

**USAID – Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT No. 391-A-00-10-01187-00**

**End of Project Report:
Distribution of Emergency Relief Items to
Communities Affected by Floods in Pakistan**

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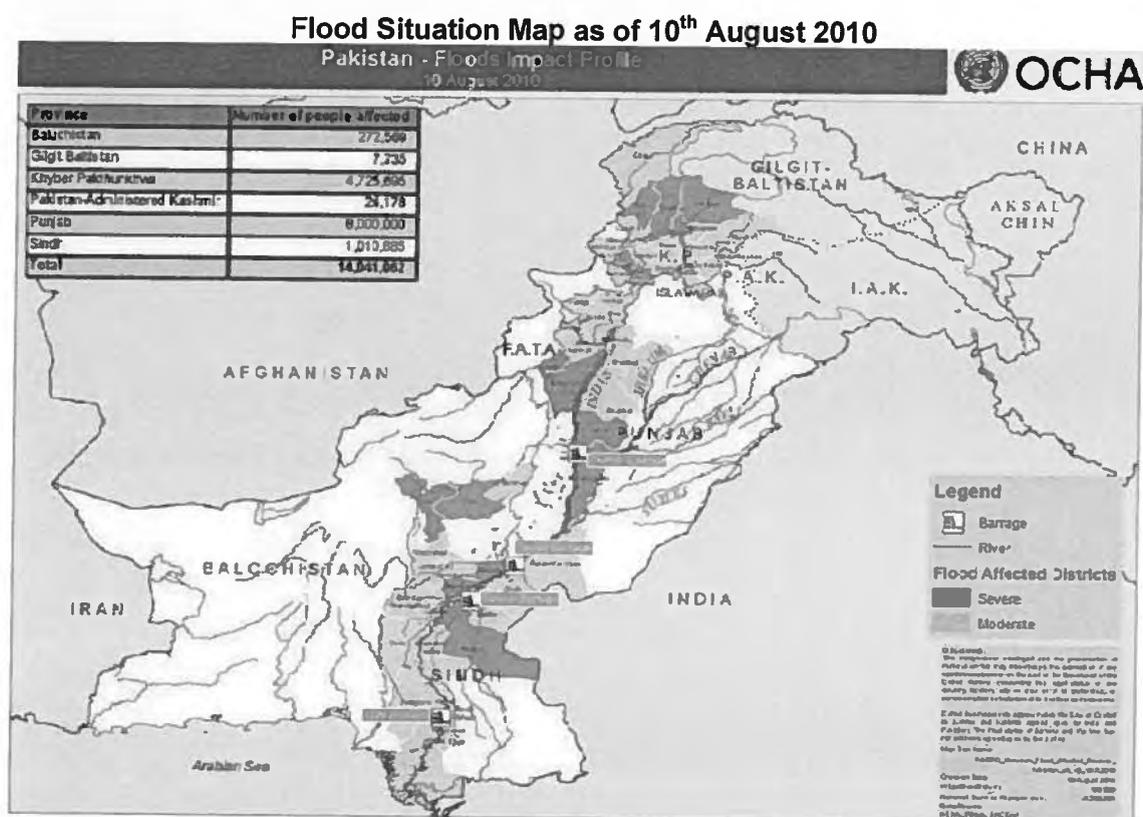
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List of Abbreviations

AOTR	Agreement Officer's Technical Representative
BRSP	Baluchistan Rural Support Programme
KPK	Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa
NFI	Non-Food Item
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NRSP	National Rural Support Programme
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PRSP	Punjab Rural Support Programme
PPAF	Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
RSPN	Rural Support Programmes Network
SRSO	Sindh Rural Support Organisation
SRSP	Sarhad Rural Support Programme
UCs	Union Councils

I. Background

In the third week of July 2010, the Monsoon weather system merged with the Westerly weather system causing the highest amount of precipitation ever experienced in Pakistan. Flash and riverine flooding in KPK led to rainwater from the highlands feeding into major rivers in the plains. Other provinces also experiences major rains and flooding, including, Balochistan, Punjab, Baltistan and to a lesser extent Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In early August, flood waters began to recede in the Northern provinces, but as the Indus River continued to rise and travel south extensive flooding occurred in districts in Punjab and Sindh. These catastrophic floods affected an estimated 20.56 million¹ people in 78 districts² from the mountainous north to the Indus delta in the south, damaging or destroying approximately 1.9 million³ homes.



The affected people faced severe shortages of food, clean drinking water, sanitation facilities and medical aid and shelter. Having lost their houses to the flood, many people are still living without proper shelter, making people vulnerable to insecurity and disease. Many are suffering from heatstroke, snakebites, malaria and skin and eye infections.

¹ UNOCHA, Pakistan Monsoon Flood Situation Report 27, 24th September 2010

² Ibid

³ Ibid

This disaster has also led to a loss of livelihood; Millions of hectares of cultivatable land, including standing crops (e.g. rice, maize, sugarcane, orchards and vegetables), have been damaged across the country. The loss of stored seeds and grains, including those needed in September-October to produce wheat (Pakistan's staple crop), has rendered farming families extremely vulnerable. Approximately 1.2 million⁴ large and small animals have died in the floods. Animals that have survived lack feed and urgent veterinary support. Livestock deaths are a crippling loss for poor households as the cost to replace them is equivalent to many years of earnings.

Relief assistance from Government, National and International Organizations was slow to pick up and till date the UN Emergency Response Fund has only received 31% of the \$2,006,525,183 it requires for relief and rehabilitation. Also relief organizations were slow to mobilize resources and manpower as many of them lack presence on the ground and found it hard to tackle relief efforts on such a large scale as was demanded by the extent of the disaster.

It was this gap that lay the foundations for the USAID-RSPN collaboration to provide emergency relief to families affected by floods in Pakistan.

II. The Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)

The RSPN is a network of ten non-governmental Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) and was registered in 2000 as a non-profit company under Section 42 of Pakistan's Companies Ordinance 1984. The RSPs involve poor communities in improved management and delivery of basic services and increased accountability of government to the people, through a process of social mobilization. RSPN is a strategic platform for the RSPs, providing them with capacity building support and assisting them in policy advocacy and donor linkages. RSPN has been a one window operation for donors to work with the RSPs during previous disasters i.e. the 2005 earthquake and the floods of 2007. USAID provided RSPN funds amounting to USD 2.386 million for the period December 2005- June 2006 for establishing tent schools and cash for work programmes in KPK and AJK after the earthquake. During the IDP crisis in 2009 the RSPs reached over 1.5 million people, with the SRSP being key partner to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the NRSP working closely with the WFP to distribute food and non-food aid. The RSPN has been facilitating RSPs to access relief projects, items through philanthropic giving as well as to coordinate with government and donors, during periods of disaster.

In the past the RSPN and the RSPs responded to emergencies by leveraging community networks, providing medical aid (doctors, paramedics and medicines), food aid, drinking water and non-food items. The scale and responsiveness of the RSPs is quick as they are localised, with existing offices in the flood affected districts proposed for this relief effort. The RSPs' relief efforts have been driven by the desire of most people to stay close to their families and communities, homes and assets. As with the RSPs' experience in Pakistan's earthquake affected northern districts, the earthquake in

⁴ FAO and emergencies, Pakistan Floods 2010

Baluchistan, the floods in Sindh and the IDP crisis, the RSPs provide localised solutions to such emergencies, taking into account issues of cultural acceptability and people's attachments to their assets and their land as well as women's mobility.

The RSPs have a collective presence in 74 of the 76 flood affected districts in the country and have provided assistance to a total of 1 million households or 8,362,784⁵ individuals in the form of Food, NFI, Shelter, WASH, Medical Assistance, Agricultural Support and Livestock Care

RSPs Presence in Flood Affected Districts Map, 2010



III. The USAID-RSPN Emergency Relief Assistance Project

On the 13th of August, 2010, USAID entered into a US\$2,299,998 agreement with the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), to implement a three- month program entitled "Emergency Relief Items to Communities Affected by Floods in Pakistan". The

⁵ Data as of 30 October, 2010

main objective of this program, was to distribute a emergency relief pack consisting of Food and Non-Food items to 34,361 families approximately 230,219 individuals affected by floods across 18 districts in 4 provinces of Pakistan. The intended outcomes of this program were two-fold:

- i) Help sustain 34,381 families for a one month period with emergency food assistance.
- ii) Ensure better sanitation and health conditions of 34,381 families by providing them with Hygiene packs

More importantly however, this program aimed to coordinate with other agencies including the NDMA, the relevant PDMA's and USAID's other relief partners NRSP and PPAF to coordinate relief efforts and avoid duplication. This coordination would ensure that relief reached those most in need and in the most effective and efficient way.

a) Strategy and Process

The USAID partnered with the RSPN, which acted as a central platform for the RSPs, to facilitate and coordinate relief efforts amongst the various partner RSPs. RSPN worked closely with four of its partner RSPs;

1. Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in Balochistan
2. Punjab Rural Support Programme (PRSP) in Punjab
3. Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) in KPK
4. Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) in Sindh

to provide 34,361 emergency relief packages to families affected by floods across Pakistan. The Districts were selected using data from field assessments gathered by the RSPs and as well as through collaboration with the relevant PDMA's. As USAID was partnering with both the NRSP and PPAF in a similar project, efforts were made to select districts so that no duplication of activities would occur.

The two main criterion set forth for selection of project working districts was:

1. Districts most severely affected by floods, those with the most number of affected individuals
2. Remote Districts that were cut off from the rest of the country due to damaged roads and other communication linkages.

The main target of RSPN and its partners was either those districts where the volume of assistance needed was so great that multiple humanitarian organization were required to fulfill the assistance needs or those districts where other humanitarian organization had no presence and an assistance gap existed. In light of these criterions the following 18 Districts were selected.

List of Districts Selected for USAID-RSPN Relief project along with rationale, 2010⁶

KPK	District	Rationale
1	Nowshera	Approximately 700,000 individuals affected 64% of total population
2	Peshawar	Approximately 37,373 individuals affected
3	Charsadda	Approximately 145,810 individuals affected
4	Chitral	Affected population cut off from the rest of the country due to destruction of road linkages
5	Swat	Approximately 180,000 individuals affected
6	Dir	Approximately 100,000 individuals affected
7	Shangla	Affected population cut off from the rest of the country due to destruction of road linkages
8	Kohistan	Affected population cut off from the rest of the country due to destruction of road linkages
Punjab		
1	Layyah	Approximately 223,000 individuals affected
2	Muzaffargarh	Approximately 902,000 individuals affected
Sindh		
1	Kashmore	Approximately 435,000 individuals affected
2	Shikarpur	Approximately 294,962 individuals affected
3	Sukkur	Approximately 35,913 individuals affected
4	Khairpur	Approximately 158,337 individuals affected
5	Larkana	Approximately 20,582 individuals affected
BRSP/Balochistan		
1	Jafferabad	Approximately 400,000 individuals affected with 200,000 IDPs from Sindh
2	Naseerabad	Approximately 600,000 individuals affected including IDPs from Sindh
3	Sibi	Approximately 32,582 individuals affected with added pressure of IDPs from Jacobabad

Each partner RSP conducted a rapid assessment in the selected Districts and identified worse affected Tehsils and UCs along with potential beneficiaries. On the basis of this assessment the quantity of relief kits to be distributed in each district was decided.

⁶ Information obtained from UNICEF on the 10th of August 2010

Number of Beneficiaries per District

S.#	District	Household to be Served
Number of District (BRSP)		
1	Sibi	2,000
2	Naseerabad	3,000
3	Jafferabad	3,000
	Total	8,000
Number of District (PRSP)		
1	Layyah	3,011
2	Muzaffargarh	2,400
	Total	5,411
Number of District (SRSP)		
1	Nowshera	4,000
2	Peshawar	600
3	Charsadda	4,500
4	Chitral	600
5	Swat	1,500
6	Dir	500
7	Shangla	500
8	Kohistan	1,250
	Total	13,450
Number of District (SRSO)		
1	Kashmore	3,000
2	Shikarpur	2,000
3	Sukkur	1,500
4	Khairpur	500
5	Larkana	500
	Total	7,500
18	Grand Total	34,361

The main objective of the project was to distribute relief item kits to families affected by flood so as to meet their emergency food and non-food need for a one month period. Keeping this objective in mind RSPN, in collaboration with the partner RSP's, drew from their experience in providing such assistance during the 2009 IDP crisis and other such disasters to design a relief kit. In designing this kit RSPN and its partners adhered to SPHERE standards as closely as they could, keeping in mind field realities. RSPN of its own accord provided its partners with a list of acceptable brands and product qualities.

Food and Non-Food item relief kit contents, quality, quantity and estimated costs.

	Items and brands in package	Quality	Unit Price PK Rs	Total Units required	Total Cost Pk Rs
1	Flour	Fine Quality	30	20 kg	600
2	Ghee/Oil	Dalda	100	3 Liters	300
3	Spices	National	50	1 Pack	50
4	Pulses	Fine Quality	120	3 kg	360
5	Rice	Basmati	100	4 kg	400
6	Sugar	Fine Quality	75	4 kg	300
7	Tea	Lipton Yellow Label	200	1 Pack	200
8	Mineral water	Nestle	25	6 liters	150
9	Salt	National	20	1 kg	20
10	Energy Biscuits	Wheat by LU	25	6 Packs	150
11	Dates	Fine Quality	130	1 kg	130
Sub Total Food items					2,660
1	Plates and spoons	864 and 264 grams	40	6	240
2	Small Pots	440 grams	200	2	400
3	Tawa	1572 grams	220	1	220
4	Bath soap	Safeguard	50	3	150
5	Detergent Soap	Sufi	35	6	210
8	Cotton wool and gauze	Fine Quality	80	1	80
9	Bucket	16x15 inches	250	1	250
10	Tooth brushes	Shield	20	5	100
11	Tooth powder	Dentonic	50	1	50
10	Comb	Fine Quality	20	2	40
11	Pot/ Mug (Lota)	Fine Quality	100	1	100
12	Packaging	by RSPN	300	1	300
Sub Total Non Food Items					2,140
Grand Total Food and Non Food Items					4,800

b) Implementation Mechanisms

Partnership was an integral part of the project, due to the sheer scale of the project i.e. its coverage of districts across all four provinces, the implementation mechanisms on behalf of the partners needed to be quick and manageable yet comprehensive. This is where the RSPN could be effectively utilized. In each province, existing Rural Support

Programmes (RSPs), were made responsible for the implementation, management and monitoring of the program⁷. To oversee the mechanics of the program, an independent Project Management Unit (PMU) was created under the aegis of RSPN. The PMU was equipped with appropriate management and technical staff responsible for overall program coordination, financial management, and documentation and monitoring. The PMU was staffed by a Project Manager and Monitoring and Evaluation Officers. At the provincial level, each partner RSP allocated a Provincial Project Coordinator who worked directly with the districts and the PMU-RSPN.

Monitoring was conducted on several levels. Primary responsibility for project monitoring lay with the PMU-RSPN, while the partner RSPs were individually responsible for monitoring in the various districts.

Detailed workplans were submitted by the RSP partners, which in turn were consolidated and submitted to USAID as the Project workplan.

c) Financial Management

Considering that the main focus of this project was the timely distribution of relief items, financial management was of the utmost importance in order to facilitate regular and quick procurement process. Funds were released in one installment in advance of program activities on the 14th of September 2010.

As the largest chunk of the funding was to be utilized for the procurement of the relief kits, RSPN employed strict procurement guidelines to ensure both the quality of the items in the kits as well as appropriate utilizations of funds. Procurement of goods and services was conducted by the RSP partners according to their own regulations as Section 42 companies, where such regulations did not conflict with USAID procurement policies. Invitations of quotations or tenders were called from vendors and all financial transactions were documented by the partners and a financial report was submitted to RSPN at the end of the project.

Savings will be returned to USAID after submission of final report..

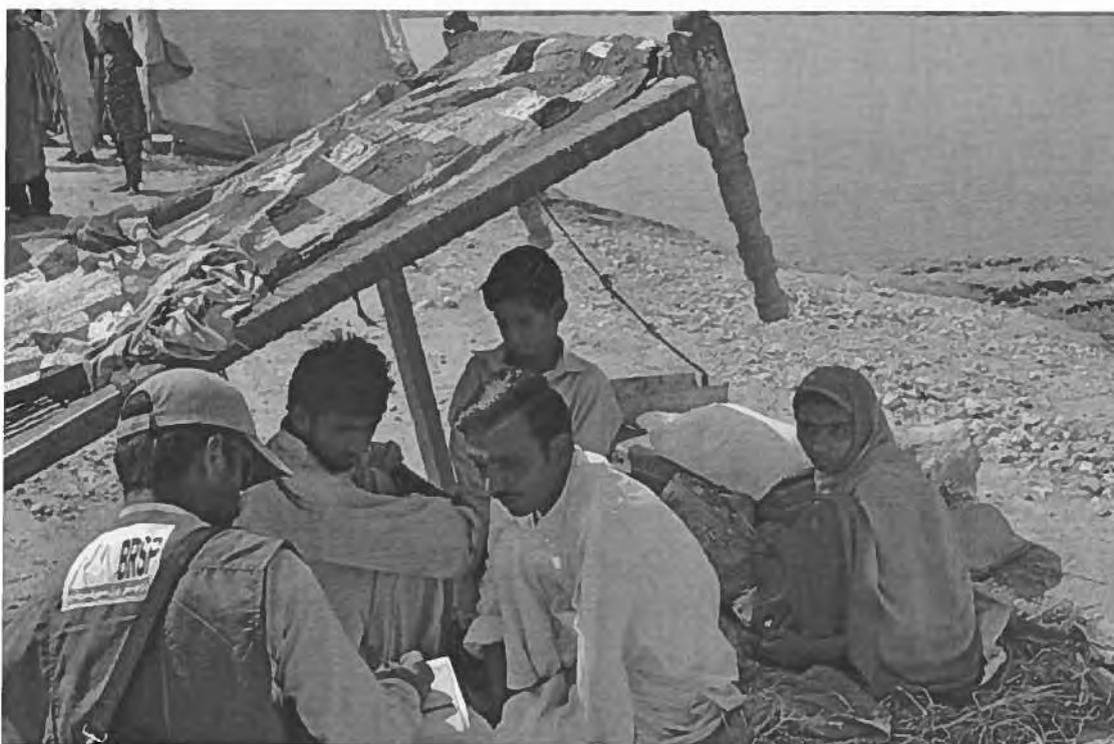
IV. Implementation

RSPN facilitated its partner RSPs in their objective of providing timely emergency relief assistance to flood affectees across Pakistan. Areas of RSPN support to the RSPs included resource mobilization, project and fund management, policy advocacy, monitoring and evaluation. This coordination at the national level was especially useful during the flood emergency, where the RSPN acted as a coordination body for such a large scale and rapid relief efforts by its partner RSPs and an efficient one-window operation for USAID to access the scale of the RSPs and their grassroots linkages and knowledge.

⁷ The partner RSPs were; SRSO in Sindh, PRSP in Punjab, SRSP in NWFP an BRSP in Baluchistan

a) Balochistan Rural Support Programme

The Balochistan Rural Support Programme was subcontracted by RSPN to distribute relief item kits in Sibi, Jafferabad and Naseerabad. BRSP put in a request to RSPN regarding shifting of distribution from Sibi District to Jhalmagsi District, the rationale given for this was *“In the food cluster meeting held on the 21st of August 2010, chaired by WFP, it was suggested by the Secretary Food Balochistan and agreed by WFP, that as WFP is servicing approximately 80% of the population of Sibi with emergency food supplies; BRSP should therefore shift its food caseload under USAID to Jhalmagsi. This meeting was also attended by USAID’s representative Mr. Zulfiqar. In a subsequent meeting with the PDMA, to coordinate flood emergency response operations, the same suggestion was made as Jhalmagsi is still highly under-serviced by relief agencies and their need is dire”* AOTR approved this request on the 8th of September, 2010.



On the 26th of September, 2010, BRSP put in a second request to RSPN to reallocate relief kits from District Naseerabad to District Jafferabad. The justification provided was *“Two Tehsils of Jafferabad i.e. Gandakha and Usta Mohammad have been very badly affected and food has not been provided by any agency or organization in these Tehsils so far. The affected population, in these two Tehsils consists of more than 5000 families. BRSP have planned to relocate the relief kits away from Naseerabad. As BRSP has also partnered with WFP and UNHCR and is distributing food packs and NFIs in Naseerabad they feel the need there is not as great anymore”*. AOTR approved this request on the 1st of September, 2010

Relief Distributions in Gandakha, District Jafferabad, Balochistan

Professor Mir Hassan Jamali is a local resident of Tehsil Gandakha, and is a retired teacher from Bolan University, Quetta, and after his retirement he has come back to live in his hometown. He worried about the living conditions of his community, and was extremely concerned about *health, hygiene, and sources of livelihood*. Jamali says 'due to amount of water still standing it looks unlikely that people will be able to sow wheat this season, and this shall have repercussions on food security, and income which will only exacerbate the present situation'. He is thankful to the USAID for providing timely aid through BRSP to people of his community 'BRSP was the only organization, after the Pakistan army who came to our assistance. I am not afraid of admitting that where our government failed the US helped'. The locals are dissatisfied with the performance of their elected leaders, and have raised questions on their 'ability to respond to people's needs in time'. People are worried about their livelihood options, and the imminent food insecurity is also making their preparation for winters an uphill task, 'we request USAID and BRSP to extend the food distribution to cover us for the next 3-4 months, provision of safe drinking water, and most importantly shelter so that people are able to survive through the harsh winters' says Jamali.

Ziauddin, a young mechanic who repairs motorbikes and car in the Town of Gandakha. In the initial days after the floods Ziauddin could not go to work at the shop because at that time the area was accessible only by boat, and no land route was functional, 'Pakistan Army boats brought BRSP Relief Teams to our village, and in which BRSP conducted the damage survey, BRSP had issued the worst affected households tokens, and given us all the schedule for food and hygiene items distribution'. When asked if he was given a token, he replied they he hadn't as his house was still standing and he still had a job but he was happy because those most deserving were given tokens and then the relief kits.

Explaining the transportation process Syed Moazam Shah, Regional Programme Officer (RPO) Naseerabad says that 'all the *parcels of food and hygiene items* are stored at BRSPs warehouse in Dera Murad Jamali, District Jafferabad from where they are dispatched by the BRSP Flood Coordination Cell, and transported on the boats driven by the Pakistan Army Teams'

BRSP started distribution of relief items on the 19th of September in Districts Jhalmagsi and Jafferabad and ended on the 1st of October. (BRSP's distribution timeline is attached as Appendix 1) The relief item kit in Balochistan cost was the highest amongst the partner RSPs this was due to the fact that the cost of items here was highest. The increased price in Balochistan was due to a lack of access to the large markets in the country. The portions of the only rail link in the province the Quetta - Sukkur route had been washed away in the floods. Of the two main road links the Quetta - Sukkur route was damaged in the floods while the Quetta - Karachi route was long and the increase in recent oil prices also expensive.

RSPN monitoring team visited BRSP sites between the 27th of September and the 2nd of October, 2010.



b) Punjab Rural Support Programme

The Punjab Rural Support Programme was initially supposed to distribute 5,411 relief kits in District Layyah and Muzaffargarh. But following a meeting between AOTR and PRSP management on the 30th and 31st of August, PRSP submitted a revised proposal that was to provide medical and veterinary care to families affected by floods. The new proposal included setting up seventeen 45 days long health camps and ten 35 days long livestock camps. This decision was taken because while conducting damage assessments in districts Muzaffargarh and Layyah, PRSP found that many other relief and humanitarian organizations were providing food rations in the affected districts. PRSP itself has provided food aid to affected people in districts Muzaffargarh, Layyah, Rahim Yar Khan, Mianwali, Rajanpur, and Dera Ghazi Khan and they did not want to duplicate relief efforts in these areas.

PRSP has also widened their geographic scope from 2 Districts to 5; the final 5 PRSP operational districts were Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan, Mianwali, DG Khan and Rajanpur for Health camps and Muzaffargarh, Layyah, DG Khan and Rajanpur for livestock camps. Medical Treatment was provided for ailments such as GI, PUO, Scabies, RTI, Malaria, Snake and Dog bites. While Livestock was medically treated along with being provided Vaccinations, feed supplements and de-wormed. (See Appendix 2-A for livestock progress timeline and Appendix 2-B for health progress timeline).

PRSP was the first organization which provided health and livestock support to the people of Punjab on such a large scale. AOTR visited PRSP as well as field offices and sites, as did RSPN monitoring team.

Monitoring notes from the Field Notes District Muzaffargarh and DG Khan

General: In locations where these camps have been setup, water levels are receding gradually, after the initial floods affectees who had relocated to safer areas, are coming back to their homes to retrieve their belongings from the rubble. Medical Team(s) after initial assessments suggested that most diseases are the cause by dirty water which people are using for drinking, washing, and cooking purposes. PRSP is advising patients to boil water before drinking or use water purification tablets.

Diseases: In all the affected districts, medical teams have reported that diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, high grade fever, respiratory disorders, and scabies is widespread among children; whereas adult men are reported to have diarrhea and scabies; while women have reported to have diarrhea, scabies, and UTI.

Livestock: The affected districts in South Punjab have traditionally been known as the place(s) in Pakistan for the best breeds of livestock, and every house in these districts have large ruminants, buffalo and/or cow. With these floods, people have lost a considerable number of livestock, and damages to large and small ruminants are substantial. Also, the veterinary teams of PRSP have reported that due to the bad quality water, there is an increased likelihood that water will have pests grown in it, and the livestock after drinking and bathing in this stagnant water would develop serious health problems. At first these health problems are not recognized, however, with the passage of time udder get dried up and livestock then does not produce milk.



c) Sarhad Rural Support Programme

The Sarhad Rural Support Programme was scheduled to start distribution of relief kits on the 24th of September, 2010. They called for vendors to submit open tenders, but due to a delay in the disbursements of funds, and the time limit stipulated in open tenders, these had to be re-called. Sealed bids from different vendors were received for a second time on the 23rd of September, 2010, through courier. The SRSP purchase committee opened the sealed bids and signed all quotations. The two lowest bidders were called to provide sample of items and for a capacity assessment. The committee finalized the lowest vendor for the supply of Food Items, but in case of kitchen utensils under NFI/Hygiene kits a supply issue was

raised by the vendor. The problem was that due to a high demand of kitchen items in the market, these items were proving hard to procure in KPK. The two lowest vendors who were deemed to be the best by the purchase committee confirmed that manufacturers needed two weeks to meet the demand of this order. Hence the distribution process in KPK by the SRSP was delayed.

On the 1st of September after finalizing negotiation with the vendors; I.B Traders and Bilal Traders, SRSP had a substantial amount of savings they put in a request to purchase an additional 1,550 relief kits bringing the total kits to be distributed by SRSP to 15,000 kits, which was granted by USAID's AOTR. SRSP distributed the additional 1,550 kits in Swat as it felt that this District was one of the worst affected and due to lack of communication links, least serviced.



Distribution of Relief Kits in Kalam via Chinook helicopters

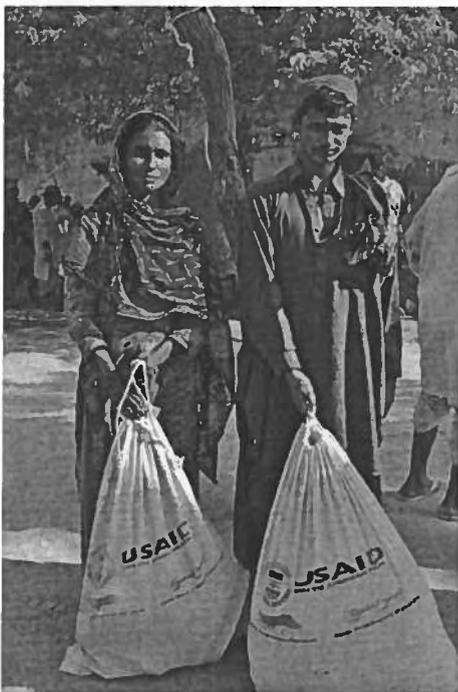
SRSP started distribution of relief items on the 11th of September in Districts Charsadda and Nowshera and ended on the 11th of November in District Swat. (SRSP's distribution timeline is attached as Appendix 3) The distribution process in KPK took longer than expected because due to the floods all communication linkages with some areas had been cut off. These areas included Kalam, Bahrain and Utror in Swat, Dir and Shangla. Distribution to some areas in Swat, particularly Kalam and Utror was only possible via American Chinook helicopters.

Relief item Distributions in, Kabal, District Swat, Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa

Hussain-ullah, a local farmer, whose lands were on the banks of the Swat River, grew wheat and rice on his lands. When the floods came they washed away his crop, 3 of his 4 heads of livestock and most of his house, the only portion left standing is his daughters' room, where he and his family now live. His land too has been washed away reclaimed by the river and where once his fields stood there is now a narrow torrential river. As this is now October. Hussain and his family have already received relief kits from others sources, the Pakistan army in August and WFP in September. This is the third package he and his family are receiving. Hussain says that the USAID relief item pack is the best he has gotten. "The first one only had one bag of flour and some lentils, this only lasted my family of 6, one week. The second had flour, salt, and oil, what did they expect us to do eat just bread. The USAID bags are very nice I can use them for storing as well as carrying other items. Their package included kitchen utensils which we really need and the food pack includes a lot of items which means a good meal for my family." When asked what he would have changed about the kit he responded "Some of the items should have been removed and more flour given. If they could have been the items that's should have been replaced are biscuits and dates as these are not essential food items. Also no toothbrushes, toothpowder and comb."

A team from the Office of Inspector General Pakistan, USAID, also visited SRSP distribution sites in Nowshera and Charsadda, as well as an SRSP warehouse. RSPN monitoring team visited SRSP offices and sites on the 2nd and 30th of September and again between the 14th and the 18th of October, 2010.

d) Sindh Rural Support Organisation



The Sindh Rural Support Organisation, with its head office in District Sukkur, SRSO opened relief cells in all the flood affected districts, "SRSO has an edge on all other humanitarian and development organizations, we have been present on the ground for the past 7 years and know our communities and ground realities well, we also have previous flood relief experience." says Dr. Sono Khanharani, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), SRSO. He further explained the procedures adopted by the SRSO in responding Floods 2010 'we called an emergency meeting of all the District Managers at SRSO, Sukkur Head office in late July 2010 when media reported that rising water would be entering Sindh Province, and this may cause massive destruction', SRSO made emergency response plans, SRSO also immediately contacted wholesalers and conducted a market survey of suppliers of food rations and other necessary items.

To make the process timely, and free from any glitches, SRSO planned and designed an effective Purchase Plan, assigning responsibilities to the staff led by the CEO, for ensuring effective execution of the planned activities. A Purchase Group (PG) was formed under the supervision of CEO, the Group comprised *Relief Operational Manager, Relief Media Coordinator, and Finance & Admin Officer*, the PG was assigned two major tasks, a) to conduct market survey of major suppliers of these items, b) undertake agreement with major transport agency; and all these activities were completed in the first week of September 2010.



The most important feature of the Purchase Process adopted by the SRSO was the timeliness of the delivery process and other all major interrelated activities, this was possible only because SRSO field teams 'conducted damage assessments, coordinated with local authorities, selected distribution points, and had made necessary arrangements for purchase and logistics of these items' says Dr. Sono Khangharani. The 'purchase to supply duration' for emergency items was '10 days' only; while SRSO had signed an agreement with a local transport agency that detailed to SRSO activities a fleet of 25 Mazda vans, and Bedford trucks; such a mechanism had ensured that SRSO fulfilled its commitments without any hindrance and unnecessary delay, which can have detrimental effect on the relief operation.

SRSO has completed the USAID Funded distributions in sixteen days, (see Appendix 4 for SRSO's distribution timeline) starting from Sept 7th of September and ending on the 29th of September. During these sixteen days, the SRSO District Management Staff and the Flood Coordination Cell at District Sukkur maintained strong communication link; the District Management Staff was responsible for sharing the distribution plan; placing an order to Flood Relief Cell; direct venue of distribution in affected district, and undertake distributions on the field; collect, compile and collate beneficiary lists; while the Flood Relief Cell was responsible arranging logistic support; safe and secure storage of items;

package of parcels; ensure timely dispatch of parcels; loading and unloading of parcels from point of dispatch to point of distribution; collate the final beneficiaries list. The District Management Staff from the five program districts have made distributions in some 180 camps organized by the Government and the Pak Military.

Relief Distribution at Camp organized by Rangers, Taluka, Kashmore, Sindh

One of the major camps organized by Rangers is along the road towards Taluka in District Kashmore. In the beginning of August Pakistan Rangers were providing relief to over 200 flood affectees living in the camp. However, since September SRSO has been handed management of the camp by the District government. 'we are extremely thankful to the US and SRSO for their support and cooperation, this was the first development organization to have provided relief to affected population after the Rangers; in the initial days SRSO gave us cooked food, and within few weeks, they provided *food and hygiene items*, along with the *kitchen utensils which is of great use to us*' appreciates Ijaz Ali, an octogenarian living in the camp along with his extended family of four married sons and grandchildren

Subhana Begum is a 35 year old woman who came to the camp on the 20th of August, with her husband and 4 young children. Her family belongs to a village called Muqadam Todo Khan, and are farmers 'we do not own agriculture land, and are sharecroppers, when flood came, we were all stranded, and had to be airlifted from the roof of our house, which was later washed away.' remembers Subhana Begum. She is thankful to the SRSO and USAID for providing them the essential food supplies and especially the hygiene kit and kitchen utensils 'these are the items which not others have provided to us before. Especially for women, this relief pack is extremely beneficial; both the hygiene kit and kitchen utensils are what women need most. My family got very sick eating food that was prepared by others, they did not like the taste, now I can cook food for my husband and children, food they like eating. Also the hygiene kits provided my family with items we really needed" She is hopeful that her family will be able to go back to their village and is praying that flood water recedes, so that the family can 'start farming on the lands, because if they don't their debt to their landlord will increase and become harder to pay every passing season" she requests SRSO and USAID to provide people like her family who are farmers with, *agriculture tools, seeds, fertilizer*, so that 'we revive the agriculture lands, and go back to earning a respectable living'.

SRSO completed damage assessments and conducted necessary coordination meetings with the concerned District Administrations before the distributions, 'this

mechanism was of pivotal importance, since District Administration provided SRSO the security during distributions, and also this was essential to avoid duplicity of relief work in the affected areas, and to ensure that the most deserving beneficiaries are reached' explains Mr. Ghulam Rasool Samejo, Project Coordinator, USAID-RSPN Relief Item Distribution based at District Sukkur.

V. Issues

The issues that emerged during the course of the project are listed below

1. In an emergency situation, USAIDs release of funds is too slow. Funds were released to RSPN; one month after the contract was signed. Although USAID released the entire budget amount to RSPN as an advance. The late release of funds pushed back relief item distribution substantially. This was due to the fact that a large chunk of the budget was utilized for procuring the kit, and vendors were demanding either the entire amount as upfront payment or 50% as upfront payment.
2. A lack of flexibility that existed to change the program package, according to beneficiary feedback. Although the partners did request certain changes to the relief kit based on supply issues but there was no request from them to change relief kit composition based on beneficiary demands. When RSPN monitoring team went into the field, the feedback they received from a majority of the people, was that they would have preferred an increase in flour in place of toothbrush, toothpowder, comb and biscuits.

VI. Conclusion

Across the country conditions are gradually returning back to the normal, however, the affected population who have lost standing crop, livestock or other sources of income hope that after the initial relief phase is over, help won't stop and governments and development organizations will provide support in terms of agriculture inputs, livestock care or feed, and means to alternate sources of income. Another area where assistance is need is in the construction of shelter, over 1.9 million homes have been washed away completely or damaged and without a steady income source, poor families are finding it impossible to raise the money to reconstruct their homes.

To rehabilitate their lives the affected population are looking at organizations such as the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs), that have strong local linkages, to develop effective and localized recovery programmes in their areas; 'we need support when water levels recede, we need agriculture support, and support in rebuilding houses' says Basheeran Mai from District Shikarpur, and she is optimistic that after receiving such support 'we will be able to restart our lives, though the process is long, and painful but this is how life is and we must face the hardships with courage and good faith'. Such an air of optimism can be experienced in flood affected areas, people are living in dreadful conditions, yet they have the hope and courage to reclaim what they lost during the floods.

Under the ambit of Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) provided emergency relief to approximately 1 million families, with

inputs into sectors such as food, Non-Food Items, Health, WASH, shelter and restoring communication linkages. Following the relief phase, RSPN in partnership with USAID has entered the early recovery phase, providing under the USAID-OFDA funded Bahaal project and agriculture inputs for 93,240 acres of land for small farmers to cultivate sunflowers in Sindh. This Humanitarian Endeavour enables aid from American people to reach the affected people of Pakistan. The partnership between RSPN and USAID shall go a long way in rebuilding people's lives and alleviating their sufferings.

Appendix 1

BALOCHISTAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME - Progress Report

District	Target	September-10														October-10							Total
		Week 3							Week 4							Week 1							
		17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	
Jafferabad																							
Gandakha				640	330		896				515												2,381
Sohbatpur														300	450								750
Usta Mohd					375		403	350	370			617	340										2,455
Jhalmagsi																							
Jhalmagsi						1376	472	178															2,026
Gandawa									295	93													388
Total	-	-	-	640	330	375	2,272	875	528	665	93	515	617	340	300	450	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,000

Appendix 2-A

Punjab Rural Support programme - Livestock Progress Report						
Sr.No.	District	No. of Animals				
		Treated	Vaccinated	Feed Supplementation	Dewormed	Total
1	Muzaffargarh	43,045	31,052	7,605	34,278	115,980
2	Layyah	9,954	27,816	11,204	14,132	63,106
3	D.G.Khan	16,072	24,112	1,212	20,417	61,813
4	Rajanpur	7,710	47,622	3,237	7,648	66,217
	Total	76,781	130,602	23,258	76,475	307,116

Appendix 2-B

PUNJAB RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME - HEALTH PROGRESS UPDATE				
Sr. No.	District	Tehsil / UC	Others	Total
1	Muzaffargarh	Kot Addu / Sheikh Umer	5,676	11,792
2		Kot Addu / Minah	6,229	6,229
3		Kot Addu / Dera Din Pinha	11,466	11,466
4	Rahim Yar Khan	Liaquatpur U/C J.G Shah	2,771	2,771
5		Rahim Yar Khan U/C Shah Pur	4,500	4,500
6		Sadiqabad U/C Bhong	2,572	2,572
7		Liaquatpur U/C Duffi Kabeer Khan	4,437	4,437
8	Mianwali		582	582
9	DG Khan	Tonsa / Morr Jhangi	6,482	6,482
10		Tonsa / Morr Jhangi	3,275	3,275
11	Rajan Pur	Rajan Pur / Kotla Nasir	204	204
12		Rajan pur / Noor Pur	13,549	13,549
Grand Total:-			61,743	61,743

Appendix 4

SINDH RURAL SUPPORT ORGANISATION - Progress Report

		September-10																															
District	Target	Week 1			Week 2					Week 3							Week 4							Total	Variance								
		6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th			28th	29th	30th					
Kashmore	3000											300	500	500	1000					500	200	130										3130	130
Khairpur	500				404	44															51	1										500	0
Larkana	500																		142		30	63	205				60					500	0
Shikarpur	2000		548	516	469	472																										2005	5
Sukkur	1500					190						362	457																			1363	(137)
Total	7,500	548	516	873	706						362	757	500	500	1,000				642	200	396	64	205	169							7,498	(2)	