NRSP’s Response to the Earthquake
October 2005 to October 2006
National Rural Support Programme’s Response to the Earthquake

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Preface

This report documents NRSP's response to the massive earthquake that devastated families, communities and infrastructure in AJK on October 8th 2005. It covers the period from October 8th 2005 to October 8th 2006. It is hoped that this document will serve as a lasting reminder of the ways in which NRSP met the challenge. It describes how and where we worked, where we were able to meet the needs of people, communities and institutions, and how NRSP was transformed in the process.

Although most of the information in this report is organized according to sectoral interventions, it must be stressed that all of the activities drew on cross-cutting, multi-sectoral interventions. Social mobilisation was the foundation for all activities. Reaching the most vulnerable—women, the physically disabled, the traumatized, the youngest and eldest and the poorest, those needing to acquire livelihood skills—was the goal in every activity. Training activities undertaken by NRSP's Institute of Rural Management were a significant part of every activity. None of the work could have been accomplished without the support of NRSP's Administration and Finance and Accounts sections, although their inputs are not directly reflected in this document. Devising and maintaining accurate reporting mechanisms and formats was also critical in ensuring that NRSP could account for the enormous volume of goods, the services delivered and the people who received any kind of aid from NRSP and its donors.

The work will continue for a long time, until the affected communities are able to achieve a significant degree of restoration, the alleviation of misery and poverty, and the ability to become self-sufficient enough to meet their short and long-term needs and aspirations. NRSP has learned a great deal over the course of the last year. Many of the lessons have been learned in the worst possible circumstances and under tremendous duress. The strength and resilience of people, families and communities have been demonstrated in every possible way, as people have begun to rebuild their lives and their futures. NRSP is dedicated to continuing to work with communities, to bringing new projects and programmes into AJK and to creating and enhancing economic and social opportunities for change and improvement, for men, women and children.

Upcoming efforts include the provision of microfinance; increasing community members' involvement in health and education, to increase quality and accountability; further contributions to sustainable livelihoods, and adding value to existing natural resource management practices.

We are extremely grateful to the numerous local, national and international donors, aid agencies and government departments that worked with NRSP in meeting widely diverse needs— for food, water, health care, shelter, psychological support, income and training and transportation to name only the most evident during the time since the disaster. NRSP acknowledges with gratitude the support provided by the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) in working with NRSP to respond to the disaster and in providing the funding to produce this brochure.

Dr. Rashid Bajwa
Chief Executive Officer
An Introduction to NRSP

Established in 1991, the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) in Pakistan is the largest rural support programme that works to alleviate poverty and help people improve their quality of life. The process involves NRSP Social Organisers and sector specialists working with rural men and women to plan, implement and monitor developmental activities. A significant activity is helping Community Organisations (COs) to establish links with Government departments and agencies, NGOs and, in a few cases, private sector institutions.

NRSP's Regional and Field Teams organize people into multi-sectoral organizations called Community Organizations (COs). A village may have several COs, each with a President and Manager. A CO may have only men, only women, or both women and men members, depending on what is socially acceptable in a given area. The network of COs (currently just over 40,000 around the country) provides the platform for people’s active participation. Community volunteers, known as Activists, work with NRSP’s Social Organizers to mobilize communities.

NRSP works in 40 Districts across all four Provinces and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Its rural development and poverty alleviation activities are managed through 9 Regional offices, 33 District Offices and 117 Field Unit offices. NRSP has a staff of over 3,100 professional and support staff.

NRSP in AJK Prior to the Disaster

NRSP had been working in AJK since 1993, in 4 Districts: Poonch (since 1993), Kotli (since 1997), Sudhngi (since 1994) and Bagh since 2000. 37,946 men and women had formed 1,820 Community Organisations in AJK prior to the disaster 279 in Bagh, 790 in Poonch, 460 in Kotli and 291 in Sudhngi. We opened an office in Muzaffarabad, at the request of the Government of AJK, on October 25th 2005.

Before the disaster, those NRSP-supported COs had accumulated savings worth Rs. 4.17 Million, 21,091 clients had taken micro credit worth Rs. 343.83 Million. 525 Physical Infrastructure Schemes had been completed, benefiting 18,910 households. And 24,549 people had taken training courses from NRSP’s Institute of Rural Management, 4,361 of them have acquired vocational skills.

With the help of PPAE, UNDP and other donors, NRSP had invested Rs. 722.38 million in AJK; Rs. 264.71 Million for Social Mobilization, Training and Natural Resource Management; Rs. 126.97 Million for Community Physical Infrastructure Schemes; Rs. 317.70 Million for Micro-credit; Rs. 7.25 Million for the Northern Education Project and Rs. 5.75 Million for the Tawana Pakistan School Feeding Project.

The Tawana Pakistan Project started in October 2003 with the objective of increasing girls' enrollment in 100 primary schools by improving their nutritional status. NRSP was the main implementing partner for District Kotli. The reports of National Implementation Unit and the Aga Khan University declared NRSP's work to be the best model of coordination and cooperation among the District-level stakeholders. The Northern Education Project started in 1999 in District Poonch. NRSP was engaged to form and strengthen 160 School Management Committees.

A large number of households benefited through NRSP Health Camps and Awareness and Motivation Campaigns. Others have benefited through linkages for improved varieties of agri-inputs, and livestock and poultry vaccination through NRSP’s Natural Resource Management programmes. A major contribution has also been made in providing services to the livestock sector, a significant source of income for many rural families and for women in particular.

These long-term commitments to communities in AJK were to have a significant and positive effect on NRSP’s disaster response capabilities.
NRSP’s Response to the Disaster

The earthquake that shook NWFP, AJK and Indian Kashmir on October 8th 2005 left thousands dead and hundreds of thousands injured and traumatized. It destroyed homes, schools, hospitals and transportation and communication infrastructures. Food that had been gathered and stored for the winter lay under the rubble of people’s homes. Hundreds of thousands of people were left with no means of livelihood, no shelter and dependent on Pakistan and the world community for help. Hundreds of remote villages cut off for days from any rescue or relief efforts.

Terror and uncertainty were the order of the day. Hundreds of thousands of people were left with no means of livelihood, no shelter and suddenly dependent on Pakistan and the world community for help. Heavy rains made the situation even worse, as people were exposed to respiratory diseases and water-borne diseases.

The disaster made extraordinary demands on the military, government departments and NGOs, including the Rural Support Programmes most closely affected: SRSP and NRSP. Like many other development and humanitarian organizations, NRSP worked around the clock to respond to the sudden and massive need for aid and relief for the devastated families and communities. The Chairman, CEO, GM, and all other senior officials have contributed to developing systems to deliver relief services to even the most remote areas. Thandeep, RSP and PRSP also responded immediately and sent relief goods and medical help.

Everyone at NRSP demonstrated intense personal commitment and professional dedication in responding to the disaster. NRSP formed a Disaster Response Committee to ensure effective interaction between the Head Office and Bagh and Rawalakot. As the scale of the disaster became clearer, 110 NRSP staff from every District where NRSP works and from the Head Office were deputed to spend 10 days at a time in AJK for relief activities.

Many of the NRSP staff members: the drivers, Social Organisers, Engineers, credit staff, and others, living and working in the programme areas in Bagh, Rawalakot and Koti were themselves directly affected; many had lost family members and their homes and livelihoods were destroyed. However, they responded to the greater need of their communities, working long hours for days on end, living in tents, initially managing without running water or cooked meals, and dealing with the intense cold as the winter deepened.

Some NRSP staff members responded by distributing the food, medicines and warm clothing generously donated by individuals and corporations. Others got to work helping to clear the narrow, rubble-choked streets of Mitaffarabad, Bakh and other urban centres. Some worked to clear the grounds of schools and hospitals so that these places could at least be accessed on foot. Some staff members became involved in setting up emergency medical centres in remote villages. In many locations NRSP was the first organization to provide first aid treatment in remote locations which had no road links.

Our 3,100 staff members donated one day’s salary to a relief fund amounting to Rs 567,165. This money was used to purchase C02 sheets and relief supplies.

NRSP’s relief programme began in Districts Bagh and Rawalakot on 9th October. At the request of Government officials in AJK, NRSP also established a relief camp in Mitaffarabad on October 25th 2005. This would eventually be developed into a fully-fledged Regional programme office.

On October 9th the NRSP/RM Guest House in Islamabad was converted into a Base Camp 1. This became the heart of the relief effort in the first few weeks. One of its functions was to receive and dispatch the shelter items, medicines, food and other relief goods arriving from across the country and around the world.

IRM coordinated with UNHAS to fly staff members to and from the affected areas. The Base Camp 1 staff contributed to establishing the warehouses in the 3 Districts of AJK.

NRSP dispatched 17 medical teams each with 2 doctors and 2 paramedics whose members were
from the Punjab Rural Support Programme, to Rawalakot, from the Base Camp. The Head of Administration supervised that activity and began the process of establishing the transportation, communication and data systems that would be required.

A convoy of trucks transported the medical staff and the food, water, milk, medicines and other supplies. The doctors provided first aid and medicines, performed minor surgeries and made referrals for the most serious cases. They worked in the open air in the affected villages. Some of the doctors traveled to distant villages, carrying water, milk and biscuits for the people and eventually ensuring that medical supplies arrived.

Another team worked to assess the damage and the immediate needs, to help establish the necessary logistical and communications systems, and to support the NRSP staff in the Rawalakot and Bagh Districts. The NRSP staff from Kothri also traveled to Bagh, accompanied by a team of medical volunteers from Khidmar-e-Khalq Trust in Sehna (Kothri).

NRSP's Institute of Rural Management mobilized 40 vehicles and scores of staff members. IRM staff also worked around the clock to get customs clearance for relief goods from outside Pakistan, working with the airport and 'dry port' authorities, as well as negotiating with the Government Secretariat to obtain 'No Objection Certificates' for goods flowing into the country.

The co-ordination of people, vehicles and goods was critical. Initially, the safe passage of vehicles and relief goods was almost impossible, given the chaotic state of affairs. The Base Camp 1 staff established a schedule for transporting relief goods safely. Much of the work of establishing a 'Relief MIS' was done by NRSP Head Office and IRM IT experts working at the Base Camp.

**Identifying the Worst Affected**

Based on its years of experience in social mobilization, NRSP has worked with community members to identify the most vulnerable people and the worst-affected areas.

It is fundamental to NRSP's approach to acknowledge that women and children are often the first to suffer in natural disasters and in the social disruption that follows, as has been noted in many studies. Women are also more vulnerable to physical assault and neglect. Traffickers who prey on people's misery often target women and children. Many women have also lost the income earners in their families and now must survive in extremely difficult circumstances.

On October 15 NRSP requested volunteers from COs to conduct a survey of the extent of damage to homes, livestock losses, infrastructure damage, and damage to shops, schools and health facilities, in Bagh District. 35 CO members and office holders from Kothri District responded. In one week, they surveyed over 160 mahallas and dhoks in 61 Revenue Villages in Dirghot and Bagh Tehsils. The Government of AJK also recruited Revenue Department officials to cross-check the figures.

NRSP was a partner in a UNICEF sample assessment survey conducted in six Union Councils, 3 in Bagh and 3 in Forward Kagura. The survey assessed the status of unaccompanied children (i.e., those with no parents, those without parents but with relatives, orphaned children with a single parent and disabled children). Another purpose of the survey was to assess the extent to which a parent's disability affects the lives of the children.
The tasks of determining the extent of the destruction, who should receive relief items, and, later on, transitional shelter packages, as well as who should participate in sustainable livelihood programmes, were shared by NRSP staff members, Activists, and in some cases, village leaders. Special care was taken to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable widows, children, the disabled, those without any means to earn, were met first. The need was to ensure, on the one hand, that no duplication occurred, and on the other, that every deserving person was included.

NRSP was the first agency in District Bagh to conduct a house-to-house survey to assess the losses and damages. The field teams prioritised orphans, widows, the elderly and other badly-affected people in the distribution of tents and food. NRSP also arranged for the ‘clustering’ of two to three adjacent locations and announced the distributions days for each cluster. In some cases donors also participated in the distribution. NRSP staff and local volunteers helped women and injured persons in carrying relief goods from camps to their houses.

Procurement and Distribution Arrangements

In the hours and days immediately following the disaster, the RSPs, the RSPN, corporations and individuals generously donated food, drinking water, medical supplies and warm clothing. NRSP also donated goods from its own resources. The NRSP offices in Islamabad were inundated with tarpaulins, tents, tool kits, plastic sheeting, food, water and other items.

The response required NRSP to implement a massive scaling up of its activities. We would eventually procure 183,000 CGI sheets (2,200 metric tonnes) from four suppliers, with funding provided by PPAP and UNDP. NRSP delivered nearly 100,000 CGI sheets itself and the rest were distributed by the UNDP and other organisations. We would also deliver sixteen thousand tents, over two thousand tarpaulins, 134,000 items of bedding, over 12,000 bags of fertilizer, over 50,000 items of winter clothing and shoes, 65,000 “winter kits” for school children and over 18,000 chairs and tables and other supplies for schools. Furthermore, NRSP delivered over two million cartons of food items and milk, along with over 11,000 cartons of mineral water and 400 cartons of medicines, over the course of the relief and the rehabilitation efforts.

In November 2005 Atlas Logistique, an international, non-profit organization of "logistics professionals and volunteers" donated vehicles for 6 months, to transport goods from Islamabad to AJK. This contribution was extremely beneficial as it lifted the financial burden of the huge transportation cost between Islamabad and our warehouses in AJK.

NRSP also had to create an accurate and equitable means of identifying recipients of relief goods, to develop expertise in disaster mitigation and planning, and to do all of this under very tight deadlines in volatile situations.

A Procurement Committee was formed to monitor the entire operation, so as to ensure transparency. Our existing procurement and quality assurance procedures were also
transformed, as NRSP coped with huge orders for supplies. The inflow of massive amounts of relief goods, flowing in from Karachi, the UK, India, Europe and the US required a sophisticated tracking and quality assurance system. Originally a series of Excel sheets, the tracking system rapidly evolved into a Relief MIS, maintained by the IT specialists from NRSP’s Institute of Rural Management and the NRSP Head Office. Eventually NRSP was able to track the location of every item from its point of procurement to its delivery in a village. Internal Auditors were appointed to audit the procurement and distribution system.

After the Islamabad Cosmopolitan Rotary Club Chapter, headed by its President Dr. Pervez Ehsan, generously donated the use of a large warehouse in Sihala, close to Islamabad, the immediate problems of storage and distribution to the field areas was resolved. By the end of November 2005 NRSP had erected warehouses in Bagh, Rawalakot and Muzaffarabad. In Muzaffarabad, the land for the tent offices was donated by the Government of AJK. NRSP initially used a building requisitioned by the AJK Government for a warehouse, and later used a building provided for this purpose by the World Food Program.

Most of the goods that NRSP received were delivered first to the warehouse, where people worked around the clock to record the number of items received and their condition, and to load trucks for dispatch to Base Camps in Bagh, Muzaffarabad and Rawalakot.

Some items were sent directly to those Base Camps for further distribution. Within days, NRSP had established a total of 58 extended distribution points, most of them in tents in high-altitude villages. Goods were distributed from these points to villagers who walked down from the ridgelines and across steep valleys to the distribution camps, then either carried relief goods on their backs or paid local transporters to take things to their houses.

**Reviving Social Capital: The Role of Community Activists in Relief and Rehabilitation of Communities and Livelihoods**

From the very beginning NRSP relied for its relief efforts on its extensive network of Community Organisations and Community Activists. As noted earlier, in Bagh and Rawalakot there were 1,820 COs prior to the disaster. New COs have been formed, as the programme has expanded to Muzaffarabad. Since the disaster, 358 new COs with 6,397 members, have been formed: 52 in Muzaffarabad, 202 in District Bagh and 104 in Tehsil Rawalakot.

CO Activists have played, and continue to play, a significant role in the entire response to the
disaster. Indeed, without their hard work it would not have been possible for NRSP to accomplish what it did. A few examples are given below, but these represent only the most evident of the Activists' contributions.

- On October 15, NRSP requested volunteers from COs to conduct surveys of livestock losses and the extent of damage to homes, infrastructure, shops, schools, and health facilities in Bagh District. 35 men came from Kotli District and over the course of a week, surveyed Tehsils Drirkot and Bagh.

- In terms of relief distribution, Activists participated in relief distribution from the earliest days of the response. They also helped to conduct initial damage-assessment surveys. In Projects designated for specific numbers of people - for example two DHER funded transitional-shelter projects and the CIDA funded shelter and health project implemented in Ghanabad - the local Activists worked with the NRSP staff to identify the neediest families.

- In the ILO-funded Rapid Income Support for Employment 'Cash for Work' projects in Bagh and Muzaffarabad Activists identified local labourers and identified the localities which needed to be cleared, the worst-hit areas and the families most in need of help.

- In the USAID-funded 'Reviving Education' Project, the funds for which were channeled through RSPN, the Activists participated in forming a total of 114 School Management Committees, 38 in each District. They also supervised the removal of rubble from school sites, as well as hiring local people for the 'cash for work' component of the project. They helped to install the shelters and the latrines and drinking water systems. Activists also encouraged parents to send their children to the schools, and assisted the project staff in a trauma counseling campaign for children and their parents.

- When the PPAP-funded Rehabilitation and Reconstruction project was initiated in April 2006, community Activists assisted the survey teams (i.e. the NRSP project staff and the Government representatives) in the damage reassessment process, and participated in house-to-house surveys to identify particularly vulnerable people.

- Local Activists served on Food Committees for the distribution of aid from the World Food Program. As in other projects, they identified the families in need and ensured that the records were properly maintained.

In Bagh and Rawalakot the Activists have helped to re-establish the COs that had been functioning prior to the disaster. In Muzaffarabad local men and women who have been identified as potential Activists are at work helping to form new COs under the Novib-funded Sustainable Livelihoods project (discussed in more detail at the end of this report).
A Flexible Distribution System: Trust in Action

Perhaps the strongest aspect of the distribution process is its flexibility. Although order must be maintained to ensure that people do not cheat the system, it is equally important that NRSP staff treat beneficiaries as individuals who have been severely traumatized and are in need. Two examples of this came to my attention yesterday. Both were matters that were raised after we had declared the distribution to be finished for the day. Our supply of tents had almost run out, and by the time we were going to be resupplied from the Base Camp in Bagh, it would have been dark. So we told the people who had not received tents to return the next day with their tokens. The crowd of around 40 people dispersed without grumbling (another indicator that the distribution system has credibility with the local people. If we tell them they'll get a tent tomorrow, and they have a token, they trust that we'll do as we say). However, several women remained behind. They explained to us that they were the heads of their households, and that it would be very difficult for them to return the next day. Mr. Shakkil, who is in charge of distribution, immediately agreed that they should each be given some of the tents that we had been keeping for tomorrow, which we did. The women then left for their villages.

After the women left, a man approached us and said that because he had not been at home when the survey team had arrived in his village, he was not on the distribution list. After verifying this with several other people who were also from his village, he was added to the list and given a token. Finally, during the day several people came to the distribution center claiming that the survey team had missed their village (20 households) altogether. After discussions with NRSP staff from that area, and a check of the survey records, this was verified and a survey team dispatched on Saturday 12th November.

The flexibility to deal with individual problems such as these is a result of several factors. The first is having local knowledge of the communities. The NRSP staff working at the Distribution Centres are usually people from the surrounding villages, so they have a good sense of local needs. Another reason is that the smooth survey and distribution process at Sudhen Gali was the excellent management skills of Mr. Shakkil who, before the earthquake, was working as a Social Organizer in Kolidh. The representatives from the NGO Shelter Box have been working with him for a week and cannot praise him enough. Danny Cuthrell, MER Head Office.
Partnerships for Relief and Rehabilitation

NRSP built on existing partnerships and established new ones, to meet emergent needs. These partners include the Governments of Pakistan and AJK, the Pakistan military, the Rotary Club, Care, the UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, UN Habitat, the World Food Program and the ILO.

The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund has been the most significant partner, working with NRSP from the earliest days of the relief effort, and partnering with NRSP in implementing the massive, multi-sectoral Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) Project. The components of the PPAF project are discussed in the sections on Shelter, Community Physical Infrastructure and Training.

A number of smaller NGOs from within Pakistan and the international community also generously offered aid, both in the form of funds and ‘in-kind’ goods. Many organizations relied on NRSP’s long-term relationship with members of community organizations and made arrangements with NRSP to deliver goods and services to remote areas.

NRSP has worked closely with the Rural Support Program Network (RSPN) the largest non-governmental network of rural development programmes in Pakistan. RSPN’s support for the relief effort has taken the form of coordinating with donors, including DfiD, USAID, and OSI, writing funding proposals and conducting baseline reviews.

Thirty six Pakistani and international NGOs approached NRSP to work in partnerships of various kinds, all realizing that using our extensive network of Community Organisations was the best platform from which to launch their own relief efforts. These are summarized below; the details of many of the projects are given in the remainder of the report.
## Partnerships for Relief and Rehabilitation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Donation and/or Facilitation</th>
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| Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (Pakistan Government/World Bank) | • Financial assistance for relief and rehabilitation activities and goods (Rs. 52 Million)  
• Funding the rehabilitation work for NRSP  
• Implemented CPs, donated tents, bedding, milk and water for the relief effort.  
• Implementing ERRA Reconstruction and Rehabilitation (R&R) project with NRSP. |
| Rural Support Programmes Network | • Support and coordination of relief efforts; coordination with donors, proposal writing and baseline reviews  
• Channelled funds from the UK Department for International Development (DfID) to provide shelter, food and basic medical care for 2,400 people in Rawalakot over a 6-month period.  
• Installed a tent for Spinal Rehabilitation Center in Abbas Institute of Medical Science, Muzaffarabad with financial assistance of Creative Text USA, United Parcel Service (UPS) and the Primary Trauma Care Foundation. |
| UNDP | • 270,000 CGI sheet, used to build transitional shelters that can be heated safely |
| ILO | • Cash for Work Programmes in Muzaffarabad and Bagh  
• Vocational skills training for reconstruction and income-generation in Bagh and Muzaffarabad  
• Established Vocational & Technical Training Center and bore the recurring costs until June 2006 |
| World Food Programme | • Established 8 warehouses and 58 food distribution points  
• Donated approximately 12,517 metric tonnes of food for 33,426 people from all 8 rural Union Councils of Tehsil Muzaffarabad  
• Distributed food to 300 households in Muzaffarabad city and to 437 households in UC Muzaffarabad  
• In Bagh, 2 months supply of food distributed to families living above the snow line.  
• In January 2006 started an Emergency School Feeding programme in Muzaffarabad. |
| Food and Agriculture Organization | • Provided funds and in-kind resources to enable 22,500 farming households in Rawalakot and Muzaffarabad to grow food |
| UNICEF | • Providing maternal and child healthcare by establishing and funding 6 Field Health Clinics  
• Provided funding for training of 1,000 Community Health Workers  
• Donated 10,000 blankets  
• Donated 80,000 winter kits to school children aged 515 in Bagh |
| Direct Relief International (USA) | • Donated US$ 84,947 for medicines, lab equipment and 6 transitional shelters for the six UNICEF-funded Field Health Clinics  
• US$ 84,947 for medicines, medical supplies, lab equipment and 6 transitional shelters, for the UNICEF-NRSP primary health care program |
| UK Department for International Development | • Transitional shelter and rehabilitation project for 625 families in Rawalakot between December 2005 and September 2006. |
| USAID | • Provided funds to NRSP through RSPN to establish 114 public-sector schools in tents in Muzaffarabad, Bagh and Rawalakot  
• Established a Cash for Work programme to clear school grounds and surrounding areas |
<p>| CIDA | • Funds for a general and reproductive Health center as well as shelter items and a 15-day food supply to 375 families in Ghizer, Bagh |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Donation and/or Facilitation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Novib (Oxfam Netherlands)</td>
<td>• In August 2006 provided € 2,616,788 (Rs 192,945,500) for an 18-month Sustainable Livelihoods Programme in 9 UCs in Murree.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Society Institute (USA)</td>
<td>• Provided funds through RSPF for supporting 50 schools (ten in each district), which were either previously community schools or managed by private entrepreneurs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macdonald &amp; Johnson through Learning for Life (UK)</td>
<td>• Provided funds through RSPF for construction of a Government school building in Murree. The school was also provided with furniture and necessary school supplies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Aid Foundation (UK)</td>
<td>• Sent volunteers from the UK to assess immediate and medium-term needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATLAS Logistique</td>
<td>• Donated 4,100 COI sheets for villages Nikka Narcha and Tangot (80 households each) in Bagh District.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rotary Club International and Shelter Box (UK)</td>
<td>• Helped to establish a temporary school in Bagh District.</td>
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<td>Rotary Club Cosmopolitan Islamabad</td>
<td>• Donated and distributed thousands of Shelter Box kits and tents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDAIR Humanitarian Organization/International (Switzerland)</td>
<td>• Donated the use of a warehouse close to Islamabad, where relief goods were received, recorded and distributed to the 3 NRSFP Districts in AJK.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARE International</td>
<td>• Donated 400 packets of food, as well as torches and hygiene kits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thardeep Rural Development Programme</td>
<td>• Donated 5 containers for the community training unit in Murree. The training took place at Mirpur and Murree.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Islamic Relief</td>
<td>• Helped to restore educational facilities, including providing large tents to house the schools, training teachers and providing safe drinking water.</td>
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<tr>
<td>German Agro Action</td>
<td>• Provided funds to establish shelters in four schools, as well as furniture and school supplies for the schools.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support to Life/Diakonie</td>
<td>• Made 3,500 shelters, each containing 12-14 CGI sheets, construction materials and tools and a wood-burning stove with chimney.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peace Boat (a Japanese NGO)</td>
<td>• Donated 400 COI sheets and 1,000 tents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support to Life/Diakonie</td>
<td>• Donated 17 medical kits (2 doctors and 2 paramedics each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>German Agro Action</td>
<td>• Procured and sent 500 turpinals with funding from DHD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support to Life/Diakonie</td>
<td>• 4,336 packets of food items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peace Boat (a Japanese NGO)</td>
<td>• Nearly 1 million packets of medicines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support to Life/Diakonie</td>
<td>• Provided quilts and clothing (PRSP/Silk)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support to Life/Diakonie</td>
<td>• Close to 3,000 quilts</td>
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<td>Support to Life/Diakonie</td>
<td>• Provided a 4x4 cargo truck and a driver for transportation of relief goods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support to Life/Diakonie</td>
<td>• Donated 21,080 food packages in the emergency relief phase.</td>
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<td>Organization</td>
<td>Donation and/or Facilitation</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Al Fakhir Charity Organization</td>
<td>• Rs. 8 million for construction of 150-200 two-room houses (including bathroom, kitchen &amp; verandah)</td>
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</table>
| Hisaar Foundation and Chisnaar Trust              | • Raised cash and in-kind support worth Rs 3,792,704  
• Blankets and warm clothes supplied to villages in Sudhan Gali and Rawi Gali areas.  
• Ongoing provision of shelter, warm clothing and blankets, and food.  
• Ongoing support to women’s programme and fundraising for schools.  
• The Chisnaar Trust signed an MoU with Hisaar Foundation to implement a prosthetic limb support programme.  
• Shelter construction initiated in 9 villages in Sudhan Gali (Seri Perana, Sonla, Dara, Sudhan Gali, Nergah, Salma, Salata, Termerlot and Jandala).  
• Donated 3,016 cartons of powdered milk for distribution to undernourished mothers and children from the six Health Facilities. |
| Amna Jee Development Organisation                 | • Donated CGI Sheets for Emergency shelter in Rawalakot during the relief phase.               |
| G-Lord Marketing Service, Verband GmbH Germany    | • Donated 300,000 pairs of high quality used and new shoes. NRSP organized the clearance of 11 shipping containers from the Port of Karachi after getting the NOC from the Cabinet Division. All 11 containers were delivered to the warehouse in Sibakhi. NRSP organized the process of unloading and reloading the consignment onto Bedford trucks. The field teams distributed the shoes to needy children, women and men in numerous locations. |
| Focus Humanitarian Assistance (AKDN)               | • Donated relief goods in Muzaffarabad: 6,713 blankets, 430 tents, 9,331 CGI sheets, 1,857 family packets of food, 1,338 food bags, 4,183 food packets, 867 hygiene kits, 1,070 water coolers and other food and non-food items. |
| VITTA                                             | • Assisted in initial procurements for NRSP and donated relief items.                           |
| Mishal Foundation                                  | • Shelter and other relief items.                                                              |
| Pakistan Tobacco Company                           | • 4,310 food items, 40 tents, 8,020 miscellaneous items.                                      |
| Land O Lakes Pakistan Foundation                  | • Distribution of emergency food items provided by WFP.                                        |
| Khidmat-e-Khalq Trust (based in Kohli, AJK)       | • Emergency medical assistance.                                                                |

**Co-operation with the Government of AJK**

Co-operation with local Government officials was critically important from the very beginning. NRSP and Government officials have met regularly in Muzaffarabad, Bagh and Rawalakot. The GoAJK quickly allotted a 4-kanal plot of land for a warehouse in Muzaffarabad and also provided a 15-kanal plot for a Vocational Training Centre there. NRSP donated 300 tents to house low-scale employees who had lost their homes. All of NRSP's Education and Health activities in AJK have been implemented in co-operation with the AJK Government Departments.

**Working with the UN**

NRSP functioned as the procurement agent for the UNDP in purchasing 2,200 metric tones of CGI sheets from Pakistan Steel Mills. The sheets (183, 000 in all) were used to enable people to build transitional shelters that could be heated safely, for people wishing to stay close to their land, homes and surviving livestock. The budget for the procurement was Rs. 90 Million (US$ 1.5 million) extended over 6 months. Some of the CGI sheets were designated for NRSP activities, some for SRSP, and some for the UNDP's own programme and those of other partners.
Recognising that information sharing was critical for the relief effort, our Head Office and District staff members in AJK and Islamabad regularly attended UNOCHA 'cluster' meetings on emergency shelter, food and nutrition, as well as the livelihood cluster meetings chaired by the FAO and the education sector cluster meetings chaired by UNICEF.

UNHAS provided helicopter transport free of charge to NRSP staff, enabling them to travel to and from the District offices and Islamabad as rapidly as possible. This was tremendously beneficial throughout the relief and rehabilitation phases, enabling NRSP staff to travel when roads were impassable because of the weather, landslides or other reasons.

**Distribution of UNICEF 'Winter Kits' to Children in Panyali Village, Bagh**

NRSP distributed a total of 80,000 'winter kits' and blankets provided by UNICEF to school-aged children, aged 5 to 15, in AJK. The clothing is packed in bags which serve as a school bag. Each kit contains a padded jacket, a woolen cap, gloves, socks, and a pair of winter shoes. The following account describes some of the circumstances encountered in January 2006.

The team set out from the Bagh Base Camp in the driving rain, in a convoy of four vehicles. Despite the bad weather, it was considered vitally necessary to distribute the kits as promised, as the children were waiting. A short distance from the Bagh base camp, a landslide blocked the road, so the goods were unpacked from the large truck and put into small Jeeps which were able to go around the slide.

The first stop was READ Foundation School Jamal Morha which is now housed in two tents. 120 children attend the school, but they had gone home because of the bad weather. Many of them returned to the school when they heard about the NRSP team's visit. One of the teachers also returned and provided the attendance register. An NRSP Social Organizer asked the teacher and others to prepare a list of beneficiary students. 187 bags and blankets were given to the children.

The second stop was primary school Jalmadha, which has 50 students. The school was destroyed in the earthquake and has been rebuilt by the Army using old CGI sheets and other materials. However, the rain was pouring into the school and the students and their parents were waiting outside. The students were invited to receive their kits by the NRSP team and a local community leader. The SOs quickly enlisted students and two of the teachers in preparing another list. 50 winter kits and 50 blankets were distributed.

Two Km away is the village of Kothian, where 338 winter kits and blankets were to be given to students of the boys' and girls' high schools. The kits and blankets were dropped close to the damaged home of the Girls' Headmistress Mrs. Zahida Begum, who had agreed to distribute them to the children when they return to school. Mr. Khalid has been in charge of the boys' section of the high school since Mr. Ayub Kiani, the Headmaster, died in the quake. Seven of the students and 6 other staff members had also died. The girls' school had been closed on 8th October so there were no casualties there. As the team returned to the base camp in Bagh they came across a group of 50 students from Saoiri school and their parents. The team gave winter kits and blankets to every student. All of the parents and children said how pleased and grateful they were to receive the winter kits to protect them from the extreme cold.

Source: Mr. A. Q. Jilani, Regional Professional MER, Bagh. Regional Professional MER, Bagh.
Meeting Sector-Specific Needs

1. Providing Shelter

The most important concern in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, after food and health, was shelter. With the winter closing in, 33.5 million people were homeless and faced the prospect of living without any protection from the elements. This was especially problematic in high-altitude villages. Having a shelter also gave people some privacy and allowed some resumption of family life. NRSP staff members from all sectors, in particular the Engineering department, played a significant role in installing tents, erecting shelters, providing sanitation in camp villages and teaching people how to do these things themselves.

Relief Phase

In District Bagh the Turkish NGO Support To Life provided CGI sheets procured from Tajikistan and distributed through NRSP, STL also provided 600 tents to Chakar village, Muzaffarabad, which NRSP distributed.

Rotary International UK donated over 8,800 Shelter Box kits. Of these, 2,400 are large enough to house a family of 10 and close to 6,600 can house a family of 6 to 8. These were distributed in the three affected Districts of AJK. Each Shelter Box contains a winter-proof 10-person tent, 10 sleeping bags, a water-purifying kit, and the tools necessary to rebuild a shelter. The Shelter Box is housed in a heavy-duty plastic box that families can use for storage.

Rotary International UK also committed to provide an additional four thousand tents in Bagh District. A total of 8,572 tents were distributed between 24th October, 2005 and 6th February, 2006. The estimated value of these shelter items is Rs. 200 million. NRSP utilised the tents to establish seven tent villages housing 118 families. 30 special-purpose tents were donated for the NRSP Vocational Training Centre located at the Bagh Base Camp, plus two tents to function as offices for the ILO 'Cash for Work' Project in Muzaffarabad. Some were also given to establish healthcare facilities.

Rotary Club Islamabad Cosmopolitan generously committed to helping in the effort to restore educational facilities in the affected area, by providing tents big enough to house a school, training teachers and providing safe drinking water to the children.

CARE International Pakistan provided shelter packages (a tent and basic household items) to 1,000 families in Kharra Abbasian in Teshil Bagh. A second agreement to meet the shelter and other needs of 400 families (approximately 3,200 beneficiaries) was signed in January 2006 for District Bagh. Care International made a commitment to donate US $65,566 to NRSP. NRSP utilized the CARE funding to purchase 4,000 CGI sheets from Pakistan Steel Mills and 400 Shelter Tool kits. Each toolkit contained a hammer, a spade, a saw, pliers, screw drivers, a pick (mattock) and 1 Kg of iron nails packed in a canvas bag. Other relief goods donated included quilts, beds, mattresses, plastic sheets, stoves and shawl. A total of 4,035 people received these items.

Transitional Shelter

Useful as the tents were, it was quickly acknowledged that people would need more than tents if they were to survive the winter. Providing transitional shelter became the predominant concern. The initial concept was to provide CGI sheets, heavy-duty plastic sheeting and tarpaulins, and tool kits for construction, on the assumption that people would use some building materials salvaged from their homes.
Shelter and Survival Items Provided by CARE International in Bagh District

In a project which began on January 5th and ended on March 5th, CARE International generously made a commitment to donate a total of PKR 3,934,000 (approximately 65,566 USD) to NRSP to help 400 families (1,200 people) to meet their shelter and other needs during the winter of 2006-07.

Using those funds, NRSP purchased 4,000 CGI sheets and 400 shelter construction toolkits. CARE also covered the cost of transporting the CGI sheets from Karachi to Bagh. NRSP absorbed the cost of transporting the items to the distribution points, identifying the recipients and maintaining all records.

The remaining goods (quilts, beds, mattresses, plastic sheeting, stoves and shawls) were in-kind donations. CARE International delivered those goods to NRSP's warehouse in Bagh, from where they were transported by NRSP to 6 of its distribution camps located in remote villages.

The original plan had been to identify 400 of the most needy families and to give them a 'package' consisting of 10 CGI sheets, a toolkit, 8 plastic sheets for insulation and waterproofing, stove, 8 beds, mattresses, quilts, and 8 shawls. The actual delivery of shelter items was changed, since many of the families NRSP had initially identified as needy had already received some relief items, some from NRSP and some from other agencies. The alternative plan was to deliver items to individuals and families who had urgent needs for specific items. A total of 4,035 people received relief and/or shelter items under this CARE Project.

NRSP's monitoring professional in Bagh conducted a rapid assessment of the shelter usage in 23 randomly-selected households in Sudhaan Gali and Ghanjabad. Eleven respondents were the heads of their household; 2 of them widows who are now fully responsible for their families. Two families were extremely poor before the disaster, and are still destitute. For these families in particular, it would have been impossible to build a new home without the CARE goods. Everyone who received the shelter items had been living in tents before they received the CARE shelter kits.

All 23 families had constructed a shelter with the CGI sheets and were now comfortably housed in a warm place. The toolkits had proved useful in constructing the buildings. The plastic sheets provide insulation from the cold, the rain and the snow. The mattresses and blankets made it possible to stay warm at night, helping to ensure the comfort of children, the elderly and the sick and injured. In the high-altitude villages especially, the items received from CARE ensured people's survival in extremely difficult winter conditions. The NRSP teams had constructed some of the shelters themselves, most of them for widows.

The NRSP staff in Bagh noted that 235 women were directly given relief items, and many hundreds more would have received items collected by the men in their families. Similarly, many disabled individuals would have received the relief items.
PPAF Relief and Reconstruction Projects: Shelter Component

NRSP and PPAF have been engaged in the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (R and R) project launched by the Earthquake Relief and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA). The proposed duration of the project is two years, with a total budget of Rs. 2,628,149,460 (USD 43,802,491).

NRSP arranged a two-day Initiation Workshop at Best Western Hotel Islamabad on 1st and 2nd of March, 2006 to initiate a discussion between the NRSP staff and PPAF officials. The R&R project has the following components:

- Conducting a damage assessment survey
- Disbursing grants for house reconstruction and rehabilitation. (Rs1.950 1 Billion/US$32,500,000)
- Ensuring the continued operation of existing CCOs or forming new CCOs in the Project area
- Training and capacity building (Rs. 295,875,460 / USD 4,931,258)
- Rehabilitation of 275 CPHs and construction of 25 Community Buildings (Rs. 382,274,000/USD 6,370,783)

A total of 37,047 houses, 94% of them completely destroyed, will be rebuilt in 12 Union Councils of Tehsil Rawalakot (5 UCs) and District Bagh (7 UCs). Families are to receive a grant of Rs 75,000 (USD 1,250) to rebuild partially damaged houses and Rs 150,000 (USD 2,500) for completely destroyed houses. The grants will be disbursed in three stages: (1) the initial compensation (2) when the foundation ("plinth") has been inspected and declared to meet the ERRA standard and (3) the "lintel" stage (i.e. when the walls have been constructed to their full height and meet the ERRA standard).

A damage-assessment survey of rural housing in the 12 Union Councils that covered more than 37,659 rural housing units (against the target of 35,000) was successfully completed in August 2006. Compensation grants totaling Rs 2.5 billion (42.3 million USD) had been disbursed to 34,522 affected families as of October 2006 for reconstruction and/or repair.

PPAF is funding 26 Social Mobilization Teams (SMTs), each to cover 5 villages. Each SMT has 2 Social Organisers (one man and one woman), a Field Engineer, a Security Guard and a Driver.

For the 26 SMTs there are 3 Structures (SS), each including a Programme Coordinator, a Senior Engineer, a Social Organizer, 2 MER specialists, an Accountant, a Security Guard and Attendee, and 2 Drivers. NRSP is implementing the R&R Project in the following Union Councils:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Bagh</th>
<th>District Poosnch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Bani Pasari</td>
<td>1. Bangoin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Bir Pan</td>
<td>2. Dhanni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Changal</td>
<td>3. Dothan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rawali</td>
<td>5. Pakhar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Topi</td>
<td>7. Topi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The SMTs have conducted 174 one-day workshops attended by 26,713 persons in the

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1 These figures are from the budget of the aggregate grant between PPAF and NRSP. However, these figures keep changing because of changing surcharge of the actual damage assessment. It is expected that practically more than Rs 2,000 million will be disbursed.

2 The Army has provided to PPAF and then passed to NRSP
affected villages, explaining to residents what the requirements for safe construction are, and how to ensure that the requirements are met.

The Rural Support Programme Network, in conjunction with NRSP, implemented a DFID-funded Relief and Rehabilitation Project in Rawalakot, District Poonch, which ran from December 10th to May 30th 2006. The project was created to house, feed and provide basic assistance to 325 families.

DFID-funded shelter and Livelihoods Project for 300 families in Rawalakot

The DFID-funded shelter and rehabilitation project in Rawalakot, managed by RSPN and implemented by NRSP, was a response to the urgent need for transitional shelter, feed and shelter to keep animals alive over the winter, as well as agri-based activities for nutrition. The project ran from March 15th to September 15th 2006. Another significant activity was training 175 people in key livelihood skills to meet the shortage of skilled labor during the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. A 'cash for work' program was also implemented for some of the poorest households, to enable those families to clear their land for shelters and agriculture. RSPN and NRSP decided to identify 300 families in Districts Rawalakot and Pabander as project beneficiaries. NRSP's District Office in Rawalakot coordinated the project.

A baseline survey was developed to identify the most vulnerable families. The main criteria were: the condition of the people, the extent of damage to houses, agriculture resources destroyed, livestock losses and homeless families. The most vulnerable were defined as the very poor, women-headed households, child-headed households, the elderly and orphans. The baseline survey covered 41 villages and assessed 1,620 households.

Beneficiary 'packages': Eligible families were to receive 12 CGI sheets, a tarpaulin and plastic sheeting. The animal shelter consisted of an additional 12 CGI sheets. The cash for work meant to clear rubble and build shelters, was to amount to Rs 5,000 per family. However, these 'packages' were not strictly adhered to because the baseline survey found that more than 75% of the houses had been destroyed. With the winter on the horizon, and the shortage of available shelter items held by the government agencies and other relief organizations, it was decided to increase the number of beneficiary families from 300 to 700, and to focus primarily on housing. However, 280 of the poorest families were given CGI sheets to build shelter for their animals (a total of 3,380 sheets). An addition 80 destitute households benefited from the 'cash for work' programme.

For each item received, the head of every beneficiary household entered his or her name or thumbprint on a sheet, along with his or her NIC number. For the cash for work (for rubble clearance) NRSP gave 'open cheques' for PKR 5,000 to 25 families. They were selected according to their income level, degree of poverty and the number of earning members in the family. In Hajira, the money was disbursed only to women CO members. NRSP had distributed a total of 11,760 CGI sheets and 800 tarpaulins by August 1st 2006.

564 families received a 5 Kg package of vegetable seeds (3.5 Kg) and fertiliser (1.5 Kg), to be used for 'kitchen gardening'. 4,000 Kg of seed potatoes were also distributed to 397 families in Dohan and Abbaspur. Because most people did not have up-to-date information about maximizing crop production, NRSP's agriculture officer organized a 'field demonstration' to teach people how to sow the seeds, take care of the plants and harvest and store the vegetables.

An animal feed kit (maize, molasses, straw/hay and feed supplement) was given to 280 families which had animals but either no cultivated land or other source of income to feed their animals. 92 of the families were CO members.
Shelter Impact Assessment Survey Conducted for UNDP, Feb. 2006

NRSP conducted an impact assessment survey in February 2006, to learn what percentage of the households receiving CGI sheets donated by UNDP and distributed by NRSP between December 18 and January 7 had constructed a shelter; why any households had not completed a shelter, and what lessons NRSP and UNDP could learn from the distribution process.

NRSP distributed 83% of the CGI sheets from its Bagh District Base Camp. COs were allocated CGI sheets through an application known as a 'Resolution' containing the CO's list of affected households. NRSP Social Organizers (SOs) of the respective areas verified the Resolutions in a field survey. The sheets were then issued to COs from NRSP's Bagh warehouse for distribution to targeted households. Seven sub-camps were also established for distribution to affected villages (Chokhi, Forward Khatua, Ghani Akad, Khusti Bazar, Rangla, Sari, and Suhden Gali). In the sub-camps, NRSP staff did the assessment and allocation themselves. The standard NRSP allocation was 15 sheets per household. However, in some cases this quantity was increased or reduced according to the actual need of the recipient at the time of distribution.

From the Bagh base camp, six field teams spent three days traveling to the selected villages, conducting interviews with 96 randomly-selected families (3.5% of the target households) and providing observations relevant to the survey objectives. If a household member was not available for an interview, the household was either replaced by another household from a predetermined (randomly-selected) 'alternate' list or by a household the surveyor deemed appropriate from the same village. There were 19 instances of alternates used in the survey. In addition, 7 widows were added as alternates to ensure some coverage of vulnerable households. In all, 11 widows were included in the survey.

Survey Results on CGI Sheet Usage. 66.7% of respondent households had used the CGI sheets, primarily to build a new shelter, rather than reinforcing damaged houses. Most shelters observed were well-built, with wooden framing and bracing and CGI sheets covering the roof and sides. Loose stone and mud was also used in some cases to build a kacha foundation. Most of the shelters were built with stronger foundation walls, bracing and quality wooden frames, although none of the respondents had at that point received any information on building earthquake-resistant houses.

Most of the new shelters have a stone for cooking and heating. As part of its shelter relief efforts, NRSP provided vocational training to expand the skilled labour market, issued toolkits, and generated shelter designs to be disseminated.

In high-altitude villages (e.g. Union Council Rangla, at 6,000 feet), where CGI allotments were received early in the distribution cycle and before the worst of the winter, everyone receiving the sheets used them to build shelters.

Contribution of wood was budgeted for collection by the affected community itself from the natural environment and salvaged materials. However, shortages of materials and skills persisted in various areas. As the largest and most established organization in AJK, NRSP faced great pressure daily with people approaching the Bagh office for their relief needs. Greater emphasis on allocation and coordination of building materials and services would probably have translated into a higher ratio of completed shelters, but the urgency of the situation precluded this.
2. Cash for Work

NRSP-ILO Cash for Work Projects in Muzaffarabad and Bagh

The project ran from November 11, 2005 to December 30, 2005. It injected a significant amount of money into the economies of Bagh and Muzaffarabad. With a daily wage rate of Rs 250, and a total of 10,587 person days of work performed, US$ 19,933 was paid out in Bagh and US$ 24,175 in Muzaffarabad. Major considerations in selecting the labor force included age (minimum 18 years), degree of economic need, the degree to which people had been affected, and local residency.

The programme met two extremely important needs. The first was to remove debris and to dispose of human and other waste materials, so that people's health was not compromised. The other need was to help maintain people's sense of self-reliance and to reduce dependency. The CFW programme eventually covered several schools, colleges, technical training centres, health centres and tent villages. The first priority in November was the tent village, where extremely poor sanitation was endangering people's health.

Implementation Strategy

The project activities were preceded by detailed surveys and consultations with the local and District authorities and residents. Senior members of the Government and the military helped to determine the priorities for debris clearance and the disposal sites. The ILO provided technical and material support, visiting the project sites regularly and providing backstopping support. All of the work was done in areas where only manual labour was feasible.

In residential sites, the project staff held dialogues with the families, explaining the objectives and motivating people to begin work. In the tent villages, the project staff highlighted the health risks posed by garbage and poor sanitation.

The project target was to provide employment for 7,200 'person days'. The achievement far exceeded the target. In Muzaffarabad the Project employed 5,020 men and 782 women (total 5,802), and injected Rs 1,450,500 into the local economy. In Bagh a total of 4,784 people (4,232 men, 552 women) were employed in Cash For Work projects, earning a total of Rs 1,196,000.

37% of the people hired were women. In both Districts, women joined the project later than the men, in line with cultural norms. However, employing women was a big challenge, it was difficult for women to work away from their homes. In the tent camps, special efforts were made to hire women. They were engaged to keep the living spaces clean, to dig small channels for water runoff and to collect and remove organic and other waste materials. Many of the women employed were widows who needed to support their families.

The project covered primary, middle and high schools, tent villages, a Government Social Welfare Vocational Centre for Women, the Daruludan Vocational Centre for widows and orphans, run by the Social Welfare Department and numerous residential mahallas. Teams also spent 10 days clearing the one-kilometer long Main Bazar Drain, which was choked with debris and garbage. The activities were initiated in consultation with the District administration.

In another example, the women occupants of the 52-household 'Muslim Global Relief' tent village, located near the bypass road of Bagh village, spent from December 08 to 21 working in Cash for Work projects. Muslim Global Relief Organization had provided the necessities of life, but the tent village had no drainage system and the land was not leveled. At the request of the residents, project activities focused on removing waste material and providing a basic sanitation...
system. Only women residents were employed. They leveled the streets, removed garbage from the streets, constructed katcha drains and constructed gravel footpaths. When the streets were clean, they were able to move their stoves outside the tents, thereby contributing to their safety.

In Muzaffarabad the selected sites were:
- Deewan Tent Village, Narol (300 families) (Mohallas Khawaja, Kiyani, Sinada and Naiya)
- Narol Girls' High School (near Narol Stadium) (Madina Market)
- Eid Gah tent village (800 families) (Centre Plate area)
- Darrian Syedan (Sari Bagh Girls High School)

In Bagh the selected sites were:
- Officers' Colony (150 households)
- Government Girls' High School, Bagh City.
- Imamia Colony: 250 households, situated on the south of the city centre, near the Bypass road
- Muslim Global Relief Tent Village, 52 families.
- Main Bazar Drain (one Km long)
- Press Club (Government Building)
- Government Social Welfare Vocational Centre for Women.
- Daruljahan Vocational Centre for widows, orphans, Social Welfare department
- Government Boys' Pilot Model High School.

- Office of the Executive Engineer Public Health and Engineering Department. This office supplies drinking water to main Bagh City
- Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department

**Cash For Work at the Government Girls High School, Bagh**

It required 1,972 'person days' of work, over 30 days, to clear the site of the Government Girls High School, situated in the densely populated centre of Bagh City. The 2-storey school had had more than 800 students before the disaster. 72 students and 2 teachers died when the building collapsed, and many more were injured. The only access to the school is through narrow stepped paths. NATO forces and other agencies involved in debris removal had turned down the request from the school administration because the building could not be accessed by their heavy machinery. When the school administration approached the project staff, a labour force was deployed immediately. They removed the debris, carried it to the nearest road in reinforced sacks, then loaded it onto tractor trolleys which carried it to dump site approved by the District Administration. While the work was being done, the Deputy Commissioner visited the site and appreciated the work done by the ILO Project labour. He also gave a grant of Rs. 20,000 for the school's rehabilitation. The school is now functioning in tents on the site.
3. Food and Nutrition

World Food Program (WFP)
The WFP activities can be categorized into two major operations: Emergency Operations (EMOP), which began in November 2005 and ended on March 2006 (Relief phase), and the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which began on April 1st 2006 and ended in August 31st 2006. The sub-programmes (food for work, food for training, etc.) were designed to enable families to meet their food needs while engaged in earning a living and/or in reconstruction work.

Emergency Operations (EMOP)
In November 2005 the World Food Programme and NRSP began to work together to meet people's needs for food. Many were suffering from malnutrition; some needed food in order to be able to work, and the particularly vulnerable, the very young, the elderly, orphans and widows, had no reliable source of food.

NRSP committed to distribute basic food needs (flour, pulses, vegetable oil and salt) to 89,641 households living in 12 Union Councils, 10 in Muzaffargarh and 2 in Bahu. A total of 58 Distribution Points were established across the 12 Union Councils. In each WFP locality, people formed 6-member Food Distribution Supervisory Committees, each with 2 local men, 2 local women and 2 NRSP officials. WFP trucks delivered the food to the warehouses and NRSP transported it to the Distribution Points. Many of the beneficiaries were homeless displaced people living in tent villages, the physically disabled, women-headed families, the elderly, orphans and families lacking employment opportunities. A rapid survey was conducted by the NRSP staff to identify specific beneficiaries.

In November 2005, NRSP Bahu organized the delivery of a 3-month supply of WFP food to families living in villages above the snow line, where the roads were likely to be blocked by snow. Table 1 shows the details of the general food distribution to villages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Nov#6</th>
<th>Dec#6</th>
<th>Jan#6</th>
<th>Feb#6</th>
<th>Mar#6</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat Flakes</td>
<td>100.50</td>
<td>102.45</td>
<td>96.95</td>
<td>115.00</td>
<td>225.00</td>
<td>652.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>103.72</td>
<td>104.22</td>
<td>103.55</td>
<td>105.70</td>
<td>103.70</td>
<td>998.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Oil</td>
<td>05.65</td>
<td>10.96</td>
<td>10.25</td>
<td>10.24</td>
<td>210.23</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEB</td>
<td>13.39</td>
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<td>14.37</td>
<td>23.42</td>
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<td>11.22</td>
<td>8.12</td>
<td>16.00</td>
<td>59.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>20.36</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>12.43</td>
<td>23.99</td>
<td>82.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,085.46</td>
<td>2,124.89</td>
<td>1,872.04</td>
<td>2,125.34</td>
<td>3,085.82</td>
<td>8,085.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Emergency School Feeding programme for malnourished schoolchildren began in January 2006. NRSP Muzaffargarh was made responsible for providing the food supplements to 35,000 students in 300 schools in the Upper Neelum and Jhelum valleys. Initially, preference was given to primary schools, and later girls' middle & high schools, and some boys' middle schools were added. In January, 28,528 students were given food; this number rose to 35,879 in March. The programme provided every student with a 100-gram High Energy Biscuit and 50 grams of dates every day. In total NRSP distributed 346.71 Metric tons of these items.

The Distribution process began with a UC-wise list of the schools and enrollments where NRSP was already distributing emergency food supplies. We then added other UCs to bring the total up to the target. The UC-wise list was submitted to WFP. Then the biscuits and dates were delivered to each EDP and the NRSP teams distributed the items to the schools. Teachers were responsible for daily distribution to every student. NRSP teams conducted frequent monitoring visits. One result was that school attendance increased.
Table 2: Emergency School Feeding Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Jan. '06</th>
<th>Feb. '06</th>
<th>March '06</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Energy</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>66.39</td>
<td>109.25</td>
<td>232.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biscuits</td>
<td>31.15</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>49.42</td>
<td>113.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>82.25</td>
<td>101.19</td>
<td>158.27</td>
<td>346.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Camp Feeding
Food was distributed among displaced community members residing in 170 temporary camps in urban Muzaffarabad and in Union Council Hattian. The food was given to the Camp Management Committees who then distributed it to the residents.

Table 3: Total Distribution in Camps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item (Metric tonnes)</th>
<th>June 2006</th>
<th>July 2006</th>
<th>August 2006</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat Flour</td>
<td>191.74</td>
<td>153.77</td>
<td>262.8</td>
<td>508.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>39.16</td>
<td>116.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Oil</td>
<td>24.72</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>24.26</td>
<td>69.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>4.94</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.85</td>
<td>13.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>262.8</td>
<td>234.87</td>
<td>412.81</td>
<td>910.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO)
A total of 119,300 people (14.2% of the total population of 838,426) have received food through this programme, which covered four Union Councils in District Muzaffarabad. NRSP distributed a total of 1,448.38 metric tons of food. Two of the challenges faced by NRSP included high costs to meet the distribution requirement in terms of staff and, sometimes, a shortage of food to distribute.

Food for Camps
Because of administrative problems NRSP had to discontinue the programme with WFP in August 2006. The food was to be distributed to people in 10 camp villages in Muzaffarabad and Hattian, which created a logistical challenge. In some instances the WFP was sending food in the absence of accurate numbers, so the distribution teams did not have enough food for every eligible family. This created some resentment in camps.

Table 4: Food Distribution in Camps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item (Metric tonnes)</th>
<th>Dec. '05</th>
<th>Jan. '06</th>
<th>Feb. '06</th>
<th>March '06</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat Flour</td>
<td>231.3</td>
<td>347.35</td>
<td>311.73</td>
<td>341.71</td>
<td>1199.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>32.85</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21.24</td>
<td>38.82</td>
<td>115.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Oil</td>
<td>16.97</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>35.15</td>
<td>22.87</td>
<td>116.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEB</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.99</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat Sour Bread</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21.47</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>150.7</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>155.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>282.21</td>
<td>739.43</td>
<td>391.89</td>
<td>401.41</td>
<td>1952.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Food for Training
The food for training programme was conducted to enable people to feed their families while they were attending training courses being given by NRSP and national and international relief organizations. The food was distributed to the NRSP VTEC in Muzaffarabad between April and August 2006.

Table 5: Distribution Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item (Metric tonnes)</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat Flour</td>
<td>17.64</td>
<td>14.03</td>
<td>27.27</td>
<td>41.67</td>
<td>34.64</td>
<td>152.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>5.42</td>
<td>2.35</td>
<td>12.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Oil</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>2.57</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>10.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20.38</td>
<td>46.89</td>
<td>12.90</td>
<td>9.53</td>
<td>25.45</td>
<td>186.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Food for Work**

This programme targeted people involved in the recovery of livelihoods, such as providing skilled and unskilled labor for community and public infrastructure reconstruction; people receiving training to activate their own livelihoods, whether in enterprise development, agriculture, livestock or other vocational training. The programme operated in 4 Union Councils. 50% of the food was distributed to people engaged in the ILO-funded Cash for Work programme. The distribution for this component is shown in Table 6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item (Metric tonne)</th>
<th>June 2006</th>
<th>July 2006</th>
<th>August 2006</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat Flour</td>
<td>202.128</td>
<td>85.461</td>
<td>6.992</td>
<td>310.691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>23.251</td>
<td>9.501</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>32.759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Oil</td>
<td>13.956</td>
<td>5.796</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>19.654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>2.569</td>
<td>1.060</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>3.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>244.048</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.728</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.992</strong></td>
<td><strong>357.758</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)**

This project was intended for people who own land, live near their agric-land and are willing to start farming and/or revive agriculture. The project was implemented in 12 Union Councils of District Poonch and 5 Union Councils of District Poonch. The number of beneficiaries is estimated to be 12,500 in 12 Union Councils of Muzaffarabad and 10,000 in 5 Union Councils of District Poonch. The FAO provided 22,502 bags of fertilizer (Urea and DAP) and 14,297 bags of maize seed. An additional 2,500 Kg of ‘winter vegetable’ seeds were also distributed in Muzaffarabad. 21,136 people received the seed, having been selected according to the FAO criteria.

**Hisaar Foundation Donations of Powdered Milk**

NRSP is the implementing partner in AJK for the HISAAR Foundation: A Foundation for Water, Food and Livelihood Security. Hisaar Foundation’s Appeal for Rehabilitation of Earthquake Victims was formally initiated in the second week of December, with a target of Rs three crore (approx. US$ 0.5 million). In the last three weeks of December the Hisaar Foundation raised cash and in-kind support with a value of Rs 3,792,704. In mid-December 2005 the Foundation committed to donate 34 batches of milk powder with an total estimated value of Rs 18,000 and 24,000 (US$300 to US$400). An additional commitment was made, to provide powdered infant food, suitable for children 1-5 years old. As of October 2006 the first batch had been received and is being distributed to undernourished patients, from the Health Facilities.
4. Education

Reviving Education in AJK: The NRSP-USAID Project

Through a partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the RSPN, NRSP established 114 temporary, public-sector schools in tents, 38 each in Districts Bagh, Muzaffarabad (Neelum and Jhelum Valleys) and Rawalakot. USAID has funded another 114 schools in NWFP under this project.

A secondary component consisted of a cash-for-work program in which earthquake affectees were paid to clear debris from the sites of public education facilities and other school sites. The Project was implemented in cooperation with the Provincial and District Education Departments. The total proposed budget for the six-month project was US$ 119,300.

The rubble-clearing was completed by June 2006.

The Project tenure was from December 15th, 2005 to May 15th, 2006. The initiative enabled approximately 17,366 children (152 students per school) to resume their education and bring about some sense of normal life. The project's goal included addressing the emotional and educational needs of children and involved parents and teachers in creating a 'joyful learning' environment.

NRSP was responsible, along with Department of Education officials, for identifying suitable school sites, enrolling students, training teachers, forming and training School Management Committees, coordinating the Cash-for-Work programme, making a 'student kit' available to all children enrolled under the Project and making available the required teaching aids, transportation and the stipend to teachers.

Every student has received a carry bag, notebooks, pencils, crayons, rulers and other items. The teacher's kit, contained in a storage locker, has a chalk board and other necessities.

A total of 657 teachers were identified for training in Bagh, Rawalakot and Muzaffarabad. A Training of Trainers course was held in April 2006 at NRSP's Institute of Rural Management in Islamabad. Teachers learned the tenets of joyful teaching principles and techniques, how to run a 'child friendly' school, children's rights, how to use 'loto' cards and pocket boards, multigrade teaching and the use of 'magic sticks'.

![Image of children in school]

24
Government Boys' Primary School, Tak Jattan, Rawalakot

Tak Jattan is a small village of Union Council Khali Draman, subdivision Abbaspur, Azad Kashmir. In 1980 it was a private school because the Government schools were too far from the village. In 1992 the government approved the primary school which was initially set up in a single mud-brick room. In 1993, a 3-room concrete building was constructed to facilitate around 150 students. The earthquake damaged the entire school building and classes were held in tents provided by USAID.

Fear and horror emerged in my mind and I remained tense and stressed. I stopped attending school. My teachers sent messages to me that I must attend class but even a month later I could not. My teachers insisted and eventually visited my house and gave a lot of encouragement and confidence and took me to the school. I found the school site totally changed, with collapsed buildings, debris all around, broken windows and my fellow students sitting on the ground. It was hopeless and disappointing. My interest in reading and learning had vanished and I was extremely disheartened.

Sadaf Afsar, Grade 7 Student at Government Girls Middle School in Bir Pani had this to say:

I think I will never be able to forget the moment of the earthquake, as the building started to collapse. There were 26 of us in the class. All of the students and teachers managed to escape except for me and three of my classmates. Suddenly the building fell on us and we were trapped. We started crying and shouting. My teacher Ms. Shazia along with other teachers managed to rescue us from under the collapsed building. We were all seriously injured and my right leg was broken. We were transported to the Rawalpindi hospital.

On 13th February 2006, an NRSP-USAID team came and met with our teachers. The teachers said they had come to give us hope of a better life and future. NRSP gave us colored chairs, tables, bags, books for a library, three shelters, lavatories, and teacher and student kits. The school has changed a lot and created a positive image in the minds of students, parents and teachers. Because of this intervention our confidence, and that of our teachers and parents, has increased tremendously and parents have started sending their children back to school. We thank the NRSP-USAID Team for their support and encouragement in restoring our schools.
The Government Girls' High School, Abbaspur, Rawalakot, was one of the worst affected schools. Situated in the heart of Abbaspur, the Tehsil Headquarters of Rawalakot District, the school had 22 classrooms, each with one teacher, an 8-room hostel and an assembly hall. The records show that the school had 483 students altogether, including 150 private students from other schools after the earthquake.

On October 8, 2005 the school was open and everything was normal until the disaster struck. Within seconds every room had collapsed. A 12 year old girl lost her life and 70 students were badly injured. The situation was so traumatic that the staff were unable to act to recover the injured students. Fortunately, 40 members of the Pakistan Army soon arrived on the scene and with the help of the community and surrounding people, the injured people were rescued. They were first taken to a building adjacent to the mosque, then shifted to hospitals throughout the city.

The school Principal is a woman of firm determination who is always ready for any sacrifice for her colleagues and students. Due to her untiring efforts the school was reopened on October 17th. However, all of the educational materials, furniture and science laboratories had been completely destroyed.

NRSP visited the school on 17th January, 2006. The school had been included in the list of 38 affected schools in Rawalakot under the USAID Reviving Education Project. So far the school has been provided with one tent and one shelter. After the disaster, a number of students left the city but there are still 350 students attending classes in the hope of building up their futures. According to the staff and SMC members' rehabilitation and reconstruction is now a dream and keeping in view the gravity of the losses, God knows when this dream will be translated into a reality."

The School Management Committee was formed on 16th February, 2006. The SMC Chairman described how NRSP coordinated the activities to remove the debris in order to create space for the students. Now all of the students sit in open spaces for different classes, but of course there are problems when it rains. To address this problem NRSP will provide more tents and shelters but these can not substitute for a permanent building, especially in the hot summer days.

The school Principal played a key role in restarting the school. She often visits the parents to persuade them to send their daughters to school. The staff morale is now high and they are determined to continue the educational activities of the school at all costs. Students and staff members hope to overcome the situation with the help of national and international NGOs and NRSP initiatives encouraged them towards materializing their future ambition.

When the tent schools were erected, it was discovered that they were not waterproof or winter-proof, so each tent was covered with heavy duty plastic sheeting. In addition, partitions for separate classrooms were made out of parachute cloth. The NRSP field team
has installed latrines in all 114 schools, and electricity is available in almost all NRSP schools in Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot and Bagh. Each school was also given library books, library cupboards and wall charts.

NRSP arranged a series of teacher-training sessions in Rawalakot, Muzaffarabad and Bagh in April and May 2006. 642 teachers were taught how to enhance their knowledge and skills regarding child-friendly teaching methodologies and ways and means of enhancing quality education in schools.

We also completed the Schools Management Committees/ Parent Teacher Associations training in May 2006. The programme oriented the SMC members to their roles and responsibilities in setting up the schools and in their day-to-day management.

Remaining Needs
There is a need to strengthen the involvement of PTA and SMC members in school management. They played a tremendous role in ensuring the proper set-up of school shelters, lining of pavements and boundary walls, but now require capacity building in ensuring quality education. The teachers require support to help them strengthen and implement child centered teaching methodologies. Finally, permanent structures are needed that will protect the children from the summer heat, the monsoon rains and the winter cold.

OSI, NRSP and RSPN Project to Revive or Establish 30 Schools in 3 Districts in AJK
In its final report to the Open Society Institute (OSI), in October 2006, RSPN noted the status of the 30 schools established or revived: 10 each in Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, and Bagh. The project began in March 2006, with the underlying philosophy of restoring educational activities by engaging community support. It revived thirteen previously established private schools and seven community schools, and established ten new schools. Each school will receive goods and services worth Rs. 844,980 (US$ 14,083) which includes salaries for teachers for 11 months, and other expenditures. The project costs had increased by over $800 per school, because of the high cost of construction materials for the repair of shelters and construction of new schools. The additional expenses were borne by NRSP.

The Cash for Work component of the project was designed to help communities rebuild infrastructure. The implementation process was exclusively demand-driven, based on village-specific educational needs. The project activities also included area identification, needs assessment, community dialogues, the selection of schools and sites, land transfers, selecting teachers, identifying students, constructing shelters, providing school supplies, and training village education committees (VECs).

The implementation phase was affected by a number of significant challenges: in particular, setting up community schools in the difficult terrain, the lack of adequate physical infrastructure, the harsh weather and the fact that some areas are susceptible to land sliding. All of the work was done with traumatized and dependent communities, which added its own difficulties.

As of October 2006 the following activities had been completed:
- 160 teachers have been recruited
- The total enrollment in all three districts increased from 1,644 pupils in June, 2006 to 2,391 in August 2006, an increase of 33%. Of these, 1,397 are boys and 1,994 are girls
- A 2-day training workshop for VEC members was conducted. VEC members learned about school management concepts, their roles and responsibilities, and how to prepare school development plans
- All schools shelters have been completed and all of the schools have a library and toilets

Problems Encountered: During the monsoon rains in July and August some of the buildings leaked, so efforts were initiated to solve the problem.
Community School Shah Draman is the most remote of the schools established under the project. It is located on top of a hill. There is no road to the village; instead, one has to climb a steep slope for an hour. Previously, there was no school in the village and children had to walk for miles to attend classes. This new school has brought education to their village for the first time. The villagers are grateful to OSI, NRSP and RSPN.

It was a painstaking task to transport the construction materials and the school supplies. However, the village residents worked very hard to carry the material and in some cases to do the construction work. One man told us that they manufactured gravel from rocks in order to construct the school.

There are 45 students enrolled in the school: 15 boys and 30 girls. There are two teachers, one man and one woman. The local community members and in particular the Rawalakot education team deserves to be congratulated for establishing this school.

The present enrollment in all schools totals 2,591: 54% boys and 46% girls. In District Muzaffarabad enrollment has risen to 1,087 from 857 (a 21.2% increase) in August. Of the new students, 56% are boys and 44% are girls. However, in District Rawalakot, enrollment has declined from 711 to 666 for the same time period, a 6% decrease in both boys' and girls' enrollment. In District Bagh, enrollment also declined, by 7% (from 932 to 838) in August.

In all 3 Districts, all of the school supplies and equipment have been delivered. The supplies consist of student desks and chairs, teachers' chairs and tables, teaching kits, blackboards, soft boards, cupboards, library books, wall clocks, and water coolers.

RSPN-NRSP conducted dialogue on school sustainability on September 14-16, 2006. The purpose was two-fold: to initiate discussions on school sustainability and to seek the VECs' strategies on the future of their schools. 27 VECs participated. People were asked to note the likelihood of direct or indirect assistance from local Government Departments. The dialogues also included:

- Informing VECs about the systematic exit of NRSP and their emerging roles and responsibilities
- Consultations among VECs to formulate school budgets and prepare strategies for making the schools self-sustainable
- Presentation of school strategies by each VEC

Sixteen VECs said they operated at a deficit in 10 cases, the deficit was over Rs. 5,000 and six had deficits of less than Rs. 5,000 per month. Three schools had balanced budgets and eight schools had a surplus. The primary reason for the deficits was the low fee structure, which ranges from Rs. 20 to Rs. 50 per month.

The schools also have a policy of not charging fees from poor households and of providing concessions to households with more than one child attending. Although this affects the revenues, it also ensures some equity in providing education to the poor.

In discussing financial sustainability, the VECs decided to increase existing fees. They anticipated that once socio-economic conditions improve, the VECs and school management will be able to increase the fees. Some of the schools' fees are close to those of the private sector schools. The VECs also indicated that increasing enrollment is vital to being able to pay the teachers' salaries. There is a high probability that all of the schools will be sustained.
The VECs and school management also prepared the following revenue-enhancing strategies including developing partnerships for financial assistance with NGOs and GOs, and seeking financial assistance from government representatives, affluent community members and people from the Kashmiri Diaspora.

There is a high probability that most of these schools will be sustained, although some may have to manage with fewer teachers who will earn lower salaries, after the project funding ends.

**Government Engagement in operating community schools**

Government involvement and/or ownership can be one means of providing financial and technical support to community schools. However, the majority of the schools do not support government involvement in school affairs. The asset unregistered schools only require registration with the Directorate of Education (AJK) for legitimacy and official certification for students. Twenty schools (74%) had serious reservations about accepting government support and 2 schools were undecided. The reasons for not accepting the government's role are: (i) the poor and deteriorating quality of government schools (ii) poor examination results in state-run schools (iii) lack of school discipline and the issue of teachers' absenteeism (iv) the absence of school monitoring, and (v) state bureaucracy, excessive interference, and cumbersome procedures in seeking assistance.

**Support to Revive Education, by Rotary International District 3270**

NRSP entered into an agreement with Rotary International District 3270 on May 17th to support the revival of education initiatives being undertaken by NRSP with the help of various local and international organizations. In the first phase Rotary International District 3270 agreed to spend Rs 1.8 million to support three schools in Rawalakot District. Funds were allocated to provide six shelters to each of the three schools. The schools were also to receive a toilet block and furniture for the students and teachers. Rotary International has provided the funds and NRSP's contribution was in the form of social mobilization for organizing SMCs, providing technical support and coordination of the activities.

The schools, selected jointly by NRSP and Rotary International, are: Government Girls' High School Chandid Na Mohra, Government Boys' High School Akhore Bun, Hajira and Government Boys' High School Khali Draman, Abbaspur. These schools were in very poor shape and there was no possibility of students starting their classes in the collapsed buildings. School Management Committees have been organized for each of the three schools.

The project started in July 2006, when the schools were closed for the summer vacation, so no baseline data could be collected.

**Constructing the schools**

As of August 2006 shelter construction is in progress at GGHS Chandid Na Mohra and GBHS Akhore Bun, Hajira, where 75% of the work is complete. Material has also started arriving at GBHS Khali Draman. The construction of the 3rd school was delayed in order to improve the structure.
for at least two years, until the Government erects new buildings. NRSP opted for the design which we had selected for community schools being financed by the Open Society Institute. NRSP's engineers have ensured that these structures are earthquake-resistant.

The construction was initially outsourced to an experienced local contractor, who was to build a single school. Later NRSP purchased the materials locally and constructed the shelters under the supervision of NRSP engineers and the SMC members.

There were many problems during the installation: heavy rains caused the structures to leak, and there were delays in transportation. Elections in AJK also halted the project activities for quite sometime. Labor costs increased significantly. ERRA's reconstruction programme meant that skilled laborers were engaged in house reconstruction which slowed down work on the schools. However, we have learned how to determine the types of materials and installation methods that are waterproof. New CGI sheets will also be fixed in the interior walls of the shelters. The buildings will be handed over to the schools when everything is complete.

5. Reconstructing Community Physical Infrastructure

Since the disaster there has been an urgent need to restore drinking and irrigation water systems, to build link roads, and to rebuild damaged houses and other buildings. NRSP began soon after the disaster to rehabilitate damaged drinking water schemes in District Bagh and Tehsil Rawalakot. NRSP engineers from the head office and from the regional office in Rawalakot conducted a detailed assessment of all 47 schemes, completed and in process, implemented by NRSP in Bagh prior to the disaster. They found that 22 of the 29 completed schemes (drinking water supply and link roads) needed only minor rehabilitation work. Four schemes had sustained minor damage but were still functional, and 3 had been rendered non-functional because the water supply has been blocked.

The fact that the schemes were well-constructed with high quality materials accounts for the small amount of damage the schemes sustained. In some situations surrounding buildings were severely damaged. However, due to increasing material and labor costs, there is a need to revise the cost estimates of the 18 incomplete schemes. It is estimated that a total of Rs. 1 to 2 Million will be required to repair the completed schemes and complete the remaining ones.

PPAF Relief and Reconstruction Project: CPI Component

NRSP began the work of rehabilitating 274 drinking water supply schemes (known as CPIs) in Bagh and Rawalakot with PPAF funding, in April 2006. The project is in progress and will be completed by March 2008.

German Agro Action CPI Project in UC Jagliari, Bagh

PITD is working with Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (known in English as German Agro Action) to rehabilitate CPIs and sanitation systems in 26 locations in UC Jagliari, Bagh. NRSP has decided to form 90 new CCOs for this intervention. When a Situation Analysis was conducted to identify villagers' priorities, the need for water was paramount, since the area is 'rain-fed', some villages have only a few springs, and some of these have dried up or been diverted since the quake. The interventions include providing 3 gravity-fed water channels (delivering water from high elevations to low elevations) and 70 hand-pumps. The pumps are located either at the springs or, where feasible, at the head of drilled wells.

The NRSP teams identified the best places for wells, conducted village-level dialogues on poverty, livelihoods and water needs and held awareness-raising sessions on the importance of good hygiene in maintaining their health. Villagers are being taught how to keep their water supply and water containers pure, and the significance of personal hygiene as it relates to water use and waste water disposal.
Under the Novib-funded Sustainable Livelihoods project in Muzaffarabad, the PITD Engineers will either repair or build 75 CPs, including drinking water supply projects, link roads and small-scale irrigation channels, in the 22-month Novib-funded sustainable livelihoods project.

6. Community and Livelihood Rehabilitation Through Training at NRSP's Institute of Rural Management

Through strategic partnerships with donors and partner organisations, NRSP's Institute of Rural Management has trained 7,533 people (5,733 men and 1,800 women) in the earthquake-affected areas, with the aim of helping them to rebuild their lives.

PPAF Relief and Reconstruction Project: Training Component

Since homeowners must repair or rebuild according to the ERA-defined seismic-resistant designs, homeowners and tradesmen have been taught the necessary skills in a series of four-day training sessions. NRSP/IRM will train over 5,000 persons (22 per village for 100 villages: 10 masons, 5 carpenters, 5 plumbers and 2 electricians). The training component, which began in September 2006 and will last for 13 months, is being conducted under the auspices of UN-HABITAT.

Goal UK

Training for NRSP Field Engineers and SOs was organised jointly by IRM and the NRSP PITD Head Office in collaboration with GOAL-UK. The first part of the training course was conducted as a ToT for close to 60 participants, at IRM Islamabad, by Resource Person Mr Kubilay Hichilmaz (a structural Engineer volunteering his services to GOAL for relief activities in AJK). A follow-up training programme was completed in VTEC Bagh, when the skilled trainers trained local community masons and carpenters in January 2006.

IRM was responsible for the training and capacity-building component in many earthquake-related projects. These included:

- building earthquake-safe shelters
- livelihood restoration and enhancement through vocational and trades training
- water management and sanitation for health and hygiene promotion
- managing field health clinics
- joyful learning in government and community schools for traumatized children
- creating effective School Management Committees for management and maintenance of high enrollment, quality education and healthy school and learning environments
- vocational training for men and women

Vocational and Technical Training have played, and will continue to play, an important role in helping families and communities re-establish their ability to earn and to restore a sense of normalcy. NRSP's Institute of Rural Management launched a Vocational Training Programme to develop a local system to train masons, welders and carpenters for shelter-reconstruction and rehabilitation. NRSP established Vocational Training Education Centres in Bagh, Muzaffarabad and Rawalakot, all of them initially housed in tents, prefabricated shelters or rented premises. The ILO financed the establishment and operation of VTEC Muzaffarabad while Rawalakot and Bagh were financed by NRSP core funding and the PPAF.
In Bagh the programme implementation and training courses began on 23rd November, 2005 and in Muzaffarabad on 20th January, 2006. Advertisements in Urdu were placed in all public places in the villages. IRM began with 30-day courses for plumbers and pipe fitters, masons and Carpenters. A 60-day course for Building Electricians was also begun. More than 150 men, most of them under 25, were registered.

Now women and men are learning skills that will equip them to contribute to their families' incomes. The most popular courses for men are in trades related to shelter reconstruction. Women prefer to learn skills that will enable them to earn at home. There are some innovations, in response to demand for example, 30 women have learned how to repair small household appliances and 69 women have learned the delicate art of creating beautiful papier mâché objects. New courses are being added as new projects come on board: the Novib-funded Sustainable Livelihoods project is a recent example. When the wife of the UK Prime Minister, Ms Cherie Blair, visited the area in April 2006, she was presented with a sample of this traditional handicraft created by the women of VTEC Muzaffarabad.

The VTEC centers also serve as a platform which provides people with opportunities to meet, to share information and to share lessons for survival. To cite only one example: the disaster left many households headed by widows and young women, putting the burden of income generation on their inexperienced shoulders. The vocational training helped to revive incomes and hopes.

**IRM’s Participation in the PPAF Relief, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Programme**

PPAF closely follows the guidelines of Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA). The main training components of the R&R project are in reconstructing homes, vocational and employable skills and generating small business enterprise to 'jump start' the economy of the affected areas, and Community Physical Infrastructure Schemes.

**Reviving Education in 114 Public Sector Schools Project.** NRSP-IRM undertook the training component for re-establishing 38 public sector schools in each district. IRM designed the SMC training modules and the teacher training in 'joyful learning' modules and then training of trainers from among the project staff to take up the training of SMC and teachers in the project schools. IRM also helped to facilitate the implementation of training events and developed monitoring indicators for teacher and SMC performances. A total of 201 teachers were trained in Muzaffarabad, 210 in Bagh and 212 in Rawalakot. Under the school management skills training 222 members were trained in

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**Inauguration Ceremony of Vocational & Technical Education**

On 31st January, 2006 NRSP celebrated the inauguration of the Vocational Training & Technical Education Center in Muzaffarabad and invited all government agencies concerned with the socio-economic development of Azad Jammu & Kashmir to attend. Eight Secretaries and six Director Generals of different departments attended. Ms. Nooreen Arif, Minister Livestock, Agriculture & Social Welfare government of AJK, was the Chief Guest. Mr. Khawaja Tariq, Principal VTEC Muzaffarabad, delivered a presentation focusing on the objectives of VTEC, its covered area, core trades and mode of schooling. All the guests visited the center and discussed the programme with the trainees. The chief guest assured all kind of support from the Ministry and the Government of AJK.
Using Theatre to Convey Messages on Survival, First Aid and Hygiene

Both CONCERN Pakistan (which funded a project of school management and teacher training in Kotli Satian) and the USAID-funded “Reviving Education Project” benefited from NRSP-IRM’s innovation of teaching fearful survivors basic stress-relief and survival techniques. The focus was on children who found it difficult to talk of their loss and their fears. The “Lahore Puppet Group” with four masterful puppet performers, captivated parents, teachers and children alike in Kotli Satian, Bagh, Rawalakot and Muzaffarabad. Altogether, some 3,382 attended the 21 performances held at schools and community centers. IRM also facilitated first aid messages for children with help from young volunteers from the audience. This fascinated the children who still remembered the helplessness of being unable to help their injured family and friends at the time of the earthquake. Messages of hygiene to prevent disease were also promoted on these occasions and were well received by children and adults alike.

Muzaffarabad, 218 in Bagh and 205 in Rawalakot.

Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Management Training for Community Members in Chikar, Muzaffarabad

Diakonie, a social service organization connected with the Protestant Church in Germany, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NRSP IRM in April 15, 2006 for a 6-month capacity building project aimed at teaching the principles of hygiene and sanitation and the management of drinking water supply schemes, through the mechanism of social mobilization. The target communities were from one of the most populous Union Councils, Salma, with 16 villages, 3,034 households and 13,504 people. The first step was to conduct a base line study to assess people’s knowledge and current practices. NRSP-IRM provided trained Social Organizers to Diakonie/STL and supported them in designing the survey.

A 10-day ‘Training of Trainers’ event for hygiene promotion was held in May 2006: six Lady Health Workers and 12 Activists took part. The participants and project staff planned a series of hygiene promotion training events for each village and teams were formed to conduct the training. The new trainers were taken on an exposure visit to Merra Timodi, in Muzaffarabad where Islamic Relief was working on drinking water supply schemes and sanitation management. They learnt the processes used for separating clean water from polluted water and for better drainage systems to prevent diseases such as cholera, diarrhea and malaria. The participants were shown dry pit latrines, and water tanks in three Islamic Relief camps. The trainers then conducted these training courses with clusters of households to enable the local people to operate and manage their water supplies by themselves by forming “Water Management Committees” for sustained independent functioning in the long run.

Altogether, this project trained 18 DIAKONIE staff and community activists in the operation and management of drinking water supply schemes. The results of the ‘Training of Trainers’ activity was first given to 19 staff members, who then disseminated information to 3,034 household members covering all the households in UC Salma. 46 community members were also trained in the sustained maintenance of water schemes through Water Management Committees.

Community Health Worker Training Project

NRSP-IRM was charged with training 1,042 Community Health Workers (CHWs) and supervisors, in one of the largest and most intensive projects it had ever undertaken. Funded by UNICEF, the project was established to meet the preventive and curative health, injury-related and fistulae needs of the affected people. Another goal was to meet the need for maternal and child health care even under normal circumstances this would have been challenging, but the collapsed medical infrastructure, the overwhelming need for care and the fact that displaced persons were living in deteriorating hygienic and sanitation conditions, made the situation even more dire. IRM developed training materials, conducted a baseline survey and established follow-up record.
keeping mechanisms. Supervisors were trained
to oversee both field activities and referrals of
critical cases to secondary and tertiary medical
facilities. The supervisors provide their services
at two Field Health Clinics in each of the three
affected districts.

The participants were selected from the affected
areas to ensure adequate representation of the
communities. The training was divided into
three 5-day segments followed by field work
spread over 3-4 months. NRSP provided each
CHW with three follow-up and record keeping
registers with referral slips for those persons who
were suffering from severe diseases like TB and
Hepatitis, to the nearest district hospital. CHWs
also received medical kits with basic and first aid
medicines and training handbooks.

Each CHW was trained to:
• provide first aid management i.e. to provide
treatment for any injury, or sudden illness
before the arrival of an ambulance, doctor or
any other qualified person
• provide health education and primary
health care
• create awareness about the causes and cures
of various seasonal diseases
• reduce maternal deaths occurring before,
during and after delivery and provide

family planning services
• decrease the rates of infant and mother
mortality and morbidity
• prevent malnutrition among infants,
children and pregnant and lactating
mothers
• manage the Acute Respiratory Infection
ARI and Control of Diarrhoeal Disease
(CDD) problems in infants.
• deal with mental health problems
7. Health Care

UNICEF-funded Community Health Project, as of June 30, 2006

Field Health Clinics
With UNICEF funding, NRSP has implemented a project to provide medical care affected areas of AJK. The project’s approach is to provide both facilities and community-based care. The community-based aspect involved training 1,000 Community Health Workers: the facility based aspect involved establishing and running six field health clinics.

The goal was to build, staff and run 6 Field Health Clinics (FHCs), so as to provide free basic healthcare, in areas where the Government Healthcare system had been destroyed. The first clinics became operational in January, 2006 and will continue until the date agreed upon by UNICEF and NRSP. Originally, the project was conceived as a six-month stop-gap, after which the Government of AJK would continue operations. However, at the request of the Ministry of Health, and in consultation with UNICEF, NRSP plans to continue operating the clinics until December 31, 2007. The date for the handover is stipulated in an MoU.

Each Clinic is staffed by one Doctor, two Lady Health Visitors, one Dispenser/paramedic and one Dau (traditional birth attendant). The medical staff diagnose ailments, provide free drugs for both curative and immunization.
purposes, and help with difficult deliveries. Each clinic also has an ambulance, which provides
swift referrals to the nearest large hospital.
In addition to the UNICEF-donated medicines, NRSP has purchased a large quantity of
medicines to keep the clinics running. Other
donors, primarily the US-based Direct Relief
International and the Pakistan Poverty
Alleviation Fund, have provided money to cover
some of these costs.

NRSP has also collaborated with Shifa
International Hospital in Islamabad, which has
provided a one-week training session, free of
charge, to each of the 6 doctors. This ensures
that the doctors' knowledge is as accurate as
possible in recognizing and treating the most
common medical problems. We have also
developed a Health Management Information
System (HMIS) in collaboration with the Aga
Khan Hospital Services, Pakistan, and UNICEF.
The HMIS data is collected from the patient
registers at each clinic.

District Muzaffarabad. FHC Noor Pur Naqra,
Union Council Kumi Kot.
Due to its very remote location, establishing the
Field Health Clinic at Noor Pur Naqra took
longer than planned. Locating a doctor willing to
live in such a remote area took more than 6
weeks. (Four doctors had previously been hired
and had resigned after one day). However, as of
February 20, the clinic has been fully functional,
with the medical staff seeing an average of
more than 50 patients per day. Until recently, the
clinic buildings and residences were all
composed of tents. The clinic has since been
upgraded to semi-permanent structures, which
were provided by Direct Relief International and
Shelter Kashmir, UK. Running water and
electricity are both available at the facility.

It is worthwhile noting that throughout the
process of establishing the clinic the local
community has been very supportive. They have
helped with many aspects of the project, from
locating medical personnel to unloading trucks
of supplies when they arrive. They have said that
they are very excited to have a medical facility in
their area, since previously they had only a small
government dispensary, and traveling to the
nearest doctor was an expensive proposition.

FHC Khun Bhandi Union Council Langar
Pura. Although the village of Khun Bhandi is
located much closer to Muzaffarabad (around 20
Km), it is isolated by the damage done to the
bridge that links it to the main road. The Clinic
at Khun Bhandi has been operational since
20/1/06, is fully staffed, and has been treating
50-60 patients per day. It is located on the site of
a destroyed Basic Health Unit which has recently
been rebuilt by the Government, with funding
from the WHO. Until that time, the FHC in
Khun Bhandi was being operated out of a
number of tents.

District Bagh. FHC Kahoti Bazaar Union
Council Rawali. Like Noor Pur Naqra, the
village of Kahoti Bazaar is quite remote and can
only be reached by a jeep. This location has
hampered progress to the point that the NRSP
District Health Coordinator recently lodged a
request with the Government District Health
Officer, Bagh, to find an alternate site for the
clinic. However, the DHO felt that there was a
great need for a clinic at this site, so the FHC
will remain there on his recommendation. There
is a large population in the immediate vicinity of
Kahoti Bazaar village, and prior to this project,
no medical facilities were available.

Due to the difficulties in transport and finding
staff willing to work at the location, service
provision has only begun as of 1st March, 2006.
A Government Department of Agriculture
building is currently being used as both a clinic
and a residence for the non-local medical staff.

FHC Ghani Abad, Union Council Thub. The
FHC in Ghani Abad was originally started as an
NRSP clinic with funding from the Canadian
International Development Agency (CIDA) in
November 2005. When funding for this clinic
ended in early January, the site was transferred to
the UNICEF project, and expanded to meet the
requirements contained in the NRSP/UNICEF
Plan of Action. The medical staff have been
seeing patients at FHC Ghani Abad since
January 15, 2006. The current patient count is
around 100 patients per day. Although FHC
Ghani Abad started in tents, a more permanent
shelter has been built to house the clinic
building. This was donated by the UK-based
charity Shelter Kashmir, UK.
District Poonch FHC Dahtote: Union Council Pachtik. Until recently, FHC Dahtote was located in one part of a large private school, which is directly beside the site of a destroyed government BHU. The owner of the school has generously agreed to let NRSP use several rooms for the clinic until the FHC project is finished. Hopefully by that time the reconstruction of the neighboring BHU building will be complete, and the FHC/new BHU will be able to relocate to this building. The medical staff at FHC Dahtote are seeing over 100 patients per day so many that they are frequently experience a shortage of medicine.

FHC Hussain Kot: Union Council Ali Sojal is located in a government BHU building that survived the earthquake. As at FHC Dahtote, the clinic at Hussain Kot is very busy, with the doctor seeing around 120 patients per day, and the LHVs and the ala also busy. Due to close cooperation with the government, the FHC at Hussain Kot has one government-provided LHV and dispenser, as well as the full complement of NRSP/UNICEF staff. Both government employees have many years of experience at this location, and have been able to provide on-the-job training to NRSP's younger staff. Recently a government-sponsored immunization program was started at FHC Hussain Kot. Because of its central location, and since there are a very large number of children being seen at the clinic, the FHC is an ideal place from which to operate an immunization program.

Government Handover: The Plan of Action specified that the FHCs would be handed over to the government on June 30, 2006 (six months after the operations were to begin at the FHCs). However, on 19 June, 2006, an MoU was signed between NRSP and the Government of AJK's Ministry of Health in which NRSP was given the responsibility to operate the six field health clinics until June 30, 2007. UNICEF has agreed to continue providing funding for that time period.

Project Sustainability. On September 1st, 2006 NRSP began a new, long-term Community Health Workers (CHW) project with UNICEF funding. The project's goal, "Accelerating Child and Maternal Survival," will be achieved through recruiting, training, supplying and monitoring 440 women CHWs who will fill the gaps in the government's Lady Health Workers (LHW) programme in Tehsils Bagh and Hattian.

Once trained, the CHWs' roles will include promoting healthy and hygienic practices, providing essential health commodities and home-based care and, swift, appropriate referral to local health facilities. They will also learn the basics of first aid and trauma management. After two years, the NRSP/UNICEF CHW project will merge with the government's national LHW programme, which will ensure long-term sustainability and greatly increase LHW coverage in Bagh and Muzaffarabad.
Co-operation in Action for Large Scale Health Care

In May 2006 NRSP signed an agreement to take over the management of two Government Health Facilities, one in Langarpura (Muzaffarabad) and one in Arja (Bagh). As part of its relief effort the Agha Khan Health Services Pakistan (AKHSP) had committed to improving the quality of service available at these two centres, until April 2006. The NRSP-UNICEF partnership has now agreed to take on the management of the health centres until the Government of AJK is able to resume the task. The NRSP-UNICEF funding has been agreed on until December 2007. Direct Relief International had also provided funding for medical supplies.

NRSP-UNICEF provides medical staff, doctors, LHVs, auxiliary staff and laboratory equipment to each hospital. Both are mostly out-patient facilities, but each has the capacity for 10 admissions. The Langarpura Facility, rebuilt with funding from JICA, treats between 2,000 and 2,500 patients a month. Arja, which is a Tehsil-level Regional Health Centre, treats between 2,500 and 3,500 patients every month.

NRSP has devised a morbidity report based on those used by government BHUs and AKHSP. This makes it possible to generate monthly reports and to track trends.

NRSP - Kashmir Limbs and Rehabilitation Center Project

The earthquake left more than 300,000 people injured. Most of the injured people could not be attended to immediately as most of the District Headquarter Hospitals in the affected areas were completely destroyed and approximately 70% of the primary care facilities had been destroyed or rendered unusable. In addition, community outreach and community-based services had largely ceased to exist, as many health workers had operated from their private dwellings, which suffered extensive destruction in the earthquake. These physically traumatized people, if not provided necessary treatment and attention will become less or non-productive segment of the society. The need is that such patients must be provided with artificial limbs and brought into active and productive segments.

NRSP started its humanitarian project Kashmir Limbs & Rehabilitation Center in NRSP's compound in Muzaffarabad. The initial funding was provided by a UK-based Pakistani, Dr. Waqar Qureshi. The major objective was to provide artificial limbs. So far 72 patients have benefited - 62 men and boys and 20 girls and women. The NGO Kashmir Limbs established a 12-bed hospital on Feb 2006 in the NRSP warehouse. Dr. Zahid Hussain came and treated 14 injured and amputee patients from surrounding villages of Muzaffarabad. Kashmir Limbs arranged a visit of different government and health related officials to the center and gave a briefing about the project. Doctor Qureshi and his family visited the Center, checked and advised treatment for 46 registered patients on three consecutive days.
Meeting the need for Shelter and Healthcare in Ghanimabad, District Bagh, with CIDA Funding

When the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) generously donated $100,000 to NRSP in November 2005, to meet the urgent need for health care and shelter, NRSP decided to focus the resources in one village, for efficient disbursement and so that a visible effect would be evident. The village selected was Ghanimabad, Tehsil Dhirkot, Union Council Thob, a small village situated on a steep slope. The houses are built wherever a small piece of flat ground is available. Ghanimabad was selected as the site for the clinic because it was at the center of a collection of villages that were all badly damaged. 86% of the concrete and 92% of the mud houses were destroyed. At an elevation of 1,701 metres (5,573 ft), it was a relatively high-risk area in terms of the approaching winter. There are no functional medical facilities available to the residents of Ghanimabad or the surrounding villages. There were 2,792 households with a population of 13,996, in Ghanimabad: 812 people died in the earthquake: 270 women were widowed and 166 children orphaned.

Ghanimabad is only 21 Km from Bagh, but the journey up from the valley floor, along a treacherous road, takes one hour and fifteen minutes in a strong vehicle. The rain and snow have made the road even worse. The settlement of Mullar, site of a BHU that is usually understaffed and under-funded, is located where the road to Ghanimabad turns right for the last 4 Km of the journey.

NRSP Bagh had already established one of its 20 Distribution Points in Ghanimabad, which meant that the staff and resources were in place to identify the most vulnerable households who would receive the shelter kits, and to build and staff the clinic quickly. Ghanimabad was also later selected as a site for World Food Programme distribution.

Meeting Shelter and Food Needs. The CIDA funding met the shelter and emergency food needs for 374 of the worst-affected families in Ghanimabad and nearby villages. In order to decide who would receive the shelter kits, NRSP requested a list of badly-affected families from the Chairman of the Union Council, then sent two Social Organizers to double check that the families on the list were legitimately needy. In the first stage, based on the list, 245 households headed by widows were selected. In the second stage, neighbourhood committees were formed which then nominated needy families. The remaining 129 families were selected in consultation with the committees. One shelter package contains 8-10 CGI sheets (a total of 1,582), 5 quilts (a total of 1,900), one large plastic sheet (total 374) and a lantern (total 374). The food items consist of 10 Kg of rice, 5 Kg of sugar and a 5 Kg tin of cooking oil. Each family also received a durable, insulated container for water.

Medical Infrastructure. The medical staff have been seeing patients at FHC Ghanimabad since January 15, 2006. At one time there were two doctors, one woman and one man, at the Clinic. The clinic was initially housed in a 4-room tent provided by Rotary International. The heavy snowfall in early January damaged the tent, so the clinic was shifted to a permanent shelter built to house the clinic building; it was donated by the UK-based charity Shelter Kartm. The medical staff treat around 100 patients per day.

The clinic is the only health facility in the area. People do not speak of distances in kilometres, but in valleys crossed, as they must travel long distances up and down steep hills to reach any kind of medical services. In one report, the Doctor noted that her patients had traveled anywhere from 8Km to 24 Kms to reach the clinic. For some, this is a 3-hour journey on foot.

Medical Needs Met. The Centre focuses on a number of health issues, including first aid, reproductive health, primary care and trauma response and counseling. As of December 30th, a total of 1,441 patients had been treated at the Clinic. Of these, 312 (21.6%) were men, 711 (49.4%) were women and 418 (29%) were children. The doctor reports that patients are coming to the Clinic with physical trauma, fractures, anaemia and weakness (some of it borderline malnutrition) and respiratory tract infections. As would be expected, anxiety, heart disease and hypertension are common. Women come with gynaecological and obstetric problems.

If patients are suffering from problems related to poor nutrition, the Doctor dispenses vitamin drops and provides guidance. The clinic staff counsel patients suffering from psychological trauma and anxiety. Cases which cannot be treated at the clinic are referred to medical facilities in Bagh. As of February 2006 there was a NATO hospital and a Medicines Sans Frontieres hospital in Bagh.
Returning To Sustainable Development

8th October Earthquake Observation Day, held at the NRSP Regional Office in Muzaффarabad

The meeting was held to offer prayers for the victims of the earthquake. It was also intended to appreciate the efficiency of the community Activists who had so actively participated with NRSP in relief activities. The participants were from local communities, Oktar Novob, some of the Line departments and all of the NRSP Regional (AJK) and District Muzaффarabad office staff.

The meeting began formally with the recitation of verses from the holy Quran. Then prayers were offered for those who had lost their lives and those who continue to suffer from the effects of the terrible event. The Community Activists, men and women who volunteered their time and energies to serving their communities, were acknowledged as the chief guests. After the recitation the activists expressed their views about the earthquake, the people affected and the rehabilitation process.

Ayaz Abbas is credited with encouraging 200-250 people to attend the first Programme Introduction on July 20, 2006, in Khan Bandi. That gathering was addressed by Shoaib Sultan Khan, the NRSP Chairman. On this occasion Ayaz Abbas had this to say about NRSP’s work: “It is very difficult for me to narrate and depict the situation of the time of earthquake. It was just like a doomsday day for us. I saw my relatives lying dead due to the earthquake. They were under the debris. We are very grateful to God who provided us one more chance for living here in this world. We were at first miserable and helpless, then NRSP reached us and started its relief operation. We appreciate its efforts on behalf of the whole of AJK.”

I think that there is no one who does not believe in God. We confess the presence of God and His blessings and help for us. There are some people who supported the suffering humanity when they are in difficulty. The deeds of such helping people have significance before God. God always reveals His blessings for such people. NRSP provided its beneficial services for the suffering humanity from the immense earthquake. We appreciate NRSP’s services in Khan Bandi, particularly in the Health Sector. We are hopeful that NRSP will do the same in rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. Now we should discourage the relief activities and encourage the livelihood activities. In the end I am once again thankful to NRSP for its tremendous performance for the earthquake victims.

Activist Mr. Yameen is a poet. He said “I think today is not only important for us but for the whole world. The day can be compared with the sacred day of Muslims that is 10th Muharram. Before the 8th October event the Muslims have only one grief of one day; now 8th October is one more day that will be observed as grief day in the whole remaining life.” He read a poem from his collection about the day and its importance, noting that 8th October created many losses to people and buildings, but also noting that a ray of hope had come out from this terrible day, which is that “we can get a moral lesson from the event for our future life”.

Mr. Peter attended the event as representative of Oxfam Novib, a Netherlands-based relief and humanitarian organization. He said that he was grateful for the opportunity to be present and to speak on behalf of his staff in The Hague on such a significant day. “When we heard about the event of 8th October, we were astonished to hear the news of such massive destruction. We came here to ASPK and discussed with our partners what we should do. We concluded that NRSP would be the best platform for implementing the rehabilitation activities. NRSP was performing its work effectively and in an excellent manner. After discussion with our staff we decided to work through NRSP in AJK. I appreciate the slogan of ASPK Government that is ‘Building Back Better’. He added: I would like to share some views about the women’s participation in this event. I would like to share some views about the women’s participation in this event. I would like to see more women present here, but there are not many. We have signed a 2-year rehabilitation contract with NRSP. In this project importance will be given to the women and children, as the earthquake has affected them the most severely and they are the most vulnerable. I expect that in this project women will be benefited abundantly. Finally, my sincere thanks to the NRSP staff who provided me the opportunity to speak here”.

Attique ur Rehman, the Regional Programme Manager of the NRSP Muzaффarabad Region, spoke next, saying that “This day is dedicated to the enduring victims of this community who stayed with us and went along in the efforts made by NRSP in
compensating the wretched souls. These Activists are the chief guests of today's event. I pay tribute to these community activists under the auspices of NRSP staff. I do not have words to express my feelings about 8th October 2005. I was on duty in Kharah when I heard the shocking news. Immediately I contacted the NRSP Head Office Islamabad and talked with GM about the circumstances. He comforted me that Head Office Staff is quite all right, but said that the earthquake had affected AJ&K badly. The different media were soon showing the details from the affected areas. I tried to communicate by phone to Bagh and Rawalakot but the entire telephone system was out of order. I and some of my young and energetic staff from Kharah Region set out for emergency relief activities in Bagh and Rawalakot.

At the request of the Government of AJ&K, the CEO and GM NRSP directed us to start relief work in Muzaffarabad and North各区, in addition to the work NRSP was already doing in Districts Bagh and Rawalakot. On October 23, 2005 we established a Relief Camp in Muzaffarabad as Muzaffarabad was considered the worst damaged zone by the earthquake. We distributed relief goods containing daily life commodities and whatever we found from the donors we distributed to the suffering community.

A few months later the Chairman and GM paid a visit to Muzaffarabad, to see the situation firsthand. It was very pleasing for them to see the local community busy in planning and executing the reconstruction and rehabilitation activities overwhelmingly in their respective villages and Union Councils. They appreciated the efforts and encouraged people to continue with their work and support. I thank all of you here today and look forward to continued cooperation in the rehabilitation and livelihood activities.

Farouque Kashmiri, Advocate, began his comments by reciting some verses of the Holy Quran, translated as “When the land will be jerked by jerking”, which he said described the situation of the earthquake. He said “I want to bring your attention to the inner concept of the event. We should not be selfish, as we were before. Now we should be humble in our attitude. We are made of soil and during the earthquake the whole terrain was damaged and so our people lost their lives and went into their graves. The earthquake damaged the land and the things hidden beneath the soil and rocks were brought to the surface. We human beings are also made of soil and have both inner emotions and an outer self. During the relief activities the selfish people started snatching the goods and the sincere people began providing a helping hand to the suffering humanity. From second type of people some are sitting here: these are the community activists. They have done very good work in relief activities. They are going to have some acknowledgment of their work in the shape of Shields presented to them. But the real reward of God they will get in next world. That will be very beneficial for them. The Shields are an impermanent appreciation but the reward which these persons hold with the Almighty will be everlasting. I will end by saying that I wish that in the future nobody will have to observe such a terrible event which we people have endured.

After these comments, Honorary Shields were distributed to the community activists, in appreciation of their selfless services. Mr. Peter from Oxfam (Nairobi) and Mr. Ghulam Rasool (Regional Incharge Mardul), who had come especially to Muzaffarabad for the ceremony, distributed the shields. The ceremony concluded with a session of prayers for the victims who lost their lives and those who were still suffering.
This report has documented NRSP’s response to the earthquake, charting our activities in emergency relief and rehabilitation. The report concludes by looking to the future, in terms of implementing projects and programmes to work with communities for sustainable development. Many of the projects already described in this report will continue to operate and to benefit families and communities. People will continue to rebuild their houses, return to land-based or urban livelihoods and apply the knowledge they have gained at such a terrible price, to living in Kashmir. The projects discussed below are some of the larger projects that NRSP and its partners have begun recently, with that purpose in mind.

The PPAF-funded Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project, operating in Bagh and Poorch will continue until March 2008. Its purposes are 1) to assist people in re-building their lives by providing safe housing and restoring basic infrastructure services through a community and owner driven approach and 2) to build the capacities of local people to take control of their lives. 3) Rehabilitation 300 CPI including link roads, drinking water supply schemes, community buildings and sanitation projects.

The first project component was the damage assessment of about 40,000 houses according to the Army list. NRSP’s first activity includes the payment of the first compensation installment. Then, a ‘plinth level advice note’ is submitted to PPAF, followed by ‘intel level Advice Notes’. Four-day village-level training events in house construction (masonry, carpentry, electrical work) and one-day community workshops on construction of earthquake resistant buildings enable community members to rebuild their homes according to the required safety standards. Acknowledging the necessity of having effective local ‘platforms’ for all activities, NRSP and PPAF will form COOs.

NRSP-Oxfam Novib Project: Post Disaster Livelihoods Reconstruction in District Muzaffarabad

Since September 2006, NRSP has been implementing an Oxfam Novib funded project in District Muzaffarabad, AJK. Oxfam Novib provided £ 2.7 Million (PKR 195.8 Million) for the project. The goal is livelihoods reconstruction for the most vulnerable households, the majority of them headed by women, people who are physically disabled and, in some cases, orphans.

The project will be implemented in six Union Councils and one Town Committee and will run until April 2008.

The project objectives are (i) to ensure the existence and effective operation of social mechanisms to implement the project and (ii) to enable at least 4,900 families (the majority extremely vulnerable) to restore their ability to earn a living, increase the profitability of their rural or urban livelihoods and diversify their sources of income.

Although the project includes a humanitarian focus, it essentially signals a return to ‘development’ as distinct from relief and reconstruction activities in AJK. It incorporates all of the elements of NRSP’s core poverty alleviation program, beginning with social mobilization and extending to skills acquisition, natural resource management and enterprise development.

The first tasks were to select the project staff and to develop an administrative structure and mechanisms. Two ‘satellite offices’ have been established, one in Hatian Bala and one in Patika. The project office at Muzaffarabad is being backstopped by the sector managers at NRSP head office.

Project Components: Based on a livelihoods assessment conducted in February 2006, the Oxfam Novib project was designed by NRSP to include the following activities, all of which are

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3 As in most emergencies, the most vulnerable segment of the population was among the hardest hit by the disaster: the elderly, women whose husbands were killed or disabled, and an estimated 1.622 million children. In addition to the estimated $5 billion in property damage, there was significant loss of livelihoods through destruction of arable land, crops and livestock, business, and jobs.
based on the foundation of social mobilization to restore sustainable livelihoods.

The project includes both land-based and urban components. The activities will include land clearing, restoring land to productivity, planting crops and vegetables, developing orchards, and implementing innovations such as solar-powered dryers. Physical infrastructure schemes include rainwater harvesting, small-scale infrastructure schemes, repairing water delivery systems, repairing link roads and small bridges. Skills enhancement for income generation will also be a significant aspect of the project. Livestock re-stocking will also be done. This includes giving people sheep and goats, shelters for their animals, fodder, and nutritional supplements and vaccinations. The Project will also hire and train 18 Livestock Extension Workers.

Innovations will include the use of technologies to process fruit and vegetables. 400 people will be taught vocational skills to help them earn a living. 160 families will be given the opportunity to keep bees and sell the honey. Because women and girls must spend an inordinate amount of time collecting water, the Project will provide water-storage containers to 375 families. 250 poor women will be given a sewing machine to help them establish a home-based tailoring enterprise. Other women will learn how to knit, do embroidery, and make baskets. 400 people will be taught the skills they need to start up a business and 175 families will be given the funds to re-establish their small businesses; another 200 families will be helped to establish new businesses. 200 people with physical disabilities will be given start-up grants for home-based enterprises.

The Project Team have identified the poorest, most disadvantaged, and most vulnerable households through a Village Situation Analysis and Vulnerability Assessment. These households will subsequently be encouraged to form COs.

Advocacy and Gender Awareness: Oxfam Novib has involved the NGO Rozan for the capacity building of its counterparts on gender-related issues. The other partners of Oxfam Novib in its Earthquake Response Program include Khwendo Khor and Sungi Development Foundation.

Rozan has conducted a Training Needs Assessment of the NRSP project staff members; this will be followed by a series of training events.

The UNICEF-funded CHW Project, implemented in 8 UGs in District Bagh and 14 UGs in Tehsil Harian, District Muzaffarabad, will run from August 2006 to April 2007. Its goals are to (1) ensure that 80% of the children and families in the project area learn to practice behaviors that are essential to preventing and managing illnesses; to mitigate the health consequences of emergencies and to achieve their full physical and intellectual potential (2) have access to essential commodities in their homes that will enable them to achieve healthy and hygienic practices and (3) have access to appropriate essential skilled services in their homes.

The Joint Undertaking of Advancing Microfinance for Post-Disaster Economic Reconstruction (AMPER) Project, funded by USAID and led by Shorebank International, a "community development and environmental bank", is focused on rehabilitating microfinance operations, thereby restoring access to microcredit and insurance to local residents. The Project will conduct comprehensive market and needs assessments for innovative and alternative microfinance services. It will introduce new microfinance service mechanisms, improve the remittance system and stabilize and rehabilitate sustainable microfinance services. The project will provide funds to 1,050 households for housing reconstruction. It will also provide micro-credit to enable 5,000 families to set up new businesses.

The project includes a research component, which will capture and disseminate the lessons learned.

The DfID-funded Increasing Community Participation in Education project will assist the Education Department of Government of AJ&K to revitalize and strengthen the education system in Districts Muzaffarabad, Neelum, Bagh and Kotli. As an 'upstream' activity the project will build the capacities of teachers and Education Department officials to support community participation. 'Downstream', the project will form
SMCs and institutionalize community involvement in providing and managing of elementary education in AJ&K. The Project has been funded until February 2009.

It will build the capacities and effectiveness of SMCs through training and other support. A critically important aspect is that of building linkages between SMCs and the Education Department. The Project will establish one Community Teachers’ Resource Centers (CTRCs) in each District.

The Revitalizing, Innovating, Strengthening Education (RISE) (Post Earthquake Education Recovery Programme), funded by USAID/AIR, will function until 2010.

Its purposes are to 1) improve financial and human resource management related to teachers training, 2) improve teachers’ performance and 3) improve community members’ participation in the education of children.

The overall goal of the NRSP/UNICEF Partnership for School improvement is to “make education more joyful for the students”. To achieve this, the Project will involve community members in school improvement by forming and supporting SMCs. The objective is that 100% of the children who were in school before the earthquake be back in schools and an additional 30% of school-aged children not previously in school before the earthquake. The project will improve the quality of the physical and the teaching environments.

The Prime Minister’s Special Initiative for Livestock, funded by the GoP’s MINPAM Department, has been designed to alleviate poverty by improving the productivity of livestock in Districts Bagh, Poonch, Sudhnull and Koth. The initiative will include training one District Livestock Officer and 8 DVMs. These experts will recruit and train 200 “self-employed” Community Livestock Extension Workers (CLEW) who will provide extension services in their own villages.