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For immediate release*

Pakistan: Families displaced by landslide receive essential aid



The Strengthening Participatory Organization and the International Catholic Migration Commission distribute relief packages to landslide survivors.

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ISLAMABAD, 17 February 2010—Following days of torrential rains, ICMC and the Strengthening Participatory Organization reach out to families affected by massive landslides that caused four Northern Pakistani villages to slide into a nearby lake, causing serious damage to hundreds of homes and businesses.

According to initial assessments, some 249 families lost their homes and valuable assets in the large-scale landslide. Local authorities assisted survivors in reaching immediate safety, yet most remained in dire need of food supplies and shelter.

Having worked with families displaced by natural disaster in the district since the 2005 earthquake, the Pakistani State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) appealed to the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) and its partner organization

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) to provide food assistance on humanitarian grounds.

In close coordination with local authorities, an emergency SPO-ICMC assessment team was deployed to the affected area to evaluate damage caused by the disaster, and to verify a list of affected survivors in need of humanitarian assistance.

Thanks to emergency funding provided by Caritas Germany and ICMC, SPO and ICMC provided 65 families with relief packages that included a one-month supply of flour, rice, cooking oil, grain and other items of daily use intended to cover the families' basic needs in the immediate recovery period.

ICMC has been working in Pakistan since 2005, providing emergency relief assistance to persons displaced by natural disaster and/or conflict, raising awareness on questions of child protection and sexual and gender-based violence, and strengthening the capacity of local communities to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of individuals who may be especially vulnerable. For more information on ICMC's work in Pakistan, please visit www.icmc.net.

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