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# AKDN

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Autumn Newsletter: *Pakistan edition*



## The Skill of Conservation and the Conservation of Skill

**1 September 2016:** The seventeenth-century Shahi Hammam in the Walled City of Lahore received the Award of Merit in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The UNESCO panel commended the project by noting that "visitors can now gain a vivid understanding of the Hammam's historic function through the display of excavated underground structures, partial reinstatement of bathhouse features, and an educational exhibition. The project has returned the ornate Shahi Hammam to its former prominence within

the Walled City of Lahore while giving encouragement to future private conservation initiatives.” From July 2013 to June 2015, the Aga Khan Cultural Service Pakistan (AKCS-P), with financial



Mr. Arne Haug, Counsellor RNE, Mr. Kamran Lashari, DG, WCLA, and Mr. Salman Beg, CEO, AKCS-P unveiling the plaque for UNESCO Award of Merit in Shahi Hamam

support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE), carried out the conservation of the Mughal-era public bathhouse as part of a public-private partnership with the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA). AKCS-P's effort to conserve historic monuments go hand-in-hand with efforts to preserve traditional skills that might otherwise be lost. Ustad Sarwar, wielding 48 years of experience on heritage monuments like the award-winning Shah Rukn-e-Alam Tomb in Multan, along with Ustad Qasim and Ustad Omer, were responsible for restoring the traditional cut-and-dressed brickwork, brick masonry, and the panna and pucca kali (lime rendering) of the walls and floors of the Hammam.

A commendable effort was also made by Ustad Khalid on the muqarnas of the interior domes; trained in Shahdara by Ustad Ayub in the traditional art of ghalib kari, Khalid has nine years of experience on monuments like Emperor Jahangir's tomb, the Lahore Fort and the grand entrance of the Badshahi Mosque, despite his young age. The work on the Hammam elevated these craftsmen's skills and encouraged them to keep their skills alive by passing them on to younger generations. After working on the award-winning Hammam, these craftsmen are currently engaged in AKCS-P's ongoing project at the Wazir Khan Mosque.



Ustad Khalid working on the inner domes of Shahi Hamam

## AKU to boost maternal and child health with \$25m grant from Gates Foundation

The Aga Khan University will work to prevent deaths of mothers and children in Pakistan under a five-year, US\$ 25 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, testing a variety of approaches in an effort to develop insights and evidence that can influence policy across the country and beyond its borders. Under the Umeed-e-Nau grant, the University will partner with public and private sector organisations to introduce at least six large-scale projects in representative settings. Because the risks mothers and children face in rural areas are especially high, AKU researchers will focus on 14 mainly rural districts in Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan as well as urban slums in Karachi. Researchers will work with public sector



*A young mother visiting a doctor with her sick child*

programmes and primary care providers such as Lady Health Workers and Community Health Midwives to deliver proven interventions. They will also empower adolescent girls through health and nutrition education delivered in schools and in communities.

Ultimately, researchers hope to reduce stillbirths and newborn deaths by 20 percent, and deaths from pneumonia and diarrhoea by 30 percent. Dr. Christopher Elias, President of the Global Development Program at the Bill &

Melinda Gates Foundation, said, “Breaking the cycle of poverty starts with investing in the health of vulnerable individuals at every stage of life, particularly young women, newborns and children. We are proud to support Pakistan’s efforts to improve the quality and reach of health services to reduce preventable deaths and make progress toward the country’s 2030 development goals.” AKU President Firoz Rasul said, “This grant reflects the impact and value of the work that AKU undertakes to develop solutions to critical health problems facing women and children, especially those living in poverty and in rural areas. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to assist the most vulnerable in our society.” AKU has pledged to invest more than US\$ 85 million over the next decade in support of the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health, to help achieve Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, requiring countries to ensure good health and well-being for people of all ages.

## First MicroFinanceBank setting new milestones of success in Punjab

By capitalising on its widespread footprint in Pakistan, FMFB-P has played an effective role in providing formal access to financial services to poor households living in less developed areas of the country, especially women entrepreneurs in rural areas. One exemplary rural branch is in Shujabaad (District Multan, South Punjab): a branch which has secured “Branch of the Quarter Award” ten times to-date, serving more than 46,000 clients. As of 31 August 2016, the branch had an active loan portfolio of more than PKR 238 million. The branch’s noteworthy achievement over the years has been asset portfolio quality - maintaining zero non-performing loans and write-off. Out of the current outstanding loans, 39% were extended to women entrepreneurs, specifically engaged in home-based livestock rearing business. Sakina Bibi is one of the successful woman entrepreneurs of Shujaabad branch. Commencing with a meager loan of PKR 15K in 2010, she started an income generating business of goat-rearing. At Eid time that year, she was able to sell her first animal at a price of PKR 25K. From this encouraging start, she never looked back. Today, she has been able not just to expand her livestock rearing business, but also to venture into dairy business. She now has three milking animals and is currently accessing a loan of PKR 50K from FMFB-P.



*Sakina with one of her animals*

The increase in household income has helped Sakina to improve her family's quality of life. She says, "I am able to send my five children to school and also improve the nutrition of my family." FMFB-P is committed to its mission-driven efforts of delivering financial services to marginalised and underserved population segments of Pakistan, by continually expanding its product portfolio and outreach. Over the years, the FMFB-P has designed customised products to facilitate clients' investments in agriculture, livestock farming and new enterprise startups. The eight-month performance since December 2015 indicates significant expansion, including a 31% increase in its Gross Loan Portfolio and an 8.72% increase in deposits. Last August, FMFB-P posted a Gross Loan Portfolio of PKR 7.3 BLN and Deposit Base of PKR 10.5 BLN; the highest in its 14-year history.

## 57,000 people to access safe drinking water through public private partnership model in Gilgit

**3 September 2016:** The Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan (AKPBS,P) organised the inauguration ceremony of one of its safe drinking water schemes in Zulfiqarabad, Gilgit. The Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan, Mr. Hafiz Hafiz-ur-Rehman, was the Chief Guest of the ceremony, which was hosted by the President of Ismaili National Council for Pakistan, Mr. Hafiz Sher Ali and Chief Executive Officer of AKPBS,P, Mr. Nawab Ali Khan. Chief Executive Officer AKF, Pakistan Mr. Akhtar Iqbal was also present on the occasion. AKPBS,P is implementing a public-private partnership project which will provide safe drinking water to over 57,000 people in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. This partnership is exemplary because for the first time in the history of AKPBS,P, the community has played a role in mobilization of funds and in the the implementation of the scheme. Active community participation has given a sense of self-reliance and communal ownership to the families in Zulfiqarabad, and they are determined to ensure the maintenance and sustainability of their water supply scheme in the coming years.

"The public-private partnership marks a key step towards reinforcing our relationship with the local government and establishing ourselves as key stakeholders in the WASH sector in the region. Our strength lies in our community-centric approach and mobilizing the



*CM- GB, Mr. Hafiz Hafiz-ur-Rehman and President Ismaili National Council Mr. Hafiz Sherali inaugurating the water scheme*

communities to take leadership roles in resolving their developmental problems efficiently”, said Mr. Nawab Ali Khan. Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental human right not only because it can contribute in improving quality of life, but also because it is critical to the achievement of other development goals. Despite its importance, more than 16 million people in Pakistan lack access to safe drinking water. AKPBS,P understands that addressing the need of safe drinking water is only possible when all major stakeholders, including the government, private sector and local community, join hands and take responsibility to resolve this issue.



*The Chief Minister of GB drinking water from the Zulfiqarabad water supply scheme*

## 29,000 people to benefit from disaster risk reduction measures in Balochistan, Sindh and KPK

**10 October 2016:** United Nations World Food Programme and FOCUS Pakistan have signed an MoU for the implementation of Community Based Disaster Risk Management and School Safety programmes in six hazard prone districts across Pakistan. In a meeting held in Islamabad, WFP and FOCUS signed two agreements to work in Balochistan (Naseerabad and Jaffarabad districts), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Chitral and Shangla districts) and Sindh (Tharparkar and Sangarh districts) for a year starting September 2016. The partnership between WFP and FOCUS Pakistan aims to educate 29,000 people about Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and build capacity of Government, Department of Education and School Management Committees in School Safety. “It is a great opportunity to spread the key message of safer schools across Pakistan. Transfer of knowledge, building on learnings from our ongoing School Safety Programme and effective coordination and consultation with government authorities and school communities remains pivotal to achieve the desired results,” said Nusrat Nasab, Executive

Officer of FOCUS Pakistan. Besides educating the community members, FOCUS Pakistan will also conduct training in disaster preparedness and response planning for trainers, teachers and facilitators in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The sessions will be aided by information, education and communication (IEC) material provided by WFP along with school safety, first-aid and search and rescue kits in hazard-prone districts.



*Students during an earthquake drill*

## Satpara Development Project improves farming practices of women entrepreneur in Skardu

Tahira is a housewife and looks after her husband, two daughters and two sons. She lives in Sundus Gond village situated at the suburbs of Skardu city and, thanks to the USAID-funded Satpara Development Project (SDP), is a proud greenhouse owner and farmer. SDP gave Tahira professional training and enabled her to establish a greenhouse and a farm. Prior to the SDP training, Tahira's family owned a large piece of land. She did have the interest and determination to cultivate the crops that she wanted, but her farm's production wasn't up to the mark due to the traditional ways, low quality seeds and poorly prepared land. She also could not cultivate off-season crops as the region has extreme and harsh weather conditions. In 2013 Tahira came to know about the greenhouse project of SDP through some relatives who had seen an advertisement in a local newspaper. She applied for support and was very excited to be selected. Tahira invested 30% of the total expenditure for her greenhouse, including local construction materials and labour.

SDP provided the remaining 70% of the cost of building the greenhouse, including bricks, aluminium frame, glass, paint and skilled labour. SDP has also provided her technical assistance in land selection, land preparation, temperature maintenance of the greenhouse and marketing her produce. "Financial and technical assistance provided by SDP has not only raised my interest in farming but also aided to fulfil my basic needs making my family life prosperous. My skills have greatly improved and there is an increase in my produce and income," said Tahira. The time-to-time supervision of the SDP technical team is helping raise her income even further. She now grows a vast variety of vegetables in her greenhouse, including spinach, coriander and root plants. And she is sharing her knowledge by providing training to her fellow community members, especially women farmers.



*Tahira picking up vegetables from her farm*

## Students of Aga Khan Education Service, Pakistan schools win Board of Intermediate Education, Karachi and Aga Khan University Examination Board positions

**17 September 2016:** Twelve students from Aga Khan Education Service, Pakistan schools have won top-three positions in the Aga Khan University Examination Board's Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Board of Intermediate Education, Karachi (BIEK), and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) examinations. Three of these 12 positions are "overall in Pakistan," which means that they have been awarded on the basis of aggregate scores of all subjects.

Hira Naz from AKHSS, Kuragh, has scored the highest aggregate in Pakistan in the SSC and is now enrolled in the higher secondary school programme. Hira's dream is to study medicine at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi, and to specialise as a neurologist. Areej Al Medinah, an alumna of Aga Khan Higher Secondary School, Karachi, had the highest HSSC aggregate score in Pakistan, and also the highest score in the pre-engineering group in which she appeared. She has spent this summer attending Harvard University's Summer Sisters Exchange Programme on a full scholarship. "Seven weeks of life at Harvard was more like a life in a parallel universe. One of my courses was Sustainable Product Development, which made me see that several education campaigns are needed to instill determination in Karachiites to innovate and expand business systems." She is now enrolled at Habib University.

Areej's classmate Fatima Muhammad Asad is another of these high achievers. Her HSSC aggregate score is the third highest in Pakistan. Her future holds a degree in medicine, and she says she is "proud to be one of the women who are taking the lead over men in all fields, be it the top positions in examinations or winning Oscars and Nobel Prizes for our country." Anum Amad Siddiqui of AKHSS Karachi secured first position in pre-engineering (BIEK) with a 998 out of 1100. Anum is now getting her BA in Electrical Engineering from National University of Sciences and Technology. Ayesha Muzaffar of AKHSS Karachi secured second position in pre-engineering (BIEK) with a 997 out of 1100. She now hopes to pursue a career in Chemical Engineering from NED University of Engineering and Technology. In all, 9 of the 12 positions were won by students of AKHSS, Karachi, and one each was won by students of AKHSS Gilgit, AKHSS Kuragh (Chitral) and AKHSS Seenlasht (Chitral).



Hira Naz receiving her award from CEO AKES,P, Mr. Farhan Bhayani

## Antenatal coverage increased by 23% and skilled deliveries increased by 25% in eight union councils of Chitral

**25 August 2016:** A dissemination seminar was organised in Chitral to share the learnings from the four year Cross-Border Maternal Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) Project implemented by Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan (AKHS,P) with technical assistance from Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan (AKF,P). Mr. Usama Ahmed Warraich, Deputy Commissioner of District Chitral was the guest of honour and representatives of Department of Health (DoH), communities and various civil society organisations participated in the seminar. Senior Programme Officer of AKF, Pakistan, Dr. Sharif Ullah Khan thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of France for their funding support and the Department of Health (KPK), and District Government Chitral for their effective partnerships.

The project's interventions were concentrated in eight union councils of Chitral, which are remote and lie adjacent to the Afghanistan border. They aimed to make health care more accessible to the population, especially for women and children under five, and to increase the community's willingness to use essential health care services offered at six government health facilities and 13 AKHS,P clinics. Ms. Qadar-un-Nisa, Assistant Manager, AKHS, P, shared with the audience that as a result of the project interventions, antenatal coverage increased by 23%, skilled deliveries increased by 25% and postnatal care increased by 10% in the catchment population of the project. She specifically mentioned that promoting a continuum of care contributed to increased skilled birth attendance, improved cold chain maintenance played an effective role in improving vaccine coverage in border areas, use of Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tool, positive deviance approach and nutrition supplementation was used effectively to identify and treat undernourished children. Four government trained Community Midwives (CMWs) were deployed in remote locations in the district to provide MNCH services.



*Project Head presenting the learnings during the seminar*

## Say NO to drugs and engage in learning and sports: Serena Hotels take initiatives for youth in Pakistan

In the past quarter, Serena Hotels engaged in various activities which provided knowledge, skills to youth in Pakistan that promote causes such as 'Say No to Drugs' and use sports to encourage healthy lifestyles. In collaboration with Pakistan Youth Outreach and the Aga Khan Social Welfare Board Pakistan, Serena hosted the first high altitude foot races in Hunza. The 10 km and 5 km races for amateurs encouraged young people to engage in healthy exercise and raised awareness about the negative impact of substance abuse. Serena also supported a cycling race organised by Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation highlighting the International Overdose Awareness Day. The event aimed to raise awareness amongst the youth on the ill effects of substance abuse.

Serena continues to support various schools for underprivileged children in a number of ways including in kind donations, activities and engaging students at different levels. The Serena Business Complex and Islamabad Serena Hotel held a movie screening and lunch for students of the SOS village, Sweet Homes,



*Youth during a 10 km race to raise awareness about the negative impact of substance abuse*

Saba Homes and Hunehar. Islamabad Serena Hotel donated 500 notebooks to Sultana Foundation. The GM and management of the Islamabad Serena Hotel participated in the Children's Literature Festival at Mashal Model School and presented treats to the children. Serena also engages individuals as well as corporate entities from the private sector to provide meaningful donations which support children. Finally, Serena held Bosnian Cultural Evening with the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina to raise funds for the construction of the Pak Bosnian International School in Pind Dadan Khan in Jhelum.

## Central Asia Health Training Programme brings health managers from four countries to Islamabad

**10 August 2016:** Forty-two health managers and leaders from health facilities in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic convened in Islamabad for training as part of the Central Asia Health Systems Strengthening Project (CAHSS). The objective of the training was to build the capacities of health facility managers so that they can improve the quality of service delivery, provide positive patient outcomes, and improve patient satisfaction. The course was conducted in English and Russian.

Under the aegis of the AKDN-Global Affairs Canada Partnership for Advancing Human Development in Africa and Asia (PAHDAA), CAHSS aims to improve the delivery of quality care in a regional hub-and-spoke network of government and non-government health facilities; strengthen the capacity of thousands of health professionals; promote healthy behaviours among women and girls; and inform policy and practice. The Health Facilities Management Training Programme was designed to be pragmatic and relevant



*participants during the session*

with instruction provided by expert practitioners. Faculty included an international group comprising of facilitators from AKU, University of Utah, International Hospital Federation, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat and international experts from USA and Canada.

## Officials from Canadian High Commission visit AKDN programme areas in Hunza and Gilgit

**30 August 2016:** The Global Affairs Canada Acting Head of Department/First Secretary, Mr. Kiril Jordanov, and his team visited the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) office in Gilgit, where they were briefed about AKRSP's programmes, its contribution to civil society efforts, and cumulative achievements of Canadian funded Enhancing Employability and Leadership for Youth (EELY) project. The team met with EELY interns and discussed their aspirations and expectations and also met the entrepreneurs in the women-only market in Kashrote, Gilgit. EELY

supported the women entrepreneurs to expand their training centre into a market and now they have eight shops and two training centres and have trained 10,000 young women from different areas. The team met the Vice-Chancellor of Karakoram International University (KIU) Gilgit and were briefed about the KIU Continued Learning Center, which was established under EELY. In addition, the delegation visited Aga Khan Medical Centre, Gilgit (AKMC,G) and was given a presentation on the Canadian funded Central Asia Health System Strengthening (CAHSS) project, which supported AKMC,G through the provision of key equipment, as well as the introduction of an e-learning and hub and spokes model through which the centre is connected to the comprehensive health centres in other regions and to AKU in Karachi.



*Mr. Kirill Jordanov being briefed about the KIU Continued Learning Centre*

*Dear Readers,*

*Thank you for taking the time to learn about AKDN's work in Pakistan. If you have any questions about the articles, please contact Laila Naz Taj, Manager Partnerships and Communications, AKF Pakistan, at [laila.taj@akdn.org](mailto:laila.taj@akdn.org).*

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*Please look for the next volume of the AKDN Newsletter in winter 2017.*

*For more information, visit our website: [www.akdn.org/Pakistan](http://www.akdn.org/Pakistan)*