



## Flood Relief

Round 1

# Swat, Pakistan

This time again civil society in Pakistan and abroad responded well to yet another distressful situation. Although we already had funds to start our relief activities in Swat, I must appreciate and congratulate all the people who joined in.

The first stage was planning the trip and procuring the identified necessities. This was done on an even better pace compared to our effort during IDPs crisis. We managed to procure food items for 1200+ families despite the disturbingly high prices than last time. By the 6th of August, Rice and Flour (great Job Khurram) were purchased and loaded and our truck was on its way to Rawalpindi where Ghee, Daal and sugar was loaded by midnight (Great Job Saqib, in Pindi). These food items reached Mingora on 7th of August.

### **August 7, 2010**

The team also started its journey from Lahore on 6th and after a short stay in Islamabad reached Mingora on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August early in the morning.

We were greeted by Red Crescent Pakistan which also provided us with a warehouse to temporarily store our food items. Just to see the extent of disaster and to identify the people in real need we travelled from Mingora all the way upto Jarray (Fatehpur) which is about 90 KM from Mingora towards Kalam.

Irony was we could only travel on the eastern side of the river as all the 67 bridges linking western side were swept away by the flood. Swat River almost bisects the whole Swat valley and as on 8th of August, there was no road access to almost half of Swat which included areas like Matta, Kanju, Tirrat, Madian, Bahrain, Kalam etc. We passed through Imam Dheri (where Fazal Ullah had his FM radio), Char Bagh, Khawaza Khela and Sheen to reach Jarray.

On reaching Jarray, we could see the real misery of our countrymen. Jarray is the last village on the road to Kalam where one can reach via road. River has cut into 100's of meter of mountain and has engulfed main road, people's houses, a main grid station and many acres of fruit and other crops.



**(The end of road at Jarray)**

We decided that we shall bring food items till here and will do the distribution. In parallel we also contacted Pak Army which has a superb setup since the start of Operation Rah-e-Rast, and this is now working tremendously well for relief activities as well. On our return to Mingora we decided to split into two teams.

**August 8, 2010**

*Fadil and Khurram:*

They reached Alpura through Basham-Shangila road and delivered food to some inaccessible areas in the mountains due to the flood. This was done in coordination with Pak Army which delivered this aid to the cut off areas on a 7 hour track using mules and horses.

*Ali Aamir, Ali Ibraheem and Aadil:*

The second team followed the previously identified route till Jarray. Categorical identification of the affected people from far flung areas was made who had travelled from as far as Kalam to reach this place. These people had come to Jarray after more than 2 days of walk in the mountains and many of them were sitting there for more than a day without getting any food for their families. A distribution point was set up here with the help of Pak Army and food items were distributed by hand by the team members after careful identification of people who had specifically travelled from further than Bahrain and from as far as Kalam. It was also made sure that the people who hadn't received aid before were specially catered for.



**(Affected people from the cut off areas of Bahrain and beyond)**



**(Distribution point at Jharray)**

This two pronged execution was done flawlessly on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August. By the grace of almighty, by evening when we all returned to Mingora in the night, 900 families were given food which will last for at least the first 10 days of Ramadan. 300 packages out of 900 were lifted by helicopter to Matta which is totally cut off from the mainland because of the absence of bridges. In terms of weight 23 tons of food was distributed in 2 days.

### **August 9, 2010**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 250 packages were again sent to Alpуре, 50 packages were distributed in the outskirts of Mingora city which were located by the river side and badly affected.



**(250 Packages to Alpуре)**

## Water Treatment Plant

On the 9th of August, we worked on the feasibility of a water purification plant in Mingora. Clean drinking water problem has been a great problem for the people of Mingora. We (J.A.W.A.N) had already plans to do something about it. This time we practically looked into the feasibility. The problem had become even bigger since there was no electricity so water could not be pumped up into large reservoirs/tanks, which are supposed to be used for supplying water to the localities. Also, water wells have been polluted by muddy flood water. Our plan was to pump this water from the wells to our purification plant and supply it to local community. After the initial testing, the plant was handed over to Pak Army to be lifted by helicopter for installation at Sakhra, which lies across the river. This location's primary water source was a water spring, which got badly contaminated due to the flood and is now in dire need of a clean water source. Given this project's vital importance, if managed well, it will (inshAllah) solve a chronic issue in this war and flood torn area.



(Filtration plant being lifted to an Army truck)

## **August 10, 2010**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of August, the team came back to Islamabad/Lahore and is now planning to go to southern Punjab. One must thank and congratulate following people for their support to this cause and services to their nation. Jazakallah every one.

- Pakistan Army - Men at their best
- Alumni from GIKI and especially from NUST (GIKI alumni still has to go a long way to reach the speed and dedication of NUSTIANS)
- Mr. Sher Khan (Chairman Red Crescent KP)
- Sardar Bhai (an extraordinary individual from SWAT)
- Shah Wazir (RC's warehouse manager).