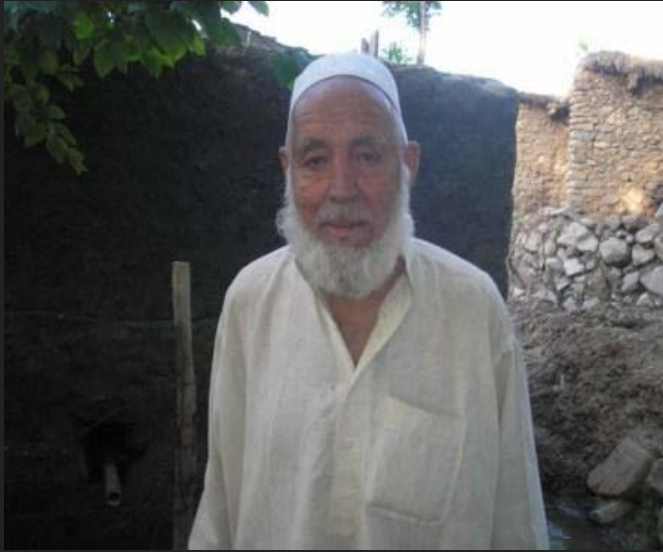


WASHING AWAY CRISIS IN GHARI PRANG DARA



Sabir, Standing in front of his flood damaged house

“ PREVIOUSLY OUR APPROACH TOWARDS OUR RECENT DIFFICULTIES WAS HIGHLY INDIVIDUALISTIC, BUT SRSP TURNED US TOWARD AN ORGANISED, COMMUNAL APPROACH FOR OUR OWN RECOVERY ”

“With the devastation wrought by the floods, our community suffered a lot, because in the aftermath, we were forced to use extremely polluted water for daily consumption. Clean drinking water appeared to only be a dream,” says Sabir Khan, a 62 years old man and father of 12 children, who lives in a village named Ghari Prang Dara. Like hundreds of unfortunate villages in District Swat, Ghari Prang Dara was badly affected by the floods of last year. Home to a poor community of some 280 people, comprising 40 households, the village lost most of its already fragile infrastructure, including its drinking water system and irrigation channels.

Sabir is a mason by profession. Himself working tirelessly to earn bread for his large family, all of Sabir’s wife and children are also engaged one way or the other in their family’s livelihood. Apart from their trying labour, Sabir’s wife and children were also forced to bring water from a distant spring for their daily consumption. The spring water was unclean, because it was not only being shared by the people of Ghari Prang Dara but also by the village’s livestock. Drinking water accordingly had become unhygienic, to point of causing rampant illness and panic in the community.



The drinking water supply scheme, marked with a message of acknowledgment for SRSP and APF.

This situation remained unresolved until the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), using its participatory approach toward flood recovery, mobilised the community to deal with its water crisis collectively. “Previously our approach towards our recent difficulties was highly individualistic, but SRSP turned us toward an organised, communal approach for our own recovery”, Sabir proudly observes. The village formed its own community organisation by the name of *Jirga Behbood* (“Welfare Council”). With funds provided by

American Pakistan Foundation (APF) and under the technical assistance from SRSP engineers, this community organisation committed itself to the construction of a new drinking water supply system. “Now the scheme has been completed and the community is the proud owner of a clean water source. Now we are free of diseases”, reveals Sabir. His youngest son Ajmal, standing nearby his father, whispers, “Now we will wear clean clothes and will not be embarrassed in school”. His father looks down to his son and smiles.