

LCA's, CSOs, CCBNs, V&NCs,  
Press Clubs, District Bars

# Join Hands to Help Flood Victims



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# LCAs Grapple with Flood Victims

The recent devastated floods created havoc in the country displacing 10 million people on one hand while affecting 20 million people on the other hand.

In these crucial times, the United Nations issued a flash appeal to the world community to help Pakistan overcome the catastrophe.

It was realized that in the absence of elected local government representatives at grassroots level, intrusive and inclusive linkages created through the elected representatives were missing. It was also realized that such missing links could be activated by involving Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment (DTCE) in the relief work, which has a strong relationship with the communities through citizen based engagements in its partner districts throughout the country.

The DTCE with the support of UNDP launched the relief activities in September from the platform of Jeevay Pakistan Jeevay Maqami-Hakoomat (JPJM) for the vulnerable community and in first phase provided food and relief items to the most deserving people.

After the completion of relief activities and operations, the DTCE has decided to start post-rehabilitation work in the flood-affected areas. Now, the program is continuing in different sectors including health, education, wash etc.

JPJM comprises Local Council



Floods hit Sindh areas

Associations (LCAs), Citizen Community Board Networks (CCBNs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Village and Neighbourhood Councils (V&NCs) district Press Clubs, district Bar associations and former local government leaders. Keeping in view the salient features of the program the JPJM had evolved a transparent mechanism of monitoring of goods' distribution and funds utilization through setting up committees. These committees finalized after thorough scrutiny the lists of most

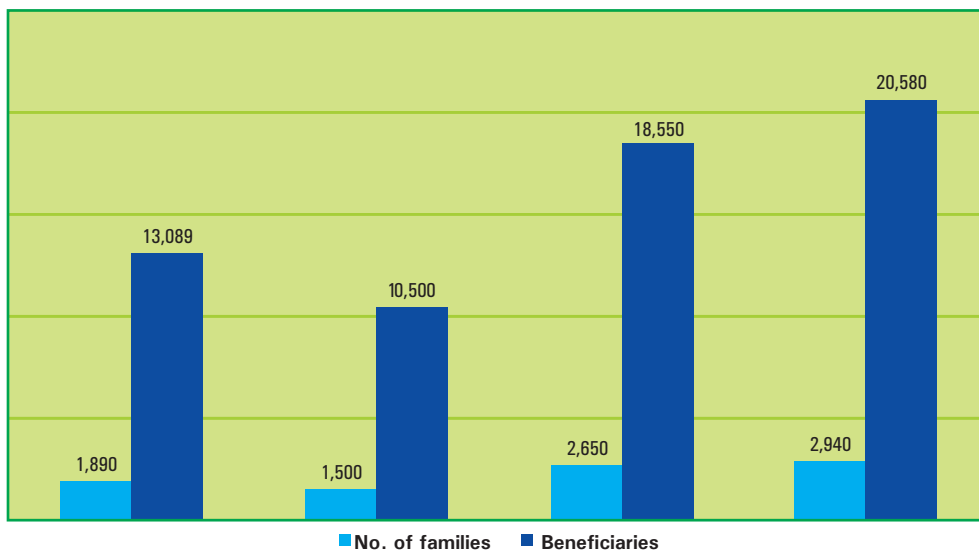
deserving people.

The process of verification, monitoring and evaluation was conducted by Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Team (IMET), which comprised at least one member from District Government, Local Council Association, Press Club, Bar Association, CSO, V&NC and one person from community. The IMET conducted verification and monitoring from beginning to completion of this program. The objective behind this mechanism and scheme of composition was to access the highly deserving flood-stricken people, who were totally deprived of relief assistance.

Before launching the program, the DTCE field operation teams conducted a thorough survey of the affected areas and then started their relief activities.

The job was done in the highly affected districts throughout the country including Charsadda, Kohistan, Thattha, Sukkur, Khairpur, Shikarpur, Shahdadkhel, Muzaffargarh, Multan, Lower Dir, Nasirabad and Jaffarabad.

The following graph shows the overall distribution of relief goods in DTCE's selected districts.







LCA KPK President Yousaf Ayub distributes food items at Parang UC in Charsadda.

## CHARSADDA, KOHISTAN

### Flood Relief Activity

The DTCE kick started its flood relief campaign from Charsadda on September 2, 2010. In Charsadda the relief activity was mainly looked after by DTCE field operation team led by Mr Naseer Khan.

Food packs comprising flour, sugar, ghee, rice etc were distributed among flood-affected people in all the Union Councils of Charsadda. Besides the DTCE chairman Daniyal Aziz, LCA Pukhtunkhwa President Mr Yousaf Ayub, DTCE chief Executive Officer Mushir Naqvi, Charsadda district bar President and Charsadda Press Club President, representatives of CSOs, former Prang UC Nazim and notables of the area were all present at the launching ceremony of food distribution at Parang Union council.

Speaking on the occasion, Daniyal Aziz said local government representatives will not leave their calamity-hit brethren alone in these testing time. "We have evolved a comprehensive strategy for food distribution and funds utilization and no one can point finger on it," he said.

He invited media to monitor the DTCE's mechanism and give suggestions as how to improve it if there is any flaw in it.

Had there been local governments in place, there would have been no difficulty in coping with the crisis, he said, adding that today the situation is worse and the government has left flood-stricken people on the mercy of administrators and patwaris.

Similarly, the food and relief goods were also distributed in Kohistan.

Local elders as well as media also joined hands with the LCAs leadership in the flood relief activity.

## THATTA

### Flood Relief Activity

On September 14, the DTCE distributed food and relief items among the flood affected people at Dhamdamo and Haleji camps of Thatta district. The DTCE team led by Khawaja Ejaz looked after the operational activities in these camps.

Among DTCE chairman Daniyal Aziz, those who were present on the occasion included: LCA Sindh President Rahila Magsi, LCA Sindh Convener Nasir Hussain Shah, LCA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President Yousaf Ayub, LCABalochistan President Mir Maqbool Lehri, civil society as well as district press and bar leaders.

The monitoring and evaluation committees finalized a list of most deserving families from Thatta district to provide them with food and relief items.

The former local government representatives, expressing solidarity with the flood victims, criticized the government for its lukewarm response towards the flood-hit people. They also demanded of the government to restore local governments or hold fresh elections and hand over the responsibility concerning relief and rehabilitation to the local leadership.

The also pledged to help the flood victims till their return to their homes. They called upon the people not to give in hope and fight against the disaster with courage.



Flood victims await their turn inside Dhamdamo camp in Thatta.



LCA Sindh President Rahila Magsi hands over goods among flood victims in Thatta.



LCA Sindh Convener Syed Nasir Shah distributes food and relief good among flood victims in Sukkur.

## SUKKUR, KKAIRPUR, SH-AHDADKOT, SHIKARPUR Flood Relief Activity

The DTCE established a flood relief camp on August 30, 2010 at Sukkur, which turned into a successful example in terms of its operationalization, coordination with relevant institutions and locally generated incomes for both its sustenance and suitability in the worst ever times for the affected ones, caused by the devastating floods. The camp was mainly looked after by the DTCE field operational team led by Mr Sikandar Ali Hullio.

The camp remained operational for 35 days till the return of its occupants to their native towns on October 2, 2010. LCA Sindh member and former Tehsil Nazim Rohri managed the affairs of the camp under the guidance of LCA Sindh Convener and former Sukkur district Nazim Syed Nasir Shah.

The LCA camp which was located opposite to IBA Sukkur was hardly one km away from the airport. The area also housed one of the leading camps of IBA Sukkur and dozens of other camps. The area leads to Shikarpur, Kashmore and Jacobabad. These districts were the

worst hit of flood after the breaking of Tori Bund (Embankment) in Kashmore district, inundating most of the parts of these and other adjoining districts of Balochistan, including Jaffarabad and Naseerabad.

The families housed in this camp belonged to Kashmore, Jacobabad and Shikarpur districts. Most of the homes belonging to these families were completely destroyed, livestock lost and crops wiped out. According to them they had to leave their ancestral homes within few hours of having been surrounded by flood waters. One of the leading businessmen from Karachi donated tents for the camp but later deserted the camp due to lack of plan to manage its further operations. After the identification and request from District Administration, this camp was taken over and adopted by the DTCE/LCA Sindh.

The camp looked after 50 families consisting of 385 persons (200 women and 185 men). They were given food items like flour, rice, pulses, oil, milk, sugar etc on weekly basis. Initially, for two days, they were provided cooked food and afterwards they were encouraged to cook the food by themselves on the camp's premises so as to involve them in normal routine activities. They were also provided required crockery, water coolers and other utensils.

The occupants of the camp were provided medical facilities through a dispensary established by the District Administration and supported by donors. Moreover, Hygiene Kits provided by the UNICEF were also distributed among all the families after one week. Similarly, displaced children were also imparted

education after NCHD under its literacy campaign opened schools in the district with the help of Save the Children on September 10, which remained operational till the closure of the camps.

In the last week, sporting feature also dominated the camp. Local games including Kabadi and Rasakashi were played throughout that particular week in the evenings which colored the regrouping of occupants diverse backgrounds into homogeneity.

Before the closure of the camp, all families were facilitated to get their Watan Cards having an amount of Rs100,000 for their early recovery and rehabilitation.

## MUZAFFARGARH, MULTAN Flood Relief Activity

In Muzaffargarh, the food distribution activity was started from Budh Union Council on September 26. Besides the DTCE Chairman Daniyal Aziz, UNDP Country Director Toshihiro Tanaka was the chief guest on the occasion. LCA Punjab President Asghar Shah Gilani, former Naib Nazim of Multan Wajid Ali Shah, representatives of CSOs, Press and Bar and notables of the area were also present. The affected families of Budh UC who were worst hit by the floods were provided food and relief goods on that day.

The relief goods include flour, rice, ghee (cooking oil), pulses, sugar, tea, salt, laundry soap, bath soap, match box etc. They were also given standard family hygiene kits which were donated by the UNICEF. Moreover, two medical camps were set up to provide free medical aid to



UC Nazim Khadim Hussain Mirani speaks to flood victims before food distribution ceremony at UC in Khairpur.





Flood victims sit in a tent at Budh UC in Muzaffargarh.



UNDP Country Director Toshihiro Tanaka distributes sweets among children in Muzaffargarh

the local communities especially women and children at their doorsteps.

Speaking on the occasion, Toshihiro Tanaka assured the flood-hit people of his all-out help. He said he is much worried to know about the woes of villagers. He said 10 million people were in dire need of food in the flood-hit areas while further assessment is going on to have a clear picture of the situation. He said the UNDP would soon launch a rehabilitation program.

Daniyal Aziz said the local government representatives will not leave their calamity-hit brethren alone in these testing-times. "We won't let you alone till your houses, streets and villages are not built again," he added.

He demanded of the government to restore local governments or hold fresh local government elections and hand over the responsibility concerning relief and rehabilitation to the local leadership. He also criticized the administrators for failing to provide food and relief goods to flood victims in an appropriate manner.

The UNDP Country Director also visited the camps of affected people and talked to affected families including women and children.

Later the program continued in other areas including Union Council Alurid (arra Akbar Shah village), Union Council Ahmad Mohana, Govt degree Collage camp (Muzaffargarh), Shamsul Ulom camp (Kot Addu) and Shujabad camp (Multan).

Earlier, two-time meal was also provided to the a large number of vulnerable families Sidhari and korai villages (UC Manna in Kot Addu).

## NASEERABAD, JAFFARABAD Flood Relief Activity

On October 6, the LCA leaders under the banner of Jeevay Pakistan Jeevay Muqami Hakoomat (JPJM) visited the flood-hit Naseerabad where they distributed food and relief goods among flood affected people in Dera Murad

Jamali. A large number of people received the food items and relief goods. Besides DTCE Chairman Daniyal Aziz, LCA Balochistan President Mir Maqbool Lehri, LCA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President Yousaf Ayub and notables of the area were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, the DTCE chairman and LCA leadership said that they are stood by with their Baloch brethren in these difficult times. They said it's time to unite people for community development. They said the goal of community development could only be achieved through empowering people at grass roots level.

On October 7, the LCA leaders distributed food and relief goods at a camp in Quetta city.

The flood relief activity was mainly looked after by the DTCE field operation team led by Sikandar Ali Hullo.

The LCAs/DTCE flood relief activities concerning food distribution ended by mid October.



Flood victims getting themselves registered with DTCE staff in Balochistan.



LCA Kpk president Yousaf Ayub hands over relief goods to flood victims in Dera Murad Jamali in Balochistan LCA Balochistan President Mir Maqbool Lehri is also present.

# Peace Building & Economic Recovery in Malakand

The large-scale destruction of property, services and livelihood in Malakand Division warrants an equally large-scale rehabilitation and reconstruction, which could be possible only if people's basic needs are fulfilled at the earliest.

The DTCE in collaboration with DFID is undertaking a project to resettle the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The proposed project will respond quickly to

basic community needs while building a strong platform for proactive state-citizen interface to ensure a participatory and responsive early resettlement, rehabilitation and reconstruction. All DTCE program components will be implemented within the PCRR districts. This includes CCB seed financing for undertaking reconstruction projects, establishment of V&NCs to provide

sanitation services and work with the local police to enhance public safety and other supporting components.

MoUs and quarterly workplan have been signed with Malakand district administration, police, Press club, Bar association. A One-Window Operation has been established after the approval of recurring cost of its staff.

The District Bar Association will facilitate and participate in Community Empowerment Round Table (CERT) meetings as well as provide free legal aid support to the communities. It will also facilitate and participate in each activity undertaken by the DTCE. It was also agreed to allocate a room in bar office for the establishment of Community Empowerment Desk (CED). In the presence of District Bar Association members, a free legal aid Committee was formed which consists of 5 members including (president and Gen Secretary). The notification of free legal aid Committee was collected from them.



The District Press Club will participate in Community Empowerment Round Table (CERT) and will arrange press forums at district level. It will also facilitate press coverage of the activities undertaken by DTCE in the district. The Press club Malakand formed a committee consisting of 5 members including (Chairman and Gen Secretary) who will facilitate press coverage of DTCE activities.



Establishment of OWO Office at EDO (F&P)'s Office

Soon after the signing of MOU with District Administration, DTCE established a One Window Operation (OWO) on the premises of EDO (F&P) office Malakand with the objective to facilitate reconstruction and rehabilitation activities in the district by providing technical assistance, relevant information and databases, as well as dissemination and advocacy material to the administration and stakeholders. OWO also acts as the main liaison office in the district to coordinate and develop linkages between various initiatives undertaken by aid agencies in the village. OWO is manned by the technical experts. Currently, services of one sub-engineer to prepare technical estimates of projects and one Community Development Specialist and one field assistant to undertake social mobilization are available in OWO.





## Capacity building workshops for

Members of V&NCs, UPSCs, and C&SCs at a workshop

# V&NCs, UPSCs, C&SCs

The V&NC being an elected body at the village unit has been a key citizen engagement and entitlement success in terms of providing basic municipal services, the generation and strengthening of social capital, and inclusion of socially-excluded members.

During the year 2010, the DTCE conducted various capacity building workshops of 931 V&NCs in 51 union councils of seven districts including Khairpur, Tando Alla Yar, Gujrat, Narowal, Haripur, Mansehra and Abbottabad. Among 2,555 participants of these workshops, 2,452 were male and 103 female. The workshops focused on monitoring and reporting mechanism for V&NCs, record keeping, development of workplan and working relationship with Union Public Safety Committees (UPSCs) and Coordination & Support

Committees (C&SCs).

V&NCs in a union council form two bodies namely (a) UPSC with the objective to improve public safety in coordination with the local police and (b) C&SC for overseeing, monitoring and facilitation of the VNCs in its respective Union for the availability of municipal services and governance.

In these 51 union councils, 433 members of UPSCs (406 males and 27 females) were imparted training while 431 members of C&SCs (400 males and 31 females) were trained in capacity building workshops.

### Police-Community Relations Program (PCRP)

DTCE's PCRP addresses the needs of modernizing law-enforcement through supporting implementation

of the Police Order 2002. It provides mechanisms for community participation to improve public safety. The PCRP component enhances citizen voice and strengthens public-private linkages as well as involves citizens in the oversight of public safety institutions. The objectives are approached by DTCE through building the capacities and linkages between police, community, UPSCs and C&SC.

The programme has been active in 10 DTCE partner districts. Police Station Monitoring System was established in 8 partner districts. At least 1,553 participants attended police consultative workshops held in three districts. About 216 participants from 67 notified UPSCs attended trainings held in two districts whereas 17,725 participants attended 205 Khuli Kacheris.





# UNDP Goodwill Ambassador's

visit to DTCE

ISLAMABAD: Global Goodwill Ambassador for United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Misako Konno visited the DTCE office on July 23, 2010.

UNDP officials along with Country Director Toshihiro Tanaka as well as Japanese officials and media men were also accompanied her.

On her arrival, the dignitary was warmly welcomed by DTCE Chairman Daniyal Aziz along with the members of Noor Citizen Community Board (CCB), Haripur.

During a formal meeting with the DTCE staff, the UNDP Goodwill Ambassador who also remained a well-known Japanese actress and television personality, said that whenever she meets people especially the womenfolk living in poverty-stricken parts of the world, she becomes charged emotionally to do something for them.

She said she had visited 10 developing countries including Pakistan and in every country she found women working very hard. "I think it's the women in the world who take care of their families in hard times and post-conflict situation for the prosperity of their countries," Misako Konno said. She said that she had written a book on the plight of the poor people in developing countries and would donate its income for development projects in Pakistan and elsewhere. UNDP Country Director

Toshihiro Tanaka told the meeting as to how the UN's global development network brings about change by connecting people to knowledge, experience and resources to help them build a better life.

The UNDP Goodwill Ambassador also held a detailed meeting with the Noor CCB members and was briefed about various projects of the CCB, including Women Vocational Centre at Haripur. She also evinced keen interest in the products prepared by Noor CCB members and appreciated the embroidery work. Later, the delegation was also shown a documentary on the project. The project was launched three years ago by the women of Mohallah Qateel Shifai, Haripur with the help of community participation.

The CCB chairperson Ms Musarrat Shaheen told the Japanese delegation

that the CCB has so far trained more than 1,200 women in sewing, embroidery-making, knitting etc. She also informed the meeting about the courses introduced by the institute including candle-making, decoration pieces making etc. She said she has a dream to change this institute into a big institution.

Ms Misako Konno lauded the efforts and role of the CCB members in capacity building of the women workers. She made a commitment with the CCB members that she would donate the income received after selling her book for the CCB projects to materialize the future dreams of CCB members.

At the end of the visit, DTCE Chairman Daniyal Aziz thanked the dignitary for her arrival in Pakistan to share her experiences and loud hopes with the people.



The staff of UNDP during a briefing at DTCE office in Islamabad.



## Call to Introduce

# Local Government System In CAPITAL

ISLAMABAD: Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment (DTCE), Local Council Associations (LCAs), Awami Rabita Committee and civil society organizations jointly organized a seminar on 'Why Capital is without Local Government System' at National Press Club on June 25.

After a consensus was developed to establish the local government system in the federal capital and cantonment areas of the country, the speakers demanded of the government to announce an early date to hold local government (LG) elections.

DTCE Chairman Daniyal Aziz presided over the function while a large number of political and social activists, former local government representatives, Nazims, media persons, civil society and general citizenry attended the seminar. Those who spoke on the occasion included PML-N Spokesman Siddiqui Farooq, former Haripur Nazim Yousaf Ayub, former Sukkur Nazim Nasir Hussain Shah, former Quetta Nazim Mir Maqbool Lehri, former Multan Naib Nazim Wajid Ali Shah, Jamaat Islami Islamabad Amir Sayyad Belal and LCA Kpk General Secretary Asrarullah.

DTCE Chairman Daniyal Aziz fully backing the idea of local government

system in federal capital said he would continue to support those striving for their rights.

He recalled that National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB) was a think-tank which used to prepare instruments for the implementation of policies. "The implementation of these tools was the duty of the cabinet," he added. He said the NRB structured local government laws and sent them to the provinces for implementation. "If there were flaws in these laws, the provincial governments could improve them but they were not interested in devolution," he maintained. He said it is very easy to criticize but difficult to perform. Citing the example of Balochistan, he said the province had passed a new LG system, which is identical to 1979 local bodies system but at the same time DCOs, EDOs and other officials are still working there. He said in Pakistan it is impossible to show door to the bureaucracy as compared to the politicians who can be expelled easily from parliament. He pinpointed that though Balochistan government had repealed the LG system but LG officials were still there.

Referring to a study, he said at least 40 per cent former local government representatives would retrieve their



LCA Sindh Convener Nasir Shah speaks at the seminar.

seats, that's why the provinces are delaying the polls deliberately.

Spokesman for Pakistan Muslim League(Nawaz) Siddiqui Farooq said politics meant solving nation and state's problems through forming a consolidated strategy. "I uphold the best local government system in the country but the foundation of the system made by the Musharraf regime was laid on hypocrisy," he added. He said the dictators' aim to introduce the local government system was in fact to prolong his rule, as Nazims were his constituency.

He said surprisingly the architects of this program had failed to enforce the system in Islamabad and cantonments besides they were all powerful.

He said sometimes dictators do a very good job but it does not mean that we should support them. He said nations progressed with the continuity and improvement of the systems. He said every individual should correct himself. He said if New York and London like



(L-R) Wajid Ali Shah, Siddiqui Farooq, Daniyal Aziz, Mir Maqbool Lehri, Amir Sayyad Belal and Asrarullah at the seminar

cities could have mayors, why not Islamabad.

Former district Nazim Sukkur and LCA Sindh Convener Nasir Hussain Shah said conspiracies were being hatched to demolish LG system throughout the country. He said if the system was implemented completely like we see in the world it could bring fruitful results. He said the political parties are opposing the system saying that it had been formed by a dictator. He said our weaknesses should not be used an excuse to axe the system.

LCA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Secretary General said that Article 140A of the Constitution is being violated by using local government funds through the administrators. He said the democratic governments led by elite of the country, in its first step, had hammered out the democracies led by the poor. On the one hand the government portrays that it is against the rule of bureaucracy while on the other hand commissionerate system has been restored in the country.

Former district Nazim Quetta and LCA Balochistan President Mir Maqbool Lehri said this was very unfortunate that Nazims were always aligned with General (retired) Pervez Musharraf whereas the latter had left the country and Nazims were struggling for the rights of people. He said the system had been bulldozed in all the four provinces, which is against the spirit of the Constitution and law. He said many cases regarding holding of local government elections are being heard in higher courts and contrary to this the Balochistan government had terminated the whole system replacing it with the old draconian laws. He said its time to go for action and we should not limit ourselves to seminars.

LCA Punjab President Wajid Ali Shah said local government system is the basic unit of democracy and it must be allowed to run. He said in the absence of Nazims people are running from pillar to post for the solution of their problems as the offices of administrators are always closed for the general masses.

JI Islamabad Amir Sayyad Belal said the government had made the local government system a disputed one. He said there were apprehensions the local government polls may be delayed, which is a matter of concern.

## LCIN Program

### Sensitizing Media for Promotion of LG System

The DTCE's LCIN program successfully used the platform of print and electronic media for the promotion of local government system at a time when it was undergoing a transition. A year has been passed after the dissolution of local government system, and the struggle for its revival is continuing though parliament has given the local government system a complete protection under 18th Amendment incorporating Article 140A in the Constitution.

#### Print Media

Apart from routine coverage of events, the LCIN team managed to publish exclusive news reports and articles in different newspapers.

1. No decision on LG cases even after over a year (Daily Times: Dec 8)
2. Ex-local representatives still uncertain about LG polls (Daily Times: Nov 9)
3. Delay in LG polls irks ex-local representatives (Dawn: Oct 27)
4. Local administrators fail to deliver in Punjab (The News: Oct 9)
5. No proper mechanism for relief items distribution: DTCE (Daily Times: August 30)
6. Local bodies absence makes affectees' data collection an uphill task (The Nation: Aug 21)
7. LG polls postponed (Editorial) (Dawn: Aug 26)
8. Local govts, not politicians, better placed to handle calamities (Dawn: Aug 13)
9. Destruction of LG system adding to people's woes (The News: Aug 24)
10. 70 % bureaucracy supports LG system (The News: July 8)
11. ECP decision to delay LG polls against court order (Daily Times: June 24)
12. Restoration of Public Safety Commission: Govt defying SC verdict (The Nation: June 15)

#### Electronic Media

Besides, the coverage of DTCE routine activities, the LCIN managed the airing of talk shows from different television channels on the local government system.

1. Doosra Pehlu (CNBC: June 2)
2. Amnay Samnay (CNBC: June 3)
3. The Other Line (Express 24/7 : June 4)
4. Chaudhry Ki Bethak (DAWNNEWS: June 24)
5. Capital Circuit (News 1: July 19)
6. Bila Jhijak (DAWNNEWS: Aug 18)
7. Capital Circuit (News 1: Aug 31)
8. Sawal yeh Hai (ARY News: Sept 05)
9. Tonight with Jasmine (Samaa TV: Sept 16)
10. Faisla Aap Ka (Samaa TV: Sept 18)
11. Doosra Pehlu (CNBC: Sept 18)
12. Dunya Mere Agay (Dunya TV: Oct 12)



## Review Mission extols DTCE efforts

In 2010, DTCE underwent a successful annual review of its program. Donors including Department for International Development (DFID) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) visited Gujrat, Lahore, Tando Alla Yar and Karachi to monitor and gauge the performance of DTCE program implementation in these districts.

From DFID side, Arvind Mungur (Program Manager, Governance), Rabia Nizam (Social Development Adviser, Governance and Growth), Sohail Wajid (Deputy Program Manager) and Ali Shah Azhar (Governance Adviser) while from UNDP, Farhan Sabih (Assistant Country Director) and Shireen Gul (Program Officer) were the part of the visiting review mission. The DTCE was represented by Azhar Bashir Malik (National Program Manager) and Field Operation Team Managers including Najeeb Aslam, Ejaz Khawaja and Khalid Mehmood.

During the monitoring of various



DFID, UNDP, DTCE representative during the visit to a project in Tando Alla Yar, Sindh.

projects, the mission also held meetings with the officials concerned of provincial governments of Sindh and Punjab, local communities and other stakeholders. As an outcome of the review, the mission appreciated

the DTCE efforts for community mobilization at grass roots level. They also evinced keen interest in the Technical Resource Centre (TRC). The DTCE has established a TRC in Karachi with the support of Sindh government.

### Editorial

## LG POLLS POSTPONED

LOCAL government polls in Sindh have been postponed yet again. On Monday the Sindh governor promulgated an ordinance which effectively put off the polls for the fifth time this year. While the devastation caused by the floods has been cited for the delay, and rightly so, the postponement is for an indefinite period. A Governor House spokesman has said the polls would be held when "the situation returns to normality". When this will be is anybody's guess. No doubt, the destruction caused by the floods is unprecedented. But there seems more to the delay than meets the eye. No election can take place in Sindh until there is a new local government law, which is precisely what the PPP and MQM can't reach an agreement on.

***The absence of elected local governments has been sorely felt in the present situation. If elected officials had been in place there are good chances people's sufferings could have been mitigated.***

This political deadlock has translated into bureaucrats running the show, as elected local officials have been absent for the last six months when the local bodies were dissolved. The PPP wants to go back to the 1979 LG formula, while the MQM favours the law introduced in 2001.

The political wrangling is proving to be counter-productive for Sindh. The absence of elected local governments has been sorely felt in the present

situation. If elected officials had been in place there are good chances people's sufferings could have been mitigated. Elected officials would have worked overtime to save their villages and towns as they have to face the voters come election time. In the present scenario we have seen ministers swooping in for flying visits, stopping for photo opportunities and then leaving the disaster areas. They are not as dependent on the local population for votes as local bodies' officials are. The delay in polls may be understandable. But the politicians need to iron out their differences, reach a compromise and pave the way for polls to be conducted at the first opportunity.

(Courtesy Dawn, Islamabad: August 26)

# Destruction of LG System adding people's woes

By Rauf Kalsra

LAYYAH: The untold miseries of about 500,000 flood victims of district Layyah have multiplied manifold due to the virtual dismantling of district governments six months back by incumbent ruling regimes as there is no effective administrative system in place to come to their assistance.

Then there are typical exploiters of any calamity. People who were not affected from floods are now emerging as beneficiaries as no local political leader is available to distinguish between real and fake affectees who are taking full advantage of this complete administrative mess.

The level of fast deteriorating law and order situation in these flood affected areas—can be gauged from the fact that Kot Sultan police baton charged affectees on Monday, after they started looting food supplies in the absence of local political leadership, which never surfaced even during this crises—once they were dumped by the Punjab government to enable PML-M MPAs to use district bureaucracy against their opponents. The brutal police baton charge is now becoming a regular feature in these flood-affected areas of Layyah district as affectees are increasingly turning violent. Barely, six months back, district government was playing an important role in running the local system even at union council level, which was now non existence when they were much needed in these testing times.

One round of affected areas in flooded district revealed how rural people were left at the mercy of ruthless nature once uncontrollable waters started rushing towards the villagers who were caught off guard and did not know where to go. The bureaucracy sitting in main Layyah

*One could easily see how in absence of politically elected district governments, there was a complete chaos in flood affected areas as political leadership was no where seen which otherwise could have used district administration to manage things in much a better way.*

city was never in a position to manage the people of rural areas. The district administration was said to be more concerned about safety of city, rather than thinking about the rural people who were trapped in the middle of the flood, which washed away their livestock and home belongings and now they were sitting under open skies in scorching heat.

One could easily see how in absence of politically elected district governments, there was a complete chaos in flood affected areas as political leadership was no where seen which otherwise could have used district administration to manage things in much a better way.

This correspondent visited many areas but could not find even a single official of district administration. It was revealed that Patwaris (revenue official) known for their corrupt practices were now given responsibility to manage the food supplies.

They were facing allegations of misusing the food supplies meant for the flood victims as they did not enjoy good reputation in public which was now seriously annoyed about the manner in which supplies were being mismanaged. In the absence of any political leadership now people have been left on mercy of the revenue officers and other low ranking officials, who were not seen in the area where they were supposed to manage and control the supplies of the food and provide medical aid.

The shocking part of this human tragedy is that PML-N MPs of the area -who had

played a major role in convincing their leadership of Lahore to remove district governments so they could call the shots, were still controlling police stations to get bogus FIRs registered against their political enemies, even in these testing times. Police stations of district Layyah were distributed among PML-N MPs. For example, Kot Sultan SHO was still seen visiting the Dera (house) of PML-N MPA, seeking his guidance to book his political opponents on fake charges, even when the floods were playing havoc with people. The district management was completely in the control of PML-N MPs.

There was a surprising consensus among several people whom this correspondent met that the whole district was in a complete mess in absence of local political leadership, which were fast emerging to start running the district effectively without involvement of political leadership of Lahore. They do argue that the district Nazims and district councilors were accountable to people and in a much better position to take care of the whole situation as district management was still unable to manage things.

The situation was fast becoming out of bureaucracy control and more mess was in the making in absence of the local political leadership, demolished as a result of removal of district government with PML-N MPs run administration.

*(Courtesy The News, Islamabad:*

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