



## *Alliance2015*

### *Humanitarian Assistance to Disaster-Affected Vulnerable Populations in Pakistan*

In 2010 Pakistan experienced devastating floods, affecting more than 20 million people (one-tenth of Pakistan's population), killing more than 1,700 men, women, and children and damaging or destroying at least 1.8 million homes. Floods hit again in 2011, 2012, and 2013, and while these occurrences were not as destructive as the 2010 floods, they demonstrated the extent to which Pakistan is vulnerable to hydro-meteorological hazards. Assessments carried out immediately after the 2012 flooding found that in the affected communities, many of which had not yet recovered from the previous two years of flooding, 80 per cent of standing crops had been destroyed, 88 per cent of homes were damaged or destroyed, and four million people were in need of urgent assistance.

### *Impact of Disaster*

This widespread destruction exposed women, men, and children to a variety of risks. The flooding rendered many of the villages' key water sources non-functional, leaving them without access to safe water for eating, drinking, and cleaning and putting families at high risk of waterborne disease. Compounding this, many sanitation facilities and latrines were destroyed in the floods, forcing people to defecate in the open and severely compromising the health and hygiene conditions of the families trying to recover from the floods. Moreover, many families lost their primary sources of income—or, worse, their daily food. For a country in which 90 per cent of poor people live in rural areas, the onset of repeated floods each year and destruction of entire harvests, homes, livestock, and other productive assets only drives these families into even deeper poverty.

### *Providing Emergency Relief*

To respond to the flooding disasters in Pakistan, the Alliance2015 (A2015) partners joined together to deliver emergency assistance and early recovery relief. Under their current joint “Humanitarian Assistance to Disaster-Affected Vulnerable Populations in Pakistan” project—the sixth ECHO-funded A2015 emergency flood relief programme since the 2010 floods—the A2015 partners



*With project support Buddha Khan and his family constructed a one-room shelter in Rana Khan Muhammad Village, Bukhara Union Council, Jam Pur Tehsil, Rajanpur District. Photo: Shujat Ali, Concern Worldwide, 2013*



are delivering urgent shelter, food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to communities affected by the 2012 floods.

As part of this project, Concern Worldwide, in partnership with three local partner organisations (Indus Resource Centre, DevCon, and HELP Foundation), is providing critical shelter and WASH relief in three districts of Pakistan: Rajanpur district in Punjab province and Shikarpur and Jacobabad districts in Sindh province. Since the start of this one-year project in March 2013, Concern has **supported 1,642 vulnerable households (or 9,852 individuals)** by providing them with one-room shelters. In order to allow these flood-affected families with the maximum amount of dignity and choice in their shelter assistance, Concern fully involved them in the design and construction of the shelters. To ensure that many of the most vulnerable households—including those headed by women, the elderly, or disabled—were not excluded if they could not provide the necessary unskilled labour, Concern **provided 1,144 shelter support grants** to these particularly at-risk households. With these small grants, such families could hire unskilled labour from their village.



*With funding from ECHO, Concern Worldwide and its local partner organization assisted flood-affected individuals to purchase shelter construction materials (above in Jampur market, Rajanpur District) and construct one-room shelters in the aftermath of the 2012 floods. Photo: Idrees Haider, Concern Worldwide, July 2013.*



*Hand pump in Sontra Village, Muhammad Pur Union Council, Jam Pur Tehsil, Rajanpur District. Photo: Muhammad Aslam, HELP Foundation, 2013.*

Under this flood-response project, Concern also **installed 100 hand pumps** in communities; these water sources successfully **provided 2,400 women, men, and children with access to safe drinking water**. Because many of the destructive floods in the area have led to contaminated water sources, Concern tested the quality of all the water being provided to recovering communities to ensure safe and adequate supply for cooking, drinking, washing, and other household purposes. In addition, Concern consulted the communities about the siting of the



hand pumps, to guarantee that the locations were safe, accessible, and convenient for community members—particularly women, who are primarily responsible for fetching water in Pakistan's rural communities. Concern and its partners also worked with men and women from the target communities to designate local committees tasked with overseeing the operation, repair, and maintenance of the hand pumps in the future. These groups also received toolkits and spare parts to keep the pumps able to effectively and efficiently deliver safe water to the communities.

Also under this joint A2015 flood-relief project, Concern also **constructed 150 latrines, which are providing 2,700 individuals with access to safe sanitation facilities**. These latrines are allowing communities to recover from the floods in dignity while also reducing their risk of contracting waterborne diseases. To complement this, Concern's local partners also conducted health and hygiene sessions to instruct women, men, and children about improved hygiene practices, such as critical hand-washing times and methods. During these sessions, participants received hygiene kits containing items, such as soap, cloths, nail cutters, and sanitary materials for women. In total, Concern has **distributed 4,500 hygiene kits** to households, benefitting a total of 27,000 individuals.



*Latrine constructed in Basti Kaliya, Noor Pur Manjho Wala Union Council, Jam Pur Tehsil, and Rajanpur District. Photo: Muhammad Aslam, HELP Foundation, 2013.*

Because of the recurring floods that affect almost all parts of Pakistan, it is vital to build awareness about disasters, develop plans to be better prepared, and enable key community members to assess damage and respond quickly when flooding occur. To this end, Concern worked with the target communities to form Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) and then trained them on key Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies. In total, Concern has **delivered 50 DRR sessions**; as an outcome of these sessions, the DMCs also developed Disaster Management Plans for their respective villages in order to reduce the risk of, and increase resilience to, flooding. In addition, because of the certainty that destructive flooding will again strike these communities and villages in the future, Concern integrated DRR considerations into the design of its shelters, hand pumps, and latrines in order to minimise the damage and destruction in future floods.