

## **SOCIAL WELFARE COMPLEXES**

ERRA's institutional and operational structure and the various rehabilitation interventions spearheaded by them are time bound and will eventually phase out. ERRA's Social Protection Strategy therefore, recognizes the need to strengthen the Social Welfare Departments which are primarily responsible to respond in the long term to the needs of the vulnerable population and ensure their rehabilitation on sustainable basis in the earthquake affected areas. In the spirit of 'building back better' and to augment the capacity of the Provincial/State Social Welfare Departments, ERRA has proposed an innovative concept of establishing Social Welfare Complexes (SWC) at district level in the affected areas. Proposed SWCs will integrate the Social Welfare Departments' district offices, facilities managed by the Provincial/State Social Welfare Departments and other critically required services to address the vulnerabilities created or compounded by the earthquake.

### **Project Description**

ERRA's vision of establishment of Social Welfare Complexes is to strengthen the Social Welfare infrastructure at district level for provision of effective, efficient and sustainable social services to the vulnerable population in the affected areas. These complexes will be constructed in all 9 affected districts of the affected area i.e. Bagh, Muzaffarabad, Neelum and Poonch in AJK, Abbotabad, Battagram, Kohistan, Mansera, and Shangla in NWFP. The SWCs will be constructed in Mansehra and Muzaffarabad on priority basis.

The proposed complexes would house district level Social Welfare offices and facilities managed by Provincial/State Social Welfare Departments. The SWCs will also provide integrated services in one premises, including medical, educational (for special children), legal facilitation, psychosocial support, vocational training, and hostels for vulnerable groups. The Social Welfare Complexes will serve as hub of Social Welfare activities at the District with outreach to the communities through existing infrastructure at grassroots level. The establishment of complexes will provide easy access for vulnerable groups to social welfare services by integrating facilities/services functioning in various places. The complexes will also be instrumental in planning, coordinating and supervising Community Based Rehabilitation Programmes for reintegration of vulnerable groups in their respective communities.

### **Services package for Social Welfare Complexes**

The proposed Social Welfare complexes will house District level offices of the Social Welfare Department and other facilities managed by the respective departments. SWCs would, in the first place, integrate all existing facilities managed by the respective departments for instance Special Education Centre, Kashana, Vocational Training Centres, etc. In order to effectively

cater to the vulnerabilities created and compounded by the earthquake, the SWCs would also integrate the following services:

- Psychosocial support
- Legal assistance for the vulnerable groups
- Basic level medical care
- Vocational Training programmes
- Database for referral services
- Child Protection Services
- Hostel facilities for deserving cases (orphans, elderly, disabled and distressed women) (as explained below)
- Special Education Centre
- Canteen for visiting people

### **Design of Social Welfare Complexes**

Each Complex will be divided into three blocks i.e. **Office Block** containing district office, **Services Block** integrating various services such as medical, legal, psycho social support, vocational training, Special Education Centre etc. and **Residential Block** comprising hostels for vulnerable women, orphans and elderly.