

A woman with grey hair, wearing a green patterned dress and an orange headscarf, is looking out of a window of a rustic wooden structure. She has a thoughtful expression. The window frame is made of dark wood, and the wall to the left is also made of wood with some decorative panels. The background outside the window shows some greenery and a bright sky.

IOM  
Pakistan

One  
Room  
Shelter  
program

In July and August 2010, torrential rains triggered widespread flooding in Pakistan affecting over **18 million people**, around one-tenth of the country's population. **29 districts** were severely affected in all the provinces and states ranging from Gilgit Baltistan in the mountainous north to Sindh province in the south. Over **1,700 people** lost their lives and more than **1.7 million houses** were damaged or destroyed. An estimated one-fifth of Pakistan's total land area (62,000 square miles) was submerged by the flooding. Flash floods and landslides caused severe damage to infrastructure and homes. Basic services including water, sanitation, healthcare, housing/shelter, and education were destroyed. Crops and livelihoods were washed away and millions of people were displaced or stranded by the floodwater.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), requested humanitarian assistance to respond to the needs of the flood-affected. Shelter was identified as a priority and the International Organization for Migration was requested to coordinate the shelter response. The IOM and NDMA co-led Shelter Cluster reached over **1 million households** (estimated 7 million individuals) with emergency shelter by the end of the emergency phase in March 2011.



The one room shelter strategy was devised in response to the massive early recovery shelter needs across the country. Due to the unprecedented numbers affected, the geographic scale and the varied culture/climate in the area affected, a **low-cost and flexible solution** was necessary. The one room shelter strategy aimed to support the most vulnerable of those with a completely destroyed house to rebuild one **durable flood-resistant room**, according to local designs and materials, promoting self-recovery and coping strategies wherever possible.





In line with the Shelter Cluster Strategy, endorsed by the Government of Pakistan, IOM is supporting **vulnerable flood-affected households** whose houses were completely destroyed in the floods to rebuild a **durable, flood-resistant one-room shelter**. The one room shelter approach has a longer life span (3-5 years) than a standard transitional shelter and makes maximum use of beneficiaries' own input and resources, including salvaged material.

IOM is targeting **38,000** of the most vulnerable households in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Punjab provinces. The construction process is being supported through generous donor funding from the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the Government of Japan and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

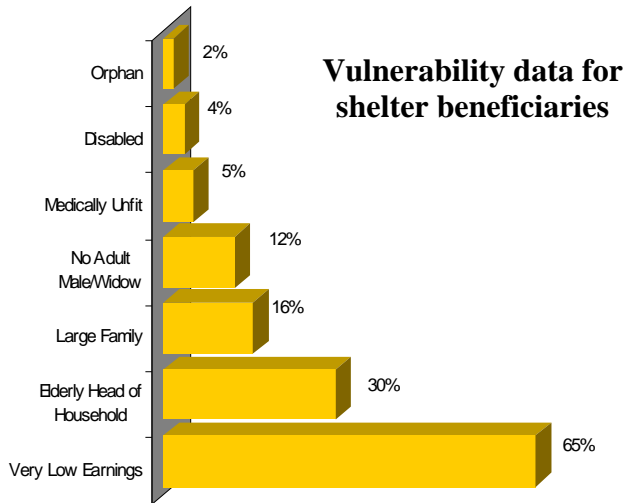




Beneficiaries Building

With assistance from its implementing partners, IOM is targeting the most severely affected districts and Union Councils.

Assessments were carried out to identify the most vulnerable beneficiaries according to the Shelter Cluster vulnerability criteria and protection criteria of a family with (1) **completely destroyed house**; and (2) either **absence of adult male family member; disabled or elderly family member; low-income or large family**. Beneficiary households are assessed, selected and registered with the support of implementing partners and local village committees. Village Committees are formed by beneficiaries and local leaders in each target village. The committees help identify the most vulnerable households and their selection is verified by IOM.







Social mobilization visits

In order to provide flexible, needs-based support, IOM provides **cash support** to one room shelter beneficiaries. Cash transfers allow beneficiaries to choose the shelter design and building materials, ensuring that the shelter is **culturally and climatically suitable** and that salvaged materials are used wherever possible. This decentralized procurement process also **generates business for the local economy** and revitalizes the building supply chain that has been otherwise severely affected by floods.

The cash payments are conditional on the entire group of beneficiaries **reaching a construction milestone**, the completion of the foundation, walls and roof. This grouping of beneficiaries provides positive social pressure and encourage collaboration.

Village Committees appoint a Village Focal Person who they trust to receive the payments on their behalf. The Focal Person is responsible for receiving and distributing the cash tranches to beneficiaries.

This allows cash disbursement in low resource settings where most of those affected do not have bank accounts. Implementing partners and IOM's mobile monitoring teams document and monitor the cash disbursement process to prevent fraud or corruption.

A **grievance redressal poster** advertises the toll-free national Humanitarian Helpline operated by IOM. Issues are conveyed to and dealt with by IOM's shelter program managers in each area. The use of the poster and the condition of anonymity are reinforced with beneficiaries, and the complaint mechanism is a key tool in **preventing fraud and corruption**.





***“We went through a lot of hardships after the flood to just make a room because we had no money. Fortunately we were chosen for IOM one room shelter program and they promised to help us build our room. By the grace of god we have constructed our shelter which is more durable than before. I am grateful to IOM for helping me in this troubled time”, says Shazia, a beneficiary from District Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.***



**Beneficiaries receiving cash payments**

Disaster Risk Reduction techniques



The one room shelter program seeks to ensure that the rebuilding process results in safer, more flood-resistant houses. Technical training and guidance is provided by shelter experts and engineers regarding low- or no-cost disaster risk reduction techniques. The aim is to “**Build Back Safer**” without promoting a particular house design or specific building materials.

Beneficiaries, masons and other skilled and semi-skilled workers involved in the construction receive **guidance on safer construction practices** including how to **strengthen foundation**, raise the shelter on an earth platform to protect against shallow flooding, plastering walls up to **three feet** inside and outside the shelter, **using plastic sheeting** in the foundation to prevent damage by rising moisture, **brick masonry** under mud walls, an **appropriate slope** and gutter and proper placement of roof timbers and lintels.

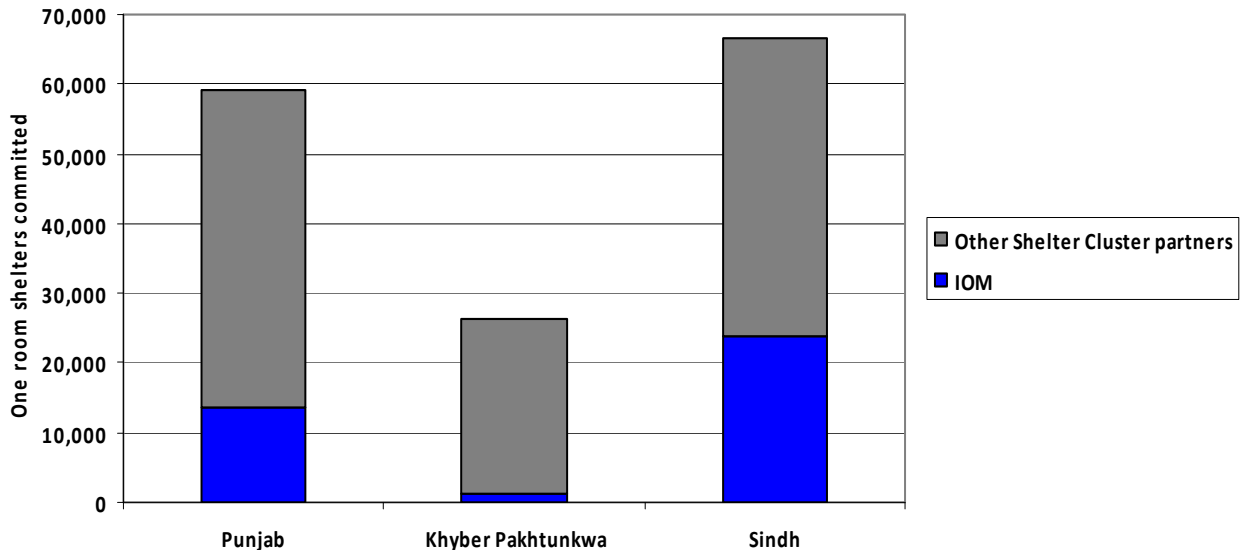
This technical guidance aims to **discourage poor construction** practices such as weak foundations, poor construction of corners and junctions, heavy roofs with no horizontal reinforcement, poor compaction and horizontal roofs that prevent the drainage of water. Technical guidance is reinforced using **illustrative posters** showing the disaster risk reduction techniques which are displayed in prominent communal areas in the target villages. The posters are largely **pictorial** and can be understood by illiterate beneficiaries. The posters provide information on the techniques to the community as a whole, with the aim of indirectly benefiting those who were not included in the shelter program.

*“Teams from IOM and SPSO visit us frequently and provide guidance as required. The efforts of the teams motivated us and we started to rebuild our shelters”,* says Mr. Rasool Wahid Bux, a beneficiary from village Rasool Bux Unar in district Shikarpur, Sindh.



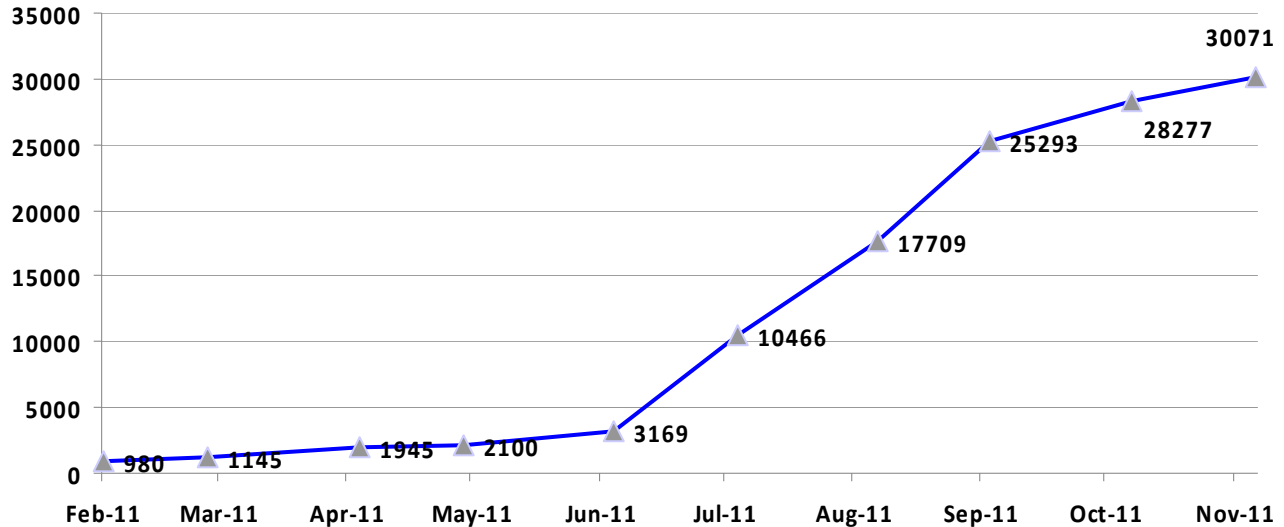
Widespread flooding in 2010 affected over 18 million people across 29 districts. The Multi Cluster Assessment estimated that **860,000 houses were completely destroyed** in 2010 floods. The Shelter Cluster appealed for **USD 321,089,320** to the early recovery needs and received 59% of the amount asked for. Shelter Cluster members committed to build a total of **178,213 one room shelters**. IOM decided to focus on the two provinces most affected by the floods i.e. Punjab and Sindh and committed to build a total of 38,000 shelters.

The graph below shows the number of one room shelters committed by IOM and other Cluster partners in Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkwa provinces.

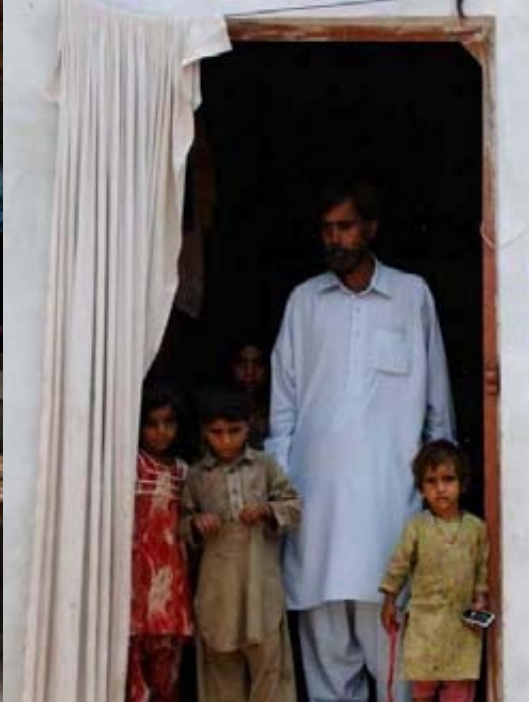


By the end of November, 2011; 61,000 one room shelters were reported completed by the humanitarian community. Out of these, **30,000** were completed with **IOM's** support. The following graph illustrates the construction of IOM supported shelters over time:

## One room shelters completed



One Room Shelters in use







One Room Shelters in use



This program is supported by generous funding from the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the Government of Japan and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

