

Flood Assessment Report

District Rajanpur- Punjab

August 12-14, 2008



Conducted By: Church World Service-P/A



Flood Assessment Report- Rajanpur

1- Area Background

Rajanpur city, headquarter of Rajanpur District as well as Tehsil, is located in the extreme southwest part of Punjab, Pakistan (29:06N, 70:19E) with a geographical span of 12,319 km². It is one of the only two districts of Punjab located west of the river Indus. The land is sandwiched by river Indus on one side, while the Sulaiman mountains range on the other. According to the National Census Report 1998, it had a population of 1,103,618 of which 14.27% were urban. Under the local administrative break up, whole district is divided into three Tehsils and 43 Union Councils (UCs).

Rajanpur was named by a warlord Makhdoom Shaikh Rajan in 1772-73. It remained a small and little known village located on the road from Dera Ghazi Khan (Punjab) to Sukkur (Sindh) until 1862. In that year, Mithankot, a relatively larger and more prosperous town located southeast of Rajanpur, was completely destroyed by floods. Resultantly, the administrative offices of the British government were moved from Mithankot to Rajanpur, because of its being located at a safer distance from the river. Many prosperous Hindu Arora merchants and traders also shifted from Mithankot to Rajanpur. It became a municipality and the tahsil headquarters in 1873. Rajanpur district has three tehsils; Jampur (north), Rajanpur (center), and Rojhan (south). In addition, there is also a "tribal belt" in the hills of Sulaiman range. Some famous historic towns in the district are Asni, Dajal, Fazilpur, Harand, Hajipur, Jampur, Lalgah, Mithankot, Muhammedpur, Rajanpur, Rojhan, and Umerkot.

Language

Baluchi and Siraiki (سرائیکی) are the main languages spoken in the district Rajanpur. However, Urdu is also becoming a third language commonly spoken in the literate community.

Tribes

The main tribes of Rajan pur are as follow:

- Gopang tribe is based in UC Fazilpur. The tribe is famous for its bravery and hospitality. One can observe increasing literacy rate in the Gopang Community.
- ¹Lashari tribe of UC Fazilpur.

¹ wikipedia

- Mazari tribe is of key importance in Rajan pur. The tribal chief, Mir Balakh Sher Mazari, is the ex-Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- Dreshak tribe is second to Mazari tribe, in terms of popularity. This tribe is also having some key political persons including Sardar Nasrullah Khan Dreshak (former Minister) and Amanullah Dreshak (member parliament).
- Gurchi tribe is also a big tribe of this district. Sher Ali and Athar Khan Gurchi are member Parliaments belonging to this tribe.
- Lund tribe is a small tribe of tehsil Jampur.
- Ahmedani tribe is big in scale but not clustered geographically.
- Mastoi tribe is another small tribe of the district.

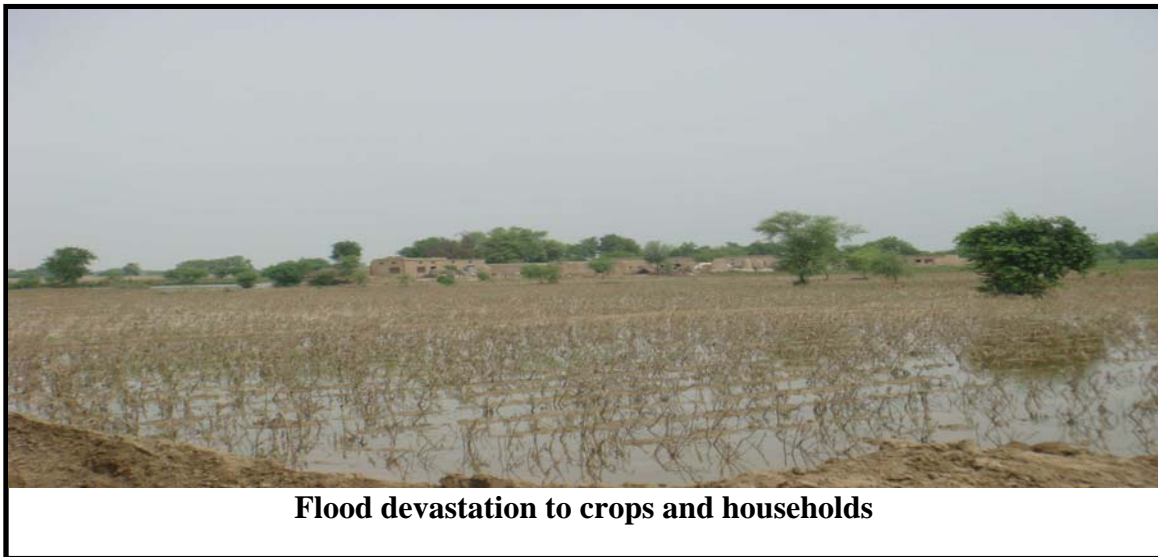
2- Situation Analysis

Heavy rains lashed the southern parts of Punjab in the first week of August 2008. Rain water, along with hill torrent played havoc with the life and property.

The flood affects district Rajanpur almost every year. It is caused by two major factors:

- Hill Torrents
- Indus Flood

In the monsoon season, starting from July and ending September, the flood occurs due to hill torrents and all the water comes in four storm water drains (Naalas) namely, Darra Kah Sultan, Darra Chachar, Darra Potokh and Darra Surri (streams) causing flood in Rajanpur. Darra Chachar and Darra Kah Sultan affected three Tehsil with 375,000 individuals along with their livestock, houses and other infrastructure.



Flood devastation to crops and households

Following is the detail of Tehsil and UCs:

S#	Name of the Tehsil	Total number of UC affected	Name of the UCs
1	Rohjhan	2	Ozman, Shahwali
2	Rajanpur	4	Fetehpur, Jahanpur, Kotla, Esan, Kotla Naseer
3	Jampur	8	Harrand, Tibilundan, Wahalishari, Dajal, Noorpur Monjhoonwala, Bukhara, Burrarwala, Muhammadpur

The livelihood of the major community in Rajanpur depends on agriculture and livestock. The district is basically cultivating agriculture land with cotton, wheat and sugarcane as its front line crops. The current flood severely affected the about-to-ripe cotton crop and thus damaging the economic pattern of the local community. It is worth mentioning that due to previous year's flood hazards in same area, the affected community got crop seeds, fertilizer and spray on credit. Now, all those fertilizer and sprays were swept by the current flood.



Area filled with flood water

The current flood affected 530,000 acres land and which includes 200,000 acres of cultivated land.

To access the situation in the district Ranjanpur, Church World Service–Pakistan/ Afghanistan (CWS-P/A) planned a Rapid Need Assessment for the area.

1- Methodology for the Rapid Assessment

Following are the broad steps taken while conducting the assessment:

- Review of the published reports or gray material.
- Use of SPHERE hand book including check list on the technical chapter especially for WatSan and Shelter.
- Meetings with Civil Society Organizations; Rohi Development Organization, Sangtani Women Rural Development Organization to discuss more on the current situation and their responses towards this.

- Meetings with relevant government departments like District Coordination Officer (DCO), EDO (Health), Secretary Relief and DDRO, to analyze the situation and devise an effective response.
- Field visits of the villages affected severely by the recent floods. According to the preliminary reports, Fatehpur, Jhanpur and Rajanpur are the most affected UCs in the district.

During field visits, team tried to collect information with the help of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and also by engaging in one-to-one correspondence with the community. It is important to mention here that CWS-P/A has a standard format for such assessments.

Meeting with DCO:

On August 13, 2008 the team met with DCO Rajanpur who briefed that three UCs (Fatehpur, Jhanpur and Rajanpur) are severely affected by hill torrent. Government is also taking initiatives in providing relief to the flood affected community. It was found that government is providing food item to the affectees through air drop as well as by road. The District Government also announced one million rupees for the flood relief operation. The DCO appreciated CWS-P/A's facilitation in Rajanpur.

Meeting with EDO Health:

Health Department is working in 43 UCs of district Rajanpur. The EDO (Health) briefed about establishing health camps in the affected area. Some international organizations are also supporting the department in its flood operations. SCF-US provided 15 vehicles to operate Mobile Health Unit comprising doctor (1), CDC supervisor (1), Lady Health Visitor (LHV) (1), Lady Health Worker (LHW) (1), Sanitary Inspector (1) and vaccinator (1). The medical team is providing First Aid and necessary medication to the community. Children and pregnant women are vaccinated properly. EDO also shared that majority camps are without weather resistant tents.

It was estimated that a minimum of 375,547 people have been affected by the hill torrent flood and there is an apprehension of increase in the number of affected community. The health team is distributing hand bills and providing health awareness to the affected community. They are also providing ORS and water purification tablets to mitigate the chances of water borne diseases.

SCF-US is also providing high protein food for the pregnant women. So far, 68,842 patients have been attended by the District Hospital, mobile team and the medical camps. Some commonly observed diseases are:

S#	Name of the Disease	Number attended by Health Department
1	Respiratory Track Infection (RTI)	8,880
2	Skin disease	17,338
3	Diarrhea	9,781
4	Malaria	9,024
5	Multiple infections	101
6	Chronic diseases	6,696
7	Anxiety	1,779
8	Snake bites	49
9	Others (Flu, headache, fever)	15,194

Meeting with Sangtani Organization:

Sangtani Women Rural Development Organization is a non-profitable organization formed by a group of females. It was registered with social welfare department under 1961 ACT. Sangtani is working on women issues through researches, awareness raising, advocacy and service delivery. The vision of the organization is an egalitarian society and the mission is "a society without gender discrimination where every men and women has equal opportunities to prosper and live independently". Sangtani is implementing different projects mostly related to women empowerment with different donor agencies. Sangtani does have the mandate to respond to emergencies, and they have never responded to any emergency in the past. However looking the critical situation of the district, they are very much willing to respond to it. Sangtani management has many volunteers in the community and thus a good resource to be utilized in emergency.

Meeting with Rohi Development Organization:

Rohi Development Organization was established in 1995 and registered under social welfare act 1061. Scope of work is community awareness, education; advocacy on human rights particularly women and child rights. The CBO is also dealing with the other social issues like working for the restoration of the human rights, eradicating violence against women, girl child education. Rohi is supported by different donor agencies. Rohi maintains a good coordination and networking with NGOs, INGO's, local government and other line departments. Rohi responded last disaster with the collaboration of "Muslim Hands" organization.

General Findings

The hill torrent severely affected three tehsils (Rajanpur, Jhanpur and Fatehpur) of the district Rajanpur. The general observation was as follows:

- Government response is slow and there is also absence of accountability mechanism. The people told that government is providing aid to the elder of the area and he distribute it among it favorite persons.

- The relief distribution process is not humanly dignified. Government is basically providing food relief to the affected community. The food items are thrown from the trucks to the roadside. As consequence, the flood affected who are sitting near to the road side they get food and the people who took refuge on the higher location or mountains they can not get food. Government is handing over the food to the area elder and the favorite of the elder get food
- The Indus River will be flooded soon and it will create more destructions.
- Owner killing is very common in the area. Most of the time women were killed just because of going to toilet un-accompanied. The owner killing is just for taking the property of the females.
- Strong feudal system prevails in the area.
- Early marriages (9-12 yrs) are very common. This causes relatively high family size in district Rajanpur.

Specific Findings:

Water

The flood situation has intensified the already existing problem of safe drinking water. The fresh sweet water bed is about 100-120 feet down the ground level. Most of the people do not have infrastructure to dig deep wells and then install hand pumps. Few government water supplies existing in the area were also damaged by the flood. At the moment people have no choice but to even drink the flood water.

Sanitation and Hygiene

The hygiene condition of the area is very alarming. The stagnant water is providing space to the flies and mosquitoes for breeding. This all caused a high rate of community suffering from malaria and diarrhea and skin disease. People do not have latrines in the houses before flood and they use to go out side in forest or fields. At the moment, this access is difficult and people are going in the flood water for defecation and the same water they are using for drinking, bathing purpose and for other activities.



Bad Hygiene conditions

Females also shared that due to un-availability of the latrines in the houses, they are harassed by the male and a lot of females were killed. In Rajanpur owner killing is very common. Female use latrine early in the morning or late at night and most of the time people associate female to some one and kill her, This all resulted into females having lot of stomach disease specially constipation and gastric.

The females are not sensitive about the personal cleanliness during the menopause cycle. They are not using any sanitary napkin during the cycle; therefore gynecology infections are very common in the area.

Shelter

In the rural area of Rajanpur people use to live in mud houses. Mainly houses comprise of two to three rooms with narrow window and ventilator with a big courtyard. People usually keep their livestock in the court yard during the night time and in the day time they take them out in the fields. The houses are deprived of any toilet system as there is hardly any waste drainage system in the area. The grey water is standing in front of their house as well spreading everywhere. The current flood flushed more than 10,000 houses in the district Rajanpur. People do not have shelters (tents) and they are sitting under open sky.

Agriculture:

Rajanpur district is famous for cotton and sugarcane crop, although they are cultivating wheat and rice as well. The current flood badly affected the about-to-ripe cotton crop. The cotton picking season starts in the middle of September. Last year flood also affected their crops and this time they took seeds, fertilizers and sprays on loan from the market. In the market, one bag of DP fertilizer is available at the rate of Rs 3,000 but the price reaches to Rs 5,000, if taken on credit. Majority of the agriculturists saved seeds from the previous crop and the same was done by the affected community. They saved wheat seed from the last crop but current flood destroyed all the seeds. The market prize of the wheat seed is 800 to 1000 per 100 gram (per mun) after the flood. On loan they have to pay 75% more than the market prize, an average 2 and half to three mun wheat seed has been used in one acre of the land.

Health

The health situation of the area is very alarming. There is only one District Hospital in Rajanpur. The basic health unit exists in some of the UCs but they are not properly functional. Due to current flood, the community is suffering from different diseases like:

- Reciprocity Track Infection (RTI)
- Skin Diseases
- Diarrhea
- Malaria
- Different Infections
- Anxiety
- Snake bites

After the flood, around 49 snake bites cases were recorded, some of them survived and few of them died. Snake bit one female at Rohjan and she was taken to Daherki (Sindh) due to un-availability of the medical services in the area.

Un-skilled mid wives are dealing the delivery cases, and as a consequence causing high mortality rate among mothers and infants. In Rojhan, one female gave birth to a child on the day when flood hit the area. She was handled by the un-skilled mid wife and now she is suffering from the infection and suffering heavy bleeding. Now she cannot lactate her children as well as she does not have the bottle milk for the child.

Infrastructural and Livestock Loss

Roads and bridges have been damages. The water scheme has been damaged. They were out of water and electricity for few days.

The livelihood of the people depends on agriculture and the livestock. In the current flood many animals died and the animals who were saved are suffering from different disease. Government has not provided any veterinary service in the area.

The floods flush their kitchen items and utensils as well as the bed and the quilts. At the moment, most of the affected community is short of utensils and quilts.

Immediate Needs

Immediate need of the area is as follow:

- Food
- Shelter (Tents).
- Wheat Seed
- Fertilizer
- Water (Hand pumps)
- Hygiene kits

Recommendations

People's houses, water sources and agriculture land are completely damaged and they need to be rehabilitated. They don't have sufficient food for their family and children.

Community is at risk of food insecurity². It is recommended that we provide them food packages to meet the average calories requirement i.e. 2,100 cal per person per day, and make sure that diet is enriched with vitamins and proteins.

Non winterized tents should be provided to the flood affected people. Humanitarian organization can provide tents with 4X4 meters dimension to the affected community. As per Sphere standards, they have enough space (3 meters) for the installation of one tent. Although six hundred acres of land is under water but still there is enough dry space for the tent installation

² Where people are at risk of food insecurity, program decisions are based on a demonstrated understanding of how they normally access food, the impact of the disaster on current and future food security, and hence the most appropriate response. (*Sphere Standard-I for Food Security and Nutrition*)

People have no choice but to use flood water for drinking purpose as all the water supply schemes and hand pumps have been damaged and non functional. As per Sphere standard-I, "access and water quality", all people have safe and equitable access to a sufficient quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal domestic. It would be good if we can install Jiapo hand pumps because under ground sweet water is available at 110-140 feet below ground level. The Sphere standards also focus on the accessibility of water source³. As per community information Jiapo hand pump will meet that criterion. To keep the water clean, safe and easy to fill & carry, it would be better to provide them narrow neck jerry cans⁴. This will help in making the water safe from getting contaminated and also will ensure the compliance of Sphere standards on the quality of water. (Also please refer to the distance from water sources as well)

The hygiene condition of the area is very poor. People are not used to of hand washing after the toilet use as well as before eating. Therefore, diarrhea disease is very common in the area, especially in children. It would be good if the hygiene kits are provided to the affected community along with hygiene awareness sessions. The key messages on hygiene practices should be communicated in the local language to make them more understandable and thus helping the community in changing their behavior pattern towards hygiene⁵. We need to ensure that females and males sit separately, and also female community is dealt with by the female staff due to the cultural sensitivity of the area. Hygiene material should be designed to even propagate the messages to the illiterate segment of community.

Cotton crop is severely damaged and hence affecting the economic pattern of the area. Wheat crop comes second in line in terms of getting destroyed by the flood hazards. Since the wheat sowing is due by end of October, so it would be economically better to provide them wheat seeds along with the fertilizer, as the flood water deeply damaged the soil, and prevent them from taking loans for getting the same.

Recommendations for the Rehabilitation Phase

Flood flushed out majority of the mud houses. It would be better if we can provide them some infrastructure material like bricks, tier gader, wooden sheet, windows and doors, along with the hygienic and sanitary requirements.

The hygiene condition of the area is very pathetic. People are not sensitive about their personal cleanliness. Hygiene promotion should be provided in the emergency response but it should also be continues in the rehabilitation phase.

³ The maximum distance from any household to the nearest water point is 500 meters

⁴ Water Supply standard-3, key indicator 2 water collection and storage containers have narrow neck and or covers, or other safe means of storage, drawing and handling and are demonstrably used.

⁵ Hygiene promotion messages and activities address key behaviors and misconceptions and are targeted for all user groups

Assessment team

S#	Name	Organization	Designation
1	Saadia Yaqoob	CWS-P/A	Assistant Coordinator-DRP
2	Zafar Wazir	CWS-P/A	Project Officer
3	Narjis Batool	Sangtani Rural Development Org.	Coordinator
4	Sabtayn Ali	Sangtani Rural Development Org	Project Officer
5	Safe ullah Mastoi	Rohi Development Org	President