

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

Building the resilience of communities to disaster

Case Studies from
DIPECHO Partners in Pakistan





Saving people's lives

Mr. M. Sayyad a participant of first aid training organized by Islamic Relief Pakistan funded by ECHO in UC Hill Surang of Tehsil Dhirkot AJK from 14th September to 16th September 2006 in DIPECHO BRCD project, who gave first treatment to Mr. Mansab Dad when he was severely injured.

Muhammad Sayyad is the resident of village Malal Bagla of union council Hill Surang. It takes approximately twenty minutes to reach the village Malal Bagla from Islamic Relief field office in Dhirkot. By profession Muhammad Sayyad is a poultry farmer and has been engaged in the poultry business since last ten years.

It came to pass on 10 October; I was in my poultry farm and was engaged in feeding and vaccination when my neighbor Muhammad Nisar suddenly came in to my poultry farm and informed me that Mansab Dad has been severely injured. When I reached at the desired place I found Mansab Dad had got a severe injury on his right hand when he was working on stone crush machine. Due to on going housing reconstruction in AJK the stone crushing activities are in full swing. While working the fan belt of the machine broken and directly hit at the right hand of the poor Mansab Dad leaving a deep wound and massive bleeding. Mr. Mansab Dad is more than sixty years old.

When I reached at the spot he was crying with pain and nonstop blood was shedding from his hand. Immediately after analyzing the whole situation I did the following

- First of all I asked Mr. Mansab Dad to please keep his hand vertically upward, for minimizing the blood pressure towards hand.
- Then I washed his hand with dettol.
- Then I applied the First Aid Dressing on his hand and after arranging vehicle we rushed towards Kohala hospital for further necessary treatment. From our hamlet it took more than twenty minutes to reach the Kohala hospital, however when we reached in the hospital the bleeding was already stopped.

Mansab Dad got eight stitches on his hand and his first bandage & stitches were replaced after seven days and then I changed remaining three dressings by myself. Now he is quite well but due to cold weather condition some times he feels some pain in his hand. After doing this now I am feeling very proud that I genuinely helped some one in time of crises by applying the knowledge I got thanks to Islamic relief and ECHO who provided us First Aid Training. I would request Islamic Relief to train more number of people in our area as twenty first aid workers in a population 5000 are not enough.

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Islamic Relief



Reducing impact of disasters through revival of indigenous systems

Mohammad Shareef Jamaladini, 78, lives in killi Mohammad Bakhsh Gwadghan Union Council Sarawan with his family of seventeen members including his wife, children and two daughters-in-laws.

He was living a normal life and was happy with his living but when 7 years long spell of drought struck his village and area, his belongings slowly started to disintegrate. "We had livestock herds in thousands but now just can count our livestock on finger tips". We used to have good quantity of butter, cheese, desi ghee available at our homes but after the drought but now none of these exist. The long spell of drought made it hard to live with the dignity for Shareef and his family. Due to low income, his elder son left education and was forced to work as a truck cleaner to generate his family income.

Shareef's house is nothing but a mixture of mud, stones and bushes. Only four muddy rooms and two huts are the whole living means. "In extreme winter or summer we face a lot of troubles due to the structure of our house which can't protect us from the harshness of weather. There is no kitchen for cooking, and there is no existence or concept of sanitation in the whole village as well as in our home too".

In Killi the basic amenities of life like electricity and hospitals are missing. Although a government school building is present but no facilities are available in school and the condition of the school building is not suitable for use as a classroom. Most of our children do not go to school as we can't afford school expenses like uniform, books, stationary. The underground water table in this area is low and no irrigation system exists other than the indigenous irrigation system for harvesting crops in their arid zone lands. When Islamic Relief started the DIPECHO funded BRCD project in union council Sarawan, Community organization of village passed a resolution for construction/rehabilitation of Khushkaba Bundates and nominated Muhammad Shareef for this intervention.

His family's source of income is agriculture and livestock. With the construction of the khushkaba, he is able to cultivate a variety of crops like wheat, melon, water melon in his fields. As their income depends only on livestock and agriculture which have been perished away due to long spell of drought.

Now, Shareef wakes up early in the morning and after offering his prayer he goes to his Khushkaba Bundate along with his livestock and works there all day. From time to time he also tends to his herd. till the evening he comes back to his home and takes dinner and goes to his bed for taking a good bed rest which takes away his all day hard work.

"Before the intervention of the IR there was no any safe or constant source of clean drinking water, the women used to fetch water from far flung areas but thanks to Islamic Relief this problem solved by installation of wind mill and Hand pump and provide us the clean drinking water on the door step.

We are dependent on just traditional ways of earning like livestock raising, rain dependent agriculture so whenever any minor or major disaster hits us like the previous drought, we can get stuck in this situation again. To change our living standard and quality of life, it is obligatory that we change our livelihood practices so that we are not affected by disasters like drought and floods".



Disaster Preparedness at Grass-root levels:

Mir Dad is a CBO (Community based organization) in Muzaffargarh with 25 Community members (18 men and 7 women) and a community of some 573 Households close to the bank of river Indus in Muzaffargarh.

In August 2006 the heavy rainfall in the area led to an increase in water level of Indus and as result water entered in a number of villages. Mir Dad was one of such village, which witnessed floodwater in their village.

However the communities were prepared through their Early Warning initiative. When the villagers heard about the flood through radio, they called the Flood Forecasting division at Lahore and asked about the correct information. The villagers were told that low flood is expected to hit their village and other adjoining villages. The community members responded to the information by building bunds (Small embankments) around their cultivated land to protect their standing cotton crop, which is an important cash crop.

This was completely different from the previous year when they all panicked and left their villages (and lost considerable number of livestock and crops), during low flood like this year. But this year they were prepared and were able to proactively act on the information they got and were able to safeguard their livelihood sources.

Including the Excluded

Martha, belonging to a Christian family with Muslims as her neighbours lives in a small flood prone village "Chak 6/4-E" of district Muzaffargarh, Southern Punjab Pakistan. In Martha's village there are no basic necessities of life, including health. They suffer a lot in case of any emergencies because Government health units are far from the village and there is no adequate facility to approach these units.

The Muslim community of the village when approached by the partner's project team refused to form a mixed Community based Organization (of Muslims and Christian members). Thus it was decided that the minority group would form a community-based organization (CBO) separately.

Martha was selected by her own CBO for first aid training. She attended training enthusiastically and on coming back to the community she started serving her community. She was the first woman who attended such type of training and it was very remarkable for her community that some one from their own village could help them during flood, when no one empathizes with them. Martha's training gives the marginalized village a confidence to be able to tackle basic first-aid issues in the after-math of floods.

With the passage of time, the people from Muslim community have accepted Martha as an equal member & have started to approach her to get first-aid support.

"When I provided First Aid training to the Muslim community it gives me satisfaction because



Timely Preparedness for the floods

The early warning committees got timely information about the arrival of floods and the communities built a protection bund (embankment) around their villages. The flood level was higher than the previous year but the embankment (bund) resulted in lesser losses than the last year. This protection bund is 22 Kms in length and stretches to five villages (Amirpur Surbana, Chak dai dahr, Dewana Pir Rajan Baksh and Benda Sargana).

This initiative is a classic example of the effective mobilization of communities and coordination between CBO's (Community-based Organizations) of five different villages for collective action. The communities contributed diesel for tractor and their labour. Additionally, one of the significant factors was the contribution made by the landlords of the area by providing diesel for tractors.



Engaging with Government and utilizing their expertise

Oxfam GB along with their Partner has adopted an innovative strategy of coordinating with the Government by engaging them as resource persons.

Resource persons from Government's water and soil test laboratory facilitated the **water and soil testing trainings**. The trainings contents included: causes of land erosion in floods and link between erosion and changing properties of soil.

The government resource person claimed that District Laboratory of water and soil testing in the past 10 years had only received 4 soil samples for testing. (And he named them on his fingertips who mostly were landowners). However after this training initiative in last four months under the project, the laboratory have received 60 samples from the project communities.



Breaking the Norms Female member of Search and Rescue Team



Miraj, 25 years old young lady is an enthusiastic and devoted member of Search and Rescue Team of Focus Humanitarian Assistance Pakistan.

Miraj is unmarried and lives with her parents and is the eldest of three siblings. Apart from working as a volunteer, she is doing BA as a private candidate. She joined the Search and Rescue Team (SART) in 2002. At that time, she knew nothing about search and rescue and was uncertain about her role. On the other hand she was very enthusiastic about choosing this unique and non-traditional role for herself.

Chital is one of the most disaster prone areas in Pakistan and faces multiple hazards such as landslides, avalanches, mudslides and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). It remains cut-off from the rest of Pakistan for months in winter when Lawari and Shandure Passes are snowed in, making this area more vulnerable when disaster strikes during this seasons. Since her childhood Miraj has lived with disaster and wanted to be involved in activities which save lives. Her dream came true once she joined Search and Rescue (SAR) Program of FOCUS Pakistan. Miraj along with other 7 team members have actively participated in many rescue operations at the local level as well as taking part in the South-Asia earthquake of October 2005 which killed 87,000 people and left 3 million homeless. She along with other colleagues came to Islamabad and then to Muzafarabad/Kashmir in the AKF helicopter. "Ah... my God such a tragedy, I'd never seen such a panic... helpless situation". When we reached Margalla Towers, men, women and children were buried under great slabs of rubbles of what used to be a high-rise building. I could see people sobbing and crying for help to rescue their dear one. The truth is I was really scared until we were able to rescue a 45 years old woman; I was so excited to see her alive and I cheered for our success.

Miraj belongs to one of the most conservative villages called Seenlasht in Chital. Of course, she needs a prior permission to go any where outside her village. Even one night spent away from home was unheard for her before joining SAR. However, her family is very supportive and her father encouraged her to go for humanitarian purpose. People still criticize us by saying "it is not women work" and "your uniform is non traditional". So perhaps it is not surprising that she wears search and rescue uniform like her male colleagues but at some places she is still reluctant to wear it.

She received a number of training courses in basic search and rescue techniques, however a more advanced training she recently received from RAPID-UK with financial support from DIPECHO enabled Miraj to learn more about search and rescue techniques. For the first time in her life she saw and used a disc cutter, chainsaw, drill machine, snake eye camera, vibraphone, CO2 detector etc. Disc cutter was heavy and even her male colleagues said that being a woman "you can not handle it". The females proved them wrong and handled the equipment as confidently as their male counterparts. The training has enhanced her skills to play a vital role in saving human life during disasters. Initially she was reluctant to wear the uniform which is orange jumpsuits and also participate in the discussions during the training. She was very shy of her poor English and even Urdu. However, she gained confidence with time and found the training sessions more interesting and beneficial and now is excited. "I am skilled enough to save more lives".

She wants to be a school teacher and wishes to transfer her knowledge to the school children as she believes they are the most vulnerable in disasters.



Awareness about disaster save lives

A case study from Damass, Northern Areas, Pakistan



Faryaid Shah, 32, is a Captain of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Damass Cluster. He runs a general store Ghakuched main Bazar. Ghakuch is a valley which consists of 5 villages, including Damass. Most of the people farmers and almost 80 percent of the houses are katcha (build from mud).

4th August 2006 was a hot and humid day in Ghakuch valley. There was no sign of rain and everyone seemed to be going towards Ghizer river which passes through Ghakuch for fresh air.

Faryaid and his friends also planned to close their respective shops at around 2:00 p.m. and go to the riverside for fresh air. As they came closer to the river, they saw lightening in the mountains and heard a thunder in mountains above the valley. From training he had received from FOCUS, Faryaid immediately knew that this could be an indication for flash flood and debris flow which can affect the low-lying areas of his village.

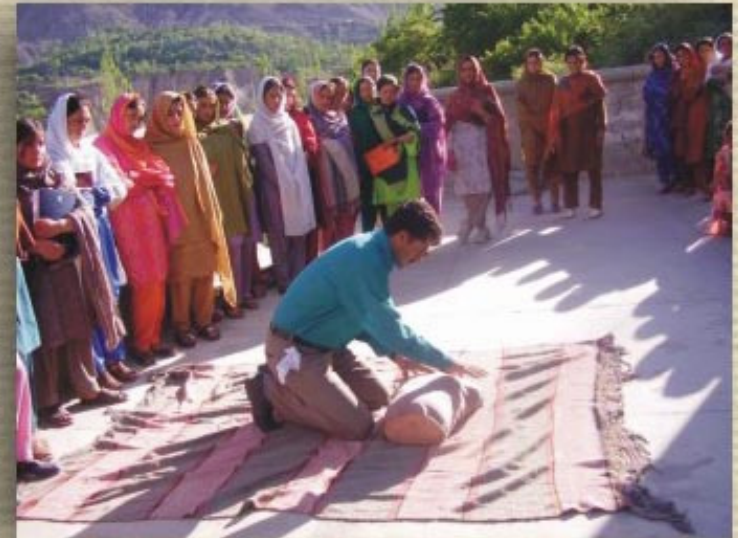
Faryaid immediately contacts other volunteers from the CERT and asks them to warn the inhabitants of low-lying areas of Damass to leave their houses and move to higher grounds. Faryaid along with his friends travelled on a kacha track up to the gorge of the Damass nullah on a motorbike. He could see boulders and mud flowing down towards valley. He realized that it is going to washout the settlements in village Damass. The debris flow changed its direction. They realized that the girl's hostel was in the way of the debris flow. The girls were having lunch when they heard the warning from the volunteers. They started to run for safer places.

By 2:45, the debris flow reached Damass settlements areas destroying everything in its path: houses, cattle-yards, orchards, and the irrigation system. It took two to three hours to settle down. Faryaid and other CERT members took stock of the damages in their area. They were happy that due to early warning there were no casualties. The debris flow subsided at the time of dusk, however the flash-flood was still running and people were unable go their houses. Together volunteers from CERT and Village Emergency Response Teams (VERT) provided tents and blankets to the people who could not be shifted to houses. The female volunteers arranged food and all night long volunteers remained alert and posted volunteers on different locations to look out for any danger signs.

Next morning around 200 volunteers from different regions reached the effected area and helped to recover household items. The FOCUS Disaster Assessment Team from Gilgit also reached the effected village to carryout need assessment. The volunteers were able to provide early warning, evacuation as well as relief within the 12 hours of the disaster without outside help.

Lesson Learnt

- Timely warning saved lives.
- Awareness of natural hazards can prevent and reduce the suffering.
- Timely relief in such disaster can minimize further losses.
- Community involvement is key factor for resilience





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Humanitarian Aid

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Hall for Disaster Preparedness and Awareness

Preparedness and Mitigation

Community Benefit

Hadayatullah Felt Relieved

Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Preparedness & Mitigation in Vulnerable Communities, Bela

Hadayatullah, 55, no more lives in a consistent nightmare of seasonal flash floods hitting his sources of livelihood and depriving him of his life long savings.

Hadayatullah, by profession is a teacher, managing a public sector middle grade boys school and lives in the village Ishaqani Goth of Bela tehsil in District Lasbela.

He still recalls the torrential floods that hit his village in 2005, endangering many houses, vast agriculture land and the school. However, the most painful scene was when he saw flood water flowing into his ancestral graveyard and sucking out dead bodies. He saw three dead bodies floating.

His pain is now relieved because of Mercy Corps work. As part of disaster risk reduction, Mercy Corps has raised a flood protection wall on left bank of Naeg dora (irrigation channel), an off shoot of Purali river. The school, remaining portion of the graveyard and homes are no more threatened by floods therefore bring confidence to the community that they can reconstruct and consolidate their life in there.

Located in the arid Balochistan province, over 800 people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. The 700 feet long crucial flood protection wall is 'small intervention with big impact' measure taken as part of the DIPECHO project funded by European Commission Humanitarian Aid department. The project is designed to help people reclaim the lost land.

A significant feature of the project is the involvement of the community. As in the construction of the wall the villagers contributed in the shape of digging the ground and filling sand over the stone pitching. Hadayat Ullah is happy that the community is also mobilized and has formed a Citizen Community Board that is helping it to strengthen unity among villagers and motivate them to take action at their own for community benefit and development.



The doll has gone back to school

Shakeela, 14, could have been in grade 7 but is in grade 5, a bit elder for this class. The reason, she could not go to school for two years because she had to undergo an essential household chore of bringing drinking water from a distance outside the village, taking about 4 hours to bring around 10 litre of water. The water for household use was cater to by the five hand-pumps sunk to shallow depth (50 ft) of undrinkable saline water. She had to go early in the morning to bring water, due to which she was unable to reach school in time.

Being youngest in the family, she is a pampered child. Family calls her *Guriya* (doll). The family was forced to withdraw her from school because food and shelter is its top priority followed by education.

Guriya has 3 other sisters and 8 brothers. But some of them have either shifted to metropolitan Karachi city or adjoining areas or supporting family to earn its living. Her father, Raza, used to work as daily wager in the Karachi city, around four hours drive from village Kumacha of Bela tehsil in District Lasbela. Now he has shifted back and cultivating a small piece of agriculture land.

The credit for bringing back Guriya to school goes to Mercy Corps, which is implementing disaster preparedness DIPECHO project of European Commission Humanitarian Aid department. The crucial intervention is being carried out in the arid Balochistan province.

Mercy Corps has installed two new hand-pumps with a depth of 100 feet in April 2006 that has made potable water to Goth Kumacha. These hand-pumps provide relief to the Kumacha community not only from using the contaminated water from hand-pumps dug only 40 feet deep that get contaminated during floods in the village. Now the 100 ft deep hand-pumps installed at public places, maintained by the Khas-kheli Development Citizen Community Board, Kumacha save women and girls from going to distance to bring water.

It brought relief for Shakeela many other young girls and women from the everyday physical exertion. She resumed her education in mid of 2006 from grade 4 and successfully passed through the annual exams.

As the girls' school in Kumacha is up to grade 5, Shakeela is committed to continue her education in middle school (grade 8) in village Noutani Goth which is at a distance of 4 km from her village. She wants to be a doctor to serve suffering women in her village.





I have been earning for the last 6 years and saved a handsome amount to rebuild my home. I was very happy when I shifted my family to the newly constructed home.

I arranged a small function at my home and invited the relatives. It was the happiest day of my life. Last year monsoon season was very active and it rained heavily which caused heavy floods. These floods brought destructions to our village because the nearby river was over flowing and very quickly flood entered into our houses. We were unable to save our belongings.

I was much worried to see this situation and could not do any thing to save precious households. Suddenly the boundary wall of my house collapsed because the water did not recede as the drainage system was not good enough. It was full of clay and mud, which caused the collapse. I wish I had constructed a proper drainage system and kept it clean.

Strength:- He worked hard and saved money to constructed new home for this family.
Weakness:- He was ignorant about proper drainage system and never knew the importance of clean drains.





I always gave importance to education therefore, I admitted my daughter in her early age that she could get education. I was happy because my daughter was doing well. She scored 90% in here subjects and was one of the favourite pupils of her teachers. They loved her as she participated in school extra curricular activities.

Keeping in view her interest and her performance in education I decided to send her to the college. I was always thankful to Allah for granting me such a lovely and intelligent daughter.

Time passed and she did her matriculation successfully and obtained 95% marks. As I had already planned to get her admission in one of the best college of Peshawar, so she started her college education and kept the same path of success. I was very happy and proud when she secured A+ in FSc. exams. I celebrated her achievement and decided to get her admission in Medical College as she wished to become a doctor and served the humanity. Though it was a difficult task but I decided to do so.

Before her entry test she fell ill. I took her to the hospital and she went through some medical tests. Finally the doctor diagnosed that she had typhoid and she was unable to attempt medical college entry test as she had to remain in bed for many days. The doctor wrote in her report that water being used for drinking purpose at my home was not good for health as it contained harmful bacteria. When I personally checked the water source of my house, I found it very much sub standard because the well was not fully protected and was always at risk of contaminations.

Strength: He was well aware of the importance of education.
Weaknesses: He had no knowledge on health and hygiene.



International Rescue Committee

The IRC is a global leader in emergency relief, rehabilitation, protection of human rights, post-conflict development, resettlement services and advocacy for those uprooted or affected by violent conflict, oppression, natural and human-made disasters. The IRC was established in 1933 and has been working in Pakistan since 1980

Islamic Relief

Islamic Relief UK is an international relief and development organization which seeks to promote sustainable economic and social development by working with local communities through relief and development programmes. Islamic Relief has its headquarters in Birmingham, UK and offices over 30 countries across Europe, USA, Asia and Africa. Islamic Relief Started working in Pakistan in 1992 Its work in Pakistan focuses on:

Community Development, Orphan Welfare, Health, WATSAN, Sustainable Livelihoods, Disaster Preparedness

Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps works amid disasters, conflicts, chronic poverty and instability to unleash the potential of people who can win against impossible odds. Since 1979, Mercy Corps has provided \$1 billion in assistance to people in 82 nations. It has headquarters offices in North America, Europe, and Asia. In Pakistan, Mercy Corps has been operational since 1986, providing humanitarian aid and development assistance. Mercy Corps' activities have included drought relief and rehabilitation services, agricultural support, community development, veterinary care, community-health education and training, health services, construction, disaster preparedness, and infrastructure rehabilitation with a special emphasis on water systems, irrigation and sanitation. Participatory approaches have been applied successfully and it has helped formation of Citizen Community Boards in many districts. In addition to development activities, Mercy Corps has played a leading role in responding to emergencies in Pakistan like floods in Balochistan province and October 8, 2005 disaster in North West Frontier Province and Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Oxfam

Oxfam GB is working with others to overcome poverty and suffering in more than 70 countries. Oxfam GB seeks increased worldwide public understanding that economic and social justice are crucial to sustainable development and works to find lasting solutions to poverty, suffering and injustice. Oxfam GB is working with others to overcome poverty and suffering in more than 70 countries. Oxfam GB seeks increased worldwide public understanding that economic and social justice are crucial to sustainable development and works to find lasting solutions to poverty, suffering and injustice. The focus of Oxfam's work in Pakistan is to help the poorest and most vulnerable women make a better living while reducing their vulnerability to disasters and violence.

Focus Humanitarian Assistance Pakistan

Focus Humanitarian Assistance is an international group of agencies established in Europe, North America and South Asia to complement the provision of emergency relief, principally in the developing world. It helps people in need reduce their dependence on humanitarian aid and facilitates their transition to sustainable self-reliant, long-term development. Focus Humanitarian Assistance is affiliated with the Aga Khan Development Network, a group of institutions working to improve opportunities and living conditions, for people of all faiths and origins, in specific regions of the developing world.