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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUCCESS STORY | Rising of New Day

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

"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 Muzafarghar, 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



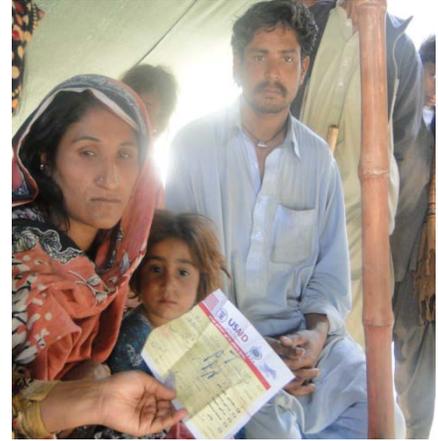
Zulfiqar and His family got shelter

"We feel that the sun is finally coming out after a lifetime of rainy days"

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".



Family in shelter

***“Sad but hopeful
for a better
tomorrow”***

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