This descriptive study was conducted on the situational analysis of existing health service facilities for malaria diagnosis and treatment in 5 districts along the border area of Tak province. This study aims to describe the situation of malaria diagnosis and treatment in existing health facilities in the year 2000.

The study showed that most of the people lived in high risk transmission areas. There were two health service systems: the vertical program from CDC; and the conventional systems providing services for malaria patients. Almost 80% of malaria patients were diagnosed by facilities of the vertical program. Although the accuracy of microscopic examination was more than 99% in community hospitals and malaria clinics, only 40% of the patients were detected and diagnosed three days or more after onset of symptoms. This was not early enough to get prompt treatment for preventing severe complications and transmission because the only definite diagnosis used was microscopic examination. Only 66.2% of patients in community hospital were treated with the National anti-malarial drug regimens. Most people used bed nets which were not impregnated.

Non-systematic collaboration between the two systems, the lack of health resources, the effect of migrants and incomplete reporting system, were the underlying causes of malaria control problems. Several interventions, such as using dipsticks for early diagnosis, training courses for diagnosis and treatment, and revision of the reporting system should be started to solve these problems based on the result found in this study.