Adopt-a-Village - 3 (Support for Products)

INTRODUCTION

Since in my view there is no need for intermediaries, I have been often asked how compassionate people around the world could provide assistance at this time.

In order to devise a mechanism for help I am putting forward other ways of adoption which would support livelihoods in different communities affected by the floods.

Using the BASA model, I have advocated enterprise development based on the unmet needs of poor communities. With the floods with the majority of Pakistanis being under the poverty line, those who need affordable and economical products provide an enormous barefoot market.

To take advantage of the barefoot market most livelihoods are being developed in order to meet the unmet needs of communities and there is a vast market just to serve the flood affected households. According to Barefoot Social Architecture principles I have held the belief that we need to promote production of affordable products using low impact low tech improved local techniques along with local sourcing of materials. I have implemented this methodology through my concept of the Barefoot Eco system which helps the poor to be trained in order that they could help the poor. I believe this is the time to implement BASA which will help us reach out to a large number of flood affected households in the shortest possible time.

How can the Markaz and Satellite Villages as well as other flood affected communities be supported?

Heritage Foundation will facilitate all items received in kind or funds sent directly to vendors and karigar villages.

- Provide funds directly to vendors who are supplying materials to the villages where LOG and related zero carbon products are being fabricated.
 - For example for those wishing to provide funds for emergency LOG shelters or emergency eco-toilets, Heritage Foundation will provide the exact amount needed for particular items. The material would be directed towards the fabrication of these units.
- 2. Provide funds directly to Village Committee joint accounts for items being fabricated by each village e.g. Emergency half scale LOGs for reading rooms for children, instant shelters or other products. Heritage Foundation would be able to provide details of products and sponsorship to village committees enabling funds to be transferred directly to village committees' accounts.
- 3. Providing assistance in kind
 - Provision of cell phones to women's committees and coordinators @ 6 phones /50 households. Each Markaz and satellite karigar villages consist of approximately 600-700 households. So each cluster will require 72 to 80 cell phones.
 - Provision of solar pumps for pumping water for 60 villages
 - Provision of solar panels for 60 -70 villages
 - Provision of electrical stitching machines with solar panels at 10/cluster or 60 machines.
- 4. Supporting 24,000 eco toilet programme 10 production villages are being set up, each with a capacity of 400 units per month or 2,400 units in next 6 months. The cost @ Rs. 6000/unit according to the numbers of units sponsored will be deposited directly into the village bank account. Through a system of Barefoot Entrepreneurs trained by Heritage Foundation, the BEs will not only deliver but also conduct trainings regarding the use of eco toilets as well as making compost in the bamboo bins that will accompany the toilets.
- 5. Support by providing technology solutions:
 - Remote learning for out of school children using cell phones
 - Help with movement of goods when produced in each cluster of villages
 - Develop training modules for non literate communities for skill training, advice, guidance.
 - Develop propagation of emergency disaster preparedness measures through cell phones
 - Develop digital warning systems for disaster.
 - Advise on new seeds that would provide farmers with means to deal with water inundation
 - Any other.