

Disaster & IDP Crisis

Situations of IDPs

3 Infants of Flood-Hit Families Die of Cold

Two infants belonging to flood-hit families in a village near Kandhkot and one in Larkana died of cold on January 08. Six-week-old Ahmed Lolai and three-month-old Shahid Jagirani died in Soomar Jagirani village in the Tangwani area near Kandhkot. In Larkana, flood survivors protested the death of yet another infant. The increasing cold is making lives of people miserable in relief camps set up in Municipal Stadium because of lack of blankets and warm clothing. Five-month-old Aalman died in freezing temperatures. His father Guhram Chandio, relatives and sympathisers protested outside the DCO House on January 07, interrupting the flow of traffic for some time. EDO Revenue Asad Abro provided them Rs5,000 in cash and an ambulance to take the body to their native village Ibrahim Chandio near Warah, Qambar-Shahdadkot district, for burial.

[Dawn – January 09, 2011]

12,000 Blankets in Govt Godown Survivors Shiver in Cold

Flood survivors spend sleepless nights shivering in shabby and tattered tents in relief camps while government officials are still preparing lists of people who will receive the 1,2000 blankets provided by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority a week ago. A visit to a tent city set up at the bypass and a relief camp in an open ground in the Ustad Bukhari Degree College showed that children, women and elderly persons had no blankets or warm clothes. Dadu DCO Mohammad Iqbal Memon claimed that the blankets provided by the PDMA were being distributed through elected representatives who were busy preparing lists of deserving persons. But some people in the camps alleged that the blankets were being given only to PPP activists and their favourite people. Meanwhile, flood-affected people belonging to the minority Oad community have complained that the administration had ignored them in distribution of blankets.

[Dawn – January 10, 2011]

Flood-Hit Farmers Protest Denial of Seed, Fertilizer

A large number of flood-affected farmers and activists of different political parties observed a token hunger strike outside the press club on January 22 in protest against sale in open market of free seed and fertilizer meant for distribution among flood-hit farmers. The protesters accused Mukhtiarkar Hamood Qazi of selling out many consignments of seeds and fertilisers to traders. Save Thatta Forum president Mumtaz Sabro alleged that a select number of favourites of PPP leaders and the mukhtiarkar had usurped the free seed and fertilizer and the mukhtiarkar had unloaded the consignments directly in the warehouses of local traders. He said that the very few farmers who had somehow obtained tokens for the free inputs through agents and brokers were also running from pillar to post to get what was theirs. The president of Thatta chapter of the Sindh Chamber of Agriculture, Shahzad Shah, said that such officials were defaming the elected government and tainting popularity of PPP among people. The flood-affected farmers from Jherruk, Tando Hafiz Shah, Sonda, Chatto Chand, Kalankot, Hilaya, Chillya, Dumani and other areas said that the mukhtiarkar rarely sat in his office and interacted with selected growers only through his middle men.

[Dawn – January 23, 2011]

Flood Victims Rally against Foreign NGOs

Hundreds of flood victims protested against local representatives of relief organisations such as I-lab and NGOs by blocking the main roads for over two hours. The NGO officials were accused of corruption by hundreds of flood-affected people. The protesters alleged that bungling worth millions of rupees had taken place in the allocation of flood funds. According to security officials, around 500 flood victims gathered and blocked Chachran road for over two hours in the Mughalabad area. I-Lab officials were blamed for charging flood victims for relief items. "They demanded Rs500 per token. The tokens allowed us to claim blankets and food," said flood victim Sahil. Kaleem, another flood victim, said that agents of

the NGO had kept the aid that they were supposed to be given, in their own houses. The flood victims demanded that an investigation be conducted into the workings of I-Lab and other NGOs. On the other hand, I-Lab manager, Dr Mehmood Qureshi, said that flour and other food items were not provided to the flood victims because of poor quality. District manager of the NGO, Afzal Shah, said that they had sacked corrupt officials like Naseer Khan, who was in charge of aid distribution in Chachran Sharif.

[The Express Tribune – January 06, 2011]

Flood Relief About to End, But Misery Persists

The National Disaster Management Authority has said the relief phase of the national flood response will end on January 31 even though at least 150,000 flood-affected people still live in camps and other improvised settlements in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. According to the UN, such people number 170,000. But the Red Cross says more than four million flood survivors are homeless. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in a statement issued in Geneva on January 21 said six months on from the devastating flooding in Pakistan, more than four million people remain in a desperate situation without adequate shelter.

[Dawn – January 23, 2011]

Projects in Flood-Hit Areas Shelved

The government has decided not to take up major reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in the flood-hit areas during the current fiscal year because of a financial crunch and negligible fresh aid commitments from the international community. A Planning Commission official told Dawn on January 24 that the entire portfolio of reconstruction and rehabilitation projects costing about \$9 billion (Rs765 billion) had been set aside because of shortage of funds. However, he said, the government had decided to simplify the approval process for such projects to avoid the normal course involving formulation of feasibility studies followed by their technical assessment by the Central Development Working Party and the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council. The objective is that these projects may be started without wasting time in case the international community makes available fresh funding. Most of the projects relate to public infrastructure and services like roads, bridges, railway tracks, irrigation system, schools, hospitals and power sector installations. Their implementation would take up to four years and require substantial outlays. Most of the current year's funding has already been earmarked for strategic projects nearing completion and the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) has been restricted to Rs140 billion from the original allocation of Rs280 billion.

A damage and needs assessment led by the World Bank and the ADB had put reconstruction cost of housing, health and education sectors at Rs234 billion; irrigation, transport and communications, water supply and sanitation and energy at Rs300 billion; agriculture, private industries, financial sector and social protection and livelihoods at Rs197 billion; and governance, disaster risk management and environment at Rs25 billion.

[Dawn – January 25, 2011]

IDPs Need Rights, Not Charity

Public and private sectors working for rehabilitation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country need to adopt a sustainable and 'right centric approach' and not makeshift charity. The recommendation was forwarded during a consultation on Issues of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Pakistan with Special Focus on Women, organised by the Legislative Watch Programme of Aurat Foundation. Researcher Salman Hyder in his elaborate presentation highlighted the lacunae registered in support programmes initiated for IDPs during various occasions and attributed this mainly to sole focus on charity and concessions. The speaker also urged to strengthen local organisations and capacity building of both public and private sector bodies responsible for emergency management. Hyder, also a faculty member at Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi, suggested to make IDPs registration procedure simple and to do away with multiple tiers of registration. He said that disasters can be used as an opportunity to decrease gender gaps and discrimination in laws customs and practices; he further said that UN's Guiding Principles could be translated in local legislation. He in this context particularly referred to plight of the unaccompanied women who had lost their men members of family and feared that lacunae in registration procedure is feared to deprive them of their property and belongings. Representatives of

different NGOs, civil society members and provincial social welfare department on the occasion suggested early introduction of 'Land Reforms' in the country.

[Daily Times – January 31, 2011]

UNICEF Needs Millions to Save Children from Cold

UNICEF on January 02 warned that children in flood-hit areas of Pakistan, who are already suffered from acute respiratory infections and malnutrition, are at the mercy of harsh cold weather. An official said that UNICEF needed \$82.1 million to continue its life-saving and recovery programmes for children in the flood-hit areas. He said additional funds would be needed to cure children suffering from malnutrition and to stop spreading of polio among the kids. He said the number of polio cases had risen last year, i.e. 126 as compared with 89 in 2009. He said poor sanitary conditions posed a great threat to the children. He added that the running cold wave is sharply increasing the number of respiratory infections and malnutrition among the children.

[The News – January 03, 2011]

Foreign Food Aid: Pakistan Waits for Donors to Follow Through on Pledges

It has been learnt that Pakistan has so far received only a third of the international pledges required to meet the essential needs of 20 million flood survivors, which was enough only for "partial success" of the most crucial relief phase which will be over by January. In July 2010, the worst-ever floods of Pakistan's history affected over one-tenth of the country's population and caused losses estimated at \$10.8 billion. But official statistics show that since then, a group of 79 bilateral and multilateral donors and philanthropist organizations have disbursed \$475 million in cash and \$185 million in kind. This is slightly over one-fifth of the donors' total commitments of three billion dollars and one-third of the total needs at the ground. Immediately after the disaster, the United Nations had sought \$2 billion for early relief and recovery phases. Officially, the relief phase will be over by the end of January. However, after six months, thousands are still living in tents. According to the Damage and Needs Assessment report, Pakistan needs one billion dollars each for relief and early recovery phases.

[The Express Tribune – January18, 2011]

Severe Malnutrition after Pakistan Floods: UNICEF

UNICEF on January 28 said that six months on from Pakistan's devastating floods, nearly a quarter of children in the worst-hit province of Sindh remain acutely malnourished. The results of a new provincial survey show the problem is critical, with 23.1 percent of children in the north and 21.2 percent of children in the south of Sindh recorded as acutely malnourished. UNICEF said the Sindh government estimates about 90,000 children aged 6-59 months are malnourished. UNICEF said in a statement that this rate is well above the World Health Organization's 15 percent emergency threshold level, which triggers a humanitarian response. The agency said that children with severe acute malnutrition need immediate treatment, adding that it was working with federal and provincial government authorities to reach and treat the children. The UN launched a \$2 billion flood relief appeal in September but still requires nearly half that amount, in particular to help farmers return to work after the waters devastated fields. The UN said about seven million people are still living on monthly food rations.

[Daily Times – January 29, 2011]

Distribution of Watan Cards

90pc Survivors Received Watan Cards, Claims CM

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has said that about 90 per cent flood-affected people have received Watan Cards and the remaining will get the cards soon. Addressing a large gathering on the first death anniversary of PPP's provincial minister for coordination Jalil Memon at Islampur Mohalla on January 02, Mr Shah said that card holders would soon get the remaining amount of Rs80,000. He said the government was considering to build houses for the displaced people affected by the catastrophic floods.

[Dawn – January 03, 2011]

Smart Solutions: NADRA Issues 0.15m Pending Watan Cards

The National Database and Registration Authority(NADRA) effectively resolved the 0.15 million Watan Cards issue that had been pending for months. , NADRA officials told The Express Tribune on January

29 that the issue was resolved through the Complaints Redressal System recently introduced by NADRA which engages information technology experts in all regional offices across the country. An official said that the main objective of the Redressal System was to address the complaints from genuine beneficiaries who were unable to register themselves for the Watan Cards. According to details, NADRA has so far issued around 1.48 million Watan Cards, disbursing approximately Rs27.5 billion to the flood-affected families throughout the country. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) estimated that around 1.6 million families were affected by the flood.

[The Express Tribune – January 30, 2011]

Flood Aftermath: People Move Court for Watan Cards

More than 12 people belonging to a flood affected village in Dera Ghazi Khan have moved court against National Database Regulatory Authority (NADRA) for not receiving Watan Cards. District and sessions judge Malik Pir Muhammad Adil on January 26 adjourned the hearing after Yasir Ali Khosa – counsel for the NADRA, the district coordination officer and the district officer (Revenue) – asked for some time to produce the relevant information before the court. The next hearing was scheduled for February 06.

[The Express Tribune – January 28, 2011]

Domestic & Foreign Assistance

Nutrition Plan for 19 Districts Launched

The Sindh health department on January 28 launched a strategic plan to respond to the crisis of high prevalence of acute malnutrition among children and pregnant and lactating women in 19 districts, including 16 flood-affected districts, of the province. Speaking at the launching ceremony of the Sindh Strategic Nutrition Response Plan (SSNRP), Health Minister Dr Sagheer Ahmad said that it would cost Rs3.8 billion (\$43 million) and would be implemented from July onwards with the assistance of international agencies, including the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the World Food Programme (WFP). A nutritional survey conducted last October-November in some flood-affected areas of Sindh confirmed an emergency nutrition situation. The survey report said that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates of 22.9 per cent and 21.2 per cent in the case of children from six months to about five years existed in northern and southern Sindh. These GAM rates exceeded the emergency threshold of 15 per cent, according to the WHO categorisation. It further revealed that the percentage of malnutrition (moderate) of pregnant and lactating women, which was among the main causes of low birth weight and later on child malnutrition, had been reported to be as high as 11.2 per cent and 10.1 per cent in the northern and southern parts of the province, respectively. The health minister said that the plan demonstrated a strong commitment of addressing nutritional challenges identified in the flood-hit communities by providing life-saving treatment and prevention of malnourishment for the most vulnerable women and children. He said that the SSNRP would help hundreds of thousands of women and children recover from malnutrition.

[Dawn – January 29, 2011]

Relief Goods Distributed

A press release said that Warm clothes, shoes and eatable items were distributed among the flood victims of Akorha Khatak (KP) by Al-Ain International Welfare Trust Pakistan-UK. Addressing the ceremony, Vice Chairman of the trust Syed Asif Al Hamdani said that Al-Ain International Welfare Trust had help for needy and poor people of earthquake and flood victims. Chairman of the Trust Taleh Mehdi is striving for collecting relief goods and donations for flood victims. Four truckloads of various goods were being distributed among the victims of Punjab and Khyber Pukhtunkhwa. This was second relief camp after Charsaddah (KPK). Al-Ain carrying out mission of welfare and ameliorate deprived people without any discrimination.

[The News – January 07, 2011]

Construction of 13 Model Villages: CM

Chief Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif has said that the reconstruction programme for the flood-hit villages is in progress and in the first phase, construction of 13 model villages will start formally from January 25. Presiding over a meeting on construction of model villages in flood-hit areas on January 06, he said

philanthropists and NGOs were already engaged in construction of model villages in various areas of the province. Mr Shahbaz said that all resources were being utilised for the rehabilitation of the flood victims and model villages were its part. He said water supply and drainage, schools, dispensaries, vocational institutions, solar and bio-gas plants, recreational and other basic facilities would be provided in the model villages as people of backward areas had also right over modern facilities. The CM said model villages were being constructed with the donations of people and philanthropists who had donated generously for the purpose. He said donations of more than Rs 1.3 billion had been collected in his fund which would be utilised transparently. He said instead of being demoralised by natural calamity as flood, the government was determined to explore new avenues of life for people. Education top priority: Shahbaz Sharif has said that without equipping the new generation with modern knowledge, the dream of putting the country on the road to progress cannot materialise. He said keeping in view the importance of education sector; the present government had given priority to it. He stated this during a meeting with MPAs belonging to various districts on January 06. The CM said service to people and provision of basic facilities was the agenda of his government. He said the Punjab Educational Endowment Fund and establishment of IT labs in more than 4,000 high schools were yielding positive results.

[The News – January 07, 2011]

Construction of Houses Begins in Flood-Hit Areas

The provincial government has started reconstruction of 7,000 houses damaged by last year's devastating floods at a cost of Rs600 million, and in this regard, model villages consisting of 200 houses each have also been selected. This was stated by Dr Sono Khangrani, the chief executive officer of the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO), a semi-government NGO working for rehabilitation of people displaced by floods, at a meeting with DCO of Dadu Mohammad Iqbal Memon on rehabilitation work in flood-hit areas of the district on January 08. The DCO assured Dr Sono Khangrani that the district administration would provide all possible assistance, including security and facilities for starting rehabilitation work. The DCO appealed to the international donor agencies to start rehabilitation work in the flood-affected areas of the district. The DCO told the meeting that the district administration has surveyed 2,000 to 2,500 houses to be constructed with funds provided by US and Turkish governments and donor agencies. Talking to Dawn after the meeting, Dr Khangrani said that construction of houses had started in the flood-hit areas, including Kashmore-Kandhkot, Shikarpur and Jacobabad districts. He said that SRSO was providing material cost of Rs80,000 each to the owners of house for construction work. He said that he had suggested to the Sindh government to release funds for the construction of at least 20,000 houses in Dadu and Qambar-Shahdackot districts on urgent base. He said that they had suggested the government to construct 10,000 houses in each of the flood-hit district. He said the donor agencies had assured us of supplying warm clothes and blankets to the affectees within 10 days. DCO Memon said that 2,000 to 2,500 houses would be constructed in Kakar and other flood-hit areas of Dadu district with the funds to be provided by US and Turkish donor agencies and the government. He said that a survey had been conducted by the district government to construct the houses. He said that talks were in progress with the other international donor agencies for rehabilitation of flood -affected areas. He said that the Provincial Disaster Management Authority had provided 12,000 blankets, which according to the DCO, had been distributed among the flood-hit people through elected representatives.

[Dawn – January 09, 2011]

PAF Hands Over Houses to Flood Victims in Mianwali

As a part of the Pakistan Air Force's rehabilitation plan for the flood affectees, newly constructed houses were handed over to their owners in the Daud Khel area of Distt Mianwali. On the directive of the chief of the air staff, the PAF is constructing over 650 houses in all four provinces of the country. The project is to be completed by the end of February. With the onset of floods in the country, PAF rescued the stranded flood affectees and provided them with relief goods in Phase-I, subsequently in Phase-II, it relocated and looked after the affectees in flood relief camps established by PAF at Sukkur, Bakhtiarabad, Mianwali, Pir Pathu, Jacobabad and PAF Academy Risalpur. Presently, in Phase-III, PAF has launched a rehabilitation plan in which free of cost houses and household items are being provided to the flood affectees. These are under various stages of construction.

[Daily Times – January 11, 2011]

Caravan of 500 IDPs Reaches South Waziristan

A caravan of 500 internally displaced persons' (IDPs) families on January 06 reached their native town Chagmalie from Tank and DI Khan districts in the second phase of repatriation plan, under tight security

arrangements by the government. Political agent South Waziristan Atifur Rehman informed that the second phase of repatriation started from January 05 and would continue for three days, where IDPs would be facilitated to return to their hometowns in South Waziristan. Every displaced family was being given Rs 25000, food and other necessary goods. Atifur said the completion of the return process of IDPs would take seven to eight months. He said electricity, water; education and health schemes were being restored for facilitation of people.

[Daily Times – January 07, 2011]

Hospital, Schools to be Built in Flood-Hit Areas

The PPP MNA from Jamshoro, Nawab Abdul Ghani Talpur in an open katchery held in Kotri said that plans are afoot for construction of schools, hospital and roads in seven flood-hit districts of Sindh with Rs100 million Prime Minister had pledged from special funds. Areas include Kotri, Sehwan and Manjhand talukas. He informed the gathering that survey work in this regard was completed and warned the officials of zero-tolerance if commission system in the development schemes was found. People concerned should complete the work in a transparent manner.

[Dawn – January 04, 2011]

Flood Protection: Project Launched in Malakand

The foundation stone for a flood protection project in Malakand District was laid on January 04. Provincial Minister for Finance Engineer Muhammad Humayun Khan laid the foundation stone of the Rs300 million project in Hasaar Baba Tota Kan Village. Speaking on the occasion Khan said the floods devastation changed the shape of Malakand and people of the area have lost everything. He assured the people that their problems will be solved and they will be provided security and basic facilities. The safety of their lives and properties of the people is the responsibility of elected government and they will not rest till the people of Malakand received the basic facilities of life. He said the federal government had assured the provincial government that it will provide funds for this and other development projects in Malakand.

[The Express Tribune – January 05, 2011]

Flood Victims Get Newly-Built Houses

Lions Club has handed over 40 newly-constructed houses to the flood victims in Thatta. The houses were handed over by Pakistan Red Crescent Society Chairperson, Senator Nilofar Bakhtiar, to the flood victims at a keys' distribution ceremony held in Karachi. The Lion Clubs has planned 100 houses and 60 are still under construction. The PRCS also gave three-month ration to the affected families.

[Daily Times – January 18, 2011]

Cash Compensation: US Envoy Pledges \$190m Flood Aid

US special envoy to Pakistan Frank Ruggiero announced on January 06 \$190 million aid for flood survivors, fulfilling a pledge by his predecessor Richard Holbrooke who died last month. Speaking to reporters alongside Finance Minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Ruggiero said the money would go towards the government's cash compensation scheme offering \$1,000 for the 1.6 million families worst-hit by floods.

[The Express Tribune – January 07, 2011]

UNHCR Distributes 702 Winter Kits Among Flood Victims

UNHCR distributed as many as 702 winter kits in Punjab as temperatures plummeted and dense fog enveloped vast tracts of the central and northern Pakistan. UNHCR Public Relations Officer, Duniya Aslam Khan, told Daily Times on January 17 that The UN refugee agency is scaling up its distribution of winter aid to flood victims across the country. She said that in Multan, UNHCR is starting the distribution of winter packages, which includes 44 winter kits among the flood victims. Since last month 56,000 flood victims have already received extra blankets, shawls, quilts and sweaters in Jacobabad and Daddu districts of Sindh where communities are also still struggling with stagnant waters and lack of livelihood recourses. Distribution is continuing for another 217,000 people in the province. UNHCR has already given winter relief to 16,282 refugees affected by the floods in addition to shelter aid distributed some months ago. Some 217,000 people have already received winter aid in the Swat, Shangla, Chitral, Kohistan, Lower Dir and DI Khan districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. About another 200,000 people will receive winter aid across the province in the coming weeks, including flood-affected Pakistanis and

Afghan refugees, conflict-affected internally displaced people residing in camps, and those returning to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

[Daily Times – January 18, 2011]

Iran Reaffirms Flood-Relief Pledge

Iran has reaffirmed its pledge to continue flood relief efforts until internally-displaced people (IDPs) were completely rehabilitated and devastated areas restored. Iran's Consul-General in Karachi Ali Abbas Hayee expressed this resolve on behalf of his country to reporters after meeting legislators and Thatta's district administration on January 07 following a visit to flood-affected areas. Sindh Minister for Flood-Hit Areas' Rehabilitation Programme Muzaffar Shujra accompanied the Iranian Consulate General.

[Dawn – January 08, 2011]

Impact of Floods

Psychiatric Disorders: Floods Haunting Traumatized Survivors

The trail of devastation left behind by last year's devastating floods, thousands of survivors are still grappling with the impact of the disaster. Dr Rabia, a psychologist working with flood affected people in Nowshera District told the Express Tribune that psychological disorders are rampant among flood affected people, with women and children in particular as the most vulnerable in coping with the traumatic experience. Dr Rabia works with Protection and Referral Mechanism Outreach Unit, an initiative of the Directorate of Social Welfare of the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government. Many survivors are said to be suffering from phobias, epilepsy, depression and conversion or seizure disorders. Dr Rabia said that the women and children are not accepting the fact that their experiences during the floods are now the past history. She said that they hold sessions with affected people by going to their villages and homes and trying to help them lead a normal life. She said that there are several cases of children who before the disaster were very bright students and now performing poorly showing no interest in their studies.

[The Express Tribune – January 10, 2011]

Post-Flood Diseases Blind Four Young Boys

Effects of super floods hitting Sindh province in August last continue to mark survivors, this time around, visually impairing four young boys between the ages of 5-6 years. A Shahdadkot-based NGO discovered that the four young boys of village Zar Buriro in Bagodaro union council of Qubo Saeed Khan lost their vision when hit by high-grade fever after being displaced by floods. They are Mohammad Khan, 6, and Mohammad Jan, 5, and Ali Khan, 5, and Hazir Khan, 5. Noor Mohammad Buriro father of Mohammad Khan and Mohammad Jan talking to Dawn by phone said that the boys were perfectly well when the family shifted to Haji Hassan Buriro village in the kutchra after floods ruined their village. He said that suddenly both my sons developed high grade fever and couldn't be treated for want of a doctor and medicines and their temperature returned to normal after a week but it blinded them.

[Dawn – January 05, 2011]