

# Flood Disaster in Pakistan and SPO's Response



**SPO**  
Strengthening  
Participatory  
Organization

اداره استحکام شرکتی ترقی



# Flood Disaster in Pakistan and SPO's Response

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)  
Pakistan

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## Abbreviations/Acronyms

ADC	Australian Development Cooperation
AJK	Azad Jammu & Kashmir
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CWS	Church World Service
CSN	Civil Society Network
DI Khan	Dera Ismail Khan
DDMA	District Disaster Management Authority
DDO	Durawa Development Organization
ECHO	European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department
ERF	Emergency Response Fund
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GTF	Gender Task Force
HANDs	Health And Nutrition Development Society
HAP	Humanitarian Accountability Partnership
HR	Humanitarian Relief
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IDSP	Institute for Development Studies Practice
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
KPK	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NFIs	Non-Food Items
NVCCDF	NV Cluster Community Development Forum
OGB	Oxfam GB
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PHED	Public Health Engineer Department
PO	Partner Organization
PPHI	People's Primary Healthcare Initiative
SADMA	State Disaster Management Authority
SCGM	Shelter Cluster Gender Marker
SDC	Swiss Development Corporation
SPHERE	Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response
SPO	Strengthening Participatory Organizations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UN-OCHA (ERF)	United Nations Office for Coordination for Humanitarian Assistance
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Health

## **Preface**

The recent flood disaster caused unprecedented damage in the history of Pakistan. Like government organizations, local communities and international aid agencies, the civil society of Pakistan also contributed in emergency response. Considering the enormity of the disaster, the response was a strenuous task for all stakeholders. The flood is over but certainly the daunting task of rehabilitating the affectees would take several years. The challenge becomes particularly excruciating for a resource starved country plagued by security challenges, political instability and poor governance.

SPO along with several other non-profit organizations made efforts to assuage miseries of the affected communities. Considering the magnitude of disaster no single entity would have been able to respond the emergency needs ranging from rescue to relief supplies. SPO being one of the largest rights-based national non-profit organizations of Pakistan did best possible efforts to make a modest contribution in collective humanitarian response at this testing time.

This brief document presents a brief on SPO's work during the flood emergency response all over the country. Taking this opportunity we would like to thanks all our funding partners, local philanthropists, partner organizations and networks for their support that enabled SPO to play its role in the disaster response.

**Naseer Memon**  
Chief Executive

## Executive Summary

Pakistan experienced the worst floods in the country's history in 2010. The deluge affected most of the plain areas and ravaged around 62,000 square miles, displacing more than 20 million people. Over 5000 miles of roads, and about 400 hospitals and 7,000 schools were swept under the roaring waters. The floods rendered millions of people in urgent need of respite and relief<sup>1</sup>.

At the start the extent of damage and loss of life due to the floods was hugely underestimated. The relief work began at quite slow pace. After sometime when the actual figures about the devastation and misery the floods caused began pouring in, donors and relief agencies were galvanized, yet it took inordinately longer time to descend into the affected areas. National organizations and local communities however did not wait for donor money to respond this emergency. SPO and its local partner organizations were among those who not only highlighted the plight of affected communities and appealed for urgent help but also embarked upon relief activities with their own meager resources. SPO was soon able to mobilize resources to extend its relief operations all over the country.

Besides its partner organizations many new donor organizations forged partnership with SPO during the relief work. SPO was proficient to respond to the needs of flood affected communities, which were displaced as there was no system in place to warn people well in advance of the impending catastrophe. Due to the credibility of SPO, the partner organizations that were working with them in the other sectors started working in relief as well.

Following are the reasons of SPO's successful relief delivery during this catastrophe: First of all, SPO conveniently started its relief work soon after the floods hit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) as the organization is based in various districts of Pakistan in each province; hence its response during the crises of floods was quite timely and speedy.

Second, SPO has around 1,500 partner organizations working all over Pakistan. Till the nightmarish floods hit Punjab and then Sindh, SPO was already equipped with its relief work experience in KPK, and a quick and appropriate response was conveniently possible for the organization. But some of its partners did not have experience of working in emergency relief work, and SPO did not have time for capacity assessment of all its partner organizations. Moreover, because of the unforeseen downpour in one after another province, there was not an ideal preparedness of the partner organizations vis-à-vis the emergency situation. However, SPO, as part of Development Planning Management (DPM) training series, had already trained its partner organizations on disaster management. During the disaster, SPO also provided its partner organizations technical backstopping such as data collection formats for rapid assessment and compilation of the same.

With the participation of the local and international partners SPO completed the assessment more speedily and paved the way for all intending organizations in carrying out relief services at faster pace. Despite the hard-to-be-tackled bottlenecks, e.g. remote and

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<sup>1</sup><http://mceer.buffalo.edu/infoservice/disasters/Pakistan-Floods-2010.asp>



inaccessible locations of the affected communities, security issues, political sensitivities and logistical difficulties, SPO, with the help of its long-standing partners made early relief plans in place.

Third, SPO's existing donors were quite flexible and supple; they cooperated in allocating funds speedy on quickly-drafted need-based proposals for the emergency relief, especially when the situation changed rapidly.

Moreover, SPO as part of larger group of relief agencies network, follows SPHERE and HAP standards during the implementation of relief projects. During the preparation of food package, it was ensured that it fulfills the minimum nutrition requirements and there is proper mechanism for handling any complaint during the distribution of relief goods. Also before the purchase of the products, the community and especially women were involved to get their needs recorded down. In order to appear with the people-centered humanitarian response, SPO conducted comprehensive rapid assessment and took special care of community participation before deciding about the relief goods. In addition to that performance of the aid workers was also given serious consideration and the aid workers were given trainings on emergency relief operations.

Effectiveness of systems and operational management lead SPO to represent on highly important forums. SPO is part of UN Gender Task Force (GTF) and Shelter Cluster Gender Marker (SCGM) focal person. Being a gender-sensitive organization SPO adopted very cautious approach to address gender related issues in its work. Even during the project proposal preparation, proposals were thoroughly reviewed to ascertain and ensure that all relief project proposals incorporate gender perspective. In all relief activities, women-headed households are given priority; so is in distribution of relief items the items related to women-specific use are made part of relief good packages. Even in selection of distribution points, accessibility of women is given due consideration. Women's involvement in the decision-making has helped in reducing their vulnerability and created a little space for their empowerment.

Despite the usual challenges of coordination during emergencies, this time, the coordination between the humanitarian groups, UN Clusters and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was better than before. The simultaneous relief provided by government and non-government national and international organizations expedited the process of recovery.

## Context

During July and August 2010, Pakistan experienced the worst monsoon-related floods in its living memory. Heavy rainfall, flash floods and riverine floods devastated large parts of Pakistan since the arrival of seasonal monsoon rains on 22 July, 2010. Latest estimates indicate that around 20 million people have been affected by the floods. . The official death toll has risen to 1,985, with 2,946 people were reported as injured.

The latest NDMA report with regards to the final figure indicates that over **1,744,471** houses have been either damaged or destroyed. The flood has ravaged tens of thousands acre land, escalating concerns about food security in large parts of country.

SPO was able to conveniently started relief work immediately after floods as it is based in various districts of Pakistan in each province, hence its response was quite timely and speedy.

Through rapid assessments, Strengthening Participatory Organizations (SPO) with the support of national and international humanitarian agencies identified desperate needs of affected communities, which included: food, clean drinking water and water purification materials, emergency health services, tents and shelter kits, cooking kits, mosquito nets, and other non-food items (NFI).

SPO participated in a joint damage assessment across Sindh and Southern Punjab with UN-OCHA. The updated data of the assessment indicates that Shikarpur, Kashmore, Jacobabad, Khairpur, Dadu and Naushahro Feroze have been the hardest hit districts in Sindh. Similarly, districts Layyah, D.G. Khan, Muzzafargarh and Rajanpur are hardest hit districts in southern Punjab.

In order to facilitate coordinated humanitarian response in the affected areas and enable humanitarian organizations to have substantial planning for their humanitarian activities, SPO, with the support of its partner organizations, was not only part of rapid assessments in the affected areas, but also is part of implementation process as well. Date-wise situational update and rapid assessments of damages are available on SPO website <http://www.spopk.org>.

## SPO's Support to the Affected Communities

SPO has provided following services to the affected families in all four provinces of Pakistan and AJK with the support of its funding partners. The overall objective of the projects was to address the immediate basic needs of the affected families; the services included shelter, food, NFIs, fresh water, and health/hygiene and sanitation:

### Water Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

SPO's interventions in WASH sector are mainly in district Charsadda, Nowshera, Malakand in KPK, district Jamshoro, Thatta, Jacobabad, Kashmore, Shikarpur in Sindh, District Naseerabad and Jaffarabad in Balochistan, and Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur and DG Khan in South Punjab with the support of different donors/INGOs including OGB, HOPE'87, FAO, ERF-UNOCHA, ECHO, CIDA, CARE International UNICEF, and Oxfam Novib.



Health & Hygiene Session being conducted by Project team at Village Baig Muhammad Bhurgri, UC Jamali, Sindh

In flood affected districts, SPO provided WASH services to more than 30,000 families and major ones are following:

- Provision of health & hygiene material/kits
- Clean drinking water through installation/rehabilitation of hand pumps and PHED water supply schemes
- Reconstruction/rehabilitation of latrines, bathing and washing areas
- Public health and hygiene promotion sessions
- Distribution of IEC material and Govt. of Pakistan's flood assistance card (WATAN card) informational pamphlets
- Village cleaning and de-silting of drainage channels
- Distribution of water storage and purification kits
- Awareness raising campaign: Hand washing, personal hygiene and sanitation, etc



Awareness session on hygiene in progress – Village Azizabad, Charsadda

## Education

- Established 44 temporary learning and recreational sites with the support of 19 partner organizations in Sindh
- Total number of 4700 children enrolled with the support of UNICEF
- Provision of 2300 learning kits , 5000 school bags , 30 black boards and 40 plastic Mats
- SPO got support from District Government Matiari & Hyderabad , EOBI , HANDS , PPHI, Bahnn Beli ,UNICEF , Plan international , Host communities , Political Parties, POs, CSNs , youth groups and SPO staff



## Health

- Setting up mobile health camps through provision of free medicines in AJK, KPK, South Punjab and Sindh. Total 1551 (including 390 men, 549 women, 612 children) patients were treated through nine mobile camps in District Charsadda and Nowshera
- Setting up 100 Mobile medical camps in District Rajanpur and Muzaffargarh catering 13,750 populations in both the districts with the support of Care international
- Provision of malaria medicines for 10,000 children with the support of HOPE'87
- Provision of cholera kits for 10,000 individuals with the support of HOPE'87 in Punjab
- Provision of 2.5 tons high energy biscuits for flood affectees especially women and children with the support of HOPE'87 in Punjab



Mobile health camp in flood affected area of KPK



## Shelter/NFI

SPO's interventions in Shelter/NFI sector are mainly in district Swat, Malakand in KPK, district Dadu, Ghotki, Thatta in Sindh, district Rajanpur in South Punjab with the support of different donors/INGOs including Care International, Concern Worldwide/USAID, ERF-UNOCHA.

- Provision of tents to the 500 flood affected families of District Thatta in Sindh
- SPO with the support of Concern Worldwide/USAID provided emergency shelter kits to 3500 families of District Muzaffargarh, Punjab



A view of emergency shelter kit distributed by SPO in Village Gul Muhammad Jarwar, Sindh



NFI distributed in District Swat, KPK

- Provision of shelter kits and NFIs to 1100 families in District Dadu and Ghotki, Sindh
- Provision of shelter kits and kitchen sets to 1040 families in District Swat, KPK
- Provision of shelter kits, NFIs and Kitchen sets to 1100 families in district Shahdadt, Sindh and District Rajanpur, South Punjab

## Food

SPO's interventions in Food sector are mainly in district Mianwali, Layyah, in Punjab, district Dadu, Ghotki in Sindh, district Naseerabad in Balochistan and district DI Khan in KPK with the support of different donors/INGOs including Care International, ERF-UNOCHA, CWS and SDC.

- Distribution of food packets amongst 2300 families in Dadu and Ghotki
- Distribution of cooked food amongst 329 families in DI Khan

- Provision of 4200 food packets in District Naseerabad
- Distribution of food packets to 3200 families in district Mianwali/Layyah



Cooked food for flood affected community in DI Khan, KPK

## Community Restoration/Livelihood

SPO's interventions in Livelihood sector are mainly in district Muzaffargarh in South Punjab, district Kashmore, Jacobabad, Thatta, Jamshoro in Sindh, district Naseerabad, Jaffarabad in Balochistan and district Charsadda, DI Khan in KPK with the support of different donors/INGOs including Care International, SDC, Oxfam Novib, OGB and FAO.

- Cash grant
- Cash for Work
- Community water irrigation restoration scheme
- Animal vaccination/de-worming
- Distribution of animal fodder
- Rehabilitation and de-silting of water courses
- Agriculture input

## World Bank: Social Impact Assessment- Floods 2010

The World Bank funded Social Impact Assessment of Floods 2010 in Pakistan aims to monitor the effectiveness of post-disaster recovery efforts, and to provide a critical feedback mechanism of programs and policies on the ground. As such it will complement the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment that was conducted in September 2010, and reflect on the methodology best used to assess social impacts of disasters in Pakistan. The project was implemented at the Union Council level in District Thatta in Sindh and District Nowshera in Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa province. The objectives of the assignment are three-fold:

1. Identify communities and target groups across the flood affected districts.
2. Conduct village assemblies, key informant interviews and focus group discussions with a particular focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women and minorities. The research will be assessed in terms of institutional governance, livelihood and coping strategies, and social cohesion.
3. Review the World Bank's Social Impact Monitoring tool in light of the Pakistani context for potential wide scale implementation in Pakistan.

## Resource Mobilization

Resource mobilization for carrying out all development and relief activities is an integral part of SPO activities. During the initial response stage SPO spent around Rs.2 million from its own resources. In addition to that SPO's staff contributed one day salary in relief fund of SPO. Members of the General Body, Board of Directors and their families also made generous contribution in the fund. During flood response work SPO staff did not avail weekends and other holidays for two months and field staff did not claim any benefits during the emergency response work. SPO's partner organizations and networks also mobilized resources through local contacts and in many cases played an appreciable role in rescue and relief work in their areas. All this contribution has a great value for SPO.

SPO National Centre and Regional Offices have good reputation with donor organizations as well as local philanthropists. Thus our teams succeeded in resource mobilization of large funds for relief activities in the flood affected areas. An example of SPO's success in resource mobilization is the fact that SPO Hyderabad team with the support of various partner organizations, donor agencies and individual philanthropists mobilized large funds in cash and kind.

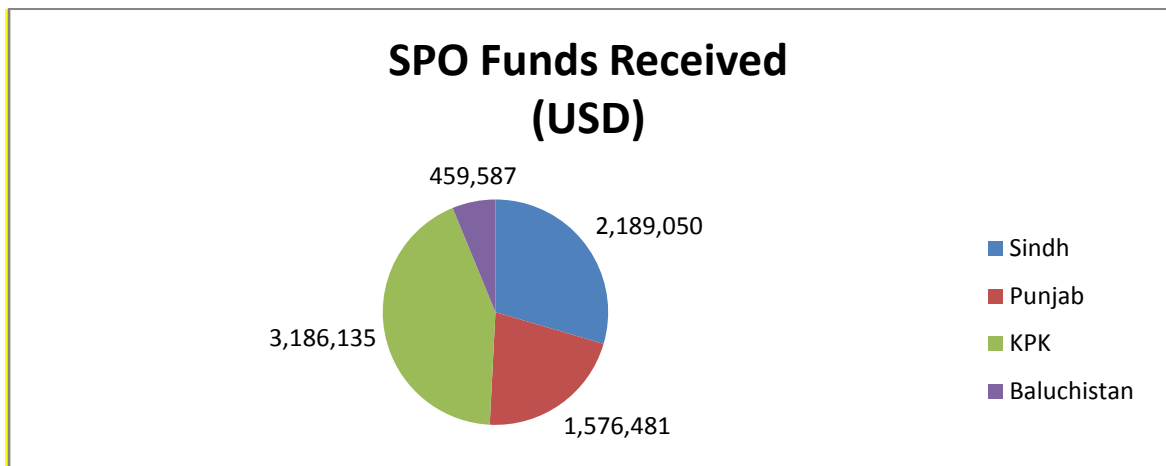
SPO Hyderabad mobilized resources worth 26 million rupees from different organizations and individual philanthropists for carrying out relief activities in flood affected areas of Shikarpur, Sukkur, Ghotki, Matiari and Hyderabad.

Similarly SPO offices in all regions mobilized local philanthropy and community volunteers to respond the flood emergency.

SPO through its networking and linkages mobilized funding of worth USD 7.4 million (PKR 622.5 million) for the flood hit community across the country.

The table below shows SPO external funds received till August 04, 2011

SPO External Funding till Aug 04, 2011		
Province	Cost of interventions (PKR)	Cost of interventions (USD)
Sindh	183,880,223	2,189,050
Punjab	132,424,387	1,576,481
KPK	267,635,308	3,186,135
Balochistan	38,605,276	459,587
<b>Total</b>	<b>622,545,194</b>	<b>7,411,252</b>



### SPO Coordination and Networking

- Member of the President of Pakistan's Committee "NGO Committee for Relief and Rehabilitation of Flood affectees" for providing feedback on NGO work
- Member of "Technical Committee on Tsunami, Cyclone and Ocean Related Hazard Management"
- Member of UNOCHA Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) for Shelter Cluster
- Member of Shelter and WASH, Gender Task Force (GTF) Cluster at National and Hub level
- Member of National Humanitarian Network, Pakistan
- SPO managed focal points in 10 districts for Hosting Early Recovery Working Group (HERWG) with financial and technical assistance of IOM and UNHABITAT. The districts included Peshawar, Nowshera, D.I.Khan, Muzaffargarh, D.G.Khan, Ghotki, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Jamshoro and Thatta.

### SPO Rapid Assessment of Flood Affected Areas

- In Balochistan province SPO conducted rapid need assessment in district Kohlu, Barkhan, Bolan, Sibi, Naseerabad and Quetta with its partners CRS, PEACE Balochistan, IDSP and Bright Star and district administration Balochistan
- In Sindh province SPO in coordination with IOM and UNOCHA facilitated rapid assessment in district Shikarpur, Sukkur, Dadu, Ghotki, Jamshoro
- SPO and Islamic Relief conducted rapid joint assessment in flood affected district Neelum, AJK on the basis of data collected by volunteers of NV Cluster Community Development Forum (NVCCDF), Durawa Development Organization (DDO). The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) officially adopted the assessment findings
- In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province SPO facilitated the UN-FAO assessment team in DI Khan and Tank districts.



## Glimpse of Cluster-Wise Interventions of SPO

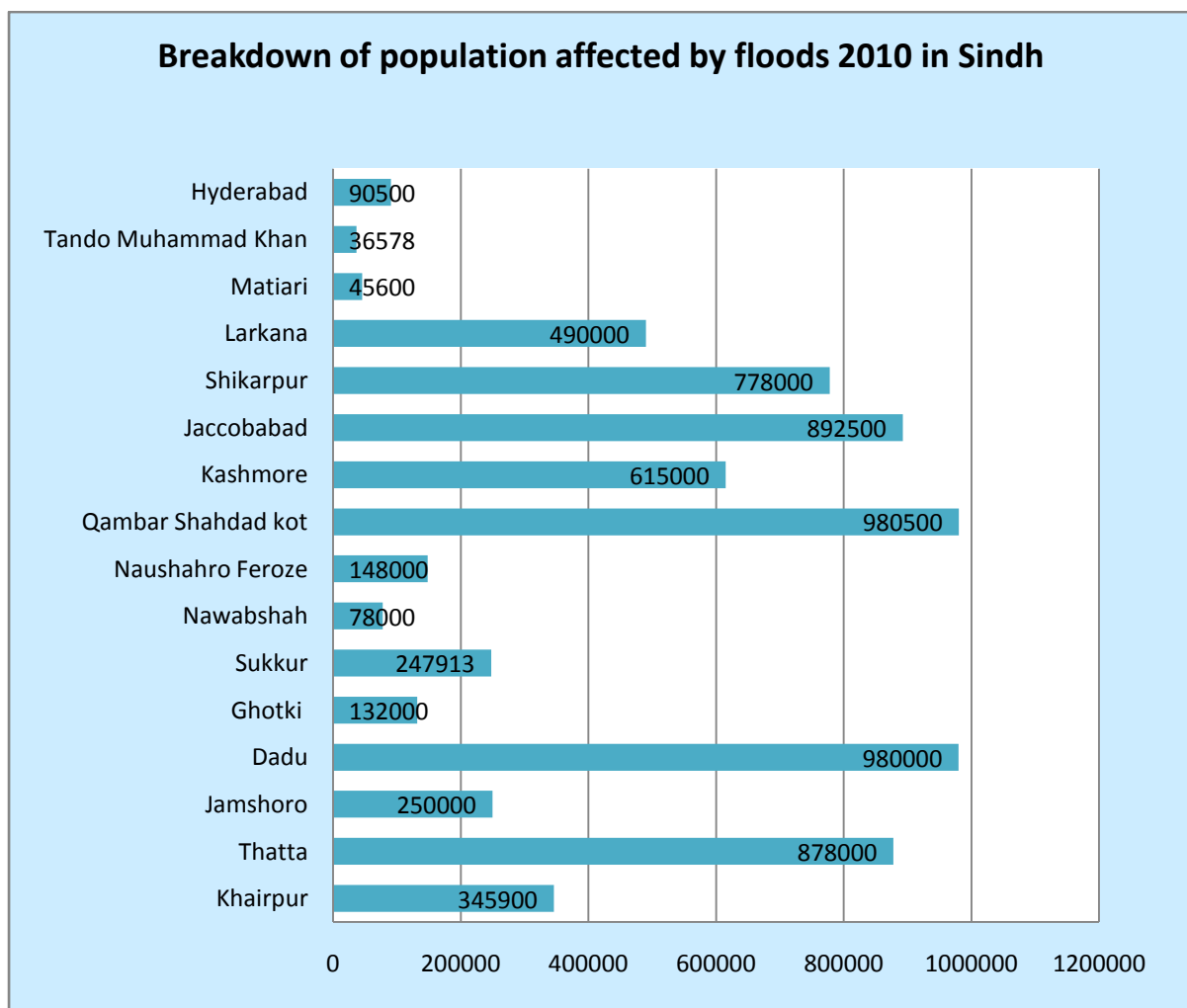
Cluster	Beneficiaries	Scope of Work	Geographical area
<b>WASH</b>	<b>30,000 Families</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. H&amp;H Kit/material</li> <li>2. Water Kit (Aqua tab, Jerry can)</li> <li>3. Public health sessions</li> <li>4. Rehabilitation of sanitation facilities</li> <li>5. Cleaning/Di-silting of drainage channels</li> <li>6. Installation of communal water pump</li> <li>7. Communal water tank</li> </ol>	<p><b>Balochistan:</b> District Naseerabad</p> <p><b>Punjab:</b> District DG Khan, Muzaffargarh</p> <p><b>Sindh:</b> District Jacobabad, Kashmore, Thatta, Shikarpur, Jamshoro</p> <p><b>KPK:</b> District Nowshera, Charsadda, Malakand</p>
<b>SHELTER/NFI</b>	<b>7,940 Families</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Emergency shelter</li> <li>2. Kitchen set</li> <li>3. Bedding kit/winterization kit</li> <li>4. NFI</li> </ol>	<p><b>Punjab:</b> District Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh</p> <p><b>Sindh:</b> District Dadu, Ghotki, Sukkur, Shahdadt, Kashmore, Shikarpur</p> <p><b>KPK:</b> District Swat, Malakand</p>
<b>FOOD</b>	<b>12,700 Families</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Food packets</li> <li>2. Cooked food</li> </ol>	<p><b>Punjab:</b> District Mianwali, Layyah</p> <p><b>KPK:</b> District DI Khan</p> <p><b>Balochistan:</b> District Naseerabad</p> <p><b>Sindh:</b> Dadu, Ghotki</p>
<b>Community Restoration</b>	<b>71,290 Individuals</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cash grant</li> <li>2. Cash for Work</li> <li>3. Animal vaccination/de-worming</li> <li>4. Distribution of animal fodder</li> <li>5. Rehabilitation and de-silting of water courses</li> <li>6. Agriculture input</li> </ol>	<p><b>Punjab:</b> District Muzaffargarh</p> <p><b>KPK:</b> District Charsadda, DI Khan</p> <p><b>Balochistan:</b> District Naseerabad, Jaffarabad</p> <p><b>Sindh:</b> District Kashmore, Jacobabad, Thatta, Jamshoro</p>
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>15,301 Individuals</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mobile Health Camps</li> <li>2. Provision of medicines</li> </ol>	<p><b>Punjab:</b> District Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh</p> <p><b>KPK:</b> District Nowshera, Charsadda</p>

## Damage Assessment: Facts and Figures of Damages at Provincial Level

### Sindh:

According to Pakistan Floods Fact Sheet for 2011 following is the provincial breakdown of affected population<sup>2</sup>:

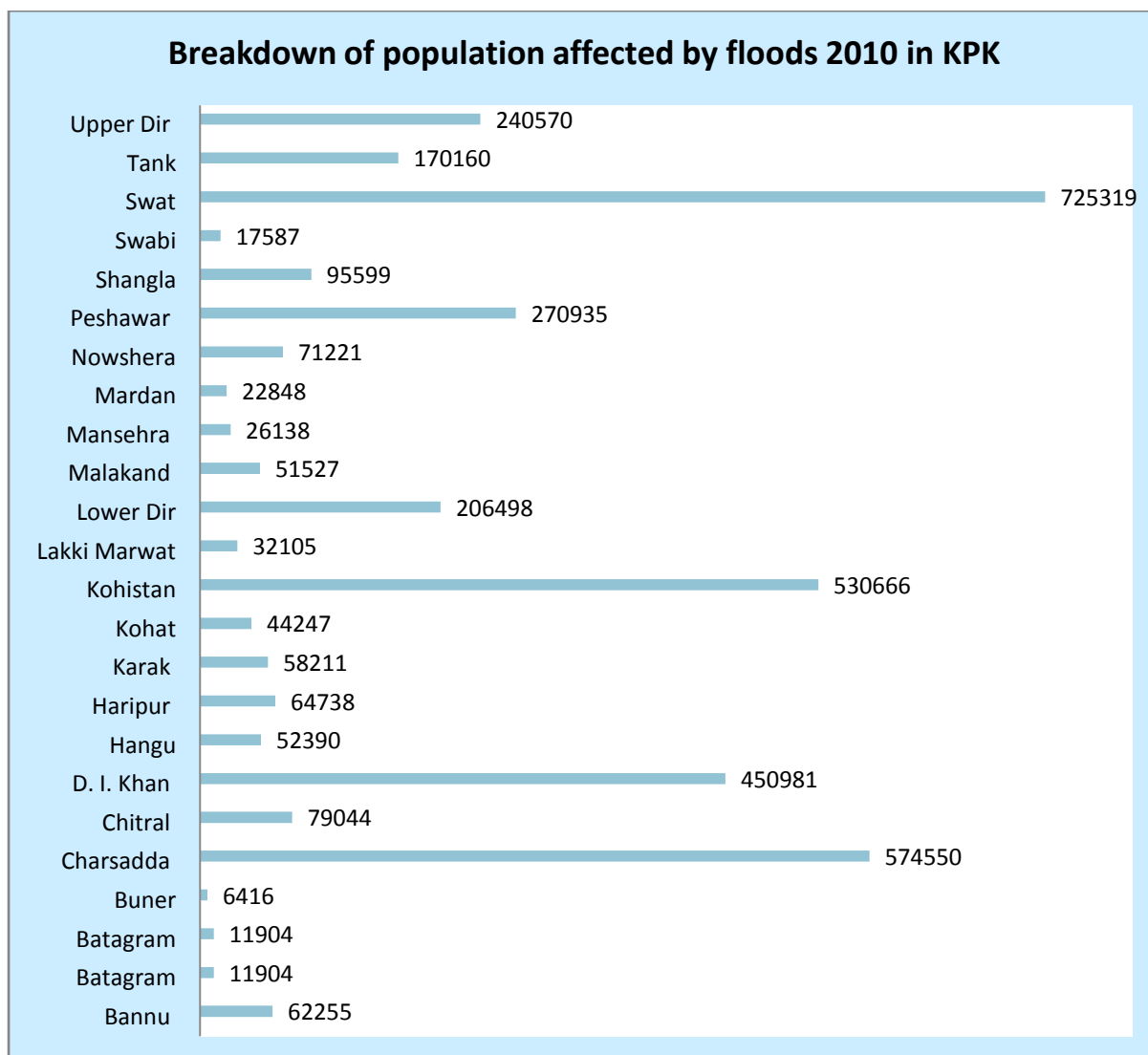
In Sindh, till this date 7,277 villages were affected; while the number of the damaged houses ranges to 1,098,720. The recorded number of deaths is 411 and 1,235 people including women and children were injured.



<sup>2</sup> The data of the district wise damages is updated from the websites of UNOCHA, NDMA and Pak Info; <http://pakistanifloodrelief.wordpress.com/information/statistics-2/>

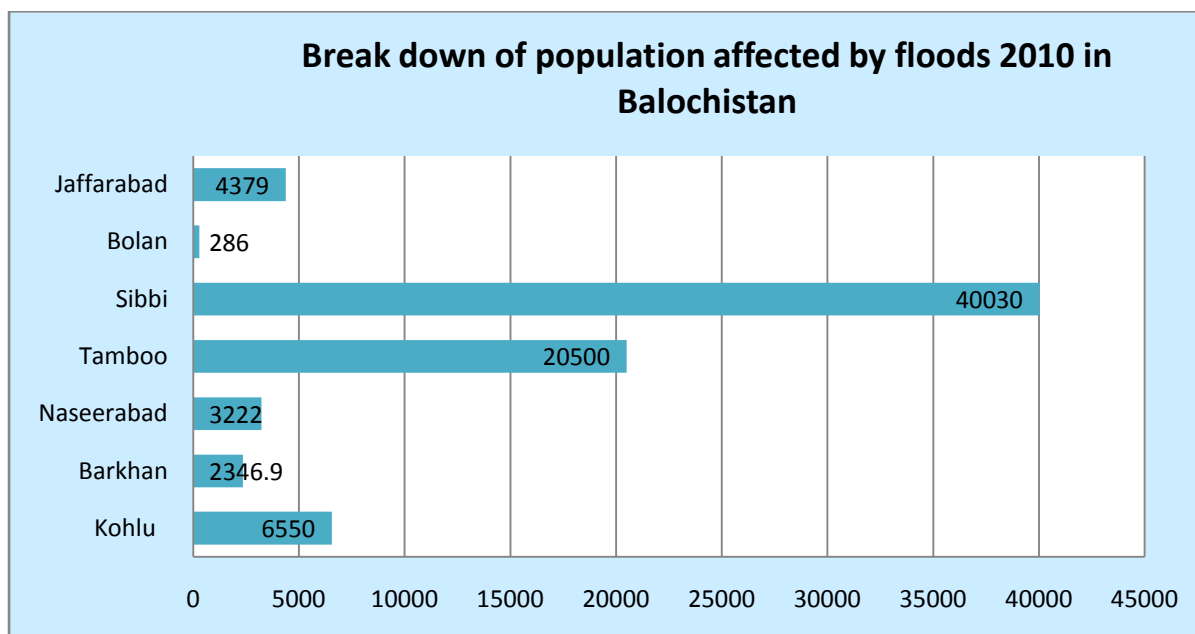
## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa around 4 million people were affected and above 200,000 homes smashed or battered. Following is the district-level breakdown of the affected population:



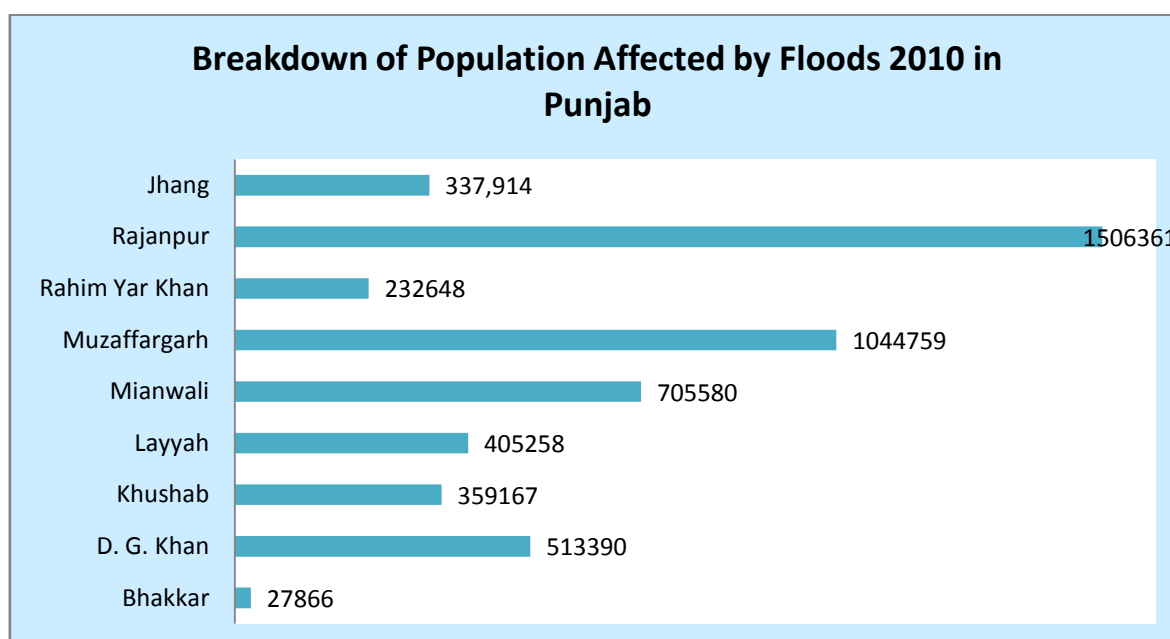
## Balochistan:

In Balochistan seven districts were affected including Jaffarabad, Naseerabad, Sibbi etc, following chart portrays detailed picture of the figures of the population in the affected districts:



## Punjab

In Punjab nine districts were affected including the badly affected ones Rajan Pur, Muzaffar Garh and Layyah with serious damages.



## SPO's Response in Disasters and Emergencies in Pakistan

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) is a non-government and non-profit organization that has been engaged in community-centered capacity building in all provinces of Pakistan since 1994. So far, it has enabled about 1500 community-based organizations (CBOs) to plan their communities' development, and implement development projects with funding from SPO as well as other donors. These CBOs hail from rural as well as urban areas in 77 out of total 113 districts of Pakistan.

SPO is also recognized as leading institute working to assist poor and disadvantaged sections of the communities for sustainable development through its core program and the emergency response at time of disasters. SPO's programmatic structure primarily aims at strengthening and supporting grassroots organizations in envisaging, planning, funding, implementing and monitoring development projects in their communities.

Since 2000, the organizations' Special Projects component has been addressing the issues related to emergencies such as landslide, floods, earthquake, hurricane/cyclone, and conflict/security through its interventions in districts of Naseerabad, Jafferabad, Gawadar, Ketch, Bolan, Pishin, Ziarat, Sibi, Zhal Magsi, and Khuzdar in **Balochistan**, Dadu, Ghotki, Sukkur, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Kashmore, Thatta, and Badin in **Sindh** and Muzaffargarh, Mianwali, Layah, DG Khan, Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur in **Punjab**, and Nowshera, Charsadda, Swat, Malakand, DI Khan in **Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa** province, and Neelum, Bagh, Haveli, Hattian and Muzaffarabad in **Azad Jammu & Kashmir** (AJK).

In line with SPO's vision and mission, SPO's "Disaster Response Strategic Framework" proposes to develop community institutions to respond to disasters effectively. These institutions include village organizations, citizen community boards, women's groups and others. It is believed that community institutions not only manage development processes efficiently but also bring sustainability through community ownership. This is essential in the case of disasters, where badly affected communities are often the first level respondents. Moreover, it has been observed that recovery from disasters becomes faster and sustainable.

SPO has an advantage of its vertical and horizontal linkages within the civil society and with the government which helps in relief, early recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction work. These linkages are valuable in working with community institutions that are dealing with a disaster situation. SPO has been working in close collaboration with ERRA, NDMA, PDMA, and other government agencies including DDMA during earthquake in 2005, floods in 2007, earthquake 2008 in Ziarrat, IDP Crisis 2009 in DI Khan/Tank and Floods 2010 across the country.

After the July 2010 devastated floods in Pakistan, learning from its experience, SPO started responding to immediate needs of the affected people that includes Water Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), Food, health, emergency shelters and livelihood. The humanitarian response standards such as SPHERE and HAP were followed while responding through relief and early recovery interventions in flood hit areas.

## PHET Cyclone 2010

- SPO placed its humanitarian teams in District Thatta, Badin, Gwadar, Javni and Turbat for rapid assessment
- SPO sent disaster alert to field offices in Thatta, Karachi, and Turbat and circulated daily update circulated on PHET cyclone
- Conducted coordination meetings with local authorities and partner organizations
- SPO provided generators for de-watering to District government Gwadar
- SPO provided cooked food to 500 families in District Gwadar
- SPO evacuated 800 individuals in district Thatta (Sub-division Shah Bundar, Ghora Bari and Keti Bundar, Kharo Chan) through boats
- Early warned population in the affected districts for timely evacuation
- Facilitated district government in emergency response by providing emergency lights and other gear required for evacuation of communities
- Distributed dry food to 200 displaced families in district Thatta

## Earthquake 2005

On October 8, 2005, a massive earthquake hit the northern parts of Pakistan as well as in Pakistan Administered Kashmir. The earthquake registered a minimum magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale. The earthquake killed over 73,000 people: more than 50% among them were children and women. An equal number of people were seriously injured and over 3.5 million were displaced.

SPO, through one of its partner organization and volunteers in Muzaffarbad, developed its psycho-social program for affected children at six different places in AJK. SPO run the program for one year. Under the project, SPO provided educational support, incorporated psycho-social activities into the government schools, train teachers and organized mobile medical camps in the project areas. The program benefited about 10,000 inhabitants including teachers, children, government officials and parents.



In October 2006 the Government of Pakistan acknowledged the transition from an emergency relief phase to long-term recovery and reconstruction, SPO played a crucial role in the reconstruction phase. SPO was selected as one of the leading organization to train Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction Authority (ERRA) partner organizations in both AJK and NWFP. Under the project, more than 400 social organizers of 112 local and international organizations were trained and provided follow-up support in social mobilization. The trained social mobilizers, later, formed Village Reconstruction Committees (VRCs) which led reconstruction process in the EQ affected areas.

In November 2007, Oxfam's "Pakistan Earthquake Reconstruction Program" was approved by CIDA as part of the Canadian government's contribution to reconstruction efforts. The overall goal of the program is "*to increase opportunities for earthquake affected people to find safe and sustainable solutions to the effects of the disaster.*" This shall be done by facilitating children, women and men affected by the earthquake to claim their rights through (i) dignified livelihoods, (ii) strengthened capacity on disaster preparedness and (iii) improved access to education and health facilities.

In district Muzaffarabad, SPO is working with Extremely Vulnerable Individual (EVI) /Extremely Vulnerable Families (EVF) to improve livelihood of EVFs and communities at large. The project is based on advocacy of Rights of EVIs/EVFs and marginalized groups. In July 2009, SPO with the support of UNICEF implemented 'Water Quality Improvement and Promotion of Hygiene (WAQIPH) Project in 10 earthquake affected districts of NWFP and AJK. The project was aimed to minimize the risk of water and sanitation related diseases, contributing to child survival development and protection in the earthquake affected areas. The overall purpose of the project was to reduce the incidences of water and sanitation diseases in Bagh tehsil by strengthening 401 Water Management Committees (WMCs) and improve hygiene practices in all 401 communities. The project was successfully completed by December 2009.

### Conflict/Security IDPs Crisis 2009

Pakistan is going through a critical time after government's announcement of encountering terrorism through military operation. Due to emerging situation of conflict in various parts of NWFP; numbers of innocent people have lost their lives; millions become homeless and unprecedented loss of properties and belongings. People of the area have started migrating towards safer places including Mardan, Swabi and Peshawar, while leaving their properties and assets behind, to save their lives and protect their families from further damage.

During the month of April 2009, after suspension of talks between Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Muhammadi (TNSM) and the government, the militants took control of Buner and adjacent areas. The Militant activities have caused immense damage to the public properties including schools buildings especially those of girls, police stations, check posts and basic health units. SPO with the support of Oxfam Novib responded to the needs of Internally Displaced Persons of South Waziristan and Swat.

## SPO Initiative on Women's Leadership Role in Flood Affected Areas of Pakistan

Women were the worst affected during the recent floods in Pakistan. 25<sup>th</sup> November marks the beginning of the 16 days of activism campaign against gender based violence and 2010 is the 20<sup>th</sup> successive year for this campaign. The 16-day period ending on December 10<sup>th</sup> also highlighted other significant dates, including November 29; International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre and finally the international human rights day on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Gender based violence is a harsh reality for many women and girls around the world. The issue is exacerbated further during and after the time of disasters, where women are most vulnerable and exposed to violence and abuse. This year, Pakistan was hit by the worst ever disaster in its 63 year history. According to statistics by the United Nations over 20 million people were affected by the devastating floods that hit different parts of the country. As infrastructure and institutional systems break down during a disaster women's and girls' vulnerability to gender based violence also escalates. Keeping the gravity of the situation in view, it is imperative that GBV be taken up in policy circles and the government and civil society institutions divert maximum resources and efforts to deal with the issue during and post disaster.

SPO took up gender based violence in flood affected area of Pakistan as a theme for the 16 days activism campaign. In this connection SPO worked to implement '**Women's Leadership Role in Flood Affected Areas to End Gender Based Violence**', a project supported by UNIFEM.

### Objective

The objective of this project was to increase the role of women and girls in relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation phase through enhanced leadership skills and protection networks in order to address violence against women and girls in the flood affected areas. The target areas for the project were **08 districts** that were **affected by the floods** (Nowshera, Dera Ismail Khan, Muzaffargarh (Multan), Rajanpur, Thatta, Sukkur, Naseerabad and Jafferabad of flood affected four provinces (KPK, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan).

### Capacity Building

SPO embarked upon the project with a three days training of trainers (organised between 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010 to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010) given to **16 master trainers** (chosen within the pool of SPO's existing master trainers currently based in its provincial offices) on combating gender based violence in disaster situations. The training was delivered by Sisters Trust Pakistan. These master trainers further provided three days intensive training on dealing with gender based violence in disaster situations to at least **30 women leaders** in each of the eight target districts.



In total, with the help of **16 partner organizations** ( out of SPO's existing pool of partner organizations) in the selected districts, SPO identified and **trained 270 women leaders** on 'how to collectively lobby against the gender based violence and discrimination against women'. They were trained on 'how to seek linkages and network with other networks and line agencies in the government to seek to put an end to violence and discrimination against women in an event of a disaster'. They were



Training of Women Leaders in Thatta, Sindh by SPO

mentored and prepared by 16 master trainers to take onto the leadership roles beyond the life of this project so that to be able to pass on their skills and knowledge to other women of their area. Main features of the trainings included 'tips for advocating for victims of violence against women', 'advocating for women in the criminal justice system', 'community strategies for preventing violence against women', 'how to liaise effectively with the district relief and rehabilitation committees' and 'creating, forging and nurturing alliances and networks'.

## Outcome

The project was aimed at eradication of Gender Based Violence and raising awareness regarding protection of women in disaster. It resulted in the creation of a cadre of women leaders able to act as mentors for the local women and organizations fighting for the rights of marginalised women and influence or change the beliefs of those in their surroundings who hold conservative thoughts against women.

It was envisioned that these local women leaders will take the lead roles in taking this cause successfully into future beyond the life of this project. These women leaders are expected to continue working together on issues concerning women in future. They are expected to inspire more women thus create larger groups of women leaders and activists in their constituencies and beyond.

Since one of the key outcomes of this 16 days activism project was the development of a countrywide women leaders forum with each leader having her own circle of influence within her respective constituency, it is believed that the forum will continue to operate as an organised national level women forum also having deep roots at the district level, beyond the life of this project.

## National Conference on 'Moving from Disasters to Development'

December 2, 2010-Islamabad.

When the floods in 2010 swept through Pakistan, taking along its rushes of water the livelihoods of millions of people and ravaged the agricultural land, the government and civil society tried to cope with the enormity of the challenge. The experience revealed gaps in Pakistan's ability to respond to disasters and weakness in its governance systems. SPO Pakistan organized conference on 'Moving from Disasters to Development' to discuss the role of various stakeholders in effective management of disasters and devise a future course of action.



Dr. Mubarak Ali (Historian), Sameena Nazir (ED, PODA), Dr. Mohammed Tufail (Chairperson, SPO) and Mohammed Iqbal Memon (DDMA, Dadu)

The conference was attended by more than 200 participants from the government, civil society, social activists, NGOs, INGOs, media and community representative from all the regions of Pakistan. The speakers of the conference included representatives of District Government, District Disaster Management Authority, Federal Government, Media, Political parties and Academia. They underlined the need for good governance along with constructive role of media and civil society to highlight disaster response issues.

The first session of the conference touched upon the linkages of Good Governance and Effective Disaster Management Response. The speakers highlighted the need for capacitating disaster management response authorities, particularly at the district level. In order for DMA to function at the district levels, their technical capacity to develop and implement disaster management response plans should be built. The absence of a resource base for DDMA also creates hindrances as it impedes its ability to procure equipments for disaster management. The session also highlighted the issues observed by civil society in the field, such as inequitable distribution of goods, increased discrimination against women and other

marginalized groups. Various mechanisms were suggested to curtail these problems, such as participation of all groups in loss assessment, provision of CNIC for women victims etc.

The second session discussed the role of the media and the civil society in the aftermath of the floods. Eminent speakers and activists from civil society and media presented their observations and recommendations. The speakers suggested that media's role goes beyond ethical and accurate reporting. The weakness of the local media, i.e. district level/community radio stations as well as district reporters for national television channels, was highlighted and the need to build capacities was asserted. In addition, the speakers reiterated the need for accountability mechanisms for the media. Whilst the commendable work of the civil society was appreciated, their lack of ability to coordinate and work with the media was also emphasized.

The third session focused on developing concrete suggestions on moving from disaster to development. The speakers asserted that the floods can also be seen as an opportunity to move towards planned sustainable development. They outlined the need for Pakistan to undertake comprehensive assessments of the flood plains, changes in soil composition and water levels and quality. This would ensure that any disaster risk prevention or management plans will be supported by scientific evidence.

## **Challenges Faced During Emergency Response**

One of the major challenges during the emergency relief was the interference of local influentials, which at times hampered the process of relief. Some of the aid workers were threatened by the local elite to provide relief services in their favorite places.

SPO Procurement Committees for procurement of relief goods also came across the problem of shortage of products in market, hence at times there was a delay in procurement. Skyrocketing prices of supplies also posed a major challenge. Quality of supplies was another slog to address in the wake of paucity of time and urgency of delivery. In certain areas transport availability and fares were a major challenge.

The above-mentioned challenges, however, helped the organization learn lessons for future. SPO's key lesson learnt during the relief work is that the regular and short-term projects require different set of policies and procedures. Applying policies, procedure, rules and regulation of regular projects on the instant relief projects cause unwarranted delays and create hindrances in timely completion of short term relief projects. SPO management responded to this need by developing new policies and procedures for emergency operations while strictly adhering to principles of transparency and system compliance. The second most important lesson regarding distribution of goods is that the coordination among humanitarian groups and relief organizations should be increased for improved outreach to affectees and effective mobilization on advocacy issues.

After relief phase, SPO in collaboration with local and international partners plans to focus on rehabilitation of the affected population in the next phase. The organization is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan for rehabilitation phase.

## Key Learning and Recommendations

1. Along with relief and service delivery there is a need for a comprehensive advocacy campaign to highlight plight of affectees, demand for greater transparency of system, enhanced participation of affectees and civil society at planning stage. Advocacy strategy should also focus on addressing root causes of disaster to avoid future catastrophes of such magnitude.
2. There is need of strengthening coordination mechanisms among organizations engaged in the relief at local, provincial and national levels.
3. The humanitarian groups should design an all encompassing rehabilitation plan based on the ground realities. This would require a detailed assessment of damages in various sectors.
4. Rehabilitation should not be treated as an imposed liability but should be considered as an opportunity for better rebuilding of society. Applying parameters of sustainable development can covert the disaster into a boon for affectees.
5. The government, in the capacity of host to external humanitarian groups, should take initiatives to create better mechanisms of effective inter-agency coordination.
6. The government should ensure a transparent and coercion-free working environment for aid agencies by controlling local influentials' interference and extending administrative support to aid agencies.
7. As a long term strategy the government should strengthen its disaster-management arms from national to district level i.e. NDMA, PDMA's and DDMA's.
8. Considering that climate change may trigger more disasters; government with the support of aid agencies should launch a large scale program for capacity building of community activists on the pattern of civil defense to respond disasters at local level through local-initiatives.