

CHANGE IN GADOON-AMAZAI



PLAN 114

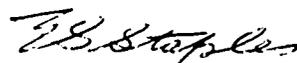
CHANGE
IN
GADOON-AMAZAI

Introduction

The Government of Pakistan, the Provincial Government of NWFP and its local bodies are making a concerted effort to eradicate poppy growing in NWFP. This effort is being promoted through a series of development activities which USAID, other bilateral donors, the UN and other organizations support. The Northwest Frontier Area Development (NWFAD) Project is one such activity. A variety of subprojects are helping to introduce new crops and improved agricultural practices, to establish a productive manpower base through training and to carry out infrastructure development including roads, electrification of villages, new irrigation and drinking water supply systems, schools and health facilities.

The project implementation agency is the Government of the NWFP. The United States has provided a \$30 million grant to support project activities, including \$20 million for development activities in the Gadoon-Amazai area.

This booklet presents a picture of the changes taking place in the area along with a description of specific project activities designed to link Gadoon-Amazai with the mainstream of the national economy.



Eugene S. Staples
Director
USAID/Pakistan
Islamabad.

Background

Drug abuse is an alarming worldwide phenomenon. Pakistan is no exception. A recently published survey by the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board reveals that consumption in Pakistan of opium and opium-based heroin has been on the increase. Heroin use alone increased from 30,000 users in 1982 to an all-time high of 650,000 users in 1986.

Heroin's relative importance among the various drugs abused has also increased dramatically, from 1.8% in 1982 to 31.8% in 1986. Opium and heroin users together now account for 44.5% of the total drug abusers in Pakistan, up from about 26% in 1982.

The Government of Pakistan has responded to the worsening drug situation by developing programs for combatting the use and spread of narcotics, including rehabilitation, effective law enforcement and elimination of drug production. Poppy cultivation and opium transportation were banned following proclamation of the Prohibition (enforcement of Hadd) Order in 1979.

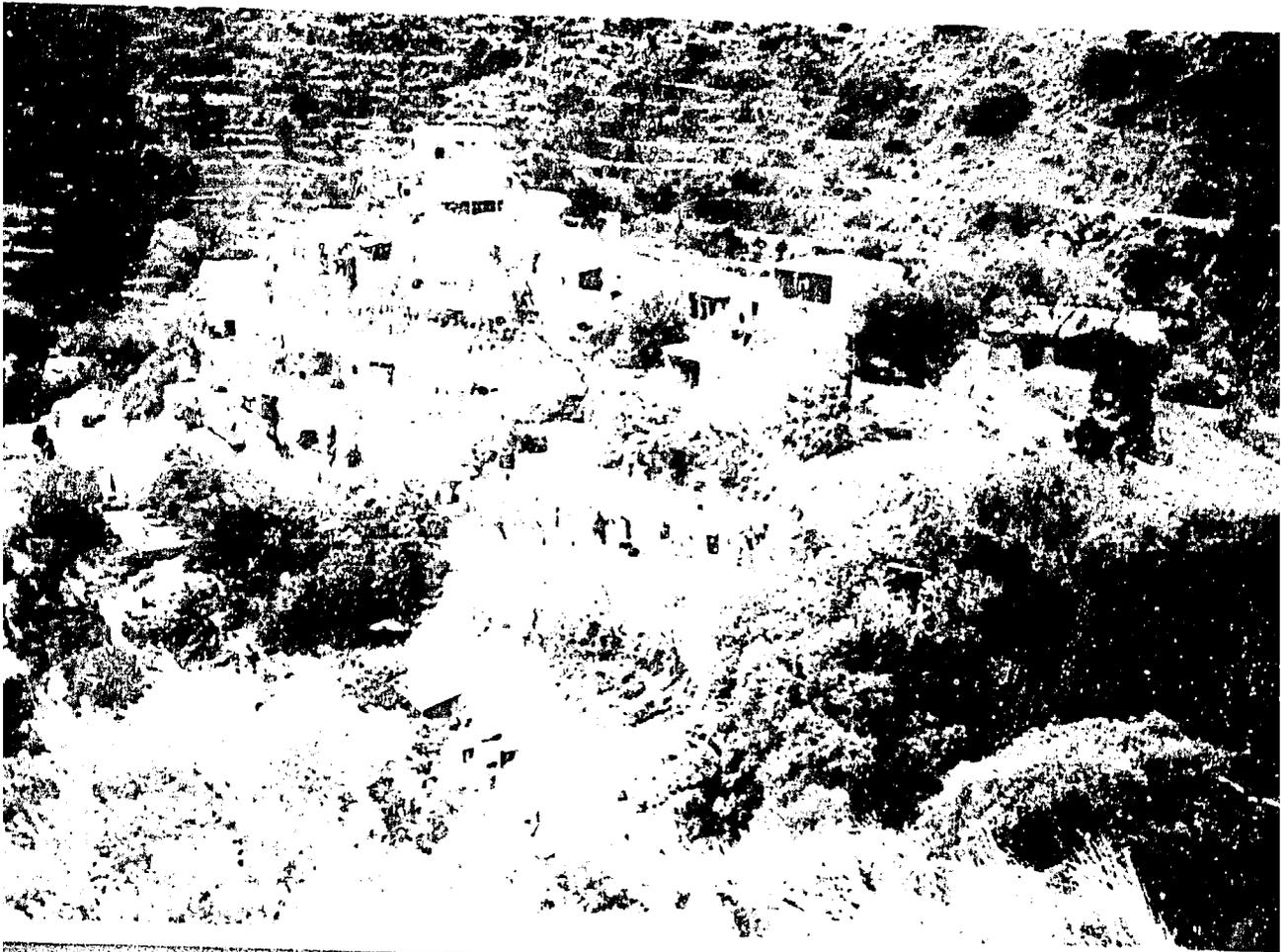
Along with its concerted enforcement effort, the Government undertook a number of development activities aimed at improving the lives of people in areas where poppy was being grown as a cash crop. USAID funding for the NWFAD project was provided in support of that initiative.

The Area

Immediately to the northwest of Tarbela lake there rises a mountain ridge known locally as "Mohaban". The ridge that abruptly reaches up to 7,000 feet and the adjoining slopes are home to some 116,000 people belonging to different Pushtun tribes and clans of Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP).

Roughly 215 square miles, the area has its own identity distinct from other parts of Mardan, Swat and Abbottabad, the districts that have administrative jurisdiction over its seven different union councils.

The area is called Gadoon-Amazai.



A typical mountain village surrounded by steep slopes. Most of the people of Gadoon-Amazai live in similar clusters on mountainsides.



No. 10. A group of men sitting on a bench in a settlement. The only other access from outside is by...

The Gadoon part consists of four union councils (Gandaf, Kabgani, Ganichatra, and Gabasni) inhabited by three sub-tribes of Gadoon. The remaining three union councils (Nagrai-Amazai, Nara-Amazai, and Baitgali) belong to sub-tribes of Yousufzai, mainly Amazai.

Gadoon was a tribal territory until 1955 when it was merged with Mardan district and converted into a settled area. Nagrai-Amazai

and Baitgali Union Councils were part of the princely states of Swat and Amb respectively, while Nara-Amazai was a tribal territory. All the three union councils were merged into adjacent settled areas between 1950 and 1960.

The whole of Gadoon-Amazai is in a state of transition from a tribal to a settled area. The landscape is harsh and development is complicated and difficult.

Beginnings of the NWFAD Project

For the last few decades (not centuries as the drug traffickers would like people to believe) Gadoon-Amazai has been one of the major poppy growing areas in Pakistan.

Several factors came together to bring about an increase in intensive poppy cultivation in Gadoon-Amazai, including a government ban on poppy cultivation in the settled areas and a steep rise in opium demand for heroin production which pushed opium prices still further upward.

A 1976-77 survey reported 8,400 acres under poppy cultivation in Gadoon and the irrigated plains and foothills of Tehsil Swabi in Mardan district. In the Gadoon-Amazai region a high proportion of the estimated 30,000 acres of cultivable land was under poppy cultivation. Overall, land holdings in the area are extremely limited (an average of 0.2 acres per person). Only 5% of this land is irrigated, the rest depending on rainfall which averages annually about 15 inches in the slopes and 30 inches at higher altitudes.

In the absence of other sources of income due to a lack of infrastructure and development activities, the local economy by the 1970s was rapidly turning into one based primarily on opium poppy production. By the early 1980s, Gandaf was becoming a major opium trading center.

The Gadoon-Amazai area presents a stark picture of steep, barren hillsides, with narrow, rock-walled terraces clinging precariously to the slopes surrounding the scattered mudbrick villages.

The immediate impression is of poverty, isolation and hardship. A couple of years back, there was very little economic activity in the area other than agriculture — poppy around the mountain tops and wheat on the lower slopes.

In this difficult and forbidding environment, the NWFP government undertook an area development program aimed at encouraging the local population to substitute other crops for poppy. At the same time, an array of construction and income-generation activities were planned to make the transition easier. A Project Co-ordinating Unit was established at Topi to co-ordinate overall planning and implementation.

Started in 1983, the project was first known as the Gadoon-Amazai Area Development Project. Major support came from USAID through a \$20 million grant aimed at introducing new crops and agricultural practices, providing a variety of training opportunities, and carrying out an array of rural infrastructure activities including roads, village electrification, irrigation and drinking water facilities, and improved education and health services.

The specific activities included in the project fit well with the overall development priorities established by the NWFP, which emphasize agriculture diversification and expansion of rural infrastructure. The project also supports the efforts of other international organizations such as the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) in its development-related activities which seek to encourage a reduction in poppy cultivation throughout the world.

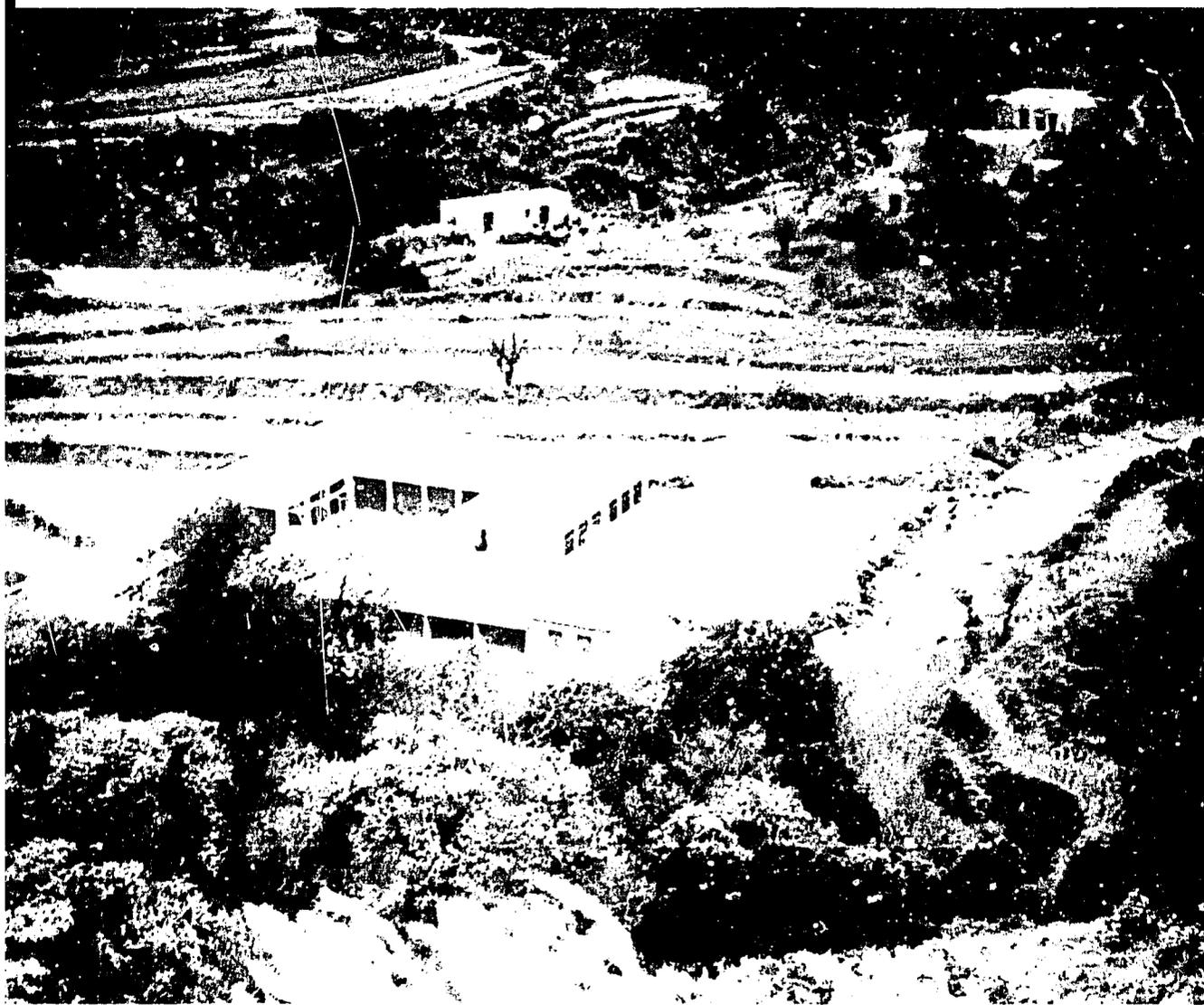


Fig. 1. The view from the hillside of the village of ...

Major Project Activities

Rural Infrastructure

One goal of the project is to build all-weather roads opening up the main valleys and then to connect the isolated zones and major villages through a network of feeder roads. Sixty three miles of roads have already been built or are under construction, including the 18 mile Uta-Amazai road. Another 12 miles of road construction is planned.

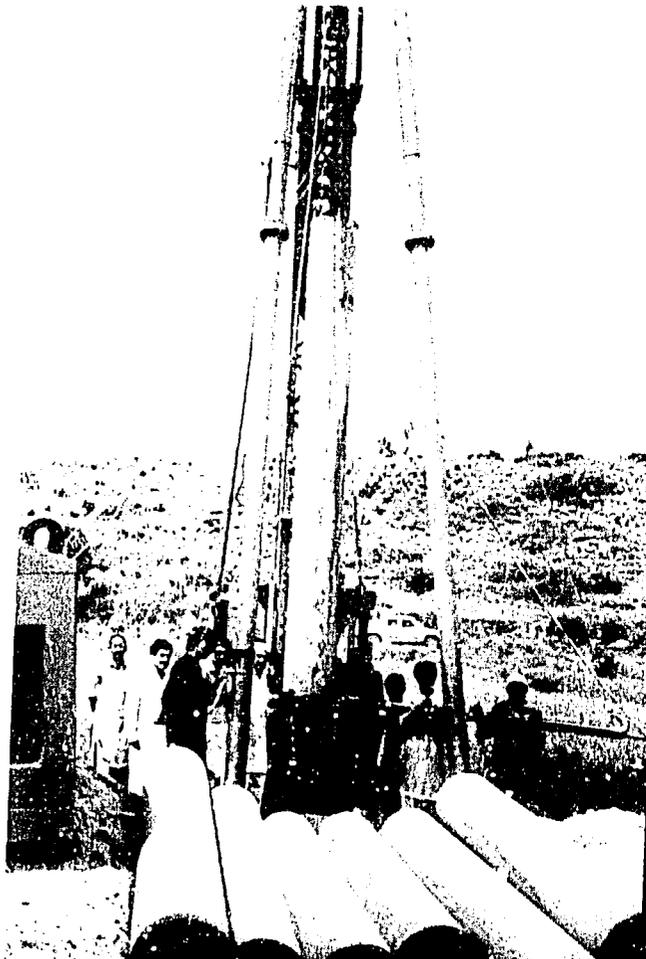
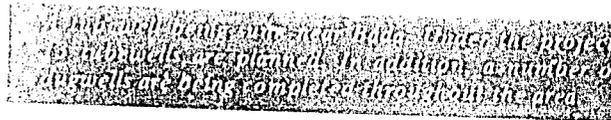
Simultaneously with road building, a wide range of other infrastructure activity is going on. Six villages have already been electrified and the electrification of 25 more is planned. To date, 354 other rural infrastructure schemes have been planned. Schemes completed or under construction include 49 schools, 45 water supply facilities, 13 tubewells, five basic health units, nine veterinary clinics and a number of irrigation system improvement projects.

Most of these small-scale rural infrastructure schemes are planned and built under the direction of local elders in the seven union councils with the active help and support of the local population, further helping to increase employment opportunities in the area.

Agricultural Development

Much of the project activity is aimed at the agriculture sector. Under various levelling and terrace creation schemes, more and more barren land is being brought under the plough. Irrigation resources are also being developed through improving existing wells, drilling new wells, improving flow-irrigation schemes and lining water-courses.

Barren range land is being converted into productive acreage under the agro-forestry program which is seeking to introduce fruit trees as well as fuel wood. To date more than 210,000 fruit trees have been distributed to over 3,000 farmers. Some 267 orchard plots of more than one acre have been established. A further 390,000 fuel-wood trees have been planted on more than 2,000 acres of land under the project's reforestation program.





A man in a light-colored shirt and dark vest is leaning over a table, examining a bowl or container. In the background, another person is partially visible. The setting appears to be an outdoor or semi-outdoor agricultural demonstration area.



A close-up photograph showing a person's hands working with soil or a plant. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt. The background is dark and indistinct.

With the assistance of agricultural extension programs, new crops are being introduced into the area. Included in this component of the project is demonstration of off-season vegetables in special zones, three-crop rotation on irrigated lands, two-crop rotation on rain-fed areas, training of selected candidates in modern agriculture techniques and introduction of horticulture and

new inter-cropping patterns.

Finally, an animal husbandry scheme is helping to replace existing livestock and poultry with better breeds, providing veterinary extension services at the farmers' doorstep and improving fodder production.

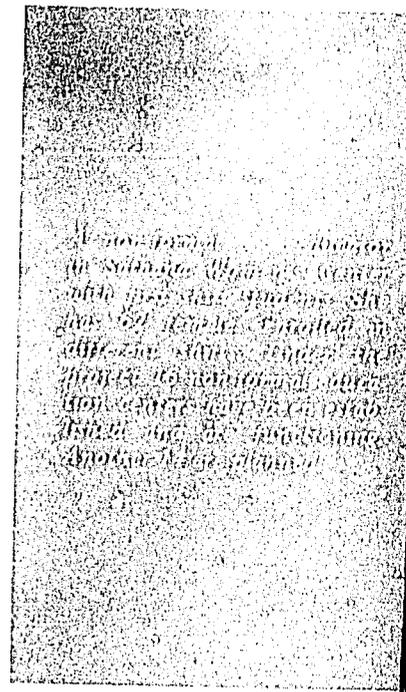
Other Activities:

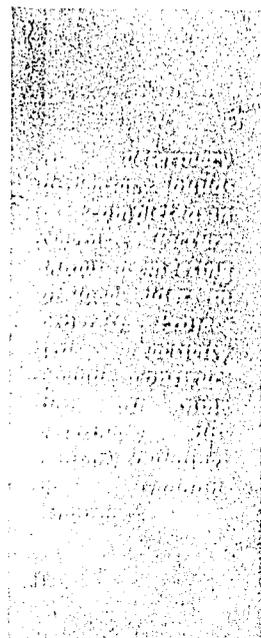
Although agriculture will continue to be the economic backbone of Gadoon-Amazai, additional income-generating opportunities also need to be provided for the region's growing population. The off-farm employment training scheme developed under the project forms part of that effort.

To date more than 1,250 people from the area have either completed or are enrolled in a variety of skill training programs. Many of those trained took the three-month driver training course in Peshawar. Other skills such as tailoring, masonry, electrical work, carpentry, furniture-making, welding and pipe fitting have also been introduced through training programs at trade schools and

technical institutions throughout the NWFP and Pakistan.

Another project activity aims at assisting women through the establishment of non-formal female education centers in all major villages. So far, 16 centers have been established and are functioning. Another 14 are planned. Each center for women is supervised by one resident female educator combining religious education with literacy, handicraft training, child care and personal hygiene. These non-formal education centers one day may serve as the base for a cottage industry providing income-generating opportunities for women.







Future Plans

In spite of the difficult terrain and limited previous development opportunities, project progress thus far is more than satisfactory. Further activity is planned in all areas where the project is now involved – rural infrastructure, agricultural development and training and off-farm employment.

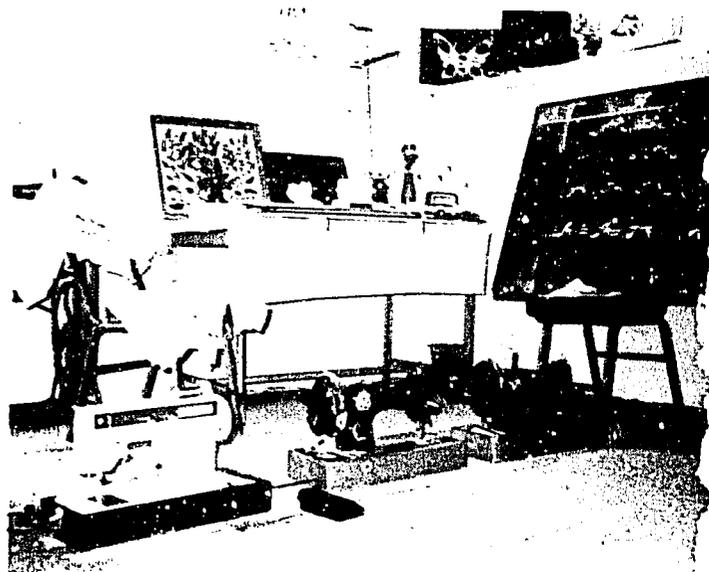
An industrial estate outside Gandaf is now in the design stage. Infrastructure construction on it will soon begin with an additional \$1 million in USAID grant funding. The NWFP and Federal governments are making additional contributions through reduced tariffs on utilities and in kind contributions. Given the proximity to power resources at neighboring Tarbela as well as the

continuing expansion of rural infrastructure in the surrounding areas, the scheme is expected to provide considerable additional employment opportunities for the people of Gadoon-Amazai. Construction of the estate itself will provide many jobs in the area.

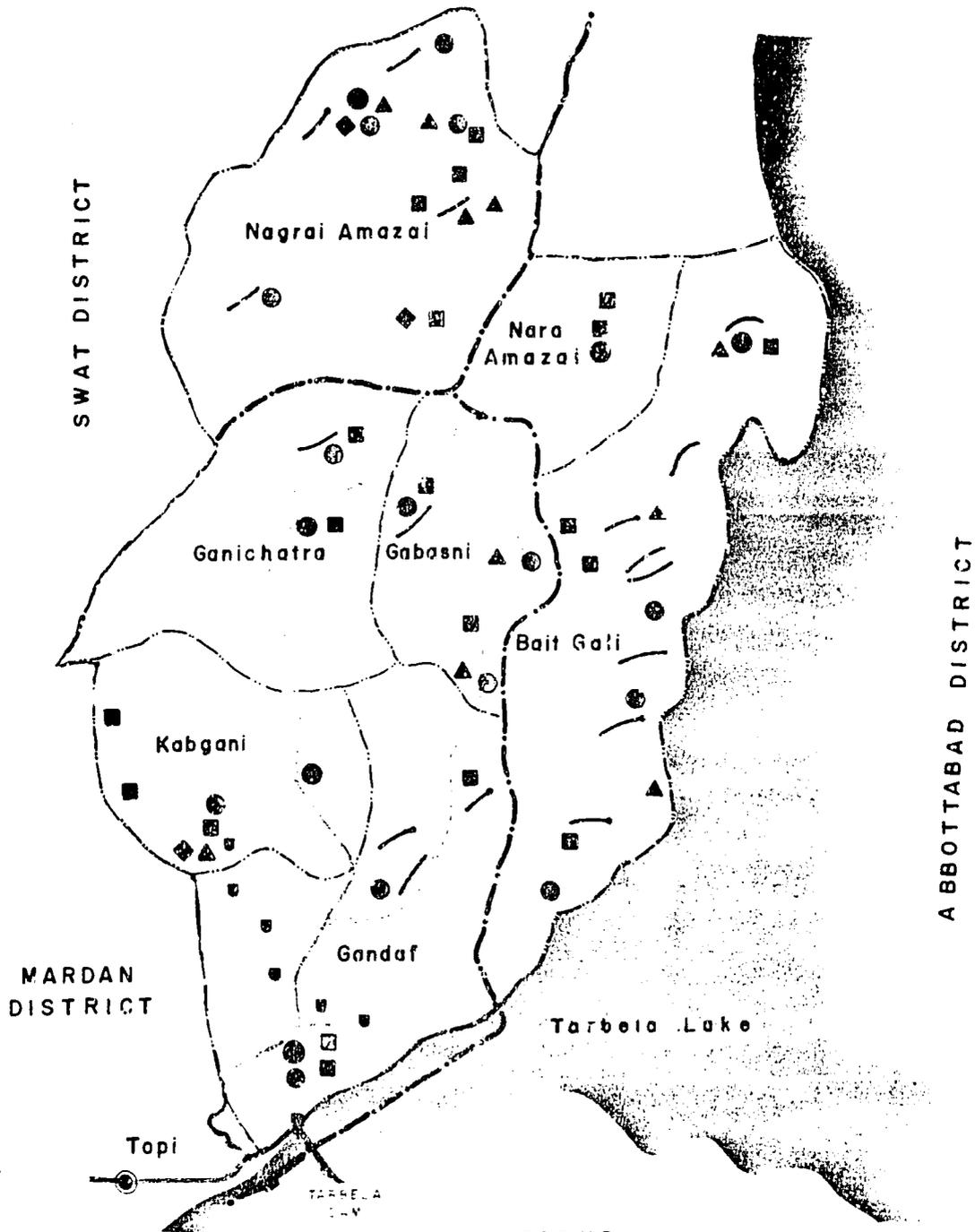
Development is a continuing process that must ultimately be judged in terms of how it benefits people. Gadoon-Amazai has only just started its march to join the mainstream of the national economy. The potential is there. The government is supportive. The area development activity has gained its own momentum. The successful completion of the present project will lead to further economic and social development.



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N. W. F. P. AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE



LEGEND

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| ■ | HEALTH UNIT |
| ◆ | VETERINARY DISPENSARY |
| □ | SCHOOL |
| ● | NGO FORMAL EDUCATION CENTER FOR WOMEN |
| ▲ | AFFORESTATION |
| ▲ | AGRICULTURE DEMONSTRATION PLOT |
| ■ | ORCHARD |
| — | IRRIGATION SCHEME |
| — | WATER SUPPLY SCHEME |
| ● | DUG WELL |
| ● | UNION COUNCIL HEADQUARTER |
| — | METALLED ROAD |
| — | SHINGLE ROAD |