



FAO's Earthquake Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme

FAO's Immediate Response

The October 8th 2005 earthquake resulted in great loss to human life as well as livelihoods of many farming communities in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK). It is estimated that the direct damages and indirect losses to the farming system totals some 24.5 billion Pakistan rupees (409 million US dollars).

In November 2005 the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations provided the initial assessment of earthquake damage to the agricultural sector in the earthquake-affected areas of AJK NWFP. The report contained detailed information regarding damage and losses to crops, irrigation and livestock as well as providing key guiding principles and strategies for the rehabilitation of the sub-sectors. FAO has also completed an analysis of livestock production systems, including an assessment on animal feed supply and demand of the earthquake-affected areas. It appears that regionally there is a significant feed deficit, with Muzaffarabad the only district having areas of a feed surplus. This information has enabled FAO to assist the Ministry Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MINFAL) line departments and ERRA to develop approaches to restore livestock production. In addition to the assessment, FAO at the end of October 2005 provided 200 MT of wheat seeds to restore *rabi* wheat production for 4,000 households in Battagram, Mansehra and Bagh Districts; covering an area of 1,600 hectares. Currently FAO is distributing wheat seeds and fertilizers to 82,000 households with the help of implementing partners in the districts of NWFP and AJK.



A herd of goats passing by damaged infrastructure in NWFP. It is estimated that direct damages and indirect losses to the farming system was more than 24.5 billion rupees

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FAO Interventions To Date

Livestock: In order to re-establish livestock farming in earthquake affected areas, FAO provided 140 MT of animal feed benefiting 1,500 households between November 2005 and February 2006 in Battagram, Mansehra, and Bagh Districts

Maize: FAO provided 61,600 vulnerable households with 770 MT of maize seeds and 2770 MT of DAP and Urea covering an area of 12,320 hectares. 41,040 households were provided with fertilizer.

Kitchen Gardens: 24,990 households in AJK and Mansehra District were provided with seven different kinds of vegetable seeds including tomato, okra, capsicum, bittergourd, coriander, bottlegourd and squash to plant in the spring covering a total area of 1,250 hectares

Livelihoods: FAO is also supporting ERRA in the coordination of regular Livelihood Working Groups at central and regional levels and in formulating a strategy on livelihood rehabilitation

Maize Seed Distribution- “Growing Back Better”



Successful maize crop ready to harvest in Charkapura, Muzaffarabad District

FAO provided agricultural inputs consisting of maize seed and fertilizer to a total of 102,640 beneficiaries in NWFP and AJK

Maize seed bags being stacked: FAO collaborated with a number of implementing partners in distributing Maize seeds and fertilizer. IP's were provided with specific vulnerability criteria and evaluation format to report results.



Maize being the staple cereal crop of the majority of farmers in the earthquake-affected areas of NWFP and AJK, forms the backbone for most farming communities. It not only serves as a primary food source but a source of fodder for farm animals such as cattle, and buffaloes. The October 8th 2005 earthquake struck at a time when the maize crop was being harvested resulting in a large amount of already harvested maize becoming buried under rubble and the remaining uncut crop rotting in fields. In AJK the total amount of maize grain crop damages amounted to 588.2 million rupees (9.80 million US dollars) while the total loss in crop resulted in 1,324.8 million rupees or (22.08 million US dollars).

FAO responded to the agricultural input needs of the farming communities by providing 61,600 vulnerable households with 770 MT of maize seeds and 2770 MT of DAP and Urea covering an area of 12,320 hectares. While separately 41,040 households were provided with 1,700 MT of DAP and Urea fertilizer.

FAO worked with various implementing partners (MINFAL line departments and NGOs) to distribute the maize seeds to farmers in the affected areas. In Charkapura Union Council in Muzaffarabad District, FAO collaborated with an implementing partner in distributing maize seed and fertilizer in June 2006 to 4,063 vulnerable farmers . Each farmer was given a package of 12.5 kilogrammes of maize seed and 50 kilogrammes of fertilizers.

In Charkapura the farmers were selected according to vulnerability criteria developed by FAO, MINFAL and ERRA. The implementing partner and MINFAL line departments selected villages in which to distribute the seeds and fertilizers. In order to identify vulnerable farmers village meetings were held with the populace who were informed of the beneficiary vulnerability criteria. It was found that most of the beneficiaries that met the vulnerability criteria had lost half of their production or were female-headed or orphan households. One person was elected from the village meetings to compile lists of the families that met the vulnerability criteria. Then the list of all residents was certified by the MINFAL extension departments at District, tehsil and union levels. The implementing partner on evaluation after distribution of the maize seed, found many of the farmers satisfied with the output and described the crop as much healthier and stronger than previous yields before the earthquake with good production results. Presently plans are in the pipeline for the distribution of FAO provided wheat seeds in two union councils of Muzaffarabad for the upcoming *rabi* wheat crop season.

Keeping in mind crop management problems, FAO is working towards assuring crop productivity by providing trainings to implementing partners and local farmers in production technology to ensure better crop yield. With collaborative efforts of FAO and its implementing partners, farmers will receive technical assistance which will help them achieve higher yields and ultimately food security in the long run.

“Starting Over - Working Towards A Sustainable Future”



Akram showing off corn ready to harvest. FAO provided 12.5 kilogrammes of maize seed and 50 kilogrammes of DAP and Urea fertilizers to beneficiaries in Charkapura

Mohammad Akram, aged 30 is trying hard to make ends meet and assure that his wife and three children have all the basic necessities. His home and farm is located in Charkapura Union Council Muzaffarabad District.

Mohammad Akram, like many, lost more than half of his production during the 2005 *kharif* maize season. With his land damaged and his crop destroyed and not having enough money to buy food and agricultural inputs, a year later Mohammad describes

how difficult it was to get through the 2005/2006 winter and spring, wondering if he would be farming again come spring.

Smiling at the healthy maize crop towering over him in the background, Mohammad explained how FAO through its implementing partners helped to rehabilitate his maize field. Mohammad Akram, along with 4,063 vulnerable farmers in Charakpura Union Council received 12.5 kilogrammes of maize seed along with 50 kilogrammes of DAP and Urea fertilizers.

The maize, not only provides a source of income, but is also a vital part of the families' daily meal making it an important crop in these areas. As Mohammad explains, *“the seed given by FAO along with the proper fertilizers resulted in the crop growing much better than I had expected. With such a good crop I will be able to replant the seeds and hopefully expect the same results next year. It is good.”*

With the help of FAO interventions and technical assistance, many like Mohammad Akram are able to return to farming and support their families. Twelve months ago few would have thought they would have a crop to harvest and food on the table. With the help of FAO seed and fertilizer many are “growing back better” and trying to establish a sustainable future for themselves and their children.

“With such a good crop I will be able to replant the seeds and hopefully expect the same results next year. It is good.” - Mohammad Akram, maize seed beneficiary, Muzaffarabad

Earthquake Resistant Animal Shelter- “Building Back Better”

Livestock farming forms an important component of most livelihoods in NWFP and AJK. Whether that be sheep, goat, cattle, buffalo or poultry farming, most farmers keep livestock to assist in their agricultural ploughing or as a source of income in the form of selling dairy and egg products. On average there is one buffalo per household, with some having even two or three heads and most working towards purchasing more. Farmers living in the earthquake-affected areas, traditionally use a type of animal shelter referred to as “*baniyan*” having walls made of mud mixed with straw or loose stones with a wooden slab serving as a roof. During the earthquake, many of these “*baniyan*” shelters collapsed killing the livestock within. Total productivity losses for cattle in NWFP amounted to 552.9 million rupees (9.21 million US dollars) and in AJK 880.3 million rupees (14.67 million US dollars). While total livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep/goat, donkey and poultry productivity losses in NWFP amounted to 2,370 million rupees (39.50 million US dollars) and in AJK 3600.4 million rupees (60.01 million US dollars). (continued)



Khalil ur Rehman, standing in front of animal shelter prototype in Garlat, District Balakot



Beneficiary, Mohammad Rafique, one of the 600 site supervisors being trained in animal shelter construction.

FAO's animal shelter project consists of 300 farmer organisations each having 10 farmers trained to build 3000 animal shelters. 300 kilograms of animal compound feed is also provided to each beneficiary resulting in a total of 900 MT of feed being distributed

Farmer receiving compound feed in Garlat, district Balakot as training of the farmer organizations is underway in animal shelter construction.



(continued) FAO and its implementing partners has now embarked on a programme to rehabilitate livestock farming in the earthquake-affected areas. Wanting to provide a sustainable solution, the FAO decided to initiate the construction of 3,000 earthquake-resistant animal shelters and provide cattle feed to 3,000 households in selected areas of NWFP. FAO working with a local NGO developed an animal shelter prototype using material locally available to farmers. The structure consists of a deep foundation dug to form a solid base and is lined with limestone, while the walls are made up of crossed bamboo and mesh wiring covered with a mixture called "cob". The roof is also lined with crossed bamboo and covered with corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) roofing which provides a stable and sturdy ceiling for the animals. When completed the structure is small, compact with rounded corners resulting in weight primarily being in the walls and the foundation.

Union Councils were chosen based on the percentage of damage, household income, dependency on livestock, damage to livestock shelters, and assistance provided by international organizations, NGOs and Government line departments. A thorough consultative process with other organizations, line departments and communities was undertaken to avoid overlapping and duplications of activities. 3,000 households were identified according to various vulnerability criteria including, female headed households with animals and without shelter and farmers with less animals and no shelter, and/or having no access or purchasing power to buy cattle feed.

Areas chosen to implement the project included, Garlat and Hungai Union Councils in Balakot tehsil having 460 and 440 households respectively and in Battagram-Allai tehsil five union councils namely Bateela, Pashto, Batkool, Biari, and Rashang having 2,100 households. To assure social mobilization and community participation in the distribution and construction processes, the approach adopted by FAO and its implementing partners consisted of groups of farmers forming "farmer organizations".

The 3,000 vulnerable farmers were divided into groups of ten to form the organizations making 300 units. Two farmers were selected from each organization to act as site supervisors and are currently being trained by the local NGO's master trainers resulting in a total of 600 supervisors. Each supervisor will form a team of five including themselves and build 5 shelters resulting in 3,000 animal shelters.

Besides being provided skills for the construction of the animal shelter, each beneficiary is provided with 300 kilogrammes of animal compound feed resulting in a total of 900 metric tonnes being distributed among all beneficiaries.

The sustainability of the project lies in the fact that the farmers once given the knowledge of how to build the animal shelters will be able to pass it on resulting in the entire community being able to benefit from the skills and trainings imparted. With the help of local material all livestock farmers will benefit from the intervention and should be able to sustain the skill in the future. It is hoped that with more animal shelters the total productivity of livestock will improve this year recovering losses faced as a result of last years earthquake.

FAO's Work Supporting Livelihood Rehabilitation in the Earthquake Affected Areas



Participants at Mansehra Livelihood Workshop

As relief moved towards rehabilitation in the earthquake-affected areas, there has been a much greater need for coordination of efforts to ensure optimal use of resources and targeting of support. In line with this, FAO has assisted ERRA to develop a "Livelihood Rehabilitation Strategy". Since its establishment, ERRA has been developing a range of strategies for the affected areas. The Livelihood Rehabilitation Strategy is the only ERRA strategy which is based on a process of community livelihood

rehabilitation planning. It documents the activities that are presently being undertaken to address livelihood issues (for instance the ERRA-UN Early Recovery Plan, the ERRA livelihoods cash grants scheme, assistance from other NGOs and from on-going projects), and further outlines on how future livelihood rehabilitation will be based on community needs. To this end, livelihood co-ordination units will be established within each District Rehabilitation Unit (DRU), and in the North West Frontier Provincial Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (PERRA), Azad Jammu Kashmir State Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (SERRA) and ERRA itself.

The main functions of ERRA, PERRA and SERRA under this strategy will be to co-ordinate the activities of all livelihood implementation agencies (line departments, NGOs, private sector organizations, etc) in each district, collate and consolidate community livelihood rehabilitation plans, identify gaps in coverage and address these gaps. To achieve this, each DRU Livelihood Co-ordination Unit will establish a Livelihood Working Committee composed of all GOP line departments, NGOs, INGOs, local government and others involved in livelihood rehabilitation in the district. Committee meetings will be the main forum for sharing information about, and coordinating activities and coverage.

In addition to FAO's assistance to ERRA in developing its livelihood rehabilitation strategy, it also ran a series of three workshops held in Islamabad, Mansehra and Muzaffarabad (June 2006). The aim of the workshops were to bring together on one platform all the major agencies with a substantial experience of working in livelihoods in the earthquake-affected areas (e.g. ERRA, GOP line departments, UN agencies, donors and NGOs). The workshops were aimed to provide a forum for participants to share and build on the achievements of the relief efforts and to raise issues for discussion on the transition from relief to rehabilitation – from saving lives to restoring livelihoods and rebuilding the economy. Outcomes of the workshops included shared understanding of sustainable livelihood concepts, principles and framework; shared experience and learning (through focus group discussions) regarding different livelihood rehabilitation activities and further development of certain aspects of the ERRA Livelihood Rehabilitation Strategy. To this end excerpts from the strategy that outlined some key community involvement processes in livelihood rehabilitation were shared with participants in group work, so that the community level planning process could be fine-tuned and made more participatory, as per the feedback from those agencies present, many of which had considerable experience in community mobilization processes.

Finally, through provision of both national and international technical assistance, FAO has carried on, with ERRA, its responsibilities regarding livelihood rehabilitation within the UN working group system and UN-ERRA early recovery programme.

The workshops were aimed to provide a forum for participants to share and build on the achievements of the relief efforts and to raise issues for discussion on the transition from relief to rehabilitation.....



Participants brainstorming at a workshop held in Muzaffarabad.

FAO Providing Technical Support and Assistance



A series of one day wheat production technology training sessions were conducted in earthquake affected areas between September 19 and 22nd 2006 by FAO. The severely affected areas in which training was provided have *rabi* crop sowing potential and include Mansehra, Garihabibullah, Banna, Bisham and Muzaffarabad.

The need for the provision of technical knowledge was felt during the *kharif* crop seed distribution where, due to lack of technical assistance, inconsistency in germination results was observed in various parts of NWFP and AJK. Feeling the need for providing crop management skills and technical assistance along with agriculture inputs, FAO devised a training programme for lead farmers and implementing partners. This should enable local farmers to cultivate wheat with improved techniques which could pave ways for higher wheat production and increased food security in the long run.

The FAO training achieved in bringing together (MINFAL) line department extension staff , NGO technicians and lead farmers/community activists onto one forum to discuss and agree on technologies to be transferred as well as extension methodologies. Participants once trained in these methodologies could pass on the training to local communities through local village meetings and designated field days.

The Contents of the training including the following: FAO wheat distribution campaign and objective

- land preparation
- seed selection and sowing
- fertilizer application
- irrigation
- weeds and pest control
- harvesting and storage
- Presentations from the participants on meetings and field days planning
- FAO monitoring and evaluation and demonstration plots

It is hoped with FAO's technical assistance farmers will experience improved crop productivity and can look forward to improved crop yields come harvest time.

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