

# REHABILITATION OF MUSLIM FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE COMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN KALOL TALUKA, PANCHMAHAL DISTRICT:

## 1. Context

The communal violence in the State of Gujarat has shocked the very basis of community living. Mutual trust and interdependence have been wiped out overnight and what prevails now is fear and insecurity and systematic boycott of the Muslim community. Struggling to put their broken lives together the victims are also battling with the repression of the majority community as well as the State. Memories of the horrendous incidents and atrocities are still fresh and are so overpowering that there are reasons enough to thwart any thought of the victims of going back to their villages. The people of the minority community, who are victims of social-economic deprivation, are relegated to a life that offers nothing, but misery, hunger and insecurity.

## 2. Present Scenario

Taluka Kalol of District Panchmahal, Gujarat; is one of the worst affected Taluka in the District where the loss of life amounts to 67 persons and the socio-economic losses, in terms of livelihood are immeasurable.

The majority community, with the support of State actors, has destroyed residential spaces of the minority community and their sources of livelihood. Even twelve months after the genocide, people shudder at the thought of going back to the same places where they have been attacked looted and killed. In certain places all attempts to return were completely sabotaged by the majority community.

**In Delol;** 74 Muslim families lived in this village before the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2002 previously involved in farming on their own lands. After 37 people were killed during the massacre and several others were physically assaulted, they were forced to leave their respective homes. Later after things were more relaxed and preparations were underway to return from the Kalol relief camps to their villages, a bomb blast on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2002 dashed all their hopes of resuming their previous situation. Albeit since the minority community was under suspicion for the act, the vested interests of the majority community, openly refused to allow any of the Muslims to return to the village.

In other areas such as Talav, Dal-Ni-Khali, Jantral, Ratanpura, Limkheda, Kanod and other places, the situation is similar if not worse. Under such conditions the Muslims have had to consider permanent resettlement to safeguard their security.

## 3. Rationale

Under these circumstances the Muslims are now living under very adverse inhuman conditions. Considering these oppressed conditions imposed by the Majority community as well as lack of support from the state, has made the Muslim community very vulnerable. The main concern today is that they face an

apparent insecurity, which might have grave consequences if allowed to accentuate, in the prevailing sensitivity of the situation.

It is in this respect that it is imperative the larger civil society make relevant interventions in the larger interest of peace. However peace by itself needs to be considered within a context of relief and rehabilitation, which are prerequisites for further development initiatives.

## **4. Proposal**

Following are the details regarding the concerned proposal.

### **4.1 Title**

REHABILITATION OF MUSLIM FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE COMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN KALOL TALUKA, PANCHMAHAL DISTRICT

### **4.2 Objectives:**

The project has the following objectives:

- Constructing 172 houses for the affected Muslim community in Kalol Taluka, Panchmahal District, Gujarat to provide a safe habitat.
- Strengthening the housing cooperative to become a self-reliant organization working to improve the lives of their families in the community (road access, community building, credit and saving systems etc.).
- Assuring gender equality by registering the house on the husband as well as wife's name.
- Improving co-operation between civil society and the Muslim community for further trust building and joint peace initiatives.
- Preventing further communal violence by working in co-operation with the affected Muslim community, motivating them to run further development initiatives instead of turning to extreme positions and revenge (relief committee transferring more and more from a relief to a development committee).

### **4.3 Process of Implementation:**

The monitoring and implementation of the project will be vested primarily with the cooperative. The co-operation of different project partners will be systematized so as to try and distribute the locus of control from the community as the starting point, supported at each stage by institutions that are closest to them. The diagram below is showing 5 different levels of actors and their inter-linkages with the housing cooperative:

### **4.4 Housing Cooperative and facilitating role of Relief Committee:**

**Relief Committee Kalol:** The relief committee of Halol was founded immediately after the riots, to mobilize resources so that temporary relief could be meted out to the victims driven away from their homes. Now this committee is going through an institutional transformation from a relief committee to a committed development organization.

**Kasimabad Cooperative Housing society:** This society will be comprised of 172 beneficiary families and will be registered with relevant authorities. It will have a working committee of 11 representatives. They will be entrusted with entire responsibility, of monitoring the construction of the houses and providing water for the construction. The cooperative will also collect contributions for further development activities regarding the housing community. The 172 families will be paying a contribution of Rs. 2000. The money (Rs. 3,20,000) will be partly used as the cooperative's financial contribution (Rs. 1,60,000 for the construction and Rs. 50,000 for coordinating costs as mentioned in Annexure 2). The remaining amount of Rs. 1,10,000 will be used as a starting capital for a community development fund managed by the cooperative working on health, education and other issues related to the welfare of the cooperative members. The process of transferring the housing cooperative to a development organization will be supported by Janvikas partnering with Anandi (level 4 of the diagram above). The cooperative will set up its own common MIS to function as a self-reliant organization.

In the over all construction of this colony both these implementing agencies will have a joint responsibility. After the houses are built the future maintenance, development and operational governance of the colony will be the sole responsibility of the Kasimabad Cooperative Housing Society.

#### **4.5 Selection of families constituting the housing cooperative:**

The Muslim Relief Committee Kalol has identified 172 families as members who would form the cooperative (from the areas mentioned under "present scenario") according to the following criteria:

- 1) Muslim families from Delol who were able to escape the communal violence but are not allowed to return.
- 2) Muslim families from Delol Station under threat while returning who do not have a second residence (like some families owning a house in Ghodra)
- 3) Muslim families in the surrounding villages of Kalol Taluka, who were relatively few in number and threatened by the larger majority community.

#### **4.6 Monitoring mechanism:**

The monitoring mechanism goes along the different construction phases. The Relief Committee Kalol according to their quality standards and tenders made has chosen four Contractors out of eight. After funds have been released the land can be purchased immediately and construction work can be started and completed within three months in the following phases:

- 1) Foundation of houses
- 2) Plinth level
- 3) Walls with doors and windows
- 4) Construction up to slab Level
- 5) Slab
- 6) Floor and plaster

#### **4.7 Financial details of the project:**

The financial details are budgeted in Annexure 1. Annexure 2 is a financial contribution plan showing where different agencies could help in funding the overall budget.

The details of the budgeted costs are as follows:

**(a) Infrastructure:** The land was selected on the basis of its availability and proximity to the Muslim community. This land at the moment is Agricultural Land and needs to be converted to Residential Property.

The total land required for the project is 63220 sft (Square feet). The land is available in three parts owned by different owners. The deals are being made with these parties and the Relief Committee Kalol has already paid Rs. 4,11,000 for the purchase of land. Total amount that needs to be further paid to clinch the deal is Rs. 10,95,000 (Refer Budget Annexure 1 including above mentioned NA procedural Charge Rs 1,00,000)

Once the project is completed, although water supply with municipality will be negotiated, it will be at least a year before the provision is made. Therefore the cost of Rs. 1,50,000 is budgeted for 4 bore wells.

**(b) Construction of houses:** The agreed amount to be expended per house unit is Rs. 36,000 including provision of electrical fittings. 90 % of the amount payable will be paid in installments on the completion of each construction phase as mentioned above (See Monitoring Mechanism). On the completion of the entire construction and the overall quality is satisfactory the remaining 10% of the each stage will be paid. Out of 172 Houses 12 are constructed for widows.

**(c) Coordination costs:** These costs will include administrative costs such as registration fee for land purchase and other formalities, transport and communication and other unforeseen expenses.

**Budget of Kalol  
Housing Cooperative  
Project**

Sl. No	Budget Head	Details	Amount paid (Rs.)	Amount to be paid (Rs.)	Amount budgeted (Rs.)
<b>1</b>	<b>Land</b>	<b>In Square Feet</b>			
1.1	Total Land Required for Project	63220			
1.2	Purchased Land	38520	411000	400000	811000
1.3	Land still to be Purchased	24700		595000	595000
1.4	NA Procedure Costs			100000	100000
<b>2</b>	<b>Construction</b>				
2.1	House Units for 160 families	Rs.36000 x 160		5760000	5760000
2.2	House units for 12 widows	Rs. 36000 x 12		432000	432000
2.3	Bore Wells	Rs. 37500 x 4		150000	150000
<b>3</b>	<b>Coordination Costs</b>			50000	50000
<b>4</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		411000	7487000	7898000

## Financial contribution plan

Budget Head (as taken from Annexure 1)	Committed by	Amount funded (Rs)	Costs (Rs.)	devided	costs per family
				by	or widow (Rs.)
<b><u>Land and Infrastructure</u></b>					
Purchased land already paid for (1.2)	Kalol Relief Committee	411000	411000	172	2390
Purchased land still to be paid for (1.2)			400000		
Land still to be purchased (1.3)			595000		
NA Procedure Costs (1.4)			100000		
Bore well (2.3)			150000		
<b>Total Infrastructure Costs (1.2+1.3+1.4+2.3)</b>	Action Aid	1245000		172	7238
<b><u>Construction of houses</u></b>					
Construction of houses for 12 widows (2.2)	Individual donor	432000	432000	12	36000
Construction of houses for 160 families (2.1)			5760000		
	Jamiat Ulma-I-Hind	2500000		160	15625
	American India Foundation through Saath	1100000		160	6875
	Janvikas	2000000		160	12500
	Housing Cooperative	160000		160	1000
<b><u>Coordination</u></b>					
Coordination Costs (3)	Housing Cooperation	50000	50000		291
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>		<b>7898000</b>	<b>7898000</b>		

### Note for Disbursement of funds for Kalol Housing Project

At the construction side on 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2003, the progress of construction was verified by Mr. Gagan Sethi, Managing Trustee of Janvikas.

Jamiat already bought 1,200 cement bags for Rs. 120 each (total of Rs. 1,44,000 spent) and Action Aid has disbursed the total amount for infrastructure costs (Rs. 12,45,000). Even though no money was disbursed for the 160 houses by Saath and Janvikas so far the following progress was made by the contractors, which justifies a disbursement of funds by Janvikas and Saath:

53 houses: Slab work is starting

26 houses: Linter level

35 houses: excavation

According to the disbursement schedule as used in the MoU between all project parties involved, the following table shows that Janvikas can now disburse Rs. 6,47,496 and Saath Rs. 3,56,121 for the construction of 160 houses:

(1) Construction stage	(2) No. of houses in progress	(3) Total costs in Rs. for the construction of No. of houses in progress (column 2)	(4) Percentage of total construction costs per house to be disbursed now	(5) Amount in Rs. to be disbursed for No. of houses in progress (column 2)	(6) Total contribution of Janvikas (Rs. 20,00,000) divided by total costs for construction of 160 houses (Rs. 57,60,000)	(7) Total contribution of Saath (Rs. 11,00,000) divided by total costs for construction of 160 houses (Rs. 57,60,000)	Money (Rs.) to be disbursed by Janvikas for No of houses in progress: Column 3 multiplied with column 6	Money (Rs.) to be disbursed by Saath for No of houses in progress: Column 3 multiplied with column 7
At the time of excavation	35	12,60,000	20%	2,52,000	0,34722	0,19097	87,499.44	48,124.44
At the time of linter level	26	9,36,000	50%	4,68,000	0,34722	0,19097	1,62,498.96	89,373.96
At the time of slab work starting	53	19,08,000	60%	11,44,800	0,34722	0,19097	3,97,497.46	2,18,622.46
Amount to be disbursed							<b>6,47,495.86</b>	<b>3,56,120.86</b>

