

# PROJECT BRIEF

## Project Summary :

### Issues addressed

Restoring livelihoods and providing efficient rural support services to 3the people affected by October 2005 earthquake in northern Pakistan.

### Project objective

To strengthen the capacity of Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) and its implementing partners (Government of Pakistan's line departments, UN agencies, NGOs, private sector organisations and community-based organizations) to implement Livelihoods Rehabilitation Strategy of ERRA.

### Time frame

The project started in January 2007 and will continue until December 2009. A six-month no-cost extension is anticipated.

### Donor

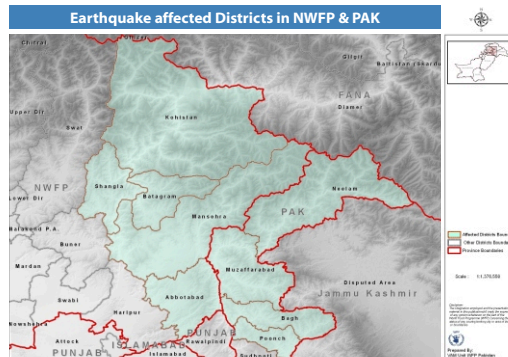
The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

### Budget

The total project budget is USD 6.42 million.

### The issue:

The areas affected by the 2005 earthquake are some of the poorest regions of Pakistan. Prior to the earthquake, the income levels were in the 30-40% range only as compared with the rest of the country (which was at USD 480 per person per year). In Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PAK) and North West Frontier Province (NWFP) these were mainly poor subsistence farmers whose livelihoods were constrained by harsh climatic conditions, small fragmented holdings and traditional low input agricultural practices. This harsh situation was further worsened when the earthquake destroyed basic infrastructures such as irrigation channels and roads that were supporting their livelihoods. FAO was actively involved in the early relief response of the humanitarian community immediately following the disaster and distributed among others seeds, fertilisers and agricultural tools to replace those destroyed by the earthquake.



Half a year into the relief phase (some 6 months following the earthquake), it became apparent that the affected farmers needed a more comprehensive approach to restart their agricultural and livestock activities to recover their food security, reduce their dependency on food aid, and pick-up their livelihoods.

### Project areas:

The project operates in the earthquake-affected areas of North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PAK); in the districts of Abbottabad, Battagram, Kohistan, Mansehra and Shangla in NWFP and Bagh, Muzaffarabad, Neelum and Poonch in PAK.

The project is working in some 179 union councils with an average of 10 villages per union council. The total number of villages in which the project is working can be set at around 1800, assisting approximately 2 million people.

### Approach:

The project grew from the post earthquake emergency response as a way to bridge the divide between recovery and development. While administratively seated within the FAO emergency arm (TCEO) at the same time, because of these close linkages to post-rehabilitation development, the project also has strong ties with two lead FAO technical units, AGNP (sustainable livelihoods) and FOMC (watershed management), with additional support from NRRRA (research and extension). To link the communities with the NGO partners working under the umbrella of the Livelihoods Working Committee (LWC) the project developed the Community Livelihoods Rehabilitation Plan (CLRP) which allows the communities to access the Community Investment Funds (CIF) facility provided by ERRA. The most suited partner for particular communities are identified by the LWC and they are then contracted by ERRA to guide the community through the CLRP and the CIF scheme prioritization processes. For the natural resources management (NRM) and watershed activities, FAO entered directly in agreements with the Department of Forestry (DFO) which then takes lead to help the community to develop integrated watershed management plans together with other livelihoods partners. These NRM and watershed processes are technically backstopped by the, Nepal based, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

At field level, Livelihoods Coordination Units (LCU) have been set up in each of the eight District Rehabilitation Units (DRU) as well as SERRA, PERRA and ERRA. Each LCU established a Livelihoods Working Committee (LWC) or Livelihoods Working Group (LWG) for the provincial and state level that includes representation from all stakeholders involved in livelihoods rehabilitation in a particular district. Regular meetings are held and these are the main forums for sharing information, foster planning and coordinate activities, assess coverage and address gaps.

For addressing the capacity building needs, the key assets are the highly qualified technical staff based throughout the project area. In their day to day interactions, they guide the partners through the CLRP, CIF, NRM and watershed management related processes. This cross-fertilisation process is further reinforced by exposure visits where partners learn from each other and through their interaction with communities and specialized trainings if required

### Interventions:

The project assists ERRA by providing it with the manpower and technical knowledge including a coordination mechanism to deliver a community driven livelihoods rehabilitation. The main trust in this approach is the development of Community Livelihoods Rehabilitation Plans, facilitated by NGO partners. These plans form the basis for the prioritization process to identify livelihoods rehabilitation schemes eligible for funding through the ERRA created CIF facility.

Community Livelihoods Rehabilitation Plans (CLRP) are a community-centred initiative facilitated by NGOs and Government line departments to prioritize the communities identified needs to rehabilitate livelihoods destroyed by the 2005 earthquake. Where high priority needs of the affected populations cannot be answered by support from other sources NGO, Government departments or other donors funds are made available through Community Investment Fund (CIF) of ERRA. The allocation of funds is determined on the basis of the CLRP process. Through this combination, the CLRP process and the CIF money, the capacity of partners of ERRA is built, agriculture support services are re-established and rural infrastructure for increasing agriculture production, diversification and marketing is rehabilitated.

To address the fact that livelihoods in the earthquake affected areas depends primarily on, and interact closely with very fragile natural resources, the project introduced the 'Integrated and Collaborative Watershed Management approach' in a number of strategically selected sub-watersheds. As guided Through the construction of physical structures and the introduction of bio-engineering, combined with the encouragement of natural processes such as the regeneration of the native vegetation through grazing management, the Department of Forestry treats landslips and prevents future similar disasters. To augment the local knowledge is limited, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is engaged to bring in the experience of other Himalayan countries in dealing with these issues.

In the event while implementing the project, limitations in the capacities of the partners are identified which cannot be addressed by the project staff, outside expertise is contracted to address these. This applies both to the livelihoods and natural resources focused activities and helps in building and strengthens the partners' capacities.

