

**Shirkat Gah Flood¹ Relief Work
Sitrep till/as of 18 August 2010**

Shirkat Gah (SG)'s Methodology and geographical areas of focus:

- SG is concentrating on areas where its partner Community-based organizations (CBOs) are located and where SG has previously had the experience of working. These areas in different provinces include the following:
 1. Khyber Pakhtunkhawa (KPK): Nowshera, Charsadda, Swat
 2. Punjab: Muzaffargarh, Bhakkar and Rajanpur.
 3. Sindh: Shahdaskot, Jacobabad
 4. Baluchistan: Usta Mohammad, Jafferabad
- SG teams are visiting flood-affected areas in order to assess the changing situation and also the specific needs for community (particularly women) and to distribute relief packages with the help of our CBO partners.

Relief packages & distribution:

- SG has started dispatching relief goods to selected communities and will continue to do so subject to money available.
- SG has developed a food coupon system whereby it distributes food on presentation of a food coupon that it had given out to families earlier (during initial assessment). One family gets one token. Each token has the relevant information of the family on it and after it has been filled, one copy is kept by SG for its records whilst the other copy is with the family. On the day of food distribution, each family presents the token and receives a food packet.

Activities undertaken by SG so far:

Province, teams, Partners	Selected Sites	Details
<p><u>(i) PUNJAB:</u></p> <p>Field teams: Ahmed Raza, Fareha Arshed</p> <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SYCOP (Social Youth Council of Patriots) – in Muzaffargarh • DSCW (District Social Welfare Council) – in Bhakkar • Sangtani – in Rajanpur 	<p>Muzaffargarh</p>	<p><u>Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial assessment was done by our field team, Ahmed Raza and Fareha who visited 3 villages in Muzaffargarh district: <i>Tibbi Balochan; Tibbi Kareem Abad and Basti Rug.</i> • 300 families were selected with the help of our local partner, SYCOP. The numbers of pregnant (42 in total were pregnant 38 of which were from Tibbi Balochan), lactating and disabled women as well as their specific needs were identified. There were 5 cases of expected deliveries in this month. • The main diseases identified were eye infections, coughs, skin diseases, diarrhea, fever, and throat infection. • The team also met with WHO (World Health Organisation) and WFP (World Food Programme) cluster representatives. <p><u>Relief package distribution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and non-food items (NFI) for Muzaffargarh were purchased and organized into 300 family packs (for a family of 6 for 1 week) for <u>300 families</u> in

¹ **Please note:** The flood waters have traveled from north of the country to the south along the great rivers like river Indus. So Gilgit Baltistan (GB), where all the glaciers are, and KPK were affected first followed by Punjab and then Sindh and Baluchistan. This was all preceded by a hurricane (hurricane Phet) that hit Baluchistan and Sindh and a plane crash in the national capital, Islamabad.

		<p>Muzaffargarh.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFI including sanitary napkins for women and a medicines kit with basic medicines including ointment for scabies treatment. 150 of these packs include liquid milk and bottles for infants. The goods have been dispatched from the Lahore office via 1 truck and 1 van and have reached the Multan city (near Muzaffargarh) on the night of 18th August despite having an accident earlier. 2 distribution points have been set up: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tibbi Balochan (village) – aims to distribute family packs to 240 families. SYCOP Office – in Muzaffargarh town, aims to distribute family pack to 60 families.
<p><u>(ii) SINDH:</u></p> <p><u>Coordinator:</u> Hameeda</p> <p><u>Field:</u> Aijaz Malik & Shahzadi Hussain</p> <p><u>Partners:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pirbhat Women's Development Society (PWDS) NDS (NGOs Development Society) 	Shahdadt	<p><u>Assessment for both Sindh & Baluchistan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since roads were closed, the field team was delayed in their visit for needs assessment. However, they have gone in now and have sent their initial assessments. They went to Sukkur town as the central base station and from their proceeded to Usta Mohammad (Baluchistan) In Baluchistan-SG was amongst the first 2 NGOs to reach people there.
<p><u>(iii) BALOCHISTAN:</u></p> <p><u>Coordinator:</u> Hameeda Kaleem</p> <p><u>Field:</u> Siraj Bashir</p> <p><u>Partners:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nissa Women Welfare and Social Development Organisation SHADE <p><u>Youth groups</u> SG has worked with have volunteered as well</p>	Usta Mohammad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> So far they have said that needs in Usta Mohammad include mainly food, clean water and tents Whilst in Shahdadt people have asked for medicines and tents. They have also been in touch with partner organizations in trying to assess the number of families we can cater to. It was noted that contrary to other places, some of these families have the cooking capacity. <p>More updates are expected in this week.</p>
<p><u>(iv) Khyber Pakhtunkhawa (KPK):</u></p> <p><u>Coordinator:</u> Saira Bano</p>	Charsadda, Nowshera, Swat	<p><u>Initial work and future demands:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SG has distributed food and organized 2 medical camps - in Charsadda district (one of the worst hit and first to be devastated districts). The

<p><u>Field teams:</u> Saira Bano, Mohammad Faisal, Sadaf Malik, Shagufta Hidayat, Khial Rukh Khan, Raheela Ali, Tehsilullah, Jalal Khan <i>(since the Peshawar Office is small, all of the staff members have been taking turns in going to the field)</i></p> <p><u>Partners:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• United Youth Welfare Society (Charsadda, Nowshera)• MRDO – Movement for Rural Development Organisation (Swat)		<p>medical camps were set up in partnership with Pakistan Reproductive Health Network (PRHN) coordinator in Peshawar, Dr. M. Tufail, who is also the Principal of the Regional Training Institute (RTI), Peshawar, Ministry of Population Welfare (MoPW), Government of Pakistan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linked up and attended the Govt. and UN meetings and shared the work it is doing to prevent duplication². The teams have been coordinating with others including District Coordination Officers (DCOs), the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), UN clusters and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and with NGOs like Kwando Kor (KK) etc.• SG Peshawar office has sent a further demand of relief packages for 2500 families for 15 days and to set up 9 medical camps in KPK. However, due to budget constraints these numbers will be revised. Furthermore, SG is looking at more options of partnerships to be able to distribute the work.• Peshawar Office field teams are continuing to do field assessments and this week are in Nowshera and Swat for that. They will provide fresh data soon. However, in Swat the initial reports are talking about people having abandoned entire villages and these becoming ghost villages.• The field teams have been crossing rivers in Swat – where all bridges have been broken – in chair lifts• 9 packages of clothing, shoes and some toys for children have been sent off to the Peshawar office from Lahore for distribution over there.• For now SG will distribute relief packages in Nowshera.• Dr. Saman's visit (9-10 Aug):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Many villages in Charsadda districts destroyed and people living on the motorway connecting Peshawar and Islamabad.○ Parts of Nowshera submerged in water and only tree tops visible○ 1st medical camp was set up and received 300 patients. Dr. Tufail documented all
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² All field staff is doing this

		<p>patients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main diseases: skin disease (Scabies); diarrhea in children; typhoid; Hep-C ○ Need for clothes and shoes have also been identified and should be bought from Peshawar and distributed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Previous work (end-Jul/1st week Aug): Camps set up to collect donations (Rs. 37,000) and door to door collections (rs.26,000) for rescue work.
<p><u>Islamabad and Lahore:</u></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SG has coordinated its efforts nationally too and joined the National Humanitarian Network (NHN). This network is composed of NGOs involved in Humanitarian work and has now also met with the Govt. via the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). ● Attended different cluster meetings organized by the UN i.e. of WASH, agriculture etc. ● Submitted proposals to different donors to raise funds for its relief work and has received funds ● SG was part of the NGO delegation that was invited by the President of Pakistan, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari at the Presidency on 17th August 2010. The President acknowledged the work of the NGOs, listened to their activities and suggestions and expressed a wish that this kind of forum should be repeated every 3 months. The meeting was arranged through the Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education (SW/SE) on the behest of the Federal Minister SW/SE, Ms. Samina Ghurki and coordinated by the Federal Secretary SW/SE, Mr. Ather Tahir. ● SG is regularly sending out appeals to friends, families, networks and partners/donors to raise funds and ● SG is regularly placing our updates and appeals on the website (www.shirkatgah.org)

Issues/Challenges:

Immediate:

- Many bridges, which have been broken in the FATA and Swat areas, have cut off the people there from the main parts thus isolating them.
- An alarming situation which has been observed is that banned militant groups that have been responsible for the current insurgency in Pakistan like Jamatt ud Dawa etc. are providing food and shelter and setting up camps. They are filling the gap where the Govt. or other NGOs have not been able to reach. They must be stopped.
- In areas like Chitral and Bajaur Agency, since bridges are broken, and these are already Taliban strongholds, it is difficult for Govt. or NGOs to reach; the army needs to focus there.

- At a current NHN meeting, the most pertinent issue that was raised was that the NDMA should do away with to a condition for NGOs to get a No Objection Certificates (NOC) from them in order to work in the flood affected areas particularly the registered organizations.
- One more issue that was raised in the Peshawar meeting was the increasing number of missing women and children. They are neither dead nor accounted for, so the big fear is that they have been kidnapped!
- Whenever a calamity hits, like during the 2005 Earthquake, gangs of robbers, looters and kidnappers start taking advantage of the vulnerable.
- SG is finding it difficult to organize field medical camps (apart from KPK) as there is a shortage of doctors.
- The food items have become scarce in the market and their prices have reached sky high.
- Many people do not have the facility to cook food in the place they have moved too.
- The rural women, who are also farmers in many areas, are being ignored in agricultural surveys. Many women felt shy of coming in front of men and giving their views in recent surveys of crop damage in wet clothes and on account of having lost their *chaddars*, as reported at the agriculture cluster meeting. The sowing of the Rabi crop is due and is an urgent issue.

Future:

- Crops and livestock have been destroyed (completely in many areas) so there is likely to be an up-coming famine. We need to prepare for this (an issue that was strongly raised at the President's meeting too).
- Many flood affectees have been housed in schools that were currently shut due to school holidays. Now, as the school year will begin soon, the enrolled children will be unable to study in the occupied schools, which is another national calamity.

Report prepared by Ms. Sadia Ahmed and Dr. Saman Yazdani Khan