



A girl at the Mother and Child Health Center in Thatta, Sindh
Photographed by Hira Sajjad, September 2013

Newsletter

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Dear Readers,

This edition of CWS-P/A newsletter highlights about capacity building of individuals in Pakistan and Afghanistan to improve and sustain health and livelihood of communities. Read about our commitment to strengthen quality and accountability initiatives and security risk management, regionally.

Find out more about our role in developing capacity of civil society organizations and empower communities in Afghanistan by providing trainings on food security and livelihoods. Also read about success of community engagement and mobilization in Thatta.

A report on Minorities in Elections—Equal in Law, Not in Practice is highlighted in Suggested Reading and the Hot Topic focus on MDG 8: A global partnership for development.

As always, thank you for reading our newsletter. Send feedback and suggestions to commoffice@cwspa.org.pk

The CWS - P/A team

Religious Minorities in Pakistan's Elections



The report, Minorities in Elections - Equal in Law, Not in Practice is a collaborative effort between CWS-P/A and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and aims at addressing equality for minorities in terms of their electoral rights.

The report highlights various challenges faced by minorities during the general elections, it also contains observations from six National Assembly constituencies (five from Sindh – 80 percent Hindus and one from Punjab – 80 percent Christians). Moreover, the report is part of CWS-P/A's initiative to improve the participation and representation of minorities in the country's electoral process and governance system.

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**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 enhances their capacities to take control of their lives.

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PHOTO CREDITS : Donna Fernandes, Shahzad Ahmad, and CWS-P/A Staff

Health Care Assistance for IDPs in Kohat

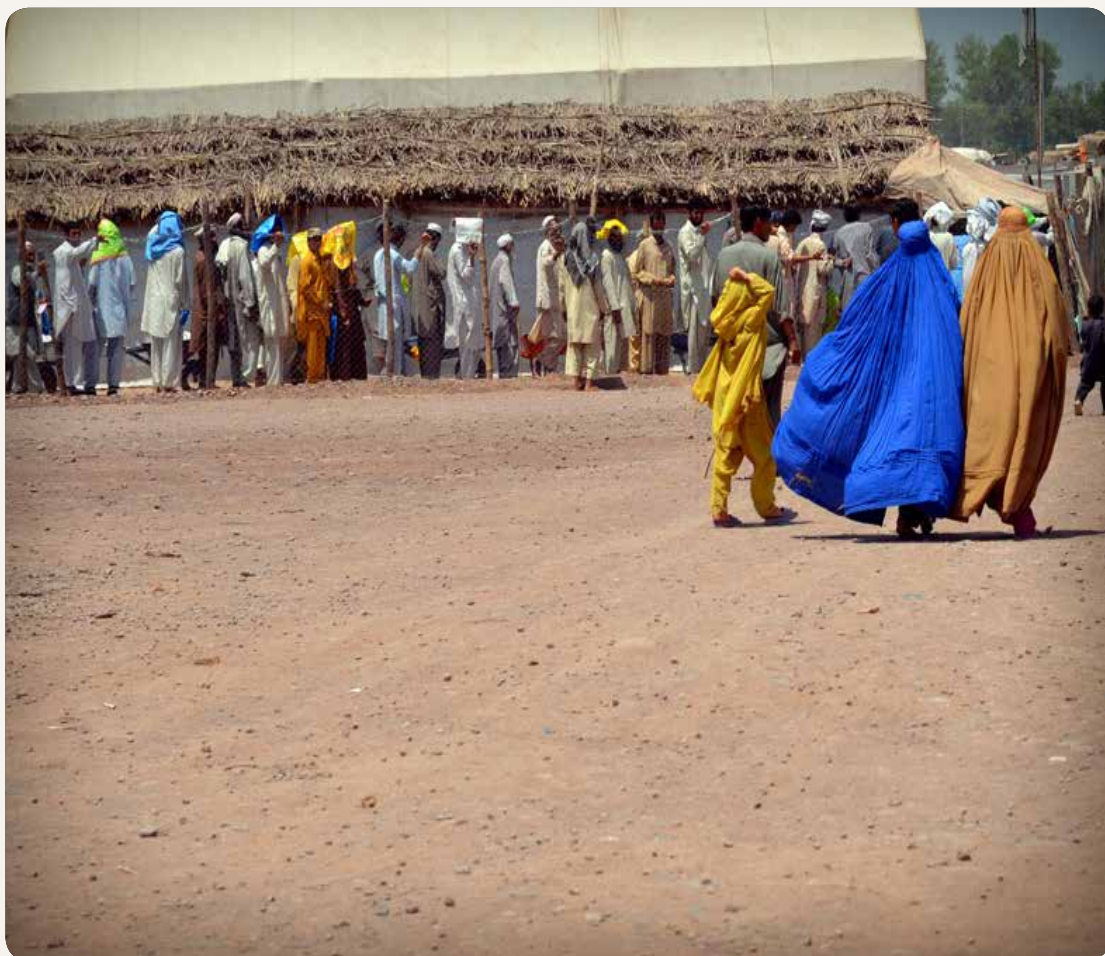
Military operations in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Province have resulted in displacement across the region as a large number of families from Tirah Valley moved to safer places of the Khyber Agency and Kohat district. With changing weather conditions, these internally displaced people (IDPs) faced many difficulties to settle in a new environment with an urgent need for food shelter, safe drinking water and health care.

To address the pressing needs of IDPs, CWS-P/A initially distributed 524 food and non-food packages as life saving assistance. On a later stage of the project, 1200 hygiene kits were also distributed and sessions were conducted to create awareness among the community about safe hygiene practices.

This response was made possible with the support from DanChurchAid under the ACT Appeal PAK 131.

To minimize the vulnerability of IDPs and the host communities, CWS-P/A is also providing preventive and curative health care in four union councils of District Kohat by offering free consultations which includes laboratory tests and essential medicine to all patients, with a special focus on maternal and child health. Till date 145 sessions on health and hygiene have been conducted in which 7,500 families have participated to develop their knowledge on reducing the risk of adapting practical measures to prevent from epidemic and communicable diseases. Three hundred and twenty-five women have received TT vaccinations, 456 have received antenatal and postnatal care, 1,289 children have been vaccinated and 24,479 patients have been treated for general OPD.

This initiative has been made possible through the financial assistance of European Commission provided via DanChurch Aid.



Extending Support to Improve Mother and Child Care

To improve maternal, neonatal and child health status in Afghanistan, CWS-P/A has been working in four districts of Laghman Province with the aim to decrease maternal and neonatal mortality rate. Besides operating a health care center, which provides round the clock service to the community, the project also continuously focuses on building the capacity of their staff in order to provide quality health care services.

During September 2013, a five-day training on Reproductive Health and Community Based Health Care was conducted at Jalalabad, for the midwives associated with the project. A talking book tool was introduced and distributed among the participants to create awareness and support them in providing quality care to mother and child. During November 2013, a three-day training on New Born Care was held to enhance the capacity of

midwives on issues related to topics such as neonatal resuscitation, maintaining normal temperature, care of newborns at the time of birth, infection prevention and breast feeding etc. Both the trainings were facilitated through participatory methods, presentations, group work, discussion, practical work and role play, to develop an understanding of providing quality health services to the needy beneficiaries. Pre and post tests indicated significant improvement in their knowledge.

The project also aims to construct six delivery rooms, currently construction of three delivery rooms is complete in Sangar, Masamoot and Kachoor which are handed over to the Laghman Public Health Directorate (LPHD) and the remaining three will be given to the community once completed. A certificate of appreciation was awarded to CWS-P/A by the Ministry of Public Health LPHD for their outstanding performance in providing assistance to improve the maternal, neonatal and child health in the province of Laghman

This intervention is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through the Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D).

Building Teacher's Capacity to Ensure Quality Education

To enhance the quality of girls' education in Afghanistan, CWS-P/A is persistently working on creating awareness about civic education and conducting teacher's trainings to coach them about student centered teaching techniques. Since girls' education has not been considered as a priority in Afghanistan, therefore it is important to encourage interactive learning and creativity within the education system by involving and raising awareness among the communities and stakeholders. Developing the capacity of teachers not only improves the quality of schools and learning, but also helps the teachers to develop their skill and increase their knowledge about civic education.

A five-day capacity building training on Civic Education and Teachers Training for Enhancement of Quality of Girls Education in Afghanistan was organized in Surkhroad District, Nangarhar Province from November 24-28, 2013. Twenty four primary and secondary female school teachers learned and practiced the dynamics of improving classroom learning such as designing of child centered classrooms by demonstrating class rules and responsibility charts and how to develop low cost materials by recycling scrap. Moreover they

were also provided orientations about how to plan a lesson in view of general and specific objectives and how learning through play and family involvement approach can improve in developing social, emotional, physical and language skills of children. Although the school management faced a few challenges to send their teachers for training as they had to arrange for a replacement during their absence but they appreciated the interactive methods of learning adopted by the trainer. "I can also conduct a teachers' training workshop since it is a good example of capacity building. The major difference between CWS-P/A trainings and other trainings is that their trainings are both skill and knowledge based," shared a teacher.

"It is very interesting to see the trainer's approach towards us. I want to replicate the same behavior and methods when I will train my students," shared a teacher during the Master Teacher Training on Pedagogical Skills, held in Laghman, Afghanistan from November 30 till December 4, 2013. Twenty-one teachers attended the training to develop their capacity to plan, organize and deliver trainings on quality education through a child-centered approach. To gauge the training impact a follow-up was designed based on how the master trainers conduct mentoring sessions for their school teachers. CWS-P/As commitment to facilitate educators is to equip them with skills to deliver training on quality education and strengthen the methodology adopted by trainers and facilitators.

Global Conference on the Role of Security Risk Management in Effective Humanitarian Aid

Sixty-one participants and twenty-three speakers attended the first of its kind, “Global Conference on the Role of Security Risk Management in Effective Humanitarian Aid” held in Nairobi, Kenya from October 7-9, 2013. The conference engaged a diverse representation from humanitarian and development NGOs, donor agencies, global and government funding institutes and education and research institutions. It provided a platform for exchange of knowledge, seeking ways to strengthen safety and security risk management, sharing best practices to create a secure environment for aid workers and exploring strategies to address future challenges.

Throughout the three-day conference, participants discussed several issues of concern and raised pertinent questions, clarified issues and shared their views and opinions about practicing security risk management. The conference also provided them with a platform to learn, network and share experiences and information about safety, security and duty of care. Apart from plenary and thematic sessions, a mock simulation conducted by Redr, was another learning experience for the participants as it gave them an opportunity to exchange their views about concrete situations.

Experts with knowledge, experience and technical expertise conducted sessions to identify gaps and provide recommendations for ensuring safety and security of

aid workers through various context specific methods and strategies with the involvement of local partners and communities. With emphasis on the necessity of an integrated security framework, which addresses the vulnerabilities and enhances local capacities, Ms. Merlie Mendoza from Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) shared, “As most security situations are complex, security has to be understood in all its facets, and in order to manage the risks, we need to understand the underlying causes.”

Highlighting the component of mainstreaming security risk management in an organization’s policies and systems, Uma Narayanan, the HR and Organizational Development Specialist, referred to the growing interest of donors to integrate security into project design and to overcome the challenges of implementing it as it needs to change people’s mindset. Uma pointed out that a “Humanitarian workers’ safety and security is of major concern these days and this conference is very timely for them and other organizations.”

Participants further expressed the need for further trainings and opportunities to collaborate on issues of security risk management through a contextualized approach, by region or specific cross-regional themes, with specific tools and practices such as how to draft contingency plans, gain senior management commitment, and improve in-country collaboration through specific forums.

The conference is part of the “Multi Regional Security Risk Management Capacity Building: Phase II” project, implemented by CWS-Asia/Pacific in partnership with DanChurchAid, with financial assistance from the European Commission’s Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection



Strengthening Quality and Accountability Initiatives

September to December

CWS-P/A through its Strengthening Humanitarian Assistance (SHA) Program is diligently working to develop the capacities of aid workers and agencies through trainings, networking and communication, technical support, material development and advocacy. During the month of September till December, several activities were conducted to extend support in enhancing and creating awareness of Q&A in the humanitarian sector.



Trainings

A total of sixty-two aid workers from local and international organizations have participated in trainings for capacity building of their staff on Q&A and provided technical support for implementation in their organizations.

During October 2013, a training on Complaints Handling and Response Mechanism (CRM) was organized in Hyderabad in collaboration with Caritas. Twelve participants were selected, based on their organizations' commitment to develop a comprehensive understanding of establishing an effective complaints mechanism. The

training pays attention to HAP benchmark 5 Handling Complaints and how it can be applied at organizational level.

Training on Sphere Minimum standards was held for staff and implementing partners of GIZ-RAHA Program at Quetta, Baluchistan from October 1-3, 2013. This three-day course equipped the participants with tools to understand and implement Sphere standards, to ensure better planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation during humanitarian response.

Humanitarian Accountability and Quality Management Standards training was held in Swat from Nov 26-29, 2013, for Lasoona Society for Human and Natural Resource Development. The training helped the participants to develop in depth understanding on Q&A and its importance in disaster and conflicts.

Mainstreaming Quality and Accountability

Mainstreaming is one of the core components to further improve and promote Q&A standards within the organization. Orientations were conducted for CWS-P/A staff in separate locations to refresh the understanding of why Q&A is important and how it is linked with routine tasks. Orientations on Local Capacity for Peace (LCP) and Gender Mainstreaming were also conducted for staff in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The SHA team also collaborated internally with Disaster Management Program (DMP) and Capacity Institutionalization Project (CIP) to conduct training on CBDRM, orientation on LEGS and National Humanitarian Leadership Program.

People in Aid – First Quality Mark

CWS-P/A achieved the internationally recognized first quality mark from People in Aid in September 2013. The People in Aid Code of Good Practice is an internationally recognized management tool that focuses on principles of good people management. It also serves as a useful source of networking with organizations that share common goals and interests. This achievement aims to maintain high standards in quality and accountability as it continues to serve communities in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Ensuring Accountability to Disaster Survivors in Philippines

CWS-P/A in collaboration with Lutheran World Relief has deployed one staff member in Philippines to support the aid workers and agencies to build their capacity

on the importance and usage of HAP, Sphere and CRM in emergency response. The two year strategy aims to develop the capacities through training, networking and communication, technical support, material development and advocacy.

Dissemination of Resources

Since September 2013, a total of 1088 publications which include 528 Sphere handbooks, 472 Q&A workbooks, 88 HAP booklets were distributed to NGOs, INGO's and UN agencies in the Asia Pacific region. HAP and Sphere posters in local languages were also distributed, which are available in four languages which include English, Urdu, Sindhi and Pashto. Almost 300 Q&A promotional materials were also distributed among INGO's and NGO's.



Restoring Livelihood Opportunities in Shangla

CWS-P/A through its 'Improved Livelihoods of Conflict and Flood Affected Communities of District Shangla-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa' project worked with families in the district during 2013 to facilitate them and help them in recovering from natural and man-made disasters.

The focus was on rehabilitating livelihoods through various initiatives. Cash grants were distributed to affected families and male community members rehabilitated irrigation channels as part of the cash for work schemes. As a result of the trainings provided for setting up vegetable farms, and orchards along with the distribution of agricultural seeds and organic fertilizers, several affectees started their own farming business. Poultry kits containing cage, feed, and birds were also provided to families along with trainings while the farming families received livestock and other services for breed improvements of their livestock.

The project successfully assisted families in actively participating in livelihood interventions and Hussan Nisa, one of the beneficiaries experienced a lot of improvement in reviving her livelihood as she related herself. Fifty families including Hussan Nisa's family received cash grants. Many families opted to set up home-based general stores while some families invested in goats, and others established shoe and clothing businesses.

Success Story:

Hussan Nisa is a 27 years old widow who has been left to take care of her six children. She was married at the

age of fourteen, and became a widow about five years ago. She lives in a mud house in Shang Village, Shangla District along with her children.

With no earning member in the family, she, and her children depended on financial support from community members which was used primarily for



food and clothing. She has only one son among her six children, and he is the only child whom Nisa can afford to send to a private school. Owing to the family's poor financial conditions, the schools administration waived off his schooling expenses.

When CWS-P/A's team visited the area, Hussan Nisa was selected to benefit from the livelihoods project. She was given a cash grant amounting to 25,000 rupees (USD 250) with which she established a small shop in her house.

"I am happy now because I have a ready flow of cash and earn my living in a respectable manner and can purchase basic necessities for my family along with fulfilling the small wishes of my children," says Hussan Nisa, thankfully. She has also started investing a portion of the daily profits for future growth and expansion of her home-based shop.



A beneficiary receiving a token from CWS-P/A staff member during distribution.



Preparation of children's drawings



Preparing materials to decorate a classroom during Early Childhood Education training in Mirpurkhas, Sindh



A teacher from Afghanistan while preparing an information sharing chart for students.



Participants during an activity in Teachers Training in Afghanistan



Community members reading resource material during an awareness session on HIV & AIDS in Thatta, Sindh



Strengthening Capacities of Civil Society Organizations

By Hira Sajjad

Organizational development and capacity building is the essence in any successful organization. Trained staff means an effective response mechanism is in place, which in turn results in better cooperation, confidence and efficiency. In order to promote sustainable development it is essential for the development sector to engage in capacity building activities to strengthen civil society.

Over the years, CWS-P/A's Capacity Institutionalization Project (CIP) has demonstrated ownership towards civil society organizations (CSOs) through the provision of various skill based trainings and workshops. As a trend-setter in the region, new approaches and initiatives have been introduced, based on the strong follow-up mechanisms, long-term partnerships, interactive theatre, and online support to the packaged-approach of workshops. Aiming to develop the capacities of CSOs with a holistic approach, the trainings offered emphasize on institutionalization with an objective to improve organizational structures, enhance transparency and

accountability, and effectively influence public policy and resource allocation.

To integrate the standard and goals of the international human rights system into the process of development and to understand the concept of various approaches of effective advocacy, a three-day training on "Rights Based Approach to Development" was organized during September 12-14, 2013, in Islamabad. Twenty-five participants learned diverse models of policy advocacy and developed understanding about citizen rights, international framework, role of state, civil society and political parties in Pakistan and strategies to do rights based work with a perceptive between the relationship of citizen and state.

Twenty-four participants representing 10 organizations attended a thematic session on "the Role of Media in Creating Perceptions about NGOs," conducted by Tahir J. Malik, an experienced media representative. The interactive session focused upon media responsibility and

credibility in airing reports about humanitarian efforts and the perceptions they create amongst the public. The session was followed by a two day workshop on “Advance Social Media” held in Karachi, to acquaint participants with effective impact driven strategies for social media, both for personal and organizational benefits. Participants learned to campaign and build an online presence by defining social media goals and by using different social media tools. “This course was an eye opener for me, as I learnt about the different social media tools and how to effectively use them in building an effective social media campaign for my organization,” shared Aly, who was a participant at the workshop.

To strengthen the capacity of civil society in view of the existing needs, a three-day workshop on “Video Editing Skills” was held in Islamabad from October 30 till November 1, 2013. Documentaries are very effective tools for advocating a cause and presenting case stories, and require a lot of technical expertise. The workshop developed the participants skills required for basic editing and video production and informed them about ethical and legal issues underlying media production.

Apart from skill based trainings, during the year 2013 CIP also focused on trainings which are essential for organizational growth and development. A three-day workshop on “Vision and Long Term Strategy” and two-day training on “Organizational Culture and Structures” was held in Lahore and Islamabad respectively, during the last quarter of the year. The three-day course build the capacity of eleven participants about strategic plans, organizational

priorities, and institutionalization. The training also assisted them in identifying desired long-term goals and how they can be achieved. The two-day workshop provided fifteen participants with capacity building training about type of values and norms to be embedded in an organization their applicability and practicality.

Throughout the year, a number of diverse aptitude building trainings were offered to CSOs with emphasis on institutionalization and promoting advocacy in their target communities for sustainable impact. Extensive courses were offered on topics such as Action Research with the aim to identify local issues and their various dimensions through scientific research methods and to strengthen the capacity of participants to advocate for the issues in an objective manner. “I feel empowered and more confident and know my performance at work will improve. The campaigns and messages I draft now will focus more at the target audience, and I shall apply the best practices which I learnt during this training course,” shared Sumaira, a participant of the Communication Strategies Course. This course intends to help organizations identify and strategize their communication needs, select the right media tools, and employ them in an effective and efficient manner for maximum impact.

Considering the significant importance of trainings for development professionals, in the near future CIP plans to offer effective training programs which effect productivity at individual and organizational level and contribute towards sustainable human and social development of civil society organizations.





Paving the Way for Improved Food Security in Laghman

By: Hira Sajjad

Over 7 million people in Afghanistan consume less than 2,100 kcal/day, and they include about 30% of the total population. People living with food insecurity do not have enough nutritious food to lead a healthy life, as they are not sure where the next meal is coming from. Food insecurity in the province of Laghman is caused due to devastating droughts and floods, which destroy crops and this in turn effects food production. The population of Laghman had to be given food assistance for a long time due to lack of resources, limited expertise and unfavorable weather conditions. To ensure food security through improved structure of agriculture, livestock and strengthening of basic irrigation infrastructure in target communities, CWS-P/A is implementing a Food Security project in four districts of Laghman, which are Alingar, Alishang, Dowlats and Qarghayee.

The project will focus on alleviating food shortages; improving agricultural inputs, providing technical agricultural training and increasing technical knowledge. It

will provide an opportunity for the community to improve their livelihoods by bringing about a significant change in their lives. With close coordination and consultation from the Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Directorate (DAIL) of Laghman, community development councils and community representatives, agricultural packages were distributed amongst 297 farmers. Each package consisted of 50kg's of improved wheat seeds, 50kg's of DAP and 50 kg's of Urea. Consultations are provided to farmers to overcome the agricultural challenges faced by them. To help communities improve their livelihood, 200 farmers were trained to process fruits and vegetables into pickle,



jam and tomato paste. Besides livelihood opportunities farmers were also trained about storing fruits and vegetables at accurate temperatures and humidity to avoid any wastage until the goods were delivered to the markets. To increase and improve high quality fruit production for sustainable livelihood farmers were also trained about how to plant an orchard, how to select seasonal fruits for sapling, the amount of distance to maintain between two rows and saplings, and the measures they need to take for proper irrigation, fertilizing, weed and pest control.

To empower women, 20 were trained during the month of September till December 2013 about preparing concentrated animal feed. Preparation of local pulses/ grain mixtures as rye, barley, corn, cotton grain, feeding of animals with alfalfa, clover and white straw and use of mineral powder for animal health were also some of the components covered during the training. Throughout this time period, 11917 animals were treated, 8581 were de-wormed and 26418 were vaccinated in our clinics located in the four districts of Laghman. Cash for work opportunities were provided for the third year in a row to gravel a tertiary road of twelve kilometers. A survey

was conducted for site selection in close cooperation and consultation with the local government, the local shuras and community representatives as a result of which a four-kilometer road was completed on December 4, 2013 in Qarghayee district. Graveling work of a three-kilometer road is in process on Chincharpul/Allokhel village, which started during mid December.

By the time of completion, this project aims to improve and empower farmers with knowledge and resources through agricultural and livestock trainings on income generating activities and equip them with saplings and trainings to establish fruit orchards. To support household nutrition, women have been trained and are now skilled to establish kitchen gardens. Goats and poultry are also distributed amongst vulnerable families especially women headed households. To support livestock based livelihood, trainings are provided to build the capacities of basic veterinary workers. Beneficiaries also benefited from cash for work opportunities to build agricultural infrastructure. Successful implementation of these interventions will bring about significant changes in the lives of communities and their livelihoods.





Ghulam Mohammad Soorjo: The Remarkable Successes of Community Engagement and Mobilization

By Rhea Simms

Church World Service– Pakistan/Afghanistan (CWS-P/A) believes that active community participation and mobilization within project activities and decision-making are catalysts for sustainable development at the grass root level leading to successful development for the future. Within project interventions CWS-P/A works to capacitate community leaders and ensure that the needs of all community members, regardless of vulnerability, are represented at the community/village level.

Since September 2012, CWS-P/A has been implementing a project to empower women through livelihood's development with a disaster resilient approach. This project aims to provide women with technical skills, basic literacy, knowledge about sexual and reproductive health

and to prepare communities for future disasters. In order to implement these activities effectively, community members have been engaged in all activities and are steering the direction of the project within the local context. Village Ghulam Mohammad Soorjo of District Thatta, Sindh is one of the 65 villages in which this project is active. The leaders of this village have been successful in using their own resources and knowledge to increase the success of project activities even beyond the scope of the original project objectives. It is through their active and participatory mobilization model that this community has become tremendously successful in their efforts for community development.

Within each component of the project which CWS-P/A is implementing the community leaders have taken ownership to ensure that the activity is successful and meets the needs of the village. A two-tier community mobilization approach has been utilized which forms community-based organizations at the sub hamlet and village levels. Community Organizations (COs) and Village Organizations (VOs) consist of an elected body (president, general secretary and treasurer), as well as a general body to better represent the community's needs. CWS-P/A prioritizes the capacity building of these groups, engaging them in community management and leadership management skill trainings. An interview with the president of the women's VO, Addan bibi, and the men's VO, Mehran, revealed the extent to which

this community's leadership skills have aided in its development and the success of the project at hand.

"I gave this room free of cost for the vocational training center," revealed Addan. "It is my duty to make sure that attendance is regular. If anyone is absent I personally go to their home and motivate them to come back. I tell them that this is their chance to secure a better future," she continues. Sixty women from Ghulam Mohammad Soorjo are engaged in a vocational training which provides them the skills and market linkages to sell their products to a wider market. "Women are coming here and learning. Earlier all the women worked in the fields and it was too strenuous for them. Now the women do not have to work under the scorching sun. The men in our community are happy that the women have found another source of livelihood at the vocational training center and that they do not have to work in the fields anymore."

In addition to Addan's engagement in improving the quality of the vocational training program, she is also actively involved in CO/VO meetings and community mobilization activities. The community has converted a room, which was once used as a meeting place for men into their active VO office. The building is decorated with pictures of different activities they have been engaged in and the names of all the members. Explaining the procedures of the CO and VO meetings, Mehram explains "COs/VOs are necessary so that we can get together on one platform and solve any problems in the village. We meet every one or two months. When making an important decision the VO for men meets first and then the women's VO conducts its meetings. The final decision is taken by the executive body of these two VOs."

"Our community has gained immense awareness. We saved our money and installed a hand pump in our area. When the pump stopped working, we raised more money and got it fixed," says Addan. "With our savings we also initiated the building of a road to our village. We collected money from each member. In another case we helped a woman who had problems during her delivery so we collected money to pay for her fare to visit the hospital." Mehram adds that "In the future we need to complete renovating our road and install electricity in our village. We have given a request to the government for electricity. We have also given a request to the government to open a medical dispensary in our village." Mehram is working to actively engage the government and other external stakeholders for improving access to basic necessities for the villagers.

The community took part in additional trainings on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). "From the DRR trainings we have learned a lot," says Mehram, "after the training we have mud plastered our homes and cut down the bushes on the road. Another man, named Liaqat, is giving DRR trainings to the children

using games." Addan added that "the DRR and SRH trainings were liked by all the community members. I liked the SRH training the best because I learned about the health of women and children. Now my fellow villagers understand the concept of family planning and ideal spacing between children." Mehram also added, "whichever SRH trainings we received, we further replicated them and conducted sessions in the nearby villages."

It is clear from the activities of Addan and Mehram that the success of the project may reach even beyond the initial objectives. Their willingness to build their own capacity and priority and sharing information has benefitted community members even in the neighboring villages. "We are thankful to CWS-P/A. If CWS will continue to reach us then we can keep evolving the information and knowledge of our village. But we do not plan to isolate these activities even when CWS-P/A leaves our village," concludes Mehram.

It is through community leaders such as Addan and Mehram that CWS-P/A hopes to continue working even in the future to increase the sustainability and relevance of project interventions throughout all projects in Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Words of Wisdom

Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.

John F. Kennedy (1917 – 1963)

Hot Topic

MDG 8: A global partnership for development

The Millennium Development goal 8 mentions that developing countries will do more to ensure their own development, and developed countries will support them through aid, debt relief; better opportunities for trade; ensuring that funds are available to tackle poverty; essential drugs are available and affordable, and poor countries benefit from new information and communication technologies. Effective partnerships are essential to mobilize action from governments, civil society and other partners around the world, in order to fulfill this goal and significant results have been obtained through these partnerships.

In a bid to transform the aforementioned goal into reality, CWS-P/A has over the years with support from donor agencies been working through its thematic priorities. These include disaster

management; water, sanitation, the environment; health; education; livelihoods; peace and governance; and quality and accountability to ensure that its development initiatives provide communities with their pertinent right and authority over resources. CWS-P/A also networks with parliamentarians, government officials and humanitarian workers to improve coordination and information sharing to enhance partnerships across Pakistan and Afghanistan to create networking opportunities for better development of marginalized communities.

Several vocational and skill training centers have been set up along with the Mother and Child Health Care Center in Thatta, Sindh. Disaster Risk Reduction trainings have also been conducted in these areas. Health initiatives along with skill training centers are operational in KPK and several advocacy initiatives are being carried out in Punjab. The objectives of these and various other initiatives being carried out are to make communities self-reliant and independent so that they can improve their futures and livelihoods.

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