

# ZHOB

## District Profile



### Turn Potential into Profit

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Map: Zhob





## 1.2 INTRODUCTION:

The district was named as Zhob after the Zhob River. It is a Pashto word which means oozing water. It is the only river in the country that follows a northeastern course. It springs from the Kan Metarzai range, passes about 4 kilometer from Zhob City and finally flows into the Gomal River near Khajuri Kach. Zhob city was previously called Fort Sandeman, named after Robert Sandeman, the first Agent to the Governor General of Balochistan, who extended the British rule in the region.

After outbreak of the Afghan war in 1878, Zhob became a focus of the British attention, after various encounters British occupied the territory and Zhob was declared a political agency in 1890.

Zhob district, after Quetta, is the second oldest district of Balochistan. It was declared as district in February 1890, under Captain Maciver as the first Political Agent.

The district has an important geo-strategic location, neighboring South Waziristan Agency, District D.I.Khan, District Killa Saifullah, District Loralai, and District MusaKhel. Moreover, it is also linked Afghanistan.

### ZHOB'S BASIC FACT (2005-2006)

ZHOB'S BASIC FACT (2005-2006)	
International Linkages	Afghanistan.
Area	20,297 Sq Km.
Population	305,576 Projected 2005.
Official Language	Urdu
Local Languages	Pashto
Airports	Zhob air port.
Major Sectors	Agriculture/Horticulture and Livestock
Major Fruits & Vegetable	Almond, Apple, Apricot, Pomegranate and Tomatoes etc.

*\*Source: P&D Department Balochistan.*

## 1.3 POPULATION:

Population of District Zhob in 1998 was 275,142 comprising 149,787 males and 125,355 females. Projected population of District in 2005 was 305,576.

Source: Population censuses Organization, Islamabad.

## 1.4 CLIMATE:

The climate of the district is hot and dry in summer and cold in winter. July is the hottest month with mean maximum and minimum temperature of about 36.7°C and 21.8°C respectively. January is the coldest month with mean maximum and minimum temperature of



about 11.5°C and -1.9°C degree respectively. In winters the wind blows from the west and is very cold. The winds from the Southwest and east are also common, the later invariably brings rain. The region is dominantly influenced by the monsoon season, it receives heavy rainfall during summer, accompanied by thunder storms from July to September.

**\*Mean of maximum temperature of Zhob by Month 2005** **Temp in C**

Jan	Feb.	Mar	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
11.5	12.8	20.5	27.2	29.9	36.2	36.7	36.7	33.9	29.0	21.1	17.3

**\*Mean of minimum temperature of Zhob by Month 2005** **Temp in C**

Jan	Feb.	Mar	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
-1.9	0.8	8.1	11.3	16.0	20.7	21.8	21.5	18.6	11.3	4.4	-1.7

**\*Rainfall Zhob by Month 2005** **Rainfall in mm**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
7.4	62.6	74.5	22.0	40.3	8.6	118.2	23.2	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

\* Source: Regional Metrological Center, Karachi

## 1.5 Education:

The District Education system works under the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Balochistan. District government is providing educational facilities in the district at primary, middle & high school levels. There are eight private schools in the district. Government has established one degree college for boys and one inter college for girls in the district for higher education.

**Total number of Government and Private Schools by sex in District Zhob, (2004-2005):**

District	Government Schools		Private Schools
	Male	Female	
Zhob	409	65	8

Source: Directorate of Education, Quetta.

**Total number of Intermediate and Degree Colleges at District Zhob, (2004-2005):**

District	Degree colleges		Intermediate Colleges
	Male	Female	
Zhob	1	0	1

Source: Directorate of Education, Quetta.



## 2. Infrastructure:

### 2.1 Roads

District is contacted through metalled and shingle roads within and outside the districts. The total length of the blacktopped roads in the district is 167 km, whereas Shingle roads have a total length of 916 km. The majority of the roads in the district are shingle.

The national high way connects District Zhob with District Killa Saifullah and District Quetta.

#### Total Roads in kilometres include National Highways in Zhob 2004-2005.

Type of road	National Highway	Provincial Roads
Metalled	121	168
Shingle	0	916
Total	121	1084

Source: communication and works department

#### 2.1.1 Transportation:

The private vehicles in Zhob are about 1,107 and the public vehicles consist of 592. According to the Directorate of Excise and Taxation Balochistan, there are 868 Trucks and 921 other vehicles in the District.

#### Number of Motor Vehicles Stood Registered 2005.

Type of vehicle Registered in district	2005
Motor cycles	281
Station Wagon	232
Mini Buses	74
Cars, Jeeps, Taxis	454
Rickshaws	1
Pickup	207
Tractors	2,740
Trucks	868

Source: Directorate of Excise & Taxation, Balochistan, Quetta.



## 2.1.2 Rail- and Airways

Air port has been established in the district since 1983. The flights used to operate between Zhob and Islamabad three times a week, the passenger service has been abandoned since 2003. The airport at Zhob also has a military base.

The train service from Quetta to Zhob was established in 1916. It was actually built from Bostan to Khanai (3 km off Bostan) to Muslimbagh (previously called Hindubagh) as a private siding for Balochistan Chrome Ore Company for exploration of the Chrome Ore mines near Muslim Bagh. Later on it was extended to Fort Sandeman (Zhob). It served as an important means of transportation of goods. Asia's highest altitude railway station on this route was Kan Matarzai at 2800 meters. The total distance of the track was 295 kilometers. The train service has been abandoned since 1985.

## 2.2 Communications

Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation (PTCL) has established a network of telephone connections in the district. There are 8 auto exchanges and one manual exchange in Zhob district. Furthermore, there are 2,343 number of phone connections in District Zhob.

Pakistan Post has established their networks in the district comprises of 22 post offices in the district. Beside Pakistan Post numbers of Private courier services are also operating in the district which includes TCS, OCS, SPEEDEX, TNT etc.

## 2.3 Energy

### 2.3.1 Electricity

According to P&D Department, there are 8,994 electric connections in the district, out of which 42 are for the industrial sector, 107 are for the agriculture sector, 1,492 for commercial use and 7,353 are for domestic consumers. The use of electricity for cooking and heating is common in rural and urban areas. A number of areas in the district are without electricity, where kerosene and diesel are used as alternative energy source.

Under the supervision of SDO, QUESCO there is a grid station of 132 K.V. in District Zhob facilitating the supply from Quetta and Sibi power lines. Because of the inadequacy of power supply against demand, load-shedding frequently occurs.

#### Total number and type of connections in district Zhob 2004-2005

Total Connections	Industrial	Agriculture	Commercial	Household
8994	42	107	1492	7353

Source: Planning & Development department Quetta.

### 2.3.2 Gas

Natural Gas is not available in the district except liquid petroleum gas (LPG) in cylinders by those who can afford buying them. Electricity and wood are used for the purpose of cooking and heating. The rural population has difficulty finding sources of energy for heating in



winter. Therefore, they start storing wood in summer however the use of coal is also common for heating purposes.

## 2.4 Financial Institutions

There are number of Government and private commercial financial institutions providing their financial services across the district. Detail of the financial institutions is as under:

National Bank of Pakistan, Muslim Commercial Bank of Pakistan, United Bank Limited, Bank Islami, Allied Bank Limited, Habib Bank Limited and Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL).

### Financial institutions and their branches:

Financial Institutions	Branches
National Bank of Pakistan	1
Bank Islami	1
Zarai Taraqiati Bank of Pakistan	1
Muslim Commercial Bank of Pakistan	1
Habib Bank Limited	1
United Bank Limited	1
Allied Bank Limited	1

## 3. ZHOB IMPORTANT SECTORS

### 3.1 Small and Medium Enterprises

The small and medium enterprises mostly comprise of agriculture and Livestock sectors, other enterprises include auto and electric repair, art and craft centres, bakeries, merchants, whole sellers, bricks kilns, hotels, shoe and cap makers, tailors and other shops.

Zhob town is the main hub of trading in the district and major market for daily used items whether locally produced or coming from other parts of the country. These items are supplied to the rest of the parts of the district from here.

### 3.2 Agriculture / Horticulture

Mostly the area is hilly and barren with very limited water resources for agriculture purposes. However, during recent years tube wells have become quite popular alternative, as a result a total of 46,523 Hectare of land is under cultivation in the district. Sowing and harvesting are still largely carried out in traditional manner but the use of agricultural machinery is increasing day by day. The important crops are fruits, melons, vegetables, potato, onion, wheat and barley etc.



### 3.2.1 Land utilization statistics

The total geographical area of Zhob district is 2,029,700 Hectares. Out of which total cultivated area is 46,523 hectares and the reported area is about 227,341 hectares.

#### Land utilization statistics Zhob district 2004-05

Land use 2004-05	Area (Ha.)
Total Geographical Area	2,029,700
Reported Area	227,341
Total Cultivated Area	46,523
Cullurable waste	80,196
Not available for cultivation	87,612

Source: Agriculture Statistics of Balochistan 2004-05

### 3.2.2 Production of different fruits

Fruit production is very important and dominant sector in the district, major fruits include Apple, Pomegranate, apricot and almond.

Crop and area wise production of fruit and vegetable are given below:

#### Area and Production of Fruits of Zhob District 2004-05

Fruits	Area (Hectares)	Production (tones)
Almond	1,638	3,516
Apple	6,378	48,397
Apricot	1,852	15,930
Grape	405	1,856
Peach	177	1,006
Pomegranates	369	3,915
melon	154	275
plum	168	1,428

Source: Agriculture Statistics of Balochistan 2004-05

### 3.2.3 Production of different Crops

Wheat Barley and maize are the major crops of the district Zhob. Area wise production of crops is given below:



### Area and Production of Crops of Zhob district:

Crops	Area(Hectares)	Production(Tonnes)
Wheat	2,000	3,398
Barley	60	87
Maize	300	293

Source: Agriculture Statistics of Balochistan 2004-05

### 3.2.4 Production of Different Vegetables

Zhob is one of the biggest districts in Balochistan. It has numerous agricultural and horticultural resources but all of them are not explored. It has a climate that is suitable for a variety of crops, fruits and vegetables.

### Area and Production of Vegetables of Zhob district:

Vegetables	Area(Hectares)	Production(Tonnes)
Tomato	27	221
Lady finger	7	42
Tinda	7	42
Brinjal	-	9
Radish	12	216
Peas	14	191
Cabbage	7	126
Carrot	10	177
Cauliflower	11	165
Beet root	0	0
Pumpkin	10	97
Onion	90	1,440
Potato	20	270
Turnip	7	138

Source: Agriculture Statistics of Balochistan 2004-05

## 3.3 Livestock

Livestock is an important source of income and employment in the district. Livestock play a vital role in the economy of the district and provide food with rich nutrition value such as milk, meat and their by-products like wool, butter, oil, cheese, curd, skin and intestines. There are four veterinary hospitals in the district, with 115 veterinary dispensaries. The grand total number of animal slaughtered in Zhob in 2004-05 was 24,019.

Beside men, women and children are also involved in the grazing of their animals, nevertheless, being family workers, they are not paid for their activities. The women also look after the animals within the house. They also collect fodder for the animals and do other work such as milking etc.



### Livestock population Zhob (census 2000)

Animals	Year 2000
Sheep	941,009
Goats	451,568
Cattle	96,220
Horses	1,492
Mule	28
Camels	1,257
Buffalo	747

Source: - Development Statistics of Balochistan 2004-2005.

### Animals Slaughtered in slaughter houses, Zhob District 2004 - 2005

Type	Number
Cattle / Buffalo	6,022
Sheep	5,007
Goat	12,986
Camel	4
Total	24,019

Source: - Development Statistics of Balochistan 2004-2005.

## 3.4 Mining

District Zhob is a potential mineral bearing area but as such very little of activities are reported. The Mining needs detailed exploration and awareness of the mineral potential amongst the local inhabitants so as to encourage them to invest in this very potential area of Balochistan. The prospects of mining and its marketability must be focused so as to create awareness about Mineral mining & processing businesses and facilitate / promote such like business investments in this potential sector of Balochistan.

A number of mineral resources are reported, but no calculations have been made of the costs of exploration and exploitation.

## 3.5 HANDICRAFTS

District Zhob is famous for its specialized Embroidery work which is done by women of the area with excellent skill and craft. Mostly it is done on women's dresses for both domestic and commercial purpose. This embroidery work is not sold out in the town markets. Almost all of the women are skilled in embroidery craft but only few do it for income generation. This craft can be developed as a cottage industry.



### 3.6 POTENTIAL PROJECTS FOR INVESTMENT IN THE DISTRICT

Following projects can have the potential for investment in the district Zhob:

- **Green house farms and tunnels Farms**

Production of high quality fruits and vegetables requires proper greenhouses where environment is controlled. This controlled environment gives the producer control over what kind of fruit and vegetables he wants to produce and under what conditions. Another important aspect of using a greenhouse is that high quality products can be produced all year round, irrespective of the weather that exists outside.

- **Fruit processing**

Balochistan is far from tapping the potential of processing and exporting dried fruits and vegetables as shown by the limited number of fruit processors and exporters currently available. Dried fruits have a large number of end-users including use in the dried fruit and nut industry, the breakfast cereal industry, the confectionery industry, the bakery industry, other food products, and are consumed directly. The government through its policy on modernization of agriculture aims at promoting the development of rural agro-processing and marketing. Squashes, jams, jellies, juices, marmalade, ketchup and sauces etc. are the most common processed products.

- **Cold storage**

Keeping in view the shelf life of the perishable food items it becomes essential to freeze and store these products the Cold storage can be used for perishable fruits and vegetables. Investors can expect handsome return on their investment in this field.

- **Fruit & Vegetable dehydration**

Fruits and vegetables are among the readily perishable commodities which form an important part of global food supplies. District Loralai produces seasonal vegetables in almost three quarters of the year. A considerable proportion of these vegetables get spoiled before reaching the consumer. These losses can be minimized by adopting scientific techniques to convert the surplus produce into non-perishable products by way of preservation. Dehydration offers an economical and satisfactory means to extend the shelf life of vegetables;

- **Cattle/Sheep/Goats Fattening Center**

Since nutrition is a serious limiting factor in the livestock industry of Balochistan with the result that many animals arrive at the market in less than optimal body condition with body weight on the lower end, there is a dire need to ensure feed availability round the year with proper protein contents for increasing livestock productivity rather than its numbers. Such a situation directs to adopt non-conventional feed preparation and feeding techniques like treatment of wheat/ rice straws and other crop residues with urea or ammonia, molasses blocks, silage making, concentrate mixtures with low cost formulae, feed lots, semi-intensive farming and ewe flushing etc. With the switching over to semi-intensive farming which would warrant stall/ supplementary feeding, non-conventional and economical feeding



techniques and improved genetic material, the livestock farming can become a cost effective enterprise with its down stream positive effects in the farming community.

- **Dairy Farms**

Dairy sector is a major component of the livestock sector in Loralai, but due to the absence of specialization, dairy sector has to be viewed in the overall perspective of the livestock sector. Milk production and distribution system suffers from many anomalies, which have diverse negative impacts on the economy in general, continue the rural poverty, national health hazards and other environmental issues. All the problems of the sector are translated into low dairy productivity levels.

- **Poultry Farm**

Loralai is the land of unlimited hidden potentials. Among other things, poultry farming has got great scope for improvement. Poultry farming is not developed commercially, apart from some private poultry farms in urban areas. There are about 18 private poultry farms in the district. There is only one government owned poultry farm having 500 layer birds and 600 broilers.

- **Stone Crushing**

Over the last few years, the Construction sector has been registering strong growth rates in the district. In addition, for the building of roads and bypasses, there is a mass and consistent need of crushed stone across the country. Several projects are in progress and are being commenced shortly which will have high demand of crushed stone all over the country. The projected requirements for the next 20 years reinforce the potential in Stone Crushing segment of the industry.

- **Hospitals and Clinics:**

Lack of infrastructure and growing number of population has increased demand of medical facilities, which has direct impact on public & private sector health care centers. No access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities has posed a major threat to the health of masses. Moreover, the overlapping and harsh climate of the region causes major viral diseases through out the year. This creates a great demand for hospitals and clinics.