

Chapter 4



Insight



CHAPTER 4

INSIGHT

1. Rebuilding Lives An Insight into the Reconstruction Process

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Asian Development Bank, Pakistan Resident Mission

**Down the Memory Lane**

I distinctly remember my first meeting on the earthquake emergency in the second week of October 2008 immediately after the earthquake. As one can imagine, things were extremely chaotic then, but what has been more memorable is the

leadership ERRA has demonstrated bringing order to that chaos. The post earthquake coordination and management was by far one of the biggest collective efforts that I witnessed in my long career in development. It has been an uphill task ever since. With clear objectives, the Government of Pakistan, together with the International Community and Civil Society, set forth to achieve the Herculean Task to succeed in the massive recovery efforts.

Nearly three years down the lane, we can look back with pride and satisfaction on a job well done. However, we must also remember that this is not the time to bask in the glorious effort, not yet! The momentum that has been built over the years needs to continue the race to "Build Back - Better" in improving the lives of the earthquake affectees must go on.

ERRA has been the Executing and Implementing Agency for the entire ADB portfolio. As part of the overall commitment of US\$1 billion to the Government of Pakistan for reconstruction and rehabilitation, the ADB approved over US\$820 million in loan and grants in the Power, Health, Education, Transport, Housing and Social Protection Sectors in NWFP and State of **Azad Jammu and Kashmir**. This does not include the additional \$100 million grants leveraged by ADB through co-financing partners including Australia, Belgium, the European Union, Finland and Norway. More than \$400 million have already been disbursed out of these committed funds, and the majority of remaining ADB funds would have been consumed by June 2009

this in itself is the testimony to ERRA's performance and commitment of its management to earthquake reconstruction effort.

ERRA's success, I believe, lay in a number of factors including unflinching support of its partners, commitment of its management and staff, its ability to learn and adapt, and its relentless team effort to overcome difficult challenges.

Rising from the Rubble

The earthquake that obliterated villages in the lower western ridges of the Himalayas and many other areas across Kashmir and in parts of the North West Frontier Province, was one of the most debilitating natural disasters to ever strike South Asia.

More than 75,000 people perished and about 3.5 million were left homeless in the mountainous terrain spanning 30,000 square kilometers. Given the scale of the disaster and with a brutal Himalayan winter fast approaching, the Government of Pakistan appealed for immediate help in a bid to avert even more loss of life.

Swift Support

Responding to the challenge, ADB pledged \$1 billion for reconstruction and rehabilitation- mainly in the Power, Health, Education, Transport, Housing, and Social Protection Sectors. To date, ADB has committed about \$734 million in ADF loans and \$82 million in grants, while leveraging another \$102 million in the form of bilateral grant funds for the ADB managed Pakistan Earthquake Fund and through co-financing.

ADB swiftly mobilized support, assembling a dedicated team which has since been working with the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) and counterpart regional and provincial bodies to assess the extent of damage, identify priority areas, and to channel funds for the rehabilitation process. The main thrust of assistance was to provide immediate budgetary support to meet financial requirements in priority areas. ADB has also set up a satellite office in Muzaffarabad AJK to ensure effective project implementation.

Rebuilding more than half a million destroyed or badly damaged rural houses is one of the most critical jobs, and

with support from the Government, development partners, and the local communities, more than 400,000 rural grant beneficiaries have undertaken the arduous task.

Rebuilding Lives

One key to the success of this rebuilding programme has been the amount of PKR 150, 000 (about \$2,400) given in three equal installments to each beneficiary.

The decision to let people take charge and build their own houses has paid off. The housing reconstruction grant from the Government of Pakistan, a programme partly funded by ADB in \$416 million, has helped people rebuild their houses based on their own needs, using the choice of designs approved by ERRA. Moreover, technical help by ADB and other donors has also been given to ensure that new homes meet seismic resistance standards, making them safer in the event of another quake.

Despite these efforts, there still is a long way to go, with many affected families continuing to live in temporary shelters as they struggle to cope with the high cost of labour and building materials, partly driven by the reconstruction boom itself.

Roads to Recovery

Shattered roads have also made the reconstruction process a difficult task. About 6,400 kilometers of paved and unpaved roads in nine districts were damaged in the fury of landslides that followed the earthquake.

ADB has set aside \$163.5 million for rebuilding around 900 km of roads. To date, work has begun on 594 km of roads, with 64 road restoration contracts worth \$59 million awarded.

Into the Light

The earthquake also knocked out power, exacerbating the misery of the survivors and making the reconstruction task even tougher.

The entire electricity system feeding the nine affected districts was disrupted; it was a major challenge to restore electricity. It was achieved within days after the earthquake, with support extended by ADB.

ADB is the sole funding partner for rehabilitating the power sector, with local electricity supply companies acting as the implementing agencies tasked with ensuring that free electricity is supplied to tent villages and field hospitals. To date, around \$22 million worth of contracts for equipment and civil works have been awarded and the majority of hydro-power stations have

now been rebuilt. The civil works related to rehabilitation of grid stations, office and residential buildings will be completed by the end of June 2009.

Rehabilitation work is also being carried out in the education and health sectors. ADB is investing \$110 million to reconstruct 451 primary and middle schools using a state-of-the-art light steel-frame structure that is seismic resistant. Out of 293 middle schools which are being reconstructed in AJK, construction work in 256 middle schools is underway and will be completed by February 2009. The construction work in the remaining 121 Primary, Middle and High Schools in District Shangla and Battagram, NWFP is likely to start soon with an expected completion date with 14 months.

ADB is providing another \$33.2 million to restore healthcare infrastructure, where construction work in District Head Quarter Atthmuqam, Tehsil Head Quarter Hattianbala and Hajira and 10 Basic Health Units (BHUs) is underway and is expected to complete in the middle of 2009. The civil works in the remaining 16 BHUs and one Rural Health Centre is expected to commence very soon.

To complement these efforts, ADB is also supporting the restoration of government institutions, such as the judiciary and the police, and others that provide special assistance to the earthquake victims. In this context eighteen Legal Aid Centres have been established in all the earthquake affected tehsils of AJK and NWFP. These centers are providing free legal aid to the vulnerable people. In addition, the recently completed Targeted Vulnerability Survey has been another major achievement financed by ADB.

The momentum that has been built over the years needs to be sustained. Existing implementation capacities still require support for the management of awarded contracts and a smooth transfer of completed facilities and their operations has to be ensured. ERRA's experience has to be mainstreamed through integrating disaster risk management in the regular development planning process.

While much remains to be done even three years after the disaster, a semblance of normalcy has returned to the area. With homes rebuilt, water and electricity systems restored, schools and hospitals being reconstructed, and economic activity starting to revive, the earthquake affectees across Kashmir and northern Pakistan can now look forward to a better future.

2. The Strategic Role of Communications in Natural Disasters

Vandana Mehra, Regional Communication Specialist, World Bank

Communication is an absolutely vital element of any relief effort. Natural disasters—floods, earthquakes, hurricanes—wreck the worst kind of damage. They disrupt lives and leave death and destruction in their wake. Survivors face hunger, displacement, disease, anger, and anguish of uncertainty. Those watching the anguish caused by these disasters feel helpless at the enormity of nature's havoc and its destruction.

Communication and information dissemination are integral to the harmonious implementation of any hazard risk management or recovery and reconstruction program. The world's best planned policy initiatives, innovative financial assistance programs, and technical knowhow will not be effective without a planned system to convey their content swiftly to the public, to hear of and assess their suitability and sustainability within communities, and to make appropriate adjustments based on community feedback. There is thus a place and need to devise a communication strategy to support efforts at risk mitigation, reconstruction and ensure effective dialogue between the government, the public and other partners.

Far too often we have seen that the life-saving "information and communication" aspect is neglected as seemingly there are other immediate needs. From the risk management to the emergency stage to reconstruction, strategic communication plays three vital functions:

- ? Helps mobilize beneficiaries,
- ? Helps reduce risks of failure and
- ? Strategic communication helps build consensus and makes implementation smooth.

Examples from across the world prove that a well thought-out and ably implemented communication strategy mobilizes and ensures the goodwill and cooperation of stakeholders. It can pre-empt a crisis, and help deflect it in a timely manner. A communication strategy that links culturally appropriate instructional materials for vulnerable groups, along with public awareness and general disaster preparedness, has the most chance of being successful. Strategies should include general public education efforts along with specific instructional packages that build on the indigenous knowledge and methods already in use by target groups. The general public doesn't understand technology or manuals prepared by experts: what its needs is a simple translation of the information in a

manner that they can understand. Incorrect, hasty messaging or transmission of communication that is based on no research whatsoever can do harm that is beyond repair.

It must be recognized that local media plays a critical role. Radio in particular is a very accessible medium for poor people—especially women and children in their homes, and also when the land area to be covered is either large or difficult terrain. Apart from radio's uses to supply information after sudden onset disasters, skillfully produced radio programs can be used to help reduce ongoing disaster risks.

In the case of Pakistan, various agencies have recognized radio as a tool of survival and recovery. Reports indicate that a few weeks after the quake, 28 percent said radio was one of their primary sources of information. In late February 2006, the percentage had gone up to 70 percent.

It is equally important to look at the function of communications holistically and recognize that managing the media or a sole focus on it is not enough. The authorities in place have to be prepared to possibly launch a public awareness and information campaign; create targeted messaging and materials for special groups; manage its public image nationally and internationally; implement an easy to use website that is always updated; brace itself for the allegations of poor performance, delays etc, and most importantly pay adequate attention to internal communications.

Equally important are the creation of forums where independent and balanced analysis by opinion leaders, researchers and development professionals involved in disaster risk management or reconstruction in similar situations are given their due right. Such forums provide objective viewpoints and are critical elements in public debates.

Hope, confidence, trust, a sense of involvement, and coordination begin with planned communication. In fact it has been said that information is a vital form of aid in itself: people affected by disaster need information as much as food or shelter. Timely and relevant information saves lives, livelihoods and resources. Very often it may be the only form of preparedness the most vulnerable can afford.

consisted of *Health, Education, Social Protection of Vulnerable Population and Water and Sanitation* and finally *Roads Infrastructure, Telecommunications, Government Sector Buildings, Power and Tourism*. ERRA's experience shows that it is beneficial to undertake reconstruction effort following three tracked approach that of "GOP Funded", "Donor Funded" and "Sponsor Funded", wherein the design approval and monitoring is retained at ERRA level and physical implementation to include designing, consultancy and contractor selection and construction is left to either of the three. This helped in "timely completion of projects".

Owner Driven and Community Owned Approach is a Preferred Option

The world over, disaster management has seen three different models being adopted. Firstly, a "Government Driven" approach, where the government provides every thing from financing to physical construction and rehabilitation. Secondly, a "Donor Driven" approach, wherein, the different donors undertake reconstruction and rehabilitation with the help of IOs, INGOs and NGOs through directly funding them. Whereas, in case of Pakistan, an "Owner Driven" Approach was adopted, wherein the government provided the financial subsidy, training and design options to the beneficiaries and left physical construction to the house owners. This greatly helped the owners in making customized houses in accordance with their own needs, ensures quality, enhances local skills development and speedy construction. A comparison of the progress achieved between a Donor / Government Driven Approach, vis a vis an Owner Driven Approach clearly favours the Owners Driven Approach. Likewise, ERRA also involved the communities in all construction activities be it WatSan Schemes, Health or Education Infrastructure or Livelihood Programmes (Skill Development, Communities Livelihood Rehabilitation Plans (CLRPs) and Micro Credit Facilities). Involvement of communities helps evolve people- centered solutions, greater acceptability of programmes, keeps the communities involved and ensures quality and speed of reconstruction.

Software Interventions are Equally Important

In the process, we must never lose sight of the ultimate aim of the entire effort, which is to improve service delivery. Brick and mortar buildings are therefore not enough, software interventions must be undertaken in all social sectors including Education, Health, Water and Sanitation and Social Protection of Vulnerable Population with a view to providing quality human

resource, through training them to run the newly constructed facilities efficiently and effectively. For example, providing psychosocial support to handle Post Trauma Syndrome victims, through dedicated programmes like providing children and women friendly spaces and Skill Development Centres were found to be extremely helpful.

Risk Reduction, Gender Balance and Environmental Safeguards be Mainstreamed

A careful analysis of the disaster revealed that a lot of damage to property and loss to lives could have been avoided, if disaster risk reduction and environmental considerations were mainstreamed to ensure sustainable development. In order to ensure that all physical structures are seismically resistant and societies are trained to be disaster resilient, this is the right moment to mainstream these issues now. It would include risk mapping, resource mapping, capacity building, training of communities, school safety programmes, creation of relief store ware houses at appropriate locations and appropriate building codes. Likewise, for every major project it will be beneficial to carryout Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) or the Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE) prior to undertaking the project to avoid environmental degradation. Since in Pakistan, 50 percent of the population consists of the women and girls, it would be extremely important that all benefits of reconstruction accrue equally to both men and women, be it safeguarding their rights like housing and livelihood cash grants, ensuring equal opportunities like skill development and availability of micro credit grants or empowering them to be part of the decision making process as in village Reconstruction Committees. All these steps will ensure long term sustainability of the projects and programmes.

Donors be Encouraged to Provide Budgetary Support

IFI's are the repository of world experience leading to value addition, therefore, their assistance in terms of knowledge transfer, experience sharing, technical expertise and provision of funds / resources is greatly appreciated. Donors provide assistance either by undertaking projects by themselves (USAID, CIDA, JICA) or through NGO's or budgetary support directly into the Government exchequer. ERRA's experience shows that direct utilization by donors or spending through NGOs adds substantially to the overhead costs, thus reducing the fiscal space for actual spending on the projects. The Government does not have full knowledge of the amount that has been spent, which has been

pledged / committed in its name. Moreover, in case of budgetary support only one procurement procedure will be followed instead of different procurement procedures for different donors, making it extremely difficult for the finance and procurement managers to keep track of financial commitments and spending. It should therefore be proposed to all the donors to provide budgetary support directly to the concerned Government.

Alternative Fast Construction Technologies be Encouraged Right from the Outset

For speedy reconstruction phase, it is essential to start evaluating fast construction technologies right from the beginning. Though this will take its gestation time for the local industry to absorb, but once fully assimilated and human resource trained, this will drastically cut the overall reconstruction time.

Decentralized Grievance Redressal System

In the disaster areas, people do not have access to the legal departments/ courts, and likewise the courts do not have the capacity to entertain such huge number of cases. ERRA therefore developed a very localized and decentralized grievance redressal system for quick dispensation of justice to the affected population by involving the representatives of District Administration, Principal of local Educational Institution and the Army Unit deployed in that area. It helped ERRA in resolving over 1, 20,000 grievance cases and bringing them into the beneficiary net.

A Well Thought Out Pro Active Communication Strategy

It is essential to evolve a well thought out pro- active communication strategy right from the outset involving all stakeholders to avoid misperceptions and unduly raising peoples' expectations. This can be done through information campaign using print and electronic media, regular briefings to all stake holders including media and by arranging visits of the management of the focal agency as well as International / National Media and representatives of donor organisations / countries to the affected areas.

Don't Shy off from taking new Initiatives

Whereas a particular school of thought may consider it to be a "Mission Creep", all opportunities to add value to the reconstruction and rehabilitation must be seized. ERRA undertook lot of initiatives and introduced new concepts as trend setters for the overall benefit of the affected communities. These include Rain Water Harvesting, Knowledge Management, Disaster Risk

Reduction, Targeted Vulnerability Survey, Establishment of Legal Aid Centers to help specially the vulnerable population, Rural Landless Programme, Full Spectrum Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, Establishment of Social Welfare Complexes and Women Development Centres and Construction of District Government Complexes.

Early Recovery and Reconstruction Effort to be Planned Simultaneously

Whereas the reconstruction is a long term process and may take 35 years, early recovery provides for an interim solution in the mid term spanning over six to eighteen months. Since both these programmes are being run concurrently, therefore, there is every possibility of duplication and confusion with regard to site selection of early recovery structures. It is of utmost importance to have very close coordination in planning and execution of early recovery as well as the reconstruction effort. It ensures seamless transition from early recovery to reconstruction, compliments the reconstruction effort and ensures that resources are optimally utilized by making early recovery structures where ever it is necessary e.g. the school or hospitals which are constructed in the last year of the reconstruction plan may have an early recovery structure but the schools or hospitals which are being reconstructed in first year may not require a proper early recovery structure.

Undue Political Influence Needs to be Checked

During the process of reconstruction and rehabilitation, it was observed that the political influence often undermines equitable distribution of resources in a transparent and principled manner. In order to check misuse of political clout, especially by the vested political interest, it will be better that based on the damage and need assessment, the entire reconstruction plan is conceived in the beginning as one entity, resources allocated on yearly basis and approval of the highest authority obtained as in this case, the ERRA Council and finally a Strategy Document printed. This document should then become a sacrosanct document which can not be modified / altered without prior clearance of the ERRA Council itself. It guards against any undue political interference. The principle of prioritizing the projects and schemes should be based on the accessibility of the area, the number of beneficiary population, hazard-free sites and equitable allocation of resources to all affected districts.

Data Collection Methodology

Lot of data is required to undertake reconstruction and

rehabilitation effort in an objective manner. In case of ERRA, data forms were required to be filled by the affected population for four major projects i.e. Housing Cash Grant, Livelihood Cash Grants, Landless People and for Targeted Vulnerability Survey. This turns out to be a massive exercise involving time, effort, finances, equipment and manpower resources. It would have been better to have deliberated all the conceivable data requirements right at the outset and incorporated in one form, in order to reduce the workload and effect cost savings as well as save the population from going through this exercise a number of times. It was found that collecting data time and again raises people's expectations, wherein, they think that getting registered would accrue to them some additional monetary benefits.

Conclusion

These lessons are by no means the last word and as ERRA proceeds with its task, few more will be learnt. They however provide a starting point for any organisation to kick start the process. These have been distilled through a very exhaustive, deliberate and intensive experience of over two years and should be able to prove its efficacy in handling major disasters.

4. Revitalizing, Innovating, Strengthening Education (RISE) Enhances the “Soft” Side of Education in Earthquake-Affected Areas

*Babar A Mufti, Program Support Specialist
Revitalizing, Innovating, Strengthening Education (RISE)*



“I used to just check school records on a visit; now I provide supportive feedback and feel more satisfied with my job,” says Raja Muhammad Riaz Khan, Deputy District Education Officer, Bagh. A four-year USAID-funded project Revitalizing, Innovating, Strengthening Education

(RISE) takes pride in being an instrument for such behavioral changes in the lives of teachers, education officials, and community members.

RISE is working to improve the quality of classroom instruction and student learning in four districts two of which were added recently of the earthquake-affected areas of North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K). It is an integrated programme working with teachers, education departments, and communities to build back better system, in which teachers have the necessary skills to improve instruction, communities are mobilized to act and advocate for their children, and education departments are able to acquire and distribute resources more effectively and fairly to ensure that more children are learning more.

To “Build Back Better” and to achieve life-of-project results, RISE has divided its activities into three components which include improvement in:

- ? Financial and Human Resource Management in District Education Offices
- ? Teacher Performance in the Classroom
- ? Community Participation in Education.

As a part of its work with district education officials, RISE has embedded two project staff in each district office to support basic activities and provide on-the-job training. These staff has increased government capacity at the district level to implement and sustain their management systems. One staff member is focusing on increased capacity to plan, budget, and monitor progress effectively using the required Education Management Information System (EMIS); the second staff member is

working directly with district officials on all the content areas of their jobs.

For the capacity building of education officials, RISE is organizing coherent and integrated workshops on school supervision and instructional support, financial management, planning and development, monitoring and supervision, oversight of SMCs/PTCs, and educational leadership and personal efficacy. Continuous feedback and follow-up support on the introduced concepts along with organisation of district “Steering Committees” is resulting in an increase in the skills and commitments of education managers to cope with the post-earthquake challenges in education.



Behavioral change in education officials is quite visible. Ghulam Abassi, an Assistant Education Officer in the Bagh District of AJ&K, recounts how he has learned that his job is not only to point out teachers' deficiencies and give them strict directions but also about how they can teach more effectively. He says, “Now I realize that it is my responsibility to facilitate my school teachers to improve their teaching as well as the learning of students. If my teachers are not teaching well, I am responsible.”

In the second component of its activities, RISE is training teachers in English, Mathematics, and Science and in the use of child-centered teaching methodologies. Traditionally, teachers have used didactic approaches that have little connection to students' lives and then tested students on their memorization of facts (not on higher level thinking skills). Their pre-service teacher training did not include much input on alternative

teaching strategies, meeting the needs of individual students, multi-grade teaching techniques, or continuous assessment.

To improve teachers' skills, RISE has prepared training materials for primary and middle school teachers with authors from government training departments, colleges and universities, and teachers in schools. The Prime Minister of AJ&K, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, has appreciated RISE training material and issued a directive for all NGOs and international organisations to use them for teacher training. In the summer of 2008, RISE will pilot test its training material for high school teachers, covering English Conversation, English Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology.

As of March 2008, RISE has involved 1622 teachers in its initial 12-day training programme. Small clusters of 8 to 12 of these teachers then meet once a month throughout the school year, and in the next long vacation come together for a 6-day training. Referring to the initial workshop, a teacher of Government Girls' High School Sudhen Gali said, "I am thankful to RISE for



giving us an interactive platform rarely found in our situation." Another teacher reported that training made her life easy and the challenge of multi-grade teaching less daunting. She said, "Back then, students used to flock around me, expecting me to be attentive to all of them at the same time. Now they have learned that they can do a lot by just helping each other out." Yet another teacher felt a growing sense of satisfaction in teaching. One primary teacher from Balakot told RISE staff, "I feel great satisfaction when I teach through active-learning techniques."

For these efforts to make lasting changes, it is also important that the community support its local schools and stand behind the idea of educating children through active learning. School Management Committees (SMCs) in AJ&K and Parent-Teacher Councils (PTCs)

in NWFP are given strong roles in Ministry of Education regulations but have not in the past performed in meaningful ways. RISE is forming or reviving these groups. In the short term, RISE facilitates the establishment of SMCs/PTCs, encourages active SMC/PTC participation through capacity-building opportunities, helps SMCs/PTCs to define School Improvement Plans (SIPs), and provides financial incentives with small grants to allow SMCs/PTCs to implement at least a part of their SIPs.

Through training and sensitization efforts, RISE continues to encourage a psychological shift among education officials, teachers, and community members to better understand the important support SMCs/PTCs and families can provide to improve education. After their training with RISE, SMCs/PTCs have taken a wide range of initiatives. The SMC of Government Girls' High School, Sudhen Gali, for example, established a Science Laboratory by raising Rs 75,000, while the PTC of Government Girls' Higher Secondary School Balakot rebuilt the fallen boundary wall of the school.

All the three components of RISE collaborate to substantially improve classroom practices. One cross-cutting activity, for example, has focused on lowering teacher absenteeism, which runs from 20 to 25 percent on any given day in these districts. Education Managers, teachers, and community members have taken steps to ensure a teacher's presence in each classroom: education officials have stopped the pay of absent teachers; community volunteers have taken the place of absent teachers; and RISE is providing transport for about 60 teachers from home to school and back again. In addition, the project is building two temporary hostels on school property where teachers can stay overnight. In a similar move, the PTC of Government Girls' Primary School Panjool of Siren Valley took it upon them to arrange accommodation for teachers near their school to save them a three-hour commute each way. One teacher said, "I am so happy. It takes only a minute now to walk to school."

In all RISE activities, gender-responsiveness has been a cross-cutting theme. The project has a significant group of female staff and ensures that all activities promote the participation of women and girls. All activities are also planned and implemented with consideration for local cultural norms. For example, where requested, teacher and community trainings are done separately for men and for women; with female trainers facilitating activities for women.

5. Saudi Response to Earthquake

*Dr. Khalid M. Al-Othmani, Regional Director
Saudi Public Assistance for Pakistan Earthquake Victims (SPAPEV)*



Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have a long history of friendship and brotherhood. Saudi Arabia is one of the largest contributors to the earthquake relief and reconstruction efforts. The Saudi King as well as the people made a big contribution to help earthquake victims. Saudi Arabia

was major donor country that donated millions of dollars in the form of relief aid to GOP. The Saudi government's commitment is obvious from the fact that they have institutionalized this assistance in the form of an organisation, Saudi Public Assistance for Pakistan Earthquake Victims (SPAPEV).

Saudi Arabia established this relief organisation on emergency basis under the directives of King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, the custodian of two holly mosques. SPAPEV is supervised by Prince Naif bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, the Interior Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and with full guidance of Dr. Saed Al-Harithy, the advisor to Interior Minister who is also the Chairman of SPAPEV.

Balakot Housing Project

On behalf of SPAPEV, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Ali Awadh Asseri announced the Prefabricated Housing Project in the presence of national and international media. A contract was signed whereby SPAPEV would provide 4,000 transitional houses to the people of Balakot while the New Balakot town is developed.

On July 7, 2008 four thousand pre-fabricated houses worth \$ 18.5 millions were handed over to government of NWFP. In addition, H.E Ali Awadh Asseri (Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan) Abdullah M. Al-Angari (Regional Director SPAPEV) handed / provided the project shield of 4,000 prefabricated houses to Governor NWFP and a model of house to Deputy Chairman ERRA. At this occasion, shields and certificates were awarded among government official (including ERRA) for their excellent support to the organisation and project.

SPAPEV Relief and Distribution Department has a special office in Balakot that facilitates the handing over of reconstructed houses to the victims after completion of all necessary documents. The project is inspected/monitored from time to time by SPAPEV and ERRA officials including Deputy Regional Director SPAPEV Dr. Khalid M. Al. Othmani and ERRADG Housing.

In addition, a relief package of SR 64.661 million comprising various items was distributed among the victims. The detail of the items is given below in the table:

Table 25: SPAPEV Implementation Projects

Ser	Projects	Amount (SR)
1.	Winterization Phelter	61870474
2.	Tents	
3.	Food Packs	
4.	Quilts	
5.	Blankets	
6.	Stoves	
7.	Flour Bags through WFP	
8.	Schools Gifts Packs	
9.	Others	
10.	Social Aid	

A further investment of Saudi Riyal 106.10 million is being carried out for the construction of different projects and detail of all is as under:

Table 26: Ongoing Projects

Ser	Name of Project and Location	Cost (SR) Million
1.	Construction of 300 Pre-Fabricated Houses in AJK	57.4
2.	Construction of several Govt Secondary Schools	16.8
3.	Construction of Mosques at different EQAAs	24.4
4.	Construction of Five Basic Health Units	7.5

ERRA's Support to SPAPEV

SPAPEV is grateful to ERRA for excellent support and co-operation to the organisation in its endeavor to improve lives of the affected people. ERRA has greatly supported our organisation (SPAPEV) in the relief and

rehabilitation work being carried in the most difficult areas of AJK and NWFP by providing logistics; dropping food materials for the people living over the mountainous areas through Army helicopters; and, landing facilities to the nearest spots of the quake hit areas. ERRAs logistic support included the transportation and distribution of relief equipment like food, plastic, medicines, blankets, quilt etc., airlifted to some of the most difficult and inaccessible locations.

Commitments and dedication of ERRAs team would also boost the morale of all engaged in relief efforts. ERRAs aviation teams would quickly transport and distribute the relief goods from SPAPEV to the affected areas.

We would like to mention ERRAs former Deputy Chairman, Lt. General Nadeem's personal efforts and interest for SPAPEV to plan and complete the pre-fabricated housing project in Balakot (Red Zone Area) for displaced families.

SPAPEV team led by Dr. Khalid M. Othmani, the Deputy Regional Director of SPADEV can not forget the personal efforts and never ending support of the Deputy Chairman ERRAs who always stood for extending support and help for our ongoing projects and teams. ERRAs professionals have been very helpful in providing their expertise for this 4,000 pre-fabricated Housing Project worth \$ 18.5 million.

ERRAs cooperation and coordination with SPAPEV teams spans over two years since the Earthquake of 8th Oct, 2005 hit the country and this relationship is gaining momentum day- by- day. ERRAs commitment in settling homeless people and rebuilding the infrastructure of AJK and NWFP shows high moral and courage of its team which has set an example and gives courage to other organisations to come forward and join hands in completing the remaining projects for the quake ravaged people of Pakistan.

At the end, we hope and pray that the love and care extended by ERRAs for the humanity, particularly, for addressing the aftermaths of such an adversity and its projects, and programmes for Building Back Better would continue till the reconstruction and rehabilitation process reaches its logical conclusion.

6. Rawan Dawan Hai Zindagi: a Partnership of UNDP and Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority

*Shaista Hussain, Programme Officer
United Nations Development Programme*



It has been almost three years that Pakistan was struck by the 'most devastating earthquake in its history', that caused unprecedented damage to the lives of the people and their livelihood. The 8th October 2005 has justifiably been described as the 'most debilitating natural disaster' the country has known. The UN, international humanitarian organisations, and local NGOs in collaboration with the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) offered assistance to three million people. The response has been termed as 'the most effective response ever to a natural disaster of this magnitude.'

ERRA was formed shortly afterwards with a mandate to plan, coordinate, monitor and regulate reconstruction and rehabilitation activities in earthquake affected areas. UNDP's relationship with ERRA goes to the early days of its establishment and has since then continued to prosper. The Technical Assistance for Management of Earthquake Early Recovery (TAMEER) was launched within two months of ERRAs creation. It helped develop the institutional and programmatic capability of ERRA to enable a timely delivery. The staff provided by UNDP became the key drivers of the organisation.

TAMEER Project, to date, has given substantial input in strengthening the institutional and programmatic capacities of ERRA. The project started in December 2005 to provide technical assistance to ERRAs for the purpose of managing rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. The technical assistance in the shape of specialized human resources and equipment not only supported ERRAs in dealing with the new institutional challenges effectively but also proved to be a significant source of capacity building for its provincial and district level counterparts (PERRA/SERRA and DRUs). The support encompasses the areas of Planning, Education, Social Protection, Environment, Gender Mainstreaming, Donor/NGO/INGO Coordination, and Communication, Administration and Disaster Risk Reduction. Special

See: [http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2008.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/AMME-7C7DHP-full_report.pdf/\\$File/full_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2008.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/AMME-7C7DHP-full_report.pdf/$File/full_report.pdf)
Wilder, Andrew, February 2008. 'Perceptions of the Pakistan Earthquake Response'.
The Feinstein International Center: Tufts University.

attention has been given to building ERRAs disaster risk management capabilities for which additional funds have recently been added to the already existing budget of US\$4.8 million.

The original range of professional staff included national, provincial and district level professionals from fields of Planning, Social Protection, Environmental Management, Gender Mainstreaming, IT, Media Communication, Disaster Risk Management and Donor/NGO coordination. In order to respond to the emerging needs of ERRAs and its counterparts, the year 2008 saw the inclusion of professionals in the areas of Water and Sanitation, Education as well as an enhanced capacity in the Social Protection and Disaster Risk Management sectors. In addition to these, specialized consultants are also engaged on short term basis for conducting studies etc. In terms of equipment, 16 vehicles, 11 VSATs, 5 Cogims, 79 computers including 19 laptops and 60 desktops, printers, photocopiers, 22 telephone sets, among other IT equipment and furniture have been provided to ERRAs and its counterparts. These have contributed towards the operationalisation of the beneficiary institutions and progress on various sectoral and thematic strategies at all levels.

A DRR training workshop was held on 29th March 2007 in Islamabad for the staff of ERRAs, PERRA, SERRA and DRUs. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the institutional capacity at ERRAs, PERRA, SERRA and the DRUs to incorporate disaster risk reduction strategies into the recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation and developmental activities in the earthquake affected districts of AJK and NWFP. The workshop focused on the origin, concept and processes of Disaster Risk Reduction as well as Hazard Risk Reduction Strategies for AJK/NWFP. Regional Perspectives in Disaster Risk Reduction were also presented by International Experts.

An International Conference on Earthquake Risk Management (ICERM) was organized from 28th-30th April, 2007 by ERRAs with the assistance of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN HABITAT), National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET), European Commission Humanitarian Aid, USAID and UNDP Pakistan.

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Officials of ERRA, PERRA, SERRA and DRUs

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environmental issues and suggested
environmental strategies.



ERRA Officials Inspecting a Construction Site

UNDP also promoted use of Liquid Petroleum Gas
(LPG), and energy efficient stoves in the EQAAs to
reduce pressure on forests that are cut for energy needs.

In addition to UNDP's relief project on rubble removal,
UNDP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
with the Government of Pakistan for providing financial
assistance for dismantling of the damaged buildings, and
removal of unused rubble at safe disposal sites in Bagh
Town. The main objectives of the project were to:

- ? Minimize risk to the human life posed by the damaged buildings
- ? Remove/dispose of rubble to environmentally safe disposal sites
- ? Facilitate private owners to have clear sites for reconstruction, and
- ? Sifting of usable construction material for reuse in reconstruction of buildings.

According to the agreed arrangement, the Municipal
Committee, Bagh was provided with a financial
assistance of \$0.5 million for helping private building
owners in demolishing of their damaged buildings
including houses and shops and removing and recycling
of rubble in reconstruction. The signatories to the MoU
were ERRA, Local Government Department (PAK), and
Country/Director, UNDP, Pakistan.

The project was implemented in a period of two months.
Despite having limited human resources, the MC, Bagh
performed this task very well and completed the work
within the stipulated period. A total of 397 buildings were
dismantled in various parts of the town. The difficult
mountainous terrains and narrow steep streets made use
of heavy machinery impossible in most of the area.
Therefore, most of the buildings were manually

dismantled and rubble was hauled to the primary
locations by labourers and by the use of donkeys. Bagh
Town was divided into five zones and MCB entered into
five different contracts for each zone.

The project was closely monitored by ERRA. Weekly
Progress Review Meetings were conducted on regular
basis at District Reconstruction Unit, Bagh. The DG
Planning (II) ERRA, Programme Manager (EPC)
ERRA, Environment Specialist (EPC) ERRA,
Programme Officer CPRU UNDP, UN Coordinator AJK,
UN Field Coordination Officer Bagh, Environment
Coordinator SERRA and Planning Expert DRU Bagh
participated in these review meetings. Regular field/site
visits were conducted each week during the
implementation of the project.

Environmental Recovery Programme (EnvRP) for
the Earthquake Affected Areas

UNDP, in collaboration with the Earthquake
Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA),
initiated the Environmental Recovery for the Earthquake
Affected districts in May 2007. Other implementing
partners, including, UNEP, Forest Departments of Azad
State of Jammu and Kashmir, North West Frontier
Province, the Ministry of Environment, Geological
Survey of Pakistan, district governments, municipalities,
local and international NGOs, and CBOs.

Government strongly supports the programme and the
project enjoys active coordination with ERRA. Due to an
absence of commitment from the donors, the
government has indicated its commitment of sponsoring
two integrated watershed management sub-projects each
for Kanshian and Karli. The respective Forest
Departments are actively involved in the implementation
of the slope stabilization work in both AJK and NWFP.

Slope Stabilization is a gigantic task with immense
spread which, therefore, needs coordinated efforts of
various agencies that are potentially involved. The job is
of interdisciplinary nature and therefore, needs the
physical and intellectual inputs of various agencies such
as those associated with the Natural Resource
Management, Civil Engineering Departments (NHA,
PHA, PWD, etc). Integrated Watershed Management on
the other hand has increasingly livelihood orientation
rather than the mere sediments reduction. Therefore
many agencies are contributing in this field and the
apprehension of overlapping and duplication with re-
inventing the wheel exists. To address the first purpose
(avoiding overlaps, etc) the two coordination
committees are now functional at both SERRA and
PERRA level. To address the issue of complementarities,

partnership is still in initial stages in particular with road departments. The innovative approach of EnvRP of slope stabilization is getting acceptance among the roads departments; however the acceptance levels needs to be enhanced towards adoption by these institutions.

Keeping in view the changed context and the prevailing huge investment of the Government and other agencies in debris waste/management, the Programme Steering Committee in its first meeting decided to carry out an assessment of the current extent of waste and rubble, beside the ongoing waste/rubble management activities in the project area. For this purpose, an international consultant was hired who undertook the situation analysis and ascertained the relevance of the issue, review the ongoing debris recycling and reuse initiatives besides identifying institutional capacity requirements of the local organisations. The salient features of the draft report were shared with the Programme Steering Committee in its second meeting held on 29 January 2008. The assessment outlined the following conclusions:

- ? Debris/rubble is mostly removed and there is no need for GIS based assessment of the debris
- ? The crushing infrastructure as managed by ERRRA, its subsidiaries and other public sector and civil society institutions is sufficient enough to handle the available rubble; therefore, involvement in debris management is not needed through crushing infrastructure
- ? For rural areas small scale mobile crushers (already available) at community level is appreciated, however, Environmental Recovery Programme may focus on training the community on Recycled Materials Specifications and Quality Assurance, Debris Sorting and Soft Stripping
- ? Tailor made on-the job training is recommended instead of originally planned workshops in relation to the planned demolition work.

The decision on the future course of action regarding the components under this output like GIS based quantification of rubbles; private sector engagement in recycling of debris, institutional capacity for management of waste/debris was shaped on the findings of this assessment. The Programme Steering Committee, thus, agreed with the conclusions and recommendations and articulated that debris/rubble assessment and management is no more a felt need and should thus be brought to a back-burner situation within the Environmental Recovery Programme.

Provision of High Resolution Satellite Images to GSP and ERRRA

After series of consultation with ERRRA and Geological Survey of Pakistan Siran, Kaghan, Neelum and Jhelum valleys were selected. Keeping in view the availability of finances and the appropriate human resource, this shall be finalized in the mid of next quarter.

Demonstration of Slope Stabilization

Based on the selection criteria of critical nature of slopes, very high level of usefulness for the surrounding habitation, cost effectiveness; series of slopes on the Kohala-Muzaffarabad and Mansehra-Kaghan road are selected. The main thrust is on improvising solution that suits the situation, so every slope are distinctively based on the nature of slope the extent of damage and potential for further damage. The first item in the stabilization is strike at the root-cause that is the seepage instead of appropriate drainage. So cut-off, surface and sub-surface drains are laid out in the first instance, followed by series of bio-engineering, biological and engineering measures. Although biological measures such as planting are very useful in general, however, it takes years to provide required anchorage for the soil. This gap is filled by bio-engineering measures that provide immediate anchorage with the profuse rooting and sprouting of bio-material meshed with wooden, loose stone structure, other cheaper and light material. The remaining gaps are filled with engineering structures such as gabions, etc. Once the immediate threat is handled, the biological measures are available with the time it needs for establishing the anchorage with the help of its fully grown root system.

7. FAO's Significant Role in the Livelihoods Rehabilitation of the Earthquake Affected Communities

By FAO Office, Islamabad

FAO's Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit (ERCU) provided support to earthquake-affected households through the provision of key farming inputs, the rehabilitation of rural infrastructure and training on improved agricultural and livestock practices in AJK region and NWFP.

FAO implemented nine projects that comprised of six emergency relief projects and three medium term recovery programmes that are ongoing enabling the resumption of crop and livestock production for over 300,000 households.

Through a participatory, community-based approach in partnership with decentralized Line Departments and NGOs, some of FAO interventions include: development of a comprehensive livelihood rehabilitation strategy for ERRRA's post-emergency rehabilitation plan; construction of some 7000 earthquake-resistant animal shelters rescuing the livestock from getting perished or being sold; distribution of 66,337 mt of wheat, maize, sorghum and vegetable seeds resulting in the cultivation of 45,655 hectares of land in the earthquake affected districts; establishment of some 67 Farmer Field Schools resulting in training approximately 3000 affected farmers in improved production and marketing technologies; rehabilitation and construction of 50 km of irrigation channels benefitting some 10,000 households; distribution of poultry birds together with feed and cages

supporting 4000 households mainly women; formulation of some 200 Community Livelihood Rehabilitation Plans resulting in the rehabilitation of sustainable livelihoods of the vulnerable rural households; collaborative and integration watershed management of some 27 sub-watersheds is ongoing that will address the environmental impact of the earthquake through stabilization of landslips and restoration of productivity of eroded hillsides- with the physical works already started in three watersheds in NWFP and AJK.

The assistance for shelter and much needed nutrients was to protect cattle from getting perished or being sold and sustain milk production particularly through harsh winter



Farooq Ahmad, Livestock Shelter Beneficiary in Garlat UC NWFP, February 2008

Table 27: FAO Livestock Feed and Animal Shelter Distributions in the Earthquake Affected Areas

Inputs	Quantity	Households
Livestock Compound Feed (MT)	2240	8721
Urea Molasses Blocks (MT)	722	
Animal Shelters		7000

Construction a Local Solution for Livestock Shelters

Farooq Ahmad, who stands proudly in front of the completed animal shed, is one of the 7000 livestock farmers who received building material and training in the construction of earthquake resistant animal shelters by FAO. With temperatures dropping below freezing Point during winter, Farooq looks forward to using his shed to protect his cow, calf and goat from the inclement weather.

The animal shed was built by him with the assistance of four other livestock farmers. Living in Asa village located in Garlat UC, Sabir also received animal compound feed and urea molasses blocks from FAO which has resulted in at least twenty five percent increases in milk production daily.

Livestock Farming forms an important component of most livelihoods in NWFP and AJK. Farmers living in the earthquake-affected areas traditionally used a type of animal shelter referred to as "baniyan" having walls made of mud mixed with straw or loose stones with a wooden slab serving as a roof. During the earthquake, many of these "baniyan" shelters collapsed killing the livestock within. It is estimated that total productivity losses for cattle in NWFP and AJK amounted to US\$ 302 million and with the funding provided by Asian Development Bank (ADB), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Belgium, FAO's response in the restoration of livelihoods in the

livestock sector was US\$ 5 million.

FAO working with a local NGO developed an animal shelter prototype using material locally available to farmers. Cob construction technique is a local solution for constructing livestock shelters. The technique is new but simple that can be learned within fifteen days training. A traditional building style where straw, sand and clay is mixed to a monolithic mass and walls are built while material is still damp. It is pertinent to emphasize that it meets the standards in building the earthquake resistant structures. This technique is also used in Europe, America and Middle East.

Community Livelihoods Rehabilitation Plans; the experience from Sitar Karian - AJK

Ever since the earthquake struck Sitar Karian village, 36 km from Muzaffarabad in AJK, access to water for drinking and personal hygiene and also for kitchen gardening, has been a problem. Inayatullah, who has lived in the village for the past several years, explained that since October 2005 his wife, as the other women of the neighbourhood, have been commuting long distances daily to fetch water.

Prior to the earthquake, wheat and maize were the main crops grown dependent on the rains; rains that are often times torrential. These crops also provided them with straw and stalks which together with wild grasses they gathered were used as fodder for their cattle, buffaloes, goats and sheep through the winter months. Landslips, damaged terraces and neglect of agriculture in the aftermath of the earthquake has resulted in a reduction in agriculture production. Families, who used to have several cows and even a buffalo, now at best only have one or two animals. With few income sources, women try to manage and buy wheat and maize flour, milk and beans from the local market, but skipping meals has become the rule rather than the exception and especially children who are malnourished due to scarcity of milk. In 2006, an international NGO set up a water supply scheme and the water thus made available was sufficient for domestic use and also for kitchen gardening. Heavy rains a few months



Sitar Karian, Muzaffarabad- June 2008

later damaged the system and put it out of operations, so that women once again had to travel long distances to fetch water and kitchen gardens dried out. In October 2007, Mercy Corps provided new funds to repair the water supply, but as the pipes and channel passed a landslide area; the system got cut almost on a monthly basis. Whenever this happened women again had to walk to get the water until the pipes were repaired and kitchen gardens failed. Lack of funding prevented installing the necessary infrastructure such as suspended rope bridge to carry the pipeline over the landslide area to prevent recurrent damage to this crucial water supply system for Sitar Karian.

A new opportunity presented itself when Mercy Corps

agreed to join with ERRA and FAO in their efforts to rehabilitate livelihoods in the earthquake affected villages. Under this programme, villagers are assisted by NGO staff to identify their own priority needs and compile them in a comprehensive Community Livelihood Rehabilitation Plan (CLRP), listing all key interventions needed in the coming 2 to 3 years. In the event of no donor support identified, ERRA makes available up to Rs. 750,000 per village community to fund such essential activities under its Community Investment Fund (CIF).



Sitar Karian, Muzaffarabad- June 2008

For the villagers of Sitar Karian and especially the women it was very clear that the need to spend hours every day to fetch water was the most limiting factor for them to get engaged in more essential livelihood activities. Installation of a reliable water pipeline would enable them to re-cultivate their kitchen gardens that will not only improve their children's nutrition, but even allow them to earn some additional money through selling some of their produce in the market. In a number of meetings with the Mercy Corps community facilitators, the women stressed the need for a secure and permanent water supply. While there were initial questions regarding the 'livelihoods nature' of this kind of intervention, the women's arguments on their use of time, which they clearly illustrated during some of the PRA exercises, finally convinced all their husbands as well as the Mercy Corps staff and a proposal went to the Livelihood Coordination Unit in the DRU.

Engineers from Mercy Corps made the necessary technical calculations and designs to support Sitar Karian's proposal for submitting to the District Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (DRAC). Here the proposal was scrutinized and after some discussions endorsed. This opened the way for ERRA to release the funding and send the first installment of the CIF to the people of Sitar Karian who agreed to work for free in support of this activity as a form of contribution from their side.

8. Restoring Productivity of Eroded Hillsides through Collaborative and Integrated Watershed Management

By FAO Office, Islamabad

FAO and its partners are rehabilitating some 17 watersheds in the earthquake affected areas of NWFP and AJK. They address the environmental impact of the earthquake through stabilization of landslips. Physical work for three water sheds started in NWFP and AJK in collaboration with Local Communities, Forest, Agriculture and Live Stock Departments. The Nepal-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) will provide technical knowledge sharing for treatment of land slides, where as, Hazard Maps are drawn with active participation of Community to find sustainable situations for natural resource management combined with livelihood needs. The collaborative and integrated watershed management project is funded by SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency).



Stone Bunds for soil conservation in the landslip

with development a Comprehensive plan for natural resource management. The communities Integrated Watershed Management Plans include activities to rehabilitate their agriculture production, e.g., irrigation channels, strengthening terraces and growing vegetables in kitchen gardens.

Trees that produce fruits like walnuts, apples, apricots, etc, or fodder like Robinia, Marfa, Accacia, etc, not only help stabilise soil and reduce erosion, but also produce income and firewood. Through training on improved ways of handling the harvested produce, the income can be increased, while training of animal diseases and management of fodder helps in restoring livestock levels without negatively affecting the natural resources in the watershed.



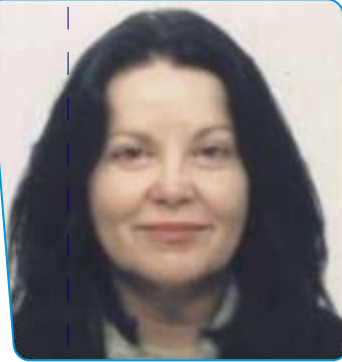
Brush layering with indigenous species of brush wood

The Batora community of Mansehra organized a group of twenty-two volunteers who in only two months planted 10 hectares of pasture land with Robinia, Pines. The Batora Community of Mansehra organised a group of twenty two volunteers who in a short span of only two months planted 10 hectares of pasture land with pines, local species of Brush Wood, Nar and Maruni. Alongwith plantation, twelve check dams, five retaining walls and loose stone bunds have also been constructed. The trees and constructed structures will stabilize soil and prevent further sliding of the land. A controlled grazing system has been introduced for the new plantation to encourage the natural regeneration of indigenous trees such as wild fig and native mulberry; species that the community uses during times of distress, commercial potential.

The communities of three watersheds have enthusiastically expressed their livelihood needs along

9. Rebuilding Livelihoods - Enhancing Community Resilience

Dorothy Blane, Country Director, Concern



I realise that I am contributing to the section entitled 'Personal Insights', but clearly my direct involvement in the aftermath of the earthquake comes from the type of work I am involved in, and the changes I see that work bringing to

people's lives. As a result, rather than providing only my personal view, I will concentrate on outlining the measures taken by the organisation for which I work, **Concern Worldwide**.

I would also like to add that Concern has, of course, been only one small cog in a much bigger wheel. It has been the efforts of all the people involved - the Government; the UN; the Humanitarian Agencies, both National and International; Pakistan Civil Society; and most of all, the tenacity of the people who survived the earthquake that has brought this stricken area back to life.

However, before I continue with the more formal and organisational description of what has been happening in the last year, I will make the following personal comments:

For those of us who were involved in the earthquake

response it was a life-changing event. Clearly I am not comparing our experience with those who have lost people they loved or were permanently injured, but it did have a profound effect. The pressure, the responsibility and the overwhelming desire to prevent 'the second wave of death' that could have occurred because of the impending winter in 2005 is a memory carved in our minds and hearts forever - writing about it now, nearly three years on, still brings those feelings flooding back. So when we submit reports such as the one below, the facts and figures only reflect a very small part of the whole experience.

In the first few days after the earthquake, I travelled from Islamabad to both NWFP and AJK, and continued visiting. The initial visit felt almost voyeuristic, the people looked simply dazed, and, for me, an outsider driving past in a car, it was hard to look anyone in the eye.

However, now, every time I visit the area, I see a difference. Usually it is an obvious change, like the sun reflecting off the hundreds of new corrugated iron roofs; but on my most recent visit in June 2008, I felt something more subtle. For no tangible reason *and I could be entirely wrong*, I detected a more normal feel about the place - it seemed more 'business as usual, rather than 'picking up the pieces'. And maybe that is what has happened....people don't forget, but 'life moves on'.

progress in supporting the most vulnerable community members to make a difference in their lives.

Restoring Agricultural Production and Food Security

Mansehra's agricultural sector, the backbone of the local economy, was severely affected by the 2005 earthquake. Agricultural land was damaged, irrigation systems were destroyed, and people's assets, including agricultural equipment and inputs, were lost. Since the earthquake, one of Concern's key objectives has been the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector and restoration of food security. In 2007/8, Concern, with our local partners and the communities, has worked to rehabilitate over 700 acres of arable land, rebuild irrigation schemes providing water for 350 acres of crops, provide small farmers with

free agricultural inputs and distribute 6,000 farming toolkits and 3,500 seed storage boxes to enable farmers to complete urgent seasonal agricultural tasks and minimize post harvest losses.

Cash for work programmes have encouraged small landholders to restore their agricultural land and resume cultivation, providing employment opportunities to hundreds of agricultural labourers. As a result of these interventions, 7,000 farming families restored, and in many cases exceeded, their pre-earthquake production levels, reducing their dependency on external food aid.

In 2007/8, Concern also worked towards the restoration of the target area's livestock sector. Community members were provided with materials for the construction of over 2,000 livestock shelters to protect their animals during the winter months, and almost 300 vulnerable, female-headed households were assisted through the provision of livestock. This activity has improved household food intake and incomes through the ready availability of dairy products for consumption and sale. In addition, almost 10,000 animals were vaccinated against seasonal diseases and farmers are once again building up their livestock holdings to meet their food and manure needs after the reconstruction of 13 water ponds in their villages.

An additional strategy for the improvement of food security in Concern's target areas has been the promotion of 'kitchen gardening'. During the last year, Concern distributed kitchen gardening inputs, including tools and seeds, to almost 6,000 families, ensuring a supply of fresh vegetables for household consumption and contributing to household savings.

Rehabilitation of Livelihoods and Rural Enterprises

The earthquake devastated small businesses, such as grocery stores and tailors, and left many artisans and tradesmen out of work. Concern's strategy has been to encourage the return of entrepreneurs and tradesmen in order to revive the local non-agricultural sector of the economy. In 2007/8, we provided cash grants for the rehabilitation of almost 1,000 small enterprises, resulting in the re-opening of abandoned businesses and local markets, and an increase in the availability of village based services like watermills, carpenters and tailoring shops.

Concern has also focused on vocational skills training, resulting in the creation of job opportunities for over 400 people, and the provision of tool-kits for blacksmiths, tailors, barbers and other trades. Both of these activities have helped to encourage people to return to their

villages and have helped meet the human resource needs of the area, contributing to economic rejuvenation.

Restoring Access to Markets and Essential Services

The areas in which Concern works are relatively remote, and the rugged mountain terrain makes travel to and from larger settlements, difficult and time-consuming. The 2005 earthquake made matters even worse, damaging trails, roads and bridges, and leaving many people cut off from nearby towns and unable to access essential services and markets.

In Year 2007/8, Concern continued to work towards the restoration of access to markets and essential services. 35 kilometres of roads and trails and 5 pedestrian bridges were reconstructed, and reconstruction work on housing was accelerated due to the resulting improvement in accessibility.

Improving Environmental, Primary and Natal Healthcare

The 2005 earthquake destroyed much of the water and sanitation infrastructure in the affected areas, and access to health care, which was already limited before the earthquake, became even more restricted as a result of damage to trails and roads caused by the earthquake itself and by subsequent landslides. Concern has engaged in a number of activities to tackle health-related problems in Balakot and Siran Valley.

A key factor in ensuring minimum basic health standards has been the restoration of the supply of drinking water. Year 2007 saw the rebuilding of water supply schemes in more than 40 villages, providing access to potable drinking water to around 40,000 people. Meanwhile, recognizing the role of effective sanitation in limiting the spread of disease in the aftermath of a major disaster, Concern has also encouraged local communities to construct latrines. In the last year, Concern distributed materials and cash grants for the construction of almost 2,000 latrines, controlling the spread of disease, while at the same time improving the safety and security of women and girls.

Concern has also tackled primary healthcare in the area, providing basic health services to just fewer than 3,000 people from remote mountain communities through a series of health camps, and training dozens of local women as Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs).

Preparing for Future Disasters

Concern Pakistan understands that the significant progress towards recovery, made by the communities in our target areas, could be all too quickly undone in the

11. A View From the Outside

Jennifer McKay, Honorary Consultant, EIVP



The story of recovery from tragedy of the Pakistan earthquake and finding opportunity in adversity is a tribute to the resilience of the people of this beautiful region and the extraordinary efforts of the people of Pakistan and the international community, but particularly the outstanding work of ERRA and its many Partners.

This recovery from ruins has often been described as one of Pakistan's finest achievements yet the scale of the disaster and extraordinary accomplishments in a time of crisis and, subsequently, in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the region, remain mostly unheralded and little understood.

Although the level of destruction was greater than the Asian tsunami, the Pakistan earthquake did not receive the same level of international coverage or support. Perhaps this was because although tragically high, the death toll of the earthquake was less than the tsunami, or because less is known about the region itself. Whatever the reason, it is one of the truly great stories of achievement and one of which ERRA and its Partners can, and should be, immensely proud.

As someone who has provided volunteer services to ERRA and supported other initiatives for volunteers since the earthquake, I have had the privilege of being able to view the work and achievements from different perspectives.

Already a frequent visitor to Pakistan for several years by the time of the earthquake, like so many others, I was keen to do something to help and visited a number of the devastated areas in NWFP and AJK. Travelling over the broken roads and by helicopter gave a very real picture of just how extensive the devastation was and just how traumatized the victims were. Without this overview, it would have been almost impossible to fully comprehend not only the scale of the disaster but the degree of complexity for rescuers and for the future reconstruction and rehabilitation of the region. It also provided the cornerstone for now being able to look back and fully understand just what has been achieved since that time.

In the weeks after the disaster, many local and international volunteers worked on relief projects. For many locals, it was their first experience of volunteering.

Some went on to accept full-time employment in organisations involved in the long term recovery. But as the relief phase came to a close and the massive reconstruction and rehabilitation phase commenced, and the tragedy started to fade from memory, volunteers mostly drifted away, perhaps believing there was no longer a need for their contributions. This is not the case and there are many areas where volunteers can make significant contributions to build organisational capacity.

Until July 2008, ERRA's intake of volunteers has been on an informal basis and it proved to be a positive experience for both the organisation and the volunteers. A number of young foreign and local volunteers all Gap Year or University students - have worked at ERRA in their holidays and all indicated a wish to return for future assignments. They all gained a deeper understanding of the issues facing the people of the EQAAs and the complexities of disaster management. Another aspect of the experience which the foreign volunteers have found to be of significant value was the intimate introduction to the culture and the hospitality of the people giving them a completely different perspective on the country itself, one which differs significantly from the mostly negative stereotype in the foreign media.

For foreign volunteers, it is a significant commitment, given the cost of traveling to Pakistan and the costs associated with accommodation and living expenses. However, all who have participated to date share a similar view that the experience, knowledge and understanding they gain while making this contribution is more than worth it.

The mutually positive experience has led to the formalization of a programme to build ERRA's capacity through the introduction of capable Interns and Volunteers. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to lead a core team of ERRA officers and fellow Australian volunteers to design the ERRA Intern and Volunteer Programme (EIVP). Working on a voluntary basis - both at ERRA Headquarters, and online from Australia - with such a vibrant and committed team, has been an extraordinary and exciting experience.

The EIVP was launched in May 2008 and is open to Gap Year and university students, graduates and skilled professionals with some online assignments also

available for skilled professionals. The first intake of 34 successful candidates commenced work on 14 July 2008.

I have often been asked the question, particularly in Pakistan, “why volunteer for ERRA, a government-linked organisation, and for no financial reward?” The answer is quite simple. ERRA is a very professional organisation and is doing some of the most interesting and innovative work in the country across a diverse range of industry and social sectors. ERRA's work directly impacts positively on the lives of several million people so it is a rare opportunity to contribute to society through a very professional and efficient organisation and have input into the policies and programmes that make a significant difference.

Working as an Intern or a Volunteer provides not only an opportunity to contribute knowledge and skills to a worthwhile cause, but also to learn a great deal about disaster management and social awareness and other knowledge which is useful in future career and academic studies. It is an excellent way for young professionals to also add to their own skills base for future career directions whether in disaster management or any other field, or for further academic studies. For those of us who have long established careers in international business, government or civil society, it is an opportunity to contribute substantial experience and professional skills acquired over many years to a worthwhile cause.

As a volunteer, it is important to research where one's skills and knowledge can be best and most effectively. For some, working in the field with NGOs may be the best use of skills, but for many, the greater opportunities for contributing usefully lies within a large organisation such as ERRA which has greater need of diverse professional and academic skills such as engineering, health services, education, telecommunications, media, business management, social work, urban and town planning, infrastructure, hydrology, agricultural veterinary sciences and knowledge management. It also provides the opportunity to work in a Headquarters environment or in the field.

ERRA's partnerships with such a large group of international donors and other stakeholders also provides scope for Interns and Volunteers to learn about how large donor and multilateral organisations work and run in-country programmes in a diversity of aid sectors.

Working on external earthquake-related projects, and time spent at ERRA, provided my first experience of working together with representatives of the Pakistan Army. There is much debate about the role of military in disaster and humanitarian situations. In the case of the

Pakistan earthquake, it is hard to imagine how the same level of effectiveness would have been achieved without their significant involvement. From the time of the disaster through to the present, the success of the work has depended on strict management processes, extraordinary logistic arrangements, high levels of security in a region that can be unstable, and a sense of teamwork. Combining military and civilians in one organisation, particularly one that is focused on humanitarian projects is not an easy task as the experiences and expectations can be vastly different. However, ERRA, under exemplary leadership, has managed to achieve a level of cohesiveness and purpose rarely achieved and which has and is working extremely well.

The international donors and international agencies have had a particularly close involvement in the earthquake work and have brought much to the table apart from money. Their systems of governance, proven experience in disaster and development situations, combined with their high level of commitment to the wellbeing of communities affected by disasters, provided valuable input to improve processes and best practice in the delivery of aid. Much credit must go to them for their commitment to the restoration of the region and wellbeing of the people.

Some have been skeptical about an organisation such as ERRA's ability to deliver and maintain high levels of governance and accountability. It is very easy for those who are not involved in the work to criticize the pace or scale of work. And it is not unusual. The needs of devastated communities in any country that has suffered a massive disaster are not easy to meet and there is always competition for funds and priority of projects. But most people would be totally unaware of the complexity of the local issues in each affected community or level of negotiation, consultation, planning which goes into the accessing of donor funding and the planning and prioritizing of projects. The processes to use the funds made available by donors is complex and, quite rightly, strictly controlled. While this can seem to cause to delays, ensuring the funds are properly used for the purposes for which they were donated is imperative. Accountability for the expenditure is also closely controlled and monitored as are the programmes themselves. Donors are closely involved in all these processes to ensure proper governance. And in any disaster situation, although the amounts of money pledged seem enormous, the reality is, it is rarely enough and often, the full amounts pledged are never received. This problem is not unique to the

Pakistan earthquake and is encountered in most disaster situations.

Until I worked within the organization, I had not been fully aware of many of the complex issues in the EQAAs or how closely involved the donors and other partner agencies are in the process and the strength of these partnerships. My time working there provided very useful insights into the more invisible challenges of the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. Despite the enormity of these challenges, with support of its Partners, ERRA is meeting its charter to reconstruct and rehabilitate the earthquake affected areas and the lives of the people affected by the disaster.

Great tragedy brings great change to the lives of those who have experienced it. For the victims of the 2005 earthquake, and those who came to their aid, life has changed forever. Nobody who witnessed the awesome scale of the quake, or the impact on the lives of the people in the earthquake affected areas, could fail to be touched by experience and this is certainly true of all who work at ERRA. There is a passion and commitment throughout the organisation for the work and the concept “Build Back Better”. But as time and more recent disasters push the Pakistan earthquake further into the recesses of history the EQAAs and its people will still require assistance for several years yet so it is important to keep the enthusiasm and support for this work alive. Reaching out to the wider community through programmes such as the ERRA Intern and Volunteers Programme helps create not only builds organisational capacity and skills, but also a greater awareness nationally and internationally of the work and the ongoing needs of the communities.

Sadly, this will not be the last natural disaster in Pakistan or the Asia region. But next time, Pakistan will be better prepared and there will be a large team of skilled people ready to swing into action to provide timely and proper assistance.

12. THANK YOU KHAKI

Omar Hameed, Director (Legal), ERRA



A Non Commissioned Officer of 313 Assault Engineering Battalion, Lance Naik Daud, is preparing for an arduous journey of about ten miles in one of the most difficult mountainous terrain in the country to inspect fifteen newly constructed houses in Union Council Bakrai of

District Shangla. He has to ensure that the newly reconstructed houses are as per the construction guidelines of ERRA and seismically safe so that a future earthquake does not harm the inhabitants of the house. He is trying his best to complete the inspections of all the houses in his assigned Union Council before the 31st October, 2008, the date by which Army would be completely de-inducted from the ERRA's Rural Housing Programme.

Pakistan Army had been very closely associated with the relief, recovery and reconstruction programme of ERRA. Keeping in view the capacity and resources of Pakistan Army, it was assigned the most complicated tasks. Pakistan Army responded to the call of the nation and selflessly devoted themselves towards the recovery of the earthquake victims. Without the support of the Army, little could have been achieved by way of ERRA's efforts.

Consequent to the earthquake of 8th October 2005, the entire nation rose to the occasion by donating relief items for almost 3.5 million earthquake survivors who had lost almost everything. Though there was no dearth of relief items, yet the real challenge was to get those items to the unfortunate affectees since most of the roads and tracks



A Destroyed House in EQAAs

were washed away due to landslides following the earthquake. Since the provincial / state government and local government structure had totally collapsed in the earthquake, Pakistan Army was assigned the task to conduct early relief and rescue operation.

During the relief phase, Army was engaged in multiple tasks spread over an area of 30,000 square kilometers, catering to 3.5 million demoralized and devastated affectees. This included rescuing people from the debris of collapsed buildings and transporting the injured to hospitals and other make shift medical facilities established by the Army Medical Corps through helicopters, mules and at times human transport due to closure of all roads and tracks. They were the first ones to reach the affectees, entrapped in inaccessible villages, in the hilly ranges of Pir Panjal in AJK and the mighty Himalayas in NWFP. The objective was to provide initial food supplies and warm clothes and bedding to the survivors to enable them to meet the fast approaching winters. They were being facilitated by Lance Naik Daud and his comrades from other engineering battalions busy in trying to open up roads and tracks so that communications channels could be restored. Meanwhile, their brother soldiers from the Signal Corps were trying to lay new wires in the mountains to ensure that affectees stuck up in the far flung mountains are able to communicate their woes with the appropriate quarters, in case of any possible devastation resulting from an aftershock.



Army Engineers at Work

Soon after the initial relief was provided to the survivors, Army formations were tasked to erect winterized shelters since one of the coldest winters in recent history was about to hit the affected areas. Timely winterization of shelters and provision of essential food items in the far

flung mountains of NWFP and AJK prevented the outbreak of another possible human disaster which was imminent due to extreme weather conditions and over 3 hundred thousand affectees in tents inaccessible through any road or mountain track. Soon after that hazard was averted, the soldiers of Pakistan Army were on the move again and started facilitating the construction of transitional educational and health facilities to cater to the immediate needs of affectees.



Army Personnel Carrying Food Supplies to the Inaccessible EQAAs

Rural Housing Programme of ERRA is one of the biggest housing reconstruction programmes in recent history with almost 600,000 beneficiaries spread over 30,000 square kilometers of mountainous region. Pakistan Army was the major partner organisation with ERRA in this programme. The assigned task of Pakistan Army had various components in 268 Union Councils. This included damage assessment and at least three follow-up inspections of about 400 thousand houses to ensure that each of the re-constructed houses is seismically safe. Apart from that, Army was also tasked to conduct training of about 200 thousand individuals on how to build seismically safe houses.



An Engineer Officer teaching affectees methods of Safe Construction

The de-induction of Pakistan Army from ERRA's Rural Housing Programme is likely to be completed by 31st October, 2008. After which this portfolio would be handed over to UN Habitat. The national spirit with which Pakistan Army worked for ERRA's Rural Housing Program can be gauged from the fact that the total cost



A Young baby feeling secure in the hands of a healer

incurred by them in almost three years was US \$ 6 million, whereas, UN Habitat is charging US \$ 6.1 million for only three months for a similar assignment and a far smaller quantum of work.

Today, as we bid farewell to Lance Naik Daud and his hundreds of comrades and gauge the assistance provided by the Pakistan Army in managing one of the biggest tragedies that struck our country, in general, and the rural housing reconstruction programme, in particular, a sense of appreciation and gratitude engulfs us towards them and gives us strength to feel relieved, secure and confident because of the capacity of our national institutions, specially the Army and its officers and men to enable the country to bounce back and recover from any subsequent disaster.

We thank our Army from the bottom of our hearts for their exceptional performance, commitment and dedication in carrying out the noble task of relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation in the most professional manner and being a role model all over the world.

13. Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and ERRA

Major Nawazish Ali Khan



The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight that 189 United Nations member states have agreed to try to achieve by the year 2015. These goals respond to the world's main development challenges and were officially established at the

Millennium Summit in 2000.

The eight MDG which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and leading development institutions.

UN System is helping countries improve their capacity to achieve the MDGs. To support this effort, UNDP and the Millennium Project have designed a comprehensive set of services to support MDG-based national development strategies. These services focus on three pillars:

- ? MDG-based diagnostics and investment planning (technical and financial assistance needed to achieve the MDGs over the long term)
- ? Widening policy options and choices (sectoral and cross-sectoral policy reforms and frameworks needed to accelerate growth with equity and promote long-term human development), and
- ? Strengthening national capacity (enable effective service delivery at the national and local levels).

The MDGs

- ? Synthesize, in a single package, many of the most important commitments made separately at the international conferences and summits of the 1990s
- ? Recognize explicitly the interdependence between growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development
- ? Acknowledge that development rests on the foundations of democratic governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights and peace and security

- ? Are based on time-bound and measurable targets accompanied by indicators for monitoring progress, and
- ? Bring together, in the eighth Goal, the responsibilities of developing countries with those of developed countries, founded on a global partnership endorsed at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002, and again at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in August 2002.

Purpose

The purpose of the campaign is to keep the eyes and actions of the world focused on the MDGs. In developed countries, the campaign would focus on making the case for aid and for urgent debt relief, based on clear evidence of results; ensuring that aid is allocated to sectors and services relevant to the MDGs; and opening markets more widely to developing countries, especially the least developed countries.

MDG I

“Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger”

ERRA's Livelihood Strategy

In the 2005 EQ many people lost their physical and mental capability and capacity to work. To counter this problem, ERRA took an initiative and started various programmes to eradicate hunger and let the affected people sustain a normal life with its vision, i.e.

“A Revitalized and Strengthened Livelihood Support System with an Inclusive Community Based Approach”

The main objective of this livelihood strategy is to restore the lives and to coordinate the rehabilitation activities of the EQAAs; to strengthen Community based organisations and committees in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating community livelihood rehabilitation plans; and finally to restore and enhance the capacities and capabilities of livelihood related line departments.

Providing Skills Training

- ? Capacity building of various individuals and organisations is needed over a wide range of activities. In this regard, a network of training providers capable of delivering a flexible system

of formal and non-formal skills and enterprise training is to be provided.

ERRA Livelihood Cash Grants

ERRA has successfully completed \$85 million cash-grant programme for the most vulnerable earthquake-affected families. The number of potential beneficiaries is 268,000 families. Each family received a monthly cash grant of PKR 3000 over a six-month period.

MDG II

“Achieve Universal Primary Education”

ERRA - Education Strategy

- ? 78% of educational facilities destroyed during the EQ 2005 shall be reconstructed.
- ? 909 primary schools will be mostly girls' schools because access of girls to primary schooling is very limited. In up-gradations as well, priority will be given to girls.
- ? Teachers are trained and through them, students are counselled. The main focus of this training is to the rebuilding of confidence. Three teachers are to be trained from each primary school. 29,500 teachers at all levels are to be trained.
- ? Annual curriculum is prepared by ERRA for the teachers to follow. Safety drills, reaction to a disaster and awareness regarding DRM has been inculcated into the syllabus at all levels.
- ? Adequate educational materials, furniture and equipment to each reconstructed institution is to be provided.
- ? Adequate recurrent budget, particularly at primary and middle school level is to be allocated by the AJK government so that they can continue to function better than before.
- ? School safety has been given prime importance by providing fire extinguishers to cater for fire hazards. Dual exits on either side of the classrooms for quick response to any natural/critical disaster.

MDG III

“Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women”

ERRA's Gender Equality Policy for EQAAs

As a consequence of the EQ, gender roles have further shifted, partly as a result of the loss of male partners.

In addition to requiring support on legal matters, as the main bread earner of their household, women are taking up activities to generate income to support their families.

There is therefore an even greater need for women to access economic and social (i.e. social protection, health, education, livelihood, WatSan, etc.) opportunities, so that they can effectively care for their families.

The services offered in the WDCs being built in the EQAAs will include support and services for women in distress (i.e. medical aid, legal aid, psychological counselling, etc.) and provide opportunities for sustainable income through the production and marketing of goods or services selected according to market-based demand. These economic opportunities will assist them in gaining sustainable livelihood options.

There were places in NWFP and AJK where there were no primary schools for girls. That scenario is changing now since the Government of AJK and NWFP both are planning, with adequate funding, to establish new primary schools and upgrade the existing primary schools to middle schools with priority given to girls' institutions. The governments are also going to establish middle and primary schools with female teachers in un-served areas. This way educated women will get employed.

In order to empower women in EQAAs, a two-pronged approach is being implemented.

- ? Mainstreaming gender throughout the recovery and rehabilitation programme, and
- ? Implementing gender-specific activities to ensure equal opportunities for women and men in the various programmes. CLRP should involve the collection of sex-disaggregated data, and gender analysis is critical when planning subsequent rehabilitation programmes.

Skills training programmes will be inclusive and, in particular, target members of women-headed households, youth, persons with disabilities and others with special needs.

Social forestry is one particular area where women will be encouraged to participate in managing the nurseries for plant production. Enhancement of pastures and grazing land areas will minimize the load on women for fodder collection.

MDGs IV, V, VI

“Improve Maternal Health; Reduce Child Mortality; Combat HIV, Malaria and other Diseases”

ERRA's Health Strategy

ERRA has planned a health facility staffed by medical

doctors. The facility will cater for a catchment population of around 12,000-40,000. This facility will also provide management support to the attached Basic Health Units.

The minimum service package provided at this level include following:

- ? Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness
- ? Prenatal and postnatal care
- ? Expanded Programme for Immunization,
- ? Diagnostic Services
- ? Birth preparedness counseling/Newborn care
- ? Family Planning counselling and services
- ? Information and Education for Empowerment and Change and
- ? STIs including HIV/AIDS counselling and referral.

MDG VII

“Ensure Environmental Sustainability”

ERRA Environment Strategy

The overall scope of Environmental Strategy of ERRA is to address the damages to environment sector in the EQAAs.

Forest: In the core area of the EQAAs forests on steep slopes were destroyed by landslides both in NWFP and AJK.

Wildlife: Although no accurate damage assessment has been done for wildlife but phenomenon of landslide and destabilization of slopes would inevitably have negative bearing on nesting and feeding areas of wildlife.

Solid Waste Management was already ignored and it's even worse after the EQ with thousands of tons of waste generated during the relief phase and millions of tons of debris from fallen buildings.

Debris from Damaged Infrastructure: Earthquake caused massive damage to buildings, roads, irrigation channels, water supply schemes and sanitation schemes, resulting in millions of tons of debris.

Water Resources: Quality and supply of both underground and surface water resources has been affected due to underground shifting of earth's structure, soil erosion, landslides and the over damage to the forest and watersheds.

In response to the implementation of the target programmes in each subcomponent of the environmental

strategy, the expected key outputs will be as under:

- ? A baseline environmental assessment of the entire EQAAs
- ? Community based Natural Resource Management (NRM), slope stabilization and rehabilitation plans for restoration of degraded natural resources and increase in forest cover
- ? A comprehensive debris removal and safe disposal plan
- ? Establishment of hospital waste management system on permanent basis
- ? Introduction of design parameters and guidelines in all public and private buildings to minimize the use of timber during reconstruction
- ? Selection, approval and introduction by ERRA of alternate and safe building material
- ? Improved pastures and Guzara Forest management by local community
- ? Mainstreaming gender concerns in all environment sector activities
- ? Improved water quality through protection from dumping of noxious waste in water-bodies;
- ? Reduction in silting of rivers and enhancement of Mangla and Tarbela Reservoirs' life, and
- ? A public awareness campaign will be designed in association with implementing partners to promote environment friendly practices among the private and public sectors.

Water and Sanitation

- ? R&R of drinking water supply systems;
- ? Water quality monitoring and management; and
- ? R&R of sanitation systems.

Rehabilitation and Upgradation of Solid Waste Management Systems

This component provides for development of “Waste Management Strategies and Plans” for all the affected TMAs.

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Buildings

This component will support retrofitting, repair and reconstruction of collapsed and damaged offices and residential buildings of the line agencies.

MDG VIII

“Develop a Global Partnership For Development”

ERRA's Global Partnership

ERRA, in its aim to reconstruct and rehabilitate the EQAAs, developed partnership with various friendly governments and domestic and international partner organisations. Donors and Sponsors Coordination Cell, ERRA is the focal point for all the sponsored projects in the EQAAs. It functions as the main conduit between the Government of Pakistan on one hand and the Donors and Sponsors community and bilateral as well as multilateral forums on the other hand. About 44 countries gave funding, and almost 200 agencies sponsored various hardware software projects.

The Donors and Sponsorship policy of ERRA has been designed in such a way that it helps sustain the sponsor's interest throughout the whole process. In order to acknowledge the support of the sponsors the individual facilities like schools and hospitals are named against the sponsors.

For initiating the development of the EQAAs in a comprehensive manner, ERRA identified 12 socio-economic sectors for the R&R work under two major kinds of projects; those funded by GoP and those funded by the International Donor Agencies and various International and national humanitarian and development organisations.

The D&SCC is currently handling nearly 4,000 projects in all the 12 identified areas of intervention. The success of ERRA's Sponsorship strategy could be gauged from the fact that out of the total sponsored projects 53% have been completed, 33% are under Implementation and 14 % are at planning Stage.