

## **EARTHQUAKE RELIEF REPORT**

**Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre**

**Working with & through**

**Joint Action Committee - Earthquake Relief Efforts**

### **Background**

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 2005, at 8:50 am, a massive earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale shattered the mountain ranges shared by India and Pakistan. Though devastation occurred on the Indian side of Kashmir, the scale on the Pakistan side is gargantuan: so far more than 86,000 people are confirmed dead, but the final toll across the 40,000 square kilometer area may be closer to 250,000. Some 100,000 people have been injured, far, far too many left without one or several limbs. 3.5 million people have been affected, approximately the total number of Afghan refugees Pakistan received over a period of 10 years. 203,579 housing units destroyed, 2.5 million displaced. Entire villages simply disappeared, entombing all the residents. In many places, the family has disappeared leaving infants without mothers, grandparents without children or grandchildren, women left without men, parents without children. A whole generation of children and youth died along with their teachers as over 7000 schools collapsed. In one school in Bagh the only surviving boy had temporarily left the building to drink some water, or play a prank... UNICEF estimates half of those who died are children. Some 40,000 women miscarried, many have given birth prematurely.

Amongst the heart wrenching stories of devastation, destroyed homes, the loss of lives and limbs, are those of hope. People responded on an unprecedented scale: everyone everywhere immediately, contributing whatever they could - from rich industrialists to our young street urchins who beg on the streets who donated their 5 rupees picking of the day for "the children up there [who] need this more than we do". From across the country, teams filled trucks with relief goods, many people simply loaded up their own cars, and took off for the affected areas; the medical community – private and public – organized emergency medical camps and field hospitals, people from nearby areas and from afar arrived to rescue the injured, recover and help bury bodies or transport them to their families. Some of the most effective immediate response relief was organized by the entertainment media people combined with the television channels. Amazing efforts were made by small community based organisations including those in SG's outreach. (see annex 1)

Jan Egeland, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator called the affected area a "logistical nightmare" saying "We thought the tsunami was bad, this is worse." Inaccessible at the best of times, the roads were blocked, huge chunks of road simply fell down the mountainside, subsequent landslides prevented even mule transport, in some places the very rock of the mountain seems to have disintegrated; the winter is harsh, with up to 16

feet of snow, some areas simply become inaccessible after the first snowfall. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, people from Rawalakot - 6000 feet above sea level – told us temperatures had already dropped to minus 3 degrees Celsius, and the snow has not yet fallen... The priority has to be as simple as helping as many people as possible simply survive.

## YOUR CONTRIBUTION HAS HELPED US HELP THEM

**Your help has helped us provide** (up to the 31<sup>st</sup> October) **shelter to 218 families** whose houses were totally destroyed in the less accessible Paniola Tehsil, Rawalakot in Kashmir and Sanghar area in the NWFP province (see list of villages/Union Councils below); **nourishment warm clothes and bedding to several hundred families** in Battagram, Thandiani, Rawalakot, Muzaffarabad, Mansera, and Shangla.

**It has provided warm clothes to infants and children who arrived wrapped in plastic sheets** at the Battagram camp hospital run by Save the Children-US, and to injured women. It has helped ensure that baby bottles to feed infants were delivered to the JAC groups working in the field and provided some syringes, surgical gloves and masks for the volunteers in the affected areas.

**The current focus** is on **temporary shelters** for as many people as quickly as possible living between 5000-7000 feet altitudes. We estimate our current funds can cover costs of some 50-100 temporary shelters (depending on what materials are available from the rubble and the local area).

Shirkat Gah stopped looking for tents when feedback indicated that these were not able to withstand the winter snow. Some people have returned from a tent village in the northern city of Bagh to Lahore because where they were receiving food provisions because their children caught pneumonia. Reports of people suffering burns as they light stoves inside the tents also made tents a less viable option. We have collected and are circulating information on several designs produced by architects and local people. The cheapest estimates are of Rs. 20-25,000.

Alongside these activities, Shirkat Gah feels an urgent need to document JAC-ERE and selected civil society initiatives on a priority basis to facilitate the identification of the most urgent needs; it will also be undertaking monitoring and advocacy.

Experience has already shown some **areas of critical concern**:

1. **Women are unable to access relief goods** in general camps where there are throngs of men, and the strongest prevail; this is generally acknowledged from all sides, but suggestions for women-only distribution is rare amongst the large interventions<sup>1</sup>
2. **Dividing remaining family members into separate relief camps** in Peshawar: can only lead to further trauma to quake-affected men, women and children who

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<sup>1</sup> JAC groups are focusing on women and children and their functioning is different, but the efforts are very small in terms of outreach to the general population.

- are being separated into special camps for men, women and children; this has been brought to the notice of the Provincial Minister for Social Welfare;
3. The need to ensure **protection and security of land and property**: people are not moving down from the higher planes for fear that they will lose their property, or because there is no place for their surviving animals or because in some places they want to salvage whatever they can from the bits of crops left standing and from the debris. Tsunami experience shows that women faced greater difficulties in establishing land claims than men.
  4. Dire need of especially female nursing and paramedics and general volunteers for medical camps and field hospitals
  5. **Security issues of women**: there are unconfirmed reports of kidnapping of children and young girls; in tent camps/villages, there have been some complaints of a lack of security, e.g. thieves are entering tents at night and snatching earrings and other items from sleeping women.

Your contributions can be sent to Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre which has thirty years of experience in rights-oriented work with women and has outreach programmes across Pakistan. Instructions for transferring funds to Shirkat Gah are:

**Standard Chartered Bank,**

1 Evertrust Plaza, Suite 1101, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Jersey City, New Jersey 07302, USA.

SWIFT CODE: SCBLUS33, ABA CHIPS UID 057048

With Instructions for Onward Telex / Swift Remittances to:

Standard Chartered Bank, Karachi, Pakistan Account No. 3582-050996-001

SWIFT CODE: SCBLPKKX

For further credit:

Shirkat Gah

US\$ Account No. 05-5307597-79

Standard Chartered Bank, New Garden Town, Lahore, Pakistan

## Shirkat Gah & the Joint Action Committee Earthquake Relief Effort

The day the earthquake occurred, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October, Shirkat Gah Lahore was hosting a national meeting of feminist groups to strategize on the World Social Forum scheduled to be held in January 2006 in Karachi. Our friends from Islamabad having left before the quake hit. At first we thought the major damage was to Islamabad where a building collapsed where we all knew someone or the other and the concern was for them and others in the city; only as the day progressed, did the scale and devastation become horrifyingly obvious.

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Shirkat Gah held emergency meetings in Peshawar, Lahore & Karachi. All staff members had already started relief efforts individually, but at the meetings everyone contributed at least one day salary for relief work; most donated additional cash and other goods.

Shirkat Gah Peshawar decided to carry out on-the-ground relief activities by involving staff members and networks. Shirkat Gah Lahore decided to join the efforts of the Earthquake Relief Efforts of the Joint Action Committee for Citizens' Rights (JAC-ERE), collecting donations and directing others to the Relief Camp established in Regal Chowk Lahore. In Islamabad a JAC-ERE Secretariat was established in Sungi Development Foundation's office staffed by the different Islamabad-based groups and individual volunteers. While the JAC-ERE bank account was set up soon afterwards, it was decided that SG Lahore would mobilize and receive donations for the joint efforts. SG would then either forward goods or money as decided by the JAC-ERE secretariat.

JAC unites dozens of human rights NGOs as well as individuals and other groups. Several had pre-existing outreach programmes in the affected areas. In the NWFP province these are: Sungi Development Foundation with decades of experience and 150 field workers; Omar Asghar Khan Development Foundation in the Mansera area. In the Kashmir area Aurat Foundation is working with and through its citizens' committees and the Labour Party through its affiliated groups in the Rawalakot area. SPO is working in both NWFP and Kashmir and coordinating with Aurat Foundation and the Sarhad Rural Support Programme. Shirkat Gah Lahore has been responding to needs as identified by the JAC-ERE Secretariat in Islamabad and people on the ground in the field.

### Lahore

Initial contributions, including those of Shirkat Gah staff, immediately went into food relief and clothes, but also shrouds and masks - no longer available in the markets as far as Islamabad. People from the area indicated the need for baby feeding bottles and sanitary provisions for women. Subsequently the focus has been on providing survival needs in terms of shelter and clothing: tents and plastic sheets, warm clothes, blankets and bedding. There never were enough tents and we soon gave up on the idea and shifted to providing materials unavailable locally for temporary shelters (corrugated sheets for roofs) and beds to keep off the cold that comes from the depth of the mountains.

One priority area is the Rawalakot area situated at 6000 – 7500 feet above sea level where temperatures are already below freezing and snow expected soon. SG has been investigating different semi-permanent shelter designs that can be erected quickly and are

also safe and winter worthy. The cost of roofs comes to about Rs. 10,000; the cost of walls of cement blocks (750 blocks per shelter @ Rs.17 per block) to Rs. 12,750. Unfortunately, it is too cold in some areas for the blocks to dry and the transport from Rawalpindi is almost as much as the cost of the blocks. An alternative design has been produced by the Kashmir Education Foundation (prototype can be seen in Chaklala Scheme 1) working in the Rawalakot area of Kashmir. This basically A-shaped design costs between Rs.20,000-25,000, uses a dug-out pit, corrugated sheets dug into the ground, thermopore and canvas interior for insulation. It can be erected by 10 people in a few hours using only pliers, hammer (and spades for digging the inside and trench for water outside). The Omar Foundation has developed and is using a cheaper design costing Rs.15,300 that can be completed in 2 days using corrugated sheets and wooden beams retrieved from fallen structures for pillars, beams etc.

200 quilts, bedding and beds will be sent on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October to Sungi Office in Abbotabad for further distribution.

## Peshawar

Shirkat Gah mobilized and coordinated relief goods from Pakistani Society for Awareness of Human Development & Rights (SAHAR); Mashal Women Welfare Society (MWWS) from Shabkadar, Charsadda; and a SG partner organization in the field.

SG has been working with various Afghan groups for many years and offering its assistance, now it's the turn of Afghan groups. The Afghan Women Network (AWN), and Afghan Women Cultural Association (AWCA) contributed relief goods, and the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR) donated Rs. 3000. Afghans have also been sending relief trucks with food and carpets to the affected areas.

**By 11<sup>th</sup> November SG had mobilized Rs.2,835,814 in cash donations.** The use of the money until 11<sup>th</sup> November and distribution of donations in kind is given in Annexes 2 and 3. Additional in kind donations are: GAP (Singapore) US\$ 2161 worth of warm clothes for children, women and men; 1000 solar lamps and rechargeable batteries, the former valued at Rs. 4,500,000.)

## Field Visits

**15-16 October: Peshawar team visited Bisham in District Shangla:** Relief goods were distributed among people of upper Bad Kot, Bisham, through Swat Youth Front/Oxfam/Catholic Relief Services. (details of goods below).

**19-20 October** A 3-person team from Peshawar (2 women and 1 man) transported relief goods from SG Karachi and other relief goods (i.e. medicine, flour, biscuits, milk, women kits & warm clothes), for further distribution by SUNGI Foundation **Abbotabad**. The team also visited **Abbottabad, Battagram, and village Rang Bhatain, assisting** Sungi to carry out a **needs assessment** in the Battagram area.

The **women helped** out at the Save the Children **camp hospital** in Battagram. Some food items and women's kits (clothes & other essentials) from DACCAR's contribution were distributed at the camp hospital in **Battagram** by SG.

**21 October:** Shirkat Gah Peshawar shared its earthquake-related activities with government and non-government institutions, and hosted meeting of the Alliance for Protection of Human Rights (APHR) to pinpoint problems in the Social Welfare Department's policy for earthquake affectees.

**27 October:** Issues related to security of women in shelter homes and segregating men from women to accommodate them in separate camps was discussed with Hafiz Hashmat, Minister Social Welfare NWFP.

**3- 6 November:** Shirkat Gah Lahore's focal person for earthquake relief work joined the Sungi team during eid holidays and visited **Abbottabad, Mansehra and Balakot**. She **interviewed and filmed survivors** of the quake to gather first hand information on their needs and rehabilitation.

**10-13 November:** 2<sup>nd</sup> visit by SG Lahore with group of journalists to Abbottabad in areas where relief is being provided by the Omar Asghar Khan Development Foundation and Sungi Development Foundation.

**15-17 November 3<sup>rd</sup>** - trip planned to the Rawalakot area for needs assessment and logistics coordination.

## Activities of Shirkat Gah's Outreach Partners in NWFP

All partner organizations in the NWFP province in districts Swabi, Charsadda, Malakand Agency and Peshawar adjacent to affected areas had already initiated relief activities in their areas or neighbouring areas. Some of them were busy providing medical care to the injured people and carrying the bodies of the deceased to their native towns.

**Swaabi Women Welfare Society (SWWS)** works throughout Swaabi, and had started activities in the Battagram and Mansera districts and to some extent in Balakot. SWWS used its ambulance for four days to transport the injured to different camp hospitals as well as transport the bodies of those who died to their families. SWWS ran two camps for 3 days each in Battagram, and in Mansera..

The **Samaji Behbud Raapta Council** (also in Swaabi) brings together some 80 small groups. Together they collected and sent eight truck-load of relief goods to different areas in the Mansera Division (Shangla, Mansera and Balakot Districts). With two officials (DCO, DPO) and the Islahi Jirga SBRC set up camps in Swaabi Khas & Yar Hussain (village) to collect donations, raising some Rs. 200,000 each day. SBRC spent two days distributing relief goods in Balakot, Shangla & Mansera. They still have Rs.300,000 in cash to use. SBRC distributed 2 truck-loads of relief goods sent by Pakistan Voluntary Health & Nutrition Association (PVHNA) from Karachi.

SWWS intends to start a health project in Mansera with PVHNA. SWWS and SBRC both spent Eid (Muslim festivity at the end of the month of fasting) in different areas of Mansera taking some small gifts and medicines for the children, women and wounded/sick.

**Tanzeem –e-Naujawan**, Lakarai village (Peshawar) collected Rs. 75,000 from their village and sent a truck load of goods with 20 volunteers to Tehsil Allai; six volunteers joined the Peshawar University team for 12 days in Mansera Tehsil.

**Community Development Organisation** (Malakand) sent 19 volunteers to Shinkiari, Battagram & Mansera and carried out three days of relief work. Two volunteers then stayed for 15 days. Relief goods included 10 bolts of cloth for shrouds, 100 mineral water bottles, warm clothes, blankets and quilts, and a pick-up load of goods given to the Social Welfare Department, Rs. 5250 to SPARC a child-focused NGO. For Eid CDO distributed Rs. 25,000 worth of eidi\*\* to the children and women at the Save the Children Hospital. (\*\* eidi is a small amount of cash or gift given to children especially on the occasion.)

**2Relief Goods sent by Shirklut Gah****From Lahore**

S. #	Items name		Date	Remarks
1.	Shrouds (Kafan)	810	12 October	38 villages/Union councils Panioli, Rawalakot District
2.	Baby bottles	12 dozen	12 October	"
3.	Tents	50	12 October	"
4.	Masks	5000		JAC ERE Secretariat Islamabad Via Courier 13-10-05
5.	Clothes	2 boxes Women 12 sets Each for women & Men	14-October	NRSP, SRSC Fatima Memorial Hospital Initiative Kashmir
6.	Tents + Plastic sheets Shawls Rolls of Cotton wool Gauze	100 100 200 280 yards	<b>15-October</b>	JAC-ERE Secretariat 15-10-05
7.	GI sheets for roofs (Corrugated steel sheets) Bedding	Enough for 18 houses  12 families	<b>26 October</b>	Sangarh, Thandiani District
8.	Beddings Nutrition	32 beddings 32 kilos food 32 packets of 10 kg rice, 5 kg sugar, 5 kg cooking oil, 3 kg mixed lentils, 1 packet tea, 1 kg dry milk, salt, spices etc)	31 October	District Panioli, Rawalakott 103 families out of 800 affected in Panioli Rawalakot in villages listed below **
9.	Beds Bedding – quilts mattresses & sheets	100 100	12 November	Sungi Abbotabad

**\*\* Panioli tehsil villages:** Dajote, Argalli, Bareen, Sair, Taheen, Panchiot, Bagiana, Sangal Khater, Sunlari, Batamore, Kamrota, Dakha, Toppi, Naelian, Chiroti, Banoin, Numble, Paniola, Parati, Jaloth, Dandi, Pagali, Sarracha, Kayyat, Nakkar, Dukkola, Banaka, Dand, Gahl, Harola, Bangoni, Dhar Bangar, Pothbagoin, Jandala, Hallian, Khater, Kalaban.

**Goods distributed by Sungi:** Union councils of Garhi Habibullah district Balakot; 20 union councils of district Battagram, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Muzaffarabad and Kohistan.

**Goods received from Shirkat Gah Karachi office distributed by Peshawar**

S #	Item name	Quantity	Remarks
1	Mineral water	7 Carton	
2	Glucose, Warm cloths, Syringe	1 Carton	
3	Dry fruit	1 Carton	Dates, Peanut, China, Ladu
4	Dry milk, Tea, Medicine	1 carton	
5	Ration	1Carton	Pulses, Ghee, Rice, chilly, salt
6	Biscuit	1 carton	
7	Medicine	1 carton	Syringe, gloves, surgical gloves
8	White cloth	4 packet	For shroud
9	Blanket, quilt	1 Bag	
10	Cloths	1 Bag	
11	Chaders,Quilt	1Bag	
12	Cloths	1 Bag	
13	Flour	20 Bag	20 Kg per bag

**Items distributed among Earthquake affectees in Bisham area by SG Peshawar**

S #	Item name	Quantity	Remarks
1	Rice	50Kg	
2	Sugar	32Kg	
3	Tea	5 Kg	16 packets
4	Juice Packet	4Carton	
5	Biscuit	110 Packet	12pack per packet
6	Milk Pack	72 Packets	
7	Mineral water	7 carton	
8	Ghee	10 tin + 2 Kg bag	5 Kg per tin
9	Dates	150 packet	400 gm per packet
10	Candle	2 Packet	
11	Match	2 Carton	123 dozen
12	Clothes	5 Bags	Ladies Suit 145
13	Clothes	3 Bags	Gents Suit 76
14	Clothes	2 Bags	Kids Suits 79
15	Sweaters	6Bags	95
	Clothes	15 Bag	Female, male , children
16	Caps	5	
17	Socks	10	
18	Chaders	22	Ladies
19	Shoes	16 pairs	
20	Blankets	40	For children
21	Burqa	3	
22	Bed sheet	3	
23	Pillow	4	
24	Mattress	1	
25	Quilt	2	
26	Shoes	1 Bag	
27	Blanket	1	
28	Carpet	1	1
29	Utensil	1 bag	Including cup, teapot etc

**Goods handed over to Sungi Abbottabad for Battagram area by Peshawar team**

<b>S. #</b>	<b>Items name</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1	Crockery Items	3 cartons	Pressure cooker, teapot, water pot, plastic bowls
2	Medicines	3 Boxes	Glucose, Warm cloths, Syringe ,tablet
3	Biscuits	1 Box	
4	Dry fruits	1 Box	Dates, peanut, sweetmeats
5	Mineral water	8 Boxes	
6	Milk pack	6 Packets	
7	White cloth	1 bolt (4 Pack)	For shroud
8	Shoes	2 Bags	For male .female and children
9	Clothes	24 Bag	For male .female and children
10	Blanket, quilt, Chaders	4 Bags	
11	Flour	20 Bags	20 Kg per bag
12	Sanitary pack(Women kits)	50	Sanitary pads, undergarments, soap, comb

**Shirkat Gah - Fund mobilization 12 November 2005**

<b>Cash donations</b>	<b>Rs. 2,835,814</b>
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<b>Expenses incurred</b>	<b>Rs. 718,603</b>
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**Source of funds:**

SG and own staff	Rs. 93,530
Other local donations	Rs. 57,500
International donations	Rs.2,746,027

(mostly from individuals in Malaysia Hong Kong, USA, etc.)

**Commitments made/in pipeline**

GAP Singapore clothes and material worth US\$ 2,161

Individuals abroad (Andrea):	UK £ 250
Hong Kong friends HK\$3000 @ 7.5	US\$ 400
Individual local contributions	Rs. 15,000

Note: donations in kind have not been monetized.