

NARRATIVE REPORT

Project Title: Emergency Relief Assistance for Snow/Rain affected population of Swat NWFP

Duration: 20 days (March 23 – April 11, 2005)

Sponsored by: Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Islamabad

Implemented by: Swat Youth Front (SYF) District Swat

Background:

The people of District Swat, especially in some hilly areas faced a lot of difficulties and were affected due to the heavy snow/rain caused by natural climate this year. After 40 years the people of the area are facing such a hard climate. According to the custom of the area the local people used to collect stock of food items for such hard times, but since the last seven or eight years the people are not taking care for collecting food items because of dry climate. Unfortunately this year heavy snow and rains occurred in the area, due to which the people of the area were put in big trouble. Due to the road blockade continuously for 46 days there was no access to these affected areas. The local government started provision of medicines and food items to the affected areas through helicopter. But the food items provided to the affected areas were not sufficient for such a huge population. The provision of food items and medicines was also not carried out on regular basis, because the helicopter could only move in clear weather. In a few areas due to the shortage of food items, the people started slaughtering their animals and thus they could live.

Keeping in view the above-mentioned situation, Swat Youth Front started all its possible efforts for doing some betterment in the affected areas. Meanwhile SYF contacted CRS Islamabad for the provision of relief consequent upon heavy snow and rainfall in the affected areas. SYF team of 70 volunteers in coordination with elder members of the societies started process of identification of deserving families and registration of 2000 deserving families was made through door to door visits in various villages and localities. Initially these processes were carried out in two union councils i.e. U/C Utror and U/C Aka Maroof Bamikhel District Swat according to the following detail:

- *U/C Utror*, having villages i.e. Utror, Gabral, Gujar Gabral, Buyun & Ashuran etc.
- *U/C Aka Maarooof Bamikhel*, having village Gat, Auzbak, Kas Zarey, Bishban and Banjot etc.

Total beneficiaries of the project were 2000 deserving families, having population of 20,000 people approximately including 48 % male and 52 % female.

Process:***Selection Criteria:***

Those households, which were affected by snow and rain, remained cutoff from the rest of the area and faced severe shortage of food items were considered to be the affectees. Furthermore widows, orphans, disables and the poorest segment of the society were given preference in the selection of the beneficiaries of CRS food package.

Identification and registration:

SYF Swat completed identification and registration of 2000 deserving families in two union councils i.e. U/C Utror and U/C Aka Maarooof Bamikhel of District Swat. The identification and registration process was done through SYF team of 70 volunteers in joint collaboration of community elders and social workers. The team of volunteers visited different villages in the selected area and consulted local elders, CBOs, and common people for the identification of the affectees. In Union Council Aka Maarooof Bamikhel an initial list of 1200 snow/rain affectees was prepared while in Union Council Utror 975 affectees were identified. The lists provided by the volunteers were further scrutinized keeping in view the selection criteria. As a result of the scrutiny process we were left with an additional 342 CRS relief food packs. For the distribution of the additional relief packs the same process of identification and registration was carried out in Union Council Kalam and Union Council Talegram because these two Union Councils were also snow/rain affected. According to the survey carried out in these two Union Councils 180 affectees were identified in Union Council Kalam and 161 were identified in Union Council Talegram. The scrutinized list was discussed and verified in meetings with the Nazims and councilors of each Union council and thus a list of 2000 deserving families was finalized.

Selection of supplier:

Quotations from different suppliers were invited by CRS and finally “*Syed & Sons*” was finally selected by CRS as Supplier for the food items as per approved quotations for the provision of 2000 bags. Each bag is containing of 37 kg including 20 kg flour, 5 kg sugar, 5 kg rice, 3 kg pulses, 2 ½ kg Ghee, 250 gram black tea, 1 kg salt, 1 dozen of match box and one packet of candles.

Transportation:

SYF contacted Goods Company and signed agreement with two different parties for each U/C, through which the in time provision of food items was ensured to the affected areas.

Selection of distribution points:

The distribution points were selected through negotiation made with elders of Jirga System and elected local government representatives with the following conditions:

- ✓ Easy accessible for transport to ensure in time provision of food items.
- ✓ Easy approachable for the affected people

Quality control:

In order to ensure quality and quantity control as per approved quotations, two volunteers were held responsible for supervision of packing of food items.

Distribution:

According to the approved list of 2000 deserving families and beneficiaries (list attached), already identified, the distribution process took place in two union councils as shown in the table.

S. No.	Date	Place	No of bags
01	March 23, 2005	Bishban	517
02	March 24, 2005	Kas Zarey	193
03	March 25, 2005	Banjot	272
04	April 07, 2005	Battender + Bhan + Kani	112
05	April 08, 2005	Utror + Gulshanabad	439
06	April 09, 2005	Gabral	126
07	April 10, 2005	Ushu + Mateltan + Bhan	180
08	April 11, 2005	Talegram	161
Total Packs			2000



The distribution processes were carried out in joint coordination and supervision of:

- Elders of local jirga system, non political and sincere people
- SYF Administrative Staff
- CRS Representative
- Local CBOs Representatives
- Local government elected Nazimins and councilors
- Representatives from Social Welfare, Women and Community Development Department District Swat.

Coordination:

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.

During the identification stage SYF involved local CBOs and community representatives to achieve its objective in accordance with the already set criteria. Then the lists prepared by volunteers were put forward to Union Councils for the verification.

In the distribution process, committees of the local people were formed at every distribution point for recognition and coordination purposes.

To bring in transparency and to learn and share experience, the overall process of identification, verification and distribution of CRS food Package was discussed at a forum established by the local government and local NGOs, known as relief and rehabilitation forum Swat.

The whole activity was coordinated with the CRS representative during this 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.

Coordination at the district level proved beneficial for all the members of the forum.

Combined strategy of CRS and SYF was discussed at the forum and some positive points were adopted by the member organization for their distribution of food-packs. One of them is the registration of the affectees and the other is introduction of distribution token, which was a new idea for the member organizations. The member organization appreciated the idea and adopted it for their distribution programmes. SYF provided the forum with information about the selected area for CRS food-packs distribution and a list of beneficiaries, which avoided duplication of service delivery by any other organizations.

Approach to women:

Though we did not have female volunteers who could reach to women affectees directly during identification stage, but we contacted local CBOs for this purpose. They provided us with information about the names and numbers of widows in their localities. Thus by involving the local CBOs, we acquired the required data about women.

Furthermore, during the distribution process female volunteers were involved at every distribution point. They visited the surrounding areas by going door to door and meeting the local women groups.

Distribution strategy:

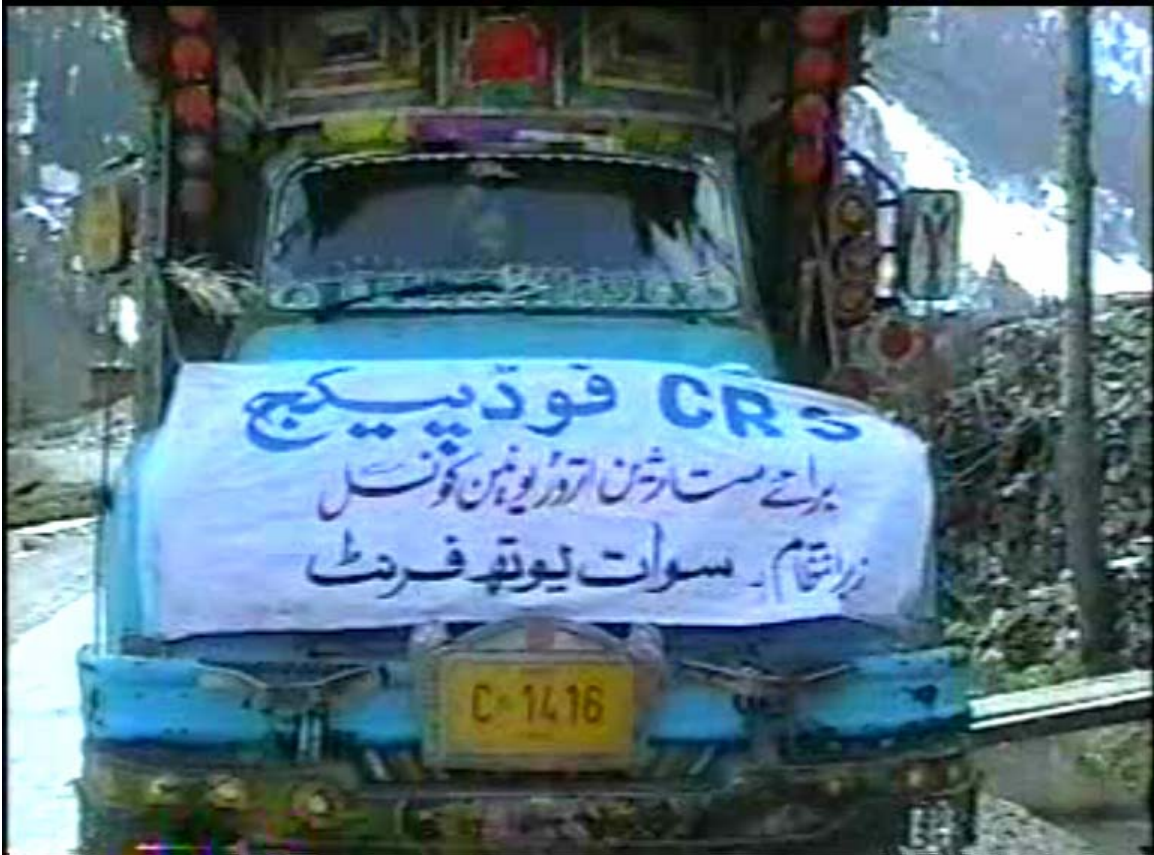
SYF Swat strictly adopted CRS strategy for the distribution of food items and all these processes were taken transparently.

Problems faced:

CRS-SYF team was faced with troubles during the transportation of goods to union council Utror. Loaded trucks were stopped at a place known as “Rameth”, Tehsail Bahrain, where flood caused damage to a bridge on the road. The Turks stayed there for the whole day waiting for the concerned department to open the road of their own but in vain. Disappointed of the local high way officials CRS-SYF team contacted high way authorities and a Bulldozer was arranged for the next day. The trucks were to chained with Bulldozer and crossed form the blockade.

CRS-SYF team accompanied the Turks caravan to Kalam. The road was again found closed by a land sliding at a place “Bodikamar”, some 7 KM away from Kalam. CRS-SYF team rushed to Kalam and brought with them some 30 Persons for opining of the road. They worked hard along with CRS-SYF team and road was cleared. Thus the Turks having banners of CRS-SYF, loaded with relief goods entered the area as the first one.

During the whole process, local political elites used every available method to get political benefit of the activity but combine strategy of CRS-SYF team successfully managed it avoiding negative impacts. Both of the organizations were introduced to the communities and their objectives were defined to the people.



Photographs:

Photographs of such type of activities in different events were made through camera as well as videos/movies were made on CDs and would be attached with hard copy of this report.

**Case study:**

Majority of deserving families in heavy snow and rainfall affected areas, is the poorest segment of the society. They are doing farming and their living standard is very poor. One of the affected people is Mr. Umar Gnai, who is living in a village namely Gat in union council Aka Maarooof Bamikhel District Swat.

Mr. Umar Ghani is doing farming and also coming to Mingora City and working as labor on daily wages and thus getting his earning. He is the only one supporter of his family, consisting of 07 members. He had four goats as his total assets. During the heavy snow and rain he was unable to come to Mingora for laboring. When he felt the intense need of necessary food items for his family, he started thinking what to do?

Mr. Umar Ghani took two goats on his shoulder one by one and covered a distance of four hours and reached village Banjot, where he sold his two goats on

a very low price. The poor and needy man purchased necessary food items for maximum 10 to 15 days in village Banjot and brought for his family. On the way back to his home, he covered a distance of four hours in hilly and snowy areas and reached his home.

With the passage of time and tense climate, he was always worried that when he will sell the remaining two goats. Meanwhile he was informed by SYF volunteers to come to village Bishban on March 23, 2005 in order to get one bag of food items from CRS Pakistan. When he heard this happy news, his upset mode face was suddenly changed and was reactivated for his and his family 2nd life.

Mr. Umar Ghani came to Bishban on March 23, 2005 accordingly and got one bag of food items for his dead family, which was the biggest happy occasion for him throughout his past life.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget Head	Budget	Actual	Variance	Reason
Commodities transportation cost	37,500	39,900	2,400	Increase in transportation charges due to blockade of road
PH office expenses	5,000	5,000		
PH warehousing expenses	8,000	8,000		
PH relief distribution cost	9,500	11,500	2,000	Increased number of volunteers for the activity
TOTAL	60,000	64,400	4,400	

Note:

SYF Swat will bear the over expenses Rs. 4,400/-. Original bills and receipts would be submitted along with the hard copy of this report.

Capital Cost:

2000 bags were purchased @ Rs. 806/- per bag and total purchase was made of Pak Rs. 1,612,000/-.

Payment was made through two cheques. Each cheque was of amounting to Pak-Rs. 806,000/-. Acknowledgement receipts for two cheques would be submitted to CRS Pakistan along with hard copy of this report.