

AN URGENT CALL FOR HELP

Rainstorms/Floods Situation in Skardu Baltistan

Summary

GRACE is an Islamabad-based Non Governmental Organisation with a dedicated team of staff, enthusiastic volunteers, and a network of supporters throughout the world. GRACE has been working in the Skardu area for decades, committed to improving the quality of life of the marginalised and vulnerable communities of North East Pakistan. However, this is a crisis that requires your immediate action.

Estimated Urgent Relief Requirement:

USD= US\$146500.00

Maximum respect for all

The Skardu & Ganche districts of Gilgit-Baltistan in northern Pakistan have been hit by devastating floods, the region's worst deluge in 80 years.

At least 55 (fifty five) people, including women and children, have died in the Qumra area and the Talis village at Ganche. Four (4) villages have been totally washed out in Baltistan and bodies recovered from rubble under mud avalanches. Roads and bridges have been washed away, and landslides are increasing the isolation of hit areas.

Houses are buried in mud and rocks, properties destroyed, and cattle lost.

Bad weather has made it impossible for rescue teams reach the affected areas. To make things worse, the monsoon rains show little sign of subsiding.

This is a desperate call for help.

The following captions and report that explains the extent of the damage, what is needed, and how you can help.



1. SUMMARY OF DAMAGES: (Last updated on August 18, 2010)

1.1 Qumra Skardu Village 7TH Aug 2010

	Contents and Experience	Qumra Skardu Village 7 TH Aug 2010
•	Deaths	42 including 4 missing
•	Injured	04
•	House Damaged	55
•	Houses partially damaged	15
•	People without houses	140
•	Cattle shed damaged	15
•	Cattle	2000
•	Total people affected	4900

Livelihoods status: *Almost complete loose of the harvest of wheat, vegetables, apricot trees and fruits and a lot loose of the animals.*

1.2 Talis Ganche 7, Aug 2010

	Contents and Experience	Talis Ganche 7, Aug 2010
•	Deaths	13 dead and 8 missing
•	Injured	10
•	Houses immersed	24
•	Houses partially damaged	31
•	People without houses	250
•	Total people affected	400

Livelihoods Status: *Almost complete loose of the harvest of wheat, vegetables, apricot trees and fruits and a lot loose of the animals.*

1.3 Kwardu Skardu 7, Aug 2010

	Contents and Experience	Kwardu Skardu 7, Aug 2010
•	Deaths	0
•	Injured	0
•	Houses partially damaged	08
•	Cattle shed damaged	30
•	Cattle dead/injured	3000

Livelihoods Status: *Almost complete loose of the harvest of wheat, vegetables, apricot trees and fruits and a lot loose of the animals.*

1.4. Basho Skardu, Aug 08, 2010

	Contents and Experience	Basho Skardu, Aug 08, 2010
•	Deaths	0
•	Injured	0
•	Houses partially damaged	23
•	Inter village suspension bridges damaged	06
•	Total people affected	Unknown

Livelihoods status: *Almost complete loose of the harvest of wheat, vegetables, apricot trees and fruits and a lot loose of the animals.*

1.5. Kharko Khaplu Ganche August, 2010)

	Contents and Experience	Kharko Khaplu Ganche Aug 08, 2010)
•	Deaths	0
•	Injured	0
•	Houses damaged	120
•	Houses partially damaged	320
•	People without houses	1000
•	Total people affected	1500

Livelihoods status: *Almost complete loose of the harvest of wheat, vegetables, apricot trees and fruits and a lot loose of the animals.*

1.6. Ghursay Mashabrum Khaplu Ganche August, 2010

	Contents and Experience	Ghursay Mashabrum Khaplu Ganche August 08,, 2010
•	Deaths	0
•	Injured	0
•	Houses damaged	21
•	Houses partially damaged	32
•	People without houses	500
•	Total people affected	530

Livelihood destruction status: *Almost complete loose of the harvest of wheat, vegetables, apricot trees and fruits and a lot loose of the animals.*

TOTAL SUMMARY

Deaths	Injured	Houses Damaged	Cattle dead	Cattle shed damaged
55	14	106	5000	45

2. RESPONSE AND RELIEF ACTIVITIES

2.1 Local Government and local public are engaged in the rescue and relief activities.

2.2 Relief Efforts by GRACE Association include:

- (a) Rescue and relief works in the affected villages
- (b) Mobilizing local community volunteers and organizations for evacuation of population from threatened villages to safer villages.
- (c) Help in flood water/damaged road crossing
- (d) Contacting the humanitarian organizations for helping the victims

2.3 Immediate Relief Requirements include:

	Items	Quantity
01	Safe drinking water bottles for victims in two camps	5000 litres daily
02	Food Packets	450
03	Hygiene Kits	450
04	Warm Cloths (<i>Winter as since water freeze at night in October in the affected mountainous villages</i>)	4450 victims
05	Plastic Mats to be used for flooring in shelters	450
06	Restoration of drinking water system in two the most affected villages (Kharko and Qumra)	PKRs 1.8 MN
07	Monetary Support for economic recovery	PKRs 5,000,000

Data Sources:, *Pakistanian Red Crescent society, Grace Association, Pakistan, Hamid Hussain and Shamshad Hussain.*

C. Current challenges encountered.

- Provision of safe drinking water to the entire populations of the affected village populations is a burning issue.
- The Karakoram Highway (KKH), (the only by road communication source to Gigit-Baltistan) is yet blocked and the flight landing only once to two times in a week due to bad weather leading to shortages of food and non food items including Kerosene Oils, Fuel and LPG.
- Internet connection is tampered due to the damage to the optical fibre cable throughout KKH. It was repaired by the army but damaged again due to further rain and landslides. The remaining means of communication is the cell phone.
- Rehabilitation of the damaged inter-village bridges and roads as the affected villages are located in the upper and hilly sites.
- Timely provision of relief packages to the affected population.
- Increased danger of outbreak of epidemics due to poor handling of health, food, shelter, water and sanitation issues.
- Post disaster recovery by clearing away mud and landslide debris. Restoration of drinking water and irrigation system is now the top burning need and priority of the victims to move towards rehabilitation and recovery.
- Activation and capacity building of the local community based organizations to create awareness and tackle such kind of disasters.

- Restoration of almost complete loss of the harvest of wheat, vegetables, apricot trees and fruits and a lot loss of the animals. The communities need monetary support for their economic rehabilitation.

Grace Association Pakistan requests your assistance for relief and rehabilitation of the victims living in this isolated and inaccessible region of Skardu and Ganche districts immediately on humanitarian basis. Your donations in cash or kind shall reach affected communities and beneficiaries the soon they are donated. We are also willing to work in partnership with any humanitarian organization interested to work within the affected areas of Baltistan.

Please contact following team members for details and donations:

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GRACE BANK ACCOUNT FOR DONATIONS:

Account Title: Grace Association Pakistan

Account Number: 0224810611001321

Swift Code: MUCBPKKA

Bank Branch: 0597

Aabpara Market Branch Blue Area, Islamabad

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Sincerely,



Khadim Hussain
Chief Executive