



Photo by: Ull Reinhardt

Sema Genel and her team are organising the construction work locally on behalf of the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

... in Pakistan

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe provides humanitarian aid world-wide since more than 50 Years. It supports people who have fallen victim of natural disasters, war and displacement and who are not able to cope on their own in the emergency situation they find themselves in. It is an effort to help people in great need - world-wide, regardless of their colour, religion and nationality. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is part of the Diakonisches Werk of the EKD, the Social Service Agency of the German Protestant Church - one of the biggest welfare institutions in Germany - , with its headquarter in Stuttgart. For an effective performance Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe closely co-operates with local partners.

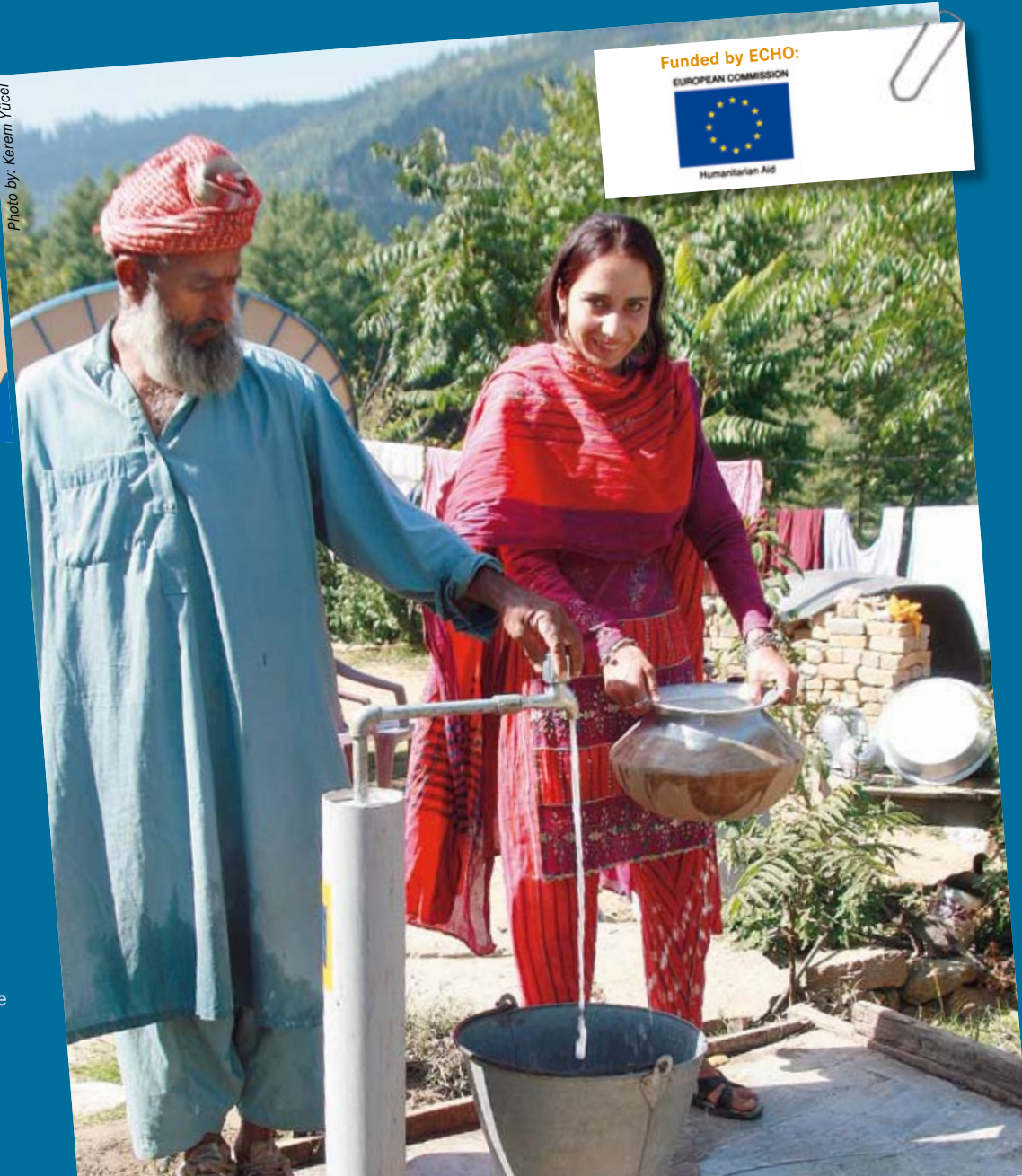
ECHO

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department funds relief operations for victims of natural disasters and conflicts outside the European Union. Aid is channelled impartially, straight to victims, regardless of their race, ethnic group, religion, gender, age, nationality or political affiliation. In the area of humanitarian aid, the Commission works with 200 operational partners, including specialised United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The European Commission is one of the biggest sources of humanitarian aid in the world.



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Photo by: Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

On October 8, 2005, a devastating quake shook the earth in the north of Pakistan. With a magnitude of 7.4 on the Richter scale, it was the strongest earthquake in South Asia in decades. The shocks were also felt in parts of India and Afghanistan, but affected with greatest enormity the particularly poor north-western border areas and the part of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan. In these areas, seventy percent of the buildings were destroyed and those that remained were heavily damaged. Eighty thousand people lost their lives and about three million were made homeless.

Emergency Aid after the Disaster

In the aftermath of the earthquake, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe assisted survivors in the border region between India and Pakistan with emergency aid measures with a value of over 7 million euros. The main focus of the assistance provided was in Pakistan, in three difficult-to-access rural districts immediately on the border with India. Diakonie distributed supplies such as tents, blankets, plastic tarps, corrugated iron sheets, stoves, and winter jackets. Fifteen community centres and 75 provisional schools were also erected.

In the context of “food-for-work” and “cash-for-work” programs, the affected population contributed to the clearing of rubble and landslide debris, recovery of their basic infrastructure, and the improvement of their ecological resources. Diakonie continues to work in the remote villages of Kashmir on the distribution of seeds and agricultural inputs for food security, emergency education support, recovery of water supply and sanitation, rehabilitation of roads, footpaths and bridges for improved access, support to the improvement of vocational skills, reconstruction of permanent education and health facilities, along with community-based psycho-social interventions for the benefit of children and women.

Bridging the Gap

In cooperation with the European Commission, Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has been continuing to support people in the areas of Pakistan hard-hit by the earthquake with its “Bridging the Gap” program: Linking the period between relief and rehabilitation.

Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Operation in Salmiah Union Council

The program reaches earthquake victims in 16 villages in Azad Jammu Kashmir Province with a total population of 16,655. The assistance includes the rehabilitation of water supply schemes, construction of household latrines, hygiene promotion training, and the provision of transitional shelters for vulnerable families, mostly widows, to enable them to pass even harsh winters under decent conditions until an uncertain reconstruction of permanent houses. Diakonie applies a community-based approach: Planning and realization of activities together with the local population and establishing participatory village-based committees.

Further information (in German language):
www.diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de/pakistan



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