

August
2005



Flood Relief Activities

Project Report

Distribution of Relief Goods Among Flood Affectees

Project Report



Joint Project with Oxfam and Sungi

BACKGROUND

District Dera Ismail Khan is comprised of five Tehsils (Dera Ismail Khan, Paharpur; Kulachi, Prova and Drabin) with a total population of approximately 853,000. Many parts of Tehsil Paharpur, Dera Ismail Khan and Prova are located close to the bank of the Indus River (*kacha* area) and are therefore vulnerable to the river's annual flooding. During the heat of summer, ice melts rapidly in the mountains and causes a significant increase in the water levels of the Indus River. This problem is exacerbated by mismanagement of water barriers and lack of storage facilities and bridging facilities to support the water overflow.

This summer, the quantity of water rose aggressively in the *kacha* area, affecting more than 600 families in 23 villages of 7 Union Councils. Many houses were destroyed, livestock was badly affected, and the vulnerability to natural disaster and disease was increased. Food security, caused by the loss of stored food and lack of daily wages, was identified as the main problem for flood affectees. The affected communities contacted the Foundation for Integrated Development Action (FIDA) office for urgent help. To assess the level of need, FIDA conducted a survey of the affected areas and submitted a complete report to the Sungi Development Foundation in Abbotabad and to OXFAM GB. Sungi Development Foundation and Oxfam GB sent FIDA food items and plastic tent-sheets for 600 families to Dera Ismail Khan in August 2005.

METHODOLOGIES

Food items and tent-sheets were distributed on different days. Separate surveys, lists and committees were used for each occasion. FIDA adopted the following methods to distribute the items:

1. A comprehensive survey was taken and a database of affected households was compiled. Details of the project were not revealed at this time.
2. The beneficiary list was prepared with the help of selected activist and reconciled through primary and secondary trainings with the revenue officer.
3. All beneficiary families were called to a mutually agreed upon location near their homes and details of the project were explained. Food and Tent-Sheet Distributions Committees were formed.
4. FIDA selected three persons from each affected village to take responsibility for the distribution under FIDA 's supervision. In areas where FIDA had already mobilized Village Organizations (VOs), the VO was given the responsibility for distribution.
5. Upon registration, a coupon was distributed to each beneficiary. During registration process, FIDA preferred to write women's names so as to involve the women and highlight the importance of gender equality.
6. FIDA also used this opportunity to conduct comprehensive sessions on social mobilization and the importance of Village Organizations.
7. A one-day training was held for FIDA, detailing the distribution process and main responsibilities.
8. Before the distribution, a letter was sent to the VOs and/or the Food and Tent-Sheet Distribution Committees with details of the distribution.
9. Each recipient had to show their coupon and provide a thumb impression or signature on the register before receiving ration items.

CHALLENGES

1. FIDA recorded the names of many women, but at the time of distribution only 20% of them came to collect their rations. The VOs and Distribution Committees stopped the distribution in the fields and asked the women to come into an office where they were more comfortable.
2. 20% of affectees did not have a National Identity Card, but FIDA used references and alternative identification methods to ensure that they received the goods to which they were entitled.
3. Initially, the affected communities were not interested in registering their names-- they said many people, including government revenue department personnel, compiled lists but never followed through. The attitude of the district government revenue department has affected community behavior and damaged their sense of trust and confidence. When FIDA arrived with food and support materials they were visibly surprised. The people who had not given their names at the time of enrollment were disappointed and requested to add their names to the list.
4. FIDA attempted to involve an additional, semi-nomadic community also residing along the Indus riverbank. This community depends on fishing, low-value handicrafts and begging in the city. They are the most neglected, deprived and vulnerable community. FIDA attempted to enroll them in the distribution list, but during this time the majority of the community had left their damaged shelters and gone to safer places. When they heard that FIDA was distributing items they came and sat in the office asking to receive the items. Unfortunately all the supplies had already been allocated.
5. The political and district government gave their references to many people, claiming they could receive food items and tent-sheets. FIDA always discouraged these wrongly referred people.

MAIN OUTCOMES AND OBSERVATIONS

1. During the distribution process, FIDA ascertained that only 3% of males and 1% of females were able to sign their names. The rest of the community used thumb impressions. This informal survey gave an indication of the true literacy rate in these areas.
2. The Kehal community has lived in the surrounding areas of Indus River for a long time, but they do not have National Identity Cards and there is no concept of polling for the vote.
3. During the distribution process FIDA learned that 50% of people have old National Identity Cards, 30% have new NADRA Identity Cards and 20% have never seen the National Identity Card.
4. The women take a strong interest in organizing themselves and working with non-government organizations, but the men are still keeping women on the sidelines, outside of public life.

RESULTS

1. The process helped FIDA to select working areas for future projects.
2. Many new communities were introduced to Civil Society Organizations (i.e. Oxfam GB, Sungi and FIDA) and VOs.
3. Through incentive-based mobilization, it will help to organize men's and women's Village Organizations.
4. It helped to promote the NGO philosophy at the community level.
5. The government departments did not show any real interest in the affected areas. Even the political representatives have never visited the areas. This distribution made it easier to explain the difference between government departments and non-government organizations. FIDA conveyed the message to the community that there are many organizations that can assist in an emergency and that projects can begin through community initiative.



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