



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

Emergency Rapid Response Project Monthly Report – September, 2006

1. Community and Government Relations:

AIG funded Emergency Logistical Hubs and Rapid Response Teams have been incorporated into government contingency planning for the upcoming seasons in the Emergency Response Plan for Winter/Monsoon (August 2006-April 2007) drafted by the Senior Board of Revenue, AJK.

6 September: A meeting was held with Commissioner, Camp Management Organization, Muzaffarabad, who supports the rapid response project and promised close coordination in regards to cross-cutting issues with camps, particularly ways in which the teams can provide information on possible migration to camps this winter. IOM has worked alongside the CMO in Muzaffarabad for the past 11 months and the rapid response project will continue to provide support to the CMO.

7 September: In Mansehra, a meeting was conducted with the District Coordination Officer, who is highly supportive of the emergency response team coverage areas, shelter survey initiative (particularly on how survey report findings could be incorporated into government's contingency plan), and training of government officials. The DCO would like to see the survey report findings incorporated into the government contingency plan and the training of officials will be coordinated through representative of social welfare department, who also attended the meeting.

22 September: In a meeting with the Additional Chief Secretary, AJK, IOM briefed the ACS on the AIG Emergency Response teams. The ACS concluded that this was a great and timely initiative, particularly the pre-winter shelter security survey.

29 September: A meeting was conducted with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Muzaffarabad, who participated in the writing of the Government of AJK's Winter and Contingency Plan and has been identified by the plan as the 'lead agency for the Emergency Response Planning and execution.' The commissioner was positive in all respects, ensured close coordination and assistance from the commissioner's side.

2. Current Activities:

(i) Emergency Intervention

Heavy monsoon rain swept through the peri-urban community of Chela Bandi, Muzaffarabad, creating landslides and killing 12 people in tents. From 18 September, AIG teams have brought in machinery and labor to clear the houses and local mosque that have been destroyed or buried in rocks and mud. The team consists of 14 laborers, 16 tractors and 1 excavator. The machinery has also now re-created the road access to the community and thereby created a natural waterway flow.



Fig 1.1 Work in progress at Chela Bandi slide



Fig 1.2 Clearing the slide damage from inside the house



Fig 1.3 Chela Bandi Mosque before clearing



Fig 1.4 Chela Bandi Mosque after clearing

(ii) Training

The pre-winter shelter security survey was initiated with a one-day training of 16 assessment teams in Muzaffarabad. Teams consist of NGO and non-NGO surveyors as well as mixed male and female representatives. Organizations represented included IOM, Oxfam, Islamic Help, Islamic Relief and SDI-PK.



Fig 1.5 IOM staff conducting AIG survey training in Muzaffarabad



Fig 1.6 AIG survey teams hone interview skills for the field

(iii) Assessment

As winter approaches, the government and international community (NGOs, INGOs, agencies, donors) are planning scenarios in case of emergency. Many affected families still do not have adequate shelter to deal with the upcoming season. Tens of thousands of families have returned from internally displaced persons camps to their rural homes and may not have had the resources or time to build back. The harsh weather could potentially force the return of families to camps, or cut off their community from access of NFIs, shelter and food. It is widely agreed that there is a general lack of knowledge of the pre-winter conditions of affected communities.

Now the pre-winter shelter security survey is underway. Using experience gained from conducting a tent security survey in the previous winter as well as input from NGO partners (OXFAM, Islamic Relief) and UN agencies (Resident Coordinator, UNHabitat), the objectives of the IOM-led survey are to:

- Assess longevity of existing shelters (tent and non-tent) in prevailing conditions and shelter plans for winter
- Quantify numbers and gender accommodated per shelter (by age and gender)
- Assess requirements for NFIs (blankets/quilts, cooking utensils, etc) and food this winter
- Increase available information regarding anticipated migratory patterns and accessibility

The survey is an observational study with key-informant semi-structured interviews, and analysis of existing secondary anecdotal evidence. Surveys are conducted in a village meeting setting and well as with individual households.



Fig 1.7 AIG survey team using proportional piling method to allow community to better classify needs in UC Talgran

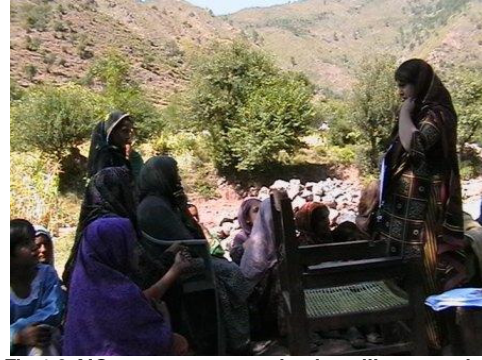


Fig 1.8 AIG survey team conducting village meeting with focus on vulnerable women in UC Chakama

The survey is conducted in rural villages both above and below 5000 feet in approximately one third of the earthquake-affected Union Councils in the districts of Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Mansehra, Battagram, Shangla, and Abbotabad . At least four villages in each Union Council are surveyed and at least six surveys are conducted in each survey. When a Union Council contains villages both below and above 5000 feet, at least one from each level will be selected. Union Councils have been selected on the basis of compensation checks for damaged/destroyed houses. The 50 most damaged UCs in NWFP and the 50 most damaged UCs in AJK have been selected. Villages within a certain UC are selected by UNHabitat's Housing Reconstruction Centers or through partner organizations, with the criteria of identification of the most affected communities above and below 5000 ft.

160 villages have been surveyed in AJK at time of reporting.

3. Future Planning:

Team members and field locations have been identified for the deployment of the first six emergency response teams. Each team will consist of: a medic, a mountain search and rescuer and an assessment officer. Comprehensive training of the team members will focus on the three team objectives of emergency intervention, training and assessment and will take place in the first week of October. After completion of training, the teams will begin the emergency response work at the field stations.

4. Case Study:



Fig 1.9 Haji Nazir and family, Chela Bandi slide

Haji Muhammad Nazir and his two sons are residents of Chela Bandi, and have resided in this house for 12 years. Although his house was damaged in the earthquake, the mud slide made the condition of his house even worse and inaccessible from the jeep track leading through the community. *“We have been living in our damaged house wanted to repair it after the earthquake, but since the slide, I had to shift my family into a tent... the same tents that were swept under by the slide.”*



Fig 1.10 Haji Nazir's house before clearance

Haji Nazir had wanted to repair his damaged house and this was not possible before the clearance of the rocks and mud which had engulfed his home.



Fig 1.11 Nazir's home after AIG clearance

Haji Nazir and his family are thankful to AIG for removing the landslide debris from their house. As Nazir is currently jobless, there was no way he could have cleared the house. Now he has road access to the home and with government compensation he can begin the repair of his home.