

HELPING THE FLOOD VICTIMS IN PAKISTAN

On arrival in South Punjab a group of Islamia University Students under the leadership of Mr. Habib Ghazi welcomed me. This group have been active since the floods raged in distributing food, water, medicines and took people to safer places for refuge. This group stayed with the flood victims until the Pakistan Army took over. I was joined by two more local volunteers groups

We scouted at least 250 km stretch along the River Indus. Havoc caused by the floods on both sides of the River Indus was unimaginable. This took us nearly one week to travel. We ear-marked the areas where help is needed most. Parties working in those areas were helpful in providing a list of the most needy families. We picked twenty six families which according to all of us were the ones needing immediate assistance. It was decided that at least 6 families will be assisted in BAITH DEVAN, about 8 families in ZAHIR PEER and another 4 families in SHIEKH WAHIN in District **Rahim Yar Khan** South Punjab where Punjnad (5 rivers from Punjab) meet River Indus.



The houses (shown below) we intended to build had the following specifications. A brick and tile 6m x 4.5 m room, toilet and shower facilities, a hand water pump for clean water and a boundary wall surrounding the house. Initially we built two houses one with one room and another with two rooms. To minimize the cost we used left over material in these houses which flood water could not drag away. The total cost of these two houses is Rs. 387146.00 (\$4839.00). One family did not need any animals and the second owner a widow with two daughters and a teenage son asked for a sewing machine; it was provided. Four more houses will be built in this area by the end of Jan.2011.





In ZAHIR PEER a very generous land owner, Mr. Mohd Shahbaz Khan, came forward offering us his land between 1-10 acres for the houses to be built for flood victim families. This land exists on one bank of the 800m x 50m fish pond. He has promised to lay at his cost a paved 3.4 m wide path way lined by fruit trees. Each house will be built along the path way on an area of 250 m sq. **There will be a 6m x 4.5m room, boundary wall, toilet and shower facilities and a hand pump for clean water, for at least eight families and if possible more.** This land will be donated legally to non-profit organisation with similar aims as ICWA and PACWA. Neither the Organisation nor the families living in these houses have no right to sell the house but can live in for generations. If a house is vacated it will be offered to another deserving family. To make this commitment official a small gathering of about 300 flood victims and some dignitaries of the area was organised. A short programme of local folk songs was presented and the attendees were served simple lunch. This settlement was named as BASTI PERTH (**Perth Village**) to thank you the Muslims of Perth for their generous help. Construction work in Perth Village has started.



Winter has begun in the Northern Hemisphere. Therefore quilts and blankets (\$2430.00) were purchased and distributed among the flood victims. This may help them to combat the winter cold.



A committee consisting of 7 individuals has been set up. Mr. Mohd Ayaz Faridi (Solicitor), Mr. Habib Ghazi (Director of Prisons and Lecturer at Islamic Open University), Mr. Irshad Taubasam (Professor at Islamic University of Bahawal Pur), Miss Asma Rehman (Sociology Student), Mr. Mohd Shahbaz Khan (Local Land Owner), Mr. Akhlaq Mazari (Local Activist) and I are the members of the committee. They will establish a non-political and non-profit organisation, a sister organisation to ICWA and PACWA, under Pakistani rules and regulations. This organisation will own the land donated by Mr. Mohd Shahbaz Khan. Neither the organisation nor the tenants will have the right to sell the land. The flood victims who will get the houses and their generation may live forever. In case a family decides to vacates the house it will be offered to another deserving flood victim or to the poorest of the poorest family.



The people whom we have helped are full of praise for the Muslims and others of Perth for their generosity and assistance. **The flood victims and the committee of PACWA are very thankful to ICWA and its committee for lodging an appeal to assist.** It is *sadqa* and the donors will get awards as long as those houses will exist. My personal thanks to ICWA, Noor-ul-Islam, Bosnian Muslim Society, Muslim Community Charity, Katanning Muslim Assoc. Geraldton Muslim Assoc. Cocos Christmas Muslim Islanders Society in Perth, Perth Indonesian Muslim Society, Padbury Mosque, Port Hedland Aust. Asian Association and all the others who have contributed in this good cause. May Allah give them the reward of their generosity (Amin)

Financial Statement.

DONATIONS, FITRA & ZAKAT

Noor-ul-Islam	\$ 10 000.00	
Bosnian Islamic Society	\$ 8500.00	
South Hedland Mosque	\$ 7455.00	
ICWA, PACWA (Imam Wahid Siddiqui & others)	\$ 5131.50	
Geraldton Muslim Society	\$ 5000.00	
Katanning Muslim Society	\$ 3988.00	(received recently)
Padbury Mosque	\$ 3187.00	
Perth Indonesian Musl. Assoc.	\$ 3200.00	
Australian Asian Association	\$ 2841.00	
Hajji Madralie	\$ 1020.00	
Hajji Amer	\$. 750.0	
Total		<u>\$ 51072.50</u>

Expenditures

Quilts & blankets	\$ 2430.00	
Two houses	\$ 4839.00	
Sewing Machine	\$ 78.00	
Function	\$ 1100.00	
Travel	\$ 600.00	
Cash handed over to the committee	\$37000.00	
Cash in hand	\$ 5025.50	
Total		<u>\$ 51072.50</u>

I am going back to Pakistan at the end of January or mid February to check the progress on the construction work. The destruction by the floods is unbelievable it will take years to recover, but our generosity must not stop here and we should not hold back. It is all for good cause. I am sure every one of us has helped in the past collectively as well as individually. Some people have sent their contribution during my absence, many thanks. Insha-Allah the money will reach the Flood Victims. It will certainly be appreciated if anyone is ready to assist once again, then please send your donations to:-

**Pakistan Australia Cultural and Welfare Association,
P.O.Box 305, BURSWOOD WA 6100**

OR

PACWA-- A/C No. 066128 1028 0742 Commonwealth Bank

Thanks
Rahim Ghauri