



Kohistan Early Recovery Project (KERP)

Funded By: Rotary Germany

Implemented by: *Haashar Association*



August, 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Haashar Association is indebted to thank the **German Rotary Club** and the people of the **Federal Republic of Germany** for the generosity in supporting the flood affected communities of District Lower Kohistan, KP who lost their assets and valuable during the Flash floods happened in late 2022. We extend heartiest feelings of thankfulness to **Dr. Klaus Klennert**, who very kindly extended this financial cooperation despite the fact that his organization was already engaged with dealing the Ukraine crises. I have no words to thank **Mr. Klaus Euler**, a very close associate of the **Haashar** Association and a very vocal advocate of the people of Kohistan who very kindly coordinated between **Haashar** Association and The German Rotary club and facilitated in securing the funding.

This project was implemented to support the women and children of Kohistan who were affected by the recent flash floods which took away their schools, local dispensary and personal belongings. I am indebted to thank the local volunteers of the Al Khidmat Foundation who facilitated the **Haashar** staff in selecting the real beneficiaries. Holding of various events and trainings was not possible without support and sincere efforts of the Al Khidmat foundation.

We are especially thankful to the Kohistani community who extended their full cooperation in conducting the sessions with children and women despite restriction from local traditions and customs.

Overview

Haashar Association is a Non-Profit, Non-Governmental organization working since the year 2000. It is an off-shoot of a GTZ funded Siran Forest Development Project, which pioneered Joint Forest Management in Pakistan. **Haashar** has worked with over 30 National and International NGOs in the fields of Participatory Natural Resource Management, Poverty Alleviation through Sustainable Livelihood Approaches (SLA), Food Security, Emergency, Relief and Rehabilitation/Reconstruction, Disaster Risk Management/Reduction, Quality Education with particular focus on Girls, Protection and rights-based Advocacy. Capacity building, Gender, and Environment are our cross-cutting themes in all program areas.

The project under review was conceptualized by the **Haashar** management and staff based on a demand from the Kohistani communities who suffered losses to their lives and livelihoods during Monsoon 2022 rains and resulting flash floods. Although the losses were everywhere, three valleys, Kandhia, Kial and Dubair were the most affected ones. **Haashar** Association generated some amount soon after the floods and distributed food packages in Dubair valley. During flood response it revealed that the losses were immense and rehabilitation efforts need to start soonest possible. Thanks to Mr. Claus Euler, one close friend of **Haashar** and the Kohistan who linked **Haashar** management with the German Rotary which responded through their generosity and the project KERP was conceptualized.

The management of **Haashar** Association started a consultation process with Kohistani communities and local volunteers already working in the area. Taking into the available fund, it was decided to focus our rehabilitation activities to the children and women who remain the most affected under such catastrophe.

The KERP implemented the following main activities:

- Holding sessions with School Children on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Holding sessions with School Children on Health and Hygiene (H & H)
- Distribution of School Bags and Stationery Items among 200 School Children
- Holding sessions with women on Health and Hygiene
- Distribution of Health and Hygiene Kit among local women who attended the sessions
- Holding of a Medical Camp

Brief Description of Activities

• Sessions on DRR and H & H

After a careful selection of schools in the Dubair Valley, Staff and Volunteers of **Haashar** Association held series of meetings with the local communities. The students in each school was verified about his presence and then sessions with the students were held at different places in the Dubair Valley. A total of six sessions were held with groups of students wherein they were informed about



DRR and Hygiene practices. The students participated in the discussion and committed to act upon what they had learnt. At the end of each sessions, the participating students were given School bags and stationery sets. In view of local traditions, separate sessions were held with girls and boys of different schools. Participation of girls in the sessions was appreciated much as locally girls are given less attention as regards their education.



• Distribution of School Bags and Stationery Items

Each participant of the DRR and Health/Hygiene session was awarded with a School bag and a pack of stationary items. The students were enthusiastic and committed to continue their education. During the sessions, the children were offered lunch and refreshments so that their involvement is secured. Local volunteers from Al Khidmat Foundation who have deep rooted contacts with the local communities was very helpful in identification, trainings and distribution of the School bags/stationery items. A total of 200 School bags were distributed among boys and girls from different schools of the valley.



• Medical Camp/Hygiene sessions with women

Medical camp was one major activity much needed locally due to lack of medical facilities. The local public health infrastructure has mostly been washed away by the floods. The women, especially, are given less importance as regards their health issues due to strict local traditions and Purdah system. Strict local traditions and fear of local religious leaders sometimes further aggravates the situation and the women remain deprived of basic amenities of life.

Haashar Association held several meetings with local health department officials and finalized a list of medicines most needed locally. The medicines were purchased and transported to the valley, on Jeep and somewhere as head load because of no roads. Originally it was designed to hold one day medical camp, but looking at the demand of the local communities, it was decided to hold two days medical camp in local BHU of Ranolia village and one day camp deep inside the valley wherefrom women were to commute several hours' hilly area.



local volunteers had informed that NGOs were not allowed to hold direct sessions with women based on a decision of local religious leaders, hence **Haashar** management, in consultation with volunteers of Al Khidmat Foundation and local elders, decided to hold sessions with women during the medical camp and also distribute the Hygiene kits to the women participating those sessions. This idea worked and about 165 women attended the Hygiene sessions out of total 225 women who were examined in the Medical camp.

A Few Glimpses of KERP Implementation

Flood damages of year 2022 in Dubair Valley of District Lower Kohistan



A house near a school is almost destroyed



Road to the Dubair valley showing destruction



Temporary Class room at a destroyed School



Flood damaged Electric Power Station in Dubair



Flood water washed away houses



Transportation is too difficult with roads and pathways washed away

Distribution of School Bags and Stationery Items



Figure 1. A beautiful Kohistani child, happy to receive his school bag



Figure 2 Children showing enthusiasm with new school bags and stationery items



Figure 3: Here we go with our new school bags



Figure 4: Stationery Items



Figure 5: School Bags with Logos



Figure 6: School Bags Distribution in Girls School Dubair, Lower Kohistan



Figure 7: Learning about Health and Hygiene Practices-Dubair Lower Kohistan



Figure 8: Responding to the trainers during training sessions, Dubair Lower Kohistan



Figure 9: Training on Disaster Risk Reduction at Dubair Lower Kohistan



All set to start training-Enthusiasm

Medical Camp & Session of Health & hygiene with Women



Figure 10: Medical Camp at Dubair, Lower Kohistan



Figure 11: Transportation of medicines for the medical camp, Dubair Lower Kohistan



Hygiene Kit being handed over to one of the Staff member of BHU



Children receiving medicines after being examined



Our first patient of the medical camp