



## ERF bridges funding gaps in KP and FATA

### New projects seek to continue relief assistance for displaced families

During the first quarter of 2014, key relief services to some of the 1 million people who remain displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) were continued thanks to the ERF.

The Fund drew on US\$1.6 million donated by the Swedish International Cooperation Development Agency (SIDA) in December 2013 and \$1.4 million carried over from savings from 2010 and 2011 projects.

Process	Funding (US\$)	Response
28 February Advisory Board Decision	1.2 million	Shelter and non-food items (NFIs) for relief stocks repositioning and preparedness for rapid onset emergencies, such as new IDP flows.
60 applications received from national and international INGOs	895,000	Nutrition support, particularly among children and pregnant and lactating women.
19 projects expected: 12 approved, 7 under review	695,000	Protection support.
	255,000	Food security assistance, particularly livelihoods support for in-camp IDPs.
<b>Total: US\$3.05m</b>		

Although these new allocations are expected to bridge some gaps in assistance, more resources will be required to continue relief aid in KP and FATA. Although Humanitarian partners have received \$US 105 million already, \$US178 million more is required to maintain services for IDPs and returnees and nutrition support services across the country in 2014. Without greater support, key organizations providing relief will not be able to provide shelter assistance to displaced families and those planning to return to FATA; primary health-care services will be interrupted; life-saving treatment for malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women will be scaled back; and education for many children will be suspended. SIDA has pledged \$3.8 million for the ERF, which will be allocated in the second quarter of 2014.

## Funding Status

**\$3.8 million**  
Pledged in 2014 (USD)

**\$3 million**  
Carried over from 2013 (USD)

**\$3 million**  
Allocated in 2014 (USD)

**\$54.3 million**  
Contributions since 2010 (USD)

**\$53 million**  
Allocated since 2010 (USD)

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## ERF boosts empowerment of women in Sindh

### Study shows project design improve women's social status



Flood-affected women in Sindh Province discuss the distribution of power between men and women in their village.

Photo: OCHA/ Hadia Nusrat

The ERF's guidelines, which are designed to enhance the mainstreaming of gender in projects, allowed the Gender Advisor to the Humanitarian Country Team to analyse how effectively gender equality measures in project design translates into programming practice with results. An analysis of discussions with 100 women surveyed at nine locations of projects supported by the ERF in Jacobabad, Kashmore and Shikarpur districts in Sindh Province showed an improvement in women's perception of their social standing as a result of their involvement in ERF projects.

*The findings of discussions involving women who have benefitted from the ERF's support in Sindh affirm that ERF Pakistan projects reflect a much higher level of commitment to gender equality programming than is required by global standards.*

Direct interactions with women by ERF implementing partners led to a sense of greater ownership and empowerment than when only village elders or the male members of the households were. In a village in Kashmore, a young woman observed, "Female social mobilizers went door to door to involve women. We were included as a result of intentional social mobilization; normally we wouldn't be."

The women surveyed reported "increased respect" at the family and community level as a result of their participation in cash-for-work projects in flood-affected areas, and in some cases increased autonomy as a result of project activities. "Men now respect us more because our work fetches money," said a woman in Jacobabad.

The women received cash for assisting in the rebuilding of water channels and rehabilitation of flood-damaged infrastructure. This non-traditional income stream enabled them to address their immediate daily needs, pay for health care, repay debts and save some money, including for dowry for their daughters.

The findings of discussions involving women who have benefitted from the ERF's support in Sindh affirm that ERF Pakistan projects reflect a much higher level of commitment to gender equality programming than is required by global standards. Templates and guidelines require partners to explore and address relevant gender differences, and to describe how they will achieve equity in implementation. Gender training is provided as part of the orientation for all new ERF implementing partners. This approach to inclusion, prioritization and participation of women, together with transparency on beneficiary selection through the partner's female social mobilizers, give community women greater confidence and ownership of the benefits from ERF-funded projects.

## New homes for neediest flood-affected families

### ERF addresses shelter needs in communities devastated by monsoon floods



Asho and her family outside their tent shelter, Photo/ CESVI

Asho Mai, 50, lived with her family of nine in a one-room house in Rajanpur District, in Pakistan's north-western Punjab Province. Her husband rented a small farm where he grew cotton, earning enough to support the family's simple life.

"We had a mud house, a livelihood and a content life," said Asho. She explained that life was difficult, but no more difficult than in most village communities in rural Pakistan.

However, in August 2013, heavy monsoon rains triggered flooding across Punjab. Torrents of water ran down the steep Punjabi hillsides, washing away homes and

*After their house was destroyed by floods, through ERF support, Asho's needy family received materials for a semi-permanent one-room shelter, as well as training in construction and additional skilled labour to help them build the small house.*

farms. "Our small house with our belongings was swept away," said Asho. "My husband lost his cotton crop and we had to move away to a safer place."

#### A tent and thankless labour

Almost 600,000 people in Punjab were affected by the floods, 60,000 in Balochistan and 700,000 in Sindh. Asho and her family received a tent from the Italian NGO CESVI (Cooperazione e Sviluppo), and she and her husband took work as unskilled labourers. But the income was small and not enough to support the whole family.

The tent, though appreciated, was also a concern. It was not big enough to house a large family of nine, and it provided poor protection against the severe Punjabi sun and rain. Asho's teenage daughters complained of a lack of privacy. So, with her meagre income, Asho saved and hoped to build a house one day.

#### Sense of safety

One day, Asho heard from neighbours that CESVI was planning to provide small, one-room homes for some of the poorest families affected by the floods. The project was being financed by the ERF.

Asho's family was soon identified by the CESVI team. They received materials for a semi-permanent one-room shelter, as well as training in construction and additional skilled labour to help them build the small house.



Asho and her family outside their one-room shelter, Photo/ CESVI

Asho and her family were excited when they finally moved in. "The raised plinths will be very beneficial for us if floods surround us again," she said. "We will be able to survive [and] our food and living material will also be safe. This new shelter has given us a sense of safety in our minds."

Asho now plans to build a boundary wall around the house. Most importantly, having this new home means she can use her savings for her family's needs including education and health.

<http://pakresponse.info/ERF.aspx>

Emergency Response Funds (ERFs) are country-based pooled funds that provide NGOs, UN agencies and international organizations with rapid and flexible funding to respond to urgent, short-term humanitarian needs of vulnerable people.

**The ERF in Pakistan has allocated US\$50.5 million for the provision of critical humanitarian services to over 6 million people since 2010.**

## Meeting psychosocial needs of older IDPs

### Stress counselling helps older IDPs to cope with difficult circumstances

Khayal Mera, 65, led a quiet life in her small village in the Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency, FATA, until April 2013 when conflict broke out between rival armed groups and security operations against non-state armed actors ensued.

Her husband was killed in the conflict and then she lost her only son in a bomb blast. Her miseries grew further when she had to leave her village along with her daughters and grandchildren to settle in a small rented house on the fringes of Nowshera District in KP.

They lived a very miserable life, as she didn't have enough resources to buy medicines and groceries. The hard times depressed Khayal, a heart patient; her eating and sleeping patterns were also greatly affected. With the support of the ERF, HelpAge launched a relief project that provided psychological counselling to elderly displaced people, including Khayal.



Khayal Mera in a stress counselling session conducted by a social organizer. Photo/ HelpAge International

Initially she was not willing to attend the stress counselling sessions offered by the project, but after a week, she developed an interest and actively participated in them.

"I was feeling very upset but the counselling sessions helped me a lot to recover from that phase," Khayal said. With time, Khayal's psychological health markedly improved and she involved herself in domestic work, more hopeful about the future of her family.

*Older people who have been displaced from FATA are among the most vulnerable, and require support to overcome the difficulties they face, so that they can lead dignified, secure, active and healthy lives.*