



BAHAAL Project

EMERGENCY RELIEF & EARLY RECOVERY FOR THE
FLOOD AFFECTEES ACROSS PAKISTAN
2010-2011



Final Report of the Sindh Rural Support Organization Component
(15 Oct 2010 – 31st July, 2011)



Rural Support Programmes Network

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Abbreviations:-

Abbreviations	
RSPN	Rural Support Programmes Network
RSP	Rural Support Programme
NRSP	National Rural Support Programme
SRSP	Sarhad Rural Support Programme
SRSO	Sindh Rural Support Organization
SGA	Sindh Graduates Association
PRSP	Punjab Rural Support Programme
BRSP	Balouchistan Rural support Programme
AJK	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
NFI	Non Food Item
TS	Transitional Shelter
PSU	Project Support Unit
CRP	Community Resource Persons

Acknowledgement:-

We would like to express our gratitude to all those people who were involved in the designing, planning, and implementation of the USAID – *Bahaal* Project. The credit for the success of this Project goes to many people. While colleagues at RSPN and SRSO were very encouraging and supportive, we were most motivated by the people of the flood affected districts of upper Sindh. These people are most hard working, sober, patient and hopeful of a better future. The way they managed to survive through the floods and then managed to live on in post flood situation, speaks volumes for their resilience. Without the cooperation and contribution of the people, the USAID – *Bahaal* Project may not have been so successful.

We are deeply indebted to our Project Manager Mr. Akhlaq Hussain for his support and guidance, and for being available 7/24 to answer our various questions and queries. We also want to thank other USAID – *Bahaal* Project colleagues for creating a unique and conducive working environment; we want to thank Mr. Khalil Baig, Ms. Anum Anis, Mr. Abid Shah, Mr. Ahmed Zia and Mr. Ali Anis. RSPN administration provided full support to make our field visits comfortable.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and extend our heartfelt thanks to the implementing partner SRSO and its respective staff, for without their cooperation this project could not have been completed. District staff was hard working and provided timely responses and data whenever it was required. And special thanks to Mr. Abdul Hameed Ballu (SRSO USAID - *Bahaal* Project Coordinator), to Ms. Nadia Samo (Monitoring Officer SRSO) and to SRSO's administration for their cooperation. We want to thank everyone involved in the USAID – *Bahaal* Project; everyone has played an important role.

Zahida Amin and Nageen Akhtar

(Project Monitoring Officers – USAID - *Bahaal* Project)

Islamabad

August 5, 2011

Introduction:-

Back ground:-

The Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) was registered in 2001 under Pakistan's Companies Ordinance (1984) as a non-profit company by the Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) of Pakistan. RSPN is a network of ten RSPs (AJKRSP, AKRSP, BRSP, GBTI, NRSP, PRSP, SRSO, SGA, SRSP and TRDP), and N-IRM. The RSPs involve poor communities (mainly but not exclusively rural) in improved management and delivery of basic services through a process of social mobilization. RSPN is a strategic platform for the RSPs: it provides capacity building support to them and assists them in policy advocacy and donor linkages. Currently, the RSPs have a presence in 110 districts (districts include those in the four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and AJK) and 2 FATA/FR areas. The RSPs collectively work with a rural membership of community organizations of 4.15 million rural households.

At the end of July 2010, heavy rains triggered both flash floods and riverine floods in several parts of Pakistan, resulting in loss of life, widespread displacement and damage. These floods affected more than 20 million people. In the aftermath of these floods, the American people took an initiative to help the people of Pakistan through the provision of emergency relief and early recovery assistance. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed the *Bahaal* Project with RSPN, to provide emergency relief assistance in 16 districts of the four provinces of Pakistan.

USAID *Bahaal* Project Goal and Objectives:-

Goal:-

The Project goal is to support flood-affected households to rebuild their lives and livelihoods through responding to their emergency needs of shelter, hygiene and health, and early recovery needs of agricultural inputs and sustaining livestock.

Objectives:-

The Project objectives were to

- Contribute to food security by recovering agricultural livelihoods
- Provide immediate access to shelter
- Provide immediate access to potable water and a healthy environment
- Provide immediate access to healthcare through the provision of hygiene kit and receive health education.

Programme Strategy and Implementing Partners:-

RSPN implemented USAID - *Bahaal* Project in partnership with

- National Rural Support Programme (NRSP)
- Punjab Rural Support Programme (PRSP)
- Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO)
- Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP)
- Sindh Graduate Association (SGA)
- Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP)

In the past the RSPN and the RSPs responded to emergencies by leveraging community networks, providing medical aid (doctors, paramedics and medicines), food aid, and drinking water and non-food items. The scale and responsiveness of the RSPs is quick as they are localized, with existing offices in the flood affected districts proposed for this relief effort. The RSPs' relief efforts have been driven by the desire of most people to stay close to their families and communities, homes and assets. As with the RSPs' experience in Pakistan's earthquake affected northern districts, the earthquake in Baluchistan, the floods in Sindh and the IDP crisis, the RSPs provide localized solutions to such emergencies, taking into account issues of cultural acceptability and people's attachments to their assets and their land as well as women's mobility. Since July 2010, RSPN and RSPs have mobilized over USD 15.3 million in cash and in-kind from various sources including donors, UN agencies, development organizations, private foundations, individual philanthropists, and private sector organizations.

Currently the RSPs have a presence in 110 of the country's 144 districts, stretching from the mountainous north to the central plains and down to the southern coastline. RSPs work directly with over 4 million rural households in their areas of presence. RSPs are present and working in all 16 flood affected districts of Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and KPK with a network of grassroots level Community Organizations and Women's Organizations, and a cadre of trained staff and village activists. Using their own and mobilized resources, RSPs have already initiated emergency relief operations in coordination with District Administration.

RSPN adopted the following strategy to implement the project:

After the signing of the agreement with USAID/OFDA, RSPN immediately signed subcontract with BRSP, NRSP, PRSP, SGA, SRSO, and SRSP for implementation of the *Bahaal* Project activities in their respective districts. RSPN took a lead role in coordinating the efforts of the RSPs, ensuring quality control, timely delivery of goods as well as cross monitoring the implementation process by the RSPs. Partner RSPs are present in over 70% of the rural Union Councils of the 16 flood affected districts.

This is the final report of the USAID – *Bahaal* Project for the SRSO component.

Sindh Rural Support Programme (SRSO):-

SRSO is one of the implementing partners of USAID - Bahaal Project in the Sindh Province. It is a not-for-profit organization established in 2003..SRSO is present in 9 districts, namely Sukkur, Khairpur, Ghotki, Naushero Feroz, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Larkana, Kashmore-Kandhkot, and Qambar-Shadadkot of upper Sindh.SRSO launched USAID-*Bahaal* Project with coordination of RSPNs in five districts flood affected districts: Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Kamber Shadadkot, Kashmore and Jamshoro. A sub agreement was signed between SRSO and RSPNs. Under the SRSO component of the Banal Project, 20,411 households were to be supported with emergency relief and early recovery interventions, i.e. Throughprovision of agricultural inputs, animal feed supplement for livestock, emergency shelter and WASH services. This assistance aided the flood affected population in both meeting their immediate needs and staging an early recovery. The total estimated budget of the SRSO component was \$ 2,654,789.

SRSO USAID – *Bahaal* Project Targets:-

Sectors wise Targets

Sr #	Bahaal Project Component	Households	Beneficiary population
1	Agriculture and seed	5,804	38,188
2	Livestock services	5,804	38,188
3	WASH	5,804	38,188
4	Transitional Shelters	3000	19,740
Total		20,412	134,304

District Wise Targets

Sr.	RSP	District	Agriculture and seed	Livestock services	Wash	Transitional Shelter	Grand Total
1	SRSO	Kashmore	1161	1161	1161	200	3683
2		Shikarpur	1161	1161	1161	200	3683
3		Qambar Shahdadkot	1161	1161	1161	1800	5283
4		Jacobabad	1161	1161	1161	200	3683
5		Jamshoro	1160	1160	1160	600	4080
Total			5804	5804	5804	3000	20412

Implementation procedure:-

Assessment, Registration and Distribution of Packages:-

According to *Bahaal* Project there were four components to be distributed in five concerned districts of SRSO. For this purpose SRSO adopted step wise procedure and planned its activities accordingly. The detail of these activities is given below

- Beneficiaries Assessment
- Registration of Beneficiaries
- Procurement of supplies
- Distribution of Packages



Beneficiaries Assessment:-

Basic Guideline for Assessment:-

SRSO followed these basic guidelines for the selection of beneficiaries in all components as per USAID directions:

- Selected worse affected locations within the selected districts
- Highly deserved households have been identified within the selected locations
- Within the selected locations, households that have received little or no aid have been focused on (Ensure that the beneficiaries did not have the specified relief items from before)
- Priority was given to vulnerable i.e. women headed HH, widows, chronic poor, disable etc

Assessment guideline component wise:-

Beside basic guideline the component wise guidelines also adopted as per project requirement which are given below

Agricultural-Inputs:

- Provided to flood-affected households who have moved back to their place of residence and have access to land.
- Small farmers with less than 10 acres (4 hectares).
- Having past relevant experience of farming.

Animal feed services

- Feed supplement provided to households who have one milk animal.
- Priority was given to:
 - Landless Farmers
 - Female Headed Households
 - Small Farmers

Repairing of hand pumps and water kits: -



- Households who are facing severe shortage of clean water due to damaged or non-existent water infrastructure were focused.
- Household adopted the responsibility of rehabilitation/ repair or installation of hand pumps
- Tablets and Jerry Cans were also provided.

Hygiene Kit

- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Communities which were still surrounded or located near standing flood water were focused upon.
- Contaminated Areas where the incidence of epidemics was comparatively higher were targeted.



Villages surrounded by contaminated water

Hygiene Education:

- The flood-affected households who have received hygiene kits were selected to create awareness regarding good hygiene practices.

Transitional Shelter (One Room)

Flood affected households were selected who were:

- Displaced and needed transitional shelter.
- Living in emergency shelter.
- Poor families were focused.
- Families with young children were also given priority



Assessment of Beneficiaries for TS

Registration of Beneficiaries:

As per project requirement, the assessment of the beneficiaries was done in selected five districts. The criteria of selection were only flood affectees were given four components; priority was given vulnerable group such as disabled, widows and people having young children. It was focused that over lapping should be avoided to benefit more beneficiaries

After the completion of assessment, process the registration of beneficiaries was initiated. The beneficiaries were registered by dedicated Social Organizers. The token was issued to those beneficiaries whom NRM Officer verified through physical and technical tools. One carbon copy of each issued token was recorded in office register. The assessment and the registration process were completed in the month of November.



Process of Procurement of Distributed Items:-

SRSO procured the distributed items at Project Support Unit (PSU) level. For this purpose project coordinator of *Bahaal*- SRSO issued the purchase request to procurement officer *Bahaal*. Different concerned vendors were called for quotations. All the vendors sent back their response with their quotations. Quotations were opened in a Purchase Committee and one vendor was selected with a reasonable rate. After issuing of the purchase order the required material was delivered on given time period at warehouse, at Sukkur Head office. Moreover, each specified material was delivered to different districts according to targets as well as on required dates.

Distribution Process of Packages:-

Distribution of Agricultural input:

First component of distribution was Agricultural inputs. The package was consist of 40 kg of wheat seeds, 1 bag of DAP (50 Kg), 2 bags of Urea (50 Kg each) and 2000/- Rs cash amount for land preparation. Each beneficiary was guided during issuing the token that to get the package he himself would come with his original national identity card otherwise he would be not able to get it.

Therefore, on distribution point after verification of token number, package was issued to beneficiary. The beneficiary also signed on the acknowledge receipt after collecting the package. Each copy of the receipt was also recorded with the token copy which had been issued to beneficiary. Token number was also mentioned in registration form to counter check the beneficiary's code.

Venue and Environment of Distribution Places:

The SRSO tried to make the distribution Venue more accessible to beneficiaries and made it according to the local needs. All distribution points were appropriate for women and children. Security arrangements were also prepared as per requirement.

**Distribution of Animal Feed Supplement:**

After the distribution of agricultural input the distribution of animal feed supplement (Vanda) was done. The distribution process was same as adopted for the distribution of Agri-inputs. All targeted registered beneficiaries got 2 Bags (35 Kg) of animal feed Supplement. Distribution was completed in five concerned districts equally. Total number of households was 5,804 and total beneficiaries were 38,188. Vanda was distributed to the beneficiaries who have one or more than one milch animal and preference was given to land less farmers, females headed household and small farmers.



Milk Animals shown in picture in tents UC Manjhand village Buro Khos

Distribution of Hygiene Kit and water kit:

The Hygiene kit has been distributed among the target households. The same distribution procedure was adopted as above mentioned.

Health and Hygiene Education

Identification of Community Resource persons (CRP):

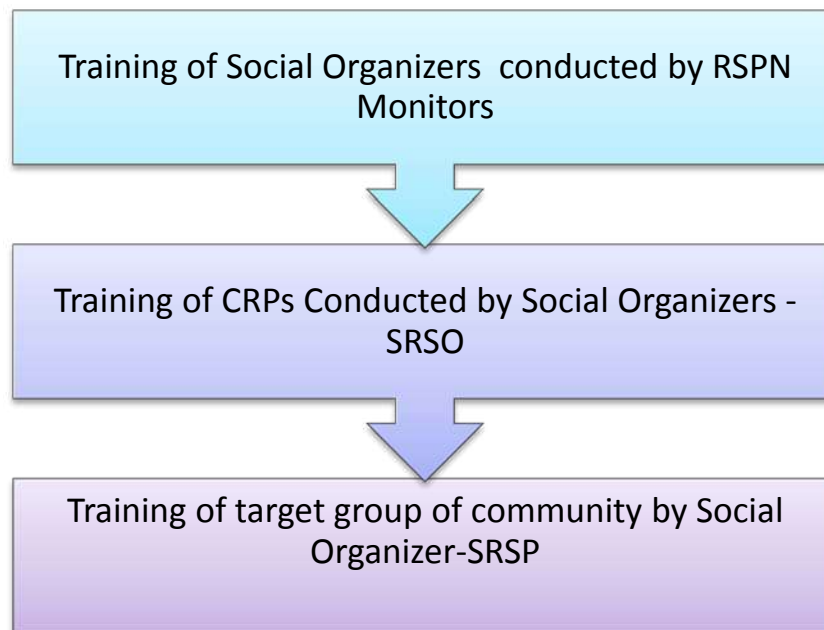
As per project agreement 30 CRPs (15 males and 15 females) were identified from each district, to delivered health and Hygiene education to assigned beneficiaries.

Agreement with Community Resource Persons:

Two pages format of Agreement has been signed by the CRPs. According to that agreement each CRP would deliver Hygiene session to 300 beneficiaries in 8 to 10 sessions, approximately. For this each CRP would be pay 3500/Rs.

Health and Hygiene Training Sessions:

The Health and Hygiene training was delivered in three sequential steps.

Sequential Steps of Training

RSPN monitors of *Bahaal* Project gave two days training of health and hygiene Education at Sukkur Emergency cell SRSO to the social organizers of SRSO. After receiving this training the social organizers conducted training of CRPs in their respective districts. Every CRP was assigned to deliver Hygiene Sessions to the family members of those households who had received Hygiene kit.



Hand pumps installation:

Hand pumps Installation:

Total 580 hand pumps were installed in five districts as per community need. Hands pumps were installed at the proper place with community consultation. As many as 10 to 15 households agreed to share water from each hand pump. The platform of hand pumps and outlets for water drainage were constructed to avoid environmental pollution.

Transitional Shelter:

Beneficiaries' assessment was done as per defined beneficiary assessment criteria. Households that are poor or headed by women with children focused upon. In the selection of beneficiary the community participation approach has ensured through the involvement of COs and VOs. This process ensured the transparency of beneficiary assessment. Duplication of work was also avoided. Moreover, highly affected areas and villages have been selected in cluster.



Community Dialogue for Transitional Shelter:

The community dialogue conducted to orientate the community regarding Transitional Shelter implementation process and its requirements. In the dialogue the community has been briefed on the beneficiary selection criteria and also stressed on the installment process. In this regard it was also explained to community regarding cost of Shelter and donor share. It was clarified that for this transitional shelter each household will be given a maximum of RS. 40000 by USAID and for additional expenditure they will add their own share to complete one room shelter.



Transitional Shelter Design with Value Addition

Most of these transitional shelters varied from the original designs due to the value addition of the beneficiaries however it was ensured that the overall structure of the shelters complies with FOG and SPHERE standards.

All transitional shelters have completed and the beneficiaries received all amount at proper time. Generally people were happy and showed their gratitude for USAID-*Bahaal Project*. Value addition was also observed as people tried to convert transitional shelter into permanent with the contribution of their own economic share. Most of TS were made from fire bricks and cement mortar. Steel girders and bamboos were used for roof and their doors and windows were wooden. Therefore, as per beneficiaries comments the average total expenditure on TS was in between 65000-70000 Rs.

It is noticed that most of the beneficiaries are sharing their walls to reduce Transitional Shelter cost and most of them have shared land as well. The field engineers gave special consideration on combine wall houses and guided the beneficiaries about the technical detail



Moreover, SRSO has merged the WFP's food for work program with the construction of the transitional shelters. This initiative provided immediate assistance to beneficiary because by this he can easily spare their all household members in the construction of TS as unskilled labor. The beneficiaries not only got homes for themselves but also received food assistance during the construction of their houses.

Selected Household for Transitional Shelter



Targets vs. Achievements as per Indicators:

SRSO successfully completed its entire target of all components in its implemented areas. As per statistical detail that 5860 households received Agricultural inputs, Animal feed Supplement, Hygiene Kit, Hand pump and water kit. Moreover 3000 households received amount 40000/Rs for the construction of one room transitional shelter.

Below figures indicate the progress as per each component indicator.

Seed Systems and Agricultural Inputs

Seed Systems and Agricultural Inputs	
Indicator	Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input Activities
Number of household targeted	5,804
Number of beneficiaries Targeted	38,188
Geographic Area	Sindh: Kashmore, Shikarpur, Qambar Shahdadkot, Jacobabad, Jamshoro

Agricultural Inputs

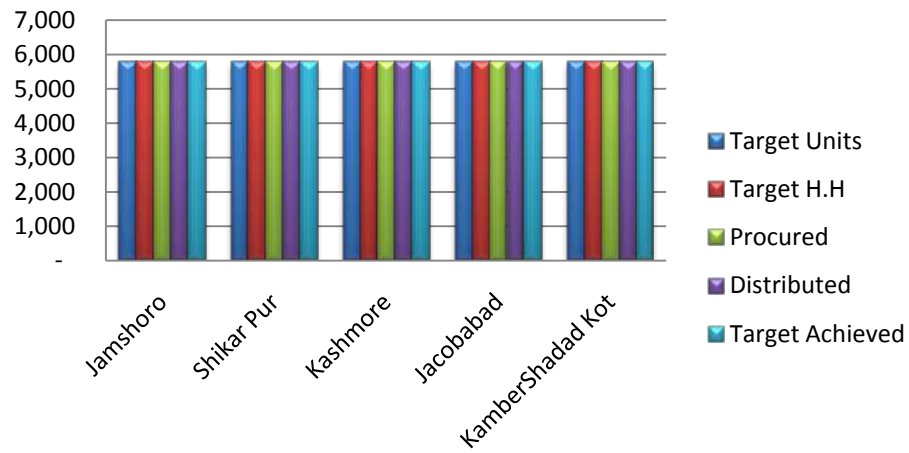


Figure: Summary of Targets vs Achievement of Agri-inputs District Wise



Livestock:-

Livestock	
Indicator	Number of people benefiting from livestock activities.
Number of households targeted	5804
Number of beneficiaries Targeted	38,188
Geographic Area	Sindh: Kashmore, Shikarpur, Qambar Shahdadkot, Jacobabad, Jamshoro

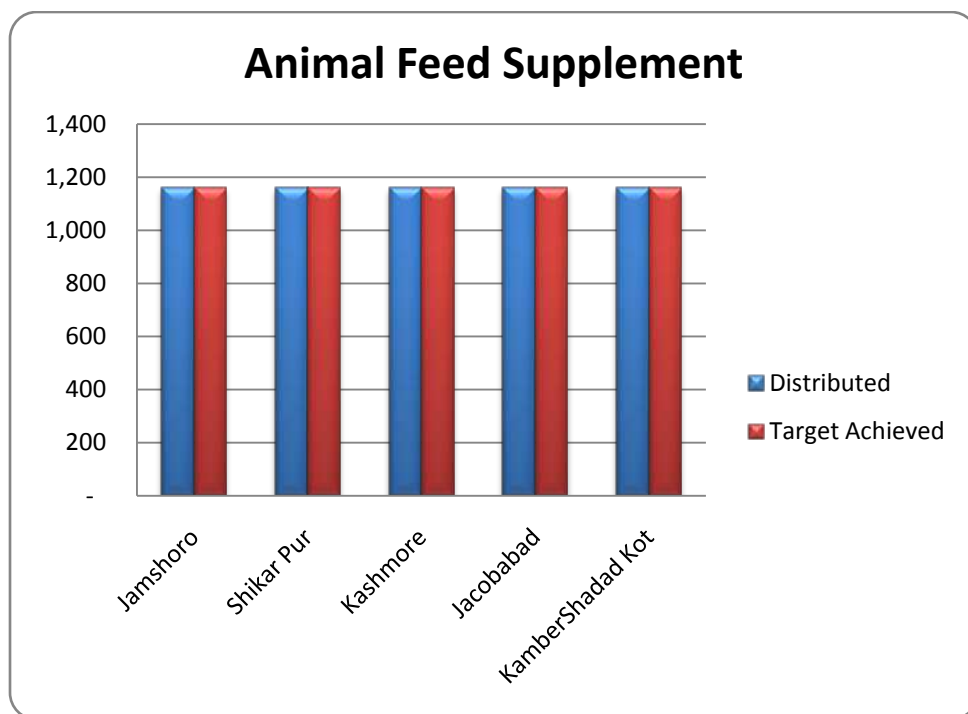


Figure: Summary of Targets vs. Achievement of Animal Feed Supplement

Hand Pump:-

Hand Pump	
Indicator	Number and percentage of targeted households having access to pumped water
Number of household targeted	5804
Number of Beneficiaries Targeted:	38,188
Geographic Area (s)	Sindh: Kashmore, Shikarpur, Qambar Shahdadkot, Jacobabad, Jamshoro

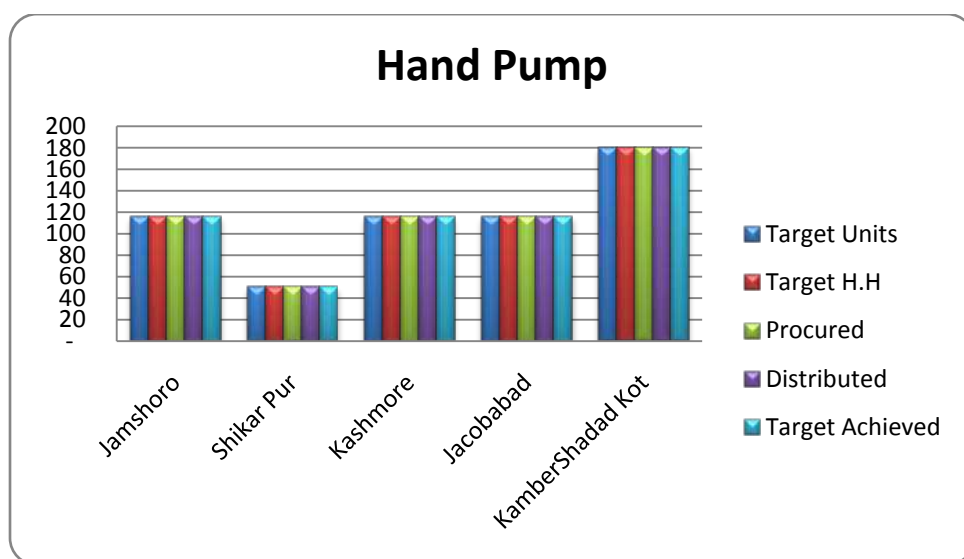


Figure: Summary of Targets vs Achievement Hand pumps Districts wise



Community Hand Pump provided by USAID

Water Kit:-

Water Kit	
Indicator	Number and percentage of targeted households benefiting from Water kit
Number of household targeted	5804
Number of Beneficiaries Targeted:	38,188
Geographic Area (s)	Sindh: Kashmore, Shikarpur, Qambar Shahdadkot, Jacobabad, Jamshoro

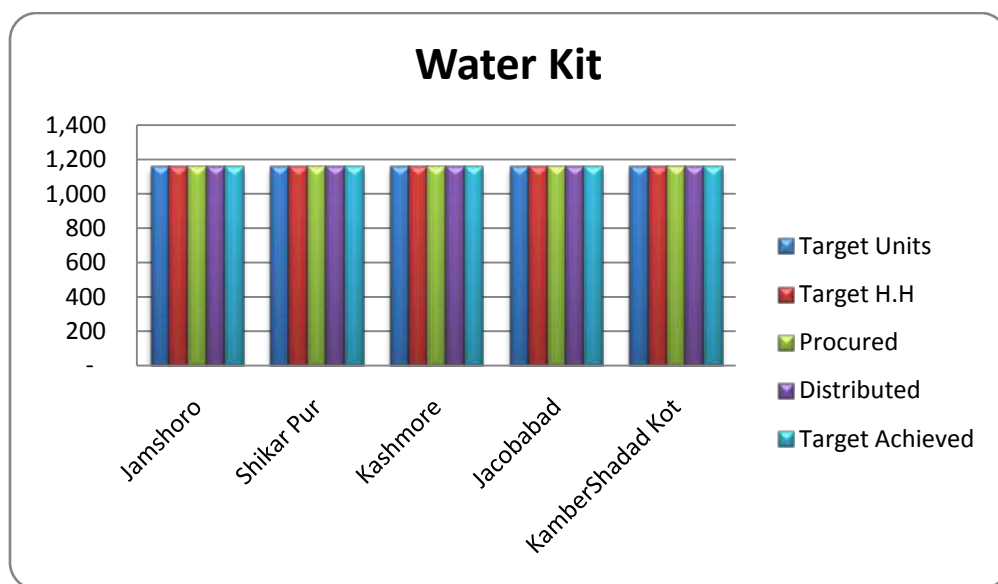


Figure: Summary of Targets vs Achievement of Water Kit District Wise

Hygiene Promotion:-

Hygiene Promotion	
Indicator of Hygiene Kit	Number and percentage of targeted households having hygiene kits
Number of household targeted	5804
Number of Beneficiaries Targeted:	38,188
Geographic Area	Sindh: Kashmore, Shikarpur, Qambar Shahdadt, Jacobabad, Jamshoro

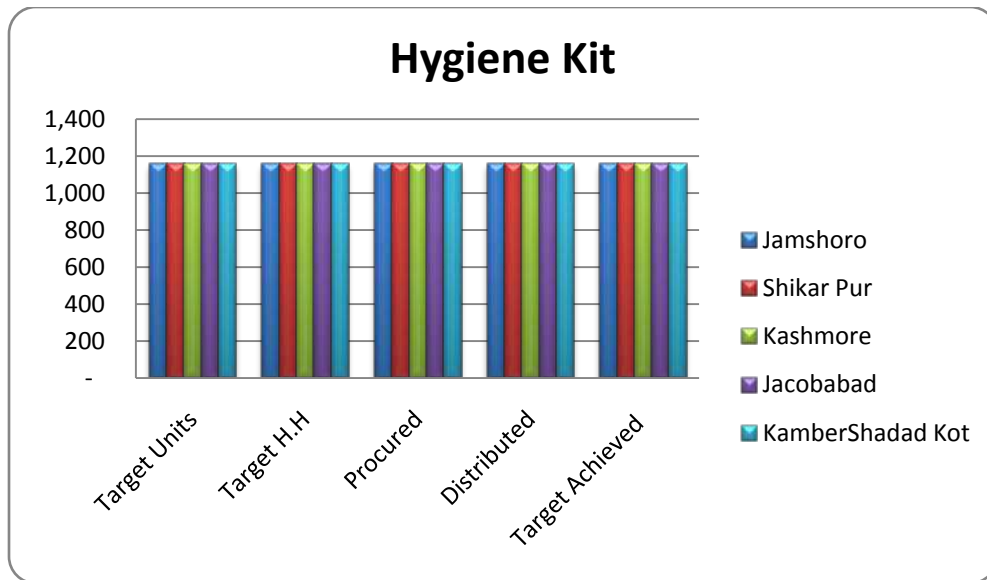


Figure: Summary of Targets vs Achievement of Hygiene Kit District wise



Hygiene Kits deposited in warehouse before distribution

Hygiene Session:-

Hygiene Promotion	
Indicator of Hygiene Education	Number and percent of targeted households receiving hygiene kits receive hygiene education.
Number of household targeted	5804
Number of Beneficiaries Targeted:	38,188
Geographic Area (s)	Sindh: Kashmore, Shikarpur, Qambar Shahdadt, Jacobabad, Jamshoro

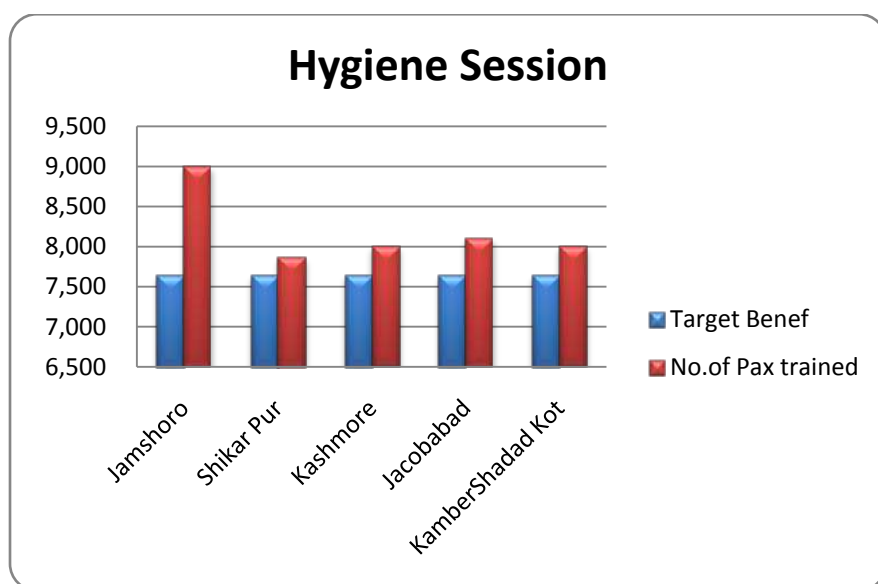


Figure: Summary of Targets vs Achievement of Hygiene Session District wise

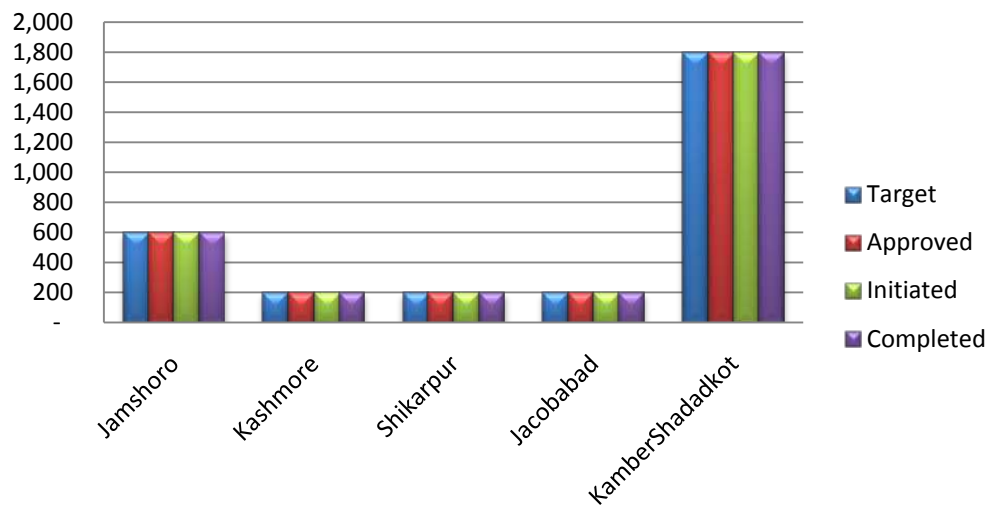


Social Mobilizers attending Hygiene Session

Transitional Shelter (one room):-

Transitional Shelter (one room)	
Indicator of Transitional shelter	• Number of households receiving transitional shelter, pursuant to Sphere standards and FOG guidelines • Percent of total affected population receiving Transitional shelter assistance • Total USD amount and percent of approved project budget for transitional one room shelter spent in the affected local economy
Number of household targeted	3,000
Number of beneficiaries targeted	19,740
Geographic Area for Transitional Shelter	Sindh: Kashmore, Shikarpur, Qambar Shahdadkot, Jacobabad, Jamshoro

Transitional Shelter



Satisfaction Level of Beneficiaries:-

Quality, Quantity and Usefulness of Agricultural Input:

It was calculated by randomly selected of fifty beneficiaries of agri inputs of five districts that most of the farmers were very happy with getting the agricultural-inputs. They thanked USAID *Bahaal* added that its assistance in the form of agricultural inputs has contributed a lot in improving their economic condition. This was because they received these items from USAID when they badly needed them.

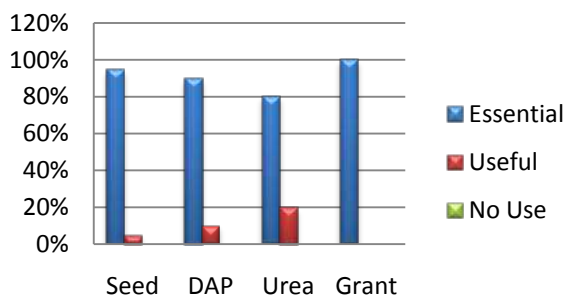


Beneficiaries in their fields

About 92% beneficiaries argued that agricultural inputs were very essential for them as it provided food security to them as they were worried about the cultivation of crop because they did not have resources for its cultivation but after receiving this package they became able to overcome this issue immediately. Below graphs shows the usefulness of agri inputs package and its item as per beneficiaries' comments;



Usefulness Of Agri-inputs



Usefulness

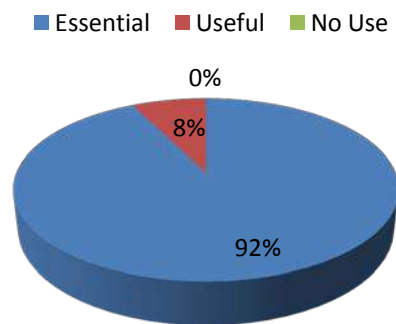


Figure 1: Summary of usefulness of Agri-Inputs

They argued that these agricultural items were essential when they received them but their quantity was insufficient based on their requirements. Although, 62% beneficiaries were satisfied with quantity as they provided them as per needs. Below figures show these facts;

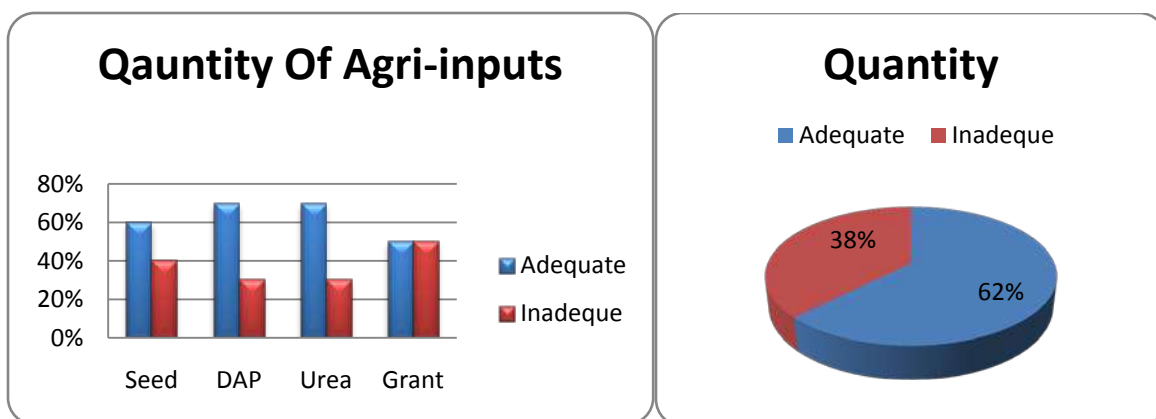


Figure 2: Summary of quantity of Agri-Input

Therefore, almost all the beneficiaries showed their satisfaction in the terms of quality of package.

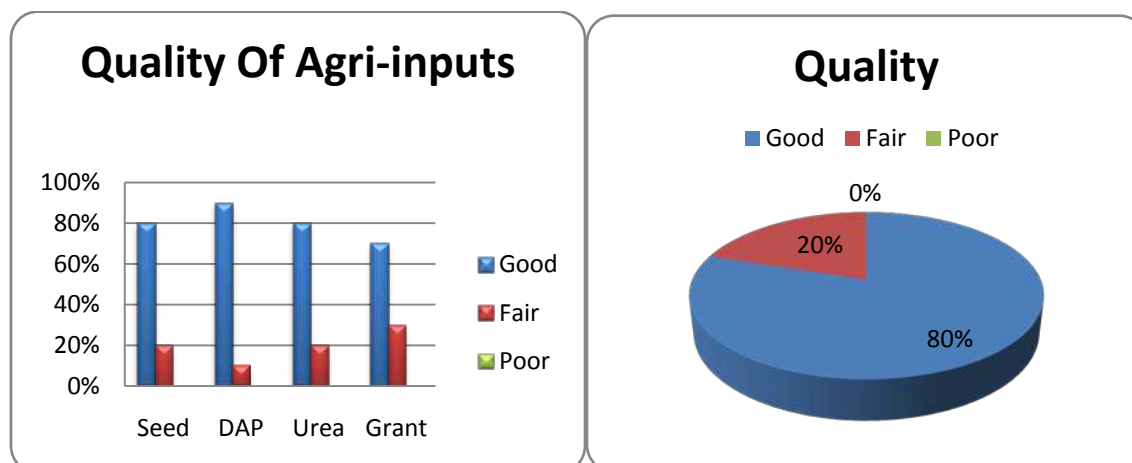


Figure: Summary of quality of Agri-Input

"It was very first visit of any organizational representative in our area and I hoped that once they visited and registered me they would definitely provide me some aid so that I could rehabilitate my agricultural land. The USAID Bahaal Team fulfilled its promise by providing the Agri-package to me. I was very glad when I got the Agri-package and I thanked Allah for the fulfillment of our prayers by sending USAID Bahaal team to help us".¹

A widow Shahil Khatton from the District Shikarpur expressed her gratitude to the USAID-Bahaal Project

¹http://www.rspn.org/our_projects/bahaal.html

Quality, Quantity and Usefulness of animal feed Supplement:

It was concluded after the interviews of randomly selected of fifty beneficiaries that 100 % beneficiaries were satisfied with the quality 80% were satisfied with its usefulness and 75% with its quantity of package. For statistical review see below figures:

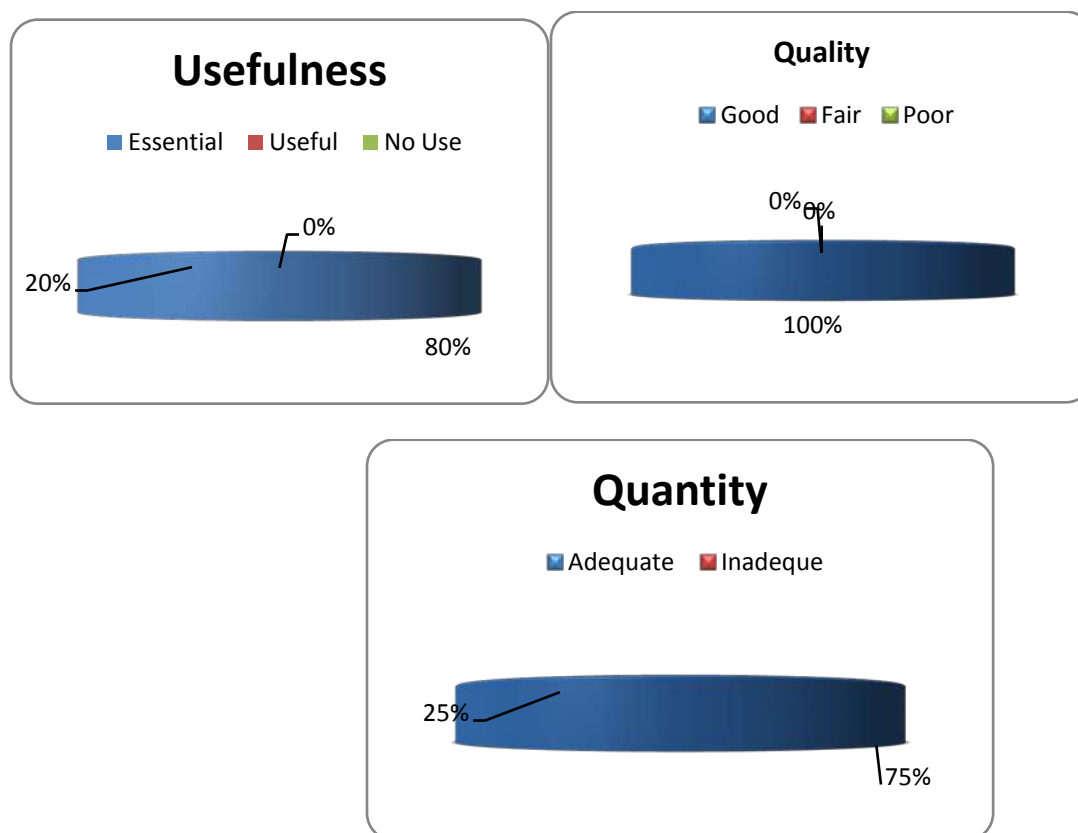


Figure: Summary of Usefulness quality and quantity of Animal Feed Supplement



Quality, Quantity and Usefulness of Hygiene Kit:

It was noticed that overall quality, quantity and specification of Hygiene kit items were satisfactory. It was concluded by interviewing randomly selected beneficiaries that people mostly seemed satisfied with hygiene kit quality but had an issue with the quantity of items that were in it. They said the quantity of some items is inadequate for their domestic needs. They argued that the use of these items is more frequent at domestic level so their quantity is less keeping in mind the beneficiaries' domestic requirements. The table below shows these facts;

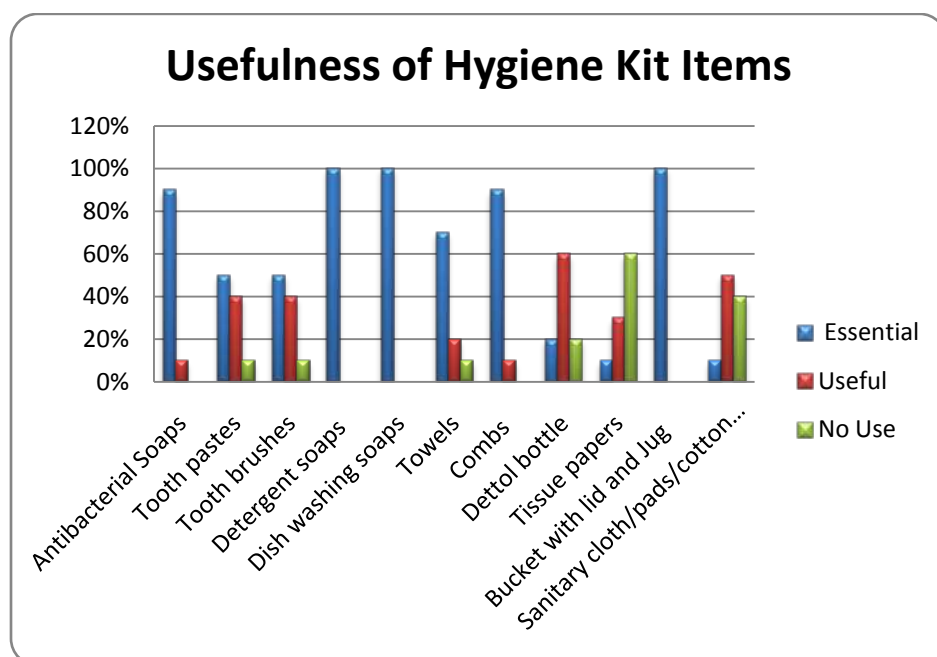
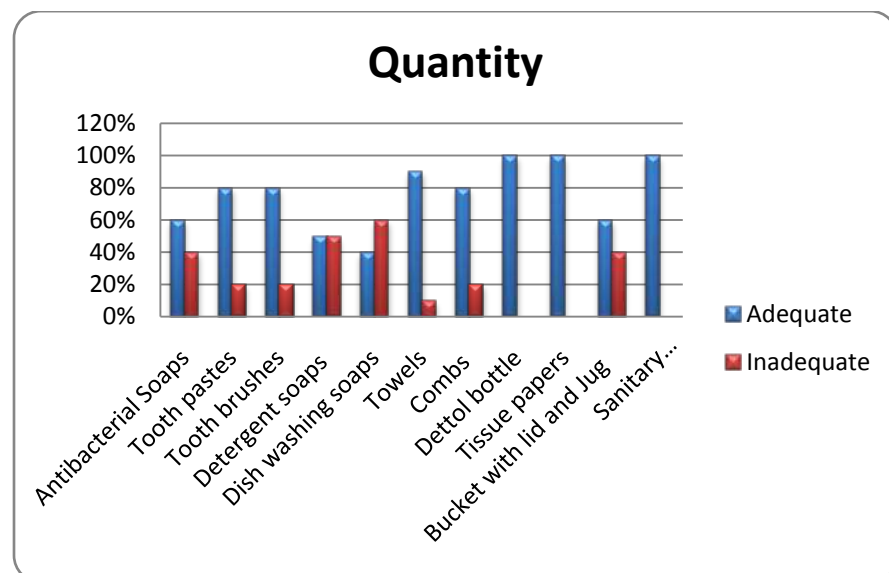
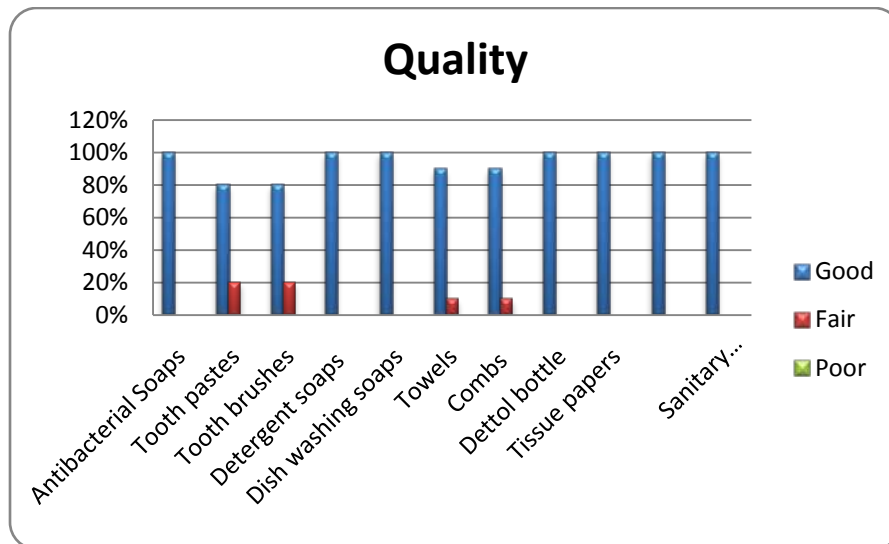


Figure: Usefulness of Hygiene kit by Items wise



In general, 76% beneficiaries consider quantity of Hygiene kit adequate according to their needs, 87% admit its usefulness they argued that the hygiene kit items are very useful for them. They said that they can use the hygiene kit to improve the hygiene conditions of their domestic environment. Mostly beneficiaries were satisfied with quality of Hygiene kit.

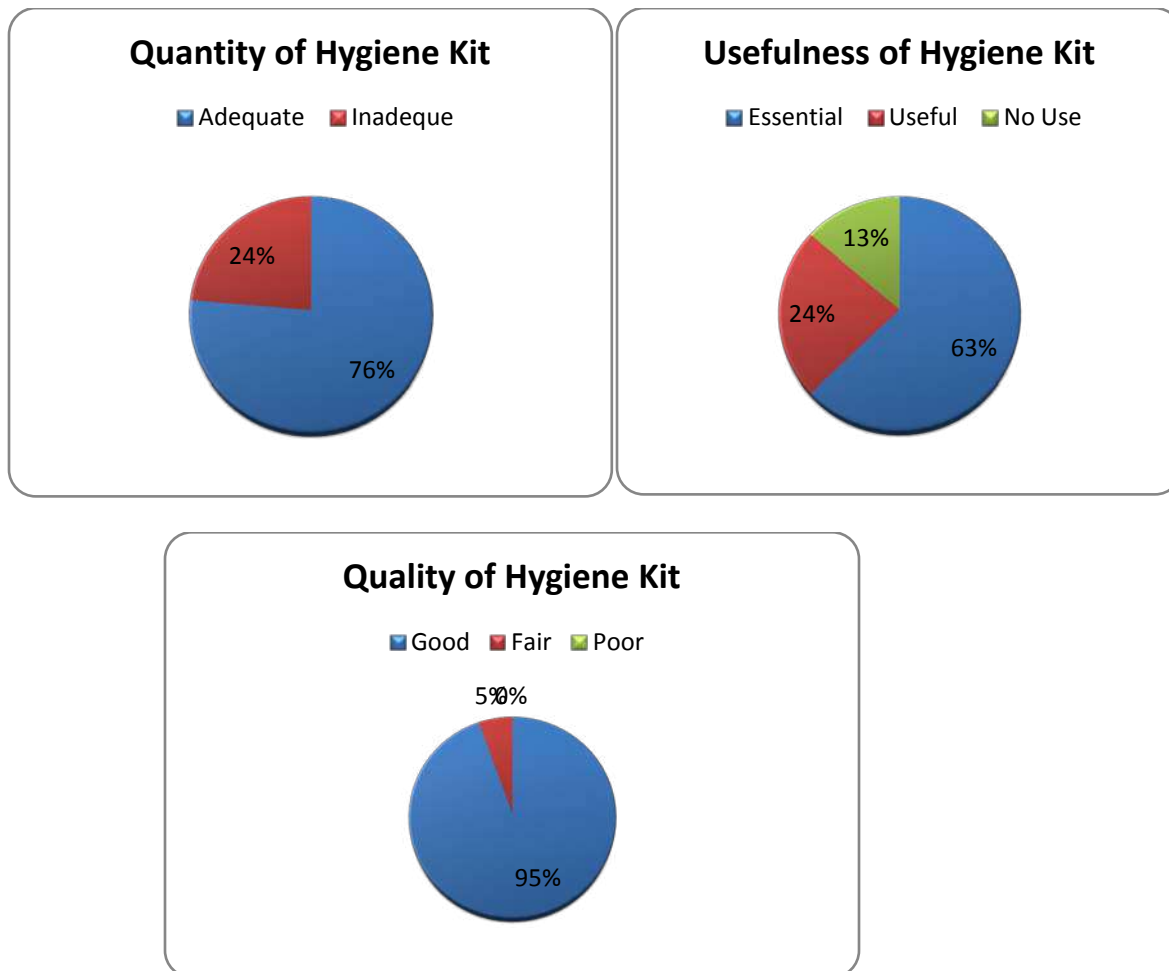


Figure: Summary of Quantity, Quality and Usefulness of Hygiene kit

Quality, Quantity and Usefulness of Hand Pumps and Water Kit:

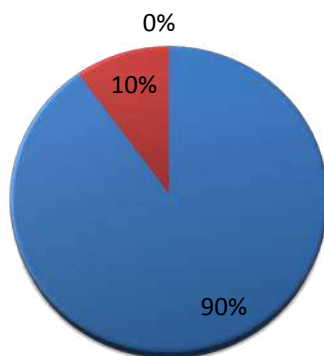
It was observed that average ten house hold were benefited by each hand pumps and hand pumps were working in perfect condition. Beneficiary constructed outlets with hand pumps to utilize the wasted water by drain out in to mini kitchen garden.

Moreover, hand pumps were adequate as per community need and were installed at the proper place with community consultation.



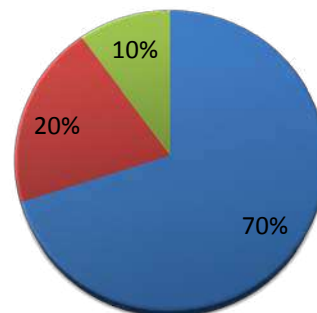
Usefulness of HandsPump

■ Essential ■ Useful ■ No Use



Quality of Hands Pump

■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor



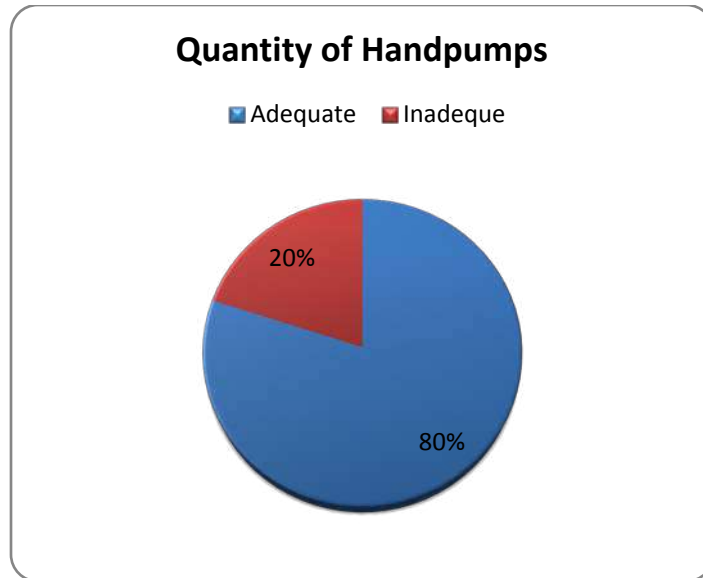
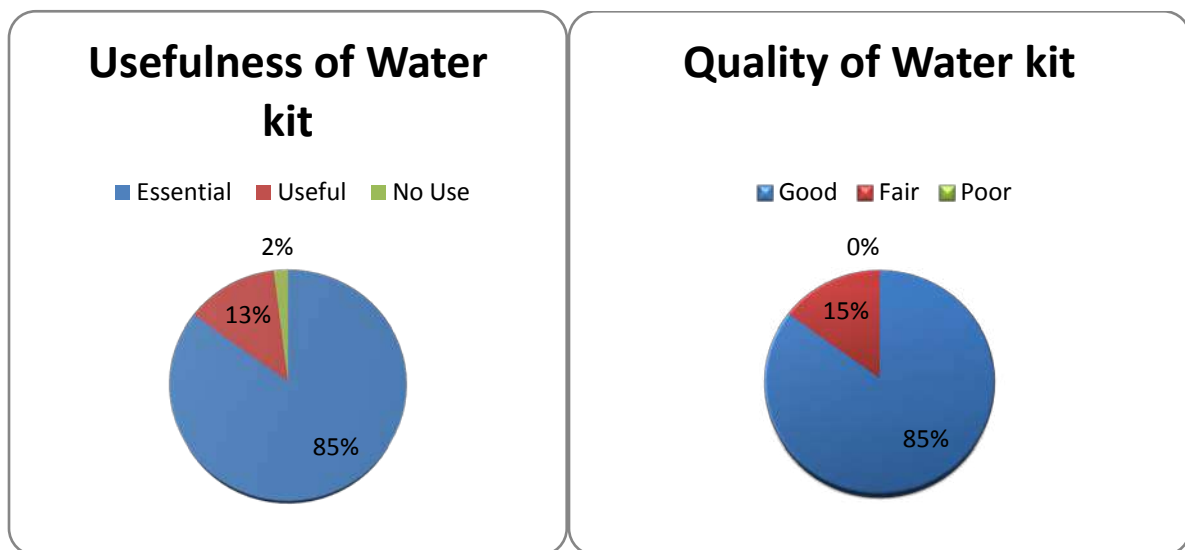


Figure: Summary of Quantity, Quality and Usefulness of Hand pumps

The water kit was also distributed among the hand pumps beneficiaries which includes water purification tablets and jerry can. It is observed that beneficiaries were also happy and satisfied with water kit.



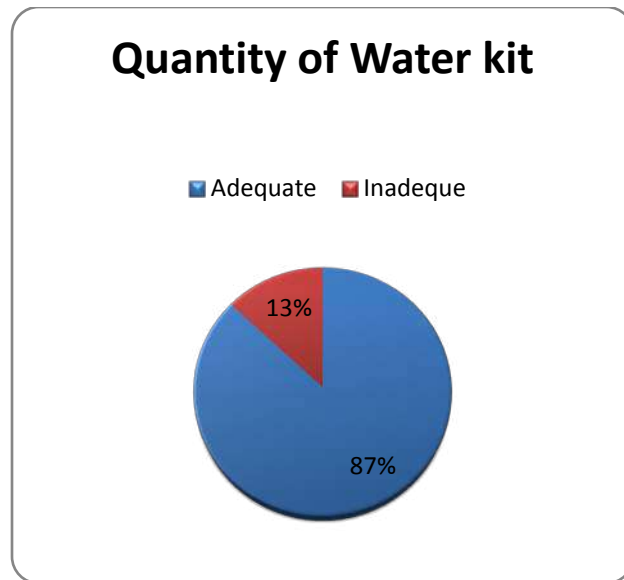


Figure: Summary of Quantity, Quality and Usefulness of water kit

Satisfaction level of beneficiaries:-

Transitional Shelter:-

It was observed after interviewing the community that 95% beneficiaries were fully satisfied with the transitional shelter (one room). Moreover community shared that they lost their houses due flood so shelter was their basic need which has been provided by USAID. The response of the community was good and they were very happy with the transitional Shelter component, they were very grateful to SRSO-USAID *Bahaal* team.





Challenges:-

In implementing to this project there were few challenges.

At time of distribution of Agri input, the sown period was around at ending in sindh so it's hard to distribute the Agri input to beneficiaries in the time that they could sow it in time.

During construction of transitional shelter majority household had been busy in harvesting of wheat and in other labor for earning, this caused delayed in achieving the target of transitional shelter. To cope with this problem SRSO club another project of WFO, in which SRSO gave food package to those beneficiaries who were registered for T.S so they can utilizes the labor in construction of TS.

Case Studies:-



SUCCESSSTORY| Gulab: A new life at 70

BAHAAL PROJECT |Emergency Relief and Early Recovery for the Flood Affectees across Pakistan

Pakistan In the book of life when the page turns to 70, blessings and gift from God are less expected and even less anticipated. For most the waiting game for the inevitable end had already begun at least a decade back. Hopelessness becomes a matter of routine and every moment seems like an eternity. In this twilight of one's life it is not hard to imagine what impact an obliterating flood would have had on them. If life as it was not so miserable for Ghulab Khatoon, a widow in her 70s living with two grandsons in the Choodyo village of district Jacobabad, the flood that swept away her house and all her possessions made sure that no one in her village would ever see a smile on her face again. But the floods that took away everything that she once owned gave her something that was her lifelong dream.

The roof of a solid-brick house was something she had never lived under the shade of before but thanks to the USAID funded Bahaal project that was no longer a distant dream for her. She lives in the Union Council of Thull, which was submerged in 10 feet of water for almost two months. She narrates the flood situation in her village, "Initially the news of the flood was not taken seriously by anybody in the village. Flood water has never even come close to our village so we thought it was either just a rumor or the whole flood situation was hyped up. But later when the news of the nearby villages being bulldozed by the ferocious flood reached our ears we realized how grave a danger we were in. We had to evacuate the village immediately due to our own carelessness and hence we could not take any possessions with us. There was confusion all around. No one could believe what was happening to them and their village. In a state of sheer panic, I with my two grandsons took a bus to Karachi where we stayed with our relatives."



Gulab standing outside her Bahaal provided shelter. The shelter is under construction.

Ghulab sitting in her tent continued telling me about her ordeal in a voice that was trembling due to the frailty of her old age. She said that when she came back to her village and saw that there was almost nothing left of it, she just felt that her life was over. “Being a widow at 70 you naturally do not have much to look forward to. For me, to lose all my material possessions in that manner was like experiencing death. For a few days after coming back I could not talk to anyone. I thought I had lost my voice. But it came back as soon as I saw the Bahaal team walking in our village assessing the damage caused by the flood and promising people of a one room shelter in the few weeks that were to follow. The sight of the team was as refreshing as a gush of fresh breeze gently sweeping across my face after being almost choked to death. I felt alive again,” says Gulab while describing her feelings after being promised of a house by the Bahaal Team.



“It feels spectacular. I feel young again,”

She said she was more than just happy. Even before the floods she lived in a mud house and therefore had never really known how it felt to own a brick house of her own. “It feels spectacular. I feel young

again,” Gulab expressing her delight at the prospect of owning her own house soon. Before this she said, she had been a liability for her grandsons and villagers but she won’t be anymore. Now thanks to USAID she can invite people to her own permanent house. She also said that she did not have enough words to express gratitude to either the people of USAID who provided her money to build her house or the villagers who are constructing her house for her. At this fragile age she could not ask God for more. At the end she said she always felt that God was only interested in taking away the things she once had, (referring to her late husband, her children who had left her and her possessions she lost during the floods) but now she realizes how wrong she had always been. God she said is indeed the best of all planners

Written by: Ali Anis Project Monitoring Officer - USAID Bahaal Project- RSPN



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SUCCESSSTORY | Getting Back Roof Again

BAHAAL PROJECT | Emergency Relief and Early Recovery for the Flood Affectees across Pakistan

The floods of July 2010 were the worst in the history of Pakistan. After eight months flood water still remains in the village of Umed Ali Junejo located in the Union Council Jamali, of District ShahdadKot. The inhabitants of the village were still in urgent need for early recovery projects that would help them in rebuilding their lives. The beneficiary assessment team of USAID *Bahaal* project approached this village for provision of transitional Shelter. Bibi Mumtaz, a mother of six young children says that it was great blessing of Allah that He brought SRSO *Bahaal* Project team to our village. They were the first representative of an organization who came to our village to provide us aid in terms of transitional shelter.



Mumtaz standing in her temporary kitchen

Flood water struck the boundaries of Mumtaz's village with ruthlessness and swept away all her assets. She left her village with grief and spent five months in a relief tent at Sukkur. She went back to her village in the month of January and was shocked to see flood water still standing in her village. Her house was completely damaged by floods. She says, "I came back to my village with a slight hope that

there might be something left for us to rebuild our life again but I was shocked to see the carnage of the flood water. I have lost all my life possessions, my house, my land and my cattle.”



Construction of TS;Allah blessed us by sending *Bahaal* team in our village” says Mumtaz.

She further speaks about her miseries, “we are bound to spend our days and nights under the open sky. I was so hopeless because there was no way for us to rebuild our house. I was worried about my young children as they were getting ill due to harshness of weather and poor hygiene conditions. ”

Mumtaz for transitional shelter after verifying her details and she has been issued her first installment of Rs. 10000. “This transitional shelter is a blessing of Allah. It will bring light and hope to our lives,” expresses Bibi Mumtaz happily showing her gratitude for the *Bahaal* project. Moreover she says, “I have received the first installment of Rs. 10,000. With it I have started construction on my house with the assistance of my neighbors and relatives. The work is going at very decent pace. I will be able to complete my one room transitional shelter soon which will protect my young children. It will be very happy moment of my life and for this I am very thankful to USAID–*Bahaal* project.”

Written by: Zahida Amin Project Monitoring Officer -USAID Bahaal Project- RSPN



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SUCCESS STORY | A Hope to permanent Home

BAHAAL PROJECT | Emergency Relief and Early Recovery for the Flood Affectees across Pakistan

“I was satisfied with my life, and although it was tough and unstable we were living together under the same roof. The sky was filled with dark clouds and it was raining for the past four days. There was something in the air that I had never felt before and I sensed that something was not right” said Qalaan Bibi aged 54, having 7 children with three daughters and 4 sons. Unfortunately, all her children are disabled. Qalaan Bibi is resident of District Kamber Shadad Kot, where she lives in the village Umed Ali Junejo in the Union council of Jamali. She had livestock which she used for a living, but the income she made from it was never adequate for the treatment of her disabled children. She and her family are among the survivors of the July floods that washed away everything in different areas of Pakistan.

“I never knew that fate was planning to play another game against me. Having 7 disabled children with nothing in my hands to restore their health, my life was already in distress. The flood only made my life more miserable by taking away all my possessions and assets. That day fate turned my world upside down and left me empty handed. I never knew that I could be in such a mess. ” she said.



Qalaan Bibi

She added, “I clearly remember my neighbors’ informing me that the flood is approaching and we have to take refuge in Larkana, which was the least affected area in the Sindh. There the government had set up relief camps for flood affectees. We spent three months in those relief camps

The first week was full of loneliness, despair and depression. I thought I had lost my husband and three of my disabled children as they got separated from me at the outset of the flood. However with the help of ALLAH somebody told me that they have also moved and joined another camp in the same area. Finally we could see each other after three long days. Life for my family in Larkana camp was not easy and it was very difficult to survive. We survived only on limited ration given to us by the camp authorities. The only good thing about our time in the camp was that my whole family was alive and living together, and I was sure that together we can and together we will get through these troubling times. After passing three wretched months at Larkana camp we moved back to our village. The flood water was all over the area where our house once stood. And for miles and miles the land was covered with the water and dead animals. Even there were no trees under the shadow of which we could sit or take refuge.



Qalaan Bibi with her Family

After that when the worst was over and water had drained away, things finally started working for me. We started to think about building a shelter for our children but we had no money whatsoever. We couldn't even pay for a brick. Then soon after the BAHAAL *team* came to pull us out of our days of despair and helped us build a one room shelter at the place near which we used to live before the flood. USAID compensated us through giving the funds to build this shelter and we are hoping that USAID will also help us in reconstruction of our homes. We are grateful to ALLAH that he chose us among the thousands of the flood affectees to be able to do something for our-selves and help others building their shelter, by giving a hand in construction work.

Written by: Nageena Tareen Project Monitoring Officer- USAID Bahaal Project

Data collection by: Arfan Mehmood Field Engineer



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SUCCESSSTORY | Shahil Khatoon with New Hope

BAHAAL PROJECT | Emergency Relief and Early Recovery for the Flood Affectees across Pakistan

Shahil Khatoon still has not forgotten the devastating memories of the flood of 2010. She explains her emotion by saying: “When I remember those moments I still find tear in my eyes”. Shahil Khatoon, an inhabitant of village Gari Dakho, District Shikarpur, Province Sindh, is one of the flood affectees who lost all of her belongings and sources of livelihood during the 2010 floods. She is a widow, living with her five youngest children, and her main source of income is derived from agricultural land and livestock. She herself cultivates ten acres rented land to earn a livelihood for her family. She says that “I was working in my agricultural field for the cultivation of rice crop when I heard that flood water had entered our neighboring villages. So I rushed towards my home with haste to save my children and domestic belongings. I was in such a rush that I forgot to wear my *dupatta* while running toward home.” The flood waves struck Shahil Khatoon’s village with tremendous force and swept away all her belongings. Shahil was shocked to see that there was nothing left of her whole property as all cultivated land had been submerged in flood water. She says: “My possessions were drowned in front of my own eyes, which was very heart breaking for me”.



“Shahil Khatoon a flood affecteeWidow of district Shikarpur (Sindh) shows her gratitude to USAID-Bahaal”

“Shahil Khatoon told that the rice crop had been planted on ten acres land and that she had invested Rs 35,000 (about US\$ 410). When the flood came, all of the effort and investment was lost in flood in one moment and she was left empty handed. Shahil Khatoon said: “When I returned to my village, I had little hope that anyone would support me. You can imagine my delight when one day the USAID *Bahaal* team visited my village for beneficiary assessment for the provision of agricultural inputs. They came into what remained of my house and talked about my damages during the floods and listened to all my miseries. After becoming satisfied that I was a deserved case, the team registered me for agricultural inputs and consoled me by saying that after some days they would supply me agricultural-inputs for growing wheat”.

After one week, the USAID Bahaal team gave me one bag DAP, two bags urea, 50 kg wheat seed and Rs 2000 in cash for the cultivation of wheat crop on 1 acre land.



“Shahil Khatoon in her wheat cultivated fields with a smile and Hope

USAID took great initiative to help the flood affected people of Pakistan by initiating many projects of relief and early recovery. The project named *Bahaal* (which means: Recover) is one of them. The main objective of *Bahaal* project is to provide emergency relief to flood affected households in Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with its project interventions ranging from agricultural inputs, animal feed supplement for livestock, and Shelter to Non Food Items and WASH services.

Shahil also expressed her gratitude to the USAID *Bahaal* team by saying that “It was very first visit of any organizational representative in our area and I hoped that once they visited and registered me they

would definitely provide me some aid so that I could rehabilitate my agricultural land. The USAID *Bahaal* Team fulfilled its promise by providing the agri-package to me. I was very glad when I got the Agri-package and I thanked Allah for the fulfillment of our prayers by sending USAID *Bahaal* team to help us”.

Shahil Khatoon is very hopeful for future. She expressed her satisfaction and says that now I have cultivated my wheat crop in fields again, which will be ready incoming months of April-May. After the flood, I was empty handed and now I am satisfied that after 3 to 4 months I will be able to get economic benefit from the wheat crop.

Zahida Amin: (PMO Bahaal-
RSPN),
Nasurullah: (Project Officer
Bahaal- SRSO, Shikarpur



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SUCCESSSTORY| Hope in Darkness

BAHAAL PROJECT |Emergency Relief and Early Recovery for the Flood Affectees across Pakistan

INTRODUCTION: - *“Flooding has submerged whole villages within the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The flooding began in July 2010, killing at least 1,600 people, according to the UN. According to the federal flood commission, 1.4m acres (557,000 hectares) of crop land have been flooded across the country and more than 10,000 cows have perished.”*

BACKGROUND: - Kot Sobho Hajano is a village located in Union Council Manjhand of the District Jamshoro in Sindh, Pakistan. Their lives a crippled widow named Mai Sadori of age 50. She has 3 daughters and a son. She cultivates the land of a landlord and has some livestock for her living.

SITUATION BEFORE FLOOD: - Before the flood of 2010, she used to invest her money in the crops and used to get 25% of the expenses from the landlord. She used to pay 25% of the crop's earning to the landlord in addition to his 50% share of the money, as a rent of his land. As a result of this, she was left with only 25% of the total earning. She cultivated 8 acres of land and her cotton crop was almost ready when the flood came and demolished the whole crop.



She got hope in the darkness, in the form of USAID-Bahaal Project

SITUATION AFTER FLOOD: - In order to save their lives, she and her family were forced to leave the village. The flood water was all over the village and her house and lands were under water. As at that time she could only think of saving herself and her family, the crop and the livestock were left devastated gone as fled from the flood. She moved Karachi, and when they came back from Karachi after two months, the situation was no good. She says *“I started crying that there was water all around my crops. After a few days, when the water drained out, I planned to cultivate the crop again in order to start our lives. So I requested the landlord to help us for some Agri-input but he refused to help us. He told us to help ourselves. I was left very depressed and Hopeless.”*

PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE: - Then after some days, the BAHAAAL team came to their village. No organization had come to their village before. The USAID Bahaal Project provides emergency relief and early recovery in the flood affected areas across Pakistan. It started from October 2010. After the 2010 floods, when most areas of the country were distressed and distraught, the American people through the United States Agency for International Development/Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) initiated the provision of enormous help to Pakistan.

The Bahaal Project of RSPN is one of the many projects carried out by the Americans through USAID/OFDA funds for the flood affected people across the country. They registered her for support its program and gave her agricultural inputs for one acre of land. She says, *“I started cultivating my land and thanked Allah for sending this team to help me and my orphans.”*



*A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed
Hopeless failure may now turn to glorious success*

Though she got agricultural support for only one acre, and she is now cultivating other land on the same pattern as she used to do before the floods. On that one acre, for which she got Bahaal's support, she will be giving 50% share of the earning, instead of 75%, to the landlord. *“He can't claim for 75% because the Bahaal team provided me inputs and I do not need his 25% share in the investment.”*

Written by: Nageena Tareen

Project Monitoring Officer

USAID Bahaal Project

Data Collection by; Seema Social Mobilizer,
Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO)



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SUCCESSSTORY | Mohammad: The Unsung Fighter

BAHAAL PROJECT | Emergency Relief and Early Recovery for the Flood Affectees across Pakistan

“My rice crops had vanished. My house resembled an ancient tomb. My family had lived under the shade of a billion stars for a month and a half. My pockets were empty like a dried well.” These were the words of a more than determined Mohammad Nawaz, for who, like many others, life had taken an unthinkable turn. He is 50 and a farmer from Meher Buksh village in Garhi Dakho area of Khanpur tehsil located in the Shikarpur District. He is well past his prime in terms of physical work in the field and feeds a family of 6 with a wife and 4 children. The flood robbed him of almost everything he owned, but it failed when it came to taking away his unblemished smile.



**Mohammad, recapping events of his recent past and thanking
USAID for its help.**

“My family’s expenses solely depended on the crop yield. I had cultivated rice and was expecting a healthy yield when the word of the impending calamity reached our ears. My family was the only thing on my mind. I opted for safety first and without wasting any time headed for the refuge of Sukkur with my family. We lived there in a relief camp near the airport in tents. Each tent was shared either between 6 to 8 males or 2 to 3 women with their children. We were given food twice every day and to the credit of the workers at the relief camp it wasn’t bad at all. I was thankful that my children were getting at least

something. But to stay in tents miles away from home at someone else's mercy, after losing everything you once owned, makes your heart sink sometimes. At those moments, I thought about my children and that gave me strength and motivation. There, after spending almost 50 long and painful days, we headed back to what we once used to call our home. I wasn't very hopeful on my way back from Sukkur but on reaching Meher Buksh when I saw everything I once owned submerged under 10 feet of water, I realized the magnitude of my loss." narrated Mohammad with a wry smile.

He continued with a touch of resentment by telling me that he had invested up to Rs. 40,000 of loan money on these crops and that absolutely nothing remained of them. "At first, no one came to help us once we got back. I visited SRSO's office a couple of times asking for assistance because I had heard from many sources that they actually help. They told me that they were implementing a USAID funded Bahaal Project for flood victims and would visit our area very soon to assess the scale of the damage and address our problems. They stuck to their word. Within 3 days they came to our village and their personnel visited each family listening to their problems and demands. When they left, the whole village was brimming with anticipation.

"I knew that these people were our saviors. After one week, people from SRSO arrived with agriculture inputs which included DAP, fertilizer, wheat seeds and a cash transfer of Rs. 2000 for each family. It felt like being born again", said Mohammad, with eyes full of hope and morale.



He said that for those three days he was itching to get back to his feet and that USAID's immediate response motivated him even further. Bolstered by agricultural inputs given to him through Bahaal, he felt so inspired that he started work on his devastated land from the very next day. He applied all the agricultural materials given to him in his field, which covers an area of 10-12 acres, and estimated that he will benefit from a yield of around Rs 20,000 to Rs 25,000. He's grateful to USAID for placing his family on the route to self-sufficiency and enhancing his capacity in repaying his loans.

When told to him that this assistance was being financed by citizens of America through USAID, he couldn't stop thanking them. He, with a surprising but satisfied look, said "When Allah tests you, He doesn't forsake you. He examines your faith and can help you in ways you could never even think of. Providing us with help from thousands of miles away just shows that there are still good and generous people in this world and that they will help you even though they don't know you."

At the end, with a face beaming with contentment, he said, 'One day I will invite you and everyone else who helped me in getting back to my feet for a *dawat* (lavish lunch) at my place.'

Written by: Ali Anis Project Monitoring Officer - USAID Bahaal Project- RSPN



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SUCCESSSTORY | Putting together: Every brick and after. **BAHAAL PROJECT** | Emergency Relief and Early Recovery for the Flood Affectees across Pakistan

Living in the furthest village of Sindh is everything but a delight. Mirpur Buriro (District Shahdadkot) is one of the worst flood-hit communities which share a border with Balochistan. During the 2010 floods it was less than 10ft of ravaging water. Sanam and her husband Ramzan, parents to three children is one unyielding couple. “It was distressing to see everything we own drift away while we watched on; but even then we held onto hope”, says Sanam. The flood water took away their home and the memories associated with it. Because of the remote location of this village, most NGOs did not provide relief here. USAID funded Bahaal Project has carried out major relief work in this particular community.



Sanam with her two children at the site

By all means life has become indifferent toward this couple. Like most people in the village, Ramzan too is a farmer by profession. The family received agricultural inputs, animal feed supplement, a hygiene kit and now a one room transitional shelter. Due to Bahaal Project’s exceptional assessment criteria, this couple qualified for a one room transitional shelter. “We were able to recover some material from the debris; which we are using to build our new home. InshAllah the worst has come and gone and now we’ll be fine”, the couple says.

The leftover flood water became a breeding ground for mosquitoes and as a consequence, two out of her three children contracted malaria. Living in a make shift shelter for the past few months has been very arduous for them. Although it is a one room shelter, Sanam believes this will improve the basic hygienic conditions and instill a sense of security into her and her children.

Ahmed Zia Chaudhary (RSPN)



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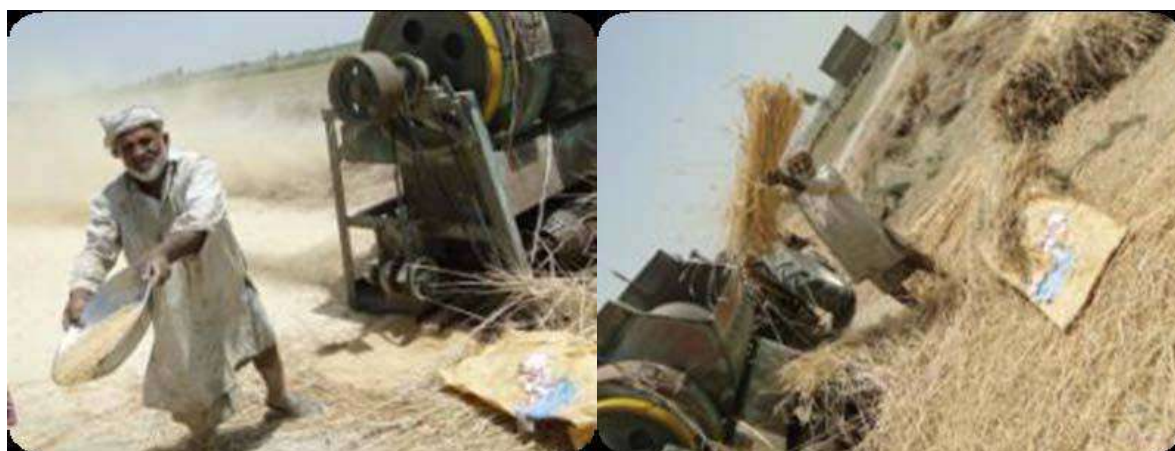


BAHAAL (Relief and Recovery) story

Mohammad Nawaz: The Harfan-Maula (Master of all trades) of Shikarpur

Bahaal Project | Emergency Relief And Early Recovery For The

Flood Affectees Across Pakistan If Abdul Sattar Edhi, the well-renowned Pakistani philanthropist, can be the face of hope, benevolence, resilience, determination, dedication and inspiration for Pakistan, then Mohammad Nawaz can certainly be the same figure for at least his village Garhi Dakho, if not more. On a cruel summer afternoon in Sindh, when temperatures regularly strike the 45 degrees Celsius mark, when sunflowers snub the sun and face away, when the birds simply refuse to litter the sky, the sight of a smiling white-bearded relatively diminutive man threshing his recently harvested wheat is one that can easily serve as a life-long motivation.



Nawaz: Threshing his yield

The floods came in July 2010; they brought with them unprecedented devastation and brought a populace of more than 20 million people already plagued by evils of load-shedding, corruption, inflation and the like, down to their very knees. With thousands of villages annihilated and their residents displaced, hundreds of thousands of livestock dead and thousands of acres of cultivable land rendered useless, the floods came with unimaginable audacity. The flood was like an Achillean menace that not many in the country had an answer for. It felt as if Mother Nature was unleashing its wrath that no one could escape from. But if it is Mother Nature than how cans it have such abomination for its own

creation? For me, or for any optimistic pragmatist, nature always has a good side to it. It can be acrimonious but not vengeful. It can be intimidating but not cunning. Although the alluvia on the face of it came only with one purpose, obliteration; but in actuality there is much more than what meets the eye. Where there are agrarian lands that have seen their demise, there are those that have reached levels of productivity never seen before; where there are millions displaced, there thousand of those who for first time in their life know how it feels to live in a brick house of their own; where thousands have suffered from unavailability of drinking water, there are thousands of those who previously used to walk for miles to fetch water and now have water right outside their doorstep.



Shikarpur: Village Garhi Dakho a couple of months after the July 2010 floods

There were not many who saw the glass half full except for the likes of individuals like Mohammad Nawaz who generally have a very optimistic view towards life. The vast majority of the populace felt it was on the receiving end of an astronomical catastrophe; a catastrophe they will never be able to recover from. But within a year since the floods accursed the breath-taking valleys, the lush green plains and the sand laded lands and ambulating through them now one can sense an aura of normalization. Lands that gave the look of boundary-less lakes are blossoming with record levels of agricultural produce; villages that were razed to the ground have strong houses standing on the same grounds; lives that seemed to be written off for all money, are once again back in the mix, fighting it out not only for their survival but a better life. Leading the resurgence are individuals like Mohammad Nawaz for whom the worst flood in the history of the country is not enough to rob his face of its smile. Mohammad Nawaz has been living in the village Garhi Dakho since his childhood and over the years has seen it evolve and progress. Albeit in the most modest of manners, progress, at best, occurred at a snail's pace. In relative terms, compared to the people of his village and the village itself, Naas's progress was swift and purposeful. Although he could not get any form of formal education, he through his sheer willingness and inclination towards learning was able to get hold of most of the trades that were being practiced in the area. His acuminous approach, his alacritous attitude and most importantly his wide childish smile even in the face of adversity have been the hallmarks of his life.

The purpose of USAID funded Bahaal project was to provide early relief and recovery to the people of the flood affected areas of Pakistan but in essence it is an avenue for finding people like Mohammad Nawaz who see life as much more than just a survival game; who not only themselves want to stand back on their own feet but also help others in doing that. All they require sometimes is a little impetus to get started, and for him like many others the source was a likely one; the USAID funded Bahaal Project. However, reviving hundreds of thousands of lives through the Bahaal Project would not have been possible without the contribution of selfless altruism of personalities like Nawaz. Mohammad Nawaz, in his early 50's seems to be a man possessed. His villagers call him the man with the golden arm. His children think he is the best father on show and his wife rates him above all others. He is strong at heart, versatile at mind, humble in character and a gem to look at when he is smiling. He is the undisputed Haran Maule of his village and even acclaimed in the nearby villages of Shikarpur. From sloughing to seeding, from harvesting to threshing, from driving to masonry, from business to philanthropy, from making people smile to winning their hearts, Mohammad Nawaz is capable of accomplishing every feat. He is the village's man of the moment, the distant past and the near future. The part that is the most astonishing of all is not that he can and has done all of this, but it's the easiness with which he can carry out all of these tasks. You see him performing any of the aforementioned deeds and you'll never feel that he is trying. His adroitness at these tasks is as natural as a swimmer's ability to swim or a carpenter's ability to carve. For me, the biggest reason behind this is the fact that he is a gem at heart. Always willing to learn, always willing to improve, always willing to help and always willing to serve; these are the attributes of a person one looks up to in times of need and this is exactly why the people of Village Garhi Dakho think so highly of him. Mohammad was an agri-input beneficiary of the Bahaal Project and has also been given a transitional shelter based on his family's dire needs. In a case study I wrote about him earlier I mentioned in detail the hardships he and his family had to face because of the devastating floods, and how they coped with them. Also I mentioned the intervention made by the Bahaal project in his life and how was it able to cater to his immediate needs, at a time when all seemed lost.



Now almost a year has passed since the floods ravaged Mohammad's village of Garhi Dakho and the outlook of the village is one that has never been witnessed in the area before. It feels the village and its people have turned a corner. The worst has passed and future has better things in store for the villagers.

This time when I entered the village on May the 3rd 2011, I was welcomed with an air of expectation. On the outskirts of the village there was acreage of productive agricultural land that where wheat had recently been harvested and was waiting to be prepared again. There were stacks of wheat produce piled up anticipating to be threshed. There was dust all around caused by a mechanical thresher that was roaring like a wild beast. As I made my way through the heaps of stacked up wheat, I was greeted by even a better sight. Tens of Bahaal brick houses were under construction with some of them close to their completion, giving the whole village a distinctly developed look. Not any new person visiting this village could make out the fact that it was obliterated by floods 10 months back. Bricks for the shelters were being manufactured within the village using the water from the hand pumps installed in different locations in the village.

Witnessing all this activity with my own eyes made me realize what wonders a steely resolve and support can do to a battered populace.



Wheat stacked up about to be threshed

Threshing in progress



Nawaz standing in his field after harvestation



Garhi Dakho after Bahaal intervention

Garhi Dakho: Bahaal hand pump

All of these, from the wheat seed to fertilizers, from hand pumps to shelters, were provided to the village by the USAID Bahaal project. This was exactly the kind of support the village needed to see light at the end of the tunnel again. However, there was one more factor that was instrumental in the revival of this village and it undoubtedly was Nawaz. Since the start of this project he was in the thick of things. He not only prepared and cultivated his own lands with the USAID Bahaal provided agricultural inputs but also assisted the villagers in this regard. Then during the harvesting and threshing phase he was again the prime suspect in the assistance provision department. Furthermore, when the same village was assessed for the provision of transitional shelters his masonry and construction experience came to the benefit of the entire village. Because of his experience the village had to pay minimum bills for skilled and unskilled labor that minimized the beneficiaries' own contribution reducing their burden considerably.

And this was not all. He installed all the hand pumps in the village and constructed their platforms which also reduced the load on the pockets of the villagers to a minimum.



Nawaz standing on the right next to the hand pump he installed in Garhi Dakho

As far as his own life is concerned, Nawaz is delighted with the kind of assistance he has been provided with by USAID and is grateful for how it has helped his family in getting back on the road that leads to a better life. His crop yield is substantial this time around thanks to the timely intervention of USAID Bahaal project and the increased fertility of his land due to the floods. He said that he will use the profit from this yield to buy seeds and for paying expenses of land preparation machinery. He is ecstatic with the transitional shelter that has been given to him and wishes to improve it with time. With a glance towards the heavens and a huge million dollar smile he said that one day with Allah's help he will make this shelter into a proper house where each of his kids will have a separate room for themselves. He further said that the worst is over and he is not one of those who dwell in the past. He feels like he has begun a new life and this support from USAID will take him, his family and his village a long way. Without USAID's timely support things could have been very different. Therefore, as they say that you cannot clap with one hand, and it takes two to reach the desired result. In the same vein the effort of either only the USAID Bahaal team, or Nawaz on his own would most likely not had been enough to deal with the disaster. It is about finding the winning combination to accomplish any feat and in case of the revival of Village Garhi Dakho that combination was found in strong cooperation of USAID and Nawaz.

M Ali Anis, PMO, Bahaal | Nasarullah, DPO, SRSO, Shikarpur

