Rehabilitation of Flood Affected Communities
Supported by Spiritual Chords & the South African Muslim Community
Location: Village Kakoo Wassan, Village Goth Sukh Bunglo, Village Haji Karim Dad Wassan, Dost Muhammad Khokar, Eco-Village Mohak Sharif, Village Goth Nazir Khan
District Tando Allahyar, Lower Sindh, Pakistan.
Implemented by Heritage Foundation

INTRODUCTION

All the work being undertaken on behalf of Spiritual Chords and Muslims of South Africa is zero carbon footprint which means that during all this work not a single tree has been cut, and have caused hardly any extra carbon emissions. The entire structures have been built with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in mind and are DRR compliant. It is clear that in countries such as Pakistan where hazards and disasters have become a recurring tragedy, whatever is built should be DRR-compliant so that families are not displaced and the structures are able to withstand any flood or other disaster damage.

SHELTER UNITS

The method of construction being implemented is based on Heritage Foundation’s Build Back Safer with Vernacular Methodologies program, which through training of various technical and other teams is now being spread all over Sindh. HF continues to provide mentoring and monitoring in order to
see that all implementing partners fully understand the importance of technical elements which will make the units strong and flood resistant. The biggest partner of HF in this venture is International Organization for Migration that is conducting a program where 24,000 zero carbon footprint one room shelters are nearing completion. They are expecting to follow the same methodology to build another 17,000 units in Upper Sindh in the near future. Since about 5,000 in 2012 units were tested by nature when a heavy rain outpour brought enormous havoc elsewhere, but kept the IOM shelters safe, thus earning the fondly dubbed name of KatchaKot (unfired clay fortress) by IOM beneficiaries in Lower Sindh.

The shelter unit program being implemented for Spiritual Chords consists of 156 units. The family input is encouraged as much as possible while technical guidance and mentoring is provided. No cash has been provided to the beneficiaries; however, all material other than earth, has been provided in order that the units should be strong, particularly the roofs, which are specially fabricated in order to provide refuge to 15 people in case of floods.

**MADIBA VILLAGES**

The following villages are being included in Madiba villages:

Khakoo Wasan: 111 units  
Sukh Mal: 25 units  
Goth Nazir Khan: 20 units

Since women have been deeply engaged in the process of building their walls and in plastering, their pride and ownership is evident in the beautifully decorated facades, some of which are shown in this report.
After the completion of the units the following related programs are now being implemented:

1. Construction of Eco-toilets
   The work on these has been taken up by some of the villagers; however, more work has to be done to complete the toilets. Toilets are essential since the practice of open defecation has to be stopped; but it takes time for communities to understand the importance of using toilets. Quite a lot of handholding will be required even after the toilets have been constructed.

2. Hand water Pumps
   Hand water pumps are being installed on a sharing basis. However, this is being taken up in areas where construction of toilets has been undertaken. It is important to give the message to the community that water will be made available only to those who have taken up the initiative of constructing their toilets. This stratagem is working, as there is considerable acceleration in the construction of toilets.

3. Food Security
   Since the KatchaKot KaravanGhar carries a strong roof which can take the load of 15 persons, similarly, HF is propagating roof gardens where vegetables are grown. A large number of beneficiaries have begun gardening and they have been provided a list of most nutritious vegetables, which should be cultivated on the roofs. A special drip irrigation technique using inverted mineral water bottles is teaching the value of water conservation to the beneficiaries.

4. Separation of Livestock to Create Hygienic Conditions
   Among the most critical aspects of rural living is the unhygienic environment caused by the proximity of livestock with humans. As soon as the shelter units have been completed, HF
has provided emphasis on communities to immediately distance animals/livestock from living quarters. Accordingly, in each cluster of housing units, separate enclosures for livestock are being created and being fenced. They are also being encouraged to put mud plaster on the floor of livestock enclosures, which in 6 months will provide good quality compost due to animal dung and urine being absorbed in it.

**FUND FOR SHELTER FOR ALL LOAN**

20 shelter units have been taken up on trial basis where families are signing up to build their houses through help and guidance of local experts trained by HF as HF’s Social Franchisees. The families will be provided material worth Rs. 20,000, out of which they will be obliged to return Rs. 10,000 in 14 months. This program has just been launched and will require an outlay of Rs. 400,000 for its experimental phase. It is expected that Rs. 200,000 will be received back after 14 months. Thus the grant will be only of Rs. 10,000 per shelter unit.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL AT KARIM DAD WASAN**

A special 5 room school has been constructed in Karim Dad Wasaan where there was vociferous demand for providing education to children. The school is now complete and has become functional. It has already received approval from the Sindh Government and the children will be tested by the primary school in Moak Sharif. Two computers from ten that are being gifted by Babar Khan from Dubail will be placed in the school. Shelving has also been made for books and it is expected that through the drive launched by Safeeyah Moosa and encouragement to HF Partner Schools, a library will be established.
The toilets of the school are nearing completion. Some other facilities and play area is still to be created.

It is expected that once ParhoPakistan teacher has been trained, one Parho Pakistan Centre will be also opened here to provide parallel teaching arrangements.

**WOMEN’S AND LITERACY CENTRES**

So far 3 Women’s Centres combined with Literacy (ParhoPakistan) Centres have been built in Khakoo Wasan, Sukh Mal and Dost Mohamad Khokhar. Those in Kakoo Wasan and Sukh Mal have been completed while the third one will be completed in early July 2013. The late completion of the third one is due to the problem in identifying a suitable package of land.

The fourth Women’s Centre and Literacy Centre (separate buildings) have been complete in Moak Sharif through funding by others.

Accordingly, three centres have become functional i.e. both for literacy and women’s products.

Early steps taken for ParhoPakistan are promising. Two teachers have been trained, who will provide two week on the job training to another three teachers. The book illustrations and video prepared by Spiritual Chords has provided an excellent basis for teaching and students seem to be learning well.

By the middle of June, over 100 students in Moak Sharif Centre (4 sessions/day) and over 60 students in Sukh Mal Centre (3 sessions/day) have begun to attend classes from 2nd May and 15th May respectively.
HEALTH CLINICS

One health clinic is already operating on a self financing basis in Moak Sharif. Medicines for this centre have been provided by Dr. Hussain Nasir.

Three other health clinics are currently under construction with funding from Spiritual Chords, in Khakoo Wasan, Sukh Mal, Dost Mohammad Khokar. These are being constructed entirely with unfired clay brick or cob and are based on a system of semicircular vaults. The purpose was that the structures should be solid and to ensure that the building can be easily cleaned as a health facility. So far work on structures has been carried out. Finishing of the first structure will be taken up sometime at the end of June. All three are expected to be completed in August 2013.

Local paramedics are being identified and they will be placed in charge of the clinics. Dr. Hussain has agreed to provide guidance and advice and will be available to provide remote consultation. He will visit the clinics once a month and also arrange for any specialists required for particular treatments of identified ailments.

As in the case of Moak Sharif clinic, the first lot of medicines will be provided as the stock through a distributor on a discounted price. The paramedics will charge patients on the following basis:

a. Rs. 20/patient as registration fee which underwrites the cost of examination. 50% will be paid to HF as a maintenance fund, 50% to accrue to the paramedic in charge.

b. Prescribed medicines to be given at discounted cost e.g. if the discount is 20%, the benefit of 15% should go to the patient, while 5% will accrue to the paramedic in charge.
c. The original stock will be used as a revolving fund. As the medicines are used up, the paramedic in charge will replenish it through the distributor.

d. The distributor will be chosen after ensuring that only first class branded medicines are provided.

All the health clinics built with Spiritual Chords funds have a room for examination, one for dressing and a third one for a midwife. It seems that there are many midwives or health workers employed by the Government and an attempt will be made to provide them the space to enable them to provide necessary services to the community.

DIVISION OF PROGRAMS

In view of major support being provided by Spiritual Chords and the US$100,000 prize money received from the Islamic Development Bank, it has become essential to provide a clear division of programs.

The division for literacy, crafts and entrepreneurship is being worked out and is proposed to be as follows:

1. In view of the funding that has been made available by Spiritual Chords future buildings of Women’s Centres and Literacy Centres will be constructed through SC funding.

2. In view of enormous input and development of illustrations and video including audio for ParhoPakistan program, this program will be continued with Spiritual Chords. After the first 5 centres have become operations, it will be worthwhile to consider building another 5 combined centres in 5 more identified villages.

3. In addition, the mobile computer cum library etc. will be carried out with funding of Spiritual Chords.

4. The vision for IDB prize money is to create a cadre of Barefoot Women Eco-Entrepreneurs. This will mean that all workshops and trainings along with related expenses will be funded by IDB. Therefore the cost of Rickshaw and adhi driver along with conducting workshops for various entrepreneurial activities including video camera cost and filming to make videos for training will be supported by IDB prize money.