

Flood relief campaign
COMSATS Institute of Information Technology,
Abbottabad Campus

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recent floods in our country have washed away most of the achievements of the past 60 years. The houses, agricultural fields, live stock, and the very fabric of our society have been shattered by these floods.

COMSATS Institute of Information technology Abbottabad responded well in time to this national crisis and on the third day of the floods, a team of volunteers from the faculty gathered and devised a flood relief campaign.

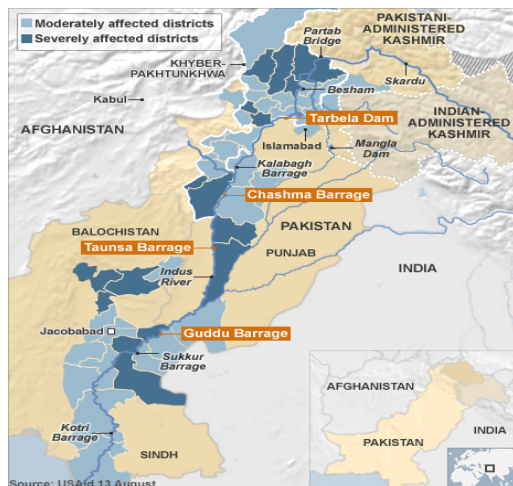
In this plan, the faculty were assigned different sector for raising funds for the flood victims. Internal faculty Campaign, Corporate sector fund mobilization and students fund raising were identified as the potential sources of funds. Our students took a very active part in this campaign and they visited banks, big stores and offices. The female students even launched a door to door campaign. As a result of this campaign and a keen interest of our faculty and students, we were able to collect a total of Rs. 850,000. We have already spent Rs.507,000 in the areas of Charsadda and Kohistan in the form of food items and clothes. On coming Saturday, a medical camp in collaboration with Ayub Teaching hospital will be established in the area of Nowshehra.

After achieving short term goals, CIIT Abbottabad is already working on medium/long term goals. The idea is to work on concepts like “adopt a student”, “adopt a family”, and “adopt a village”.

This documents discusses all the activities that are already executed by CIIT Abbotabad the also gives some glimpses of the road ahead.

1 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

The 2010 Pakistan floods began in July after heavy monsoon rains affected the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, lower Punjab as well as parts of Balochistan. It is estimated that two thousand people along with close to a million homes have perished so far. The United Nations estimates over 20 million people are suffering and homeless with over 160,000 square kilometres affected as a result of the flooding, exceeding the combined total of the affected of 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake and the 2010 Haiti earthquake. However, the death toll in each of those three disasters was much higher than the number of people killed so far in the floods. Around a fifth of Pakistan's total land area was underwater due to the flooding.



The U.N. is concerned that aid is not arriving fast enough, while the World Health Organization reported that ten million people were forced to drink unsafe water. The Pakistani economy has been harmed by extensive damage to infrastructure and crops. Structural damages are estimated to exceed 4 billion USD, and wheat crop damages are estimated to be over 500 million USD. Total economic impacts are estimated at about 43 billion USD according to official estimates.

- **Flood has caused damage in all 24 districts of KP**
- **Up to 3.5 million children are at high risk from deadly water-borne diseases in Pakistan**
- **Diarrhoeal incidence: D I Khan 42%, Tank 29%, Swat 25%, Charsadda 23% and Nowshera 18%**

COMSATS Institute of Information Technology Abbottabad, along with its academic activities also strongly emphasises on social work, especially at the time of any natural disaster or calamity. During the 2005 earthquake COMSATS actively participated in different relief activities such as fundraising, development of database for registration of affected people, voluntary work at medical camps, hospitals and food distribution points etc.

During the Sawat Conflict, COMSATS Abbottabad, played its role by collecting funds for IDP's and by sponsoring students of the affected area studying at the Institute.

Keeping the tradition, CIIT Abbottabad, has established COMSATS Flood Relief and Rehabilitation Committee keeping in view the current disaster scenario. In the initial phase of fundraising, almost 0.5 million PKR have been collected. This amount has been utilised in distribution of cooked food, non-perishable food packs and clothes in Charsadda and Kohistan (Dobair). Packs of two weeks food items were distributed to 400 households both in Charsadda and Dobair, Kohistan.

In the near future a medical relief camp will be established in District Nowshera along with the distribution of female clothes and personal use material, shoes, children clothes and food items.

2 DETAIL OF ACTIVITIES ALREADY EXECUTED

COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Abbotabad responded to the disastrous floods in a very active and timely manner. The following activities were executed:

2.1 LAUNCHING OF FLOOD RELIEF CAMPAIGN

On the directives of the Director CIIT Abbottabad, an emergency meeting was held to discuss and look into the possibilities of COMSATS Abbottabad response to the flood affected areas of Nowshera, Charsadda, Swat and Kohistan. In the meeting it was decided to work on two aspects discussed in the following:

Evaluation of Immediate Need

The immediate need of the affected population was discussed in the meeting keeping in view the available information through different sources there is an urgent need of:

- Cook but long lasting food
- Drinking water
- Milk
- Clothes

The needs might change on daily basis as the time passes and we need to keep close eye on this.

Fund Raising:

For any kind of contribution to the affected population, money is required. It was proposed in the meeting that an immediate fund raising campaign should be initiated on the campus as well as outside the campus. The following strategy was/is proposed for fund raising:

- Three fund raising booth at three different location of the campus involving the DOO
- Two fund raising booth at appropriate locations in the city
- Individual contacts with the philanthropist
- Faculty and students using their own links for collection of money and other consumables

Distribution of relief goods

The volunteers (students and faculty) took the commodities (the food and other relief goods) into the nearby worst affected areas and distribute it in the needy and poor people.

Liaison will be established with the organization working in the areas and can distribute it trough them

Flood Relief Committee

Flood relief committee was constituted to look after the need assessment, fund raising, and distribution on daily basis.

2.2 DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD ITEMS IN REMOTE AREAS OF CHARSADDA

To reach the affected population, on August 1, 2010, a team of COMSATS Abbottabad's students and faculty went to DOABA and Charsadda. **There we distributed 200 packs of two weeks Roshan** (5 kg rice, 3 kg Daal, 2 kg sugar, 1 kg Ghee, ½ kg dates, ¼ kg tea and salt) in 200 households. Besides this, the team was able to distribute 10 “Daigs” of rice in three villages and two camps. Other then the food items around 60 especial packs of female clothes and other personal used materials prepared by our four females students were also distributed among the female in the camp.

We tried our best to reach the most affected and not easily accessible population, which of course involve some degree of risk, however, while taking part in rescue and relief operation and trying to help contribute save lives one has to accept some risk. We thanks Almighty Allah that everything went very well.



Just to share with you that in Charsadda we found university students, welfare societies, philanthrops, I/NGO from across the country but they need more

The needs and requirement is huge in Charsadda, Nowshera, Swat, Kohistan and AJK and we need to continue our fund raising and onward distribution campaign at whatever level we can. Right now we are exploring the possibilities of reaching Kohistan where some people are badly in need. We are in touch with some local organizations and as soon as we hear about the clearance of route to Kohistan (Dasu) we shall try our best to reach there.



The account of the flood relief campaign is maintained by the account section, below is the expenditure detail of the Sunday visit:

Dry food 200 packs @ Rs. 1045:	209000/-
Rice 10 Daigs @ Rs. 2500:	25000/-
Local transport:	1900/-
Packing:	1800/-
Total:	237700/-

2.3 DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD ITEMS IN REMOTE AREAS OF KOHISTAN

The CIIT Abbottabad rescue and relief operation is continued. This time a team of CIIT Abbottabad faculty and students went to Kohistan (Dubair) on Friday, August 13, 2010 and distributed food items in **200 affected household**. Right now there is less than 200 household in Dubair proper but affected people from upper Kohistan also come there for seeking food and other consumables. The food packet of CIIT Abbottabad include (Basmati rice: 5 kg; Wheat flour: 5 kg; Daal: 2 kg; Oil: 1 kg; Sugar: 2 kg; Tea: ¼ kg; Dates: 1 kg; Dry milk (everyday): ½ kg; Soap: 2; and Salt: 1 pack). Each packet cost Rs. 1405.



Dubair is a small town on Karakoram Highway between Besham and Dasu. More than half of the village houses and shops are completely washed out by Dubair Nullah. Five people also died in the village due to flood water. Some of the homeless people have now shifted to Besham and other nearby villages, however, the male members of the household do visit Dubair for different reasons. The road connection of down country with Gilgit-Baltistan and China is cut off at this place and the only food supply to upper Kohistan is through army helicopter and to some extent by a trolley cable built over the Nullah



Following is the cost of the Kohistan relief visit:

Food items 200 packets@ 1405:	281000/-
Local transportation cost:	1500/-
Sub-total:	282500/-
Discount:	15000/-
Total cost:	267500/-

2.4 MEDICAL CAMP IN COLLABORATION WITH AYUB TEACHING HOSPITAL AT NOWSHEHRA

A relief camp was established on Saturday (August 28th, 2010) in the flood affected area (Pashtoon Garhi) of District Nowshera.

This village has 3500-4000 households in five Mohallas i.e. Kandi Payan, Kandi Bala, Rahim Abad, Ajab Bagh and Shaheed Abad). The village is situated on the right bank of the Kabul River...hardly 600-700 meters away from the river. During flood the water first enter in the village early in the morning and by 4:00 PM the water level reach to 5 feet and people started vacating the village. By night time the water level reached to 19 feet on the river side of the village (Pandi Payan) and 8 feet on the highest point of the village. This level of water was maintained for more than 50 hours. The water level went down after few days, however, this complete and in some places partial inundation of the village resulted into death of 8 people, the same number is still missing and around 3000 big animals (buffalo and cows) died. The entire goat, sheap, chickens died in the village including 40 poultry farms. The number of human death would have far more if the army helicopters would have not rescued them from the top of the village Mosque which is located at some height and where the water level was 8 feet. Around 450 mud houses have completely demolished leaving all the consumables and assets under the debris and many more Pakka houses are cracked and some are about collapse. Since this was a farming community whose main source of livelihood was agriculture and livestock therefore, the standing crops, livestock and stored grains have all destroyed. Not only that but the dead animals, fermented wheat grains under the debris and the fungus inside the rooms are emitting such a foul smell and attracted so many flies that it is almost impossible at least for new comers and outsiders to stay there for few moments. As a result the disease ratio is very high and is expected to rise more with each passing day. All the wells have been filled with mud and this direct intrusion of river water to the groundwater have contaminated the shallow drinking water. The drainage system is totally dismantled, toilet to pit piped are blocked and soakage pits have collapsed...meaning that water supply and sanitation system is no more working and the village community is dependent on water if it is supply by some philanthrops/NGO however, its quality is much more questionable.

After a lapse of more then one month the village is still giving a deserted look...only about 10% of the population is back, the rest are still in the camps or with relatives. However, most of them come in the morning...some are removing the mud from inside the rooms and others are searching for small assets and consumables and are washings whatever is possible for reuse.

Inspite of all these damages no government or private organization was able to reach the worst affected Kandi Payan of Pashtoon Garhi and when we the first reached there, the poor local community was therefore extremely grateful to COMSATS Abbottabad.

In the village we did the following interventions:

Free Medical Camp:

A free medical camp was established in the village for which announcement through loudspeakers in the village was made one day before and once we were there. A group of **seven** senior, **five** junior and **four** medical students' (altogether 16) volunteers from Ayub Medical College accompanied us. **COMSATS Abbottabad is extremely grateful to all those volunteers' medical officers.** The medical doctors were specialized in the field of:

1. Gyne
2. Medicine
3. Surgery
4. Peads
5. Dermatology
6. ENT
7. Eyes



The doctors checked 300 registered patients (majority of them were women and children) and we provide free medicine to all of them. The major diseases in the village were:

1. Scabies
2. Disease of Gastro-intestinal tract
3. Viral Conjunctivitis (eye)
4. Wounds and superficial injuries
5. Depression





Distribution of clothes, shoes and food

Packets of female, male and children clothes along with shoes were distributed in more than 200 poor household. A list of most deserving households was prepared with the help of local activist before the visit. Priority was given to widows and female headed household. A food rashaan was also distributed but only among the widows in the village

A cash amount in the poorest windows and females and few poor male was also distributed in the village. Cash distribution was not the policy of COMSATS Abbottabad so far, however, this money was from some faculty and those in the field who don't want to be mention.

On the way back another village (Behram Khel) in Nowshera Kalan but on the other side of the Kabul River was visited. The story of human and animal loss and damages to property and assets were even worst then Pashtoon Garhi in this village. The same items were distributed around 150 households in this village but due to lack of time we could not establish medical camp there.

Research survey in the village

We conducted research survey in Pashtoon Garhi. During the survey the focus was on understanding the wealth ranking, livelihoods, drainage, sanitation and water supply systems, and damages in the village. The objective of the research survey was to look into the possibility of long term research and development intervention in the village. We were also interesting to explore the possibility of COMSATS medium and long term engagement in the village in terms of COMSATS proposed three packages of:

- Adopt a student
- Adopt a family
- Adopt a village

We used survey, individual interview (both female and male), focus group discussion (two female two male group) and transect walk for collecting the data

At the end the COMSATS Abbottabad need your continuous financial and moral support and request you to please give a serious through in adopting any or a mix of the above package.

The Committee greatly appreciates the great support of the administration and all volunteers and wish that we continue our relief and rehabilitation interventions

3 FUTURE PLANS

CIIT Abbottabad plans to continue its relief activities through short, medium and long term rehabilitation interventions. These interventions will be focused on:

- Education
- Livelihood of households
- Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

CIIT Abbottabad plans to work in the following four areas:

1. Adopting Students

Over 1000 students currently enrolled in CIIT, Abbottabad, have directly been affected by the floods. Due to their great financial loss, it will be difficult for them to continue with their education, without assistance. For the continuation of these students' education, donors can sponsor students for a semester (6 months) or a year. The student's fee in CIIT Abbottabad is 70,000-80,000 PKR per student per semester.

2. Adopting a Family

Donors can choose to adopt a family living in the flood affected area that has great financial loss. This will include giving a monthly amount of 6000-8000 PKR for household consumables.



3. Adopting a Village

Donors may choose to invest in water supply and sanitation facilities of the selected area by providing safe water, improved sanitation facilities. This will include low cost drinking water treatment plants and culturally acceptable sustainable toilets and sanitation systems.



4. Miscellaneous donations: Donors may also donate any amount of money, if they do not wish to choose any of the above mentioned options. These donations will be used to contribute towards any of the above mentioned focus areas.