

Dear Friends,

In the last six months, we've been fully engaged in the rehabilitation process following the disastrous floods of last year. We've taken a five-pronged approach aiming to address the major problems people in rural communities have faced in the aftermath.

1. Rebuilding infrastructure: Houses, toilets, water hand-pumps

We have thus far helped over 1100 families rebuild homes in 133 villages. Each home has cost the donor about Rs 100,000 while beneficiaries have reused what material they could and put in the labour themselves.

We also resumed our toilet project and helped families build this basic facility at home. In all, we have helped 2638 families in 166 villages build toilets. Each toilet costs the donor about Rs 17500.

We helped families install water hand-pumps; we have helped 747 families in 93 villages get access to clean water at home. Each hand-pump costs the donor about Rs 10,000.



2. Subsidized Shop: Coping with rising food prices

In March 2023, we opened our Sasto Dukaan that enables selected daily wage earners to purchase basic food supplies at rates up to 40 percent lower than retail prices. With the rate of inflation at a near five-decade high, families earning on a daily basis are finding it difficult to meet their food needs. In Village Khairo Dero, we selected 75 such families and issued them with ration cards, permitting them to buy a certain amount per day, depending on the size of the household. Our donors pick up the subsidy amount which amounts to roughly Rs 6000 per day for 75 families. This project allows people to buy their supplies with dignity without receiving a charitable handout and donor funds

can help more people than they could by simply handing out free ration.



3.Drain Cleaning: Preparing for the Monsoon

In Village Khairo Dero, dozens of homes flooded last year because the community's drains were clogged and couldn't handle the rain water. Moreover, even though most village streets are fully paved, a lack of cleanliness means streets are muddy and become unusable with the smallest amount of rain. We put together a team of cleaners who spend the day declogging village drains and cleaning the streets. This is the first time the drains have been cleaned ever since they were constructed decades ago because government appointed sweepers never show up for duty. This project helps us prepare for the upcoming monsoon and costs us Rs 100,000 per month.



4. Community Police: Coping with Rising Crime

Since the floods, widespread loss of income and rising prices led to a record escalation in crime in villages. In Village Khairo Dero, people noticed unknown armed men entering the community at night and theft became widespread. In the absence of police, we developed a community police force of 10 security guards who were trained by a retired police trainer and then posted at various entry and exit points in the village for overnight duty. This helped curtail crime and we're been trying to work with

district police to reinforce with police constables. Our effort can serve as a model for village security as a collaboration between community and state police. This project costs us Rs 200,000 per month.



5. Farmer Project & Skills Training: Helping with income generation

To help families improve their incomes at an economically difficult time, we expanded our farmer assistance project through which landless farmers can use our tractors for plough, levelling and reaping, paying only for the cost of diesel, thereby saving them more than half the cost of these inputs. Additionally, we also worked with the Matco Food Co. to provide farmers with free seed and technical guidance to improve yields. For women, we expanded our skills training center so that 50 learners are now able to attend our popular three-month dress design course that comes with a pick and drop service. The dress design class costs us Rs 30,000 per month in trainer salaries.



Recovering from the floods will be a long-term effort and we will continue all these projects into the rest of the year and beyond. We need your help to keep all these initiatives going and would be grateful for any support you can provide.

Thank you as always for your generosity. Please do write to us at mt@alihanmangitrust.org if you have any questions or comments.