Mustafa with his five children inside his damaged mud house in Kohistan
Photo: PRDP, 2011

Harsh winters in Kohistan

The Northern areas of Pakistan are one of the most beautiful places in the world. The beauty of nature and the simplicity of the people are heartwarming.

Unfortunately, last summer the districts of Shangla and Kohistan were among the most severely affected flood-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The floods damaged more than 1,600 houses in Pallas sub-district of Kohistan. 42-year-old Mustafa's family lost many of their belongings, their mud house was damaged and the crops destroyed. Mustafa, his wife and five children were forced to live in their damaged house for days before relief assistance reached them. Landslides due to heavy rain had blocked the passage ways to the area. The weather in Kohistan is cold even in summers and winterization items were needed urgently by the families living in tents or makeshift homes.

Mustafa's family received the winterization package that helped them through the cold weather from the Pakistan Rural Development Programme (PRDP), working with funds from the Pakistan ERF.

The Pakistan ERF is managed on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator by a Secretariat, which is housed in the OCHA Pakistan office. The ERF was set up in April 2010 as an un-earmarked pooled funding mechanism to provide rapid and flexible funding to in-country actors to address urgent and unforeseen humanitarian needs in emergencies such as earthquakes, cyclones, floods and conflict situations. During the 2010 monsoon floods, the ERF was mainly utilized by NGOs and UN agencies to respond quickly and effectively to the devastating emergency.