



Issue 2

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Widening of village link-road at Pekho Nakar Union Council Abbottabad district (NWFP) in the context of the Livelihoods Rehabilitation Strategy of ERRA supported by FAO.

Impact of floods on small landholder farmers and livestock-keepers

Floods that struck Balochistan and Sindh in July 2007 destroyed harvested crops, food, fodder, seed stocks and killed livestock. For the majority, the livelihoods of the affected communities were focused on farming and farm labour, but many kept a small number of animals to supplement their food supply and income, mainly cattle, sheep and goats. The floods killed around 367,000 small and large ruminants. Livestock-keeping is particularly important for poorer farmers who own either a small plot of land or none at all.

The floods destroyed the already harvested wheat crop and rain water storage 'bunds' thereby paralyzing the agriculture activities in the region. Most of the animals housed in simple shelters near their owner's homes were killed in the flooding, while some were stolen or sold to meet urgent cash needs.

With funding provided by the CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund), FAO responded to these losses by distributing seeds, fertiliser and livestock input packages to 40,856 poor and marginalised families in the flood affected districts to restore lost productivity of livestock and restart crop production. The distributions were organised through the implementing partner, Taraqee Foundation, which carried out the targeting and distribution process. Beneficiaries in particular were women-headed and other vulnerable households.



July 2007 floods in Balochistan province.

"Before, we thought it was almost impossible to survive in this place. Today, we changed this idea with support from the project." Muhammad Khan, Bolan district Balochistan.

"With increase in milk production I can buy food, clothes and pay for medicine and school fees for my children." Sabiha, Balochistan.

Post-distribution monitoring showed that vast majority of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the quality of the provided inputs and the fairness of the distribution process. When asked how the distributed inputs impacted on their lives, most farmers were positive about the opportunity to resume agriculture and livestock activities after losing some or all of their harvested crop and animals in the floods.

Focus on “Disaster Preparedness” - developing livelihoods baselines and contingency plans

Together with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) FAO has developed Hazards, Livelihoods and Vulnerabilities (HLV) baselines and contingency plans for disaster-prone pilot districts. The aim is to strengthen the capacity of national, provincial and district level Governments, NGO and UN agencies to respond better to future natural disasters.

In a one-year pilot project, five districts, each with a specific disaster profile, were targeted: Badin (Sindh) for cyclones and associated floods; Tharparkar (Sindh) for droughts; Rajanpur (Punjab) for riverine floods and hill torrents; Bagh (Pakistan Administered Kashmir) for earthquake and landslides; and Astor (Northern Areas) for Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF).

The goal was to develop need-based contingency plans focussing on immediate livelihoods recovery in case of disaster; and to compile quantitative and qualitative data to support more rapid and accurate post-disaster damage assessments and in addressing immediate livelihoods response needs in case of disasters.



District Consultative Workshop on "Disaster Preparedness", Islamabad February 2009 - Syed Mohammad Ali Assistant Representative FAO and Shaukat Nawaz Tahir Deputy Chairman NDMA addressing the workshop participants.

Commenting on HLV baselines, Assistant Representative FAO, Mr Syed Mohammad Ali said, “The baselines seek to answer questions like: Which natural hazards affect the area in question? Where do they strike? When do they strike? Who do they strike? How do people in areas at risk normally make a living?” and “How can they be supported in maintaining their livelihoods after a disaster?” He explained that the contingency plans will go a long way in pre-empting the natural disaster situations in future.

The impact of the recent floods in Rajanpur was assessed with baseline methodology. The same approach was also used in a rapid one-day assessment of floods in Peshawar, and this shows its practical applicability within a disaster context. It is planned that the project will be scaled up to further cover 20 to 30 hazard-prone districts.

Kitchen gardening for better nutrition

As part of its Livelihoods Rehabilitation Strategy, ERRA with technical assistance from FAO, develops Community Livelihoods Rehabilitation Plans (CLRP) that focus on the livelihoods of small landholder farmers and their families, especially very poor people who have the potential to take advantage of the economic opportunities offered. Special attention is given to women who are the most disadvantaged members of the Pakistani rural society. The key to ensure that they participate in the country's development is to understand the reasons why they are poor and create the conditions they need to improve their lives. Kitchen garden is one such activity that promotes an integrated approach to low-cost, ecologically sound cropping systems. Its implementation shows that kitchen garden improve rural household food



Kitchen garden in Gulmera Batora sub-watershed, NWFP.

supplies and nutrition, and its methodology effectively demonstrates the need to link agricultural undertakings to nutrition and health activities. This home-based enterprise empowers rural women and is also a source of income.

Support to Fisheries Resource Appraisal in Pakistan

The FAO Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) project “Support to Fisheries Resource Appraisal in Pakistan (FRAP)” was formally inaugurated in Karachi this month.

FRAP is a three-year programme of fisheries resource surveys for stock assessment of the important marine resources. The analysis of the information gathered will identify sustainable harvest levels for existing fisheries and opportunities for expansion into new resources and areas. Scientific and technical training will be given to Marine Fishery Department (MFD) staff in resource appraisal methods and tools including fisheries acoustic surveys, trawl surveying of both pelagic (mid-water) and demersal (bottom-dwelling) fisheries resources, and the use of Geographical Information Systems in assessing fish stocks and fisheries. FAO will provide a specialized fisheries research vessel to conduct acoustic and trawl surveys in offshore waters, to 200 nautical miles limit of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Additional surveys will cover the inshore and creek areas as well.



Launch of the FAO UTF project “Support to Fisheries Resource Appraisal in Pakistan”, Karachi.

Data collection on the fleet structure, capacity and fishing activity will provide a detailed understanding of the role of fisheries in the marine ecosystem and the effects they have on the fish stocks. This will be linked to a final key component of successful fisheries management comprising the knowledge, assistance and cooperation of the fishing industry and related stakeholders. A Fisheries Sector Participatory Working Group will be the forum for consultation with fishers, processors and other stakeholders. The project outcome will be a comprehensive scientific overview of the current state of Pakistan’s marine resources to support the government and industry in making sound and sustainable fisheries management decisions.

Building organizational capacity in Pakistan

FAO is helping to strengthen local and national agricultural government institutions, so that Pakistanis can play a leading role in restructuring agriculture. Local communities are assisted to develop the skills to resolve their own problems. AJK-Community Development Programme (CDP), sponsored by International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), is a conduit between government and communities to bring agricultural services to the doorstep of the people. FAO provides technical expertise to the programme through a consultative process whereby ensuring people-centred sustainable agriculture and rural development.



Agriculture Development Commission participating in the workshop, Islamabad.

Agriculture plays a key role in the livelihoods of the rural communities. In the livelihoods framework, agriculture is a financial asset contributing on average some 40% to the household income. In order to improve the service delivery of the Agriculture Department in the government, a series of six two-day workshops have been scheduled, out of which four have already been held. The target group for the workshops is all cadres of professional government employees and field staff. The objectives are to identify the constraints being faced by the field staff, to find sustainable solutions, to develop an operational strategy and tailor the service delivery mechanism in the CDP work plan for 2009.

The workshop trainings explained the basic philosophy of participatory approach to the participants. Some workshop recommendations were to tailor the annual work plan to the approach, improve coordination, establish a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, use of monthly meetings as a capacity building forum, introduce refresher courses, extension meeting with communities and develop seasonal calendars.

On-farm employment and enterprise development

Small businesses can drive economic development in disadvantaged areas, but they often face overwhelming difficulties in the early years. FAO together with partner organizations is supporting walnut business in Muzaffarabad and Balakot teshils in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP). Community Based Livelihoods Recovery Programme for earthquake

affected areas of PAK and NWFP has helped the people get access to modern implements, technology, technical support and markets so that they could develop new ways to make a living. People involved in the project formed six interest groups and embarked on a range of new activities on their farms. Four hundred manual crackers have been distributed and some 200 women and men have been trained in pre- and post-harvest management techniques. As a result, their average income is estimated to increase by 40 percent.



Training given to people in pre- and post-harvest management techniques in Muzaffarabad (PAK) and Balakot (NWFP) tehsils.

Minister of Environment visits the sub-watersheds

Minister for Environment, Wajid Ali Khan visited the Batora and Gulmera villages of Balakot tehsil in the NWFP. He saw rehabilitation work being carried out in the watershed areas such as the checkdams and stone protection walls for land stabilization and nurseries for forest and fruit trees, kitchen gardens set up by community women entrepreneurs along with roof top water harvesting techniques adopted by the local farmers.

The Minister also planted a fruit tree sapling inaugurating the spring plantation. Being a progressive farmer himself, he said that for bringing an economic revolution, the farming systems need to be reviewed and improved where possible and advised the communities to create fruit plantation zones, and prepare inactive land for forest plantation together with developing transparent and competitive markets. He appreciated the efforts of FAO and its implementing partners for introducing a number of contemporary techniques in farming, thereby working towards sustainable livelihoods of the rural communities.



"We hope to continue to improve living conditions and to make environment greener and people's lives richer", Minister of Environment, Batora village NWFP February 2009.

Agriculture is a proven engine for poverty reduction. GDP growth generated by agriculture is up to four times more effective in benefiting the poorest half of the country's population than growth generated by other sectors. Our unique mandate is to enable the rural poor to overcome poverty



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