

Gulfaam Bibi



Village Aryan Kot, locally known as ALYAN, Union Council Tarnab is situated to the North-West of Charsadda City at a distance of 8 kms.

The devastating floods on July 28, 2010 caused irreparable loss to human lives, houses, public private infrastructure, crops and other livelihood sources.

Gulfaam 75, widow of Roshan Khan is one of the inhabitants of the village with her only young daughter Sajida Begum who unfortunately is a stutterer. Gulfaam gave birth to 4 sons and 3 daughters. Her 3 sons died in early childhood due to different diseases while her fourth son Faqir Gul, who was married for 10 months, died of Cancer and his widow opted to return to her parents. One of her three daughters married in Punjab with a poor man and now he is also suffering from Hepatitis-C and is not able support his family and his in-laws.to

Gulfaam's husband died 20 years back in a road accident when he was visiting his daughter in Punjab. Soon after the death of her husband, one daughter of the remaining two died of an unknown disease at young age.

SEED, immediately after the recent monsoon floods (the worse in the living history), initiated relief work in the area. Food and non-food items worth over 10 million rupees were collected and transparently distributed among the affected people of the area. Gulfaam and her only living daughter Sajida were also among the beneficiaries. Soon after the relief phase, SEED embarked upon a self-financed rehabilitation project by reconstructing houses of the poorest of the poor in the vicinity. Gulfaam and her daughter were identified by the local community as the most deserving case fit for assistance from SEED. After preliminary evaluations, this case was approved by the SEED Management. Gulfaam's 1-room mud house with a small verandah and boundary wall was completely destroyed during the recent floods and needed complete rehabilitation. SEED is now reconstructing her 1-room house in cemented blocks and the facility will also have a verandah, a kitchen, a bath and the boundary wall.

Gulfaam sees this gesture of SEED as the blessings of Almighty and hopes that her remaining life will now pass with somewhat ease. During the interview, she was busy making tea for the labors constructing her house where she expects to restart a new life in a new house. Her daughter Sajida stayed away as she wanted to observe Pardah as part of the local tradition. It speaks volumes about the upbringing of this family who even at this time of calamity conformed its conduct to the best of local culture and tradition. No doubt these are the jewels in our society that keep our traditional and cultural fabric intact in the otherwise selfish environment that surrounds us all.

