



IN THIS EDITION:

Pakistan: After the Deluge

Strengthening Emergency Communication in India

Responding to Food Crises in Afghanistan

Tajikistan: Building Partnerships with Japan

North America: Commitment to Disaster Preparedness

The Largest "ShakeOut" in US History

Golfers Unite to Support FOCUS

In Memorial: Azalsho Dushanbiev

In the Spotlight: Nusrat Nusab, Deputy Executive Officer, FOCUS Pakistan

Photos:

California Emergency Management Agency
FOCUS

Chairman's Message

Welcome to the third issue of the Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) newsletter! The events of the past year remind us that communities from around the world continue to be prone to seismic activities, effects of climate change and water based emergencies, among other disasters. Institutions such as ours need to be constantly prepared and actively engaged to work with these communities in order to respond effectively during crisis and mitigate risk to natural and man-made disasters.

2010 marks the 16th year of our operations. Looking back, I am greatly satisfied by our tremendous accomplishments and efforts during this period. As the past year demonstrated, there is always work to be done. Going forward, FOCUS will continue to concentrate on hazard mapping, disaster risk reduction, and reducing the vulnerability of communities which we are involved.

The coming year may bring new challenges but with continued commitment and perseverance, FOCUS will strive to be at the forefront of disaster risk reduction and crisis response in all areas of operation. This, of course, would not be possible without the immense support of our donors, partners, volunteers, and friends, all of whom have played a central role in the organisation's success thus far. I am sure that with a renewed energy, a sense of dedication, and your continued support, 2011 will be a most successful year in assisting the most vulnerable communities.

Thank you and best regards.

Aziz M. Bhaloo

Chairman

FOCUS International Coordinating Committee (FICC)

Pakistan: After the Deluge

In July, severe floods brought devastation to Pakistan. As the country was slowly recovering from the aftermath of the Attabad landslide, torrential rains and massive flooding left the country in shambles as hundreds of cities and centuries old villages were submerged under water. The severe floods left many in need of desperate help and resulted in the loss of almost 2,000 lives, approximately 3,000 injured and rendering approximately 1.7 million homeless. This disaster has affected the lives of over 20 million people.

FOCUS in collaboration with the agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), the Ismaili Council for Pakistan, hundreds of volunteers, the

Pakistani army, national and local governments and the local community, as well as other non-profit organisations, worked together to ensure that effective and immediate assistance was delivered to the vulnerable population.

As the response phase moves into recovery and rehabilitation, FOCUS is assisting evacuees to repatriate from relief camps, to their villages. Flood victims are being provided with food, hygiene kits, and other necessities to enable them to settle back into their homes. Many of these supplied items were provided through the 86 community and four regional stockpiles, which FOCUS has been building since 1999. These stockpiles provided an invaluable lifeline to the affected communities, for many villages

could not be reached for days. FOCUS and its partners are in the process of implementing long term sustainable recovery and rehabilitation plans. These will include the provision of health care services, the reconstruction of houses, water channels, roads and other infrastructure, which will likely continue for several years.



FOCUS volunteers help displaced families relocate to temporary shelters

Strengthening Emergency Communication in India

Phone lines, radio and cellular towers, and electricity remain critical in times of disaster. When damaged, severed lines of communication can obstruct and delay emergency operations. Hence, alternate means of communication technology are necessary to ensure that the lines of communication remain open during a disaster. Innovative radio technology known as "HAM Radio" can provide an alternate effective and reliable mode of communication.

Unlike other Radio Frequency (RF) spectrum users, licensed HAM radio users may build or modify transmitting equipment for their own use, within the amateur spectrum, without the need to obtain government certification. This technology allows for broadcasts to a wider audience in a shorter period of time.

In October, FOCUS India, in collaboration with the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) organised a seven-day training session on HAM Radio

technology. Twelve volunteers from different regions of India, successfully passed the exam, which will permit them to obtain a license for the use of the HAM Radio. This technology has been effectively used in many disasters, such as the floods in Andhra Pradesh in 2009, the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004, the Gujarat Earthquake in 2001, and many other natural and man-made calamities. The newly trained volunteers together with the latest HAM Radio

equipment, will significantly enhance FOCUS India's disaster response capacity.



Participants learn to use the HAM Radio technology implemented in India

Responding to Food Crises in Afghanistan

Shukai and Maimai in Afghanistan are home to 41,000 people. These two districts of the Badakhshan province

(Afghanistan) are only accessible through Tajikistan. Badakhshan is one of the most remote and least developed province in Af-

ghanistan, making the districts of Shukai and Maimai even more vulnerable to disasters. Although there has been a long history of development activity in the province, food security still remains a challenge despite varying efforts to rehabilitate and improve both agricultural systems as well as livelihoods. Poor infrastructures, limited access to markets, frequent shocks such as floods, landslides, and droughts have further aggravated the vulnerabilities of

these populations.

In continuing efforts to improve these conditions, FOCUS and the World Food Programme have partnered to deliver more than 1000 metric tonnes of food to isolated communities in these two districts. FOCUS' expertise, local voluntary capabilities and knowledge of the local terrain has ensured that vital supplies are channelled through Tajikistan and transported to the vulnerable communities residing in Shukai and Maimai.



FOCUS team members transporting food relief to communities in Afghanistan through Tajikistan

Tajikistan: Building Partnerships with Japan

In September, a delegation from the Embassy of Japan, including the senior most diplomat in Tajikistan, His Excellency Mr. Yoshihiro Nakayama, the Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Japan, visited the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) of Tajikistan. Facilitated by FOCUS, the purpose of the trip was to visit grass-roots community-based projects funded by the Government of Japan. The delegation visited two sites that are under consideration for funding for

small scale mitigation projects, to be implemented by FOCUS. The first project is to assist communities affected by the January 2010 earthquake in the Vanj District through the rehabilitation and hydro-isolation of water channels. The second project is to assist communities affected by widespread flooding in the Bartang Valley through road rehabilitation. The trip also included the handover ceremony of three completed FOCUS projects: the rehabilitation of a debris flow channel in Rin, the hydro-

isolation of a water channel in Sumjev and the riverbank flood project in Sevir and Pasterez. These projects will subsequently reduce the risk of more than 6,000 villagers to natural hazards.

FOCUS' partnership with the Embassy of Japan supports capacity building of local communities and government institutions in fostering disaster resiliency in Tajikistan.



The Japanese Chargé d'affaires inspecting a flood damaged bridge in Rushan

North America: Commitment to Disaster Preparedness

FOCUS in North America continues to build capacity through the ongoing training of Regional Disaster Management Team (RDMT) leads across the US and Canada. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings were organised, covering preparedness, monitoring and early response techniques for disasters such as earthquake and fires, as well as the development of skills in incident management, fire safety and medical emergencies. By the end of 2010, 820 volunteers will be CERT trained.

FOCUS and the agencies of the AKDN appreciate the tremendous generosity of the North American donors towards the Pakistan flood relief effort, received through initiatives like the AKF USA's World Partnership Walk and the FOCUS awareness and fundraising campaign in Canada. The Government of Canada will match all funds contributed by FOCUS Canada's donors towards the Pakistan flood relief, to support continuing humanitarian assistance, early recovery and reconstruction efforts in Pakistan.



RDMTs leads in Canada participate in fire safety training

The Largest "ShakeOut" in US History



"ShakeOut" participants "Take Cover" during an earthquake drill

The largest earthquake drill in the history of the United States, took place on October 21st. The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) and California state and local officials hosted the "The Great California ShakeOut", which brought together over 7.9 million participants. Dr. Mahmoud Eboo, President of the Ismaili Council for USA and FOCUS International Coordinator, Gulam Juma, attended the event.

The annual drill, initiated in 2008, is designed to help Californians reduce their risk of death and injury in earth-

quakes by encouraging them to practice earthquake safety procedures. Participants of the *ShakeOut* were taught what to do in the event of an earthquake: **Drop** to the ground, **Take Cover**, and **Hold On** to something stable.

By participating in such events, FOCUS can take lessons learned, experiences, and resources, to help susceptible societies to be better prepared in responding to such disasters.

Golfers Unite to Support FOCUS

September saw FOCUS supporters from around the world unite to participate in the FOCUS Golf 2010 Tournament held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The pur-

pose of the tournament was to raise funds for FOCUS' global initiatives, including raising funds to support the Pakistan floods relief operations. The

event brought together over 80 golfers from around the world and many other FOCUS supporters for three days at some of Dubai's top golf courses. Hewlett Packard, Despec, Item International and Z for Z sponsored the event, allowing for over half a million dollars to be raised through the event to directly support FOCUS' work in disaster preparedness and emergency response. Volunteers from the United Kingdom (UK) and Dubai collaborated together to organise the tournament, which also included

three evening functions featuring a fashion show, gala auctions and a performance by the Ismaili Community Ensemble who flew in especially from the UK. Participant golfer Iqbal Dhanji shares his experience, "This was a fantastic, well organised event - one to always remember. It was a wonderful way to bring us together to support a common cause and FOCUS' work to assist those who need our help".



FOCUS Golf 2010 participants & volunteers

In Memorial: Azalsho Dushanbiev

On 8th November 2010, Azalsho Dushanbiev, Fleet Manager with FOCUS in Tajikistan, tragically lost his battle with cancer.

Azalsho was born in 1961 in the Khuf village of Roshan district of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region in Tajikistan. After finishing secondary school in 1978, Azalsho was determined to pursue higher education. He left his village to enrol at the Dushanbe Pedagogical Institute, Faculty of Russian Language and Literature.

In 1983, upon graduation, Azalsho started working as a teacher in Kom-somolobod, Lenin and Orjonikizeobod districts of Tajikistan, and later moved back to his birthplace in 1991. After

returning to Dushanbe, Azalsho soon began working for the Mountainous Societies Development and Support Program (MSDSP) as a security guard, subsequently rising to the position of MSDSP Guesthouse Director. In 2000, he joined FOCUS in Tajikistan and over the next ten years was promoted to the position of Fleet Manager. His humble and unassuming personality endeared him to all at FOCUS. His loss is dearly felt by the entire staff at FOCUS. Azalsho was an important member of the FOCUS family and will be greatly missed. "His ambition and enthusiasm made him a key player of our team and he will always be warmly remembered", Executive

Officer of FOCUS in Tajikistan, Mustafa Karim, expressed his sympathy. Azalsho is survived by his wife and five daughters.



FOCUS in Tajikistan, Fleet Manager, Azalsho Dushanbiev lost his battle with cancer in November

In the Spotlight: Nusrat Nasab, Deputy Executive Officer, FOCUS Pakistan

Nusrat Nasab has been serving FOCUS Pakistan for the past five years. Beginning her career with the organisation as Senior Programme Officer for FOCUS Pakistan, she has subsequently been promoted to her current role as Deputy Executive Officer. With the experience she brings from her previous role as Manager



Nusrat Nasab, Deputy Executive Officer
FOCUS Pakistan

of Monitoring, Evaluation and Research at Aga Khan Education Services, Pakistan, Nusrat continuously motivates her team to achieve excellence. "I enjoy working for FOCUS because in my capacity, I can bring together our team and collaborative partners to achieve positive results" she explains. FOCUS Pakistan Chair, Khadija Shaban, commends Nusrat for her work, "She is an asset to FOCUS and her outstanding performance has made her a vital part of the team". Through her dedication, commitment, and passion, Nusrat has driven her unit to new heights and has served the organisation with tact, efficiency, and diligence. Nusrat is a valuable member of the global FOCUS family.

When asked what drives her commitment, Nusrat explained that witnessing and being victim to events such as the Attabad landslide disaster and the recent Pakistan floods, has motivated her to work hard and serve those who have been impacted by such disasters: "It's not just my job" she says, "It's my duty". Experiencing the affects of disaster first-hand, Nusrat explains, "Fortunately, my family survived. I consider myself lucky compared to others who suffered far greater losses, particularly the loss of loved ones". In the future, Nusrat hopes to expand the scope of programmatic activities for FOCUS Pakistan and is committed to steering the unit and the organisation with continued dedication and perseverance.

Focus Humanitarian Assistance

An Affiliate of the Aga Khan Development Network

FOCUS International Secretariat 789 Don Mills Road, Suite 201 Toronto, ON M3C 1T5, Canada • Tel: +1 416 422 0177 • ficc@focushumanitarian.org
FOCUS Afghanistan House 42, Street 02, Qala-e-Fatullah, Kabul, Afghanistan • Tel: +93 79 934 5001/9 • focusafghanistan@focushumanitarian.org
FOCUS Europe 205-209 Addiscombe Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 6SP, United Kingdom • Tel: +44 20 8654 6131 • focuseurope@focushumanitarian.org
FOCUS India 305, Maker Bhavan No. 3, 21, New Marine Lines, Mumbai 400020, India • Tel: +91 22 220 17175 / +91 22 32663549 • focusindia@focushumanitarian.org
FOCUS in North America:

Canada Office 789 Don Mills Road, Suite 201, Toronto, ON M3C 1T5, Canada • Tel: +1 416 423 7988 • focuscanada@focushumanitarian.org

USA Office 1700 First Colony Blvd, Suite 300, Sugar Land, TX 77479, USA • Tel: +1 800 423 7972 • focususa@focushumanitarian.org

FOCUS Pakistan Level 9 Sereena Business Complex, Khayaban-e-Suharwardy, Islamabad, Pakistan • Tel: 92 51 2072500 - 30

• focuspakistan@focushumanitarian.org

FOCUS in Tajikistan 137 Rudaki Avenue, Tajikmatlubot, 4th Floor, 734003, Dushanbe, Tajikistan • Tel: +992 (37) 221 9830 / +992 (37) 224 7650

• focus Tajikistan@focushumanitarian.org