

# START NETWORK | LOCALLY LED ACTION IN PAKISTAN

THE START FUND: ENABLING THE COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER IN A TIME OF CRISIS

## ALERT RAISED

In early January 2022, heavy rains and snow started to fall in Balochistan, Pakistan. The heavy rains cut off regions from each other and disrupted essential services - highways were blocked due to flooding, power supplies were interrupted, the airport grounded, and schools and health facilities heavily damaged. The crisis affected several villages and damaged approximately 5,000 homes, forcing families to leave their communities. The crisis resulted in more than 38,000 people in need of immediate shelter and emergency WASH, food and livelihood support.

HANDs, Bright Star; Care International; Islamic Relief; Mercy Corps; Muslim Aid; Qatar Charity and local communities came together to assess needs in the affected communities and raise an alert to the Start Fund for emergency support.

### MEETING THE START FUND NICHE

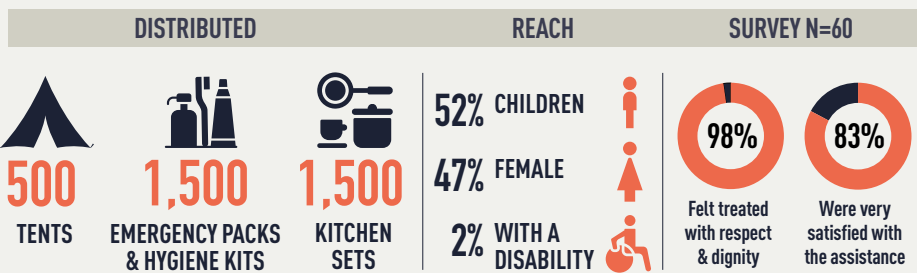
- The crisis was considered small-medium - 38,000 people needed emergency assistance.
- The crisis was under-the-radar. Whilst it was recognised by the government as an emergency with (limited) international attention, there were gaps in response due to the severity and extent of the crisis that needed to be filled urgently.

### PROJECT SELECTED

The consortium of HANDs, Bright Star, and Muslim Aid was selected to provide support to nearly 10,000 people in Balochistan. Emergency items were provided to the community such as tents, food preparation items, and hygiene and dignity kits (particularly focusing on adolescent girls). The consortium carried out participative community meetings, visited homes and community areas to transparently communicate the project, ensured community understanding of available resources, and provided accessible channels for feedback. They coordinated with the local government and wider international community throughout the crisis.

## IMPACT

**9,844** PEOPLE WERE REACHED WITH LIFE-SAVING SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THIS INTERVENTION



When the disaster occurred, it created a horrible situation for our community. The flood has swept and damaged our livestock, houses, and our precious belongings. It was a relief for my family to receive the assistance from the Start Fund. My mental health has improved significantly. The constant fear of uncertainty and terrible things happening has reduced now. **Fisherman family assisted in Pasi**



## BRIGHT STAR DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

is a non-profit, non-political, development and humanitarian organisation. They have been working in Balochistan, Pakistan for the past 16 years. They focus on the areas of Social Mobilization, Advocacy, Community Infrastructure, Education, Health, Livelihoods support, WASH, Shelter, Emergencies and Humanitarian Response, Youth, GBV and human rights.

## CATALYSING LOCALLY LED ACTION

By working together, the humanitarian community in Balochistan was able to provide rapid emergency support to families left with nothing after the flooding. Equal and fair collaboration between INGOs and local organisations allowed for impactful support for communities. By working in partnership, sharing resources, and collective decision-making, Start Fund has ensured appropriate and better humanitarian action for those who need it, when they need it, across the globe.



I think it was a great experience, each organisation utilised their strengths to carry out the project smoothly. One organisation specialised in conducting needs assessments, while another specialised in field coordination and monitoring. As a local organisation, it proved to be beneficial for us as we now have established our partnership with HANDS and Muslim Aid, they can now consider us for future projects. [Naseer Channa, CEO, Bright Star](#)

## MALE FARMER, INTERVIEW CONDUCTED IN BALOCHI



This has been extremely devastating for our family, and the effect has been dangerous because of the work we do. The recent intense rain has severely affected our lives and our crops. It damaged our land as well as our house. The destruction of land is a death for the farmer. Also, our house is not made of concrete, but of mud and wood which can't withstand such rain spells. The rain has also created a breeding environment for mosquitoes in our surroundings, leaving us at-risk to their bites. Increases in harmful diseases such as malaria and other waterborne diseases have been reported in our community. Bright Star came to our rescue after the flooding, they assisted us in the most crucial times. They gave useful items like mats, utensils, and mosquito nets. Now we can sleep comfortably at night in the mosquito net and we are thankful to Bright Star. If it was not for Bright Star, with support from Start Fund our condition could have been worse.



## **FEMALE IN A HOUSEHOLD OF SIX SUPPORTED BY HUSBAND WHO IS A SHEPHERD, INTERVIEW CONDUCTED IN BALOCHI**

My husband is a shepherd. He grazes cattle to support our family. He takes other people's cattle to graze them and gets money in return. This is a tough time, and it is getting tougher each passing day to make both ends meet. The crisis has badly affected our lives. There are no words to describe the extent to which the crisis has affected us and left us with no option except to sit and wait in the open air without shelter nor privacy. The flood took away all our important possessions, leaving us with only a few useful but damaged household items. We were hopeless and helpless because of the disaster. We saw a ray of hope which was the assistance that has provided some of our needs such as mats, kitchen sets and mosquito nets. This assistance was given at the exact time we needed it.

## **START NETWORK**

CONTACT US AT

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