



Cyclone and flood devastated village in Pakistan

Newsletter

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Pakistan Cyclone/Floods

In late June, 2007, Cyclone Yemyin ravaged southern Pakistan causing severe damage to the already poor populations of Balochistan and Sindh Provinces. Over a million people were impacted as crops, homes, and livestock were destroyed. Immediately after the disaster, Hidaya advanced survey teams to affected areas to assess the situation. Among the vast disaster affected areas, Kharan District in Balochistan Province, and Shahdad Kot District in Sindh Province were chosen for Hidaya's relief operations. Nearly 40 Hidaya full time employees took part in the relief efforts working simultaneously at both fronts.

Kharan District is one of the largest districts in Balochistan Province. For a full week, heavy rains pounded this area, causing water dams to break and immerse the region consisting of approximately 20,000 families. Over 50% of the population's homes (normally constructed of mud), were destroyed. Hidaya's team arrived in the devastated region, and immediately began registering affected families, by interviewing and understanding the needs of each family. This registration process ensured that every deserving

family received proper aid and can be given future assistance down the road. The beneficiary families, including weak and handicapped elderly, women and children, very much appreciated this



Preparation of dry rations for relief distribution



Relief packages ready for distribution

system of distribution. Although it takes more time and effort, it ensures that distribution of relief goods is given to





Hidaya team member traveling by boat through Shahdad Kot to register families for aid



Young children stand in front of their home, destroyed by floods in Kharan



A Masjid damaged by floods in Pakistan

the most deserving people.

Hidaya's team was able to distribute aid through 70% of the main city as well as surrounding villages such as: Killi Aalum Khan Chanal Jangal, Faiz Muhammad Chanal Jangal, Killi Shehan, Killi Kigo Sharif, Killi nail Sherozai, Killi Nali

Tagap, and Noronki Lal Bux, (in Balochi language the word 'Killi' means village.)

The disaster also had direct affect on Sindh as water came down through the Kirthar M o u n t a i n



An elderly man comfortably receives aid due to Hidaya's detailed registration process

Range and flooded many villages in Shahdad Kot and Dadu Districts. In Shahdad Kot, Hidaya's team again registered the affectees by filling out application forms for each family, and issuing them tokens which were exchanged for relief supplies. Because of the intense heat of over 115°F, Hidaya team members personally went to every family and handed them their



Balochi children take shelter inside a tent donated by Hidaya after their home was destroyed

relief packages so they would not have to leave the shade of their rickety makeshift tents which they had constructed out of cots. Hidaya's aid reached over 350 villages in Sindh Province alone.

Hidaya provided affected families in both regions with tents, sanitary supplies, and food items such as wheat flour, rice, lentils, cooking oil, local spices, dry milk powder, as well as cooked food. Approximately 7,500 families or over 60,000 individuals were supported in both Balochistan and Sindh Provinces.

For long term rehabilitation, Hidaya is working towards rebuilding homes for the weakest people in these areas. It costs approximately \$1,000 to construct a home with a small kitchen and bathroom made of cement blocks or bricks. ◆



Classrooms have been looted and abandoned to the extent that even doorways have been taken



A Hidaya school under construction - July, 2007

Support a School

To promote education in poor countries, Hidaya supports schools in rural and economically depressed areas with financial and in-kind assistance. Hidaya also opens new schools in localities which do not have one to accommodate children.

Hidaya took a survey of schools in Pakistan's Sindh Province which produced shocking results. The data showed that over 50% of the rural public schools had been closed in some districts, many of which are actually listed as active schools which should

be educating students on a daily basis. However, field visits to these schools showed that they have been deserted for several years; no children attend the schools, nor do any teachers visit the school. Yet, these teachers who are supposed to be there are somehow still receiving a salary. These types of schools are given the name of "ghost school."

The condition of education has reached this level by factors such as: local tribal systems and their conflicts, corruption among public employees and officials, poverty, and parents not giving priority for the education of their children. The result being that many school buildings are sitting vacant or are being used

Information Technology Training

In today's world, information technology is a key component for a stable career. Unfortunately, the high cost of IT education in developing regions of the world prevents the poor from attaining these high-demand skills.



Hidaya IT employee teaching computer assembly class

Hidaya Foundation strives to bridge this gap by offering basic IT related training at its own facilities or by offering financial assistance to individuals so they may acquire training at other locations. Hidaya also donates personal computers and related equipment to other non-profit organizations as well as schools with underprivileged students. *This Summer 2007, Hidaya ran a Summer Camp in Pakistan from which 50+ high school students were*

taught computer assembly, software installation, troubleshooting, and other basics of software development. ♦

No Orphan without Education

Orphans, the weakest of society, often suffer most because of lack of programs which address their needs and welfare. Countless orphans are very intelligent, but because of lack of financial support, they are unable to develop and utilize their skills and talents through education. Hidaya Foundation reaches out to these orphaned children, making them feel that there are people in this world who love and care for them. It costs just \$30 - \$50 per month to support and educate an orphan. *Hidaya is currently supporting over 650 orphans monthly, and over 2,500 orphans are helped a few times throughout the year.* ♦



Orphans receiving assistance from Hidaya



Cooking takes place under the blackboard at a ghost school used as living quarters for a family



A few of the many young students whose lives have been touched by Hidaya

for purposes other than educating children.

Hidaya is tackling this educational crisis using two different approaches. First, Hidaya is adopting public schools

which have ceased to operate, and second, Hidaya is constructing new school buildings in areas where schools do not currently exist.



Students forced to learn outdoors because of unbearable classroom conditions

While embarking on this project, Hidaya's team understands that there are several

risks involved. If Hidaya operates such schools, harassment or harm may fall upon the staff and the students that attend. Some of the risks include, tribal chiefs not allowing Hidaya to open new / re-open schools or interference by corrupt government officials and teachers who may lose income due to re-starting of "ghost schools," etc. In response to these and other risks, Hidaya intends to resolve such situations harmoniously.

Hidaya will continue to bring the light of knowledge to areas where ignorance and illiteracy are widespread. *During the 2007/2008 school year, Hidaya plans to re-open 20 schools which are currently shut down.* ♦

Water Hand Pump Project



Sa'd ibn Ubadah asked the Prophet of Allah (pbuh), "Umm Sa'd has died; what form of Sadaqah is best?" He (pbuh) replied: "Water (is best)." He dug a well and said: "It is for Um Sa'd) (Abu-Dawood #1677)

Hidaya Foundation installs hand pumps for potable water in some of the most neglected villages in the world. Based on water depth, on average such hand pumps with a cement platform cost approximately \$200 each.

Giving Sadaqah Regularly

Aisha (ra) narrated that "The most beloved action to Allah's Messenger (pbuh) was that whose doer did it continuously and regularly." (Bukhari #8.76.469)

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