

## 1. Revitalizing Rural Livelihoods for Earthquake Affectees of Abbottabad

In response to devastating earthquake of 2005, Sungi provided relief assistance to more than one hundred thousand affected families in NWFP and AJK. Boi, Kokmang, Pattan Kalan and Namal Union Councils of District Abbottabad were severely affected. Although Sungi provided relief assistance to these UCs but these were least attended by the donors and humanitarian community. Realizing this issue, Sungi requested CHF Partners for Development a Canadian International NGO to support Sungi's early recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction initiative. With the CHF support an early recovery programme to restore lost assets of the people particularly 400 destitute women headed families was carried out.



## 2. Sustainable Livelihoods Rehabilitation (SLR) Project

Realizing the unmet needs of the affected communities and based on the experience during emergency and early recovery phase, Sungi and CHF-Canada decided to develop a long-term partnership for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of these effected communities and developed a programme, with the financial assistance of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The first phase of this programme was a project entitled, "Sustainable Livelihoods Rehabilitation in four earthquake affected union

councils of district Abbottabad" which was implemented from January 2007 to December 2008. Following is the brief description and achievements of this project;

### 2.1 Project's Goal:

"To promote and improve local livelihoods through economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sensible use of natural resources".

### 2.2 Project's Purpose:

"To assist the earthquake affected communities and to address their priority livelihood needs as a way forward towards longer term sustainable livelihoods development".

### 2.3 Project Outreach:

Geographically project is having carpet coverage in all 98 villages of four union councils. However, it is focusing on ultra and extreme poor strata of society and about five thousand households are direct beneficiaries of the project interventions.

Project Beneficiaries; Households			
Union Council	Men	Women	Total
Boi	1204	565	1769
Kukmong	719	272	991
Nammal	1008	256	1264
Pattan Kalan	693	293	986
<b>Total</b>	<b>3624</b>	<b>1386</b>	<b>5010</b>

The beneficiary households have a population of 22,417 persons including 6,732 men, 6,768 women and 8,917 children of both genders.

### 2.4 Project's Approach and Key Activities:

#### 2.4.1 Sustainable Livelihoods Approach- Reaching the Ultra Poor

Project's Sustainable Livelihoods Approach calls upon communities to categorize themselves into livelihood groups that reflect different levels of poverty even in a disaster. To determine the status

of each family, and in close participation with communities themselves, Project looked at three criteria: 1) a family's number of income earners, who the earner is, how many dependents are supported, and their skills as well as potential for earning; 2) the fixed and movable economic assets a family owns and to what degree the family's income supports the entire family; and 3) additional factors, such as housing, clothing, food security, access to healthcare, access to education, support from other relatives or friends, general social awareness, i.e. about their rights, and social status and integration into the larger village community. The communities used these criteria to identify three to four levels of poverty that could include.

- The ultra poor
- The extreme poor
- The poor
- The less poor

Less poor and poor families can progress much more quickly than ultra poor and extreme poor families. Therefore, the project implemented special approaches for the latter groups. Assessments were undertaken of pre-earthquake livelihood sources to determine whether re-establishment of enterprises or other livelihood activities has the potential to carry these groups out of poverty.

Through regular, personal contact, project's field teams became familiar with the needs of the target families, and with the families' capabilities.

**2.4.2 Household-Based Planning (HBP)** Household Implementation Plans (HIPS) and Household Operational Plans (HOPs) have been used to develop strategies for the most vulnerable groups, with the technical support of Karim Ali Bahi of CHF. Sungi with support of CHF Pakistan further improved this approach to operationalise it in the local context. Members

of ultra-poor families were involved in determining their own development strategy and the income-generating activities for which they are capable and interested; through this the families overcame any sense of helplessness, become open, cooperative. By being involved in the planning of their own development, the poor ensured that resources are not wasted, their real needs are met efficiently, and the full potential of family members for cooperative efforts for the future is guaranteed. The HBP approach also enabled implementers to assess the impacts on each household.

A team of field workers kept regular contact with each family and ensured that proper and timely response to their social and economic needs is given. These workers, besides helping to resolve specific problems, such as improvement of the family living conditions or health status of family members, helped to change values and even unsocial behavior patterns. A personal relationship is established in the HBP.



#### 2.4.3 Integrating HBP into the Project

HBP addressed such that it fitted into and complemented the overall project. Only ultra and extreme poor target families with special

needs were selected to participate in the HBP. Families who have remained in poverty for long periods or who have repeatedly fallen back into poverty for various reasons were assisted



with an extensive package of development interventions. Most ordinary poor families were assisted with two or three minor interventions. Such interventions were sufficient for most families to gradually uplift them from their current levels of poverty. Aspiration based general categories include:

- i. Natural resources enhancement
- ii. Rural enterprises establishment
- iii. Women sewing and stitching skills enhancement
- iv. Livestock restocking
- v. Capacity building in all intervention with gender mainstreaming

### 3. Building Long Term Sustainable Livelihoods and Reconstruction of Infrastructure Project (SLRI Project)

This is a four year project (Jan 2008 to March 2012) Ultra poor households and general community of Boi, Kukmong, Nammal and Pattan Kalan union councils of district Abbottabad, are the direct beneficiaries.

#### Project outcomes:

The project is striving to make the following impacts in the project area:

- Enhanced and sustained livelihoods through community based natural resources management (CBNRM) with a focus on men and women ultra poor vulnerable groups

- Community infrastructure in place to support sustainable and equitable economic development
- Enhanced community led disaster preparedness

Having its footings on the work of rehab phase of SLR project, this project has formulated sustainable livelihood rehabilitation groups (SLRGs) of ultra poor partners. These 113 SLRGs provide an active platform to these project partners for sitting together, sharing ideas and joining hands to move further for communal benefits. These committees provide active support for implementing various activities and achieving the project outcomes.

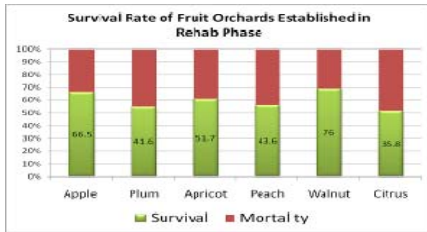


Project has been implementing the following activities for strengthening capacity to deliver gender sensitive service provision in CBNRM and to increase horticulture and farm forest-based production with a priority on addressing women's access & control:



- Agricultural tools for crops production enhancement
- Block plantation for soil erosion control
- Fuel wood and fodder trees plantation
- Provision of improved seeds and multiplication for crops enhancement
- Promote kitchen gardening and off season vegetable growing
- Non fruit plants' nursery establishment
- Establishment of fruit orchards

➤ Capacity building of livestock and agricultural extension workers



The project is striving to have the priority community infrastructure in place to support sustainable and equitable economic development. Various activities are planned and being implemented to:



- ✚ Provide functioning water supply for domestic use
- ✚ Build capacity and raise awareness in primary health care
- ✚ Improvement of existing road/path
- ✚ Provide functioning water channels for agriculture
- ✚ Land leveling/ land terracing
- ✚ Construction of check dams and retaining walls to controlling soil erosion.

In addition, the project also works to develop disaster resilient communities through awareness raising, village level disaster management plans and institutions development.

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