

# **PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT**

## **CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL AT BASHO SKARDU GILGIT-BALTISTAN, PAKISTAN**

**A Joint Project of  
JIPPO Japan & GRACE Association, Pakistan**



**June 2011**

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The GRACE Association Pakistan aims to empower and improve the quality of life of the marginalized and vulnerable communities in the least developed parts of Pakistan through welfare, participatory research and development, capacity building, promotion of best practices and partnership building, advocacy, and launching of sustainable and replicable innovative projects.

In July and August 2010, Pakistan was hit by heavy rainstorms, devastating floods and landslides, with the Himalayan Karakoram Mountain valleys and Skardu and Ganche districts of Gilgit-Baltistan suffering the region's worst deluge in 80 years.

In the two villages of Skardu and Ganche alone, women and children were among the dozens of people killed. Four other villages were totally washed away. Roads and bridges collapsed; houses were buried in mud and rocks; and property, including arable land, fruit and forest trees, livestock and standing crops were destroyed. Entire livelihood systems disappeared. According to the Gilgit Baltistan government, a total of 250,000 people in the region have been directly affected by this natural disaster, with more than 1.5 million others affected indirectly. Furthermore, the flooding has destroyed watercourses and channels used to irrigate agricultural lands. These channels have been transformed into stream torrents, destroying crops and dry fruit stocks essential to sustain local communities during the winter months.



GRACE is working for the redevelopment of the destruction made by the Pakistan tsunami flooding 2010 in partnership with support organizations and the affected communities.

**Khar Basho**, a village of 700 people with 78 households, located in a hilly area some 53 kilometres from Skardu City and rich in natural forestation, is one of the worst-affected communities. The principal reason can be found in the nature of the ecology of steep and highly erodible mountains visited annually by seasonal monsoons. The livelihood of the people in this village is based on livestock farming and other agriculture. The villagers are poor, with each owning a small amount of land in this mountainous terrain. The flooding has destroyed their agriculture assets, and with it, the village infrastructure. In August 2010, the 20-foot stream became a mass of water measuring some 300 feet by 6000 feet long after the deluge, destroying about 25 acres of cultivated land, demolishing hundreds of fruit and forest trees and seriously damaging the local economy.

The affected residents from Khar Basho Valley in Skardu Baltistan were consistently requesting GRACE Association to help them in the construction of their damaged flood protection wall. Thanks to our partner and support organization JIPPO (NPO) Japan ([http://www.jippo.or.jp/html/1102\\_2.html](http://www.jippo.or.jp/html/1102_2.html)) for their

kind contribution in terms of small but valuable financial assistance for the construction of the Basho Flood Protection Wall in December 2010.

## **2. AIM OF THE PROJECT**

The project's main aim is to protect lives and properties of the Basho communities situated along both basins of the flood stream as well as reduce big damages when there is flood and other disasters. The project was started in April 2011 because of severe cold weather and snow and was scheduled for completion by end of May 2011.

- 1) Mitigate risks of the further devastation in the near future;
- 2) Restore cultivable lands for cropping and plantation of fruit and forest plants;
- 3) Prepare the village communities in disaster risk management through awareness raising and capacity building.

The main project outputs included:

- Community participatory planning, design and layout sessions
- Community participation in providing stone and free labor for the construction of the wall;
- Excavation of the construction line
- Project monitoring as per local traditional systems by the village communities
- Linkage development of village communities with other organizations working in the area on redevelopment of flood destructions.





### 3. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

#### i) Identification and assessment:

It has been done in consultation with local village organization Anjuman Subh-e-Naveed Basho. The village communities are hardly convinced to wait for further assistance to cover the rest 5500 feet required length of the wall. Everybody wanted to start the construction from their site. Finally through a resolution, they agreed to construct the 500 feet wall at the most critical sites of the flood stream to protect the village.

#### ii) Project wall design:

The local traditional wall construction design adopted as many villagers with good experience in construction of flood protection wall with the application of their previous knowledge and lessons learned.

#### iii) Social mobilization:

GRACE Association in collaboration with local organizations mobilized the villagers to work for themselves by arranging required stones and providing free unskilled labor for the project. The villagers agreed and provided the same.

#### iv) Materials and Labor:

Stones and unskilled labor were provided by the village communities however to purchase steel gabion wire, blasting materials for stone arrangement, transportation charges and skilled mason and gabion wire maker wages, GRACE Association released the JIPPO contribution to Anjuman Subh-e-Naveed Basho through an agreement.

#### v) Wall Construction:

The village communities completed the construction of the 500-foot long, 4-foot wide and 4-foot high flood protection stone wall folded of steel gabion wire in two months.

#### vi) Project Management:

GRACE Association completed the needs identification, assessment; project planning, fundraising, coordination with the support organization (JIPPO), project management, supervision and monitoring during the entire



implementation period. The project was constructed under the supervision of GRACE Association program staff based at Skardu Office.

## 4. VISIBILITY

GRACE Association has fixed two project signboards at two very visible locations, one at Skardu-Gilgit Road at Basho, and the second one at project site at Khar Basho.

Visitors of the Basho communities will see today a more relaxed population following the successful construction of a 500-foot **FLOOD PROTECTION WALLS** with the support of JIPPO (NPO) Japan and GRACE Association Pakistan. Although the villagers' original request has been for a 6000-foot long flood protection wall but resource constraints were only able to support 500 feet of construction, installed along the most critical sections of the Basho flood stream bank.



## 5. PROJECT PERIOD

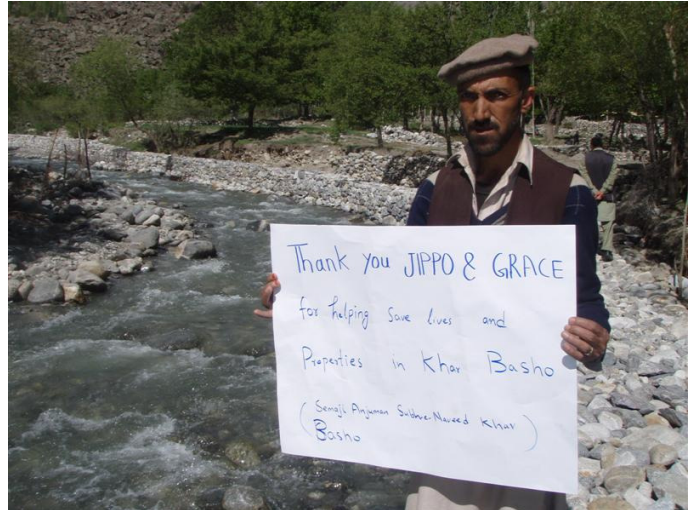
Works began on March 1, 2011 and was completed on April 30; in less than nine weeks. The project partners' contribution details are as follows:

## 6. COST CONTRIBUTIONS

JIPPO Japan	PKR 267,000 (U\$3179)
GRACE Association Pakistan and the project communities	PKR 460,000 (U\$5476)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= PKR 727,000 (U\$8,655)</b>

## 7. THANKS JIPPO

GRACE Association Pakistan extends its grateful thanks for JIPPO's caring donation. In helping implement this project, they have reduced the risk of further devastation in the near future, restored cultivatable land and provided opportunities for local people to help themselves mobilize available resources and prepare disaster risk management plans for the years to come.



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