

Challenges and Opportunities for CPEC in Bajaur, FATA

By

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Introduction

- **Objective**

- Third-party assessment to ascertain people's perception regarding any possible endeavor of Chinese people and their companies in Bajaur in near future

- **Focused Research Areas**

- Militancy and its current status
- Routes (in and out from Bajaur)
- Local Resources

Research Method

- **Research team visit**
 - Field Observations
- **Literature Review**
- **IDIs**
 - Semi-structured Questionnaire
 - Convenient Sampling
- **FGDs**
- **Target population**
 - Political, religious figures, businessmen and elders of the area

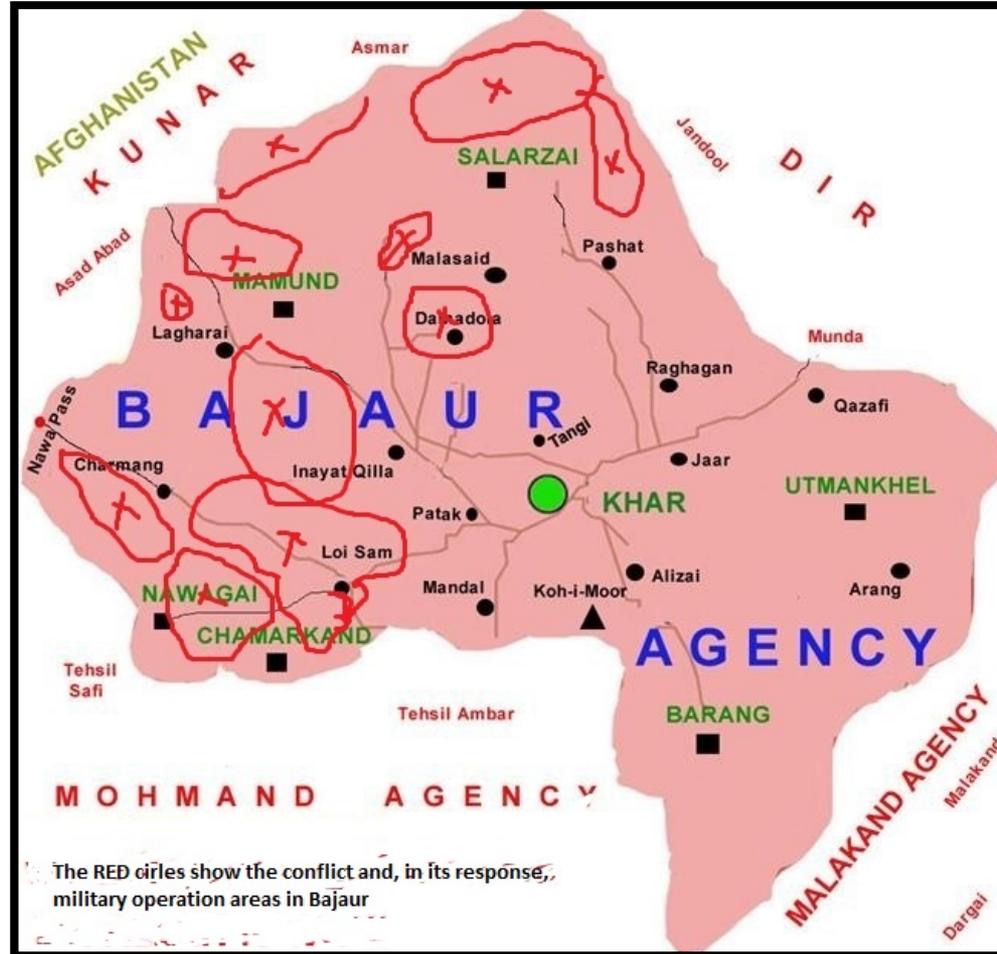
Map of Bajaur



Findings - Militancy

- 12 militant groups were active
- Operation Sher Dil, August 2008
- No presence and control of militants in Bajaur

Militancy targeted areas



Findings - CPEC

- CPEC is welcome and it may bring the long awaited prosperity to Pakistan – Bajaur will be obviously benefitted (Some 100% Responded)
- Chinese people are friendly to Pakistan – People of Bajaur will mostly welcome them (Some 90% Responded)
- Presence of Militants (concerning Chinese interests) ETM – Uyghur Militants

People's Perception

- A number of national INGOs are active (mainly involved in development and social services sectors)
- People's perception regarding NGOs
- People's perception Regarding Chinese firms

Presence of Chinese Companies

- Chinese mining company
 - “Fast Deck” (Nawagai Bajaur)
 - Chinese Crush-plant (Timergara)
 - Very much popular among the local contractors

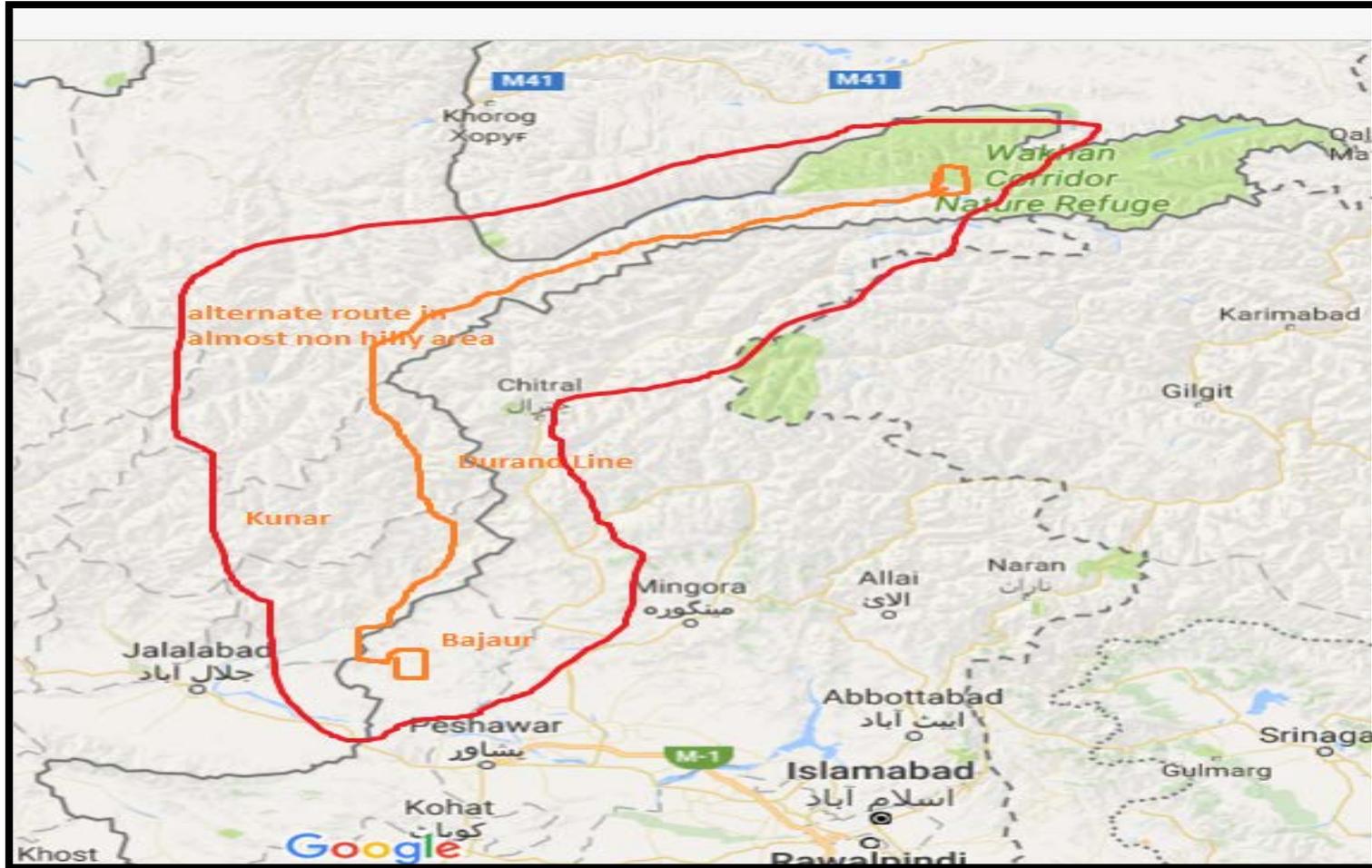
Challenges, Direct and Indirect Threats to CPEC

- **Policy Framework**
 - Non-extension Of Companies' Act, Banking Act, Audit Authorities, Ombudsman, Regular Tax System, etc.
 - Article 246 and 247 of the constitution
- **FATA Reforms**
 - Sartaj Aziz hinted Bajaur is ready to be mainstreamed; bcz.
 - All line departments properly exist
 - Education, health and other departments are already associated with Pakhtunkhwa.
- **Local Authoritarian Administration**
 - FCR gives immense powers to PA (Judicial – Executive – Legislative)
 - there is extra tax levied on commodities at entry points to Bajaur
 - PA spends all this and other funds without a proper check for transparency
- **Weak Communication Infrastructure**
 - No new roads in recent time (only maintenance work takes place)
- **Local Feuds**
 - local disputes over natural resources may pose threats to any business endeavor
- **External Support**
 - Non-state entities may get external support to sabotage CPEC but local respondents disagree with this as the government seems in full charge now

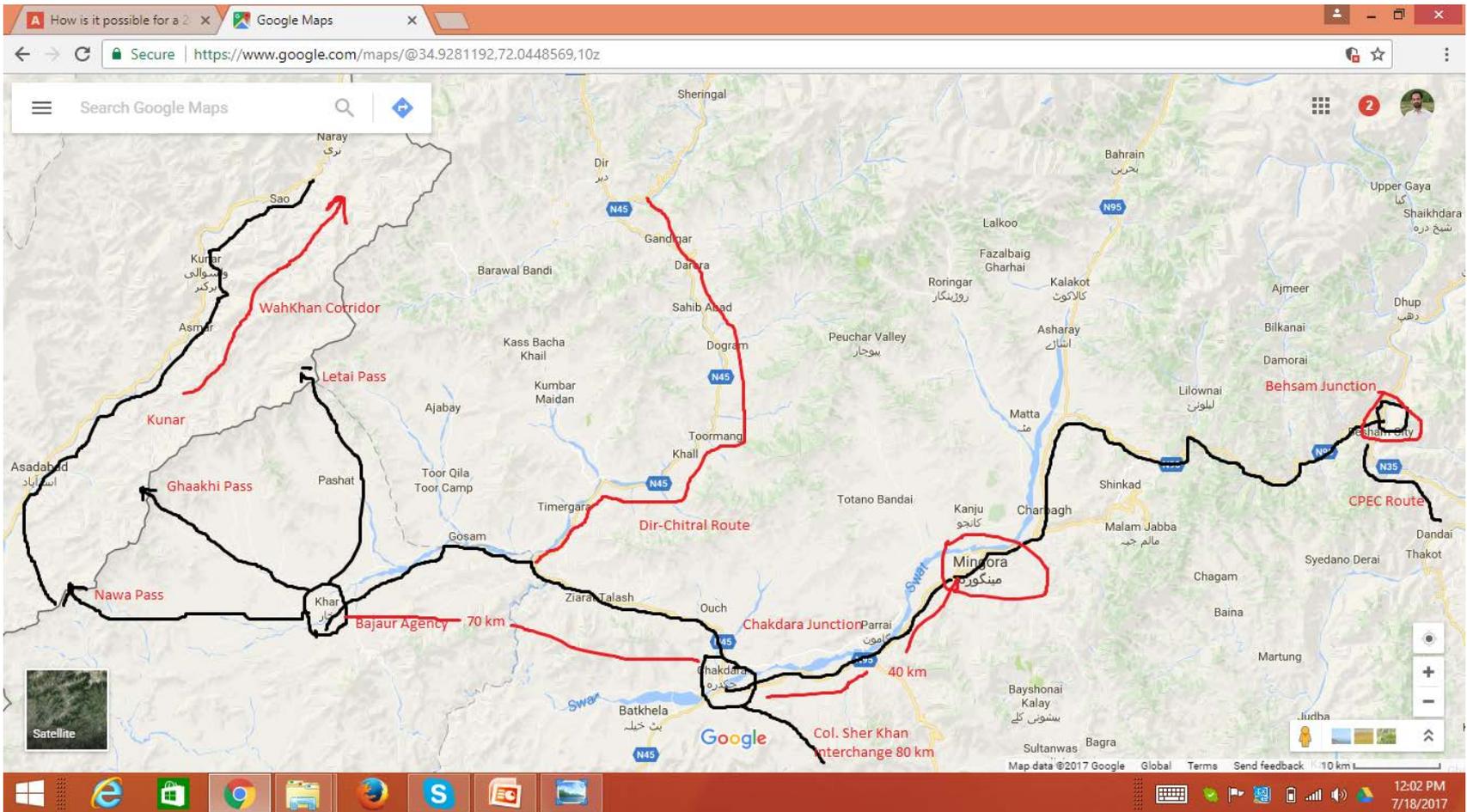
Opportunities that CPEC Offers to Bajaur

- **Bajaur is one of the nearest possible routes to connect to CARs**
 - Bajaur Via Afghanistan, WahKhan, Tajiskistan.
 - Open round the year
 - Only one mountain (road already constructed), no snowfall
 - Bajaur is 70 km away from Swat motorway
 - Ghakhay Pass, Nawa Pass and Letai Pass are entering Kunar, Nuristan and then Wahkhan corridor (200-250 km approx.)
 - The route via Dir, Chitral to Wahkhan is
 - Hilly and massive snowfall

Route from Bajaur to Wahkhan Corridor



North Afghanistan – CPEC



Cont...

- The route (via Bajaur) is also one of the nearest to Kohistan district from where the main CPEC corridor is passing.
- Bajaur could be connected from Besham – Khwazakhela - Mingora – Chakdara
- This route will connect North East Afghanistan to CPEC
 - This route saves travel from Besham to Hassan Abdal – Torkham
 - Jalalabad and then Kunar
- The probable length is 200 km (from **Besham to Bajaur**)

Resources

- Chromites, Granite, Marble, Gypsum and Iron ore
- Abundance of water available for energy projects
- Agriculture
- Man-power
- Forests (Shehtoot and Diyaar)
- Poultry and livestock

THANK YOU