

Final REPORT 2007

**Government Boys High School
Nar Sher Ali Khan, Bagh,
Azad Jammu and Kashmir,
Pakistan**

Permanent School Building Structure

**Supported by: Mr. Hares Youssef –
2007 Grand Patron of Foundation for UNESCO –
Education for Children in Need**

Through

Foundation for UNESCO - Education for Children in Need

Implemented By: HOPE'87-Pakistan

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2. Title of Project:

**Reconstruction of school in AJK
for Government Boys High School
Nar Sher Ali Khan, Dhulli, District Bagh**

3. Country:

Pakistan/AJK.

Executive Summary:

The earthquake disaster of 8th October 2005 has left many tragedies behind, adding to the miseries of the poor and has brought down middle-income class to lower income levels. In district Bagh there are a total of **970 schools, which were totally or partially damaged** because of the **earthquake** and children were the most who suffered by not only losing their lives, but those who survived, had to live with the trauma and disruption in their education. Therefore, there was a dire need to provide children a safe and comfortable place to continue their studies.

On behalf of the German Foundation for UNESCO - Education for Children in Need, HOPE'87-Pakistan was able to build the earthquake resistant permanent school building "Government Boys High School Nar Sher Ali Khan" in Bagh, AJK, Pakistan. The building was completed with the kind support of the **Hares Youssef** through the Foundation for UNESCO -Education for Children in Need. The completion of this project helped the children in the age bracket of **3 to 8 years** to start and to continue their studies in a safe and children friendly environment.

The total number of **direct beneficiaries is 125 pupils for the primary section with 18 teachers and one school principle using the administration block**. This administration block will greatly alleviate the burden of the teachers and will have a positive, secondary effect on all the **379 pupils of the school** as teachers will now be more concentrated on their work. The overall population of the Union Council Nar Sher Ali Khan with 12,000 inhabitants is also benefitting as this school is the only Boys High School in whole the Union Council.

This primary wing of the Boys High School has **5 class rooms and 3 additional rooms as administration block (in total 8 rooms), along with 7 toilets for pupils and 1 toilet for teachers as well as 1 small kitchen. The total covered area is about 4,607.32 sft.**

Objective:

To encourage rehabilitation by providing an earthquake resistant permanent school building for continuation of education for the children of Kashmir.



Class Rooms

Area/Cultural set up:

The Northern parts of Pakistan were hit by an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale, on the morning of 8th October, 2005 at 08:52 hrs. An area greater than 30,000 square kilometres was badly affected leaving 73,338 dead and 69,412 severely injured and 6,700 missing according to official estimates. More than 3.5 million people were affected and nearly 2.3 million people were faced with food insecurity.

The District Bagh of Azad Kashmir, with a total population of 434,300, covers 1,398 square kilometres. The population density is 317 persons / square kilometre, with a population growth rate of 2% per annum and an average household size of 9.6¹.

¹ Project population based on the 1998 Census, statistics Section, Planning and Development Department, Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The District Bagh is an economically deprived area, with an average household income of PKR 2.150.-(EUR 30.26) per month. Most of the inhabitants rely on agriculture, with at least one member of each family seeking work else where in the country on menial jobs. The local land holdings in the area are approximately 2.000 square meters per family on terraced mountain sides with poor crop yields. The population residing in the area can thus be categorized as extremely poor.

A total of 970 schools existed in District Bagh, out of which 825 were completely destroyed and 145 moderately destroyed. The destruction of these educational facilities made the children the most effected segment, as a very large number of children not only lost their lives but those who survived, had to live with the trauma and disruption in their education. Therefore, there was a dire need to provide children a safe and comfortable place to continue their studies.

Need/Problem Analysis:

The Government Boys High School, Nar Sher Ali Khan has a total strength of **379 students, with 18 teachers**. Being the only Boys High School in the Union Council gives it an even greater value and high priority.

Our partner organisation had been operating in the project area from the second day of the earthquake, starting in Bagh city. On the 14th of October 2005, a field office / base camp was established in Nar Sher Ali Khan, about 20 kilometres to the East of Bagh city. From day one, a very close coordination was maintained with the UN, the Education Department of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and other partner NGOs/INGOs working in the area for better implementation and to avoid duplication.

Various other partners were actively involved in the relief and rehabilitation activities in the Union Council Nar Sher Ali Khan (NSAK), developing a very strong bond with the local people. With the Government Boys High School, being the only boys high school in Union Council, the community approached us and requested that the premises of that school shall be rebuilt on urgent basis as otherwise pupils will not be able to continue their studies.

Therefore we and our partners decided to reconstruct the primary wing and the administration block of the school as a first phase.

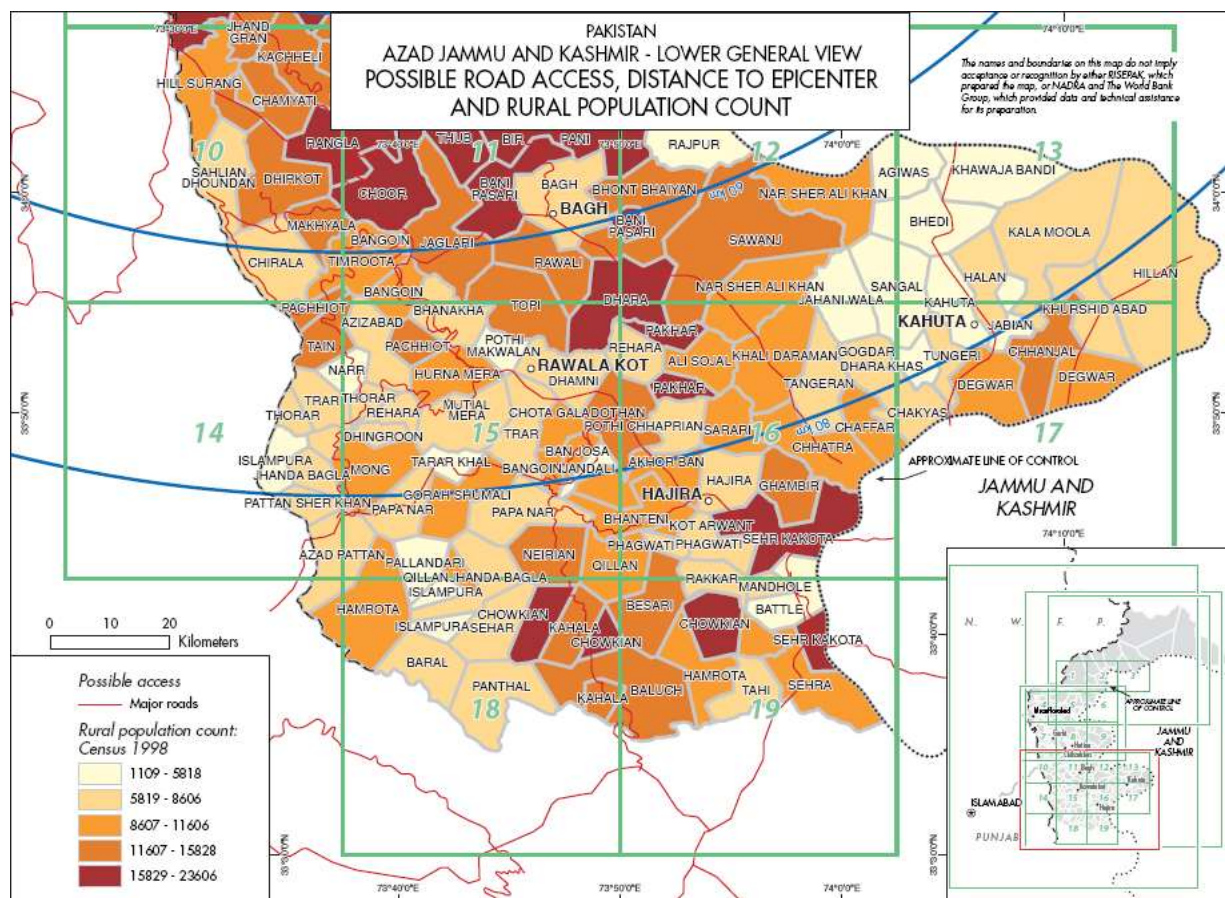
Beneficiaries:

The total number of direct beneficiaries at the moment is 125 students of the primary section and 18 teachers and one school principle who will be using the administration block.

Location and Facilities:

Location:

The Union Council NSAK has an approximate population of 12,000 people and is about 16 kilometres from Bagh city in the North East of the District Bagh, Azad Kashmir.



Map 1: Target area in oval circle

Facilities:

This primary wing of Boys High School has **5 class rooms and 3 additional rooms as administration block (in total 8 rooms), along with 7 toilets for students and 1 toilet for the teachers as well as 1 small kitchen. The total covered area is 4.607,32 sqf.**

The building has now a RCC structure with a steel roof and no quality-compromise was made while reconstructing the school. The building is now of an earthquake resistant structure.



Some pictures and drawings by the children displayed in the staff room

Methodology:

All rules and regulations by the Government of Pakistan and Government of Kashmir were followed regarding the building codes. The Government of Pakistan had established an Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) to monitor and control all activities in the earthquake effected area.

All the agencies were required to submit their project details to ERRA and obtain a “No Objection Certificate”, which was also obtained for the Boys High School. As per ERRA requirements the architectural, engineering, electrical and public health designs were submitted to and subsequently approved by National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK) and ERRA before construction could start.

The work was commenced in **July 2006**, by the verbal go ahead by the authorities. Whereas NOC and MOU were signed later subsequently to the approval by NESPAK for the designs and the structural stability. The NOC from ERRA was obtained only on the 8th of December, 2006 vide their official letter number No.2(15)/2006/(D&SCC).

Subsequent to the issuance of NOC an MOU for the construction of the permanent structures was signed between HOPE'87 and ERRRA on the 18th of January, 2007.

Temporary School Rooms: as the school building was completely destroyed in the earthquake and building the permanent structure was a long process, an interim temporary education shelter with four class rooms was built, so that pupils of the primary section could continue their studies.



Temporary school rooms



Children studying in the temporary class rooms

We hired one of the leading Architecture and Engineering firms M/S DESIGNMAN (Pvt.) Ltd. to design the structure and to provide consultancy services and quality certification during the course of construction. M/S DESIGNMAN also assisted in preparing and developing the Bill of Quantities for the works as well as selection of the contractor.

The contractor, M/S MASCON ASSOCIATES was selected after due deliberations and background checks for the execution of works. The contractor has extensive experience of about 12 years in the field of building constructions including constructions in mountainous areas.

During the execution of the works, the soil testing and site stability report were also checked by and established in cooperation with M/S GEOENGINEERS.



Primary wing under construction



Soil testing pits for admin block

The designs, plans and the quality control reports of materials used in the construction are available in hard copies at our local partner's HOPE'87-Pakistan/ Islamabad Office for perusal.

During the construction period, all relevant Government Authorities, Line Departments and Ministries, the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), the District Reconstruction Unit (DRU) and the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator (UNORC), formerly United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) were kept informed of the project progress. The ERRA and DRU made surprise visits to the construction site to check the quality and standards of works and appreciated the quality of work.

Additional works:

The project also provided basic furniture for the Boys High School as well as psycho-social support through art and play and sport activities.

The schools furniture includes chairs, desks, black boards, water coolers, dust bins, posters, heaters, a World map, shelves and books for the small school library.



Interior design of the Boys High School.