

Thursday, March 03, 2011

## Equitable access to resources urged

ISLAMABAD, March 2: Speakers at a roundtable on Wednesday called for steps to provide the flood-affected people with equitable access to resources for their rehabilitation.

The roundtable, 'Reviewing post-flood situation and framing a way forward on citizens charter of demands' was organised by National Humanitarian Network.

Deputy Chairman Senate Mir Jan Mohammad Khan Jamali told the participants about the situation in Balochistan and said most flood-hit people in the province were poor.

Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Nadeem Ahmed said due to the severity of the flood damage, they had to extend the relief phase from three to six months i.e. till January 2011.

He said the repair work in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was almost complete; however, reconstruction of infrastructure in some districts of Punjab and Sindh was yet to be finished.

Executive Director Sungi Development Foundation Samina Khan stressed the need to rehabilitate the communication and mobility networks destroyed by the floods.

Executive Director SPO Naseer Memon said civil society took the dialogue positively and expected finding common grounds between the government and its institutions and the civil society for transparent and accountable delivery of recovery and rehabilitation work.

Sarwar Bari from Pattan said 70 per cent damages occurred due to the failure of successive governments to maintain and upgrade infrastructure over the years.

Irfan Mufti from SAP-PK said six months after the worst floods, millions were still in need of assistance and there were new warnings about malnutrition in the worst-hit province of Sindh. — APP