



SUCCESS STORY | Transitional shelter (A Hope to permanent Home)

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

“I was satisfied with my life, and although it was tough and unstable we were living together under the same roof. The sky was filled with dark clouds and it was raining for the past four days. There was something in the air that I had never felt before and I sensed that something was not right” said Qalaan Bibi aged 54, having 7 children with three daughters and 4 sons. Unfortunately, all her children are disabled. Qalaan Bibi is resident of District Kambershadad Kot, where she lives in the village Umed Ali Junejo in the Union council of Jamali. She had livestock which she used for a living, but the income she made from it was never adequate for the treatment of her disabled children.

She and her family are among the survivors of the July floods that washed away everything in different areas of Pakistan.

“I never knew that fate was planning to play another game against me. Having 7 disabled children with nothing in my hands to restore their health, my life was already in distress. The flood only made my life more miserable by taking away all my possessions and assets. That day fate turned my world upside down and left me empty handed. I never knew that I could be in such a mess.” she said.

She added, “I clearly remember my neighbours informing me that the flood is approaching and we have to take refuge in Larkana, which was the least affected area in the Sindh. There the government had set up relief camps for flood affectees. We spent three months in those relief camps.

The first week was full of loneliness, despair and depression.



Figure 1: Qalaan Bibi

I thought I had lost my husband and three of my disabled children as they got separated from me at the outset of the flood. However with the help of ALLAH somebody told me that they have also moved and joined another camp in the same area.



Finally we could see each other after three long days.

Life for my family in Larkana camp was not easy and it was very difficult to survive. We survived only on limited ration given to us by the camp authorities. The only good thing about our time in the camp was that my whole family was alive and living together, and I was sure that together we can and together we will get through these troubling times.

After passing three wretched months at Larkana camp we moved back to our village. The flood water was all over the area where our house once stood. And for miles and miles the land was covered with the water and dead animals. Even there were no trees under the shadow of which we could sit or take refuge.

After that when the worst was over and water had drained away, things finally started working for me. We started to think about building a shelter for our children but we had no money whatsoever. We couldn't even pay for a brick. Then soon after the BAHAAL *team* came to pull us out of our days of despair and helped us build a one room shelter at the place near which we used to live before the flood. USAID compensated us through giving the funds to build this shelter and we are hoping that USAID will also help us in reconstruction of our homes. We are grateful to ALLAH that he chose us among the thousands of the flood affectees to be able to do something for our-selves and help others building their shelter, by giving a hand in construction work.



Figure 2: Qalaan Bibi with her family

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