

CRS/Pakistan

Transitional Shelter Response for Flood-Affected Households in Sindh - # AID-OFDA-G-13-00008

QUARTERLY REPORT

01 JANUARY 2014 – 31 MARCH 2014



Women using the veranda space of a shelter with mud plastering in-progress in UC Nawra.

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Project Title:	Transitional Shelter Response for Flood-Affected Households in Sindh
Project Number:	#AID-OFDA-G-13-00008
Project Duration:	December 03, 2012 – June 02, 2014
Project Cost:	\$3,080,156
Reporting Period:	January 01, 2014 – March 31, 2014
Date of submission:	April 30, 2014

I. Project Background

From 7 to 10 September 2012, heavy rain inundated communities in northern Sindh, northeastern Balochistan and southern Punjab Provinces of Pakistan with more than 400mm of rain resulting in widespread flooding. Rains were heavier than normally experienced during the monsoon season, and communities received no advance warning. A number of canal breaches further exacerbated the situation and submerged many villages. It was estimated that the floods affected 939,000 people in Jacobabad District – equivalent to 89% of the total district population¹. The flooding forced many families to seek refuge on roadsides, in neighboring villages or in spontaneous settlements. The same communities in northern Sindh were also affected by the catastrophic flooding of the 2010, and had not fully recovered before they were again hit by floods. Both the 2010 and 2012 floods, although different in nature, are an unfortunate indication of future flood risks in the low-lying areas of Sindh province.

Overall the CRS Pakistan shelter program has received a total of \$3,645,836. The OFDA supported shelter program plans to support a total of 5,167 households (approximately 31,002 beneficiaries) in Jacobabad District, Sindh Province whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged in the floods. CRS has received a total of \$3,080,156 from OFDA; complemented by \$252,897 (€191,817) from Cordaid, and \$146,238 from CRS private funds. In December 2013 CRS received \$147,781 from the United Nations (UN) Emergency Rapid Fund (ERF) and contributed \$18,764 from CRS private funds for the construction of an additional 305 shelters in UC Nawra, District Jacobabad. CRS has since increased the target to 345 utilizing savings in the budget. In total the CRS shelter program aims to support 5,512 households- approximately 33,072 beneficiaries.

The OFDA grant has gone through a number of modifications represented in the table below:

Agreement #1	Modification #2	Modification #3	Modification #4	Modification #5	
03 Dec 2012 – 02 June 2013 (6 months)	03 June – 02 Sept 2013 (3 months)	03 Sept – 02 Nov 2013 (2 months)	03 Nov 2013 – 02 Mar 2014 (4 months)	03 Mar – 02 June 2014 (3 months)	
\$ 1,199,360	\$1,130,797	\$0 – NCE	\$749,999	\$0 – NCE	\$ 3,080,156

CRS began implementing the shelter program in December 2012 to support households in their villages of origin in Union Council (UC) Karim Bux and later expanded the shelter programming into three additional UCs Bachro, Ahmedpur and Nawra with adequate, durable, flood resistant transitional one room shelters (ORS), aligned with both the shelter cluster approach and Sphere Minimum Standards, and incorporating essential DRR elements.

Project highlights this quarter:

- A series of security-related incidents occurred in UC Nawra, causing the suspension of activities in the area from 28 January through the remainder of the reporting period.
- Because of the security situation in UC Nawra and the time constraints on the ERF grant, CRS coordinated with OFDA and ERF to apply previously reported shelters from 2 Dehs in UC Nawra to the ERF grant, as the unit cost, design, and target area of the two shelter projects were the same. As a result, some figures in this report will be less than reported at the end of Quarter 4.
- In this quarter CRS registered 977 households to reach a new total of 4,956 households (5,153 shelter kits - 29,561 beneficiaries²) from 406 villages across all 10 *Dehs*³ of UC Karim Bux, 8 Dehs of UC Bachro, 6 Dehs of UC Ahmedpur, and 9 Dehs of UC Nawra including 340 vulnerable households. Out of the total registered households, 579 (588 shelter kits) did not receive shelter materials because of security constraints.

¹ Multi-sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) Final Report, October 2012

² Households with 10 or more people are eligible for 2 shelters.

³ A “deh” is an administrative unit used in Pakistan that includes multiple communities but is smaller than a union council.

- Shelter construction is supported by 137 local skilled laborers who were trained by CRS.
- CRS distributed 346 shelter materials kits in this quarter. The new total for the project is 4,565 shelter kits distributed to 4,377 households² (25,768 beneficiaries).
- Beneficiaries completed 408 shelters with plaster in this quarter. The new total for the project is 4,563 shelters completed with plaster for 4,375 households.⁴
- CRS distributed insect treatment kits to 1,318 households..
- CRS conducted a gap assessment to assess shelter needs in Districts Jacobabad and Kashmore.

II. Objectives:

Program Goal: Flood-affected households live in safe and dignified shelter

Beneficiaries:

- Total Number of Beneficiaries Targeted: 5,167 households (approximately 31,002 beneficiaries)
- Total Number of IDP Beneficiaries Targeted: 0 households (0 beneficiaries)
- Age and Gender Disaggregation (*of registered households*):

# Under 18 / Male	# Under 18 / Female	# Over 18 / Male	# Over 18 / Female	Total
9,601	8,450	5,570	5,940	29,561 ⁵
32.5%	28.6%	18.8%	20.1%	100%

Indicator	Description	Target	Results - end of March 2014
Indicator 1:	Number of households in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter	5,167 (31,002 individuals)	4,377 households, 4,565 shelter kits (25,768 individuals)
Indicator 2:	Number of households in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter pursuant to Sphere Project standards and FOG guidelines	5,167 (31,002 individuals)	4,377 households, (4,565 shelter kits/ 25,768 individuals)
Indicator 3:	Percentage of total affected population in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter assistance, by sex	71,681 ⁶ HHs affected (50% male, 50% female ⁷)	4,377 HHs or 6.1% of affected population (51.3% male, 48.7% female)
Indicator 4:	Total USD amount and percent of approved project budget for emergency/transitional shelter assistance spent on goods and services produced in the affected host country economy.	\$ 2,096,623	\$ 1,526,294 72.8% of target
Indicator 5:	95% of targeted households (4,908 households) live in shelters that meet Sphere guidelines by 02 June	4,908 (95%)	4,375 HHs are living in 4,563 ² (83% of targeted)

⁴ Due to the insecurity in UC Nawra, CRS has triangulated information from the committee chairmen and skilled laborers to determine the number of shelters completed. This quarter, CRS was able to verify 133 out of 408 completed shelters.

⁵ In the previous quarterly report, CRS reported beneficiary numbers for its entire shelter program. This error only occurred in the previous report. The error has been corrected and the beneficiary numbers presented in the table are part of the OFDA-funded shelter project.

⁶ The Final MIRA results report a total 71,681 partially and fully damaged houses in Jacobabad District

⁷ Preliminary MIRA results indicate that Jacobabad District of Sindh Province has a male to female population ratio of 50% to 50%. No figures included in the Final MIRA report.

	2014.		households) Sphere compliant shelters
Indicator 6:	80% of targeted households (4,133 households) report the shelter support they received was useful, timely and of good quality.	4,133 (80%)	92% (approximately 4,198 households)⁸ – of which useful (79%) ⁹ , timely (100%), and good quality (98%)
Indicator 7:	60% of targeted households (3,100 households) have started building transitional shelters within two weeks after material distribution.	3,100 (60%)	81% (approximately 3,696 households) ¹⁰

III. Activities and Outputs:

Security constraints:

During this quarter activities remained intact only for one month because of security incidents in UC Nawra, where one of the PREPARED staff was shot in the community by a local person on 28 January 2014. CRS and PREPARED in consultation with the shelter cluster, halted activity and closely monitored the situation. CRS conducted a detailed security assessment, and held multiple meetings among staff and with community focal persons to better understand the situation. In the last meeting with community focal persons the community assured the safety and security of the staff members for future visits. CRS planned to restart activities following this; however, a conflict between two influential tribes in the UC happened on 10 March 2014 claiming 5 lives and seriously injuring one of the influential community leaders. The injured community leader did not want CRS to further distribute shelter kits to the other tribe. CRS called a meeting of community focal persons who advised CRS and PREPARED to not visit the area, as it was not safe. By the end of this reporting period CRS activities were still suspended.

CRS is facing challenges in making payments to beneficiaries for transportation of shelter material and cash grant. CRS plans to invite the beneficiaries to the vendor warehouse in Jacobabad city to receive their payments. CRS expects that the roundtrip from UC Nawra to Jacobabad will cost the beneficiaries 70 PKR, and will cover that expense in addition to the agreed transportation and cash grants. There are also 579 households (588 shelters) registered that have not yet received shelter material because of security constraints. CRS will continue to communicate with OFDA about the proper course of action, and will consider shifting these targets to another priority UC in Jacobabad District.

Procurement:

Not all of the material procured in the last quarter for 1,010 shelters could be distributed. Material for a total of 602 shelters remains at the vendor warehouse and CRS regularly visits to assess the quality of material and verify precautions being taken by the vendor to maintain the safety and quality of material. It was identified that the binding ropes of some of the chick mats stored in the comparatively closed and air-tight premises weakened and subsequently broke, causing opening of the chicks. The vendor repaired the chicks by rebinding the sticks.

Targeting, Household Registration and Mobilization:

To date CRS has registered a total of 4,956 households (29,561 beneficiaries) from 406 villages across all 10 *Dehs*¹¹ of UC Karim Bux, 8 *Dehs* of UC Bachro, 6 *Dehs* of UC Ahmedpur, and 9 *Dehs* of UC Nawra including

⁸ Result from Shelter Monitoring Follow Ups (January 2014). Number of households is extrapolated from the random survey sample.

⁹ As per the proposal, “useful” refers to the learning of construction techniques

¹⁰ Result from the Technical Construction Monitoring data.

¹¹ A “deh” is an administrative unit used in Pakistan that includes multiple communities but is smaller than a union council.

340 vulnerable households. Each UC was selected for intervention after consultation and input from the Shelter Cluster. CRS communicates actively with all stakeholders in Jacobabad to ensure proper coordination, identify priority areas for support, and avoid overlap. CRS also regularly shares program progress via the 4W matrix with the NFI/Shelter cluster, and attends cluster meetings in Jacobabad (District), Sukkur (Provincial), and Islamabad (National) levels.

CRS has registered 579 households registered for 588 shelters in UC Nawra that currently cannot be served due to the security situation. CRS is also waiting to register another 14 shelters to reach the overall target of 5,167. The ongoing current security situation in UC Nawra is not likely to be resolved in the near future, not allowing CRS to further continue its activities in UC Nawra. CRS is continuously assessing the situation and will write OFDA if there is a need to shift targets to another UC in District Jacobabad. In such a case CRS will coordinate with the cluster to identify of gaps and needs in the area.

Prior to starting household registration for the final 1,010 shelters CRS and its partner PREPARED conducted village-wide meetings with all community members to provide orientation on the targeting criteria, the shelter design, and the importance of the raised plinth and other DRR related initiatives in this program. CRS targeted households in UC Nawra whose homes were either totally destroyed or severely damaged and uninhabitable from the 2012 flood. The registration criteria were clearly displayed on Panaflex banners in Sindhi, and explained to every household during registration. To date across all targeted UCs, 394 shelter committees have been formed to facilitate project activities in 406 villages and signed MOUs to outline roles and responsibilities. Each committee included two female committee members.

The shelter size (12 feet x 19 feet) is consistent with the size of existing permanent houses in the area and is sufficient to house 6 family members in accordance with Sphere standards. CRS planned to provide 2 shelter kits for families of 10 or more. Based on this criterion and the household data collected 256 families were eligible for two shelters (6%); however, only 188 households accepted both shelters. The households that refused a second shelter cited a lack of resources to raise two plinths or limited available land on which to build. CRS field staff has observed that where two shelters have been provided, some households are using this second shelter for their animals. In response, CRS encourages the shelter committees to recognize the importance of proper use and maintenance of the shelters. As they are responsible for the sustainability of the shelters in the community, the committees encourage households to only accept those shelters that they would use for their families.

Number of members in HH	# of HHs	# of beneficiaries	% of total HHs
6 and below	2,809	12,658	64%
7 – 9	1,312	10,207	30%
10 and above	256	2,903	6%
Total	4,377	25,768	100%

Site Planning:

Site planning was introduced to the project for 1,010 shelters in UC Nawra. In total, CRS has facilitated site planning exercises for 33 villages this quarter. During site planning exercises, men and women from all registered households together with the shelter committee and non-beneficiaries draw map of their village including all permanent structures and facilities in the villages and then place small model shelters to on it. It takes almost 2 hours in one village for this exercise. Engineers and social mobilizers facilitate the process. Engineers highlight technical and disaster resilient aspects of the plan, such as a south-facing opening, distance between shelters, provision of pathways, avoiding shelters under high voltage electrical lines and big trees, avoiding shelters in the low lying areas within the villages, placement of animal shelters and distance from hand pumps and latrines. Social mobilizers ensure that lands selected for house construction are free of disputes and there is consent in the community upon site selection. Communities take interest during this exercise and show

great involvement, designing their own villages ensuring safety and privacy of different families within the villages. Communities' interest helps in mobilization of raising plinth later on.

Plinth raising:

In each village, CRS and PREPARED held comprehensive community discussions on the expected origin of the mud to ensure that mud was taken from unused, non-agriculture land, and would not create new hazards within the community. CRS field teams have found that soil is readily available with UC Nawra, and that communities have been very proactive to raise their plinths. In addition to the availability of soil, communities in UC Nawra did not receive shelter assistance following 2010 floods and therefore have been very keen to engage fully in the program and raise their plinths.

Distribution of shelter materials:

The shelter material distribution process has been described in previous reporting periods. During the reporting period 346 shelter kits were distributed from the vendor warehouse. In total 4,565 shelter kits have been distributed to 4,377 families.

CRS and PREPARED conduct an exit interview at the vendor warehouse at each distribution day with a random selection of beneficiaries. The information from the exit interview is reviewed on a daily and weekly basis by the Program Manager. To date a total of 384 shelter recipients gave feedback. Key results include:

- 98% had received sufficient information prior to arriving to the distribution point and that the distribution timing was appropriate, and 98% felt the distribution location was appropriate.
- On average beneficiaries waited for 42 minutes at the distribution site before receiving materials, and 95% felt that this was an appropriate time to wait.
- 97% stated that they received all the items that they had expected, 0.5% stated that they had anticipated receiving plastic sheeting¹², whereas 1.5% mentioned poor quality of the bamboos and chick mat.
- 98% had planned transport for materials prior to distribution day, with 92% transporting materials by tractor trolley, 2% by medium sized Mazda truck and 6% by large truck. On average beneficiaries paid 700 PKR for their transport – which is 100 PKR higher than the 600 PKR provided through the program.
- 89% stated that they knew how to contact CRS or PREPARED.

Shelter construction:

CRS distributed 408 shelters in UC Nawra to 398 households. Construction for these shelters is completed, as the skilled laborers from the community continued the construction process through the suspension of CRS and PREPARED's activities. However, CRS and PREPARED were only able to monitor the construction for 308 shelters in this period. The 308 shelters were physically verified as completed by the Field Engineer, including 133 that were completed with mud plaster. The other 100 shelters were reported completed with mud plaster by skilled laborers and community chairmen. In total, 28 households that had already completed their shelters have migrated to Baluchistan with their shelter material because of current prevailing security situation in the area, according to the community chairmen.

By the end of March 2014, a total of 4,563 mud-plastered shelters with mud plaster were constructed with the support of the skilled laborers according to the committee chairmen. CRS has been able to verify 4,288 completed shelters with mud plaster. CRS and PREPARED's technical teams were in the field daily to visit targeted villages and provide technical support and guidance.

Overall CRS and PREPARED have trained a total of 137 skilled laborers on the construction of the shelters according to the design and specifications of the shelters. No new skilled laborers were trained in the reporting period. CRS discussed and signed a formal agreement with each skilled laborer in the presence of village

¹² This feedback was received from the beneficiaries who did not receive plastic sheeting, due to receiving at an earlier date from Save the Children

committees. During the reporting period, CRS has paid a total of \$2,869 through OFDA funds to skilled laborers. Since the start of the grant, CRS has paid a total of \$44,214 to 137 skilled laborers, for work on an average of 32.5 shelters each.

O&M/ DRR:

No new Operation and Maintenance (O&M) sessions were conducted during this reporting period because of the prevailing security situation. Overall, a total of 321 O&M sessions have been conducted in 321 villages reaching 2,247 committee members.

Transportation Payments:

CRS budgeted 600 PKR per shelter for the purpose of transporting shelter material from the vendor warehouse to the village. This payment is made after completion of the shelter with mud plaster. In total \$23,710 has been paid for 4,121 shelters for the transportation. CRS had planned to make payment to 4,155 shelter households; however, as reported in the last Quarterly Report, 34 families migrated to Baluchistan before receiving their transportation payment. In addition 306 Cash Grant payments for unskilled labor totaling \$1,760, each amounting to 600 PKR, have also been made to vulnerable households. No transportation or cash grant payment was made in this reporting period. Payments for the previous 4,155¹³ shelters have been completed.

Follow up on challenge of insects:

As mentioned in the previous report, CRS experienced the challenge of insect infestation in some of the shelters. Following the assessment of the UC-wide effects to the shelters, CRS consulted with the Heritage Foundation and the Shelter Cluster about appropriate treatment options. CRS used its private resources to purchase and distribute insect treatment kits to each household. By the end of reporting period CRS distributed the chemical mixture kit to 1,285 households. The kit includes 1.8 liters of spray mixture (kerosene oil and chemical in a sealed can), 1 set of gloves, and 1 spray bottle for 5 shelters. Different households received between 1 and 3 kits depending upon the level of effects in the shelter material. 618 less-affected shelters received one kit, 617 moderately-affected shelters received two kits and 50 heavily-affected shelters received 3 kits. Beneficiaries were provided with handouts and a demonstration for safe use of the chemical spray before, during and after application. They were also shown how much spray to make and how to ensure that each area of the shelter, especially the bamboos, is treated. Follow up through door-to-door visits were conducted to verify that households used the chemical. After the follow up sessions CRS conducted an assessment to gather feedback of the community about its effect and satisfaction with a random sample of 150 households. The assessment results indicate that in 43% of shelters the insects are completely eliminated, whereas in 57% of shelters the insects are partially eliminated. Approximately 13% of beneficiaries experienced challenges or inconveniences while spraying their shelters. In particular, they noted the bad smell, difficulties emptying their houses of food and possessions, and keeping children away from the household. Only 3% of beneficiaries reported ill health effects – skin and eye infections, fever, headache and cough.

Gap Assessment:

In light of the persisting need for adequate shelter in northern Sindh, CRS coordinated with OFDA and the Shelter Cluster to investigate the specific needs of local communities. During the reporting period CRS conducted a gap assessment for Districts Jacobabad and Kashmore. After coordination and consultation with the cluster organizations CRS reviewed the secondary data including gap assessment data, UC ranking exercises, and meeting minutes from the Shelter Cluster. CRS collected primary data from 16 March to 19 March, 2014 in six priority UCs of Jacobabad and Kashmore Districts to assess (1) the current shelter needs of the flood affected households in Jacobabad and Kashmore districts, (2) the common types of houses built in the area before the flooding and how they were damaged, (3) the status of recovery efforts made within the villages and causes of high and low recovery rates, and (4) community preferences for different shelter designs and their construction skills in preferred designs.

¹³ CRS was unable to make payments to 2 households that migrated early in the life of the project.

CRS prioritized UCs Akhero, Dari and Gul Wali in Kashmore, and Ghari Chand, Kot Jangu and Mubarakpur in Jacobabad for the assessment based on the Shelter Cluster's UC Prioritization Matrix, and CRS' experience working on shelter interventions in the area. Three villages from each UC were selected based on their remoteness and vulnerability to floods. CRS visited villages, observing shelters that withstood the floods (if any existed), shelters that were repaired or rebuilt, and temporary living conditions for those people who had not rebuilt shelters. CRS spoke with knowledgeable people in the community about the overall situation, and then conducted separate focus group discussions with men and women from households that have not been able to rebuild their houses. CRS asked about their perceptions about the prevalent building models and techniques, resources available in the community, and their barriers to recovery.

The assessment results indicate a continued need in both districts as people in these UCs continue to live in substandard conditions including small thatched shelters shared among several families. CRS will analyze the data, prepare a final report, and submit a cost extension request in the next quarter to serve additional unmet needs.

Accountability, Monitoring and Evaluation:

CRS and PREPARED conduct regular program monitoring activities – both through their day-to-day visits within the communities and specific monitoring exercises. This is in addition to a comprehensive accountability and transparency mechanism for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries to contact CRS. Regular monitoring activities included:

- Weekly programmatic planning and reflection sessions
- Weekly review of complaints database
- Exit interviews at distribution points
- Real Time Evaluation (conducted in April 2013)
- Technical construction monitoring
- Shelter monitoring follow ups (January 2014) – specifically looking to address Indicator 6.

CRS maintains a feedback accountability tracking sheet which is reviewed by the Program Manager and field teams on a daily and weekly basis. During the life of the shelter program CRS received a total of 287 questions from community members. These were received via complaint/suggestion box at vendor warehouse during distributions (77%), directly to staff during field visits (19%), helpline number (2%), and directly by telephone to field staff (2%). Overall 98% of the questions regarded shelter, with the majority of requests for CRS to re-visit the village and provide shelters to eligible persons (missed or displaced at the time of registration), registered households who were not present in the village during the distribution of Shelter Material Vouchers, missing materials following collection from the warehouse, and requests from neighboring villages or UCs for shelter support. CRS has responded by carrying out additional registration and verification visits to the villages to investigate the validity of the calls. Whenever CRS identifies and verifies an eligible household that had not been previously registered, CRS proceeds to register them and incorporate them into the project plan. No complaints were received for material quality or presence of insects. For each complaint, CRS field teams follow up in the community to verify the information received, and if there were missing and eligible households then they would be registered for support.

Because of the security constraints in UC Nawra, CRS was not able to carry out all of its field monitoring activities. As a result, it has relied on information from the skilled laborers and community committees to provide updates and highlight any issues or concerns.

IV. Analysis of Project Activities

a. Program Successes

- CRS completed its first round of site planning exercises for 33 villages in UC Nawra using the Site Planning Guidelines shared in the previous report. The communities have expressed their appreciation for this exercise and CRS expects that it will be a successful practice that formalizes certain DRR

aspects and encourages CRS and the communities to take a more holistic approach to their recovery and development.

b. Challenges and Constraints

- Security Constraint: CRS halted activities for almost 2 months in this reporting period because of security incidents in UC Nawra. CRS has continued to utilize the staff involved in the incident in insect treatment kit distributions, its follow up and assessments.
- Migration: 28 additional households have migrated out of the project area with their shelter material because of the conflict in UC Nawra.

VI. Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

The main activities planned for the next period are as follows:

- Distribution and orientation to remaining households on insect spray
- Assessing the situation of UC Nawra and continue remaining registration of 14 shelters or shifting targets to the other UC. In case of shifting targets to other UC, total of 602 new registrations will be done.
- O&M sessions.
- Skilled labor and transportation and cash grant payments.
- Submission of a cost modification request to construct an additional 2,000 shelters.