

## Standing Strong in Hard Times

*An activity of "Architect helps to floodproof Pakistan..."*

Read the article "Architect helps to floodproof Pakistan, one home at a time" (pages 9– 10, *What's Up* July 2023).

- 1) Fill in the following cloze passage that describes the challenges faced by the flood victims in Pakistan.

Due to climate change, increasingly severe and unpredictable monsoons have been

a) \_\_\_\_\_ in Pakistan. This has resulted in intensive flooding, which in turn has

b) \_\_\_\_\_ many poorer communities living in flood-prone areas. Many people have lost their homes. They have had to c) \_\_\_\_\_ and leave behind their belongings.

When they returned after the flood, they found their houses d) \_\_\_\_\_, leaving

them homeless. Many daily-wage workers faced weeks of displacement without

income, food or means to e) \_\_\_\_\_ themselves. Yasmeen Lari, the first female

architect in Pakistan, came out of retirement to f) \_\_\_\_\_ this issue. She designed

and built floodproof houses using locally available g) \_\_\_\_\_ like clay, bamboo,

lime, and thatching. The houses, known as "chanwara", are improved versions of

traditional mud huts that can withstand heavy rains and better protect the occupants.

They are also cheaper to build, h) \_\_\_\_\_ to traditional brick-and-mortar houses.

They also i) \_\_\_\_\_ job opportunities for locals. Ms Lari's work goes j) \_\_\_\_\_

architecture as she aims to create sustainable and resilient communities. She

k) \_\_\_\_\_ to the needs of the people — especially women — to

l) \_\_\_\_\_ their concerns. She has gained m) \_\_\_\_\_ globally

for using architecture to improve peoples' lives.

2) In small groups, watch the following video about the floods in Pakistan together:

**Pakistan floods: drone footage shows scale of destruction**

➤ <https://youtu.be/THMkzr090-A> (Guardian News, 30 Aug 2022)

3a) Using information from the article and the video, write a journal entry from the perspective of any one flood survivor:

- A child
- A parent
- A provision shop owner
- A doctor
- A teacher
- Any other person you can think of

Dear Diary, Date:

3b) Have each group member read aloud his/her journal entry. Share your thoughts and concerns about the challenges faced by people in flood-prone places.

4) Reflect, as a group, on what you think enables people to stand strong in hard times.