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Section # 01

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Section # 01

Children Details

Jalal Abad Garden Camp

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CHILD PROTECTION URBAN ASSESSMENT

Background

The earthquake that hit South Asia on 8th October 2005 had a profound and devastating effect on the lives of children living in this region. In AJK, an estimated 38,000 children lost their lives with a similar number injured and XXX,000 left homeless with their families.

In Muzaffarabad- The capital city of AJK, over 50 camps sprang up to house people displaced from their villages as well as made homeless in the city. Initially these spontaneous camps suffered from overcrowding, a paucity of tents and basic water and sanitation, threats of location and generalized insecurity, but gradually management structures were put in place and facilities developed to meet the needs of displaced. UNHCR worked with government of AJK through national agencies to locate sites and establish a small number of planned camps close to Muzaffarabad city. Households were then encouraged to relocate to these sites and new arrivals from rural areas were directed there.

This Assessment was undertaken by Sungi in conjunction with Save the Children (SC UK, in nine camps for earthquake displaces in and around Muzaffarabad city. It sought to identify the key issues facing children from the children perspective, and make the programmatic recommendations for how these issues might be addressed and resolved.

Beyond their immediate need for shelter, food and water, displaced children in Muzaffarabad face a host of complex problems and challenges. Lost of a protective environment and family members compounded by insecure environment, a lack of access to and low quality of education, and uncertainty about the future create a situation in which a range of protection issues are emerging.

The Agreement:

It was agreed that Muzzafarabad Office of SUNGI Development Foundation shall coordinate with SC – UK in launching the assessment programme and shall complete this task within the stipulated time-period with effect from the signing of the agreement.

For this task to be carried out effectively and efficiently SC – UK will provide financial and logistic support to SUNGI in accordance with the deliverables.

SUNGI will manage and implement the assessment plan conduct PRA workshops, Focus Group Discussion with children, women, camp management and will maintain data as agreed with SC UK.

Objectivities:

Following are the key objectives of this project:

- Analyze child protection within the legal and normative framework of the assessment area.
- Analyses the profile of children in the displaced populations
- Analyses access to community resources for different groups of children
- Demonstrates children's perspectives of their world within the camps,
- Develop an understanding of issues facing girls in the camps, including gender-based violence.
- Develop an understanding of issues facing children with disabilities in the camps, including social inclusion
- Develop an understanding of issues facing children with disabilities in the camps, including social inclusion
- In Urban Areas Camps particular account of the effect of displacement on the ability of households to provide for and protect their children, and role of children within the projected household livelihood strategies;
- Assess the possibilities and potentials of setting up the child protection centers

Activities:

- Child focused PRA workshops and focus group discussions with children with disabilities. That will also include map of children's social world, plus issues of abuse.
- Arrange required personnel, organize field teams and arrange logistic support to carry out the task effectively;
- Launch the rapid assessment in urban area by organizing three teams;
- Identify which groups of the children are most vulnerable with a particular attention to the socio-economic status, ethnicity, age, gender, ability and family structure,
- Focus group discussions with children and women's groups, key informant interviews with teachers and health personnel.
- Ensuring the accessibility of the most vulnerable to education, health shelter and other community centres;
- Analyze the causes and consequences of child abuse, gender based violence, child labour and separation;
- Analyze the effectiveness of community and institutional protection mechanisms for prevention and response to child protection issues;
- Ensure regular entry and analysis of the assessment data;
- Keep a close liaison with the SC-UK.

Methodology:

SUNGI Development Foundation shall work closely with the child protection team in the Muzaffargarh district and will collect the data by using PRA Exercises both with the parents, children and Camp Management. SC – UK's child protection staff will work with SUNGI team in conducting the assessment and in the development of the analysis and recommendations. The assessment in general shall be participatory and will use the following techniques:

- Structures workshops with different groups of the children – age, gender, ability and social groups;
- Focus group discussion with different groups of the children;
- Semi Structured Interviews with key informants, including children, parents, community leaders, teachers, government officials and so on;
- Meetings with key protection partners – Ministry of Social Welfare and Education, UNICEF, UNHCR).

Outcome:

Following shall be the outcome of the project:

- A report will be compile with recommended strategies for addressing for addressing the protection concerns.
- Social Maps of the Camps /timeline and problem tree would highlight the issues regarding child abuse, Gender based Violence, and Social inclusion of the children due to disabilities.
- Engage parents, children and comp management in general to sensitize them about the issues concerned with child growth.;

Training and Capacity Development:

The team received training in ethics of research involving children, the national legal framework for children, key child protection issues and how to recognize them, and participatory rural appraisal techniques. The agenda for this training was designed as follow;

Day 1 – (Facilitated by SPARC)

- Research ethics and working with children
- The national legal framework for children in Pakistan
- Key child protection issues in Pakistan and how to recognize them

Day 2 – (Facilitated by SUNGI)

- Assessment objectives
- Assessment parameters
- Introduction to assessment tools
- Finalisation of teams and schedule
- Research techniques
 - Interviewing
 - Communication
 - Triangulation

Day 3 – (Facilitated by SUNGI)

- PRA tools:
 - Warmers
 - Social mapping
 - Timelines
 - Ranking and piling
 - Problem trees

PROCESS to be FOLLOWED IN EACH CAMP

Day wise strategy was designed and the following processes were suggested to be followed in each camp.

Day 1

- Meet with the camp management and explain the reasons and outputs of the assessment.
- Ask permission to speak with children, health & education personnel, women's groups and community leaders.
- Request assistance to identify suitable children for the assessments in each age and gender group, including children with disabilities.
- Organize locations for PRA workshops.
- Request data on:
 - Number of children in camp
 - Statistics on vulnerability
- Meet school administration and ask permission for some children to miss school to attend the workshop.
- Meet parents and children and gain consent for the workshop
- Key informant interview health & education personnel, plus community leaders and camp management.

Day 2, 3 & 4

- PRA workshops with:
 1. Boys & girls aged 8 – 12
 2. Boys aged 13 – 17
 3. Girls aged 13 – 17
- Late afternoon analysis and report writing

Day 5

- Female assessor holds focus group discussion with women' group
- Male assessor continues data collection and key informant interviews
- Questionnaires

- Case studies

PRA GUIDELINES

The following guidelines were adopted for PRA workshops.

GROUP DISCUSSION ON CHANGE

- Discuss in pairs the biggest change in their lives, how they feel about this and what is positive and negative.
- Feedback to larger group for identification of main changes.
- Explore further the implication of these changes and how children feel about these.

SOCIAL MAPPING GUIDELINES

- Children in one big group.
- Make map on the earth.
- Guide children by starting with where we are, where is your school, where is your home, where is your playground, where is the clinic, etc.....
- Use different coloured cards to ask the children to show where they like and where they don't like– elicit explanations of these, and listen to perspectives of ALL children.
- Are there any places where you feel particularly safe or particularly unsafe? Why is this?
- Do you all go to these places, if not why not? Who goes and who doesn't? Why?
- Which children to you feel have the most difficult time in the camp? Why is this? What can you do to help these children?
- If there was one thing that you could change in your map, what would it be?

TIMELINE GUIDELINES

- Ask children – what do you do during the day, and elicit a list.
- Dividing the group according to age and gender and ask each to draw a timeline.

- Asking them what order they do these things in.
- Asking them to map out on the line how much time each takes
- Exploring and discussing the differences between times lines, and between children within the same timeline – where possible explore how children feel about differences in order to look at issues of discrimination and exclusion and how children feel about this.
- How would children order their time differently if they could? Are there activities that they would like to undertake if they could?

DISCUSSION, RANKING AND PILING

- Discussion in pairs about a time when you helped someone how did you feel? How did the person / community react?
- Recapping problems and issues identified
- Which are the most pressing issues for the children?
(ranking?)
- What is the scope of the problem? How many and who are affected? (piling)
- What are your ideas for solving these problems?
- Who are the people who can help you do this?
- What can you do to help them solve the problem

PRA WORKSHOP OUTLINE

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	RESOURCES	TIME
Introduction	Introductory warmer – circle introduction with ball	Ball	0.5 hours (9.30 – 10.00)
Introduction to workshop			
Exploration of changes in children's lives, and social implications of this	Group discussion		0.5 (10.00 – 10.30)
Initiate exploration of children's world to identify access issues, feelings about their environment and identification of most vulnerable children	Social mapping	Flip chart paper, coloured pens, Sticks, stones, coloured card	1.5 hours (10.30 – 12.00)
Break and warmer			12.30 – 12.00

Identify how children use time and potential issues arising around labour and denial of rights	Daily routine timeline	Flipchart paper, sellotape and coloured pens	1 hour 12.00 – 1.00
Lunch		Food and refreshment	1.00 – 2.15
Warmer			2.15 – 2.30
Identification of challenges children face, including abuse and their ideas of how to tackle these	Discussion, ranking and piling		1.5 hours 2.30 – 4.00
De brief			
Closing warmer			15 mins 4.00 –

1 camp = 5 days for one team

3 teams working for 15 days = 3 x 3 = 9 camps

Section:01

Jalal Abad Garden

Camp

Camp Profile

- Name of the camp: Jalalabad
- Camp Management: Raja Zakir Khan C.C(AIRO)
- Date of establishment: 11/10/2005
- Population: 4000 (female 54 %)
- # of Households: 385 (50 women headed HHs)
- # of Schools: 03
- Enrollment of Boys: 283
- Enrollment of girls: 255

- List of Organizations working in camp:
 - W F P (Food)
 - I R (Food/Health)
 - Oxfam (Water And Sanitation)
 - UNICEF (Education)

Sungi (non Food Items)

PRA Workshops

The Field Coordinators conducted the Following workshops on Child Protection

Description	01	02	03
Age group	08-12	13-17	13-17
Gender	Mixed	Male	Female
Date	24/01/2006	25/01/2006	26/01/2006
Location	Camp Area	Camp Area	Camp Area

(Note: Details of the children participated are attached as Annexure I)

During PRA Exercises and Group Discussion, the Children categorized the Following Positive and Negative Changes.

Good Changes:

- Teaching is well.
- Food is very good.
- Ground is available for playing.
- No one beat us.
- We are living here freely.
- New tents schools are good.

Bad Changes:

- Far away from the houses.
- Place & environment is not good.
- Lack of books.
- No medical facility is available for disable children.
- Smoking

Findings:

- Lack of washrooms.
- Problem of drinking water.
- Early Marriage.
- Uncertainty about future.
- Non-availability of lady doctor.
- Smoking of children.
- Listening of music with High Volume.
- Security Issues for girls.
- Many Girls were attempted to be kidnapped.
- Lack of Playing Materials, books and Warm Tents.

Section:02

Dewan Relief Camp

Camp Profile

- Name of the camp: Dewan Relief Camp
- Camp Management: Habib Mayu
- Date of establishment: 12/10/2005
- Population: 3500 (female 65 %)
- # of Households: 400 (84 women headed HHs)
- # of Schools: 03

- List of Organizations working in camp:

MSF	(WatSan)
ITA	(Education)
UNICEF	(Winterized kits)
UNHCR	(Food)
NRSP	(Food)
IDSP	(non Food items)

SC-UK

(Safe Play Area)

PRA Workshops

The Field Coordinators conducted the Following workshops on Child Protection

Description	01	02	03
Age group	08-12	13-17	13-17
Gender	Mixed	Male	Female
Date	30/01/2006	31/01/2006	01/02/2006
Location	Camp area	Camp area	Camp area

(Note: Details of the children participated are attached as Annexure I)

During PRA Exercises and Group Discussion, the Children categorized the Following Positive and Negative Changes.

Good Changes:

- We made new friends.
- Cooperative and friendly environment.
- Teachers are nice.
- Ready food is available.
- Ground is available.

Bad Changes

- Far from our houses.
- Missed relatives and friends.
- Lives become meaningless.
- Lack of books and warm clothes.
- Insufficient bathrooms.
- Lack of balance diet.
- Management gives only rice and pulses.

PRA Workshops

The Field Coordinators conducted the Following PRA workshops on Child Protection

Description.	01	02	03
Age group.	08-12	13-17	13-17
Gender.	Mixed	Male	Female
Date.	30/01/2006	31/01/2006	01/02/2006
Location.	IHH Camp	IHH Camp	IHH Camp

(Note: Details of the children participated are attached as Annexure I)

During PRA Exercises and Group Discussion the Children categorized the Following Positive and Negative Changes.

Good Changes:

- Electricity is available.
- Good education.
- Health facilities.
- Enough drinking water.
- Good Teachers.
- People became cooperative.

Bad Changes

- No Ground for playing.
- Dirty washrooms.
- Bad environment.
- Quarrel between elders.
- Bad behaviour and abusing language of people.

Findings

- Lack of textbooks.
- Tents are flammable.
- No lady doctor.
- Bad atmosphere.
- Fear of cold weather.
- Uncertainty about future.
- Child labour.
- Dissatisfaction of people from camp management.
- No facility for special children's.
- Untrained teachers and even matriculate's teachers.
- Lack of pure drinking water and bathrooms.
- Security problem for girls.

Section:04

Eid Gaah Camp

Camp Profile

- Name of the camp Eid Gaah
- Camp Management: Ali Ahtasham
- Date of establishment: 15/10/2005
- Population: 1300 (65 % Female)
- # of Households: 160
- # of Schools: 01 (200 Boys/256 Girls)

- List of Organizations working in camp:

ITA	Eduaction
Mercy corps	Hygiene
WFP/IR	Food
Nestle	Milk
MDA	Provide staff and office

PRA Workshops

The Field Coordinators conducted the Following PRA workshops on Child Protection

Description.	01	02	03
Age group.	08-12	13-17	13-17
Gender.	Mixed	Male	Female
Date.	24/01/2006	25/01/2006	26/01/2006
Location.	Eid-Gah Camp	Eid-Gah Camp	Eid-Gah Camp

(Note: Details of the children participated are attached as Annexure I)

During PRA Exercises and Group Discussion the Children categorized the Following Positive and Negative Changes.

Good Changes:

- Shops are near to tents.
- Friendly Environment.
- Playing in playground.
- Schools are near to tents and they are good also.
- Some Health Facilities are available.

Bad Changes

- Fear in tents.
- Dirty Bathrooms.
- No Mosque for saying prayers.
- Fear of Kidnapping.
- Absence of lady doctor.

Findings

- Lack of facilities to educate children.

- Children facing diseases like scabies.
- Lack of milk for newborn babies.
- The Camp area and toilets are dirty.
- NO lady doctor.
- Insufficient bathrooms.
- Fear of kidnapping & fires in tents..
- Water leakage in tents during rainfall.
- Men sent their women to camp management to receive relief goods.
- People quarrel with each other.
- Parents beat children for labour.
- Absence of mosque in the camps.

Section:05

Ambore Camp Dairy

Farm

Camp Profile

- Name of the camp: Ambore Camp Dairy Form
- Camp Management: AL-Ansar
- Date of establishment: Dec-05
- Population: 1581
- Place of Origin: Neelum valley(Refugees)
- # of Households: 325
- # of Schools: 02
- List of Organizations working in camp:

Al-Ansar	Education-Shelter
MSF	Health & Sanitation
UNHCR	Non-Food items

PRA Workshops

The Field Coordinators conducted the Following PRA workshops on Child Protection

Description.	01	02	03
Age group.	08-12	13-17	13-17
Gender.	Mixed	Male	Female
Date.	06/02/2006	07/02/2006	10/02/2006
Location.	Ambore Camp	Ambore Camp	Ambore Camp

(Note: Details of the children participated are attached as Annexure I)

During PRA Exercises and Group Discussion the Children categorized the Following Positive and Negative Changes.

Good Changes:

- Paying attention to religious activities.
- School is near.
- Health facility is available.
- Relief goods available.
- Facility of electricity.

Bad Changes:

- Missing of relatives.
- Bad atmosphere.
- No system of cleanliness.
- Diseases in Camps.
- Away from native villages.
- Lack of water and Bazar is so Far.

Findings:

- Shortage of food.
- A lot of children with physical and mental disabilities along with Serious injured cases found.
- Uncertainty about future.
- Corporal punishment and child labour .
- Reproductive health issues but No lady Doctors.
- Fear of earthquake, cold weather, fire etc.
- Lack of trained teachers.
- Lack of cleaned bathrooms.
- Camp management is not good, as they behave rudely.
- Early Marriage and Husband used to beat women.
- Camp management is free to do any thing in the camp.

Section:06

Al-Khidmat Camp

Neelum

Camp Profile

- Name of the camp: Al-Khidmat Camp Neelum
- Camp Management: zaheer_ud_Din
- Date of establishment: 22/10/2005
- Population: 3200 (49 % Female)
- # of Households: 330
- # of Schools: 01
- Enrollment of Boys: 90
- Enrollment of girls: 188

- List of Organizations working in camp:

Al-Khidmat	Management
WFP	Food
UNHCR	Non-Food Items
SC-UK	Safe Play Area

PRA Workshops

The Field Coordinators conducted the Following PRA workshops on Child Protection

Description.	01	02	03
Age group.	08-12	13-17	13-17
Gender.	Mixed	Male	Female
Date.	06/02/2006	07/02/2006	10/02/2006
Location.	Camp area	Camp area	Camp area

(Note: Details of the children participated are attached as Annexure I)

During PRA Exercises and Group Discussion the Children categorized the Following Positive and Negative Changes.

Good Changes:

- New friendships.
- Friendly teachers.
- Playground for playing.
- Free to move anywhere.
- Schools are near to tents.
- Health facilities are available.

Bad Changes

- Fear from river, mess workers and management.
- Dirt and insufficient bathrooms.

- Fear from earthquake and kidnapping.
- Lack of medical facilities.
- Lack of books and warm clothes.

Findings

- Camp management behavior is very harsh with females.
- Camp management is not providing tents to new ones.
- Lack of warm clothes and quilts.
- Insufficient and dirty bath rooms.
- 12 to 15 people persons are living in single tent.
- No security system and thus kidnapping fear.
- Early marriage cases and Child labour existed.
- Lack of books and uniform.
- Lack of parent's interest in the education of children.

Section:07

Thori Park Camp

Camp Profile

- Name of the camp: Thori Park Camp
- Camp Management: Muhammad Shoaib
- Date of establishment: 24/10/2005
- Population: 2315 (46% Female)
- # of Households: 373 (61 female Headed HH)
- # of Schools: One Middle School
- Enrollment of Boys: 280
- Enrollment of girls: 238

- List of Organizations working in camp:
Almuztfa WT Camap Management

HRF	Shelter
IR	Education
UNHCR	Non-Food Items
SC-UK	Safe Play Area

PRA Workshops

The Field Coordinators conducted the Following PRA workshops on Child Protection

Description.	01	02	03
Age group.	08-12	13-17	13-17
Gender.	Mixed	Male	Female
Date.	06/02/2006	07/02/2006	10/02/2006
Location.	Thori Park	Thori Park	Thori Park

(Note: Details of the children participated are attached as Annexure I)

During PRA Exercises and Group Discussion the Children categorized the Following Positive and Negative Changes.

Good Changes:

- Safe Play Areas.
- School is good.
- Security is good.
- Friendly environment.

Bad Changes

- No Kitchen in tents village.
- No separate bathrooms for girls.
- Dirt and Quarrelling
- Uncertainty about future residence.

- Houses are demolished.
- Shortage of books.

Findings

- Fear From the river and Dirty Bathrooms.
- Uncertainty about future.
- Lack of balance diet.
- Many Students not going to school.
- Damp of garbage is found everywhere in camp.
- Lack of quality education.
- Girls feel insecurity in the camps.
- Tents are too small to live.
- Quarrel between family members upsets/frightened the children and they feel fear from their parents or elder brothers.

Section:08

Al-Mustafi

Camp

Meratonalion

Camp Profile

- Name of the camp: Al-Mustafi Camp Meratonalion
- Camp Management: Naeem Latif
- Date of establishment: 22/10/2005
- Population: 4221 (48 % Female)
- # of Households: 804 (152 Female headed HH)
- # of Schools: 02
- Enrollment of Boys: 121
- Enrollment of girls: 109
- List of Organizations working in camp:

UNICEF/IR	Watsan
UNHCR	Health
SC-UK	Safe Play Area
TRC	Health
MSF	Health
AWF	Camp Management

PRA Workshops

The Field Coordinators conducted the Following PRA workshops on Child Protection

Description.	01	02	03
Age group.	08-12	13-17	13-17
Gender.	Mixed	Male	Female
Date.	06/02/2006	07/02/2006	10/02/2006
Location.	Thori Park	Thori Park	Thori Park

(Note: Details of the children participated are attached as Annexure I)

During PRA Exercises and Group Discussion the Children categorized the Following Positive and Negative Changes.

Good Changes:

- New friendships.
- Good and polite teachers.
- Ground is available.
- Relief goods are available.

Bad Changes:

- Quarrel between families.
- Cold weather in tents.
- Missing of friends and relatives.
- Worry about future.

- No Electricity at night.
- Dump of garbage everywhere in camp's site.
- Lack of bathrooms

Findings

- No Gynecologist and No facility for family planning.
- Combined latrines and Dirty bathrooms.
- Fear of theft and kidnapping and No security system.
- Dissatisfaction of people from camp management.
- No facilities for specila children.
- Feelings of insecurity in girls.
- Early marriage.
- Lack of quality education and books.
- No specialist doctor is available.

Section:09

Japan Camp

Tandali

Camp Profile

- Name of the camp: Japan Camp Tandali
- Camp Management: Fayyaz,zahid
- Date of establishment: 11/12/2005
- Population: 1067 (59 % female)
- # of Households: 175
- # of Schools: 01

- List of Organizations working in camp:

Jan & Jaf	Education Health
GCCP	Shelter

NICCO/WFP	Food
SC-UK	Safe Play Area
Oxfam	Sanitation

PRA Workshops

The Field Coordinators conducted the Following PRA workshops on Child Protection

Description.	01	02	03
Age group.	08-12	13-17	13-17
Gender.	Mixed	Male	Female
Date.	30/01/2006	31/01/2006	01/02/2006
Location.	Japan Camp	Japan Camp	Japan Camp

(Note: Details of the children participated are attached as Annexure I)

During PRA Exercises and Group Discussion the Children categorized the Following Positive and Negative Changes.

Good Changes:

- Easy access to school.
- Health facility is available.
- Free life.
- Safe play area.
- Loving and caring teachers.

Bad Changes:

- Feelings of Insecurity.
- Fear of graveyard and strangers.
- Lost of houses.
- No mosque.

- Life in tents.

Findings

- Women are frightened with their men's because they become angry & emotional on small things.
 - Lack of security and Fear of thieves.
 - No facility available for disable children.
 - Lack of books and schools.
 - Children are frightened in tents.
 - Lack of drinking water.
 - No mosque.
 - Child labour.
 - Uncertainty about future.
 - Untrained teachers.
 - No lady doctor is available.
-

Key Cross Cutting Issues:

The assessment was undertaken by a team of six assessors from SUNGI and SC UK working in three male / female pairs. The team received training in the ethics of research involving children, the national legal framework for children, key child protection issues and how to recognize them, and participatory rural appraisal techniques. Nine camps were selected in and around Muzaffarabad as a representative sample of the existing camps. This took in to account size, location, urban / rural population and whether the camps were planned or grew spontaneously. An overview of the camps is provided in the following section.

The assessment teams spent five days in each camp, the first day introducing the assessment purposes, selecting participants, setting up PRA workshops and holding key informant interviews. The next three days were spent holding three separate PRA workshops, the first with boys and girls aged 8 – 12; the second with girls aged 13 – 17; and the third with boys aged 13 – 17. The final day was spent visiting households and children identified as particularly vulnerable, collecting case studies and compiling reports. Overall, over 500 children aged between 5 – 17 participated in the PRA workshops or were interviewed individually. At the end of the assessment, two and a half days were spent analysing issues arising in the camps, compiling individual camp reports, pulling out cross-cutting issues and developing solutions. The key cross cutting issues facing children in the camps were identified as:

- An increase in early marriage resulting from increased impoverishment through loss of land and livelihoods, and the insecure environment for girls
- The engagement of children in opportunistic labour in different camps
- Insecurity in camps due to lack of boundaries and regulation of who enters, and combined latrines
- Insufficient and low quality education opportunities and a lack of material in existing schools
- Lack of medical or social support for families of children with disabilities, leading to their neglect and lack of protection in camps.

- Widespread concern and uncertainty about the future and the government policy on return, resulting in low school attendance and decisions made without relevant information.
- Widespread rumours and isolated incidents of abduction from urban camps.

General Overview:

From this comparison it can be said that - in general - children living in large, unplanned, urban camps are experiencing a much higher degree of insecurity and are more vulnerable to hazardous coping strategies than those living in camps that are planned, and are not in the centre of town. However, anomalies in this comparison show that the effectiveness of camp management plays a crucial role in determining the protection and wellbeing of children in the camps, even when their profile might indicate that they are high risk.

Major issues individual to camps include the burning of Muzaffarabad city garbage close to Ambore camp which is causing pollution, bringing flies and mosquitos and creating respiratory problems for children in the camp. People living in Bella Nurshah camp report a large number of attempted abductions and disappearances from the camp. Additionally, the Al Khidmat camp management is said to be encouraging orphaned and other vulnerable children to relocate to its care centre in Mirpur, without regulation by the Department of Social Welfare. In Jalalabad, a number of independent informants reported harsh treatment and even exploitation by the camp management. Children in Jalalabad identified the camp management office as one of the most dangerous places in the camp because of the likelihood of physical and verbal abuse.

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Children's perspectives of their world in the camps

The assessors found that children were ready and willing to express their views and opinions during the PRA workshop. Many reported that they had had little opportunity to express how they feel since the earthquake, and that their opinions had not previously been sought in decisions that had affected them since then, such as relocation. Overwhelmingly, in almost every camp and each workshop, their first concern was for education. They are concerned that normal course of studies has been disrupted, that there are not enough facilities in the camps – particularly beyond the primary level - to accommodate them, and that the available schools do not have sufficient material to meet their needs. The children universally requested more textbooks so that they could use them for personal study – the best way, they felt, to supplement the education they are receiving so that they do not fall behind.

Children also felt concern at the levels of dirt and pollution in the camps, particularly in the latrines. This was worse in many of the urban camps, particularly where entry to the camp is unregulated, and conditions are overcrowded.

In many of the camps, children reported feeling disgraced because they had become the recipients of aid, something that they feel is against their culture and undermines their dignity. Sons of single women routinely represented their households at distribution points rather than expose their mother to crowds – something that is seen as humiliating for women. Particularly in the relief phase, many relief agencies actively sought to give aid to children as a priority, meaning that parents increasingly sent their children to access the relief in their place. Although the relief phase is now nearly over and most camps have a more regulated distribution system, this was still felt to be an issue in camps where the management is not strong.

In general, children identified common and practical fears – of buildings, graveyards in and near the camp, and rivers and flooding. Children also expressed a fear of tent fires, following incidences in various camps where tents had caught fire while the inhabitants were cooking. With isolated water points

and a general lack of water, children were concerned that there was little that could be done to put out fires effectively. Younger children were more scared of buildings following the earthquake than older children who were happier to re-enter them. Children had firm ideas about how they would like their schools and homes constructed, and expressed concern that this would not be done correctly and they would be placed at risk again. They found the corrugated iron semi-permanent structures in some camps a suitable model for reconstruction, or even for making the camps into more permanent settlements, as they represented solid buildings and private, fire proof spaces without posing the dangers of brick and concrete walls and roofs.

As reported by the children themselves, schools are too few to meet children's educational needs in the camps, and those that exist have inadequate material for their students. Whilst some children from rural areas are accessing school for the first time, the quality of education for urban children is lower than in their previous schools. Planned camps such as Thuri Park and Meratonalia are located in isolated sites and have established primary schools but no secondary schools. Older children from Muzaffarabad therefore have no options after primary education.

The assessors found a strong correlation between education opportunities and areas of origin, age and degrees of contentment in the camps. Schools in the camps are almost exclusively primary level, and whereas younger, rural children were experiencing access often for the first time, many older children had deep concerns about disruption to their middle and high school education. Such children in the planned camps expressed frustration that their education needs had been overlooked, and that they were isolated from middle and high schools, or that nearby school refused them admission. These children, particularly those from Muzaffarabad – perceived little added benefit from living in the camps beyond immediate relief and were keen to return home. Commonly in most camps, older girls reported feeling isolated and lonely, as they are frequently confined to tents for long periods of the day, and have found it harder to build friendships and therefore come to terms with what they have lost. In contrast,

the majority of younger children felt generally content and safe in the camps. Children from rural areas where households often live in some degree of distance and isolation from each other, were enjoying the opportunity to live close to other children and form new friendships. Having lost friends and family members in the earthquake, the chance to form new social bonds has been crucial to their personal recovery and has given them a sense of “home”. Some also said that the teachers in the camps were less harsh than those in their home areas. Many children, however, complained about anti-social behaviour in the camps such as swearing, drinking, drug taking, quarelling and physical violence. The general stress that their parents are under manifests itself in to stress felt by their children.

Access to community resources

The majority of the camps had access to health facilities situated either in the camp or the near vicinity. These facilities offer primary health care catering to basic health issues and injuries from the earthquake. A universal complaint from the community and particularly the women was the lack of female health workers, and particularly gynaecologists. Subsequently, women and girls felt unable to access health facilities much less address their sexual and reproductive health needs. Some women requested medication for family planning as they do not wish to become pregnant while in the camp environment. Because of a general lack of female health workers, clinics have very little information about women’s health issues, gender based violence or abuse.

Health workers report that children are generally being brought to the clinics in the later stages of their illnesses, making it more difficult to address their health problems. In Bela Nurshah for example, community members informed assessors that seven babies had died of pneumonia, despite the close vicinity to a health clinic where the infants could have received treatment. In some camps – particularly those with rural populations – people are commonly seeking out

spiritual or religious healers as their recourse for medical issues, as they would in their home communities where health facilities are less accessible.

Teachers in camp schools report that pupils were slow to join the schools following the earthquake, but attendance levels are now high. However, pupils remain distracted and withdrawn in the classrooms. In crowded camps such as Jalalabad, parents and teachers report difficulties controlling and ensuring the attendance of children who are now distracted by the environment and playing truant.

Aside from health and education, the most common request was for income generating facilities – particularly in the planned and better established camps. Women and girls in particular felt that they had sewing and embroidery skills and could earn their living if assisted with the equipment necessary to do so.

Gender

Very few of the camps had women in the camp management or any female community representatives. In the planned camps, UNHCR have supported women from the community to form committees to represent their views in the various sectors of camp management. Issues raised by women related directly to their sense of security living in the tented camps. Young girls in the workshops universally expressed their fear of living in tents, and women confirmed this general sense of insecurity. However, where the camp management was felt to be good, and security was in place and well organized, women felt content and – in general – wished to remain. In some camps however, women were clearly mistrustful of the management and in some cases felt discriminated against or even exploited. In these camps, community members reported a number of incidents of disappearances and attempted abductions. When asked why they remain in such camps, they said that they had no other choices. Although this was not said, it is likely that these households are either living close to their own homes or are reliant on household coping strategies based on the urban environment. They requested that

boundaries be erected around the camps and that a control should be put on who enters the camp and why.

As is common in such situations, most women reported an increase in domestic violence caused by the negative environment in the camps. They linked this to their husbands inability to provide for family members despite on-going demands, and the close proximity that they are living in. Although more tents are now available than in the first two months after the earthquake, in some of the spontaneous camps, people are still living with two families and up to 15 people in a tent. Women in several camps also complained about the behaviour of national NGO staff who they felt traversed their social gender norms – in particular when women talk to male beneficiaries and men talk to female beneficiaries. There was a strong feeling that this erosion of boundaries undermined their sense of security further.

In three camps, women raised the issue of combined latrines. Although latrines are divided between male and female, women would like them to be located in separate sites. In one camp, a girl reported that someone attempted to abduct her while in the combined latrines at night, while in another.....Chela Bandi

Of particular concern is the reported rise in marriages of increasingly young girls in all of the camps. 27 couples wed in a mass ceremony in one day in one of the camps. Community members link this to the need to provide security to young girls in such an unfamiliarly insecure environment, combined with the lack of capacity of impoverished and displaced households to provide for all their children. Young girls are commonly confined to their tents and have limited opportunities in schools or income generation. Most worryingly, in several camps, NGOs or the camp management itself are contributing or covering the cost of the girls dowry to enable the family to marry her.

Inclusion of children with disabilities

When asked which children they felt were having the most difficult time in the camps, children almost always indicated girls and boys with disabilities. High numbers of children with disabilities were identified in the camps, the majority of

whom were disabled from birth. In one camp – Ambore – out of a population of 1581, 49 children with disabilities are registered. No camps offered medical or other facilities or social support for families with disabled members, although isolated examples were found of children with physical disabilities being accommodated in schools. Teachers encouraged pupils to accept these children, but children themselves told assessors that they were frequently teased at school. Children with specialized problems are referred by camp clinics to other medical facilities in Muzaffarabad, where specialized treatment is often either costly or not available. Most parents are unable to move away in search of costly medical treatment. Very few carers of children with disability had ever been taught how they should provide special care for their children.

Generally speaking, there is a high level of community acceptance of children with disabilities and children are rarely confined to their tents. However, there is also little or no support from the general community or from camp management to assist these households in the care of their children. Several cases were found of children – particularly adolescents – who had suffered mental conditions prior to the earthquake which had subsequently worsened, leaving these young people extremely vulnerable to abuse and exploitation in the overcrowded environment. In one case, a 13 year old girl had been tied to her chair in order to prevent her from roaming in the camp, and in another, a 6 year old boy was habitually tied in the tent with a piece of rope. In many cases, children appeared dirty and neglected, as parents and carers were unable to spare the time or resources to monitor or care for them. Children sympathized with them and were keen to include them as much as possible, but reported that they found it hard to deal with children who have mental disabilities.

Children's role within household livelihood strategies

In the majority of camps visited, some children were engaged in various forms of labour, situational to the context. In Eid Gah camp for example, children from a

mostly urban population were working in nearby hotels and tea shops, and extracting iron from the rubble of collapsed buildings. In Tandali – a more isolated camp with a predominantly rural population, boys are engaged in road clearance activities on the Jhellum Valley road. In Bela Nurshah, children are washing cars along the road and river side. Even in more isolated camps like Thuri Park, young boys leave each morning to go to work in the city and return in the evening. They are also engaged in the process of sifting sand from the soil along the river valley. The children who are engaging in these activities are typically 12 and above and predominantly boys.

Child abuse

Rumours of abduction and associated sexual abuse cases are rife in the urban, spontaneous camps, but are rarely verifiable. In a couple of camps, management members said that cases are not reported to them and that there is little that they can therefore do about them. This tended to correlate with a lack of trust and suspicion amongst the community of the camp management. In one camp, management reported having intervened to prevent an abduction from occurring. Very few health personnel had received any specific training to recognize the signs of sexual or physical abuse, and almost none reported having seen any such incidents in the camps, reflecting a general reluctance to engage with this sensitive issue. One health worker however, reported a case of a small girl who had been abducted, raped and thrown from a hillside. This case was referred for specialized care and was later taken up by the police. Further health personnel contacted about this case reported a rise of such cases involving very young children – particularly girls – since the earthquake, but this was not triangulated from other informants. The common practice in such situations is to report the case to the police, but there is no recourse to social welfare or follow up and monitoring of the child once returned to the family.

Interestingly, very few health personnel considered that there were any problems or potential complications caused by girls marrying and giving birth at a young

age. It is generally believed, even by health personnel, that girls are physically ready for child birth at puberty.

Return and reconstruction

Closely linked to their feelings about the camp were their feelings about returning home. Children universally had no clear idea about what was going to happen to them in the future, causing them great uncertainty and anxiety. They feel sidelined from decisions taken as a household, but generally also recognize that their parents lack a clear idea about what they are going to do. Some children reported that they were not attending school because their parents felt that they would be forced to leave the camps soon. Generally speaking as above, younger children – particularly from rural areas and living in the planned and better managed camps – do not wish to return home, but would like to make a permanent settlement from the camp, while older – particularly urban children – are keen to return to their houses once reconstructed. However, urban children recognize the time constraints caused by the need to rebuild their homes before return. Universally, children expressed concern about the lack of education facilities in their home areas should they be made to return there, while some felt that the loss of their land and livestock made it impossible to go back. Despite the serious issues that this poses to them, children generally feel powerless to change any proposed course of events.

Many camps – like Jalalabad - have existed with periodic threats of removal and site clearance, undermining further the sense of security of the populations within them. Whereas women in camps that they considered insecure expressed greater keenness to return home as soon as possible, they too resented the 31 March deadline as they recognize the impossibility of being able to return at this point without substantial assistance to reconstruct homes and community infrastructure in advance of return. Community members in the more planned camps like Thuri Park and Tandali, were even more certain of their desire to remain until, as one woman said, the equivalent of the camps with all facilities had been created in their villages. Many people complained that they had

nothing to return to as land and sometimes entire villages had been swallowed in the earthquake. Women in Thuri Park in this situation recommended that the government allocate them land close to Muzaffarabad. Refugees from Indian controlled Kashmir living in Ambore camp don't know where they will return to once the camp is closed as they say the previous settlement in Ambore provided by the government was destroyed in the earthquake.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Return and camp closure process

SC UK and Sungi strongly advocates for a fair and gradual return process that upholds the principles of choice and dignity and prioritizes the best interest of children. To this end, community members and children need to be well informed of government policy on return, and should have the opportunity to feedback opinions and recommendations to the government. Communities should also be informed of compensation packages available and procedures for ensuring that they are registered for compensation. Radio media would be an effective way of starting to achieve this.

Whilst many children in urban camps are enjoying access to their rights to health care and education for the first time, a return to a denial of these rights based on pre-earthquake standards is not an adequate or appropriate solution. Government reconstruction efforts therefore have to look at setting minimum standards for access to these facilities in rural areas that go beyond what existed before. To support households decision making process, the government should consider supporting key family members to return to their home areas to assess the extent of damage and initiate the reconstruction process using the government compensation package, while other family members remain behind in camps where they can continue to access health and education facilities. This would help households to avoid some of the more harmful coping strategies involving children, including early marriage, child labour and separation of children through sending them to orphanages and other care institutions.

Additionally, the definition of who is vulnerable and entitled to continued relief in the consolidated camps needs to be clarified along with the identification process. That such a vulnerable population will be supported to live together will necessitate the instigation of rigorous security procedures in the camps, as well as facilities to address vulnerabilities such as health and specialized education opportunities. It also offers the chance to address some of these vulnerabilities

in the long term through facilities and activities that give empowering skills, such as vocational training. Correspondingly, those with similar vulnerabilities living in rural areas should be receiving social welfare support during the reconstruction phase.

Recommendations to Camp Management Organization for increased protection / security of children

1. All camps should have defined boundaries and boundary walls if no natural boundary exists.
2. People entering the camp should be regulated, and their purpose known.
3. Relief workers should be advised on culturally appropriate behaviour when entering the camp.
4. Security should be provided for the camps, or mobilized and supported from within the camps.
5. All camps should have female membership in the management, and a women's committee to represent the community.
6. All camps should have a child protection committee.
7. Relief should not be handed to children without investigation of why a child is representing their household. Elderly, female and child headed households should be identified and a representative designated to receive relief distributions.
8. Latrines should not only be divided between male and female but should be located at different sites as standard.
9. All camps should have earthquake emergency procedures, with community involvement in setting these procedures, and community sensitization as to their content.
10. An effective fire extinguishing system should be put in place in the camps and the community sensitized as to the location of water points or equipment and the fire procedures.
11. Camp management should at a minimum ensure adherence to the national legal minimum age for marriage within the camps (16 for girls, 18

for boys), whilst actively encouraging families not to marry girls below the age of 18.

Specific management problems relating to individual camps will also be highlighted to the Camp Management Organisation, but should be addressed through government regulation of the camps.