



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## 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 PattelSharki. This village is located in tehsil KotAddu, 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.”

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



Aziz and His Wife

“This emergency shelter was a blessing in that dismal time.”



Disabled under Shelter

“I got shelter for my disabled children at a very horrific time, and for this I am very grateful to American people”

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.

“My disabled children had no choice but to spend their nights in the open sky and this situation stole my sleep from me. At one time, this situation made me wish that God had never blessed me with these children in the first place,” Aziz told with great grief. With straw and plastic sheets he prepared a flimsy shelter to protect his children but it was not enough to protect his family from the bitter cold winter nights.

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 assistance 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 Mobiliser  
PRSP



