

# CHASHMA INSPECTION CLAIM UPDATE # 3

December 20, 2002

*The Chashma Inspection Updates are emailed to Chashma Mailing List, which is a group of individuals and non-government organizations monitoring the events and developments surrounding the ADB-Funded Chashma Right Bank Irrigation Project (CRBIP) in Pakistan. If you wish to be included or removed from Chashma Mailing List, please email the moderator, Mr. Mushtaq Gadi at [mushtaq\\_gadi@hotmail.com](mailto:mushtaq_gadi@hotmail.com)*

## Report of Chashma Field Visit

*(Two-member team- Mushtaq Gadi of SUNGI and Javid Iqbal of CRBIP Affectees- visited the field area from 10 to 14 December 2002)*

Lack of comprehensive and participatory social, cultural and environmental impact assessment in the case of Chashma Right Bank Irrigation Project (CRBIP) plays key role in suppressing and displacing the requisite knowledge of adverse impacts of the project. However, this situation politically benefits the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and provides them opportunity to avoid taking the responsibility for the havoc, which they have created in the name of development. Some mistakes committed in the project design preparation and implementation are stupidly unjustified, though they have significant destructive consequences for the security of life, livelihoods and ecology in the area.

### **. 1. Flooding and involuntary displacement: new cases of four villages in the non-command eastern riverine belt:**

Our Chashma field visit on last week (December 10-14, 2002) provides some obvious examples of such naïve mistakes made in project design preparation and implementation and brings forth new facts about project induced flooding and involuntary displacement.

On December 10, we visited two villages in the eastern riverine belt, which is located outside of the canal command area and thus deprives of so called major project benefit of perennial irrigation. These villages are *Sikhani Wala* and *Lashari Wala* in the Dera Ismail Khan and Dera Ghazi Khan district accordingly. These both villages are facing severe flooding problem because minor canals or distributaries are not constructed up to Indus River where this water is ultimate drained. Surplus water of these minor canals or distributaries floods four to five kilometers long area and its substantial portion ponds in about two to three hundred acres of fertile and already cultivated land. Number of minor canals/distributaries, which are creating flooding in *Sikhani Wala* and *Lashari Wala*, are 15 and 27. Ways and roads in both villages are severely blocked. For example, affected persons in *Lashari Wala* village have now to travel more than twenty kilometers to reach their lands which were previously six to seven kilometers away. They complained that they could not now easily transport diesel to ensure timely operation of peter engines and

tube wells, which are only source of irrigation for their lands. Their valuable crops regularly continue to get damaged and destroyed because of open flooding of these uncompleted minor canals or distributaries. There are many such villages in the adjacent area that are facing the same problem.

On December 11, we visited *Malanna* village, which is located in the union council Makwal Kalan in Taunsa Tahsil. *Malanna* village is again located in the eastern riverine belt. *Malanna* village has about two hundred households. This village was severely flooded on 15<sup>th</sup> August in last year. Walls of village primary school and more than thirty houses were damaged and destroyed during that flood event because the flood carrier channel supposed to drain the floodwater of a hill-torrent called *Jat Gadi Wah*, is not completed. This is the same hill-torrent that flooded *Sokkar* village in the west bank thrice in 2001. The ADB's consultants did partial documentation of the flooding impacts occurred in *Sokkar* village in August 2001 when they visited the area and prepared discussion paper for the Chashma Stakeholder Dialogue. After flooding *Sokkar* village and nearby area, the Indus Highway once again stops this hill-torrent-*Jat Gadi Wah*- because no cross-drainage structure to flood carrier channel is provided at this particular point of the Indus Highway. Floodwater is stopped at this particular point, gets diverted in the south, damages more than one and half kilometer area and finally crosses the Indus Highway from another cross-drainage structure. After passing the Indus Highway, floodwater devastates the land in command area up to six to seven kilometers downstream and floods *Malanna* and other nearby villages. Affected persons complained they had not been paid any compensation for the loss of houses and crop damages occurred on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2001. They feared that their life and property would come under serious threat in the event of any next flood. This should be noted that the project area is facing drought and did not experience high floods during last four years. In the case of any such floods, threat to life and property would be serious and much higher than in the past. Another village called *Gadi Sandeela* in the same area is also facing the problem of flooding because of uncompleted Mati Mahoi flood carrier channel.

## **2. Displacement threat to Gut village:**

The *Gut* village that is located in the command area is facing quite unique threat of flooding and involuntary displacement. The village is located at the left bank of Vihowa hill-torrent, which is the second biggest hill-torrent after Sanghar. Maximum flood discharge of this hill-torrent is more than fifty thousand cusecs. Total population of the *Gut* village is more than thirty households. Villagers complained that serious soil erosion occurred during last couple of years and thus threatened the safety of the village. They told that unutilized water coupled with increased speed led to massive erosion of banks and thus posed threat to the village. A new flood carrier channel was supposed to be constructed but it was stopped because of the influence of large landowners in the area.

## **3. Corruption in land compensation**

A project area level meeting of Chashma affectees was held on December 12, 2002. Damaan, Chashma Affectees Committee and SUNGI jointly organized the meeting.

Affected persons whom land have been acquired under the project complained that land collector and *patwaris* were not paying them already low compensation unless they agreed to give them twenty percent commission of their total land awards. They also presented press-clippings about complaints of corruption in land compensation appeared in local and regional press. It was decided that testimonies about corruption in land compensation would be collected in January 2003. Testimonies documented in both written and video form would be sent to Chief Justice of Supreme Court, President and Prime Minister, National Accountability Bureau and media.

#### **4. Chashma Grievance Redress and Settlement Committee (GRSC)????**

It was decided in the meeting between WAPDA, Ministry of Water and Power and ADB that the GRSC would start its work as soon as possible so that it could complete its task before the project closing on 31<sup>st</sup> December. This meeting was held on November 4, 2002, in Islamabad. Representatives of affectees and NGOs boycotted that meeting because of the refusal of WAPDA to prepare comprehensive resettlement and rehabilitation plan. It was also decided in the meeting that three offices of GRSC would be established in Dera Ismail Khan, Taunsa Sharif and Dera Ghazi Khan. Our recent field visit revealed that no such offices have been yet established. Neither the GRSC started its work in the field area.