

District Economic Profile Kurram



Turn Potential into Profit

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Map of Federal administrated Tribal Area (FATA)

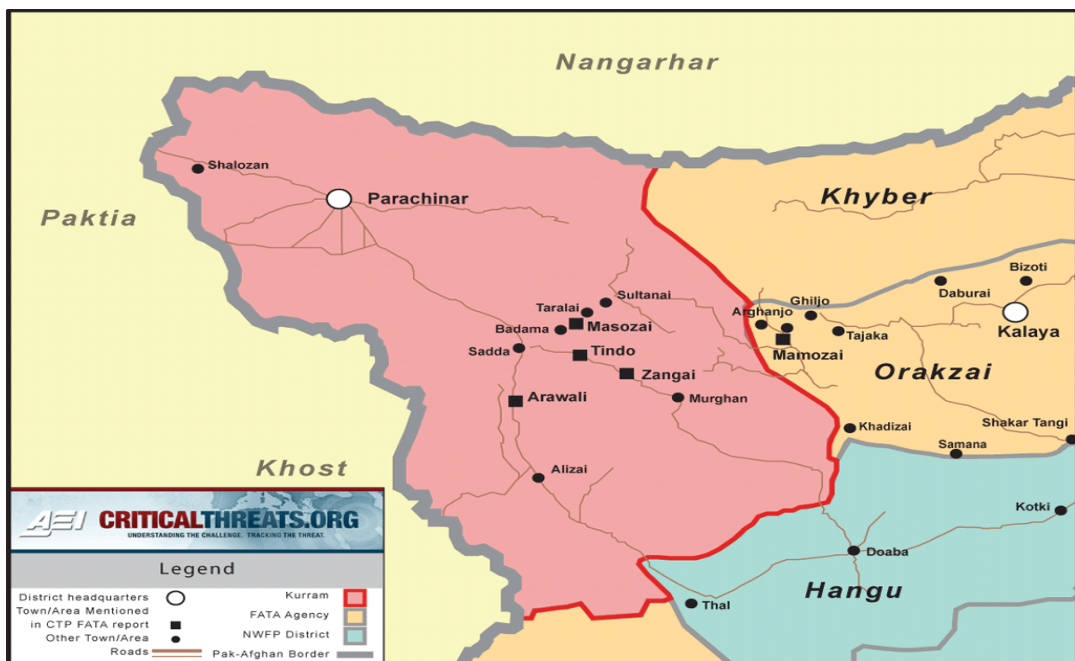
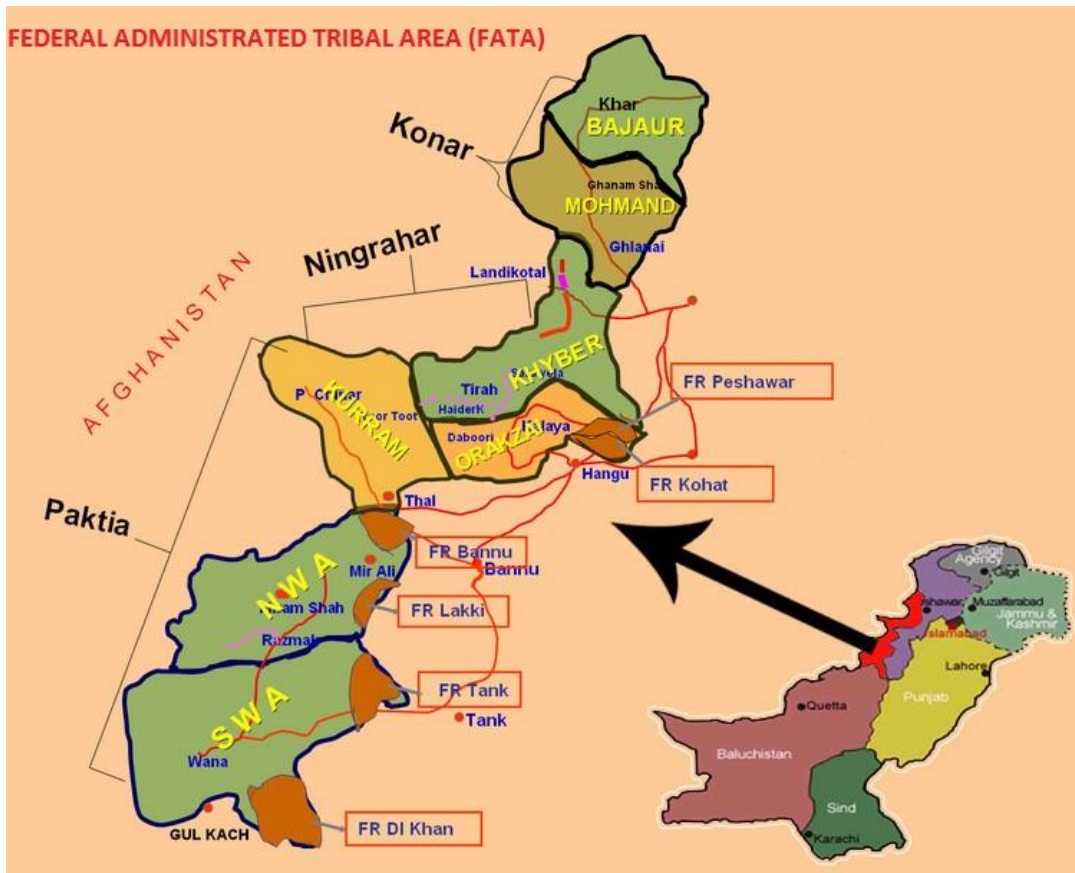


Figure 1: Map of District Kurram

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1. Introduction And History

Kurram District, the name Kurram comes from the river Kurram, which flows along the valley. In the north it is surrounded by snow-covered or "white" mountains, the Safed Koh, locally known in Pashto as Spīn Ghar, which also forms the natural border with Afghanistan. Kurram District is just like a beak of a bird and is connected with three provinces of Afghanistan named as Khost, Paktia and Nangarhar (Tora bora). Kurram District is located in the FATA and its major tribes are Bangash, Turi, Orakzai, Para-Chamkani, Mangal, Alisherzai, Muqbil, Khuaidadkhel and Masozai. In Lower Kurram District, Sadda is a scenic place where tribes such as the Bangash reside and Sadda has natural richness depended upon hills and mountain with evergreen forests and fields for growing crops like rice, Beans and wheat.

The Kurram River drains the southern flanks of the Safed Koh mountain range, and enters the Indus plains north of Bannu. It flows west to east and crosses the Paktia Province Afghan-Pakistan border at Coordinates: 33°49'N 69°58'E about 80 km (50 mi) southwest of Jalalabad, and joins the Indus near Isa Khel after a course of more than 320 km (200 mi). The district has an area of 3,380 km² (1,310 sq mi); the population according to the 2017 census is 615,372.

2. Social Environment

The District is dominated by rural characteristics and people prefer to live in a joint family system. People of Kurram are very hospitable and Hujra has been an integral part of the social life in Kurram District. People used to sit in Hujra to share their views and spend their leisure time. But urbanization has diminished its role and now the traditional significance of Hujra has subsided to a large extent. Now the Hujra tradition has been replaced with Behtak (a kind of drawing room) system.

2.1. Geography

Kurram district is mostly hilly and mountainous. The Sufaid Koh Mountain forms the territorial boundary between Kurram District and Afghanistan. The other famous mountains are the Sur-Ghar and Spin-Ghar mountains, which used to be dense with forests, but now there is limited forest cover in these mountains. The notable valleys and streams in the district include: Peiwar, Shalozan, Shian, Zeran, and Daradar. The other important feature is the Kurram valley. The valley is well irrigated, highly populated, and crowded with small fortified villages, orchards and groves, with dark pine forests and alpine snows of the Sufaid Koh Range. After that the valley opens up into the Parachinar Plateau, which is a large oval shaped plain sloping towards southeast. The main river is the Kurram River, which extends into the Khurmana and the Kirman rivers that are prone to violent flooding.

Land use data from the FATA Development Statistics (2011-12) shows that 8% of the total geographic area of Kurram is cultivated, while more than 91% of the land is not available for cultivation. This puts intense pressure on the available agriculture land. Some 12% of the land consists of cropped area, out of which 27% is sown for more than once per annum. The total forest cover, both manmade and natural, is 22% of the total forest area of FATA. According to the 2017 census, the total population of Kurram is around 615,372. The annual average growth rate is estimated at 2.5%. Thus, according to recent estimates, the population has crossed 0.6 million. Around 6% of the population lives in urban centers of Sadda and Parachinar, while the remaining 94% in rural areas. The gender ratio is 105 males to 100 females¹.

2.2. Demography

The district has 98 percent Muslims while 2% Sikhs also inhabit in Kurram, with 30 percent of the population following Shia Islam.

2.3. Educational Institutions

Education plays a vital role in the development of a nation. We can't single out a single country which has progressed without education. Academic intuitions are established to spread education but unfortunately number of schools are very limited and especially there is lack of schools giving higher education. Schools and colleges made so far in kurram are not that advanced in terms of providing quality education. As a result, the district is lagging far behind in terms of education while on other hand; it also paves way for interested people to start private school or college in the district.



¹ Source: BOS-FATA Cell, 2008-2009

Status of Government Educational Institutions in Kurram District².

SR.NO	INSTITUTE NAME	NUMBER
1	Primary Schools	485
2	Mosques/Maktabas/Madrassas	16
3	Community Model Schools	10
4	Middle Level	45
5	High Schools	55
6	Higher Secondary Schools	04
7	Degree Colleges	07
8	Post Graduate Colleges	01
9	Government Colleges (Poly Technic Institutes)	02
10	Government Colleges (Management Sciences)	01
11	Total Number of Educational Institutes	626

Table 1: Number of Educational Institutes

Total 626 Number of Different educational institutions i.e primary level, Middle level, High School, Higher Secondary and colleges are operational in kurram district out of which 85% of the schools are of primary level. Few are of Middle while number of High school and college going students is are very limited.

2.4. Health Facilities

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



Kurram District has the following hospitals/Basic Health units.

² KP Bureau of Statistics 2020

SR.NO	INSTITUTE NAME	NUMBER
1	Hospitals	04
2	Dispensaries	47
3	T.B Clinics	03
4	R.HCs	0
5	S.H.Cs	0
6	BHUs	22
7	MCH Centers	01
8	Leprosy Clinics	0
9	Total Number of Hospital/Health Units	77

Table 2: Hospitals/Health Units in Kurram District

Total 77 Different Health units/Hospitals are operational in kurram district which is not that sufficient for the day by day increasing population of Kurram.

3. Economic Scenario

From investment point of view FATA/NMDs is a tax exempted area till year June 2023. So the investors get about 10% of relaxation while investing in a business venture. The investor might also invest in Kurram District because it has abundance of specialty goods. Kurram is situated near to Kohat, Aurakzai, Khyber and Peshawar which makes its location ideal for trade within the country. People of Kurram are not that well educated but skilled in different field such as agriculture, horticulture, technical work and industry.

Labor in Kurram is cheap and is easily available to producers which affects the production cost to produce goods at low cost. In Kurram there is no such industrial sector and has no economic zone. Kurram is rich in minerals but no proper steps have been taken so far from the government side to utilize/Explore the resources. Kurram is rich in Coal, Soap Stone and Iron Ore. The production of Beans is high of all Pulses. The cultivated area of plums in 2013-14 was 140 hectares. The production of plums in 2013-14 was 1321tonnes. This was exported to various district of Pakistan.

4. Economic potential

Economic potential is the potential of a region, nation, or corporation for economic development and growth and creation of surplus value. Typically, discussions of economic potential occur when available resources have not yet been tapped and fully developed or exploited, possibly because of missing infrastructure. Kurram District is rich by all means if we talk about its agriculture, Minerals, Tourism and Hydel Potential. Government and private sector stakeholders can play a vital role in taking actions for

bringing economic growth to the region. There is a dire need to work on SWOT Analysis and try to identify the solutions for bringing economic prosperity across the region.

Looking in to the economy of Kurram district and talking about its economic potential there are different sectors i.e Agriculture, Minerals, Tourism etc in which there is a dire need to bring revolution and make the economy able to stand on its feet. Following are the sectors described one by one.

4.1. Agriculture:

The total cultivable area of the district is 338.06 hectares out of which only 26.90 is cultivated so far, while the uncultivated area is 311.16 hectares. Land under irrigation is around 15.42 hectares and un-irrigated area is over 58 hectares. Total cropped area of the district is 15.79 Hectares while total forest area of the district is 13.12 hectares. In the Kurram District there is present a lot of potential for developing agriculture, but due to lack of awareness regarding its importance the sector has remained under developed.



VEGETABLES	AREA OF PRODUCTION (HECTARES)	YIELD/PRODUCED (TONS)
Wheat	22.77	39.73
Onion	0.23	2.93
Garlic	0.01	0.06
Peas	10	35
Tomato	735	5380
Potato	24	53
Beans	15	30

Table 3: CULTIVATED AREA OF KURRAM IN TERMS OF PRODUCTION OF VEGATABLES 2018-19

Fruits	Area of Production (Hectares)	Yield/Produced (Tons)
Apple	70	1302
Pomegranates	52	522
Plums	140	1321
Pears	76	127
Peaches	1211	1253
Apricots	55	52

Table 4: CULTIVATED AREA OF KURRAM IN TERMS OF PRODUCTION OF FRUITS 2018-19

4.2. Clusters/ Sectors In Kurram District³

Minerals

Minerals in the kurram district include soapstones 3.2 million tons, coal 2.0 million tons and also reserves of iron Ore, Lead, oil and gas. As per FATA/NMDs development authority the final reports of year 2015-16, Oil and gas reserves have been identified in Tirah Block (which includes Khyber, kurram and orakzai district) and hence various oils and gas companies have established camp offices in this block. Two new schemes for Metallic Minerals Exploration and Decorative and Dimension stones in FATA/NMDs is approved. Work in Orakzai district and kurram district has been started.



S.NO	KURRAM	PRODUCTION(TONS)	%AGE
1.	Soap Stone	3.2 million	2.03
2.	Coal	2.00 Million	20.85

Table 5: Soap Stone and Coal Production

Power Sector

As Kurram district possesses small dams it has ability to generate power and satisfy its requirements. The Main River is the Kurram River, which extends into the Khurmana and the Kirman rivers that are prone to violent flooding. Kurram has a few water reservoirs locally, basically these are water supply schemes for domestic purposes.

Chapar Charkhal:

FATA Development Authority has identified the above mentioned site in Kurram which has the potential to generate 13 MW hydropower, the design work is in progress and it was supposed to be completed in 2016-17.

Malana Dam:

Located in the north of Parachinar town this dam was constructed in 1857. Most of the population of Parachinar town depend on this reservoir and the dam is famous among the locals as a picnic resort.

Zeran Dam:

Zeran dam is located to the North-East of Parachinar. It is also famous for its scenic beauty. This reservoir served water for Parachinar town before the construction of Malana dam, still the dam contributes much water to a large part of the town Parachinar.

³ KP bureau of Statistics

Kot Ragha Dam Malikhel

This is a small size reservoir, largest in the Kurram, and was built in Kot Ragha (Malikhel). It contains about 70,000 fish and has capacity to provide water to about 2500 sqkm area.

4.3. Tourism⁴

Kurram District is located at the distance of 218 km from Peshawar and accessible via Thall-Hangu Road. Its name is derived from the Kurram River, that flows across this valley, which enters in Pakistan from Afghanistan and finally merges with the Indus River near Isa Khel.



Kurram is a vally covered with lush green hills and snow-covered mountains of the Safed Koh in the North side. Sadda is one of the most beautiful area with forever green forests. Parachinar is the head quarter of Kurram District, which is a valley of pine trees. In Kurram District the identified potential tourism sites are Parachinar, Kirman, Zairan, Shalozan, Khar Lachi Fort, Chapri, Terimengal and Koh-e-Sufaid.



Parachinar Being the District headquarters, the city can accommodate tourists through appropriate hotels and eating-places. There are three large and four small hotels available in the city. Infrastructure is compatible with hotels in Swat. There is a Governor Cottage where people can stay with Deputy Commissioner's permission. The large number of rooms and is good condition. Besides, this there is Circuit House, PWD and other government departments' rest houses in the area. Restaurants and roadside cafes are also available in the city. Kurram district is the most scenic district in the tribal belt huts and restaurants can also be made there to elevate tourism in the valley.

4.4. Poultry Farming⁵

The broiler farm is the project of life stock sector, in which, the day-old chicks (DOCs) are raised on high protein feed for a period of six weeks. The business can be started both in rural and semi urban areas in sheds. The broiler birds are sold to traders and in urban areas sometimes while the birds can also be sold to the shopkeepers in the urban markets. Kurram big district consists of rural, semi urban and urban areas.

⁴ KP tourism Authority

⁵ Dairy and livestock department KP

Climate of the district is also ideal for poultry farming. It means that there is great potential and good opportunity for investors to come and invest in this sector and get benefits from it. In Kurram district there are 95 poultry farms. The broilers are exported outside the country like Afghanistan, Uzbekistan.



4.5. Dairy Farming⁶

In Kurram District it's easy to buy land for shade and the animal fodder. Labor is also easy to available at low cost milk and dairy products can be easily transported to different cities like Karak, Bunner,, Kohat etc. The dairy farms can be started in small scale in with 25 animals, economical to justifying the overhead cost.

The farm size can increase to 125 animals within 10 years. Herds mix of 65% cows and 30% buffaloes are recommended to get the maximum milk production round the year. A cow, on average, yields 15 liters of milk a day over a lactation period of 280 days whereas a buffalo, on average, yields 8 liters a day over a lactation period of 305 days.



⁶ Dairy and livestock Department KP

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