

NARRATIVE REPORT

Project Title: Kalam Relief Project PKNA 43

Duration: Two months and 14 days (April 16– June30, 2005)

Sponsored by: Oxfam GB Islamabad, Pakistan

Implemented by: Swat Youth Front (SYF) District Swat

Background:

The people of the hilly areas of District Swat 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 were facing such a harsh 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 were not taking care for collecting food items because of dry climate and existence of the communication links with the rest of the district. 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.

48 persons including men, women and children died during snow avalanches. Another 65 injured. Approximately 1200 livestock died due to snowfall disaster. The livestock was also facing food scarcity of fodder due to this heavy snow. Most of the foddors reserves either consumed during winter as stall-feeding because livestock remained confined to houses for almost three months or were rotten in the snow as no proper arrangements were made for fodder storage. In Kalam, about 60 houses were fully destroyed and over 200 badly damaged. Many people were still in the need of basic necessities such as food and shelter, with heavy snow and lack of equipment to clear roads especially the three villages of Mahodand i.e. Palogah, Ichgal and Keelgal.

Keeping in view the above-mentioned situation, Swat Youth Front started all its possible efforts for provision of relief to the people of affected areas. Meanwhile SYF contacted CRS Islamabad for the provision of relief consequent upon heavy snow and rainfall in the affected areas. CRS Pakistan agreed to the proposal of Swat Youth Front and provided food items to 2000 deserving families of the district. SYF selected the areas on the basis of the Union councils that were situated on the hilly part of the

district and were hard hit due to the natural calamity. Two thousands families were provided CRS food packs in four Union Councils namely, *U/C Utror*, UC Kalam, UC Talegram and *U/C Aka Maarooof Bamikhel*.

In the meantime, Oxfam GB Pakistan conducted a survey of the most hard hit area, the ex-Kalam tehsil of district to minimize the losses by provision of relief and signed a partnership agreement with SYF for implementation of Kalam Relief Project PKNA 43. the project had to be implemented in the six valleys of ex Kalam Tehsil.

Area Description

Situated in the extreme north of district Swat at a distance of 100 Km, the ex- tehsil of Kalam has been divided into two Union Councils under the devolution system namely, UC Kalam and UC Utror. Kalam is the most attractive and beautiful part of Swat valley. It is the land of lakes, pastures and waterfalls, surrounded with lush green mountains, covered with thick alpine forests and vegetation. The area is an ideal summer resort for outsiders, with best facilities in the shape of huge hotel industry of Kalam.

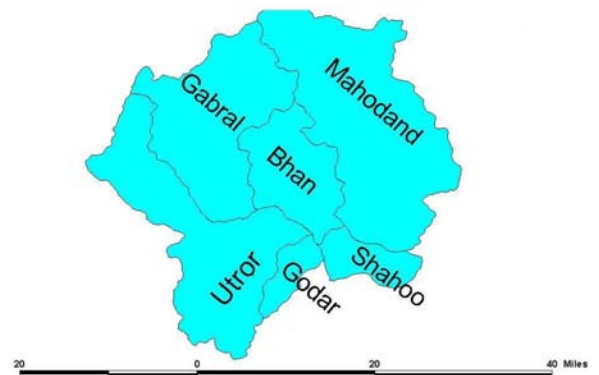
It consists of six valleys Bhan, Godar, Shahoo, Mahodand, Utror and Gabral. Total area of Tehsil Kalam is approximately 2100 Km². The total population of the six valleys is 6,234 families. The average number of persons in a household is 10 persons, which is above the national average of 8 persons. The maximum land owning per family is 4 kanals (less than one hectare). Indus Kohistan bound Tehsil Kalam in the east, Chitral in the north and Gilgit in the northeast, Dir in the west and Bahrain in the south.



Main cash crops are vegetables and potatoes. Staple crop is maize however its cultivation had decreased due to increase in cash crops. The area is mono cropped. The society is egalitarian and male dominant. Cultural norms and taboos restrict women mobility and their part in decision-making is negligible. The communities live in agro pastoral type of living and livestock is the second major source of income for them.

Main sources of livelihood are logging, which is closed for years, tourism where local men work as laborers; cash crops mainly vegetables and services in government and private sectors and livestock.

Kalam Tehsil, District Swat



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, persons with disability and the poorest segment of the society were given preference in the selection of the beneficiaries of Oxfam-GB food and non-food package.

Re-verification of the lists provided by the VCCs

On April 16, 2005 the management staff of Swat Youth Front (SYF) went to Kalam. The camp office of Swat Youth Front was set up and accommodation for volunteers was arranged at Kalam.

On April 17th, 2005 the volunteer team of Swat Youth Front reached Kalam, which consisted of 18 male and 12 female members and a female supervisor. A male supervisor and office secretary was hired in Kalam.

On April 18, 2005 the volunteer teams started door-to-door visits to identify the snow/rain affectees in the area. In the mean while the management staff of Swat Youth Front had a series of meetings with the VCC representatives and female volunteers with women groups in each VCCs. The management staff of Swat Youth Front had meetings with the NAZIM and councilors of the local union councils as well. The VCCs provided us with a list of 3000 rain/snow affectees. The list of affectees was verified by the volunteer teams of Swat Youth Front by going door to door in far-flung areas of different valleys of Kalam. After the verification the volunteers of Swat Youth Front compared the list provided by the VCCs. A final list of 1945 rain/snow affectees was selected for the food packs. In addition to this, a list of 700 women affectees was finalized for the receipt of hygiene kit and utensils.

After the finalization of the lists the management of Swat Youth Front had meetings with each VCC and shared the final lists of the affectees. They agreed with the verified lists and gave written statements on behalf of the concerned VCCs that they had no objection over the verified lists. This activity continued till April 25, 2005.

During the period, a Community Based Organization of Laikot requested for assistance in the shape of food items. The area is situated adjacent to Kalam and the residents of hillside of Laikot suffered from heavy snowfall no less than that of the inhabitants of Kalam. The request of CBO was negotiated with Oxfam-GB and after getting approval three volunteers of Swat Youth Front identified 151 affectees in Laikot area. With addition of new affectees, the total number reached to 2096 beneficiaries.

Selection of supplier;

Quotations from different suppliers were invited by Oxfam-GB through advertisement in local newspapers. A purchase committee was established comprising of management staff of Oxfam GB, Swat Youth Front and representative of VCCs and finally the purchase committee selected "Siddique and Sons" as Supplier as per approved quotations for the provision of food and non-food items.

Food items included.

1) Cooking Oil (5 Liters) 2) Match Box (10 Boxes) 3) Sugar (5Kg) 4) Curry Powder 5) Rice (10 Kg) 6) Tea (500 gms) 7) Lentils (Chana 5 Kg) 8) Salt (1 Pack) 9) Wheat Flour (40 Kg)

And non-food items included;

Set of Utensils pack:

1. Cooking pot (1 piece)
2. Glass German Silver (2 Glass)
3. Jerry Cane 10 liters (2 cane)
4. Plates (3 plates)
5. Cooking spoon
tea pot (1 piece)

Set of Hygiene Kit Pack

1. Nail Cutter (1 piece)
2. Petrolum jelly 100g (1 piece)
3. Toilet soap life buoy (5 soap)
4. Washing Soap Sufi (2.5 kg)
5. Sanitary cloth (2 meter)

Transportation:

Supplier was also held responsible for carriage of the goods to the selected distribution points.

Selection of distribution points:

The distribution points were selected through negotiation made with representatives of Valley Conservation Committees, local CBOs and elected local government representatives with the following conditions:

- ✓ Easily accessible for transport to ensure in timely provision of items.
- ✓ Easily approachable for the affected people
- ✓ A collective and impartial place

Quality control:

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

Distribution:

According to the approved list of 2096 deserving families for Food-Packs and, already identified, the distribution process took place in different places as shown in the table.

S#	Date	Start Time	Description	Valley Name	Distribution Point	Quantity Distributed	Total
1	4/30/2005	8:30(AM)	Food Packs	Utror	Govt High School Utror	550	550
2	4/30/2005	4:00(PM)	Food Packs	Gujar Gabral	Govt Middle School	129	679

3	5/01/2005	9:00(AM)	Food Packs	Gooder Valley	Govt Higher Secndry School	304	893
4	5/01/2005	2:00(PM)	Food Packs	Bahan	Shedo Power Station	293	1276
5	5/02/2005	9:00(AM)	Food Packs	Mahodand	Govt Middle School Ushoo	122	1398
6	5/02/2005	2:00(PM)	Food Packs	Mahodand	Govt High School Matiltan	288	1686
7	5/03/2005	9:00(AM)	Food Packs	Shahoo	Primery School	208	1894
8	5/03/2005	1:00(PM)	Food Packs	Bafer	Govt Middle School Banr Kalay	38	1932
9	5/06/2005	4:00(PM)	Food Packs	Laikot	BHU Laikot	151	2083
10	4/06/2005	6:00(PM)	Food Packs	Kalam Bazar	Green Land Hotel	13	2096

According to the approved list of 700 deserving women, the distribution process took place as under:

Distribution of Hygiene Kit & Utensils

S#	Date	Start Time	Description	Valley Name	Distribution Point	Quantity Distributed
1	3/5/2005	9:00 (Am)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Goodar Valley	Govt: Primary School	50
	3/5/2005	1:00 (Am)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Goodar Valley	Mohd Ali (Res)	59
	5/5/2005	9:00 (Am)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Goodar Valley	Res) Hassan Zeb	11
	5/5/2005	10:00 (Am)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Goodar Valley	Res) Dr. Said	12
	5/5/2005	10:00 (Am)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Goodar Valley	Res) Shakerullah	14
	5/5/2005	10:00 (Am)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Goodar Valley	Res) Abdul Hamaaid	10
	5/5/2005	10:00 (Am)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Goodar Valley	Res) Afaan	10
	5/5/2005	10:00 (Am)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Goodar Valley	Res) Fazal Amin	16
	5/5/2005	11:30 (Am)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Goodar Valley	Res) Abdul hai	17
	5/5/2005	11:30 (Am)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Goodar Valley	Res) Faqir Gul	25
2	5/5/2005	11:30 (Am)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Goodar Valley	Res) Jalat Khan	31
	5/5/2005	12:30 (Am)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Goodar Valley	Molana Gul Faqir	24

S #	Date	Start Time	Description	Valley Name	Distribution Point	Quantity Distributed
1	5/5/20 05	12:30 (pm)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Bahan	Res) Gul Faqir	14
	5/5/20	12:00	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Bahan	Res) Jamrooz Khan	21
	5/5/20 05	2:00 (pm)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Bahan	Res) Moh: Nabi	13
	5/5/20 05	2:00 (pm)	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Bahan	Res) Musharaf Shah	29
	5/5/20	2:00	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Bahan	Res) Molana Dast Gul	14
	5/5/20	3:00	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Bahan	Res) Molan Khan	42
	5/5/20	3:00	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Bahan	Res) Gul Rahman	36
	5/5/20	3:00	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Bahan	Res) Said Khan	4
	6/5/20	9:00	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Bahan	Res) Rasool Khan	7
	6/5/20	9:00	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Bahan	Res) Lai Zada	13
	6/5/20	9:00	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Shahoo	Res) Abdul Baqi	5
	6/5/20	10:00	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Shahoo	Res) Faqir Jan	105
	6/5/20	10:00	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Shahoo	Res) Shir Shah	27
	6/5/20	4:00	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Shahoo	Res) Sanullah	30
	6/5/20	4:00	Hygiene Kit & Utensils	Shahoo	Res) Izat Gul	29
Grand						700

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
- Oxfam GB Representative
- Local CBOs Representatives
- Local government elected Nazims and councilors

Coordination:

SYF Swat was able to complete the activity with the collaboration and coordination of different individuals, volunteers, CBO workers, VCC representatives and elected representatives of local government institutions at different stages of the relief activity.

During the identification stage SYF involved local VCCs, 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.

The whole activity was coordinated with the Oxfam-GB representative during this period.

The above mentioned coordination process resulted in positive impacts on the relief operation.

At the initial stage, coordination with VCCs, 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:

A group of fifteen female volunteers led by a female supervisor were involved in the whole process. Initially, they paid door-to-door visits for verification of the lists of the women provided by respective VCCs and CBOs. These visits helped in finalization of lists and selection of distribution points.

During the distribution process, female volunteers distributed non-food packs in the hilly and difficult areas. Female volunteers of Swat Youth Front distributed items directly to the affected women at a number of places. They succeeded to organize gathering of local women up to the number of 105, which is unprecedented in the history of the area.

Distribution strategy:

SYF Swat strictly adopted a transparent strategy for the distribution of food and non-food items. Distribution points for food items were selected keeping in mind the convenience of the community and almost all the selected sites were public property in the shape of a government building to avoid manipulation of the activity by local political elites and to promote collectivism and participation in an egalitarian society. Distribution points for women packs were selected after getting consensus of the women of a particular area and number of points were increased to promote participation.

Distribution tokens were issued to the beneficiaries a day before the distribution, containing the name and other related data. Each beneficiary was required to show the token than the committee of the elders formed for the purpose recognized them if they lacked identity card. The beneficiary was entitled to receive his pack after the whole process was carried out.

Problems faced:

Shortage of time combined with scattered and distant nature of the area posed stress on the small team of Swat Youth Front volunteers and management staff to complete the activity in time.

During the whole process, local political elites used every available method to get political benefit of the activity but combine strategy o Oxfam GB -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 belonged to the poorest segment of the society. They are engaged in farming and their living standard is very low. One of the affected people is Ms. Naseeba, who is living in a village namely Jamrah in union council Utror, District Swat.

Naseeba is a mother of four and expecting a fifth one. Her husband, Hussain Khan is away in the Punjab for labor for more than two months. All roads leading to the area are closed and communication with the outer world not possible. Due to the blockade of roads Naseeba has no food left at her house and more than that she wants it desperately as she has given birth to her fifth child. They have no food items to cook the traditional food given to the mother of a newly born child. Great sorrow and desperation surrounds the whole family despite of the birth of a new child in it.

In the meanwhile a volunteer from Swat Youth Front comes and tells Naseeba that Oxfam GB is distributing food items at Government High School Utror and gives her a coupon, which entitles her for the receipt of the food items. It was something she couldn't believe. The next day she sends her husband's brother, with the coupon, to the school to collect the food items for her. When he comes back with the food items they are all delighted as their worry for food shortage was overcome and were able to cook the traditional food for the mother from the food provided by Oxfam GB.

Sphere Training

Sphere training was arranged for stakeholders with the assistance of Oxfam GB. Oxfam GB provided facilitator of the program. The participants of the workshop included SYF management and volunteers, representatives of the local NGOs, CBOs, Government line departments and local journalist. Twenty-five persons (including nine female) received training for three days at a local hotel.

The participants of the training learnt about the Sphere minimum standards in humanitarian aid, especially in nutrition, non-food items, shelter and health issues in disaster affected population.

White band day celebration

During the distribution of food items at Shahoo valley, Oxfam GB field staff, SYF management and volunteers wore white bands containing slogans of the GCAP coalition. Banners and posters of the coalition were also displayed at the distribution point. Swat Youth Front joined the coalition at the time and celebrated the event on 1st July in the city of Mingora by organizing a walk, which covered the main areas of the city. At the end of the walk, activists delivered speeches to the participants explaining goals and objectives of the coalition. Similar activity was organized by SYF at school of arts charbagh Swat, on the same day in afternoon. A large number of women participated in the activity wearing white bands and sharing their concerns with international community.

Impact

- ✓ The local people of the area were faced with starvation due to the closure of road for months and the orphans, widows, persons with disability and the poorest were the hard hit. The provision of food items provided relief to starving population. In addition to this the availability of food items saved local people from taking loan on high interest rate practiced in the area.
- ✓ Provision of utensils added to the resources of the poor women and hygiene kit helped to improve the health condition of the local women and their family.
- ✓ SYF involved local youth in the activity and promoted volunteerism and teamwork in interaction with them. Swat Youth Front facilitated establishment of Kalam Youth Front by the local volunteers of Kalam. In a short period, Kalam Youth Front established its office in Kalam and emerged as the representative organization of the local youth.

Lesson Learnt

- ✓ Through the project activity, it was learnt that assignment of tasks to the local organizations or direct involvement of the local elders in identification stage creates difficulties for implementing organization as they prefer their favorites to the needy.
- ✓ It was also observed that transportation of goods from a distant location to the distribution point could affect the activity by causing delays. The arrangement of a warehouse in the project area would be a better option for timely distribution.
- ✓ At the end of the activity, a review meeting of the partners held. The participants were given opportunity to share their experiences and to remove deficiencies.
- ✓ In order to encourage the volunteers of Swat Youth Front, Kalam youth front and Shangla Development Society, Oxfam GB held an award distribution ceremony at a local hotel. The event proved fruitful in terms of motivation to the male and female volunteers.