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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUCCESSSTORY | Happy and Healthy Family

Bahaal Project | Emergency Relief And Early Recovery For The Flood Affectees Across Pakistan

“I tried not to think what I would feed my livestock because whenever I did, a sense of hopelessness enveloped me. But thanks to USAID this feeling was gone sooner than I expected. Bahaal team came with its Vanda feed soon after the floods and now I can sleep better at night knowing that my animals are well-fed” says Ismail, a small farmer from Rajanpur who considers livestock a basic part of his family.

2010 floods led to wide spread displacement of livestock and brought with it many problems, most pressing of which was ensuring survival of remaining livestock. Although the affected people were given food and shelter, their livestock was left to graze on barren wastelands and dirty roadsides which resulted in declining health of these animals; animals which were the only asset available to the farmers since losing everything including their lands in these floods.



Ismail and Ashu Mai, with their well-fed family of 3 cows and 1 ox.

One such family is Ismail Ahmed and his wife Ashu Mai of village Darkhan (Union Council Nurpur, District Rajanpur). Ismail and Ashu were childless and always looked upon their livestock as an integral part of their small family so when the flood water entered their village their immediate concern was the safety of their livestock. In search of food and shelter they travelled on foot with their animals to Kotla Naseer Mill around 80 kilometers away and during this relocation they lost many animals. “Our feet were covered with blisters as we walked in water for miles. Some of the animals were left behind and some died due to arduous travelling” recalls Ashu Mai. After two months, residents of Darkhan moved back to their village only to witness how cruel the floods have been on their village. Ismail and Ashu’s house was destroyed completely and dirty flood water was still standing in the fields. They had lost tons of last season’s agrarian produce. At this point shelter, food and feed were the need of the time

for them and their livestock. Ismail was distraught and therefore he was left with no choice but to sell off his animals. Due to the fraying health of these animals and their increased supply in the market, these animals were fetching very low prices. This forced Ismail to sell most of his animals for meager amounts to raise enough money to feed his wife and the remaining few animals.

“It was a very hard decision to sell off my animals, which were as good as my family. But it was the only thing that I could do in those circumstances”. Ismail and Ashu had a family of 35 animals but now they were left with only four. Ismail further says that “I would have had sold the remaining livestock one by one in the coming weeks due to the scarcity of animal feed, if I wasn’t approached by the Bahaal team of NRSP”.

NRSP brought good news for farmers like Ismail. USAID, through Bahaal intervention was providing deserving households with animal feed supplement to help nourish the remaining livestock of the flood affectees. Ismail was delighted to hear that he has been selected.

Before the provision of vanda feed, Ismail fed his animals scanty amounts of local feed supplement (chowkar) mixed with grass but the animals used to eat very little of it. In words of Ismail, local feed supplement is like ‘dry bread’ and vanda is like ‘delicious gravy’. As one eats more dry bread when it is served with gravy, animals also eat more chowkar when it has been mixed with the appetizing vanda. Now with the provision of vanda, Ismail has healthy livestock, which is no longer a liability for him.

During the last few months 50 deserving households were provided with animal feed supplement (vanda) in Ismail’s village alone, benefiting a total population of 330. Overall in District Rajanpur, USAID funded Bahaal project has provided animal feed supplement to 1,168 flood affected families ensuring food security and sustainable livelihoods of approximately 7,700 beneficiaries. The results of this intervention were observed by many, especially by Ashu Mai as she notes that “Our animals are healthier now. Our ox can work better in the fields. Our cows give us better milk and now they can live longer”. She, along with hundreds of other beneficiaries offer their thanks to the American people and USAID for supporting the Bahaal project and for providing them with animal feed supplement for their beloved animals.



Cows eating their usual diet mixed with Animal Feed Supplement (Vanda) that has been provided by USAID Bahaal.

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