

Flood Catastrophe Pakistan

Sharing the Bread

Pakistan has been hit by the severest flood of its history. Most parts of Balochistan, Sindh, KPK and Punjab provinces were under the deluge starting from the mid June to September 2022, leaving one third of the country under water. Estimated one hundred districts of four provinces were badly affected either by flash floods, riverine floods, or hill torrents. In some places, dams, barrages, and canals had to be breached in order to save populated towns.

Balochistan

The largest yet least developed province of Pakistan, Balochistan is vulnerable to flash floods and riverine floods almost every year when it rains heavily. Heavy rains were predicted way before the onset of the monsoon and the Pakistan Meteorological Department already declared that this year the spell would be heavier. Pak Met can only predict and inform the respective stakeholders about the possible time, place, and approximate volume of the rain. Other government and non-government institutions are responsible to take appropriate steps. Unfortunately, preparedness and mitigation activities are below par.

The landscape of Balochistan and its seasonal rivers, streams and drains make access difficult. The whole province was disconnected from the rest of the country for several days as the rains created havoc almost all over the province. District Khuzdar was declared the most devastated.

Preparations for Emergency Response

Assessing the possible situation, CAPC's local partner on ground started its preparation, monitored the situation closely, and formed an Emergency Response Team of 10 members to work in the affected areas.

Coordination with Government Departments

A three-member team visited Quetta, Balochistan Province, from August 15-19, 2022. The objectives of the visit were:

- To build networking with in-line departments for flood emergency response and get approval from relevant institutions
- To develop linkages with local stakeholders and conduct formal meetings with the team and local facilitators

After a thorough process of consultations and briefings, CAPC's local partner was given permission to intervene in the affected areas.

The Assessment

Team Balochistan conducted an assessment and listed the flood-affected families during the last week of August 2022.

Methodology

The team visited the villages and held meetings with victim families. The female team member conducted meetings with women separately.

Identification and Enlisting of Victim Families

- In order to provide relief packages, the team identified and listed 350 most deserving families.
- A form was designed and used to record basic information.
- The team briefed the families about the form and then filled it in along with volunteers, and tribal heads.

Identified Needs

After discussion with tribal heads, community members and local government representatives, the following immediate needs were identified in sequence according to priority.

#	Immediate Needs	Longer Term Needs
1	Food Package/Hamper	Construction of Houses / Shelter
2	Hygiene Package & Kitchen Kits	Livelihood Restoration / Agriculture
3	Bedding / Winterization	Education / Provision of Educational Material
4	Medical Camps	BHU Medicines
5	Covid Kits	Mother & Child Health Care
		Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives

Project Description

As per the findings of the rapid assessment of local partner and direct conversation with the affected families, CAPC planned an Emergency Response program for the flood affected families to provide the following initially:

1. Food/Dry Ration 2. Hygiene Kits 3. Kitchen Items

Objectives

- To provide emergency relief in form of food, hygiene, and kitchen items to 350 families affected by floods in the district of Khuzdar Balochistan.
- To minimize sufferings of flood victims in Khuzdar District, Balochistan, prevent water-borne diseases, and save lives of vulnerable groups.
- To pave the way for rehabilitation of flood victims.

Composition of Food Package

Sr. No.	Items	
1	Wheat Flour	10 kg
2	Cooking oil /ghee	5 kg
3	Rice	5 kg
4	Daal Chana (lentil)	2 kg
5	Daal Moong (lentil)	2 kg
6	White channa (grams)	2 kg
7	Salt	1kg
8	Sugar	5 kg
9	Tea	1 packet
10	Dry Milk	1kg

Composition of Hygiene Kit

Sr. No.	Item	
1	Washing Powder	1 packet
2	Bathing Soap	4 bars
3	Tooth Paste	1 pack
4	Tooth Brushes	4 pieces
5	Nail Clipper	1 piece
6	Comb	1 piece
7	Cotton Roll	2 rolls
8	Towels	1

Composition of Kitchen Set

Sr. No.	Items	
1	Cooking pot	2
2	Cooking spoon	2
3	Water set (1 jug + 6 glasses)	1
4	Tea mugs	6
5	Knife	1
6	Bucket with lid	1
7	Mug for bucket	1
8	Water cooler	1
9	Plates	6
10	Basin for mixing wheat flour	1
11	Hot plate (tawa)	1
12	Match box	1

Distribution Methodology, Coordination with Government Line Departments

Coordination with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority, Balochistan and District Administration Khuzdar was conducted for obtaining operation permission, security arrangements and information sharing. The list of the beneficiaries was also shared with the concerned provincial and district authorities.

Project Management and Implementation

CAPC implemented the project activities according to the survey conducted and needs identified. The procurement of items was made strictly as per the partner's procurement policies, i.e., three quotations were obtained and verified in the bid committee meeting, and upon the recommendation of the bid committee approval was obtained from the concerned authority.

Government authorities were contacted to be present at the time of distribution. The law enforcement agency was also contacted in order to ensure smooth and systematic distribution.

Distribution

In consultation with target communities and tribal heads, the date and venues were finalized. The first distribution was held on 17 September, and the second on 19 September 2022.

The following were present at the distribution venue:

- Head of Operation Emergency Flood Relief, Procurement officer, Social Mobilizer, Focal Person Balochistan, Social Mobilizer Balochistan, CEO Representative.
- District government officials, Assistant Director Agriculture, District Education officer.
- Tribal Heads & Civil Society representatives and volunteers

A list of the affected families was prepared, mentioning name and CNIC numbers of the heads of families. Prior to distribution of the relief packages, coupons were distributed to ensure transparency and that only the affected families got the assistance. Upon distribution, signatures or thumb impressions of the recipients were obtained. The distributions were conducted for the residents of villages Gresha, Moola, Karakh, Ballukh and Babli of district Khuzdar.

Sharing of thoughts

- A local resident, Mir Muhammad Jan thanked our team for the timely support to flood victims of this remote area. He shared that it's a great honor to welcome you on their land. He shared that the destruction is great and we request you to look into the matter to sustain activities of early recovery and rehabilitation as well.
- A local resident, Mir Saleem Kakar shared that they salute the organization for working in distant security risk-prone area, showing their commitment of decreasing the vulnerability of the poorest of the poor. It also shows that humanity is still alive and that the priority is to support victims in the times of destruction.
- A representative from local administration expressed pleasure in collaborating with CAPC local partner. As the district is characterized by serious disaster-related risks and the vulnerability index very high, the absence of disaster-risk management activities and distant villages make it difficult for CSOs to respond in time. He shared that the district needs Disaster Risks Research (DRR) initiatives for future so that humans and livestock, which is basic livelihood source of the people, could be saved. Local residents thanked and requested to stay in touch with the District Government for rehabilitation of the flood victims, their land, livelihood, livestock, and houses.
- Head of Operations in Pakistan shared that as per Sphere Standards, it is right of the victims to be supported during emergencies and humanitarian actors must do everything to bring normalcy in the life of the victims. He said that we strongly believe in minimizing suffering of the victims without any distinction of caste, creed, or color. He thanked tribal heads, district government, CSOs, volunteers and communities in facilitating to reach the victims and do whatever possible. He further assured to be in contact with respective stakeholders for further initiatives provided the resources.

Views of Beneficiaries & Tribal Heads

*We never thought that we would be destroyed by floods and that an organization from such a far place would come to our rescue. **Ms. Syeeda d/o Adeel Shahzad***

*Our village is already very far from the city with no basic amenities, and life in such a distant area is very hard, especially the extreme weather conditions. We have been facing drought and prayed for rain, but the rain was beyond expectations and it destroyed everything. We request to cater more people as many people still have nothing to eat, are living under the open sky and facing destructions of crops and livestock. **Mr. Mumtaz s/o Kareem Bux***

*Khuzdar is the second-largest district of Balochistan and the mostly barren hilly terrain, extreme weather, lack of basic facilities and scattered villages and hamlets are a serious challenge. The major part of the population relies on agriculture and livestock which are solely dependent on nature. But the impacts of climate change have ruined our people. In this whole turmoil, you came from Islamabad, almost 1000 km away, and are standing with the suffering people. I have no words to say thanks. **Mir Jan Moosiani Tribal Head***

Impact

- Poor flood victims got relief packages which decreased their vulnerability.
- Most vulnerable families had some relief in form of food to save them from starvation, disease, and psychological traumas.
- Kitchen items will enable them to store clean water and prepare food safely.
- Hygiene kits will ensure better health of the victims and prevent disease.

Challenges and Issues

- The scarcity of relief items raised the costs of everything including cost of items, travel and transportation costs.
- The distribution planned on 18 September was rescheduled due to security issues, the district government's direction to wait for security clearance. CAPC's local facilitators conducted consultations with district government and tribal heads and the distribution was held on September 19, 2022.
- Some target villages were not approachable through vehicles; therefore, joint distribution venues were decided in consultation with communities and tribal heads. This method saved time, costs, and minimized security risks.

Recovery & Rehabilitation Plans

- Education sector (provision of uniforms, books etc., and safe learning centers)
- Health (medical camps in flood affected areas), livestock vaccination
- Low-Cost housing/Shelter in flood affected areas
- Agriculture Program (initially livestock vaccination, seeds, and fertilizers)
- Livelihood skills trainings and financing small business start-ups
- Cash for work to activate grassroots economy

Prayer Request: We ask our readers to pray for the suffering victims who lost everything in the catastrophe. As there will be long-term consequences post floods, with shortages of labor, jobs, shortage of food, and price hikes, it will take a few years before the flood affected communities will be able to again stand on their feet.

DONATE

Relief Package	CAN \$
Food Package/Hamper	100.00
Hygiene Package & Kitchen Kits	80.00
Bedding/Winterization	250.00
Lifesaving Drugs/Medicines	50.00