

For the furtherance of the Heritage Foundation's programme Build Back Safer with Vernacular Methodologies (BBSVM) and in order to underscore the Lari philosophy for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) a significant step was taken when two four-day sessions of Training of Trainers (ToT) were held by Heritage Foundation in Hyderabad and Mohak Sharif (KaravanPakistan Village). The ToT sessions were organized from 2 June to 9 June in collaboration with IOM for their implementation partners (IPs) who have been selected to help build 7,500 shelters funded by DFID/UK Aid.

Based on local traditions and heritage, BBSVM has been devised by CEO, Heritage Foundation Yasmeen Lari in order to provide low cost sustainable shelter to communities affected by floods. The methodology relies on strengthened mud walls, use of lime in wall and roof render combined with strong bamboo roofs (KaravanRoofs). The methodologies for one room shelters (ORS) build upon Heritage Foundation's sustainable structures built in disaster-affected areas since Earthquake 2005 - Hazara, Swat, Mardan, Khairpur and Tando Allahyar - and the research carried out in 35 tehsils of 8 priority districts in Sindh during late 2011. The programme aims at a change in mindset of donor organizations, implementors and affected communities to actively discourage the use of cement concrete blocks/burnt brick in masonry and wooden logs/rolled steel joists in roofs, promoted so far by INGOs and NGOs and encourage the use of local, sustainable materials and local skills. The programme therefore marks a turning point in promoting widespread acceptability for fostering self reliance, sustainability and DRR in all structures built in disaster-prone areas.

The manual, checklists, drawings, charts and data that are used in the Technical Support Programme (TSP) are based on a great deal of research, study and experimentation. Testing of different kinds of mortars and mixes has been carried out in the field in various villages where construction has been taken in hand by Heritage Foundation. To develop relevant information Mohak Sharif has been converted into a demonstration village, where various kinds of structures in mud and Loh khat as well as roofs comprising accessible KaravanRoofs, non-accessible conical or Chaura roofs as well as different spans from 10' and 12' for shelters. A large room size 16'x24' has also been constructed with a pin-wheel multiple bamboo roof which acts as the Training Centre and for village assemblies.

For the specific training, various modules showing different stages for shelter i.e. strengthened base, mud or KehGil walls, ring beams and anchoring arrangements for roofs, have been specially constructed for demonstration purposes. These clearly show improved vernacular construction along with methods of mixing lime, mud and KehGil. The work in the field has been accomplished by Naheem Hussain Shah, Field Project Coordinator and his team of trained artisans, hailing from Mardan, Hazara, Swat, Chitral, Khairpur and Tando Allahyar.

The instructor appointed for the ToT is Saad Khan, a Heritage Foundation volunteer, and Vice President, Swiss Pakistan Society, who successfully conducted three-day theory sessions based on lesson modules developed on the basis of the manual developed HF's Heritage Centre Coordinator Ar. Mariyam Nizam. After a welcome speech by IOM's Manuel Pereira, the IPs (SDTS, RDPI, BHR, STNAH, BDRO, LAMP, SOD, BDO, FIN, MA, AHD) and IOM's field staff, were addressed by Ar. Yasmeen Lari, Hon. Project Director, HF's Naheem Shah and IOM's Hasballah.

For both sessions, after a 3-day workshop on theory, the fourth day was devoted to a field visit. Arrangements for field trainings were made at the Karavan Village (Mohak Sharif). After a briefing by Ar. Yasmeen Lari, demonstrations of various construction stages and material mixing were arranged by Naheem Shah. The field sessions were attended by all participants in the presence of IOM personnel, including Manuel Preiria and Hasballah.

It was made clear by both IOM and Heritage Foundation that the entire project was being taken up as a team and it was of the utmost importance that the detailed instructions given and the knowledge imparted was carefully passed on to village communities. The purpose of training and implementing organizations as well as of the donors was to make communities themselves strong and resilient in order that they are not displaced during the next floods. The various typologies had been designed from the point of view of providing safety of life either through accessible, safe haven KaravanRoofs with low plinths or high platforms in the case of a choice of pitched or conical roofs. There was much enthusiasm among the IPs and they were confident that they would be able to implement the programme with zeal and commitment.

Throughout the implementation period, Heritage Foundation teams will provide monitoring in order to ensure that the drawings and specifications are being followed. In addition, if need be, HF will also provide trained artisans assist IPs and villagers as and when required.



*Ar. Yasmeen Lari, C.E. Heritage Foundation, addresses participants*



*Mr. Saad Khan explains the method for marking layouts with templates*



*KaravanCentre Mohak Sharif; IPs gather for site demonstration*



*IPs learn construction & material specifications with Naheem Shah, HF*



*Demonstration Area showing different construction stages with an elevated Community Centre (under construction) on the right*



*Participants of Session 1 gather for group photograph*