



After the Flood

Pakistan Six Month Update

February 2011



CRWRC

Living Justice, Loving Mercy

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The Disaster

In late July 2010, heavy monsoon rains began to fall on the country of Pakistan. As the rains continued, the Indus River and its many tributaries began to swell and overflow their banks. Surges were sometimes up to 30 feet in height. By August, approximately one fifth of Pakistan's land mass was under water. According to the Pakistan government, the floods killed 2,000 people and affected more than 20 million others. Homes, roads, bridges, canals, crops and livestock were

damaged or washed away. As families made their way to temporary camps they were faced with the additional challenges of finding access to clean water, nutritious food, safe shelter, and proper sanitation. The situation was desperate, and CRWRC responded. In the first six months CRWRC has provided \$4.8 million in aid. An additional \$1.3 million is planned to be spent in the coming months.



The Response

CRWRC has worked in Pakistan in the past, responding both to Cyclone Yemyin in 2007 and to the displacement of thousands of people due to fighting against the Taliban in 2009. In response to this most recent crisis, CRWRC has focused its attention in two provinces: Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Southern Punjab. Both of these regions suffered extensive damage in the floods and had populations that were in desperate need of assistance. Together with its local partner, the Interfaith League Against Poverty (I-LAP), CRWRC crafted a response that would meet the immediate food and non-food needs of vulnerable households, including 500 families in temporary camps. The CRWRC response so far has provided:

Food Aid

- 2,203 metric tonnes (approximately 2 months supply) of food for 8,000 families in KPK
- 2,294 metric tonnes (approximately 3 months supply) of food for 5,500 families in Southern Punjab

- Culturally-appropriate meals for 500 Muslim families during Ramadan

Emergency Non-Food Items

- 4,760 tents (of which 484 were contributed by Disaster Aid Canada)
- 8,065 hygiene kits containing soap, towels and toiletries
- 8,065 mosquito nets
- 7,915 single burner cooking stoves
- 8,065 kitchen kits containing pans and cooking utensils

Access to Water and Health

- 3 months of water supply for 500 families (approximately 200,000 gallons)
- 8,000 jerry cans to store water
- 5,000 individual, portable water filters (Life Straws)
- 7 water purification systems (Sky Juice systems) which deliver 10,000 liters of clean water each day
- 2 stationary and 1 mobile clinic providing medical support and trauma counseling; since January 4th, 578 patients have been treated,

thanks to donations from Medical Teams International and Food for the Hungry

Winter Non-Food Assistance

- 12,000 mattresses (3 per family)
- 15,260 blankets; gifts in kind by MCC (4 per family)
- 24,000 children's jackets
- 8,000 adult outer wraps/ coats known as chadars
- 16,000 liters of heating fuel

Special Thanks

CRWRC's response in Pakistan has been made possible through the faithful support of many individuals, churches, schools, and organizations. This includes:

- Canadian Baptist Ministries
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- Christian Reformed Churches of Australia
- Christian Reformed Church in North America
- Canadian Reformed World Relief Fund
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Disaster Aid Canada
- Dorcas Aid
- Emergency Relief and Development Overseas (ERDO)
- Evangelische Omroep Metterdaad
- Food for the Hungry
- Heart to Heart
- ICCO — Kerk in Actie
- Lakar Mission
- Medical Teams International (MTI)
- Mennonite Central Committee of Canada (MCCC)
- Stichting Red een Kind (Help a Child Foundation, NL)
- Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC)
- Tearfund NZ
- United Church of Canada
- Woord en Daad
- World Concern
- World Relief Canada
- World Relief USA
- ZOA Refugee Care



The Impact

Karim Fazal's Story

"What a privilege it is to show God's love and bring a glimmer of hope to devastated families," said CRWRC's Disaster Response and Rehabilitation Director, Wayne de Jong. De Jong travelled to Pakistan in early January, giving him the opportunity to witness the flood response activities that are taking place first hand. One of the people he met during his trip was Karim Fazal, a father of seven children who is also looking after an extended family of 28.

"Prior to the floods, Karim and his family lived in mud brick houses and Karim was a day laborer working in the fields of large farms," recalls de Jong. "Today, his home has been washed away, all his possessions have been destroyed, and many of the farms that he used to work on are no longer operational as a result of the devastating flooding."

Despite these enormous setbacks, Karim Fazal remains proud and hopeful. He has begun to work as a mason and has had steady work rebuilding damaged homes. Unfortunately, most people cannot afford to pay much for the work on their houses and thus Karim's wages are low. To supplement his income, Karim has received support from CRWRC.

"Karim's family received food for several months, a large tent, a kitchen/cooking set, a hygiene kit, a mosquito net, a jerry can for water, and later — as the temperatures dropped and winter set in — mattresses, blankets, jackets and adult wraps known as chadars," de Jong explained.

In addition to this support for Karim's family, CRWRC has also provided Karim's community with clean water in the form of a new filtration system, and trauma counseling and medical care through a newly established mobile medical clinic.

"Not only is Karim working hard to rebuild his life and provide for his large family, he's also contributing to the recovery of the larger community by serving on the committee that cares for the new water system," said de Jong.

CRWRC will continue to provide food rations to 4,000 families in the area for another four and a half months, and will also be working on economic recovery by providing seeds, tools, and fertilizer to farmers, and replacing livestock. Jobs will be created through CRWRC's cash-for-work projects that will rebuild canals and roads, and later the reconstruction of permanent homes will begin.

"There is much work to be done, but Karim and his family are doing their part, and he is hopeful that they will

soon become independent again," said de Jong. "While I was there Karim looked me in the eye — being my height — and said 'Shookria,' which means 'Thank you.' I'm quite sure there was a tear in his eye, but he is a proud man, and it didn't stay there long."

Caring for Pakistan's Christian Minority

Saleem Johnson is a Christian living in the small village of Malik Ibrahim in the Rahim Yar Khan District of Punjab, Pakistan. Of the approximately 100 families in Malik Ibrahim, only 25 are Christians. Yet, according to Saleem, in his community the Muslim majority and the Christian minority have always tried to live in peace.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said of all communities in Pakistan. And in the past, relief agencies have at times contributed to the tensions, withholding aid from Christians affected by disasters in the country. With this in mind, CRWRC and its partner I-LAP are making a conscious effort to ensure that all community members are included in their flood response — regardless of religious affiliation.

Saleem Johnson is grateful. Before the flood, he led a simple life with his wife, daughter, parents, brothers, and sisters. He worked as a day laborer and also raised livestock.



Last August, he and his family were deep asleep when the flood waters started to pour through his village. He and his wife grabbed a few important belongings, woke up their children and parents, and fled for safety. Their home was completely destroyed by the flood and all of their possessions were washed away except the few they were able to take with them that fateful night. Saleem's livestock also drowned.

When I-LAP came to survey the town of Malik Ibrahim, Saleem was feeling overwhelmed by the losses he and his family had suffered. He wasn't sure how he would feed his family that day, let alone rebuild a life for them. If aid agencies refused to help him because of his Christian faith, he wasn't sure what he would do.

Saleem registered with I-LAP that day and his hope was renewed. Through Food for the Hungry and I-LAP, he received a tent, hygiene supplies, and cooking utensils. Through CRWRC and I-LAP his family also began receiving food rations from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB).

"Saleem has a hope for life again," said I-LAP staff member, Junaid Rafique. "He has started looking for work so that he can earn money and rebuild his life."

To date, CRWRC's response has reached 3,120 Christians like Saleem. This includes 25 families in Malik Ibrahim, 300 families in KPK, and 65 in Islamabad. The importance of this peace-building aspect of CRWRC's disaster response work cannot be understated. As Christians and Muslims work alongside each other and receive aid, relationships are formed and strengthened. In an area of the world that has endured much religious conflict, this relationship building will be a critical component of Pakistan's reconstruction.

The Ongoing Response

CRWRC's work in Pakistan is far from over. Now that immediate emergency needs have been met for the beneficiary households, they face the difficult task of rebuilding their lives. CRWRC will continue to work alongside of them for the foreseeable future.

The immediate priority is to restore the economy. To help with this, CRWRC plans to invest \$175,000 in a cash-for-work program. In this program, 1,500 households will receive cash payments in exchange for work on projects that will rebuild necessary infrastructure such as roads and canals. This cash can then be used by participants to rebuild their houses or as capital to restart their small businesses. Purchasing supplies

from others in the community will result in a multiplier effect — further stimulating the local economy.

Another priority is helping families continue to meet their food needs as they get back on their feet. An in-depth assessment showed that food would be a continuing need for flood-affected communities. As a result, CRWRC will provide half rations of food aid to 4,000 families in KPK for the next four and a half months, until harvests come in and livelihoods begin to be reestablished.

In addition to these initiatives, CRWRC is developing plans for the following:

- **Water, sanitation, and hygiene** — haulage of water, repair/replacement of water pumps for irrigation, well cleaning and repair, reconstruction of latrines and bathing facilities, and hygiene training
- **Shelter** — rebuilding permanent homes for those who lost everything
- **Health** — providing trauma counseling and psychosocial support, nutritional training, and mother/infant care training
- **Disaster risk reduction** — helping communities prepare for and mitigate against future disasters
- **Animal husbandry** — restocking livestock, along with training in new agricultural techniques
- **Recapitalizing small businesses**, accompanied by accounting, marketing, and savings training
- **Peace-building** — working within communities to restore relationships and build trust between different religious and people groups

Carrying out these programs will depend on the funding that CRWRC receives. Please prayerfully consider making an additional donation to CRWRC's Pakistan Flood Response so that CRWRC can continue this important ministry.