

NOOR EDUCATION TRUST, PESHAWAR

REPORT

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2010



TITLE OF THE PROJECT

Emergency Relief to Flood Affecties
District Nowshehra, Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa, Pakistan

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COMPILED AND SUBMITTED BY:
Nehar Muhammad, Programme Manager

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1. BACK GROUND

Pakistan in the recent decade remains vulnerable to constant militancy, conflicts and natural disasters that included earthquakes, devastating floods and draught related crisis which has adversely affected and increased vulnerability of more than 27 million people in the country to a bleak future. The last spell of monsoon rains and climatic changes in the region has had most drastic impact on Pakistan. The July, 2010 floods played havoc with the lives and properties of the people of Pakistan. The devastating rains affected more than 20 million people. According to government sources the wide scale floods inundated one fifth of the country. The first spell of the disaster started north of Pakistan from Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa Province destroying villages, towns and infrastructure in 15 out of 24 districts. Areas up in the north of the province remained cut off in the initial weeks of the flood; people marooned in different pockets of the area had no access to rescue or relief services for days due to consistent rains and bad weather. The whole nation was in shock of this sudden and apparently unexpected scale of floods. According to the estimates millions of houses across the country, while destruction caused in KPK is quoted to be; over and above 288000 houses damaged or destroyed 2200 People dead and 4.5 million populations displaced.



Amongst the central districts; Charsadda and Nowshera were the worst affected. Parts of the districts had become in-accessible for the first few days. The flood hit areas suffered severe shortage of clean drinking water, food and non-food items, medicines, Hygiene and other day to day basic needs. In some areas almost all houses and shops were fully or partially submerged and damaged badly rendering it unsafe for habitation. Survivors were compelled to stay under the open sky for weeks, in colonies and government schools further away from their home communities in drastic conditions direly needing assistance. The initial response of the government was painfully slow as opposed to the initiatives of individual volunteers and non-government organizations including local, national and international organizations who had responded immediately to the crisis in support with one another.

Like other contemporary organization Noor Education Trust, Peshawar felt morally obliged too to at least help its working districts in some way or another. The working district of NET include; Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera and Mardan to which it responded by providing cooked food, clean drinking water, hygiene items and cash for women. To contribute to the immediate needs of the flood affected communities NET also took an initiative with support of other civil society organizations to form a network of local and national organizations on an emergency basis for a more coordinated and better response to the crisis. [See details under

Coordination/Network], Later this coordination led to immediate data collection and quick assessments of the affected area for prioritized needs. This preliminary assessment resulted in two immediate short term project proposals for donor funds and at the same time streamlined financial support for the most emerging needs from individual donors who were looking for organizations that could use their donations in the most appropriate manner. Financial support from donor agencies came from Heinrich Böll Stiftung (HBS), Pakistan and Trocaire - Pakistan. This report covers the progress of relief efforts supported through HBS for 1000 families in district Nowshera. Goals and objectives of the project were as follows;

1.1. PROJECT GOAL

To reduce human sufferings associated with floods

PROJECT PURPOSE

To ensure easy access to food and non-food items for 1000 families in district Nowshera.

EXPECTED RESULTS/ OUTCOME

Flood affected families have easy and safe access to food and non-food items.

- 1200 vulnerable families in the flood affected villages of union council Kheski and Nowshehra Kalan are able to receive one week food ration.
- 1000 women in the selected area are enabled to improve their personal hygiene by receiving 1000 personal hygiene kits.
- Women representatives of 1000 households in project area are provided with basic utensils for cooking to feed their families with home cooked meals.

2. COORDINATION/NETWORKING

Noor Education Trust immediately after the flood calamity hit the province facilitated and hosted an emergency meeting of Peshawar based civil society organizations, that initially included Aurat Foundation [AF], Pakistan Rural Development Programme [PRDP], Citizens Rights and Sustainable Development [CRSD], Khuwendo Kor [KK], Strengthening Participatory Organizations [SPO] and All Women's Association, Research and Development [AWARD]. The meeting resulted in the formation of a Network for Humanitarian Assistance [NHA]. Members from the network pooled in resources and initiated immediate relief assistance in pockets of the flood affected areas. Later on other national and local based organizations joined in, including district based groups. The district groups support the network members in situational analysis, area assessments and further facilitation in reaching out to different communities by joining forces for the relief work. The network members are in constant contact and are raising individual funds on organizational basis and collaborating in assessment, listing and mitigating issues.



3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

3.1. ASSESSMENT

A rapid preliminary assessment and data collection related to the flood affected communities, families and individuals in union council [UC] Kheski, Nowshehra Kalan and Nowshehra Cantt in district Nowshehra was carried out, data was mostly gathered from the sources comprised of NET network members, district partners, and general assessments visits. In addition flood affectees lists prepared by different community volunteers and activist in villages of the mentioned UC's were also collected, analysed and re-assessed. The preliminary assessment highlighted the scale and intensity of the flood crisis, gapes in terms of access to areas and assistance including sever food security issues, clean drinking water, basic health and hygiene needs.

In view of the preliminary assessments NET organized re-assessment visits in second week of August, 2010 to the flood affected villages and sites of UC Kheski, Pir Sabaq, Nowshehra Cantt and Nowshehra Kalan in district Nowshehra. The findings showed that previously selected Union Council Pir Sabaq had been meanwhile receiving food and non-food assistance both from government and non-government organizations along with other necessary items. Similarly affectees in



UC Nowshehra Kalan and Nowshehra Cantt were also accessing cooked food and non-food items with the army support.

But despite the growing efforts for continued support to the flood affected in areas which were initially neglected, there were still some parts of Nowshehra which were neglected. Union Council Kheski lying in the peripheries of the older and congested Nowshehra city was still not being provided sufficient support to

reach and cover all even after two weeks of the floods. Villages which were covered during assessment in UC Kheski included Kandi Garizia, Aba Khel, Janda Khel, Khattak, Peeran, Umarzia, Nowkhyian, Babian, Mera Khel, Abish Khel, Aratoona, Shiekh Shebaz Baba in Keshki Payan and Kandi Lali Khel, Kandi Muhammad Haleem, Enki, Mitta Khel, Durrani Kandi and Baba Kandi in Kheski Bala.

Affectees particularly living at the brink of river Kabul in UC Kheski were compelled to shift and take refuge in temporary shelter at government schools, relatives, host community, hospitals and mosques.

Assessment of immediate needs showed sever food shortage, lack of clean drinking water, water filtration plants, basic health, kitchen and hygiene kits for women and young girls together with demands for financial assistance for repair and

reconstructions of damaged houses and shops. In addition elements of stress and trauma were found in general among the flood affectees; particularly women and children. Prime anxiety factors were related to the loss of their homes and hearth and the anxiety of how they were going to rebuild it.

3.2. SELECTION OF AREA

Noor Education Trust initially selected Union Council Pir Sabaq in district Nowshehra for being one of the most effected and neglected village for the project implementation. However in the light of the preliminary assessment and later through physical assessment visits to the flood affected areas/villages mentioned above revealed that union council Pir Sabaq was approached and was receiving food and non-food items both from government and non-government organizations. The media coverage of the area had helped it, to gain more prominence and popular support.

In the light of the new findings Noor Education Trust shifted its focus from UC Pir Sabaq to UC Kheskhi. UC Kheskhi comprises of two main localities Kheskhi Bala and Kheskhi Payan. The total estimated population of Kheskhi is 0.5 million. It was also on the list of the worst affected Union Council of district Nowshehra. In addition to the UC Kheskhi NET in accordance with the finding of the assessments also selected families living in hamlets of UC Nowshehra Kalan and Cantt in district Nowshehra.



3.3. RELIEF SUPPORT ITEMS SELECTION

Keeping in view the findings of the assessments and to respond to the basic food needs of the flood affected families in UC Kheskhi. NET design food package, which could cover the basic needs of 5 to 7 member family for one week. The items included in the food packages were based on the demands that the items should easily cook and could also be stored for few days [For list see table 1.1]. In addition to the food packages, Kitchen Kits/utensils for cooking were also distributed among the flood affectees of Kheskhi Bala and Payan [For details list see table 1.2]. The criterion for selection of food quantity was based on nutritional value of the food items in accordance with the UN Sphere standards.

Table 1.1

DRY FOOD PACKAGE		
S #	ITEMS	QUANTITY
1	Rice	2 Kg
2	Sugar	2 Kg
3	Oil/Ghee	2 Kg
4	Flour	10 Kg
5	Pulses	2 Pack
6	Tea	¼- Kg

Table: 1.2

KITCHEN KIT		
S #	ITEMS	QUANTITY
1	Kettle	1
2	Plates	3
3	Tawa	1
4	Cooking Spoon	1
5	Cooking Pots	1
6	Dough Kneading Tray	1

Apart from the food and kitchen kits the needs of the flood affectees women and young girls were also analysed and taken into account in the project design. Initially women and young girls were provided the hygiene kits at Kheshki Bala, Kheshki Payan and Nowshehra Cantt. Basic items were included in the kit for the proper cleanliness and hygiene of the affectees. [Foe details see table 1.3]

Table: 1.3

HYGIENE KITS		
S #	ITEMS	QUANTITY
1	Towels- small/medium	2
2	Toilet Soups	2
3	Panties	2
4	Sanitary Pads	2 Packs
5	Maswak	5
6	Nail Cutter	1

3.4 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- **CRITERIA FOR HOUSEHOLD SELECTION:** Selection of flood affected families, vulnerable groups and individuals was solely based on UN definition of extremely vulnerable groups or individuals. Priority was given to single women house hold, widows, orphans and disabled. In addition further priority

was given to families, whose houses were completely or partially damaged by the floods and were residing at the brink of river Kabul. The much neglected minority groups were also included in the number of targeted beneficiary.

Random and planned visits together with the community elders, activist and members from flood response and support committees were made, so that transparency in terms of aid could be maintained and monitored.

- **FLOOD RESPONSE AND SUPPORT COMMITTEES:** For better, transparent and systematic selection of affected villages/areas and identification of vulnerable groups and families a Flood Response and Support Committee was formed from amongst each cluster community using the principle of participatory approach. The purpose for establishing such committees was to involve the community in implementation of the project. The FRSC's extended their volunteer services in identification of further volunteer, enlisting of affected families, vulnerable groups, families and individuals. In addition identification and selection of a safe distribution point was also included as part of their responsibility. Furthermore, support was extended by the FRSC's in distribution of tokens for food, kitchen and hygiene kits and maintaining order during the distributions of the mentioned packages. The list of committee members in each location is attached as an annex-II

The involvement of FRSC proved to be an excellent approach in smooth distribution of the relief good as well as identifying and locating the most deserving groups for relief support. It also ensured safe access of the vulnerable groups/individuals to the relief aid.

- **PURCHASE COMMITTEE:** A purchasing committee comprising of three NET staff members and one from partner group was formed to review quotation and take decision about the most appropriate vendors. The objective of establishing purchase committee was to receive quotation from vendors, selection and finalization of quotation, to keep check on quality and quantity of food and non-food items through random check and to ensure the in time availability of packages to the target area. Purchase committee also checked the quality of goods through follow up feedback from the beneficiary households that helped in further improving the packaging of the goods.
- **DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE OF RELIEF ITEMS:** During assessment a lists of 1448 vulnerable families and individuals in UC Kheski Bala, Payan, Nowshehra Kalan and Cantt in district Nowshehra were collected/registered. In addition in re-assessments a total of 1200 families for food and 1000 women each for Kitchen and Hygiene Kits were selected.

The total targeted households for food packages were 1200. Food packages primarily covered and distribution to a total of 640 families i.e. 320 families each in Kheshki Bala and Payan and 560 families living in hamlets of Nowshehra Cantt and Nowshehra Kalan i.e. 360 families were covered families in Nowshehra Kalan and 200 families from minority communities [Christians] in Nowshehra Cantt. In the mentioned 1200 families a total of 16.6 % were minorities, while 8.33% were widows. In addition families selected for food packages, Kitchen and Hygiene kits were from low income families and the broad source of income are farmers, boat sailors, daily wagers, labors, masons and teachers.

Apart from the above 1200 food packages 1000 Kitchen Kits were also provided to 1000 households and 1000 women/ young girls were given personal hygiene kits. The overall relief support catered to an approximately 7000 individual beneficiaries. The distribution schedule of relief goods is attached as an annex-I.

Separate distribution points in coordination with Flood Response and Support Committees were selected in the above areas to better facilitate women and men. In addition security concerns were properly dealt in support from FRSC's and with the help of the local police during the distribution.

4. MONITORING

For better and in time implementation of the project, all the activities were properly monitored. In addition efforts were made to reach the needy and extremely vulnerable groups, families and individuals. For the purpose, coordination meetings with Flood Response and Support Committees established in the flood affected areas were held, cross checking of affectees' lists was under taken, distribution of tokens and proper registration and record of the data was ensured. In addition a policy was adapted to distribute the food, kitchen and hygiene packages through women by cross



examination of their computerized national identity cards or verification through the FRSC members.

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The one month short project funded by HBS tried maximum participation both from men and women community members. Traditional resistance and reluctance to women's involvement in the relief aid was initially found in Union Council Kheshki. At number of instances particularly before and during kitchen and hygiene kits distribution, men folk expressed reluctance to allow their women to collect the kitchen and hygiene kits. Serious deliberations were made both with men and women community members during implementation process that eventually helped the NET team to convince the community to allow their women to collect the kitchen and hygiene kits upon the condition that no male staff member from NET will

participate in distribution. The Flood Response and Support Committees were able to facilitate the NET team in achieving the desired results.

5. CONSOLIDATED OUTCOME OF THE PROJECT

The Noor Education Trust successfully achieved the objective and results set out in the proposal. The in time access to the flood affected areas particularly to union council Kheshki in district Nowshehra had shown successful results. In addition



minorities previously residing in Hoti Khel and its localities of union council Nowshehra Kalan were dispersed due to floods devastations and had taken refuge in Khattak Kali, Madina Colony, ASC colony, armoured colony and Nowshehra cantt Aziz Butti road in union council Nowshehra Cantt. The minorities were to a great extent ignored by the organizations accessed for relief activities in the areas.

Furthermore, widows and single women house headed families in Hoti Khel in UC Nowshehra Kalan, distribution of Kitchen and Hygiene kits were solely provided for the first time by the Noor Education Trust in Kheshki Bala and Payan. In addition extensive remote areas/villages specifically in UC Kheshki Bala and Payan were also approached.

Further need assessment for recovery and re-construction would allow the Noor Education Trust to look into the protection issues together with initiative for women empowerment. Next prioritized need/demand of the community is for reconstruction of their houses before the onset of winter.