

## Student Volunteers in Flood Villages

### INTRODUCTION

As we know flood in Pakistan has devastated a major part of the country. According to conservative figures, 55 million have been displaced and 5 million are homeless across the country. While Southern Punjab and a portion of KP province has suffered enormous losses, it is the whole of Sindh province that has suffered most – all its crops are gone, with several hundred casualties and a huge displaced and shelter-less population requires handholding and sympathy more than anything else. I remember at the time of great 2005 disaster, a stream of young volunteers had appeared on the scene, from literally all over the world to help me with building with the debris and to train families to begin to take care of themselves. Their help boosted morale of displaced families and encouraged them to face adverse conditions because they no longer felt alone.

I would like to initiate a programme for university students from across the world to come to Pakistan to show solidarity with affected communities. I believe it is a huge learning experience for whoever participates. But also, I would like to promote a different way of giving - the BASA Culture of Giving which would consist of giving a bit of yourself and help to people to help themselves along with sharing knowledge and sympathy.

#### 1. What do International Student Volunteers need to know?

- Each university will select maximum 10 student volunteers and one faculty member to form a team. Female participation will be welcome as many HF projects are being spearheaded by women.
  - Duration of stay will vary from 7 to 10 days.
  - You have to finance your own travel to Karachi, Pakistan.
  - Once you arrive in Pakistan, free local hospitality will be provided.
  - You will be paired with equal number of Pakistani students, who will act as your host to provide orientation and also help you to get around.
  - From Karachi arrangement will be made to transport you to villages declared hospitality villages. For the time being two will be available: (Pono and Virjee) in Mirpur Khas, Sindh province.
  - You will be provided accommodation in hospitality villages that are being built for the specific purpose of accommodating volunteers. Each room will be on sharing basis with attached basic eco toilet.
  - Villages are not very well equipped so you need to be ready to suffer some hardship, although all possible care will be taken to make you comfortable under the effect of the present climate disaster.
  - Depending upon your interest various joint activities e.g. songs, dances, music and skits/sketching/painting could be organized.
  - You will be encouraged to work with village communities in Markaz centers which will have at least 10 satellite villages where income generating activities are being started as per the attached diagram. You might enjoy participating in crafts and food related tasks.
  - While visiting the village you are encouraged to develop your own activities as well.
5. I am planning to hold a meeting of interested institutions and universities in late October at Cambridge, while I am there.

BASA CULTURE OF GIVING

Heritage  
PAKISTAN

#### Pono Markaz and Satellite Karigar Villages

