 January, the Govt. of AJK has distributed food items among 200 affected families, to take care of their food needs for one month. Details of the food items are at Annexure C.

Recommendations

Based on the initial findings on the food security and livelihood situation of the affected areas, as well as considering the immediate needs of the severely affected population, the following are the key recommendations:

1. In the severely affected areas, there is critical shortage of residents own food stocks, as well as serious shortage of food availability in markets of the affected areas. Therefore, initially un-conditional food distribution to the population in the severely affected could be an important means to ensure food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable families.
2. In the severely affected UCs, most of the houses are partially or fully damages, therefore provision of winterized shelters, tents and warm clothes are necessary to protect the people from harsh weather.
3. Immediate clearance of roads blockage of the affected areas is necessary to ensure quick access to the areas for humanitarian interventions.
4. For livestock, the provision of medication, shelter, and fodder/animal feed are of primary needs.
5. There is a need to collect detailed information about sector-wise humanitarian needs to have a targeted humanitarian response.
6. Rehabilitation of community infrastructure should be a priority



Annexure A – Map of affected areas

Annexure B – Details of livestock losses

DETAIL OF DEATHS/LOSSES OF ANIMALS DUE TO HEAVY SNOW
FALLS/AVALANCHES IN DISTRICT NEELUM DATED 23-01-2020

نمبر شمار	نام مالک معذرت	سکونت آگاہاں	شناختی کارڈ نمبر	گائے/بیل	بجیر	بکریاں	گھوڑے	تعداد
۱-	فضل دین ولد میر وزیر	سرگن کھالی پوئین ٹولس شاروہ	82502-0124184-1	4-5	-	5	-	14
۲-	عمر فضل ولد رفیع اللہ	" "	82502-0127726-1	1-4	1	11	-	17
۳-	غازی بان ولد شاعر اللہ	" "	-	-	-	-	-	-
۳-	محمد رفیق ولد عبدالرحمان	سرگن پیری پوئین ٹولس شاروہ	82502-0114530-1	2-7	-	-	-	9
۵-	محمد خالد ولد گلاب شاہ	" "	82502-7262031-5	2-18	-	24	1	45
۶-	محمد طارق ولد گلاب	" "	-	3	-	2	-	5
۷-	شاہد شاہ ولد عمر علی شاہ	" "	-	-	2	40	1	43
۸-	سداڑی شاہ ولد عمر علی شاہ	" "	82201-8034744-9	1-3	-	-	-	4
۹-	میر احمد ولد محمد زمان	" "	42201-15406136-5	2-8	-	5	-	15
۱۰-	سعید ولد پاجین	سرگن کھوت	-	-	15	30	-	45
۱۱-	فضل حسین ولد احمد سواتی	سرگن سام کام	-	1-9	-	-	-	10
۱۲-	روشن پازر ولد عالم پورین	کیل و سکراں پوئین ٹولس کیل	-	2-2	-	-	-	4
۱۳-	گلاب پازر ولد عالم پورین	" "	-	2	-	-	-	2
۱۳-	منیر اقبال ولد گلاب	" "	-	1-1	-	-	-	2
۱۵-	شیر زمان ولد عرفان	ڈھگل پکنا پوئین ٹولس گریس	-	3	20	6	1	30
۱۶-	میر بانی ولد علام پورین	" "	-	5	4	3	-	12
۱۷-	گل خان ولد علام پورین	" "	-	5	2	6	1	14
۱۸-	بی بی حویو و سلیمان	" "	-	2	3	8	-	13
۱۹-	علام محمد ولد سلیمان	" "	-	4	8	2	-	14
۲۰-	محمد یونس ولد سلیمان	" "	-	6	3	5	1	15
۲۱-	علام سکین ولد	" "	-	12	2	10	1	25
۲۲-	شکور الدین ولد اہام پورین	" "	-	6	3	2	-	11
۲۳-	شاہ کرتان ولد وزیر خان	" "	-	8	5	7	1	21
۲۳-	علام بی ولد گید خان	" "	-	2	5	7	1	15
۲۵-	محمد خان ولد عطا اللہ خان	" "	-	3	6	4	1	14
۲۶-	دادو خان ولد روشن خان	" "	-	2	6	6	-	14
۲۷-	بشیر خان ولد بیج خان	" "	-	1	2	1	-	4
۲۸-	گل مجید ولد احمد خان	" "	-	3	2	3	-	8
۲۹-	آصف ولد نیک عالم	" "	-	1	-	3	-	4
۳۰-	راہہ سہو خان ولد رحیم خان	تیم پوئین ٹولس آھم کام	82201-0432819-7	1-4	-	2	-	7
436	کل میزان اسماءت مویشیاں							

نمبر 25/20 2020/ADAHVS/ 172-73 اصل پڑا خدمت =

جناب ناظم اعلیٰ الاٹھ ٹاک اینڈ ڈیری ڈیولپمنٹ مظفر آباد۔
 جناب ناظم اعلیٰ ایٹھ ڈیری سرورس مظفر آباد۔
 25/01/2020
 ایڈیشنل ڈائریکٹر
 ڈیپل ایٹھ ڈیری سرورس

2020/1/2

Annexure C – List of food items distributed by GoAJK

Food Items for One Month (01 Family)						
S.#	Item	Quantity	Amount			Total Expenditure
1	Flour	20 Kg	1000	x	1	1,000
2	Oil	5 Kg	1000	x	1	1,000
3	Rice	20 Kg	2000	x	1	2,000
4	Sugar	5 Kg	250	x	1	250
5	Pulses	6 Kg	900	x	1	900
6	Salt	1 Kg	40	x	1	40
7	Milk Dry	1 Kg	1000	x	1	1,000
8	Match Box	1 No.	20	x	1	20
9	Candel	10 No.	60	x	1	60
Total						6,270
For Children						
10	Milk Nedo	1 Kg	1000	x	1	1,000
11	Energy Biscuits	1 Ctn	800	x	1	800
12	Light Food	1 Pkt	1000	x	1	1,000
Total						15,340

Annexure D- List of meeting participants

Meetings were held with following Govt. officials and sector representatives.

1. Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Commissioner Muzaffarabad Division/Relief Commissioner, Muzaffarabad
2. Mr. Saeed ur Rehman Qureshi, Director Operations State Disaster Management Authority, Muzaffarabad
3. Mian Waheed, Former Minister for Education/Forests, Muzaffarabad
4. Dr. Arif Iqbal, Director Livestock Muzaffarabad
5. Mr. Mushtaq Pirzada, Director GIS, Muzaffarabad
6. Mr. Shafeeq, Director Agriculture Research, Muzaffarabad
7. Mr. Akhtar Ayub, Deputy Director District Disaster Management Authority, Neelum