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## Devastating Earthquake

I am working as a volunteer for KhanBahadur Lalbibibi Welfare Trust an organization working to improve the literacy and healthcare conditions for the people of the rural areas, After the devastating earthquake the trust decided to respond to the call from the nation We had planned to do something for the needy and suffering people for that purpose on the second day of the disaster 4 cars loaded with food items were sent to BalaKot.

We had no idea about the condition of the areas. Once we crossed Abbotabad our car was looted by the people, it was a very shocking experience. On one side we volunteered ourselves to help the people and on the other hand the same people were adopting that kind of a behavior. We kept our cool and carried on with the same spirit. We were able to reach ButtGram that day. We distributed the food items that remain with us. But if you



Smashed car in Muzaffarabad

look at the people's point of view they were also starving from death and there was no help from any Govt or other Organizations as it was too early for them to assess the situation and realize the intensity of the damages caused by the disaster. They have responded and many other teams from local and foreign organizations have come into the scene on realizing the conditions of the areas.

After our first experience we decided to go via different methodology. This time we took medical supplies and some comforters and food items and went to the area of Muzafarabad. The road was open and there was too much traffic as everyone wanted to reach the area to find out about their families and relatives. We did not have any looting experience on the route to Muzafarabad. After the 7 hours of continuous driving we were

able to reach the city of Muzafarabad. It was dark in there, and we were not able to get the full picture of the area.

We have visited the relief camps and saw a few patients there, people over there were in a miserable condition they did not have any roof to shelter themselves. All of them were lying on the ground without any proper shelter, the amount of dew on the ground could tell us about how wet it is to be under the sky during the whole night. There were people from all the places and all of them are concerned about different things namely

They were worried about their properties

Worried about their future

Also felt lost as they lost their love ones

Few of them were worry about the injured ones in their families

Some of them were worried about what will they do as everything went down how can they proceed their education careers, how in the world they can prove that they were in high school college or university as everything went down during the disaster. The university, the college, schools and board of education as well.

Majority of the people have lost their homes few of the buildings are still standing but they have many cracks in them, and the owners were reluctant to get into the buildings as they were frightened. The area is still receiving shocks and no one is ready to put his / her life in jeopardy.

We have been to the most advance areas of the city, the Prime Minister House, IG House, Chief Justice House, all of them were demolished. When in the morning after Sehri we went to the city and I was shocked to see the aftermath of the earthquake. The whole city went down there was no hope for life left. According to the local people it all happened during the first 30 seconds of the earthquake which was the most intense part of the disaster. When you look at the city you will have the feeling that in 30 seconds how the nature turned a well established city into a rubble. As far as my judgment is concerned I think it will take forever to rebuild the whole city keeping in mind the resources and support from the govt. For me the city of Muzafarabad is a history which we can tell to our next generations.

On our way back we went to Balakot and the disaster over there was even worse, I pray to Almighty Allah to help us and give us courage to do the best of our efforts to help the people.



**Inspector General Police House in  
Muzaffarabad**

The local people are very brave and working all over the city to take out the bodies from the rubble. As the weather is changing and it is almost winter in the area and first snow fall of the season is on its way, the need of the people and time is to arrange some tents and blankets

for the people so that at least they have some shelter and they can keep themselves warm from the cold.

The main concern for the Government and for us is that there are still areas which are out of reach and there is no connection from the road as bridges went down, or because of continuous land sliding, the roads are still blocked and there is no way to reach these areas. Army has taken the control and now they are managing the situation extremely well, they are doing 40 to 60 sorties via helicopters everyday. They are working day and night to clear the roads; so that rescue teams can reach the areas not reached yet. They have improved the law and order situation in the affected areas. The flow of the traffic is much better and inshallah we hope that we would be able to reach the areas and would be able to help the people. I would like you all to pray for the people who are suffering and those who have lost their lives. May almighty Allah keep and remain us in peace Ameen.