

HUMANITARIAN AID (SDC-HA) PAKISTAN

RECONSTRUCTION AND LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME RLP

Housing Reconstruction Programme Pakistan Report on SDC's Trainings and information campaign in the earthquake affected area of NWFP

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Abbreviations

AI Team	Assessment Inspection Teams (Army)
AJK	Azad Jamu Kashmir
BHU	Basic Health Unit
CBO	Community based Organization
EQ	Earthquake
ERRA	Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Authority
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
HRC	Housing Reconstruction Centre
IP(s)	Institutional Partner(s)
JWO	Jirga Welfare Organization
MT	Mobile Teams
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NWFP	North West Frontier Province
ODC	Organization for Development and Cooperation
OT	Outreach Team
PO	Partner Organization
RLP	Reconstruction and Livelihood Programme (SDC-HA)
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SM	Social Mobilizer
SRSP	Sarhad Rural Support Programme
ToT	Training of Trainers
TMIS	Training Monitoring Information System
UC	Union Council
VRC	Village Reconstruction Committee

1 Background

The devastating earthquake on October 8, 2005 over an area of 30,000 square km across NWFP and AJK killed 88'000 and injured more than 100'000 people. As a result according to the official statistics of government of Pakistan 460'000 houses damaged. Most of the damages occurred in the rural and mountainous areas.

Soon after the earthquake, the government of Pakistan established Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) with the mandate to coordinate the implementation of reconstruction and rehabilitation of all affected areas in all sectors, private housing reconstructions was also one of the sectors.

The overall objective of the rural housing reconstruction programme is to ensure that an estimated 460'000 houses that were either destroyed or damaged, will be rebuilt by using earthquake resistant building techniques, through grant assistance from the Government to eligible households.

The principles for housing reconstruction have been identified as the following.

- Establish building standards and designs that are earthquake resistant.
- Minimum population relocation should take place.
- Rebuilding will be owner-driven, but assisted and inspected by the Government through partner organizations. Owners need to be in charge of the reconstruction of their houses and understand earthquake resistant building techniques.
- Familiar building methods and easily accessible materials will be used in rebuilding. Earthquake resistant elements need to be introduced in the traditional and currently used building techniques.
- Relocate settlements only when necessary – from sites that are hazardous
- A uniform financial assistance package for rebuilding will be disbursed to all affectees, which will not be compensation-based.
- Coordination is necessary to ensure full spatial coverage and avoid duplication of service provision.

1.1 Training needs in housing reconstruction sector

Keeping in view the damage of houses on such a large scale, the government of Pakistan realized that non engineered building or unrealistic technical excellence should be avoided in reconstruction of houses. Through the ERRA Housing Reconstruction Strategy it has elaborated clearly to develop housing standards and use earthquake resistant techniques in reconstruction of houses in the affected areas. SDC, GTZ and UN habitat joined hands with Government of Pakistan in creating awareness, disseminating information and imparting trainings on earthquake resistant housing reconstruction through Twelve Housing Reconstruction Centers and Partner Organizations on union council level in AJK and NWFP.

1.2 ERRA Strategy on Capacity Building:

Beyond technical advice, capacity-building will be provided to support local authorities and partner organizations through an intensive information dissemination campaign, as well as formal and informal training programs in the following areas:

- **The ERRA policies and procedures:** to ensure that consistent information of the ERRA policies and procedures are provided to beneficiaries;
- **Social Mobilization**, including sensitization of communities, preparation of village profiles to guide the overall reconstruction effort, establishment of Community Housing Reconstruction Committees, procurement sub-committees, community monitoring, etc.
- **Specialized modules** on subjects such as community land adjudication; relocation and re-planning; land and property rights; etc.
- **Environment degradation reduction:** to ensure that reconstruction considers environmental impacts and includes environmentally sustainable reconstruction techniques in order to avoid increasing future natural hazards.
- **Housing Reconstruction Training:** Simple guidance provided at the village level on incorporating earthquake resistant reconstruction techniques and materials into local housing types, and reconstruction using standard housing designs;
- **Skilled Labor Training:** More detailed, targeted skills training for skilled labor such as masons, carpenters, metal workers, plumbers and electricians as part of the overall livelihoods strategy;
- **Compliance Training:** enabling Government officials and partner organization staff to be able to verify whether housing reconstruction has correctly incorporated earthquake resistant techniques.

1.3 Integrating Training with Compliance

The concept of compliance means that houses are rebuilt according to earthquake resistant standards. The Government's policy is to link the payment of housing grant installments to certification of compliance with the appropriate building standards.

The approach to ensuring compliance will aim to create a "culture of compliance" rather than a system of policing beneficiaries. To create such a climate, there will be a structured approach to create diverse agents of compliance, who each, in their own way, reinforce common standards and messages. For training purposes, mobile teams will be staffed, and training packages will be developed, to support the compliance role of the following agents:

- **General Public:** through an information and public awareness campaign that will draw its messages from the unified training materials developed.
- **Mobile AI Teams:** the mobile teams will be the first line of compliance, communicating the standards for earthquake resistant reconstruction, as well as the incentives and sanctions to ensure their implementation.
- **Village Committees:** Where village development councils exist, the peer pressure of these institutions should be channeled to support compliance. These committees will be encouraged to form a sub-committee on reconstruction monitoring whose role is to monitor the overall housing reconstruction programme, support compliance efforts and regularly report on progress to the wider community. This committee will be particularly important for ensuring vulnerable groups such as women-headed households, the elderly and widows are able to access reconstruction benefits. Community pride and creative incentives, such as a national competition, will be developed to promote solidarity and mutual support.
- **Women:** Women have a special role to play in ensuring compliance. Women and children suffered tremendous loss of life during the earthquake. They have a clear vested interest in understanding earthquake resistant construction. Within the family structure, informed women can play an important role in ensuring compliance.

- **Monitoring:** to complement the work of the trainers, monitoring from the Housing Reconstruction Centres will be deployed to do “spot-checks” to ensure that the training has been clearly communicated and that beneficiaries are incorporating the standards during the reconstruction. The number of these teams need not be large, as even the possibility of a visit from them will contribute to creating a culture of compliance.
- **Certification Teams:** These teams will be responsible for certifying compliance at each stage of the housing reconstruction. A Government official will be part of the team. The precise operation of this system will be detailed in the “Operational Manual” governing the programme.

2 SDC-HA’s Contribution:

SDC-HA established and operating two Housing Reconstruction Centers (HRC Balakot and HRC Batagram) in NWFP serving as information centers for all public, coordination between all stakeholder in housing reconstruction and training of Partner organization’s technicians, social mobilizers, engineers, local craftsmen, self builders, local authorities and other stakeholders involved in the housing reconstruction process.

SDC-HA in two union councils (Mohandri District Mansehra and UC Shamlai District Batagram) acts as its own partner organization. SDC-HA established Field Offices in these two union councils which are serving as local information cum training centers for the local community about earthquake resistant reconstruction methods.

Both the HRCs and Field Offices are equipped with technical advisors, a team of engineers and social mobilizers (both male and female).

SDC HRCs being the focal points for all POs and community members started hectic training activities since its inception. The training programmes were consisting of manuals of different construction designs and techniques approved from ERR. Social mobilization training was another component in trainings so that the capacity of Social Mobilizers working with POs can strengthened in order to ensure community participation and owner driven approach in the field.

2.1 Trainings and Capacity building:

Technical Trainings

- Load Bearing Masonry Structures
- RCC-Frame Structures
- Confined Masonry
- Dhaji (Timber)
- Bhatar (Timber)

Target Groups

- Master Trainers of POs
- Self Builders/ House Owners
- Architects / Engineers and Construction Artisan
- Local Government Representatives
- Community Organizations
- House-wives through Female Trainers
- AI teams

Social Mobilization Trainings

- Social Mobilization in disastrous situation
- Community rule in rural housing reconstruction
- Basic social mobilization
- Social mobilization phase II (Generic)
- ToT
- Safer Homes

Target Groups

- Social Mobilizers of POs
- PO Out-reach Teams
- VRC Members
- Local Government Representatives
- Village Notables
- Volunteer activists
- Female community members

2.2 Training Methodology:

Selection criteria for trainees

Selection of participants was based on the registration form provided by the partner organization or other stakeholders prior to the trainings to ensure the level of understanding for the specific training.

Training Contents

The training contents were developed according to the ERRA approved guideline for the different designs of construction techniques. For the better understanding and application of techniques, the contents have been formulated in simplest wordings. More over, adequate space for practical work has been allotted.

Training Venue

To provide an easy access and enabling learning environment, the venues have been established at focal points of each districts and union councils. The size of the venue and sitting arrangements are according to the standard and adhering local culture.

Relevance of Training

To reconstruct destroyed houses in the regions according the ERRA strategy, the craftsmen were willing to know the earthquake resistant construction techniques. All the trainings were in line with the local culture and indigenous practice.

Training Duration

Time frame for each content or session was sufficient both for theory and practice.

Trainers

Qualified trainers have been recruited at each HRCs and Field Offices. An intensive Training of Trainers (ToT) has been conducted both for technical and Social Mobilization trainers after recruitment.

Incentives for Trainings

No any cash incentives given for the participants. Lunch, Certificate, Hand outs and Tools (construction equipments) have been given to each participant at the end of the training.

PO-training Facilitation

Refresher and follow up has been done after the trainings but not for all participants.

Feedback Mechanism

A well thought out mechanism for getting feedback from Trainees was established. There was a periodic review of training programs through Working Groups (ERRA, SDC, UN Habitat and other partners).

3 Achievements and Good practices

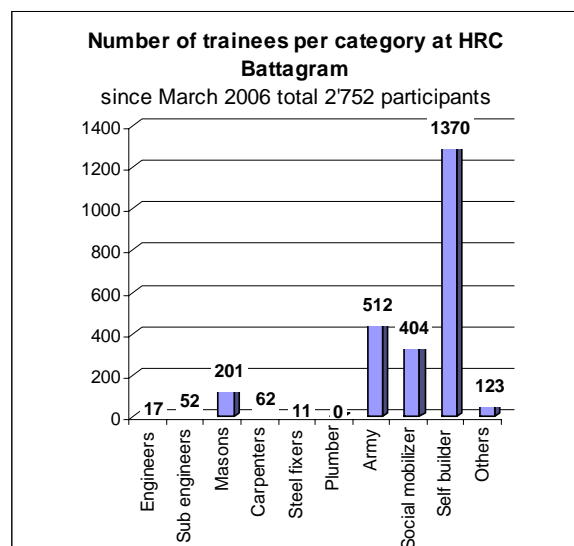
3.1 Policy level:

- Effective coordination with Partner organizations, ERRA Islamabad and Institutional Partners (UN Habitat)
- Pro-active advocacy on the indigenous construction designs and methods with research based recommendations and designs to incorporate in the ERRA Housing Policy. The best examples are approval of Bhatar and Dhaji designs.
- A comprehensive technical report on double storey buildings in Manoor Valley UC Mohandri with recommendations to incorporate the design into ERRA policy with slight changes in the existing design and construction methods.
- Involved with maximum expertise in the process of all sorts of training development both Technical and Social Mobilization

3.2 HRC level

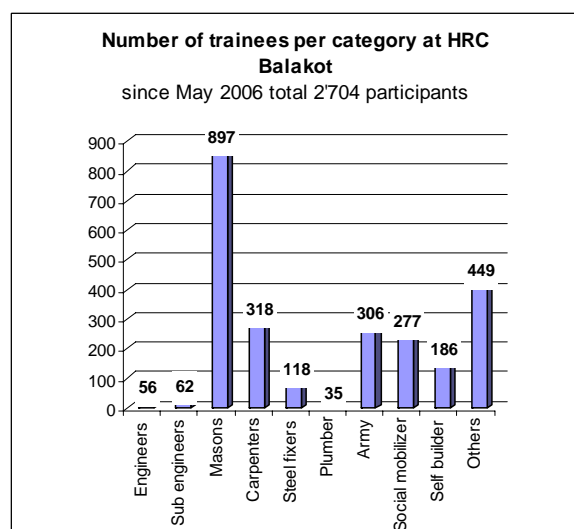
HRC Battagram District Battagram

- Trained 2,752 people on different category of Technical and Social Mobilization trainings since March 2006
- 5 Outreach teams giving technical advices at community level in five Union Councils (Batamori, Gijbori, Koza Banda, Thakot, Trand) abandoned by Pos.
- On request HRC provided technical training to Assistance and Inspection teams of ERRA all over District Battagram
- SDC livelihood activities in UC Assistance to schools and BHU reconstruction unit of SDC



HRC Balakot District Mansehra

- Trained 2,704 people on different category of Technical and Social Mobilization trainings since May 2006
- 2 Outreach teams are covering UCs not assisted by POs
- HRC provided technical training to Assistance and Inspection teams all over Tehsil Balakot
- 2 female teams are assisting females at household level in Shohal Mazullah providing information about safer homes
- Basic technical training for NGOs not related to ERRA rural housing reconstruction programme



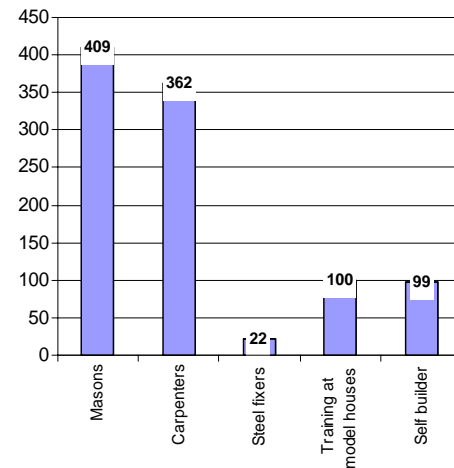
3.3 Field Office Level

Field Office Jared UC Mohandri

- Trained 992 community members in different category of trainings
- Formed 54 female and 68 male VRCs
- Approx. 3'200 community members have been given Door to Door assistance on ERRA guide lines
- 5 Dhajji and 1 Brick Masonry Model House have been constructed for vulnerables through hand-on trainings
- Collection of data on non compliance and no work started cases
- Social Mobilization Training for VRC members

Number of trainees per category by MT from FO Jared

since September 2006 total 992 participants

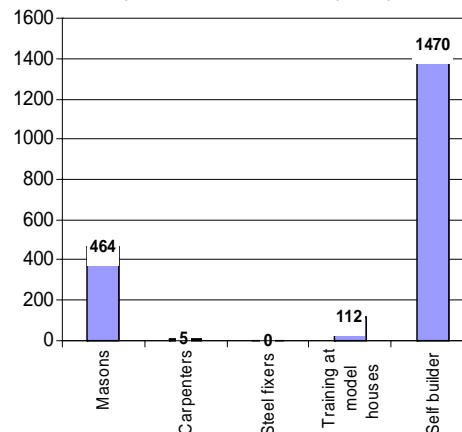


Field Office Shamlai District Batagram

- Trained 2'051 community members in different category of trainings
- Formed 23 female and 53 male VRCs
- Approx. 4'300 community members have been given Door to Door assistance on ERRA guide lines
- 4 Bhatar and 1 confined masonry house have been constructed for community use through hand-on trainings
- Collection of data on non compliance and no work started cases
- Social Mobilization Training for VRC members

Number of trainees per category by MT from FO Shamlai

since September 2006 total 2'051 participants



4 Information dissemination

SDC's contribution on Public information and support

Beyond technical support and capacity building, SDC realized together with ERRA and other partners the need to provide the public with accurate information and to offer a grievance redressal mechanism. Through mass information campaign information on the full range of assistance options, their eligibility criteria, seismically acceptable construction solutions, alternative materials, methods of construction, material availability and pricing variations. Affected people have been provided with all information they need to be able to make informed decisions for housing reconstruction. The information campaign has especially ensured that women and vulnerable groups are receiving all the information they need.

5 Lessons Learned

- An owner driven and holistic approach where for the first time Government, Bilateral agencies, INGOs and Communities worked together to achieve the objectives of earthquake resistant houses or Build Back Better.
- Changes in construction techniques are not easily accepted within community initially. Advocacy or mass information campaigns made a big difference.
- Indigenous construction designs/ methods should always be encouraged and promoted
- Acceptance within communities are always helpful in carrying out trainings and door to door assistance and protects if there is a unfavorable law and order situation
- The request for training and orientation dropped drastically in summer 2007. Most of the self builder were busy with the reconstruction of their own house or earned some money while helping in the construction at other places. The practical training through the construction of model houses going along with the payment of some incentives motivated once again semi skilled labors as mason or carpenters to participate in training modules.
- For the better integration of the women in the process of information dissemination a specific module on "safer home" was developed and directly at community level imparted through SDCs female MTs.

6 Field stories

Case study and view of participants

Mass information campaign on safer homes after reconstruction

Authors: Samina Kiran (SDC Female Social Mobilizer)

Date: February 23, 2008

Khalid, a two year old baby was in deep sleep in a traditional baby cart in village Hasa Khara of union council Garlat Tehsil Balakot. Khalid's father Mr. Qasim constructed the house long ago before earthquake as kacha(non permanent or not earthquake resistant) house. On 8th October 2005, his house remained safe but some of his own mistakes and carelessness has changed his whole world (family). When the earthquake happened, Mr. Qasim rushed to pick his son (Khalid) from the cart, but he found him seriously injured. He shouted, his mother and wife went for help, at the mean time, they got electric shock from the electricity wires hanging near the cart. Both became unconscious. Mr. Qasim tried to stop bleeding from his son's head but failed to save his life. He mentioned, "My whole world changed after that incident as I lost my beloved son because of my own mistake and carelessness". By giving the reason of his son's death was the small wooden wall hanger which was not properly fixed on the wall.

Realizing the fact, SDC-HA initiated mass campaign on safer homes after reconstruction of their houses, so that the community especially female members of the household can make sure the proper interior decoration or installation of wires and home appliances. Through information posters SDC-HA female mobile teams are visiting communities and house to house to create awareness and making them realize that our own mistakes and carelessness can bring a huge disaster and even loss of precious lives.