

# REPORT ON SHANGLA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PROJECT



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## Swat Youth Front

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Pakistan, the earthquake that struck on the morning of October 8, 2005 left widespread destruction in its wake, killing at least 73,000 people, severely injuring another 70,000, and leaving 2.8 million people without shelter. AJK and eastern NWFP were dealt the most serious blow and have suffered extensive damage to economic assets and infrastructure, with social service delivery, commerce, and communications either debilitated or destroyed. Vulnerable groups, mainly women and children living in inaccessible mountain areas with low levels of income and service provision, have borne the brunt of the earthquake's impact. In addition to the enormous human toll, the earthquake and its aftermath will pose a large cost to Pakistan. The overall cost associated with the earthquake is estimated at approximately US\$5.2 billion, which includes estimated costs for relief, livelihood support for victims, and reconstruction. Swat Youth Front like other humanitarian and relief organizations started its operations in the worst earthquake affected areas. Swat Youth Front responded immediately to emergency relief needs of the affected areas with provision of temporary shelter, non-food items and health services. Swat Youth Front is now in the second phase of emergency relief supply and also planning for rehabilitation on long term basis in addition to distribution of tents, quilts/blankets and NFIS to affected families in 06 Union Councils of district Shangla.

Swat Youth Front efforts are supported by staff from Swat Youth Front Head Office located at Mingora Swat, The organization is also working in close collaboration with Oxfam GB. SYF trying its best to put in place necessary systems, procedures and policies related to administration, human resource management, procurement, and financial management to ensure compliance to requirement of donors and can provide timely and effective relief and rehabilitation assistance to the earthquake affected communities. This has been made possible due to close coordination, technical and financial support from of the international partner organizations.

Botyal, Opal, Dandai, Shung, Sarkool and Ranyal are the 06 union councils of District Shangla which are the target areas selected by Swat Youth Front. Emergency relief supplies, i.e., tents, non-food items, blankets, and plastic sheets are being provided to the earthquake affected communities. In addition to this gaps are filled to provide relief in areas which are neglected by Government and other INGOs and are in great need. Highlights of the relief activities carried out by Swat Youth Front during reporting period are as follows:

- |                          |                      |                  |    |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|----|
| 1. 2529 winterized tents | 2. 1000 hygiene kits | 3. 7838 Blankets | 4. |
| 3115 Plastic Sheets      | 5. 984 Lanterns      | 6. 3488 Mats     |    |
| 7. 504 GI Cans           |                      |                  |    |

In order to provide the above mentioned relief goods to the effected families Oxfam GB supported Swat Youth Front not only financially but even technical when and where needed. Swat Youth Front Regional office in Besham is keeping close coordination with Swat Youth Front head office in Swat and sharing information related to all management issues and program activities carried out in the field areas. The successful completion of heavy task i.e relief phase was the out come of regular support by Oxfam team at Shangla.

## **An Introduction to Swat Youth Front**

Swat Youth Front (SYF) Swat is a Non-Governmental, non-political and non-ethnic organization. It is working for the socio-economic development of the inhabitants of district Swat. SYF was established in 1997 and registered in the year 1999 under the social welfare and volunteer and NGOs registration & Control Act 1961. The main purpose of SYF is to bring changes in policies with the help of the locals that can lead them towards the prosperous life. The NGO took initiative for gender development in March 1999 for the first time.

### **SYF's Vision**

Swat Youth Front strives in partnership with Community, Public & civil society organizations, to develop a just, peaceful and prosperous Society, where all have equal access to opportunities irrespective of gender, color, race, religion and status.

### **Mission Statement**

We are a Youth organization with a vision of promoting human development of the disadvantaged Communities with a gender perspective.

### **Objectives**

- To promote socio-economic empowerment of the underprivileged
- To promote gender awareness and sensitivity
- To narrow gender gaps in health, education and economic participation
- To promote volunteerism in youth for effective change

### **Organizational Structure**

- General Body
- Executive Body
- Management Committee
- Field Staff

### **Program Areas**

- Poverty Alleviation through Income Generation
- Education
- Training (capacity building)
- Health (Primary & RH)

- Human Rights promotion
- Advocacy and Networking
- Disaster Management
- Information dissemination
- Rehabilitation of special persons

### **Type of Projects**

- Service Delivery
- Communication
- Advocacy
- Training

### **Major Activities**

- 45 Non-Formal Basic Education Schools.
- 3 Public Private Collaboration (PPC) Inter Girls Colleges at Ccharbagh, Mingora and Gwalera, district swat.
- A School of Arts (Women Skills Development Center), Charbagh
- A Mother Child Healthcare Center (MCH) Kandaw, Charbagh, Swat.
- Women I.T Zones in Mingora, Barikot and Charbagh Swat.
- Learning Institute For Employment (LIFE) at Mingora Swat.
- Advocacy campaigns on different socio-economic and gender issues
- Earthquake response in district Shangla.

### **Past Major Activities**

- Health & Nutrition Program
- Primary education.
- Women Skill Development Program
- Advocacy Campaigns.(Women rights and child rights)
- Publication 1. Newsletter 2. Disable Village Children 3. Posters 4. Stackers on different issues.
- Disaster Relief/Management
- Voter Education (1. To ensure Youth Participation. and to ensure women involvement)

Oxfam GB is one of the major partners of Swat Youth Front. With their financial and technical assistance, SYF has completed various activities i.e. publishing and translation of MDGs in Urdu and celebration of White Band Day event under GCAP campaign.

Provision of relief assistance is one of the main objectives of Swat Youth Front. Heavy snow and rain fall in 2005 damaged lives of inhabitants in upper Swat. The roads were blocked and the people were facing food problems SYF requested Oxfam for urgent relief. The request was considered positively and relief goods were provided for 2096 affected families. Apart from the above activity, SYF has implemented project in collaboration of Oxfam under the title “Rapid Flood Preparedness Project” in 54 villages of District Swat. Oxfam is not only providing financial assistance even their technical support is valuable for SYF’s management.

During the disaster of Oct 8, 2005 earthquake, SYF in collaboration with Oxfam, provided quick relief to 3016 affected families in 6 Union Councils (Sarkool, Dandai, Butial, Opal, Ranyal, and Shung) of upper Shangla District. The relief items comprises; Winterized Tents, Blankets, Plastic Sheets, Mats, Health Hygiene Kits and Lanterns. The communities were in need, so the above mentioned activities launched and were highly appreciated by various segments of the society.

# **RELIEF ACTIVITIES FINAL REPORT**

## **SHANGLA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE**

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|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Duration:</b>             | 105 Days                                    |
| <b>Date of commencement:</b> | 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2005                  |
| <b>Date of completion:</b>   | 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2006                  |
| <b>Financed by:</b>          | <b>Oxfam</b>                                |
| <b>Implemented by:</b>       | <b>Swat Youth Front (SYF) District Swat</b> |
| <b>Report prepared by:</b>   | Badar Zaman President SYF Swat              |

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### **Shangla at a glance**

Shangla accorded district position in 1995, which is one of the remote rural districts of North West Frontier Province (NWFP). Shangla is bound in the east of district Swat, in the north by District Kohistan, in the south by Buner, in the east Indus separates it from district Batagram and tribal belt of Kaladakha. Geographically it is located at 34°, 31° to 33°, 08° north latitude and 72°, 33° to 73 °, 01 ° east longitudes, at an elevation of 3164 meters above the sea level with a total area of 1586 square kilometers. Total population of the district is 541000 (*i.e 341 persons in Square KM*) living in 111 settlement of 53539 house holds with an annual growth rate of 3.3 %. Average household per village is approximately 107 lies on hard and hilly remote areas. High mountains and narrow valleys dominate topography of district Shangla. These mountains are the western extremities of the great Himalayan range. District Shangla is a complex patchwork of tribal, feudal, conservative, and above all of patriarchal norms. The people belong to different tribes including Yousafzai, Gujar, Ajar, and Syeds. Most of the people are living in joint family system. The people like early marriages and are gender sensitive due to strong patriarchal society with enabled religious norms. Pashto is the local language while Gujri is the language of Gujars spoken by major portion of the population in the hilly and remote areas. Subsistence agriculture is the main source of livelihood. The district has 4175 hectares agriculture land. Majority of the people are working in the Middle East, Karachi, Quetta, and some other parts of the country for earning livelihood. While most of the Ajars and Gujars rear their livestock for subsistence livelihood. Poverty in district Shangla is attributed to lack of financial and human capital, large family size, gender sensitivity, and poor infrastructure.

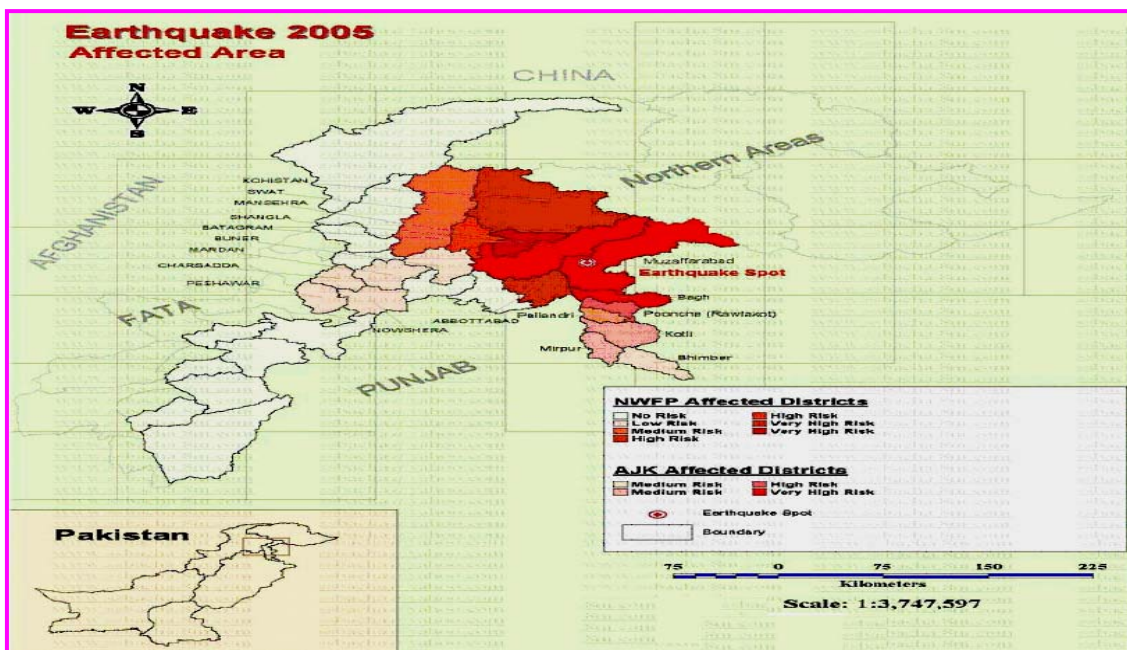
## Background of the report

On October 08, 2005 at 8:52 AM a devastating earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on Richter scale jolted Kashmir and five northern districts of Pakistan. The scale of the earthquake devastation was appalling and majority of the people lost their lives, shelters and livelihood. Shangla was one of the disaster prone areas of the earthquake wreckage which affected almost whole of the population. This major disaster took 434 human lives and leaving more than 1182 seriously injured. It destroyed thousands of Kacha and Pacca houses. Apart from the human losses and serious injuries the earthquake destroyed infrastructure like health facilities, education institutions, link roads, drinking water supply schemes, and other facilities. Along with the damages of infrastructures, most of the private properties like houses, agricultural lands, mosques, shops, and all kinds of livestock were completely damaged. As a result thousands of people becomes homeless especially children and female were badly affected. Proper and clean drinking water was not available, while the health units in all hamlets were collapsed and people were suffering from various diseases. Cold weather, continued rain and snowfall make the situation more and more alarming, as there were no proper shelter facilities, in any one of the effected communities.

Pak INGO Humanitarian forum Meeting was held in Islamabad on October 8, 2005, in which three teams were formed to conduct a rapid assessment visit of the Earthquake affected areas of Hazara division, Shangla, Kohistan and Azad Jumu & Kashmir. The team comprising of Dr. Humayun Rizwan, of **Save the Children**, Sebastian Justin of **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**, Mr. Iftikhar Khan of **CARE International** and Mr. Saad ullah Khan of **World Vision** reached Shangla at 4:30 PM Oct, 9, 2005. Ms. Fatima of **Oxfam GB** led the team while the visit was facilitated by **Swat Youth Front** and hosted by SDS Shangla. District Coordination Officer (DCO) Mr. Sher Bahdar Khan, Executive District Officer Health, Mr. Said Ali Khan, District Revenue officer and local press reporter were accompanied the team.

During the visit Swat Youth Front conducted a rapid assessment with those INGOs. On the basis of that assessment, a proposal was submitted to Oxfam in-order to provide urgent relief to the earthquake affectees of the area. Oxfam signed an agreement with Swat Youth Front as implementation partner (IP) and launched a project under the title of “Shangla Earthquake Response Project”. Initially 3000 families of Six Union Councils of District Shangla (*upper*) were selected for the provision of relief goods. These Union Councils include Dandai, Bootyal,

Ranyal, Shang, Opal and Sarkool. 20 male and 10 female volunteers were involved in implementing the project.

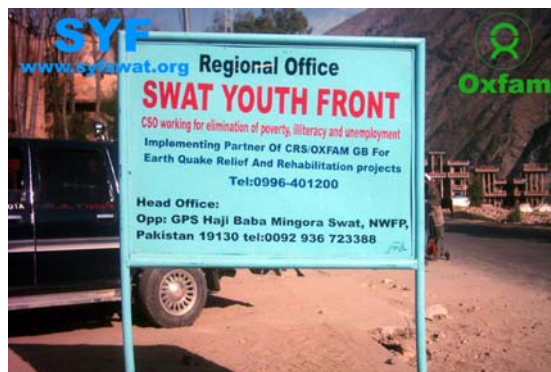


## The Process

### Establishment of Regional Office

After signing agreement with Oxfam, Swat Youth Front established regional office at Besham.

Required staff was hired and volunteers were arranged to conduct assessment surveys and other relief related activities in affected area.



### Formation of Teams

Six teams each comprising five members were formed and sent to targeted areas for need assessment surveys.

### Formation of local committees

To run the activity in proper and smooth way and to make it fruitful, committees of



locals were formed in each community.

### **Identification and registration**

After a brief orientation about the project, teams of volunteers initiated identification & registration process in the targeted areas.

The volunteers were provided forms for data collection and registration. During the process it was necessary to involve the local stakeholders to overcome problems like missing of households and registration of ineligible families.



### **Distribution strategy**

SYF Swat strictly adopted Oxfam strategy for the distribution of relief items and all these processes were taken transparently. A store was rented in Besham from where the items were supplied to the distribution points established at various communities in order to make the distribution easy and accessible.

### **Issuance of Tokens**

The assessment and registration conducted by the assessment teams was discussed with SYF management and Oxfam officials. After necessary discussion and door to door verification specific tokens with the monograms of SYF and Oxfam were issued to identified and registered effected families. In order to insure transparency, the style and color of token was changed from time to time.

### **Distribution**

After assessment and registration, tokens were issued to the effected families and supply was started on **13/10/2005** from the warehouse located at Besham. While in some areas distribution points were established to make the distribution easy and approachable for the effected people. During the activity Swat Youth Front tried to reach the most vulnerable and most effected families in the target area as per standard criteria of the partner organization. Swat Youth Front also



involved female volunteers in-order to provide urgent and quick relief to the effected female segment of the society. Special attention and priority was given to females, widows, orphans, children and dependant families.

The project was initially started as per planning in 08 union councils. But after passing time some other agencies started relief activities in Two UCs of the targeted union councils and those two union councils were dropped from the plan.

### **Coordination with other agencies**

To make the distribution more transparent and to avoid overlapping, coordination forum of all agencies was formed with the help of Oxfam officials. During the coordination meetings information sharing and exchanges of beneficiaries' lists was useful process for transparency and accountability. To bring in transparency and to learn and share experience, the overall process of identification, verification and distribution was discussed with the members of coordination forum.

SYF Swat was able to complete the activity with the collaboration and coordination of different individuals, volunteers, CBOs and local government institutions at different stages of the relief activity. The whole activity was also coordinated with the Oxfam representative during the project period. The above mentioned coordination process resulted in positive impacts on the relief operation. At the initial stage, coordination with local elders, CBOs and union councils made it easy for non-local volunteers of SYF to identify the affectees according to the criteria. During the distribution process, coordination with local elders committee avoided conflict and provided a local representative body for recognition of those beneficiaries who did not have identity cards.

### **Approach to women**

The earthquake badly affected the female segment of the society in the area. In order to provide quick relief to the effected, female services of 10 female volunteers were hired and teams were formed for assessment & registration.

### DETAILS OF GOODS DISTRIBUTION

| S # | Union Council | HH Covered  | Tents       | Blankets    | Plastic Sheets | Sleeping Mats | Jerry cans | Lantern    | Hygiene kits |
|-----|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1   | Dandai        | 750         | 500         | 1650        | 700            | 116           | 0          | 0          | 0            |
| 2   | Shang         | 678         | 523         | 1997        | 960            | 334           | 284        | 192        | 50           |
| 3   | Bootyal       | 704         | 686         | 2277        | 1223           | 585           | 0          | 447        | 572          |
| 4   | Ranyal        | 315         | 251         | 746         | 232            | 704           | 0          | 0          | 33           |
| 5   | Opal          | 224         | 224         | 478         | 0              | 666           | 0          | 0          | 0            |
| 6   | Sarkool       | 345         | 345         | 690         | 0              | 1083          | 220        | 345        | 345          |
|     | <b>Total</b>  | <b>3016</b> | <b>2529</b> | <b>7838</b> | <b>3115</b>    | <b>3488</b>   | <b>504</b> | <b>984</b> | <b>1000</b>  |

## PROBLEMS FACED

SYF provided quick relief to affectees as per planning in most of the areas in a peaceful environment but the organization faced some problems which are as under.

1. 400 tents were received in first package from Oxfam and after that the supply of tents suspended while the remaining items were supplied as per planning. Registration and identification of affectees was continuing in the targeted areas. Meanwhile rainfall started and the people were living with out any shelter. This critical situation was discussed with the program manager of Oxfam. On the advice, partial distribution of plastic sheets and other goods was started. Tent supply started again after 10<sup>th</sup> November 2005 but other governmental and nongovernmental agencies were providing tents and other items in the targeted areas. The previous assessment, registration and identification became useless. Hence, Swat Youth Front started identification and registration again in the same areas that resulted high expenses and the approved budget was disturbed.
2. During the activity the locals raised a religious issue on November 8, 2005 regarding female involvement by Swat Youth Front. Thus female related activity i.e. distribution of health hygiene kit was suspended from the date mentioned above. Although 1000 health hygiene kits were distributed through male volunteers.
3. Political interests of various groups particularly the newly elected Nazims and councilors and the losers were trying to increase their vote bank through relief goods distribution which created great troubles for the organization. Because the organization was strictly following the policy and criteria of the partner organization.

## Lesson learned

After earth quake, when SYF started emergency relief activities. We take a some local CBO's activist as volunteers on the basis of their local knowledge. But during initial assessment, registration and distribution we observed that there were close relatives of the volunteers in the communities and they began like dislike in the process. We learnt that local activists should not be involved in relief process to make the process transparent & fruitful.

We ignored the local politicians during relief process and made committees from local elders. The politicians were afraid that we are developing a cadre of leadership against them; hence they started propaganda against SYF which create hurdles for the organization. Keeping in mind this critical situation SYF organized a meeting with all political leaders and requests them to provide support in planning. After their involvement the problems were peacefully solved. It was learnt that the stakeholders must be involved at least planning level.

Due to lack of knowledge about NGOs the negative propaganda against the NGOs was common in the area. During the relief activities it was noted that some unaware people were trying to disturb the relief activities through religious issues. SYF not only mobilized the communities even launched relief activities in quick and transparent way, which changed the minds of locals.

## **Recommendations**

### **1. Capacity Building of organization**

There is need of technical expertise, in order to build capacities of organization members, which will enable them to tackle Relief, rehabilitation activities, and livelihood Program in fruitful & transparent way..

### **2. Livelihood support**

As it is crystal clear that earthquake has fully demolished the livelihood mechanism in district Shangla. There is need of such programs that recover the livelihood opportunities in the area. like Skill development, Micro Financing for Empowerment of Youth & women.

### **3. Resettlement of homeless/landless**

Most of the affected people are homeless and landless. According to Government policy only the owners of the houses can claim the compensation. For resettlement of poor landless and homeless people there is need of developmental programs.

### **4. Natural Resource Management**

The earthquake has not only destroyed the livelihood mechanism but it has also damaged the natural resources of the area. To manage them there is need of natural resource management programs.

### **5. Education**

It was noted that the education ratio is already very low in both sexes particularly in females. Now where the education institutions are almost completely destroyed and the school going children are afraid of schooling, there is need of commitments to start Non formal Basic education programs. like Functional literacy Program, Adult Literacy Program.

### **6. Water Supply Schemes**

During need assessment of the affected area it was observed that due to Earthquake the Drinking Water Supply Schemes are totally damaged & the community are facing great problems of health hygiene & drinking water. As it is the duty of women to bring water for drinking & other domestic use which is great problem & heavy laboring for women so, it is very necessary to rehabilitate the existing damaged Water Supply Schemes and execute new Drinking Water Supply Schemes on priority basis.

## Case Studies

### 1. Everyone Need Tents!

**Name:** Fazal Mabood

**Area:** Danda, District Shangla, N.W.F.P, Pakistan

**Date:** 13 October 2005

Fazal Mabood is protecting himself from the rain with the help of maize straws. His home village is one of the very remote villages in District Shangla, which have been badly affected by the earthquake. His village used to be home of 800 people. Now 56 of them dead, up to 285 are injured, and he estimates that about 95% of the houses have been destroyed.

Last Saturday (8 October) when the earthquake struck Fazal Mabood was reciting in mosque & his family consisting six in number, were at home. The houses of his village completely destroyed while the mosque was collapsing, he miraculously managed to escape the building but became injured. He came out from destroyed building and saw that his house is amongst in those houses which were completely destroyed. Five members of his family were under Wreckage.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> day of earth quake, the villagers saved his little grand son **Irfan**, six years old. Now there's remained only two out of a family of six. He strongly believes that God saved him & his little grand son. Now they were living under the open sky along with other villagers. His only task is to bring tents to his home village because all the villagers are homeless. The survivors are in immediate need of tents, the survivors especially injured & children are in immediate need of shelter. In this way their privacy will continue & can protect themselves from the harsh & cold winter, which is approaching fast.

On October 13, 2005 Swat Youth Front in collaboration with Oxfam provided tents, plastic sheets, blankets & jerry cans to the above mentioned family & also to the most affected families of his village.

## 2. Needy Old lady!

**Name:** Nazakey Bibi

**Age:** Above 70 Years

**Area:** Sarkool

**Date:** 18/11/2005

**On 20, October team of SYF visited village Taloon Sarkool area.** There they saw an old lady sitting besides her wrecked home. According to her story “My 2 sons and daughters in law, got struck in the wrecked home, I however managed to escape the house, screamed for help, but before the villagers reached to help us, they were dead”. Now she is all alone. She said that about 85 % of the village houses were smashed due to earthquake. All were under open sky with a harsh & cold winter approaching fast. Dwellers combinely made a hut for that old lady, where she could live for the time being. Her demand is only for shelter to save the lives of remaining people. Our team was the first to reach that area, interviewed people, assessed needs and provided winterized tents Blankets, Health hygiene kits, Mats, Jerry cans & Lanterns accordingly to affected families in collaboration with Oxfam on the spot.

## 3. No Shelter, nor Water!

**Area:** Sarkool

**Date:** 20/11/2005

**Sarkool;** An area, located at a distance of 70 Kms on the right bank of Indus river, which has no road links with other parts of district Shangla, the people are using local made boats and chairlifts to cross the Indus and reach the area. SYF’s assessment team reached the area by foot after a terrible walk of more than 08 hours. According to the assessment, about 90 % of the houses are 100 % collapsed and the remaining are partially damaged. During the assessment it was noted that dwellers were homeless, and were lying under the open sky. People were engaged in activities like making huts and bearing water from far-flung and wilderness areas as the Drinking Water Supply Schemes are damaged. No alternate sources of drinking water were exist. Indus River is the only available source located very far from most of the villages of UC Sarkool and the people especially female folks are patching water from it after passing a long and zigzag distance by foot. SYF was the first ever organization, which team visited such an inaccessible, ignored and remote area. After need assessment 345 vulnerable House holds were provided with winterized tents, blankets, health hygiene kits, mats, lanterns & jerry cans in collaboration with Oxfam on emergency basis for the first time after the earthquake. The area is too much scattered and the assessment took very long time. Swat Youth Front deputed teams of energetic volunteers to achieve the terrible task of urgent relief assistance to save the lives of the affectees.

#### **4. SYF's action for life**

**Venue: Koz Batkot**

**Date: 16/10/2005**

It was the evening of a cold & rainy day, we receive a telephone call from Koz Batkot. The caller said with great sorrow that we are in great trouble. Our houses are fully damaged in recent earth quake. All the villagers are lying under the open sky up till now. No one has provided us any kind of assistance. It is raining today, the weather is very cold & no one have shelter while children are suffering in various diseases. This will increase the death ratio. So SYF teams reached to the spot in emergency on 7:30 PM although the area is too hard and situated at the top of a hill, Assessment & registration was made up to mid night after consultation with Pakistan Army as they were also thinking about the supply of relief goods in the same area. The affected identified families were provided with 320 Plastic Sheets & 480 Blankets.