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# Upper Neelum Valley – Logistics Assessment

## 26/12/2005

### Purpose of Assessment

- General road conditions – Muzaffarabad to Jura
- Full assessment of road Leswa bypass – Jura – Atmuquam - Kel
- GPS coordinates of all bridges
- Existing Warehousing
- Potential sites/needs for warehousing

### Itinerary

Day 1: MZB – Dhanni – Jura – Kuttan

Day 2: Kuttan – Atmuquam – Kel – Kuttan

Day 3: Kuttan – Jura – Leswa bypass – MZB

### General Comments

Quake damage was at its most intense from Muzaffarabad to Nauseri and fades to little or no visible damage by Jura.

A large HLZ is located at Atmuquam alongside a 180 MT warehouse <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> full of wheat flour.

**Given requests for warehousing and food support in the Upper Neelum, thorough food assessments are required for this area**

### Road Conditions

- The road from **Sharda** to **Kel** is generally closed by snow over the winter, starting in mid to late January. Sufficient plant and manpower has been positioned at Kel to keep this section of road open given average seasonal weather. However, if the extreme snow of last year (last week in January until the end of February) is repeated this would prove impossible.
- The road on from **Kel** is **closed**.

In general, the road is passable from **Muzaffarabad** to **Kel**. The major hazards are landslides, undermined bridges and sections of road formed only on loose fill.

It is strongly recommended that the 2.5 MT limit (recommended by PAK MIL engineers) is adhered to.

### Lower Neelum Valley

- 11 bulldozers/front end loaders positioned along the Lower Neelum

### MZB to Chilehana

- No change from UNDSS assessment 4/12/05
- The need for continuous road clearing causing some bottlenecks in the areas of Ghor, Patika and Devolian.
- Approx travelling time – 3.5 hours

### About the UNJLC:

The United Nations Joint Logistic Centre (UNJLC) is an inter-agency facility reporting to the Field Steering Group during large-scale emergencies, and overall to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. Its mandate is to co-ordinate and optimise the logistics capabilities of humanitarian organisations in large-scale emergencies. UNJLC operates under the custodianship of WFP which is responsible for the administrative and financial management of the Centre. UNJLC is funded from voluntary contributions channelled through WFP.



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### **Chilehana to Kuttan**

- Little sign of quake induced damage
- Road is a mixture of tarmac and dirt
- Approx travelling time – 1.25 hours

### **Kuttan to Atmuqam**

- No sign of quake induced damage
- Approx travelling time – 55 minutes

### **Upper Neelum Valley**

#### **Atmuqam to Kel**

- The road varies from solid tarmac to rutted water and snow affected stretches.
- Snow on road from 5 km out of Kel
- Approx travelling time – 3.5 hours

### **Leswa Bypass**

- Entering the Leswa Bypass from the eastern end (approx 2 km south of Jura) it was only possible to travel 14 km before being stopped by heavy ice on the road. Up until that point the road was only passable by 1 MT 4WD vehicles – limited freight possibilities. Locals reported that the road was closed by landslides a further 15 km on.
- Time restrictions prevented an assessment from the western end.

### **Other**

#### Fuel availability

Diesel is available at Atmuqam and Kundal Shahi. It was not possible to obtain storage capacities at either site. Anecdotally supplies have been limited. It is recommended to be self sufficient in fuel when travelling this road.

#### Communications

Satellite phone and GPS coverage was available for the full length of the trip although the signal was variable.

Mobile coverage finished 12 km out of Muzaffarabad

Internet coverage finished on the outskirts of town

Accommodation is available at Kuttan for 600 Rupees/night for a self contained unit.

Contact - Shafiq 0300 509 9862

### **Lead Agency – UNJLC**

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