Food Security In An Insecure World: Natural Disasters In Pakistan – A Case Study

Heritage Foundation, Pakistan, And The University Of Glasgow Scottish Government International Development Fund

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In 2005 northern Pakistan suffered one of the most destructive earthquakes ever recorded, and then in 2010 and 2011 two unprecedented floods swept through the country.

These catastrophic events have set the country's development back at least a decade. There has been massive loss of life, destruction of property, and large-scale loss of livestock and crops including agricultural land. All of this continues to cause ongoing country-wide suffering, food shortages and price rises.

International donor agencies, non-governmental organisations and the Government of Pakistan have acted together, aiming to bring the country back to normality. But there is still a very long way to go.

The Scottish Government International Development Fund The SGIDF has funded two projects being undertaken by Heritage Foundation and the University of Glasgow. Heritage Foundation is a not-for-profit cultural and heritage organisation working in Pakistan and registered there. Total funding to date is in excess of £112K. The first project, for six months, has been funded under the SGIDF Humanitarian Assistance to Pakistan. The second project, for three years, is being funded under the SGIDF South Asia Programme.









First Project 2010 Swat Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, northern Pakistan.

Second Project 2010 - 2013 Siran Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, northern Pakistan. 2011 onwards Projects in Sindh Province, southern Pakistan.



The first project has focussed on building emergency homes for displaced families. 266 new homes have been built in Swat Valley. These emergency homes have been specifically designed low-cost units built with local materials on a guided selfhelp basis. They are architect-designed, and built of bamboo and wattle-and-daub.



The second project is providing disaster rehabilitation, management and guidance to rural communities in the Siran Valley. It is focussing on the education of women and children in hazard preparedness, and on assisting families to develop handicraft skills and livelihood programmes. This includes clean water, community food programmes and novel village-based agriculture.



The two SGIDF projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province have been so successful that they are now being replicated and implemented in the coastal zone of Sindh Province with the involvement of local rural communities.

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- Introduction first paragraph, and second paragraph headed 'The Scottish Government International Development Fund'. Major earthquake damage to buildings. Balakot. Azad Jammu Kashmir. 2005 | Flood damage to a village house. Sindh Province. | Bricks and bamboo being loaded onto a lorry for housing reconstruction. Sindh Province. | Village family having lunch. Punjab Province. | Flood and rescue. Bamboo stilted community centre with vegetable garden. Sindh Province. | Village woman preparing chapatti. Open-air kitchen. Sindh Province. | Major landslip across dirt track road following heavy rain. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. | Tractor clearing bank of flooded river. Punjab Province.
- First Project. 2010 Swat Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, northern Pakistan. Apiculture. Bee hives. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. | 4WD vehicle crossing flash flood river bed. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. | A displaced family outside their new home or 'Green Karavan Ghar', Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- Second Project. 2010 2013 Siran Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, northern Pakistan.
 Agriculture (polytunnel) and aquaculture pond under construction. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. | Azra Meadows talking with village school children. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. | Solar water heater at Heritage Foundation Base Camp, Siran Valley.
- 2011 onwards. Projects in Sindh Province, southern Pakistan.
 Livestock (buffaloes, cows) grazing on agricultural land. Punjab Province. | Ox cart with sugar-cane fodder for cattle. Sindh Province. | Boat ferrying villagers across flooded river. Sindh Province.

