



Rebuilding Lives

Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Authority

8 October 2011
Special Edition



A Disaster: The Trial

On 8th October 2005, at 8:50 AM, a massive earthquake measuring 7.6 on Richter scale struck northern Pakistan unleashing destruction, death and displacement in more than 4,000 villages. The affected area covering over 30,000 square kilometers lies in a rough mountainous Himalayan terrain. Most affected were the districts of Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Neelum and Poonch in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) and Abbotabad, Mansehra, Battagram, Shangla and Kohistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

Trauma-ridden survivors were exposed to a number of plights such as homelessness, the ruthless winter, scarcity of food, physical and mental injuries, and above all paralyzed state machinery.

Human Loss	73,338
Seriously Injured	69,412
Homeless	3.5 million
Rural Houses Destroyed	600,000
Water/Sanitation Facilities Destroyed	3,994
Health Facilities Destroyed	796
Educational Facilities Destroyed	6,298
Roads Destroyed	6,440 km

Response: When Time Tested our Souls

Quick and comprehensive media coverage of the disaster led to an exceptional response from every nook and corner of the globe. The Government of Pakistan with the help of worthy international partners and great civil society started relief work and announced the creation of a Federal Relief Commission. The mandate of the Commission was to coordinate relief activities with national and international players comprising of not less than 85 bilateral and multilateral donors, over 1000 non-governmental and several private sector organizations.

Two military divisions were deployed to evacuate casualties and open road access to the affected areas. The injured population was evacuated and airlifted under the direct supervision of Pakistan Army Aviation through one of the biggest helicopter driven operation of the world, and was received with love and care at nearby hospitals. Several field hospitals were also established to provide emergency health care.



Humanitarian Clusters

The earthquake brought unprecedented destruction and the Government of Pakistan with no background of disaster management found itself incapacitated to handle it. As a result a state of emergency was declared to allow the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team to come and play its part. The UNDAC team arrived and started negotiating the institutional design of a coordinated humanitarian response with the Government of Pakistan.

After purposeful discussions the cluster approach was agreed upon and the Government of Pakistan appointed her officials to co-chair various humanitarian cluster formed.

The humanitarian clusters, generally attended by UN agency and NGO representatives at the Federal level, worked like open forums at the local level where the affected population could also come and take part in deliberations. This approach gave birth to a culture of stakeholder consultation and contribution which later on became the foundation of reconstruction and rehabilitation strategies.

Transitional Shelter Strategy

One of the instant challenges was the provision of shelter to affected people so as to save them from cold-induced diseases ready to take them on for another round of deaths. The response to the shelter challenge was immense, yet 80 per cent of the tents could not offer right kind of safety from the deadly cold. The arrangement and distribution of insulation material on such a large scale that too within a very short span of time was next to impossible and heating solutions were out of the question as they posed a serious risk of fire.

Therefore, a transitional shelter strategy was geared up based on two elements: distribution of corrugated galvanized iron sheets along with construction tools and mobilization of the affected people to recover construction materials from the wreckage of their shattered houses. This, in fact, was the point from where an owner-driven recovery strategy originated whereby households under the technical guidance of shelter cluster members, were to construct their shelters on their own. One reason for adoption of this strategy at policy level was that the same galvanized sheets would later be used in permanent reconstruction.



Estimated Extent of Damage

On the basis of an exercise on “Damages and Needs Assessment”, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank reported at the Donors' Conference held on 19th November 2005, that \$5.2 billion were required for earthquake relief, early recovery and reconstruction in AJ&K and KP. An additional amount of \$30 million was anticipated as the requirement for technical assistance and capacity building.

Institutional Arrangement for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation

On 24th October 2005, the Government of Pakistan established the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) at the federal level with counterparts; the State Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority

(SERRA) and the Provincial Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (PERRA) in AJ&K and KP, respectively. District Reconstruction Units (DRUs) were created at district level.



Mission

“Converting Adversity into Opportunity” by reconstructing lost and destroyed facilities, while following the highest standards of reconstruction and rehabilitation with an obligation to **“Build Back Better”**.

Mandate

ERRA's main role is macro planning, developing sectoral strategies, financing, project approval, coordination, facilitation, and monitoring and evaluation of reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in areas affected by the 2005 earthquake.

Initial deliberations reflected that ERRA would implement and regulate reconstruction directly, through District Reconstruction Units (DRUs) which involved political and legal sensitivities. This led to the creation of a compound governance structure in which the ERRA Council was created at the federal level, headed by the Prime Minister and comprising senior representatives from the legislature and executive branch of the federal and regional governments, as well as some members from civil society. Similarly, SERRA and PERRA councils were created at state and provincial levels, for

AJ&K and KP, respectively. These bodies were meant to provide strategic guidance and to hold ERRA and its regional counterparts accountable through periodic meetings.

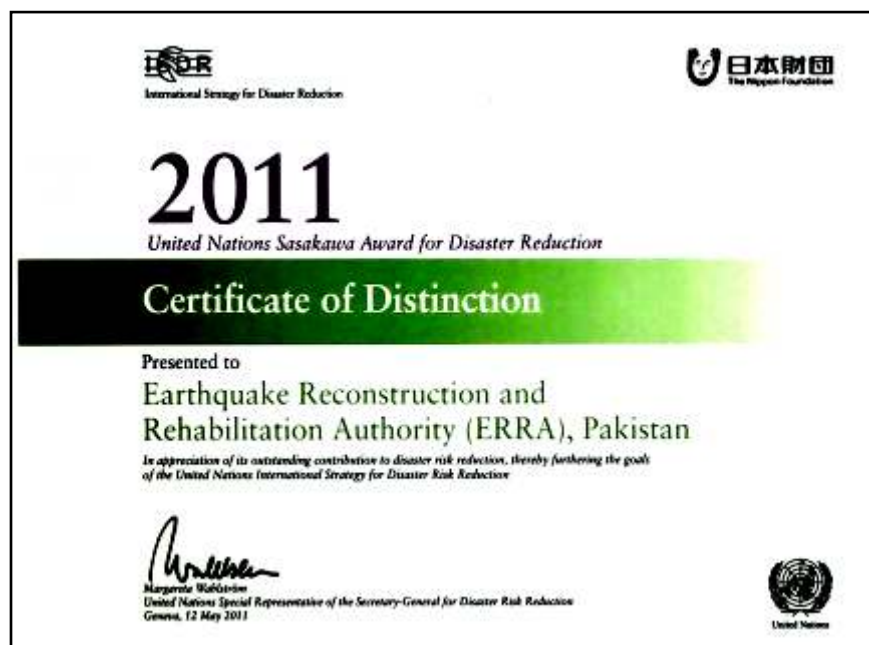
At the district level District Reconstruction Advisory Committees DRAC were created to act as governing bodies of the DRUs. The DRAC was headed by the district Nazim (mayor) or Deputy Commissioner as the case may be. Representatives from district government departments and some NGOs formed the DRAC members.

Acknowledgments and Permanent Status



The work of Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority has been acknowledged across the board. It is indeed a matter of great pride and satisfaction that ERRA because of its remarkable performance has earned the coveted UN Sasakawa Award - 2011. At an organizational level, ERRA has evolved into a robust disaster management outfit and a model that can be replicated to manage similar disasters around the world. In recognition of its remarkable performance and the need for a countrywide disaster management mechanism, Government of Pakistan has accorded ERRA a permanent status through an Act of Parliament. This achievement will facilitate the Authority in its interventions across Pakistan by virtue of its expanded locus of control.

UN Recognition



Building Back Better

Building on the excellent work done during the relief and recovery phase, ERRA assumed the Herculean task of reconstructing over 13,000 projects (at a cost of over US \$ 5 billion) in the earthquake affected areas. The overall progress to date is as follows:

Overall Progress

Project Status	Projects	Percentage
Completed	7567	55
Under Construction	4063	30
Tendering	2085	15
Total	13715	100

Sectors

ERRA has intervened to reconstruct and rehabilitate the sectors identified in the adjacent box. Brick and mortar activities are also being complemented by cross cutting interventions.

Cross Cutting Themes

- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Environmental Safeguards
- Gender Mainstreaming

Hard	Soft
Housing	Livelihood
Health	Social Protection
Education	Environment
Water And Sanitation	Tourism
Governance	
Power	
Telecommunication	
Transportation	

Housing Sector

ERRA's flagship Rural Housing Programme has been lauded by national and international disaster management practitioners for its efficacy and the impact it has had in terms of addressing a basic human need for shelter.

By virtue of its salient features and the results it has delivered so far in providing safe shelter to those rendered homeless by the quake of 2005, Rural Housing Programme has played an instrumental role in the socio-economic uplift of the affected areas. This is the programme that has won the prestigious United Nations' Sasakawa Award for ERRA, in the field of disaster risk reduction.



RHRP Salient Features	RHRP Achievements
➤ owner-driven reconstruction ➤ strict compliance mechanism ➤ culturally compatible seismic resistant structural designs ➤ transparent and efficient tranche wise disbursement of housing subsidies ➤ environment friendly construction: maximum reuse of local timbre ➤ inclusive redressal system ➤ aggressive social mobilization ➤ capacity building through training of human resource ➤ special focus on vulnerable groups	➤ 600,000 earthquake resistant houses reconstructed ➤ 95% houses built in compliance with ERRA's standards ➤ 3.5 million people moved into new homes ➤ RHRP registered a completion rate of over 90%, the best ever compared to contemporary post disaster programmes ➤ 60,000 complaints handled ➤ 720,000 people socially mobilized and trained for DRR including 200,000 women ➤ US\$ 1.3 billion remitted directly as housing subsidies ➤ 55,000 houses reconstructed by women headed households

Health

Small health facilities like First Aid Posts and Civil Dispensaries have been integrated into larger ones with a view to offering an entire range of health services under one roof. Out of 796 damaged health facilities in the affected areas, 306 were identified for reconstruction and rehabilitation, including District and Tehsil Headquarters Hospitals, Rural Health Centres, Basic

Health Units and Health Offices; of which 162 stand completed, as shown in the table. These facilities have benefited 5,749,663 earthquake affectees in both AJ&K and KP.

Progress

Project Status	Projects	Percentage
Completed	162	53
Under Construction	97	32
Tendering	47	15
Total	306	100



WatSan

Amongst the most pressing needs of the earthquake affected population was the need for safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to prevent the outbreak of diseases that would result in a higher death toll. 90% of all planned water supply schemes and sanitation facilities have been reconstructed.

ERRA's popular rainwater harvesting project and hygiene promotion campaigns have helped change local attitudes thus encouraging conservation of resources and healthy living. ERRA has successfully completed various components of its water and sanitation programme as shown below.

Project Status	Projects
Completed	4281
Under Construction	435
Tendering	30
Total	4746



WatSan Activities

- Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of 4281 Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes (Street Pavements, Drainage, and Public Toilets). Solid Waste Management Facilities established in 22 towns
- Water Quality Improvement - 8 Water Quality Labs (4 in AJ&K and 4 in KP) established with Line Agencies of EQAAs. 9 Mini Labs provided by UNICEF.
- Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion through Education and Awareness - 5526 hygiene promotion sessions conducted at community level; Mass awareness campaign; and, Hygiene Weeks, World Water Day and Global Hand Washing Day celebrated at grass root level
- Address water scarcity through Rainwater Harvesting – RWH systems installed on 40,000 houses and 400 Public Buildings in both AJ&K and KP.
- Capacity Building of Concerned Government Line Agencies and other Stakeholders

Education

As far as the education sector is concerned, most of the primary schools in rural areas consisted of one or two rooms without any provision for a play ground, library, staff room, drinking water, and lavatories. After the earthquake, ERRA reconstructed educational facilities to suit the actual needs of affected communities. Progress in the education sector is as follows.

Progress

Project Status	Projects	Percentage
Completed	2093	36
Under Construction	2120	37
Tendering	1538	27
Total	5751	100

Build Back Better Schools and Colleges

- Equitable service delivery including education for boys and girls from the remotest villages in the affected areas
- Improved building designs – seismic resistant reconstruction with multiple exits and design features for disabled children
- Provision of additional facilities – lavatories, library, faculty room etc.
- Standardized furniture
- Classroom support including learning aids and a maintenance budget for up gradations



Urban Development



The earthquake provided an opportunity to correct the haphazard urban and rural construction that characterized the earthquake affected areas. Urban Development Projects for Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot and Bagh have finally been rolled out with an investment outlay of over US \$ 350 million, 62 urban development projects, including roads, shopping centers and water supply schemes, have been thoroughly planned for Muzaffarabad, Bagh and Rawalakot.

Governance

ERRA's reconstruction regime also included the rehabilitation of local government machinery. The underlying rationale in reconstructing governance sector buildings was convenience, multiple service accessibility, rationalization and overhead cost reduction. As of August 2011, out of approximately 700 planned governance sector projects, almost 400 have been completed.



Progress

Project Status	Projects	Percentage
Completed	397	57
Under Construction	253	36
Tendering	47	7
Total	697	100

This concept of rationalization has been applied to reconstruction activities in all sectors.

Telecommunication, Transport and Power

Relaxation of the telecommunication regulatory regime, especially in AJ&K, in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake and the establishment of PCOs by various telecom companies to provide a communication link between the affected populace and their relatives elsewhere, resulted in a telecom revolution in the affected areas. Today a number of telecom companies are operating in the area.

In the transport sector 64 bridges have been completed, 12 are under construction and the remaining 11 are in the design stage. 55 roads have been constructed, 85 are under construction and a mere 6 are in the design phase.



Progress

Project Status	Projects	Percentage
Completed	141	61
Under Construction	80	34
Tendering	12	5
Total	233	100



Almost 70% of all planned power facilities; most of which have been funded by Asian Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank; have been constructed keeping in mind the present and future needs of the affected populations. This entails the rehabilitation of electricity infrastructure including grids and transmission and distribution systems.



Rehabilitation

Besides physical construction, ERRA's socio-economic rehabilitation initiatives have come a long way in the earthquake affected areas. Details are provided in the table:

Rehabilitation Initiative	Outcome and Impact
Livelihood Support Cash Grant Programme	Livelihood Support for 290,210 affected families (27% of which were female-headed)
Community Livelihood Rehabilitation Plans (CLRPs)	➤ 1,022 out of 1,789 CLRPs have been completed. ➤ Rs. 903.04 million has been disbursed to Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to establish CLRPs in all affected districts ➤ Rehabilitation of Livestock, Cereal, Fruit and Vegetable production activities in all 9 districts
Skill Development Programmes	Over 70,000 individuals have been trained in construction skills (masonry, carpentry, plumbing and electrician work)
Targeted Vulnerability Survey (TVS)	Database containing detailed information on 432,130 vulnerable (widows, orphans, senior citizens and PWDs) for whom assistance packages have been tailored
Legal Assistance Programme (LAP)	26,321 cases registered and solved
Rural Landless Programme (RLLP)	12,580 beneficiaries have been assisted with Rs. 943.5 million (disbursement of Rs.75,000 to each verified landless / virtually landless family for purchase of 5 Marla piece of land)
Medical Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities in Earthquake Affected Areas	➤ 40,000 PWDs due to the earthquake and 68,000 PWDs already present in the affected areas received immediate relief from temporary hubs ➤ 2 Medical Rehab Centers, 6 Basic Rehabilitation Units and 4 Resource Information Centers established ➤ Wheelchair ramps and bathrooms for PWDs made a standard part of all buildings ➤ 100% complete
Social Welfare Complexes (SWCs) and Women Development Centres (WDCs)	In excess of 800 beneficiaries availing welfare facilities including accommodation, skills development and education for orphans.



Cross Cutting Themes

Outlined below are ERRA's major achievements in each of its three cross cutting programmes:

Rehabilitation Initiative	➤ Gender considerations incorporated in all sectoral strategies ➤ “Making Markets Work for Women” – a project for the economic empowerment of women ➤ Gender Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Networks in 7 EQA districts in AJ&K and KP ➤ Capacity building workshops - 1,000+ individuals from line departments and PERRA/SERRA have been trained
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Rehabilitation Initiative	➤ Soil conservation, slope stabilization and debris removal to facilitate construction and prevent pollution ➤ ERRA-UNDP Environmental Recovery Programme worth Rs. 281 million for Integrated Watershed Management ➤ Environmental safeguards incorporated in all sectoral strategies ➤ Agriculture, livestock and water resource development ➤ 12 projects comprising rehabilitation of 15,000 acres of forest in KP and 30,000 acres in AJ&K ➤ 10.52 million seedlings planted over 27,000 acres with a success rate of 70% ➤ Brick and Mortar: 466 buildings in AJ&K and KP
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Disaster Risk Reduction	➤ US \$ 6 million Disaster Risk Management programme, comprising three components ➤ Community based DRM – Capacity building via 303 UCDCMs and 303 UCERTs established in KP & AJ&K. 19,226 volunteers (including women) trained and registered. Stockpiling of emergency response tools. ➤ Mainstreaming DRR via documents and workshops. School safety and integration of DRR in education. Establishment of DRR Chairs in universities. Linkages with academic institutions e.g. NUST ➤ Hazard Mapping
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Senior Leadership

ERRA's achievements in the earthquake affected areas cannot be attributed to any one entity but the concerted efforts of primary stakeholders and frontline actors whose contributions have dovetailed to change forever the

landscape of AJ&K and KP. At the vanguard of this mission to reconstruct the affected areas, we find capable leaders including the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of ERRA since 2005; the names of whom have been provided below.

Chairmen ERRA



Lt. General
Muhammad Zubair



Mr. Altaf Saleem



Mr. Hamid Yar Hiraj
(Present)

Deputy Chairmen ERRA



Lt. General
Nadeem Ahmed



Lt. General
Sajjad Akram
HI (M)



Lt. General
Muhammad Haroon Aslam
HI (M), S Bt



Lt. General
Sardar Mehmood Ali Khan HI (M)
(Present)

Way Forward

On that fateful day of 8th October 2005 dwellers and dwellings were razed to the ground in seconds. Amidst the chaos Government of Pakistan, civil society and the international community joined hands with a sense of cause and commitment to help the affected people. The untiring efforts undertaken for reconstruction and rehabilitation will always be remembered with a deep sense of respect and gratefulness.

The havoc created by the earthquake tested our souls and in response, through trials we learnt to convert the adversity into an opportunity.

