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CHINAR *Daleel*

Chairman's Message

September 6th, 2014 – after incessant rains and floods in some areas in Kashmir valley, the rain finally stopped. I was driving through the city late that afternoon along with some teammates to assess the flood damage when the sun broke out followed by a beautiful double rainbow – to me a sign that the worst was behind us. As we drove back to our office in Sanat Nagar late night, we once again crossed the Jehlum river which was



flowing dangerously close to the zero bridge. "Man, how lucky did we get", I thought, little realizing our world was going to change in a few hours.

At 4 am on the fateful Sunday I got a call from Indranagar that the water had reached the ground floor of my in-laws house - within minutes the water reached the first floor forcing my in-laws to move up to the attic where they camped for 3 days before being rescued. Kashmir was hit by the worst floods in over hundred years with water as high as 25 feet. It was unprecedented.

Water came gushing as Jehlum was breached at multiple places, consuming the city within minutes.

After the initial shock and desperate attempts to save family and friends we quickly realized what we were up against. At the CHINAR International office, we immediately went into crisis mode changing our main conference room into a control room. We put our main programming on hold and did everything in our power to help. I moved into our office and camped there till I left for USA in late November to attend a family crisis. In days to come, our staff and volunteers also camped in the office as we went through the process of aggressive planning and delivery. We rescued people with whatever we had and initially we did not have much except for our dependable 'Thar' Jeep - see picture above - which was literally a life saver as we figured out how to drive it through over 3 feet of water.

We got a boat and engaged in rescue and short term relief distribution going into areas which were only accessible by boats - doing 2 sorties a day. In the days and weeks that followed we worked hard (18 hour days was a norm) and organized to deliver in 5 areas – **Water and Hygiene, Relief (both short term and long term), Shelter and reconstruction, livelihood support and medical assistance.** CHINAR office remained open 7 days a week for over 3 months.

The Kashmir diaspora around the world made a significant push to help. Organizations were created and money was raised. It was heartening to see people put their faith in CHINAR International.

We pushed hard realizing that things had to be done quickly, yet at the same time ensuring that the donor money was used judiciously. We opened an office in Delhi (thanks to a generous donor)



which was a tremendous help in coordinating supplies and donations from within and outside India. It is very gratifying to know that we helped around 90,000 people during the floods. I want to take this opportunity and thank everyone who helped us help the flood victims of Kashmir – the Kashmiri diaspora, organizations like Goonj, Reliance, Revive Kashmir, IMANA, TERI, GMC Alumni, TCS team of Nielsen, AMU, HHRD, volunteers in Kashmir and around the world.

This is a special edition of our quarterly newsletter, Daleel (which means story in Kashmiri) and covers our flood-related activities in the last quarter of 2014. Please provide us feedback. At CHINAR International, we strive hard to do better.

Irfan Shahmiri
(Chairman & Executive Director)

Rescue



As the situation worsened, CI team decided to step up the relief and rescue operations especially in the absence of any effort by the state government . During those hours of crisis the team stayed in office round the clock. The office telephone did not stop ringing especially



when the mobile coverage stopped. People all over the valley were giving updates and asking for help. Panic stricken people of Kashmiri diaspora around the world were calling to find out what was happening with their relative and friends. We did not have all the answers , especially in the initial days, and found ourselves

Relief: Long term and short term

In the initial phase CHINAR focused on emergency relief items, like water, life saving drugs like insulin, other medicines , biscuits, ready made food items, blankets, milk powder, baby food, snacks, tarpaulin, sanitary pads, clothes, soap, toothpaste, match boxes, candles. etc.



reaching nearly 25,000 people in order to meet basic needs to keep them alive.

Hundreds of people visited CHINAR's Office during this phase for relief. The CHINAR team went to the most hard hit areas (where CHINAR had previously conducted rescue efforts listed above) for short term relief distribution.

pacifying people and even counselling them at times.

In the coming days and weeks CHINAR International, which is essentially focussed on child welfare and community development , got



organized to counter the floods of September 2014. CHINAR kick started the campaign with the obvious and that was to help the stranded people reach safer locations. The team went amid rains , flood and uncertain surroundings into the drowning streets of Srinagar and ferried people to safe and dry places using boats, trucks, jeeps and a lot of resolve and determination.

Rescue was conducted in areas like Batamaloo, Lasjan , Tengpora, Rambagh, Natipora, Mehjoor Nagar , Raj Bagh , Jawahar Nagar, Allochi Bagh, Bemina Bye Pass, Shamlal Bye pass, Chattabal.

For long term relief CHINAR focused on food and winter kits. The food kits included - Rice 10 kg , Flour 5 kg, Dal 3 kg, Turmeric powder ½ kg, Red Chilli powder 1/2 kg ,Salt 1 kg, cooking Oil 1 bottle, tea 200gm . The winter kits included Blankets, Bedding, Kangri, Charcoal Sacks, Ferans, Sweaters , solar lamps. A total of 1055 food kits along with 528 bedding Kits, 1885 ferans, 2126 blankets, 1568 Kangris ,795 Charcoal Bags ,229 Sweaters, 45 solar lamps were distributed among the flood victims in almost all the flood affected districts till December 31st, 2014.



"CHINAR served 35,260 flood victims by December 31st, 2014"

FLOOD SPECIAL EDITION



Shabnum Imtiyaz , 38-year old widow lost her husband four years back. Shabnum has two daughters and a son . The poor lady has no source of income and is dependent upon community help (charity & donations). Her relatives, neighbors & other factions of locality take care of her and children's expenses. This already poor widow lost all her belongings to flood – bedding, clothes, books, food items , matting everything . CHINAR under its relief distribution program provided Shabnam with both food and winter kits.

"I had no winter supplies, no pherans, no kangris. Flood took away them all. I had no idea how to survive through this harsh winter. I have small children to take care of. I am very thankful to your organization for all the stuff," says Shabnum



During the month of October, the Kashmiri diaspora in North America started a clothing drive to collect clothes for the flood victims. Three containers of clothes (1 from Canada and 2 from USA) were shipped to India. It took huge effort to get these shipments cleared from various authorities at the port of entry in India and J&K. The clothes finally arrived In Kashmir in late January and will be covered in the next issue. The CHINAR Delhi office did a fantastic job of managing all overseas shipments for flood victims.

Shelter and Reconstruction

Shelter emerged as one of the immediate needs as the winters are extremely cold in Kashmir region. Based on thorough assessment and observation in affected areas, CI explored multiple options to provide shelter to the affected families. Consequently, cash assistance for reconstruction, building of emergency mid-term shelters and provision of building material were the three major options adopted for



40 emergency housing shelters were constructed in different areas of Srinagar including Ikhrajpora, Chattabal, Barbarshah and Bemina. These shelters are made of CGI sheets and ply boards with raised wooden flooring specially designed to withstand winter season.

CI also provided building material including bricks, wood, cement, sand, ply boards and CGI sheets to 71 beneficiaries in Srinagar (Ikhrajpora and Palpora), Budgam (Tangan) and Kulgam(Ari Gutnoo and Rehpora)



ber 2014. Under the program, CI constructed 228 shelters for the flood affected people under different categories.

Under self built category, CI gave cash assistance to 117 affected families belonging to low income groups for the reconstruction of houses in Srinagar (Chattabal, Ikhrajpora, Bemina, Lasjan, Habbakadal, Rainawari, Bemina) Budgam (Tengpora) , Anantnag (Sheikhpora, Hassanpora, Qazi bagh etc.) and Pulwama (Lelhar, Goripora, Gulzarpora) district.



providing shelter to affected families.

CHINAR International (CI) launched Shelter and Reconstruction program in the month of Octo-



Adil Ahmad Sheikh, a 12 year old dual orphan, lives with his uncle’s family at Shoul, Anantnag. Having two elder sisters, Adil’s mother died of cardiac arrest two years back. His father, Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh was a street vendor earning a monthly income of Rs. 2000. Before floods hit Anantnag, his father was suffering from acute food poisoning due to consumption of contaminated water and was hospitalized. Adil’s father died of flood trauma in the hospital where he was admitted .The loss of father, home and all the belongings has left three children in constant psychological trauma. Under its shelter and reconstruction program, CHINAR International (CI) gave cash assistance to Adil Fayaz for the reconstruction of house. CI helped him to construct two roomed concrete structure .

CI aims to provide safe haven to orphans like Adil who lost their parents during September 2014 floods.
 Adil laments, *“I lost my father , “I lost my home, I lost everything. Why Allah saved me and my sisters?”*



Before

After

Water and Hygiene



in Sumbal (Bandipora) on September 28, 2014, using Jhelum river as a source of water - around 600 households are benefitted by the unit.

Till date, 10 filtration units have been installed in affected districts of Kashmir valley. Five filtration units have been installed in the areas viz. Astan Mohalla, Gulabwari, Wazpora, Darul Aloom and Poshwari located in Sumbal, Bandipora. Similarly, three filtration units were installed in Ibrahim Gund and Tricolbal areas of Pattan, Baramulla and two were installed in Narbal.



"These water filtration units catered to the needs of more than 10,000 people"

The contamination of water associated with floods increased the threat of water-borne diseases in the affected areas of Kashmir Valley. The provision of clean drinking therefore became a priority for CI in order to secure the health and hygiene of people. Besides the distribution of packaged drinking water in the flood hit areas, CI identified different locations for installation of filtration units for purification of water used for drinking purposes. Each filtration unit purifies 1000 liters of water per hour. The first filtration unit was installed in a village



Medical Support

The devastating floods caused heavy damage to the major government-run hospitals like SMHS Hospital, Lala Ded Maternity Hospital, SKIMS Medical College Hospital Bemina, Bone and Joints Hospitals and the lone children's hospital-G-B Pant which suspended operations in certain cases over a month.



the victims of the floods, Islamic Medical Association Of North America (IMANA) collaborated with CHINAR - a partnership which was facilitated by GMC Alumni. IMANA decided to procure and ship two WHO Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK'S) to be distributed to the flood affected victims by CHINAR.

In preparation of medical consignment from IMANA, CHINAR opened communication channels with local health authorities and local hospitals. Three hospitals were shortlisted which included the top two state run hospitals catering to flood victims in the valley namely, Sri Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital (S.M.H.S), Jhelum Valley Medical College (JVC) and Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Hospital (J.L.N.M).

The first free medicine counter was opened at SMHS hospital on October 17, 2014. Patients from all over the valley who came to the hospital were provided free medicines.

CHINAR organized and supported multiple medical camps with teams of physicians and free medicine in the immediate aftermath of the floods. CHINAR worked with area hospitals to deliver free medicines by establishing a dispensary of free medicine within the hospitals. Medical camps were held in Natipora, Sanat Nagar and Sumbal areas. Since the floods, CHINAR has reached to more than 30,000 patients with free medical care and free medicines. "CHINAR has done a commendable job in providing emergency health care to flood victims," says Dr Shuja Qadri from SKIMS.

In order to provide medicine and supplies to



Taja Begum, a middle aged woman, lives in Narbal with her husband and 3 kids. The September floods damaged the house she lived in. When the facial skin of Taja was exposed to the contaminated flood water it caused skin allergies, which resulted in subcutaneous infection on her face.

Taja says, *"I never wanted to come to hospital as I did not have money to pay for my bus fare, let alone the medical expenses. But then I came to know about CHINAR's window of hope which distributes free medicines as per doctors prescriptions, a couple of visits to the doctor and the free medicines provided by CHINAR and I now feel my skin coming to its normal color"*

Window of Hope

CHINAR started its free medicine distribution counter (WINDOW OF HOPE) at JVC on 20th November, 2014 and with that the delivery of IEHK to flood victims of Kashmir floods 2014. The counter is run by a female pharmacist hired by CHINAR.



CHINAR received 14 surgical kits from IEHK, out of which 8 kits were donated to the hospital. The counter caters to almost 91 patients per day.

Also, around 192 surgical instruments have been distributed to 7 departments in the hospital. CI also contributed towards an X-ray machine for SMHS and purchased books for flood affected medical students.

Besides activities at JVC and SMHS, CHINAR also donated medicines & surgical items to JLNH Hospital Rainawari and to Al-Rahat Orphanage through SKIMS Hospital.

"It was an honor and privilege to be a part of CHINAR. Continue the great work," writes Dr. Shaukat Ashai on CHINAR's Facebook page after volunteering at a few medical camps organized by CHINAR. Dr. Ashai was one of the many people from Kashmiri diasporas who visited Kashmir to help with Flood Relief.



Livelihood

CHINAR's Livelihood Support Program is designed to deal with the economic blow which was one of the catastrophic aftermaths of the September Floods 2014. State government estimated a loss of about \$16B to residential houses, business structures, crops, business inventories, infrastructure, etc.; not only this tens of thousands of small and medium businesses were completely destroyed. CHINAR came up with a new program targeting to revive the livelihoods of people from the lower strata of the society to mitigate the economic effect of this catastrophe. So far under the livelihood revival program CHINAR International has completed 49 cases and provided livelihood support to 16 tailors and boutiques, 13 auto rickshaw and load carrier drivers, 10 handicraft women through Self Help Groups, 2 artists, 6 provisional stores, leather workers, mobile tea stall and pharmacy owners. There are 100 more cases in the pipeline for which we are currently seeking funding.



Lateef lives with his wife and two daughters at Tengpora area in Srinagar. He is an auto driver and earned a total income of 5000 rupees monthly. Lateef's house totally collapsed due to the floods. He is currently putting up in a rental room with his family. His only source of income, his auto rickshaw was severely damaged in the floods. CHINAR International, as part of its flood rehabilitation livelihood support program, paid for the repairs of the auto rickshaw.

"My only source of income is my auto-rickshaw which was damaged due to flood. These two months after flood, I was sitting idle. CHINAR helped me to repair my auto-rickshaw."

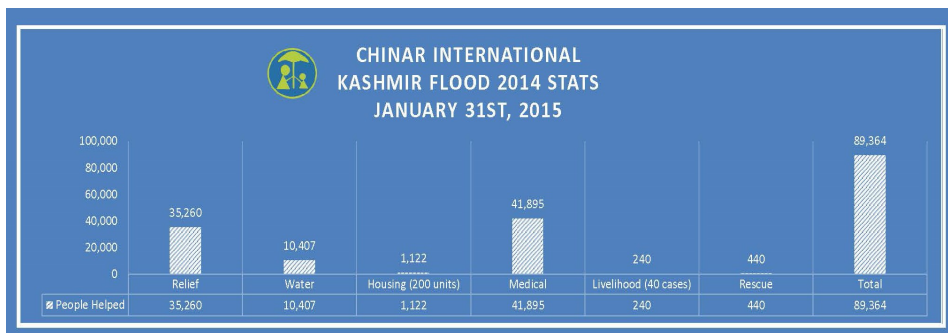
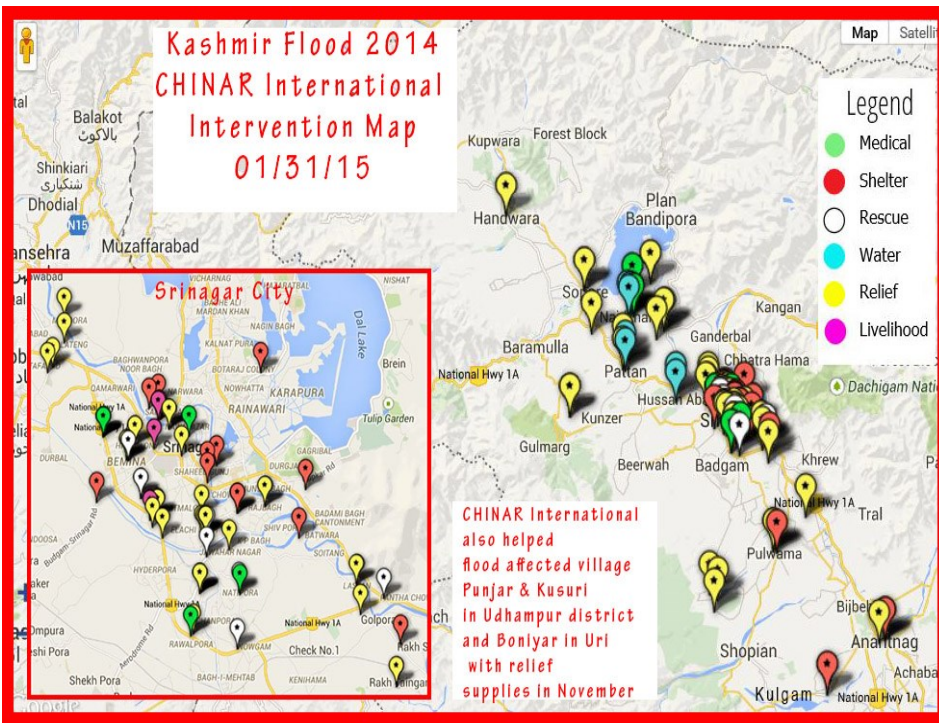


Infographics & Pictures

FLOOD SPECIAL EDITION

Story of Mohd. Shafi Bhat & family

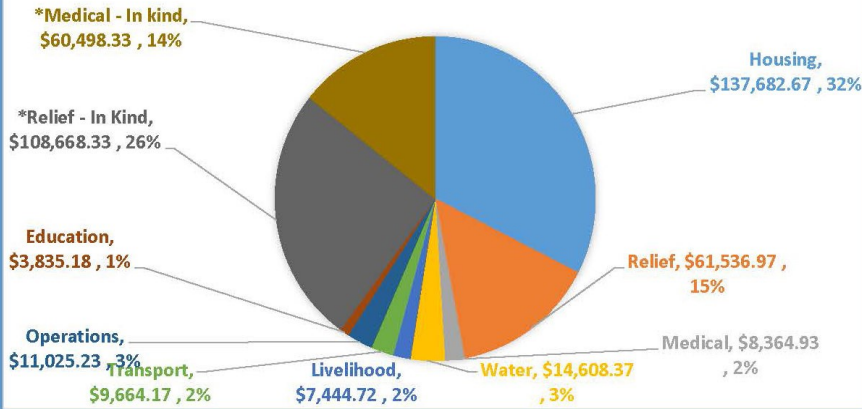
Some pictures from medical camps in Sumbal



Infographics & pictures



CHINAR INTERNATIONAL FLOOD RELIEF EXPENSES (USD) DEC 31ST 2014



CHINAR INTERNATIONAL FLOOD RELIEF FUNDS EQUATION DEC 31ST 2014



Total spent including In-kind donations	₹ 2,53,99,734	\$423,328.90
Total spent without In-Kind donations	₹ 1,52,49,734	\$254,162.23

* In-kind donations are contributions of goods or services, as opposed to cash

* Flood relief focus for next 2 months on Housing, Livelihood and Education.

*Around 30 Lacs INR (50,000 USD) have been spent since Jan 1st, 2015 on Housing and Livelihood.



Testimonials



"The dedication and the co-ordination with which the staff is working is exemplary. Hardly could one find any organization working in such organized fashion and dedication for flood affected. Not only in social service, CHINAR has helped me to grow personally too. Each and every person in Chinar has influenced me with his experience and expertise. CHINAR also helped me to work with new technology."

Ifham Shah
(Volunteer-Content writer and KAS officer 2013)



"As a Kashmiri Living abroad I was also moved by the catastrophe that the floods caused in Kashmir. Chinar international headed by Irfan Shahmiri was the only NGO I could work with because of their track record and commitment to Kashmir. I immediately flew to Delhi where I met other like minded people and we did our bit in donating some funds and services to CHINAR. I am totally satisfied with CHINAR International and will continue supporting the organization in whatever capacity it I can."

Tony Ashai (CHINAR supporter/donor)



"While summarizing the details of flood victims who visit CHINAR International office everyday, with high hopes and expectations, i have found that the organization has created great bond with the flood victims out there. People trust us in good faith and come in hope of help. This faith compels us to be more responsible, sincere, honest and dedicated towards our flood rehabilitation work."

Yasmeen Durrani
(New recruit, Counselor)

"I was very satisfied with the way Mr. Shahmiri updated us on their detailed study of the devastated areas during our Kashmir visit following September floods in the valley. We were also given a tour of several towns that they were planning to rehabilitate. I have reason to believe that CHINAR International had a strong sense of urgency under very challenging circumstances. I also feel that the resources and funds were allocated in the most adequate manner." -

(Anonymous Donor from UAE)



Some members of the CHINAR team at the Flood Relief Warehouse

Mission Statement:

"Empowerment of vulnerable children and marginalized youth in conflict areas through quality education and socioeconomic initiatives."

[Special Thanks]

- ◆ Mr. Tony Ashai and Mr. Raman Kotwal
- ◆ Dr. Mohd. Hussain (Landlord)
- ◆ Neighbors of CHINAR International—Exchange lane, Sanat Nagar, Kashmir
- ◆ Mehra sisters (Mumbai)
- ◆ Dr. Abdul Rauf Mir
- ◆ Mr. Javid & Mrs. Ismet Shahmiri
- ◆ Kashmiri diaspora

Donate online at www.chinarinternational.org or send us a check (in the name of CHINAR International) to our USA or Kashmir office.

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