

Training and Capacity Enhancement of Local Governments in the Earthquake Affected Areas of Pakistan



Final Report

May 2007

PROGRESS REPORT

Project Title :	Training and Capacity Enhancement of Local Governments in the Earthquake Affected Areas of Pakistan
Reporting Organization :	Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network
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I BACKGROUND & CONTEXT:

This is the final report of the project “Training and Capacity Enhancement of Local Governments in the Earthquake Affected Areas of Pakistan” being undertaken in earthquake affected areas of Pakistan. The project was designed to demonstrate the vision set by the Hyogo Framework of Action of building resilience among vulnerable communities. The goal of the project is to mainstream risk reduction by building field level human resource capacity in development and disaster management sectors.



The objectives of the project are:

- a. To develop knowledge resource centers for education and training in risk reduction
- b. To develop and test customized pilot packages on disaster mitigation and preparedness for development / risk managers
- c. To establish a system of linking local stakeholders for sustainable operation of the knowledge resource centers.



II. STATUS of IMPLEMENTATION:

1. ACTIVITIES & RESULTS:

Activities towards establishment of Knowledge Resource Centre (District Knowledge Centre) and Knowledge Centre (Village Knowledge Centre) were carried out by Pattan Development Organisation (PATTAN), SEEDS Asia and Mercy Malaysia. While PATTAN developed three village knowledge centres at villages Brarkot, Jhangri and Patlung Upper of Tehsil Balakot and district knowledge centres at Islamabad and Mansehra, SEEDS Asia and Mercy Malaysia developed three village knowledge centres at villages Bagh, Rera and Mallot and a district knowledge centre at District Bagh. This section briefly describes the activities carried out, and the results achieved.



Part I: Activities carried out by Pattan Development Organisation

1. Participatory Processes

“Putting the last first” is easier said than to do. The traditional barriers i.e. sex segregation, complicated local social primordial networks, caste and class hierarchies and their interplay with political dynamics often affect process and outcome of projects, especially when objectives of a project are to be completed in a predetermined time frame. A hand pump may be installed within a given time. But, will it survive and whose interest it will serve? These questions haunt development practitioners. It has also been experienced that in most cases project partners would ignore their strategic requirements. This suits to project implementers i.e. NGOs and donors as they have to meet deadlines.

Disasters provide great opportunities to transform communities. Gender roles change, sex segregation weakens during the emergencies. Opportunities to eliminate risks emerge as the affected people willing to learn and change. But, often we missed this opportunity, as we don't think about social transformation while planning risk reduction interventions at early stages of relief. Also during relief phase, most humanitarian organizations fail to involve affected people in decision-making and distribution. According to our socio-economic survey of earthquake



population (Pattan 2006) nearly 90% respondents said they were not consulted by the relief agencies about their priority needs. A crucial period was wasted.

Harnessing women's potential is essential for community development and to make communities resilient. The PATTAN managed to bring some gender improvement by giving equal ownership of flood resistant houses that were built after the 1992 devastating floods in Sargodha and Muzaffargarh districts. In the subsequent floods, in many villages women took the responsibility of damage/need assessment and distribution of relief assistance in the affected areas. The male population accepted this new role of women.



In Tehsil Balakot, we have formed women organizations in most project villages. Their new role as decision-makers at village level is challenging. Most of the women are keen to play their role actively, but don't dare to assert. The PATTAN women staff has been trying to consolidate women's participation in decision-making processes at community level. There is little reluctance (not a resistance) from the local male population as they have some benefits of the whole intervention. While improving well being of the local people, it is vital to achieve a relationship of trust with them.

In order to cope with new challenges and future risks/shocks, a three-pronged approach was adopted. One, integrate men and women outside the four walls of homes through institutional development, and two, enhance their knowledge, capacities to cope with future disasters and shocks by reducing local risks. They must be able to reduce their vulnerabilities i.e. social, economic, intellectual, political and organizational. Third, integrate them with external catalyst agencies in order to consolidate the early achievements. Along with this, PATTAN always believed linking micro with to macro.

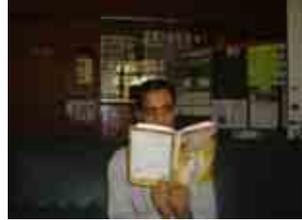


In order to influence the policy makers, PATTAN launched an advocacy campaign. It engaged itself with UN agencies and government ministries/departments. Its advocacy was based on solid facts, surveys and aggregated opinion of the affected population.

The following process was adopted by PATTAN in order to achieve the targets.

Activities	Process
Project planning and preparation	Pattan senior management studied the project document and then held a brainstorming session. Detailed work plan was developed and duties were assigned.
Staff hiring	Staff has been appointed in Islamabad and Mansehra and they got the orientation training about the project.
Selection of project villages	Pattan staff collected the data UC (Union Council) wise and selected five most affected UCs of Tehsil Balakot. Finalized sixteen villages on the basis of local needs, willingness to cooperate with Pattan, mapping of other actors i.e. NGOs and Pattan's previous relief work.
Profiles of target villages	To have better understanding about the socio-economic situations of the project villages, we have designed a data collection form, which has been filled for every project village. It covers geographical boundaries, population, family structures, damages, literacy rate, livelihood situation, community problems, needs and other issues. These profiles of sixteen project villages were completed during the reporting period.
Formation of Village Disaster Reduction Committees (VDRCs)	The village disaster reduction committees were formed through introductory visits in the general community meetings of selected villages by sharing objectives, responsibilities and criteria for VDRC members. The main objective of the formation of VDRCs was to ensure community participation at all levels of development process, to make community active in highlighting their problems and assist the Pattan in project implementation. Core responsibilities of the VDRCs were to help the PATTAN team in identifying the community activists, trainees and also assist in data collection, arranging meetings, gathering people and advocate the problems and issues of their villages to all concerned departments and NGOs with coordination of Pattan Development Organization. We also set certain criterion for VDRC Formation that includes: Community persons will elect four members (2 males and 2 females) by hand show system by ensuring that they are capable to and want to work voluntarily for community development and are not blood relatives.
Mapping of NGOs intervention in project villages	In order to avoid duplication and networking at village level, mapping of NGOs and their nature of work was completed in all project villages. Majority of humanitarian/developmental organizations are helping communities in kind and a few have capacity development component in their interventions.

Activities	Process																		
<p>Establishment of Disaster Reduction Knowledge Centers</p>	<p>Disaster knowledge centers (DKC) were established in Islamabad and Mansehra. These centers are fully equipped with material (printed, video CDs and books) and are being used by community change agents, local communities, NGOs, students, local government representatives and other Agencies involved in rebuilding efforts. During the reporting period, a large number of researchers and activists visited and contacted Islamabad DKC. While details of Mansehra DKC visitors are as follow.</p> <p>In total, more than 100 individuals from NGOs/INGOs, government officials, local government representatives and community activists, students, trainees, VDRRC members and teachers visited the (Readers/researchers in DKC Islamabad) DKC, during the reporting period.</p> <p>Details of DKC visitors</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="408 864 850 1077"> <thead> <tr> <th>Visitors</th> <th>%age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NGOs/INGOs</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Worker</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teachers</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local government representatives</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VDRRC members</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Students</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Visitors	%age	NGOs/INGOs	22	Social Worker	12	Teachers	8	Local government representatives	11	VDRRC members	14	Students	15	Others	18	Total	100
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<p>Collection of disaster related materials</p>	<p>During the reporting period Pattan contacted various NGOs, INGOs and government departments for collection of material on disaster for KC. Pattan received disaster related material from almost 22 different government and non-government organizations by mail. This material was displayed in DKC and RC.</p> <p>While We visited different NGOs which are working in affected areas. We collected their data and organizational reports and also we told them about the establishment of DKC and VKCs. Few names of the organization are: Plan Pakistan, RASTI, CUP, ICMC, PARA, CRS, IRC, HASHAR, Terre dam Homes, IFRC, RDP, RDPI, Aurat Association, Saibaan and World Vision.</p>																		



(Visitors Watching documentary -DKC Marsehra)

Activities	Process
<p>Establishment of Village Knowledge Centers (VKCs)</p>	<p>Objective of the establishment of these VKCs (Village Knowledge Centers) was to have platform for information sharing, capacity building of community change agents and rapid assessment. It also provided link with government, NGOs, ERRA and academic institutions, and in high lightening the community expectations.</p> <p>Three villages Brarkot, Jhangri and Patlung Upper were selected for Village Knowledge Centers (VKCs), considering the accessibility, interest of community people, division of population, cooperation, and available place to display reading material.</p> <p>During the reporting period disaster related material was displayed in these VKCs.</p>   
2. Capacity Building	
<p>Situation and training need assessment</p>	<p>Through Focus Group Discussions in five selected UCs, Training Need Assessment was conducted. Data was analyzed and shared with the local people. The main objective of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) was to understand the training needs, major issue, situation analysis and training needs of the people regarding disaster preparedness and management in the selected villages of Tehsil Balakot.</p> <p>As concerning the process, before going to the field, Pattan team conducted a brainstorming session in office where all staff read the set questionnaire and discussed on every question, expected answers and prepared the schedule. In the community Pattan team conveyed the aims & objectives of FGD to participants and general questions regarding the latest situations. Two team members conducted every session one as interviewer and other as note taker/observer. During discussion with groups team used PRA tools for proper answers and made consensuses on every question.</p>
<p>Identification of trainees</p>	<p>In all, 472 trainees (208 males and 264 female) were identified in all 16 villages. Interestingly the number of female trainees was higher than male.</p> <p>The process of identification, registration and finalization of trainees' list was made through Village Disaster Reduction Committees (VDRCs) and willingness of people. The further following steps were ensured: Pattan staff members discussed the purpose and objectives of the community based trainings in the meeting. Briefly discussed about required time in each session and number of the sessions. Education, age, profession and other required information collected about trainees along their signatures to ensure their consent for training.</p>

Activities	Process
	To ensure the participation of trainees in the training session, a copy of trainees' list was given to VDRC member because when required they can inform those persons.
Finalization of training themes	The training themes regarding community based disaster preparedness and management was prepared on the basis of FGDs conducted by PATTAN in the five selected villages of Tehsil Balakot and also taken backing from recent survey conducted by PATTAN in four most affected districts of NWFP, Pakistan. The list of contents for training is: basic concepts, community participation, gender and disaster, rights of affected communities, and Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis and action planning.
Preparation of training manual	Training manual in Urdu was prepared and finalized prior to commence the training sessions in the community. Overview of the units of the module is to be served as Annexure-1.
Capacity building of staff on disaster risk reduction trainings	<p>We arranged various TOT (Training of trainers) workshops on disaster risk reduction for field staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two PATTAN field staff members (1 Male and 1 Female) completed a one-week course of TOT on “Disaster Risk Reduction” organized by UNDP in December 06. • All staff members of Pattan attended a 2-day TOT workshop on “Disaster Preparedness and Management” organized by PATTAN in January 2007. In order to link training concepts with ground realities of the area, the staff was taken to various villages for practical work. This enhanced capacities of our staff to start training of local partners. • Pattan national office Islamabad organized two days training workshop on Hazard mapping, Vulnerability and capacity analyse using PRA tools for Pattan Mansehra field staff. For better understanding and to replicate the work field visit was also arranged, where staff practically implemented those PRA tools in the rural community.
Capacity Building of local trainers on disaster risk management	<p>Pattan field office Mansehra organized 2-day TOT workshop for local trainers. The object was to chose the educated and active (male and female) workers from the community, provide them training on disaster risk reduction, that they could conduct community based disaster management trainings in affected communities. Eight people from the project villages attended this (Group photo of Local trainers)</p>  <p>TOT workshop arranged during the reporting period. In this workshop themes of training session 1 and 2 was covered.</p>
Provision of Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) Trainings in Balakot	<p>In total 66 community based disaster management (CBDM) training sessions was conducted by our social organizers and resource persons in all 16 project villages.</p> <p>In total, 499 trainees (224 males and 275 females) participated in these training sessions. Our participants were community activists, masons, teachers, local government representatives and students. Each training session was evaluated separately. These training sessions were being held at community level.</p> 

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	<p>Village wise number of participants</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sr. No</th> <th>Village Name</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>Bararkot</td><td>22</td><td>32</td><td>54</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>Shar</td><td>15</td><td>10</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>Bhangian</td><td>12</td><td>19</td><td>31</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>Hassamabad</td><td>11</td><td>15</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>Gareebabad</td><td>17</td><td>15</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>Patlanglower-2</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>33</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>Jalora</td><td>10</td><td>14</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>Mangli</td><td>14</td><td>22</td><td>36</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>Jabba</td><td>11</td><td>28</td><td>39</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>Arban</td><td>19</td><td>14</td><td>33</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>Jhangii</td><td>17</td><td>13</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>Jabi</td><td>12</td><td>29</td><td>41</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>PatlangNakka</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>PatlangBala</td><td>11</td><td>10</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>Patlanglower-1</td><td>10</td><td>15</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>Gali Achari</td><td>16</td><td>10</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Total</td><td>224</td><td>275</td><td>499</td></tr> </tbody> </table> 	Sr. No	Village Name	Male	Female	Total	1	Bararkot	22	32	54	2	Shar	15	10	25	3	Bhangian	12	19	31	4	Hassamabad	11	15	26	5	Gareebabad	17	15	32	6	Patlanglower-2	16	17	33	7	Jalora	10	14	24	8	Mangli	14	22	36	9	Jabba	11	28	39	10	Arban	19	14	33	11	Jhangii	17	13	30	12	Jabi	12	29	41	13	PatlangNakka	11	12	23	14	PatlangBala	11	10	21	15	Patlanglower-1	10	15	25	16	Gali Achari	16	10	26		Total	224	275	499
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3. Events at DKC and VKCs - Manshehra																																																																																											
Distribution of translated copies of Hyogo Framework for Action	<p>A massive distribution of Urdu version Hyogo Framework for Action took place during the reporting period. Almost 900 copies were distributed to 60 different NGOs/INGOs, donor agencies, government departments, university faculties and district administrative bodies, on average 15 copies to each, in district Manshehra.</p> <p>Urdu version Hyogo Framework for Action and other disaster related material was also distributed to all 499 trainees of the 16 project villages.</p> <p>Hyogo Frame Work (Urdu version), Pattan magazine and some disaster related other material was available as mobile reading material in VKCs and DKC Mandhra.</p>																																																																																										
Meetings with Hazara University students and professors	<p>During the reporting period, Project Team leader visited Hazara University, and distributed the translated copies of the Hyogo Framework for Action-2015 among the students of different faculties. Our staff also coordinated with University professors, and a detailed discussion held on the topic of "Role of educational institutions in disaster risk reduction". Dean of the Hazara University shared those findings of the debate in the seminar organized by Pattan Development Organization in Manshehra.</p>																																																																																										
Seminar on Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015	<p>The objective of the seminar was to aware and educate the organizations, government departments, local committees working in disaster prone areas about the global blueprint for disaster risk reduction (Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015).</p>																																																																																										

Activities	Process
	<p>Speakers from district administration, IFRC, Sungi, local government, Pattan national office and professor from Hazara University participated in the seminar. Whereas almost 60 representatives of NGOs/INGOs, members of VDRCs, and media men attended the seminar. Program Coordinator of Pattan development Organization gave brief (Speaker and Participants during seminar) introduction of Hyogo Framework for Action, EDO social welfare Mansehra shared Mansehra Disaster Management Plan to the participants. Representative of IFRC shed light on Red Cross and disaster risk management plan of action 2008 while Sungi's focal person spoke on human rights and affected communities. Dean of Hazara University shared his knowledge on "how risk reduction can be integrated to the educational institutions?" Local government representatives highlighted community problems regarding ERRA's policy, disbursement of housing compensation amount.</p>  
<p>Discussion with local councilors on: Impact and Role of international community in reconstruction and rehabilitation phase.</p>	<p>The objective of the gathering was to know the perception of local government representatives regarding international community and NGOs efforts in relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation programs after 8th October 07.</p> <p>Abstract of the debate was as: Pattan, Mansehra office called a meeting, to know the perception of local government representatives on the efforts of international community in the rescue, relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation phases. Ten councilors (male and female) participated in the meeting and shared their experience and observations.</p> <p>Majority of the participants has shown their high level of satisfaction on the efforts and interventions by international community in rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. While few of them argued that due to inefficient district administration these agencies did not work according to their potential abilities.</p> <p>Women councilors potentially criticized that community participation was neither ensured during relief nor asked in reconstruction and rehabilitation phase. Some of them of the view that international community always helps Muslim countries because of humanity and friendly relations with these Muslim communities. While most of them have point of view that they have their own internal, political, economic, cultural and sometime religious benefits.</p> <p>Almost all participants strongly recommended that international community should directly intervene, coordinate each other, ensure community participation at all levels of development process, start at gross root level, divide the areas and work and all effectees should be treated and helped equally.</p>  

Activities	Process
<p>Debate on: discriminating behavior of NGOs and government officials with female earthquake victims</p>	<p>Three officials from RDPI (Rural Development Policy Institute) visited DKC Mansehra to find disaster related material. And also consulted Pattan female social organizers for detail discussion on discriminating behavior of relief agencies with female earthquake victims. In total, seven officials from Pattan and RDPI participated in this debate. Most of them of the view that females of the affected area are most vulnerable group. Due to socio-cultural barriers females neither can contribute in income generation resource for prosperous life nor involved in decision making. As females do not have any forum to raise their issues that's why relief agencies have neglected them and adopted discriminating behavior.</p>
<p>Community Interface sessions with government officials</p>	<p>Pattan field staff Mansehra conducted overall three community awareness sessions in three different Ucs named Ghanool, Satbani and Garlat. In total about 200 people of Tehsil Balakot participated in these sessions</p>  <p>The objective was to highlight and advocate the community's issues/problems in rehabilitation/reconstruction activities and in getting housing compensation. Further to make local government representatives and other stakeholders accountable to community.</p> <p>Participation: Representatives from local government (Nazims and councilors), ERRA, SRSP, CBO, media and other NGOs participated as guest in the session. On average more than 50 community activists participated, from 13 villages of Tehsil Balakot in each session.</p>  <p>Issues highlighted: Community participants criticized ERRA's policies regarding house reconstruction model, fewer amount of compensation, installments and complex process of distribution.</p>  <p>Lack of schooling, health facilities and high unemployment are the sign of government policy failure in the area.</p> <p>NGOs, government and international agencies should ensure the community (Both male and female) participation in all developmental projects for sustainable development. While they criticized that in whole development cycle/process community has been neglected. (ERRA, SRSP & LG officials in interface session)</p> <p>Local government representatives are supporting government policies instead of fighting for the cause of effectees.</p> <p>In short, community interface sessions educated affected people about their rights, their strengths, common problems and process of advocacy campaign.</p>
<p>Health awareness sessions</p>	<p>In total Pattan held four free medical camps for the pregnant women, disabled, traumatized, elderly persons and children in four union councils named Ghanool, Gari Habibullah and Satbani in the month of March 2007.</p>

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	<p>Objective was to come to know the major health issues and diseases in the project villages and to aware the community about these problems. Advocate and share these issues with stakeholders to find proper solutions.</p> <p>During the preparation of village profiles Pattan find that these areas are lacking in health awareness and tough weather conditions make them more vulnerable. Field staff enlisted the Elderly persons, Disabled, Traumatized, and Pregnant women than advocated issues for action. We approached other NGOs/INGOs and government officials for action. Pattan arranged free medical camps in the project villages. Dr. Ijaz Rubani, (Senior Physician and Child Specialist) and his team provided free services and some medicines, while remaining medicines were provided by Pattan.</p> <p>In total, almost 422 patients were treated in these medical camps. Findings of these medical camps were shared with community, and Dr. Ijaz Rubani also briefed them the measures to prevent from these diseases.</p> <p>Tables below explain the details of the diseases, Sex wise, age wise breakup patients.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sex wise breakup of Patients</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="574 1048 1066 1146"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sr.</th> <th>Sex</th> <th>Freq</th> <th>% age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Male</td> <td>157</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Female</td> <td>265</td> <td>63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Total</td> <td>422</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Age wise break down of patients</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="539 1198 1098 1344"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sr.</th> <th>Age group</th> <th>Freq</th> <th>% age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Under 10</td> <td>158</td> <td>41.76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>11 to 25</td> <td>87</td> <td>19.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>26 to 40</td> <td>91</td> <td>16.48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>41 & above</td> <td>86</td> <td>21.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>422</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Over all analysis of Diseases in all villages</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="472 1395 1165 1619"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sr.</th> <th>Name of disease</th> <th>Frequency</th> <th>% age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Anemia</td> <td>31</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Hypertension</td> <td>25</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Allergy & skin diseases</td> <td>58</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>General diseases</td> <td>144</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Surgical & dental problems</td> <td>20</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Pregnancy & female issues</td> <td>7</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Chest infection</td> <td>47</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Others</td> <td>90</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>422</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 	Sr.	Sex	Freq	% age	1	Male	157	37	2	Female	265	63	3	Total	422	100	Sr.	Age group	Freq	% age	1	Under 10	158	41.76	2	11 to 25	87	19.78	3	26 to 40	91	16.48	4	41 & above	86	21.98		Total	422	100	Sr.	Name of disease	Frequency	% age	1	Anemia	31	7	2	Hypertension	25	6	3	Allergy & skin diseases	58	14	4	General diseases	144	34	5	Surgical & dental problems	20	5	6	Pregnancy & female issues	7	2	7	Chest infection	47	11	8	Others	90	21		Total	422	100
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4	41 & above	86	21.98																																																																														
	Total	422	100																																																																														
Sr.	Name of disease	Frequency	% age																																																																														
1	Anemia	31	7																																																																														
2	Hypertension	25	6																																																																														
3	Allergy & skin diseases	58	14																																																																														
4	General diseases	144	34																																																																														
5	Surgical & dental problems	20	5																																																																														
6	Pregnancy & female issues	7	2																																																																														
7	Chest infection	47	11																																																																														
8	Others	90	21																																																																														
	Total	422	100																																																																														

4. Proceedings in DKRC Islamabad

The DKRC is being used to provide technical support to Knowledge Centers of Mansehra and community based centers in Balakot. The most valuable achievement of DKRC was to translate, print and distribute Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Its Urdu version was widely distributed to UN agencies, government departments, Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority (ERRA), NGOs, INGOs and local communities. In total 5,000 copies were distributed. About 1000 copies were sent to Mercy Malaysia office in Bagh, Azad Kashmir while 2000 copies were distributed in Mansehra district. The Urdu version was also published in the PATTAN monthly magazine, which has its circulation in Pakistan's 20 districts. The DKRC is equipped with the following categories of material on various topics of disasters:

Details of material in DKRC Islamabad

	Categories	Number
1	Books	55
2	CDs and DVDs	16
3	Training manuals	55
4	Brochures	9
5	Research papers/reports	76
6	Magazines	37
7	Misc. (posters etc.)	38

4.1. Engagement with ERRA and UNDP

Two meetings were held with General Farooq and General Nadeem of ERRA. A presentation was given to UNDP officials. While our field staff in Mansehra also met several times with Major Pervaiz and Major Tariq and invited them in different community interface meetings.

4.2. Seminar on disaster reduction day

A seminar was held on October 11 on the International Day on Disaster Reduction. Representatives of Met Office, NDMA, Red Crescent Society, UNDP and OCHA participated in the seminar. Please see press coverage.

4.3. Series of round table discussions

In total 8 meetings were held with various NGOs, media persons and individuals at the DKRC Islamabad. In total 82 persons used the facility in Islamabad.

4.4. Socio-economic survey

During the month of August-September, survey was completed. On October 17, its preliminary findings were shared with stakeholders in a seminar. See enclosed press clippings.

Representatives of ERRA, UNHCR, UNDP, WHO, NGOs and community activists from Mansehra participated in the seminar.

The findings of the survey enhanced understanding of policy makers and NGOs about the perception of affected people on various issues. A detailed copy of the findings of this survey already has been sent.

4.5. Official visits and meeting with community

- Officials of Mercy Malaysia and Seeds Asia with National Coordinator visited District Knowledge Centre (Mansehra) on 15-10-2006. They had also field visit in Brarkot and village community shared their problem and apprehensions.
- Dr. Jamilah (President of Mercy Malaysia) with PATTAN team visited Brarkot village and held meeting with local women.

- Sarwar Bari (National Coordinator of PATTAN) with PATTAN team visited the Brarkot village and meeting was conducted with local men.
- Mr. Praveen Pradeshi and Mr. Joe Chung of UN-ISDR visited the project area and held discussions with Pattan staff and local communities.
- Head of Pattan accompanied UN-ISDR officials to see TCF and Mercy Malaysia project areas in Muzaffarabad and Bagh respectively on October 15 and 16, 2006
- Pattan national coordinator and program coordinator visited DKC Mansehra during January 07. They discussed the issues and problems field staff facing regarding project implementation and also guided for rapid progress of project.
- During the reporting period President of Mercy Malaysia along with Pattan national coordinator visited the DKC Mansehra, and also visited the project village Brarkot. More than sixty females participated in the meeting from Brarkot village. She met with VDRC (Village Disaster Reduction Committee) members and community females and discussed with issues related to health and education. Female participants emphasized and requested for vocational centre for young girls in the area.
- Officials of Pattan Disaster Preparedness and Training Centre Multan visited the DKC, and they had also field visit of village Jhagri and Sher.

5. Visibility in Media

The Pattan Development Organization responded sharply following the October 08, 2005 devastated earthquake in Hazara Division and in Azad Jammu and Kashmir in which at least 90,000 people were killed and at least three million rendered homeless.

The Pattan Development Organization established tent village in Balakot, arranged marriages of poor victims of the earthquake. It also conducted survey of the earthquake hit areas. It also established contacts with people of the affected areas and arranged demonstrations to highlight their problems. The Pattan also held meeting with the officials of Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority (ERRA) to apprise them the sufferings of earthquake victims. The Pattan also raised voice against building contractors for using sub-standard material.

It also started media advocacy to highlight the problems of the victims of earthquake. The newspapers including Dawn, The News, The Nation, The Post, Daily Times, Daily Jang, Daily Jinnah and Nawa-e-Waqt gave wide coverage to the events arranged by the Pattan Development Organization in an effort to raise the problems and sufferings of the earthquake victims. Other than this the national Coordinator and project manager of PATTAN appeared in three TV programs and two radio discussions on disaster issues.

6. Assistance to Mercy Malaysia in implementation

Pattan team also facilitated Mercy Malaysia in organizing Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) training in Bagh, Azad Kashmir. Pattan provided resource person to conduct the trainings in project villages of MM in Bagh during March 07. These training sessions were conducted in two VKCs, Rara and Bagh urban. In both training sessions about 40 trainees participated. Where most (90%) of the participants were 22-35 years old, by profession about 55% of the total participants were teachers and minimum education of the participants was matriculation, while most of the participants were graduates. Mr. Karim from UNISDR and Mr. Mehboob from TCF visited during the training sessions.



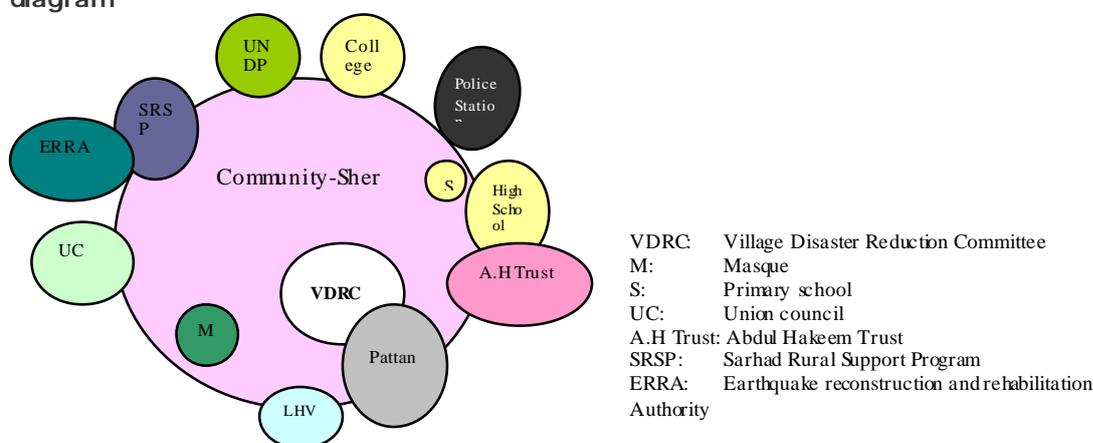
7. Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Mapping

Currently we are engaged in hazard mapping, and Vulnerability and Capacity analysis of all project villages. Up to date we did action planning with two communities, named Sher and Patlung lower-2. The main objectives of Hazard Mapping, and Capacity and Vulnerability Analysis are to:

- assess the risks facing community and the capacities available to deal with those risks;
- involve community, local authorities and humanitarian/development organizations in the assessment that can provide participants with greater awareness of their own potentialities to reduce disaster risks; and
- draw up an action plan to prepare for and respond to the hazards identified.

This Venn-diagram was completed during HVC mapping through Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) by community participants. Figure-1 depicts the influence of the different institutions on community in decision making. Detailed report of HVC analysis is given in Annexure-3.

Figure-1: Venn-diagram



8. Project Impact and Post-project Sustainability

The ERRA design was not suitable for high altitude areas as sand, cement, steel and blocks would cost a lot on transportation. Also water in such areas was not even available for drinking let alone for house construction. The local people improvised the ERRA design by using timber (logs) and wooden planks. As PATTAN believed in local wisdom. In order to ensure viability of the improvised design, expert opinion was sought. Once, experts approved it, we started an advocacy campaign in favour of wooden design. Many demos and roundtable discussions were organised in Mansehra, Balakot and Islamabad for the purpose. Also our socio-economic survey clearly showed enormous support for wooden frame for new houses. Finally, ERRA budged to this pressure and allowed the use of wooden frame.

In almost all project union councils, union nazims and councilors are members of VDRCs. It has integrated elected officials with rest of the communities and provide a platform to articulate their

needs and concerns to higher level of decision making i.e. district councils and departments etc. PATTAN also helped the communities to line with other NGOs.

PATTAN will continue working with project partners for some more time and keep on running the DKRC in Islamabad and Mansehra, while communities will take care of community based centers. The literature we have collected for DKRC will help practitioners and researchers.

The project is prone to numerous kinds of disasters including flooding, land sliding and storms. It was witnessed that some communities have reconstructed houses in hazardous locations such as active river-bed. To address the, hazard and risk mapping of project villages will be used to reduce future disasters through community actions. In order to implement this work, funding must be raised.

Annexure-1: Overview Of Units Of Module

Sessions	UNITS	OBJECTIVES	CONTENTS	TIME
Session 1	Unit-1 Basic Concepts	Enhance conceptual understanding of the participants of disaster.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is disaster, risk, vulnerability, hazard, mitigation, capacity, preparedness, • Vulnerability, Capacity and risk mapping. 	150 minutes
Session 2	Units-2 Community participation	Enhance importance of community participation in risk free recovery and rehabilitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is community? • Why participation is essential at all stages (identification, designing, of disaster management?) 	83 minutes
	Units-3 Gender and Disaster	Understand the concept of gender and disaster.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is gender? • Difference between gender and sex • Gender role in disaster management and risk reduction. 	110 minutes
Session 3	Units-4 Action Planning	Action planning by Identifying and understanding the Hazards' probability, predictability, and severity then mapping of vulnerability and capacities of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRA Tools • Risk, hazard and vulnerability mapping. • Impediments in risk free recovery. • Advocacy issues. • Role of Federal provincial and local government, UN, political parties NGOs • Resource mapping • Work plan. 	4 Hrs and 30 minutes

Annexure-2: Report on Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment through PRA

Community: Sher
Union Council: Ghanool
Tehsil: Balakot
District: Mansehra

Date: 17.05.07

PATTAN Team: Abdul-Saboor, Tanveer Ahmed Naveed, Majida Jabeen, Sobia Rashid, Tauseen, and Zamin Abbas

Objective

Main objectives of Hazard Mapping, and Capacity and Vulnerability Analysis are to:

- assess the risks facing community and the capacities available to deal with those risks;
- involve community, local authorities and humanitarian/development organizations in the assessment that can provide participants with greater awareness of their own potentialities to reduce disaster risks;
- and draw up an action plan to prepare for and respond to the hazards identified.

Tools used:

- PRA
 - Pai-charts
 - Venn-diagrams
 - Semi-structured Interviews
 - Livelihood Analysis
 - Hazard Map (Village map identifying hazards)
 - Hazard Matrix
- Transect walk

Brief Profile of the Community (Village Sher)

Village is located at the distance of 7km in the east of Balakot city. It is mainly divided into three Mohallahs, Tariha, Misstari Mohalah and Shar respectively. Total population of the village is about 900 persons while community consisted upon 150 households. Gujar and Mughal are the major social order (castes) of the village and major occupation is farming.

Proceedings and findings:

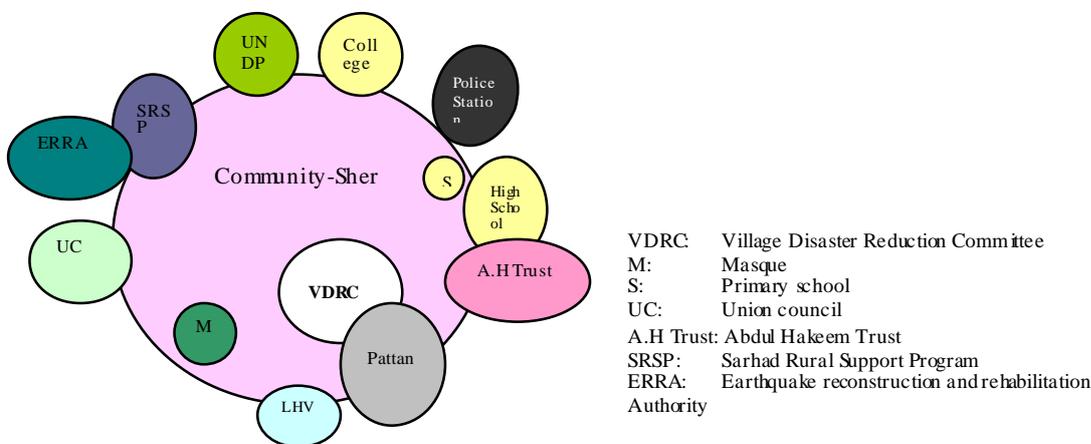
Purpose and objectives of the community based disaster management plan was shared after brief introduction of the participants and PATTAN Development Organization.

Development process and role of different institutions



Firstly by using PRA tools, **venn-diagram** was completed in the meeting of 20 people of the community belonging to different age groups. People found it very interesting and participated very actively in linking the different influential institutions. **Figure-1** depicts the influence of different institutions/organizations in the decision making regarding the disaster risk reduction. In the community, most influential organization is VDRC while SRSP, PATTAN, Abdul Hakeem Trust and Union Council can also play decisive role in disaster management. Almost all institutions working separately and have identical role to support the community. ERRA does not have any direct intervention in the community, it has limited role of exchanging/sharing of information. Whereas SRSP is working as ERRA's agent agency in distribution of housing compensation. In the community, VDRC is playing leading role in disaster risk reduction with the moral, technical, economic and logistic support of PATTAN Development Organization. VDRC is PATTAN's partner agency; the main role of VDRC is to act on behalf of their respective communities and to assist Pattan in project implementation. Figure showing overlapping of Abdul Hakeem Trust in high school and community both it denotes that A.H Trust have not only prominent role in community helping directly but also indirectly by providing logistic assistance to high school (furniture etc.).

Figure-1: Venn-diagram



Secondly, through **pi-charts** some basic and key information gathered, regarding current reconstruction situations of the village, major professions and impact of disaster on gender.

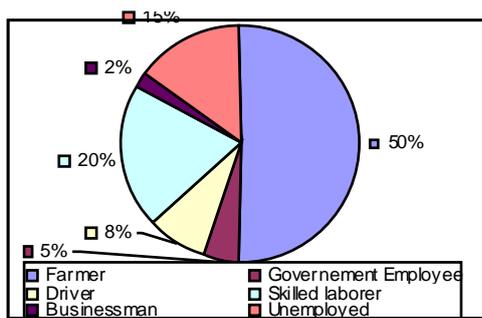


Figure-2: by Profession breakdown of the village

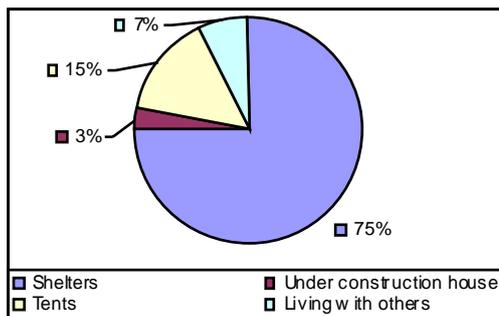


Figure-3: Reconstruction Situations of the Village

Figure-2 shows the breakdown of professions, where 50% people are attached to farming while 5% people are serving in government departments, 8% are driver by profession, 20% are skilled laborers rather only 2% are indulge in business activities. Remaining 15% neither have work nor skills.

Figure-3 depicts the current reconstruction and rehabilitation situations of the village. Majority of the people (75%) are living in shelters whereas only 3% have started reconstruction of houses as per ERRA model. While 15% are still living in tents and 7% do not possess any personal shelter. Repentantly, there is no single earthquake resistant house in the community (Village Sher).

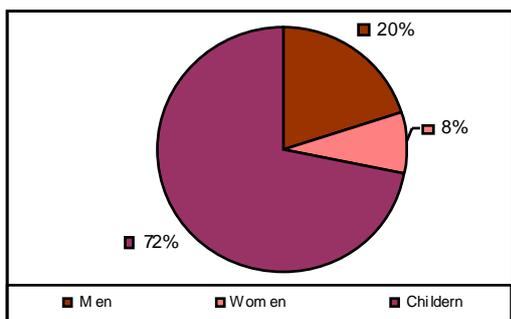


Figure-4: Gender break down of deaths

Figure-4 details the sex wise percentage of deaths in 8th October's disaster. In total 49 casualties took place in the village Shar, including 72% children, 20% women and 8% men. Its obvious from the above figure that "in disaster" most vulnerable group was children, while second high susceptible group was women of the village.

Hazard Mapping: Through Semi-Structured Interviews and Hazard Matrix

Identification of Hazards

The assessment is conducted one and half year after the devastating earthquake. PATTAN social organizers formed focus groups to draw out local perspectives on disaster. The hazards regarded by community (Sher), as most likely to occur in the future were, in of importance: earthquake; "Land sliding"; food; thunders and storms; and wild animals (Tiger, snakes etc.).

History of the Hazards

Community participants never had seen such destructive earthquake before, in their lives. Rather second major devastating disaster they



experienced in 1992, when flood destroyed almost 50% crops, 30% houses and other than livestock community also faced some human losses. Landsliding, storms and wild animals are seasonal hazards.

Impact of the Hazards

Earthquake had badly affected the human life, property, livelihood communication, water resources, livestock and social, cultural, attitude and economic activities. Mr. Malik (a teacher) added “it was just like mini doomsday where every one was striving for his/her own personal survival”. “Besides these losses government/ERRA’s compensation policy had thrown the affected into a new disaster. This complex compensation process is more hazardous than the earthquake. It weakens us morally, ethically, socially, attitudinally and economically and it will also worsen our next generations” Mr. Shah Muhammad.

Other hazards also have partially similar impact on human life. But because of predictability, early warning, seasonality, origin and force of the land sliding, flood, storms and wild animals are comparatively less severe than earthquake.

Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis

Material, physical, organizational and economic vulnerabilities are high in the community (Sher). But community is strong in motivational and socio-cultural capacities. People are highly vulnerable in health, education, income generation resource, communication (roads) and drinking water resources. Females can contribute enough to reduce economic vulnerabilities if they have livelihood trainings, like sewing/stitching centre. Better roads could provide them easy access to hospitals, schools, college and market. And small scale business/enterprise scheme will not only increase their economic capacities but also reduce their personal clashes which rise due to hunger and unemployment, and make them more vulnerable. Through organized advocacy campaign their voice can reach to top level government management, which could cause policy changes in their favor. Village map showing hazards, physical vulnerabilities and capacities to be served is **Annexure-1**. Whereas themes for semi-structured interviews for HVC analysis to be served is **Annexure-2**

Data Collection using CVA framework

Hazards	Vulnerabilities	Capacities
<p>Earthquake</p> <p>Such destructive earthquake community faced first time.</p> <p>Have no early warning for Earthquake, due to that faced massive destruction of infrastructure, 100% house demolished and human loss (49 persons died) in 8th October's earthquake.</p> <p>Communication system totally destroyed</p> <p>Agriculture, income generation resources and drinking water resource smashed</p> <p>Floods:</p> <p>floods happen almost after every two years for the past fifteen years. Major flood was in 1992.</p> <p>When almost 50% agriculture crops destroyed</p>	<p>Collective</p> <p>Steep mountain residential location</p> <p>No earthquake resistant houses</p> <p>ERRA's delay in disbursement of 2nd installment of compensation amount and strict conditions</p> <p>Water from the mountains fell in the center of the village</p> <p>No proper communication system</p> <p>Very risky and tough muddy roads, which can't be used in heavy rains, village can't be approached without 4*4 jeeps even in normal weather.</p> <p>Illness/diseases: diarrhea, skin diseases, fever, allergies</p> <p>Decreasing plants and trees</p> <p>Community conflicts</p> <p>Vulnerabilities in Males</p> <p>Low income (Main source of income is agriculture, while agri land is very limited)</p>	<p>Collective</p> <p>Sufficient number of masons and carpenters in the village</p> <p>Teachers</p> <p>Mobiles (communication resource)</p> <p>Community selfhelp</p> <p>Availability of school for boys</p> <p>NGOs intervention and availability of their assistance</p> <p>Village level committees (VDRC)</p> <p>Community members help each other</p> <p>Female</p> <p>Having skills of farming, sewing/stitching and livestock</p> <p>Enthusiastic and motivational to participate in economic activities</p>

Hazards	Vulnerabilities	Capacities
<p>Heavy raining causes floods</p> <p>Soil erosion, crops destruction, loss of livestock and some time human losses occur due to floods</p> <p>Land Sliding</p> <p>Soft soil, steep hilly mountains and lack of trees cause land sliding.</p> <p>Impact human life severely, destroy communication system, water resources and crops</p> <p>Storms</p> <p>Is seasonal hazard. Mostly in April to May & October to November it happens. It's highly predictable, local people have local knowledge for its predictability.</p> <p>Impact on livelihood severely, destroy crops, disturb economic activities and routine life.</p>	<p>Limited work available</p> <p>High unemployment</p> <p>Slow development due to lack of uniformity and collective thinking (individualism)</p> <p>Vulnerabilities in Female</p> <p>No school, college for females in near community that's cause very low literacy rate</p> <p>No hospital, no health facilities available to women and dangerous roads make them more vulnerable to excess Balakot city. Many female died in pregnancy and delivery cases due to difficult excess of hospitals.</p> <p>Due to lack of economic resource, training centers, education and encouragement from community they can't participate in income generation activities.</p> <p>Higher ratio of females is psychologically depressed due to disaster</p> <p>No participation of female in decision making</p> <p>Highly depend on male members</p> <p>No opportunity to migrate even not willing to live in that difficult area</p> <p>Very limited water resource available to community and mostly females fetch the water from distant springs in their pitcher putting them on their heads.</p>	<p>Hardworking</p>

Steps needed for Disaster preparedness and mitigation

- Check dunes/flood protection wall to reduce losses in case of flood in near future.
- Earthquake resistant houses
- Community awareness sessions/seminars/trainings for disaster preparedness and risk reduction are highly demanded by the community. Especially trainings for First Aid, safer construction of houses and LHV are needed.
- Advocacy campaign to increase compensation amount and lump sum payment against ERRA.
- Majority of the people did not started reconstruction because they are not sure about Red Zone boundaries. To alleviate the confusion regarding red zone humanitarian organizations should increase the pressure on government to share seismic report with affected communities.
- VDRC should play active role for unity and strength of the community. And PATTAN should support the VDRC morally, technically and some time economically.

Action Planning:

PATTAN team analyzed the data abruptly, and ranked the issues considering available resource and need of the community. Than these issues discussed with VDRC and other community activists, time frame and duties were assigned. Following table shows the time frame of action planning for disaster risk reduction.

Major Issue and Action Planning

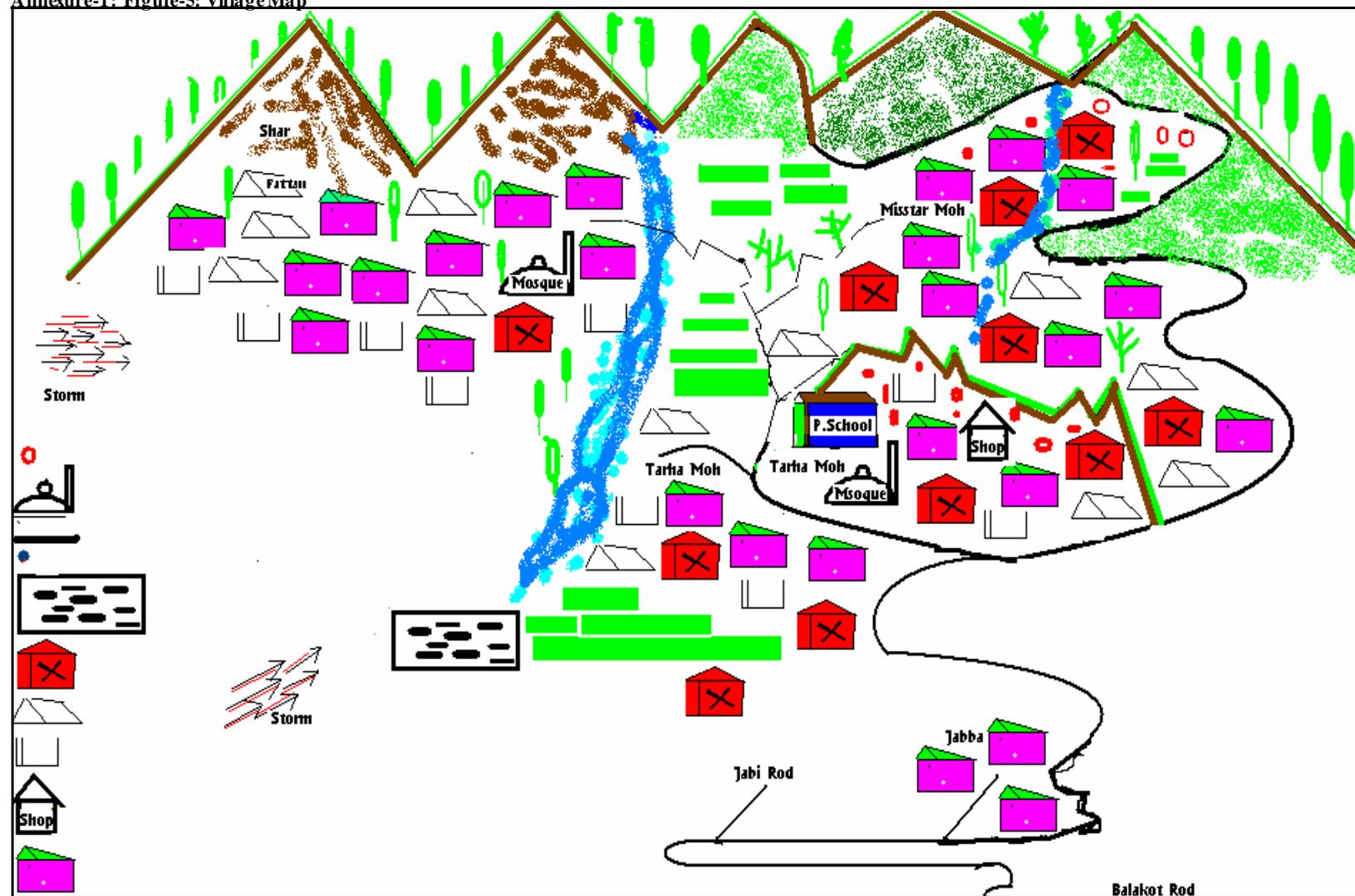
Issues	Who	When	Where	How
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<p>Training for First Aid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of 2 male and 2 female volunteers for first aid training. • Arrangement for training 	<p>VDRRC will give the names</p> <p>PATTAN Mansehra office</p>	<p>Up to May 24, 2007</p> <p>June, 2007</p>	<p>Pattan Office</p> <p>Balakot</p>	<p>VDRRC will call community meeting and select 4 young people.</p> <p>Arrange doctor and select venue in Balakot.</p>
<p>Struggle for Earthquake Resistant Houses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign for compensation amount and against ERRA's model map. 	<p>VDRRC delegation will write the issues and with PATTAN representative will go to ERRA office.</p>	<p>18 June, 2007</p>	<p>ERRA Field office, Mansehra</p>	
<p>Flood protection walls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for check dams to local government and NGOs. 	<p>VDRRC prepare application and also estimate total cost expected.</p>	<p>Up to 1st June, 2007</p>	<p>Tehsil Nazim and UNDP</p>	<p>PATTAN representative will arrange meeting with local representatives and NGOs, and also provide logistic and technical support to VDRRC.</p>

Conclusion

This VCA will lead to the society playing a lead role in national disaster planning. Community feels ownership in high lightning issues and finding their solutions. Crucially, the VCA process aims to heighten the awareness of communities and aid organizations before disaster strikes again. It then converts that awareness into concrete risk reduction activities. But the process carries risks. It may expose root causes of vulnerability, its solutions may be unacceptable to authorities, and it may raise unrealistic expectations. So need to check available time and budget for the project activities. If we do have considerable time and unconstrained budget than vulnerability, hazard and capacity analysis, and action planning could be a great contribution to reduce disaster risk. Otherwise action planning will lift up community expectations only.

Annexure-1: Figure-5: Village Map



Themes for semi structured interviews for Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity analysis

Hazard assessment:

Q#1: Name the hazards in your village that can turn into disaster in future?

Q #2: What is the probability of these Hazards?

Q#3: Which Hazard could be more destructive.

Q#4: Other than earthquake, had any hazard turned into disaster in past? Explain the brief history of these hazards?

Q#4: Are Government departments and NGOs aware about these Hazards? Did they take any steps to cope with these Hazards? If yes, what are those steps?

Q#5: What immediate steps are considered necessary to cope with these Hazards?

Vulnerability assessment:

Q#1: How is your village collectively vulnerable to face hazards? And what are the major vulnerabilities in individuals (male and female) of your village?

Q#2: What type of losses you can face individually and collectively due to these vulnerabilities?

Q#3: What are your suggestions to reduce these vulnerabilities?

Capacity assessment:

Q#1: To confront hazards, what are individual and collective capacities/strengths of your village?

Q#3: Which capacities can reduce your respective vulnerabilities?

Part II : Activities carried out by SEEDS Asia & Mercy Malaysia up to December 2006

Activity 1 : Meeting with the Local Government.

SEEDS Asia conducted meetings with the local government. The meeting was held on 11th September 2006. Mercy Malaysia and SEEDS Asia had the meeting with DC (Deputy Commissioner) and DEO (District Education Officer) to present them the concept of the project for their acceptance and cooperation. Participants are following:

- Muhammad Zafar Khan, Deputy Commissioner District
- Muzzafar Khan, District Education Officer
- Muhammad Akhlaq Khan, District Education Officer (Elementary)
- Syhed Mumtaz Kazmi, Tehsil Coordinating Officer

In the current project, capacity enhancement of local people including local government is focused. In addition, schools could be the candidate site for establishment of KCs because schools can be useful places for information distribution through school children.

The plan was accepted by the local government and the government proposed 6 candidate sites (schools). Following are the 6 candidate sites proposed by the local government.

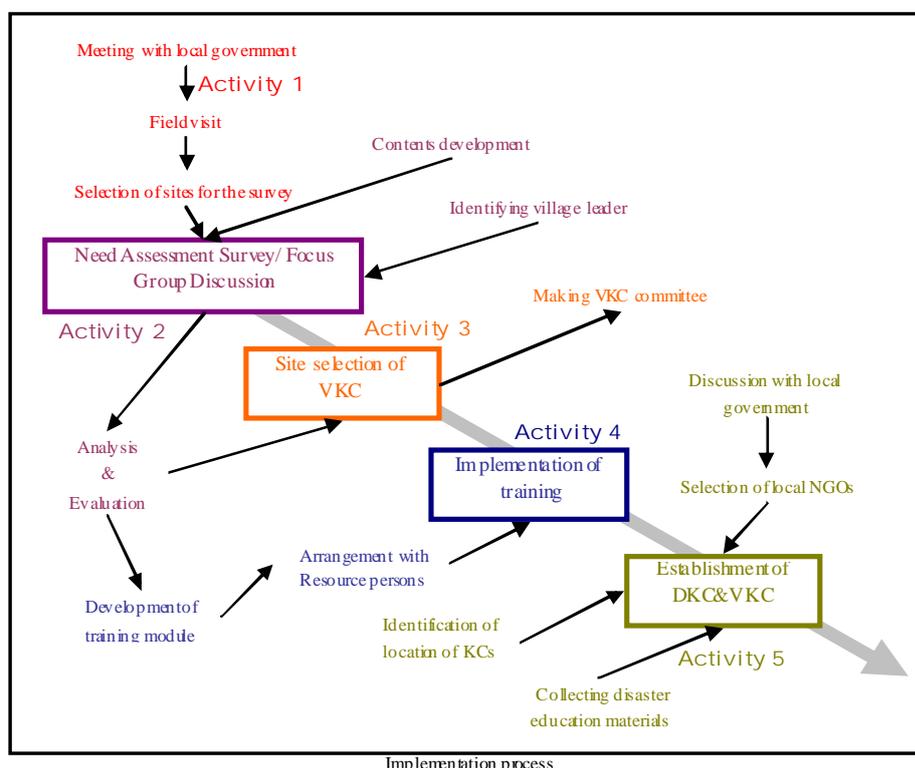
- Town Bagh
- Village Mallot
- Village Rera
- Village Thub
- Village Bir Pani
- Village Harighal

After the meeting, Field visit were conducted. Survey was conducted in 5 villages/town where the KCs (Knowledge Centre) were to be established. Schools, market, and health centre were candidate places for the KC keeping in



consideration community's accessibility to the area.

In Thub, schools proposed by local government are located in the central place in the village but market was so small and few people could be seen in the place, compared to other 5 villages/town. Additionally, this village is located in the north-west side of Tehsil Bagh. Bir Pani is in the north and Mallot is in the west. According to the location and situation of Thub, survey was decided to be conducted in other 5 villages/town.



Activity 2: Need Assessment Survey/Focus Group Discussion

Contents development : SEEDS India has conducted need assessment/training need assessment survey in the affected areas all over the world. An adaptation of the same survey methodology was used by SEEDS Asia to conduct

interviews with people in Mansehra to know the situation in the affected area and to identify needs.

Need Assessment Survey was conducted to understand the following aspects:

- Livelihood at individual level (Family structure, life pattern, and place where people go often)
- Information transmission at village level
- Knowledge of earthquake
- Reconstruction at individual level
- Awareness of disaster management
- Current and future problems and needs at individual level
- Necessity of KCs

This survey was conducted through interviews. Following number of people took the interview.

People Surveyed:

Village	Male	Female
Bagh	104	47
Mallo	126	45
Rera	73	67
Harighal	70	47
Bir Pani	61	61



Local Interviews. Photo SEEDS Asia

Identifying village leader: During the survey, key persons (village leaders) were identified. In District Bagh, any election has not been done in Union Council level since 1998. Therefore, SEEDS Asia collected opinions from many people in the market and identify who would (could) be the most influential leader in each village.

Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were conducted with educated people including identified village leaders to understand needs in the following areas

- General information of village
- Information transmission at village level
- Reconstruction at individual level
- Awareness of disaster management



Discussion with local leaders. Photo SEEDS Asia

- Current and future problems and needs at individual level
- Necessity of KCs
- Candidate site for KC

Refer Annexure D for analysis of results of Focus Group Discussion.

Activity 3: Site Selection

Selection of sites and location for VKC

As for the results of need assessment survey and focal group discussion, the large differences among 5 sites can not be seen.

VKCs should be mobilized by local community and NGOs. Therefore, cooperation of local community is so important to succeed the project. According to the concept, the criterions of selecting 3 sites for establishing VKCs were set up as per the following:

1. Location balance among 3 sites
2. Cooperation of local people
3. Place provided by local community
4. Damages caused by Pakistan Earthquake



Focus Group Discussions. Photo SEEDS Asia

Table 4 Evaluation of village/town

Site	UC	Village	1. Location	2. Cooperation	3. Place	4. Damage
1	Bagh	Bagh	Centre	Average	School	Large
2	Juglari	Mallot	West	Very good	Building between markets	Large
3	Swanji	Rera	East	Very good	Space in market	Large
4	Rawari	Harighal	South	Bad	Could not provide	Small
5	Bir pani	Bir Pani	North	Very good	School	Large

This table shows the status of each village town, based on the four criterions. It was clear that, Harighal was not appropriate for the project and sustainability of KCs. In Mallot and Rera, local community planed to provide building or space in/near market. In Bagh Town and Bir Pani, they tried to provide a part of sites of schools as KCs. But school is not appropriate location for establishing KCs because schools are not visited by all members of the community, nor does the school cover the entire village area.

Bagh Town is the central place in District Bagh locally and for economic reasons, many people



come there from other villages; The DC too proposed that at least one of VKC should be there.

Hence, Bagh Town, Mallot, and Rera were selected as sites for VKC.

VKC committee were formed at each project site. In Rera and Mallot, many members were also the participants of FGD. In case of Bagh Town most of educated people were busy in their own work and it was difficult for them to work for management of VKC. Because local government is near from Bagh Town, one of government worker was selected as a leader to make relationship with local government. However, management of VKC in Town Bagh would be done by local NGO selected by local government.

Activity 4: Implementation of Training

Development of training module/Arrangement with resource persons. From the results of the survey and focal group discussion, training of disaster management and health emerged as most important. For disaster management training, local people did not feel the importance of community based disaster management.



Based on the results and reasons mentioned above, following training programs were identified:

- Community based disaster management (CBDM) training for local government and committee member
- Safer construction for local people and masons
- Disaster education for school teachers
- Health training

SEEDS Asia developed training module based on the results of the survey and focal group discussion and the publications which have been published by UN organizations or NGOs working in disaster management. After developing module, SEEDS Asia contacted UNDP Pakistan (for CBDM) and NSET-Nepal (for safer construction) and discussed the proposed training with them.



Disaster education for school teachers was provided by SEEDS Asia based its own experience.

Annexure E presents the agenda of the training programme.

Activity 5: Establishment of DKC&VKC

Discussion with local government for selection of Local NGOs : On completion of the current project funding, the NGO will mobilize VKC in each site. In Rera and Town Bagh, local NGOs have been founded with the cooperation of local government in November.

In case of Mallot, after the establishing VKC, it was found that the village leader was the director of local NGO named as “Rural Development Organization (hereinafter, RDO)” which was working based on Mallot. The village leader is cooperative person for this project and RDO has connection with local government. Therefore, RDO has been 3rd local NGO to mobilize KC.

Selected NGO in Bagh Town is Rays and NGO in Rera is JKNDP (Jammna Kashmir National Development Foundation). These two NGOs are working in education aspect.

Identification of location of DKC&VKCs

In Rera and Mallot, village leader provided space for KCs through discussion with SEEDS Asia. In Rera, the space is in the market and the committee members are providing money for renting spaces. In Mallot, there are two big markets near schools pointed out by the local government in the meeting. The space for VKC is near the school and between the two markets. Building owner provide the space at no charge for the project.

Bagh Town is the urban area and it is difficult for educated people to work locally continuously. In addition, it is difficult to find available space for VKC because of the location. For these reasons, Rays provided a part of their office as the space for VKC in Bagh Town because their office is located in the market.

Establishment of VKC&DKC/Collecting materials. VKCs in Rera, Mallot, and Bagh Town have been established with VKC committee member, local people, and local NGO. Facilities, publications, and materials were provided. After setting up, village people (committee member,



Disaster education materials. Photo SEEDS Asia



local people, and local NGO) attached posters on the wall, which they made in the 3 training programs last November and which were provided by UN HABITAT, SEEDS Asia, or other related organizations.

After establishing VKCs, disaster education materials were shown to local people. These materials were developed by NIED (National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention, Tsukuba, Japan) and they are useful to understand mechanism of disaster with sense.

Through discussion with DC, location of DKC was identified. A container was carried to DC office to set up DKC with Oxfam.



Part III: Activities carried out by SEEDS Asia & Mercy Malaysia from January to April 2007

Objective:

- To educate the people of Tehsil Bagh about disaster preparedness and hazard risk reduction.
- To make people particularly masons understand about safer construction and to make relationship between local people and masons.
- To make people understand the concept of disaster management so that people can adopt the relevant knowledge in their daily life.
- Understanding of community based disaster management (CBDM) concept.
- To give fundamental knowledge of Disaster Education to School teachers and Students.

Activities:

1) Ceremony and Workshop (25th January)

The opening ceremony of DKC was done, inviting some worker from DC office, VKC committee members, and local NGOs. After the ceremony, workshop for male people was conducted to consider mobilization of DKC and VKC's. The participants were VKC committee members, local NGOs, and some worker from DC office. The workshop for female people was also conducted to understand the problems on female people.



2) Training for Local People and Mason for Safer Construction In Malot

On 23rd February 2007, a workshop conducted on Safer Construction in Village Malot. This workshop was conducted with the collaboration of DKC Bagh, VKC Malot, STAR Foundation and Rural Development Organization (RDO) Malot. Local people and Masons participated in this workshop. The objectives of workshop were following.

- To make participants to understand types of buildings and houses damages
- To make participants to realize importance of safer construction
- To make masons to understand how to construct safer houses
- To make a linkage between local people and local masons
- To make strategy for safer construction in village level.

25 Local people and masons participated in this workshop All participants appreciate these kinds of workshops.



3) Disaster Risk Reduction Training (Session-I) in Rera

On 19th March 2007 conducted training on Disaster Risk Reduction Session I in Rera. The objectives of this training was following

- To have participants understand the importance of mitigation and preparedness
- To have participants know linking disaster, vulnerability, Risk reduction and Capacity.
- To understand our jobs and find out the problems to be focused.
- How to train the people area wise.

This training was conducted with the collaboration of Pattan, DKC Bagh, VKC Rera and JKNDP (local NGO). Pattan provided resource person for this training. Mr. Karim of UNISDR also visited on 19th March in DKC Bagh and Training site in Rera.



4) Disaster Risk Reduction Training (Session-I) in Bagh

A same type of training also carried out in Bagh Knowledge Centre on 22nd March 2007. This training was conducted with collaboration of DKC Bagh, VKC Bagh, Rays and Pattan Development Organization. Fifteen (15) people participated in this training



5) Circulation of Broachers and Shown disaster education Material in Mallot

On 26th March 2007 broachers was circulated among the local people in Mallot and Mr. Ijaz (VKC Worker in Mallot) also shown disaster education Material to the participants This program was conducted to give awareness to Local people about Disaster Management through broachers in Urdu.



6) Short Programe with School Students

On 28th March 2007 a short conducted with the Students of Govt. Higher Secondry School Rera in Village Knowledge Centre Rera. This programe was conducted to give fundamental knowledge of Disaster Education to Students. Students are expected for and knowledge base Library containing Historical books, world encyclopaedia, Computer courses Hardware and Software. At the end, knowledge base literature was also distributed.



7) Community Meeting in Mallot

On 27th April 2007a meeting was conducted with Local people and traders in VKC Mallot. This training was conducted to get community involement in this project.



8) Meeting with Traders in Rera

On 29th April 2007 conducted a meeting with traders in Rera. The objectives of this meeting was to involve traders in Disaster Management. This Training was conducted in STAR Foundation Office Rera with the cooperation of JKNUF, Village Knowledge Centre Rera and STAR Foundation. 20 traders participated in this meeting.



In Future we have plan to make some groups of volunteers of different categories of people. e.g. traders, students, village people, town people committee and traders and that we will give them training of Disaster Management. We will start making volunteers committees from June. For the activities of every month we are arranging a meeting of VKC's and DKC in DKC on 27th of every month.

2. RESOURCES:

Refer Financial Report for details

3. CHALLENGES:

1. The concept of setting up Knowledge Centre is a unique one. As such there were challenges in understanding its concept and introducing the same to local communities. Local communities expect that outside agencies are there to provide physical help. The concept of knowledge sharing though empowering, is not immediately appreciated by the community.
2. The Knowledge Centres have been established in areas reporting heavy damage. There is a severe shortage of spaces such as public or community buildings where training sessions and workshops can be held. This has served as a constraint.
3. Project activities have been hampered due to inclement weather conditions.
4. People of the project villages did not have basic health, education facilities for children and females. Therefore, the focus of training and other knowledge sharing activities had to be broadened to include basic needs along with DRR.
5. Inclement weather in the area severely disrupted the original work plan.
6. Difficulty in finding trained personnel to carry out project activities was a severe constraint. There was high turnover as well as high demands on salaries.

III. HIGHLIGHTS

1. Prevention begins with Information. The concept of Knowledge Centres was to bridge the gap between available expert knowledge and the community at risk. The establishment of knowledge centres in the earthquake affected areas of Pakistan is the first important step towards empowerment of the community.
2. In spite of initial opposition and reluctance to accept a new concept, the community and other local stakeholders have taken the concept of knowledge centres very well. The success has also opened the path for scaling and sustaining the initiative.
3. The project enabled development of appropriate training material in local languages. Moreover, the knowledge stays with the community through centres acting as local institutions. The community thus have an opportunity to apply their training and consult the local institutions for redressal of problems encountered during implementation.
4. The knowledge centres acted as a bridge between stakeholders. Different specialized agencies could therefore use the centres for disseminating specific knowledge skills.
5. The Centre served as a platform for several advocacy initiatives. Some of the initiatives were successful in influencing local government policy in favour of the community.

6. Project sustainability issues have been addressed by involving local community based organizations willing to take up responsibility of maintaining these centres beyond the project period.

IV. CONCLUSION

The ISDR supported project with ADRRN is a unique collaboration for creating sustainable solutions in Disaster Risk Reduction. In Pakistan and much of South Asia, the focus has traditionally been on disaster response. The Pakistan Earthquake of October, 2005 took away precious lives which could have been saved to large extent had knowledge been available and applied by local communities.

The establishment of Knowledge Centres has created the first steps for empowering local communities. It has opened up the path for mitigation against future disasters by “delivery of knowledge” at the cutting edge level. It has also facilitated advocacy against incorrect policies of the local government which subsequently got amended to suit peoples’ needs better.

The sustainability of unique initiatives such as this is always an issue. However, in case of this initiative, local communities have come forward to own the process. This is a significant achievement of the project.

Annexure A : Names of Project Villages & Union Councils

Sr.	Village	Union Council
1	Jalora	Balakot
2	Mangli	Balakot
3	Gali Auchari	Balakot
4	Patlung Lower-I	Balakot
5	Patlung Upper	Satbanni
6	Patlung Lower-II	Satbanni
7	Patlung Naka	Satbanni
8	Gareeb'abad	Garlat
9	Brarkot	Garhi Habibullah
10	Arban	Ghanool
11	Jabba	Ghanool
12	Jabi	Ghanool
13	Jahngair	Ghanool
14	Hassambad	Ghanool
15	Banghian Sardran	Ghanool
16	Shar	Ghanool

Annexure B: Village wise number of Trainees

S #	Village Name	Male	Female	Total
1	Patlang Naka	14	8	22
2	Jhangari	12	9	21
3	Patlang Upper II	5	5	10
4	Patlang Lower I	12	11	23
5	Jabbi	12	12	24
6	Arban	12	10	22
7	Jabba	17	13	30
8	Gareebabad	12	10	22
9	Hassamabad	10	7	17
10	Patlang Lower II	14	10	24
11	Jalora	11	-	11
12	Bararkot	10	8	18
13	Shar	12	10	22
14	Bhangian	12	7	19
Total		165	120	285

**Annexure C: A specimen of a Village Disaster Reduction Committee (VDRC) Profiles
Jabi Village**

Village: Jabi UC: Ghanool VDRC Formation Date: 8/12/06

Sr.	Name	Sex	Age	Edu.	Profession	N.I.C No.	Address	Contact	Signature
1	<u>Manzoor Hussain</u>	M	25	Matric	Transporter	13501-9436052-1	Jabi		
2	M.Ayoob	M	56	F.A	Retired	1305-133869-7	Jabi	0304-9551032	
3	Tahira Bibi	F	25	Matric	Housewife	1305-5621969-4	Jabi	0304-9551032	
4	Zaib-ul-Nisa	F	35	Primary	Housewife	1350-1280825-0	Jabi	0304955103-2	

Annexure D : Analysis of Focus Group Discussions

Working area

Fig 1 shows working area of local people. They are working inside their own union council and village mainly. This means their living area is inside their union council/village.

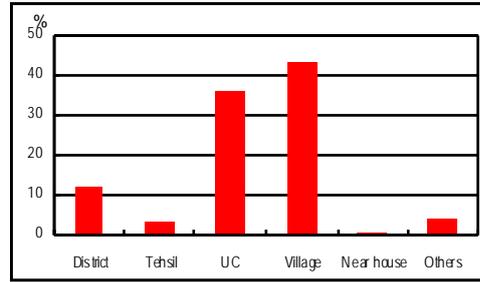


Fig 1 Working area

Frequency of going to main institutions (candidate place of VKC)

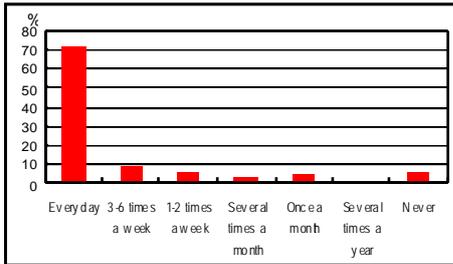


Fig 2 Frequency of going to school

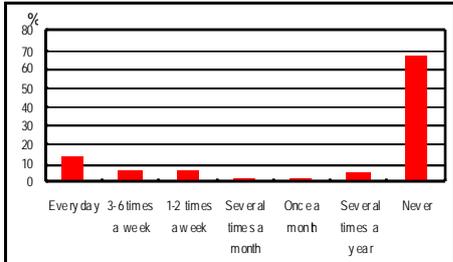


Fig 3 Frequency of going to market

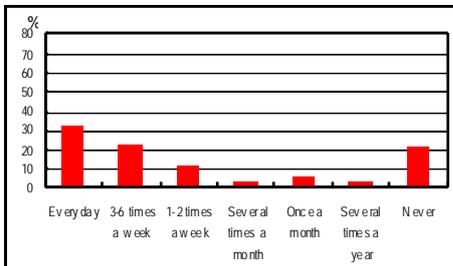


Fig 4 Frequency of going to mosque

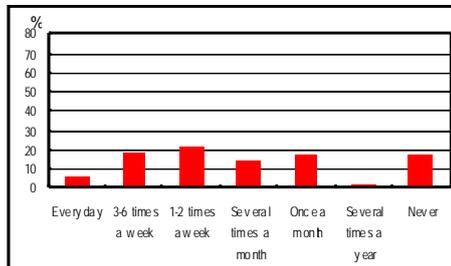


Fig 5 Frequency of going to health centre

Figure 2-5 shows the frequencies of going to main institutions/facilities for local people and these place could be considered as candidate places of VKCs. Many people are visiting market everyday and markets are a part of their livelihood. Hence, market is the first choice to establish VKCs.

House builders

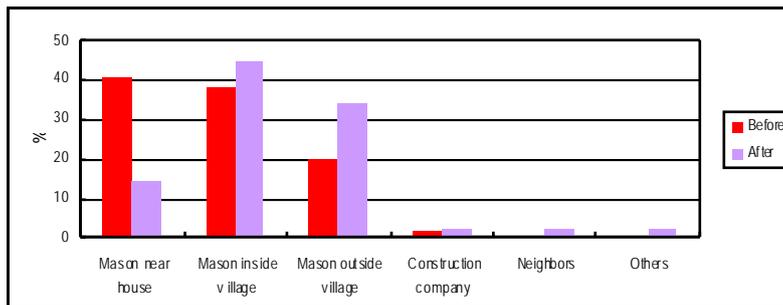


Fig 6 People who built houses

Before the earthquake, around 40 % of houses were constructed by masons in neighborhood and another 40% were built by masons inside their own village. But after the earthquake, due to lack of masons, main builders are shifted to masons inside and outside villages. After reconstruction is completed, the main builders will probably be again masons near their houses or inside villages. Therefore, local should have linkage local trained masons for earthquake disaster reduction as well as that local masons should be trained. In addition, this is another reason that knowledge centre should be village base.

Necessary information

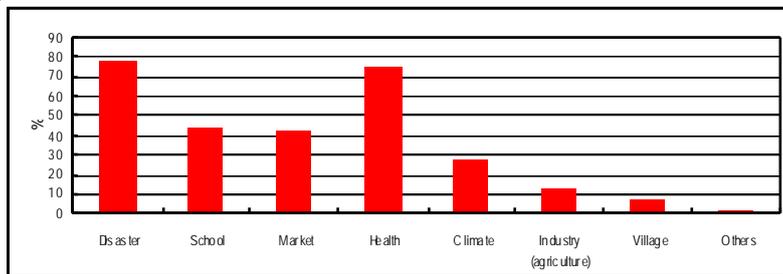


Fig 7 Necessary information in VKCs

Many people need information related to disasters and health issues. These two issues are caused by the earthquake and people are interested in the issues. More than 40 % of people also feel school or market information is useful in VKCs. These information are not related to disaster management directly but they are effective for sustainability of VKCs if they can be provided.

Information distribution

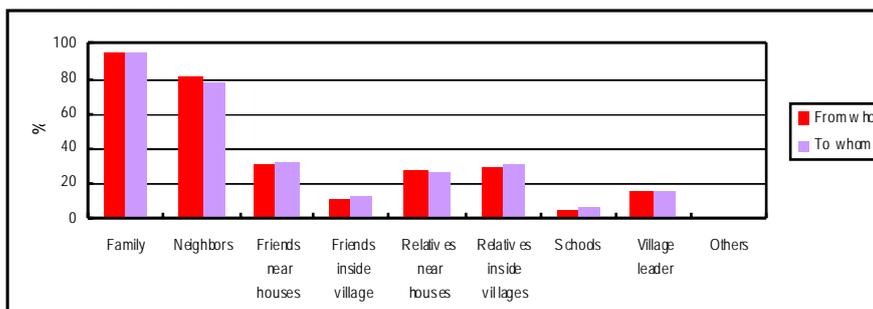


Fig 8 Distribution of village information

Figure 8 shows people give and take information. In the survey, information meant village related. Many people are sharing village information with family and neighbors. According to this figure, information is shared in small area. If information is distributed to all people, information source should be accessible place where people go often.

Necessity information for earthquake disaster reduction

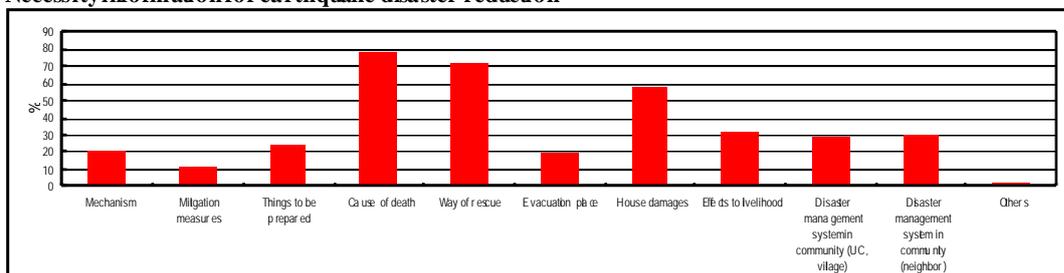


Fig 09 Necessity information for earthquake disaster reduction

Information which people are interested in are cause of death and way of rescue. Interests in disaster mitigation and preparedness is low due to lack of general knowledge of disaster management. It is important to promote culture of disaster prevention through knowledge center.

Current problems/needs (from focal group discussion)
(case of Mallot)

Table 2 Current problems and needs for male people in Mallot

Current problems on livelihood		Needs to improve livelihood	
Problems	Priority	Needs	Priority
Reconstruction of houses	1	Funds	1
Poverty	2	Water supply scheme	2
Lack of water supply	3	Doctors and medicines	3
Reconstruction of institute (school, college)	4	Furniture and building for school	4
Unemployment	5	Funds for roads	5
Rough roads	6		
Lack of health facilities	7		

Table 3 Current problems and needs for female people in Mallot

Current problems on livelihood		Needs to improve livelihood	
Problems	Priority	Needs	Priority
Reconstruction of houses	1	Funds	1
Lack of health facilities	2	Doctors and medicines for health center	2
Lack of water supply	3	Training for mental backwardness	3
Reconstruction of institute (school, college)	4	Furniture and building for school	4
Unemployment	5	Funds for roads	5
Lack of roads	6	Water supply scheme	6
Poverty	7		
Mental backwardness	8		

Main problems are houses reconstruction, health issues, and poverty (unemployment) in both male and female people. But female people emphasize health issues, compared to male people because their second problem is lack of health facilities.

Annexure E : Implementation of training

CBDM training for local government and committee member

9:30-9:40	Introduction	Koichi Shiwaku, SEEDS Asia
9:40-9:50	Opening Remarks	MD. Zafar Khan, DRU-Bagh
9:50-10:00	Participants introduction	Koichi, SEEDS Asia
10:00-10:45	Module 1: Terms and concept of Disaster Risk Management	Naunehal Shah
10:45-11:00	Tea Break	
11:00-12:30	Module 2: Preparedness at Community Level (CBDM)	Naunehal Shah
12:30-14:00	Lunch and Prayer	
14:00-15:20	Module 3: Group discussion for CBDM	Naunehal Shah
15:20-15:30	Wrap-up:	



Photo 11 Group photo

Safer construction for local people and masons

9:00-9:05	Introduction	Koichi Shiwaku, SEEDS Asia
9:05-9:15	Opening Remarks	Tahir Khan, UN-HABITAT
9:15-10:30	Module 1: Building damages by the earthquake of 2005	Surya Acharya and Rudra Pun, NSET-Nepal
10:30-10:45	Tea Break	
10:45-12:00	Module 2: Factors for safer house construction against earthquake	Surya Acharya and Rudra Pun, NSET-Nepal
12:00-13:30	Module 3: Field Visit	
13:30-14:30	Lunch and Prayer	
14:30-15:50	Module 4: Group discussion for safer construction for community	Surya Acharya and Rudra Pun, NSET-Nepal
15:50-16:00	Wrap-up: NSET-Nepal and SEEDS Asia	



Photo 13 Field visit (damaged building)

Disaster education for school teachers

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| 9:30-9:35 | Introduction | Yuko Nakagawa, SEEDS Asia |
| 9:35-10:45 | Module 1: Disaster Management and Disaster Education | Koichi Shiwaku, SEEDS Asia |
| | Module 2: Disasters in Japan | Koichi Shiwaku, SEEDS Asia |
| 10:45-11:00 | Tea Break | |
| 11:00-12:30 | Module 3: Case of disaster education | Koichi Shiwaku, SEEDS Asia |
| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch | |
| 14:00-15:30 | Module 4: Group discussion for promoting disaster education | Koichi Shiwaku, SEEDS Asia |
| 14:00-15:30 | Wrap up | Koichi Shiwaku and Yuko Nakagawa, SEEDS Asia |

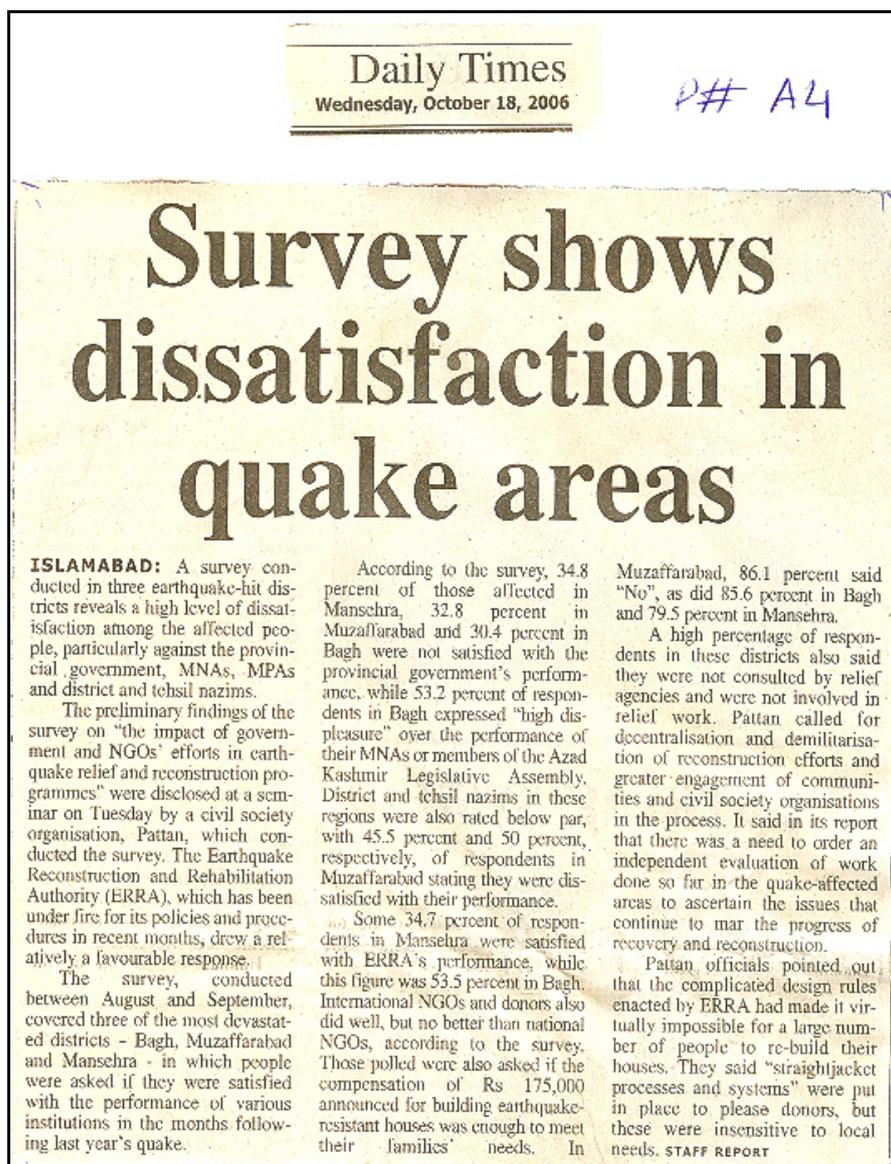


Photo 15 Group work



Photo 16 Presentation by participants

Annexur-3: Visibility in Media (Newspaper Clippings)



Disaster reduction in Pakistan, 'Opportunities and Challenges'

SHR JAHFERY

ISLAMABAD—Pattan Development organisation arranged a panel discussion on the eve of "International Disaster Reduction Day". The focus of the discussion was on the "Disaster Reduction in Pakistan". Sarwar Bari, national coordinator PATTAN initiated the debate by shedding some light on the diversity of the socio-political dimensions of the society.

Sarwar Bari, national coordinator PATTAN said that "ours is a multi-lingual, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society and disparities are seen in every walk of life. Mode of politics is feudal-militaristic where both the rich and powerful classes are in cahoots with each other. Public participation in the process of decision making is absent; rather decisions are thrust upon the people from high echelons of power.

He was giving opening remarks in a seminar arranged by PATTAN Development organisation in a panel discussion on the eve of "International Disaster Reduction Day". "Disaster Reduction in Pakistan" here Wednesday.

He further added that October

2005 earthquake ignited many concerns and controversies and one of the most serious concerns of the civil society is the newly established disaster management agencies in Pakistan, i.e. ERRA and NDMA. He opined that the civil society welcomes the establishment of these two organizations which are supposed to be responsible for the "Disaster Management in Pakistan." However we do not approve of the way these agencies are established and especially the way National Disaster Management Law the respective provincial assemblies without initiating public dialogue and debate passed 2006. The haste with which both the organizations were established speaks volumes for the mis-governance of the present regime.

He said that although the role of military in the relief work can not be ignored but it is sad to observe that the relief and rescue operations were mainly focused on initial relief and brick and mortar. Payment of compensation money is another sad episode. He added that poverty is increasing and for risk reduction, we must address poverty issue. He asked media and civil society to play a crucial role for sake

of accountability. He did not expect accountability coming from government.

Sarwar Bari stressed the need for a sustainable and long-term disaster management plan. He was of the view that since Pakistan is a disaster prone area and floods, earthquake, landslides and cyclones wash away billions of rupees investment and infrastructure every year, there is a great need for the development paradigm to take into account the risk reduction measures because that is the only way for sustainable development.

Saeed A. Khan, member PM Inspection Commission appreciated the concern of the questioner and referred to Gender Reform Action Plan (GRAP) stipulating presence of women in each body. He further added that law is a policy and we need to consult the stakeholders and NGOs, which will be done in due course of time.

Farzana Bari said that disasters are not neutral and women, children and marginalised sections of society are seriously affected by it. She demanded for making such laws, which should not to exclude marginalized segment of society in the implementation plans. PH3

The Patriot
Thursday October 12, 2006



Chairman Pattan Sarwar Bari speaks during a panel discussion on the eve of International Disaster Reduction Day organized by Pattan Development Organization at a local hotel in Islamabad on Wednesday. DG Operation (PRCS) Brigadier Ilyas, Zubair Murshid (UNDP), PM Inspection Commission Metrological Department Saeed A Khan and others are also seen in the picture.

DAWN

Islamabad, Thursday, November 24, 2005

Lessons from disasters

By Sarwar Bari

THE kind of destruction and devastation the Oct 8 earthquake has brought is unprecedented. In their time, the 1992 floods and the destruction that they wrought, were also unprecedented. Then village after village was washed away, some 14,000 people died and estimates of people affected and left homeless ranged from six to eight million.

At that time too there was a massive response from the general public just as there has been for the earthquake victims now, and international agencies also came in with money and experience. The government of the time announced reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes, but despite all this it was the local communities who successfully rebuilt their villages and livelihoods.

Heading towards Balakot, the destruction is of the same nature as it was downstream Mangla dam. Is there anything that we can learn from that devastating time in 1992?

After the immediate emergency response, I visited a number of flood-affected communities, still surviving along the west and east banks of the river Jhelum. Many promises made by the government had not been fulfilled, but people were still determined to restart their lives even with meagre resources. As the media turned its attention away from the floods, and governments were no longer held to their promises, we felt that this was the time for civil society to

build on the strength of local people, and support them in reconstruction. Unfortunately, the same scenario is likely to be played out now.

There were two villages which I still remember with feeling. Bhart, in tehsil Shahpur, district Sargodha was completely destroyed. Only 20 families were living in makeshift camps on the remains, the rest had left, and perhaps gone to friends and relatives to survive. I had initial discussions with those remaining 20 families, to see if they would resettle in a nearby location, as the river had eaten up their village. None of them wanted to leave their village and relocate, they wanted to rebuild, but had no resources.

It became very important for us to see if other village members would also return if the village were reconstructed, so we asked for a village meeting including as many displaced people as we could find. The meeting was held, and everyone at the meeting said that they wanted to come back.

After establishing that this was the desire of these people, to come back together as a community, the next important phase was to involve them in designing the housing units. It was important not to make the mistakes of former Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo's housing scheme for widows, which remained empty even eight years after it was built.

Both women and men were involved in the housing design, and then they formed purchase and quality control committees.

A combination of village and expert labour completed the rebuilding of 94 housing units

in 10 months, without any hiccups. Twelve years later, the village has more than 200 families, with schools, roads, a community centre, and electricity. The biggest achievement of the project was not just the rebuilding of the community but making a contribution to more equitable gender relations, as every home was made the joint property of husband and wife, with legal rights for both.

Megha was a village consisting of 250 households, situated on the river Jhelum, and was also washed away. Unlike Bhart, nobody had left the area. In the first village meeting, attended by men and women, people told us that they did not want houses. Their demand was that we build an embankment around the village.

Nawaz Sharif, the then prime minister, had visited the village soon after the floods, and promised to fulfil this request. Six months later, nothing had been done. As the community were so clear about what they wanted, we agreed to carry out the work. The irrigation department had prepared a design for the embankment and its estimate was 5.5 million rupees. We improvised on their design, the community was mobilized with each household agreeing to provide one person to work as a labourer. Water pumps and hoses were provided and children during summer vacations were involved in spraying the earth with water for compaction. A project implementation committee, consisting of male and female community activists was formed to keep a record of all the earthworks. The earthwork was completed in eight weeks, and the original

design was improved by local people with a retaining wall and stone pitching over a further six weeks. The total cost of the project was Rs 600,000, a fraction of the original cost.

Since then, the Jhelum river has seen two major floods and both villages, despite being only a few hundred metres from the river bank, have survived, with good design and quality of work protecting homes and keeping the embankment strong. It is notable that the government school built a few years later was destroyed by the next flood, while the other houses are still standing.

We are now face a similar situation.

The houses built by Pattan and financed by Concern International (an Irish NGO) in these villages, were of a flood resistant design, and in the current situation to make houses earthquake resistance has become important. The lessons are that the community and the experts should sit together, and no "external" design solution should be "imposed". Vitrally, the community should be fully involved in the reconstruction of their homes and villages, from design to implementation, and it is their involvement which will ensure the "community rehabilitation" which Musharraf has referred to in his address to the nation. Finally, community involvement will ensure low cost and high quality of reconstruction at a time when resources are low. If the reconstruction is carried out in the same way as the Junejo scheme, the homes will remain empty, and the money will be wasted. We have been down this road before.





Erra comes under fire for 'poor planning'

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD, Oct 17: Speakers at a seminar here on Tuesday called for decentralisation and demilitarisation of reconstruction efforts and greater involvement of local population and civil society organizations in the rehabilitation process going on in the quake-hit areas.

The seminar on "The impact of government and NGOs efforts in earthquake relief and reconstruction programmes" was arranged by Pattan Development Organisation on the launch of its report based on the preliminary findings of a socio-economic survey of the quake-affected areas.

The speakers included representatives of the local and international civil society organizations, United Nations bodies, local governments and affected people.

The participants were unanimous that the highly-centralised and bureaucratic mechanisms and processes set in place to aid the quake victims by the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (Erra) had only compounded the miseries of the victims and slowed the pace of reconstruction and rehabilitation process.

The speakers expressed their concern over the efforts to systematically marginalize provincial and local governments, elected representatives and civil administration from decision-making pertaining to reconstruction and recovery.

Sarwar Bari of Pattan said a large number of genuine victims had yet to get compensation and there was evidence that compensation cheques had been issued to influential and well-connected people.

"A probe into compensation frauds may just be the right move by the government in order to streamline its future disbursements," he added.

From the issues of having their compensation application processed to opening a bank account, he said, the entire exer-

the fact that the local conditions had not been studied by the policy-makers and local people were not involved in the development of processes and systems," he said.

He urged the government to subsidise labour and construction costs, as currently the prices had gone so high that they were deterring people to rebuild their houses.

In the absence of female staff, particularly in the government agencies, a bulk of reconstruction and recovery measures were gender blind just as they were insensitive to women in the delivery of relief, he said.

Muddassar Shah of Actionaid said that people were criticizing Erra due to its flawed policies. He said people were critical of army as Erra affairs were being handled by army.

Khalil Gardezi, a quake victim from Muzaffarabad, alleged that corruption was rampant in the calamity-hit areas. He regretted that there was no planning for providing employment to the people in these areas.

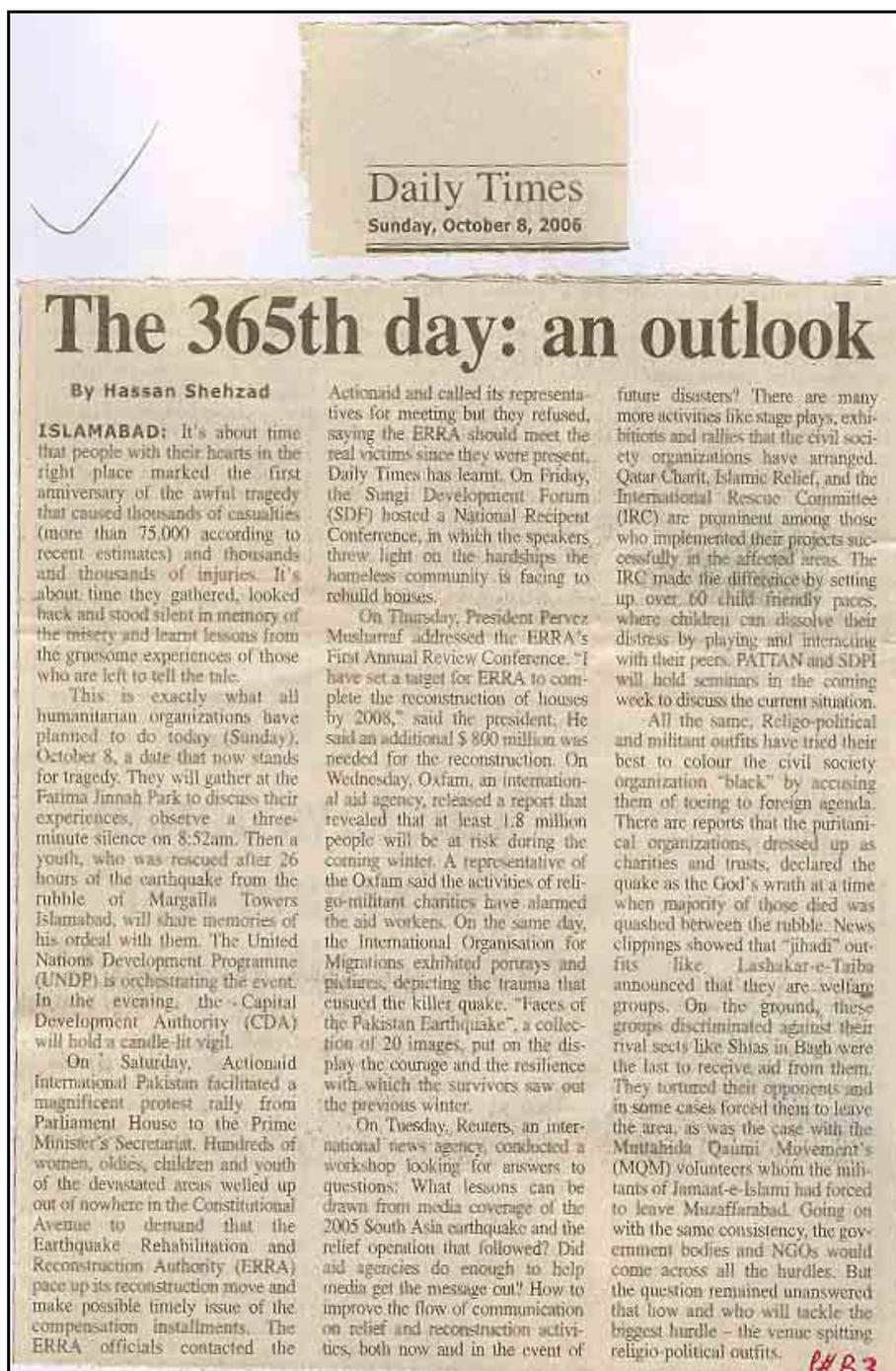
He also criticized Erra for not allowing others to do work in these areas. "If Erra cannot do better things, it should not stop others from doing so," he added.

Another victim from Balakot, Jamila Bibi, said Erra people were not giving importance to women, as they had to queue up outside banks for hours to get compensation.

Dr Habib of the World Health Organization (WHO) gave an overview of the WHO activities in the quake-hit areas during the last one year. He said a lot of help was arriving in these areas and it was up to them how to use or abuse it.

Prof S M Nasim criticized the Erra's decision of first shifting the affected people to Islamabad and then their forceful eviction.

Responding to the points raised by the participants, Ahmed Raza of Erra admitted



DAWN MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006

Quake victims being forced to leave tent village

By Amir Wasim

ISI-AMABAD, April 2: The earthquake victims living in a tent village in H-11 sector have accused the government of forcing them to leave the camp and go back to their native abodes.

During a visit to the tent village on Friday, several earthquake victims were found complaining that they had been told by the staff of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to leave their tents if they wanted to get monetary assistance.

A senior CDA official and in charge of the tent village Auliya Khan, when contacted, said the authority was not forcing the displaced families to leave the camps. He said, so far, a total of 3,328 people of some 550 families had been sent back to their native areas, while the remaining 7,000 would be relocated in the next few days. He claimed that all these people were being sent back after getting their consent.

However, the quake victims alleged that the CDA officials had been threatening them with dire consequences if they did not leave the tents in the next two days. They said the CDA staff had all of a sudden started uprooting the tents, forcing them to either leave the area or live in the open.

Mohammad Shafiq, a resident of Neelum Valley, said he could not take his family back to the valley as landslidings were still being reported from the area. He said he had lost some 35 members of his family in the October 8 earthquake and his children were now so scared that they did not want to go back. He said the government had made no arrangements for them in the affected areas and they feared for their lives due to rainy season ahead.

"The government is not allowing us to build new houses near river banks or hills, so where will we keep our children," he said,

adding that he would not leave the area come what may.

"I will be the last person to leave the tent," said Asif Bashir, another earthquake victim and a resident of Bagh. "We will also not leave the place," shouted some two dozen people, who had gathered around Mr Bashir.

Mr Bashir alleged that two CDA officials, Mr Muiz and Mr Rashid, had told them that the March 31 deadline for vacating the village had been extended for two days. He claimed that the CDA was offering Rs2,000 per family upon leaving the tents.

The earthquake victims expressed their fear that once they left the tent village and reached their native towns, no one would be there to inquire about their well being. When their attention was drawn towards the fact that some of the families had already left the tents, they said only those people had gone back who had their own shelters in the native places.

Syed Khalil Gardezi, chairman of the Affected Rehabilitation Welfare Association, said there were a total of 1,575 camps in the H-11 tent village, and 435 had already been wrapped up, while people were still living in 1,140 tents.

Mohammad Sobail, a representative of a UK-based NGO, said they had conducted a survey in the tent village and distributed a questionnaire among all the persons regarding their losses and the assistance they required.

Replying to a question, Mr Sohail confirmed that some of the people had refused to go back to their native areas during the survey. He, however, said they had provided the whole data to the government as their task was only to conduct the survey.

Camp in charge Auliya Khan said the CDA was not paying any

amount to the earthquake victims. He also said the authority had not set any deadline for the displaced people to leave the tents. He said the donors, who were helping the victims in the tent village, had informed the CDA that they would not be able to continue their work in the area after March 31.

Mr Khan said it was the most appropriate time for the earthquake victims to return to their native abodes as it would become difficult to provide them assistance in the rainy season.

When asked where these people would be kept in the earthquake-affected areas, Mr Khan said the reconstruction work had already been started and some of the people living in tent villages in Azad Kashmir had shifted to their houses. He said the people being shifted from Islamabad could be kept in those tents vacated by the locals.

Earlier, speaking at a news conference with the representatives of the earthquake victims, Pattan Coordinator Sarwar Bari urged the government to stop pushing the victims to leave their tent village.

Mr Bari said the recently released seismic reports clearly pointed out that the earthquake-affected areas fell in red zone. He said this situation had created a sense of insecurity among these displaced people. Instead of closing down tent villages, the government should ensure enabling environment for the people to go back to their homes with dignity and honour, he added. He said there were doubts in the minds of the people about the success of the government's rehabilitation plans as it had failed to compensate the displaced families of Mangla Dam and Ghazi Barotha Dam projects after passing of so many years.





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Bureaucratic approach adding to quake victims' miseries

FOZIA AZAM

ISLAMABAD - The highly centralised and bureaucratic mechanisms to help the earthquake victims have only compounded miseries of the victims, and slowed the pace of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

This was discussed in a seminar "The Impact of Government and NGOs Efforts in Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction Programmes," organised by Pattan on Tuesday.

The basic purpose of organising the seminar was to discuss the preliminary findings of the socio-economic survey conducted by Pattan in earthquake-hit areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Habib from WHO said after the devastating earthquake of 8th October, 35 primary health care centres were established in the effected areas in which 22 centres were established in AJK while 12 in Northern Areas. He expressed his satisfaction over the work that has been done for family planning and to control TB in the effected areas.

Professor Rashid from Quaid-i-Azam University highly criticised the ERRA policies and its performance in rehabilitation work.

He said the compensation mon-

ey that is 1,75,000 is not enough for the affectees. The complicated design rules enacted by ERRA have made it almost impossible for a substantial proportion of people to rebuild their houses, notwithstanding the fact that the compensation money embarked is inadequate in view the escalating prices of labour and construction materials.

As a result, the earthquake victims are still seen in makeshift shelters and tents as the winter sets in.

Decentralisation and demilitarisation of reconstruction efforts and greater engagement of communities and civil society organisations in the process will be a key to people centered development in the areas devastated by earthquake in 2005, said Sarwar Bari from Pattan.

He said the organisation is highly critical of the efforts to systematically marginalised decisions making pertaining to reconstruction and recovery.

The top down approach is only alienating big pocket of population from the dividends of development.

"Order an independent evaluation of the work so far done in the earthquake affected areas to ascertain in the issues that continue to mar the progress of recovery and reconstruction ef-

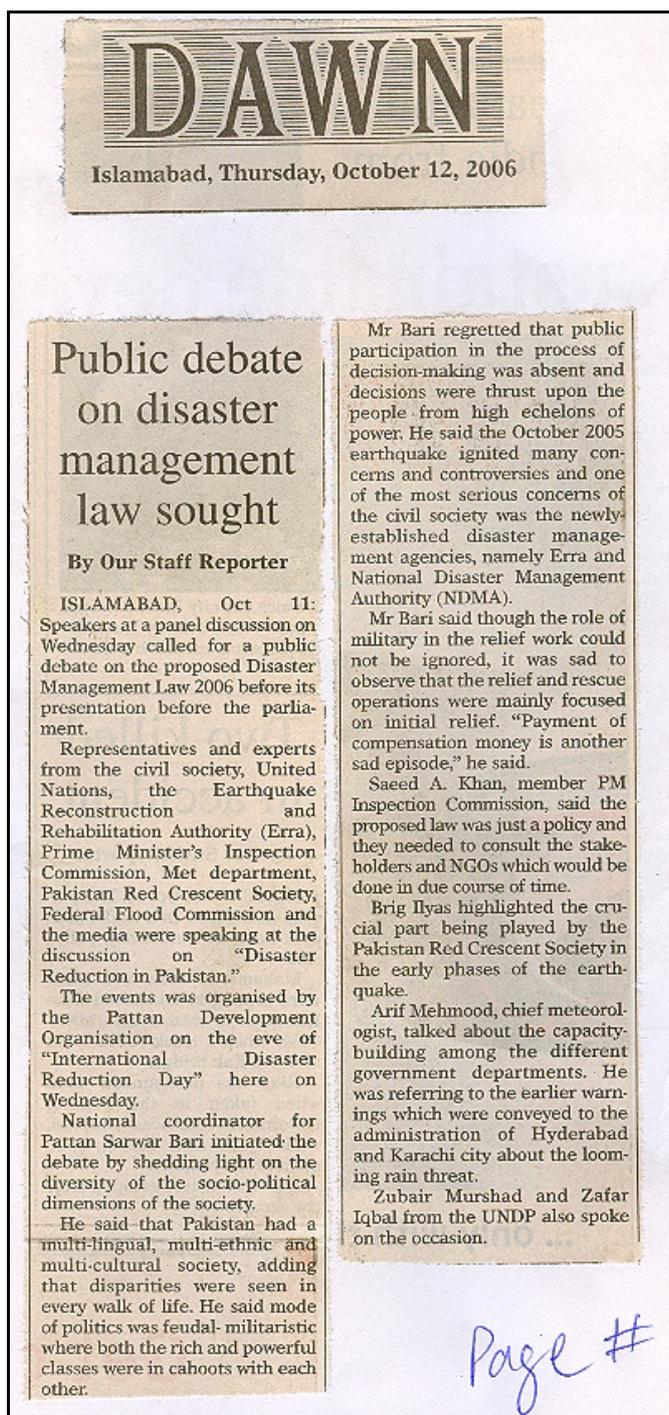
forts," recommends Pattan in its report titled "The impact of government and NGOs efforts in earthquake relief and reconstruction programme."

The report is based on qualitative and quantitative studies carried out in the earthquake-affected districts of NWFP and AJK over the past one year. The report also highlights strings issues in the reconstruction and recovery processes that alienate victims and create obstacles in their way of accessing their due share of various types of compensations.

While a large number of genuine affectees have yet to get compensation.

Speaking on the occasion, Khalid Gardaize an affectee from AJK said the affectees were never given a chance to participate in the decision-making process of the rehabilitation work. He said there is a dire need for a joint strategy on this issue so the rehabilitation work can be done in a more effective way.

Last year, the government was claiming that before the arrival of the winter season shelter would be provided to each and every affectee but the winter season has started and still a large number of people are compelled to live a miserable life in tents, he added.



Sound strategy needed to meet natural disasters

FOZIA AZAM

ISLAMABAD - Long-term policies and sound strategy is required to combat natural disasters like October 8 earthquake last year.

To save the humanity and the world everyone including government organizations, civil institutions and general public have to make collective effort.

The speakers addressing a seminar on "disaster reduction in Pakistan-opportunities and challenges" organised by PATTAN here on Wednesday stressed this.

The focus of the discussion was on the "disaster reduction in Pakistan." The seminar was well attended by the experts from UN, ERR, PM Inspection Commission, Meteorological Department, Red Crescent Pakistan, Federal Flood Commission, media and local NGOs.

While speaking on the occasion the Director Operations of the Red Crescent Society said after the devastating earthquake of 8th October we provided relief goods worth Rs 3.5 billion to the affectees which included 92,000

tents.

To combat the natural disasters Pakistan lacks training institutions and experts, said Zafar Iqbal representative of UNDP. Such policies should be formulated that can make the emergency institutions active.

While speaking on the occasion Saeed Ahmad Khan from Pakistan Meteorological Department said we already predicted about the heavy rains in Karachi and Haiderabad but the situation became worse due to the poor sewerage system. The 200 million rupees that were provided from the government for relief work to the organization were spend judiciously at the right place.

Union councils and district councils should be make more active to combat the natural disasters and accidents and through the good governance system public should be provided better facilities.

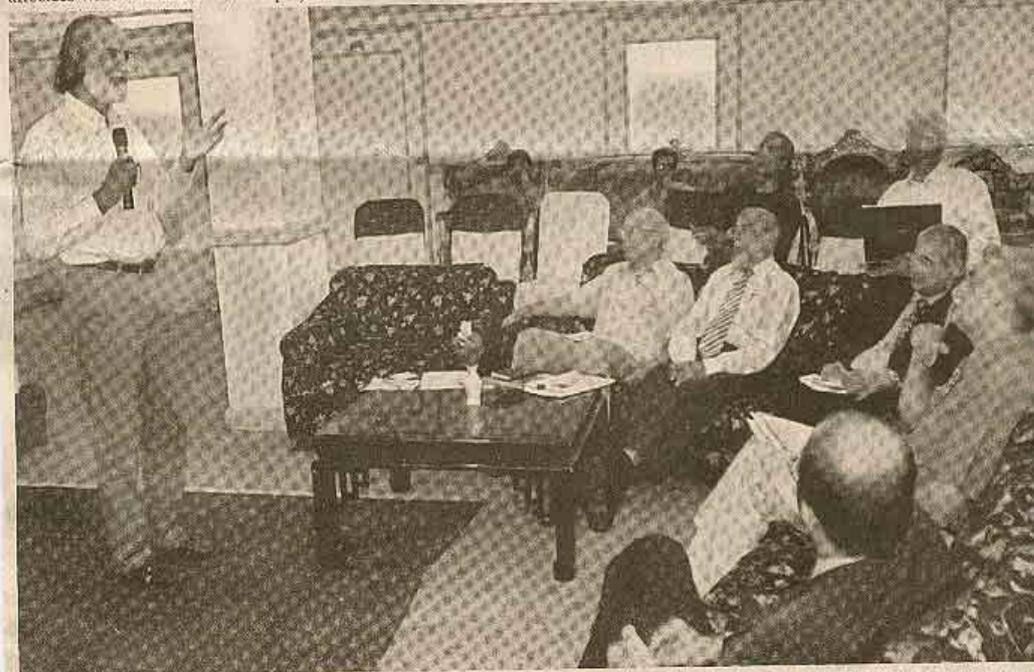
While speaking on the occasion Sarwar Bari, representative of PATTAN Development Organization said although ERR played a vital role in rehabilita-

tion process after the devastating earthquake of 8th October but it also committed few mistakes.

He said long-term policies should be formulated so that next time if such situation happens again the destruction should not occur on such a large scale but it could be overcome immediately.

He said although the role of military in the relief work cannot be ignored but it is sad to observe that the relief and rescue operation were mainly focused on initial and brick and mortar. Payment of compensation money is another issue.

He stressed the need for a sustainable and long-term disaster management plan. He was of the view that since Pakistan is a disaster prone area and floods, earthquake, landslides and cyclones wash away billions of rupees investment and infrastructure every year, there is a great needed for the development paradigm to take into account the risk reduction measure because that is only way for sustainable development.



ISLAMABAD: PATTAN Development Organisation Chairman Sarwar Bari speaks during a panel discussion on the eve of International Disaster Reduction Day, at a local hotel on Wednesday. PRCS DG Operation Brigadier Ilyas, Zafar Iqbal from UNDP, Saeed A Khan from Meteorological Department and others are also present. -Online

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