

# Kashmir Charitable Trust (UK)

*Annual Report 2007*



**KCT (UK)**

**KCT (AJK)**

60  
com

Kashmir Charitable Trust (UK) was established and registered with the Charity commission in 1995. A number of Kashmiris in Rochdale got together to form this organisation, the objectives of KCT were set out at the time and still remain 'to work towards the development of Kashmiri people in all walks of life.'

### **Purpose of KCT**

To relieve the inhabitants and the origins (living elsewhere) of the State of Jammu and Kashmir who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as a result of local, internal or external conflicts, natural disasters or by reason of their social and economic circumstances.

### **Earthquake**

The Earthquake on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2005 has been the worst disaster ever in the history of this particular region. The devastation caused over 80,000 deaths; over a 100,000 people injured and around 3 million people have been made homeless. Since the dreadful disaster struck, a lot of relief help in food, shelter, medicine and other necessities was provided by number countries, Non Government Organisations (NGOs), Charity organisations and individuals. However, the direct help from various countries and NGOs ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. People of this region still need help in further sheltering, rehabilitation and resettlement.

Kashmir Charitable Trust is one of the UK based charities still operative in Kashmir. After the initial relief help in providing food, medicine and sheltering its volunteers on the ground have been working towards filling gaps where help has not reached. Establishing immediate needs and then either providing this help or referring the victims to relevant agencies. Please check our website for further information; [www.kct-uk.org](http://www.kct-uk.org)

## Message from Trustees

The Executive Trustees of KCT would like to take this opportunity to thank members and non-members who have donated generously to help the victims of 8<sup>th</sup> October Earthquake in Kashmir and Pakistan. Although we don't hear much about the Earthquake these days, however, situation for some of the victims of the disaster has changed very little. Since the disaster had struck many of us did what we could in the beginning and thought that the work was done. The reality is that the enormity of the disaster has ceded, but the sheer size of the tasks has just changed its form and a different approach is required to provide support to the victims. We have to continue to work hard in order to provide what ever help we can for those who are still in the brunt of it and are helpless. Particularly, now that foreign help and support from different countries and NGOs has come to an end.

The members and supporters of KCT working in various towns and cites in Britain are urged to use their means to strengthen and help KCT to achieve its objectives. It will be with your help that we'll be able to provide shelter, rehabilitation and long term support for the victims.

It's been over two years since this tragedy struck, having updated information from some members who have come back from the affected areas and also regular communication with the volunteers on the ground. There has been constant review of the ground reality and what needs to be done. Although the initial relief phase according to some quarters is now over and we need to concentrate on rehabilitation and reconstruction. However, according to our volunteers and direct contact with some people living in remote villages, there are still those people that require shelter homes, reconnection of water, electric and other supplies. Many of the victims have no hope of having a house built before the winter falls again, for them further shelters will be required. Although KCT's aim is on regeneration and rehabilitation however, we feel that the basics needs of the people must also be catered for. Therefore, KCT will do its utmost to provide shelter homes, regular cash help for windows, orphans and families who do not have any means.

### Donations Received

The funds donated during 2007 are as follows, the Executive Trustees will do their utmost to distribute them where the need is urgent and essential.

<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>Bradford</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>Accrington</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
Glasgow	2.3%	High Wycombe	1.6 %	Huddersfield	6.6%
Blackburn	1.6%	London	3.7%	Derby	1.2%
Milton Keynes	1.3%	Sheffield	1.3 %	Rochdale	8.1 %
Oldham	1.7%	Various Unknown cities	26.8%	Others*	19.1%

\*Other towns include : Manchester, Nottingham, Leeds, Burnley, Slough Walsall and many others

## Contents

Chapter No	Topic	Page No
	<b>Background</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Message from Trustees</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Situation of Affected Areas</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>KCT's Initial Contribution</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Initial and Current Projects</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Future Projects</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>14</b>

## 1. General

Kashmir Charitable Trust (KCT) is a UK based voluntary Organisation striving to assist people of Kashmir. KCT was founded in 1995. It has contributed funds to Organisations and individuals on all sides of the divide. In the recent few years some changes have taken place to bring normality in the day to day lives of ordinary Kashmiris. However, there are still those people who have been struggling to improve their lives. People of Kashmir are peace loving nation who have been affected by decades old turmoil by external control. People near to the Ceasefire line that divides Kashmir have been going through some torrid time. There is no family in these areas that have not been affected by the commotion in the country.

Members of KCT over the years have been endeavouring to assist as many ongoing projects as possible through other Charitable Organisations, working in Kashmir. However, there is lot of more work that can be carried out with increased man-power and financial resources. People living in the UK, particularly Kashmiri people have contributed well in making some of the projects successful.

KCT is working under the slogan of “aapneyian nal mili the aapneyian waste kam karo” which simply means “Join your own and work for your own”. Objective of the slogan is for the local community to get involve, be part of the projects and help their own.

The horrifying earthquake in Pakistan and particularly in Kashmir had claimed more than 80,000 lives with well over 100,000 injured. It was absolutely a dreadful human tragedy with many innocent families wiped out and whole communities devastated. No one could have imagined the damage it has caused to rural and inaccessible areas of beautiful vales of Kashmir.

Many Kashmiri and Pakistani families living in Britain woke up on Saturday morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2005 to find out that; for some their loved ones had perished and for some their people had been wiped out. Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Rawalakot and surrounding villages including some areas of Pakistan had been hit so hard that 70% to 80% and in some cases 95% of the buildings had fallen.

As the TV pictures started to show people were overwhelmed by the disaster and unable to cope with the huge devastation, British Kashmiris particularly became emotional and desperate to go out there and help their people. Lack of co-ordination and with some good intentions lead some Kashmiris to collect funds from family and friends, catch a plane and off to the disaster zone with no sense of what was required and what actually needs to be done, consequently causing chaos and hindrance.

## 2. Situation of Affected Area

The sounds preceding an earthquake can be as terrifying as the event itself, particularly when they come to the ears of people dazed with sleep. Sometime there is a boom like distant gunfire, or a sharp, snapping sound. There may be a rumbling noise like heavy traffic moving over cobbled streets. As they move forward, shock waves oscillate with a pull-and-push motion while others called 'strike waves' oscillate with a throwing off impulses at right angles. The total effect is like a cold of earth being shaken in a sieve.

On the fateful morning of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2005 the mountainous region of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and the parts of Pakistan's Frontier Province were hit by the worst earthquake in the history of this region. The intensity of this quake was such that it caused mountains to crumble and slide out into the river Jehlum and Neelum taking hundreds of villages and many thousands of their inhabitants with them. The epicenter of this quake was just over 11 miles away from Mazaffarabad the capital of AJK near village called Panjgiran. People from villages further over from Panjgiran who traveled through it on their way to Mazaffarabad said that there is no one left to moan among the dead of Panjgiran and the surrounding areas. The tremulous were felt on both sides to Kashmiri divide as well as Indian province of Punjab and Pakistani provinces of Punjab and NW Frontier and the Afghan province Nigar. More than 70% of Mazaffarabad city had been reduced to rubble and it is thought that the death toll in Mazaffarabad alone may have exceeded 50 thousand there has also been amount of destructions and deaths in the other areas of Azad Kashmir particularly in the areas of Jehlum and Neelum valleys, districts of Bagh and Poonch including Rawalakot and many small towns and villages. It became evident from initial assessments that virtually all the government buildings including hospitals, school colleges and universities crumbled with the first tremor resulting in instant death of thousand of children and young people state employees and hospital patients.

The towns of Uri and Kupwara and surrounding villages in the Indian administrated Kashmir where 90% of the area was devastated and much life was lost. Even the official statistics tend to be quite conservative, the death toll in Kashmir alone was well over 70,000. The towns of Balakot Battagram Mansehra and Kaghan in Pakistan North West Frontier were equally hit badly by the earthquake, causing a lot of destruction and thousand of deaths in these areas. According to United Nations statistics at the time around 4 million people have been affected and two million of those had become homeless.

### 3. KCT's Initial Contribution

After 8<sup>th</sup> October's earthquake, members of KCT, decided to start work with their partner Organisations including Kashmir Record and Research Cell and Kashmir Development Foundation for accommodating the affected people. KCT's first team reached Mazaffarabad on 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2005. The team lead by Dr Mohsin Shakeel established its main Office in Jalalabad and arranged meetings with representatives and members of the community for managing the relief work properly. The rescue relief and restoration activities put an upbeat impact on the process of the project. In this regard a number of meetings were conducted with the members of community, members of evacuation of critically injured people, rescue, and food distribution, provision of temporary shelters and provision guidance for co-ordination with other organisations.

KCT had provided support and cash donations in the following categories

- Set-up of Reception Centres in Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Bagh and Rawalakot for people arriving from affected areas – providing advice and information, also were necessary food and shelter and financial help.
- Construction of a number shelters in various areas each costing around 35,000 Rupees (£350). This had being undertaken with 4 other NGOs where KCT supplied 50% of the cost for each shelter additional support included advice on construction and where needed labour was supplied.
- Helped to re-establish schools and colleges where classes had started and also provided some support in reconstructing, 19 in Muzzafarabad, 12 in Bagh 2 in Neelum and 1 in Rawalakot.
- Provided financial and advisory support to Zeeshan Ahmed of Bradford who Collected 600 crutches 35 wheel chairs, 23 artificial limbs, 300 Zimmer Frames and 250 Walking Sticks and took them to Earthquake zone. Zeeshan himself his family and friends were commended by the Trustees of KCT for the effort they put into this noble cause.
- Provided continuous financial aid to the needy people in the remote areas of Neelum and Jehlum Valleys through our partner organisation Kashmir Development Foundation and Kashmir Youth Project to provide around £18k worth of plastic and tin sheets for temporary shelters, tents, blankets, food, medicine and other necessities.

## 4. Initial and Current Projects

The South Asia earthquake of 8 October 2005 devastated the lives of 3.5 million people. Thousands were injured and made disabled; survivors lost their livelihoods and were left traumatized and homeless. Majority of schools were destroyed, disrupting education for entire generation. Thousands of people stranded in mountain valleys or forced in to temporary camps who needed to rebuild their homes and to restore their livelihoods. This huge disaster changed the situation of Kashmiri territory and also the style of the community. KCT decided to capture this miserable condition of the people for future references. 36 hours of video recording hundreds of photographs, hours of interviews with victims, survivors, govt. officials, politicians and rescue workers were performed to record the disaster for making historical record.

### **National Reconstruction Volunteers Programme**

Full attention was given to the youth from the disaster area for enabling them to perform their role in management of disaster. Volunteers were recruited to perform different rescue and relief task, they were trained to conduct survey, assist in provision of medical treatment, to control and extinguish fire in camps. Training was also conduct to make them deal with the situation effectively. The objectives of that Training was to enable the youth for a role in reconstruction and rehabilitation process. The performance of the volunteers were remarkable, their involvement in program made them active survivor instead of a hopeless victims. Their role in conducting survey, establishing distribution network, identification of needy and providing them the help they required is appreciable.

### **Data Collection and development of Data Base**

The data was collected by the volunteers to assess the situation. Few clusters of urban and rural population were selected and survey was completed and kept for future reference. Project data base was started with collaboration of Government of Azad Kashmir for which technical assistance was provided by KCT. This project was founded by Kashmir Youth Project

### **Establishment of KCT delivery system**

By involving the local community as volunteers with the help of KCT workers, delivery system of KCT was developed in the city of Muzaffarabad with objective to encourage and facilitate other NGO to use this system for delivery of relief goods. "Burnley for Kashmir" provided van for this project.

## 4. Initial and Current Projects (Continued)

### **Computer Literacy Centre (CLC)**

This project was supported by Bradford City Council with donation of computers and some cash help collected by Anwar Qadir. KCT has been the main funder of this project while some basic technical help has been provided by KRRC. The project commenced on 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2006. The aim of this project has been to provide professional skills and training needed to enable, unemployment youth of Kashmir to find suitable work. On the opening ceremony of the CLC, 25 guests were invited from different NGOs. The objective of this ceremony was to make good relation with other organisations. The six months progress of this centre shows that project like this can change the professional literacy rate in effective areas.

KCT with Burnley for Kashmir's help decided to establish a centre with women who would provide unskilled girls with good opportunities for work and high income. The aim of this project was and is still to introduce Kashmiri embroidery around UK and Europe. After getting suitable response from commercial organisations KCT will establish a proper centre for embroidery. There are still a lot of females who cannot afford to come out from their houses due to their social and family setup. Under such circumstances KCT designed a project for these female that would be in their own vicinity. For example, Miss Shaheena lives in a tent camp of centre plate ward. After the death of her Parents she has to bear the expenditure of her family. There are 5 members in her family and she is sewing cloth since 15years. With her help and skills KCT established a centre of sewing cloth in centre plate. KCT is also planning to help female like Shaheena in the future.

### **Embroidery Centre**

Kashmir has been very famous for many centuries for his beautiful handicrafts. Female embroidery is also a part of this art. In Kashmir Embroidery (Guba Sazi and Shaal Making) is also specialty. Embroidery is so much a part of Kashmiri lives that we may not even notice it for example a shirt could feature fancy stitching; and when a Tea cap has a stitched logo, embroidery will be the cause of it. This kind of stitching is usually made by machine, but beautiful stitching is also possible through the age-old art of hand embroidery. Women, a majority of world's population receive only a small share of development opportunities. They are often excluded from education or from better jobs, from political system or from adequate health care.

### **Training for Prevention of Fire Hazard**

The life in camps is full of hazards, the hazards of the fire are taken care off and volunteers were trained to manage and extinguish fire with readily available materials in camps.

## 4. Initial and Current Projects (Continued)

### **Young Leaders workshop**

With the support of KYP this workshop was arranged to encourage the development of the young leaders and empowers the victims of the earthquake to take leadership role in reconstruction and rehabilitation. Linda (Sweden), Mike Duffy (KYP) and Dennis (Denmark) were the facilitators of the workshop. In this workshop there were thirty five participants who would then pass on their skills to other.

### **Prevention of Electricity Hazards**

After the Earth quake of 8<sup>th</sup> October lots of people were made homeless who had to be moved to tent camps in different localities. Many of these camps were provided with electricity which is being used for illumination and other purposes like heating etc. As these camps are not planned so the standard of wiring is not satisfactory. Wires are hanging around the camps most often with poor insulation and associated risk of electric hazard. Incidence of electrocution and burn has been recorded with reported injuries and loss of life.

#### *Design for Electricity Project:-*

As described above power cable was taken from electric pole to the distribution box protected by circuit breaker (63 Amp). Then to fuse grips of 10 Amp to each distribution point, attached here were the electric cable 7/29, taken underground to the tents provided with switch board having to two switches, one bulb/tube light and one socket

#### *Ground work:-*

Cluster of 48 camp tents were selected in Jalalabad Camp. And wiring of the 48 tents was completed according to circuit Plan described above.

#### *Observation:-*

New design of the electric supply to the camp is user friendly and safe. The people living in the camp did have concerns about the electric hazards and appreciated the idea of new wiring which was found to be safe. Other NGOs and the media took keen interest in the project and consider it role model for provision of electricity to camps. Maneer Kiani, the electrician while speaking to Pakistan TV emphasised the need of extending this pattern of power supply and distribution to camp to minimize the hazards associated with use of Electricity.

## 4. Initial and Current Projects (Continued)

### **Extendable Permanent Shelter**

The technical assistance for this project was provided by KCT to build about hundreds of extendable permanent shelters in Koori Chana near Ali Sojal. Sahara Trust also participated in that project. Financial and technical support was also provided to KRRC in Rawalakot under the supervision of Dr. Sagheer Khan to execute this project.

Other help with sheltering was provided through providing technical support in setting up shelters and with provision of tin sheets. Thousands of sheets were provided to a number of villages including Raj Payian and surrounding areas.

### **Medical Relief**

Earthquake of October 8 2005, with magnitude of 7.4 on rector's scale resulted in loss of life and properties to such an extent, which crippled the government and its institutions. A large number of patients and Medical teams around the world reached Muzaffarabad to care for injured and diseased. Dr Mohsin Shakil was one of these doctors who also carried out his duty. He was already working in Azad Kashmir Health Department as Consultant Urologist. During his work about 30,000 patients received consultation from Surgical OPD. Since then about 12,500 of those had been treated by Dr Mohsin Shakil. He also performed more than hundred specialized Urological procedures.

## 5. Future Projects

### *Female Literacy Centre*

KCT has recently established a female computer literacy centre for female of affected area. The centre will be in Muzaffarabad and after completing this centre in Muzaffarabad then KCT will also establish other centre in rural areas of Azad Kashmir.

### *Social Library*

The community of Azad Kashmir has not enough knowledge about social work and just because of that the people cannot understand the benefits of social work. KCT decided to establish a library for the community of Azad Kashmir.

### *Economic Regeneration*

KCT will establish two handicrafts factories in Tariqa abad and a Centre outside Muzaffarabad.

### *National Reconstruction of Volunteers program*

Training of 20 boys will be conducted every month in basic volunteer's skills to prepare the youth to participate in rescue and relief operation required in similar conditions in the future.

### *Education/Training Program*

Education project in which high achieving students (75% and above) will receive scholar ship to study further if they can prove their families are unable to pay for their education.

### *Orphans Education*

The volunteer management decided to collect the data of Orphans and widows from the different area of AJK. After assessing the expenditure of the orphans KCT will request donors for sufficient donation for these children.

### *Rescue Centre*

Swimming in river is very well-known sport of Muzaffarabad particular with young boys. However, whenever any boy drowns in a river the poor parents find it difficult to find the body of their beloved son. Due to lack of emergency centre for these problems the majority of the community fail to bury the dead body of their beloved ones. KCT wants to establish a disaster and rescue centre for helping people in these miserable conditions.

## 5. Future Projects (Continued)

### *KCT Blood Bank*

In AJK getting blood donation when it's needed and in an appropriate time is very difficult and due to lack of Blood donation many patients loose their lives. There are more then 275 volunteers in our organisation. KCT's local management decided to establish an office for blood donation. Data about all volunteers and other local community those who want to participate in blood donation will be held in the office, so that the community could get donation at an proper time.

### *Sports Volunteer Association*

The sports teach discipline to the students. They also develop the spirit of sportsmanship and suddenly derive a lot of pleasure by playing games. It also inculcates the quality of team spirit in them. The youth of AJK are also taking part in sports, but they don't have any special academy for teaching games to their younger. KCT has supported local people to establish Volunteer Association for Sport activities. The motto of this association is to provide facility for younger people to learn different games.

## 5. Summary

**Kashmir Charitable Trust (KCT)** as a voluntary organisation right from the outset started to send message to the community and those individuals to get together and help the affected by the disaster in a more co-ordinated and organised way so that the help and support is more effective.

**KCT** is here to provide a platform to work together and help the people more effectively. Engaging with NGO's and local organisation to start the re-building process

### **KCT's Plan of Action for year 2008**

#### **Phase One**

1. Set out a funding strategy that would enhance development of new projects.
2. Find new ways of applying for funds to large trusts and NGOs.
3. Use current methods to raise funds including use of personal contacts, mosques etc;

#### **Phase Two**

4. Continue to help and support existing projects including Computer Literacy Centre (Male), Sewing Centre, Ambor Camp, Raj Paiyan and others
5. Continue to provide advice and information for the needy and sign post them to receive appropriate help.

#### **Phase Three**

6. Setting up a new Computer Literacy Centre for young women who are earth quake victims and want to train up in the computer sector.
7. Working in partnership with Burnley for Kashmir to provide Water Supply for the Ambor camp in Muzaffarabad.
8. Undertaking comprehensive survey and feasibility study to monitor the need of a water supply for the villages around Raj Paiyan.

## 5. Financial Statement

### INCOME

	2006	2007
Balance Brought Forward	£21026	£11,133
Donations Received	£5,252	£68,757
Adjustments	£0	£0
Bank Interest	£0	£0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£26,278</b>	<b>£79,890</b>

### EXPENDITURE

Office and Stationary (UK)	£890	£112
Donations Provided (Earthquake)	£14000	£2,000
Staff and Volunteers cost (AJK)	£10,491	£13,364
Bandivan Project Live TV Appeal	0	£12,500
Bandivan Project Cost	0	£14,000
Bank Charges	£264	£186
Bank - Adjustment of errors	0	£27,198
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£15,145</b>	<b>£69,360</b>
<b>BALANCE Carried Forward</b>	<b>£11,133</b>	<b>£10,530</b>