

**INTRODUCTION**

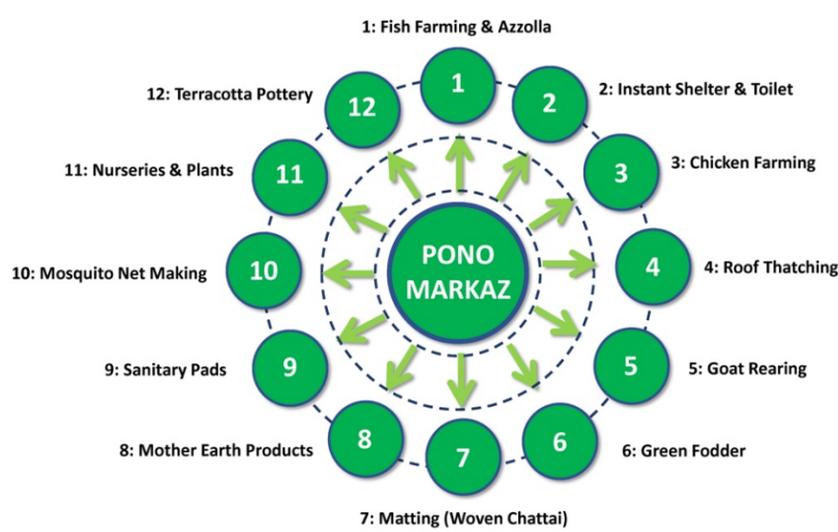
The unprecedented disaster of Floods 2022 in Pakistan forces us to begin thinking out of the box solutions for the vast 33 million people and approximately 5 million families that have been displaced.

Under its BASA Culture of Giving, Heritage Foundation has embarked on its Adopt-a-Village programme which is designed as an integrated or holistic model for the uplift of communities. While the most important element is shelter, however, the provision of basic shelter is linked with livelihoods. At minimum cost, by treating affected communities as partners, it is possible to provide basic amenities as well as means of disaster preparedness to withstand next floods, even in what is considered the emergency phase.

The strategy for rehabilitation requires that the work is taken up in a systematic manner by forming a group of a central village and a cluster of 10-12 villages. The central village is envisaged as the village which would form a catalyst for undertaking various work which would then be implemented by other villages in a particular cluster.

The central or markaz village also begins to provide training and know how to others in the cluster, thus providing a supporting role.

The first such cluster of zero carbon villages has been established in Mirpur Khas Tehsil, near Mirpur Khas city, Sindh. Three more clusters are being launched.



*Cluster of 13 Zero Carbon Villages*

**Stages of Development**

**Stage 1:** The following are the components for fulfilling minimum requirements for disaster resilient, dignified living.

- a. Minimum rights-based development which provides immediate inexpensive roof and enclosure (at Rs. 2,500) and other basic needs.
- b. Preliminary disaster preparedness and environmental improvement to be taken up by communities.
- c. Linking up shelter provision and development with livelihoods based on barefoot enterprises which would respond to the needs of other displaced and impoverished population.
- d. To be accomplished by providing assistance in kind, along with training and cooperation arrangements between villages.

The above has been possible through a grant of Rs. 15,000 per family and by keeping women in the lead. The results show that through the barefoot enterprises, many of villages are on their way to becoming self sufficient.

**State 2:** This stage provides greater security by targeting the construction of a safe one room house as well as other social infrastructure, which is achieved through the use of capacities achieved by communities while working on components of Stage 1.

- a. First component is to provide a flood resistant one permanent room shelter and eco toilet (Rs. 50,000) to withstand next floods and must be built before next monsoon. The instant shelter provided in Stage 1 it can later be utilized as store or an extra room.
- b. A community centre with provision of a monitor and laptop for connectivity of the village with others.
- c. A classroom to begin primary learning classes by local teachers.
- d. A health clinic to provide basic health guidance and preventive health measures to be run by local paramedic.