

# Technical Report on Mamdherai Protection Project

## Background

Heavy snowfall hit the mountainous region of district Swat last winter. This unusual snowfall resulted in destruction of houses, killing men, women and children in Kalam in particular and in the rest of Swat in general. Glaciers and landslides heavily damaged roads and other infrastructure, which caused starvation to the dwellers of mountainous part of district Swat.

Swat Youth Front (SYF) in partnership with Oxfam-GB Pakistan responded by providing food and non-food-items to the affected families of Kalam Swat under Kalam Relief Project **PKNA43**.

The snow-covered mountains of upper swat, natural reservoir of the river Swat observed highest snow fall in last forty years. With the arrival of summer season, snow started melting and flow of the river increased and the arrival of Monsoon posed danger to the villages situated on the banks of river, agricultural fields and other infrastructure as well.

Keeping in view the alarming situation, Swat Youth Front (SYF) and Oxfam GB devised a comprehensive action plan for preparedness to the expected flood in River Swat. In order to get the relevant data, a rapid assessment of vulnerable villages was made, which are situated on the banks of river Swat. The study resulted in categorizing the villages in most vulnerable, more vulnerable and less vulnerable categories.

## Introduction

Mamdherai, one of the most vulnerable villages is situated on the bank of river swat. Population of the village is 3500 persons, living in 451 houses. The village has a history of continuous struggle with mighty river swat. The change of direction of the

river towards the village in summer results in destruction of houses and agricultural land. Part of the village is exposed to the river. An increase in the pressure of the water results in erosion of the land, above which a residential area of the village is situated, comprising of more than thirty households

The local community concerned over the impending danger to the village, started efforts under the banner of local community based organization Mashal Taraqiati Tanzeem {MTT}, by raising funds at the local level and collected an amount of 60000 rupees on emergency basis. In the meantime, MTT consulted technicians for the overall expenditure of the proposed safety project. The estimated cost was 160000 rupees. MTT shared their concerns with SYF and a joint delegation of both the organizations met with District Coordination Officer, having additional charge of relief commissioner. DCO was apprised of the situation and was requested to provide the required funds to save the village. The DCO refused to provide fund on the ground that he was authorized to utilize the fund for relief only. Finding no other way, request was made to Oxfam GB in this regard. Oxfam GB responded by approving an amount of 100000 rupees to enable the local community to complete the proposed project.

Swat youth Front (SYF) the implementing partner of Oxfam GB signed a partnership agreement with local CBO (MTT} to carry out the project in the office DCO swat.

A team of experts comprising of Director Shokat and Associates and SDO flood division along with SYF management visited the site and devised mechanism to create spurs through crates of G-Wire and stones to save the endangered part of the village. MTT started working on the project and has placed 70 crates on vulnerable points in a way to divert/ decrease the pressure of the river from the village.

In the opinion of SDO Flood Division, the project executed by MTT on participatory basis reduced its cost to a large extent. A government line agency needs four times more funds to carry out such an activity.

## Activities/ Responsibilities

Swat Youth front, the implementing partner of Oxfam GB ensured the provision of funds to the community in time, provided technical feed back and facilitated and monitored the work. SYF coordinated with the government in implementation.

Mashal Taraqiati Tanzeem MTT implemented the project in accordance with the guidelines by involving the local community in formation and placing of spurs to complete the project. MTT also provided their share of amount and labor for the activity.

## Expected Output and Risk Potentials

1. Immediate threat to human life and property avoided
2. More than 80 acres of agricultural land saved from being flooded.
3. More than 30 houses saved from threat of complete damage.
4. Community motivated for self-help and participation in flood relief Works.

It was a small activity of its kind designed to save a portion of the village from being drowned in the water. Protection walls on some vulnerable points have protected the village. It was during the project activity that the pressure of the water increased and a previously erected protection wall drowned in to the river. However, MTT has to change its strategy with every new development in the flow of the river. Presently, the project activity stopped further erosion of the land and saved portion of the village from destruction.