



A woman awaits the handing over of her newly constructed house, Thatta, Sindh
Photographed by Shahzad A. Fayyaz, September 2012.

Newsletter

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In This Edition

Dear Readers,

This edition of the CWS-P/A newsletter highlights the journey individuals and communities make to bring positive change in their lives. From disaster preparedness to accessing mother and child health care, capacities and knowledge are ever increasing in rural communities in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Read about the engagement of teachers and students in activities that promote understanding of topics such as gender, tolerance, and peace. Further read about one woman's experience with mother and child care at CWS-P/A health center in Afghanistan and what access to these services mean to her.

Hot Topic and Suggested Reading look at trending topics: climate change and religious minorities' in Pakistan's elections. Explore more as you read.

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

The CWS - P/A team

Suggested Reading

Religious Minorities in Pakistan's Elections



*Lead Researcher and Author:
Tahir Mehdi*

This research includes historical background, semi-structured interviews of non-Muslim community leaders, and statistical assessments of the religious minorities' present electoral significance in Pakistan. The research's objective is to assist non-Muslim communities join as equals in the mainstream political and electoral discourse of the country. It is designed to provide a source for transforming how religious minorities are viewed in Pakistan as a target voter group and to identify and understand the issues they face related to electoral politics and processes, which aims at strengthening their participation.

The research is available through CWS-P/A and can be downloaded from <http://www.cwspa.org/resources/research-and-surveys>

Table of Contents

In this Edition	02
Suggested Reading	02
Mission Statement	02
News from CWS-P/A	02
Building Bridges through Enhancing Capacity	10
In Afghanistan: Investing in Communities	12
Assistance and Empowerment in Afghanistan	14
Words of Wisdom	16
Hot Topic	16

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.

EDITORIAL TEAM : Kelli Siddiqui, Donna Fernandes, Hira Sajjad, Shahzad Ahmad, & Shama Mall

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

Thatta Families Safeguard Their Homes and Lives

September - December

With nearly its entire land area inundated by rains and floods in 2010, Sindh, the southern province of Pakistan, depicts a transitional state where the progress of recovery is slow and the losses remain evident. Agriculture was completely devastated at a peak harvesting time and livestock either perished or was sold by families desperate to secure food and other basic necessities. Along roadsides and where higher land was available, families constructed makeshift shelters that were barely able to shield them from the relentless rains. Hunger, disease, and insecurity quickly set in. Today, remnants of the devastation are seen across Sindh, where affected communities continue to rebuild their lives more than two years after the initial disaster.

Humanitarian agencies including local and international NGOs, the government, and individuals supported the affected communities with emergency relief. According to UN figures, five million people received food assistance, twelve million received essential medicines, 5.1 million received safe water, and 1.1 million received temporary shelter.

However, the extent of the devastation left the question of how to recover on everyone's mind. Relief activities continued as the winter planting season passed without sowing and families faced the cold without proper clothing, food, or shelter. With spring came the early recovery efforts. CWS-P/A's recovery initiatives focused on health, food security, livelihood restoration, and capacity building on disaster risk reduction.

One of the major initiatives included a housing reconstruction project in Thatta District. In September 2011, after a needs assessment in Thatta District, Sindh province, CWS-P/A planned to implement the housing project in twenty-three affected villages. All of the selected villages were of poor and marginalized communities which had received little or no other assistance, with some families belonging to the Hindu minority community. Initially, CWS-P/A planned to provide 500 houses to the most affected and vulnerable families where female headed households were given priority. During the last quarter of 2012, 80 more families were included to receive houses. In total, 580 families received their houses by January 2013.

An integrated implementation strategy was applied which makes this housing project distinguished. The comprehensive approach adopted by CWS-P/A included a low-cost, culturally compatible, and flood resistant housing design, complemented by safe drinking water facilities, community sessions on leadership roles, health and hygiene,



community-based disaster risk reduction, and quality and accountability specifically the complaint response mechanism. Approximately, 4,000 individuals participated in 469 sessions conducted by CWS-P/A.

With additional support through cash-for-work opportunities, the communities were able to apply their new skills and knowledge toward further recovery of local assets and to overcome existing challenges such as inaccessibility to water within the villages. The construction of water ponds, water channels, and roadways are some of the accomplished community activities under cash-for-work. Satta Bai, a mother of fourteen children from Baloch Dars Village, shared, "I had to travel miles twice a day to bring water for my family. I am really thankful to CWS-P/A who helped us to build watercourses and pond in our village which saved our daily travelling and now we have enough water for our village which meets our requirements." A total sum of Rs 8,674,750 (USD 91,000) was paid to 596 individuals who worked as laborers on different community projects. The infusion of cash into the communities significantly helped these families to acquire basic necessities such as food, health care, or inputs into other means of livelihood.

To ensure easy access to safe drinking water, forty hand pumps were provided to the target villages. Additionally, the 580 families were provided nadi filters (indigenous water filtration pots) that helped communities to learn purification of biological contamination for making water safe for drinking.

Disaster risk reduction training also increased the knowledge of the community to identify hazards, local capacities and undertake mitigation and preparedness



measures for any future disaster. These sessions also raised awareness on the importance of being organized and not to panic during a disaster situation which is life-saving for communities that face monsoons every year. Gul Hassan and his family were able to demonstrate how to evacuate their house by putting valuable items seven feet above the ground using a wooden bed and board and with all family members out of the house in one minute and seventeen seconds.

Health and Hygiene sessions also brought significant changes in the community. Now, the village residents pay attention to health issues and take precautionary measures to avoid possible diseases caused by an unhygienic environment. They built a separate place for drinking water higher than ground level to eliminate contamination and also separated their drinking water from the source used by their domestic animals. Hajani, a widow and mother of six children, says that after attending the health and hygiene session she now follows good practices which reduced the frequency of diseases in her family by 50%.



Fatima, a woman from Lal Muhammad Dars, shared her thoughts that at the age of 99 she is really happy to see her son receiving a newly built strong house which will save him from harsh weather conditions and that he will no longer have to build temporary shelter every year. She also shared that she learned a lot during health and hygiene sessions. Even though she finds it very late in her life, she realizes the importance of cleanliness and asks her grandsons daily to observe most of the practices.

The aim of CWS-P/A's housing project was not only to provide the most vulnerable affected families better and stronger houses but to empower communities to take ownership over their recovery and their futures, with resilience to cope with future disasters as a key component. The look of these villages changed drastically with the construction of permanent housing structures in lieu of the destroyed temporary shelters families build year after year. However, it is a closer look within the communities that shows the real impact and power of change. Because these families in Thatta embraced the opportunity to learn,

to choose, and to take action, they accelerated the pace toward recovery and development. They have hope and confidence to face the challenges that the future will bring, and more importantly they are voluntarily contributing to their communities and to transferring knowledge and practices to their children which will ensure stability and sustainability in the future.



Women Embrace Access to Maternal and Child Health Care in Thatta

December

A Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) center was opened in December in Ranta Village, Thatta to meet the health needs of women and children in an area in need of access to health education and services. Through this center CWS-P/A aims to provide preventive and curative health care to mothers and children in the flood-affected communities of Bijora Union Council (UC), Thatta, Sindh, Pakistan. In addition to providing quality health care by professional female health care providers, the project also aims to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity through awareness raising sessions.

Thatta was one of the most affected districts by the floods in Sindh in 2010 and 2011. The natural disaster exacerbated already poor socio-economic conditions within many villages of Thatta. Infrastructure such as basic health units and roads was severely devastated, leaving women and children with little options in terms of health care due to socio-cultural constraints.

The results of a baseline survey conducted in October 2012 within UC Bijora verified that the need for maternal and child health care is urgent within the union council.

Of the individuals surveyed, 34% have to travel a minimum of four hours to reach the nearest health facility. Furthermore, 73% of deliveries take place at home under the supervision of a traditional birthing attendant (TBA) and only 25% of women receive regular antenatal care. In addition, an astounding 93% of respondents showed no knowledge regarding HIV&AIDS. Of the 7% with knowledge, 83% only knew them by name. Through the establishment of the MNCH center along with regular awareness sessions regarding sexual and reproductive health (SRH), an improvement in the statistics presented in the baseline survey, which define the stark reality of women and child health in UC Bijora, is envisioned.

Women within the surrounding areas are glad to see the clinic established, saying, "Now, we can have regular check-ups during pregnancy." For many women it was not a matter of awareness but of accessibility. The cost and time it takes to travel to a medical facility with female doctors was too much for many families, leaving women only visiting the doctor in case of extreme emergencies.

Since the MNCH center's opening, the health team consisting of a female doctor, lady health visitor (LHV), and medical dispenser see an average of 30-40 patients per day.

Health management committees were formed in Ranta which help the community to claim ownership over the health center and its subsequent activities. The community already displayed ownership over the MNCH center through volunteering of unskilled labor during renovations. The center is quickly becoming a place of pride and security for Ranta and the surrounding villages.

Serving Communities in Better, Dignified, and Accountable Ways

September to December

Between September and December, CWS-P/A continued to demonstrate its commitment to quality and accountability at various levels. These included internal mainstreaming in CWS-P/A's programs and an updated Accountability Framework. CWS-P/A's Strengthening Humanitarian Assistance (SHA) Program also continued to offer tailor-made trainings and orientations, held training of trainers, disseminated quality and accountability resources, and planned for new activities.

Trainings



Trainings were conducted for a total of 144 participants representing various local and international organizations working in countries throughout Asia and the Pacific. The participants benefited from awareness on the use of HAP and Sphere as well as training on ensuring components of quality and accountability into their humanitarian work.

In September, CWS-P/A conducted a training workshop on quality and accountability in Hyderabad, Sindh Province. The training helped develop an understanding on the Sphere Handbook 2011 with a diverse group of 22 aid workers that included managerial, technical, and field staff. The workshop through its participatory approach included interactive discussions, group work, case studies reflections, and lectures.



In October, representatives from ten organizations joined a workshop held by CWS-P/A in Kabul, Afghanistan. The training enhanced the knowledge of participants on the HAP Standard 2010 and the Sphere Handbook 2011, while encouraging them to seek technical assistance and guidance.

As the Sphere Regional Partner in Asia, CWS-P/A continued to expand promoting the use of Sphere in the Philippines. Participating and member agencies of the Sphere Philippines Alliance which included 7 INGOs, 5 NGOs, and a government department were trained on the application of quality and accountability. In October, a Sphere training of trainers (ToT) was conducted in South Korea. Through this initiative, 12 ToT graduates received information to serve affected communities in better ways. A value-added approach for this workshop included three facilitators including an expert on the local context, an international experienced ToT trainer with extensive experience with quality and accountability, and a ToT graduate from a training held in Japan in early 2012.

In November, a three-day workshop focused on complaints handling and included 22 participants from organizations with established complaints mechanisms or those with commitments to establish one. The training helped organizations to strengthen their existing complaints mechanisms and improve the design and implementation for organizations with mechanisms at the grassroots level. This marked the first training in Pakistan that centered on the complaints mechanism, which indicates an identified need and stronger movement toward ensuring accountability at the community level.

Mainstreaming Quality and Accountability

Between September and October, CWS-P/A helped staff within the organization and linked with HIV & AIDS and



health work to apply HAP and Sphere in their project activities. In Afghanistan, a three-day mainstreaming event helped staff members associated with health and food security projects and support departments with the application of quality and accountability methodologies. Through the mainstreaming activities, the project team was able to achieve their project goals and effectively work toward serving communities in better and dignified ways.

Accountability Framework

CWS-P/A also updated its Accountability Framework to include aspects of ensuring accountability to all its stakeholders. The Accountability Framework has also served as a tool to further provide guidance to staff on CWS-P/A's roles and commitments. The updated version of the Accountability Framework is available from: <http://www.cwspa.org/about/cws-pa-humanitarian-accountability-framework>

Dissemination of Resources

During the year, a total of 1,161 Sphere Handbooks (2011) in English and 367 in Urdu were distributed to various organizations. Additionally, 448 HAP Standard 2010 in English and 113 in Urdu were distributed to local and international organizations. Approximately, 200 Q&A workbooks in English, Urdu, and Sindhi were shared with agencies working in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and across Asia and the Pacific. The program also distributed 84 posters on quality and accountability in four languages that included English, Urdu, Pashto, and Sindhi.

Action on AIDS

December

December 1, marks World AIDS Day and the theme until 2015 is 'Getting to Zero'. The theme emphasizes zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS related deaths. CWS-P/A's history of HIV & AIDS work includes the vital step to raise awareness among communities. At the regional level, the organization has been increasing HIV awareness among youth in Sri Lanka among other comprehensive initiatives.

On this day, CWS-P/A's health team organized activities among Afghan refugees residing in camps in Mansehra District. Awareness walks were arranged in three camps that included the participation of school-going children, community health workers, health unit staff members, and community elders. In addition, awareness sessions were conducted in each camp and poster competitions were held among students.

Communities also received information through the dissemination of booklets on the topic as discussions were held. More importantly, in Pakistan discussions on sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases often remain unwelcomed which consequently make talks on HIV & AIDS even more challenging. However, CWS-P/A's health team across Pakistan and Afghanistan

work with significant courage and enthusiasm to unite communities to spread important messages to save lives.

In 2012, approximately 228 community members in Sindh and Punjab have been part of information sessions, training of trainers, and camps on the topic. Moreover, CWS-P/A works to create groups of trainers that can pass on the vital information to communities at high risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases due to their lack of awareness.

All in all, CWS-P/A's approach to work toward empowering communities and especially women in Pakistan with accurate information is a step that is helping in ways to stop the epidemic.



A girl is happy to be in school where CWS-P/A promotes quality education, Afghanistan, October 2012



CWS-P/A worked to rebuild houses for flood affected communities in Sindh, September, 2012





Students participate in developing quality leadership skills during teacher student camp, Sindh, October 2012



Training participants work on steps in establishing a complaints response mechanism, Islamabad, November 2012



Female community members and their children have a discussion with CWS-P/A staff during a baseline survey in Bijora, Thatta, District, October 2012



CWS-P/A held a training on social media for humanitarian agencies in Pakistan, Islamabad, November 2012



Building Bridges through Enhancing Capacity

By: Hira Sajjad

Developing communities express an intense demand to strengthen and enhance the skills and aptitude of people to understand and overcome the cause of obstacles which hinder their development goals. To accomplish significant and sustainable results, an emphasis on capacity building at the individual and organizational levels is essential. In today's world many international organizations working in the development sector engage in capacity building activities to strengthen the civil society and further promote sustainable development.

For more than fifteen years, CWS-P/A's support to civil society organizations, development professionals, community groups, and religious bodies in developing capacities to create a productive, efficient, and transparent environment resulted in enhanced capacity and development at the community level. CWS-P/A further aims to create awareness and promote interfaith harmony, peace, tolerance, and gender balance through several education and community based projects. Over the past several months, 204 individuals, mostly teachers and students, engaged in various activities that aim to improve

the perception on the importance and quality of education in rural communities in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

CWS-P/A encourages youth and children to contribute positively to society by creating a platform of peace building activities through education and workshops, which includes introducing a peace curriculum to more than fifty schools. In October 2012, twenty-eight teachers from different communities and ethnic backgrounds attended a three-day teachers' training on the peace curriculum in Mirpurkhas, Sindh. Participants appreciated it as a great opportunity to discuss topics and develop a clear understanding of religious pluralism, conflict resolution, peace, and social analysis which influence are factors to divide and connect people.

To educate and create awareness on civic, social, and political issues among students from less privileged schools, orientation workshops on human rights, training camps on civic education and human rights, and an impact study through informal education are activities organized as part of the Youth Empowerment Program. These activities aim to bring students with different ethnic and religious backgrounds together to discuss various issues with the aim of changing mindsets. Twenty-five participants including students and teachers participated in a teacher-student camp help in October 2012 in Mirpurkhas, Sindh.

The camp aims to improve teacher-student interaction through student-centered activities which allow students to communicate with their teachers without hesitation by building their communication skills to enhance their confidence toward classroom learning. Furthermore, to promote positive interaction of schools with their communities and to cater the important aspects of quality education by involving parents for improving the quality of education, one-day community awareness session for parents, community elders, groups, and committees also took place. A diverse group of thirty participants attended the recent session to understand the vital role played by community and families in the provision of education to their children.

“It was a great opportunity to discuss the issues such as human rights and child rights and gender and sex. Nowadays, it is very important for our young generation to understand the rights of human beings,” said a participant after attending a three-day workshop on human rights and peace curriculum held in Mirpurkhas, Sindh in November 2012. Twenty-three teachers from twelve different schools of Mirpurkhas, Kot Gulam Muhamamd, Khipro, Matli, and Dadu belonging to different communities, religions, and ethnic identities participated in the training. The provision of the human rights and peace curriculum for teachers and workbooks for students assists teachers in imparting the education in their respective schools.

A teachers’ training was also held in Jalalabad, Afghanistan in September 2012. Twenty-five teachers participated from

different schools to gain acquaintance with the importance of peace education and the impact of involving families and communities to improve teaching methodologies and techniques.

A three-day residential training camp was held for the first time in Gujranwala, Punjab in December 2012. Sixty-three students and ten teachers from six different schools participated and expressed that it was a great opportunity to learn about different topics such as state and politics, human rights, and child rights. “I liked the session on gender discrimination, gender and sex. Practically there is no difference between a man and a woman but we find discrimination in schools, homes, and society. I think illiteracy is the main cause of gender discrimination. We should make people understand the importance of female education,” said a student.

Over the years, CWS-P/A has worked to empower youth to become future leaders and will continue to build capacity of communities in Pakistan and Afghanistan by creating awareness of education, peace, and harmony. For the near future, the aim is to further strengthen the capacities of community groups and religious bodies at both individual and organizational levels to create an enabling environment. Teachers’ training and interactive camps for teachers and students to address the diverse education needs in both countries will further support an overall goal of improving access and quality of education.





In Afghanistan: Investing in Communities

By: Donna Fernandes

Mohammad Tahir, a farmer from Safokhel Village shares, "Through the improved variety of wheat seeds I had enough wheat production for my family." Mohammad could not afford to purchase the improved variety of seeds, which forced him to previously use the local variety which did not produce enough yield to feed his family. In discussion with Mohammad he added that his previous production was 700 kilograms of wheat and the certified seeds brought him 1,120 kilograms of wheat. Mohammad owns two geribs (one acre) of land.

"At the end of May, I had a harvest of 1,680 kilograms of wheat because of the seeds I received. In the past I would have 1,120 kilograms and it was not enough for my family," shared Noor-ul-Haq. "I do not have money to buy certified wheat seeds and it is not easily available. It is high yield seeds, and this helps us." Noor-ul-Haq owns three and a half geribs (one and three fourths acres) of land.

Mohammad Tahir and Noor-ul-Haq are among 1,200 farmers who have benefited from CWS-P/A's Laghman Food Security Project in Afghanistan that includes primarily the distribution of agricultural inputs. The project

is being supported by Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) through Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) and benefits 2,820 families across four districts in the province. Additionally, the project benefits 360 women with livestock supplies that assist with income generation. Collectively, men and women received vocational trainings that enhanced their skills. The skills training ensures that project interventions not only improve livelihoods but lead to positive change that extends beyond project implementation.

The well-designed project enables communities to continue to cooperate in order to pass benefits to others. For example, selected farmers in the first year pay 50% of the cost of the agriculture package. The monetary amounts collected are used to distribute the same packages to 600 farmers in second year. Subsequently, 300 farmers in the third year benefit from the amounts collected from farmers in the previous year. Finally, the amount collected from farmers in the third year will be used to assist community members based on requirements that arise to ensure sustainability.

"My economic conditions will improve because of selling the fruit, and there will be orchards in the area," says Mahuddin, a farmer who received apricot and orange saplings. A total of forty orchards and four nurseries were established. The establishment of nurseries will be used in developing new fruit orchards. To ensure continuing development at the community level, farmers with

nurseries will provide tree saplings to the project equal to 50% of what they received, which will be used by other farmers to develop orchards.

The provision of technical knowledge and capacity building also ensure sustainability and increase the project participants' confidence. Farmers received technical knowledge to improve canals and irrigation methods. Over 62 kilometers of canals and karez (underground water channels) have been rehabilitated with labor from the community and construction of 1,250 meters of a protection wall is ongoing. The capacity of farmers also increased with respect to developing nurseries and orchards. "I have never had a nursery before and am happy about the fact that my capacity and technical knowledge related to nurseries has improved." Abdul Ghani is among thirty farmers that benefited from a capacity and skills building training on the establishment of nurseries.

In a male dominated social structure, Afghanistan's widows, female-led households, and women whose husbands are disabled face extreme challenges in securing sustainable livelihoods. CWS-P/A worked closely with the implementing partner and the community to ensure the most vulnerable women from these groups could participate and gain empowerment through the project. 120 received ten days of training and poultry kits. The distribution included 17 poultry, 25 kilograms of chicken feed, water and feed bowls, wire, and sticks among other items. The eggs are sold in the market and women have expressed that a single egg sells for 35 – 40 afghani (USD 0.7 – 0.8). In November, CWS-P/A along with its local implementing partner completed the distribution of goats to 240 women. Every woman received three goats and three offspring, while one male goat was allocated to benefit five households for reproduction. After reproduction, a single offspring is allocated to another family in the community to benefit additional women-headed households.

Maintaining proper health treatment and care for animals is essential to the success of the project. Sixty basic veterinary workers received training and the provision of veterinary kits. Furthermore, veterinary services are provided through field units that are operational in each district. The veterinary field units continue to treat and vaccinate domestic animals. The average services per month amount to 3,060 animal treatments, 7,912 animal vaccinations, and 1,800 animal dewormings.

In countries such as Afghanistan, sustainable solutions are direly needed so that marginalized communities can overcome a cycle of poverty. Community participation throughout the project is a vital approach to ensuring that the community takes ownership and provides the required knowledge and input so that the project's activities meet the community's needs. More than through

needs assessments, focus groups discussions and a formal complaints mechanism provide the community, including men, women, and children, with ongoing opportunities to share concerns, positive change, emerging challenges, and changing needs. CWS-P/A also works to bridge gaps within the community and also between the community and the local government line departments, which helps strengthen the needed cooperation for sustainability and future development.

The Laghman Food Security Project continues in 2013 with the aim of continuing to help poor communities alleviate poverty and improve access to food and nutrition security. Attention will be given to the lack of resources and technical capacities while project participants continue to develop their individual livelihoods with support from the project team. From the words shared by farmers like Mohammad Tahir and Noor-ul-Haq who now have sufficient wheat for their families or Mahuddin and Abdul Ghani who have established orchards or nurseries, positive impact is evident.





Assistance and Empowerment in Afghanistan

By: Donna Fernandes

From Morghai Village, Afghanistan, Bakhzarina is the mother of four children. She describes the village as being far away from CWS-P/A's comprehensive health center plus (CHC+) in Agam District, Nangarhar Province and adds that it is the only available facility with a significant amount of health services. Bakhzarina completes an hour's journey by foot to reach the CHC+.

Bakhzarina said, "I have given birth to my youngest child at this center." Zikhra, her youngest daughter, at the time of the collection of this story was fourteen months old. "I came in my fifth month of pregnancy to the center for antenatal care."

Bakhzarina is being treated for toxoplasmosis and gave birth to Zikhra in her seventh month of pregnancy. Adults with healthy immune systems may show no signs of the infection; however, it can be very dangerous to an unborn baby of an infected pregnant woman. It can even cause stillbirths. Although some infected children will show signs

of the infection at birth, others will not show any signs until later in life including intellectual disabilities, vision or hearing problems, or seizures among other complications. Fortunately, Zikhra remains uninfected as confirmed by the health center's staff. Bakhzarina shared that all of her children were born before their expected delivery. "The three deliveries of my children were done at home by an unqualified midwife."

Moreover, Bakhzarina's last delivery was not easy. The delivery was done by CWS-P/A's well-known midwife, Zuhra. In summer, Zuhra received an award for the best provincial midwife of the year. Zuhra performs over fifty deliveries per month and conducts more than two hundred antenatal and over eighty postnatal consultations. In May, her hard work was recognized by the Afghan Midwives Association (AMA).

Zuhra shared, "We created awareness about the existence of the center and women came to see the place when the



Zuhra continues to provide quality health services and awareness to women. Bakhzarina testifies, "We are happy, I brought my cousins for their delivery cases here as well. Our problems are solved and we are helped when we come here."

Bakhzarina has received postnatal care from CWS-P/A's CHC+ in Nangarhar Province and continues to receive medical assistance for her children when they get sick. The CHC+ since its inception in 2000 serves a catchment population of approximately 37,464 people. Bakhzarina and others in her community are served by an average of twenty health staff members and an additional forty male and female community health workers. The demonstration of their dedication to save the lives of people makes CWS-P/A's health services widely appreciated within and outside communities.



messages were spread in villages and nearby mosques."

With nearly four years of service with CWS-P/A and a cumulative experience of twenty-seven years, Zuhra has won herself the best midwife award in CWS-P/A for two consecutive years. Her dedication beyond saving lives also earns her recognition within the community for her services and skills.



Words of Wisdom
Today knowledge has power. It controls access to opportunity and advancement.

Peter F. Drucker (1909 - 2005)

Hot Topic

Climate change is a change in the climate that persists for decades or longer, arising from either natural causes or human activity. ¹

Ocean current, volcanic eruptions, variations in solar radiation, earth orbital changes and human-induced adaptation of natural resources are some of the factors influencing climate change. It results in higher global temperatures, rising sea levels, and more frequent weather related disaster, creating risks for agriculture, food, water supply and sanitation, environmental protection, and disaster management.

Globally, climate change has obvious effects on the environment. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the level of climate change effects on individual regions will differ over time and with the capacity of different societal and environmental systems to lessen or adapt to change.

Forecasted impact for Asia by IPCC: Freshwater availability projected to decrease in Central, South, East and Southeast Asia by the 2050s; coastal areas will be at risk due to increased flooding; death rate from disease associated with floods and droughts expected to rise in some regions. ²

Recent years exhibited the worst weather in Pakistan, having extreme effects throughout the country. Unfortunately, due to lack of both technology and capacity, Pakistan is still not able to respond to climate impacts effectively. Pakistan experienced the worst floods in its history during the year 2010, affecting seventy-eight districts covering an area of 100,000 square km, impacting a population of more than twenty million people. ³

In addition to responding to disasters through relief and recovery initiatives, CWS-P/A is a leading organization for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. In Afghanistan since 2008, it works closely with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and had a leading role in the Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP). It helped build capacity at the district and provincial levels through practical training that resulted in drafted district and provincial disaster management plans that were submitted to ANDMA Kabul for review, input, and further sharing.

In Pakistan, the mobile knowledge resource center (MKRC) enables remote communities in Sindh to access information on disasters, preparedness, and risk reduction. Recovery initiatives integrate community based disaster risk reduction and cash-for-work activities to help communities regain livelihoods while protecting the natural environment.

1. http://www.unisdr.org/files/4146_ClimateChangeDRR.pdf
2. <http://climate.nasa.gov/effects/>
3. http://www.ndma.gov.pk/Documents/Newsletter/0103-Newsletter_May-Dec2010.pdf

Membership



Certification

actalliance



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