

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



ISLAMIC AID HEALTH CENTRE

HELMAND PROJECTS  
MONITOR AND SUPERVISION  
REPORT

JANUARY 8 TO FEBRUARY 21, 1991



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Translated by M. Saeed

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## INTRODUCTION

Islamic Aid Health Centre (IAHC) has established for the first time its medical project in the northern Helmand, Mosa-Qala District.

From 1986 to 1990 IAHC has trained totally 21 med-level health workers in its Medical Training Course (MTC), for Helmand Medical Project.

At present IAHC supports totally 76 persons staff in the fields of medicine, education and agriculture in this province. They are generally active in the hospitals such as Kani-Manda, Kajaki, Char-Bagh and in income generative agricultural project as well as educational project.

Thus IAHC supports 21 local First Aid dispensaries in faraway villages.

In 1989 IAHC started its immunization programme including BCG and Measles in northern Helmand run by the MTC graduates. This programme developed into EPI in 1991. Besides, IAHC started the T.B. programme in 1989.

The educational programme was started in 1986 with the cooperation of the local people. It was based on primary education. At present there are about 12000 students taking advantages of education in the IAHC supported schools.

By 1989, in order to make the project self supported by means of agricultural products and propagating cultivation based upon using w.pumps, IAHC committed efforts to establish the Income Generative Agricultural Project.

For the time being, the project has two deep wells sunken and are active in flowing water.

In mid 1989 Dr. Alistair Lipp took a trip to Helmand for six months as IAHC Project Supervisor. He assessed all the projects and his report has been distributed to those who were interested in.

In 1990, in order to support the farmers and enable them to stop the cultivation of opium, IAHC dispatched seed wheat to the area for seeding.

Thus at the beginning of this year (1991), IAHC sent wheat to be consumed as food. This assistance was dispatched in order to preserve the area people from famine.

On January 1991, a mission was sent back to Helmand which was headed by Eng. N. Rabi Amaj (technical and agricultural supervisor), to supervise the process of wheat distribution. This monitor mission provided this report from the area, with the full cooperation of the IAHC projects workers inside Helmand. Therefore we're sending a copy of the mission's report for your interest.

IAHC gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the mission members for gathering and obtaining sufficient information about the area. Thus I appreciate Mr. Mohd Saeed's efforts who has translated this report into English.

We'd like to draw the attention of readers to the fact that the report is written by people whose first language is not English. Therefore we would appreciate your comments in this regard.

Dr. Haqani  
Director IAHC.

ITINERARY :

The days of our journey are coincide with dispatching the assistance to the area. On Tuesday 8th, Jan 91 in the early morning we ( Eng. M. Rabi Amaj, H. M. Qasim with some of the IAHC health workers in Helmand) left Quetta and drove toward northern Balochistan until we reached Chaman. We stayed a night at the Helmand Mujahideen Office in Chaman. The next day after arranging transport for the wheat, we left at 12 am with a pick-up Toyota and started our journey toward Helmand. Driving 7 hours, we approached Wandoz. Here we prayed together but set forth and drove toward north of Kandahar. It was 12 pm midnight when we reached in Khoja-Mulk Bazaar. We did not rest here and drove again until we<sup>arrived</sup> Bom Village. It was 3 am. Here after getting tired, we rested up to the next morning. On the morning of 10 Jan we set forth and drove up to 11 am and consequently reached Tangee-Bagh-e-Mehrab. From here we went to Sangin Bazaar in order to buy stoves for the Kani-Manda Hospital. We did. Then after having lunch, we left here at 3 pm, for Mosa-Qala. After passing a way of 120 Kms we got in Mosa-Qala District when it was 7:20 pm. Our accommodation was arranged in the old clinic.

From the 12 th upto 14th Jan, we called Shura Meetings in order to arrange a better distribution of wheat in the area.

From 15 to 16 Jan a complete plan was made for to survey THE IAHC Project areas.

From 17 to 20 again we called Shura Meeting for delivering the assistance to the area people. And we received the wheat from the UNILOG transport agent.

From the 21st upto the 25th Jan a researching travel was carried out to Char-Bagh and Landi-Kariz in order to know about the level of destruction of karizes and consulting with local experienced people about reconstruction of the karizes.

From 26 upto the 1st Feb we tried to collect information about the result of 100 Mt seed wheat which was sent last year (1990).

On the 2nd Feb we traveled to Deh-Baba area, to know about the impact of seed wheat distribution (of the 100 Mt) and its cultivation. Also to visit the opium field in the area.

From 3 upto 5 Feb the Naicha well was visited its techeometrical mapping was studied with its geological particularities.

On 6th Feb a one day journey was performed to for the purpose of understanding clearly about of opium's as well as wheat's cultivations.

From the 7th upto 10th of Feb, the four days were generally on mapping of the Zobair well, its technical and economic accountings, and it was studied from logical points of view.

On the 11th Feb the techeometrical mapping of Kar agricultural field, was performed.

From 12th upto 14th Feb, during two travels to Kajaki, we did some activities such as surveying the Kajaki Bridge, visiting the Kajaki Electricity Producing Factory and know about its requirements, and also we visited the IAHC Kajaki Hospital.

From 15 upto 18 Feb we took the stock of Kani-Manda & Char-Bagh Hospitals. Then we called a Shura meeting to assess the project workers' work system as<sup>a</sup> whole and the defects of the works either in the clinics or in the other projects were pointed out and criticized.

Meanwhile some agreements were also made by both sides for the improvements of<sup>the</sup> projects works.

On the 19th Feb we left Mosa-Qala for Quetta and drove on the same way and safely reached Quetta on the 21st of Feb 1991.

We indeed got good impression from local people and fully cooperated with us during IAHC Mission's survey in the project areas.

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Eng.M.Rabi Amaj  
IAHC A&T Supervisor.



## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Helmand where IAHC's Projects are located, is a south western Province of Afghanistan. It has a form of a rectangle that is stretched from north to south; 400 kms long and has a middle breadth of 154 kms.

Physical form of Helmand is similar to a steep slope that is extended from north east to south west.

The highest point from the sea level is in Baghran that is 2000 meters, far northern part of this province. The lowest part is 692 meters above the sea level, located in Khuaja Ali, south of Helmand.

Its morphological form is a combination of large dry elements ( geosyncline & platform ). Northern areas such as Zamindawar and Mosa Qala are mountainous. But the rest areas are comparatively flat and even.

Sandy areas lie south and eastern part of the river. But the fertile and arable lands are stretched from north to north west of the Helmand River.

The arable deserts are generally consist of flat lands and hills which are relatively higher. The soil of these deserts are very suitable for cultivation.

Sometimes, it has a climate of subtropical and has monsoonal winds. There is snow up to the height of 1800 to 2000 meters above the sea level.

While in the lower parts it has rains all the seasons. The average rainfall in the province is 67.7 mm a year.

The hottest weather in June is 42.4°C, while the coldest temperature in the month of December was -0.9°C, (Louis Dupree 1966)<sup>1</sup>. This year (1991) the temperature on Feb 15th, was - 2° C, and the total rainfall from Dec to March reached to 70 mm. It was unprecedented within the last 40 years. This caused heavy floods, consequently brought losses of life and property. Thousands of jeribes of agricultural land have converted into ruins.

Helmand's major river is called "Helmand Rod", that is an important source for irrigation (we will explain this theme later on).

Mountainous areas, except for Baghran, lack any wild bushes and trees. Also the deserts have not grown the bushes. The area soil is good. After the rainfalls, grass is available. The existence of grass, provides good opportunity for keeping livestock. It would be better to mention that the breeding of the livestock is growing rapidly. In this province, there are more than 100,000 sheep and goats.

The agriculture is the main business of the area and varieties of plants being cultivated, such as wheat, barley, cotton and others. The agricultural growth is extensive both from quantitative and qualitative points of views. Both kinds of lalmi and irrigated farming are common in the area. The vegetables are also being

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1-Louis Dupree-Afghanistan 1966

planted that majorly consumed by local people while little amount is brought to the local markets.

Gardens are well developing in the area. Their major products are : almonds, pomegranates, apricots, fig , peach etc. Among them, Nowzad's megranates are famous and has good markets in Afghanistan and outside.

The ancient vestiges of this province are Qala-e-Bust of Lashkar Gah from Ghaznawi era, and Karor City located in Zamindawar (Kajaki); the homeland of the second great Pushto poet.

## POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHY

According to the formal census of 1981 the number of Helmand's population was 542000 people. But the eye witnesses said that on the time when the enumeration was taking place, in many areas people were afraid of taxes or not given the number of female to the census workers (culturally difficult tasks), were the problem -s caused not to be relied on the census. Even in some areas like Baghran no one of the census workers had gone to that area ( these facts were stated by elder members in the shura).

According to the population, this province is coming in the 8th position. Quantitatively the population has not been changed yet. But on the contrary has grown rapidly. Comparatively people have not moved to Pakistan or elsewhere, as the other provinces' people did.

According to the IAHC Mission, which has studied the growth rate of the population estimate, that was about 3 to 3.5 % a year. It majorly consists of Durani<sup>1</sup> Pushton tribes and some migrants from other provinces which are called "Nakilin". They have settled south of Helmand and each family has 30 jeribes land, given by former governments. The immigrants had come from Logar, Wardag, Laghman, Jalal Abad and other areas. Now, they have been absorbed in local culture.

Helmand's population is also combined of some nomads of Ghilgee tribes. They are completely involved in

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<sup>1</sup>-Louis Dupree Afghanistan.

livestock business. They, as usual do not settle permanently in one area. Because of animals and not having facilities, in winter they move to torrid zones, but in summer to cold regions.

Thus, it has a population of Parsi speaking people as well which is called "Taimany". They are generally involved in horse breeding and other livestock keeping. They have come from Badghis province. And some of them from Ghor, Herat and other areas. Their life-style is similar to that of nomads.

Father is everything in the families, here. He has been kept the family centralism. So it can be called Patriarchy system. There are families which their number reach to 52 persons. No one can be separated from such families.

Except the war cause, the mortality rate in the area, over 15 years of age, is very low. On the contrary, the mortality rate of the children between 0 to 5 year is very high.

The average number (45.29%) of families is consisted of children between 15 years of age.

The relativity between women and men could not be learned because of customs, common in the area. Therefore we dispense with it.

## THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

The Helmand Province according to the past divisions has 12 districts. Its population has been estimated about 731700 people. Around 87 % of this province is under the control of the Amir's mujahideen. And there are about 430,000 people living under the auspices of the Amir.

The following are the areas under the control of the Amir's mujahideen:

- Mosa-Qala
- Kajaki
- 1/3 of Baghran
- Hazarjuft
- Sangin
- Nawzad
- Deh Rawod
- Parts of Chora and Nish of Oruzgan
- Parts of Gulistan of Farah.
- Parts of Passaband of Ghor Province.
- 3/4 parts of Grishk and Lashkar-Gah.

And a group is active in Mahala Jat, in Kandahar. Systematically his influence and power are getting day by day wider. Daily other groups of mujahideen Join his units. For the other groups, if they join the Amir's units, they will be free for collecting taxes or other supports of that area people. Such joined groups are also being supported from the Amir's administration. The groups which give in by force, have no such opportunities. In their areas the mujahideen of the Amir have duties to go there, by turn.

There are maddrassas (schools) with hostels, from where

the administration send the adult students to the war zones.

From the mentioned districts, the Amir adminis. collect different kinds of taxes. The mullahs receive Oshr, the tenth part of the harvest, especially on the first day of the Eid. The Oshr can also be in kind. For each jeribe, the owner should pay 0.875 kg of opium. Thus, the wheat taxes and their amounts, determined by admin. are also being collected and consumed by that areas' mujahideen.

Cash taxes of top quality land reached to 500 Afghanis per jeribe. It also includes the vehicles owners, leaseholders, and so on. For example in 1990, wheat tax per jeribe of top quality land was 52.5 kgs; 48 kgs from the lower kind; 13.67 kgs barley per jeribe of top quality and 12 kgs from lower kind.

Going and coming of the passengers, is free. No one is threatened or robbed either in the houses or as passengers outside. Other groups of mujahideen can easily move everywhere with their arms, money etc. The businessmen, tradesmen upto the smugglers are free in their own activities. Therefore, the local stores are well-stocked and the commodities are cheaper than those of other provinces.

The advantage of this situation in Helmand, as I felt, might be that no anarchy exists there. All the families live with no fears of hostilities, robberies, etc. Two enemies can not dare to act independently, unless one of them is of high authority.

The illiteracy rate in the area is incredibly high. This causes many silly customs to emerge. And such customs as a routine enter the minds of the people. They will remain for long, unless a very central government come in real force. That government in a free atmosphere might be able to create totally other conditions. Under these conditions (educational, trainings and other activities) people will adapt and be changed.

It is important to mention that any prince or laws ruled in Helmand, is a symbol of ideology and customs.

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Note: Amir is a religious title in Muslims, here The Amir's real name is Haji Mohd Rasol Akhundzada. He is older brother of martyre Haji Mohd Nasim Akhundzada.



CHAPTER - II

Area economy

## PUBLIC ECONOMIC SOURCES:

Helmand is mainly reputed as an agricultural province. Abundance of water is the main factor for the province to be called an agricultural state. In the following pages you will find that the most of this has been used in the southern part of the province. In the upper and northern Helmand only the power station has been built in an area called Kajaki. In fact the water has not been used for irrigation in the northern Helmand, however there exist plane deserts that are possibly able to take water from this river for being cultivated.

These deserts and partly mountains and hills have served a good base for stock breeding, which forms a particular factor of economy in northern Helmand.

Since a market is another example of economic sources for local and imported materials. The two productions (local & imported) repose against each other. Because of the low rate of local production which cause rising inflation the market is changed for the benefit of imported materials. This condition reinforces private wealth.

Craftmanship is another source of economy in the area which gains position from day to day. Because during the past 12 years of war most of the craftsmen moved from their original residence, or some of them were deflated. Now after the withdrawal of Soviets and that of Afghan troops to their defensive localities, the people have started to repair and rebuild the ruins resulted from the war during past 12 years.

Transportation . is counted another source of economy which has had a good reputation, and income.

after all, agriculture farms the most important factor of economy. Since inflation has caused for the land products not to satisfy the needs of a family and since value of marketing of some products especially cotton has declined very much, most people have now attempted to opium poppy cultivation, which has caused numerous and even the most dangerous problems in the area.

(opium poppy cultivation with all its particulars is --- described in a separate title ).

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## BAZAAR AND LABOUR FORCE

Helmand is bounding with 5 provinces as well as with Baluchistan, Pakistan. Except Grishk and Lashkar-Gah, the entire province is in the control of mujahideen.

Transportation for goods coming from Iran and Pakistan has developed very good. The goods shifted from Pak. to the north west provinces, being carried through this province. Also the goods coming from Iran such as oils, machinaries and other equipment are transported through this province.

The Kandahar-Herat Highway passes at a length of 150 Kms through it. Some part of this highway is in the control of the Kabul Government.

Other network of the roads exist as well. A road starts from northern Helmand (Tangi-Bagh-e-Mehrab) and is prolonged to Baghran and finally to Pasaband. It also passes through Kajaki and Mosa-Qala. This way is mostly used for transportation, by mujahideen. It is 170 kms long, but not paved.

Other road coming from Gird-e-Jungle (Baluchistan) and stretched to the northern part of this province. It is 380 kms long.

Along side of the roads, many bazaars have been developed which have many clients. They are: the Sangin bazaar, the Kajaki bazaar, the Mosa-Qala bazaar and other.

The Sangin bazaar, located north to the intersection of Mosa-Qala and Helmand Rivers. This bazaar is in the control of Mujahideen, and is free of any price lists and everything can be sold, including arms.

The Mosa-Qala Bazaar is in the second position. Thus, every district which has been liberated by mujahideen, have good bazaars.

In Mosa-Qala and Kajaki Bazaars the Amir Administration has announced ban on the selling of cigarette, arms and some other items.

All kinds of commodities are available for the local residents and mujahideen. Lots of cafes and restaurants are there for outsiders.

Butcheries have also developed and they sell only the mutton, not beef.

Medical stores are very active and medicines of Pak., Afghanistan, Iran and Indian made are available.

The occupations such as carpenting, black-smith's trade, repairing workshops for vehicles, motorcycles, w.pumps, bicycles and others are gradually being developed.

Shops are well stocked and items such as wheat, flour, ghee, tea, sugar, rice and other are available. Most of them are imported from Pakistan. Local products are being carried to the markets such as raisin, corn, okra, (dried and fresh), tomatoes, meat, egg, rice, cotton of southern Helmand, etc.

The Helmand vegetables are mainly okra, potato, tomato, vegetable, cassava, carrot and gandana.

Fishing along the Helmand River is also a good business from economic point of views, for the local people. Certain river side has been given to each lease-holder for a year by mujahideen court.

Fire wood has market, especially in the winter. Animals trade has also good earnings. Its trade has determined days for selling animals (Mondays & Thursdays). Here sometimes some horse racing also take place.

Prices of the commodities fluctuate according to the political, economic, geographical and seasonal causes.

Lack of the gold backing of Afghanis, results in higher exchange rates of Pak Rupees, Dollars, Rials, and other currancies, against Afghanis.

The goods being transported from Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Lashkar-Gah etc, the merchants or tradesmen should pay either to the mujahideen groupes, government guards, some charges or bribes. This has also role in making prices to be raised.

Labour forces in Helmand reaches to about 80,000 persons. But unfortunately, the demands rate is unprecedently lower. Agricultural lands are limited and are waterless. For local products, local market is not that much developed to absorb all these labourers. But still the agriculture is the main source of their employment. It has two kinds of occupations. Firstly, the works of

irrigations, tilling and harvesting. Secondly, constructing activities like cleaning canals, sewers (karizes) digging karizes, avoiding flood damages, and rebuilding of destroyed places.

In winter the labourers can hardly find works. But in summer most of them are employed for long and short periods.

For the better understanding, the following table has been prepared for laborers' wages in different sectors. And on the next page, the price list of the commodities common in Mosa-Qala and other areas, is provided for the readers interested in.

Table( 1 )

Occupation	Work Unit	Salary (Afg.)
Digging sewer	1X1.25X0.5 m <sup>3</sup>	5000
" " in soft soil	"	7000 to 7500
" " in hard soil	"	7000 to 8000
" of even place	1 m <sup>3</sup>	750
Digging upto 20 dep	1 m <sup>3</sup>	2000
Daily labourer	per day	1000
Porter	to port one bag to truck	20
Carpenting without wood	1 m <sup>2</sup>	30
" with wood	"	6600
Mason with lunch	per day	2000
Mud Plaster "	per day	3000
Brick laying "	1000 bricks	1200

Table ( 2 ) for the current commodities prices:

No.	Commodities	Unit	Price (Afg.)	No.	Commodities	Unit	Price
1	Flour	4.375 kg	550	16	Wheat	4.375 kg	500
2	Bread (Loaf)	175gr	40	17	Match Pak made	one box	300
3	Battery UM-1	a pai.	600	18	Match USSR made	"	300
4	" UM-3	"	290	19	Petrol	one gall	1700
5	Ghee	16 kgs	10700	20	Corn	4.37	280
6	Ghee	5 kgs	3200	21	Dry Okra	4.37	3000
7	Sugar	4.375	1750	22	Chicken	2 kg	2500
8	Black Tea	110 gr	300	23	Egg	a pc	15
9	Green Tea	110 gr	240	24	Mutton	4.37	5000
10	Rice	4.375	1800	25	Beef	" kg	3500
11	Onion	4.375	1200	26	Fire wood	" kg	75
12	Potato	" kg	700	27	Cement	one bag	450
13	Washing Soap	one piece	120	28	Iron Shovel	one pc.	1600
14	Diesel	one barr	45000	29	Gear Oil	one gall	6000
15	Kerosene	one gall	1600				

The prices have been surveyed on 10th Feb. 1991 in Mosa-Qala Bazaar.



## THE OPIUM POPPY

The dried juice obtained from the seed capsule of the opium poppy, *papaver somniferum*, which grows best in warm and subtropical regions. Opium is extracted from the latex of the plant, which oozes from notches made in the half-ripened capsule.

The average height of the plant reaches to 120 cms. It needs less water and less fertilizer. Opium poppy has high degree of ecological adoption. Its economical aspect, easiness in cultivation and having outside market, encouraged the farmers to cultivate it. Besides, other plants such as corn can be seeded too. Melon-bed or kitchen garden has also been used beside the opium poppy. Other advantage of this plant is that it ripens very soon.

The opium's cultivation is taking place in the areas such as Mosa-Qala, Nowzad, Kajaki, Sangin, Grishk and Baghran in Helmand; Khakriz, Arghandab and Ghorak in Kandahar; Dehrawod in Oruzgan; Kama, Shinwar and Lalpure in Ningarhar, etc.

There is no exact census of the lands devoted to the poppy. But according to the taxes which have been collected by mujahideen, we can make an estimation. Of all the lands  $\frac{2}{3}$  are devoted to the opium. For example, the 1989's tax which is  $\frac{1}{20}$  or 5% from the Mosa-Qala District reached to 13125 kgs opium. So according to this figure of the tax, in this district in 1989 the total production of the opium was 262500 kgs. The average production per jeribe is 16 kgs. It means that around 16406.25 jeribes land is devoted to the cultivation

of opium.

According to the promise of the aid to the area, last year (1990) no jeribe of a land has been cultivated in the Amir's controlled areas. But since this promise was not fulfilled, the area people started its tilling again.

As soon as the Amir administration received IAHC message of 100 MT wheat seed for seeding and following another assistance of 450 MT seed, to be consumed as food, affected on the poppy cultivation. It was not at the same level as it was in 1990. Around 2500 jeribes land remained uncultivated.

#### OPIUM BACKGROUND

Growing opium poppy had been common for centuries in Asia and perhaps in Europe. And it is not known where it is indigenous to. Generally it has been used for centuries in medicine as a drug for the relief of pain. Although still sometimes given in the form of laudanum (tincture of opium), its main legal uses today include the extraction of its active ingredients - morphine, codeine, papaverine, etc. And preparation of their derivatives (e.g. heroin).

But throughout Afghanistan it has simply been used for sleeping of restless children and those old people who were suffering from cough. The only place where it has been used as narcotics, is Wakhan and Badakhshan.

The opium tilling was very limited and few lands were devoted to it. The adult maddrassas' students were working part time in the poppy fields, in order to support themselves. They were mainly involved in the weeding of the opium's fields, scratching the poppy capsules and collecting latex of the capsules.

Even though the Zahir Shah Government had been announced ban on the poppy tilling, people did not leave the cultivation at all. But during the past 50 years, the governments could prevent the expansion of opium' fields. Especially when the Zahir Shah Government allocated the lands in Helmand in a modern system and thousands of jeribes of lands turned to properous fields and as a result the agricultural items' markets developed. This time many people were employed and caused progress. This situation naturally affected on the opium's business.

Unfortunately, after the April's 1978 coup, the normal development process interrupted. The crisis severely hit the economy and caused inflation. The relation between the cities and villages broke off. The irrigation system destroyed. The central authority and power disappeared. This is why the cultivation of opium appeared as a source of earning again. And grew very rapidly during the invasion.

Surprisingly, by 1991, the price of opium per kg reached to 68000 Afg. The whole production of opium of the Mosa-Qala District, was only about 450 MT. For this 4000 hectares land was devoted. The cost of transportation of

one bag (4.375 kg) up to the border, is 1000 Afg. For the time being, (21 Jan) because of the Gulf War, we heard from local people that the price of opium per 4.375 kgs, has fallen down, i.e. from 360000 to 320,000 Afghanis.

In brief, the growth of opium business has two main causes. They are :

A- External Causes, and

B- Internal Causes.

The external causes are the existance of the markets outside the country. The relation of western smugglers with either Pakistani, Afghan or Iranian smugglers.

The Internal causes are the existance of economically ruined country with large number of unemployed population. Moreover, the continuation of war for more than 11 years. The expense of the mujahideen fronts with thousands of groups.

## SOCIAL ANALYSIS OF OPIUM'S CULTIVATION

Why people cultivate the opium poppy, the local farmers give different answers. First of all the mujahideen were concerned. The reason is that the mujahideen consumption of bread only in Mosa-Qala and Kajaki Dis. was 315 MT wheat. This amount is prepared by local people in kind to the mujahideen.

From the wheat consumption, we can imagine other items' consumptions. If we consider all the muj. under the Amir's mandate, the mentioned figure should be increased 5 times bigger. This is the cause that the relations between landowners, craftsmen, merchants and the muj. is getting tightened and inevitable. Here, let's know about the local people's problems. People can not decide themselves about the taxes. While for surviving they trying to find better ways of earning. Daily people are being threatened economically.

After the Amir's announcement of ban on the opium tilling 10% of the local people had nothing to eat. About 50 % of them had food for about 6 to 8 months. But 12 % of the labourers families left the Amir's controlled areas to find work in Kandahar or elsewhere. The rest either sold their households or were in good conditions.

The outside promises were not fulfilled. The muj. fronts and local people were left in the lurch.

Thus, there are lots of families who have a jeribe(2000 m<sup>2</sup>) in possess. So people actually are suffering from starvation, though billions of Afghans are available. The real cause of starvation is something else. This money has not been invested in economical activities or

sectors. There are machineries, but who can run them. The different professions are at their lowest level. No technical irrigation system exists. Where it exists, the common cultivations (i.e. cotton) lost their markets. Cotton is also replaced by the opium cultivation. Money is the only thing. For 90 % of the commodities are being imported, people should have money.

Because of the inflation the families' consumptions have been raised unprecedently. For instance a family with 52 members, has an average consumption of 7.2 million Afg. But to work on the land of themselves or work on the lands of others, a family can earn 2.7 m Afg. The rest of the money can be made of putting land in pledge or borrowing money. Which is led to destroy a family's life. Other cultural problems add to the economical problems. The silly customs of dowry is a heavy burden on the family's economy.

Northern Helmand has kept the old irrigation system (Karez). With the growing population this amount water is not sufficient at all. This again affected on the cultivation of other plants such as wheat and vegetables. Gardening has not been developed widely or encouraged by agricultural organizations. So in brief the local people had to cultivate opium poppy.

Different classes of the society react on the cultivation of the opium, differently.

Those who are not involved in opium business (for example tradesmen who have influence in the local market), say yes, it is bad, poppy should be forbidden. Such

people make 1 % of the population.

Those who are working as labourers and make money from the cultivation, say what they would do then ? Ofcourse in case of finding other opportunities, their opinion is flexible.

Those landlords who have devoted their land for poppy say no, they would sustain losses and wouldn't accept it.

The mujahedeen authorities, who receive taxes, their opinion is clear. They collect taxes. It will be very difficult to have this source cut. But they promised in continuation of assistance they will gradually stop it.

A few of opium's addicts were also naturally against the opium's cultivation stoppage.

As much as half of number of the mujahideen themselves seemed to have been against the poppy cultivation. But those who are in favour, give different reasons. One is that, for the continuation of holy war (Jehad), they should be supported and get food, clothes, arms, etc.

Incredibly, no one has been seen to have been addicted of heroin. It is impossible to find addicts of such kinds. It might be because of unconsciously awareness of opium or heroin's destructive causes. Therefore there is no such social effect from the opium's cultivation. I have noticed whenever I started the discussion of opium, I found its dealers ashamed. And they always trying to escape from such discussions.

## CONCLUSION :

As it is understood from the discussion of the local shura and opium poppy that the people who cultivate this plant in Helmand is not based on amassing wealth or greediness. But the continuous economic problems exist in the area. There are no other sources of income-generating in a wide range to enable them to earn for upgrading their standard of living.

Almost all local people do agree to stop the opium cultivation, in condition to make available other sources of income. They promised officially to IAHC this matter. In order to know better the facts have its effects in the opium cultivation.

- 1- There are no plenty of water available, in the north east of this province. But there is a broad desert here. Its lands are suitable for cultivation if the water is made available. From a distance of 15 kms the water can be lifted from the river by w.pumps with a big diameter, run by electricity, in Safid-Hisar area. The works needed for it, to transport electricity to that distant, installing w.pumps and constructing a pool for supplying water. The rest work, i.e. digging ditches, making fields even, etc will be conducted by the local people themselves.

In this case about 20,000 jeribes land will be irrigated. This was the thing suggested in other way by the area official in the shura which later IAHC made some adjustments in it. This method costs 20% of the way or method they suggested. The above men-



tioned method requires simple technology. Besides, it needs a special survey to be conducted,

- 2- A desert called Farhad located in Nowzad Dis. west of Mosa-Qala. It is being irrigated by the tributaries of Mosa-Qala River. It is a seasonal river. According to the statement of the local people if the water is lifted from it in the summer when its level is lower, it would irrigate 12000 hectares. Installing w.pumps on the banks of the river, would help watering the above mentioned lands. If the lands are recultivated, about 2667 families would possess 6 hectares land each. The local people offered their cooperation which will bring the costs almost down to half.
- 3- In Shah-Raga village south of Mosa-Qala Bazaar, people together requested for the improvement of the irrigation system. Here one field is sceded while the other lay fallow or rests. Because the water is scarce. Underground water can be provided in a depth of 8 metres. It only need w.pumps to be installed. The arable lands will be three times bigger than that of exist now. Here also people promised that the rest work will be done by themselves. The only cost by the organization will be purchasing w.pumps. Their promise is written, and here we brought a copy of that with its translation presented on the next page.
- 4- Dispatching fertilized seed wheat to the area has a great effect on the cultivation of opium. It should be conducted in fall season. The more the seed is sent, the more it would occupy the opium land.

5- The Kajaki Bridge has been damaged. It is not able to sustain more than 5 MT load. The heavy loaded trucks unload the goods and ship them by tractors several times. This interrupted the business growth here. It can be repaired and made strong enough to resist against heavy loads. A special survey is needed for it.

6- The Kajaki electricity producing factory is faced with lack of two pieces of spare parts, 8 pieces of 16 M.W.<sup>1</sup> turbine rotors and the coils of the central control of factory. It is really a threat to the factory. The spare parts are not available in bazaar. Despite several requests of the local officials, no one has yet took it into serious consideration.

(For more information see<sup>The</sup> kajaki Hydro-Electric Power Station)

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<sup>1</sup> Mega Watt

The local Shura's declaration on Opium Cultivation.

To : Dr.Haqani

Respected Sir,

WE have such kinds of lands that cultivate them after every three years and even after four and five years; just only for one season. Because the water is scarce here. Since the underground water is very close to the surface (i.e. 7 to 8 metres). Therefore we kindly request you to provide us w.pumps for lifting water from the wells. In this case we will never cultivate opium in our area.

- Shura Members.



PAST REVIEW

Dr. Alistair Lipp took a trip to Helmand province in 1989. The following are some of his remarks about the the opium and hashish cultivation after his first observation, he describes them as below :

"North Helmand has acquired a bad reputation for growing the opium poppy, and the Amir for masterminding the entire operation.

Certainly North Helmand grows opium poppies. One local farmer suggested that between 5 to 10 of the available land was allocated to the poppy. However, reports from expatriates who have visited the area in the flowering season report seeing many fields of poppies, and other farmers when describing the scenery when the poppies are in flower, suggest that considerably more than 10% of the land is used for the opium poppy.

To be fair to the Amir, it is not only he grows the poppy, ( he has very little land ), but everybody. He gets given 10 % of the proceeds as Zakat ( Islamic tax). Apparently, farmers get approached by representative of another mujahideen party and are commissioned to grow the poppy. The resin is collected and driven to a village called Baghnay<sup>1</sup> on the Afghanistan, Pakistan

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1- The writer means Rabat not Baghnay a village in north eastern Helmand. He has used the name by mistake.

Eng. M.Rabi Amaj.

and Iranian border for processing into Heroin ...."

To continue his report, later he says :

"IAHC strongly disapproves of the cultivation and marketing of opium products. It has been explained and made clear to all IAHC field staff, that any inputs into the area must not contribute to the production of opium products. IAHC field staff understand that if such inputs are misused, that further assistance cannot be given.

IAHC has involved itself in reducing the amount of opium grown. The director of IAHC, in his meeting with the Amir in Quetta in August 1989 spelt out his opposition to opium cultivation. The Amir also had meetings in Islamabad with other international agencies, where presumably he received similar messages of disapproval.

In September, the court of administration in Mosa-Qala banned the growing of both opium and hashish. Physical punishment can be expected by anybody who contravenes the new ruling.

IAHC field staff have subsequently arranged public meetings in many villages. I was present at 15 of these, in various parts of the area, in which the subject of the opium poppy was vigorously debated. The field staff were able to confirm the ban on cultivation and explain the reasoning behind it. Discussing this with farmers afterwards, I was left with the impression that they definitely expected to be punished if they contravened the ban. A common belief was that a hand and foot would

be cut off as punishment.

No policy of crop substitution was adopted, but most people expect to grow wheat. All farmers expect a drop in their income. The Amir expects a dramatic drop in his revenue, and this is causing him grave concern. At present, he is unable to satisfy the needs and demands of his area, however he is anxious to attract foreign aid and appreciates that he is unlikely to receive it whilst the opium poppy is still being cultivated. He hopes that by banning the cultivation, foreign agencies will contribute development funds for the area. If such aid is not forthcoming, the entire administration, and the stability of the area will be under threat of disintegration.

I left the area at the end of November. Poppy planting should have been under way for two weeks by this time, however all the fields I saw were being or had been planted with wheat. Opium planted after this risks being frosted in the winter.

North Helmand is an area much traversed by people en route to west and north western Afghanistan, by people using the bridge over the River Helmand at Kajaki. It is unlikely that farmers would be able to grow opium without it being spotted by outsiders. The Amir expects a monitoring mission during the opium cultivation period."

At the end of 1989, the local council (Shura) under the leadership of Amir Mohd Nasim Akhundzadah passed an

Islamic resolution (Fetwa) against opium poppy and hashish cultivation. The resolution came into effect in the year 1990. ( Social Analysis of Opium Cultivation).

In order to neutralize the serious reactions against this resolution, IAHC, at once, sent 100 MT of seed-wheat to the area in the year 1990, and for the second time the organization sent 450 MT of food wheat to the area again.

For detailed information see the next title.



## THE LOCAL COUNCIL (SHURA)

Right after the IAHC's mission reaching to the area they had to call a shura meeting, in order to arrange a better distribution of wheat seeds( to be used as food).

The shura was consisted of Olema(religious authorities), the local influential people, mujahideen representative, the IAHC mission and the IAHC Helmand Projects Supervisor.

The aim of the distribution was to help the farmers and enable them to stop the cultivation of opium & hashish. Therefore to declare this aim, the meeting was called in Toghi Village on the 12th of January '91.

After greetings, we were introduced to each other by M. Qasim who is project supervisor in Helmand.

The participants were :

- 1- Haji Ghulam Nabi Akhund ( shura member)
- 2- Haji Ahmad Akhund (Headmaster of maddrassa from Toghi)
- 3- Haji Mullah Ghulam Nabi (Mosa-Qala, Commander).
- 4- Haji Mollawi Nasruddin Sahib ( Teacher in Ziarat).
- 5- Mullah Amir Mohammad Akhund (the Amir consultant).
- 6- Mohammad Qasim Akhundzadah (the IAHC Pro. Super.).
- 7- Mohammad Ismail (Mujahideen Representative).
- 8- Abdul Salam Akhundzadah ( local influential).
- 9- Mullah M. Wali Akhund (head of central cable).
- 10- Mull. Seyed M.Akhund ( Comm. of Toghi Group).
- 11- Alhaj A. Rehman Jan (the IAHC Agri. Supervisor).
- 12- Haji A. Rehman Jan (Teacher of Takhtapul Maddrassa).
- 13- Eng. Mohd Rabi Amaj (the IAHC Agricultural & Technical Supervisor).

During the introduction I found out that all the shura members were involved in different social affairs.

Then, M. Qasim read the IAHC's letter loudly. The letter was written by IAHC to be brought to practise by the local authority. Further, I was asked to speak about it. And I for my turn, first asked them to tell their opinion about IAHC's letter. All the members fully agreed to the context of the letter. Therefore I asked for their prompt cooperation for the distribution of wheat seeds. But gradually as they entered deeply in to the subject, they found out that they faced a campaign against the cultivation of opium. So at once the complaints started.

The first complaint was that, some organization including IAHC had made a promise of assistance in order to enable the farmers to stop the opium's cultivation. According to this promise the Amir Administration announced ban on the poppy tilling in his controlled areas. The promise was not fulfilled by any head quarter. Therefore, local people and mujahideen started to till the poppy again.

Local people give different reasons for its cultivation ( this subject will be discussed with details in the Social Analysis of Opium's Cultivation).

During the discussion one thing was more outstanding that many groups of people and mujahideen sustained heavy losses after the announcement of forbidding them from poppy business, by the Amir.

The other complaint which was expressed by mujahideen

representatives who were also commanders, was that they have not received or collected the Ushr (the tenth part of the share as tax) from the poppy dealers.

During the argument, the majority of the participants, was interested in forbidding the cultivation of poppy. It seemed to me that they might have known the consequence of its cultivation.

Such discussion went on until 12pm midnight and we could not solve this problem unless we would ourselves have gone to the Amir and call another shura. As a result I agreed and was happy to participate in the shura where at least a decision was expected to be made.

#### The Shura With the Amir :

The next day 13th Jan I ( Eng. M. Rabi) and H.M. Qasim went to Takhtapul Village where the residence of the Amir is located. It was about 2 pm. After greetings and introducing with the Amir, he started his speech. He began with complaints about the agreements of ( 1989 ) which was not fulfilled by IAHC afterwards. Meanwhile the Amir spoke of his forces with detailed figures. Then he added about the losses the mujahideed sustained after banning on opium's tilling, which as a result the mujahideen did not receive taxes on its cultivation.

Then with the confirmation of his speech, I said it (stoppage of poppy) really depends on the continuation of IAHC food assistance. On behalf of IAHC I told them that this distribution of the wheat seeds which we

brought to the area should affect directly on opium and its business. You should give us (IAHC) certain guarantee, if you willing to have such assistance. The effect should be shown identically. This is your responsibility to ban the poppy cultivation once you receive aid from outside.

In response, The Amir stated that right after receiving the IAHC message ( this message was cabled to inform the Supervisor to receive the 450 MT wheat seeds) the Amir Administration again announced ban on the tilling of opium. He added that we can see those flats which were prepared for the seeding of poppy by local farmers, and those flats of land are stopped now for tilling.

Thus, the Amir in the shura had two proposes as well. Firstly, the Kajaki Bridge be either newly constructed or repaired. Secondly a canal be drawn from Band-e-Kajaki (Dam of Kajaki) to the northern areas of Helmand for the irrigation of barren lands. He promised that if these proposals are brought to practise, the opium will be disappeared permanently. He directly related this matter to the opium business.

I, in response told him that IAHC can't promise for the time being but, later on IAHC might be able to fulfil these tasks or to inform other agencies which are interested in such projects. After these discussions the shura meeting was put off for the next day.

THE Second Shura With the Amir: It was 2 pm, 14th Jan. Held the shura meeting with the same attendants. Again we started on the same subject. I related the distribu-

tion of wheat seeds to the stoppage of the opium's tilling. But in response to statement he said that not only for this distribution, the opium will be banned. Because, he said, local people sustained heavy losses and are deserved to be compensated. Yes, gradually and the more the aid is received, the more it will affect on the opium business.

The next subject discussed in the shura meeting was that how to distribute the wheat among the people. We had a programme from IAHC for the distribution of it and offered it to the Amir. He after small adjustment, agreed to our programme.

Actually my point of view was that how can I be sure that assistance is given to the actual deserved people (I mean not to be given to the mujahideen fronts). But he assured me about this, and said please write anyway I like and send that to them to be considered and signed. After farewell, we went to our old place, and I wrote according to IAHC's programme and future plans with a manifesto, sent to the Amir to be acted on.

IN THE NAME OF GOD

HELMAND PROVINCE

Mosa-Qala District

Subject : Manifesto of IAHC and Helmand Shura about IAHC's  
Wheat Seeds Distribution.

- A- Islamic Aid Health Centre (IAHC) is sending (wheat) according to the statement that says: "The best of the people is that person who is benevolent", and it is its responsibility to dispatch International Aid to actual needy people, as far as it is possible.
- B- Islamic Aid Health Centre (IAHC) is delivering 450MT (equal to 1028 Man of local unit) without any costs or expense to the people.
- C- IAHC according to the verse of Koran that says: " O, those who have faith in Islam, give the property to those who deserve" regards this food as property of the people.
- D- In order to avoid any misunderstanding in the future about the food distribution IAHC regards it necessary that a person should be introduced from IAHC project by H.M.Qasim to the shura, and be present in the distribution.

- E- The shura approved that in the continuation of such assistance and as much as the aid reach to the area, it must affect on the cultivation of opium and start activities of public-utility.
- F- The shura also agreed to give the aid in the future in return to the practical services which are of public utility, not totally free of costs.
- G- Thus, the shura, until the IAHG Supervisor is in Helmand, is responsible to collect data and public problems which are very vital and be concerned important to be solved.

The End.

INCOME GENERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

I N T R O D U C T I O N

As mentioned in physical geography, the Helmand lands are being irrigated by its river, which <sup>is</sup> the country's major water source in the area. It starts its long trip of 394 kms, from north of this province.

Its water is not used in large amount. Technically for agriculture, the river water is used in G... , Nad Ali and Lashkar Gah. It is called Helmand Development Project, that is established and constructed by Americans.

The lands irrigated by this river water, were allotted to the residents of eastern and central provinces. As a result, the plants such as cotton, wheat etc were produced to the market. The cotton market generally developed in Lashkar Gah.

For producing oil, soap etc from cotton, a factory was installed. Its oil cake (remains of squeezed seeds) has also had a good market, as food for the animals.

The factory and irrigation systems' effect on the area was outstanding. They also affected on the cultivation of opium.

Another system of utilizing Helmand River water is not sufficient and satisfactory. Just in some parts (left side) of Kajaki along side of this river the lands are irrigated. Thus, in Mosa-Qala, its river water is also used for irrigation.



Unfortunately, as mentioned before, the form of Helmand land is like a steep slope. Therefore the northern lands of Helmand River are majorly deprived of taking advantages of this water. The vast and dried deserts are in north and remained uncultivated for centuries. But for digging karizes, local people have committed efforts to flow the water. Too limited to be enough for the whole area. There are 360 karizes in Kajaki. Among them 150 are functioning. But the rest are out of work.

From the one hand the population has increased, from the other, even the old karizes have not remained with the last amount productivity. However, the cultivated land should have been developed to that degree.

Not only people sustained heavy losses of lives and properties, but also were backward from education and other technical developements. Local skills or professionals have been disappeared. It seems impossible for people to amend such faults by themselves. This situation also makes the people to face to offensive activities, i.e. opium cultivation.

Regarding such atmosphere, and searching the relations between the social phenomena that which affect on people's life; IAHC was noticing the real fact about opium. And the ways finally to eradicate them.

Here the outstanding purposes IAHC is following, are: Firstly to establish agricultural developmental projects. Secondly to open skills training centres with basic educations. To carry out these works, regarded as IAHC's economical policies.

Relying on these points, IAHC approved to entrust a mission in order to evaluate the current situations and to provide reliable survey.

To call it Income Generative Agricultural Project, IAHC has purposes for it . Firstly to involve local people in agriculture, provide employment, generate revenues, and to change idle lands into fertile and lush grounds.

IAHC gave a waterpump after the first well (of Naicha) succeeded in flowing water. As soon as the local people saw the well, they dared to start investing in purchasing w.pumps and installing them in the wells.

Such activities have been motivated by IAHC in its all projects areas. And at present people gradually noticing its importances.

In short, IAHC's I.G.A.Project is active in the following areas:

- 1- Naicha W.Pump Well.
- 2- Kani Manda w.pump.
- 3- Zubir W.Pump well

In the mentioned villages IAHC has dug wells. These are the areas, deprived from the river water.

## PROBLEMS AND FUTURE PLANS

There are two kinds of problems. They are :

Irrigational and  
Cultivation Problems.

### 1- Irrigational Problems :

The morphology structure of the Helmand area including of two kinds of land elements (geosyncline & platform). The lands of northern Helmand stretching mountains front zone and in platform. The platform not only in this area even for the Sistan sinking is in its second and third cycles. The centre of this sinking is located on the border of Afghan-Iran. And the direction of the current waters is also led to that side.

The underground water of northern Helmand is actually depend on the platformal conditions of capillary waters. Which are surrounded in small veins with a diametre of upto 5 mm in muddy sedimental layers. Therefore such supplies of water under the ground are not trustable for irrigational purposes. They can be used only for the micro-irrigation projects. But in some faraway places this water shall be used for settling though it is difficult. For this aim, the survey of underground water should be carried out based on the geophysical methods.

The current water is plentiful here. As mentioned before, the Helmand river is a major water source, vitally important for irrigation. In the northeastern parts of Helmand especially Kajaki District, there is a large desert above

the hydro-electric station. In case of flowing water over it, a great size of land will be irrigated. At the moment the most possible irrigational work will be done is that flowing water in Safid-Hisar area from the Helmand river by w.pumps. These pumps are to be active by using electricity. It needs less expense and give quick result. Moreover the area people promised that they will perform almost 50 % of the work.

There is a desert called Farhad located in Nowzad Dis. In case of providing water by w.pumps from the nearby river, it would also help fertile hundreds of jeribes of lands. The people were also found here cooperative.

Thus along side of Mosa-Qala river, if some wells are sunk here, the scarcity of water will be solved and certainly would help to water 16000 jeribes land.

In southern Helmand the case is vice versa. I.e. they struggle to stop the water's great pressure.

The above mentioned problems can be solved by the following plans.

#### A- IN IRRIGATION :

1- Providing water for the new agricultural project. In case if the underground water is used, a geophysical survey of northern Helmand deserts (Kajaki) is necessary with the electric (VES)<sup>1</sup> method. In addition to that the fracture of Sar-Cheshma area should be surveyed. Otherwise, the Helmand river irrigation system could be studied by installing a w.pump with big diameter and run by electric energy.

1- Vertical Electrical Sounding: Run by constant current.

2- Close to the Mosa-Qala District there is 16000 jer. land devoted to the opium cultivation. The area farmers promised to stop the poppy if the water is provided in a great amount.

3- Studying the possibilities of watering the Farhad desert (Nowzad District), considering using the w.pumps and building a water-supply dam.

B- IN CULTIVATION :

1- Sending fertilized seed wheat to the area in the autumn to be seeded.

2- Dispatching rain-fed seed wheat to Kajaki District as an experiment.

3- Propagating gardening by establishing a new agricultural projects watered by w.pumps. In this regard the trees such as pomegranates, almond and wall-nut should be considered. They need less water.

4- In southern Helmand, rehabilitating the previous irrigation system and propagating the cotton cultivation with prearrangement of its market.

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## THE KAJAKI HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION

Islamic Aid Health Centre (IAHC) as you may have gathered, was active in north Helmand since 1984 in different fields of humanitarian assistance. It could support local people independently.

Meanwhile IAHC along with its direct responsibilities, had intention toward protection and maintenance of the public-utility projects and national property. This was the reason that right after the Kajaki H.P.S. fell in the hands of mujahideen, IAHC sent a mission to assess its condition, and find out the necessary items it needs. Subsequently the mission prepared a detailed report that is called "Kajaki Hydro-Electric Power Station". It was written by Dr. Alistair Lipp.

The construction work of the dam of this Station was started at the end of 1950 by USAID financial support and completed in 1975 and was delivered to the Afghan Authority.

At present there are two turbines functioning. The production capacity of this Station is over 160,000,000 K.W. per/hr. But the planned or the highest capacity of this Station is 7 turbines, of which there are only two of them. The electricity of this Station was being transferred upto two years of coup to Kandahar, Lashkar-Gah and Grishk.

Prior to capturing the Station by mujahideen there were 3 engineers and 148 other workers, working in 3 shifts. Beside the Station there is a colony made for the Station's staff.

At the moment the electricity is being transferred to the Kajaki Bazaar only. And there are 21 persons expert staff, working full time. They are the workers who have been working here before and obtained valuable experience.

There are 4 operators working in different parts or sections of the Station. Besides, there are 7 people working for to weld and 2 persons as chokidars.

As a head, there is a labor foreman, responsible for the protection of the Station. He is trusted man in the front. The distinction or privilege of laborer here is, having better houses, built close to the Station. Thus, receiving 10,000 Afg (equal to Rs. 286) as well as 140 Kgs wheat per month, only.

Lack of some spare parts & lubricating oil is the problems the Station is faced to it now. If these are not provided, the Station would lead gradually to destruction. In this case, there will be no highly experts to repair it basically and thus it would cost too much to be afforded.

The needs of the Station are as follows :

- According to the observation of IAHC mission (1991) and the statement of the professional staff, there is a need for 8 pieces of the rotors turbines. ( details are available in IAHC Head Office.).

- Generally almost all the warning and controlling relays which were functioning automatically before.

are not working now. And the workers force the relays physically.

The relays are :

A- T.S.B. relays which is functioning when the water pressures while the turbines are off. It's automatic system does not work. The workers start it with hands. According to the foreman or head technician, its future is gloomy.

B- The grease-pump relay that is called Timer is in bad condition. At first the grease was automatically pumped up to the gates which are in the water. Now it does not work.

3- Radiator that make water cold has become leak in all the pipes. It can not be repaired either in Pakistan or Afghanistan. While it needs to be changed. Totally there are 8 pipes. Now the holes are closed by small pieces of wood. If they are not repaired or changed the leaks would pollute the hydraulic and as a result it will not be working.

4- Since the pipes are damaged or leaked, the consumption of the hydraulic in the Station has risen to an abnormal level. At present about 90 barrels of hydraulic (No. 30) is needed.

5- The grease is one of the important items of the Station. Since the Timers is failed to function, therefore the grease is being used abnormally. Unless the the Timers is made to be active, this process will be continued as it is now.



6- Bulbs are also needed for the station. At present the following kinds of them are needed :

A- The 220 volts, 100 W. bulbs having thread, are necessary for the Station's tunnels and stairs. Totally needed 500 pieces.

B- Neon lights are necessary for lightening the outer space of the Station building as well as the gates. Totally needed 200 pieces.

C- The screwed bulbs with 500, especially needed for the tunnels. Total 200 pieces.

D- The bulbs having buttons for tunnel. Total needed 300 pieces.

7- Plastic solution tape for wiring. About 200 rolls are needed.

8- Cable with four conductor. Totally needed about 600 metres or 12 bundles.

9- Transformer with 3 phases (600 KW) and 13.8 Amp/3000 Amp used for welding work, w.pump, mill and lathe work. The old transformer has been burned.

It is important to mention that if the above items are provided, the experts working right now, are able to repair the Station's machineries and equipment.

The facilities available in the Station are including a workshop with lathe work system, technical operating system, lifting force, bulldozer, welding, carpenting,

compressure machine, cranes, scrape etc. These machines also need some minor repairs.

The other outstanding point here is that there is no suitable management in the Station. Add the staff is rather forced to work with less salary. Therefore they show less interest in taking care of the Station. The management should be in the hands of an expert who is capable to organize as it is necessary. Which does not exist here at all.

Thus, around the Station, there are mines which have been buried on the surrounding hills and some parts of the road, by the Russian's troops. The mines are anti-personnel and anti-vehicles which threatens going and coming in the area. This area should be demined.

#### THE KAJAKI BRIDGE

While the Station was being built, a bridge was also constructed close to the Kajaki bazaar. It is built by this project. This bridge joins the central and northern parts of the province with the southwestern parts. At the moment it is very important. Basically wood is used in the bridge, which has a length of about 120 m and 7.5 m breadth. It is 8 meters high. The bridge was built to resist against a load of up to 16 MT. The kind of wood used in it is called "Nishtar", Steel wood. Generally the vertical skeleton of the wood has a cross shape and are bound by nuts and bolts. Each pillar is sunken about 2 m in the ground. The bottom of each long

wood is covered by a special kind of steel called Tesh which are sunken in the water. Then on each of the pillar a horizontal long wood is fastened. Totally the bridge has about 18 long vertical pillars.

The long wood has 12 X 12" height size. Then between every two pillars, which have 6.5 m distance, there are 12 pieces of wood laid by breadth. And then on the top of each square wood a cylinder shaped log is placed on.

Prior to the war, the bridge could resist 16 MT load or vehicles. But since there was no protection, the bridge damaged and now it can resist a load of up to 5 tons. Most of the crosses are loosened and their nuts and bolts have been fallen down. Approximately about 60 m from south, both shoulders of the bridge are damaged.

At the northern end of the bridge, about 20 vertical woods have been fastened by cable. The long woods have moved away from each other and can't sustain a heavy load over them. They should be changed. The bridge caused many transportation problems.

The items needed for repairing are :

1- Steel Wood. 2- Cement. 3- Crane. 4- Nuts and bolts.

A survey should be carried out in order to determine the amount of the items needed exactly.

## HEALTH PROGRAMME

At present in Helmand, IAHC supports 3 main clinics or hospitals as well as 21 local dispensaries.

The hospitals are :

- 1- Kani-Manda Hospital in Mosa-Qala District.
- 2- Kajaki Hospital in Kajaki Bazaar.
- 3- Char-Bagh Hospital close to Deh-Baba village, Kajaki District.

In the above mentioned centres there are 21 Mid Level Health Workers, by the IAHC's Medical Training Course (MTC). Besides, there are 44 persons active as nurse helpers, pharmasists, cooks, chokidars and drivers.

For 80 patients, these centres have beds and medical facilities available for hospitalization.

- 1- Kani-Manda Hospital with 40 beds.
- 2- Kajaki Hospital with 30 beds.
- 3- Char-Bagh with 10 beds.

The health centres are active in the sections such as surgery, internal disease ward, dressings, TB with its laboratory, X-ray, immunization and mobile. Thus the two first are equipped with electric generator and w.pump for providing clean drinking water. But the the second and third are deprived of having x-ray, TB and vaccination programme.

In addition to these sections, the health centres have pharmacy, medicine store, clothes store and administration offices. There are 24 hours duty in the hospitals.

For transporting an urgent patient, an ambulance is available in Kani-Manda Hospital to take him to the Chaman Town, Pak-Afghan border. And there is a motor-cycle in each of the hospital.

The Kani-Manda Hospital is playing a role of a training centre for literates to work in the local remote dispensaries.

#### LOCAL DISPENSARIES :

These are branches which are being run by the HWS who have been trained in Kani-Manda Hospital since the hospital was set up. These health workers are working as volunteers in their home area beside their main job.

Prior to the MTC trained students in 1987, the dispensaries workers or volunteers were being trained by H. Mohd Qasim. But after 1987 when the MTC trainees arrived to the area, they started to train these volunteers. They were working for 3 months in the hospital. Now their number reaches to 50 persons. They are mainly trained in First Aid, dressings and little sanitation. They receive (B Unit) medicine either directly from IAHC or from Kani-Manda Hospital.

The dispensaries after delivering registers receive medicine. Then IAHC receive these registers from the Kani-Manda Hospital workers in head office Quetta.

The dispensaries are located in different villages of this province. The village they are located, are :

Shalmin, Sar-Baghni, Shahe-Ghambar, Khunjak-Mazaar, Teznai, Gorz, Alizai, Dehdam Khan, Spin Masjid, Nadali, Marja, Hazar-Juft, Regi, Khoja Dad and Dehzak; in Oruzgan Markaz-e-Dehrwod and Tersee; Passa Band and Taiwara in Ghor ; in Farah Gulistan and ; Sanzari in Kandahar Province.

Another kind of the MLHWS activity is to go to the mujahideen fronts to help those victims of war.

#### RESEARCH :

In order to have better and serviceable clinics for the local people, it is necessary to predict certain or specified respects of medical activities. So this process is not possible unless a research was carried out . Based on this, a primary research took place in Kani-Manda, Kajaki and Char-Bagh Hospitals as sample ( see the graph on the next page).

The graph is prepared for the three groups of the patients ( women, men & children upto 15 years ). This shows those diseases which are common in the area and they include bacterial, parasitical, viral and contagious diseases. At the first steps we shall consider some important points like-firstly the number of female patients is low and makes 7.40 % of the whole patients. Secondly those women who have pregnancy problems are others in the similar state, do not come to the clinics. Only the simple health problems patients attend the clinics to get medicine. Therefore in the primary research we have not brought here some of the diseases

which are common in females. Thus the same defect in the state of the health of children. However, as an average in Kani-Manda Hospital children are about 22.36 percent of the whole patients.

Bronchitis can be found in all the three classes of the patients. And visible in all the seasons. Generally it increases in the higher temperatures. The low level of sanitary system is the ecological cause of this disease.

Gastritis is higher in both sexes but in old ages. Comparatively men are more affected than women. It is the result of a surrounding full of anxiety. And the nutrition system exists in the area.

Injury is another problem many dwellers are suffering from. All the three classes (men, women & children) are faced to it. But it is much more higher in youngmen. Because they are almost always involved in fightings with the government, rival groups, explosion of mines and in other such events. These cases make 13 % of the men patients. Sometimes because of lack of facilities or delay in submitting wounded to the hospital, gangrene set in and their legs or hands have to be amputated. Thus meningitis also sometimes appear as a symptom from the wounds.

Injuries in women are mostly caused by the accidents at home. Rarely the injury in women could be of bombing. Such cases make 8.6 % in all the female patients. While the children who become wounded make 12 % of the whole children. Generally burn cases in the children are the major causes.

Malaria is also another major problem which is found in all the three classes of the patients. It is emerging along with leishmaniasis which is often recorded with the name of abscess. It is widely common and in our research here the number of children affected by malaria. The percentage of them is 6.50 and men generally make about 7.20 %. The affected by this disease make 8.20 % of the whole women patients.

The cause is mainly hot weather with humidity. And dark full of moisture houses which are often surrounded by swamps and dirty ditches, producing malaria mosquitoes.

Shigella is also causing problems to many local people including men, women and children. The affected male according to the register, make 1.76 %, women 2.1 % and 8.4 % are children. As shown on the graph the level of affected children by shigella is higher than men and women. It could be majorly because of contaminated water and stale food.

Pain has many complainants as well. And so far the IMC MLHWS has not specified the major roots of it. Though it is not a disease itself, has many complainants among the men, women and children. The percentage of women is 8, men 6.1 and 2.4 % is in the children.

Amoeba and giardia has been registered in all patient classes. And its percentage is higher comparatively. Men and women make 6.4 % and children make 17.13 % of patients in the problems caused by amoeba & giardia. Again bad sanitary system is the cause and growth of these microbes.



Thus the diseases such as arthritis, anaemia, malaria and injury cases are outstanding among females. While injury, gastritis, urine infection, eczema & TB have high percentage in males. But children are chiefly suffering from amoeba, trachoma, abscess, shigilla, worms, malnutrition and dehydration. The six kinds of diseases found in children are also common in the area. Measles especially, caused several hundreds deaths in the area children. It is a seasonal problem which rises in the winters. As an average children make 45.6 percent of the northern Helmand population. Last winter beginning of (1991), IAHCs MLHWS in Helmand sent the office several reports of mass death among children caused by measles. For instance in Hosaka village, having 100 houses, about 30 children died which make 5 % of the whole children in that village.

Tuberculosis, in the register of Kani-Manda Hospital, showed 400 affected patients. And 98 new patients were registered in 1990. However, the result of the TB research shows that 59.18 % of female, 40.82 % of men are affected by tuberculosis. But since many women cannot come to the clinics, their percentage might be higher than that of registered.

We are planning to, if time allows us, carry out a precise survey and research of the registers of all the clinics of IAHC. Hopefully we will get a good result and know exactly about the health situation inside Afghanistan. The work we done now is just primary one and presented as a sample to get an idea about health in the area.

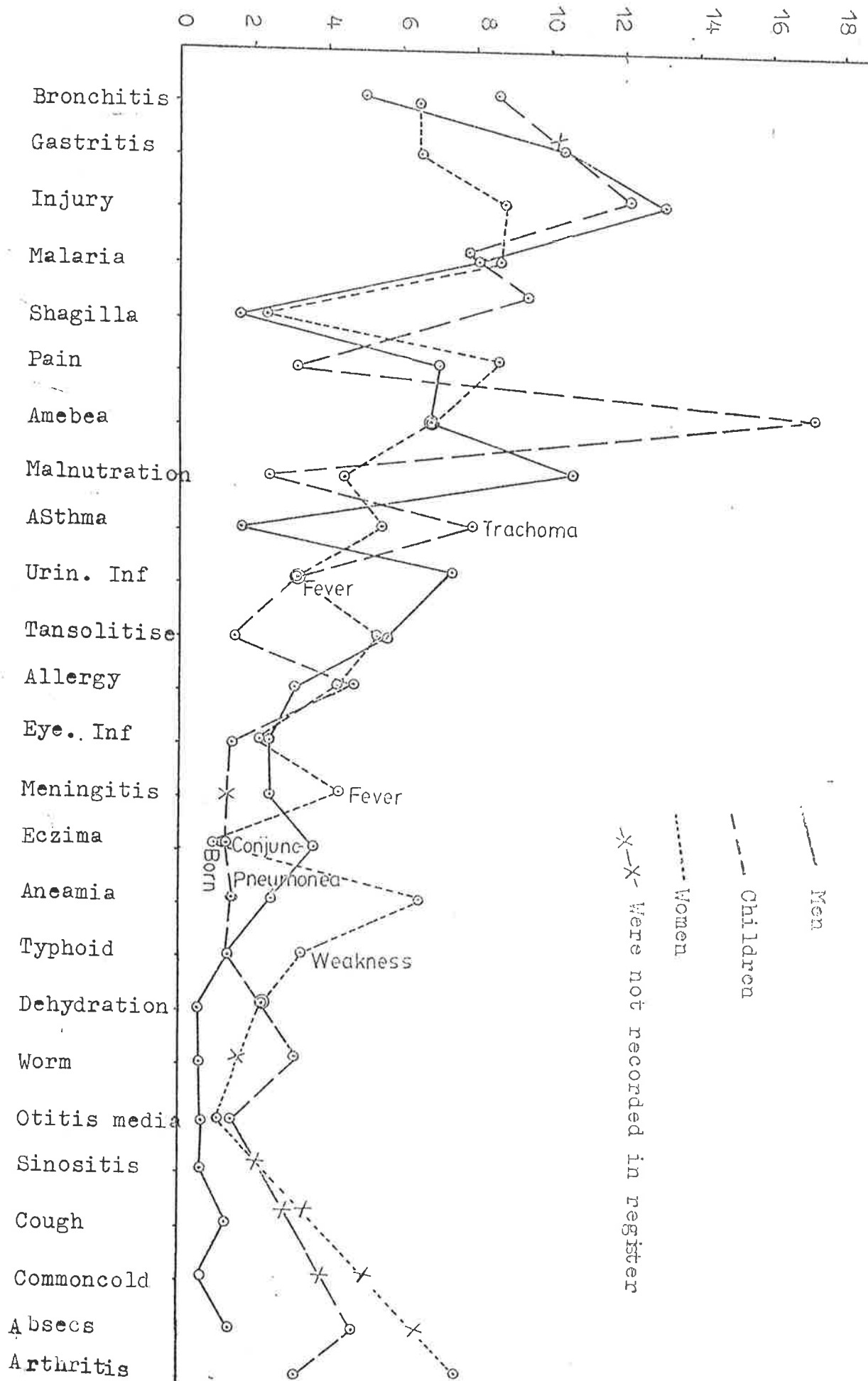
## CONCLUSION.

As we noticed in the primary research, the following problems are in our opinion outstanding :

- 1- Surgery should be more considered. Medicine and its instruments should be better qualitatively as well as quantitatively.
- 2- A number of diseases have ecological roots which could be disappeared by means of prevention, training in public places and to carry out some sanitary activities in the area. Such prevention would help them to get rid of malaras and others.
- 3- Establishing a laboratory for testing malaria, amoeba and giardia is a necessary step for Kani-Manda Hospital to enable to cope with many common problems.
- 4# The mobile programme, according to some effects is not necessary anymore. It will be replaced by a training unit (MTC trainees) to go from the Hospital, to the madrassas and teach basic health rules as a whole. It was also decided with full agreement in the shura.
- 5- Immunization against six kinds of diseases among the children, should be taken in serious consideration.
- 6- TB Programme should not wait the patients to come to them. It must follow and be in search for its affected patients. They should be given better facilities.
- 7- The women diseases is an important health issue in

the area. For their better service a clinic should be established in Mosa-Qala. It is a vital need.

8- Besides, if a veterinary clinic is made in the area, it would save the lives of hundreds of local animals from different dangerous diseases. Their meat is being sold, which certainly causes other diseases in the local people. As it is discussed with local people that the animal owners would pay for the medicine costs. The only cost for this clinic would be the salary of veterinarian.



The Shura Declaration on health Programme.

Final decision.

In place of Mobile programme sanitation was approved by the shura collectively to carry, on ,for the raelization of this decision the shura shuld help the health workers.

care about animal Deaths!

The Shura also approved the establishment of a new animal Clinic in the area to help in . the prevention of animal deaths.

Signed by all members of the Shura.

17 Feb 1991

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

There are totally 114 madrassas in Mosa-Qala and Kajaki Districts which are being run and taught by 501 teachers. In addition, there are 7 more madrassas that have hostels for their students. The total number of the students studying in the above madrassas is 13283 persons.

Basically supporting the madrassas started by IAHC in 1985. The support was including Pushto textbooks, notebooks and other stationary material. The books and stationary were delivered to the head-principle of all the madrassas and then being distributed based on the number of the students of the madrassas.

The following are the numbers of the students studying in different grades :

Grade One - 3623	Grade four - 1178
Grade two - 6752	Grade five - 423
Grade three- 1136	Grade six - 153
	Grade seven- 13

Until the presence of the Russians' troops, education process had always been interrupted by fighting, But recently it is getting in normal condition. During the conflict the writing method was considered not important. So the students have had not writings in the classes. And the learning process was only verbal. After the IAHC Mission got to the area and visited the madrassas, they found out this defect in the teaching system. Soon afterwards, they called a shura meeting and discussed the defect and finally after convincing they agreed to teach

writing in the classes. The shura documentation is attached to this report at the end of this theme. The education is compulsory upto the sixth class or grade, but after that it is of free choice.

The book being taught are chiefly religious ones. Beside the religious books, math is taught in the third grade. This is called Mohit-ul-Hisab.

After the students pass the exam, they can study at the higher classes. The total time of the madrassas in winter is 2 hours, while in the summer it is 4 hours. The devoted time to each subject is 40 to 50 minutes. There are 40 holidays during a year. That starts from the 10th of June and finishes on the 22nd of July. Those adult students staying at the hostels, are being sent out to the mujahideen fronts for jehad. But the students who do not have brothers at home and are alone, are not to go to the fronts.

The support of IAHC has not been stopped or delayed so far. This year IAHC has sent out about 2300 notebooks, 2300 pencils, 1918 volume books, 7 pieces of carpets (3 X 3) and 7 bicycles have been distributed to the controllers of the madrassas. Their job is to assess the teaching system, attendance of the students and improving the education in the madrassas.

## The Shura Declaration on Educational Programme

The following is the decision of the shura about the distribution of the notebooks and ball pens which indicates the acceptance of writing in the classes as curriculum. However, the first and the second items of the shura decision is about the theme mentioned above of which the translation is given below :

- 1 - The shura members after discussion and full agreement decided to distribute all the notebooks and ball-pens which are given by IAHC to the students of the first and second grades. The rest students higher than the second grades, should be provided notebooks and ball pens by their parents. And books for all the classes which their number is known to Engineer will be provided by IAHC.
- 2- It was decided to distribute the textbooks sent by IAHC as sample, to all the classes in Mosa-Qala and Zamindawar (Kajaki) Districts, which will be delivered equal to the number of the whole students.

The shura members' signatures,