

August
2006



Flood
Affectees in
D. I. Khan

Rapid Assessment Report

Impact of Flooding on the Indus River Communities

Rapid Assessment Report



Introduction

When heavy floods hit areas of the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) located on the Indus River in June 2005, more than 3,500 households were affected and over 100 people lost their lives. Despite the extent of the disaster only four relief camps were established in vulnerable areas to provide immediate relief to the victims. The Foundation for Integrated Development Action (FIDA) saw a need for intervention and partnered with OXFAM-GB for the relief and rehabilitation of flood affectees during and after the catastrophe.

In order to continue this work, when the yearly floods occurred again in the summer of 2006, FIDA undertook a rapid assessment survey to determine the extent of the damage and the communities' most pressing needs. A meeting was held on August 4, 2006, during which it was decided to form Cluster Based Community Organizations (CBCOs) to assess specific needs, particularly issues of immediate concern in Food, Water & Sanitation, Health, Shelter and Livestock & Agriculture.

The CBCOs presented their formal reports and findings in their respective sectors. All the findings, plus those of FIDA's assessment team, were consolidated in a report to be shared with the donor community and other relevant stakeholders. The main findings are as follows:

- Total number of villages affected 32
- Average number of households in a village 150
- Average number of affected household in each village 58%
- Average family size 6 persons
- Total estimated persons affected (1,200 HH/families) 1,200

Assessment Report

Food

According to the assessment undertaken by CBCOs and FIDA, there is a need for immediate food support for 7,200 people for at least one month in three Tehsils (Paharpur D. I. Khan, Prova) of District D. I. Khan. Food support would also be needed for a similar period for the 1,200 affectees of western Tehsils (Kulachi and Draban) of District D. I. Khan.



A flood victim inspects his supply of wheat

Water and Sanitation

The CBCOs on Water and Sanitation explored the options for actions to be undertaken to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for the displaced people and to identify the supplies needed in the affected areas and the logistical arrangements for their distribution. This area was identified as a top priority by a majority of communities.



Contaminated water is a major threat to all affected communities

Agriculture and Livestock

More than 32 Union Councils have been seriously affected by the floodwaters. Standing crops of affected areas have been almost entirely destroyed. These crops mainly include maize, sorghum, fodder, vegetables and sugarcane, as well as orchards and fuel wood trees (i.e. poplar and safeda). A large number of fruit trees have been uprooted and washed away, increasing vulnerability of small landholders and livestock owners. The floods have also damaged water infrastructure and farming watercourses in most of the affected areas.



A destroyed field

There is a need for feeding and de-worming of 3,220 animals affected by the floods in the three tehsils. The cost of feed is estimated at Rs. 70 per animal per day and de-worming at Rs. 180 per animal. The feed support would vary from 15 days to a month depending upon the timeline of recovery from the flood in different union councils.

Health

A committee of FIDA staff formulated a Plan of Action in response to the increased health risk in the flood prone Union Councils of district D. I. Khan. The Plan of Action focuses on the following:

- Provision of timely emergency medical and surgical care;
- Early procurement of emergency health kits and supplies;
- Mass awareness campaigns to promote use of safe drinking water;
- Food preparation and storage and hygienic habits;
- Use of bed nets and early treatment of referral cases;
- Early investigation and detection of communicable disease outbreaks using epidemiological methods and laboratory confirmation;
- Timely public health measures to control epidemics;
- Appropriate and timely case management of the patients.

Shelter

840 houses have been damaged and 360 have been destroyed by the floodwaters in three of the affected tehsils of District D. I. Khan covered by FIDA. FIDA assessed shelter needs in the areas by analyzing the available information on affected houses and comparing it with a Union Council-wide assessment. Based on the information received, 840 families are still in need of tents.

According to FIDA's assessment team, the need for shelter is most essential for the affectees. The affected houses are either totally or partly destroyed and the basements of all the houses are absorbing the floodwater, making them highly unstable. Due to this, many residents cannot even enter the hazardous structures to recover their belongings or begin rebuilding. This leaves families (particularly the women) exposed and lacking in privacy. On the basis of thorough analysis and discussions with the stakeholders, it was agreed that there is a great need for tents in the affected union councils due to cultural and social norms.

Union Council	Tehsil	Number of Affected Villages	Names of Affected Villages	Number of Houses Completely or Partially Destroyed
UC Kathgarh	Pahar Pur	2	Lang Kher Shah; Mitha Pur	40
UC Larr	Pahar Pur	1	Talokar	10
UC Dhap Shumali	Pahar Pur	2	Sagoo Shumali; Jhambana	13
UC Malana	Prova	4	Jhoke Jandheer; Jhoke Khalarar; Rodha; Kacha Malana	200
UC Nailvela	Prova	3	Karloo; Sohlar; Kacha Babar Machi	120
UC Mahra	Prova	3	Dhahwa; Mianrie; Mianali	83
UC Madhrian	Dera Ismail Khan	17	Jhoke Faqeer Wali; Jhoke Bashart; Jhoke Thotha; Jhoke Sahi; Jhoke Bilal; Jhoke Ubhaychar; Jhoke Mohana; Jhoke Masoo; Jhoke Kat; Jhoke Kanera; Jhoke Dar; Jhoke Amir Baloch; Jhoke Mohana Manzoor Wali; Jhoke Leghari; Jhoke Shahani; Jhoke Saidoo Wali; Jhoke Kanial	734
7 Union Councils	3 Tehsils	32 Villages		1200 Houses

Conclusion

Observations

1. The data from different sources is not very reliable and the government departments are most often unwilling to share their data.
2. The situation is fluid and evolving quickly, making the number of people/area affected difficult to obtain. The team had to rely on the available data compiled by the DCO Information Department and its own observations.
3. Since many of the displaced families have moved to their relatives' homes, the impact on malnutrition and feeding practices is difficult to determine.
4. It is observed that army troops are serving in some of affected area of the kacha, but they are not able to reach the entire affected area as the DCO office does not have up to date information.
5. The floods have washed away fertile land near the riverbed and many tributaries of the Indus River. The land is mainly used for cash crops, particularly vegetables for the nearby urban centers. Water has destroyed the standing crops, particularly tomatoes, thereby destroying livelihood and increasing food costs for families.

The team considers the affected people extremely vulnerable due to the following;

- Affected cultivated areas provided income opportunity for both the landowners and the daily wage laborers working on these farms.
 - The movement of affected to the homes of their relatives has resulted in a burden on the host families.
 - People have started selling their animals at reduced prices.
 - The affected land will be unable to produce cash crops for the next 5-6 months.
 - The reserved fodder for livestock has been lost, thereby placing the additional burden on the families to arrange food for their animals.
6. There is no apparent shortage of food in the nearby shops or markets and prices of basic food items have not changed so far. However due lack of work and money, most affectees will not be able to provide for their families.
 7. After the water recedes and the people start coming back to their homes for repair/reconstruction and thereafter reclaim submerged agricultural land, the impact on the availability of food/desirability of further food needs will need to be reassessed.
 8. Existing emergency relief activities apparently seem sufficient to meet the urgent needs of the affectees (mainly their food needs), but at the end there may not be enough government resources left for rehabilitation activities.

Conclusions

- Immediate food support is needed for one-month for a total of 7,200 persons in 32 villages of District D.I.Khan.
- Immediate support in the form of tents is required for 1200 families.
- Feeding and de-worming of 3,220 animals affected by the floods is also essential to preserve the livelihood of the affected families.
- Vaccination for routine immunization and against cholera and typhoid must be undertaken.
- A sufficient stock of medicine, such as anti-snake venom and antibiotics, as well as vaccines (for human and animals) and disposable syringes should be ensured.
- Emergency Health Kits and provision of medicines needed for emergency health coverage for a population of 7,200 for three months should be made available.

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