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AKDN

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

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Relief provided for the earthquake victims in Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan

26 October 2015: A massive earthquake struck Badakhshan Province in Afghanistan on 26 October 2015 and affected Pakistan including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Punjab, Kashmir, and Baluchistan. According to the US Geological Survey this earthquake was of magnitude 7.5 and was 196 kilometers (121 miles) deep, and the epicenter was 82 kilometers southeast of Faizabad Afghanistan in the Hindu Kush mountain range. The earthquake and its aftershocks triggered landslides, rock fall and stampedes as it

collapsed buildings and severed communication lines in Chitral and some parts of Gilgit-Baltistan. In District Chitral (KPK) and District Ghizer (GB), a total of 168 villages were affected, 115 individuals were injured, 44 individuals lost their lives and over 8000 houses were damaged. FOCUS the humanitarian arm of AKDN, working for emergency response and disaster management in Pakistan, very actively responded to this disaster by mobilizing its trained Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and Search and Rescue Teams (SARTs) to evacuate people and provide them with immediate relief items from the existing community stockpiles. Soon after the disaster, the Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) were established for coordination among AKDN agencies, Government departments and Armed forces for provision of relief items, disaster assessment and ensuring health and shelter facilities. The Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan with other AKDN agencies focussed on mobilizing resources from different donors for the affected areas. Meanwhile, a number of collaborations were made with international, national organisations to support the affectees with winterised tents, blankets and shelters.



Focus volunteers distributing relief among the community members in Chitral

The AKDN agencies through a concerted effort provided the local communities with quick relief and are busy in the early recovery and rehabilitation work. FOCUS deployed over 2000 volunteers through its Community Emergency Response Teams, Search and Rescue Teams and Disaster Assessment and Response Teams. A total of 2015 households were provided food, tents and nonfood items in 200 villages. 3300 families were supported through WFP food for work programme. Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan (AKHS,P) deployed its medical teams and nine mobile clinics were established and 1000 patients were treated during the earthquake and 8000 patients were provided medical help in total. 13200 aqua tabs were distributed and community health education sessions were conducted and over 1000 children were vaccinated. Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan restored 63 Water and Sanitation Extension Programme (WASEP) schemes and plans to construct 710 shelters of which 315 have already been completed. FOCUS carried out the assessment of over 651 sites for this purpose. Aga Khan Rural Support Programme restored 162 irrigation channels, link roads, bridges and Micro-hydro units. Three chair lifts were installed to support emergency access to cut off villages. 7000 families were supported through WFP-Cash for Work project with an amount of PKR 6,785 per family. 1000 families in Laspur were supported with non food items (PKR 15000 each).

Energy and cost efficient stoves improve the quality of life of communities in Thatta (Sindh)

As global leaders are revitalizing their efforts to address the issues of climate change and energy conservation, Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan (AKPBS,P) is doing its part by creating low-cost products and technologies that both improve the quality of life in

human habitats and reduce the pressures on the natural environment. In collaboration with Aga Khan Foundation, Canada (AKF,C), and the Department for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) in Canada, AKPBS,P initiated the 'Supporting Civil Society Initiatives' project through which more than 200 energy efficient stoves have been introduced in 30 villages in Thatta, Sindh. Prior to AKPBS,P's initiative, rural communities in Thatta were dependent on fuel wood for their daily cooking needs which led to several diseases in the village, particularly among women and children.



A housewife preparing food for her family using the energy efficient stove

"Using fuel wood was extremely tough, because it damaged our eyes and skin, and impacted our respiratory system," lamented a housewife in Lakho Mir Bahar, a village in Thatta. AKPBS,P's introduction of energy efficient stoves created ripple effects in improving the quality of life of the local community, by not only reducing their monthly expenditure on wood fuel, but also improving the health of communities. "With these new stoves, our expenditure on wood fuel has halved, and it seems we have received freedom from cough, asthma, and other skin diseases", expressed a community activist. AKPBS,P's initiative has also increased employment opportunities as local artisans have been trained to produce energy efficient stoves and chimneys for each household. More importantly, the initiative has contributed in the conservation of environment by reducing carbon emission per household, and increasing awareness among the community on environmental sustainability.

First Microfinance Bank and Pakistan Post Office renew efforts to reduce financial exclusion

The First MicroFinanceBank Ltd - Pakistan (FMFB-P) and the Pakistan Post Office (PPO) renewed their agreement to alleviate poverty by reaching out to the marginalised and underserved populations of Pakistan by providing microfinance services through PPO Sub Offices. Aimed at reducing financial exclusion of the poor and providing an access to financial services to the vulnerable populations residing in remote rural and urban areas of Pakistan, this unique and innovative public-private partnership between PPO and FMFB-P was initiated in 2008 and has allowed for rapid scaling up of quality microfinance services. Amir Masood Khan, President/CEO The First Micro Finance Bank and Fakir Syed Sheharyaruddin, Chairman/ Director General, Pakistan Post signed the renewal agreement on 7 December 2015, extending the partnership for the next three years. Senior Management of both the institutions were also



CEO FMFB-P & Chairman/DG Pakistan Post during the signing ceremony

present on the occasion. “Our partnership with the Pakistan Post, which has an extensive network of Sub Offices (SO) across Pakistan, has enabled FMFB to reach out to the remote and vulnerable poor by providing microfinance services through 42 PPO Sub Offices in Southern Punjab, Central Punjab, Upper Sind and Lower Sind regions,” said Amir Masood Khan, President FMFB-P.

AKU-IED organises its 10th International Conference in Karachi

A three-day's conference was organised by Aga Khan University's Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED) on 21 November 2015 in Karachi that hosted over 100 workshops, plenary sessions and presentations. Renowned scholars from around the globe participated in the conference. Keynote speaker Pauline Rose, Professor, International Education and Director Research, Equitable Access and Learning Centre, University of Cambridge noted that “for quality education, a ‘renewed focus’ on the three pillars of an education system, on teachers, teaching quality and learning and particularly on learning that uses evidence-based ‘indigenous’ models has to become part of practice. Only then can Pakistan take steps towards achieving the new global Sustainable Development Goals on education – Goal 4 to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning by 2030.”



Speakers and participants during the conference

Various speakers during the conference cautioned that the quality of teaching can be improved by incorporating best practices from around the world but it is critically important that these best practices are not transposed without understanding learners and their local context and cultures. Dr. Sarfaroz Niyozov, Director, IED highlighted that, "worldwide, education is witnessing a reinvigoration of indigenous knowledge and models, a welcome change in countries with rich historical and cultural traditions of teaching and learning such as Pakistan. Equally important is that one should not fall into the trap of romanticising the indigenous but assess local models for their quality, equity and inclusivity. As teachers are central to the quality of student learning, teacher quality itself is deeply connected to the quality of teachers' own learning. Teachers' openness to and capacities for learning from multiple sources and challenging perspectives are key to the survival of teaching as a respectable profession and teachers as esteemed professionals.”

Other key speakers during the course of the conference included Dr. Marie Lall of the Institute of Education, University College London, Professor Aziz Ali Najam, Director Usman Institute of Technology, Karachi, and AKU's Doctors including Elnasir Lalani, Mir Afzal Tajik, Nelofer Halai, Sadrudin Pardhan, Mola Dad Shafa, Taktir Ali and other scholars and practitioners.

UN delegation visits the earthquake and flood affected areas in Chitral

4 December 2015: UN delegation headed by Mr. Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Pakistan visited the flood and earthquake affected areas in Chitral to meet the communities and observe the relief work carried out by Government, AKDN and different organisations. The team was accompanied by Mr. Akhtar Iqbal, CEO, AKF, Pakistan and Ms. Nusrat Nasab, EO, FOCUS Pakistan.

UN agencies especially World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in partnership with AKDN have done work for earthquake and flood relief in Chitral. WFP has provided food for work to 3000 families and cash for work to 7000 families to rehabilitate their infrastructure. FAO has provided agriculture inputs to 6000 families and plans to rehabilitate 30 irrigation projects. The FAO package included fertilisers, wheat and vegetable seeds. During the visit, District Government and other representatives highlighted that the scale of disaster in Chitral was huge, most of the critical community and public infrastructures have been destroyed and Chitral has gone back 30 years. District Nazim noted that the rehabilitation needs huge resources and time and that they are expecting all donors to come forward and support Chitral in rehabilitation. He thanked AKDN for its impressive contribution to the relief and rehabilitation work and for its long term commitment to the area. He appreciated UN investment in relief and rehabilitation and requested UN to play a bigger role in mobilizing more resources towards rehabilitation in Chitral. He also mentioned that District Chitral has great potential in tourism sector and gems and minerals sectors but climatic change events are becoming a barrier.



UN delegation and CEO AKF, Pakistan meeting with the communities in Kalash Valley, Chitral

Neil Buhne thanked the District Government for their support and rehabilitation work and told them that UN will continue to support disaster response and relief. He showed his concern that climate change is becoming an issue and needs to be addressed seriously. He further said that Pakistan's vulnerability to both natural hazards and climate change has the potential to damage and delay development in the country. However with good preparedness, planning and mitigation measures, the loss of human life and development can be limited. He also highlighted the importance of Government efforts to provide relief to the communities most affected.

The UN delegation visited Chitral town, Charun Oveer and Bomburat to observe the affected areas. The team met the community representatives and visited Bomburat Museum and flood affected areas in Bomburat. Akhtar Iqbal appreciated the support of Government and UN

agencies in the relief and rehabilitation work in Chitral and noted that together we can build stronger capacities to plan for and respond to disasters.

Women from CIQAM social enterprise speak about environmentally friendly construction practices at UN Climate Change Conference-COP 21

9 December 2015: Six women carpenters from CIQAM travelled to Paris to participate in the UN Climate Change Conference in December. At the Indigenous People's Pavilion, the team shared their personal experiences of how the enterprise helped them support their families, develop a local skill base and contribute to the local economy and environment. They also highlighted how climate change has recently affected Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral, stressing the importance of increased awareness, promotion of environment-friendly construction practices, increased plantation and conservation of natural forests, development of clean energy sources and responsible tourism. They then travelled to Grenoble where they visited eco-tourism villages and attended sessions on construction of energy efficient timber chalets. The team met with the senior management of the Department of International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), who lauded the enterprise as a global initiative and expressed their desire to contribute to CIQAM. They also met representatives from the Pakistan desk at the Foreign Office in Paris, who assured the team of their continued support not only in skill development but also in promoting tourism and enhancing women's participation in various agricultural activities. The six carpenters, headed by Chairperson CIQAM Aqeela Bano and Senior Manager Safiullah Baig, represented the passion and commitment of the entire team in their respective fields. All six women expressed the desire to start a formal construction business, a carpentry school to strengthen technical and vocational education and increase women participation in the tourism sector.

CIQAM is a Women Social Enterprise that was established with the support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the Embassy of France in Altit, Hunza and Mastuj, Chitral. In 2003 CIQAM as Women Social Enterprise was initiated as a pilot activity in order to engage young girls in the heritage development project



Carpentry workshop Mastuj, Chitral



CIQAM women at UN Climate Change Conference - COP21 (Paris)

activities of the Aga Khan Cultural Service, Pakistan. Since then CIQAM has been working to bring the women into socio-economic mainstream and has been providing poor households with a means of generating sustainable income, by training women in non-traditional skills including hospitality, architectural surveying, carpentry, masonry, design and electrification.

EU delegation visits Gilgit-Baltistan to see the progress of gems and jewellery programme

14 December 2015: EU mission visited Gilgit-Baltistan to see the progress, and impact of, EU-funded, AKRSP-implemented projects (namely the Gems and Jewellery Project and Deepening Participatory Governance Project). EU delegation comprised of Mr. Bernard Francois, Minister Counsellor, Head of Cooperation, Dr. Amaury Hoste, Head of Section, Rural Development and Economic Cooperation, Ms. Roshan Ara, Development Advisor. Mr. Jamil Uddin Regional Programme Manager AKRSP, Mr. Masood Mir, Programme Manager Gems and Jewellery Project and Ms. Laila Naz Taj, Manager Communication AKF, Pakistan accompanied the EU delegation on the visit from AKDN. The visit included meeting with the Chief Minister (CM) of GB, Hafiz Hafiz-ur-Rehman; discussions with AKRSP senior management; several site visits to AKDN implemented projects. The Head of Cooperation EU Delegation to Pakistan, Mr. Francois, appreciated the role of LSOs, AKRSP, and the gems and jewellery sector in the region's development.

The Chief Minister appreciated AKRSP's contribution to the region's development over the past three decades and highlighted the government's interest in long lasting relations with EU. He discussed the: role of local government and need for capacity building; role of key sectors to spur growth (e.g., tourism, minerals, and hydro power projects such as Diamir Basha Dam (4500 MW) Bunji Dam (7500 MW) and the need to protect the local people's interests; plans for GB to move



Mr. Bernard Francois and his team at the Gems Cutting & Polishing Center Gilgit

to 100% renewable energy (which requires donor's support); importance of cross-border trade. The delegation visited: i. Shinaki LSO (in Hunza, the LSO focuses on deepening participatory governance); ii. (Rupani Foundation Gems Cutting and Polishing Center (in Danyore; the centre trains communities in gems cutting and polishing, jewellery making and gems identification); (iii) Karakoram Area Development Organization (KADO) outlet and training facility (in Hunza; training in the art of cutting, polishing of precious and semiprecious stones and gems and jewellery making); (iv) Mountain Areas Support Organisation (in Gulmit Gojal; the EU delegation emphasised the institutionalisation of LSOs, linkages with district government, and the ultra-poor); (v) CIQAM-Women Social Enterprise (in Hunza); and, (vi) Altit Fort.

Poor population group gains access to health services through Micro Health Insurance

25 November 2015: The AKDN consortium has been recently awarded Micro Health Insurance project under Social Health Protection by the Department of Health (DoH), Government of Gilgit Baltistan, with the support of KfW-the German Development Bank. The objective of the project is to improve access of the poorest population groups to health services in the programme region through a reduction of financial barriers and the strengthening of the quality of health service provision, especially at the secondary level of care.

MHI will cover 21% of poor in District Gilgit based on Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) scoring, for whom premium (Rs.1700) will be paid by the DoH. Scheme will cover seven members of a household. The benefits will be up to a maximum of Rs. 25,000 per person per annum. The programme would cover all ages starting at birth and include maternity care, internal medicine, general surgery, gynae and obstetrics, ophthalmology and ENT etc. But even the tertiary care hospitals both in the public and private sector can be contracted by the organisation as providers for provision of these services.



Chief Secretary Gilgit- Baltistan and CEO AKF Pakistan during the contract signing ceremony

AKDN consortium is comprised of the following four agencies: Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan (AKF, Pak), Jubilee Life Insurance (JLI), Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), and Aga Khan Health Service Pakistan (AKHSP). A ceremony was held in the Chief Secretary's Office at Gilgit town on 25 November 2015 where representatives of Department of Health, Gilgit-Baltistan and AKDN signed a contract for the Micro Health Insurance project for Gilgit. Mr. Syeed Tahir Hussain, Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) chaired the session.

Dr. Abid Hussain, consultant Oxford Policy Management (OPM) also participated in the ceremony. KfW has assigned OPM the role of technical backstopping for this project. Speaking on the occasion the Chief Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan appreciated the role of AKDN in development in GB and hoped that this project will also be well-implemented for setting a new model for replication elsewhere in GB and other parts of the country. He invited AKDN to help GB government for education and health services provision in non-traditional areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, and specifically Chilas for AKDN intervention. Akhtar Iqbal, CEO Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan spoke on behalf of AKDN in this ceremony, he said that, "AKF has been complementing government in all its development endeavors in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and this project is one of such examples and hoped that it will be implemented successfully to set a model."

Aga Khan Health Services to introduce Palliative Care

AKHS,P aims to provide quality of health care to its service population across Pakistan and so far has worked in maternal and child health care. In order to widen the scope of provision and easy access of care AKHS,P will now introduce, "Palliative Care". Since, AKHS,P works on primary healthcare model and is committed to provide the basic healthcare facilities at doorstep, therefore, 'Home Health Care' for Palliative patients will be given by AKHS,P in Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral and Sindh region in the initial phase.

A multi-disciplinary team of Doctors, Nurses, Psychologist, and Nutritionist at facility level (Hospital Support Team) will be established and they will be given training by Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) Pakistan. A Home Care Team will also be made consisting of Community Based Health Care Workers (CBHWs) in which trainings on basic home care, record keeping and referral mechanisms will be given. Awareness sessions will also be conducted by mass community sessions and announcements at religious places. A two days' workshop on "Palliative Care" was organised in Serena Hotel Dar e-Salam, Tanzania in June 2015, where country wise research findings were discussed to know about the understanding about palliative care, its need and availability of resources.

Representative of AKDN from Afghanistan, Tajikistan, India, Tanzania, Kenya and Pakistan participated in this workshop. Mr. Nadeem Abbas, Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Zafar Ahmed, Head of Operations and Ms. Qadar-un-Nisa, Assistant Manager Research and Donor Funded Programme represented AKHS,P from Pakistan.



AKDN Representatives from Afghanistan, Tajikistan, India, Tanzania, Kenya and Pakistan in the palliative care workshop

School merger improves quality of education in Shimshal

October, 2015: Two schools in Shimshal valley in Gilgit-Baltistan merged to form Diamond Jubilee (DJ) High School, Shimshal, improving the educational opportunities available to the students of the remote valley. One of the two schools was DJ Primary School, Shimshal, established in 1948 with an enrolment of eight students and a single teacher. The other was a community-run Nawbahar School, whose 12-room building, along with residential facilities for male and female teachers, was financed by a German donor in 2012. At the time of the merging of the schools, DJ Primary School had been upgraded to a middle school and was being run in a facility constructed by the community. The community had also introduced grades IX and X with the technical support of Aga Khan Education Service, Pakistan (AKES,P). However, attracting well-qualified teaching staff for the secondary classes as well as for Nawbahar School remained a challenge for the people of Shimshal. As a result, the teaching quality, and subsequently the students, suffered. In order to address this challenge, the Shimshal

community, AKES,P, and the board and donors of Nawbahar School entered into a dialogue and decided to merge the two schools into DJ High School, Shimshal, to be run by AKES,P. The Memorandum of Understanding signed by different stakeholders defined a series of initiatives that would be undertaken to enhance the learning outcomes of the students while the donor's contribution towards teachers' salaries was converted into financial support for the students. Positive change is visible within a couple of months of the merging and upgrade of the two schools. Student enrolment has increased, teachers are better qualified, and a designated school head is looking after the school operations. Moreover, a four-year Early Childhood Development Programme has also been introduced. Already, DJ High School, Shimshal, has held a Sports Day, a Parents' Day, a Bazm-e-Adab, and introduced career counselling for its students. In addition, extra classes on weekends have been introduced for students who are struggling academically and / or do not have sufficient support at home. With such a positive beginning, we eagerly look forward to the academic success of the students of DJ High School, Shimshal.



Students of DJ High School Shimshal during morning assembly

Dear Readers,

Thank you for your contributions to the Winter Volume. It was because of your creative articles, stories and photos that this newsletter was possible. The purpose of this newsletter is to let the staff in Pakistan know about the wonderful work AKDN is doing. We would like to thank all the CEOs for their support and especially AKCSP Communication Team, Safina Kousar (AKU-IED), Tania Atzaz (FMFB-P), Aziz Ali Dad (AKRSP), Amirali Parpia (AKPBS,P), Rubab Karar (AKES,P), Mehar Aftab and Shamam Khan (Focus Humanitarian Assistance, Pakistan), Nadia Huda (AKHS,P), Ammar Malik, AKF (Pak), Dr. Sharif Ullah, AKF (Pak), Christopher Wilton Steer AKF (UK) and the directors of RD, Health and BE and Education at AKF (Pak) for providing the content for this volume.

If you are interested in submitting articles or sharing ideas please contact the editor, Laila Naz Taj in AKF, Islamabad: laila.taj@akdn.org. The next volume will appear in Spring 2016.

For more information about our programmes , visit our website: www.akdn.org