The Natural Disasters Consortium (NDC) comprising IOM, FAO, UNICEF, ACTED and HANDS completed year one of its operations. During this year, the NDC responded to the 2015 floods and earthquake, launched related recovery activities, and implemented residual recovery interventions for communities affected by disasters in earlier years. Year 1 key achievements for preparedness, response and recovery are captured below:

**PREPAREDNESS**

In preparation for future disasters, the Consortium is:

- Pre-positioning stocks in strategic locations to ensure rapid response capacity in widespread geographical locations;
- Conducting trainings to build coordination and assessment capacities of local NGOs and government authorities targeting vulnerable districts; and
- Regularly monitoring the situation through engagement of downstream partners, government counterparts and maintenance of an emergency coordination roster utilizing SMS-based tools.

**RESPONSE**

During 2015, approximately 200,000 households were affected by flash and riverine flooding in the summer followed by large scale destruction as a result of the Badakhshan earthquake. Accordingly, Year 1 response activities complemented government initiatives to respond to life-saving needs of disaster affected populations by providing:

- Shelter support comprising roofing kits, shelter non-food items (NFIs) and winterization kits, specifically in KPK, to **24,250 families**.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support comprising of combinations of hygiene kits and hygiene promotion sessions, emergency latrines and constructed bathrooms and rehabilitation of water resources including hand-pumps and water pipes; and hygiene promotion sessions and community sensitization on desirable sanitation practices;
- Restoration of livelihoods and sources of secure food through provision of livestock vaccinations and agricultural packages and engagement of communities through cash for work (CFW) for **13,000 families**.

**RECOVERY**

As part of its resilience and recovery programming, the Consortium is supporting 6,000 vulnerable households in disaster affected areas of Jhang, Muzaffargarh, Badin, Kashmore, Chitral and Shangla by provision of **multi-sector, integrated assistance** including:

- Construction of disaster risk resilient shelters coupled with shelter and DRR trainings, provision of conditional cash grants and shelter repair kits, where appropriate, and trainings of local masons and community focal persons to monitor progress and quality of construction;
- Construction of household latrines through by providing conditional cash grants; rehabilitation of WASH facilities in 18 schools; repair of hand-pumps and water pipes; and hygiene promotion sessions and community sensitization on desirable sanitation practices;
- Provision of assistance packages related to agricultural inputs, kitchen gardening, and livestock management/vaccinations; as well as community engagement through Cash for Work (CFW) activities.

In Chitral, the NDC is also working on rehabilitation of the large Aranghoon water supply scheme, in collaboration with the Tehsil Municipal Authority to restore access to clean drinking water for over **80,000 people**.

In Shangla, a shelter construction pilot using vernacular building materials directly assisted **200 households**, trained 12 local artisans, and provided a DRR resilient model for other communities to replicate.

For Year 2, the NDC plans to meet recovery needs of over **24,000 households** affected in 2015 through tailored and integrated recovery packages.
Seeds for Growth: Kitchen Gardening in Jhang

Jamila Bibi’s face lit up with a huge smile as she showed off chilies she had picked from the kitchen garden in her backyard. “There is something special about home-grown vegetables. I am going to use these for tonight’s dinner and it’s going to be tastier than anything you have had,” she said.

Jamila is one of the women who received kitchen gardening support as part of HANDS’ recovery activities in Jhang district. She was provided seeds, toolkits and trainings on how to plant vegetables in her own backyard. HANDS provided material and training to her and other women from the community in the aftermath of the 2015 floods when income sources were washed away or affected.

“We already had an idea how to plant and grow vegetables, but the training provided us concrete steps on how to make sure the vegetables are growing properly and to ensure they stay healthy,” Jamila explained. She added that the high-quality seeds and the toolkits, which included a water spraying can, sickle, spade and hand hoe, were also very helpful and improved the production of vegetables compared to other times she and other women in the community had tried growing vegetables.

“The best part is that this has cut down so many of our costs. We end up saving around Rs 5,000 (approximately 35 GBP) every month because we do not have to make trips to the market to buy vegetables. They are available right in our backyard,” she explained. Getting fresh, organic produce is another benefit. “When we bought vegetables from the bazaar, they cost us more and sometimes were not even fresh. There was no guarantee what chemicals had been used to grow those vegetables, but with our own kitchen gardens, we know exactly what’s going into our stomachs,” she said.

Jamila and her neighbours also get together and sell vegetables they need in the market. “The kitchen garden is also a source of income,” she said. “Right now I have okra, chilies and bitter gourd growing in my backyard. I will have different vegetables growing here in the winter and I am already planning my recipes accordingly,” she smiled.

Providing access to clean water in Chitral

“Our children missed many days of school because they had to help us fetch water from the river,” said Mohammad Hanif, the community leader in village Bunther, Union Council Ayun, Chitral. He explained that it used to take at least 25 minutes to bring one bucket of water to the community and even then the water was unclean which caused a lot of diseases. The community did have a rudimentary water supply, but that was destroyed in the July 2015 floods.

In the aftermath of the floods, the Natural Disasters Consortium provided WASH assistance to Hanif’s village. A much needed Water Supply Scheme (WSS) was constructed by the community itself with technical assistance from UNICEF and partners in February 2016.

The newly-constructed WSS now serves 27 households in the village – easing the woes of approximately 200 individuals. Recurring landslides in a part of the village led to the WSS being frequently damaged; however, that was not a problem since the community was able to fix it themselves. “The good thing about building the water supply scheme ourselves was that now we are not dependent on anyone else if we need to fix it or if God forbid there is another disaster,” he added.

The community members now have access to clean water inside their homes. “Now people can use the water supply scheme to wash their clothes, dishes, bathe, and cook,” Hanif said. “The best thing is that now our children are able to go to school and come home without worrying about fetching water,” he concluded with a smile.