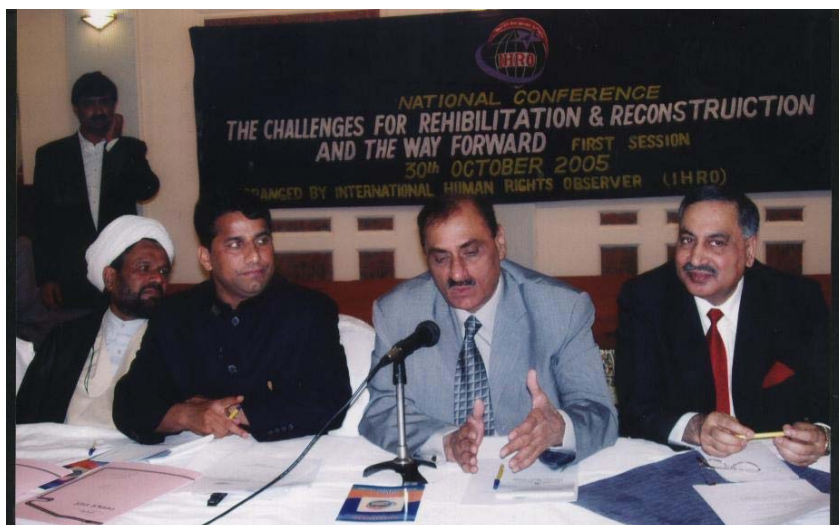




RELIEF & REHABILITATION EFFORTS FOR EARTHQUAKE

BY

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PROLOGUE

International Human Rights Observer (IHRO) is working together with Governments, United Nations and other like minded organizations since 1996 to help promote and protect the fundamental human rights, declared in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in other conventions to build a world of lasting peace, to have social and economic justice in the 21st century.

Earthquake relief activities

An earthquake measuring 7.8 magnitude on Richter scale hit its entire wrath and caused unimaginable devastation in Abbotabad, Battagram, Mansehra and Kohistan of NWFP and Muzafarabad, Bagh, Neelam in Kashmir on morning of October 8, 2005. Its epicenter was placed about 90 km northeast of Islamabad. This quake instantly flattened buildings without letting anybody to even come out. Almost all infrastructures in these areas got extensive damages. But later on it was revealed that 3.2 millions people were affected and displaced. Some 73,276 people were killed and hundred of thousands were left with pain and suffering of all sorts. Many people were buried alive especially at educational institutions and offices and survivors were unable to dig them out of the rubbles of concrete. Most of the government machinery was also affected and got paralyzed, as they were not prepared for calamity of this magnitude. This calamity rendered hundred of thousands people shelter less.

First Phase of Relief Efforts:

After the earthquake, International Human Rights Observer has taken immediate steps for the relief of these victims. In Islamabad, where two blocks of apartment buildings collapsed, IHRO deployed team of 25 youth health workers and two ambulances to transport the injured to hospital.

National and International campaign for funds:

The President of International Human Rights Observer (IHRO) Pakistan, Dr. Khalid Aftab Sulehri appealed all Pakistanis and overseas Pakistanis and people from all sectors to come forward and support the victims generously. He also requested the international offices of IHRO In London and New York to raise funding for relief. Moreover they were further requested to send medicines, tents, blankets, food items, milk and other supporting things at this time of emergency.

Establishment of Humanitarian Relief Department:

IHRO is a human rights organization, which is working for human rights monitoring, human rights education, advocacy, democracy, sustainable development and etc. Having

the different profile of activities there was no relief department in IHRO but after the tragic incident of worst earthquake in history of Pakistan, IHRO establish a Humanitarian Relief Department to support the people in such natural disasters.

This department was given the task to design and practice relief programs on urgent bases to help the victims in NWFP and Kashmir.

IHRO and Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights:

IHRO arranged immediate meeting with Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights for the relief services to the victims. With the collaboration of the ministry, IHRO established the relief camps in different areas of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Gradually IHRO formulated other relief camps with the assistance of its voluntary members throughout the country. In first week of earthquake six hundred and twenty five tents, 4050 blankets, jackets and etc in areas of Mashera, Balakot and Kashmir were distributed. The estimated cost of them is around one billion. The following table illustrates the distributed items with the quantity:

Sr. No	Items	Quantity	Expenditure (Rs.)
1	Tent	625	1562500
2	Blanket	4050	3359000
3	Jacket +clothes	8000	2560000
4	Cooking oil	4500 (bags)	247500
5	Rice 5kg	4500 (bags)	450000
6	Sugar 2kg	4500 (bags)	234000
7	Tea ¼ kg	4500 (bags)	126000
8	Daal Maash (1kg)	4000 (bags)	135000
9	Salt + Mix Masala	4500	157500
10	Milk 1/2kg	4500 tetra packs	67500
11	Confectionary (Rs. 60/ Packet)	4500 Packets	270000
12	Medicine		145000
13	Total Expenditure (Rs.)		9314000

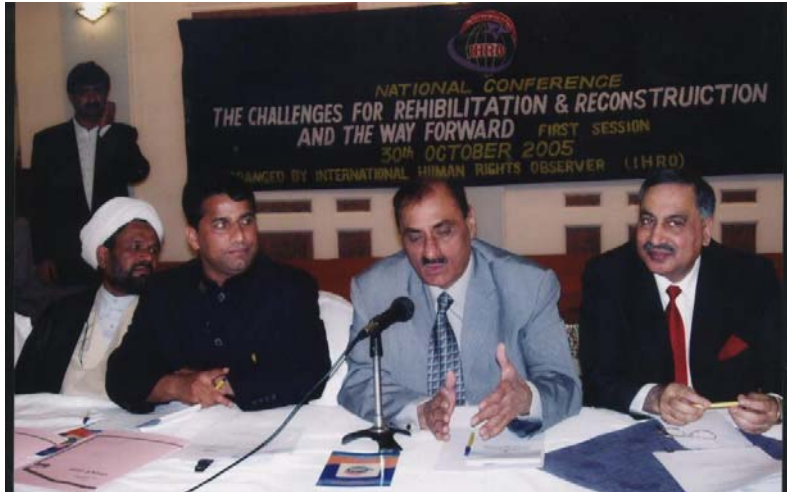


International Visits and appeal for charity:

President, Dr. Khalid Aftab Sulehri was invited by Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organizations to attend a conference. Mr. Bredan Gormely attended the conference, Chief Executive of Disasters Emergency Committee in London and Mr. Jens Nymand Christensen, Director Relations with civil society. In this conference IHRO discussed the challenges and role of civil society in earthquake activities. They were briefed about the horrible effects of earthquake in Kashmir and NWFP. They were shared the updated information of loss of life and other precious things. During that meeting IHRO initiated a charity campaign by sponsoring their travel tickets.

National Conference on Reconstruction & Rehabilitation and the Way Forward:

International Human Rights Observer has arranged a National Conference on the Reconstruction & Rehabilitation and the Way Forward on 30 October in Islamabad. The purpose of holding this conference was to develop better strategies for the rehabilitation of the survivors. The conference was attended civil society ngos, political parties, religious parties, ministries, media and others.



Final Recommendations of the Conference:

The conference agreed to recommend to the Government of Pakistan and all concerned organizations to;

1. Develop better coordination amongst organizations and government regarding over the rehabilitation and reconstruction issues.
2. Establish Crisis Management Department in Government to keep the country in readiness.
3. Distribute the available resources efficiently in all effected areas.
4. Take specific steps for the rehabilitation of children and women.
5. Arrange independent supervision of relief activities to ensure transparency and credibility
6. Accelerate the relief efforts to safeguard people in bad weather conditions
7. Provide standard guidelines to all working organizations included in relief work..
8. Ensure that construction is made safe with a proper & well-monitored building code.
9. Establish an independent Building Authority to ensure implementation of regulations
10. Encourage voluntary sector to unite on one platform to help the statutory section.

Second Phase

After the tragic national loss IHRO first took part in relief efforts by providing possible emergency services, which are provided already. Later in second stage IHRO is taking part in rehabilitation process that will be more sustainable.

Tent Village in Kashmir:

IHRO's Earthquake project with IOM & DFID

Shelter Security Survey:

International Human Rights Observer has taken the membership of Shelter Cluster Meetings in United Nation Compound Muzaffarabad. With collaboration and support of International Organization for Migration (IOM), IHRO has conducted a survey with the aim to assess the adequacy of existing tent stock and related non-food items for winter survivability.

Objectives of Survey:

The objectives of survey are following:

- Assess longevity of existing tents in prevailing conditions (including thermal protection, plastic sheets, tarpaulins, fly-sheets)
- Quantify numbers accommodated per tent (by age and gender)
- Assess quality and quantity of NFI's available (blankets / quilts, cooking utensils, etc)
- Quantify type of stove available for heating and cooking, including (wood) fuel used and availability
- Assess livestock shelter situation
- Assess adequacy of drainage

Methodology

It was an observational study triangulated with key-informant semi-structured interviews, and meta-analysis of existing secondary anecdotal evidence

IHRO has conducted this survey in fifteen union councils of AJK, which are follows:

Sr. no	Name of Union Councils
1	Gujar Bandi
2	Muzaffarabad
3	Kachilli
4	Therian
5	Shah Kot
6	Mera Kalan
7	Kaimanja
8	Katkair
9	Salmia
10	Hattian Dopatta
11	Jhandgaran
12	Noora Seri
13	Panjkot
14	Khori
15	Behri

On the bases of this survey the list of require items with quantities was prepared which later on helped in distribution of winterization kits and etc. The survey was presented in United Nation Compound 's cluster meetings.

Distribution of Winterization Kits:

After the survey IHRO distributed Winterized Kits and other stuff with the support of IOM and DFID to fifteen union councils of AJK. IHRO has partnership of nineteen local organizations of AJK, which are helping in reaching to access the victims.

Volunteer campaign:

IHRO has started the voluntary campaign in Kashmir for assisting in rehabilitation and resettlement of kashmiries after earthquake. Through this campaign IHRO has the large network of 2000 volunteers.

Third Phase: This phase is based on current and future activities of IHRO in resettlement process of victims.

Home Returnees Project & Advocacy:

IHRO has worked with IOM on home returnees project in Kashmir. The purpose of the project was facilitating the community by sending them safe to their homes.

Future Plans:

IHRO has conducted need assessment survey in AJK and after that team has decided to plan following activities in future.

Institute for Volunteer Training:

After the dilemma of earthquake it was felt that there is need to establish an Institute which can provide training to volunteers and general public to cope with disasters like earthquake, fire, floods, accidents in their local areas. This proposed institute would provide these volunteer disaster management trainings, which will increase their potentials to work in natural disasters. It would reduce the material and non-material loss in future by increasing independency of local people.

Awareness Raising projects on HIV/AIDS:

Earthquake has affected every family almost in Kashmir some lost their spouses and some lost their children. They have been forced to live in camps after lost of their homes. In these camps many family units are living together so there is danger of STD diseases like HIV/AIDS can take place. Therefore, IHRO has decided to launch an awareness-raising project on HIV/AIDS in this region with the collaboration of civil society.

Advocacy Campaign on Human Trafficking in Kashmir:

There have been report of human trafficking specially children from Kashmir areas. Hence, IHRO decided to initiate an advocacy campaign on human trafficking.

Awareness raising programs for child issues:

IHRO has also planned to launch awareness raising projects on children issues like health; trafficking, kidnapping and etc.

Human Rights Education in Kashmir:

Another project is in pipeline for education of Kashmiri youth.