



*A girl studies at the Fani Baba Middle School in Laghman Province, Afghanistan.
Photographed by Sidney Traynham, March 2011.*

Editor's Message

Dear Readers:

Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan's January to April 2011 newsletter reflects some of the work the organization is doing with communities in order to help them improve their lives, livelihoods, and access to their rights. It also highlights the commitment toward quality and accountability and addresses regional, humanitarian issues.

Whether it is about addressing food security needs of flood affected areas or girls' educational rights, CWS-P/A's efforts continue to bring positive change in the lives of individuals across Pakistan and Afghanistan. Building the capacity of communities and organizations is essential to sustainable development while dedication to standards preserves dignity and ensures quality and accountability.

In Hot Topic, read about the Millennium Development Goal for maternal health and how CWS-P/A's health teams are dedicated to improving women's health. This edition's suggested reading is a CWS-P/A published report on the observance of quality and accountability principles.

As always, thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Please send feedback and suggestions to commoffice@cwspa.org.pk

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CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
Pakistan/Afghanistan

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From Relief to Recovery

January-April

As 2011 started, CWS-P/A was still actively engaged in providing much needed food and nonfood items to flood-affected communities. Approximately 630 metric tons of food was distributed in the districts of Swat, D. I. Khan, and Thatta which brought CWS-P/A's total food distribution to more than 4,000 metric tons since the start of the emergency. Emergency health services also continued until the end of January for the flood affected population in Swat and D. I. Khan. Transition from relief to recovery is essential and must be well-planned so that the affected population receives timely assistance and is able to start restoring their lives and livelihoods. Overlapping the final relief activities was the start of recovery initiatives in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh. CWS-P/A's early recovery initiatives focus on food security, livelihood restoration, WASH, and health.

In January, the first farmers benefited from CWS-P/A's agricultural input distribution through voucher scheme. In order for farmers to regain their livelihoods, they require seeds, tools, and fertilizers; however, CWS-P/A acknowledges that every farmer faces a unique situation and a standardized package often fails to address these needs. Therefore, CWS-P/A's voucher scheme enables farmers to select inputs based on their actual needs during designated market days. So far, CWS-P/A assisted a total of 4,100 farmers through this initiative in the districts of Swat and Khairpur. Additionally, to help provide income to non-farmers, the cash-for-work initiative in Swat resulted in rehabilitation of irrigation systems and farm to market roads. Thus far, 1,600 individuals were employed through cash-for-work. In the coming months at least 1,000 more farmers and 1,000 more non-farmers will benefit from the voucher scheme and cash-for-work, respectively.

CWS-P/A restored livelihoods to an additional 285 individuals in Swat and Khairpur through its cash grant initiative. The cash grants helped individuals start or restart small businesses such as shops.

A significant contribution to reconstruction is CWS-P/A's capacity building initiative which trains individuals at construction trade training centers. In March, the first trainees began their courses in masonry, carpentry, electric, plumbing, and welding at the center in Khairpur. After completion of the three-month course, graduates take the Technical Trade Testing Board upon which successful completion leads to certification. The certified graduates are assisted with job placement and have the capacity to help rebuild damaged houses and other infrastructure. CWS-P/A is operating two centers, one in Khairpur and one in Thatta, where at least 600 individuals will receive trades training.

In Kohistan, CWS-P/A is repairing 32 water schemes and constructing 300 latrines. By the end of the project, 4,500 families will have received nonfood item kits. The communities will also benefit from increased awareness on health and hygiene. Trained water management committees and hygiene committees will continue sustainability of the project.

After months of providing health services through mobile and static health units, CWS-P/A initiated its health recovery initiative. It will repair infrastructure and restore quality health services to 4 static health units in Kohistan and Muzaffargarh which in total will serve a population of more than 112,000 individuals. The health team will provide preventive and curative health services, mother and child care including pre and postnatal care and vaccinations, free medicines, and health education on a variety of topics. CWS-P/A also operates a static health unit in Badin District, Sindh which is also catering to a population displaced by the floods from a neighboring district.

In the coming months, CWS-P/A will continue to meet the objectives of early recovery while working with communities on identifying their longer term needs. Plans are underway for a housing project in Thatta for which graduates from the CTTC Thatta will be given priority for employment. Also, CWS-P/A in collaboration with SEEDS Asia will raise awareness on disaster preparedness, safe housing construction, and school safety through the first Mobile Knowledge Resource Center in Pakistan. CWS-P/A remains committed to quality and accountability, community participation, and emphasis on meeting needs of women headed households and the most vulnerable families.

Advocacy Initiatives Strengthened through Research

January

In order to help civil society organizations address a lack of internal capacity for research, CWS-P/A designed a twenty two weeks course, 'Action Research.' The 52 participants were able to develop research skills that can be used to strengthen advocacy initiatives in Pakistan. During the course, participants submitted their research assignments demonstrating an understanding of important issues. Well-renowned facilitators conducted multiple sessions focusing on developing research via tools including visual presentations and projecting research outputs with the use of print, web, and electronic media. The facilitators provided online support and in-house training sessions.



Despite situational concerns due to the flood emergency in Pakistan, the twenty-two weeks course concluded successfully in January and received much appreciation from both participants and facilitators. Azhar Ali Khan, a participant at the course, said, "Coming from a non-research background, I have learned how to do research through the course components and the learning has been in a participant-friendly environment. While CWS-P/A's designed course has been comprehensively framed and well-scheduled and such courses should be continued." Furthermore, many participants valued newly learned research strategies including blog creation, graphical representation, and the relationship between NGOs and media.

Factual evidence helps achieve strong advocacy initiatives, particularly when it is relevant to local context. A total of 70 research papers were submitted by participants highlighting social, economic, and political issues in Pakistan. Through CWS-P/A's capacity building interventions, CSOs in Pakistan and Afghanistan are assisted with skills that are needed in developing change to influence policy processes.



Empowering Teachers to Bring Peaceful Change

April

What looks like a one room hut is actually a school for 40 children in Tando Allah Yar, Sindh. It is a school named Mohammad Archar Khaskhelly Primary School where students between first and fifth grade sit together and learn English, Math, Social Science, and Sindhi. This one room hut is filled with eyes that display a passion to learn and move forward. This school is among 86 schools in Sindh that have incorporated CWS-P/A's peace curriculum.

Four years ago, CWS-P/A introduced the peace curriculum in schools in interior Sindh. Teachers receive orientation through training and are provided manuals and workbooks with activities that are designed for students between third and fifth grade. As Pakistan faces prevailing security challenges, the need for peace education remains essential. CWS-P/A's strategy is slowly but surely making a difference in the minds of students. Students frequently share stories of how they used peace education to resolve conflicts at school and home. The students from Mohammad Archar Khaskhelly Primary School also use aspects of the peace curriculum in their daily lives.

Five students are members of the school's peace committee. Summiya shares, "After school hours two girls were quarreling while playing a game of hide and seek. I noticed the quarrel and resolved it by playing with them. I also resolved an argument between my

elder and younger brothers. They were both fighting over colored pencils. Resolving the argument was simple. I told my elder brother to give the colored pencils to my younger brother. At times my elder brother says I am older and you are a girl so why should I listen to you. This is when I do not know what to say to him."

Eleven students received peace workbooks while all 40 students participate in lectures on peace education. Summiya shares, "I like the activities in the book and they are simple to do." Mohammad Yameen who teaches the course once a week adds, "The book is very good and is able to demonstrate how everyone can live in peace." Topics in the peace curriculum among others include addressing social issues and more specifically gender, human rights, conflict, and power.

Recently project staff organized an exposure visit for 25 teachers and students from Karachi to the rural areas of Mirpurkhas and Umerkot. During previous exposure visits, participants from rural Sindh visited Karachi so this was the first time the visit took place in rural Sindh. Participants visited villages, schools, and historical places. In the coming months a peace festival will be held for students and teachers. They will be able to participate in speech competitions, role-plays, peace and cultural songs, and other activities.

Strategic National Action Plan Launched in Kabul

March

“SNAP is a road map to pursue for disaster risk reduction of a safer and more resilient Afghanistan. With the support of both local and international NGOs, donor agencies, UN agencies and governments, ANDMA is committed to implementing it,” shared Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority’s Director General at the launching ceremony. “Moreover, the ongoing support of CWS-P/A, UNDP, and UNOPS is helping to achieve such initiatives effectively.”

This event marked a successful milestone in the effort to bring significant advancement which will result in improved and increased disaster risk reduction efforts throughout Afghanistan and will stimulate collaborative mechanisms to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The SNAP process started in October 2010 at which time, in collaboration with ANDMA, CWS-P/A organized several consultative sessions and workshops. Participation of various stakeholders including provincial and national government ministries, UN agencies, I/NGOs, academia, and the donor community was invaluable. By the end of December, a draft was prepared, and in early 2011, SNAP was finalized.



The SNAP launching ceremony took place in mid-March with more than one hundred participants. During the event Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan in collaboration with ANDMA presented an overview of SNAP to participants as part of interactive feedback. The event proceeded with speeches from delegates representing the National Disaster Management Authority of Turkey, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Afghanistan Red Crescent Society, and Ministry of Health.

Collaborating for Risk Management

February

Covering a range of topics from gender-specific risk and vulnerabilities to sustainability in risk management, CWS-P/A in partnership with DanChurchAid (DCA) and with financial support from the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid department is implementing an initiative that aims to make the security of aid workers an integral part of policy development. In February, participants gathered at the regional conference, ‘Field Workers to Policy Makers’, to provide their input and participate in the development process of a policy paper. The final policy paper will be used as a tool to advocate for solutions to improve the humanitarian system.

A project officer¹ from a local NGO in Sri Lanka shares, “The conference is important as it provides a good opportunity for policy makers to understand field experiences while incorporating such components into the policy.” Discussing personal experiences, the participant continues, “There have been a number of times where I narrowly escaped. I do not share this information with my family. It is the family that suffers rather than the organization. At times, there is no compensation and enquiry while parents in Sri Lanka are preventing their children from joining development work. We have had young people resign from their work. If everyone gets scared who will work for the communities in need?”

More needs to be done to reduce risks. “There are gaps that need to be addressed and for funds to be allocated toward risk management. Field staffs are not being trained and information is not being passed,” shares the same participant.

For months leading up to the conference, CWS-P/A also provided training and technical support to assist aid agencies in forming the basis of important risk arrangements and to invest considerably in their internal capacities to ensure better risk management. In October 2010, the same project officer also participated in risk management training. “Before the training, I had a vague idea about security plans and risk management. I now know more terms, and within our organization, they are being practically implemented.”

The project officer also emphasizes the assistance provided by risk trainer and facilitator, Paul Wooster, in the preparation of a security manual has been beneficial. “After my participation in the trainings, I have been conducting trainings for our staff. I am glad to see that they are being followed.”

While such initiatives will surely help in keeping aid workers informed, long-term sustainable risk management solutions are needed to effectively address the needs and account for the perspectives of local NGOs. CWS-P/A believes that awareness is the first step and that it should be closely followed by policy and practice.

¹ To protect from identification, the name and gender of the project officer is not being disclosed.

Successful HAP Audit Leads to Certification

February-April

In February, CWS-P/A was audited against the HAP 2007 Standard in Humanitarian Accountability and Quality Management. CWS-P/A successfully completed the quality assurance audit against the HAP 2007 Standard in Humanitarian Accountability and Quality Management with no corrective actions. The HAP certification audit covered key program areas and the organization's systems and policies.

As of April 11, 2011, CWS-P/A is HAP certified. This achievement was possible due to the organizational and staff commitment to the HAP principles and the overall commitment to quality and accountability. CWS-P/A will continue its endeavor to remain accountable to all stakeholders and to uphold these standards.



The Sphere Handbook 2011 Edition Launched in Islamabad and Kabul

April

On April 14, 2011, approximately one hundred guests attended the launch of the Sphere Handbook 2011 edition (English version) which was held in Islamabad's Hill View Hotel. The event marked the significant increase in commitment toward quality and accountability by the humanitarian agencies in Pakistan over recent years. The U.N., government, and I/NGOs were represented while CWS-P/A organized the event with Manuel Bessler, Head of OCHA, as chief guest.



The guests at the event received a copy of the new edition of the Sphere Handbook. Manuel Bessler gave a speech on the importance of Sphere and the contribution the humanitarian community is making in this regard. He also thanked CWS-P/A for their efforts, and Marvin Parvez, CWS-P/A's Regional Representative, presented the Sphere Handbook to him as a token of appreciation.

Simultaneously, in Afghanistan, CWS-P/A provided technical support to ACBAR which hosted the launching event in Kabul. Twenty-two organizations attended the momentous occasion. The event included speeches on quality and accountability by three distinguished guests: Dr. Mohammad Daim Kaker, Director

General of ANDMA, Muhanmad Hashin Mayar, Director of ACBAR, and Nejabat Safi, Associate Director of CWS-P/A.

In his address, Dr. Kaker emphasized the need for high quality translations in local languages, Dari and Pashto, as well as training on Sphere at the provincial level, particularly in the remote areas prone to disasters. He also encouraged humanitarians to implement Sphere standards while discussing his intentions to address quality and accountability with senior officials.

The new edition of the Sphere Handbook offers a re-written Humanitarian Charter which is clearer in language and strongly linked with standards. New additions in the handbook include a chapter on protection principles and focus on emerging areas such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, early recovery of services and livelihoods, cash transfers, and civil-military relations. The content of the new edition was presented in a video presentation which helped participants gain insight into changes and improvements in the Sphere Handbook. A question and answer session allowed participants to comment and receive immediate feedback on initial questions related to the 2011 edition.

The launches in Islamabad and Kabul coincided with the launch in Geneva as well as other regions. Material for the events was shared from the Geneva Sphere office; however, CWS-P/A added its own contribution in Islamabad and Kabul. A recently produced musical video, 'Quality and Accountability Matters,' was shared with the audience. The video highlights the positive impact of using Sphere standards during disaster response and shows images of assistance in Asia. CWS-P/A also reminded participants of the training and other services it provides to help organizations enhance their knowledge and implementation of quality and accountability standards.

As the Sphere regional partner in Asia, CWS-P/A is actively engaged in the translations of the 2011 edition into Urdu, Dari, and Pashto. CWS-P/A plans to have separate launch events for translated versions in Pakistan and Afghanistan later this year in order to continue emphasizing the importance of the use of Sphere as well as to promote the resources available to help humanitarian agencies implement the standards.

HIV&AIDS: Knowledge Can Improve Quality of Life

January-April

"The ultimate value of life depends upon awareness and the power of contemplation rather than upon mere survival."

— Aristotle

While awareness raising remains vital in working towards change there is no doubt that achieving the desired change requires dedication and commitment. For over seven years, Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan has continued to work to raise awareness on HIV&AIDS in Pakistan. Poster competitions with youth, community sessions, and an annual walk which includes the participation of school children, health workers, and community members are among CWS-P/A's initiatives.

Much of the credit in conducting these health awareness initiatives stems from the hard work of staff, partners, and social health organizers in making discussions on HIV&AIDS possible despite prevalent social challenges. In a recently held poster and awareness session with youth in Karachi, a participant discussed the death of her brother Mansoor who was HIV positive and died of AIDS. She shared, "My brother was a drug addict, and it was already too late to do anything when we came to know. In fact, he died three days after we got to know from the doctor. After his death, I cleared out his room and bed sheets. People did tell us to throw the sheets away as the germs still stay."

This was Naz's first time attending an awareness session. She shared, "We do have small community sessions in my neighborhood, but I never did attend any. After my brother's death I was really interested to attend a session to expand my knowledge about HIV&AIDS. If I had this knowledge before, I could have done a lot more for my brother."

Since January, CWS-P/A held five community workshops and five poster competitions with a total of 777 participants from



both Sindh and Punjab. CWS-P/A acknowledges that the process of change through creating awareness, training, and curbing discrimination is helping communities address health related issues and thereby preventing outbreaks and epidemics. Last year after flooding in Pakistan, CWS-P/A's health staff members conducted over 100,000 sessions on a range of topics including HIV&AIDS.

This year, the organization's capacity building program expanded its sessions into new areas of Punjab including Multan, Vehari, Chistian, and Kasur. HIV&AIDS Program Coordinator, Beenish Hashwani, shares, "It truly is an achievement to move into these new areas. Moreover, the attendance rate at these sessions has been a visible sign of encouragement and appreciation." In further discussion, Hashwani shares, "The district of Kasur presented a uniqueness of its own. Young female participants were accompanied by other women because without the mandatory presence of female accompaniment their mobility is otherwise restricted. However, this was not the only unique feature of Kasur. During poster competitions participants were not sure about using stationery. We guided them on using glitter pens and paints." Hashwani adds, "This was truly a unique skills building session."

Partner's Profile



Primary Education Project
You are the Light of the World
 Empowered Teachers Change Agents
 Quality Education
 Community Development

PEP — Primary Education Project is part of the work of the Diocese of Hyderabad. PEP has been working in five main rural areas of Sindh — Khipro, Mipurkhas, Khawaja Goth, Tando Allah Yar, and South Sindh— with the mission of providing sustainable quality education, especially for girls and marginalized communities, while developing the skills of teachers and creating a network of effective leaders through its training programs.

The project establishes community and elementary schools, appoints school management committees, and selects and trains teachers through its Initial Teacher Education Program (ITEP) followed by regular in-service training.

PEP has worked with CWS-P/A since 2009 for promoting peace education and uses CWS-P/A's peace manuals and workbooks. PEP's coordinator, Jane Jerrard, shares, "The peace manuals and workbooks fit very well with the work PEP does. It is for all faiths, and there is much appreciation for its activity based methodology."



Proritizing Girls' Education

in Pakistan and Afghanistan

■ By Donna Fernandes

In Pakistan, **only 35%** of school children, ages six to sixteen can read a story, while **50% cannot read a sentence.** Their performance is only slightly better than that of out-of-school children, of whom **24% can read a story.**

At the same time, 30,000 school buildings are in dangerous condition, posing threats to the well-being of children and teachers. As many as 21,000 schools have no buildings and students sit in the open facing varying temperatures and conditions.¹ The education scenario in Pakistan is clearly unsatisfactory with one in ten of the world's out-of-school children being Pakistani. The situation is proportionally worse for girls in the country who are deprived and denied access to education.

In neighboring Afghanistan, the literacy rate for women is just 18% and 49% for men.² Facts have revealed that most girls drop out in the sixth or eighth class due to family pressure. Another reason is the shortfall in female teachers due to which twice as many boys are likely to complete primary school as girls. Despite these sad

¹ Report by the Pakistan Education Task Force, Emergency Education in Pakistan Booklet. Available at <http://educationemergency.com.pk/publications/>. Retrieved on March 11, 2011.

² UNICEF Afghan Statistics. Available at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/afghanistan_statistics.html#77. Retrieved on April 30, 2011.



realities, efforts such as those by CWS-P/A exist which are working to improve education conditions in both countries. A look at the work in Swat District and Qarghai District in Pakistan and Afghanistan, respectively, exhibits signs of hope and progress in areas where education opportunities have been hindered by conflict. These initiatives work to ensure girls stay in school and help lower prevailing gender disparities in education.

In Swat, prolonged conflict resulted in widespread destruction including educational institutions, particularly girls' schools. Female dropout rates were high before and during the conflict. CWS-P/A's rehabilitation, capacity building, and awareness raising activities are making headway in the revival of girls' education. Three schools are being rehabilitated and provided with furniture, first aid kits, and stationery supplies while hundreds of teachers are being trained to enhance the quality of education.

At the start of 2011, a session on 'Classroom Pedagogical Skills' was held with 22 teachers. "I gained a lot of new information from these sessions," says Ms. Shabana Azmi, a teacher from the Government Girls' Primary School in Qambar Union Council. "I like the idea of assigning classroom tasks to students. This is something I did not do before." The school had been attacked in February 2008 after which dropout rates were well over 50%. For more than one year, Ms. Shabana Azmi, her colleagues, and the students spent the school day in a building which had withstood a bomb explosion that brought down all its windows and severely destroyed the walls of its ground level classrooms. "It was amazing to see that the building was still standing," said Ashan, an engineer working with CWS-P/A. "We had a challenge in getting a contractor to do the reconstruction and after managing to get one we have worked to make the school look its best."

In early March, the teachers and students returned to their rehabilitated school designed with an additional classroom and

teachers' staffroom. The reconstruction work, which took more than three months to complete, provided employment to 35 daily-wage laborers. In addition, the employment opportunities were extended to further include the repair and renovations of Government Girls' Primary School in Kozabandai and Guligram. The project with its job creation element is assisting communities to restart their lives and regain livelihood opportunities which had been destroyed during the conflict.



117 teachers have benefited from the sessions on 'Classroom Pedagogical Skills.' During one-day training sessions, 100 teachers and students also benefited from handling emergency situations, drafting school safety plans, and understanding disasters and appropriate safety measures. Local area emergency contact numbers and details were provided to teachers and students at the conclusion of the sessions. To help lower the cost of education

to poor families, CWS-P/A distributed a total of 15,600 school kits in 64 schools containing writing books, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, and color pencils among other school supplies.

In aggregation, the economic loss of not educating a country undoubtedly has far-reaching consequences. At the same time, the loss of not educating women negatively impacts social issues including population growth, HIV & AIDS, peace and security, sexual exploitation, and the ever-widening gap between the rich and poor. CWS-P/A's emphasis remains to invest in resources to educate children through building the capacities of teachers while simultaneously promoting the active involvement of parents. The latter helps in nurturing the growth of children, provides linkages between home and school, and creates opportunities for girls to access their rights to equal education.

In Qarghai District located in Laghman Province, Afghanistan, CWS-P/A's education initiative has helped raise enrollment rates by 1,956 girls since it began in 2009. The project also provided 1,800 school bags, 1,800 magnetic boards, and 1,800 analogue calculators to students since the start of 2011. Considering the odds for girls' education in the country, the empowerment these girls will receive through education will have sustainable impact on future generations. As the communities accept the importance of girls' education, other initiatives such as the participation of 30 widowed women in a literacy course from September to December 2010 will continue to foster growth and empowerment. The

women learned basic math and writing and received books and stationery which will help them provide for their families in a place where women are predominantly dependent on their husbands or other male family members.

CWS-P/A recognizes it is not just the economic costs of educating women but also the prevalence of social costs. Often times it is these social costs that make it easy for parents to opt to send their sons to school. This relieves them from additional worries posed by security concerns and social barriers. By overcoming both the economic and social barriers, communities will experience long-term development benefits and the creation of better prospects for Afghan women. CWS-P/A's approach also includes raising awareness among teachers, parents, and community members. Slowly but surely change is happening, and CWS-P/A acknowledges the role of willing parents and community members who are helping make these interventions possible for their daughters in Swat and Qarghai. Nevertheless, in the midst of high levels of instability and insecurity in both Pakistan and Afghanistan, challenges to raise female literacy and increase girls' enrollment remain. The economic and social costs will continue to keep girls out of school; however, with each case of acceptance, a girl will have a brighter future and more opportunities than if she never attends school. The effects will be felt in future generations whether an educated girl grows to become a stay-at-home mother or pursues a career beyond the home.





■ By Donna Fernandes

Appreciation from Afghanistan

Studies show that the mean winter temperature in Afghanistan is around ten degrees Celsius and is even lower at the highest altitudes. Colder winter temperatures are posing greater hardships to communities and in particular to women and children. In the aftermath of years of war and oppression, issues of malnutrition, illiteracy, and child labor are some of the other challenges faced by communities. Unimaginable hardships are common in poorest and most vulnerable communities.

Made possible through CWS-P/A and partner, Afghans for Afghans, for nearly a decade, war affected children in Afghanistan have received new, hand knitted, warm clothes and other basic winter necessities. The grass-roots initiative inspired by the Red Cross volunteers is a people-to-people educational project organizing hand knitted and crocheted items as well as stationery for Afghan communities. These kind gestures are supporting the underprivileged children as the assistance offers hope to families and relieves them from one hardship from having to cope with harsh winter temperatures.

In 2011, the clothes, winter necessities, and stationery were distributed through local organizations including Afghan Women Education Center (AWEC), Afghan Rehabilitation Health Social Organization (ARHSO), Sohulat Health Service and Vocational Organization for Afghans (SHSVOA), and Support Children and Afghan Women in Need Organization (SCAWNO). Over 1000 children received knitted items including sweaters, hats, mittens,

socks, vest, and blankets. The provision of more than 3000 stationery items provides incentives for children to pursue education; many of these children are forced to choose work over education in order to help support their families. After the death of their fathers, boys are often forced to become bread-earners. At the same time, girls often remain home to take of younger siblings and helping with household chores.

From Wardak Province, twelve year old Meena only knows the existence of the word 'father'. Her eyes were too young to recognize and remember her father who died in the Afghan war when she was a baby. Painstakingly, her mother takes care of her four brothers and seven sisters, but Meena does not attend school. The warm clothes distribution brought a smile to Meena's face as she expressed an appreciation for the support. "We did not have these things," said the girl who would like to be a doctor to help her people and, especially, Afghan children.

In Afghanistan the seeds of hope are planted but sustaining these seeds for further fruitful development remains complex. In the meantime, much work is needed to ensure education does not remain an option but rather a priority for all. The groundwork for future generations is being laid for long-term development through CWS-P/A's interventions in various sectors such as livelihoods, education, and health. Together with staff, partners, and communities, CWS-P/A acknowledges the international support to work for the betterment of communities in Afghanistan.

More words from the children:

"I am so happy that this is the first time in life I have got warm clothes in a winter and also am receiving different stationery and other basic life necessities." — Waida, an eight year old girl from Dehsabz District

"I wish this organization will continue to help needy orphans and poor people like me, as we are living with so many difficulties" — Morsel, a girl who wishes to become a doctor to help her people



Suggested Reading

'Research on Observance of Quality and Accountability Principles in Humanitarian Sector in Pakistan'

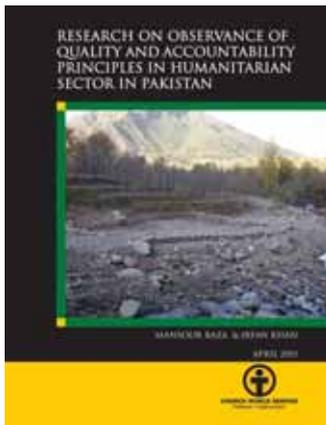
By Mansoor Raza and Irfan Khan

Excerpt:

"Immediately after the catastrophe, national and international humanitarian organizations activated disaster management and provided relief items and services. In the aftermath of any disaster, multi-pronged actions are initiated by humanitarian agencies. The activities of humanitarian managers are informed by various standards and codes for prodigious outputs."

'Taking Floods-2010 as a reference point, the research was designed to answer two key questions:

1. About the level of observance of Q&A principles, and
2. Factors that enable (or discourage) observance of Q&A principles.'



The research can be downloaded from <http://www.cwspa.org/resources/research-and-surveys>

CWS-P/A's Mission Statement

CWS-P/A as an ecumenical organization will struggle for a community based on social justice, regardless of class, religion, gender, and culture by assisting marginalized communities in an accountable manner to achieve economic prosperity and improve human and social capital through participatory endeavor, which liberates people and enhances their capacities to take control of their lives.

HOT Topic

MDG 5: Maternal Health

The 5th Millennium Development Goal is for improving maternal health. The targets for goal five include reducing maternal mortality ratio by three quarters and providing universal access to reproductive health by 2015.

Statistics from 2009 (WHO; UNICEF) reveal that an estimated 300 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births take place each year in Pakistan. Many believe that the lack of accurate death information understates the above estimates. In Afghanistan, the maternal mortality ratio is 1,600 per 100,000 live births. According to a report by the Central Asia Health Institute, a woman dies in Afghanistan from pregnancy related complications every twenty-seven seconds. Despite efforts in both countries, much work is needed for improving maternal health.

CWS-P/A's long-term health programs in Mansehra, Pakistan and in Nangarhar and Laghman, Afghanistan work to improve mother and child health care through curative, preventive, and reproductive health care. CWS-P/A proactively raises awareness in communities in order to improve women's access to health care. In 2010, a total of 10,421 pregnant women were registered. Through the Mansehra Health Program close to 500 minor reproductive health procedures were performed, and in CWS-P/A target areas in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the mother and child mortality rate is well below national averages.

During disasters, women's health risks increase. CWS-P/A catered to women's needs by providing thousands of women with pre and postnatal care, free vitamins and vaccinations, and education on issues related to women's health including family planning following the Pakistan floods in 2010.

CWS-P/A is also part of a three-year project initiated by the German Foundation for World Population in seven African and three Asian countries on reproductive health and family planning. CWS-P/A implements the project in Pakistan, and during 2010, consortia proposals worth more than USD 3 million were initiated, developed, and submitted to various European and other donors.

Words
of
Wisdom

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Dr. Maya Angelou (1928-)