BAHAAL Project
EMERGENCY RELIEF & EARLY RECOVERY FOR THE
FLOOD AFFECTEES ACROSS PAKISTAN
2010-2011

Final Report of the Punjab Rural Support Programme Component

Rural Support Programmes Network
House No. 7, Street 49, Islamabad F-6/4

www.rspn.org
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## Abbreviations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RSPN</td>
<td>Rural Support Programmes Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSP</td>
<td>Rural Support Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSP</td>
<td>National Rural Support Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRSP</td>
<td>Sarhad Rural Support Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRSO</td>
<td>Sindh Rural Support Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGA</td>
<td>Sindh Graduates Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRSP</td>
<td>Punjab Rural Support Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRSP</td>
<td>Balochistan Rural Support Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AJK</td>
<td>Azad Jammu and Kashmir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFI</td>
<td>Non Food Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TS</td>
<td>Transitional Shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSU</td>
<td>Project Support Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>Community Resource Persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFIs</td>
<td>Non Food Items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgement

We would like to express our gratitude to all those people who were involved in the designing, planning, and implementation of the USAID – Bahaal Project. The credit for the success of this Project goes to many people. While colleagues at RSPN and PRSP were very encouraging and supportive, we were most motivated by the people of the flood-affected districts of district Muzaffargarh. These people are most hardworking, sober, patient and hopeful of a better future. The way managed to survive through the floods and then managed to live on in post-flood situation, speaks volumes for their resilience. Without the cooperation and contribution of the people, the USAID – Bahaal Project may not have been so successful.

We are deeply indebted to our Project Manager Mr. Akhlaq Hussain for his support and guidance, and for being available 7/24 to answer our various questions and queries. We also want to thank other USAID–Bahaal Project colleagues for creating a unique and conducive working environment; we want to thank Mr. Khalil Baig, Ms. Anum Anis, Mr. Abid Shah, Mr. Ahmed Zia and Mr. Ali Anis. RSPN administration provided full support to make our field visits comfortable.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and extend our heartfelt thanks to the implementing partner PRSP and its respective staff, for without their cooperation this project could not have been completed. District staff was hardworking and provided timely responses and data whenever it was required. Special thanks to Mr. Imtiaz Bottor (PRSP-USAID-Bahaal Project Coordinator) and to PRSP’s administration. We want to thank everyone involved in the USAID – Bahaal Project; everyone has played an important role.

Zahida Amin and Nageen Akhtar

Project Monitoring Officers

USAID - Bahaal Project

Islamabad

August 10, 2011
Introduction:-

Background:-
The Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) was registered in 2001 under Pakistan’s Companies Ordinance (1984) as a non-profit company by the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) of Pakistan. RSPN is a network of ten RSPs (AJKRSP, AKRSP, BRSP, GBTI, NRSP, PRSP, SRSO, SGA, SRSP and TRDP), and N-IRM. The RSPs involve poor communities (mainly but not exclusively rural) in improved management and delivery of basic services through a process of social mobilization. RSPN is a strategic platform for the RSPs: it provides capacity building support to them and assists them in policy advocacy and donor linkages. Currently, the RSPs have a presence in 110 districts (districts include those in the four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and AJK) and 2 FATA/FR areas. The RSPs collectively work with a rural membership of community organizations of 4.15 million rural households.

At the end of July 2010, heavy rains triggered both flash floods and reverie floods in several parts of Pakistan, resulting in loss of life, widespread displacement and damage. These floods affected more than 20 million people. In the aftermath of these floods, the American people took an initiative to help the people of Pakistan through the provision of emergency relief and early recovery assistance. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed the Bahaal Project with RSPN, to provide emergency relief assistance in 16 districts of the four provinces of Pakistan.

USAID Bahaal Project Goal and Objectives:-

Goal:-
The Project goal is to support flood-affected households to rebuild their lives and livelihoods through responding to their emergency needs of shelter, hygiene and health, and early recovery needs of agricultural inputs and sustaining livestock.

Objectives:-
The Project objectives were to

- Contribute to food security by recovering agricultural livelihoods
- Provide immediate access to shelter
- Provide immediate access to potable water and a healthy environment
- Provide immediate access to healthcare through the provision of hygiene kit and receive

1 Bahaal is an Urdu language word which means recovery, to get up.
health education.

**Programme Strategy and Implementing Partners:**

RSPN implemented USAID - Bahaal Project in partnership with

- National Rural Support Programme (NRSP)
- Punjab Rural Support Programme (PRSP)
- Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO)
- Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP)
- Sindh Graduate Association (SGA)
- Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP)

In the past the RSPN and the RSPs responded to emergencies by leveraging community networks, providing medical aid (doctors, paramedics and medicines), food aid, and drinking water and non-food items. The scale and responsiveness of the RSPs is quick as they are localized, with existing offices in the flood affected districts proposed for this relief effort. The RSPs’ relief efforts have been driven by the desire of most people to stay close to their families and communities, homes and assets. As with the RSPs’ experience in Pakistan’s earthquake affected northern districts, the earthquake in Baluchistan, the floods in Sindh and the IDP crisis, the RSPs provide localized solutions to such emergencies, taking into account issues of cultural acceptability and people’s attachments to their assets and their land as well as women’s mobility. Since July 2010, RSPN and RSPs have mobilized over USD 15.3 million in cash and in-kind from various sources including donors, UN agencies, development organizations, private foundations, individual philanthropists, and private sector organizations.

Currently the RSPs have a presence in 110 of the country’s 144 districts, stretching from the mountainous north to the central plains and down to the southern coastline. RSPs work directly with over 4 million rural households in their areas of presence. RSPs are present and working in all 16 flood affected districts of Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and KPK with a network of grassroots level Community Organizations and Women’s Organizations, and a cadre of trained staff and village activists. Using their own and mobilized resources, RSPs have already initiated emergency relief operations in coordination with District Administration.

RSPN adopted the following strategy to implement the project:

After the signing of the agreement with USAID/OFDA, RSPN immediately signed subcontract with BRSP, NRSP, PRSP, SGA, SRSO, and SRSP for implementation of the Bahaal Project activities in their respective districts. RSPN took a lead role in coordinating the efforts of the RSPs, ensuring quality control, timely delivery of goods as well as cross monitoring the implementation process by the RSPs. Partner RSPs are present in over 70% of the rural Union Councils of the 16 flood affected districts.
This is the final report of the USAID – Bahaal Project for the PRSP components.

**Punjab Rural Support Programme (PRSP):**
PRSP is one of the implementing partners of USAID- Bahaal Project. The Punjab Rural Support Programme was incorporated in November 1997. It is currently operation in 28 districts of the Punjab. A sub agreement was signed between PRSP and RSPNs. Under the PRSP component of the Bahaal Project, 6394 households were to be supported with emergency relief and early recovery interventions, i.e. Through provision of animal feed supplement for livestock, emergency and transitional shelter, Non Food Items and WASH services. This assistance aided the flood affected population in both meeting their immediate needs and staging an early recovery.

The total estimated amount of this award for its full period is $ 513,178. Table below shows the target beneficiary households and population by Bahaal Project component, respectively,

**PRSP USAID-Bahaal Project Targets:**

**Sectors wise Targets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. #</th>
<th>Bahaal Component</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Beneficiary Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Emergency Shelter</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,523</td>
<td>10,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Transitional Shelters</td>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>WASH</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,523</td>
<td>10,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Livestock services</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,524</td>
<td>10,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>NFIs</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,524</td>
<td>10,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,394</td>
<td>42071</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moreover, after the successful completion of transitional shelter PRSP was assigned 350 more transitional shelters for 2303 beneficiaries.

**Implementation procedure:-**

**Procurement of Distributed Items:-**
PRSP procured the distributed items at Project Support Unit (PSU) level. Project coordinator of Bahaal- PRSP issued the purchase request to procurement officer Bahaal. Different concerned vendors were called for quotations. All the vendors sent back their response with their quotations. Quotations were opened in a Purchase Committee and one vendor was selected with a reasonable
rate. After issuing of the purchase order the required material which was delivered on given time period.

**Assessment, Registration and Distribution of Packages:-**
PRSP adopted the following steps for the distribution of commodities and focused on transparency.

- Beneficiaries Assessment
- Registration of Beneficiaries
- Distribution of Packages

**Beneficiaries Assessment:-**

**Basic Guideline for Assessment:-**
PRSP followed these basic guidelines for the selection of beneficiaries in all components as per USAID directions:

- Selected worse affected locations within the selected districts
- Highly deserved households have been identified within the selected locations
- Within the selected locations, households that have received little or no aid have been focused on (Ensure that the beneficiaries did not have the specified relief items from before)
- Priority was given to vulnerable i.e. women headed HH, widows, chronic poor, disable etc

**Assessment guideline component wise:-**
Beside basic guideline the component wise guidelines also adopted as per project requirement which are given below

**Animal feed services:-**
- Feed supplement provided to households who have one milk animal.
- Priority was given to:
  - Landless Farmers
  - Female Headed Households
  - Small Farmers

**Non Food Items (NFIs):-**
Preference was given to:

- Affecters currently constructing their houses;
- Landless people
- Women headed households
- Families with children
Repairing of hand pumps and water kits: -
- Households who are facing severe shortage of clean water due to damaged or non-existent water infrastructure were focused.
- Household adopted the responsibility of rehabilitation/repair or installation of hand pumps
- Tablets and Jerry Cans were also provided.

Hygiene Kit:-
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Communities which were still surrounded or located near standing flood water were focused upon.
- Contaminated Areas where the incidence of epidemics was comparatively higher were targeted.

Hygiene Education:-
- The flood-affected households who have received hygiene kits were selected to create awareness regarding good hygiene practices.

Transitional Shelter (One Room):-
Flood affected households were selected who were:
- Displaced and needed transitional shelter.
- Were living in emergency shelter.
- Poor families were focused.
- Families with young children were also given priority.

Registration of Beneficiaries:
PRSP has a wide network of community organizations in the flood affected areas already so with the help of community organizations the field team identified most affected areas in the district Muzaffarghar. The list of flood affected villages was also verified by District Government of Muzaffarghar. Moreover, field team also collected the data of vulnerable households and poorest of poor households by physical verification in the presence of community resource persons. It was focused that overlapping should be avoided to benefit more beneficiaries.

After the completion of assessment; registration process of beneficiaries was initiated. The beneficiaries were registered by dedicated Social Organizers. The token was issued to those beneficiaries whom NRM Officer verified through physical and technical tools. At the time of token distribution team paid full attention on special groups and minorities. One carbon copy of each issued token was recorded in office register.
Distribution Process of Packages:
Separate distribution place for old aged persons:-

Separates distribution points were setup for women and Old aged persons. Gender sensitivity at distribution point was also focused.
Distribution Management/Accessibility:
The distribution point was good in the manner that it was accessible to all beneficiaries. The security arrangements were also quite satisfactory. It was focused that the distribution center was logistically well equipped in terms of human resources and vehicles. The distribution arrangements were based on the needs of the locals.

Branding
Furthermore, proper branding of USAID-Bahaal Project was also observed at all levels. Banners of USAID Bahaal-Project with Urdu translation were placed at the distribution point. All distributed items were also labeled with a sticker of USAID Bahaal-Project.
Health and Hygiene Education:-
Identification of Community Resource persons (CRP):-

As per project agreement, CRPs 40 (20 males and 20 females) were identified in its implementing district, to delivered health and Hygiene education to assigned beneficiaries.

Agreement with Community Resource Persons:-
Two pages format of Agreement has been signed by the CRPs. According to that agreement each CRP would deliver Hygiene session to 300 beneficiaries in 8 to 10 sessions, approximately. For this each CRP would be pay 3500/Rs
Health and Hygiene Training Sessions:-

The Health and Hygiene training was delivered in three sequential steps.

**Sequential Steps of Training**

1. **Training of Social Organizers conducted by RSPN Monitors**
2. **Training of CRPs Conducted by Social Organizers - SRSO**
3. **Training of target group of community by Social Organizer-SRSP**

RSPN’s monitors of *Bahaal* Project gave two days training of health and hygiene Educationat Muzaffargharto the Social organizers of PRSP. After receiving this training the social organizers conducted training of CRPs in their respective areas. Every CRP was assigned to deliver Hygiene Sessions to the family members of those households who had received Hygiene kit.
Hand pumps installation:-
As per assigned target PRSP installed 152 community hand pumps in flood affected areas of the District Muzafarghar. All hand pumps were installed as per community need. The existing hand pumps of identified villages had been bored in the depth of 30 to 40 feet and floods had polluted the water at that depth. Therefore, the PRSP Bahaal Project team decided to install the hand pumps by boring up to 80 feet below the earth’s surface as clean water was available at that level.

Transitional Shelter:
Initially PRSP has 300 targets for transitional shelter therefore after the completion of initial target additional 350 transitional shelter were assigned to PRSP due to its perfection and excellence of work.

Transitional Shelter Design with Value Addition:
The PRSP Bahaal team selected worse affected areas. Through community dialogue it was concluded that all selected beneficiaries of TS wanted to convert this transitional shelter into permanent shelter to make ensured its sustainability because they were expecting flood water to come next year. As a result all the beneficiaries of TS utilized cemented block in the construction of base and walls. In this regard PRSP Bahaal team helped them by developed market linkages between beneficiary and supplier as a result beneficiary got material at low prices as compare to open market rates. In the average amount of fifty thousand beneficiary to get cemented one room
shelter which has less chances of flatten during in coming moon soon rainy season. The average maximum share of beneficiary for this cemented block TS was ten thousand in shape of cash or material.

Targets vs. Achievements as per Indicators:

Shelter and Settlements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency Shelter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicator: Emergency shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households targeted:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Beneficiaries Targeted:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Area for emergency Shelter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure: Summary of Targets vs. Achievement of Emergency Shelter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transaction Shelter (one room)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicator: Transitional shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar Amount Requested: $141,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of household targeted 300 + 350 = 650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of beneficiaries targeted 1,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Area for Transitional Shelter Punjab: Muzaffargarh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WASH:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WASH</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective:</td>
<td>Targeted households have immediate access to drinking water and a healthy environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of household targeted</td>
<td>1,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Beneficiaries Targeted:</td>
<td>10,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Area (s)</td>
<td>Punjab: Muzaffargarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Sector:</td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator: Hand pumps</td>
<td>Number and percentage of targeted households having access to pumped water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-sector</td>
<td>Hygiene Promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator: Hygiene Kit</td>
<td>Number and percentage of targeted households having hygiene kits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Sub-sector** | **Hygiene Education**
--- | ---
Indicator: Hygiene Education | Number and percent of targeted households receiving hygiene kits receive hygiene education.

---

**Figure: Summary of Targets vs. Achievement of Wash Sector**
## Agriculture and Food Security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Sector: Livestock</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicator (A):</td>
<td>Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator (B):</td>
<td>Number of people benefiting from livestock activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households targeted</td>
<td>1,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of beneficiaries Targeted</td>
<td>10,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Area (s):</td>
<td>Punjab: Muzafarghar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Figure: Summary of Targets vs. Achievement of Animal Feed Supplement

![Bar Chart](chart.png)

- **Targets**: Blue columns represent the target number of households (H.H) and the number of animals (Distributed).
- **Achieved**: Green columns represent the number of households and animals that have actually received the feed supplement.

**Legend**:
- Blue: Target H.H
- Red: Distributed
- Green: Target Achieved
Non Food Items (NFIs):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non Food Items (NFIs)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objective:</td>
<td>Targeted households will get support in terms of winterized items in the form of Quilts, Cotton Mattress &amp; Pillows @ 3 units per Households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of household targeted</td>
<td>1,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Beneficiaries Targeted</td>
<td>10,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Area (s)</td>
<td>Punjab: Muzafarghar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Number of households received winterized items in the form of Quilts, Cotton Mattress &amp; Pillows @ 3 units per Households</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Non Food Items](image)

**Figure: Summary of Targets vs. Achievement of Non Food Items**
Satisfaction Level of Beneficiaries:-

Quality, Quantity and Usefulness of Hygiene Kit:
In general, 71% beneficiaries consider quantity of Hygiene kit adequate according to their domestic needs, 99% showed their satisfaction in terms of quality and 96% admit it usefulness. For statistical review see below figures;

![Summary of Quantity, Quality and Usefulness of Hygiene kit](image)
It was concluded by interviewing randomly selected beneficiaries that people mostly were satisfied with the quality of hygiene kit items but the quantity of items was not sufficient as per their domestic needs. For statistical review see below figures;

**Figure: Usefulness of Hygiene Kit by Items wise**

Moreover, they said that the hygiene kit items are very useful for them as they used the hygiene kit to improve the hygiene conditions of their domestic environment.

**Figure: Quantity of Hygiene Kit by Items wise**
Quality, Quantity and Usefulness of Animal Feed Supplement:
It was concluded after the interviews of randomly selected ten beneficiaries that 100% beneficiaries were satisfied with the quality, 100% were admitted its usefulness as it was immediate requirement of their animals at that time when they received it. Only 20% complained with quantity of package. For statistical review see below figures:
Quality, Quantity and Usefulness of Hand Pumps and Water Kit:
It is noticed through informal interviews of hand pumps beneficiaries that all hand pumps were installed at the proper place with community consultation. As many as 10 to 15 households were using the water from each hand pump and were satisfied with its quality as well. The material used in the making and installation of these hand pumps was also of good quality as per beneficiaries’ comments. For statistical review see below figures;
The water kit was also distributed among the hand pumps beneficiaries which were includes water purification tablets and jerry can. Generally, the beneficiaries of water kit were satisfied with its quality and quantity. Only 23% beneficiaries were complained regarding its less quantity. See below statistical review.
Moreover, it was also observed that they were aware of WPT use due to “Health and Hygiene training session” of Bahaal Project. They were utilizing WPT at domestic level and were happy by getting this useful thing. For statistical review see below;

**Quality, Quantity and Usefulness of Non Food items:-**

The Non-Food Items package included Quilts, cotton Mattress and pillows @ 3 units per households. As per beneficiaries comments these items were essential when they received them. Only 30% people complained regarding package quantity as it was not sufficient acceding to their household size. Below figures show these facts;
Figure: Summary of Quantity, Quality and Usefulness Non Food Items

Satisfaction Level of Shelter Beneficiaries:

Emergency Shelter:
By interviewing randomly selected beneficiaries of emergency shelter it was observed that emergency shelter was their essential need when they got it.

Transitional Shelter:
Informal interviews were conducted with beneficiaries to measure their satisfaction level. It was concluded that generally beneficiaries were satisfied with TS as they successfully completed cemented block TS with addition of their minimum economic share.
Case Studies:-

SUCCESSSTORY | Emergency Shelter

BAHAAL PROJECT | Emergency Relief and Early Recovery for the Flood Affectees across Pakistan

“The floods in seconds took away all the assets I had ever earned in my life; I was left with empty hands” said Aziz Ahmad, a 50 year old farmer from the village of Pattel Sharki. This village is located in tehsil Kot Addu, in District of Muzafarghar. He is a grieving father of six children of which four are disabled since birth. He thinks he will never forget the awful moments during floods of July 2010. He recalls, “It was very challenging for me to save my children particularly my disabled offspring during flood because they were unable to do anything on their own. It was impossible for decide on how to save all my disabled children. I just couldn’t simply choose one over the other.”
“This emergency shelter was a blessing in that dismal time.”
Aziz was working in his fields, when he heard the warning of the water was coming towards his village. He immediately rushed toward his home. He was anxious to save his family and his priority was his disabled children. He knew flood water was only few miles away from his village. At last, with the help of his neighbors and relatives he managed to save his family. “Waves were entering the adjacent areas of my village and were ready to destroy my all property; no sight in my life has ever been more painful. I left all my possessions at the mercy of Allah” Aziz described his emotional moment while he was leaving his village during the floods.
He continued with a triumphant look on his face that showed how satisfied he was after being able to save the lives of everyone in his family. After moving out from his village he and his family were forced to spend the night by the roadside at Kot Sultan which was a safe place at that time. After a month he returned back to his village and was shocked to see the repercussions of flood. In the words of Aziz “there was nothing left for us because all my possessions, my cultivated fields and my house were under water. I had built my house with my life’s earnings and the flood water eroded it in seconds. I found a heap of mud standing in place of my house. There was no way for me to provide immediate shelter to my family as I had lost everything. I was so hopeless.” Aziz expressed his gloom in a shuddering voice.

He was stood at the site of a rubble heap that had been his house few days earlier, when he saw the visiting team of USAID funded Bahaal Project team of the Punjab Rural Support Programme. They were surveying for beneficiary assessment. People of his village were very happy because no one had visited them before. They also visited Aziz’s demolished house, evaluated his damages, confirmed his family as deserving case and issued him a token to receive emergency shelter. “I was in confusion whether they would actually provide me shelter or not” but on fixed date I got the shelter kit which consisted of tarpaulin sheet, four bamboos and bundle of plastic rope.” Aziz expressed his sentiments. “This emergency shelter was a blessing at that dismal time. My prayers were being answered by God with the arrival of the Bahaal team in my village”, words of Aziz expressing his appreciation. USAID funded Bahaal project. The American people through USAID initiated numerous projects to help floods affected people of Pakistan and project named Bahaal is one them. Aziz expressed his gratitude to USAID-Bahaal.
Project by saying that “With the assistant of USAID-Bahaal Project I got shelter for my disabled children at a very horrific time, and for this I am very grateful to American people who helped us in this terrible time”.

**Written by:** Zahida Amin Project Monitoring Officer USAID Bahaal Project

**Data Collection by:** Muddasir Social Organizer (PRSP)
"It was a horrible time; easily the worst moment of my life. The flood came with such devastating power and we couldn’t do anything but run for our lives. My wife was also in the last days of her pregnancy and seriously ill. Unable to carry any of our belongings with us, we headed for the Fakir Ulla Shah hospital. We stayed there for about 15 days which to be honest seemed like a life time." This was the situation of the 26 year old Zulfiqar, who had 2 children and a wife. He was a resident of tehsil Kott Addu, District Muzafargarh, which was literally devastated by the July 2010 floods.
According to Zulfiqar, he was living in a rented house in Kott Sultan city, and paid about Rs. 1,000 (about USD 12) per month as rent when the floods came. For bread and butter, he worked as a laborer at a wood workshop. Once done with cutting wood, he also spent some time at a shop where he worked as a loader. And if this was not enough, in the evenings he used to work as a laborer at a construction site.

After a month, as the water finally receded, Zulfiqar and his family went back to their native village. Upon reaching there he saw that the whole village had been under water. There was nothing left of his own house and the crops he cultivated. He was shattered to see the devastated sight of his village and the surrounding areas. He said. “I saw flood water everywhere. For miles and miles there was nothing but water and an unbearable stench in the air. I didn’t want to feel sorry for myself and my family for this situation we were in. So I started working really hard. I had to save my family because there was no shelter available for us and we had to live under the open sky. My daughter was suffering from a high fever and cough. The harsh weather was making things even harder. We had nothing more left to sacrifice. Everything we owned had been taken away by the terrible floods. We didn’t have any other option but to hope that the All Merciful Allah would create a situation where by someone would help us and reduce our pain and suffering.”

This is not the situation of Zulfiqar alone; thousands of others share almost the same story as Zulfiqar. But with the faith and belief in the Almighty, they were able get through this time of misery. Zulfiqar continued: “Allah sent us angels in the form of human beings. People
implementing the USAID funded Bahaal project came to us with the promise of providing support at this time of grave need. They gave us emergency shelter, agricultural inputs, animal feed supplement and hygiene kits. Basically they gave us everything that we needed immediately after the floods, and they’ve done what they’ve could and they pulled us out from this disaster of the century and reaching out to the millions of peoples and families like us. They brought support to back and have given us hope. We felt that the sun had again started shining upon us. We have gained new hope from the support of the Bahaal team”.

Written by Angina Taren Project Monitoring Officer USAID - Bahaal Project
Data collection by Muddasir Social Mobiliser
PRSP