



**FLOOD DEVASTATION REPORT FOR RELIEF RECOVERY
AND REHABILITATION
VILLAGES DISTRICTS SKARDU AND GANCHE
GILGIT-BALTISTAN**



October 2010

Contact:

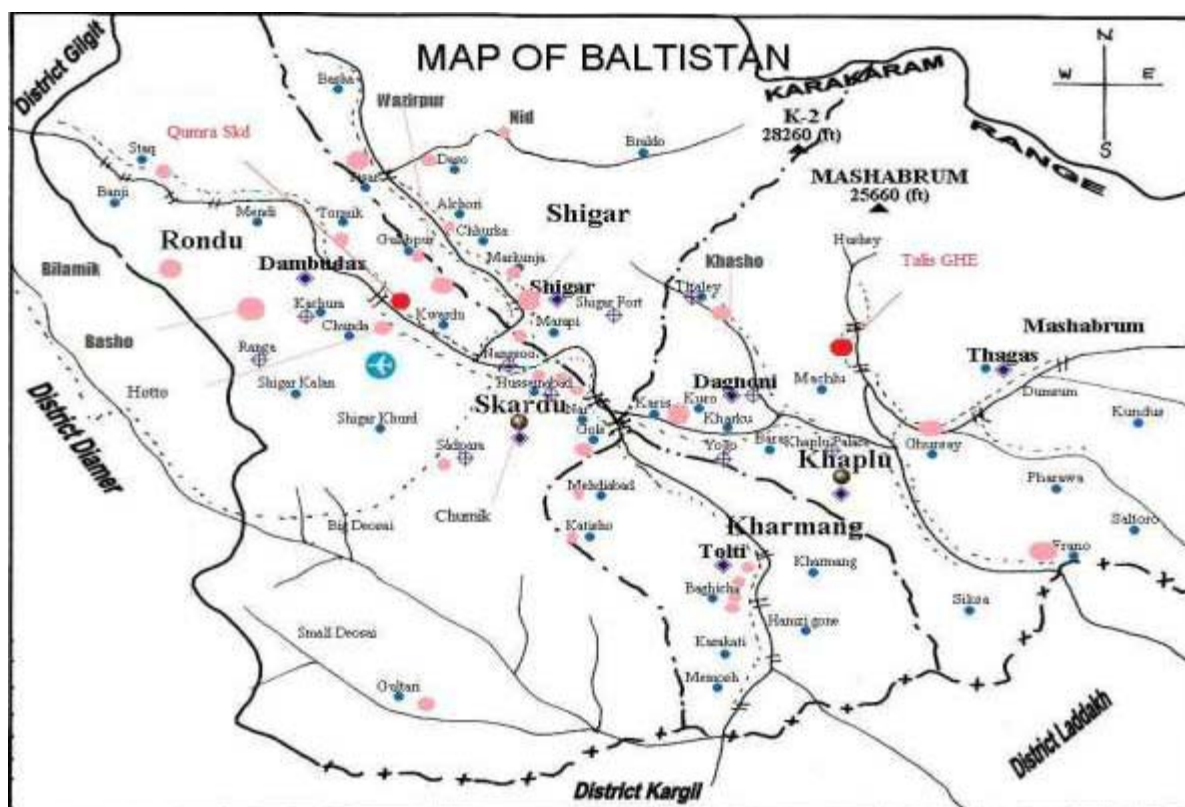
Khadim Hussain
ceo@grace.org.pk
+92-51-2829970
+92-346-5016822



GRACE's Flood Assessment Report Skardu Baltistan

This document contains the Relief, Rehabilitation, Recovery and Reconstruction Assessment report of the districts of Skardu and Ganche in Gilgit-Baltistan (G.B.), northern Pakistan. These two areas were among the worst affected by the recent flooding in Pakistan, however often have not included in the flood situation reports of Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), other humanitarian agencies due to lack of access and information.

This report includes a detailed summary of the destruction caused by the flooding. The document also reflects the details of humanitarian assistance provided to the flood affected communities until August 30, 2010 by government and non-government organizations in both Skardu and Ganche. Constructive and implementable recommendations made by the assessment team are also delineated in the report.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the first week of August 2010, heavy rain caused extensive flooding in the province of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. On August 8, the GRACE Association Pakistan team in Skardu assessed the situation in the mountainous villages in districts Skardu and Ganche in Baltistan, to determine appropriate emergency needs and priorities. GRACE's team found that the most vulnerable groups in the villages were elders, women, children, and people with disabilities. Most of them have left their villages due to fear of further flooding. Some are currently seeking shelter in neighboring villages, others were hosted by local communities and the rest are looking for shelter and relief elsewhere.



Image 1 & 2 (left to right): *The first image depicts Qumra village a day before the floods hit , while the second image shows the devastation that this crisis left.*



Image 3 & 4 (left to right): *These images depict the level of infrastructural damage incurred by the floods in Kharko Ganche.*

OVERVIEW

In order to effectively and rapidly assess the flood-affected villages in Skardu and Ganche Districts of Gilgit-Baltistan, GRACE mobilized its field staff, community volunteer network, and some partner community based organizations in the respective villages. Since the community volunteers are based in the flood-affected villages in both districts, they provided valued and detailed support and coordination to GRACE's field staff during the assessment mission.

The assessment focused on the following flood-affected villages of Baltistan: Qumra, Kwardu, Basho in Skardu and Talis, Ghursay, Kharko and Frano in Ganche and Karmanding in Kharmang. The overall assessment found that children, the elderly, women, and people with disabilities were the most vulnerable among the affected population. In addition, GRACE learned that several of the agriculture dependant villages were experiencing problems relating to the health of their livestock. These problems are often compounded with underlying problems of unskilled labour and poor livelihoods. The assessment findings suggested that the floods negatively affected the quality of drinking water, agriculture, and health education of the entire population in these regions. Overall the flooding in these districts had a negative impact on the socio-economic conditions and consequently on the livelihoods of the inhabitants.

The GRACE field team experienced difficulty in conducting interviews with the various strata of the affected regions. Specifically, the district authorities were hardly available for discussion given their full involvement in the emergency relief. Unfortunately the field team's attempts to conduct assessment and need interviews with the affected people were misinterpreted as distribution of supplies. As a result the field team was unable to conduct a satisfactory amount of interviews to ensure quality data for the assessment. Lastly, due to cultural restrictions, the field team was unable to conduct interviews with the female flood victims in some villages.

FLOOD IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The most hit and inaccessible villages in districts Skardu and Ganche of Baltistan

The Skardu and Ganche districts of Gilgit-Baltistan, in northern Pakistan have been hit by devastating flooding, heavy rainstorm and landslides during July and August 2010; the region's worst deluge in 80 years.

At least 55 people, including women and children, have died in the village of Qumra Skardu and Talis Ganche. Four villages have been totally washed away, and bodies have been recovered from rubble under mud avalanches. Roads and bridges have been destroyed. Landslides increased the isolation of affected areas, creating an immense shortage of food commodities and other items of daily use in the market. Cattle have been lost, crops destroyed, and as a result the economic system has been demolished.

Furthermore, bad weather made it impossible for rescue and relief teams to reach the affected areas immediately. According to government sources a total of 25,000 people have been directly affected by the flooding, and a further 1.8 million have been affected indirectly. The monsoon rains show little sign of subsiding, adding to the areas problems. Consequently, both the flooding and continued rainfall has destroyed irrigation systems, standing crops, and reserves which are often used during food shortages in winter and has continued to block the Karakoram Highway (KKH); the only access road to Gilgit-Baltistan.

The livelihoods of the people in both the districts are based on agriculture and livestock. The GRACE Assessment Team visited villages in both districts, which have completely been demolished by floodwaters. At present there are no safe accommodation or shelter assistance for the population. People are living with vulnerable conditions, with no assets. GRACE's team estimates that 90% people in the affected villages are in severe need of proper shelter and rehabilitation assistance before winter.

The affected communities are drinking unsafe water from the ponds or the 'nala' (drainage) that have been contaminated by floodwater and the debris, and is used by both people and animals. The assessment revealed these water sources put local communities at severe risk of waterborne diseases.

Floodwater has damaged the irrigation channels and inundated the agricultural fields. GRACE's team observed that crop loss is evident and many communities may not be able to re-cultivate their lands. Since agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the affected communities, short-term to medium-term assistance to recover lost crops is an urgent priority.

In both Qumra and Kwardu more than 5,000 cattle were killed and 100 cattle sheds were demolished. Since vegetation and fodder in the area have also been badly affected, lack of fodder for cattle and other ruminants may pose threats to the viability of the remaining livestock in the coming days and weeks. The floods have negatively impacted both goats and sheep. These two livestock are more vulnerable because they survive off of natural vegetation and are herded by the shepherds

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

GRACE Team found that families require following emergency assistance:

1. Food, safe drinking water, emergency shelter, and medical services are essentially required for the victims keeping in view the severe cold winter. In addition, the people are in dire need of non-food items (NFIs): to safely manage daily living conditions.
2. The immediate health needs are water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, primary health services, general medication, obstetric care for pregnant women, vaccinations against cholera and typhoid, and the rehabilitation of health facilities.
3. Temporary shelters are urgently needed. Local cultural practices deter affectees living in tents for long periods of time, which is becoming more difficult with decreasing temperatures. They are seeking refuge in nearby communities. Therefore, recovery support is required as soon as possible to assist families in rebuilding their houses. Reconstruction of housing should include adequate attention to site planning, and innovative disaster risk reduction approaches to advance socio-culturally acceptable, flood-resistant, and environmentally sound shelters. Meanwhile, a temporary shelter, a family room with a small kitchen corner and toilet will resolve the pressing needs.
4. Full livelihood restoration is imperative to solidify meaningful recovery, and to re-establish the productivity of the agricultural and livestock system and fruit tree plantation on which the local economy is based. This would entail the removal of debt burdens, reconstruction of the irrigation reservoirs, ensuring farmers' access to appropriate seeds and fertilizers in a timely manner, and rehabilitation of fields in adequate time before the harsh winter season (November – February).
5. Three schools in the area require infrastructural repairs, new furniture and teaching materials. The same disaster risk reduction methods of reconstruction proposed for housing rehabilitation should also be applied to school infrastructure rehabilitation.
6. Empowerment and education of local community based organizations is necessary to introduce and train disaster risk management skills.

Most of the common infrastructure projects, which were damaged during the floods and landslides, are listed below. This list is compiled from the 7 villages surveyed. While similar levels of destruction exists in other affected villages, due to the communication gaps and the long distance the GRACE team was unable to obtain specific details to include in this report.

Table 1: Village Wide Impact Summary

(details the pre-flood situation in the flood-affected areas and the short and medium term needs of the people in this region)

1.1 Qumra Village

	Contents and Experience	Qumra Skardu Village 7 TH Aug 2010
•	Distance from Skardu	25 km
•	Deaths	38 (male = 16, female = 12, children = 10) 4 missing
•	Injured	21
•	House damaged completely	17 (229 rooms including cattle sheds)
•	Houses partially damaged	15 (123 rooms including cattle sheds)
•	People without houses	312
•	Cattle shed damaged	15
•	Cattle	757 (small and large animals)
•	Land destroyed (Acres)	95
•	Trees fallen down (big and small)	32,000 (fruit and forest trees)
•	Potato crops washed away (area in kanals)	340
•	Other standing crops washed away (area in kanals)	396
•	Infrastructure damaged completely	29 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)

1.2 Talis Village

	Contents and Experience	Talis Village Ganche 7 TH Aug 2010
•	Distance from Skardu	112 km
•	Deaths	14 (male = 5, female = 4, children = 5)
•	Injured	5
•	Disabled	6
•	House damaged completely	24 (112 rooms)
•	Houses partially damaged	32 (195 rooms)
•	People without houses	560
•	Cattle shed damaged	15
•	Cattle died	44 (small and large animals)
•	Land destroyed (Acres)	45
•	Trees fallen down (big and small)	7,852(big and small)
•	Potato crops washed away (area in kanals)	145
•	Other standing crops washed away (area in kanals)	491
•	Infrastructure damaged completely	18 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)
•	Infrastructure damaged partially	16 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)

1.3 Kwardu Skardu

	Contents and Experience	Yarkhor Kwardu Skardu Village 7 th 8 th Aug 2010
•	Distance from Skardu	17 km
•	Deaths	0
•	Injured	0
•	Disabled	0
•	House Damaged	2 (12 rooms)
•	Houses partially damaged	8 (48 rooms)
•	People without houses	0
•	Cattle shed damaged	30 (large cattle sheds at high pastures)
•	Cattle died	3000 (small and large animals)
•	Land destroyed (Acres)	15
•	Trees fallen down (big and small)	7 (big and small)
•	Potato crops washed away (area in kanals)	5
•	Other standing crops washed away (area in kanals)	91
•	Infrastructure damaged completely	1 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)
•	Infrastructure damaged partially	20 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)

1.4. Basho

	Contents and Experience	Basho Skardu Village 7 TH Aug 2010
•	Deaths	0
•	Injured	2
•	Disabled	2
•	House damaged completely	0
•	Houses partially damaged	23 (138 rooms)
•	People without houses	0
•	Cattle shed damaged	23 (large cattle sheds at high pastures)
•	Cattle died	234 (small and large animals)
•	Land destroyed (Acres)	5
•	Trees fallen down (big and small)	105 (big and small)
•	Potato crops washed away (area in kanals)	8
•	Other standing crops washed away (area in kanals)	189
•	Infrastructure damaged completely	8 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)
•	Infrastructure damaged partially	15 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)

1.5. Kharko Khaplu Ganche

	Contents and Experience	Kharko Village Ganche 7 TH Aug 2010
•	Distance from Skardu	90 km
•	Deaths	0
•	Injured	2
•	Disabled	4
•	House damaged completely	112 (672 rooms)
•	Houses partially damaged	42 (252 rooms)
•	People without houses	1120
•	Cattle shed damaged	171 (1026 rooms)
•	Cattle died	2340 (small and large animals)
•	Land destroyed (Acres)	94
•	Trees fallen down (big and small)	15467 (big and small)
•	Potato crops washed away (area in kanals)	283
•	Other standing crops washed away (area in kanals)	1243
•	Infrastructure damaged completely	51 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)
•	Infrastructure damaged partially	6 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)

1.6. Ghursay Village Mashabrum

	Contents and Experience	Ghursay Village Mashabrum Ganche 7 TH Aug 2010
•	Distance from Skardu	126 km
•	Deaths	0
•	Injured	0
•	Disabled	0
•	House damaged completely	5 (30 rooms)
•	Houses partially damaged	14 (142 rooms)
•	People without houses	50
•	Cattle shed damaged	5 (30 rooms)
•	Cattle died	92 (small and large animals)
•	Land destroyed (Acres)	24
•	Trees fallen down (big and small)	6,602 (big and small)
•	Potato crops washed away (area in kanals)	44
•	Other standing crops washed away (area in kanals)	138
•	Infrastructure damaged completely	26 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)
•	Infrastructure damaged partially	6 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)

1.7. Frano Village Ganche

	Contents and Experience	Farno Village Mashabrum Ganche 7TH Aug 2010
•	Distance from Skardu	170 km
•	Deaths	0
•	Injured	0
•	Disabled	0
•	House damaged completely	12 (65 rooms)
•	Houses partially damaged	6 (13 rooms)
•	People without houses	120
•	Cattle shed damaged	2 (6 rooms)
•	Cattle died	18 (small and large animals)
•	Land destroyed (Acres)	23
•	Trees fallen down (big and small)	2,020 (big and small)
•	Potato crops washed away (area in kanals)	37
•	Other standing crops washed away (area in kanals)	100
•	Infrastructure damaged completely	21 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)

OVERALL SUMMARY

•	Total Deaths	52
•	Total Injured	30
•	Total Disabled	12
•	Total House damaged completely	172 (1120 rooms)
•	Total Houses partially damaged	140 (911 rooms)
•	Total People without houses	2162
•	Total Cattle shed damaged	261 (1062 rooms)
•	Total Cattle died	6,485 (small and large animals)
•	Total Land destroyed (Acres)	301
•	Total Trees fallen down (big and small)	64,053 (big and small)
•	Total Potato crops washed out (area in kanals)	862
•	Total Other standing crops washed out (area in kanals)	2648
•	Total Infrastructure damaged completely	154 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)
•	Total Infrastructure damaged partially	63 (channels, roads, common buildings etc)

Table 2: Sector wide need for recovery and reconstruction in Skardu and Ganche districts

Sectors	Present situation from October 2010	Needs for Recovery and Rehabilitation
Resettlement/ Shelter		
	Approximately 172 houses have been completely destroyed, and an additional 140 houses have been damaged in Baltistan. 2,162 individuals are without homes and they are living either in shelters or with their relatives. Government and NGOs have provided tents to these homeless families. The issue of shelter is becoming more important given the harsh winter approaching. People without proper accommodation in this mountainous region will not be able to survive the severe weather conditions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribution of material and/or financial assistance targeting commonly used local materials for both earthquake and flood resistance to assist in owner driven reconstruction efforts. To combat the cruel and long winter, immediate distribution of blankets, mattresses, warmer textile garments and long leg shoes are required for the victims in most of the affected villages. 2. Technical training programs may be offered to the most vulnerable affectees to complement these efforts. 3. Lobbying and partnering with the government for quicker and transparent distribution of pledged flood financial assistance.
Food Security, Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry		
	Prior to the floods, Gilgit-Baltistan (G.B.) was recognized as a food deficit area of Pakistan. Most of the food items were imported from the south of the country. Landholding per family is very small. Each family owns few livestock and a few hundred fruit and forest trees. The major cash crops (potato, apricots, and grapes) are the major sources of household income. However, the floods have left these cash crops damaged. The	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of seeds and fertilizers, livestock feed and essential veterinary supplies to all the affected families. 2. Provision of essential agricultural and livestock inputs, as well as the rebuilding of critical irrigation infrastructure. 3 In order to rehabilitate the livestock based economy GRACE

<p>standing crops (mainly wheat and vegetables) were either damaged or washed away.</p> <p>Currently the World Food Program (WFP), many NGO's and international governments have provided immediate distribution of food items to the affected people, however food security continues to be an increasingly serious issue for the region. Since there is no natural forest in the area, people grow forest plants such as willow, poplar, Russian olives etc. to meet their fuel, fodder and timber needs. The floods damaged thousands of these trees; therefore the lack of sufficient fuel and timber is another concern for this area.</p> <p>Livestock is an invaluable asset for rural families in terms of meat and milk production. Thousands of animals have been killed, while the surviving animals are weak and at risk of disease and starvation. Fodder was washed away or damaged due to dirt and silt deposits and is no longer suitable for animal consumption.</p>	<p>suggests an innovative model of social mobilization and collective community based livestock enterprise development projects in Gilgit/Baltistan as GRACE has indigenous knowledge and social mobilization experience at the grassroots level.</p>
<h3 style="color: red;">Health and Education</h3>	
<p>Levels of acute respiratory infections, skin diseases and suspected malaria are rising fast in the flood-affected villages. Limited medical supplies have arrived in the area, but the quantity is not sufficient enough. Malnutrition among children is increasingly being observed in health facilities.</p> <p>As immediate relief and survival is the current priority, economic planning and children's education has been neglected.</p> <p>Several students have lost their books, uniforms, and other necessary household items. Meanwhile, most parents have lost their sources of income and therefore are unable to cover the costs of school fees and replace learning materials.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of essential medicines for affected people, including supplies to treat diarrhea. 2. Implementation of effective disease early warning system to control potential disease outbreaks in this region given the current circumstances. 3. Provision of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene is critical to the success of prevention and control efforts. This should include quick and effective sanitation and personal hygiene training sessions to the residents of the region. It is critical that they understand the high correlation of poor hygiene and spread of preventable diseases. 4. WASH efforts should continue in collaboration with local health units and female health workers. 5. The flood-damaged schools in Talis, Kharko, and Qumrah villages need reconstruction on priority basis. 6. Temporary school structures (tents) and school supplies, (school-in-a-box kits and recreation kits) for damaged schools are required to ensure continuation of education during the transitional period. Temporary learning centers including space for adult literacy centers are needed in all flood affected villages. 7. Training of teachers in temporary learning spaces is needed.
<h3 style="color: red;">Livelihood</h3>	
<p>In the wake of the flooding, there have been significant changes in people's livelihoods in G.B. According to the assessment survey, the percentage of households without a main source of livelihood has increased from 10% prior to the floods to about 60%. Meanwhile, farming has dropped from being the main form of livelihood from about 50% of households to less than 10%. Non-farm livelihoods were also heavily affected by the floods – more than half of those households not engaged in agriculture said that their business/employment situation was "totally affected", while only 10% of households reports that their non-agricultural livelihood had been immune from the devastating affects of the floods.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ongoing assessment indicates that long term needs will revolve around enabling the re-establishment of livelihoods by restoring economic security. Most importantly the re-establishment of agricultural production, and assistance is required to replace household assets such as livestock that has been swept away by the floodwaters. 2. Support to households reliant on petty trading and small business prior to the floods. 3. Interventions required which may include the provision of debris clearing kits, seeds and tools, agricultural equipment, and support to small businesses in restoring their economic activities. 4. Expand a skills development program in collaboration with Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Youth Development Program to improve living standards and enhance income generation of the flood victims. 5. Social mobilization for cleaning debris left behind in wake of the recent floods through cash for work programs can be a cost and time effective effort for rehabilitation.



Reference organizations involved in documentation of this assessment report

S. #	Organization	Address	Contact Person Name
1	GRACE Association Pakistan www.grace.org.pk	27-E, 3 rd Floor Office 5, Ali Plaza Fazal Haq Road Blue Area Islamabad	Khadim Hussain Chief Executive
2	Aga Khan Rural Support Program Baltistan	Sadpara Road, Satellite Town Skardu Baltistan	Muhammad Ali Mutahari MER Section
3	Village Management Committee Kharko Ganche	Village Kharko Tehsil Mashabrum District Ganche	Haji Muhammad Ali Elder/President Village Committee
4	Village Management Committee Qumra Skardu	Village Qumrah Union Council Kwardu Tehsil Gamba District Skardu	Muhammad Afzal Rawish Member Village Committee

GRACE Association's Flood Assessment Team Members

S. #	Name	Designation	Organization	Contact Numbers
1	Shamshad Hussain	Program Coordinator	GRACE Association Pakistan	+92-300-4708813
2	Muhammad Qasim	Coordinator	GRACE Program Office Skardu	+92-346-5016822
3	Muhammad Hussain	Volunteer	GRACE Volunteers	+92-300-5666512